



Photo by Nancy Palluti

THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ FEBRUARY/MARCH 2023 ✠

RECTOR'S REPORT

I find it hard to believe that I have been your rector at Christ Church for past five years. How time passes quickly! It has been a blessing to serve as your Priest and to see a growing hunger in the studying God's Word and a continued growth in the size of our congregation. This past year we have seen a number of new folks, as well as some members returning to Christ Church. At the last count 16 new persons started/restarted attending Christ Church during 2022. In September we re-ran our six-week 'Introduction to the Church' course and five hearty souls made it through to the end.

PARISH LIFE

Turning to our parish life, sadly, early in 2022 we lost Edna Taber (our oldest parishioner) and in June, Stephen Thayer also passed away. Other congregants who lost loved ones during the past year included: Dotty Smith (brother Ray), Bill and Lisa McHugh (son Nolan), Chris Wolfe (brother Arthur), Nancy Vogel (friend Jeffery). At the other end of life's rich tapestry, we welcomed Kinsley Jean McPhail to parents, Victoria and Kyle. Kinsley was baptized in August. Earlier in May, Alex Connors was also baptized just two weeks before he was confirmed.

One of the highlights of the year, for me, was the regional Confirmation held at the Cathedral in May. Christ Church was well represented with eight candidates: CJ, Drew, Evie, Nellie, Ian, Zach, Jayden and Alex. *(see photo on page 2)*

In July we blessed the marriage of our organist Colleen and her husband Michael. Then in October we gathered to celebrate the marriage of Peter and Deana.

Other notable congregational events form 2022 included the very well attended Shrove Tuesday Dinner, the Parish Picnic at which the YP tried to teach me, with limited success, how to hold a baseball bat! At the end of the year twenty-four of our Parish members answered the call to volunteer at the Regional Food Bank in Latham. Thank you to everyone who helped with the organization of our social events.



Rector's Report	1 - 3
Christ Church Archives	3 - 4
The Poetry Corner	4
Fear Not	5
Shrove Tuesday	6
Parish Calendar	7 - 8
Christ Church Events	9



ORGANIZATIONS

Sunday School and the work among the young people continued during the year. As well as Bible lessons and Confirmation classes our children, young people and their families went on scientific boat rides, hikes and made crafts in the Parish Hall. Continued thanks go to Heather MacDougall and Nora Barker, Deacon Debbie for their work with Joyful Journey, and to John and Sandra for their help with Confirmation Group.

In April and October, the Ladies Auxiliary held its biannual Rummage Sales. Thank you to the Ladies Auxiliary who continue to sponsor Beaver Cross participants and give generously to the outreach of the church. During the October Rummage Sale, we opened the church for anyone who might be interested in seeing inside the building. Around fifteen people took the opportunity to visit the church.



VESTRY

I want to thank the members of the vestry for their work over the past year. I am thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm shown by each member to either attend in-person or online via Zoom. Thank you also to those who served on various committees, in particular the Buildings and Grounds Committee as it continued to maintain and care for the property. We welcomed Heather MacDougall to the vestry in January, and her home-made cookies have been a wonderful addition to the monthly meetings!

Over the past year I have appreciated the support and advice of both the Senior and Junior Wardens, John Weiler and Phil Sayles. John is stepping down as Senior Warden and I thank him for his contribution and steady hand over the past two years. I look forward to having Phil as Senior Warden and am grateful to Steve Schrade for his willingness to serve as Junior Warden.

Thanks also go to Laura Lucia, Church Treasurer, who along with the Finance Committee have served the parish with financial oversight. Finally, thanks to Jane Weyers, Secretary to the Vestry, for faithfully taking the minutes of the monthly meetings.

ORGANIST & CHOIR

A wonderful addition to our worship in Christ Church in 2022 was the reintroduction of a choir. Thank you to Colleen for all the work she put into the weekly choir practices. The choir performed wonderfully, enhancing our worship experience over the Christmas Season.

CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT

During the year the Fundraising Committee and Building Committee continued to work behind the scenes with the Fundraising Consultant and Architect to advance the Restoration Project. We will be launching the Capital Campaign at this Annual Meeting.

