



## Summer

**A**re you ready for the summer? That was the question in my favorite song from the movie Meatballs-- an old feel good, summer fun flick with a much younger Bill Murphy. It starts to run through my head about this time each year as I anticipate the transition into this season that still, after all these years, feels different from the rest. The days are so much longer and so even with many things on the calendar, there is a freedom to be a little lazier, a little more relaxed in getting them done... In addition to Vacation Bible School and the Intergenerational Music that will be on Tuesday evenings (more info later in Spire), I want to lift up a few opportunities for you to come and eat, play, pray, relax and enjoy the goodness of God with me and with Christ Church friends this summer.

### Children's Sunday and Communion, June 7th.

Come celebrate the Sunday School program at Christ Church. Alice Rose and Tom Feiden, Jr. promise something BIG from their class, and the younger youth with great leadership from Ron Burgin and Christine MacDonald will show us what they CAN do. After worship, head over to Frear Park for softball and a picnic.

### Music Sunday, June 14th.

Choir and bells, cello and recorder, flute and viola, and psalms and songs of praise... If music moves you, then this may be a service that makes your heart sing.

### Methodist Farm August 2nd

Pastor Nina and Pastor Janet will be leading vesper service at Methodist Farm on Sunday, August 2nd, at 7pm. We hope many of you will plan to join us. Come early for swimming and a picnic supper under the pavilion. Save the date and watch for more details.

### Picnic, Monday, August 17th

Picnic at the home of Pastor Nina, Andrew, Micah, Moses, and Joe. Everyone is invited to come out for a relaxing evening with food and fun for every age and stage. You are invited to 12 Westover Road anytime after 5:30 for snacks. Dinner will be around 6PM with a special activity to follow (see details later in Spire).

The song "Are You Ready for the Summer?" ends with the affirmations that summer sets us free and is ready for you. So it is with our God, the great artist who created and is still creating in us, through us, and around us.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

### Guest Musicians, Sunday, August 23rd

Come and enjoy the music of Elizabeth Woodbury Kasius and Garland Nelson during worship.

### Summer Arts Festival

The following Mondays' activities will be the foundation for the following Sunday's worship.

June 15th Movie Night: Wall-E

June 22nd Book Discussion: Change of Heart by Judy Picoult

June 29th Sharing: Art that has made an Impression on You (visual)

July 6th Music that Moves You: Bring it, Share it, Tell about it

July 13th Movie Night: TBA (still taking suggestions)

July 20th Poetry Slam: Come and do a reading, refreshments provided

July 27th Music... Special Focus TBD (Beatles? Folk Songs? U2?)

August 3rd Book Discussion: TBA (still taking suggestions)

August 10th Movie Night: TBA

August 17th Picnic at Nichols/Torres Home

Call the church office if you have questions or suggestions or need to know more details.

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## The Person in the Next Pew:

Shirley Greagan

I was born in Burlington, Vermont when my Dad (a Methodist minister who retired from Troy Conference) was serving a three-point parish in the Champlain Islands – so going to multiple church services comes naturally to me! I always have trouble answering the question “where did you grow up?” Because we moved frequently; my Dad was a firm believer in the itinerant pastorate. We lived in Richford, Vermont; Saratoga Springs; Montpelier, Vermont; and Averill Park, where I graduated from high school. My original ambition was to be an actress, but the desire to eat on a regular basis convinced me to choose a more practical profession, so after graduation from Geneseo State with an English degree and a summer as a chamber maid I went to Duke Law School.

After a year as an Assistant D.A. in Schoharie County, where I was responsible for seven town courts and once prosecuted a man for Failure to Fence Cattle & Swine (think James Herriot with a law degree), I moved on to insurance defense. The work was rewarding, but probably the best thing that came out of that job was when an associate named Bill Greagan introduced me to his brother Chris. We met at the Last Exit Café in Troy when I was a guest flutist with Maria Zemantauski’s band Samba Rama (Bill tricked Chris into thinking he was going to see a rock band). Along came Meggie (Mary) and Seanie, and my second career as a stay-at-home Mom began. This turned out to be providential, since Seanie was diagnosed with autism at the age of three and Meggie with celiac disease at the age of seven.

When I’m not caring for the kids, reading autism-related materials, baking gluten-free bread, creating hymn backgrounds, participating in worship planning, doing Bible study, or practicing with the choir, I enjoy walking the dog, doing crossword puzzles (though I have yet to conquer the Sunday New York Times puzzle) and watching TV. Conversation with friends over a cup of coffee (or other beverage) is another favorite pastime, as well as working in my small vegetable garden. Our family spends a week hiking in the Adirondacks every year, and the first sight of those mountains is like seeing old friends again.

When I steal a few moments for reading that doesn’t involve theology or child-rearing, I enjoy Smithsonian Magazine, novels by Jane Austen, murder mysteries by



authors such as P.D. James and Dianne Mott Davidson, and an occasional re-reading of Harry Potter.

Although silence is one of my favorite sounds, I do enjoy listening to music. My taste in music is fairly eclectic; although I like just about everything that isn’t rap or country, some of my favorites are Elton John, Sting, classical (especially Vivaldi and Copland), Irish folk music, Phil Collins, and sometimes bagpipe music! My dream “day off” consists of watching the BBC version of *Pride and Prejudice*, or some other movie with a happy ending, uninterrupted and in its entirety – in my PJ’s of course!

