THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2021 ✠

Photo by Nancy Palluti

RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

THANKSGIVING

There is no Thanksgiving Day in Northern Ireland. However, there is an equivalent tradition in the churches called Harvest Festival. It isn't a set Sunday of the year, but the Harvest Festival season goes from the end of September to around the end of October. Harvest Festival is a big deal. The churches are beautifully decorated with fruit and vegetables (produce) and additional Sunday evening services are held so that people from other churches can attend each other's Harvest.

As much as I miss the Harvest Festival, I enjoy Thanksgiving. I like the idea that everyone takes the time to have a Thanksgiving meal and celebrate being together as families, regardless of religion or political affiliation.

Thanksgiving is also an integral part of our Episcopal tradition. The word used to describe the Sunday Service is "Eucharist", a Greek word meaning 'thanksgiving'. Each week we give thanks for God's act of salvation in sending Jesus to rescue us from sin. Jesus instructed us to celebrate the Thanksgiving meal, of bread and wine, until his coming again. As you read this article, take a moment to give thanks for God's bountiful provision of the harvest, for our families and for Jesus.

Fr. Alistair ✠

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HARVEST FESTIVAL DECORATIONS, THE METHODIST CHURCH, DUN LAOGHARIE, IRELAND

VIEW FROM THE PEW

IT SOON WILL BE FALL

BY JOHN WEILER

"It soon will be fall." It was the refrain of a neighbor lady in our little farming community in the Catskills. It could be the fairest of June days and that was her comeback, her retort to the pitiable optimism of youth. (And to my kid eyes, *everyone* was younger than her.)

My Mom quoted that neighbor lady every fall. Mom told me autumn made her sad, the falling leaves, the shortening days, the cold creeping in with the coming winter.

It surprised me. Mom resisted her brother's not infrequent entreaties to relocate to Florida because she didn't want to live a continuous muggy, purgatorial summer.

She'd miss the change in seasons, she said.

Autumn doesn't make me sad. Not really. I'm not there, not yet anyway. Perhaps I still cling to my optimism like a single crimson leaf in a rising wind.

More likely I just love fall.

But there *is* a melancholy to the season, a sense of passage. There's no denying it.

Still, we know even as the first snowflakes fly promising more, and even as the days draw down to earlier and earlier sunsets, we know that the snow will eventually melt, and spring will come.

The Children of Israel understood that hope. The Psalms are full of descriptions of a majestic and ever-changing natural world; spring rain, melting frost, bountiful harvest.

Like most of their neighbors, Israel was an agrarian people, farmers and herders. And, like the festivals celebrated by their neighbors, their feasts and fasts, centered around the change of seasons, tilling, planting, tending, and bringing the harvest home.

But Israel – followers of the one creator God – differed from their neighbors in significant ways.

They saw the seasons, the fruits of the land, the forces of nature that brought success or failure to a crop as subordinate forces under God's gracious hand and watchful eye. All these feasts and fasts and festivals centered on God and His relationship with His people. All flowed from this singular source; every festival celebrated this fundamental relationship and every fast was undertaken to repair it.

Their neighbors, on the other hand, saw chaos reigned over by myriad fickle gods each with their own bailiwick. Their festivals might mirror those of Israel and follow a similar calendar, but each would call upon a different god for a different purpose. And the bounty of this overpopulated, disordered heaven was purchased, not a gift to be received. Each god was to be bribed with sacrifice, often human.

There was no grace, only a transactional tit for tat.

Artifacts of such holidays echo down to our own time. Spooky Halloween where the jack-o-lanterns we light and the treats we dispense were once meant to appease the spirits of the dead as the year dies. Yule festivities where we celebrate the return of the light at midwinter and we feast as the days grow longer. In spring we celebrate Easter with old symbols of fertility: rabbits and eggs. Yet we approach these holidays, despite the coopted pagan symbols, not with the fear of ancient Israel's pagan neighbors, but with confidence in Christ, the Messiah, Israel's hope.

When Jesus roamed through the landscape of first century Palestine, he told parables that drew on agricultural themes. Wheat, tares, vineyards, olive groves, mustard seeds, threshing floors, weeds thrown on a brush fire, shepherds, vines, grapes and first fruits.

These images don't always resonate with us today. They're familiar, rustic, maybe even picturesque. But it's easy to forget how thin the margins were for folks that lived off that land, how hardscrabble our lives would be even a century ago, and how much closer to the land our recent forbearers lived. Therefore, it's easy to miss just how those images of an agrarian life close to the earth must have resonated.

