

# CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT NEWSLETTER

November/December 2012

West Haven, Connecticut



**CALLED BY THE SPIRIT**, we celebrate the joy of salvation in Christ.  
Caring for others, we connect our congregation to the larger community.

**HELD BY THE SPIRIT**, we rejoice in the healing power of Christ in our lives.  
Honoring the call to love our neighbors, we believe that all persons are beloved by God.

**SENT BY THE SPIRIT**, we serve as the hands and feet of Christ.  
Seeking to join in God's mission of reconciliation, we promote peace, justice and love for all.

## STEWARDSHIP

### WHAT WE DO AFTER WE SAY "I BELIEVE"

Traditionally, the month of November turns our attention to Thanksgiving – and the many blessings we have received – as well as stewardship – what God is calling us to do with those blessings so that others may know God's love as well. The care of all that God has given us is a year-round endeavor. Practically speaking, November is the time we most overtly channel that conversation into the best use of our financial treasures.

Did you know that Connecticut ranks 49<sup>th</sup> among the states in charitable giving? What is that all about? And how is it affecting the ability of Connecticut churches to continue having a presence in their communities? We are a parish filled with generous and caring people. We have spent considerable time learning to see and trust God in all that have and do, and talking about ways in which God invites us to be a part of God's mission of healing and restoration. And yet, we continue to hold back when it comes to church finances. We are not unlike the disciples distracting themselves with limited worldly concerns while Jesus tried to encourage them with words of hope about the resurrection. We, too, tend to distract ourselves with all the "yes-buts" we can muster when it comes to money. Yet God continues to call us to move forward. How shall we respond?

Commitment Sunday (November 18 this year) is the time when pledge cards are distributed during worship and returned completed as part of our offering to God and God's work. Continuing our efforts to be mindful and intentional about our care of what God has entrusted to us, on **Sunday November 11**, we invite everyone to join us for **one service at 9 am** followed by a potluck brunch and another round of our now-favorite Table Talks. Through our own stories, and with some Q&A plain talk about the financial health of our parish led by Rev. Lisa, we will listen to and look for the movement of God among us. Your presence is needed, valued, and deeply prayed for.

As an added bonus on that very same Sunday, the Liturgy of the Word (the first half of our service) will include a dramatic, theatrical presentation by the Trinity Players from Trinity-on-the-Green Episcopal Church in New Haven. Set within the context of the Spanish Inquisition, "The Grand Inquisitor" adapted from Dostoevsky's classic work, *The Brothers Karamazov*, will help us reflect on the choices Jesus made while being tempted in the wilderness. Did he choose wisely? Are we? Come and see!

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## **Rector's Ruminations**

### ***Hurricane Sandy and an Addendum to the Book of Job***



During Saturday and Sunday homilies in October, we spent time examining our faith through the Book of Job. With Jesus' final journey toward Jerusalem and his attempts to talk about his impending death and resurrection as a Gospel backdrop, we talked about ways we allow life's distractions to steer us away from the hope and trust found in learning to love God and trust in God's goodness.

Our parish has more than its fair share of stressed people. The economy, job loss, health issues, broken relationships . . . "*life*" seems to be taking its toll on so many. And quite honestly, I am distressed at how many turn away from God in such times, rather than *toward* the One who can and will offer healing and wholeness. Enter the Book of Job. We all know Job: that good and righteous man who suffered such tremendous hardship, for no apparent good reason. Near the end of the book, Job demands that God gives him an explanation of why these things happened. God doesn't explain. Instead, God asks Job a series of questions: *where were you when the foundations of the earth were laid? Were you there when I put the stars in place? Can you tell the sea where to go? Do you understand the ways of the creatures of the deep? Can you control them?* Basically God's answer is, "I am God, I know what I am doing – trust me." God is the one who created this universe and God is the one ultimately in control of it. In the end, Job answers – "surely I have spoken of things I did not understand, things too wonderful for me to know.

Who knew that Hurricane Sandy would offer us such an immediate object lesson?

What some chose to see as stress, strife, and strain – others chose to witness as God's unfailing presence in the midst of upheaval. Statewide leaders took storm preparations seriously while residents heeded warnings. Friends and families offered places to stay for those near danger. During the storm, phone calls and FaceBook postings kept many of us connected as we huddled in homes shaking with wind gusts and power being lost. Phone calls followed the next day: God's Beloved checking in with God's Beloved.

Political leaders set partisan politics aside and police and fire fighters worked tirelessly around the clock. Did you know that we were prayed for as far away as New Zealand, where the world-wide Anglican Consultative Council was meeting? Our Bishops made personal phone calls to each clergy along the coast of Connecticut to make sure we, and our parishes, were OK or in need of assistance. Our church-wide Episcopal Relief and Development agency (ERD) began gathering donations and resources for families and congregations devastated by the storm, from Haiti and Cuba, all the way up the East Coast of the US and into Canada. We were surrounded by God's love and care witnessed through others who know what loving-God-in-action looks like. And for those whose eyes are being opened to see – it looks heavenly.

