



The Channel

Monthly Newsletter of St. Christopher's Church/Gladwyne, PA
A Member of the Episcopal Diocese of Pennsylvania

Mission Statement: To provide a thoughtful and active community of faith, fellowship and ministry.

WILLIAM H. WOOD III, Rector / MARY E. LANEY, Parish Associate
BRIANNA FOTI, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Channel - Reflections
September 2011

WHERE WE BELONG

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Thomas Merton was a true friend of God and a keen student of human reality. He wrote a prayer that begins with these words of recognition:

God, we have no idea where we are going. We do not see the road ahead of us. We cannot know for certain where it will end.

As we begin a new fall, many of us are reminded in our daily contemplations of Merton's truth. Some are looking into a new school year with both apprehension and excitement. Some are similarly anticipating again the new patterns of demands and busier daily schedules that September often brings. For most reading these words, church involvement is again included. Why?

In a phrase, it's coming home again. The Church has a mission which includes providing a reflection of Jesus' "Kingdom of God". There all are welcome because all belong - especially those who doubt their belonging the most. That truth, proclaimed by Jesus, still offends those who confuse earthly authority with the Gospel's proclamation of God's inclusive love for all people in all conditions and in all places.

Therefore, Church is to be our spiritual home where all may come together in joy and sorrow, in celebration and in despair, in laughter and in tears. We find it a true home because it is not exclusively ours. It belongs in and to the world precisely because it belongs to God who so loves the world. Our responsibility is to strengthen it with our commitment to reflect God's inclusive welcome.

In the reality of human uncertainty, let us begin again with this essential recognition that the Church is our home because it belongs to God. We dare never forget that truth for all who may come here, for if we do, our faith no longer embraces Jesus who may likely leave this place for a fairer one.

-WHW

RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

Report #1 Re. Mary Laney

As many of you may know, Rev. Mary Laney fell and injured her shoulder and arm just before the Sunday service on August 14. Despite considerable discomfort, she managed to conduct the service with very few people appreciating how injured she was. After the service she went to the Emergency Room at Bryn Mawr Hospital, where it was found that she had a broken arm.

This last week was a hectic rush for her to all sorts of doctor's appointments. The outcome of all of this is that she will not need an operation, at least for the present, but she is going to be wearing a sling for the next few months. We wish her well in her recovery. Her schedule at St. Christopher's is going to be considerably reduced for the next few weeks.

Standing in for her at very short notice on Sunday, 21 August was the Rev. Caroline Huff, who did a great job. It gave us an opportunity to realize that Mary Laney is not only appreciated very greatly at St. Christopher's but also widely in the local Episcopal community.

The prayers, thoughts, affection and love of all of us go out to Mary, to Earl and their family at this time. Mary, get well soon and take it easy. We will be able to manage. We will just appreciate you even more when you are able to return.

Report # 2 It's been a busy Summer

Summer is generally a time when things seem to slow down considerably, but for the Vestry, Staff and team at St. Christopher's, it's been very busy. We have had the challenge of finding a new Youth Leadership team. The search was led by Skip Irvine with considerable assistance from Katie Gibbs. We think we've got a great new team, and soon you will have the opportunity to meet them.

There's been a lot of activity in relation to the Day School as well. It's been completely repainted and refurbished, inside and out. There are new carpets. These simple measures, have made a huge difference. Instead of looking and rather dowdy and tired it's now looking fresh, bright and ready for throngs of new kids. Thanks go to George Wrangham, Jill Marshall and Michael Johnson for their work in making this happen. In a few weeks time we will have a grand reopening and give everybody in the community the opportunity to see inside the school and to meet the Directors, Pat Norton and Sally Curley.

Susan Hunter and Demetrie Comnas have been spending a great deal of time in reevaluating the website of the church. Over the last few years this has become a very useful source of information about our community. They are looking at making it still more functional, easier to use and more

Continued on Page 3

readily accessible. They are working closely in this with Shawna Minnucci, our Parish Secretary, who looks after the website.

This Fall we are planning on conducting a new survey of the St. Christopher's community. It's been 20 years since the last one. We want to know how our community is changing. We want to compare back while at the same time taking the opportunity to look forwards. For this we want your input, your support and your guidance. We are fortunate in that one of our Vestry Members, Cathy Higgins is very experienced in Survey design and she is assisting us with ours.

