

# THE MESSENGER

Date January, 2012



Christ Church Quaker Farms, 470 Quaker Farms Rd, Oxford, CT 06478 [www.ccqf.org](http://www.ccqf.org) [ccqf@att.net](mailto:ccqf@att.net) (203)888-4963

## HAPPY 200<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY to YOU

By Fr. John

In 1812, our spiritual forefathers and foremothers first assembled and committed their time, talent, and treasure to establish Christ Church Quaker Farms.

- Construction of the “chapel” began October, 1812.
- The building itself was not finished until 1813 or afterwards (Norman Litchfield, *A History of Christ Church Quaker Farms*, p. 147)

So, our Bicentennial celebrates not the completion of a new building, but the assembly of a new people, known as CCQF. Indeed, the term “church” comes from the Greek, which literally translated means “assembly”, an assembly of people. Indeed, the apostolic church of the first century had no building, but rather met wherever they could.

Certainly our church building is wonderfully beautiful. When I first saw the church building about a year ago, I was awe struck by the majestic steeple and shining white walls. Upon walking into the nave, I was captivated by all the light, shining through the beautiful windows; the sky blue ceiling; and the shining chandelier. I could not help but think that this was a place that had been deeply loved. This is a sculpture, which gives much glory to God.

Shortly after that, I began to meet some of the people of CCQF; and I continue to meet new people, all the time. How many hundreds and hundreds of people have assembled here over the past 200 years, to celebrate Christ by reaching out in love to one another and to the community? Speaking to Christians in the first century, St.

### RECTOR THE REV. JOHN DONNELLY

Wardens - Robert Knapp, Michael Bawlick  
 Clerk of the Vestry - Carrie Stepneck  
 Treasurer - Renee Knapp  
 Vestry Members - John Carson, Patti Doyle, Wanda Falconer, Michael Gibbons, Joe Hines, Jackie McDonnell, Ted Pallman, Anne Marie Sharron, Delegate, Arthur Aldred, Marilyn Stebar  
 Secretary - Tammy Borkowski  
 Acolyte Director - Thad Burr  
 Altar Guild Director - Kim Wentz  
 Church School Administrator- Tami Bogart  
 Sexton - Wanda Falconer  
 Interim Assistant of Music - Michael Brelsford

Peter wrote, *“As you come to Jesus, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him—<sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:4-5).*

The architecture of Christ Church is not only beautiful, but so are the “living stones” whom the Lord has used and is now using to build His church. Living stones of CCQF consists of the precious assembly of people, who made their sacrificial contributions throughout our history, and who are making sacrificial contributions today. The Rev. Tim Carberry, former CCQF Rector (1970 - 1982), wrote that we see in CCQF *‘the ultimate expression of man's faith in God... We love this church; for as she brings us closer to Him, she brings us closer to each other.’*

The CCQF Bicentennial Committee prays that in the year ahead, we will all come together to reconnect with our spiritual roots, grow closer to God and one another, and reach out to the community in the love of Jesus. Let us continue to build upon the foundation, which we have inherited, and upon the cornerstone, which is Jesus Christ our Lord (Mark 12:10).

## 200 Years Celebrating Christ at Christ Church Quaker

By Bob Knapp, Senior Warden

Greetings in the Name of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ – As we prepare for our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary or Bicentennial Events the Vestry is seeking to not conflict our projected Bicentennial special events with our regularly scheduled Church events. Below are some of the events we are considering for 2012. Your ideas and input are appreciated; these are only proposed dates and some events will shift while still others may yet be added or removed. We should attempt to lock in events at least a quarter (90 days) in advance for planning and preparation purposes. Our special events are highlighted in yellow.

### January:

- **8<sup>th</sup>:** Inaugural Bicentennial Service & Epiphany Party (Chair: Kathie Osborn)
- **13<sup>th</sup>:** Youth Group Talent Show & Not Just Pizza Night Dinner
- **15<sup>th</sup>:** next Bicentennial Committee Meeting, Sunday, 11:30am. ALL ARE WELCOME.