Job and Hurricane Sandy show us the response of the faithful to suffering. The more important question is not "why" bad things happen, but how are we to respond "when" they happen! We look to God, and trust in God's ultimate power and wisdom. And we look to those times God invites us into the actions that, ultimately will make all things right. Mother Theresa suggested a bridge from chaos to space. It happens in a quiet place apart. The gift of solitude is silence. The gift of silence is prayer. The gift of prayer is faith. The gift of faith is God. The gift of God is love. The gift of love is service. The gift of service is peace.

Perhaps the lessons of "Sandy" will be to encourage us all the more to look and see God's presence in our lives, especially when our lives are upside down. Perhaps we will learn to give thanks for the friends and family God has given us. Perhaps we will learn to insist that our political leaders work together for the common good. Perhaps we will learn to honor more overtly the first responders who give of themselves so valiantly. Perhaps we will treat our Bishops, our Diocese, our Church with more awe and respect. Perhaps we will learn to be more ready to offer a loving hand to someone else who is upside down. In all of these ways, and in so many more, God is at work, loving, caring, healing, and making whole this world in which we live.

*Rev. Lisa*

# SPECIAL WORSHIP THANKSGIVING THROUGH CHRISTMAS

**Sunday, November 18 - 7 pm**

**Interfaith Thanksgiving Community Service** (open to the whole community)

St John Vianney, 300 Captain Thomas Blvd.

*This event is hosted by the West Haven Clergy Association and is a joint effort of all faith communities in town.*

*\*\*Free will offering to benefit Fisher House\*\**

*Church of the Holy Spirit Choir is offering an anthem.*

**Sunday, December 2 during 10 am service**

**Advent Lessons and Carols** (readings, hymns and anthems followed by Eucharist)

*Saturday 5 pm and Sunday 8 am services will gather as usual.*

**Wednesday, December 19 6 pm**

**Blue Christmas,**

*A special service with Eucharist for those who enter this Christmas season with heavy hearts.*

Monday, December 24 - **Christmas Eve**

5:00 pm Family-Friendly Festive Choral Eucharist

10:30 pm Carol Sing and Choral offerings

11:00 pm Candlelit Choral Eucharist

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## PROPERTY UPDATES

The driveway on the north side of our church and the parking lot behind the church have been repaved. Junior Warden Keith Bailey will paint the lines on the pavement when his schedule and the weather coincide. Funds for this undertaking came from the Willis Memorial Fund and the Emergency Repair Fund.

The shingles on the north aisle roof have been replaced. We await the return of the roofing contractor to replace the shingles and flashing on the small roof above the north transept entry by the Lady Chapel. Once this is completed, the leaks that damaged the plaster in that area should be halted and we can obtain bids to repair the plaster walls.

This project was funded from the Emergency Repair Fund, a line item in our budget that has been severely depleted by these two necessary repairs.

On Commitment Sunday, November 18, we will dedicate the new cloister access ramp made possible by a donation from Kathryn Gregory. We will also dedicate the new, slightly larger top for the Chancel Altar. This new altar top was built by Gary Staniewicz and paid for by Altar Guild funds.

Junior Warden Keith Bailey is currently seeking bids to replace our old and very expensive fire alarm system. He is also considering upgrades to the church's sound system. We hope to engage some pro bono advice from a theatre sound designer prior to making any upgrade decisions on our sound system.

The Property Committee has an extensive prioritized "to-do" list of projects large and small. Many of the

larger projects will require funding sources that are not part of our budget. The committee will attempt to provide estimates for some of these larger projects with the intent of seeking specific donations to allow for the continued upgrades to our physical properties.

Submitted by Senior Warden Bill Stark

## NOAH'S ARK

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark...

One : Don't miss the boat.

Two : Remember that we are all in the same boat.

Three : Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.

Four : Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big.

Five : Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done.

Six : Build your future on high ground.

Seven : For safety sake, travel in pairs.

Eight : Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs.

Nine : When you're stressed, float a while.

Ten : Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals.

Eleven : No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting.

NOW, wasn't that nice? Pass it along and make someone else smile, too.



# OUTREACH NEWS



Mark your calendars for three upcoming Outreach-sponsored events.....

## CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR TANISHA'S CHILDREN

We continue our tradition this year of providing Christmas gifts to the children served by our Covenant to Care Social Worker, Tanisha. Requests from her client-families are being collected right now. The Angel Pulpit (so-named because we put tags with gift requests all over the pulpit, and then replace the tags you take with paper angels) will be decorated with tags the weekend of November 17/18. This is the weekend before Black Friday so all you early birds can capitalize on the deals! For all of you who don't like to shop, our elves will be ready to shop till they drop so please ask for help. If you are not able to cover the cost for an entire gift, why not pair up with someone else? Joy is only joy when it's shared!



