

THE CHURCH CRIER

The Monthly Newsletter of Christ Church, Middletown NJ

September 2015

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Save the Dates!

Sept 12

Taizé Prayer

Sept 13

Regular Schedule resumes

Sept 20

Picnic at the Wright home
 Confirmand Meeting 9:15 am
 Church school Begins 10 am

Sept 26

Diocesan Evensong honoring
 Older Adults

Oct 4

Blessing of the Animals

Oct 10

The Calico Fair Returns!
 Oct 9 White Elephant &
 Books

Oct 29

Christ Church hosts
 Monmouth Convocation

Christ Church Gardens

Many thanks to the Memorial Committee: Sue Murphy, Judy Forys, and Joanne Rossnagel, for their work in restoring the gardens of Christ Church. Thank you to Andy Capelli and Capelli's Landscape Supply & Nursery of Middletown, for designing and planting the Memorial Garden and the flower beds by the Education Wing. Thank you to Robert Wilson and Bruce Schower for troubleshooting some problem areas and overseeing all of the work. Stop by the gardens and enjoy the new view!



Special thanks

to Al Cook of Cook's Tree Service, Middletown, for generously donating his expert tree trimming services to beautify our grounds and keep our trees healthy.



Visit the Christ Church [Facebook](#) page and [website](#) for more great photos by Candi Carl and Theresa Tuttle.

Bill's Notes...

As our first four months together comes to a close and we embark on our first program year together, I am struck and blessed by the energy and passion Christ Church shows when it comes to mission and ministry. Serving the hungry in Keansburg, sharing the Good News at Brighton Gardens, offering heartfelt hospitality through Family Promise, the preparation for the Calico Fair: this shortlist is the foretelling of so much more.

The vestry is committed to active leadership in all areas of our life together. The improved look of exterior entrance to the program building is one overt example. Cleaned gutters is a hidden, however. Before the Calico Fair and the Monmouth Convocation meeting (hosted by Christ Church this year!), you will see the cement area in front to the new church repaired. Safety, functionality, and the warm welcome all find inside our church will easily begin on this now fixed exterior.

As you peruse the pages of the Crier, you will see mission in action and the development of programming that serves us well over the months from September 2015

through June 2016. Yet I can only see this program year as our "practice year," especially when it comes to Christian Formation. As we rebuild our various programs, we are really developing what God has in store for us when we are at our best.

Thank you to those who have stepped forward to teach Sunday School (concurrent with Sunday worship at 10:00 am). Thank you to Warden Cindy McCormack and Parish Administrator Christine Ruland for providing me with a census of potential participants for First Intentional Communion and Confirmation. Learn more on pages 9 and 10 of this issue of The Crier.

Adult Christian Formation is also very much a work in progress. My hope is that two more people will commit to Education for Ministry (EfM). Page 10 has the details.

With God's help, we will continue to listen carefully to God and one another over the next year. Just imagine what we will learn and share during our "practice year" that we can apply when it's full-steam ahead as program year 2016-2017 begins in just twelve months!

Bill



*The Rev. Dr.
William Carl Thomas,
Priest-in-Charge*

Contact Father Bill at 252-876-6841 or williamcarlthomas@gmail.com

View Father Bill's sermons on the Christ Church [website](#). Archived videos may be found on [his website](#).

Vestry Highlights July 28, 2015

- Father Bill and Edna Marie will host an EFM introduction at his home on Monday, August 17 at 7pm.
- Calendar updates: Sunday, Dec 20 Shrewsbury Choral Concert at 3 p.m. in the New Church. Trip to Sacred Heart Basilica Christmas Concert in Newark (date TDB).
- Ann Burke will be among those honored at an Evening for Older Adults on Sept. 26, 2015 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Cathedral in Trenton.
- Church School Registration will be September 13, 2015 and church school will begin on September 20.
- Saturday, November 14, 2015, will be date we complete the COG Household Goods Drive for the year.
- Father Bill reported that he is looking into improved signage on and around the building and grounds.
- Barbara Garrity is planning an adult education program based on "Finding God at the Movies" that will take place later this fall.
- Cindy thanked Sue Murphy, Judy Forys, Joanne Rosnagel, Robert Wilson, Bruce Schower and all who were involved in the garden beautification project. She also expressed her appreciation for Al Cook of Cook's Tree Service, who volunteered and donated his time and energy to tree trimming on the church grounds.
- The vestry discussed the hiring of church school teachers for the fall. The nursery will be reinstated with a paid care-giver, thanks to a generous donation made by a vestry member.
- Father Bill suggested evaluating necessary training for all leadership positions, to ensure that the Church is in compliance with policy.
- The Calico Fair will open with the White Elephant and book sale on Friday Oct 9, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Jane Foran, Vestry Clerk

Remembering 9-11

By The Rev. Dr. William Carl Thomas



At 7:46 am CDT on Tuesday, September 11, 2001, Edna Marie and I were eating breakfast, as we often did, at The Waysider Restaurant in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Sitting in rickety chairs at tables once graced by Alabama football coach Bear Bryant, we heard a commotion in the kitchen. This was not unusual. One of the customs at The Waysider was wondering who would strike first: the waitress or the cook. The noise they made was actually comforting and quite normal. However, there was no noise. Only “O my God” and “I don’t believe it.” This was the first step in a life changed forever.

