



# 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  
JOSH WALTERS, Coordinator of Youth Ministries

Channel - Reflections  
July 2009

## HISTORY OF INDEPENDENCE DAY

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:	
Reflections	1
Rectors Warden Report	2
Teacher Appreciation	2
Our Children and Our Website	3
Azalea Day Profits Soar!	4
Walking For A Cure	4
Hooray for the Choir	5
Summer Reading	5
History of the Pledge of Allegiance	6
Announcements	6
Calendar	7

Schoolchildren in America learn basic history of the events surrounding the Fourth of July, but details of this monumental occasion in American History somehow fall through the cracks. Although July 4th is celebrated as America's official split from Britain's rule and the beginning of the American Revolution, the actual series of events show that the process took far longer than a single day. The original resolution was introduced by Richard Henry Lee of Virginia on June 7, 1776, and called for the Continental Congress to declare the United States free from British rule. Three days later a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson was appointed to prepare an appropriate writing for the occasion. The document that we know as the Declaration of Independence was adopted by Congress on July 4th although the resolution that led to the writing of the Declaration was actually approved two days earlier. All of this had occurred with some of the delegates to the Congress not even present; New York, for example, did not even vote on the resolution until July 9th. Even more interesting is the fact that not a single signature was appended to the Declaration on July 4th. While most of the fifty six names were in place by early August, one signer, Thomas McKean, did not actually sign the Declaration until 1781. Nevertheless, July 4th was the day singled out to mark the event of the United States establishing itself as a nation. Only four American Holidays are still celebrated on their proper calendar days: Halloween, Christmas, New Year's and Independence Day. Of all the secular holidays, the Fourth of July is the only one whose celebration date resists change. Even in more provincial times, suggestions to alter the day of the festival to the preceding Saturday or the following Monday when July 4th fell on Saturday were protested. The feeling about the sanctity of America's Independence Day was best expressed in a quotation from the Virginia Gazette on July 18th, 1777. "Thus may the 4th, that glorious and ever memorable day, be celebrated through America, by the sons of freedom, from age to age till time shall be no more. Amen and Amen"

*Submitted By: Mary E. Laney*

*For the history of The Pledge of Allegiance refer to page 6*

## RECTORS WARDEN REPORT

Our Vestry meeting in June included a full agenda. Peter Hunt presented a detailed report and analysis of Azalea Day. We congratulated Peter, Susan Hunter, and all who worked to make this the most financially successful event to date.

Bill Wood reported on the recent Staff Retreat and shared with us suggestions from the staff for improvements in Parish operations. Tom Allen gave a summation of his research into the security of our website and his report is included in this issue of The Channel. Tom also presented the timeline for the 2010 Stewardship Campaign which he will chair.

The seemingly ceaseless rains of the past month have produced gloomy moods for so many people. Michael Johnson has managed to be quite cheerful despite the fact that he must deal with the overabundance of water in the courtyard and basement. He has devoted a considerable amount of time to researching solutions to the persistent leaks and will be overseeing work this summer to remedy the problem. In addition, Michael talked about plans for other minor "housekeeping" projects such as the repointing of the Church steps. Once again, we thank Michael for his devotion to the job of keeping St. Christopher's in good repair.

The Vestry will meet in July but not in August. We wish you a good summer.

*Mary Anne D. Justice*

## TEACHER APPRECIATION

Thank you to each and everyone of our Sunday School Teachers:

Tom Allen	Brian Kluger
Catharine Bell	Lyn Marinchak
Elena Carlson	Jill Marshall
Dawn Eringis	Brian McAdams
Caralee Gellman	Ellen Pemberton
Skip Irvine	Holly Penning

We had a GREAT year here at St. Christopher's and it is due to your service, leadership and dedication. Thank you so very much for all you have done to make our community better and to share the love that God shares with us everyday. I hope that you all have blessed summers and I'll see you at the end of the summer!

Thank you to Dorine Hodges and Teresa Crewalk who do a wonderful job working with our youngest members in the Nursery. Every week they read, work on letters and numbers, play outside and enjoy their time at church. Thank you also to Susanna Grudstein for doing a great job assisting Dorine and Teresa.



## OUR CHILDREN AND OUR WEBSITE

If you haven't lately, you should check out our website, [www.saintchristophers.org](http://www.saintchristophers.org). On it you'll easily find lots of useful information—names and links for the staff, church calendar, etc. etc. You'll see great pictures and descriptions from Youth outings, Azalea Day, and other Church affairs. The website is well organized and easy to use.



In short, this website is about what it should be. That didn't just happen. It's the product of a lot of effort and thought. We actually fumbled around quite a lot with this, some years ago. It took a new generation of tech-savvy people (our Church Secretary Shawna Minnucci is a good example) to get our website to where and what it is.

