



Discipline

As many of you know, New Year's Day is one of my most favorite of the year. I love to mark up my new calendar and make my Resolutions (writing them on a notes page in the calendar so I have to carry them around with me all the time). Over the years there have been some basic and recurring themes: health and fitness, finance, and family.

The family piece has had some interesting variations-- everything from "have a baby" to "remember people's birthdays". I have had various degrees of success and failure on these: 3 wonderful children but lousy with Christmas and Birthday cards. This year, I am resolved (have firm determination) to get a family photo card made for Easter and send it to just 10 relatives. On January 1st (poolside in San Antonio) that feels like a manageable Resolution.

On the Finance front there have been interesting changes, as well. Two years ago Andrew and I committed to tithe (give 10% of our income) to Christ Church and other places where we see God's work happening in the world (Heifer International and Habitat for Humanity, for example). I only began to recognize the results of this discipline a couple of months ago when I suddenly realized anxiety about finances had (over time) been replaced with a sense of gratitude and an abundance way of thinking and feeling about our resources. This was a huge shift and one that I did not anticipate-- but I do celebrate the change.

That got me wondering about what would happen if I practiced a similar discipline in my prayer life. As the discipline of tithing had reshaped me, perhaps the discipline of prayer might transform me, too, and in ways I can't anticipate. So my Health and Fitness Resolution has had its own makeover this year... To set aside 30 minutes at the beginning of my day for prayer and study. For me, this will be my personal preparation time for the DISCIPLE Bible Study class I will be co-leading with Ron Drummond.

On the weeks we don't meet I will choose a daily devotion, but DISCIPLE will keep me focused and faithful to my Resolution 34 weeks of the coming year... If you already have a disciplined prayer routine or are also planning to start one, I humbly request you add our class of 11 to your list.

I look forward to hearing about your Resolutions as you are willing to share them in the coming year. If Resolutions, per se, are not your thing, then I would love to talk to you about where you are on your journey with Christ-- how are you questioning, serving, growing? Either way, let's do coffee and look forward to all that is possible in the New Year!

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Church Council:

Thursday, January 21st at 7:00pm.

Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations: Intentional Faith Development. In preparation for an end of winter day retreat to dream and vision and respond to what God is calling us to do and be as an increasingly diverse, growing, downtown Troy congregation, please join us for this conversation. All are welcome!

Other important business:

- Review of Radical Hospitality and Passionate Worship "reasonable and expected" priorities.
- Coffee Fellowship Conversation
- Fundraising Priorities for 2010

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Notes from the Music Coordinator - Erica Greene

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in the music program for a smooth transition this fall. The spring music calendar is available for anyone interested at <http://musicccum.blogspot.com/>. This will be updated as more special music is scheduled. I encourage anyone interested in being part of the music program to contact me. If you would like to provide special music, vocal or instrumental, please check out the calendar and let me know what Sunday works best for you.

The intergenerational vocal and chime choirs rehearse at 6pm on Wednesdays. They are open to singers and ringers of all ages and abilities. The bell choir continues to rehearse at 7pm on Wednesday evenings. If you can read music and have experience following a director, we welcome your participation. If you would like to join, but do not have the experience, I suggest the chime choir as a starting place. The festival choir will start up again in March to prepare for the Easter season

Tri-City Trad's English Country Dance Music Jubilee Jam

4th Monday of every month at 7:30 PM

Each month we will play English Country Dance Music from one or both of the Barnes Books. Occasionally other sources of music will be used, however sheet music will always be available. Fritz Stafford will co-lead each jam, and a different co-lead will accompany him. Please bring a music stand and \$5. If you arrive late, ring the doorbell and someone will let you into the building. Please do not ring the doorbell before 7:15pm -- there is a Yoga class using the room before our jam, and we don't want to disturb them. Join us for dinner at 6:00pm - locations for dinner will vary monthly. Contact tri-city-trad-ny@hotmail.com for details.

