

# The Spire

A Newsletter of Christ Church Ithan

Summer 2016

## In This Issue

- 2 From our Interim Rector  
Fall Book Study
- 3 Community Day
- 4 Greening of the Church  
Flower Memorials
- 5 Little Free Library  
Ardmore Food Pantry
- 6 New Parish Committees
- 7 Centennial Update
- 8 Colket Bequest  
Bishop's Visit
- 9 iROCK4iRAQ  
Wednesdays at Noon
- 10 Centennial Music

### From our Interim Rector

*A message from Fr John*

Dear Friends in Christ:

Summer is quickly coming to a close. I hope it has been a time of refreshment and relaxation for you and your family. We continue to move through the interim time at Christ Church, Ithan and there are some developments I want to share with you.



First, your Vestry has been remarkable! They have been so supportive of me and I think we have made great progress in keeping our Vestry meetings prayerful, focused and informative. Every meeting is an open forum where everyone shares freely and transparency is a primary goal.

One of the challenges we have faced head on is the lack of committee structure here and how we can create a sense of ownership of all aspects of our church's life by all of our members. To that end, I am happy to report that we now have two committees: Buildings and Grounds and Finance/Stewardship/Planned Giving Committees. Property and finance are two main responsibilities of the Vestry and it is important that we have more voices at the table as we deal with the challenges ahead in both of these areas. The membership of these two committees can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. A third committee was also formed because of a need that arose. That committee is the Memorial Garden Committee.

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*"It will be important for all of your voices to be heard in the development of the profile of Christ Church, Ithan"*

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Secondly, we are pleased to announce that our Discernment/Search Committee has been formed. We have secured commitments from ten people to serve on this very important committee for the future of Christ Church, Ithan. The committee members are: Stephen Scafidi, Lisa Hughes, Anne Churchman, Gretchen Conaway, Will McPherson, Elizabeth Peckham, Amy Harper, Porter Gould, Judy Englerth and Chris Herring, our Vestry liaison.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## From our Interim Rector

*(Continued from page 1)*

They will be formally commissioned at a church Service in September and will begin their work in consultation with our Diocesan liaison, The Rev. Lou Temme. Their first task will be to produce a profile of Christ Church that will be the document that initiates the search for the next Rector.

It will be important for all of your voices to be heard in the development of that profile and a series of meetings will be held for that purpose. Stay tuned because I know they will really want to hear from you – what is on your hearts and minds; what is your vision and hopes for Christ Church's future.

As we look to the Fall, the work of the church continues. Our choir makes its return on September 11th. How we have missed them and all that they bring to make our worship inspirational and moving. (Here's a reminder to respond to the mailing you recently received about supporting the Choral Scholars Program. Send your donation today!).

We are looking forward to our first ever Community Day celebration on September 18th. Don't forget to invite a friend, neighbor, or relative to join us on that day for worship on the front lawn.

We are looking at renewing our ties to the Ardmore Food Pantry and your Vestry will be visiting there on September 19th together with the vestry of St. Martin's Church, Radnor. Check out opportunities in other parts of this newsletter concerning a book study and a social time for our older members.

Fall is also the time for reflecting on Stewardship. This year we hope to take a deeply spiritual approach to our giving and learn more about how to share generously of our abundance.

We are a very blessed church and I look forward to entering this next phase of our interim journey. The work of discernment is holy work. It needs to be wrapped in prayer as we seek God's guidance in doing the work we do to prepare to call our next Rector.

This is an exciting time as we chart a new course. Let us support each other during this time by our active participation and let us pray intentionally for the Spirit's direction for our work together.

May God bring to completion the good work God has begun in you.

In Christ,

Your pastor.

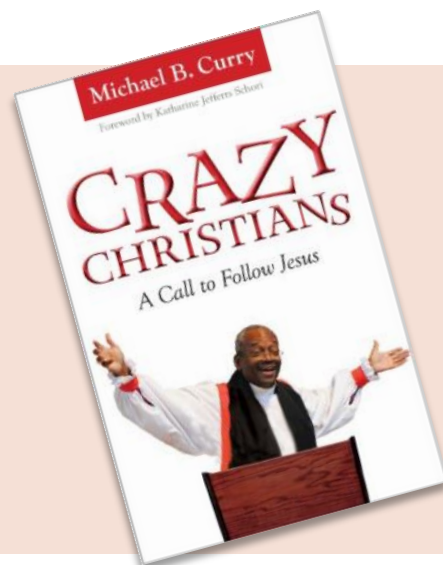
*Fr John Sosnowski*

## Fall Book Study

Fr. John will be leading a four week book study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30PM beginning on October 12th in Ithan Hall.

We will be discussing the book **Crazy Christians: A Call to Follow Jesus** by our Presiding Bishop, Michael B. Curry.