## CAN YOU BELIEVE IT?

Can you believe it? The holiday season is almost here- Thanksgiving, Advent and then Christmas! During this busy time, the church is planning our **Annual Christmas Cookie Walk**. The date for this event is Saturday, December 15, 2012, from 9 AM to 1 PM. To make this a successful event, we need your help. We will need cookies of all kinds. Please make three to six dozen. We will even take candy if you can't bake cookies.

Donations can be dropped off at the church between 6:00 to 7:30 PM on Friday, December 14, 2012. Cookies can also be brought to the church on Saturday between 8:30 - 9:00 AM. There will be three sizes of containers available for purchase and filling. The small size will be \$8.00; the medium, \$12.00 and the large size \$15.00.

The profits of this fundraiser will be used for our Outreach Program. Hope to see you there.



## ABRAHAM'S TENT - MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>-18<sup>TH</sup> 2013

Last year's Abraham's Tent week had not even finished before our volunteers asked: "Can we do this again next year?" Abraham's Tent is part of an interfaith effort to offer overflow shelter for Columbus House during the colder months of the year. Our date has been locked in and will be from Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (evening) to Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup> (morning). While Sue Dangle and Karin Jacobs will be overseeing this project, it is truly a group effort with support coming from both inside and outside our parish family. All kinds of help will be needed - planning/cooking dinners and breakfasts, doing an overnight watch, cleaning up restrooms and common areas after each night's stay, donating food and other items, shopping for things needed during the week, rearranging the Common Room and the library for the week, making monetary donations to help support all that is needed and much more, so everyone should be able to find a way to help! Sign-up sheets will be coming in the following weeks.

More information will be forthcoming on these events. This is just a "mark your calendar" heads-up and a way to start the minds a-thinking and the wheels a-moving.

Thank you for all your support and for all the future support that will come this way!

The Outreach Committee

Mark your calendars now and spread the word for the Abraham's Tent Volunteer Training provided by Columbus House staff - **Monday, January 14**. The time has not been set yet, but it will be in the evening. This training is for all congregations and volunteers who are providing help the second half of the winter.

Consider volunteering this year to help out with Abraham's tent - attend the training session.

## COLUMBUS HOUSE

The December Columbus House date for serving breakfast is Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Preparation cooking takes place on Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup>. Take a break from this hectic holiday season and see what Columbus House is all about. Speak with Sue Dangle, Karin Jacobs or Bonnie Mahmood about volunteering

## **SPECIFIC ITEMS REQUESTED FOR W.H.E.A.T.**

As many of you know, we are in direct conversation with W.H.E.A.T. (West Haven Emergency Area Taskforce), our local food bank, to monitor specific needs they have for their food shelves. At the moment, they are requesting:

- Soup
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Canned meat
- Chili
- Spam (hard to believe, but people actually ask for this!)
- Canned potatoes
- Rice
- Stew

At the recent End-of-Harvest Closing of Abraham's Garden (Saturday, October 13), we gathered with our friends from the Turkish Cultural Center and W.H.E.A.T. to celebrate another summer of bountiful harvest. In preparation for that event, we learned more about the needs that W.H.E.A.T. seeks to meet. Here is what Executive Director, Rose Majestic, said:

We currently are feeding approximately 3,000 households in West Haven – individuals and families. We are seeing a lot of people (especially men heading up households) who have been unemployed for 4-6 months and have gone through all of their savings. We are seeing a large increase in the number of people waiting for disability or social security benefits, food stamps, and unemployment benefits. The number of seniors has also increased considerably. Finally, most people don't realize that we give out food to people every month now instead of the 3-4 times a year (the policy that was in effect for years as the food bank started as an "emergency" assistance program). But like most pantries across the country, we are no longer an emergency service. People turn to us on a regular basis now in order to pay rent, utilities, health insurance, etc.

We thank all of you for your continued support of this crucial ministry. Food donations can be brought to the Church during any of our four weekly worship services or during parish office hours (9 am-1 pm, Tuesday through Friday).

## **HELPING HANDS COMMUNITY THRIFT STORE AND FURNITURE BANK**

In addition to offering Thrift Store merchandise which is available to the general public, Helping Hands offers a Furniture Bank for clients of partnering social service non-profit organizations (such as our very own W.H.E.A.T. as well as the Columbus House Shelter) who may be extremely low income families, formerly homeless people who are transitioning to housing, senior citizens with little or no income, victims of domestic violence, families who

have lost furniture due to a disaster, individuals suffering from HIV/AIDS and many other needy people. Referrals and a nominal administrative fee will be required to access our Furniture Bank. The Thrift Store is open to all. What a wonderful combined ministry they offer, and we support! Remnants of our last two tag sales have been taken to their stores to encourage their ministry.

