



Dear Friend...

I really hope that you will join us in worship in the coming weeks for a sermon series entitled: “Enough: Discovering Joy Through Simplicity and Generosity.” Our nation is experiencing what many have described as the “American Nightmare.” Increasing consumer debt, declines in savings, high unemployment, more and more foreclosures with people losing their homes and a volatile stock market are all contributing to economic insecurity. We live in a society that tells us “you deserve it now,” whether or not we can afford or really even need it.

We’ve all struggled with these issues at one time or another. I know that I have. Beginning next weekend, we are going to explore what the Bible teaches us about financial management. We’ll look at what others have learned by working through financial challenges and watch some informative video clips. Each week we will provide you with some tools you can use to assess your financial situation and develop a financial plan with a biblical foundation.

These are important issues that we cannot ignore. I hope you will join us as we look at how we can manage our financial resources and truly experience that God is “Enough.”

In Christ,

Stewardship Chair,
Lee Kemp

Pastor,
Nina Nichols

Pastor,
Janet Douglass

SAAT

Our social action and awareness team was happy to help coordinate a Sunday afternoon workshop sponsored by NY Interfaith Power and Light (<http://www.nyipl.org>) entitled “Cool Congregations” this past month at Christ Church. More than 20 attendees from 7 or so different faith communities gathered on Sept. 26 upstairs for this three hour workshop dedicated to increased awareness and action in our individual lives, as a congregation and as a community towards combatting global warming and being responsible stewards of the gifts of creation. It is our hope that our own attendees might now offer a follow-up of this training at a future awareness building event. Watch for more information.

As mentioned last month, there are also plans for a November book discussion on overcoming homelessness in our country. Watch for more information and, as always, if you’re interested in becoming a member of our group, please let a team member know and plan to attend our next meeting (date to be determined..).

G. Garin, Co-facilitator



Church Directory

Church Council members are gathering your information for the Church directory and the Spire birthday and anniversary lists. Please submit your photographs online to janet@christchurchtroy.org; bring in a non-copyrighted print, or have Dorcas rose take a picture at church. You can choose how much information is published.

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class starts on Sunday, October 24th. Please speak to Pastor Nina if this interests you/ your child.

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Note from Pastor Nina...

On Sunday, September 26th, the Social Awareness and Action Team hosted a Cool Congregations program sponsored by New York Interfaith Power and Light (I serve as President of the Board of Directors). There were 21 people representing 8 different congregations from the Capital District (Troy, Albany, Clifton Park, Loudenville). The training event included an opportunity for participants to submit information on utility usage, miles driven and miles/gallon, flights taken, and garbage thrown away for each household for the past year in order to determine each family's carbon footprint-- the amount of carbon in pounds we produce.

As a person of faith I feel a responsibility to care for creation and to love my neighbors local and global. It would be an understatement to say that there is consensus in the scientific community that our carbon usage is damaging creation and threatening the land and lives of communities that are already vulnerable. All that should be enough to cause me to act. The truth is my motivation is much more selfish. I want my children and my children's children to live in a world that is at least as beautiful as the world I have known. There is too much war and disease and poverty as it is. I want their world to be more peaceful, healthier, more equitable. Unless we make some changes the evidence is clear that my children and their families will suffer greatly for the mess we have made. Sometimes the changes that need to happen seem overwhelming.

Back in February as a part of our Friends theme for Lent many of us participated in a carbon fast. Like many of you I made a few commitments to do something new, something different. We lowered our thermostat a couple degrees (and raised it when the summer came around). We took shorter showers. We unplugged when we weren't home. We checked our tires to get the best gas mileage. Nothing too hard. Nothing that made us uncomfortable. As a matter of fact, at the end of summer we learned to use fans and opened the windows and slept better. I don't know what I expected from the computer print out... Evidence that I was a carbon glutton perhaps. I was amazed to find that our family was right at the recommended carbon allowance for a family our size according to the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change.

Sometimes we face big challenges that can be met with small but significant changes. In this season of thinking about stewardship, I hope you will think both financial and environmental. As I hope in one area to contribute a little more, I pledge in another to do a little less. I hope you will watch for the opportunity to sign up for a Cool Congregations house party or coffee talk. Check your carbon footprint. Think about something simple you can do... a simple gift to change the world.