### February 12<sup>th</sup>: Annual Meeting after 11 A.M. Service

### March:

- **3<sup>rd</sup>** (1st Saturday) at 11AM: Installation Ceremony for Father John
- Lenten Pancake Breakfasts will continue every Sundays between 8am & 10am services

### April

- **5<sup>th</sup>:** Seder Meal: regularly with the Cersonsky's; Lori Farrell has the lead on food

### May:

- **4<sup>th</sup>:** Progressive Dinner; Jo Ann Bredenberg has the lead

### June

- **24<sup>th</sup>:** Church Picnic

### July

- **2<sup>nd</sup> week:** Vacation Bible School
- **Date TBA:** Classic Car Show at Christ Church  
Chair: John Costello



### September:

- **9<sup>th</sup>:** Sunday School Opens
- **23<sup>rd</sup>:** Big Church Fair with “plant a tree” done by our young children who raise money and get a plaque; “time capsule” done by our Youth Group; balloon rides by Thad Burr in the Church Field; “Period Dress Up” for 1812 era clothing; horse rides (small cart – next to Memorial Garden)

### October:

- **Date TBA:** House Tours. Kim Wentz has the lead; include a stop at Christ Church for a history presentation & tour by Marilyn Stebar
- **Date TBA:** Parish History Presentation; Marilyn Stebar has the lead; dinner to follow

### November:

- **Date TBA:** Honoring of 200 Years of Veterans at Christ Church & Veterans from Oxford.

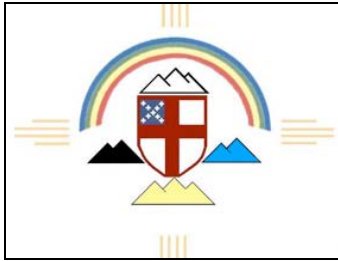
**Notes:** we are planning to join the “Town Cleaning Day” for Oxford with a large contingent from Christ Church for Community Outreach... Leigh Crutchfield has volunteered to coordinate the creation of a photo album for all our 2012 events; she requests that we find volunteers to take photos at each of our 2012 events, and she will work with them to build the album.

Let's all get involved and take part in this special and amazing year at Christ Church – we need your leadership and your faith!

## Navajoland

By Marilyn Stebar, Delegate

The Episcopal Church in Navajoland (ECN), known formally as Navajoland Area Mission is located in



the Four Corners Region of the United States. ECN exists in one of the most economically and financially struggling regions in the country. Navajoland has long participated in efforts to integrate Navajo language, traditions and spirituality within its expression of Episcopal faith and life. The people seek to live out the power of God's incarnation as proclaimed in the Gospel through the Navajo language and spirituality.

Christ Church Quaker Farms has been a friend to ECN for many years now. It is our tradition for the children to bring in unwrapped presents for us to send to the children in Navajoland.

Unwrapped gifts will be collected on Sunday, **January 8<sup>th</sup>**, in remembrance of the Three Kings who gave their gifts to Jesus.

Do you have Christmas gifts that your kids do not like? Give them to those who have little.

Each child should bring at least one gift to church on Sunday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. The Sunday school will process into the church and offer them at the altar.

**Please continue to wear your name tags!!!!**



By wearing your name tags you help Fr. John and other newcomers to our parish family. It is greatly appreciated!!!

## Vestry Positions

By Bob Knapp, Sr. Warden



All interested members Of Christ Church please take note of the following Christ Church leadership selection process for our 2012 Annual Meeting.

The following are Episcopal Church qualifications to be nominated for possible election to the Vestry: you must be a baptized person of at least 18 years of age, who is of good moral character, who during the past six months (at least) has been a regular attendant at Sunday worship, and has been a regular contributor to this parish.

We have four openings on the Vestry for 2012, and the Vestry is actively seeking interested persons to fill these four positions. The Vestry will nominate people for these positions during the Annual Meeting, and nominations will also be taken from the floor during the Annual Meeting for these four positions; a vote by our general membership during the Annual Meeting will decide the selection of these four Vestry members.

Interested persons should contact Senior Warden, Bob Knapp, (203)270-9317; Junior Warden, Michael Bawlick, (203)888-6526 or any of our current Vestry members no later than Sunday, Feb. 6<sup>th</sup>.

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for **Sunday Feb. 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM** after Church.

The Vestry is also seeking to fill our Clerk position for anyone interested - the Clerk position is a non-voting, administrative support member of our Vestry.

Thank you.

## New Acolytes Needed

By Thad Burr, Acolyte Director



### NEW ACOLYTES NEEDED FOR NEW CLASS BEGINNING TUESDAY JANUARY 10<sup>th</sup> SIGN UPS NOW NEEDED

Being an acolyte is a very important, time honored position within the Episcopal Church. It requires maturity, attention to detail, a willingness to learn, and a desire to make a difference within our church. Being an acolyte is a significant responsibility, demonstrates the confidence the priest has in you, facilitates your active participation in the church, and actively builds upon your faith.

I tentatively plan on conducting our next series of classes beginning Tuesday, January 10<sup>th</sup> and each succeeding Tuesday, for a total of four classes. Sunday, the 5<sup>th</sup> of February, will tentatively be a "field trip" to Trinity Cathedral in Hartford to observe a mass with a full complement of acolytes, torch bearers, crucifers, and banner carriers. The following Sunday, the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, Father John will commission the acolytes. Acolytes will not be scheduled for duties as an acolyte until they feel confident, but in any case, no earlier than the 4<sup>th</sup> of March. If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact me: Thad Burr (203)262-6624; e-mail: thadburr@aol.com.

If you and your child are interested, please contact me, Father John, or Tammy Borkowski, with the child's name and contact information. Candidates should be at least 12 years of age, willing, sincere, regular attendees, and cooperative.

## Rector and Staff Notes

By Fr. John

After 10 years of loyal and dedicated service, **KAREN OLSON**, **Bulletin Secretary** of CCQF, has decided to step down from this position. Karen is the longest tenured staff member of CCQF, whose faithful service has blessed so many for these many years. She will be honored by the Vestry at the Annual Meeting (Sunday, February 12). Meanwhile, **TAMMY BORKOWSKI**, **Parish Secretary**, will undertake these duties.

I am pleased to announce that **MIKE BRELSFORD** of Stafford has accepted the appointment as CCQF's new **Interim Assistant for Music**. Last spring, Mike graduated with a BA in English from Fordham University. Now he is a substitute teacher in the Stratford and Bridgeport school districts. He has led music in churches both as a volunteer and paid staff. Mike has previously joined us to lead contemporary music at CCQF. He will be a great addition to our ministry. As I reported in the last *Messenger*, it is our intention to deploy a part time organist, who will provide leadership for traditional worship music. This "**Visiting Organist**," along with Mike, will provide their professional skills to enrich our Sunday worship as we give glory to God. Special thanks to **Amy Cote**, **Michael Bawlick**, and **Patti Doyle**, along with the rest of the choir, for their labors of love in providing worship music during the "in-between-times" when CCQF has had no musical staff.

Finally, I am also pleased to announce that **The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens**, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut, will come to Christ Church Quaker Farms on **Saturday, March 3, 2012 at 11:00 a.m.**, to preside at the **Celebration of a New Ministry & Installation** of your new Rector.

- ❖ Preacher: **The Rev. Ellen Donnelly**
- ❖ Chair: **Kathie Osborn**

## They Brought Christmas Cheer to Us

With deep appreciation, we thank all those who contributed to our CCQF Christmas celebrations, especially...

- ❖ Michael Bawlick, John Carson, & their kitchen crew, for hosting our Caroling Party;
- ❖ Kim Wentz (Chair), Joyce Pallman, and the Altar Guild & friends for decorating our church;
- ❖ The Pallmans and the Knapps for arranging for the transportation of our guest organist on Christmas Eve;
- ❖ Lori Farrell & John Carson, for coordinating our Christmas outreach;
- ❖ Cub Master Dan Bothell for coordinating the participation of Cub Pack 14 in serving dinner to the homeless on January 2;
- ❖ Karen Olsen for the Christmas bulletins,
- ❖ The Knapp's, for donating the new American flag, which previously flew over the U.S. Capitol, and which now hangs from our balcony;
- ❖ All those who made special donations to purchase Christmas flowers.

Special thanks to all those who proclaimed the Good News of Christmas through our Christmas Pageant, including the

CAST: Julia Sharron, Kristy Capodagli, Erin Cote, Sage Borkowski, Spenser Burkowsky, Maddie Sastram, Sophia Gendron, Lexi Mays, Robin Cote, Julia McAllister, Aidan McDonnell; Cooper McAllister, John Bogart, Shannon Searles, Molly Sastram, Matt Conklin, Emma Skolozdra, Julianna Gerjes, Kendra Bogart, Nicholas Macisco, Noah Macisco, Brady Evon

- ❖ John Carson & Marilyn Stebar, for coordinating the visit of St. Nicholas to the 4pm Christmas Eve service
- ❖ ADULT HELPERS: Molly Turchuk, Tami Bogart, Ella Sastram & Christopher Wentz;
- ❖ YOUTH GROUP BAND & CHORUS: Sydney Borkowski, Jeremiah Burr, Katelyn Capodagli, Dana Cote, Hannah Macisco, Hannah McDonnell, Dan Osborn, Tim Osborn, Tyler Sharron, Katelyn Wentz;
- ❖ THE 2 WISE WOMEN: Tammy Borkowski (Director) & Amy Code (Music Director)
- ❖ SET: Jay Borkowski

## Safe Church Training for a Kid Safe Church

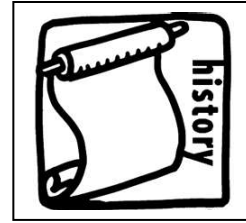
By Renee Knapp, Treasurer

Safe Church Training sessions are designed to increase the physical, emotional, and spiritual safety of our church and ministries. The course is intended to increase awareness of misconduct and abuse; outline preventative measures, and offer ways to intervene when an abuse or misconduct occurs. The course also offers parish leadership guidance on healing and restoration of the church.