Location: Christ Church United Methodist, Fellowship Hall, 35 State Street, Troy,



Acts of extravagant generosity!

The Mitten Tree, food donations and Joseph House children's gifts.

Before Thanksgiving several bags filled with hats and scarves, mostly hand-made, were taken to Unity house, just as the weather started to become cool. Several bags more, of adult hats, scarves and mittens went to Joseph's House for the adults who would be attending their Christmas party. Despite giving out numerous sets to families who stopped by the church, we still have several bagfuls more that will be shared between helping agencies in the next few weeks.

In addition, your food donations, as well as being handed out for immediate needs, will be going to local food pantries shortly. Thank you for these - and for the office full of gifts for children served by Joseph's House. 23 children each listed 3 items they would wish to have for Christmas and these gifts, plus wrapping paper, tape and tags, were all taken to Joseph's House in time for their Christmas Party, along with toiletries and warm clothing for the adults. Thank you for your amazing kindness and generosity!

Habitat for Humanity – Church Build Update

The rehab of 99 Ingalls Ave is progressing. Plans on specifications/materials lists have been completed and submitted to the city of Troy for a building permit. Work that doesn't require a permit is proceeding:

- Asphalt siding has been removed down to the original clapboard
- Roof shingles have been removed and the new roof has been completed
- Old plumbing, electrical and heating lines have been removed
- Replacement windows were purchased and are installed
- Dry rot and carpenter ant damage is being repaired
- Heating system has been ordered and installation will begin when Troy issues a building permit
- Exterior studs are being extended to allow for insulation in exterior walls
- Dirt portion of the basement floor is being excavated for a future concrete pour

Site supervisors are in place and work is occurring every Thurs and Sat starting at 8:30am. Volunteer forms are available in the church office or speak to Curtis Dunagan 674-1101 or curtis.dunagan@yahoo.com

Unity House Donation

Once again, Christ Church donated space for Elizabeth and Andrew, who teach yoga classes in the church, to hold a joint New Year's Day yoga fundraiser for one of the local helping agencies.

20 attended the event and their donations amounted to \$234. This year, Unity House was designated the recipient of these funds.

The Christmas Offering

Our holiday gifts offerings, throughout the year, are shared equally between church expense and a local helping agency. The Thanksgiving offering was donated to Joseph's House "Inn from the Cold" program, just as that program was moving the beds into our building for the month of December. The Christmas offering, received mostly on Christmas Eve but with some gifts being given on the Sunday before and after that, was donated to Bethany House and their letter of thanks can be seen on the bulletin board. Bethany House is a drop-in daytime center not even a block from our building. It provides hot, home-cooked lunches at no cost to anyone who drops by. Your generosity meant we could send them \$810.

Thank you.

Troy Yoga

With 2010 on our doorsteps, make a resolution that is easy to keep and oh-so-good for your body, mind, and soul. The professional and friendly instructors of Troy Yoga offer three different sessions each week right here in the Christ Church Community Room--all of the classes are ongoing on a drop-in basis (no registration required) and cost only \$10.

The Monday class with Joely (6-7:15pm) welcomes all levels from absolute beginner to advanced. Her focus on mindful breathing, body alignment, and deep relaxation will improve your posture, mental focus, and overall health.

Wednesdays with Elizabeth (5:30-6:30pm) provides a gentle and nurturing yoga session perfect for first-timers as well as those seeking a calming, healing class.

Andrew's Thursday class (6-7:15pm) is ideal for people who have some yoga experience and want a strengthening, warming session.

For more information about the instructors and the classes, go to www.troy-yoga.com.

4 week study of parables

Tuesdays@ 7:30 during February 2010

In recognition that some people have asked for shorter courses on specific themes I am developing a number of 4 week adult discussion opportunities and, because this has also been requested, we will start with a look at 4 parables, 2 being The Good Samaritan and the Parable of the Talents and the other 2 to be chosen by participants.

