



## What If?

If you have been watching TV or listening to the radio or flipping through magazines these past few weeks you may have been catching bits and pieces of the United Methodist Church “Rethink Church” media campaign. Not only that, you may have been seeing some of the Rethink Church campaign on bumper stickers and hearing it on itunes or watching it on youtube or experiencing it through text messages. United Methodist Communications invites people on both sides of church doors to reconsider what church means.

What if we began to think about “church” as a verb instead of a noun?

And, what if church wasn’t just a place where people spent an hour on Sunday? What if there wasn’t just one door into the church but 10,000?

On Sunday, September 13th, what if church was a Block Party? Our doors will be open by 9:30 for the kick-off of fall Sunday School with great classes for children, youth and adults. Our doors will be open at 10:30 for worship where we will praise God and ask:

What if church was the way church was in the beginning: unbound, outbound, a true social network?

And then, doors will open so that we can pour out onto the street to party with the neighbors... what if church was the party? What if church happened in line for the bouncy bounce connecting to a young person who lives near by? What if church happened while laughing during the magic show or listening to Joleyrod perform on the front steps? What if church happened while sitting and talking over hotdogs and hamburgers and sausages? What if church that morning meant being a follower of Jesus by sharing food and welcoming a stranger and inviting someone to the party? What if...

I am looking forward to seeing you all this Sunday (and every Sunday). I am also looking forward to opening some of the 10,000 doors that may lead to church this season, doors like Habitat for Humanity and the Inn from the Cold overflow shelter. What if being a part of Christ Church was being part of a movement to rethink not only the church, but the world?

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

### Second Annual Homecoming Block Party **Christ Church United Methodist** **Corner of 5th and State Street** **September 13th 12pm to 2pm**

Lots of food – hamburgers, hotdogs, corn on the cob, churros and more

Lots of fun – Bouncie Bounce, face painting, tattoos

Lot of entertainment – Magic Show, music by JoleRod and more

Lots of fellowship – Everyone’s invited and bring a friend!

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## The Person in the Next Pew

This month, Tim Burgin is the (Young) Person in the Next Pew. Lansingburgh born and raised, Tim is known to us all by his infectious smile and his willingness to help out around the church. At 13, he's already on the Tech Team And let's not forget: the son of Ron (Mr. Left Hand) and Nancy (Mrs. Right Hand), Tim was memorable as The Nose in our prize-winning 2007 film, One Body, Many Parts.

His favorite vacation, so far, was his most recent: a visit to his aunt and uncle's home in Delaware and a trip to Chincoteague Island, famous for many years as the home of the only herd of wild ponies grazing east of the Rocky Mountains. Favorite authors? Tim and I have some overlap here, since he lists J.R.R. Tolkien, whose books I've read an embarrassing number of times, and Rick Riordan, whose Percy Jackson books our grandson Greer got me reading last year.

At 13, Tim is already a long-time chess player, having been taught to play by his father. He also belongs to the computer club at school — that's Knickerbocker Middle School, where he's just begun eighth grade, and where he hopes to get a Dungeons and Dragons club going.

That brings us to one of Tim's big interests: computer games, specifically strategy and role-playing games. He taught me a new acronym: MMORPG, for Massive Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Games. He hopes to attend RPI and at the moment, hopes to be a game designer.

Tim is also, in my opinion, wise beyond his years. When I asked how being diagnosed with diabetes at the age of 10 has affected his life, this is what he said: "Diabetes has changed my life by making me always look at boxes and look for the carbs. I also look at my life and its problems as, 'Why not me? Why others when God gave these problems to me knowing that I can handle them?' It has made me feel like God has always and will always be next to me. The church has helped me get to the point I'm at now, and I wish to thank everyone in the church for helping me get above and beyond the average person my age, as well as helping me understand God, myself, and other people."

As I said...wise beyond his years.

**Mary Beth Blackmon**



## Thank you to all the faithful stewards at Christ Church

**Lee Kemp**

It has been a busy and all too short summer. Even though summer seems too short, sometimes Finance worries these months will be too long. Maybe many people are away, or it's too hot to come to Church, or you have many projects that can only be done when the weather is nice. However, as the summer ends, I have found that Christ Church stewards embody the best qualities of good stewards. We have shared abundantly, raising over \$2000 for Habitat for Humanity. We have been trustworthy in fulfilling our pledges to God's work through this church. We have gathered in fellowship and hard work using our talents to support our newest fundraiser – churros, those yummy fried dough sticks.