The Membership Group of Susan Hunter, Jill Marshall, and Jenny Colen have been working to come up with all sorts of ideas to enhance the membership experience for our community. More activities are planned, from the religious to the intellectual, from the social to greater involvement in our local community. Keep watching, you will find a lot developing and hopefully you will want to get involved.

There are quite a few other projects in development. I look forward to letting you know about them in future Channels. For the moment, be assured that the Vestry, Staff and Clergy at St. Christopher's are working hard to ensure that this community is active, caring, compassionate and relevant for you and the people of this region.

Peter Hunt
Rector's Warden

FALL KICK-OFF PICNIC & DAY SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, September 18, 2011

Join us following the 10:00 a.m. service for our annual fall kick-off picnic. There will be games for the children and fellowship for all! Please sign up for a salad or dessert. Sign up sheet is located on the membership bulletin board. Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks will be provided.



Also on the 18th will be the Day School Open House. Be sure to stop by and check out the bright, new, cheerful classrooms that have been so beautifully refurbished. You will also have the opportunity to meet the Directors, Pat Norton and Sally Curley.

Come out and enjoy the fun!

FEEDING OUR ROOTS: MONEY AND PRIORITIES AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

Don't worry...this article won't summarize the budget! Rather, as we start to think about pledging for 2012, I'll make some summary observations about how your pledge dollars are spent. How does that show our priorities? And, how do we economize in these tough times?

As typical for an organization of this kind, and as you'd expect, our highest financial priority is our wonderful staff. Personnel costs account for about half the budget. We have the best staff imaginable, and nobody is overpaid.

The two next-biggest priorities are our physical plant (operation and maintenance) and Outreach. In recent years our buildings have required increased spending: for long-term maintenance and improvement of aging buildings (like keeping the water out!), for needed modernization (air conditioning here and there, gradual upgrades to limit energy costs, etc.), and paying for two tough winters in a row. Building expenses get extraordinary attention, particularly from Michael Johnson (an architect and our Property Chair), and from Katie Gibbs (Office Manager and budget hawk). Even so, in the last couple years our Property expenses have been high (for good and necessary reasons), and we've eaten into our historical cash surplus.

As a result, the Vestry has made tough cuts elsewhere. For example, early this year the Vestry decided we had to trim Outreach. At this point Outreach isn't funded by pledge dollars, but rather just by Azalea Day and (to oversimplify a bit) by a portion of the income on our Endowment. Those are excellent funding sources, and our Outreach is still a much higher financial priority at St. Christopher's than at other comparable churches; but we've recognized that our highest priority needs to be making sure that we have healthy roots, a solid base.

Your Vestry and staff are painfully aware that the recession hasn't really gone away. Ken Jones (Accounting Warden) and Katie Gibbs never stop looking for economies. Just this year Katie has saved money on new trash and landscape contracts (as she has in recent years on insurance, office equipment, etc., etc.). Outreach commitments get strict scrutiny from an extremely active committee. Other budgetary categories, like music, are lower at St. Christopher's than at other comparable churches (even though we manage to produce some pretty good music). Under Ken's leadership we've been VERY careful about contributions to the Diocese.

The budget is presented each year to the congregation, and any and all details of our expenditures are available to you. If you decided to study this subject, I believe you'd conclude that spending at St. Christopher's is conservative, tightly controlled, and focused on necessary priorities. We are conscientiously feeding our roots so that our tree will flourish. Please bear this in mind, and ask any questions you may have, as we ask you this fall to pledge support to St. Christopher's for 2012. Thanks for reading this.

Tom Allen, Stewardship Chair

CHOIR NEWS

Choir at St. Christopher's

Recently I mentioned to a parishioner that in a week, my fall schedule will start. School starts and the choir season starts. I'm very excited about what the choir will be singing this year. I've spent the summer studying the lessons and choosing music that enhances the worship experience, the congregation will find inspiring, and the choir will enjoy singing.

It is sometimes a challenge to find pieces that coincide perfectly with the lessons for each Sunday, so occasionally we go with a general theme of the day.

On December 4th, the choir will be presenting Bach's "Magnificat" with chamber orchestra during Morning Prayer. This is a marvelous work of the prayer of Mary when she is told she will be the mother of Jesus. It is very appropriate for the Advent season.

If anyone would like to join the choir, or join us for this special presentation, please contact me. We would love to have you. Singing with the choir is rewarding and a wonderful way to express your creative talents.

Children's Choir at St. Christopher's

I recently had the pleasure of meeting our new Youth Director, Brianna Foti. She is very enthusiastic and excited about working with our young people. There will be some very good changes taking place in Sunday School with regard to music. Every week at the beginning of Sunday School the entire School will get together to have a prayer and sing a song. That will set a great start for their time together. I will still be going down on Morning Prayer Sundays and singing with the Kindergarten through 3rd graders. We plan to sing in church the end of October. I hope that as these children sing more we can restart the youth choir, grades 4-6. If you have a child in the youth choir age range who would like to sing, please let me know.

Handbell Choir

The Handbell Choir took a temporary hiatus due to the fact that there were not enough parishioners participating. I think everyone agrees that the Handbells are a beautiful addition to the service. We rehearse Thursday evenings from 6:00-7:00. We need a group of eight to make this choir work. If you are interested in playing with the Handbells, please contact me. Do not worry that you have never played Handbells before, or that you can't read music. We will teach you. Let's get the Handbells ringing in church again.

Scott Drackley

Organist/Choirmaster

SECOND ANNUAL TEAM NICO GOLF OUTING

In celebration of Nico Clothier's continued achievements and to support his ongoing recovery, family and friends will host an afternoon of golf and an evening of dinner with a silent auction at the Merion Golf Club, Ardmore, PA. All are welcome!

Date:	Wednesday, September 21, 2011
Place:	Merion Golf Club, West Course Dinner and Silent Auction at Merion's Clubhouse
11:30 a.m.	Golfers Arrive at Merion West Course
12:00 noon	Lunch for Golfers
1:00 p.m.	Shotgun Start
5:30 p.m.	Diners join Golfers at the Merion Clubhouse for Cocktails, Hors d'oeuvres & Silent Auction
6:30 p.m.	Dinner & Prizes

Please contact George Clothier at gwclothier@earthlink.net if you're interested and would like additional information.

TEAM NICO RUNS TO THE POCONOS



On October 7th and 8th Team Nico will be participating in a 197-mile relay race from Lancaster to Mount Pocono, PA and we are looking for a few good (crazy?) runners to fill out the team. We are running this race as a show of respect for Nico's personal marathon of recovery and in celebration of how far he has come.

The race is the Ragnar Relay of Pennsylvania (www.ragnarrelay.com/race/pennsylvania) and should be a beautiful trip from the farmlands of Lancaster county all the way to the Poconos, right at the beginning of the fall foliage season. There will be up to 12 runners on Team Nico and each will be expected to run 3 legs averaging 5.2 miles per leg. You don't need to be fast, just willing to have some fun. We also need 3 volunteers to join the team.

If you are interested in either the golf outing or the run, contact George Clothier for more information at gwclothier@earthlink.net.

WELCOME BRIANNA!

Greetings St. Christopher's Church! My name is Brianna Foti and I am thrilled to have been given the opportunity to be your new Youth Coordinator! I am a certified teacher with a Masters Degree in Elementary Education, and I love working with youth of all ages. I have been a camp counselor, nanny, tutor, teacher at both public and private schools, and my newest experience with children has been as a new mommy. I am really excited about the excellent programs that St. Christopher's has in place, and am eager to use my experience to help them grow. I look forward to meeting you all very soon and am excited about the fun and fruitful year that awaits us!



FAVORITE THINGS

The Lighter Side of Theology
 CHANGING A LIGHT BULB THE CHRISTIAN WAY
 Submitted By: Bunny Mulberger

How many Christians does it take to change a light bulb?

Charismatic: Only 1, hands are already in the air.

Pentecostal: 10—One to change the bulb, and nine to pray against the spirit of darkness.

Presbyterians: None. Lights will go on and off at predestined times.

Roman Catholic: None. Candles only.

Baptists: At least 15. One to change the light bulb, and three committees to approve the change and decide who brings the potato salad and fried chicken.

Episcopalians: 3—One to call the electrician, one to mix the drinks and one to talk about how much better the old one was.

Mormons: 5—One man to change the bulb, and four wives to tell him how to do it.

Unitarians: We choose not to make a statement either in favor of or against the need for a light bulb. However, if in your own journey you have found that light bulbs work for you, you are invited to write a poem or compose a modern dance about your light bulb for the next Sunday service, in which we will explore a number of light bulb traditions, including incandescent, fluorescent, 3-way, long-life and tinted, all of which are equally valid paths to luminescence.

Methodists: Undetermined. Whether your light is bright, dull, or completely out, you are loved. You can be a light bulb, turnip bulb, or tulip bulb. Bring a bulb of your choice to the Sunday lighting service and a covered dish to pass.

Nazarene: 6—One woman to replace the bulb while five men review church lighting policy

Lutherans: None. Lutherans don't believe in change.

Amish: What's a light bulb?



Welcome back!

Greetings St. Christopher's! I hope you all had a fabulous and relaxing summer and are excited about starting a fresh, new school/church year...because we sure are! This summer, St. Christopher's has been extremely busy reorganizing and redecorating the Sunday School Classrooms and we can't wait to have them full of little (and big) cherubs! September 11th is our Sunday School Open House and the following week, September 18th is our Grand Opening and when classes begin! Please stop by and check out our colorful and cozy children's spaces where lots of crafts, games, singing and learning will be happening on Sundays. You can register for Sunday School by completing the registration form on the next page.

Youth Ministries has a busy and fun year ahead, with lots of opportunity to serve... and play! Our first social event will be a trip to Linvilla Orchards on October 2nd. This event will also be open to families of St. Christopher too, so bring your friends, Gramps and Grand mom to this one! Also, we will continue to host 3rd Thursdays monthly, so mark your calendar for our first one on September 15th at 6:30 pm. This is a nice opportunity for youth ages 7th through 12th grades to come together and discuss important topics relevant to them while playing games, watching movies or cooking dinner. Hope to see you there!

Calling all Acolytes...and their friends. If you are in Junior High or High School...we need you. Please contact me and let's schedule the year.

Thank you again for this opportunity to serve you as Youth Coordinator. I look forward to meeting you and meeting the needs of your children!

Peace to You,
Brianna Foti

Teachers Wanted...

If you love kids are interested in becoming a part-time Sunday School teacher, please contact me at 267-346-8763. No planning required, Sundays only. Thanks!

Upcoming Youth Events Fall 2011

- September 11**—Sunday School Open House
- September 15**—6:30pm Third Thursday's Youth Group Meeting
- September 18**—Sunday School Grand Opening! First Day of Classes!
- October 2**—*Apple Day at Linvilla Orchards*: Youth Ministries and Family Fun Day! 11:30 a.m. Lunch at St. Chris, then off to Linvilla to enjoy apple picking, hay rides, pony rides, face painting entertainment, and pumpkinland! Look out for more details! Sign up in Sunday School classrooms or on the members bulletin board.
- October 8**—*The Other Carpenter* Service Mission...more info coming!!

In Search of Acolytes...

The September Acolyte schedule is in the works. If you have never been an acolyte and are interested in participating, please email me at BriannaFoti@saintchristophers.org.



Sr. High Dinner & Bible Study

Every 3rd Thursday. 6:30-8:30pm

***This month: *September 15th*

We will be making an all about me collage, so please bring photos of yourself doing some of your favorite things and also bring magazines with photos to cut out.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL REGISTRATION 2011-2012

Mother's Name _____

Father's Name _____

Address _____

Home Phone Number _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Email Address _____

Child 1

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ Male _____ Female

Grade _____

School _____

Known Allergies _____

Child 2

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ Male _____ Female

Grade _____

School _____

Known Allergies _____

Child 3

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ Male _____ Female

Grade _____

School _____

Known Allergies _____

Child 4

Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Sex _____ Male _____ Female

Grade _____

School _____

Known Allergies _____

ANNOUNCEMENTS

REFRESHMENTS ON THE BREEZEWAY

Thank you to our July and August Refreshments on the Breezeway hosts!