Let's think about that this autumn as we rake, cut back dying plants, mow one last time, and gather indoors warm and safe as the wind picks up around the corner of the house.

Let's give Thanksgiving for the bounty of harvest and meditate on the gift of the seasons. The rhythm of God's song.

It soon will be fall.✠

Fall Rummage Sale

Christ Episcopal Church

(corner of Duanesburg Churches Road and Route 20)

Friday, October 15th from 4 - 7 p.m.

Saturday, October 16th from 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.

BAG SALE *bring your own bag* Saturday, noon to 2 p.m.

DONATION DROP OFF

Wednesday, October 13th & Thursday, October 14th
from 4 - 7 p.m. at the Christ Church Parish House

In good condition, items accepted

clothing, books, household goods, dishes, furniture,
toys, tools, shoes, DVD's, knick knacks, jewelry

NO ELECTRONICS please!

THE POETRY CORNER

DISCOVERING DUANESBURG

BY CAMILLE CRANDALL

She was from the city; he was from the country.
God and fate had them meet which led them to marry.
Along with their union their mutual dreams they did carry.

So when it became time to settle down,
They chose a house in a surrounding hill town.
The Town of Duanesburg was located about midway between the city and country areas from which they came.
Making it the perfect place for their home to claim.

The town was picturesque with rolling hills,
Small lakes and small villages without many frills.
From some parts of Town, the Helderberg Mountains can be seen
While other parts display a view of the Schoharie Valley, so quiet and serene.

Some villages feature a general store and a post office,
However, the village of Duanesburg even has a bank
But most had churches and fire departments to thank.
The Duanesburg school system known for short as DCS
Is ranked overall as one of the best.

And let us not forget the wildlife that roams
Along with various birds that make the forests their homes.

A small airport is situated in the village of Duanesburg
To which back in the day skydivers would leap.
People delighted in seeing the colorful parachutes
As from the sky downward they'd sweep.

Interesting history in every corner of the Town abounds.
Founded by James Duane in 1793, Christ Church, for example, became historic grounds.

The couple had been married in an Episcopal church and so gravitated to Christ Church.
Finding this church meant they no further had to search.
Besides the beauty of the history found in this church, they found helpful, warm, and friendly clergy and parishioners.
Which made them glad they joined this group of practitioners.

From the Town to the cities is an easy commute
For employment, shopping, and entertainment to boot,
After an excursion away though, it's good to return home
To the quiet Town and no further roam.

In finding a family home for children as well as for husband and wife
The couple discovered the Town of Duanesburg a great place to spend one's life.✠

Camille was recently published in the Daily Gazette's Special "Readers Remember" on the 20th anniversary of 9/11. If you missed it, you may read it here: The Daily Gazette - 9/11 20 years later: Camille Crandall, Delanson – 'A sick feeling' | Readers remember

Book Corner

By Deacon Debbie

A Good Old Age

A few years ago, St. John's was doing a bible study on "A Good Old Age" by Derek Prime and I decided to give it a try. This is my second time reading the book, so obviously I like the book! I enjoy Derek Prime's humor regarding "old age" as he himself is in his eighties. He uses biblically based suggestions on how we as Christians can navigate this "old age" period in our lives. The book is set up using the alphabet and it is suggested you read one letter a day. For example, "A" is acceptance. I would highly recommend the book for those of us who are "on the other side of the generation gap" as my father used to say!

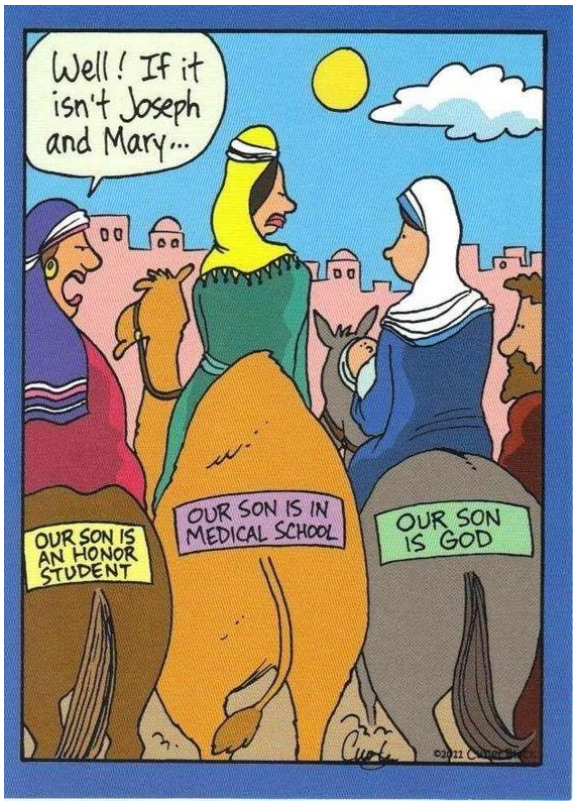
As I was writing this, I decided to do some research on Derek Prime found he "was called home to glory on March 28, 2020, at the age of 89." May he rest in peace. ✠

Help Needed

Technology Help Needed: Starting in November we would like to have a ministry schedule for the broadcasting on Facebook. If you could volunteer for 1 Sunday a month it would be greatly appreciated! **Training is provided!** Please see Deacon Debbie or Fr. Alistair.