So I say again, thank you to all the faithful stewards at Christ Church.

## Fun! Friends! Prizes!

**Nancy Burgin**

Sunday School starts September. 13th at 9:30! We look forward to seeing everyone. There is an adult class as well as two classes for the children. As the kids know, there are prizes for every Bible verse learned. (And yes, I bought some new prizes over the summer.)

## Brownies & Girl Scouts

Christ Church is proud to be the host site of a Brownie Troop and Junior Troop for Girl Scouts on Thursdays from 6:00-7:30 starting this month. Our own Sharen Holcomb will be leading the Junior Troop (grades 4 & 5). Mary Woodberry will be the Brownie Leader (grades 2 & 3). There is a kick-off event at Prospect Park on September 3 from 4:30-6:30 with BBQ and refreshments. RSVP to Merry woodberryimm@yahoo.com (273-8013) or Sharen (274-0123) Sholcom1@nycap.rr.com

### **Douglas A. Blackmon**

Pulitzer Prize winning author, Douglas A. Blackmon, kicks off the 25th Anniversary Year of the New York State Writers Institute at U. Albany with lectures on September 24. Doug, son of Bob Blackmon, will speak about his book, *Slavery by Another Name*, which was awarded the Pulitzer this year in the general nonfiction category. The public is invited to attend the free presentations. Watch the church bulletin for details about time and location.

Doug will also appear at the Troy Daily Grind, 46 Third Street, 6:45 to about 8 PM, Troy Night Out, September 25. He will read from his book, comment on the book and the Pulitzer, and sign books, which will be available at the coffee house. Market Block Books is coordinating the book signing. If you already have a copy of the book and would like it autographed, bring it that evening. Whether or not you are interested in owning a book, please come to the event and chat with the author. You may recall that Doug visited Christ Church last fall.

All are invited to the Dutch Treat event at the Daily Grind. Just purchase your coffee, if you like, and join the group in the back of the coffee house. We hope you will.

Bob and Mary Beth Blackmon

### **Troy Public Library**

The Troy Public Library will be holding an election for a special district public library on September 29th. We will also be electing the board of trustees for TPL. Patrons living in the 12180 area can vote at the main branch of the Troy Public Library, 100 2nd St. Those in the 12182 area can vote at the Lansingburgh branch of the Troy Public Library, at 114th St and 4th Ave in Lansingburgh. Voting Hours will be from 7am-8pm. If you have any questions about this election, please see Debbie Byers or Nancy Burgin or call the Troy Public Library at 274-7071.

### **Out of the Darkness Community Walk**

In the US, a person dies by suicide every 16 minutes, claiming more than 32,000 lives each year. It is estimated that an attempt is made every minute with close to one million people attempting suicide annually.

Suicide is the 4th leading cause of death among adults 18-65 and the 3rd leading cause of death among teens and young adults. Each year, walks to prevent suicide are held throughout the country. Organized locally to support the work of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, these walks show support for the many in our communities who have been affected by suicide.

On September 20th, there will be an Out of the Darkness Walk at the Saratoga Flat Track. Christ Church intends to participate by sending a contribution and walkers if anyone is interested. If you would like to donate to this cause, please make checks payable to Christ Church with "suicide prevention" written in the memo line. If you would like to walk, please contact Judy Feiden, Nancy Burgin, or Debbie Byers for more information.

### **Note from the Music Coordinator**

I'd like to express my excitement at the upcoming music season. Choir rehearsals will begin on September 9th. There will be many opportunities this year for music involvement, whether you would like long or short commitments to the music program. The intergenerational choirs will be practicing to perform on the final Sunday of each month. The voice and chime choir will alternate months – September will be devoted to the voice choir, and October will be devoted to the chime choir. Both are open to musicians of all ages and abilities. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office window for chime choir so that we can properly plan for October. The intergenerational choirs will meet on Wednesday evenings from 6-7pm.

In addition to the intergenerational choirs, the bell choir will rehearse on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm. The plan is for the bell choir to play on the second Sunday of each month. The bell choir welcomes back former members and any new members with experience reading music or playing an instrument.

The other Sundays each month are open for small group ensembles, either instrumental or vocal. Since I don't know all of the musical gifts of the congregation, please let me know if you would like to share your musical gifts at some point in the year.