We will take these 4 parables and look at the different ways they have been interpreted, and even the different ways they are told in the various gospels. We will consider traditional interpretations - the ones we grew up with probably - and we look to see how some scholars today are reappraising their message. You will be encouraged to find the understanding that makes sense for you personally in the light of the various options. Not so much teaching as facilitated discussion of what Jesus' stories means for us today.

Further 4 week studies will include reading the Book of Amos, a surprisingly relevant ancient book.

Eclipsing Empire

This 12 week DVD series has been remarkably well appreciated by those able to attend all the sessions. I want to continue to offer this for people to catch up on what they missed as well to allow more people to watch it. Part travelogue-part study it helps us understand what the early Church community must have been like. If you want to take this course but need a time other than our usual study times, let me know: we will see what we can do as a group together to do.

Mid-week Bible Study: Job.

Our midweek study group will be spending some weeks reading through the Old Testament book of Job, often regarded as the most difficult book of the Bible because of its difficult subject matter! But don't let that put you off coming - we have fun and share plenty of questions and some of the group head off for lunch and chat in downtown Troy. We will be meeting Wednesday, January 13th at 10:30a.m. but our scheduled day may be changing very soon, so speak to Pastor Janet if you want to drop by after that date.

Janet Douglass

Given By	In Memory Or Honor Of
Thila & Harry Bell	Their parents
* *	Her brother, Carl Schulze
His wife, Sue & Family	Bill Blom
The Bill Blom family	Loved ones
Lowell & Marilyn Blom	Loved ones
Linda & Mark Campbell	Her mother, Bette Keyes
A Friend	Warren Christian & daughter, Barbara Truax
The Cooper-Smith Memorial	Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper
Richard & Beverley Culver	Florence E. Culver
Curtis & Esther Dunagan	Her mother, Ellen Mohl Wheland and grandparents, Benjamin & Esther Mohl.
* *	His father, Claude Dunagan & grandmother, Julia Lindsey
Margie Feiden	Fred & Mary Besaw, Catherine Stallmer & Rita Chaszowski
Judy Feiden	Henry & Florence Feiden and Harry & Harry C. Feiden, Jr.
The Fletcher Family	Norman Fletcher
* *	Loved ones
Mr. W. Warren Gibson	His parents
The Guile Family	Marjorie & Marilyn James
Fred & Martha Hess	Parents, Grace & Wendell Hess & their sons.
* *	John & Wendell Hess
Lee & Roger Kemp	Family & Friends
Shirley & Dave Large	Her parents, John & Marge Wattendorf
* *	George & Dorothy Large
The Lovegrove Family	George Lovegrove
* *	Loved ones
Paul Marano & Alice Rose	Brenda Joy Marano
* *	Dorothy Rose Taylor
* *	David L. Taylor
* *	Stanley Crow
The Mattoon-Holland Family	Loved ones
Mrs. Thomas Q. McNaughton	Mr. & Mrs. Bruce J. Riggs
* *	Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs
* *	Miss Thelma J. Riggs
* *	Mr. & Mrs. Henry Kreiss
* *	Helen M.. Holmes
* *	Mr. Issac Hite Riggs
Doris Mooradian	Loved ones
The Pryor Family	Jack & Marge Douttiel
* *	Larry & Ann MacDonald
The Rose Family	In celebration of Christmas
Betty & Nick Sopchak	Loved ones
Katherine Storms	Thomas Hobbie, MD
* *	Elizabeth Hobbie
Loretta Turner	The Turner family
Bennett Turk	Karen A. Carpenter

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) Choirs: Each Wednesday:6-8pm 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship				1	2
3	4	5	6 ^{9am} Wshp planning 10:30am Bible Study	7 ^{7pm} Finance	8	9 ^{6pm} Epiphany party (At church)
10	11	12	13 ^{9am} Wshp planning 10:30am Bible Study	14 ^{7pm} Trustees	15	16
17 ^{4pm:} MLK service, Bethel	18	19 ^{Disciple} Class	20 ^{9am} Wshp planning 10:30am Bible Study	21 ^{7pm} Church Council	22	23
24 ^{Spire} Deadline	25	26 ^{Disciple} Class	27 ^{9am} Wshp planning 10:30am Bible Study	28	29	30

January Birthdays.

