

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Parish Visitor

Two Emerson Street @ Gregory Boulevard, East Norwalk, Connecticut 06855 203.866.7442
The Reverend Frank Wismer, Vicar ~ www.christchurcheastnorwalk.org

ORDINARY PEOPLE ✦ EXTRAORDINARY SPIRIT

September 2011

Dear Friends in Christ,

Ten years ago this month the lives of all of us were altered by the events of September 11th. For me, 9/11 meant that I would spend five years on active duty in the Army with two of those years in Qatar, Kuwait, and Iraq. That service would also ultimately lead to a request from Christ Church to conduct a Veterans' Day worship in 2008 and end with my call to be your Vicar. The fact of the matter is that September 11, 2001 was the seminal date shaping the last decade of my life.

I suspect that all of us can recall as if it were yesterday where we were when the Twin Towers exploded in a ball of flames and came crashing to the ground some time later. And, we all have etched in our memories the pictures of that dreadful day which we will certainly see again on the tenth anniversary of 9/11.

This year on the anniversary of the terrible day, Christ Church will open its doors to our community morning, noon, and night. We will make it possible for individuals to have a quiet place for meditation and contemplation. It is important, however, that we invite our community not just to relieve the sadness and tragedy of that day, but to also recognize the hand of God leading us through our time of pain and distress to new life and hope in Jesus Christ.

We have been reading the story of the Exodus on Sunday mornings in worship for the past two months. The startling thing about this story is that although the Exodus was filled with suffering the ancient Jews seem to remember God's love for them rather than their numerous hardships. The enduring question for us on the tenth anniversary of 9/11 is this, what do we remember as we contemplate the past decade? Is it the pain and suffering of September 11, 2001 or is it the hand of God leading us to new life and hope through God's presence with us on our own Exodus journey?

God bless,

Father Frank



Remembrance Sunday: September 11, 2011

Those lost to the tragedies of September 11, 2001 will be remembered at both 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. worship on the tenth anniversary of the attacks.

Veterans groups have been invited to attend, and there will be special music at 10:00 a.m. worship.

The doors of the sanctuary will be open to all from 7:00 a.m. thru 7:00 p.m. for prayer and reflection. A sign-up sheet is posted in the Gathering Place for those willing to host visitors in the sanctuary during that time.

It is hard to believe ten years have passed. Please feel welcome to be present throughout the day as we recall that fateful morning so vividly.

MUSIC NOTES

a note from Organist Betty Betcher

We have been having a "choirless" service all summer and although it has been a "low keyed" service it has been much cooler in the Guild Room for worship. Choir will start on September 18th at the 10:00 service, which is also Sunday School registration day. We will have only our own faithful members singing the offertory anthem at this service. On September 25th we will have our "enhanced" choir with the young people joining us. There will be lots of music that day!!

I have been planning some new music for the fall and I will be emailing rehearsal times out to everyone very soon. Again, I would like to invite anyone who thinks they would like to sing with the choir to come and join us. We are in desperate need of a few new people. It is not a big commitment, but the Choir of Christ Church does need to grow now. We cannot continue to

depend on the young people to carry us through the next ten months. One or two new people would make such a difference. Please see me if you have any questions.

We welcome John Pearson, trumpeter, to Christ Church to play for us for the first time at worship. He is a member of Charlie Williams Band, so he has been here to play at our past two Cabaret Nights. He will be accompanying the Choir on the Opening Hymn "God of Our Fathers" and the Closing Hymn "America the Beautiful." The Congregation and the Choir will sing the Sequence Hymn "I Vow To Thee My Country", the new Welsh Hymn that we learned last year. We are delighted to have Cortney Zamm as our Soloist at the offertory singing "God Bless America". John Pearson will dismiss the congregation as he plays TAPS.

Homecoming Sunday: September 25, 2011

Come home...to Christ Church

Homecoming Sunday: September 25, 2011
Autumn will be upon us before we know it and it's time to come home...to church.

Bunny Zamm and many others are busy crafting a special day which includes music, Christian formation, and of course...FOOD!

The church school teachers have outlined an entire year of Christian formation, and classes will reconvene, beginning at 9:45 a.m.

Organist, Betty Belcher, and the Christ Church Choir is preparing special music to compliment the 10:00 a.m. program.

Last, but not least, to the delight of Episcopalians everywhere, chef-in-residence Paul Mordoff will offer a delectable brunch for all, following the 10:00 a.m. worship.

Friends will be waiting, when you come home... to Christ Church.

Several factors have contributed to the more subdued Parish Visitor layout this month, but rest assured there will be more to report in the October issue. In consideration of the recent earthquakes, floods, hurricanes and the anniversary of that fateful September day, quite honestly, as I put things together, cartoons and other images didn't seem to be appropriate. See you next month. ~ DB

Wednesday, September 7th Pilates Returns to Christ Church

Hello Everyone!

I hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

If you are ready to begin an 8 week session I was thinking we could start right after Labor Day which would be Wednesday, September 7th. Eight weeks will take us to October 26th.

Parish members \$5.00 (\$40 total)

Non members \$10.00 (\$80 total)

If you would like to sign- up please send a check payable to Joyce Generoso, 5 Dorset Court, Norwalk, CT 06851

The classes will be on Wednesday evenings from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. in the large parish hall. Bring a mat and water bottle.

Peace,
Joyce

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Parish Life Highlights ~ September thru April

***Bible Study takes place on Mondays at 10:30 a.m.*

September 11, 2011

Remembrance Sunday

RETURN TO THE SANCTUARY

Monday, September 12th Vestry 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, September 18th:

CHURCH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

September 25, 2011

Homecoming Sunday

Tuesday, September 27th

Honey Hill Worship 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, October 9th

Church School Special Activity, no classes

Monday, October 17th

Vestry 7:00 p.m.

Friday, October 28th

Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, October 29th

Wedding 3:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 30th

Halloween Costumes for Worship

Friday, November 11th

Wedding Rehearsal 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 10th

Wedding 4:00 p.m.

November 13th

Veterans Sunday

Monday, November 14th Vestry 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, November 20th

Stewardship Sunday

BAKE SALE & BASKET AUCTION

November 21st NO BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, November 27th

Thanksgiving Sunday

NO CHURCH SCHOOL

November 28th NO BIBLE STUDY

Monday, December 5th

Advent Study 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 11th

Living Nativity and East Norwalk Tree Lighting

Monday, December 12th Vestry 7:00 p.m.

Monday, December 19th

Advent Study 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 24th

5:30 p.m. Christmas Pageant

11:00 p.m. Midnight Mass

Sunday, December 25th 9:00 a.m.

December 26th NO BIBLE STUDY

Sunday, January 1st NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, January 8th

Epiphany Blessing of the Toys

Monday, January 9th Vestry 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 15th NO CHURCH SCHOOL

Sunday, January 22nd Annual Meeting

Monday, January 13th Vestry 7:00 p.m.

February 22nd Ash Wednesday

11:00 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

April 1st Palm Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

April 5th Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m.

April 6th Good Friday 7:30 p.m.

April 8th Easter Day 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, April 22nd

Episcopal visitation by the Rt. Rev. James Curry