

The Leaflet of Christ Church Cambridge

Vol. LXXV, No. 5

May 2007

Easter Joy

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

In this simple exchange between priest and people lies the essence of Christian faith and hope. It expresses, and passes on to generations yet unborn, a dynamic truth that cannot be trapped in the pages of any book, one that passes from heart to heart and from life to life, as one generation follows another through what we have come to call the "Journey of Faith."

The experience of this Holy Week, just passed, was a fine example of what makes this historic faith we share so powerful. We were there – walking the way of the cross, sitting in the shadows, attending the last supper, washing feet. We were there in Gethsemane's garden, at the court of Pilate and in the temple. We were there at the foot of a cross and at the yawning door of an empty tomb.

Through the miracle and ministry of the church's sacraments, we continue to take part in the historic life of Jesus of Nazareth and in the ongoing power of his post-resurrection life. We are not Christians because Christ once lived, but because Christ lives. Not because God once said no to death and the grave, but because God repeats those defeating words in every day of our lives. We do not gather only to remember, else our worship would rightly be fixed in a language from some dead age. Instead, we gather. We pray in common language. We sing new songs. We say new liturgies because the mystery of Easter is that it goes on and on.

Like water pouring over a falls into some bottomless chasm, Easter continually pours its light and life into our hearts and souls and minds. And, no matter how full we feel, there is always more: more that we cannot grasp, more that we cannot appreciate, more that we cannot absorb. Easter, because of our limited nature, remains an uncontainable mystery.

This year, my mother's dying punctuated Holy Week in an unrepeatable way. It made the services more poignant, more important, more necessary for some connection for which I hungered, than before. Perhaps the time of a parent's death is one of those thin places where heaven and earth are drawn more closely together and we almost hear the voice of God. Perhaps in my new home, far removed from all that has been familiar and consoling, I have come to depend upon my spiritual family far more than ever before. Perhaps I am simply growing up – or growing older – and gaining something of the wisdom of age that in my youth I never really believed existed.

But whatever the reason, Easter, for me, this year, is full of joy. And no small part of that joy is due to you and the care and kindnesses you have shown Diane and me during these last days – the mountain of cards and letters, the notes of condolence, the phone calls just to say you are thinking of us in our loss. This year you have been the body of Christ for us, and you have given of yourselves to make our burden lighter.

For that, I will never be able to give you thanks enough. I am humbled and honored to serve among you. And, my greatest hope is that together we may continue to build a community where all may find a welcome, a warmth and caring, a community of nurture and support that pours from God's love for us. This great God carries us when we are weak and pushes us along the road when we are strong – and all this God does with our own arms. And just when we think that belonging is enough, we are confronted with a mystery that moves beyond it.

So, here is the mystery of Easter, point blank and unrefined. As members of Christ's body, we too live lives the grave cannot hold. For us, God lived among us. For us, God died to save us. For us, God weaves

meaning and mystery and miracle into a gift of life unparalleled in the human experience, and it is all ours for the taking.

Alleluia. Christ is risen.
The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

Joe+

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Letter from Zimbabwe

Five orphaned families headed by children in rural Zimbabwe are full of hope and thanks because five Christ Church families have “adopted” them for a year. Money sent early in 2007 through the Zienzele Foundation has arrived in Zimbabwe, and Christ Church families are being matched up with them.

The pathway of getting money into rural villages has become slow and circuitous. Banks in Harare, the capitol of Zimbabwe take a 70 percent commission on transactions, so funds from Christ Church families had to be routed through South Africa, picked up personally by Zienzele’s founder, and driven through border check points straight to the countryside hundreds of miles away. In the process of this journey recently, Zienzele’s Toyota van (donated by a friend) failed to make it through the obstacle course of roadbed potholes, rolled over twice, and ruined its transmission. As a consequence, Jim and Nancy Clark, American managers of Zienzele, cancelled their regular two-month stay in the villages for April and May. Political violence and further deterioration of the situation in Zimbabwe are the primary reasons for postponing their trip, but the condition of the van leaves them with no way to get from village to village with medicine, shoes, and training in nursing, nutrition, and AIDS prevention.