3rd	Karl Facticeau	6th	Robert Weiner	8th	Juanita Deyo
11th	Jenny Tschumi	12th	Nina Nichols	13th	Casey LaMere
13th	Barry Pryor	14th	David Douthiel	15th	Julia Strock
18th	Kim Pryor	21st	Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham	26th	Bryanna Burgin
29th	Jane Johnston	28th	Frank Pitts	29th	Carrie LaMere
31st	Lisa McEachron				

January Anniversaries.

4th	Ron and Nancy Burgin	29th	Debbie Byers and Frank Pitts
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December Flowers

6 th	The white poinsettias are given by Mr. W. Warren Gibson to the glory of God in loving memory of his mother, Clara Gibson..
13 th	The red poinsettias are given by the Lovegrove Family in memory of loved ones.
From 20 th onwards	Memorial poinsettias
The large chancel wreath is given by Mr. & Mrs. M. Edward Mooradian in memory of their parents.	
The Advent wreath in the narthex is given by the Neitzel family in memory of Edith I. Sharpe.	

Marcel Pilette

It is with sadness we report the death, during the 2009 Christmas season, of Marcel Pilette, husband of Noreen Ortiz Pilette, and father of Jackie and Melissa. A huge crowd of people, came to Christ Church on the snowy Sunday afternoon of January 3rd to mourn this remarkable man, friend to so many. Marcel and Noreen and family have been close friends with Lee and Roger Kemp and their family for more than 35 years. Our sincere condolences go to the family and all friends as they mourn Marcel's sudden and too-soon loss.

Thank You

Many, Many thanks for the very generous Christmas gift. It is such a blessing to serve this wonderful congregation. This Christmas gift was yet another example of the extravagant generosity you demonstrate year round in a multitude of ways.

We are looking forward to where the Wild One will lead us in the New Year, and grateful for the privilege of making the journey with you!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Nina and Pastor Janet.

Next Spire

The next Spire deadline is Sunday January 24th

Christ Church United Methodist
35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180
Return Service Requested

Non-profit Org
U.S. Postage
PAID
Troy, NY 12180
Permit #496

Harvest Sale

It's been a long time since the end of October and our Harvest Sale. This year it has developed into an ongoing thing with

- 1) a presale that got us off to a good start,
- 2) the two day sale at the end of October,
- 3) two days at the craft fair at the Empire State Plaza in Albany, and
- 4) two weeks of a limited display at the Campbell Avenue Curves.

Altogether, we made \$2,842.50, a little more than last year. Ten percent of the proceeds from the sale will go to Joseph's House and the remainder to the church's annual budget.

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this sale: those who made craft items, baked, made candy, helped in the kitchen, distributed flyers, helped with the sale tables, and attended the sale.

Martin Luther King Celebration

The annual celebration for the life and witness of the REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. organized by Troy Area United Ministries, will be held on January 17th and 18th. The Interfaith Worship Service will be held on Sunday, January 17, 2010, at 4:00pm at Bethel Baptist Church, 2165 Fifth Ave., Troy with the Rev. Leonard Comithier of Macedonia Baptist Church preaching.

The Community Breakfast will be on Monday, January 18, 2010, 8:00am at the Franklin Terrace, 126 Campbell Ave., Troy with Ms. Janet Sapio-Mayta, of "100 Hispanic Women" as the guest speaker.

For more information or to reserve your breakfast seat, please contact TAUM at 274-5920 or email their office: sbraymer@knick.net

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

The Rev. Nina Nichols Senior Pastor email pastornina@christchurchtroy.org Urgent phone: 588-6405

Janet Douglass, Assistant Pastor email janetd@nycap.rr.com Urgent phone: 273-3713

The Rev. C. Joseph Ingraham, Pastor Emeritus