The Diocese of Connecticut strongly recommends, and our insurance company requires, that all lay ministers in parish leadership, to include the vestry, church schoolteachers, youth group leaders, choir directors, acolyte leaders, volunteers working in the church on a regular basis, and anyone else who works with children to attend this training. All lay persons are welcome to attend this training. We are looking at attending training at St. Paul's Church in Huntington on **Saturday, March 24, 2012, from 9am to 4pm**. The training is free, and lunch will be provided. Please contact Renee Knapp to register or for more information.

## History of Christ Church Quaker Farms

From Marilyn Stebar



On February 12, 1812 approval was granted for the erection of a chapel in Quaker Farms. *In observance of this Anniversary the Messenger will carry a series of short articles about the history of Christ Church.*

**1740** – Oxford set apart from Derby as separate Congregational parish

**1760** – Episcopal services held in private homes.

**1764** – St. Peter's parish established by the Rev. Richard Mansfield to serve Episcopalians of Oxford. Few record before 1800.

**Revolutionary period** difficult for the Episcopal Church because of its connection with the Church of England. Clergy, having taken at ordination an oath of allegiance to the King, could not in conscience omit the prayers for the King in the services. Diocesan Convocation Record tells of Convention held in New Haven July 23, 1776, which devised a form of Service dispensing with the use of the Book of Common Prayer. This service was authorized for use in public worship. It started with singing followed by "a chapter out of the Old Testament, some commentary, a Psalm, a Sermon and lastly part of the 6<sup>th</sup> Chapter of St. Matthew ending with the Lord's Prayer all kneeling. The Blessing."

In the few existing record of early St. Peter's we find among the leaders the names of Silas Hawkins and Nathaniel Wooster both residents of Quaker Farms.

**Feb. 12, 1812** – Approval granted to Episcopalians of Quaker Farms for erection of chapel in Quaker Farms provided that members remained united with St. Peter's parish and that they paid for the building.

Many of the subscribers were not Episcopalians. Proviso in subscription form that "the chapel is to be used as a place of worship by every denomination of Christians known and allowed of in this state – when it is not occupied by ministers of the Episcopal Church", then as "St. Peter's Chapel" and finally as "Christ Church".

**October 1812** – Work started. Tradition that all meeting which decided to proceed the chairman, Squire Tomlinson, promised five gallons of the best St. Croix rum to the man who got the first main stick of timber on the ground. Not in diary of Cyrus Perry says, "I, Cyrus Perry, drew the first stick of timber 64 feet long." Neglected to say whether he got the rum.

**Sept. 3, 1817** – Consecration of Christ Church by Bishop Hobart of New York. No Bishop in Connecticut at that time.

"Forgiveness is thought by many to mean liking the person or understanding the action. It does not! Rather do this, become quiet, contemplate the wrong, say a prayer to God and ask for strength and then say, "I fully and freely forgive whomever." "I forgive the whole incident in question– as far as I am concerned it is finished forever. That person is free and so am I." If ever the thought comes back to you, do not repeat the forgiveness, because that has been fully and completely done. Simply bless the delinquent and dismiss the thought. Do that however often is required to rid yourself of the thought. You soon enough will be free of the bitterness and resentment. Simple? NO! But it is the pathway to recovery."

Wilf Grolman

## Some good news from the Healing Ministry

By Patti & Paul Doyle, Chairpersons

How wonderful that Christmas fell on the last Sunday of December in 2011, when we'd normally have a Sunday Healing Service. What a great day to give thanks, honor and glory to our true physician and Savior by celebrating his birth!!

We're looking forward to growing our ministry in 2012, and we're excited that someone will be joining us for the healing service in January to tell our parish family about his devastating illness and his continuing miraculous recovery. When I told him that we had been praying for him on Wednesday evenings since May 2011, and lifting his name up on Sunday during prayers of the people he immediately said he wanted to come and thank everyone!

His illness began about 15 yrs ago like flu that never really manifested itself, over time he experienced debilitating anxiety, depression, agoraphobia, cardiac issues, intense joint pain, loss of sight, nerve damage, addiction to psychiatric medications, injury to his brain and nervous system. His journey is remarkable. Please come to the 10:00 service on **January 29th** and listen as he shares his story and offers his thanks.