In March, inflation in Zimbabwe hit 1700 percent and unemployment 80 percent, Opposition to President Mugabe is growing and other African leaders are beginning to pressure him to retire.

Meanwhile, money raised from selling baskets and adopting families has reached the villages, along with five new sewing machines for making school uniforms. The Zienzele motto holds: “Just Do It Yourself!”

Ann Austin

From the Altar Guild: Blessed Work, Many Thanks

Easter in all its Glory provided the Altar Guild with great opportunity for the sacred work of preparing the Altar proper and the church as a whole for the great Feast. This year’s new forms of worship gave many members a chance to be a part of these meaningful and instructive services.

First, a very large thank you to the members of the Altar Guild themselves for covering such an intense schedule of services. So many set-ups and so much linen! We also owe a great debt to the Sacristans who were so very helpful and resourceful during the whole of Lent and Holy Week. We extend our special thanks to Hernan, Jerry, Ron, and Bill for their help.

The Flower Fund was very generously supported for Easter. We send our gratitude to all who made our decorations possible. Thanks also to Martha Stearns and Poly Cobb for their work coordinating the Easter Memorials.

We were blessed this year to have both Lent and Easter enriched with decorations to enhance worship. Lois Bennett gave us a desert-themed Lent in which to approach the coming sacrifice. Then, Susie White and her team of workers transformed the sanctuary with flowers that were unveiled at the Great Vigil. Among those helping were Vaughan Barton, Bo Fauth, Lissa Hodder, Roberta Hirshson, Keith Hughes, Cricket Lewis, Joanna Scott, Blair Steck, Martha Stearns, Sandy Sherwood, Nancy Sinsabaugh, Suzanne Smith, Wendy Squires, and Peter White. Blessings and thanks to all.

The Altar Guild will provide the refreshments for the coffee hours on Sunday May 6. Come and join us, and sign up to join in our joyous work.

Last, please let Webb Brown or Summer Akimoto know if you want to learn more about serving on the Altar Guild. If there is interest, we will offer a training session on Sunday May 20. If that date proves inconvenient for those interested, we will find another date for the training. Men, women, and older children are welcome. Contact Webb at 617-923-0057 or webb40@juno.com, or Summer at 781-391-9891 or summerted@aol.com).

The Thrift Shop Needs Your Help!

The Thrift Shop is looking for volunteers. It is also looking for donations. In the cold, rainy weather of the past weeks, contributions have slowed down. We now especially need your donations of clothing and bric-à-brac.

When you give to the Thrift Shop you give doubly, and even triply:

- The money from our sales goes directly to the Christ Church Building Preservation Fund. Last year we contributed over \$30,000 for the church.
- The recycling of goods and garments provides a real service to the Cambridge community. People from all walks of life benefit from our shop where they find not only bargains, but camaraderie. Donations are tax deductible and we can help you with this, as well as arrange a pickup.
- Items which do not sell are packaged and donated again to organizations which can use them. The organizations that receive our donations, in priority order, are: On The Rise, The Red Cross, Vietnam Veterans of America, Morgan Memorial Goodwill, and Buddy Dog in Sudbury. (Periodically we bundle up small stuffed toys and send them to the frightened dogs waiting for adoption in this shelter.)

Please think of us when you are spring cleaning, or at any other time. We are most grateful for your contributions. Bags of your donations can be left at the shop during hours that we are open and in the designated bin in the lower level of the Parish Hall at other times. The shop is located at 17 Farwell Place, behind the church, and is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

To keep the Thrift Shop running, we naturally need lots of volunteer help. The sales staff works three-hour shifts. We have a cadre of workers, mostly members of the church, who give of their time once a week. Even if you come only once a month, your commitment will still be of great help to us and make a difference. There are a number of volunteers who serve in this way, and we depend on them all. Through the end of June, when we close for the summer, we are particularly short-staffed and could really use your help. Join us now and pick up again with us when we re-open in September.