The book can be purchased from Church Publishing at the following link: [www.churchpublishing.org/crazychristians](http://www.churchpublishing.org/crazychristians)



We hope you have all marked your calendars and are planning to be with us on **Sunday, September 18th** when we will have one Service at 10:00am on the front lawn followed by a picnic lunch.

We will be reaching out to our neighbors and local community and welcoming those who join us for this special day. Along with our choir, a choral ensemble from Eastern University called "Turning Point" will be joining us to provide music at the service and afterwards.

We are going to recognize two local community agencies with a special donation on that day: Main Line Youth Alliance and ABC House. We'll also have some games for everyone to enjoy.

This will be a great day to showcase our church for the community. We need your help to make this day a success. Here are ways for you to participate:

- ◆ We have prepared invitations in the form of a post card. They are available on the pew at the front of the church. Please take some and spread them around to your friends and neighbors. Post card size, they can be mailed. But even better, use them as a conversation starter as you tell someone about our church and encourage them to join us for this event.
- ◆ We also would like some side salads and desserts for our picnic lunch. The sign up sheet for that can be found on the bulletin board in the corridor leading to Ithan Hall. Please sign up today!
- ◆ We will also need some help with set up and clean up. Please see Julia Gould or Chris Herring about how you can help.



**Radnor ABC** is one of the community schools of the **National A Better Chance Program**. Our goal is to develop leaders of tomorrow by providing students of color, who show strong academic and leadership potential and are from underserved communities, with a home away from home while attending Radnor High School.

[www.radnorabc.org](http://www.radnorabc.org)



**MYA** provides gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender questioning youth and straight allies with social, educational and supportive activities in a confidential, respectful and safe environment. MYA programs, unique in Philadelphia's western suburbs, encourage healthy relationships with peers, family and community.

[www.myaonline.org](http://www.myaonline.org)



# Greening of the Church



December Save the Dates!

**Sunday, December 18th** immediately following the 10:00am service will be our annual Greening of the Church. Please plan to join as we put up the trees and decorations. It's a lovely time full of joy and fellowship.

**Thursday, December 22nd** creating the fresh flower arrangements for our church's beautiful Christmas celebration. We will meet in the church basement at **10:00 am** to make the floral arrangements (no previous experience necessary), place them in the sanctuary along with the poinsettias as the finishing touches to once again make Christ Church Ithan the prettiest little church on the main line. We'll need boughs, berries, and pinecones from your yards too.

This is also a really lovely time to be with fellow parishioners, I do hope you can join.

Please mark your calendars for both dates, and call or email Jacqui North (jacqui.north@verizon.net / 484-582-1212) with any questions.

## Flower Memorials



Thank you to those who added altar flower memorials this year. It is a wonderful way to celebrate the life of loved ones and/or other joys and recognitions in our lives.

The memorial of a loved one's passing is the most common reason, but celebrations of births, marriages, anniversaries, graduations, or gratitude for something or someone are great reasons for altar flowers. Some people have more than one.

There are many open Sundays throughout the year. Please contact Nancy in the parish office or Amy Harper (abharper@me.com)

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Mrs. Curtis Chafee, the mother of Charles Chafee, died on August 2, 2016 at home in Beaumont after a short illness. She was just one month short of her 100th birthday.

A Memorial Service was held on Saturday, August 27th at Beaumont in Bryn Mawr. In lieu of flowers, donations were made to The Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, ME. As a summer resident of Maine and two-time cancer survivor, Curtis had a strong interest in the cancer work of The Jackson Laboratory. May she rest in peace †





## Little Free Library

Julia and Porter Gould have jumped into the Little Free Library movement spreading across the United States and other parts of the world.

With neighborhood children Porter built a small wooden structure and it sits at the end of the Gould's driveway. It is a miniature library and is filled with about twenty children's books.

Anyone can take a book to borrow and everyone is encouraged to leave books in the library. Started in Wisconsin there are close to 50,000 Little Free Libraries located at across the world.

One feature of Julia and Porter's library are story hours. Among the first story hour readers was Nancy Churchman, who recently retired as a much beloved first grade teacher at Radnor Elementary School.



Many neighborhood children turned out one July evening to listen to Nancy read three of her favorite children's books.

Find out more about this fun initiative to promote literacy at [www.littlefreelibrary.org](http://www.littlefreelibrary.org)



## Ardmore Food Pantry

Your Vestry will be visiting the Ardmore Food Pantry on Monday, Sept. 19th together with the Vestry of St. Martin's Church, Radnor to learn more about the pantry and how we can re-establish our support for their work.

Our food collection for the pantry continues.

There is a basket at the entrance of the church where items may be left. The Ardmore Food Pantry depends on donations to keep up its stock. So, the next time you are shopping look for some specials on the items the pantry needs and bring them to church with you on Sunday.