BISHOP SEARCH

I'm glad to report that the Diocese of Albany is getting closer to having a new bishop appointed. The Search and Profile Committee have laid out a schedule of events that will hopefully lead to the election of a new leader for our Diocese.

THANKS

Deacon Debbie is always first in my thank-you list, for all her help and encouragement during the year. Along with Deacon Debbie, I would also thank John and Bart for covering preaching duties. Thank you to all who have contributed to the life of our Parish during the past year. The Altar Guild, the Ladies Auxiliary, Jane Weyers for preparing the Weekly Bulletins, Marge Cummings for tirelessly writing and sending cards (retiring this year), Amy Walsh for editing and publishing The Messenger and to the regular contributors, John, Steve, Camille and Deacon Debbie. Thanks also go to Steve Schrade for choosing the hymns we sing each week, the tellers, acolytes and all of you, unnamed helpers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make Christ Church “a worshipping community of friends joyfully serving, encouraging, and healing others in Jesus’ Name.”

Blessings,

Fr. Alistair ✠

CHRIST CHURCH ARCHIVES

1984 FUND RAISING FOR THE CHRIST CHURCH RESTORATION PROJECT

In 1984 Christ Church was undergoing a much needed “restoration.” Among other problems, some of the exterior siding needed to be replaced, the front porch was deteriorating and large portions of ceiling and wall plaster had cracked loose and fallen on to the pews and floor, fortunately not during Sunday services! An engineering firm had already drawn up plans and a goal of raising \$100,000 was set for repairs and restoration of the building. Apart from soliciting donations, various fundraising activities were undertaken.

A somewhat common and popular fundraising strategy at that time was to offer a “drive about” historical building tour to the general public and charge a fee. The fundraising committee held the tour on Saturday, October 3, 1984 with the donation set at \$5 per person (with a 10% discount for senior citizens!). The tour featured a dozen or so homes and churches in the Town of Duanesburg. The starting point was, of course, Christ Church, the oldest unaltered Episcopal church in New York State, where a presentation was given, donations collected and maps distributed indicating the suggested route to follow around town to each landmark.

The presentation at the church described the founding of the Town of Duanesburg by James Duane in 1765 and his dream of creating a 10 acre Town square with four churches on “Church Hill” as

the current location was called for many years. Also included was the history of Duane’s construction of Christ Church in 1792-93, it’s consecration (1793) and a description of the architectural features of the building. That Duane and his family are at rest in the crypt under the church was also included.

Several members of the Christ Church congregation owned and occupied historic homes at that time and volunteered their homes for inclusion on the tour. It is less likely that home owners today would open their dwellings to strangers who were there to look around but 40 years ago it was not so much of a concern and it was for a good cause! Members of the congregation whose homes were on the tour include:

Mrs. Clark Fleming, Route 7 Duanesburg hamlet, Mr. and Mrs. Sherwin Schrade, also residing in the hamlet across the road from the Fleming residence.

Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, Rt. 7 Quaker Street, a home used as a stop in the Underground Railroad.

Mr. and Mrs. Steven Schrade, Eaton’s Corners, whose home had been an inn during the 19th century.

The old Christ Church rectory on Rt. 20 west of the church, owned at that time by Mr. and Mrs. John Schroeder. The home included the small chapel still in mostly the same condition as it had been when the Rector lived there.

Other sites on the tour included the Quaker Street Bible Church and the Methodist Church in Delanson along with the High Cliff Farm. High Cliff Farm had formerly been the winter home of many mules who worked hauling barges on the Erie Canal. In the 80s the farm was still hosting four legged guests, future race horses, for Saratoga and other racetracks.

The restoration project in the early 1980s was generally successful. The interior walls were almost completely replastered and painted, the front porch was rebuilt and rotten portions of the sills were replaced along with deteriorated siding. One aspect

of the project did not “take” and that was the attempt to level the floor in the church. The pillars underneath the floor joists keep heaving and moving the floor up or down thus creating the uneven surface we still have today.

The historic site tour likely only generated a few hundred dollars toward the restoration fund but it brought attention to the community of Duanesburg and beyond of the importance of preserving perhaps the most important landmark in the Town of Duanesburg. ❖

THE POETRY CORNER

BY CAMILLE CRANDALL

I'd like to share the following fun poem I wrote, which was inspired by life along the St. Lawrence River



SHANTY TOWN

I'd like to tell a story
About a little town.
Funny thing about this town,
It isn't there year round.

It pops up in the winter;
When it is bitter cold.
The people that dwell in it,
Are aged both young and old.

These people have a passion;
They have a common goal.
They like to spend their time to fish,
In an icy fishing hole.

To make their stay more comfortable.
While out there on the ice
They erect a little shanty
For warmth it does suffice.

Since fishing is the major thrust,
You often hear one ask,
“Catching anything today?”
Then get back to their task.

With eyes that focus on their tip-ups,
Little do they stray
In hopes of catching “the big one,”
A trophy to display.

Excitement fills the little town,
Occupants are all abuzz,
As tournament time approaches
All hope their catch outdoes.

But when it comes down to it,
It really doesn't matter;
The fun is in the fishing
And the afternoon of chatter.

When winter season slowly ends,
The shanties disappear.
Though shanty town is gone again,
It will be back again next year! ❖

FEAR NOT

BY DEACON DEBBIE

On Christmas day I gave a sermon based on “A Charlie Brown Christmas” which aired for the first time in 1965. I think the most iconic part of the show is when Linus explains the true meaning of Christmas, taken from the Gospel of Luke. Linus Van Pelt stepped out onto the stage and began to recite the story of our Savior’s birth: “And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (KJV)

Anyone familiar with Linus knows he is best known for his ever-present security blanket. Throughout the years in ‘Peanuts’ comics and shows, Lucy, Sally, Snoopy, and the others work to separate Linus from his blanket. But he is simply too insecure to give it up...until the moment he proclaims, “fear not.” At that moment Linus drops his blanket. There are some who feel the dropping of Linus’ blanket is no accident. Charles Schultz, a man with strong faith in our Savior, had found a simple yet brilliant way to teach us that the birth of Jesus separates us from our fears. The birth

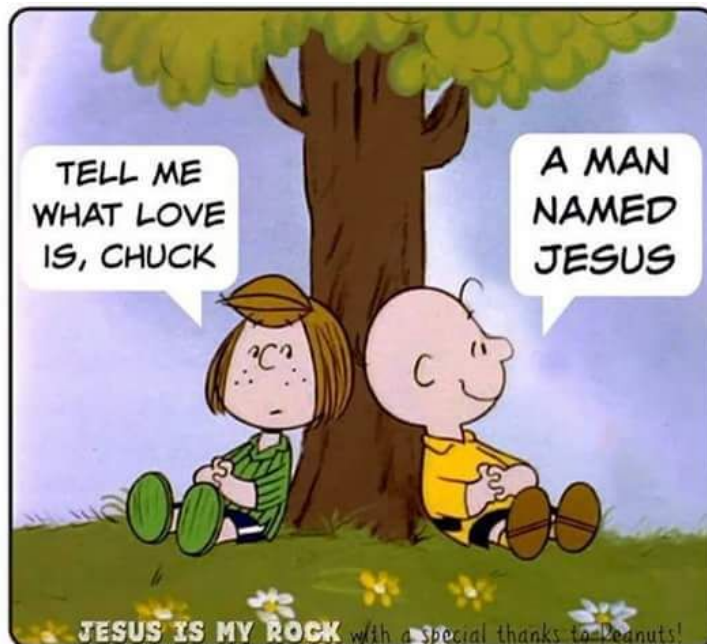
of Jesus frees us from habits we are unable to break by ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to drop the false security we have been holding onto so tightly, and trust and hold onto Him instead. What do we do when we are fearful or afraid? What or who do we rely on? Do we hold onto tangible things or rely on ourselves thinking we can or are supposed to handle anything?

Like my parents always did, God has let me try to handle things on my own. When things did not work, he was there to help me pick up the pieces. There was no need to tell me “I told you so” or “If you had only listened to me.” The consequences were enough, and the lesson learned. But when the next situation comes along, my humanity usually gets in the way and the process can start all over again.

During our Annual Meeting, Fr. Alistair announced that I have been appointed as the Administrative Assistant to the Fundraising Committee. In addition, I handed in my retirement letter which

will be effective at the end of the school year. I am afraid as much or more so, than I am excited.

Out of curiosity I did a Goggle search, and did you know “fear not” or “do not be afraid” is mentioned 365 times throughout the Bible? Do you think someone is trying to tell us something? “Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.” May we all be like Linus, drop our “blankets” and rely on the real meaning of Christmas, Jesus. ✕



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper



Christ Episcopal Church

(corner of Duaneburg Churches Road and Route 20)

Tuesday, February 21 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Pancakes, sausage, bacon, corned beef hash,
biscuits and gravy, tea, coffee and assorted juices**

\$\$ DONATIONS Go To COMMUNITY OUTREACH \$\$

Thank You

❖ FEBRUARY 2023 ❖

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2  Bob Skala, Ethan MacDougall	3	4
5 EPIPHANY 5 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am  Sophia Rishel	6  Jessica Lucia	7  David & Brenda Haberland	8	9  Ella Moses	10	11  Bob MacDougall
12 EPIPHANY 6 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	13	14	15 Vestry Mtg - 7pm  Lisa McHugh, Brenda Haberland	16	17	18
19 EPIPHANY 7 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am	20	21 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper 5 - 7pm	22 ASH WEDNESDAY  Thomas Featherstonhaugh, Art Peters	23  Kate Connor, Jayden Sayles	24	25
26 LENT 1 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	27	28				

✠ MARCH 2023 ✠

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1  Hector Eliott	2	3	4
5 LENT 2 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am  Jennifer Wolfe	6	7	8	9  Franklin Aurelio Acevedo	10  Nancy Palluti, Shawn Palluti	11  Bart MacDouigall, Denny Wolfe
12 LENT 3 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	13  Marilyn Schroeder	14	15 Vestry Mtg - 7pm	16	17  Britt Eliott, Lydia Rudolphsen	18
19 LENT 4 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am  Sandra Weiler, Jacob Barker	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 LENT 5 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	27	28  Ben Lennox	29	30	31  Sherry Schrade	

CHRIST CHURCH EVENTS

February 11th (Saturday)

Game Night with Pizza and Cookie Decorating
4pm – 6pm

February 21st (Tuesday)

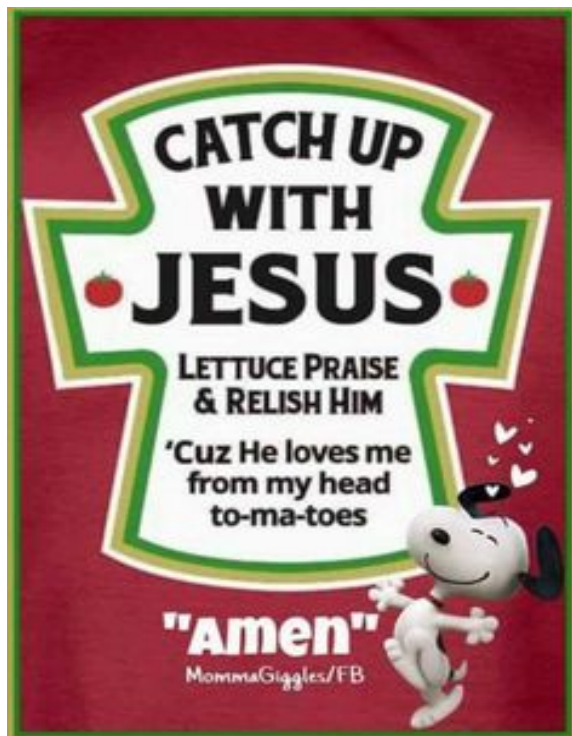
Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
5pm – 7pm

March 19th

Craft with Christina
After church

April 2nd

Easter Brunch
Writing Easter Cards



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
dbeach21@verizon.net*

Vestry members:

*Phil Sayles – Sr. Warden
Steve Schrade – Jr. Warden
Judy Breitenstein
Cindy Creasy
Laura Lucia
Heather MacDougall
Nancy Palluti
Andrea Salisbury
John Weiler*

Treasurer:

Laura Lucia

Parish Hall Ph.: (518) 895-2383

Christ Church
P.O. Box 92
Duanesburg, New York 12056-0092