Along with this come issues. You want the website to be friendly and accessible and informative. On the other hand, you want to be alert for concerns about misuse of information found on our website.

As the staff and Vestry have discussed this, we've focused in on children. We don't want our website to needlessly expose our parish children to any risks. The level of risk seems to be very low, and you'd think that a malicious Internet user would be more likely to turn to Facebook, etc. than to our website. Still, if simple things can be done to reduce risk, without hurting the effectiveness of our website, we should do them.

After researching the websites and policies of a number of other churches, and considerable discussion, we've instituted two policies. First, in anything on our website or accessible online through our website, last names of our children won't be used. So, for example, if Brian is an Acolyte and that shows up in the Channel or on a schedule available through our website, it will read just "Brian." Second, photos of children won't be captioned; in other words, a stranger won't be able to tell that "Alex" is the kid on the left.

We considered trying to have a system of consent forms, as many schools have nowadays. But that just seems impractical for a church—we don't have the clearly defined population that a school has, and we're not geared up to chase people with forms, or threaten (as some schools do) to withhold services until the forms are filled in. Other churches have reached the same conclusion.

With the above two policies, our website is in the mainstream of church websites. But we want to make sure we're on the same page with parents in the congregation. So if you have any comments or concerns about this, please let me know, at [tallen60@comcast.net](mailto:tallen60@comcast.net). I'd be happy to talk with you.

*Tom Allen*  
*Church Solicitor*

## AZALEA DAY PROFITS SOAR!

We did it! All the tickets have been counted and all the expenses are in. We are now pleased to report that Azalea Day profits roared to a shade over \$33,000 this year – up by \$5000 from 2008 and a new all-time record!

In a year when the economy has taken its toll, our church family and neighborhood friends came out in force to keep Azalea Day alive and thriving. Why? Because this neighborhood festival has become an institution, not only for St. Christopher's but for the village of Gladwyne and beyond. And our supporters know that their time, talent, donations and gifts help the less fortunate at a time when the need is greatest.

But it's not over yet! Popularity of specific activities is trendy, growing or waning in interest over the years. To take advantage of those trends, we're already reviewing the most popular events and activities to help determine how best to channel additional effort next year. For example, children's activities have become increasingly important – something we need to work on developing more for next year.

We also look to you for fresh faces and new ideas to help ensure Azalea Day continues to flourish. Weaving together our legacy favorites with some popular activities will keep Azalea Day on a positive track well into the future. If you see a 'hot' activity at the shore or around town, let us know!

We want to thank each of you for dedicating so much of your time, energy and resources to Azalea Day – an event that demands substantial sacrifice from everyone in the St. Christopher's family. *Thank you!*

*Peter Hunt & Susan Hunter*  
Co-Chairs

## WALKING FOR A CURE

On June 19th, 2009 Katie Gibbs and Ken Jones participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Walk "Celebrating 25 years of Hope" Together with their team they raised \$16,000 for the event. This was in large part to Ken Jones vast number of pledges and the fact that he matched each one dollar for dollar so generously with his own money. (THANKS KEN!!) The funds raised for the day's events totaled over \$200,000 which will go to help cancer research. We had a wonderful day, met some amazing people and made some great memories all for a very worthwhile cause. Hopefully more friends from St. Christopher's can join our team next year and help us continue to fight and win this battle!



## HOORAY FOR THE CHOIR!!!

It has been such a wonderful choir season. The combination of people in the choir makes it a joy to come down every week to work with them. I want to list and thank every one of them personally.

Tom Allen	Karen Irvine	Phil Metcalf
Andrea Broido	Michael Johnson	Judy Moneta
Phyllis Drackley	Susan Lewis	George Rogalsky
Joan Drummond	Elsa Lopusniak	Dan Schwartz
Kit Grundstein	Debby Merker	Blake Smith

They all make for a powerful team. As you all know, we also had the inauguration of the Handbell Choir. We have had such fun practicing and performing (even with a little performance anxiety). The congregation has been very appreciative of this newly formed choir.

Now with all that aside, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that there is always room for expansion in both these choirs. We always have room for you out there, some consider coming to sing or ring with us.

Our children's choir is now in two parts. I would love to see some of the rising 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders join the Youth Choir. I plan on contacting prospective members this summer. Our rehearsals are after the 10:00 service which will make it for parents to go to coffee hour and the Adult Forum. I hope to go down every other week to work with the really little children and have them sing in church again this next year. We had a very nice donation of a piano in one of the Sunday School rooms that I hope to take full advantage of in the fall.

Thanks again to the entire congregation for their support and kind words. I usually am stopped about five times going down the hall after church by parishioners thanking me for the music. This is very encouraging and appreciated by all of us in the music program. So consider coming to join us in the fall. We are a fun group who appreciate good music and love performing it.