Now, we have been invited to become a member of Helping Hands. Any donations of furniture and household goods given to the Thrift Shop side of Helping Hands (and listed as "from Church of the Holy Spirit") will be bar-coded with our account number. (Free pick-up is available in the Greater New Haven area.) When sold, we receive a return 18% of the sale price. Let's keep their store stocked! And don't forget to visit their Thrift Shop!

**Helping Hands Community  
Thrift Store & Furniture Bank, LLC  
334 Boston Post Road, Orange, CT 06477  
Monday-Friday 9:00AM to 6:00PM  
Saturday 9:00AM to 6:00PM  
Sunday 9:00AM to 5:00PM  
(203) 298-0499**

## **A DOG'S PURPOSE FROM A 6-YEAR- OLD**

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Irish Wolfhound named Belker. The dog's owners, Ron, his wife Lisa, and their little boy Shane, were all very attached to Belker, and they were hoping for a miracle. I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family we couldn't do anything for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for six-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt as though Shane might learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion. We sat together for a while after Belker's Death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why. "Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me. I'd never heard a more comforting explanation. It has changed the way I try and live. He said, "People are born so that they can learn how to live a good life -- like loving everybody all the time and being nice, right?" The Six-year-old continued, "Well, dogs already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long." Remember, if a dog was the teacher you would learn things like:



- \*When loved ones come home, always run to greet them;
- \*Never pass up the opportunity to go for a joyride;
- \*Allow the experience of fresh air and the wind in your face to be pure Ecstasy;
- \*Take naps;
- \*Stretch before rising;
- \*Run, romp, and play daily;
- \*Thrive on attention and let people touch you;
- \*Avoid biting when a simple growl will do;
- \*On warm days, stop to lie on your back on the grass;
- \*On hot days, drink lots of water and lie under a shady tree;
- \*When you're happy, dance around and wag your entire body;
- \*Delight in the simple joy of a long walk;
- \*Be loyal;
- \*Never pretend to be something you're not;
- \*If what you want lies buried, dig until you find it;
- \*When someone is having a bad day, be silent, sit close by, and nuzzle them gently;

There comes a time in life, when you walk away from all the drama and people who create it. You surround yourself with people who make you laugh, forget the bad, and focus on the good. So, love the people who treat you right.

Think good thoughts for the ones who don't. Life is too short to be anything but happy.  
 Falling down is part of LIFE...  
 Getting back up is LIVING.



## BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



### November Birthdays

- 3- William W. Conlan
- 4- Pam Buckholz  
Elizabeth Chamberlin
- 6- Arnold Greenfield
- 9- Dorothy Sellner
- 10- Chester W.K. Firth
- 13- Brian Workiewicz
- 17- Tyree Marable
- 20- Jaimie Dececchi  
Liam O'Donnell
- 21- Robert Kosarko  
Michael San Souci
- 22- Russell Reiss
- 24- Furahi Achebe  
Ronald Buckholz
- 25- Jane Chamberlin
- 28- David Matts Roland
- 29- Hope Tamburrino

### December Birthdays

- 2- Dorothy Edjah
- 3- Nora Mullins  
Shawn Logue
- 4- Louise Miller
- 6- Georgia Ying
- 7- Rich Mahmood  
Kati Guthrie
- 13- Marina Matts
- 14- Sallie Guthrie
- 16- Joanne DeVoe
- 17- McKayla Cusack
- 18- Victoria Bartiss
- 21- Alex Bacon
- 22- Maria Clariana
- 23- Bill Barr
- 24- Kathryn Dexter Markowich  
Sorsor
- 25- Kristyn Williams
- 26- Ronald Reiss
- 31- Tracy Cusack

### November Anniversaries

- 5- Bob & June Granger
- 12- Jean & Paul Liner
- 27- Marina & David Matts

### December Anniversaries

- 2- John & Donna Vinci

## PRAYER LIST

**Prayers of healing for parishioners** – Phil Matts, Kati Guthrie, Julia Leitermann, Jackie Lewis

**Prayers for family and friends** – Ed & Family-(Bob & June Granger); Bob Kelly; Priscilla-(Diane Kosarko) Hebert-(Erin Carpinelli); Helen-(Melissa San Souce); Bob F & Kimberly Small-(Vicki Shand); Jessica & Evan Stark-(Bill & Theresa Stark); Gayle & family-(Sue Dangle); Michael Meloche-(Bob Meloche); Michelle & Fiona-(Joanne Strait); Daphne-(Diane Stanislawski); Alecsa Nieves-(John Vinci); Bryan Marts & Leo-(Bonnie & Rich Mahmood); Joan Stanislawski-(Mark Stanislawski); Adam Alexander-(Joan Matts) Georgette Durante-(Lesly & Jackie Joseph); Robert Debishop-(Joanne Halstead); Diane

### 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tribute for Bill Guthrie

The Guthrie family would be thrilled to have anyone from their CHS family who may be interested join them for a service in memory of husband/father/uncle Bill Guthrie, on the 20th anniversary of his death. This loving tribute will take place on Saturday, December 15th at 1:00, with a reception to follow. Some of you may remember Bill and might have a great story to tell - feel free to send stories or photos to Kati Guthrie at [billguthriememorial@yahoo.com](mailto:billguthriememorial@yahoo.com).  
 Hope to see you there!