A list of food donation needs and other ways you can support the food pantry can be found at their website: [www.stmarysardmore.org/ardmore-food-pantry](http://www.stmarysardmore.org/ardmore-food-pantry)

There is also the opportunity at this site to make a monetary donation via a "GoFundMe" account.

## Parish Committees Formed

The Vestry has formed two important committees to provide broader participation in the work of our church by its members. The committee membership is as follows:



Buildings & Grounds Committee:

George Peckham

Pat Palumbo

Peter Clauss

Dan Jalboot

Porter Gould



**Finance / Stewardship /  
Planned Giving:**

Brenda Hackett

Bruce Wietlisbach

Barry Tague

Gary Schlarbaum

If you are interested in serving on either of these committees, please contact our Sr. Warden, Bruce Wietlisbach.



Another committee, The **Memorial Garden Committee**, includes the following: Sally Borghesani, Anne Peckham, Gordon French and Chris Herring.

They will oversee the Memorial Garden and make recommendations concerning maintenance in keeping with the original plan for the garden as envisioned by its founders.

## The Squirrel Problem at Church

The Presbyterian Church called a meeting to decide what to do about their squirrels. After much prayer and consideration they determined the squirrels were predestined to be there and they shouldn't interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church the squirrels had taken an interest in the baptistery. The Deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let the squirrels drown themselves. The squirrels liked the slide and unfortunately, knew instinctively how to swim so twice as many squirrels showed up the following week.

The Episcopal Church decided that they were not in a position to harm any of God's creatures. So, they humanely trapped their squirrels and set them free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later the squirrels were back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

But the Catholic Church came up with a very creative strategy. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated them as members of the church. Now they only see them at Christmas and Easter.

Not much was heard from the Jewish Synagogue, but it's rumored that they took one squirrel and circumcised him, and they haven't seen a squirrel on their property since.



*Thanks to Peter Clauss for sharing*

# Christ Church Ithan Centennial



The Centennial Project at Christ Church Ithan has completed its first phase by learning about and celebrating the 100th anniversary of the placement of the cornerstone of our little church. In the publication the "Centennial" we shared and documented the very precious work of art by a gifted and giving artist and architect, Theophilus Chandler.

We celebrated with an inspiring musical program by our musical director, Jeff Fowler, and our beautiful choir followed by a joyful dinner in collaboration with Radnor Historical Society.



We are now in the second phase of the Centennial Project which will focus on the "living history" of our parish over the years up to today. Many of the people of this great parish have shown interest in getting involved with this aspect of the life of our church.

Now is the time for us all to pitch in and have fun working together. Volunteers are needed at all ages and stages to share their recollections, insights, and aspirations for Christ Church Ithan.

One approach that is being suggested would involve contacting past and present parishioners to be interviewed and, if they agree, have a short video of their thoughts and memories created to share with others on the Christ Church Ithan website.

Your involvement in other ways would also be greatly appreciated, such as sending in pictures of church events and people to be scanned and returned. There are also many boxes of old files that could use some clever historical sleuthing to extract some real pearls to share.

Please call Nancy in the parish office at 610-688-1110 or George Peckham at 215-870-8156 or [ghpglobal@msn.com](mailto:ghpglobal@msn.com).

## ARE YOU NEW TO OUR CHURCH?

If you are, we certainly welcome you and want you to feel very much a part of our community. In order to serve you well, it is important that we have up-to-date information about you and your household.

A registration form can be found on the pew at the front of the church or you can call the parish office and we would be happy to send you one. Please complete the form and return it to us at your convenience.



CONGRATULATIONS! – To Lindsay Van Osten, a member of our choir, and Benjamin Hoppock who were married at Christ Church on Sunday, August 14th.

May God bless and keep them in love all the days of their married life.

## Colket Bequest

From time to time, Christ Church is blessed by parishioners who choose to remember our church in their wills. Their stewardship is a remarkable testimony to their enduring love for Christ Church, Ithan and a way to insure that our mission continues in this place long after they are gone. We are pleased to provide this report about a recent bequest we have received.

Tristram Colket was a parishioner of Christ Church, Ithan, until he died in the 1980s. He included Christ Church, Ithan, among six beneficiaries of his estate, to be distributed after the death of his wife, which occurred in 2014.

The trustees of his estate first contacted us in January 2015 – but the processes that the trustee (Wells Fargo Bank) was required to follow kept us from receiving any cash for a very long time.

The total we expect to receive is about \$600,000. A first payment in the amount of \$400,000 was received in January 2015, with a “promise” that we would receive the balance during the summer of 2016. (We have not yet received the balance, and we are close to the end of the summer.)

Several years ago, the vestry adopted a resolution that all bequests would be added to our Revocable Trust, which is managed



by the Church Foundation. The vestry also voted to receive from the Revocable Trust as income, 1% of the balance in the Trust at the end of the prior year.

