

THE COURIER FOR MAY 2016

Christ Church, 527 Pomfret Street / PO Box 21, Pomfret, CT 06258
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The Rev. David M. Carter, Rector



Musings

Perhaps it amazes you as it amazes me how there can be “upsides” to the “down”. When we had to leave our worship space for what looked like at least a month (and turned out to be 5 Sundays) I have to admit it was a daunting prospect: creating an altar, creating an ambience for worship, moving books and hymnals and all the altar items used every week. Then there was Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. We had to rent chairs for the big services. We had to rearrange the space during the week because of the other groups using the Great Hall like AA and Concert Choir. On the other side, it was a little easier because it was March break so there was no 9:15 service for almost all that time. And more importantly we had this opportunity to worship “in the round”, to see one another across the center of the hall, to encourage each other in celebration. We had a chance to have a “closer” communion in some ways. It was also a reminder to me in how we come to church not just for ourselves but for our neighbors, our fellow-members. We give “church” away to each other. Thank you for your gifts all month.-Dave

Worship & Formation

Communion Class on Saturday, June 4th at 9 a.m. for 2nd graders or older. See Dave (Music, Art, Pita Bread Baking for Youth Sunday). **Class runs if there is interest** (860-315-7780). **Youth Sunday** is the next day, June 5th.

Healing Eucharist & B'fast at the Bean on the Wednesdays in April-June! Last Wednesday will be June 29th; Names for **The Prayer Chain**? Call the office: 860-315-7780.

Readers & Acolyte Notes - if you are not assigned you can often help out. Just check in the back. Thanks. Dayna Flath 860-974-3276!

Specials! Mother's Day Brunch & Service on May 8th; Car Wash Sunday is May 15th; Contemporary will be on Sunday, May 22nd (or the band will be at Relay... more information to come!)

Women's Spirituality meets on Tuesday, May 17th at 7:00 p.m. with Jane Hale. (note **CHANGE**)

Mother's Day

Breakfast

May 8, 2016

Great Hall

9a - 10a

THANK YOU MOTHER



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Teen Program Car Wash

May 15, 2016

Circle the date
for a great car wash

Starts with the 8 a.m
Service



Relay For Life 2016

May 21st - 22nd

Woodstock Fairgrounds

You can help by sponsoring a walker
and/or being a walker

See Ginger Lusa or Dayna Flath to
sign up or to get more info

Church School News - We are 'springing ahead' with our new curriculum "Feasting on the Word"! Using a "one-room schoolhouse" format, I tell the lectionary-based story after chapel and children do related activities with volunteer support & co-exploration. In May, our themes for grades 1-5 will be: "Good News Travels", "Strong Faith", Pentecost and Holy Trinity. Godly Players (preschool and kindergarten) will learn about "Jesus and the Twelve", "The Good Shepherd and the World Communion", "Pentecost" and "The Synagogue and the Upper Room". *Please note* Dave will be down in the Church School on Pentecost Sunday, May 15th to work on *Pentecost Dove Puppets* that will decorate our church through Youth Sunday. At the end of May, all will be preparing for the Youth Sunday Service (June 5th), followed by an all-parish picnic. Mark your calendar for this sun-sational bash to wrap up the year. There will be a moon bounce, face painting, and outdoor games!

A *Special Church School Meeting* will be held on May 1st so we can have a brief discussion on next year's program. With help from Fr. Dave and our Vestry liaisons (Melissa Zahanski, Kimberly Bergendahl, and Lisa Semancik), we are hoping to pilot a new volunteer format, setting up 4-5 teams (similar to coffee hour) with up to 4 folks in each team dedicated to caring for and co-learning with our young people. (This will replace our current 'shepherd and teacher' arrangement) Only two-three members of each team would be required to show up on any one Sunday within each cycle to participate in the gr. 1-5 program. Each team will have a 'captain' who will stay in touch with their group and the Director. Some pre-Sunday preparation will be asked, and a link to the *weekly curriculum information* in the Reminder provided for your convenience. We will be in touch with current and past volunteers & *we hope everyone will sign up*. There are two aims in this: 1) Lend predictable and knowledgeable support to the Director and 2) Spread out the burden for volunteers.

We have new Godly Play teachers who should be ready next fall, and more are welcome to join (See Chris Carter or myself.) Next year we will also have a sixth grade classroom for whom we hope to have dedicated teachers in place for the year who will work on special projects (Heifer Market outreach, Film School, Church Service support, Newsletter???) This group will be our next Rite 13 teen group, and 2016-17 is their transitional year of formation. There is a unique opportunity here for creative adolescent leadership, with plenty of support. Interested leaders please see me or Dave ... I can help you plan a scope and sequence for next year and secure resources before summer gets underway!