# CONVENTION NEWS

by Bonnie Mahmood

(Our Diocesan Delegate for Church of the Holy Spirit)

Well, a year had passed and it was time to attend the 228th Annual Convention of the Connecticut Diocese this past October 19 and 20. I was looking forward to an interesting debate on a few of the resolutions, but on Thursday, October 18<sup>th</sup>, I found my job interfering. Things were revving up for our semi-annual Leadership Council Meeting and I would be too busy to be able to take Friday off. Not happy, but life doesn't always cooperate.

This year's convention message was "**God's Mission – Claiming, Equipping, Sending Leaders.**" Friday's schedule included Bible study and voting on Resolution #1 and Resolution #2.

**Resolution #1**-Minimum Salary Schedule for Clergy – 2013, **PASSED** a 1% increase.

RESOLVED: That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut adopts the following:

2013 MINIMUM SALARY SCHEDULE (For all stipendiary clergy including transitional deacons): The following schedule has been recommended by the Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council at its September 5, 2012, meeting for subsequent presentation to the Diocesan Convention on October 19/20, 2012, for its approval:

Transitional Deacons/priests, first full year \$33,373

Full time assistants \$35,758

Priest in charge \$40,529

First 20 years+ \$ + 717

Top of minimum \$54,869

Travel/Expense Allowance .555 per mile  
(same as 2012)

Continuing Education \$ 1,500

This salary figure represents a 1% increase over the 2012 salary schedule. The figures are based on projections using trends and figures available through 7/31/12. There is no additional base increase built into the increment.

At last year's convention, a solution passed authorizing the Executive Council to set the minimum parish contribution toward the health-care premium costs beginning January 2013. The Executive Council voted to recommend that parishes contribute a minimum of 85% of whichever plan the clergy selects from the offered plans. At this time, the plans have not been finalized and this ruling has been postponed until January 2014.

**Resolution #2** - 2013 Budget of Convention – **PASSED**.

RESOLVED: That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut adopts the Budget of Convention for 2013 as proposed, and appended to this resolution.

Last year's budget had very large cuts; this year's budget showed little change.

Last Year (Working Budget) \$4,713,000.

2013 Budget \$4,628,000.

**Resolution #3** – Episcopacy Viability Taskforce - **PASSED**.

RESOLVED: That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, in the interest of mutual responsibility, charges the Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council (BDEC) and the Standing Committee of this diocese to appoint a taskforce to examine historical, current and hypothetical models of episcopacy with a view toward re-imagining and re-invigorating the episcopacy in the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, and to facilitate diocesan-wide conversation and education; and be it further

RESOLVED: that this taskforce produce a report of its findings to be distributed at least one month before the 229th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut.

This resolution generated a lot of conversation and after several amendments, was passed. As the Diocese examines what kind of "church" the CT Diocese is and what direction it will lead us, the Episcopacy Viability will also need to be discussed.

**Resolution #4** – Endowment Accountability and mutual responsibility. – **PASSED AS AMENDED**.

MOTION TO COMMIT THIS RESOLUTION & PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BDEC AND FOR THEM TO REPORT BACK TO THE 2013 DIOCESAN CONVENTION. CLARIFICATION: BDEC TO STUDY, REPORT BACK, FOR CONSIDERATION BY CONVENTION.

RESOLVED: That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, in the interests of transparency, mutual accountability, reconciliation and our collective desire to participate together in God's mission, hereby charges the Bishop and Diocesan Executive Council, pursuant to Diocesan Canon I, Sections 12 and 13, to empower the regional co-operative ministry teams created by the 227th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut to work with parishes and mission stations whose annual draw from their endowment(s) exceeds 10% (ten percent) for two consecutive fiscal years; and be it further

AMENDMENT: TO STRIKE THIS 2ND RESOLVE: RESOLVED: That if a Parish or Mission Station whose annual draw from their endowment(s) exceeds 10% (ten percent) for two consecutive fiscal years, beginning in Fiscal Year 2013, the bishop may declare it an "aided parish" exercising full authority over its day-to-day administrative, financial and spiritual life pursuant to Canon I, Section 13 (a).

Again, this resolution generated much discussion. The delegates made several amendments and finally a resolution that everyone was content with. This resolution is being sent to the BDEC to study and report back to the 229<sup>th</sup> Convention for consideration.

**Resolution #5:** A Program of Action for the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. **PASSED AS AMENDED** (added "deaneries" in point #2).