### Thank You from the Finance Committee

The Mother’s Day Special offering was designated as a 50/50 split between the Current Expenses budget, and the Solar Cooker Project of Jewish World Watch. The Solar Cooker Project provides women and girls from Darfur, currently residing in refugee camps, with a means to cook food and to boil water without the need to leave the safety of the camps to gather firewood.

Your generous donations, in honor of the special women in your lives, totaled \$480; this allowed us to send \$240 to Jewish World Watch for the Solar Cooker Project, as well as supplement our Current Expense budget. Because of your generosity, 8 families will benefit from receiving 2 solar cookers, one for cooking food and one for boiling water. Thank you for supporting Christ Church, and for improving the lives of women and girls. If you missed your chance to donate, or would like further information about this program, please go to [www.solarcookerproject.org](http://www.solarcookerproject.org).

## Parish House Renovation Plans to be Revealed; Seeking Approval for Design

In last months spire we talked about our vision for some improvements to our parish house that are needed to better serve our growing Christ Church Family. Some of the items included building brand new bathrooms for both men and women; Creating a unisex handicap accessible bathroom; Installing an elevator or wheel chair lift capable of accessing all three floors of the parish house (Sunday School Rooms, 1st Floor, and Fellowship Hall); New small working kitchen for coffee hour; and adding a small meeting room / Nursery on the 1st floor of the parish house. All of these improvements once completed will make our parish house a more accessible and welcoming place to all of God's people.

Working with TAP, a local not-for-profit architectural firm, a preliminary design has been created that incorporates all of the above items. The Trustee's will be unveiling the design to the congregation for the very first time, during a special presentation at the end of the church service on June 14th. Following the service a coffee talk will be held to allow those interested in the project to ask some more detailed questions as well as provide feedback about the design and the renovation project.

The Trustee's have moved that the Church Council approve the proposed design to allow them to start seeking construction estimates to help determine the overall cost of the project. This vote will take place during the June 18th Council meeting. Church Council meetings are open to all. I encourage all those interested in voicing their opinions on the design, favorable or not, to attend the meeting.

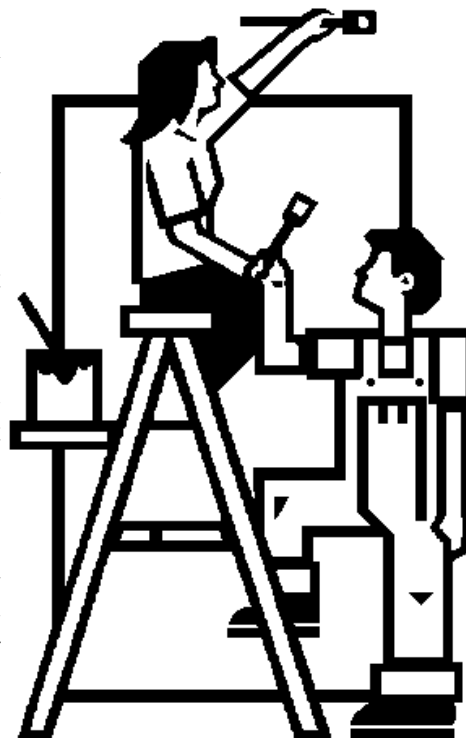
Many more questions and much more planning will be required before any of the improvements mention above will be implemented. To help with this effort, over the next 2 months, the Trustees will be forming a special "Building Renovation Team" to help oversee the planning, cost estimates, funding, and implementation of the project. Anyone interested in being on this team please speak to a Trustee or the church office. What started out as simple question 2 years ago has now evolved into a vision for the future of better serving the people of our every growing community.

*Paul Marano*

## This Old Church Club

Like to see results, have an impact, point out a job well done and say "see, we did that"? Do you take pride in helping out and making something better, or fixing something that needs to be fixed? Why all the questions? Because at Christ Church we are on a journey, Questioning, Growing and Serving. Look around every Sunday and you will see we are growing; that just leaves Serving.

One way of serving is to help keep our Church Home in good physical shape, to be a Steward of the Church. Let's face it, after more than 140 years some things in our buildings wear out, start to look dingy, need some TLC. The plaster, the windows, the paint, the Red Doors, over time



everything needs a little fix up.

The Trustees are sponsoring the "This Old Church" club. This will be a group of people who would like to socialize with a hammer and a box of tools, who like to fix things and who think power tools are good noisy fun. This group is open to everyone, those who know the working end of a hammer and those who want to learn. No experience necessary, on-the-job training available and rumor has it that projects will have a food element. The current plan is to meet once or twice a month to work on things to keep our Church a well lit, warm and inviting place.

If fellowship, tools and food are an appealing combination please sign up on the sheet in the office window.

Thank you.