When the plane hit the second tower a little later in the morning, I was in my office at St. Matthias Episcopal Church listening to the NPR reports on Alabama Public Radio. The shock was humbling. A sense of despair began to hover over me like the cloud that follows Pigpen in *Peanuts*. I found inexact and imperfect words to pray. Memories floated by; the many times the 32 miles from Chappaqua on the train brought adventure when I stepped into Grand Central Station; editing video at the media center of Trinity Episcopal Church Wall Street just after ordination in

1989; riding once to the top of the World Trade Center.

More news. A plane hit the Pentagon. Another crashed in Pennsylvania.

The second step grew from that inexact and imperfect prayer. The Vestry meeting that night would begin with formal prayer in the church. As best we could with the technology of 2001, everyone in the community was invited. Many people came. The comforting motions of the Holy Eucharist and sharing communion offered an unexpected and needed stability.

Perhaps you have heard me say, “May the blessing of God find you when you least expect it and need it most.” Sharing the sacrament on that awful day brought a little light into the darkness. The cloud of despair slowly began to dissipate on the Friday that followed. Next to St. Matthias stood a synagogue where the decision was made to invest the new Rabbi as planned. I attended as did many from the community. The prayers appropriately recalled the violence done to the Jewish people, including the Holocaust. Such a recent and now most relevant remembrance. Then something even more unexpected and needed: the prayer ended with the resilient cry, “L’chaim, To Life!”

Remembering is a necessary component of resilience. During communion we shared as the weight of September 11th bore down on us, we heard the words of Jesus, “Do this in remembrance of me.” The simple reconnection with essence of love in the Real Presence of his Body and Blood, nourished a deep and unknowing understanding that evokes the hope we have for the newly married when we close a prayer with the words “Let joy conquer despair.”

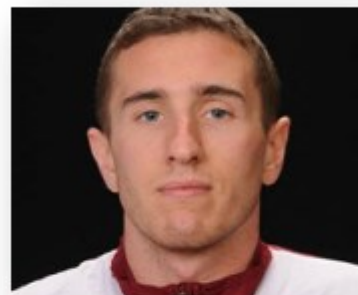
Thirty-seven Middletown New Jersey residents lost their lives on September 11, 2001 at the World Trade Center. A silent tribute will be paid with a wreath laying the Middletown WTC Memorial Gardens on Friday, September 11th at 8:46 am. In order to allow those engaged in silence during this remembrance to find the space for their own inexact and imperfect words, the bell of the Old Church will also be silent. At noon on this day however, as a mark of respect and resilience, our bell will ring one time for each of the thirty-seven, one time for each of the fourteen years that have passed, and nine times to remember the power of love we have found in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that makes it possible for us to declare, “L’chaim, To Life,” that joy conquers despair.

Parish News



Daniel McCormack

Daniel McCormack, from the New Monmouth section of Middletown, graduated on Friday June 19th from the Marine Academy of Science and Technology on Sandy Hook. McCormack, President of the MAST Class of 2015, and the outgoing community affairs officer for the MAST JROTC Battalion, will attend Cornell University's Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management and will join Cornell's Navy ROTC Unit in August.



We welcome to the
Body of Christ
through the Sacrament of
Holy Baptism

Corey Michael O'Neill

Baptized in the Old Church
at the 5:30 service of
Holy Eucharist
August 29, 2015



Conor Wright

Conor Wright recently completed the three year, unique program of "KACH" Keep Achieving at Brookdale Community College. He received a certificate of completion!

Recently Departed

Rick Hartswell,

beloved brother of Fred Hartswell,
passed over into eternal life
on July 25, 2015.

Please hold the family in your prayers,
especially Fred and Jo Ann.

Robert Guariglia,

cousin of Ronnie Warren, passed
over into eternal life on July 30,
2015.

Please hold the family in your prayers,
especially Ronnie and Tom,
Rob's wife Anita, and sons Nick and
Robert.



Amanda Hasler

Amanda graduated on May 9, 2015 from the SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry with a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Science.

She is currently working for the USDA Wildlife Services in Union County managing Canada geese populations and other small mammal issues.

Coming Soon...



Mark your calendars, save the date, and join your church family for a picnic at the Wright home. Please sign up on the poster in the narthex or undercroft so we may have a better idea of how many people to expect. Everyone is invited!

Save the date!