When we received the \$400,000 from the Colket bequest, the vestry opted to devote 10% of that amount (\$40,000) for charitable contributions and to deposit the balance (\$360,000) in the Revocable Trust. So far, we have made one contribution (to the charity *Stand with Iraqi Christians*), in the amount of \$2,000, from the charitable contribution portion.

We are so grateful to Tristram Colket for his generous gift to Christ Church. May his witness be an inspiration to all of us to be good stewards of the resources with which we have been blessed. May we share generously from our abundance and make a return to God for those blessings. Please consider remembering Christ Church, Ithan in your will or through a planned gift of your choice. And please do remember Mr. & Mrs. Colket in your prayers.

## The Bishop Is Coming



We will have an Episcopal Visitation by The Rt. Rev. Edward Lee, Jr. on Sunday, October 9th. There will be one Service that day followed by a reception at which everyone can greet the Bishop and there will be an opportunity for a meeting with parish leadership. Please mark your calendars and be a part of this celebration to welcome our Assisting Bishop.

*Have you been practicing in the Episcopal Church but have never been formally received into the Church? Would you like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation? The Bishop's Visitation is precisely the time for this. If you are interested in being formally received or confirmed, please speak with Fr. John and he will make arrangements to prepare you for this day.*



## iROCK4IRAQ

**WITH MUSICAL GUESTS:** SIMON BENEGAS  
PALATINE  
CHUCK EUSTACE  
JUST BETO  
UNDER THE OAK

Music Provided By  
ALL ENTERTAINMENT  
Rain or Shine

**Saturday Sept 17  
4:00-7:00 PM**

**\$20 pre-sale \$25 at the door  
\$10 student Under 12 Free  
(Includes Admission,  
& Beverage)**

90% of proceeds go to  
direct material aid to Erbil.  
10% funds the sponsoring  
organization, St Martin's

**St. Martin's Church**  
400 King of Prussia Rd.  
Radnor, PA 19087  
<http://www.standwithiraqchristians.org>  
610-688-4830

**iROCK4IRAQ**  
**Benefit for Christians fleeing ISIS**  
Now Refugees in Erbil, Kurdistan, Northern Iraq

Please support the *Stand With Iraqi Christians iROCK4IRAQ* Benefit Concert on Saturday, September 17th from 4-7pm at St Martin's Church in Radnor.

Christ Church Ithan is a strong supporter of this mission and has already donated \$2,000 in June of this year.

Christians all over Iraq are fleeing to the northern part of Iraq to escape the barbarity and cruelty of ISIS. As refugees, Iraqi Christians face high unemployment, inadequate housing, schooling, and medical care, food rationing, and discrimination.

These ancient Christian communities, some founded shortly after the life of Christ, are in danger of disappearing forever.

Fr Chris Bishop of St Martin's traveled to Erbil, Iraq last fall to deliver financial, emotional, and communications support to Christians now living in tents, abandoned buildings, and basements.

Please show your support this fundraising concert in our town. Tickets cost \$25 at the door or can be purchased in advance for \$20 online at:

[standwithiraqchristians.com/i-rock-4-iraq](http://standwithiraqchristians.com/i-rock-4-iraq)

## Wednesdays At Noon

Fr. John would like to begin a social group for any of our senior members who would like to get together with their peers.

An initial meeting will be set up to hear about what people would like, frequency of meetings, etc.

We will meet for Holy Eucharist in the chapel on Wednesday, October 19th at noon. The Service will include a Service of Healing and a luncheon will be served in Ithan Hall.

Come join us and see if we can start something new!



# Christ Church Ithan Centennial



As we enter in to our 2nd year of our centennial celebration, we are turning our focus to the impact Christ Church has made on our lives and the memories and experiences we've shared both individually and communally.



As an active member of our church choir, the music of Christ Church has been a main part of my relationship with God. Music is a powerful form of communication and I believe an integral part of Christ Church. Music can help us to celebrate joy as well as comfort us during times of sadness. It can help us to reflect and lift us up to heights unimaginable. It can summon memories of people, times, and places.

Through the years, Christ Church has been blessed with many talented music directors and musicians. Directors such as Leonid Dobrinen, Mary Prince, Louis Perrazza, and Jeff Fowler have provided musical offerings for our Christ Church family that has and continues to enrich our lives.

I am now asking for your help to complete our living history. I would love to have you share with us your favorite Christ Church musical memory and with your blessing, allow us to include it in our living history.

I'll get you started with a couple of questions – you are always welcomed to elaborate. Please send your musical memories survey to my attention at [Loriw.dugan@verizon.net](mailto:Loriw.dugan@verizon.net)

What does music at Christ Church Ithan mean to you?	
What is your favorite Christ Church musical memory?	
Any additional memories or reflections?	