### **A Christian steward is loyal.**

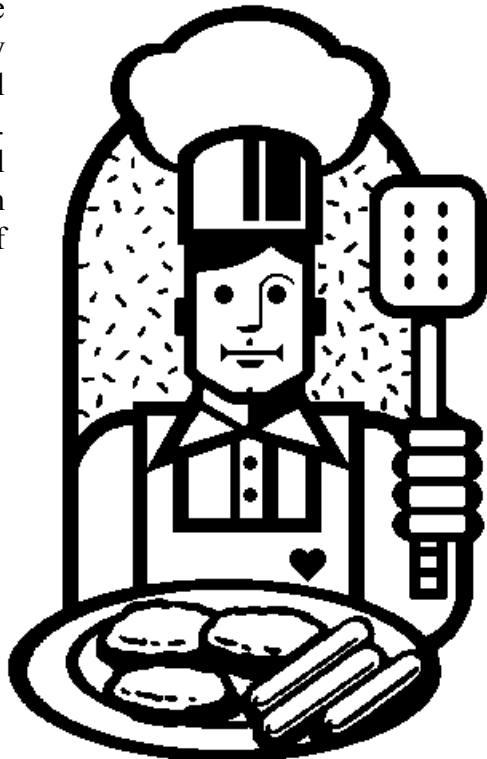
Christian stewards serve God faithfully, remembering who they are, whose they are, and why they are here on earth.\*

Many of you have received your Statement of Giving forms for the first quarter. The statements are a tangible example of your loyalty. They demonstrate your commitment to the mission of Christ Church, your faith and trust in the staff, and the faith you have that your offerings are used responsibly to do the work of God through our congregation in downtown Troy.

The finance team is always working to make sure we continue to merit the trust you place in us. One change we have enacted is to have two unrelated people counting the offering each Sunday in order to comply with the latest Discipline guidelines of the United Methodist Church. Of course, this involves some help from all of you. If someone from the finance team approaches you to help with this task for a limited number of Sundays, we

### **We need your help!**

Christ Church will be making and selling churros at Riverfest and at the Altamont Fair and we need help to fry the dough and serve the customers. The first public outing is for one day on Saturday, June 20th in downtown Troy and we need helpers from set up, around 8a.m. through closing at 6pm. Then August 11th through 16th we need teams of helpers for the Altamont County Fair, set-up and ready to go for the 10am start each day and running until the 11pm closing. Please contact Paul Marano and let him know what piece of this you can take!



hope you will be willing to help.

As we move into the summer months, there are many exciting things happening at Christ Church – opportunities to participate in mission through Habitat, Christian education by volunteering for Vacation Bible School and worship planning for the Christ Church Summer Arts Festival. Your loyal stewardship makes these things possible.

“It’s obvious, isn’t it? The place where your treasure is, is the place you will most want to be, and end up being.”  
Mathew 6:21 (The Message)

Thank you for your faithful stewardship

On behalf of the Finance Committee, Lee Kemp, Finance Chair

\* From Guidelines for Leading Your Congregation: Stewardship, by Phyllis M. Bowers. (Nashville: Cokesbury, © 2000)

### **Nurture Team**

The Nurture Team sponsored a series of after-church coffee talks on useful topics this spring: Ken and Dorcas Rose on income taxes in February, Chris Greagan on insurance in march, Ron Burgin on computers in April, and Lee Kemp on budgets in May. We have been conducting an Interest Survey to determine what sort of activities people are interested in. One activity that turned up was the Bible for beginners, so we began looking at that in Adult Forum on Sunday mornings. If you haven’t filled out an Interest Survey, please check with Shirley Greagan or Ken Rose over the summer.

### **Looking Ahead to the Harvest Sale**

If you knit, crochet, or sew, work in wood, clay or ceramics, do decorative painting or take photographs, we are looking for contributions to the Harvest Sale at the end of October. Think about what you might purchase if you didn’t make it yourself – for yourself, your home, or as a gift. Relatively inexpensive items for stocking stuffers or hostess gifts are some of our best sellers. Make several small things, or one exceptionally nice and unique item for our silent auction. Have some creative fun over the summer and assist in this fundraising effort to benefit the church and our mission efforts. We will be asking for baked goods and candy later in the fall. Speak to Dorcas Rose if you have a definite intention to contribute or if you want to discuss possibilities.

# Talent Auction 2009

## Rules of Bidding for Christ Church Talent Auction

In the interest of maintaining a fair and truly charitable auction, please note:

- Bidding will open Sunday, May 31st at 11:30 a.m.
- Bids may be made: in writing (in person or by proxy, but proxy must be so noted) on the posted bid sheets until 12:00 noon on June 28th, 2009; or by e-mail or telephone to the Church office no later than 12:00 noon on Friday, June 26th, 2009
- Highest bids will be confirmed with bidders before results are announced
- All bids must be made in good faith (no joke bids or bidding without intention of purchasing)
- All bids must be accompanied by a telephone number or e-mail address where you can be reached; if your number is unlisted, you may provide it confidentially to the Church office
- No anonymous bids will be accepted
- Payment must be received by the Church before arrangements are made for provision of service
- Be kind. Unfavorable remarks regarding the relative value of items offered can only hurt our mission to be a caring community.

Have Fun!! Celebrate your God-given Talent!

### Item 1: Froggy Went a Quiltin'

No, wait, that's not how the old Methodist camp song goes, that's Froggy Went a Courtin'! Anyway, our first item is from first-time contributor Nancy Burgin, who has applied her legendary wizardry with fabric to this whimsical 3' X 3' green frog quilt. You can admire the artistry while your favorite little one enjoys the coziness. Photo available on line on request. **Starting bid: \$25**

### Item 2A: Quilted Table Runner

Speaking of whimsical creations by talented fabric artists, if you prefer geese and flowers to frogs, returning contributor Mary Baker has been busy creating this magenta and green quilted runner to grace your table or wall. If you're tired of looking at that plain table or big bare spot on your wall, this is just what you need. Photo available on line on request. **Starting bid: \$20**