*Scott Drackley*

## SUMMER TIME A GREAT TIME TO READ

Check out our tract rack located in the hallway outside of the music room. We have a few new additions that you may find interesting. The pamphlet "Losing A Job" by Thomas L. Ehrich gives some reflections on lessons that can be learned through this experience. "Ten Commandments for Disagreeing" gives some helpful thoughts about dealing with one another when disagreements grow tense. It was submitted to Forward Day by Day by a ninety-year old reader who has been reading the publication almost from its inception in 1935. The list was a clipping from the magazine in 1941 and still kept at her bedside, inside her Prayer Book.

## THE HISTORY OF THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was written by Francis Bellamy in 1892 for "The Youth's Companion". The "Youth's Companion" was celebrating the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival. They were going to have a school celebration for Columbus Day. Francis Bellamy and James Upham worked at the magazine. They wrote the pledge of the children to say. In 1892 it went like this:



I pledge allegiance to my flag and to the republic, for which it stands on nation, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

In 1923 the words changed from "to my flag" to "to the flag". In October 1942 Congress made the pledge official. In 1954 the words "under God" were added to the pledge by Congress.

*Submitted By: Mary E. Laney*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

---



---

### COFFEE HOUR

Thank you to our June Coffee Hour Hosts!

The Murphey-Skorupski Family,  
Ellen Pemberton, Susan Webb,  
Judy Moneta, Susan Hunter,  
Peggy Cooke and Tony  
Vetrano.




---



---

### COURTYARD COMMITTEE

If you signed up to be on the Courtyard Committee, thank you! If not, you are missing a rewarding experience. This is a great family project. Please email Dave Wilder if you are interested at davidmarkwilder@aol.com or call (610) 724-6572 with any questions. Thank you so much for helping to keep St. Christopher's and our grounds beautiful and welcoming!

---



---

### FAVORITE THINGS

It would be much more constructive if people tried to understand their supposed enemies. Learning to forgive is much more useful than merely picking up a stone and throwing it at the object of one's anger, the more so when the provocation is extreme. For it is under the greatest adversity that there exists the greatest potential for doing good, both for oneself and others. - H.H. The XIV Dalai Lama

*Submitted By: Mary E. Laney*

---



---

### SUMMER SCHEDULE

A single Sunday Service will be held at 9:00 a.m. until September 6th. We will return to two services on September 13th. During the months of July and August, the church office will be open from 9:00a.m. to 1:00p.m.

---



---



# July 2009



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<i>1</i> 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  8:00 p.m. AA	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>  Office Closed	<i>4</i>   Independence Day
<i>5</i>  9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  Refreshments on the Breezeway	<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>  7:00 a.m. Bible Study	<i>8</i>  7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  8:00 p.m. AA	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>12</i>  9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  Refreshments on the Breezeway	<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>  7:00 a.m. Bible Study  7:30 p.m. Vestry Meeting	<i>15</i>  7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  8:00 p.m. AA	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>19</i>  9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  Refreshments on the Breezeway	<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>  7:00 a.m. Bible Study	<i>22</i>  7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  8:00 p.m. AA	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>
<i>26</i>  9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Rite I  Refreshments on the Breezeway	<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>  7:00 a.m. Bible Study	<i>29</i>  7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist  8:00 p.m. AA	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>	

# 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.



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHURCH  
226 Righters Mill Road  
Gladwyne, PA 19035  
Phone: (610) 642-8920  
Fax: (610) 642-1241  
[www.SaintChristophers.org](http://www.SaintChristophers.org)

[BillWood@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:BillWood@SaintChristophers.org)  
[MaryLaney@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:MaryLaney@SaintChristophers.org)  
[ScottDrackley@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:ScottDrackley@SaintChristophers.org)  
[JoshWalters@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:JoshWalters@SaintChristophers.org)  
[KatieGibbs@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:KatieGibbs@SaintChristophers.org)  
[Shawna@SaintChristophers.org](mailto:Shawna@SaintChristophers.org)

## 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  
Josh Walters, Coordinator of Youth Ministries  
Katie Gibbs, Office Manager/Bookkeeper  
Shawna Minnucci, Parish Secretary  
Bill Petty, Sexton  
Val Galati, Sexton  
Dorine Hodges, Nursery Coordinator

### VESTRY OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

Mary Anne Justice, Rector's Warden  
Ken Jones, Accounting Warden  
Tom Allen, Jennifer Colen, Peggy Cooke, Cathy Higgins,  
Peter Hunt, Skip Irvine, Michael Johnson, Susan Lewis,  
Ellen Pemberton, George Wrangham