## GOOD STEWARDSHIP NEWS

*From the 2012 Stewardship Task Force: Bob Knapp (Sr. Warden), Mike Bawlick (Jr. Warden), Renee Knapp (Treasurer), Tammy Borkowski (Finance Committee Chair), & Fr. John*

As has been previously announced, Fr. John and the Vestry have been praying for a 50% increase in the number of parishioners making pledges, and the Lord has answered our prayers. **OUR PRAYERS HAVE BEEN ANSWERED.** To date, we have received 50 pledges to financially support our parish in 2012. This is a 50% increase over the total number of pledges (33) made in 2011.

This includes:

- 20 new pledges
- 18 increased pledges

This is wonderful news. A 50% increase in pledging units is almost unheard of. We believe that this demonstrates a growing commitment to CCQF by you, the membership.



However, we still have not heard from all our membership. Do not worry about making a pledge, which you believe is too small. Jesus says He does not look at the amount of the gift, but at the heart of the giver (Luke 21:1-4). That is what we are looking for too. We want to demonstrate that we all support the good work which Jesus is doing at CCQF.

Pledge cards may be picked up at church by the entrances and mailed to the church office and put in the offering plate. If you would like the office to mail you a card, contact us at the church office at 203-226-9197 or <[ccqf@att.net](mailto:ccqf@att.net)>.

## What is Coffee Hour?

By Renee Knapp

What is coffee hour? Coffee hour is a time to catch up with one another, talk about the past week, make plans for the coming week. It's a time to socialize and have fellowship. Here at Christ Church, church members take turns hosting coffee hour. You and your family can host coffee hour alone, or even better, host with a friend. Hosting coffee hour is an easy way to participate in church without having to make a commitment to a large block of time or money. Coffee hour can be as formal or informal as you would like. Whatever your serving style might be, here are a few basic instructions for hosting:

Before the 10: a.m. service

**The coffee is usually set up by John Carson. If for some reason he can't do it, the directions for the coffee are near the coffee pots.**

- Try to use the pass-thru to the left of the kitchen doors for setting up food.
- Napkins, paper plates, and cups can be found in the cabinets under the coffee pots.
- Prepare the coffee counter. Sugar, sweetener, tea bags, etc. can be found under the counter. Please set out hot chocolate and tea.
- Prepare any goodies that will be served, but please do not put them out on the table until later. Keep any food items covered.
- Put out any utensils if needed.

**After the service** (most hosts leave the sanctuary after receiving communion)

- Put out any goodies that will be served.
- Put out milk and /or creamer. (The host provides this)
- Put out any other cold beverages you might have brought or that might be in the refrigerator

- Please make sure anything from the refrigerator is not marked for the pre-school.

### After coffee hour is over

- Pick up and throw away any trash that others might have forgotten.
- Dump out any extra coffee or water from the pots, and rinse the pots.
- Clear off any leftover refreshments. Please take home any leftovers.
- Wipe down the tables in the Parish hall, and wipe down the big prep table in the kitchen.
- Wash any utensils and platters that were used.
- Take the garbage bags out to the dumpster and replace new liners (found in the back room) in the cans.
- Please clean up any obvious messes in the Parish hall, and sweep the tiled floor if needed.

You are done. Thank you very much for volunteering to host coffee hour.

## Coffee Hour January 2012



Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> - Evon Family  
 Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> - Falconer Family  
 Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> - Turchuk Family  
 Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup> - Knapp Family  
 Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> - Bogart Family

# Inaugural Bicentennial Celebration

**Epiphany Sunday,  
January 8, 10am**

\*\*Children present unwrapped presents for Navajo land  
\*\*Epiphany Party & Luncheon hosted by the Bicentennial Committee



**Jan. 13<sup>th</sup>** - Talent Show 7:00 p.m. - "Not Just Pizza Night" - 5:30 p.m.

**Feb. 24-25<sup>th</sup>**- Every day, hunger kills as many as 11,000 kids under age 5. **Together, we can overcome hunger.** Our youth will go hungry to raise money



## Upcoming Activities

By Michael Bawlick, Jr. Warden



**Clean Up Day** - for kitchen and surrounding area. All volunteers needed. Bring your cleaning supplies. Come anytime between **8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Sat., Jan. 14<sup>th</sup>**. Free coffee & Donuts

**Men's Breakfast** - Saturday, January 28<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 a.m. - Good God....Good conversation...Good Food. All Men Welcome



Christ Church Quaker Farms  
470 Quaker Farms Rd  
Oxford, CT 06478



### Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
*(Traditional - Rite I)*

10:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist  
*(Contemporary - Rite II)*

Sunday school during the 10:00 a.m. service