### Item 2B, 2C: Quilted Place Mats

Function and beauty combine in these 4 place mats created by Mary B. in a crazy quilt design using colors similar to those in the table runner. Fully functional for hot items on the table or as "dresser scarves," these fiber artworks are an easy and colorful way to brighten up your meals. **Starting bid: \$15 per pair**

### Item 3A: Pretty in Pink

If your (or your daughter's or granddaughter's) 18-inch doll is tired of her wardrobe, Dorcas Rose has just the thing for her. These pink printed dress, panties and hair band trimmed with lace are sure to spice things up for

that fashion-conscious doll. If you've ever looked in the catalogs for certain 18-inch dolls whose brand name we're not going mention, you'll know that this is a great item at a great starting bid – not to mention one-of-a-kind! Photo available on line by request. **Starting bid \$18.**

### Item 3B: Adorable in Aqua

If your 18-inch doll wants a more casual look, this aqua print pantsuit with white T-shirt will fit the bill. Dorcas really put her sewing machine to work and created another one-of-a-kind ensemble perfect for an outing with the favorite little girl in your life. Photo available on line by request **Starting bid \$16**

### Item 4: Out to Lunch

It's not what you think (if you're thinking what I think you're thinking); this item is offered by a person who has actually turned treating people to lunch into an art form. You may know our Pastor Nina is an inspirational preacher, talented musician, and gifted runner, but if you weren't around for last year's auction or don't get to Troy during the noon hour, you may not realize she loves to combine exploring the eateries of the City with lively conversation. So break bread or slurp soup with the pastor, and help Christ Church at the same time! 4 lunches for one person, or 2 lunches for two. Dates and locations to be arranged. **Starting bid \$30**

### Item 5: Jess MacDonald Original Note Cards

Speaking of multi-talented and generous – in addition to

playing hand bells, clarinet and softball (which are rather hard to auction off), Jess applies her artistry to paper and craft stamps to create note cards which are useful and unique – not to mention easy to take home. Two each of her hand-crafted Birthday, Christmas and Thank You cards will show you care enough to send better-than-Hallmark! **Starting bid \$8**

### **Item 6: Vase By Meggie**

Take a plain glass cylinder vase 10 ½ inches high, combine it with tissue paper and liquid starch, and what do you have? No, not a sticky mess! Well, it probably depends on who's doing the combining. Budding artist Meggie Greagan has created a lovely stained-glass effect for a vase worthy of any flower bouquet. Just add flowers and water for an instant masterpiece! **Starting bid \$8**

### **Item 7: Five-Course Surf and Turf Dinner for 4-6 People**

A returning favorite, dinner is served at Casa Rosano in Historic Downtown Troy! You and up to 5 of your friends will dine as guests of Paul Marano and Alice Rose in their home. If you've tasted Paul's cooking at our Harvest Sale Luncheons or other events, you'll know you're in for an evening of fine dining. On the menu this year:

**Appetizer:** fresh mozzarella w/ tomato, basil, salt & pepper, drizzled with olive oil

**Pasta:** Spaghetti Carbonara (spaghetti with peas, ham, and onion in a light cream sauce)

**Italian Green Salad:** with olives, onions, & capers tossed w/ red wine vinegar and olive oil dressing

**Entrée:** Surf and Turf, Grilled Salmon Steaks with London Broil marinated in garlic and teriyaki with sautéed spinach and almonds

**Dessert:** espresso and tira misu

Mangia! Reservations Required

**Minimum bid \$100 (Suggested retail value \$30/person)**

### **Item 8: Cookies by Christine**

Here's an easy choice for you: a couple of boxes of machine-made cookies loaded with who-knows-what kind of preservatives and artificial ingredients that you have to go out to the grocery store to buy, or 3 batches of cookies baked to order by Christine MacDonald. Hmm...doesn't require much thought, does it? Christine is offering one batch each of butterscotch oatmeal, chocolate peanut butter, and one called The \$250 cookie (derived, she says, from an urban legend easily found on the web... what DID we do before the

internet??) She'll even accommodate people with allergy concerns. Your glass of milk never had better company.

**Starting bid: \$18**

### **Item 9: Limited Edition Block Print of Christ Church, matted and framed**

If Christ Church holds a special place in your heart, this item is the perfect thing for your wall or mantel. Betty King of the Roarke Center produced this work, which was used for our 200th celebration logo and is provided by Alice Rose, using a 4-color block printing process followed by hand tinting the top layer. Approximate size 17" tall by 12" wide. Also makes a wonderful gift to commemorate a special event at the Church (e.g., baptism or wedding). **Starting bid: \$37**

### **Item 10: A Spare Pair of Hands**

Who couldn't use an extra set of hands when you're weeding, planting, raking or mowing your lawn? Another new contributor this year, Karl Shumway (Mary Baker's son) has graciously offered to assist the successful bidder with lawn work for two hours, date and time to be arranged. You provide the equipment (and the lawn, of course), and Karl provides the muscle. You know what they say, many hands make light work! **Starting bid: \$20**

### **Item 11: Caramel Corn**

Take 4 quarts of freshly popped popcorn, add buttery toffee and mixed nuts (or leave them out if you prefer), and you have a sweet treat that's ideal for sharing (or eat it all yourself if you want a tummyache). Shirley G. has discovered it's pretty popular at parties. Look in the catalogues for those towers of treats, and you'll see that this item is a real bargain! **Starting bid: \$6**