Thank you for your musical gifts this coming year,

Erica Greene (egreene7@gmail.com)

## Summer Flowers

<b>June 7<sup>th</sup></b>	Given by Lee & Roger Kemp in celebration of the Sunday School teachers and students.
<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>	Given by the family of Ken & Dorcas Rose in celebration of 50 years traveling together.
<b>June 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Given by Mary Jane, Vanessa & Grace in loving memory of Paul Baumbach
<b>June 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Given by Dorcas & Ken Rose in celebration of family & friends.
<b>July 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Given in memory of James W. Smith by his brother, David H. Smith and his sister, Elizabeth Smith-Eisenhauer
<b>August 16<sup>th</sup></b>	In memory of George Lovegrove's August 14th birthday, given with love from his family.
<b>August 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Given by Harry & Thila Bell in celebration of Thila's 80th birthday!

### Eclipsing Empire

It's a travelogue...it's a fascinating study course -

Filmed in Turkey, Greece and Italy come and become reacquainted with Paul, not with the judgmental, grumpy version of the later texts but with the original, adventurous, daring, bold and radical Paul who welcomed in everyone: men and women; Jews and Gentiles. Take an end of summer tour around some spectacular sites and learn about what early Christian communities were really like. Led by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan this will be a one hour class from 7-8pm Tuesdays, starting September 1st .

At 8pm we will be replaying "Victory or Peace or Justice and Peace" for those who missed it last time, or need to catch up on the sessions they missed. (A DVD study by John Dominic Crossan and participants so far, have dubbed it their favorite of all these studies.) There is no book/ cost associated with these courses. Please give it a try! (note: starting Homecoming there is a second opportunity to see Eclipsing Empire during the Adult Sunday School time, Sundays at 9:30pm)

### Adult Forum

Adult Forum will begin when Church School begins at 9:30 AM on Homecoming Sunday, June 13, which is the Sunday after Labor Day. We will be viewing and discussing the Living the Questions twelve part DVD Series "Eclipsing Empire: Paul, Rome, and the Kingdom of God", featuring John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg You will get to be an armchair participant in the travel groups they have led to many ancient sites in Greece and the Near East where Paul founded churches and encountered the Roman empire. Participant sheets will be available for each session to help focus your viewing. We will want to begin the DVD shortly after 9:30 so that we have time to talk about the video afterwards.

Since Pastor Janet will be conducting the same study on Tuesday evenings, you can attend either session as convenient.

### Devotional Nancy Burgin

We all know the story of Moses and the burning bush. Moses sees a bush on fire, but not burning up. So he says, "I need to check this out." (Ever wonder what would have happened if Moses hadn't been inquisitive?)

God calls out his name, "Moses. Moses." So now he knows that whatever or whoever is causing this burning bush knows his name. He's probably a little more scared than curious now.

Then God says to him, "Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." (Exodus 3:5)

Huh? What's with the sandals being banned on holy ground? (It took me this long in my life to actually wonder that) The commentaries I read said that it was a sign of respect from the lower class to the higher. Well, that's interesting, but don't you think that Moses, being raised in a Pharaoh's court, would have know that? So why did God have to tell him?

Maybe it was for another reason. Maybe God didn't want anything to come between Moses and the Holy, not even something as small as a pair of shoes. It would be in keeping with what we know about God. He who knows our name wants to commune with us at all times and to share our lives without interference from any thing. May we, in the coming month, be aware of the God who desires our attention, and companionship.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Choirs: Each Wednesday:6-8pm		<b>1</b> 7pm Study 8pm Study	<b>2</b> 10:30 Bible Study	<b>3</b> 7pm Finance	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 7pm Study 8pm Study	<b>9</b> 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	<b>10</b> 7pm Trustees	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 9-1 Church cleanup
<b>13</b> Home-coming Block party	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7pm Study 8pm Study	<b>16</b> 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	<b>17</b> 7pm Church Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> Out of Darkness walk Spire deadline	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7pm Study 7pm Lay leadership 8pm Study	<b>23</b> 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> AIDS walk	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 7pm Study 7pm Staff parish 8pm Study	<b>30</b> 9am Wshp planning 10:30 Bible Study	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) (Resumes 13th) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship		

September Birthdays.