RESOLVED: That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut directs the Social Justice and Advocacy Committee to engage the Diocese in a program of action to increase justice in our local and state-wide communities by:

1. Distributing to Connecticut Episcopalians information on key justice issues (including but not limited to: Peace, Discrimination, Health, Education and Economic Justice),
2. Developing relationships with collaborative groups already working on these issues and making these relationships available to parishes, deaneries and individual members of the Diocese; and,
3. Advocating approved positions of the Diocese and the Episcopal Church on these issues to appropriate elected and appointed government officials at federal, state, and local levels.

There was discussion that parishes and Deaneries should check the Episcopal Public Policy Network, [www.eppn.org](http://www.eppn.org), urge each member to stay informed and to write to their elected officials.

**Resolution #6:** A Circle of Protection: A Statement on why we need to protect programs for the poor.

**PASSED AS AMENDED** (added third resolve)

RESOLVED : That the 228th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut reaffirms Resolution 8 of the 227th Convention, "A Circle of Protection: A Statement on Why We Need to Protect Programs for the Poor" [text printed in the explanation]; and be it further

RESOLVED : That this convention urges the President of the United States and the Connecticut Congressional Delegation to support provisions for a federal budget in line with the provisions of "A Circle of Protection," and be it further

RESOLVED: That this Convention urge members of our parishes as well as every member of the Convention to write their elected officials.

#### **Standing Committee Election Results:**

Clergy: Alex Dyer (full five year term); Joseph Pace (two years, completing an open unexpired term)

Lay: A. Bates Lyons (five year term); Joseph Carroll Jr. (four years, completing an open unexpired term)

For more information on the resolution and to see full text, visit the Diocesan website at

[https://www.ctepiscopal.org/Content/2012\\_Convention.asp](https://www.ctepiscopal.org/Content/2012_Convention.asp)

Attending the convention is very interesting. Seeing how the Church operates and listening to other delegates tell their stories of struggling parishes and how some just rise above the issues to focus on mission work. I urge everyone to take a turn at being the delegate to the

convention. The convention runs 2 days, a Friday and a Saturday; it is not a large commitment of time. It also includes attending a deanery meeting, usually the meeting right before the convention where the resolutions are discussed and explained.

Consider taking a turn; you won't regret it.

#### **Former Rector Jervis S. Zimmerman Publishes Book - AN EMBATTLED PRIEST:**

##### ***The Life of Father Oliver Sherman Prescott: 1824 -***

Rev. Canon Jervis S. Zimmerman is a beloved former rector of Christ Church, West Haven - (his only rectorship before joining the Diocesan staff) - which since merging with St. John by the Sea is now known as our Church of the Holy Spirit.

In 1953, after studying at Berkeley Divinity School in New Haven, he was ordained deacon and priest by the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut in which he continues serving. From 1954 to 1967 he was Rector of Christ Church where Father Oliver Sherman Prescott served in 1866 and 1867. It was this fact which sparked Canon Zimmerman's interest in Prescott and the writing of this newly published biography.

Prescott was an early and ardent advocate for the Catholic revival in the Episcopal Church. As a priest he was in constant difficulties with his bishop, both for his doctrine and his liturgical usage. He was an early member of the Society of St. John the Evangelist, the first modern monastic community for men in the Church of England.

More information may be found on Prescott at <http://anglicanhistory.org> under Project Canterbury; on this site, Canon Zimmerman has supplied the text of a sermon titled "The Cross of Christ" preached by Prescott at Christ Church as part of a series in Lent 1867.

At Christ Church, Prescott began his rectorship in 1866 at an annual salary of \$400. When he arrived, he found 53 communicants, which increased to 77 (65 families) by the time he left in 1867. While in charge, he instituted the weekly offering and drew plans for a tower for the 18<sup>th</sup> century wooden building. The chancel was also lengthened and the enlarged building, with the new cross-topped tower, was dedicated on 10/28/67 - Prescott's last service in West Haven.

Zimmerman's thorough new book contains information for this article. At the age of 90, he resides in Bloomfield, CT and maintains his dedication to the priesthood, his love of history and his abiding interest in this parish. Congratulations, Jerry!

Our present church building now houses the handsome wooden Prescott Memorial Pulpit. Present parishioners look to this pulpit, called in this season the "Angel Pulpit," for gift tags bearing Christmas gift requests for the children served by our Covenant to Care social worker Tanisha. Have a warm thought for Father Prescott and this tangible link to our past.



## MUSIC NEWS

### FRIDAY EVENING MUSIC ACTIVITIES ARE A SUCCESS!

Every other Friday night, we offer a wealth of musical opportunities and social time for youngsters and their families. The Kenyon Chorale practices at 5:00 pm; dinner is held at 6:00 pm, and the Youth Choir and Church Band are held between 6:30-8:00 pm. All of these groups are flourishing, but we could use more instrumentalists in the band. Please tell your family and friends to call Jeff Hutchins at 203-508-2108 for more information about these enjoyable and productive Friday evenings.