### **Item 12: Hand-made Collage and Watercolor Cards**

This is the current state of affairs in the greeting card industry: it is almost impossible to purchase a decent card for less than \$3! And (yes, this has happened, but I promised not to name names), you run the risk of buying the same exact card you bought the same person a year ago. Not to mention the fact that the money almost never goes to a good cause. UNLESS, that is, you are the successful bidder on Pastor Janet's hand-made collage and watercolor cards. Brighten someone's day with an artistic greeting, and feel good about where your money went. It's a win-win situation, and how often do we get those these days? Samples available for viewing in the church office. **Starting bid: \$10**

### **Item #13A Hand-crocheted Heirloom Quality Table Runner**

Lee Kemp is no stranger to the talent auction, but this year marks her first as a talent contributor. Lee has crafted a lovely 28" X 15" pineapple web-stitch table runner perfect for those who love the look of antique lace but not the smell of grandma's attic. Indulge in a little finery for your table. Photo available on line on request.

*Starting bid: \$30.*

### **Item#13B Hand-crocheted Vintage Pattern Royal Society Table Runner**

Yes, Lee has in fact offered two pieces of her handiwork: this work-in-progress is actually from a vintage (1945) double-triple cross stitch pattern. Sounds impressive, and it is! As of "press time," the dimensions weren't available, but the portion that is complete will be available for inspection when bid sheets are posted (and photo available on line).

*Starting bid: \$30.*

### **Item 14: Springerle in Autumn**

For those of you who like a dessert with a fascinating heritage (if my on-line historical sources are reliable, of course), this cookie made by Dorcas Rose at Thanksgiving time is for you. According to [godecooking.com](http://godecooking.com), "Springerle" comes from an old German dialect that means "little knight" or "jumping horse," and can be traced back to Julfest, a pagan Germanic celebration involving the sacrifice of cookies to the gods...or something like that (check out the web site yourself – it's good reading). The ingredients are simple but the process isn't: the cookies are made with eggs, sugar and flour and flavored with anise seeds, then rolled with a carved rolling pin. They keep for several weeks in an airtight container. One batch makes at least 6-7 dozen.

*Starting bid \$8*

### **Item 15: Cream Tea to Go (for 4)**

This year's contributors are doing a good job of feeding the body AND the mind; Pastor Janet's item sent me scurrying once again to the internet to find out just what a Cream Tea is. According to Wikipedia, a cream tea is given "wherever someone wants to give an impression of British influence." So there you have it! Pastor Janet will supply scones (properly pronounced with a short "o," by the way), cream and strawberry preserves packed in a basket with 2 bottles of spritzer, "glasses," napkins, plates and flatware - all ready for a Sunday afternoon snack by the canal or in the park. A tradition from the county of Devon, UK. Take-out (or "take-away," as the

Brits say) never tasted so good!

*Starting bid: \$20*

### **Item 16A, B, C, D & E: Sunday Metaphors from Christ Church Services, Matted & Ready for Framing**

You've seen the visual metaphors or "main graphics" on screen every Sunday, but consider the work and artistry that go into producing the image every week. Alice Rose, one of the multi-talented members of Worship Planning who spend hours producing the weekly image, has selected five of her favorites to offer to this year's talent auction. Reproduced as 5x7 prints with mats specially chosen for each image, each work is ready to be slipped into an 8" by 10" frame you supply.

*Starting bid: \$5 per image*

### **Item 17: Photo from Tulipfest 2009, Matted & Framed**

Luckily for us, Dave MacDonald took his camera to Tulipfest again this year. It was a beautiful day, and he's donated a beautiful 5" X 7" photo, matted & framed. You've seen several of his photos as hymn backgrounds; if you ever thought "ooh, I'd like a picture like that," now's your chance. Photo will be available for viewing on line or in the church office.

*Starting bid: \$15*

### **Item 18: Afternoon to Dye For**

- or morning- or evening... Pastor Janet, who is much braver than I, is willing to host up to 3 people (adults/kids) at the church to hand-dye one silk hawatani (okay, you guys get to look this one up yourselves) scarf and one velour cut-out scarf each - or come and make all 6 yourself. The scarves make great birthday or Christmas gifts, and this is an item where you actually get to acquire a new talent of your own! The finished hand-dyed items can sell at the Farmers' market for as much as \$120.

*Starting bid: \$30*

### **Item 19: Chocolate Chip Cookies by Seanie**

With another year of baking experience under his belt, Seanie Greagan is ready once again (with Mom's help) to provide 2 dozen chocolate chip cookies – still his favorite. You can choose between having them all baked, or, if you like a cookie fresh out of the oven, you can have the dough pre-formed and frozen with instructions for baking. Few things can compare to a warm, chewy cookie that you can honestly say you baked, but you didn't have to make!

*Starting bid: \$6*

## **Item 20A, 20B: Under the hood computer checkup**

If one geek is good how about two? The father/son team of Ron and Tim Burgin will take a look at your system and provide 2 hours of advice or technical help as you require. Any additional hardware/software needed to fix/improve your system is not covered, but they can point you to spots to save you money; if that's what's required. There is a lot that we can help you with that is already on

your system or free. So you're sure to get your money's worth on a high bid on this item. **Starting bid: \$25**

### **But Wait, There's More!**

As of "press time" (i.e., the Spire deadline), we were still collecting details on a few outstanding items to be offered. So, you'll have to join us for coffee in the Wesley Room after church this Sunday and the coming weeks to see what we add to the mix. Don't miss out on the fun – bid high and bid often! **Shirley Greagan**

## **Devotional**

### **Nancy Burgin**

How tired, I wondering, collapsing into bed, would one have to be to use a stone for a pillow? I would guess someone would have to be past exhaustion. Yet that is what Genesis 28 tells us Jacob used for his pillow when he was running away from his brother, Esau. That was when he had his famous dream of angels ascending and descending a ladder that reached from earth to heaven. I always thought the important part of this lesson, for us, was that God told Jacob, "I am with you."