September 20,
at 12 noon

Christ Church

Picnic

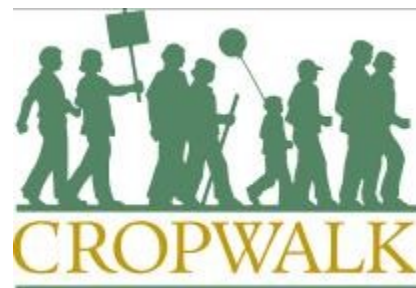
at the Wright home
39 Hillcrest Rd,
Holmdel

Map & directions are
available on the posters in
the Narthex

**Parents of
First Intentional Communion Participants
as well as
Our Potential Confirmands:**



**Keep an eye on your mailbox
for an actual letter from Father Bill
with more details on both programs.**



**Sunday,
October 18, 2015
at Red Bank
Regional High School
Registration 1 p.m.
Walk 2 p.m.**

Outreach

COG Household Goods Drive

In September we're collecting two tubes of toothpaste for each of the 40 families receiving help from the Calico Cat Cupboard and Pantry. Each month we will collect a different item to fill the shopping list of cleaning and personal items that we will deliver to COG in November of this year. Please place your donations in any Little Red Wagon. Thank you for your continued support!

Joyce Wright, Coordinator



COG Back-to-School Project

Calico Cat Pantry & Cupboard provides school supplies and a complete school outfit for children of families in need by distributing gift cards for local stores where the parents may shop. Old Navy and Payless Shoes give COG a special discount when the gift cards are purchased in bulk through their corporate headquarters. Your check, made payable to C.O.G., Inc. (with "back-to-school" written on the memo line), will help fund this much-needed gift to local families who are struggling to make ends meet. Please place your donations in the collection plate, or bring to the Christ Church office. Donations are requested on or before September 26. Thanks so much for your help!

CBC6 Friday, Sept 25

[Click here](#)
for information,
registration, and more.



Save the Date: Friday, September 25th! Family Promise of Monmouth County invites you to the Sixth Annual Cardboard Box City Fundraiser. Help raise awareness about family homelessness in Monmouth County. The Cardboard Box City Friend-and-Fund-raiser will start on Friday, September 25th at 5:00 PM until Saturday morning, September 26th, rain or shine, at Monmouth Church of Christ, located at 312 Hance Avenue, Tinton Falls, NJ 07724. Participants in Cardboard Box City raise a minimum of \$100 in pledges and contributions and sleep overnight in a cardboard box "home" as a resident of Cardboard Box City. Family Promise will award prizes for participants who raise the most money and present the most creative dwelling.

Thank you!

Aslan Youth Ministries Summer Youth Camp Lunch Program

Thank you to all who participated in providing lunches for children at the Aslan Ministries Youth Camps on August 4th. Special thanks to Trish, Owen and Maeve Thurman, Judy Forsys, Grace Wilson, Sandra Casci, Pam Marhan, Marilyn Laue, Lauren Badal, and Erna Sottile; thank you to everyone who donated funds and/or lunch supplies—we received \$100 in donations for Aslan Youth Ministries! And finally, thank you to Lauren and Erna for making this outreach possible.



Seamen's Church Institute

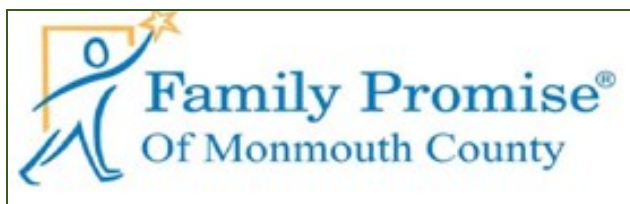
Bringing home small gifts from your vacation? Don't forget the sample sized toiletries found in your hotel room for Seamen's Church Institute who distributes them to mariners as part of their gift packs. Needed are unopened and unused soaps, toothpaste, mouthwash, deodorants, skin lotions, etc, in travel sizes. Please place your donations in a plastic bag marked "SCI" and place in one of the little red wagons. Thank you!

Erna Sottile

Outreach Coffee Sale



Cooler weather will be here before we know it. Time to stock up on delicious fresh-roasted coffee from our favorite local company, Jersey Shore Coffee Roasters. Orders will be taken on the weekends of September 13-14, and September 19-20, with delivery expected on September 26-27. All profits from the sale go directly to the Outreach budget to help those in need through the ministry of the Outreach Committee. Thank you for your support!



'Tis Always the Season for Outreach at Christ Church!

As we approach the cooler days of autumn, the Outreach Committee will be seeking the help of our church community in a number of special activities, as we all seek to share the love of Christ with others.

For example, our church's ministry to the homeless through Family Promise will be welcoming guests on Sunday, August 30th for a week with us.

Our quarterly Coffee Sales will take place on September 12 and 13, 19 and 20 with distribution of the coffee on September 27. These funds are used to help support our various Outreach Ministries.