### CHOIR GEARING UP FOR CHRISTMAS

Now is a good time to jump into choir! We rehearse every Wednesday night at 7:30 pm and every Sunday morning at 9:30 am. In the coming weeks, we will be preparing some lovely Christmas music. With a spirit of teamwork, fellowship and "musicianship", the choir offers its gifts each Sunday. If you feel you fit this description and wish to sing a bit more, please consider calling Jeff Hutchins, Director of Music, at 203-508-2108, for more information.



### FROM THE PEWS

#### ICE CREAM HERE!

(They call me the ice cream man, because I bring good humor to all.....)

This older fellow goes to see his doctor for his annual physical. The doctor tells him that he is in excellent shape for his age and wants to know how he manages to keep fit. He gently replies that 3-4 times a week he takes a long walk over the lawn, by a pond, through woods and through sand. The doctor says, "You must be quite an outdoorsman." To which the chap replies, "Naw, I'm just a lousy golfer."

This fellow decided to surprise his wife by doing the laundry. From the laundry room, he calls up to his wife, "Honey, what setting do I use to wash this sweatshirt?" His wife replies, "What does it say on the sweatshirt?" The fellow replies, "Duke." ('nuff said!)

And finally: You know you're an Episcopalian, when watching "Star Wars" and a Yoda says, "May the Force be with you." You reply, "And also with you!"

....Contributed by Harry Arsenault

## LIFE IS SHORT

by Mark Laurence

Life is too short with its twists and turns;  
Count yourself blessed if it takes half to learn.

For others it takes longer if ever they see  
the importance of love and our purpose indeed.

Everyone is born with the seed deep inside;  
some of us will use it and others will hide.

Though time comes to all of knowledge and choice  
to live for oneself or to love and rejoice,

Many are foolish and many will try  
to live for themselves and to do so they die.

### WHAT'S IT MEAN TO BE BORN AGAIN?

by John J. Gray

What's it mean to be born again?

Listen to me and I'll tell you, friend.

John 3:3-16 says it best, if you want eternal rest.

Unless a man be born again, he shall not enter into heaven,  
friend.

I'm not saying to change your church,

I'm just saying hit the devil where it hurts.

Cause I'm not your judge,

nor am I the one to make you budge.

This we must do verbally, in order for us to be free.

Now the only way this can be done,

is by asking the Father for His Son.

For Jesus is the Truth, the Light and the WAY,

So won't you ask Him into your heart to stay?

For God so much loved this earth,

He gave His only Son human birth.

Who gave His all, His life and His blood,

that we may be called His Daughters and Sons.

And this we do with the thing called the tongue.

That is how we make the devil run.

So stop putting Him off and do it today.

Ask Jesus into your heart to stay.

I said it before and I'll say it again:

tomorrow is not promised to any woman or man.

Now if you want to please God and make Satan disturbed,

I suggest you find a church that teaches the Word.

Again, we're not telling you what to do

Because that decision is up to you.

But let it be known that tomorrow is not promised to any  
man.

Neither is the next minute, my beloved friend.

So please I beg you come on up and get your life right.

Not tomorrow, the next day, do it tonight.

*Inspired by Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit  
My God Gets All The Glory!*



## PREPARING FOR THE FLU SEASON

### WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE FLU SHOT PATRICK MOORE, N.D., OCTOBER 2012

As the days grow shorter and the autumn leaves fall; as the chill in the air says it's that time of the year; here's one tip to keep you fit as winter grows near.

#### FLU SHOT

Your first decision to protect yourself from seasonal influenza may be to get a flu shot. It may be helpful but keep in mind, over 200 distinct viruses are circulating throughout the winter months. The flu shot only protects you against the 3 most common viral strains – influenza A, B, and H1N1 (Swine flu) – as forecast by the Center for Disease Control. That leaves lots of renegade viruses searching for host cells to take up residence. Hence, our best defense to protect us is a robust immune system along with proper hygiene. If you decide to get the flu shot, keep this advice in mind: **Insist on being vaccinated from a “single dose vial.”** Flu shots come in multi-dose vials and single-dose vials. Multi-dose vials are preserved with 25mcg of **Mercury**, a neurotoxin which has a toxicity level 1,000 times that of lead. Drug companies label this as **Thimerosal**. Single-dose vials are **mercury-free, with the exception of Glaxo Smith Kline's Flulaval**.

There is some evidence that mercury-laced flu shots may, over time, contribute to diminished cognitive function, as pointed out by Dr. Donald Miller, cardiac surgeon and Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington. It's thought that mercury combined with other preservatives in the vaccine - formaldehyde and aluminum – creates a potentially toxic, synergistic effect. One scientist stated that “people who received the flu vaccine each year for 3-5 years had a ten-fold greater chance of developing Alzheimer's disease than people who did not have any flu shots (International Journal of Clinical Investigation 2005; 1:1-4).