For more information, please contact Diane Spurr at 617-497-9390 or diane5959@yahoo.com.

Ordinations of Our Own

Come celebrate the ordination of Jennie Anderson and Jeff Mello to the transitional diaconate at the Cathedral of St. Paul on Tremont Street in Boston at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 2.

Jennie is a long-time parishioner at Christ Church. Jennie sang in the choir, taught Sunday School, worked for low-cost housing, and served on the Vestry before entering the ordination process and leaving three years ago for the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest.

Jeff graduates from the Episcopal Divinity School on May 17 with a Master's in Divinity with emphasis in Liturgy. Jeff is easing into Christ Church with a few hours each week in May, and will become our full-time Curate after his ordination.

A group of parishioners are planning to leave from Christ Church for the ordination at 9:45 a.m. Feel free to join in. Children are also welcome at the ordination.

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Join the Office Guild

You've never heard of the Office Guild? It's a new name for the ad hoc group of parishioners who have been manning the CCC office barricades since last November when Dick Whittington, our Parish Administrator, became ill. The Rector has found this a great help, and has asked volunteers to continue to help our new Parish Administrator, Kenny Likis.

What do Guild members do? We answer the phone and the myriad questions callers have. We play the role of goodwill ambassadors to visitors. We also help Kenny with a variety of tasks: sorting mail, proof reading, filing, preparing mailings, etc.

If you have the time, we welcome you to join the Office Guild. We especially need help during the summer months when so many are on vacation. The office hours will be shortened for the summer: Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and closed on Friday. Volunteers typically work half-day shifts, so for the summer we need eight volunteers each week.

To help, call Freda Alexander at 617-547-8184.

Great Support for On The Rise From the Mission Committee

The Mission Committee, with the approval of the Vestry, has very generously authorized a grant of \$10,000 to On The Rise. This money is dedicated to a special fund, called "Honor Her Vision Fund," which was established in recognition of Katya Fels, the founder of On the Rise who retired in December. The money is intended to support the new partnership between On the Rise and the Family Institute of Cambridge, as well as other purposes. What a great tribute to Christ Church's commitment to this organization!

We continue to collect items of personal care and clothing at Christ Church and to deliver them to On The Rise. Since it is finally milder weather, lightweight coats, raincoats, and umbrellas are especially welcome. These can be left in the back of the church on Sundays, or in the office in the photocopier room in the box marked On The Rise.

There is a new policy regarding house wares. Because of a need for more office space, the main focus of household goods will be on "ready to move in baskets." Laundry baskets filled with basic linens and kitchen items, including cleaning products, need to be kept on hand. In addition, Donna Thach will maintain a wish list from women who need small appliances or other things for use in newly acquired apartments. Please check with Donna before donating house wares.

For more information, contact Summer Akimoto at summerted@aol.com or 781-391-9891, or Donna Thach at donna.thach@otr.org or 617-497-7968 ext. 36.

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Opportunity for a Family Weekend

Families of all kinds are invited to "Family Camp Weekend" at the Barbara C. Harris Camp in nearby New Hampshire, June 22-24. Family Camp is a rich, full experience, blending quality family time together with worship, music, Christian education, outdoor activities, and much more.

Visit www.bchcenter.org/camp/programs/family.htm for more information, or look for registration forms on the information rack outside the Parish Office.

Join the Youth Choir

All families with children starting Grades 3 through 7 in the Fall are warmly invited to an open rehearsal on Wednesday, May 16, with the Youth Choir. This is an opportunity to see what fun we have, and how much we learn about service and music. What a great way to see if this might be of interest to you!

Parents and potential choristers should all come along to meet in the Choir Room at 5:35 p.m. until 6:45. We will have refreshments, and there will be choir families there to tell you the real story. Please send a message to Stuart Forster at stuartforster@cccbridge.org or 617-876-0200 ext. 15 to let us know you're coming. We'll be ready and will look forward to seeing you there.

