RECTOR'S MESSAGE

The Rev. Sunil Chandy

Now Jesus had to go through Samaria. So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are
you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?’

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.”

John Chapter 4:4-16

Last year I participated in a Diocesan river pilgrimage. Although it was my first time in a canoe, I enjoyed it. The trip was a first in many ways for me. By the time of the journey, I had been the priest at our church for four years, and I could count on my fingers how many times I had visited the water (meaning being in the water) near our town. So when our guides told us that we would canoe through parts of the Pawcatuck River and eventually that canoeing would lead us into the bay and mouth of the Atlantic Ocean- I was intrigued.

I didn’t realize that the trip was to be an important one for me and my understanding of ministry in Westerly. Seeing Westerly from the water helped me to see how important water is for our community. Looking at the boats, the ways the buildings and people interact with the water, noticing Riverbend Cemetery, and understanding how we in the town have adjusted to the flow of water was insightful. One insight is that the water will do what the water wants to do. One can fight it, or one can flow with the water adjusting to its rhythms. Ultimately though the flowing water always wins.
The residents of our town have learned to “flow” with the rhythms of the significant water sources around us. Because of this, we can thrive as a community.

In Jesus’ interaction with the Woman and the well. Jesus speaks of the Holy Spirit of God as “living water.” This is an exciting and important distinction. God’s Holy Spirit in the New Testament, like water also “flows.” God’s spirit is always moving, sometimes gently and sometimes with overwhelming force, being able to make a way even overcoming obstacles.

The Woman sitting at the well in conversation with Jesus has been through a hard life. In her dialogue with Jesus, we understand that her “rough, sassy, cynical exterior...” masks a heart that seeks love and acceptance. Her life can be summed up by that appropriately named country song “Lookin’ for Love in All the Wrong Places.” As she spends quiet time sitting with Jesus, God’s Holy Spirit makes its way through all of her defenses, helping her find a lasting love to the source of all creation - God.

Friends, we live in one of the most beautiful areas of the country near large beautiful bodies of water. As we spend time near these places of flowing water over this summer let us take some quiet time, sitting with Jesus in contemplation. Perhaps as we engage in prayer and in reading scripture (maybe even readings for the following week) we would be able to reflect on how God flows in our own lives. The Living water of God, may make its way to give our thirsty souls the refreshment that it needs.
There has been virtually no spring this year. Rain and cold dominated April and May, and June has been disappointing, but spring, or no spring, summer always follows. So break out the ice cubes, have a tall glass of whatever it is you are drinking these days, and settle into the hammock for some “easy living” - if you can.

We sing about the “lazy days of summer,” but the reality is anything but lazy. All of coastal New England powers up to maximum warp speed for the duration, and easy living becomes a traffic jam. But this too shall pass.

We live in a summer wonderland. We know the rhythm of gently rolling waves, the squawk of hungry seagulls and the call of dueling fog horns announcing their respective positions. There is the beach at dawn, and sunsets over the river and the Connecticut horizon. God is good. Creation is good. Let’s be good to it.

These summer musings are simply prelude to the central message which is that summer is a gift from God, but the easy living can get in the way of church. It is vacation time, a time for rest, recreation and renewal, but God is always on duty. Christ Church is not taking a vacation. Children's chapel is still taking place at the ten o’clock service and the choir will be in residence for many weeks. This is our last summer without air conditioning for the church, but it’s just one more summer, and it will be a breeze! Pun intended!

So please don’t take the summer off from church. Come and hear the Word of God proclaimed. Come and break bread with your spiritual community and be nourished. Come and celebrate the abundance and richness of life that God brings forth in due season.

Then go in peace.

Happy trails, Anne
Congratulations to all of us! We raised one million dollars in new contributions, bring us over $1.2 million in our quest for $1.5 million! Celebration Sunday with the 25th presiding bishop, Frank T. Griswold, was very special, as those who attended would agree, I am sure. We will be proceeding with the slate roof replacement in the middle of July. After the 10:00 service on Sunday, July 21st, Father Sunil will bless the new slate, donors may personalize a slate, and some old slate from the bell tower will be distributed for a modest contribution. The Campaign Steering Committee will continue work over the summer on the community phase of the campaign and will seek preservation grants and other foundation support as we seek the final $300,000.

Please stop by and thank the office staff who were crucial to the success of our efforts!
Property Management Update

Now that you have heard about our successful Capital Campaign, I thought it would be useful to provide some information as to how some of these funds will be used which will be the responsibility of your Property Committee.

