

Giving and Generosity

October was filled with conversations about Adam Hamilton's *Enough: Discovering Joy through Simplicity and Generosity*, and on Sunday October 31st people were invited to make a commitment to supporting the mission and ministry at Christ Church for 2011. This kind of giving is one important way of expressing your love for God and neighbor as lived out in our worship and work together and I appreciate the care and prayer you take in making that decision.

Of course, November and December bring with them wonderful opportunities to offer our gratitude to God and to practice extravagant generosity as an expression of thanksgiving. Christ Church is working with Joseph's House and other downtown churches again this year to host Inn From the Cold, an overflow shelter for up to 10 men. This program runs from November to April and Christ Church is the site in both November and December. There are many folks from CCUM along with Joseph's House staff and community volunteers who have given their time (9:30pm- 7:00am) to help make life better by getting someone off the street and out of the cold for a night. Most of us would say our life was better, too, for the chance to see Christ in someone in need and to respond to Jesus call to servant ministry. There are many ways you can support this program. Prayers are always welcome for the guests, the volunteers, the staff. Resources are always helpful... it costs about \$5.37 to get a man off the street for a night. The Thanksgiving offering this year will be split between the budget needs at CCUM and Joseph's House, please consider a generous gift. The Winter Walk kick off is December 2nd with Dinner and Dancing. It would be great to have a table of CCUM folks again this year for the only major fundraiser for Joseph's House (please see me or Pastor Janet about reserving your spot). Snacks, especially the savory variety, are a welcome gift and nice for guests and volunteers to share over games and conversations. But best of all would be a gift of time and presence.

On Sunday, November 14th, Paul Delio from Joseph's House will be with us in worship and for a special coffee talk following worship (light lunch provided). All are welcome to come and hear more about Joseph's House and Inn from the Cold... and to learn more about homelessness and the need for affordable housing. **For those who choose, this time together can also serve as the application, interview and training for Inn from the Cold.** If you have been praying about volunteering, this would be a convenient way to meet those requirements and become involved with this special ministry.

There is a way for everyone to participate in the extravagant generosity we practice at CCUM. Watch for opportunities in the coming weeks to contribute to pies for Unity House thanksgiving boxes. In December, we will be offering space to Unity House for their gift distribution program. Soon the office windows will be filled with children's names and ages and Christmas wishes and a chance for us to help make a nicer Christmas for families in the care of Joseph's House. And, of course, there is an invitation to contribute to the Hat and Mitten Tree.

It is an amazing blessing to serve this congregation and to serve the community with you. I look forward to the coming season living the abundant life of Christ, overflowing with deeds of love and service, honoring the Gift-giver who is at work in us and among us.

**Grace and Peace,
 Pastor Nina**

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Social Action and Awareness Team

Cool Congregations

Following up on the well-attended workshop sponsored by NY Power and Light we hosted in September, Joel Holcomb heads up our congregational "Green Team." Along with our other workshop attendees, Annee Borthwick and Nina Nichols, Joel will spearhead a program that aims to increase the awareness of our impact on the environment and suggest ways we can reduce our carbon footprint (and, yes, also lower utility and other bills in so doing). This is an extension of initiatives deriving from our Lenten "Carbon Fast." Nancy Campbell volunteered her family/house to act as a test case in January. Watch for more and if you're interested in getting on the list for a "green" audit yourself, please let Joel know.

Bridges Out of Poverty Book Study (Homelessness Issues)

Nancy also volunteered to attend a November event in connection with this book and its approach to addressing homelessness. Tentative plans would call for a book discussion in January...at a time when we will have finished hosting the homeless (through the Joseph's House Inn From the Cold Program) for the months of November and December.

Marriage Equality March

Expressing our on-going commitment to living out what it means to be a Reconciling Congregation, some SAAT and other members of Christ Church marched, along with about 200 others, in support of the Marriage Equality Act on October 16. The wonderful event began and ended at the Irish Mist in South Troy and, while strolling along, we were able to say hi to folks manning our Churro Booth at Troy's Chowderfest, along with greeting many other well-wishers along the route.

SAAT Bulletin Board Space

We'll be consolidating information and announcements shortly on one of the church's bulletin boards.

Muslim Connections/Dialog

Bob Blackmon shared a recent incident relevant to our on-going discussion of how to promote greater understanding and interaction between our faith communities. We mentioned the possibility of sharing the "Cool Congregations" approach with our Muslim brothers and sisters in the future.

Accessibility Issues

Recognizing that accessibility issues fall under the rubric of social action and awareness (significant challenges were encountered at our Cool Congregations Workshop for example), our SAAT group voiced its unanimous support for the attempt to address accessibility issues along with the willingness to work with the Trustees and Church Leadership to expedite the process.

As always, if you're interested in becoming part of our Team, please feel free to attend our meetings. Our next one will be Nov. 15 (6:30-8:00pm) at Andrew's home.

Warmly, in an eco-friendly way (so not over-warm:) at this time of year when we consider the faithful stewardship of all the gifts God has entrusted to our care...

George Garin (Co-Facilitator)

Church Directory info and pictures needed asap.

If no-one has asked for your birthday, your basic information, or asked to take your picture (or to email one to the office/ leave a favorite one to scan) please have a word with a Pastor or one of the people walking around with their cameras, very soon. We will be compiling a list of those we have missed but it makes the task easier if you tell us - and makes sure we do not leave anyone out. It really helps everyone puts names to faces to have a pictorial directory and some of the information is not for public use but means the office can get in touch with you should we have another of those snow or gas leak emergencies that have closed the building in previous years. Your cooperation is very much appreciated.

If you are out-of-town and we do not already print your celebration dates, please call or email those to us very soon; if you want to be included in the photo section, please email us a photo. Head to the website and connect from there: www.christchurchtroy.org

Music Ministry

We continue to experiment with ways that will enhance our musical experience here at Christ Church. My hope, paraphrasing Plato, is that our music and rhythm might find its way into the secret places of the soul...and allow our spirits to touch or be touched by the Divine.

Sunday Hymn Leaders: a regular group now gathers at the piano to help lead our hymns. Thanks for all the positive feedback. Feel free to join us!

Hymn Sing: we held our first on October 16th (3rd Sunday) from 10:15-10:30. Kate and Katie contributed a beautiful duet. Plan to join us again on Sunday, November 20th at 10:15 around the piano before church ready to suggest and sing your favorite hymns before the morning's worship.

Victorian Stroll: see the separate article about the musical events planned for the day. Should be sweet!

2010 Choir Fest: Our i-Gen Group will be participating in the Annual Choir Fest at the Joy of Troy (Adventist Congregation that once worshiped here) in Lansingburgh (Saturday, November 20th at 6:30pm). The evening is open to all and if you enjoy a good variety of music, please plan on attending.

Special Music: Play an instrument? Sing? If you'd like to share your gifts by preparing a musical offering of some sort, please feel free to do so. Just let me know and we'll get it on the calendar. This includes not only music that would be played during worship, but also selections that might immediately precede or follow our Sunday worship. One of our Sunday School classes has offered to lead us in a hymn on a regular (monthly?) basis...fun!

Festival Choir: let Andrew know if you're interested in preparing some selections for upcoming services. Christmas isn't that far away!

Bell Choir: a meeting was held after church on October 24th to finalize plans for the Victorian Stroll and to chart out the immediate future of our Bell Choir groupings. As always, if you'd like to be a member of the Bell Choir and can commit to the weekly practice schedule (currently Wednesdays @ 7pm), please let Andrew know.

Thanks for allowing me to serve as your Minister of Music...

George Garin, Music Minister

Churro's a great success!

A small and loyal band gave up many hours over the late Spring, Summer and even early Fall to make and sell churros. The result was not simply a help for those Summer months when regular pledges may be delayed, but a hugely significant fundraiser for the annual budget. Additionally, we gave away a lot of product (which we love to do!) and we had many conversations with our fellow Trojans we would never have had. Churros were sold at the River Fest, Pig Out, Chowder Fest, weekly Rockin' on the River concerts and Little Italy International Festival. We also gave away churros at our own Block Party and at the RPI's Parent's Weekend and festival. It was a huge effort and made around \$4,000 once food permits, fees and material costs were paid. Awesome!

Devotion

Nancy Burgin

"Just WHY are you drinking from the faucet?" my mother asked me. I explained, quite seriously, that I was lapping from the faucet like a dog, just like the 300 men that God said could go with Gideon. God kept whittling the number down, so the Israelites wouldn't say, "We did this all by ourselves". First there were 32,000, then 10,000. Then God told Gideon that "whoever laps water with his tongue, as a dog laps" were the ones He had chosen. (Judges 7:1-8) In my questionable wisdom, I figured that the ones that God had chosen were especially holy. Hence, my drinking out of the faucet, which was as close as I could get. With great patience, my mother explained that it didn't work that way. Those men were no more holy than any one else. I was sad. Here I thought I had figured out a quick and easy way to holiness. (As if such a thing could be either quick or easy!)

Looking back now, I find myself seeing the story in a different light. I'm glad those chosen weren't any better than the others. It tells me that God doesn't only pick holy people to do His work. He is willing to use us just as we are. I think that's absolutely terrific! (As so does my mother, since it stopped me from lapping water out of the faucet...)

Person In The Pew: Kate Storms

Kate Storms, Church Musician since last November, has a really unique set of talents. Not only is she a gifted pianist and organist: she's also certified to teach German and English; she's a retired reference librarian; and she holds a degree in Electrical Construction and Maintenance.

Born the fourth of six daughters to “the country doctor” who practiced, for 52 years, in the family home in Sodus, Kate grew up Presbyterian. She says her family has always been pragmatic about the churches they've attended: in 1908, when her grandfather moved to Lewiston, NY, he joined (literally) the only church in town. Similarly, Kate joined the Episcopalian church when it turned out to be the only one in Rensselaerville with central heating—a real lure when you grew up just south of Lake Ontario.



After growing up in Sodus and before raising her children in Rensselaerville, Kate earned a B.A. in English and German from Westminster College in Pennsylvania; an M.L.S. from Rutgers; and, in 2005, that electrical associates degree. Now, she lives in Albany, in one of three old houses she owns in a span of a couple blocks. Given the difficulty of finding electricians who could work on old houses (or wanted to), she enrolled at HVCC and completed their program. Problem solved!

Over the years, Kate has done quite a few things, including teaching, most recently at Goff Middle School in East Greenbush, where she taught German from 1997 to 2000. Over the course of about 30 years, she also worked three separate times for the state legislature: as the Albany office person for two different legislators, and also for the Senate Research Service. Since retiring from the State Library last fall, Kate has liked having time to read, mostly natural history, relevant to her love of birding, hiking, and gardening. As to movies, Kate says “If it's at the Spectrum, I probably like it.” Her musical tastes are eclectic — she loves traditional music, does English Country Dance, and drifts off to sleep each night with WMHT softly playing.

She's also well traveled, having visited Uganda twice and Jamaica once, in each case visiting friends she met at Grace and Holy Innocents Episcopal Church in Albany, which emphasizes the fact that it's part of the Anglican Communion and actively reaches out to Anglicans from Africa and the Caribbean. Kate calls Three Cups of Tea and Stones into Schools, by Greg Mortenson, important to her spiritual life. She also read Tracy Kidder's book, Mountains Beyond Mountains, about Paul Farmer, physician and medical anthropologist, who for many years has worked for free in Haiti, eight months of each year. Inspired by what she read, Kate is in contact with people in Haiti, exploring the possibility of teaching English and music there, and learning Hataian Creole. Each Sunday, she attends the 8:00 service at St. Paul's, Albany, before coming to us.

Finance Update

This has been an exciting time for the Finance Committee. We had a great summer fundraiser with Churros at Rockin' on the River, raising close to \$4000.00 this year through that activity. As of the September budget report, we were able to report that all our financial obligations are current and up to date. We are also pleased to report that benevolence giving represents 13% of our total expenditures. Benevolence includes our connectional giving and special offerings for crises such as Haiti. We have distributed the 3rd quarter giving statements. When you look at your statement, I hope you can see the good that your contribution is doing. You are supporting your church and your community, here in downtown Troy and the world. If you see an error in your statement, please bring it to the attention of the Finance Committee. Thank you, Lee Kemp.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30pm Wshp Planning	2 6pm i-Gen 7pm Disciple	3 7pm Bells	4 10:30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Finance	5	6
7 All Saints	8 6:30pm Wshp Planning	9 6pm i-Gen 7pm Disciple	10 7pm Bells	11 10:30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Trustees	12	13
14 Inn from the Cold coffee talk	15 6:30pm Wshp Planning	16 6pm i- Gen 7pm Disciple	17 7pm Bells	18 10:30am LTQ 2.0 7pm Church Council	19	20
21 Spire Deadline Greening of Sanctuary	22	23 9am Wshp Planning 6pm i-Gen 7pm Disciple	24 7pm Bells	25 Thanksgiving Office closed	26 Office closed	27
28 Advent	29	30 9am Wshp Planning 6pm i-Gen 7pm Disciple	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship			

November Birthdays.

3rd Mac Cook	5th Peter Nazarian	5th Claire Pitts
5th Alice Rose	5th Moses Torres	6th Jessica MacDonald
7th Joey Farrell	10th John Haldin	11th Andrew Torres
12th Heather Packard	13th Cindy Ashline	14th Ben Northrup
15th Mary Farrell	18th Paul Marano	18th Sheryl Martucci (Blom)
19th Sam Cook	25th Joseph Farrell III	27th Nicole Suscietto
30th Eric Kemp		

October Flowers

3rd	Given by the Family in loving memory of Dorothy R. Large.
10th	Given in memory of Mildred & Herbert Kennedy.
17th	Given by the Pryor-Douttiel Family in loving memory of Marge & Jack
24th	Given by his family in celebration of Devin Michael Nuzzi on the day of his baptism

November- December Upper Rooms

Subsidized copies of the Upper Room daily devotional are available for 75 cents. These are on the table outside Wesley Hall (where we have Coffee Hour.)

Bob Blackmon

Bob Blackmon will once again have his still life paintings on display in a one-person show at the East Greenbush Library, 10 Community Way in East Greenbush, November 9th to November 30th. Prior to that show, Bob will show his work at the Sand Lake Center for the Arts Holiday Fair, November 6 and 7 at the SLC. Admission to both events is free. Details: 518-326-3212 or still.life.guy@gmail.com or www.blackmonstudio.com

November Anniversaries

30th	Roger and Lee Kemp
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Enjoy the City/ Save Around coupon books: \$20

Please stop by the Office and check out these books. They are a generous fundraiser for the Church but have multiple coupons for a smaller number of establishments than many, but if it includes a favorite place you can quickly make your money back and save even more. 12 coupons for Bruegger's; 8 for Ihop; 4 for La Serre; 2 Pig Pit; Aunt Annie's; Long John Silver; Pizza Hut, Dunkin' Donuts, Burger King, Domino's, Buca, MacDonald's, Irish Mist, plus golf and museums, Jeepers; RPI Hockey and more.

New chocolate bar: Caramel and Sea Salt; Orange back in stock.

You will be seeing this in the stores soon: coffee prices have had a major price increase - so as we get the new stock that will be reflected in our Equal Exchange fair trade coffee prices. (However, you will notice that if you buy this same coffee elsewhere, we still give you a great deal here!) The new stock of chocolate bars and hot cocoa have a smaller, 25 cent price increase also. Thank you for supporting the producers in this way. If you want to know why fair trade helps or why all coffee has gone up in price, speak with Janet.

Retreat at Carondelet next May

A limited number of overnight beds available.

The Pastors recently spent a day and half at Carondelet in Latham and want to hold a retreat based on what we will be doing in eastertide worship. All are encouraged to attend as much of the Friday evening through Saturday dinner event, but we did reserve a few rooms for those who want to stay for the full experience! Talk to Pastor Nina to find out more.

Greening the Sanctuary

Please plan to stay after worship on Sunday, November 21st to decorate the sanctuary ready for Advent Sunday the following week. Lunch will be provided. We will assemble and decorate the trees and hang lanterns, swag and wreaths.

The Cookie Walk during Victorian Stroll.

I really like the Cookie Walk. It is a small event in terms of fund raising but I still really love it. I don't bake a lot but I love cookies. So all the variety of the Cookie Walk really appeals to me. In addition, it's festive. It makes the hallway smell good - spicy and sweet. It reminds me Christmas is coming and there are many reasons to celebrate. I like to buy many cookies to share with friends. Therefore, I'm asking you to support this fun small fundraiser with your time and talent:

- Time helping set up, time during the event boxing, selling the cookies, and afterwards helping to put everything away.
- Your talent in making delicious cookies that people coming to our location can purchase and enjoy.

Thanks for supporting this event. There will be a sign up sheet on the office window for workers and cookies. I hope many people will participate because it really is a lot of fun.

Thank you, Lee Kemp, Finance Chair

Tour was "terrific!"

A dozen people enjoyed the recent Catacombs and Catwalks tour of the building. One decorating the sign-up sheet with one word: "Terrific!" This tour is always fully subscribed and lets our people get a glimpse in the hidden parts of the building. If you missed it the Trustees might be persuaded to run another one next year...

Coming Soon...

Watch out for some changes in the sanctuary: the Trustees are tweaking our accessibility issues...

And let the Trustees know if you want to volunteer for the bigger changes we want to make to create new bathrooms for all, a wheelchair accessible restroom and install that elevator! We are increasingly being frustrated by not being able to welcome people to every part of our space and, therefore, include everyone in our programming. We are regularly having to turn down events we would love to host - and we want to move ahead with our plans. Talk to a Trustee or their Chair, Paul Marano, if this interests you.

Winter Is Coming:

Nancy Burgin

I'd like to take this opportunity to remind you of The Mitten Tree. We will have a mitten tree displayed to receive your donations of mittens (obviously) as well as hats, socks and scarves. These can be either handmade or purchased. (The Dollars Stores usually have some.) We will need all sizes: men, women and children.

Realizing that cold weather doesn't wait until Christmas time to descend on Troy, we have decided to make two donations this year. Our first donation of items will take place before Thanksgiving, and our second will be right before Christmas.

Church conference reports

With our Church conference in early December (Thursday 9th, 7pm) your annual reports are due at your earliest convenience and no later than December 1st.

If you have photos for Dorcas Rose's photo memory of the year, please send her those as soon as possible.

Epiphany party anyone?

We hope to have our usual Epiphany party and gift exchange. Does anyone want to host it in their home? Call the Office to volunteer your space! 272-8392

TAUM's Furniture Program; *festival of Music & Chocolate*

Sunday, November 7th, 3-5pm
St. Jude the Apostle R.C. Church, 43 Brookside Ave., Wynantskill.

All the chocolate and non-chocolate desserts you can eat for \$10 adults and \$5 for children under 12. A freewill offering will be received during the concert, reservations encouraged: 272-5920 x 201. Desserts and music by various local congregations.

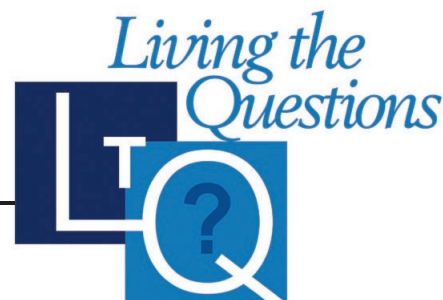
Joseph's House Gift

Every year Joseph's House holds a holiday party and gives Christmas gifts for children of the families the staff have aided in the previous 12 months. Some of the children are staying in motel rooms until permanent housing can be found; some are the families which have stayed at the Shelter when homeless and some are families headed by women who have disabilities. The list of children and their "wishes" will be in the building in mid-November. There will be a sign up sheet with three items per child, and you can buy just one gift or several. Watch for the list on the Office window.