Also, the COG Back to School Project will be collecting donations made out to C.O.G., Inc. with "Back to School" on the memo line. These gifts will be used to buy gift cards in bulk at a discount, which will then be shared with needy children to provide school supplies and clothes.

Our annual Thanksgiving Ingathering is tentatively scheduled for November 15th, and our Christmas Toy Ingathering will most likely be on December 6th. More details on these events will be forthcoming.

Finally, remember our ongoing collection of household items for our COG Household Goods Project to assist 40 families with these practical items and the gathering of sample size toiletries for the Seamen's Church Institute.

Please keep these various Outreach activities in your prayers and on your hearts, as we seek to encourage our neighbors in need.

Tom Warren, Vestry for Outreach

Family Promise of Monmouth County First Annual Essay Competition:

"What Would Life Be Like as a Homeless Teenager?"

Did you know on an average day/night in Monmouth County there are 200-250 children including teenagers who are homeless? Teenagers are the hardest hit emotionally, socially and physically by families in crisis who are losing their home.

Teenagers age 13-19 can submit an essay in which they convey the emotional, social and physical challenges teenagers face when experiencing homelessness and what are their hopes and dreams for a better tomorrow. They must explain why they feel connected to the situation and argue why it is important for teenagers today to remain connected to social issues such as teenage homelessness from their unique cultural and socio-economic perspective. Teenagers are encouraged to reference cultural and historical points related to growing up in Monmouth County and the history of teenage homelessness in Monmouth County New Jersey in their essay. Perspectives from teens with the lived experience of homelessness would provide vital insight.

This essay must be between 350-375 words, one inch page margins, double spaced in Times New Roman, not less than 11 font and it must incorporate the phrase "What would life be as a homeless teenager". A submitted essay must have a cover sheet that includes the work's title, the name of the individual, age, and the individual's contact information (phone number and e-mail).

The winner of this year's essay will receive a \$100 prize, \$50 to the runner-up and \$25 for 3rd place.

Essays may be submitted no later than Wednesday, September 23, 2015 on-line by email to tracy@familypromisemc.org with cc to elaine@familypromisemc.org, or by mail addressed to Family Promise of Monmouth County, PO Box 70, Middletown, NJ, 07748-0070.

Good luck to all of this year's participants and thanks for your participation.

Family Promise of Monmouth County Board of Trustees



Highlights from the Diocesan Convention

By Theresa Tuttle, Convention Delegate



Theresa Blackburn-Tuttle and Victor Sisolak,
Convention Delegates

The speakers at Convention were very inspiring and insightful. The workshops and the keynote speech were chock-full of information that can help all the churches in our Diocese grow and that can help Christ Church in particular re-build.

While a slew of important ideas were covered during the Convention speeches, here is the short list:

1. A sense of belovedness — do people feel a sense of belovedness within the parish? This is crucial for growing a healthy church.
2. Storytelling — it is crucial for a parish to know its stories in part because storytelling is more powerful than ordinary teaching.
3. Faith formation at home is more important than formation at church (though both are important!).
4. It's important to know which specific concerns young people have about church.
5. Discerning our spiritual gifts — in order to avoid spiritual stalling, it is important to discern our gifts.

For this year's Convention, the Keynote Speaker was The Rev. Thomas Brackett. His keynote speech before the entire group on the first day was inspiring and intense. He conveyed a sense of how much he loves the Episcopal Church and how passionate he is about his ministry.

During his workshop speech, Brackett told an unconventional and inspiring story called "Angel in the Cathedral of Headlights."

[Click here to read it.](#)

On the second day, Brackett led a workshop that was equally remarkable. While Keynote speaker Brackett was a tough act to follow, Rev. Lisa Kimball proved to be an inspiring and engaging speaker as well. Her workshop topic was Christian Formation and she crammed in an impressive number of ideas into her rousing speech on this subject.

[Find more on Lisa's three points here.](#)

These Convention speakers were so informative and inspiring, both Victor Sisolak (Christ Church's other delegate) and I agreed that attending was a good investment of our time and were glad that we attended. While I was not able to hear every speech (for example, unfortunately, I missed the opening remarks of Bishop Stokes), I heard positive word-of-mouth about all the talks and learned that Bishop Stokes is a wonderful speaker as well. From learning about the value of fostering a warm, nurturing church where people feel a sense of belovedness, to learning about the importance of storytelling for a parish, Rev. Brackett imparted many important ideas and several memorable stories at the Convention. Rev. Kimball taught delegates key new theories of faith formation such as the idea that faith formation in the home is fundamental and that faith formation in church school alone is not sufficient for raising our children to be spiritually mature adults. She also shared other key ideas such as the idea that lay leaders need to educate themselves what's wrong with church from the perspective of our youth. Finally, Kimball stressed the importance of discerning spiritual gifts.