Grace and Peace, Pastor Nina

Calling All Photographers

If you have taken pictures of church events during 2010, and are willing to share them, Dorcas Rose is collecting photos for a photo report for our annual meeting in early December.

Please contact her at 273-6797 to make arrangements to transfer the photos to her. Electronic files or prints that can be scanned are both appreciated

Thank you to all the faithful stewards at Christ Church

Fall has started in earnest and the leaves are beginning to change color. I just drove through the Berkshires and the colors are at their peak. We are at a peak time in our church year also. This past summer has been one of the busiest. Every Wednesday, the churro booth was set up for Rockin' on the River. It turned out to be a fun and effective fundraiser. We connected with our neighbors in a fun setting and people saw us in a new and unexpected way. On September 19th, we connected with our neighbors again sharing food, fun, and entertainment with everyone who showed up. As fall moves toward winter, we will work together on the Annual Harvest Sale and Italian Buffet. We will invite our neighbors in once again during November and December for Inn from the Cold. None of this would be possible without the support of your time, your talent, and your money. Thank you for faithfully fulfilling your pledges and for your generous support of the programs and outreach of Christ Church.

Lee Kemp, Finance Chair

Music Ministry

Our Bell Choir and i-Gen groups have started rehearsing and are always open to new members.

A few new (or new/old) initiatives we're trying as we experiment with our musical life at Christ Church.

1. We are recruiting a team of hymn leaders who would be willing to gather at the piano on Sunday mornings together with Kate and help lead the congregation in 4-part singing of our hymns. Please let George Garin know if you'd like to share your musical gifts in this way.
2. On a typical Sunday, music will start at 10:15, i.e. 15 minutes before the start of our Worship Service. It is our hope that this will allow for a contemplative, centering time for those who value this prior to our service.
3. A number of folks have expressed the desire to gather and sing some favorite hymns. We'd like to experiment using the 15 minutes prior to our worship (as in #2 above) on the Second Sunday of the month. So, plan on arriving a bit early Sunday, Oct. 10th with a list of your favorites in hand as Kate leads us in singing them. Or, feel free to tell or email me your favorites beforehand and we'll have a list prepared.

George Garin, Music Minister

Devotion Nancy Burgin

As I went to blow out the match, I heard my godfather's voice echoing in my head. "Don't EVER take a breathe with the match in front of your mouth! The fumes will go down into your lungs and damage them." Because he was a volunteer fireman, he spoke with authority and I made sure I listened. We had this conversation, just once, over 45 years ago. And I can't blow out a match without remembering it.

Some of the people Jesus spoke with may have only heard him once. He, too, "spoke with authority" (Matt.7:29). I am quite certain they remembered his words as well, incorporating their wisdom into their daily lives. May we, who have the advantage of having Jesus' words written down for us, also let the wisdom and grace of his words seep into our innermost being.

Living the Questions 2.0 to start this fall.

A DVD/ discussion course that is not about telling what you should believe but talking about the breadth of understanding and delighting in the relevance of Christianity even in today's world.

The original Living the Questions course had a huge impact on the 30 participants. This one acts as refresher for that but adds much more, using pieces of Saving Jesus and other studies as well as altogether new interviews.

Open to anyone no matter what they have studied, or not, what they believe or not. Minimal reading but commitment to attend is expected. We will do the first 7 studies as soon as I know who is interested and what time/day works for most, hopefully all. Please let me know, Pastor Janet.

Thanks

Thanks to those who set-up, cooked, served, painted, entertained, climbed and joined the party on Sunday, September 19th! And, a special thanks to those who stayed around to the very end to clean up and put everything away.

Our Third Annual Block Party was a huge success. 110 people gathered for the worship service that included 4 children receiving Bibles and 2 youth commissioned as acolytes and beautiful music from our hand bell choir. After worship we went to work (of the most enjoyable kind) greeting neighbors arriving to climb the rock wall, fill their plates with food, enjoy churros, music, magic and more. Our best guess at the count was about 200 folks. What a way to practice loving our neighbors!

Be sure to come to our October Church Council meeting if you want to give feedback or make suggestions for next year.

Thank you Clean-up crew!

Many hands came to clean and tidy the church buildings ready for the Block Party: thank you all.

iGen is open to all!

Come play rhythm instruments or chimes or help us sing. i Gen meets Tuesdays from 6 - 6:45 p.m. Enthusiasm is the most necessary talent!