<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Meggie Greagan	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> Joseph Torres	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b> Alexander Pryor
<b>10<sup>th</sup></b> Amber & Mark Lifite	<b>11<sup>th</sup></b> Claire Powers	<b>12<sup>th</sup></b> Debbie Byers
<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> Harry Bell	<b>16<sup>th</sup></b> Sean Greagan	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> Abigail Esser
<b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> Shirley Greagan	<b>24<sup>th</sup></b> Judith Jacques Facticeau	<b>26<sup>th</sup></b> Joann Green

Wedding Anniversaries

<b>3<sup>rd</sup></b> Fred & Rosa Baumback	<b>15<sup>th</sup></b> Shirley & Jeffery Planty
<b>18<sup>th</sup></b> Brian & Jen Pryor	<b>20<sup>th</sup></b> Rick & Sheryl Martucci
<b>28<sup>th</sup></b> Donna & Bill Pryor	<b>30<sup>th</sup></b> Barry & Karen Greene

Needed--Tall juice cans or any similar sized containers (unbreakable) for bringing flowers to shut-in members & friends.

Thank you to anyone who has weeded, trimmed or used our challenging hose in the garden area during the strange weather months of July & August. The flowers still blooming are evidence of God's many miracles in our lives.

Once again, the Doug Ellett Memorial 5K Run/Walk for Melanoma Awareness in Cohoes is on the same date as our Christ Church Homecoming. This illness caused my brother's death (& perhaps has affected other families in the congregation) and is a special concern for our family. We ask for your prayers for a successful event & will certainly keep the Sunday activities at church in our thoughts & prayers that morning also.--Marilyn Blom



**Help!**

Help is needed for coffee hour. Please sign up outside Wesley Hall.

## The Harvest Sale is coming!

We are holding our annual harvest Sale on Friday, October 30 and Saturday, October 31st. If you knit, crochet, sew, paint, work with metal, clay or wood, please plan to contribute something to our sale. We pride ourselves on offering some unique, one-of-a-kind items, as well as inexpensive small items that can serve as hostess gifts or stocking stuffers. We will also be offering homemade baked items and candy. Lunch will be served both days and on Friday evening, which is Troy Night Out, we will be offering an Italian buffet. Proceeds from the sale will help close this year's budget gap, as well as provide our usual 10% contribution to a local program that provides help to those of our neighbors that need it. Help needed includes baking, as well as working in the kitchen and dining room and with sales.

Some of this will be done ahead of time. We will have a sign up sheet on the office window beginning in early October, along with more details about the event. Speak to Alice or Dorcas Rose if you can help. Plan to come, plan to help, plan to enjoy!

## Moving On

After a little less than a year we bid farewell and offer blessings to The Pentecostal Church of God, El Senor Se Acerca. August 15th the congregation moved to their own building at 634 6th Avenue. We are grateful for the opportunity to have supported another congregation as it grows and realizes the dream of having its own space to worship and do ministry.

It was a casual conversation in an

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office supply store that led to our space sharing with the Pentecostal church this past year. It was a casual conversation at the March Mission Spaghetti Supper that led to our space sharing with Troy Yoga. Keep your eyes and ears open for new and interesting possibilities for sharing our space in the future.

## AIDSWalk 2009

On September 27th, 2009, a team of walkers from Christ Church will join close to 2000 Capital Region residents in a walk around the perimeter of Washington Park in Albany in order to remind the community that the AIDS epidemic is still with us. Together we will show support for those living with HIV/AIDS and raise funds for local HIV/AIDS services. There will be refreshments, entertainment, panels from the NAMES Project, and educational materials about HIV/AIDS available. If you would like to walk or would like to support a walker, please contact Debbie Byers, 273-6005.

## All Church Work Party

**Saturday September 12th 9am-1pm**

Hope everyone has had a good summer. Being that the summer is coming to a close, its time for our all church work party. The work party is scheduled for Saturday September 12 from 9am to 1pm.

Pizza will be served at noon. Please come out and help us clean the church buildings and do light repairs prior to our home coming celebration on 9/13. No experience is required. All materials, tools, and supplies will be provided. Look for the list of tasks posted on the office window. We are also planning on using this time to set up for the annual community block party on Sunday September 13th.

## Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday September 20th

Office phone 272-8392, Fax 273-8042, URL <http://www.ChristChurchTroy.org>

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email [pastornina@christchurchtroy.org](mailto:pastornina@christchurchtroy.org) Urgent phone: 588-6405

Janet Douglass, Assistant Pastor email [janetd@nycap.rr.com](mailto:janetd@nycap.rr.com) Urgent phone: 273-3713

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus