



CHURCH OF THE
HOLY COMFORTER

September 2011

THE DOVE

This Is the Month . . . by Father Jason Parkin

This is the month, and this is the year . . .

This is the month when all starts anew at Holy Comforter. Christian Formation returns for people of all ages. The full liturgical schedule begins once again. The choirs resume their ministry among us in song and psalm. Preparation for the Housewalk intensifies. Many weekday ministries return to the schedule. Planning kicks in for the Stewardship campaign, for the Fall Festival and the Fall Fellowship Dinner and Inquirers' Classes and Bible Study and for a host of other moments in our common life. This is the month when the full vigor and vibrancy of Holy Comforter springs forth into full blossom.

And so, let this be the year when, I pray, each of us will take more seriously than ever before our faith in God and our relationship with Christ Jesus through his Body, the Church. Let this be the year when, I pray, each of us ponders-and then uses-the gifts given to each of us by our absurdly generous God.

We all know that it is easier to sleep in or to take a walk of a Sunday morning than it is to wrestle the kids into their clothes or to fight the challenges of parking around Kenilworth Avenue. It is easier to skip Church School or not to join the choir or Altar Guild than it is to commit to full participation. It is easier to place a bill in the

offering plate than it is to make a financial commitment in support of the parish and its ministries, one of the true markers of membership. After a week of meetings at work, it is easier not to become involved in a ministry or program that demands of us some of our valuable personal time. It is easier to watch "American Idol" than it is to pray.

But who among us wants to take the easy way out? Is it not true that the most important aspects of our lives are those that require dedication and personal investment? Is not the basis of the Christian faith the belief that God has given all for and to us-even going so far as to come among us as one of us in order to heal, to feed, to nourish, to die, and to live again-and that, therefore, we must offer our all for and to God in grateful thanks?

And so, let this be the year when, I pray, each of us reconnects to God, re-commits to the community of faith, re-offers our gifts and our time and our devotion and our very lives to the One who has called us into being, who created and constantly re-creates us, who is our Way and our Truth and our Life.

This is the month, and this is the year . . .

Full Sunday Schedule resumes September 11, 2011

8:00 am	Rite I Eucharist
8:45 am	Nurserycare available [until 10:45 am]
9:00 am	Rite II Eucharist with Full Choir Children's Chapel for Junior Kindergarten—Grade 3
10:00 am	Adult Forum [in the Great Hall] Church School and Youth Groups for all ages
11:15 am	Rite II Eucharist

Coffee and donuts are available in the parlor throughout the morning. Refreshments are provided during the Adult Forum and Children's and Youth Group meetings.

Our Common Life: Practicing Spirituality

There is an educational shift occurring in the Episcopal Church - from "learning about" God to "knowing" God. The 2011-12 Adult Forum program will focus on the causes of this shift and ancient practices that will help us through this transition. This month's schedule is as follows:

September 11 [Father Parkin, presenter]

Welcome and Introduction

September 18 [Father Hardman, presenter]

The Times are Certainly Changing:

The Emerging Church

September 25 [Father Hardman, presenter]

Incarnational World View

October 2 [Clergy Presentation]

A Renewed Theology of Creation

The Adult Forum is held on Sunday morning from 10:00-10:45am in the Great Hall and includes presentations by clergy, parishioners and guest speakers. All adults - young and old, newcomers and longtime parishioners - are invited to join us for this time of Christian fellowship. New this year is an alternative small group discussion which will meet at that same time once a month in the library. Topics will generally be geared towards a specific group and discussion will be focused but informal. The fall schedule includes:

September 18

Welcome to our Newcomers

October 16

Caring for our Children: Peer Pressure

November 27

A Family Advent

Upcoming Events This Fall

(continued from back page)

Fall Fellowship Dinner: Friday, October 21

The Fall Fellowship Dinner is a celebration of our parish life and an opportunity for adult parishioners to gather together for fun, food and friendship. Back by popular demand are the "Refreshment Houses:" an informal cocktail hour held in parishioner homes prior to dinner in the Great Hall. Watch for your invitation to sign up for your Refreshment House and dinner. Cocktails from 5:30-7pm; dinner at 7:30pm.

Time For Women and New Women's Book Club

Time for Women began two years ago as a small group of working women looking for evening fellowship. It is now a group of more than 25 women of all ages and stages in life who meet monthly simply for dinner and conversation. They gather at 6:30pm at a restaurant or someone's home on the third Tuesday of the month and everybody chips in to cover the cost of the meal. The September 20 event will be hosted by Jan Parkin; please RSVP to the parish office.

Seeking something a little more substantial, the women have now formed a book club which will meet bi-monthly on the first Wednesday of the month at 7pm in the parish library. Their first reading selection is *Peace Like a River* by Leif Enger. The group and discussion will be very informal, so come even if you don't finish the book. Please contact Pam McGahie, the group leader, with questions.

Inquirers' Class Scheduled This Fall

Are you brand new to the Episcopal Church or to the Christian faith? Or have you perhaps forgotten most everything you learned in the Confirmation Class you attended when you were a teenager? Do you want to know more about the foundations of the Christian story or harbor questions about the history and theology of the Episcopal Church? Ever wondered why some folks make the sign of the cross at certain times during the service, or what those strange clothes are called that the priests wear? Ever been confounded when someone spoke about the nave, the Eucharist, the Vestry, or transubstantiation? And just who the heck is this Archbishop of Canterbury guy we read about every so often in the New York Times, anyway?

Well, now you have an opportunity to learn more about language, traditions, practices, and beliefs of the Episcopal Church and its brother and sister communities in the larger Christian world.

Beginning on Tuesday evening, October 25, and continuing on November 1, 8 and 15, Inquirers' Classes will be offered at Holy Comforter. These classes, which will be led by Fr. Parkin, are designed to offer an overview of our faith and heritage as Episcopalians and Christians. They are appropriate for people who are new to Holy Comforter or the Episcopal Church, but are also certainly intended for people who want to brush up on their knowledge of Church history, theology, and related issues. No topic is too mundane, no question too basic for these sessions.

The classes will run from 7:00-8:30pm, and will take place in the parish library. Wherever you are on your journey of discovery in Christ, please consider joining the Inquirers' Classes. It is a wonderful way to become better acquainted with others in the parish family, and to grow in knowledge and faith. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Rector or call 847/251-6120, ext. 115. See you on October 25th.

Christian Companionship: Stephen Ministry

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to have a Christian friend/companion visit you on a weekly or bi-weekly basis to show interest/concern for you and how well you are doing? Well, CHC has now officially made such a program possible, and several people are already being visited. It is called Stephen Ministry and is named after one of the first disciples.

Here are some of the comments we've heard:

"I am so grateful that Holy Comforter has this ministry."

"I feel God's healing love in this relationship."

"I can face this - knowing that I'm not alone."

"This is helpful beyond my expectations!"

"I'm so thrilled that you called to check on me - it makes me feel good about our parish."

If you would like to talk with a trained person after learning of some distressing news, one can be made available to you. Stephen Ministers are assigned in close coordination with the clergy of the parish and are thought of as adjunctive care-givers. They are trained to respond to a variety of life's difficult times. The relationship is strictly confidential. Fr. Chris Hardman, Jean Britt or Dick Augspurger are the persons to contact to learn more about Stephen Ministry, or to set up an appointment.

Music Notes by Derek Nickels, Director of Music

Every September around the country, one anthem is often sung for its beauty of music, text, and theology for the time of year that we return from our summer travels and resume our full schedule at work, school, and church. The anthem, *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether*, was written in 1945 by one of America's more influential church musicians of the 20th century, Harold Friedell (1905-1958). Born in Queens, New York on May 11, 1905, the young Harold began his church music career as the organist at the Methodist Church of Jamaica, Long Island before eventually serving on the faculties at the Julliard School of Music, the Guilman Organ School, and later teaching composition and improvisation at the School of Sacred Music of Union Theological Seminary in New York. He served as organist-choirmaster at St. John's Episcopal Church in Jersey City Heights, New Jersey and later at New York's Calvary Episcopal Church, where the dynamic The Rev. Samuel Moor Shoemaker served as rector. During his tenure at Calvary, Friedell founded a series of oratorio concerts and recitals that firmly established Calvary's name in Church music history. It was also during this time that his famous anthem *Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether* was written as a communion hymn for Pentecost Sunday 1945. By 1946, his work at Calvary had drawn critical acclaim and he was asked to succeed his mentor and teacher, David McK. Williams, as organist-choirmaster at Park Avenue's esteemed St. Bartholomew's Church. From 1946 until his death in 1958, throngs of people flocked to St. Bartholomew's to hear the superb professional choir

of 70 voices sing weekly Sunday afternoon services (Evensong) where the great choral repertoire of oratorios, passions, requiems, and recently composed works were performed in their entirety following the sung propers of the daily office.

Whether you are from an Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, or Roman Catholic background, the message of this text by English theologian and author Percy Deamer (1867-1936) remains the same:

*Draw us in the Spirit's tether;
For when humbly, in thy name,
Two or three are met together,
Thou art in the midst of them: Alleluya! Alleluya!
Touch we now thy garment's hem.
As the brethren used to gather
In the name of Christ to sup,
Then with thanks to God the Father
Break the bread and bless the cup,
Alleluya! Alleluya! So knit thou our friendship up.
All our meals and all our living
Make us sacraments of thee,
That be caring, helping, giving,
We may true disciples be.
Alleluya! Alleluya! We will serve thee faithfully.*

Come and be drawn into the Spirit's tether and faithfully serve in the choir. We rehearse every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Choir Room beginning on Thursday, September 8th.

In the Vineyard

We joyfully announce the birth of . . .

- ◆ Jonah William to Margaret and Adam Tarmy on August 14. Jonah is Lloyd and Judi Urban's 6th grandchild.

We extend our sympathy to . . .

- ◆ David Jones and Heath Howe on the death of his mother, Frances Jones, on July 5.
- ◆ Sue, Mike and Megan Murphy on the death of Sue's mother, Dorothy Ishmael, on July 16.
- ◆ Louis and Adrienne Lower and the Pagels family on the death of Louis' father, Elmer Lower, on July 26.
- ◆ Bill and Linda Gantz on the death of his mother, Flora Kimmons, on August 11.

Special September 11th Liturgy

Remembrance, Prayer and Reflection

10 years later, we are still living in a world trying to make sense of the events of September 11, 2001. The attacks that took place on that day were not simply an unspeakable tragedy: they also marked the beginning of a new age, a new era, a new way of engaging the world around us. As with only a handful of other such iconic moments, everything changed—even the role of faith in our lives and communities—as a result of that day.

Please join others in observing and commemorating the 10th anniversary of September 11. On that Sunday afternoon, at 5:00 in the church, Holy Comforter will offer a simple, peace-filled liturgy consisting of prayer, reflection, story, and song. We will remember those who died, and raise up to God our hopes for a world transformed by God's presence and healing love.

Transitions by Mary Johnson, Director of Children & Youth Ministry

To everything there is a season: August-September is a season of transitions as students begin or return to school. In Webster's Dictionary, transition is defined as: a passage from one state, stage or place to another. For a child entering preschool for the first time it can be terrifying. For the mom dropping off for the first time it can be very emotional - or liberating - depending on the mom. For the older student, the social posturing is a huge part of the transition: who are the "cool kids", who are the "nerds," who are the nice kids, who are the bullies? Transitions are not only about the children. They impact adults as well. With each new challenge for the child, the parental skills are challenged as well: how much do I intervene, how much freedom do I allow, what is the best counsel I can give my child? Even as an official "empty nester," I am still called upon to provide advice to my daughters. And I hope that never changes.

The experience of transitions at Holy Comforter and All Things Bright and Beautiful will hopefully be one of great joy and celebration for your family. Our preschool classes transition over a few days during the first week of school. We take the necessary time to get to know the children in a quiet thoughtful manner. Then it's on to exploring the classrooms, the playground, climbing a tree or watering the garden in the "back 40" as the back yard of the rectory is now called. Our Church School Students

will have many familiar components if they are retuning to the program. And this year there will be some new elements to assimilate. The students will compose their own prayers for our Chapel time, the third graders will have an active role in leading the worship service and all students will create a banner that represents their individuality and records their participation each week at Sunday School.

A central component for the children of all ages at Holy Comforter is our worship time. For the Junior Kindergarteners through third grade, the Children's Chapel on Sunday morning provides the opportunity to share in the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist, raise voices in lively song, and to listen to the beautiful Bible stories. Fourth Graders through High School students attend the 9:00 liturgy on Sundays and are invited to participate as acolytes, greeters and lay readers. For All Things Bright and Beautiful children, Pastor Heath will read Bible stories in the big church on a weekly basis.

For the new students in our preschool and Church School, our priority is to minimize any anxiety during their unique transitions as we invite them into this caring community. And this is everyone's responsibility. We've theorized, strategized, and improvised on the best way to provide a welcoming experience to all who come here. May this be the season of transition for each one of us to extend the welcoming hand and the heartfelt "hello" to all.

A New Ministry for Families by Pastor Heath Howe

Some of us at Holy Comforter have been listening to Bob Dylan a good deal this summer. A favorite song we tend to quote is "The Times They Are A Changin'." This was true for Dylan when he wrote that song and it is true for us today. As I look at the world in which we live I notice that family life, family make up, and family values are as much a part of what is changing as anything else.

At one time the average home included generations of family members where a child walked down the hall to visit grandma in her bedroom. Now, many grandchildren visit grandparents on Skype if they are lucky. At one time, moms stayed at home and fathers went off to work. Now, many dads are the "at home parent." Families consist of single parents, same gendered parents, and adopted children. Some families are blended and some are not. The only thing predictable about families at this point in time is that they have changed as much as anything else.

This change provides a great opportunity for all of us at Holy Comforter. During this year, as the Family Ministries Associate, I look forward to hearing your ideas and desires for programs and events we can create for our richly diverse and ever changing families. My sense is some of these activities will be done here at Holy Comforter where different generations of Holy Comforter parishioners can come together for fellowship and education. Some will be activities we do as a church family beyond the walls of our sanctuary. Some will be prayers and devotional tools we can do in our homes as we gather at the beginning and end of our day. I believe the purpose for all we create is to deepen our own spiritual lives and strengthen the spiritual lives of our children. If you have ideas, questions, or interest in family ministry, please let me know.

The Time They Are A Changin'. Thank God our Lord has sent us the Holy Spirit, our Comforter and guide, to lead us along the way.

Youth Group Scoop: Grades 6~12 by Patti Pateros

Our youth groups will resume their regular Sunday mornings on September 11 from 10:00-10:45am. The meetings are open to all students in 6th grade through high school and each group has a dedicated space on the lower level.

iCONNECT, our new 6th and 7th grade youth group, kicks off the year with a lock-in on Friday night, September 9. Following a taco dinner in the Great Hall at 6:30pm, they will go on an outdoor nature scavenger hunt - a prelude to their Sunday study of caring for the earth. They will have an evening snack while watching the movie WALL-E. A quick breakfast will be available the next morning prior to pick up at 7:30am. Reservations and permission slips are required.

AIM [Actions In Motion] is now exclusively an 8th youth group, the goal of which is to help students transition from adolescents to teenagers. The first few

meetings will focus on acknowledging and accepting their individuality, using Harry Potter and the characters of the TV show *Glee* as examples.

For the first time in many years, our high school youth group **WHAM** [We Have A Mission] will have strong representation and leadership from our senior class. We look forward to welcoming all our returning students and especially our freshmen. September will be spent getting to know each other with discussions about school, schedules, and social life. Information on the 2012 Mission: Nicaragua will also be introduced.

Be sure to review the 2011-12 Youth Group Handbook which details the programs for each youth group, including information and dates for their mission trips. Please note that all mission trips have a Sunday morning attendance requirement. If you have questions or suggestions, feel free to contact Patti Pateros, youth group coordinator.

Satisfying Your Hunger and Thirst by Patti Pateros

After our return from the Nicaragua mission trip, I thought it wise to touch base with the now-senior members of the group to get their feedback on the trip as well as their decision on whether they plan to be involved with WHAM next year. Traditionally seniors seem to opt out of the youth group due to busy schedules, social life, college prep, or simply because they've outgrown it. I have had a great relationship with the eight seniors who have been truly committed to the group; they were freshmen my first year working with WHAM, so we sort of grew up together.