Jeffie Abbott, Debby Merker, Dan and Liz Sossaman, Lillian Wister, Dorothy Fitzpatrick, Nancy and Jack Arndt, Scott and Phyllis Drackley, Lee and Gay Strickler, Judy Moneta and Joan Fouracre

Visit our Coffee Hour webpage at www.SaintChristophers.org to view available dates, instructions and more!

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SEPTEMBER?

September 1—The church office will return to its normal working hours 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

September 11—We will return to two services and it will be the Sunday School Open House.

September 19—During the 10:00 a.m. service will be the Commissioning of the Teachers. It will also be the Sunday School Grand Opening. Join us following the 10:00 a.m. service for the Annual Fall Kick-Off picnic and Day School Open House.

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths:

Betty McFarland	July 4, 2011
Jane Leake	July 14, 2011

NURSERY NEWS

If you put a young one in the nursery over the summer you noticed we now have a pager system. This has been a great help for our Nursery Coordinator, Ann Catania as she now has an easy, reliable way to communicate to the parents. Parents also will appreciate the extra peace of mind they receive knowing they are only a simple page away from their loved ones.

LOOKING AHEAD OCTOBER 2011

Mark your calendars for these upcoming events!

- | | |
|------------|--|
| October 2 | Linvilla Orchards: Youth Ministries and Family Fun Day!
5:00 p.m. Blessing of the Animals |
| October 9 | Halloween Sale |
| October 16 | Confirmation |
| October 23 | Stewardship Sunday |
| October 30 | Commitment Sunday
Halloween Parade |

CHRISTMAS SALE LEADERSHIP NEEDED!

Its not too early to start thinking about the Christmas Sale. New leadership is needed for this major fundraiser. If you are interested, please contact the church office at (610) 642-8920 or staff@saintchristophers.org. Thanks!

DID YOU REMEMBER ST. CHRISTOPHER'S IN YOUR WILL?



September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	2	3
4 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II Refreshments on the Breezeway	5 Labor Day Office Closed	6 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	7 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 8:00 p.m. AA	8 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	9	10
11 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer Sunday School Open House	12	13 7:00 a.m. Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Pastoral Care 7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	14 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	15 6:30 p.m. Youth Bible Study 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	16	17
18 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II Fall Picnic & Day School Open House	19 5:00 p.m. Endowment Committee Mtg	20 7:00 a.m. Bible Study	21 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	22 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	23	24 11:00 a.m. Memorial Service: Jane Leake
25 8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II 10:00 a.m. Morning Prayer	26	27 7:00 a.m. Bible Study 10:00 a.m. Channel Mailing	28 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist 10:00 a.m. Bible Study 8:00 p.m. AA	29 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir	30 3:30 p.m. Metcalf Wedding Rehearsal	

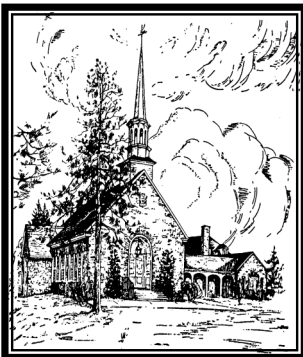
The Channel

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH
226 RIGHTERS MILL ROAD GLADWYNE, PA 19035

CHECK HERE AND RETURN THIS PAGE IF YOU NO
LONGER WISH TO BE ON ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
MAILING LIST.

September 2011

HELP US GO GREEN. SUBSCRIBE TO OUR E-NEWSLETTER BY CONTACTING THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (610) 642-8920
OR SEND AN EMAIL TO SHAWNA@SAINTCHRISTOPHERS.ORG.



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MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH

PARISH STAFF

The Reverend William H. Wood III, Rector
The Reverend Mary E. Laney, Parish Associate
Scott Drackley, Organist/Choirmaster
Brianna Foti, Coordinator of Youth Ministries
Katie Gibbs, Office Manager/Bookkeeper
Shawna Minnucci, Parish Secretary
Val Galati, Sexton
Ann Catania, Nursery Coordinator

VESTRY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

Peter Hunt, Rector's Warden
Ken Jones, Accounting Warden
Tom Allen, Jennifer Colen, Demetrie Comnas, Peggy Cooke,
Cathy Higgins, Susan Hunter, Skip Irvine, Michael Johnson,
Jill Marshall, George Wrangham