To summarize, I encourage more Christ Church parishioners to attend next year's convention. If this year's convention is any indication, attendance by a slew of CC members at next year's event would be an important move in re-building our church.

Theresa Tuttle

Christian Formation for Children

First Intentional Communion was developed in response to the responsibility given me as the newly ordained Associate Rector of St. Ann's Episcopal Church, Sayville, New York to prepare second grade age children for First Communion. I pointed out to my rector, a wonderful and loving priest named Father Bob Schwarz, that the children of the parish were already receiving communion. Father Bob also gave me the opportunity to prepare the sixth graders for Confirmation. From these two challenges in 1990, First Intentional Communion became a reality.

Since the children were already receiving communion, Admission to Communion was as unrealistic a name as First Communion. I remember sitting in the parish office on a Saturday morning and getting very quiet in prayer. As I awoke, okay, maybe I fell asleep, I discerned the word "intentional" as the key to preparing anyone to become more deeply committed to the Christian faith and life. Placing the word "intentional" between the words "first" and "communion" not only gave the liturgical rite of passage a name but made clear to me the emphasis needed in the teaching program for the children.

Christian Educators such as John Westerhoff affirm second grade age as the time in a child's life when he or she begins to dissemble when asked a question about behavior rather than offer a simple and direct answer. Most parents I know, and as a parent myself, would agree that their wonderful children begin to show signs of being sneaky and less than truthful at this age.

Accepting this premise and a desire to give a child a special experience of God's grace as given in Holy Communion, serve as the foundation to the four unit First Intentional teaching program.

While preparing children for First Intentional Communion should not necessarily be the responsibility of the priest, I think there is great value in the children having a direct relationship with the ordained sacramental minister they see praying over the bread and wine in church. Furthermore, by being with their priest while doing the First Intentional Communion exercises, the children develop a relationship with their priest that allows them to see their priest as a spiritual guide and not just as another authority figure.

The four teaching sessions are about an hour. Sessions One, Two, and Three are repeated with focus on an age group. However, a child may attend either session should a conflict arise. Session Four combines all ages. The teaching flows as follows:

A Look At First Intentional Communion

By The Rev. Dr.
William Carl Thomas

SESSION ONE—Following 10:00 am worship
September 27th—Younger children (grades 2-4)
October 4th—Older children (grades 5-6)

The main project in this lesson is to make a video about the difference between Heaven and Hell. The story the children and their priest enact is the story of visiting first Hell and then Heaven. In both places are tables groaning with the most delicious food. In our video a plate of chewy brownies serves as our example of food. The elbows of the people are locked and, as a consequence, people cannot get food into their mouths. The children make angry faces to express the emotion of Hell. When asked why the people in Heaven are happy and well fed even though their elbows are also locked, the children make the connection that the people in Heaven are feeding each other. They then proceed to feed brownies to each other while their elbows remain locked. The teaching moment reflects on the grace that motivates us to serve others freely offered when we share in holy communion.

SESSION TWO—Following 10:00 am worship
October 11th—Younger children (grades 2-4)
October 18th—Older children (grades 5-6)

The exercise involves drawing in two boxes. The first box calls for drawing "pictures of things you bring on vacation when you go to the beach." The idea is to engage the word "intentional" as being prepared. The participants are encouraged to bring to class the things they might bring to the beach. Flip-flops, beach balls, and towels are great fun in the middle of the winter! The second box calls for drawing a "picture of a brother or sister saying, 'I'm sorry' to his or her brother or sister." This box sets up the teaching moment that connects the General Confession of Sin, said in church before receiving communion, with intentional preparation. It can also prepare a child to make a first "private" confession with his or her priest.

SESSION THREE—Following 10:00 am worship
October 24th—Younger children (grades 2-4)
November 1st—Older children (grades 5-6)

As with Session Two, the exercise begins with drawing in two boxes. The first box is for drawing pictures that the child spends his or her money on. The second box is for pictures that the child's parents spend money on behalf of the child. The teaching moment comes in the take home project about stewardship. Using three Glad plastic

Christian Formation for Children

containers (two small containers and one larger container) the children are given stickers to place on the containers. The larger container receives a sticker that says, "80% Spending." The two smaller containers receive a sticker that says on one, "10% Giving" and on the other, "10% Savings." Now that the containers are ready, the children are given ten dimes (the original approach used pennies).

With a little work, the children come to understand that one dime equals 10% and eight dimes equal 80%. The children are recognized as being mature enough to begin to manage their own money. The goal is to give them an emotional commitment to saving and giving that matches the desire to spend. After all, when you don't have to pay for heat, light, food, housing, etcetera as your parents do, 80% for spending is a pretty good deal! The 2010 expansion of the teaching included giving each child one paper one dollar bill. The teaching moment is reinforced when the child realizes he or she could take two dimes out of spending in order to keep the 80/10/10 ratios. The lesson ends with \$1.80 to spend rather than the original eight cents.