For my first meeting, I invited Ford, Andrew, Ian and Christian to dinner at Ron of Japan. A couple of months ago, they wanted to have a WHAM dinner at that restaurant, but I told them it wasn't in the budget. So I knew that if I offered to meet them there, they might be more apt to join me. Much to my surprise all four of them showed up. There I was with these boys who I just lived with for a week and usually come off all macho and grown-up. That evening they were acting like the kids they really are.

After drinking their Shirley Temples and eating with kiddie chopsticks, (both of which I thought funny and cute - and they weren't doing it be funny!), we got down to some serious discussion. I asked them bluntly, "Do you plan to come to WHAM on Sunday mornings anymore?" They looked at me like I was crazy - and I was ready to be disappointed. But their responses were quite the opposite. Of course they made excuses: "my mother makes me go;" "my father doesn't give me a choice;" "I might as well because my sister will want to come." I was shocked and thrilled - and decided to change the subject before they changed their minds. So we talked about school and their friends and I wondered aloud if they hang out together at school. They seemed horrified at the thought of it! I learned that one is in the "jocks" clique; another is one of the "smart" kids. Two of the boys said their groups actually hate each other, so they have to act like they hate each other at school. None of them have mutual friends nor are they in any of the same classes. Interesting, because anyone

walking up to our table that evening would think the four of them were best friends. That's when I realized the real reason they will continue to be part of WHAM.

And perhaps the reason why 100 people attended a beach party last week even though there was no beach (it was rained out so we had dinner in the Great Hall). Or why several new young families (who have parish friends in their neighborhood) have been participating in our summer outdoor liturgy. Or why a small group regularly attends the 9am weekday service and stay for their morning coffee klatch. Or why volunteers who swore they would never work on housewalk again are working on housewalk again.

I'd like to believe it's our moving liturgies, our thought-provoking formation, or our fun fellowship events. Or the endless pots of coffee and the bottomless baskets of donut holes. Of course these are important aspects of our parish life and what keeps our parish strong and active. But what makes people come back week after week?

Friendship. Holy Comforter has created a safe, welcoming environment for four high school boys who have little in common except that they like each other. The Eucharist has become an extension of friendships that developed on a neighborhood playground. An impromptu dinner on a rainy evening was an opportunity to visit with friends after a long, hot summer. The parish office is a place where everybody knows your name. And events like housewalk not only bring parishioners together for a good cause, but are examples of our determination, teamwork, and support for one another.

There is a line in Holy Comforter's Vision Statement that reads: "There is a thirst and hunger at Holy Comforter to be a true community and a true family." Dinner with four high school boys brought those words to life, satisfying their hunger and thirst . . . both literally and figuratively. And we didn't have to go over budget!

Upcoming Events This Fall

Family Fall Festival: Saturday, September 24

Our Fall Festival has become a community family tradition. The hayride will be more fun than ever—a horse-drawn haywagon will take passengers for a ride through the village! Our pumpkin patch will have locally grown pumpkins, apples and fall flowers for sale. Hot dogs, popcorn, donuts and apple cider will be served. The Fall Festival takes place on the parish lawn from 10am-Noon. Family and friends are welcome!

Newcomers' Reception: Sunday, September 25

Fr. Jason and Jan Parkin, Eric Beatty, and the Hospitality Team invite all who are new to Holy Comforter to join us at a reception and cocktail party at the Rectory on Sunday, September 25, from 4:00-6:00pm. This informal gathering - to which children of all ages are also invited - will be a casual and fun time for people who have recently come to Holy Comforter to meet some parishioners, learn more about the parish, and become acquainted with one another. We promise that there will be no "hard sell:" we simply want to welcome you to the parish and enjoy some time together. Please join us! RSVP to the parish office by September 20.

57th Annual Housewalk: Wednesday, October 5

Holy Comforter's annual outreach fundraiser has come "Home for the Holidays!" Four beautiful Kenilworth homes will be available for touring and an elegant boxed lunch and boutique will be held at the Church. All proceeds from this event support local and global charitable organizations. Tickets are \$50; lunch is an additional \$15.

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To read more about our parish or to register for a parish event, go to www.holycomforter.org.