But as I thought about it, I realized that Jacob was what our Bible study would label, a scumbag. Just because he's in the Bible doesn't make him someone we should emulate. He tricked his brother Esau out of his inheritance and he lied to his father to get a special blessing. Somehow, I suspect they might not have been sad to see him leave.

But he was still the one that God talked to. Not only did God promise His presence; He promised to bring Jacob back to the place he was leaving, and to give him lots of descendants. Here God is, making these great promises – to someone who was pretty despicable. Personally, if it had been me, I would have heaped Esau with tons of good stuff, just to make up for putting up with a brother like that. And maybe God did. The writers of Genesis were descendants of Jacob, however, and were busy telling his story.

So in addition to the great promise of "I will be with you wherever you go", this story also lets us see that we don't have to DO anything to win God's love and concern. No matter how low our self esteem or how horrible we think we are, it doesn't change God's opinion of us. He's got promises and plans for us, as well as his loving presence

## **Habitat for Humanity, Rensselaer County**

### **God's Love In Action**

A dinner was held on April 28th, 2009, at the White Church in Brunswick where several churches were represented. In all 40 area churches have indicated interest in the program.

The proposed site for this build will be on Ingalls Avenue if permits and approval by the Habitat board are met. \$40,000 to \$45,000 must be in the bank by June 30th, 2009, for the project to begin late August. A total amount of \$65,000 to \$70,000 will be required to complete the build.

Habitat for Humanity is looking for expertise in plumbing, electrical, and taping of wall board. Many volunteers are needed for other tasks.

The family chosen to receive the home is a single mom with a severely disabled child. This project will entail building for wheelchair access. The receiving family is required to put 400 hours into their own home build or another build. A Burmese refugee who is currently having his home built by Habitat has volunteered to assist and contribute toward the 400 hour commitment on behalf of the single mother.

This is a very exciting opportunity to help someone in our community. As liaison, I have available brochures and volunteer forms, or for more information contact me at 518-674-0999 (office), 518-674-1101 (home) or [curtis.dunagan@yahoo.com](mailto:curtis.dunagan@yahoo.com)

Curtis Dunagan

"Our love should not be just words and talk; it must be true love which shows itself in action." 1 John 3:18

**May Flowers**

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | Given in celebration of Elizabeth Mattoon's 96th birthday by her family.  |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | Carnations given by Lowell & Marilyn Blom in loving memory of their parents and in honor & celebration of all mothers & those who 'mother'. |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> | Given by Mac, Sam, Kris & Leah in loving memory of Irene Cook and family members.   |
| <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | Given by Elizabeth Mattoon & Georgia Holland in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. David L. Bailey, George W. Holland & Charles F. Mattoon         |
| <b>31<sup>st</sup></b> | Given by Eleanor & Fred in loving memory of Grace Hess, who always put her faith & her church first.  |

During July & August we do not have regular 'florist' flowers, with a few exceptions. So far, July 12th, August 16th & possibly August 23rd are taken. However, if anyone wishes to bring flowers, garden or purchased, for any other Sundays you are welcome to do so. There are usually vase(s) available (some in the small kitchen or the memorial vases) & you can use those or your own to arrange the flowers. Even 1 vase is fine unless it is a Communion Sunday when the altar table is needed. Please take the flowers after the service. Also, if anyone does want to have flowers ordered see Marilyn Blom or the pastors. Any acknowledgment can be given by Thursday of that week or announced from the pulpit on Sunday. There are always some flowers in the garden to be enjoyed during the summer months. A special 'thank you' to the family of Sylvia Cunningham for providing several beautiful plants to start our summer garden. They will certainly be enjoyed during the coming months.

**June Birthdays**

|                        |                 |                        |                    |                        |                |                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>  | Betty Cross     | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | James Thompson     | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>  | Janet Douglass | <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>  | Georgia Holland |
| <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>  | Doris Mooradian | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | Christopher LaMere | <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | Bruce Bassett  | <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> | Nancy Farrell   |
| <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | Shirley Behan   | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Tina Honsinger     | <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> | Timothy Burgin | <b>22<sup>nd</sup></b> | William Murphy  |
| <b>25<sup>th</sup></b> | David Large     |                        |                    |                        |                |                        |                 |

**July Birthdays**

|                        |                |                        |                     |                        |                  |                        |                |
|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | Linda Campbell | <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>  | Erica Greene        | <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>  | Kitty Farrell    | <b>5<sup>th</sup></b>  | Alan Baumbach  |
| <b>6<sup>th</sup></b>  | Marion Pollack | <b>8<sup>th</sup></b>  | Thomas Strock Jr    | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | Kris & Leah Cook | <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | Lowell A. Blom |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | Dillan La Mere | <b>11<sup>th</sup></b> | Jim Fenimore        | <b>12<sup>th</sup></b> | William Pryor    | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | George Baker   |
| <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Lois Bishop    | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Carol Farrell       | <b>18<sup>th</sup></b> | Shirley Yattaw   | <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> | Richard Feiden |
| <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> | Lee Kemp       | <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | Christine MacDonald | <b>26<sup>th</sup></b> | Thomas Feiden    | <b>27<sup>th</sup></b> | Janice Changa  |
| <b>28<sup>th</sup></b> | Carol Best     |                        |                     |                        |                  |                        |                |