I'm grateful to past mentors The Rt. Rev. Bill Stough and The Dr. Rev. Bill Yon, the originators of the Alabama Stewardship Plan for this teaching they used with their own children. One interesting outcome of this teaching is that it introduces the "tithe" to a family or reinforces the commitment to the "tithe" already present in a family.

SESSION FOUR—Following 10:00 am worship **November 8th— All children (grades 2-6)**

This time gives me a chance to reinforce all that has been taught. The participating children now have the information to ask me questions as only children can! We will go on a "field trip" to the parts of the church such as the sacristy that children rarely see. If there is time, we will spend time around the baptismal font with each child "baptizing" a doll while wearing my clerical collar and a stole of appropriate size. Again, as is the case in the earlier teaching, this time is recorded as a video and then watched in order to reinforce the lesson.

CONCLUSION

I see First Intentional Communion as a part of the preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Whenever possible, as will be the case at Christ Church, my hope is to invite teenage confirmands to serve as assistants during the teaching sessions. This gives the confirmands a mature experience of being Christians mentors.

THE LITURGY OF

FIRST INTENTIONAL COMMUNION

Sunday, November 15th at 10:00 am

The children sit together in church and after the confession of sin and before the peace, they come before the priest according to the words below:

Each person is presented by name to the Celebrant who then presents a cross and prayerbook while saying the following

Wear this cross to proclaim that Jesus Christ died for all.

Use this prayerbook and a bible to study and proclaim the reconciling love of the risen Christ.

Remember the grace you receive in the Body and Blood of Christ during Holy Communion. May this grace inspire and strengthen your intention, with God's help, to honor the promises made at Holy Baptism.

After all have been presented and charged, the Celebrant addresses the congregation saying

Will you who witness this presentation and charge do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

***People* We will, with God's help.**

The Celebrant prays over those presented and charged, saying

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Continue, we pray, to sustain them O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage and will to persevere, and a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. *Amen.*

The participants come forward as a group to receive Holy Communion after the Prayer of Consecration.

Register

For Church School or Youth Group

[Click here](#) to register your children for Church School now. Church School begins on September 20th and is concurrent with 10:00 am Sunday worship.

[Click here](#) to register your teens for Youth Group now. Youth Group meets at 9:15 am on Sundays.

Adult Christian Formation

Centering Prayer

Be still and know God in the Centering Prayer form. Contemplative Prayer is now on summer recess, and will resume in the fall. The group will meet on Tuesdays at 9:15 a.m. in the Library. Please check the weekly announcements for our fall start date. No experience necessary, all are welcome.



We need two more people to form our EfM Group.

Why EfM?

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EfM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity.

The EfM (Education for Ministry) program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This TOTAL MINISTRY is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

The EfM program is preparation for the ministry to which we all are called. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

Participants are given weekly reading assignments (there are no written assignments) to study with the help of resource guides. Participants are responsible for setting their own learning goals. They spend between two and four hours in study and preparation each week. In the seminars members have an opportunity to share their insights and discoveries as well as to discuss questions which the study materials raise for them.

Through discussion and guided reflection, the seminars furnish an opportunity to deepen understanding of the reading materials.

There is still room for you in EfM. Please contact Edna Marie Thomas at 252-876-6843 or email ednamariethomas@gmail.com

Women's Study Group

The Tuesday morning Women's Study Group is currently reading *This I Believe*, a compilation of the personal philosophies of remarkable men and women. All women are welcome to join this friendly group from 10:30 a.m.—12 noon.

Special thanks . . .

to Ronnie Warren for the lively and informative series "Victorian Others, Reverend Mothers" presented at the Women's Study Group.

A call to youth grades 7-12 who would like to explore Confirmation with Father Bill

On page 412, the Book of Common Prayer notes concerning Confirmation "*In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.*"

One way to start the exploration is to help Father Bill by serving as a Mentor to those preparing for First Intentional Communion (see pages 9 & 10).

Please come to the meeting with Father Bill on Sunday, Sept. 20th at 9:15 am in his office.

There's so much more to this process of exploration than this space allows. So come on the 20th!

Worship

Our Regular Schedule of Worship will resume on September 12-13th. Services of Holy Eucharist will be offered at the following times:

- Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Church (Rite II, contemporary music with piano accompaniment)
- Sundays at 8:00 a.m. in the Old Church (Rite I, no music)
- Sundays at 10:00 a.m. in the New Church (Rite II, traditional music, choir, and pipe organ)
- Taizé Prayer and Holy Eucharist on the second Saturday of each month, at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Church. The next Taizé service will be offered on September 12.

Help Wanted...

"Many hands make light the work"

There are many little projects which need to be done around the church. Are you able to give a little bit of your time and energy to help beautify our church or grounds? Look for the sign-up sheets on the undercroft bulletin board and please consider signing up to accomplish a small project.

Can you help...

Five people have now signed up to wash the pews in the New Church—the first step in completing the job! Can you help with another small project? Please sign up in the Undercroft, then communicate with the others on the list. Thank you!

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild needs new members to continue its mission of preparing both churches for worship services. It is pleasant work with nice people and the teams serve about once a month. Training will be provided. For more information contact Joyce Friedersdorff, 732-671-7381.

Church School

Church School teachers are needed! Please contact Christine at the Christ Church office if you can help. Thank you!

Coffee Hour Hosts

The Coffee Hour host sign-up sheet is located on the undercroft bulletin board. Please consider hosting a simple coffee hour, and sign up to become a part of this important ministry. Thank you!

Nursery Volunteers

Nursery volunteers are needed for just a few weeks until we hire a permanent care-giver for our little ones. Can you help? Please contact the church office at 732.671.2524 or christchurchmiddletown@verizon.net.



September 12

If you are looking for a quiet, peaceful worship experience, join us for a service of Taizé prayer and Holy Eucharist on Saturday, September 12th at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Church.

Taizé is a meditative service marked by significant periods of silence, meditation, and simple songs in a candle-light setting.

Prayer Chain

Christ Church Prayer Chain is a group of people dedicated to daily intercessory prayer for each of those on their prayer list.

Please email Stephanie Faulkner with your confidential prayer requests, or if you wish to join the prayer team at cc-prayerchain@verizon.net. Feel free to call the church office with any prayer requests if you do not have email.

Please continue to pray for Christ Church

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [BCP, p.817]



The Calico Fair: Saturday, Oct 10, 9 am-3 pm

White Elephant Rummage & Book Sale preview Oct 9, 9 am-3 pm

The Calico Fair Planning Committee is busily anticipating the return of Christ Church Middletown's famed Calico Fair and Rummage Sale. From 9am to 3pm, on Saturday, October 10th, the church will once again host live music, shopping, yummy eats, family fun, and even a history lesson!

We're counting down the days, and there is still plenty to do. Keep an eye on the Crier, the weekly bulletin, Facebook and the Christ Church website for updates and opportunities to play a part in the big day. Some important dates coming up :

- NOW** See Ronnie Warren about buying your t-shirt!
- NOW** Do you know any local merchants that might like to support our fair? Grab a journal authorization form from the Narthex – Ads are available for as little as \$25.
- NOW** Dust off those family favorite recipes and stock up on butter, flour and sugar – Judy will be calling soon for those bakery treats.
- NOW** If you haven't picked up your raffle tickets, see Pauline or Paul Dawson.
- NOW** Gather up all those very stylish accessories that are lying about in your closet and see Cyndi – think about belts, scarves, ties, bags that you are no longer using.
- Sept 8** We will begin collecting your gifts and contributions for the Silent Auction! See Barbara, Ronnie or Christine.
- Sept 13** If you haven't yet decided where you would like to volunteer, watch the undercroft for sign up sheets.
- Sept 26** Collection begins for the White Elephant Rummage Sale, Holiday Shop and Book Sale. It's the perfect opportunity to shed your unneeded treasures as the trees begin shed their leaves! More to come from Rita, Joyce, Joyce, Sue and Barbara.

There's something for everyone at the

Calico Fair!

For the shoppers

- Our enormous rummage sale includes a wide array of new and gently used items for children, books, kitchenware and so much more
- The Silent Auction offers fair goers a variety of appealing items from theater tickets to restaurant gift cards, from baskets for wine connoisseurs to baskets for cooks
- Holiday Shop includes decorations for every holiday you can imagine – it's not just Christmas!

For the folks who love to eat

- A full Food Court and Café
- The bake shop has lots of yummy home baked goods – perfect with a cup of tea!
- Frito Bandito – a perennial favorite, you have to come to try it

For the little ones

- Petting Zoo, Saturday from 11 am - 2 pm
- Pumpkin Patch
- Carnival games and prizes

For the history buffs

- Tours of our Historic Church and trivia contests

Tee Shirts

The Calico Fair is right around the corner and we'd love if everyone from Christ Church would wear one of our t-shirts. Not only will this help our visitors recognize us but, together, we'll create a colorful, beautiful, marketing mosaic. If you already have one, pull it out, try it on, give it a whirl. If you find that you need a new one, a different size or, if you never got one reach out to Ronnie Warren right away. They come in green and red so she'll need your color preference and size. She's often hanging about at Coffee Hour or you can email her at misscrabtree@comcast.net.



**Build the hype!
Invite your friends!**

<http://www.facebook.com/TheCalicoFair>

Farma (fär-mə) *noun*

The force created by a person's actions that may cause good things to happen at our Calico Fair.

