

The Red Door Chronicles

The Newsletter of Christ Church Episcopal

June 2010

Senior Warden Notes:

As you hopefully are already aware, as a result of a suggestion made during the recent "Penny For Your Thoughts" initiative, Christ Church will be moving to a single 9 AM service for the summer, starting Memorial Day weekend (5/30). The idea was presented by several people during conversations Vestry members held with members of the Parish. While there seemed to be enthusiasm for the idea, Vestry was very aware that this could be a significant change for some members who were quite comfortable with either the time of the service they generally attended or the particular style of the 8 or 10 AM service.

Therefore Vestry did not view this change as something to consider lightly. We felt it appropriate to seek both input and a choice from as many members of the parish as possible. Barb Myers graciously volunteered to attempt to contact as many members or family groups as possible. (Incidentally, I have told Barb that she has a great career as a telephone solicitor ahead of her should she choose to pursue it.) Through these efforts to poll the parish, we were presented with results showing an overwhelming majority in favor of the move to a single service for the summer. Of concern to Vestry was the fact that most of those expressing negative feelings concerning the change came from 8 AM attendees.

Over the course of several days Vestry members shared thoughts, concerns and ideas concerning a shift to a single service. In addition to the shift of time, how might we incorporate the different styles that are

present at the two services. This dialogue was frank (sometimes pointed) and honest as everyone shared their thoughts. There were a number of different perspectives shared, and I believe it is helpful for all of us to have a dialogue like this to better understand each other. There were differences of opinion and preference but the common theme was a willingness to set aside personal preference as we strove to discern what is best for the faith community that is Christ Church.

The Worship committee is now working to plan services that will include some with the quieter, more contemplative mood of the 8 AM service, others with familiar music of our normal 10 AM service, and perhaps others that will be a hybrid of the two. I trust the Worship Committee will take everything into consideration and make their best decisions – *and it will be fine and pleasing in God's sight.*

As in all matters, there is no perfect solution that will please everyone, but there was a strong preference expressed by a majority of parish members and the issue has been thoughtfully discussed and prayerfully considered by Vestry. We now have a wonderful opportunity to worship together through the summer months. I hope you make the necessary adjustments to your schedule and routine to worship with us in joy and thanksgiving with our parish family.

Yours in Christ

Jon Olson

Search Committee Report
5/25/10

Your Search Committee has been working hard to discern with the Holy Spirit the candidates that might belong at Christ Church. We take seriously the responsibility given us, but recognize that our vestry actually calls the priest. Our responsibility is to present to the parish up to three candidates we feel could do a fine job leading our parish.

One change in mission for us from the vestry is that we are free to invite any candidate whom we feel might be a good fit for us. Our original commission was to bring three. The change was necessary due to the low number of candidates we have received from the Diocese (7 so far, 3 we didn't even talk to, 3 we talked to but one or both parties discerned that they weren't the fit, and one name we just received from the Diocese.)

Another new angle we are trying to increase the interest in our Rector position is advertising. We will run a classified ad in Episcopal Life News for 6 weeks for about \$260.

We encourage all parishioners to spread the word and be alert for potential candidates. We know the person God intends to call here is out there—close we hope!

Thanks for your prayers and support,
Tom Carlson

POLLING THE CONGREGATION ABOUT A
CHANGE ON SUNDAY'S

Recently I had the great experience of calling 62 families (113 people) of Christ Church Episcopal. It was delightful to chat with many of you and those who are on the parish rolls, but do not attend services. My purpose in calling was to ask the opinion of each family member concerning the idea of shifting to one 9AM service on Sunday's through the summer. I asked if they would vote yes/have no preference/or vote no to this change.

The responses were as follows:

- Yes, change to one 9AM service through the summer—65
- No Preference----19
- No, do not change to one 9AM service through the summer—8
- NO ANSWER: 11

The information from the poll went to the Vestry and the decision was made to make this change, beginning on May 30 until August 29. We will re-evaluate at the end of the summer about the hours for Sunday services in the Fall. Much will depend on our circumstances and parish preferences for services for Fall, 2010. Please continue to provide the Vestry with "A Penny for Your Thoughts". Your opinions and ideas are welcomed.

Barb Myers

June 2010—*Hindrances to Prayer*

In *The Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis gives us insights into one of the devil's key strategies against believers through the advice of a senior devil to his younger protégé:

The best thing, where it is possible, is to keep the patient from the serious intention of praying altogether. When the patient is an adult recently re-converted to the Enemy's party, like your man, this is best done by encouraging him to remember, or to think he remembers, the parrot-like nature of his prayers in childhood. In reaction against that, he may be persuaded to aim at something entirely spontaneous, inward, informal, and unregularized; and what this will actually mean to a beginner will be an effort to produce in himself a vaguely devotional mood in which real concentration of will and intelligence have no part...If this fails, you must fall back on a subtler misdirection of his intention. Whenever they are attending to the Enemy Himself we are defeated, but there are ways of preventing them from doing so. The simplest is to turn their gaze away from Him towards themselves. Keep them watching their own minds and trying to produce feelings there by the action of their own wills. When they meant to ask Him for charity, let them, instead, start trying to manufacture charitable feelings for themselves and not notice that this is what they are doing. When they meant to pray for courage, let them really be trying to feel brave. When they say they are praying for forgiveness, let them be trying to feel forgiven. Teach them to estimate the value of each prayer by their success in producing the desired feeling; and never let them suspect how much success or failure of that kind depends on whether they are well or ill, fresh or tired, at the moment...But even if He defeats your first attempt at misdirection, we have a subtler weapon. The humans do not start from that direct perception of Him which we, unhappily, cannot avoid. They have never known that ghastly

luminosity, that stabbing and searing glare which makes the background of permanent pain to our lives. If you look into your patient's mind when he is praying, you will not find that! If you examine the object to which he is attending, you will find that it is a composite object containing many quite ridiculous ingredients... But whatever the nature of the composite object, you must keep him praying to it—to the thing that he has made, not to the Person who has made him...Once all his thoughts and images have been flung aside, or if retained, retained with a full recognition of their merely subjective nature, and the man trusts himself to the completely real, external, invisible Presence, there with him in the room and never knowable by him as he is known by it—why, then it is that the incalculable may occur.

Whether we are seeking a devotional mood or special feelings or praying to a distorted image of God, the effect is the same - to draw our attention away from the true object of faith and source of help, the Living God. Is *he* the focus of *your* prayers?

(The aforementioned reflection brought to you by the C.S. Lewis Institute).

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays – June

1st Chauncy Allison
11th Janelle Fuller
11th Joyce Conklin
13th LuAnn Landwehr
16th Nancy Robinson
17th Albritia Crandell
21st Shirley Shelley
23rd John Faure
24th Caroline Mitchell
26th Rosalie Heinecke
26th John Emerson
27th Tom Harmon
29th Brian Crandell

Anniversaries

Kyle & Amanda Hawley
Al & Mary Sylvest
Norm & Ann Thurnau
George & Holly Ward

ACTIVITIES

Altar Guild workshop

Friday June 4th 10AM

Teach and review set-up for Sunday services, weddings, baptisms, and funerals, etc.

All are welcome! If someone is new or interested in joining altar guild this would be a great place to start!

OSL - (Order of St. Luke the Physician)

Next study time is Saturday May 29th, 8:30AM at the Parish House. All are welcome!



Psalm 146

*The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion,
for all generations. Praise the Lord!*

Some Humor?

A Sunday school teacher asked her children as they were on the way to church service, 'And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?' One bright little girl replied, 'Because people are sleeping.'

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A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, ' Ryan , you be Jesus !'

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