It's also important to point out that an injection of mercury, aluminum and formaldehyde directly into the bloodstream is different than orally ingesting mercury in tuna fish. The body has a greater chance of detoxifying ingested mercury through an efficient digestive system. Metals directly injected into the bloodstream may have a greater propensity to migrate to brain tissue. In any event, you have a choice. Why take a chance? The Federal Drug Administration has removed mercury from all other vaccines (except Tetanus and multi-dose flu vaccines) and for sound health precautions. This biohazard has no place in modern-day medicines and surely, no reason to allow any amount in your body. In addition, “National Toxicology Programs” admits in its own documents that: Vaccinations “... may produce small but measurable increases in blood levels of mercury.” “Thimerosal was found to cross the blood-brain barrier and placenta barriers.” The “...hazards of Thimerosal include neurotoxicity and nephrotoxicity.” And “...similar toxicological profiles between ethylmercury and methylmercury raise the possibility that neurotoxicity may also occur at low doses of Thimerosal.”

One may ask, “Why then are multi-dose vaccines containing mercury promoted?” Why are we not informed as consumers that we have a choice as we line up like lemmings to have our flu shot? It's a simple answer. It's more profitable to sell multi-dose vials! Multi-dose vials with mercury are preferred by health clinics, hospitals, pharmacies, physicians and retail outlets because they are less expensive per vaccine dose, require less storage space and they **make more money**. So do yourself a favor. Ask and insist on a single-dose vial flu shot. And don't be surprised if the health professional attempts to downplay the “minor” effects or results of mercury. By reading this article, you will be more informed than the person providing the injection.

Further information on flu shots, manufacturers, multi-dose vials with Thimerosal and single-dose vials that are Thimerosal-free can be found on the Center for Disease Control (CDC) website or the John Hopkins School of Public Health-Vaccines website.

## HOSPITALITY NEWS

Looking for the perfect Christmas present? Why not consider **Church of the Holy Spirit clothing line**? This year we have added baseball hats (navy or white); sweat pants (navy or grey) and aprons (navy or white) to our popular T-Shirts, sweatshirts and hoodies. Orders are due by November 17<sup>th</sup> to ensure delivery by Christmas. Contact Bonnie Mahmood at (203) 314-3132 or Kati Guthrie at (203) 530-4669 to place your order.

**Harvest Dinner** Our annual Harvest Dinner of soup and salads has been postponed. Watch the weekly bulletin for the upcoming date after the first of the New Year.

## THE CHRISTMAS FAIR

The Christmas Fair will take place Friday, November 30 from 5-8p.m. and Saturday, December 1 from 9am-3pm. Please help this be a very successful fair by volunteering some time and talents.

We are looking for donations of themed raffle baskets, baked goods to sell on our Baked Goods Table and any crafts you might have made. Volunteers are needed to help on Friday from 4-8:30, and in two shifts on Saturday, from 8-12 and from 12-4pm. They - and this means you, please! - are needed to help fill in at the craft tables and sell the church's crafts, help serve dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday, help with *Pictures with Santa*, sell tickets for the raffle baskets and help clean up at the end of the day. There are sign-up sheets located in the church for volunteering or for baking. If you have questions or would like to volunteer call Jacquie Mari at 203-934-0653 or Bonnie Mahmood at 203-314-3132; for baking, contact Evelyn Bezruzyk at 203 933-2146 or Joan Matts at [jmatts69@gmail.com](mailto:jmatts69@gmail.com).



*As I work today editing the newsletter, I want to let you all know that there will only be one (or perhaps two) more editions pass through my fingers and my computer. I will be stepping down, after more than 34 years, in January of next year.*

*When you receive the last issue that I work on, the background of my taking on this mission (with the marvelous Shirley Scranton) and the many changes that have been worked through, will be included. Until then, please know how dear this parish family and church are to me and how grateful I am to all who have ever contributed to our newsletter.*

Bless you all,  
Jane Dexter

# CHRISTMAS FAIR

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT  
28 CHURCH STREET, WEST HAVEN

FRIDAY, NOV. 30, 5-8PM



SATURDAY, DEC. 1, 9AM-3PM

HAVE YOUR CHILD'S PICTURE TAKEN  
WITH SANTA!

SATURDAY FROM 11AM-2PM  
ONLY \$5 WITH FRAME



KID'S SHOPPING TABLE-GIFTS

ONLY \$1

RAFFLE  
BASKETS

BAKED GOODS

LOCAL CRAFTERS



LIGHT SUPPER

FRIDAY NIGHT 5-7:30PM  
HOT DOGS, GRILLED CHEESE  
& ASSORTED SANDWICHES

LUNCH SERVED

SATURDAY 11AM-2PM  
HOMEMADE SOUPS &  
ASSORTED SANDWICHES



EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT—

CALLED BY THE SPIRIT, HELD BY THE SPIRIT, SENT BY THE SPIRIT