"Farma" is a new word for our collective vocabulary (with attribute to Theresa Blackburn-Tuttle) and means, simply, Fundraiser Karma. Just as we are looking for support of our Calico Fair fund-raiser, so are many of our neighborhood groups and churches. When you can, please make a point of attending some of those events and, while there, make yourself known as a Christ Church Middletown parishioner there to support their cause. You just might inspire someone to return the courtesy and join us on our Calico Fair day!

Silent Auction

On September 8th we will begin accepting items for Silent Auction. Kindly see Barbara Garrity, Ronnie Warren or Chris Ruland to make arrangements for drop off. We are so sorry but, we do not have the space at this time to accept books or White Elephant (Rummage) Sale items so please hold onto those just a bit longer.

As we prepare for the Calico Fair Silent Auction, your help is vital collecting a wide array of appealing gift certificates, goods and services that will make the 2015 Fair a financial success. Here are some ideas:

- ◆ Put together a theme basket either by yourself or with friends. Last time a donated hand-knit "football" baby bunting became the centerpiece for a "Dad, Baby and Football" basket. Have fun with it!
- ◆ Think about what would catch your eye and tickle your fancy. That's what will attract others.
- ◆ Clean, very gently-used items are fine too.
- ◆ If your credit cards offer rewards, consider using those gifts and/or discounts for auction items.
- ◆ As you make your requests for gift certificates, please ask your favorite businesses to buy an ad in our ad journal, especially if they say "no" to the gift certificate. Ads cost as little as \$25. If you have a business, please consider buying one yourself!
- ◆ Brochures – We have colorful brochures you can share with merchants as you seek donations and/or ads! Please pick up a few in the narthex as you leave church.

Seed Money Needed

We are so grateful for all of the work that you have begun to do for our Calico Fair. Seed money is needed to get the Fair going. If you are able to help, please drop a check off at the office or in the collection plate; make it payable to Christ Church and be sure to put "Calico Fair" on the memo line so Lou knows to put it aside for us. Whether you can or not, thank you in advance for everything you do and your words of support. Your enthusiasm and joy at the opportunity to work so hard together fills our hearts and continues to amaze each one of us! Thank you!

Call to Action from Theresa Tuttle

Do you love the Calico Fair? Have you attended or volunteered at the Fair in the past? If you can spare a few minutes of your time this summer to share some favorite Calico Fair memories, I would love to record your stories.

Please contact me:
theresa@casadelatuttle.com
732-671-9411

Thank you!
Theresa Blackburn Tuttle

remember...collect or create items for:

Accessory Boutique
Bake Shop
Book Sale
Collectibles
Holiday Shoppe
Silent Auction
White Elephant rummage

Clergy, Staff, & Vestry

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Dr. William Carl Thomas

Assistant Clergy

The Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton

Music

Nancy Coffin, Choir Director

Marilyn Brace, Organist

Dawn Stegner, Saturday Accompanist

Parish Administrator

Christine Ruland

732-671-2524;

christchurchmiddletown@verizon.net

Sexton

Jordan Sisolak

Wardens

Barbara Garrity

Cynthia McCormack

Parish Officers

Paul Dawson, Pauline Dawson, Treasurers

Jane Foran, Vestry Clerk

Vestry

Sandra Casci, Worship

Kim Schuler, New Membership

Joyce Wright, Existing Membership

Tom Warren, Outreach

Chuck Watson, Finance & Administration

Pat Robertson, Stewardship

Robert Wilson, Buildings and Grounds

Jane Foran, Communications

Feline in Residence

Sylvia, D. EoT

“Like” us on Facebook



Click on the icon, or log on to the

Christ Church Facebook page at

www.facebook.com/christchurchmiddletown.

Weekly Worship Schedule

Summer Schedule:

- Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Church
- Taizé Worship (2nd Saturday of each month)
- NO 8 a.m. Sunday Service during the summer
- Sundays at 9 a.m. in the New Church - Rite II

Regular Schedule resumes September 13

- Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. in the Old Church
- Taizé Worship (2nd Saturday of each month)
- Sundays at 8 a.m. in the Old Church—Rite I
- Sundays at 10 a.m. in the New Church - Rite II

Small Group Schedule

Contemplative Prayer—Tuesdays 9:15 am

Women's Study Group—Tuesdays 10:30 am

Choir Rehearsals Resume Thursday, Sept 24

Support Group Schedule *in the undercroft*

Sundays, 8 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous

Tuesdays, 8 pm—Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesdays, 7:30 pm—Cocaine Anonymous

Thursdays, 8 pm—Nar-anon

Fridays, 8 pm—Alcoholics Anonymous

4th Saturday of the month, (excluding holiday weekends) 8:30—11:30 am Job Search Networking



CHRIST CHURCH
the Episcopal Church of Middletown

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www.christchurchmiddletown.org