**August Birthdays**

|                        |                   |                        |                  |                        |                |                        |                |
|------------------------|-------------------|------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
| <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>  | Joanne Douglass   | <b>1<sup>st</sup></b>  | Patrick Lifite   | <b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>  | Frank Feiden   | <b>3<sup>rd</sup></b>  | Kevin Hedley   |
| <b>4<sup>th</sup></b>  | Corinna Facticeau | <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>  | Kristin Urzan    | <b>7<sup>th</sup></b>  | Paul McEachron | <b>9<sup>th</sup></b>  | Shirley Weiner |
| <b>10<sup>th</sup></b> | Susan Fenimore    | <b>13<sup>th</sup></b> | Ed Valentine     | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Judy Feiden    | <b>16<sup>th</sup></b> | Karen Campbell |
| <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> | Karen Blom        | <b>17<sup>th</sup></b> | Rosa Baumbach    | <b>18<sup>th</sup></b> | Evelyn Capelle | <b>19<sup>th</sup></b> | Ian Farrell    |
| <b>20<sup>th</sup></b> | Candy Urzan       | <b>21<sup>st</sup></b> | Kenneth Fletcher | <b>23<sup>rd</sup></b> | Alexis Pryor   | <b>24<sup>th</sup></b> | Kenneth Large  |
| <b>29<sup>th</sup></b> | Jeffrey Strock    | <b>31<sup>st</sup></b> | Thila Bell       |                        |                |                        |                |

**Anniversaries**

|                               |                          |                              |                                  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| <b>June 1<sup>st</sup></b>    | Dick and Bev Culver      | <b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>  | Ken and Dorcas Rose              |
| <b>July 15<sup>th</sup></b>   | David and Shirley Large  | <b>July 16<sup>th</sup></b>  | Nina Nichols and Andrew Torres   |
| <b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>   | Alice Rose & Paul Marano | <b>July 21<sup>st</sup></b>  | Judi Jacques and James Facticeau |
| <b>July 31<sup>st</sup></b>   | Joe and Carole Farrell   | <b>August 7<sup>th</sup></b> | Ian and Nancy Farrell            |
| <b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b> | Bill and Donna Pryor     |                              |                                  |

### 'Voices of the Saints'

The annual Spring concert of the Festival Celebration Choir will be held at 3pm. on Sunday, June 7th at the Church of St. Pius X in Loudonville. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board or Marilyn Blom

### Softball Practices

The CCUM

M u s t a n g s

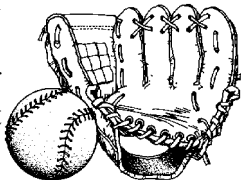
practice in Frear

Park Sundays at

2:30pm. All ages

and all abilities

are very much invited and Tom Feiden Jr. is the Coordinator. As usual, the intention is to have some games, so let us know if you know of a team who would like to play us!



### Helping Hands

As Worship Planning, and the various discussions that will precede it (see front page), are happening on Mondays this summer, Helping Hands will be trying something a little different and meeting on some Tuesdays before, during and after the intergenerational Sing a Long. The group will meet at least 4 times during June, July and August and each of those 4 Tuesdays we will be focusing, though not exclusively, on one item.

You can still bring along any project you are making to give away, but you can also come for that night's "special." : making knitted toys for the Women's shelter, or very simple fleece scarves and hats; cutting and piecing squares for baby quilts or helping construct and tie them.

We will display the item in worship the Sunday before and all ages and abilities are encouraged to learn and grow as well as chat. Please watch the bulletin for details or call the

Office to know when we will meet and what we will be making.



### Photos please!

Don't forget the picnic at Pastor Nina and Andrew's house on Monday August 18th - especially don't forget that Pastor Janet needs your photos as soon as you can dig them out,,, We are looking for pictures of you in the outfits of yesteryear...copies of these will be displayed with the face blanked out and attendees can try and guess who is who! Think hippy beads and bell-bottoms...sticky out skirts and bobby socks...big hair....long hair,

Wedding pictures and parties are a good source and don't let anyone see but Janet, so as to keep the surprise...In addition, if you have actual clothing to display or for someone to model -- that would be great (the fabulous archivaly preserved dressing gown might be best as a picture though!) Don't be shy -- the more we have, the more fun it should be!

### Congratulations

Matthew A. Baumbach, son of the Rev. Alan and June Baumbach, will graduate June 27th from Ravena-Coeymans- Selkirk High School with high honors and will be going to Stonybrook University on Long Island. Matthew was inducted into the National Honor Society in May 2007. He is the grandson of Frederick and Rosa Baumbach.

### Intergenerational Choir/Sing and Play-a-long:

Come one, come all--no musical experience required--and join us for an hour on Tuesday evenings starting at 7pm on June 16th. If you play an instrument bring it along. We're open to learning new songs, so bring your favorites! We sing not only during occasional Sunday services but also hope to expand our audience to include a Nursing Home or two during the summer. If you have questions, George Garin has been convening this with Pastor Nina.

### Claudia Campese

There is a wonderful article about Claudia, daughter of Thila and Harry Bell, posted on the Office window. Claudia takes her black labrador, Roxie, into the hospital where she works as an Operating Nurse, just to make some people smile: she and Roxie have been trained in pet therapy work. The article goes on to talk about Claudia's many accomplishments in her work at New Hanover Regional Medical Center as well as her volunteer activities at a local clinic. Check it out!

### Wii Olympiad coming in the Fall!

Our first Wii Olympiad is coming in October (and what we are currently thinking is that we will have 4-5 member teams (can be families) to compete and have tons of fun. If you're interested in helping plan/organize this new event on our calendar please contact George Garin @ knonop@gmail.com. Watch the church bulletin and Facebook page for more info during the summer.



## Endowment Update

Back in November, the Trustee Board gave you an update about the financial health of Christ Church's endowment in light of the downturn in the stock market. At that time, the value of the endowment had dropped from \$700,000 in January of 2008, to approximately \$500,000. The message from our financial manager/church member Mac Cook of Wachovia Securities (soon to undergo a name change to Wells Fargo), and from Lowell Blom, our Trustee Board investment liaison, was not to panic; that the markets were in the midst of a correction, and that with time and patience, the value of the endowment would begin to grow again.

As we all know, the market has continued its downturn well into 2009; the Trustee Board met with Mac in May to review the performance of our current investments. After a decline to below \$500,000 in early 2009, the value of the investments has again been rising, to \$507,921.61 as of close of business on 5/22/2009.

Although still a loss overall compared to 1 year ago, the endowment has grown from \$249,984 back in 1995, with \$518,553 being deposited, and a whopping \$871,666 withdrawn for repairs/maintenance, capital improvements, payments to current expenses, and memorials paid out. Despite significant use of the endowment, and the recent market downturn, the overall value of the endowment has still grown by 8.96%- not something most of us can say about our personal investments right now!

As always, we have the wonderful management of Mac and Lowell to thank for this growth, as well as the saints of the church who have contributed monetarily to the church's future, and the careful stewardship of the endowment by past and present Trustee Board members.

The Trustees will continue to focus on responsible spending for the remainder of 2009,

and provide some information about estate planning later in the year to all who are interested in learning more about making contributions to the endowment, that will ensure financial health for Christ Church in the future, as it continues its work in this community and beyond.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine MacDonald

Treasurer- Trustee Board

Christ Church United Methodist



### Open Invitation to the Christ Church community:

Please join us to celebrate the 50th Wedding Anniversary of Kenneth & Dorcas Rose!

Saturday, June 7th, 2009 in Fellowship Hall of Christ Church United Methodist from 2 to 5pm.

2:00 Mocktails & Hors d' Vours

3:00 Buffet

3:30 Program

This is an informal, fun and relaxed gathering hosted by the family. We promise good food and some laughs.

If you plan to attend please RSVP (just so we get a head count for the food) to Alice Rose at 518-274-9764 or arosetroy@gmail.com

Please no gifts. They already have too much stuff. But do come and celebrate with us.



## Pentecost Installation

Pentecost is when the church celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit to the early disciples forty days after the resurrection of Jesus. It is described in the book of Acts as accompanied by the sound of rushing wind and tongues of flame touching each of the disciples. We are celebrating Pentecost this year with hangings in the front of the church representing the tongues of flame. The installation will remain throughout the month of June to remind us that we, too, are people touched by the Holy Spirit.

### M. Edward Mooradian

It is our sad duty to announce the passing of Ed Mooradian on April 30th, 2009. Well known in the community for the family furniture business and for the family dedication to Vanderheyden Hall and his own involvement with Troy High alumni and the Rotary, he was a staunch supporter of his church - Trinity until the merger and then Christ Church, and still a Trustee at the time of his death, where he was always watchful over our investments and looking to the congregation's future. He was especially supportive of work with young people and always had a friendly smile and chuckle with the very young. A hard worker himself, he appreciated those who worked hard for their church; a tireless and generous visitor himself, he appreciated those who also visited, especially the elderly and those in nursing homes. He will be missed by us all. Our condolences go to his widow, Doris, and daughter, Amy and her family.

## Christ Church United Methodist

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### Sylvia Hagopian Cunningham

In May, the church lost a sweet friend in the passing of Sylvia, whose warm and joyous spirit many of us had hardly had time to appreciate. Her wonderful ability to create community gathered many to her funeral, who had benefitted from these skills; people she had worked with, volunteered with and met when she lived near them. She was remembered fondly by members of our congregation who recalled her role in the 60's and 70's as children's choir director and as President of the Up and Comers' fellowship group. After three decades away we are glad she made her way "home to Christ Church" in the last couple of years and are only sorry not to have had more time to benefit from those community building skills and to enjoy her wonderful sense of fun. Our condolences go to her sons, Kyle, Todd and Scott and their families.

### Make a note of these dates:

The Pastors lead worship at Methodist Farm, Sunday August 2nd, 7pm. Picnic/cook-out beforehand and your voices appreciated at worship!

Picnic and Guess who wore that! Monday August 17th at Pastor Nina's.

August Church Council, Thursday August 20th

Vacation Bible School Wednesdays at Oakwood Presbyterian

Movies/Discussions for our Summer Arts Festival Mondays @ 7pm -- first movie is Monday June 15th 7pm "Wall-E."

Intergenerational Sing and Play a Longs Tuesdays at 7- 8pm starting June 18th; some Tuesdays Helping Hands 6:30 - 9pm

### Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday August 23rd

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: 203-0973

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