The major project of course is the replacement of the church roof. John Wilks is in charge of this project and we anticipate starting on July 15, 2019 when the scaffolding and slate arrive. We will be working on the Elm Street side of the roof initially to avoid any conflict with Vacation Bible School. We plan on having a service to bless the slate when they arrive, and there will also be an opportunity for members of the congregation to sign individual slate before they are installed.

The next project is installation of an Air Conditioning System in the church which is being led by Bob Schonenberg. He is planning for an Air Conditioning System system that does not cause a noise problem and is not an eyesore. He will also recommend a vendor. We will install this system next year. For this summer, we will be adding fans to get as much circulation of air as possible.

The final project led by Lido Mochetti will be the repair of several church windows.

You may also be aware that we have a new furnace in the church that has been our source of heat this past winter. We are in the process of switching our fuel from oil to gas and are working with National Grid and GEM Plumbing to make this happen.

Should you have any questions about these projects, please feel free to contact any member of the Property Committee.

Doug Lawrence
Chair, Christ Church Property Committee
Christ Church In The News...
Day of Pentecost
with The Most Reverend Bishop Frank T. Griswold, Presiding
Thank You to everyone who either helped or attended our Antiques Appraisal Day - it was a wonderful event. Stevi reported we took in over $700 between admissions and wine sales!! Not bad, considering we were making it up as we went along! All the appraisers said they really enjoyed it and would be happy to come again - even making suggestions of how we could feature some of the more interesting items while others are waiting.

It was a wonderful group effort - starting with Betty Morgan suggesting the idea and Nancy Richmond stepping in with her years of experience to chair it all. Then everyone pitched in to make it all happen - Lisa with her wonderful color-coded number system, Meg and Rich providing and serving the "liquid refreshment", Roger and Dan at the admissions desk, Wendy and Barbara managing those waiting, Wendy's beautiful centerpiece flowers, Pam's tablecloths and Stevi collecting our money! AND, all the parishioners that provided lots of cheese and crackers, as well as attending! It was fun and we learned ALOT! All in all, it was very successful (-: Look for this fun and enhanced event next year - and we promise not to schedule it on Father's Day!

Thanks Again!
Betsey
Navajoland Mission Trip

First, George and I went to the 43rd (not 42nd!) annual Convocation of the Episcopal Church in Navajoland (held in Farmington, NM), a 3 day affair including various business meetings and festivities with Native music, dance and food, the re-dedication of the renovated old Mission Hospital (now a Community Wellness Center) and a lovely Pentecost Service on Sunday. From there, we visited St. Christopher Mission in Bluff UT, where we stayed one night and put on a dinner for some of their staff and friends. The next day we went on to St Mary's, to assess conditions - buildings are still in bad shape, church roof damaged etc - and visit with old friends. On the last day, a team from the MarThoma Syrian Church in Baltimore, MD came in to launch a VBS at St. Mary's - their first time in this area. We helped them to set up, and shared some of our past experiences, sensing that somehow the Spirit led them here. More about all this at a slide show presentation we're hoping to put on is the Fall.

Thank you once more for your prayers and ongoing support!

Marlies & George
Invocation for 350th Anniversary of the Town of Westerly

Gracious and loving God:

We thank you for this day and ask your blessing on this gathering as we celebrate the 350th anniversary of the founding of the Town of Westerly. We are witnesses to your abiding goodness and generosity and we give thanks for the many blessings you have bestowed upon our town. We are people of many faiths and backgrounds, united in the spirit of God's call to love our neighbor, people with great pride in Westerly's long evolution as a vibrant and welcoming community - "a great place to live work and play" - in an ever changing world.

We ask Lord that you be present with us now, as we unearth the time capsule that was buried 50 years ago in anticipation of this day. We honor the memory of those who selected and secured these symbols of our community, and we ask your blessing on those who will be present to celebrate the 400th anniversary of this historic town.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life giving spirit will continue to guide, protect and sustain The Town of Westerly and its people, that we may continue to grow and prosper and be a blessing to all who pass this way, and those who spend a lifetime.

In God's holy name we pray,

Amen
Christian Formation Announcements

Whoooooo are we looking for? Maybe Yooooouu!!!

We're looking for Vacation Bible School Volunteers for setting up on Sunday, August 4th and during the week of August 5th thru August 9th!!

"With the repair/maintenance of the church's stained glass windows being one of the goals of our Capital Campaign, some questions about them would seem quite appropriate"

1. When were the first stained glass windows made & why?
2. How many windows are there in the main church?
3. Which is the oldest? The newest?