Troy Night Out - Friday, Oct. 29

Italian Buffet Supper

5pm to 8 pm

Chicken marsala, baked ziti, eggplant parm and more!

Adults just \$10, Children 5-12 \$5 and under 5 eat free

Harvest Sale & Luncheon

11am to 9pm,, Lunch served 11am to 2pm

A la carte Lunch offers Italian dishes, soup & sandwiches, rice balls, steak sandwiches & wraps, desserts & more!

Sale features baked goods, jams, handmade one-of-a-kind craft items, fair trade coffee & chocolate, and much more!

**The first 10% of all sales supports
Troy Area United Ministries**

Christ Church United Methodist
(corner of 5th & State)
35 State St., Troy
272-8392
www.christchurchtroy.org

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	Regular Sunday Schedule 9.30am: Church School (All ages) 10:30am: Worship 11:30am Coffee fellowship		Tuesday Studies: 10:30am Enough 7pm Disciple 7:30pm Enough		1	2
3 12-3pm Empty Bowls	4 9am Wshp Planning	5 7pm Disciple	6 7pm Bells	7 7pm Finance	8	9
10	11	12 9am Wshp Planning 6pm i-Gen	13 7pm Bells	14 7pm Trustees	15	16
17	18	19 9am Wshp Planning 6pm i-Gen	20 7pm Bells	21 7pm Church Council	22	23
24 Spire Deadline 4pm Confirmation class	25	26 9am Wshp Planning 6pm i-Gen	27 7pm Bells	28	29 Harvest Sale, lunch, buffet	30

October Birthdays.

1 st	Rebecca Pollock	2 nd	Vivian Johnston	8 th	Janice Urzan
9 th	Dolores Fletcher	10 th	Betty Sopchak	11 th	Robertta Fath
15 th	James Christian	20 th	David Rose	20 th	Mark Campbell
21 st	Timothy Farrell	22 nd	Diane Kelly	24 th	Wyn Braun
25 th	Micah Torres	27 th	Sue Blom	30 th	Ryan Kemp
31 st	Brian Pryor				

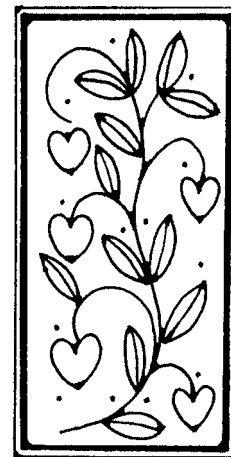
Wedding Anniversaries

5 th	George and Mary Baker	5 th	Betty & Nick Sopchak
7 th	Helen and Bruce Bassett	13 th	Alison and Edmund Cape
14 th	Harry and Thila Bell		

September Flowers

12 th	Given by the Cooper-Smith Memorial in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Frank A. Cooper.
19 th	The flowers are in loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Dennie B. Riggs, Thelma J. Riggs and Bruce J. Riggs, given by Anne Riggs McNaughton, Carol Riggs Purdy and Gail Riggs Kelley.
26 th	Given by Marta Andersen in memory of her mother, Gina Jansson

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Catwalks & catacombs

Tour- Sign Up Soon!

Sunday, Oct 17th @ Noon. This tour is limited to 12 people. Come join us as we explore the attic spaces and cellars of the buildings.

See the amazing construction techniques of the late 1800's. The spaces are dirty. Bring a change of clothes if needed.
Paul Marano

Spire Deadline

The deadline for the November Spire is Sunday October 24th.

Italian Buffet and Harvest Sale

Mark your calendar now for the Italian Buffet on Troy Night Out, October 29th. Dinner is served from 5 to 8 pm with all your favorite Italian dishes on the buffet.

Prices are for adults just \$10, children 5-12 for \$5 and children under 5 are free.

The Harvest Sale will run on the same day from 11am to 9 pm. This is a good opportunity to get small gifts and household items at very reasonable prices. A la carte lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm. The menu includes soup and sandwiches, eggplant parmesan, spinach pie and homemade desserts. This event has for many years been a significant fundraiser for the church. Ten percent of the proceeds will be contributed to Troy Area United Ministries. Contact Dorcas Rose at 273-6797 if you have questions or items to contribute.

You Can Help

Sign up sheets will be on the office window. We need people to help with the sale and the kitchen. Contributions to the sale are always welcome, especially desserts, candy and baked goods. Extra hands for setup and clean up are always needed.

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