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Seeking Lectors and Intercessors

If you're interested in reading lessons or Prayers of the People at our Sunday services, please contact Timothy Matthews, who coordinates the schedule. You can reach Tim at tjm10@cornell.edu or 617-763-4343. We will have a brief training session for new readers in the next few weeks – details to follow.

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Children's Books

Read-aloud Bible storybooks are now on display in the Rectors' Reception Room on Sunday mornings. Pick one up to read to a restless youngster here at church, or sign one out to read with your child at home during the coming week.

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Support the Outdoor Church

Each Sunday the Outdoor Church brings spiritual and nutritional sustenance to the homeless. On Sunday mornings, between services, volunteers make sandwiches that are distributed later that day. Drop by and help. We especially need volunteers to bring in sandwich ingredients between now and June: three loaves of bread, a pound of sliced meat, and a pound of sliced cheese. If you can help and/or would like more information, contact Debbie Henry at Deborah_Henry@parkschool.org.

Wardens' Corner

Recent weeks have seen some joyous and uplifting occasions. As reported in the April Leaflet, on Friday, March 23, to Saturday, March 24, Christ Church hosted a group of people participating in the Interfaith Walk for Climate Rescue. Special thanks to Nancy Hammett, who was in charge of the overall arrangements at Christ Church, and to Webb Brown, who organized the Friday supper. Thanks to all who participated in this very worthwhile effort.

On Easter Day, nearly fifty people enjoyed a festive Easter potluck lunch in the Parish Auditorium. Many thanks to Peter Barkley, who started this tradition about four years ago, and has continued to nurture it. The event has certainly taken hold, and is planned again for next Easter.

On a particularly joyous note, on Sunday, April 22, we celebrated Joe Robinson's one-year anniversary as our Rector with coffee, cake, conversation, and all around warm feelings. We are truly blessed to have Joe and Diane among us.

As always at Christ Church, there are some comings and goings. Jeff Mello, to be ordained as a Transitional Deacon on June 2, joins us full time as Curate after his ordination. Your Vestry very much looks forward to working with him, especially around programs for our children and youth.

Sadly, we must soon bid farewell to the Reverend Sue Fisher Seeger, a long-time parishioner, who has been serving us this last year as a Vocational Deacon. Sue, we will miss you, but we also know that Christ Church people never really leave, and look forward to seeing you back at Christ Church whenever your schedule permits. All the best in your new assignments. To celebrate Sue's ministry among us, the parish is invited to a festive coffee hour following the 10:15 a.m. service on Sunday, May 6.

We've had a change on the Vestry. Because of the press of professional and personal business, our Clerk, Tim Matthews, has asked to step down as Clerk and to serve as a regular Vestry member for the rest of the year. The Vestry, acting under its authority pursuant to Article III, Section 3 of our Bylaws, has appointed Vestry member Tim Cutler as Acting Clerk until our next Annual Meeting in January, with Tim Matthews serving as a regular Vestry member, also until Annual Meeting.

Repairs and upgrading of our property continue as always. The bathroom in the master suite of the Rectory has been in need of updating, so it was stripped during Joe and Diane's vacation week away. What we found were old water and drainage pipes that desperately needed replacement, which can be done only when the floor and walls are removed. New lines are now in place, and over the next couple of weeks new fixtures will be installed and then the walls and floor redone.

In addition, we are soliciting bids for the repainting and repair of the Rectory exterior, to be completed during the good weather that has finally arrived. Inside the Parish Hall there are some additional repairs and repainting needed from various leaks, especially on the walls of the upstairs landing outside of the Library. Our beautiful buildings are such treasures, but it does seem that something is always due for a repair.

Happy Eastertide and Happy Spring.