Answers on page 16
For more detail please navigate to: [https://www.christchurchwesterly.org/events/calendar/](https://www.christchurchwesterly.org/events/calendar/)
AUGUST 2019

For more detail please navigate to: https://www.christchurchwesterly.org/eventscalendar/
MEALS TO HEAL

A good home-cooked meal can heal the soul as well as nourish the body. If you or a loved one has recently come home from the hospital, had a death of a loved one, experienced a trauma, just delivered a baby, etc., call us and one of our committee members will bring you a fully cooked dinner! We are looking for more cooks, as well. Contact the office at 401-596-0197.

PRAYER LIST

Please help us keep our prayer list current! Please take a look and send any updates to: secretary.christchurch@verizon.net. Please also contact us if you would like to be placed on the Thanksgiving List of Healing. Thank you, The Pastoral Care Commission.

LEMONADE UNDER THE TREE

Lemonade Under the Tree is quickly approaching for July and August. We need volunteers to help set up and bring a few goodies for after the 10:00am Sunday service. The Choir is taking July 7th. Which Sunday would YOU like to do?! Sign up for a single time or several dates. This is a wonderful ministry and one that is vital to our church community. Please contact the church office if you would like to host. Thank You!

TRIVIA ANSWERS

(from previous page)

1. Stained glass as an art form dates back to early times, but the first record of it being used for windows in a church comes from the 7th century.

2. Twenty One. (The ten windows in the Narthex screen are counted as one unit). There are also six more in the St. Nicholas Chapel downstairs, which are not included in the count here.

3. The oldest window is from 1892 and the newest is from 1978.

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~ More information can be found in the brochure that Lido Mochetti did on the windows in 1994, available in the tract rack in the church, or in the office ~
Summer Service Hours
Starting June 16th
Wednesday
7am & 10am Eucharist Service (Chapel)
Saturday
5pm Rite I Spoken Eucharist
Sunday
8:00 am Rite II Spoken Eucharist
10:00 am Rite II Choral Eucharist with Children's Chapel Nursery Care Provided
Vacation Bible School
Christ Church, Westerly

ROAR!
Life is wild · God is good

August 5 - 9
9:00 - 12:00

The best week of the summer!
New friends · Amazing experiments · Creative games
Super-fun snacks · Surprising adventures · Incredible music

kristylivingston13@gmail.com
(401)596-0197

Register online at: vbspro.events/p/summer2019
Or stop in the church office!
Help The WARM Center win the $10,000 Red Sox Foundation IMPACT Award!!!

The Red Sox Foundation has named The WARM Center as one of the five finalists in Rhode Island eligible to win the $10,000 IMPACT Award grant this year! The IMPACT Awards provide Red Sox fans in the surrounding New England states with the opportunity to support their favorite nonprofits by casting a vote! Organizations with the most votes will win a $10,000 grant from the Red Sox Foundation! This year's IMPACT Awards focus on organizations that have demonstrated an impact on improving health and wellness outcomes in their community. Please show us your support and help WARM win by voting:

https://www.mlb.com/redsox/community/impact-awards
Summer Service

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Rite I Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 8:00 a.m.
Rite II Holy Eucharist spoken service
Sunday 10:00 a.m.
Rite II Choral Eucharist w/Children's Chapel and Nursery Care
 Wednesday 7:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist
 Wednesday 10 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist
 Wednesday 10:45 a.m.
 Bible Study

Christ Episcopal Church

CLERGY
The Rev. Sunil Chandy, Christ Church Rector
The Rt. Rev. David Joslin, Rector Emeritus; Bishop in Residence
The Rev. Sandra Haines-Murdocco, Priest Associate
The Rev. Deacon Anne Burke, Deacon

STAFF
George Kent, Organist & Choirmaster
Jacquelyn Smith, Parish Administrator; Wedding Coordinator
Dorothy Adams, Office Assistant
Barbara Whitford, Financial Administrator
Kristy Livingston, Director of Christian Formation
Phillip Kurk, Sexton
Madeline Therrien and Sarah Poole, Childcare Coordinators

VESTRY
Betsey Rice, Senior Warden
Caswell Cooke, Jr., Junior Warden
Sarah Starkweather, Clerk
Stephanie Blanchette, Treasurer
Fred Allardyce
Connie Annand
Barbara Capalbo
Mike Evering
Katherine Hoxsie
Lisa Kitchen
Paul Kuhn
Doug Lawrence
Emily Mugge
Natalie Pukas
Thomas Quaratella
Richard Roy

COME JOIN US!

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christ-church@verizon.net