Greeters Needed: We need individuals, couples, or families to greet people, hand out the bulletins and assist those who are new to our church. Just saying "Welcome" or "Good Morning" goes a long way! Please see Deacon Debbie if you could volunteer just one morning per month. ✠

Bright Spot



A Mini Arboretum at Christ Church

By Steve Schrade

During most of its existence, Christ Church and the surrounding property has maintained a rather plain appearance. Note that in the picture of the church taken approximately 100 years ago, only two species of trees appear, black locust and horse chestnut. The locust trees tended to block the view of the church from Route 20 and early in the 1980s, the vestry voted to cut most of these trees away from the front of the church, leaving only one or two on the east side, along with the horse chestnut trees which remain to this day. A local landscape expert was hired to suggest new plantings and the following plan was implemented.

Two Austrian pines were planted on the west lawn next to Churches Road. One of them remains although its growth has been stunted by regular top trimming by National Grid. A third Austrian pine was planted on the west lawn of the parish hall and that is still standing. A red oak tree was planted between the church and the carriage shed which also seems to be thriving. At about the same time, a maple tree was planted in the middle of the parking lot to replace two elm trees which had succumbed to the Dutch Elm disease.

In 1994, a new rector, Fr. Rue Moore, was called to Christ Church and after a few years, he embarked on a long-term project to fill in the empty spaces around the church and parish hall with more trees. Through bequests and donations, the following somewhat more exotic trees were planted throughout the late 1990s; a Copper Beech on the southwest corner of the church lawn, a Weeping Beech next to the entrance ramp (the one that brushes your head as you go by), two Magnolia trees between the driveway and Rt. 20 near the historical signs (one was killed by rodents several winters ago when the trunk was girdled), a Harlequin Maple with white and green leaves on the south side of the Parish Hall and an English Yew tree next to the lower parish hall parking lot. The English Yew is being overgrown by native and nonnative species of brushy plants, certainly not part of the original plan. Each of the aforementioned trees were purchased through a donation from the Lucia family in memory of deceased family members.

Also donated and planted in memory of those who loved Christ Church and are no longer with us

Christ Church 100 Years Ago

Christ Church Now

include a Ginkgo tree, next to the Copper Beech, in memory of Sherwin (Mike) Schrade and an Ornamental Crab Apple tree next to the entry walk in memory of Fr. Rue Moore.

In addition to the trees, a small rose garden was established between the ramp and the bell tower in memory of Paul and Barbara Munson, longtime active parishioners of Christ Church, and, lastly, a flowering bush was planted along the front foundation of the church in the early 1980s on Rogation Sunday (the fifth Sunday after Easter when, traditionally, the congregation would seek God's blessing and protection for the gardens and fields being planted). This bush was recently transplanted and now lives on the parish hall west lawn.

Other tree species of note on the church grounds include the two giant elms next to Rt. 20 which, thankfully, have not fallen victim to the Dutch Elm disease. In recent years, three Red Cedar trees have sprung up on the west side of the exit driveway as if standing guard as vehicles head down the hill.

Anyone who has additional or more precise information regarding the flora and fauna around the church is encouraged to add to this report by contacting Steve Schrade or John Weiler, members of the vestry historical committee. ✠

CELEBRATE WONDER

Wonder: About Joyful Journey's first class? Well, 15 children and adults came! What a blessing! We decided to nickname it "Christ Church's One Room School House"! I told the children their great grandparents or grandparents may have gone to one.

Faith Word: Each unit has a Faith Word. Our word for this unit is "reconciliation" as we study the life of Joseph, son of Jacob, and how his brothers were so angry with him, so much that they sold him into slavery. The theme of reconciliation and forgiveness is also being carried over into the confirmation class.

Activity: The children made tie-died shirts of many colors. [One of the things Joseph's brothers were angry about was the gift of a robe with many colors, as legend has it, with long sleeves that their father gave him. The common person did not wear a robe with long sleeves as the sleeves would interfere with the daily tasks of farming or taking care of the animals and the like. To Joseph's brothers having a robe with long sleeves signified he was superior to them, even though he was the youngest.]

Thank You: To all the children and parents for participating in the class! A special thank you to Zach Sayles for all the help he provided!

Next Classes: October 3rd and November 7th at 10:00am in the Parish Hall. Hope to see you all there!

Blessings,
Deacon Debbie

We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to those individuals who have been doing projects around Christ Church "behind the scenes"!

Cal Weyer – for digging up, separating, and replanting the bush which was in front of the church

Andrea Salisbury – for scraping and repainting the front door to the Parish Hall

John and Sandra Weiler (and their niece) – for patching, sanding, and painting the Joyful Journey classroom

Phil, Jayden and Zach Sayles – for disposing of the couch and other items from the parish hall

The Schrades and Salisburys – for taking care of the church sign

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Our annual Blessing of the Animals event has been rescheduled to October 17th from 12-1:00pm at the carriage shed, rain or shine! This is also our Family Sunday activity along with crafts for the children. We hope to see you there!

LADIES AUXILIARY PAINT 'N SIP EVENT

After our last successful and enjoyable Paint 'n Sip event, the Ladies Auxiliary will be holding a second Paint 'n Sip on Saturday, November 6th at 6:30pm in the Parish Hall. The cost is $35 for adults and $15 for children over 12. Please contact Heather MacDougall to reserve your spot. We hope to see you there for a fun night of painting, snacking, and fellowship!

Here is the sample for our paint night:

OCTOBER 2021

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	**2** Phil & Jenna Sayles
3 PENTECOST 20 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** **Joyful Journey** Jane Weyers	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8** Paul & Theresa Munson	**9** John & Joan Langston
10 PENTECOST 21 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Linda Dow	**11**	**12** David Haberland, Christine Chandler	**13** Brendan & Amy Walsh	**14** Jasmyn Hart	**15** Judy Breitenstein	**16** Michele McKinley
17 PENTECOST 22 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** **Family Sunday Event:** Blessing of the Animals 12pm	**18** Bobby Chandler	**19**	**20** **Vestry Meeting**	**21** Cal & Jane Weyers	**22** Bill McHugh, Amy Walsh	**23** Stephanie McKinley
24 PENTECOST 23 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Debbie Beach, Adam Acevedo Chris & Denny Wolfe	**25**	**26**	**27** Bob Chandler	**28** Marge Cummings, Jim Featherstonhaugh, Chris Wolfe	**29** Thomas Greer	**30** Lisa & Bill McHugh, Kelly & Ryan Powers
31 PENTECOST 24 **Holy Eucharist – 10am**						

✠ NOVEMBER 2021 ✠

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 ALL SAINTS Dan Menzies, Tim Fischer	**2**	**3** Ryan Moses, Drew Palluti, Nellie Kosier	**4**	**5**	**6** Paint 'N Sip Event Sarah Langston Forbes
7 PENTECOST 25 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** **Joyful Journey** Cheryl Lennox, Zachary Therrion	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11** Kyle Rudolphsen	**12**	**13**
14 PENTECOST 26 **Holy Eucharist – 10am** Cindy Skala	**15**	**16**	**17** **Vestry Meeting**	**18**	**19**	**20**
21 CHRIST THE KING **Family Sunday**	**22** Jenna Sayles	**23**	**24**	**25 THANKSGIVING**	**26** Cindy Creasy	**27**
28 ADVENT 1 Sadie Powers Art & Camille Crandall	**29** Jeffrey Hunt	**30**				

PARISHIONER SPOTLIGHT

We are proud of our church member, Jenna Sayles, who was recently featured on WRGB Channel 6's Positively Upstate for her commitment to helping and feeding families in our community. Thank you, Jenna, for hard work and compassion. Watch the video here.

Christ Church is a worshiping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.

The parish is located at:
132 Duanesburg Churches Rd,
Duanesburg, NY, on the corner of
Rt. 20 and Duanesburg Churches Rd.

Rector:
Fr. Alistair Morrison
revajmorrison@gmail.com

Deacon:
Debbie Beach (518) 372-1352
or (518) 669-1898
dbeach21@verizon.net

Vestry members:
John Weiler – Sr. Warden
Phil Sayles – Jr. Warden
Judy Breitenstein
Cindy Creasy
Tim Fischer
Laura Lucia
Nancy Palluti
Andrea Salisbury
Steven Schrade

Treasurer:
Laura Lucia

Parish Hall Ph.: *(518) 895-2383*

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