Living the Questions 2.0

In addition to the daytime session I would like to run an evening or weekend session of this course and need a group of 6 people to commit to journey together. The course is DVD based and utilizes some of the world's most progressive Christian voices. It is designed to generate discussions and questioning. If you took the first Living the Questions, this course is both a refresher and a much expanded version and includes sessions on the creation stories, the birth narratives, different ways of looking at Good Friday, Easter and the Rapture; inclusivity and social justice and more. I'd like to start the first 7 sessions soon! Please let Janet know what works for your schedule

1. An Invitation to Journey
2. Taking the Bible Seriously
3. Thinking Theologically
4. Stories of Creation
5. Lives of Jesus
6. A Passion for Christ: Paul
7. Out into the World: Challenges Facing Progressive Christians



Mid-week Bible Study

Living the Questions 2.0 starts November 4th, 10:30 a.m.

Please see course description above.

Christmas Flowers

It always seems strange to be wording an article about Christmas flowers when orange, yellow and red leaves are swirling through the air and collecting in piles on the lawn. However, the deadline for ordering must be Sunday, December 6, and the December Spire does not give everyone much time if giving a memorial plant (or plants) is part of your Christmas traditions. If you would like to give a poinsettia to remember or honor someone special to you, please contact the church office or Marilyn Blom.

The cost remains \$9.00 for red and \$10.00 for white.

Festival Celebration Choir

The annual Christmas Concert of the Festival Celebration Choir will be presented on Sunday, December

1st, at 2:00pm. The concert is held at St. Pius Church in Loudonville. This is an ecumenical choir dedicated to celebrating the glory of God through song. There will be a poster on the bulletin board with further information in November.

Thanksgiving Pies

Once again you are invited to donate money for the purchase of pies for the Unity House Thanksgiving BASKET recipients. Put "Pies" in the memo line of your check and make it payable to the church (CCUM). We usually donate around 75 pies at a cost of around \$4 each. At print time we do not have the actual cost for this year - watch the bulletin or call the Office to know more

Christ Church United Methodist

35 State Street, Troy, New York 12180

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Permit #496

Victorian Stroll

This year's Victorian Stroll program at Christ Church will rock! Along with the Cookie Stroll, Holiday Crafts and some free refreshments we have an afternoon filled with magic and music. There won't be any better anywhere in Troy that day!

Invite your friends and family to stop in at some point and enjoy the Magic of Dave McDonald or the Music of groups such as our own Bell and iGen Choirs, an international folk band from the Johnstown area, the wonderful singing of Patti Melita and more (see the program below). Some of the afternoon's performers will likely accompany our worship that morning also.

An Afternoon of Music and Magic (Victorian Stroll, December 5th, 2010)

12:30 Music: Tri-City-Trad (Fritz & Jennifer Staffkird), Andrew, Irena, George--and friends possibly.

1:00pm Magic with Dave McDonald

1:30pm Bell Choir of Christ Church

1:50pm Christ Church iGen Music Group

2:00pm Penny Jar (international folk music)

2:30pm Bell Choir of Christ Church

2:50pm Christ Church iGen Music Group

3:00pm Penny Jar (international folk music)

3:30pm Magic with Dave McDonald

4:00pm Jazz Vocalist Patti Melita

Spire Deadline

The deadline for the December Spire is Sunday November 21st.

God intends the church to be a community that embodies love, grace, and justice for all people. As a Reconciling Congregation, we therefore affirm the sacred worth of and welcome persons of any sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, age, marital status, race, ethnic background, economic condition, and physical or mental ability as full participants in our community of faith. God's love includes everyone, as does Christ Church United Methodist.

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