Serving Christ Church Youth with Joy,
Nicole Nichols, Church School Director ccchurchschoolpomfret@gmail.com



Teen Program News (Journey to Adulthood)

Fundraiser Info: Rummage Sale on May 7th AND Youth Car Wash on May 15th more details to follow, but mark your calendars now. Contact Catherine Bastow if you need further information.

Rite-13 - The Rite 13ers are still working on the mural project in the hall by the choir room

J2A - J2Aers and J2A parents, please make time to go to *Wonder Voyage* website to look at the possible trip places and choose one to be decided on at a date in the very near future. Also, both teens & parents get ready for the upcoming fundraisers in May as they are back to back weekends. Help is need for both events. Note also that many of our J2Aers will be participating in the Christ Church team at Relay. (See Rev. Dave for a donation to your cause)

YAC - They are using the *Confirm not Conform* curriculum in between other scheduled activities.

If you have any questions about the Teen Program contact Catherine Bastow at 860-928-3575.

Building and Grounds / Projects Notes -The more important news of May is that we're finally back in the church after the full cleaning. It looks very nice and there is a lot more light coming in the windows and more reflections off the ceiling and walls. The whole ambience is improved. The insurance settlement is still pending and there are still three more jobs finishing: the painting in the hallway and in the sacristy, the ceiling tiles of the sacristy hallway and rooms and finally the façade of the organ has to be cleaned by a contractor. While Service Master was doing the cleaning they became concerned about the condition of our Rose Window. We invited Tod Beall from Beall Studios to look at it up close. While a final report is pending he indicated that there did not seem to be any cause for concern. He is recommending that we do another all-window survey soon and that we learn to do this ourselves with photos. John Murphy has done a temporary repair of the panic bar on the door at the end of the classroom wing and will be working on Dave's office door soon; he will return later to start work on the Library window replacement.

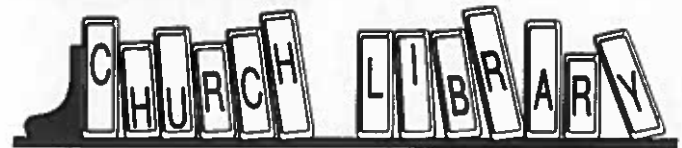
Christian Social Outreach - the Committee meets for disbursements later in June; *Relay for Life* on May 21-22. *Special Mission*: One Guatemala group is interested in returning next January, 2017. *But you can now consider a mission trip to Guatemala for a week starting August 6th!* If you are interested look at the PID website, on line, www.pidonline.org or you can contact Suzanne Powell at 860-944-1132 or email her at Suzanne.p@sbcglobal.net. Christ Church will be offering subsidies for airfare and the cost is tax deductible. In the meantime there are other projects that PID does: Sponsoring a Child; Paying for Cleft-palate Surgeries; Bringing used clothing to the PID Dropoff in Ipswich; Our collaboration with the *Rev. Oscar Brockmeyer* continues to expand, see the Reminder; *Community Kitchen* on May 23rd see Pauline Phillips. *Access News* - General food supplies, nutritious snack foods for kids OR send checks to: *Access Danielson* - 231 Broad Street, Danielson, CT 06239.

Music in April- *Choir* rehearsals are on Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m. *Rectory at 9:15 runs through June 5th*; Next Contemporary will be May 22nd.

Parish Life Activities -The Coffee Hour Team Schedule as well as the 8 o'clock Schedule for 2016 are posted on the Library Bulletin Board and the former can be accessed through the Reminder.

Vestry Notes - the vestry will meet for next regular meeting on Wednesday, May 11th. We have a number of items left from the planning meeting in April.

Women's Spirituality Workshop- a time of spiritual and faith exploration, story-sharing, and celebrating our Sisterhood! Our next meeting is Tuesday, May 24th at 7:00 p.m. Contact Jane Hale at jclhale@charter.net.



Will you be doing any spring cleaning this year? If so, please return any books from the Christ Church Library that you may find as you are tidying up that you may have forgotten to return. And if you haven't ever taken out something from the Church Library, please stop by and visit. It is easy to check out a book. The steps are as follows:

1. Find a book you wish to check out. You can browse the shelves or check for titles using the card catalog. Children's books are outside in the two shelves with the stuffed animals. Young adult and adult titles are inside the library (Books and DVDs on the metal cart outside the library are part of the Book/DVD Swap and do not need to be checked out. Feel free to bring in your own unwanted books and DVDs to add as well).
2. Look inside the back cover of the book and find the book card. Fill it out with your name and the date and place it in the small wooden box on top of the card catalog.
3. Take the book home, read it, return it, and repeat as often as you'd like. The church library has no due dates but please try to return books in a timely manner for others to enjoy.

One title that you may enjoy is *When Breath Becomes Air* by Paul Kalanithi. This *New York Times* bestseller was written after the author was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer at the age of thirty-six. As he went from being a doctor to being a patient, he began writing his memoir in an attempt to determine what makes life worth living when faced with one's own mortality. This book is an exquisitely profound memoir that you will not soon forget.