Peace,

Dean and Karen

Liturgical Rota for May 2007

Service	Acolytes	Ushers	Lectors	Intercessor	Chalice Bearers
Sunday, May 6 7:45 a.m.	John Clarke	None	Elizabeth Webb Mimi Truslow	Shane McCrae	Hall Kirkham
Sunday, May 6 10:15 a.m.	C: Seth Lancaster S: Jack Hallowell G: Henry Regan T: William Austin T: Ben Costa	Jim Barton Vaughn Barton Howard Crowell Karen Mathiasen	Chuck Willie Eleanor Regan	Mary Sue Willie	Poly Cobb Ellen Brockman Craig Kelly Faith Chase G. Gunnigle
Choral Evensong Sunday, May 6 5:00 p.m.	John Clarke	TBD	K. Rodine Hardy Harvard Episcopal Chaplaincy	None	None
Sunday, May 13 7:45 a.m.	Hall Kirkham	None	Jeff Zinsmeyer Lee Born	Donna Tillotson	Jill Herold
Sunday, May 13 10:15 a.m.	C: Anna Renz S: Jane Tingley G: Matthew Lerret T: Grant Baker T: Lucy Perkins T: Colin Lee T: Lizzie Cosway	Mike Magruder Wendy Kistler Russell Peck Bob Smith	Mary Caroline Regan Charlie Allen	Roberta Hirshson	Richard Parker Jeff Brown Webb Brown Ann Austin Donna Kirven
Sunday, May 20 7:45 a.m.	Zoe Hochstein- Moran	Howard Crowell Mark MacMillan	Lorna Hochstein Ray Walther	Anne Lowell	Donna Tillotson
Sunday, May 20 10:45 a.m.	C: S. Montagno S: Jack Hallowell G: M.C. Regan T: Abigail Bliss T: Anna Morton T: Rachel Bliss T: Caroline Farkas	David Smith Suzanne Smith Sylvia Williams Mike West	Jim Tanner Faith Chase	Timothy Matthews	Chuck Willie Henry Lewis Dirya Mani Sylvia Williams Beth Lennox
Sunday, May 27 7:45 a.m.	Andy Boughton	None	Jill Herold Hall Kirkham	Hope Hare	Anne Lowell
Sunday, May 27 10:15 a.m.	C: John Clarke S: Matthew Lerrett G: Victoria Cabral T: Max Carter T: sabel Carter	Doris Possi Melissa Hirshson Sue Hallowell Seth Lancaster	Ed Chase Joyce Walker	Tanya Cosway	Samantha Morrison Sharon Stanfill Joyce Walker Seth Lancaster Peter Lee

Acolytes: C = Crucifer, S = Server, G = Gospel, and
T = Torchbearer

If you are unable to serve as scheduled, please
arrange for a substitute and contact the appropriate
coordinator.

- Acolytes: Wendy Squires, 617-864-3029
- Ushers: Doris Possi, 781-729-3272
- Lectors and Intercessors: Timothy Matthews,
617-395-8832
- Chalicers: Donna Tillotson, 617-547-0871

May at Christ Church Cambridge

Sunday May 6	Fifth Sunday of Easter Eucharist at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. Choral Evensong at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday May 13	Sixth Sunday of Easter Eucharist at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. Chaplaincy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday May 20	Seventh Sunday of Easter Eucharist at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. Chaplaincy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.
Sunday May 27	Day of Pentecost Eucharist at 7:45 and 10:15 a.m. Chaplaincy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.

A midday Eucharist is celebrated every week on Wednesdays at 12:10 p.m.

The Church is open from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Monday through Friday,
and 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturdays, for prayer and meditation.



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Clergy

The Rev. Joseph O. Robinson, Rector

The Rev. Karen Montagno, Associate Priest

The Rev. Benjamin King, Episcopal Chaplain
at Harvard

Vestry

Dean Johnson, Senior Warden

Karen Mathiasen, Junior Warden

Mark MacMillan, Treasurer

Tanya Cosway, Assistant Treasurer

Timothy Cutler, Acting Clerk

Clarissa Bronson

Mimi Truslow

Sue Hallowell

Amey Callahan

Timothy Mathews

Timothy Groves

Sally Kelly

Samantha Morrison

Wendy Squires