It is summer! In the church’s liturgical year, we often call this Ordinary time, the season after Pentecost. But Maine in the summer is far from ordinary. It is the ordinary things, however, that often point us to what is extra-ordinary. I love Mary Oliver’s poem, “I would like to write a poem about the world that has in it nothing fancy” because it reminds me of God’s miraculous gifts that are all around us. As you experience these summer days, may you be blessed by these ordinary and miraculous signs of God.

Peace and Blessings,

Allison

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I would like to write a poem about the world that has in it nothing fancy. But it seems impossible.

Whatever the subject, the morning sun glimmers it. The tulip feels the heat and flaps its petals open and becomes a star.

The ants bore into the peony bud and there is a dark pinprick well of sweetness.

As for the stones on the beach, forget it. Each one could be set in gold.

So I tried with my eyes shut, but of course the birds were singing. And the aspen trees were shaking the sweetest music out of their leaves.

And that was followed by, guess what, a momentous and beautiful silence as comes to all of us, in little earfuls, if we’re not too hurried to hear it.

As for spiders, how the dew hangs in their webs even if they say nothing, or seem to say nothing. So fancy is the world, who knows, maybe they sing.

So fancy is the world, who knows, maybe the stars sing too, and the ants, and the peonies, and the warm stones, so happy to be where they are, on the beach, instead of being locked up in gold.

-- from Why I Wake Early, by Mary Oliver
The Annual Meeting of Christ Church was held on Sunday June 23, 2013. The Annual Reports, which were distributed two weeks prior to the meeting, contained the information about finances and officers that would be voted on at the meeting. The Budget for 2013-2014 was presented and accepted by the Congregation. The Slate of Cabinet Officers was presented and approved by the Congregation.

We are faced with some challenges in the coming year, and ask for all your prayers and help in filling the gaps and meeting the needs. Our beloved Hannah Engel has moved to New Hampshire to be closer to her family. Her weekly care of the young children was a ministry that will be sadly missed. A call has gone out to the congregation to think about how we can once again provide childcare on Sunday mornings.

The Search Committee is meeting weekly to complete the Church Profile and put together a Prospectus that will be used in attracting candidates for the half-time Pastor position. A survey will be given to the membership in August, which will be critical in determining what qualities we want in a new pastor. The Search Committee will be traveling to Augusta on August 21st to meet with Susie Craig, Associate Pastor of the UCC, and to view the new Conference Center that has resources useful to all churches.

The Cabinet members, Officers, and Committee members and chairs are included in the Annual Report. Please take some time to look this over, and praise God for all the hard working people who are continuing the tradition of welcome and acceptance for all of Christ’s people.

Blessings and Peace,

Beverly Heald
Christ Church Cabinet Chair

“The teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” Jesus said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” -Matthew 22:36-39

Check the Calendar!
A lot goes on here at Christ Church, and to keep track, we have an online calendar on our website www.christchurchkennebunk.org
Please let the Secretary know if you have events to add, or notice any errors: Jane King 985-4494 jkchristchurch@gwi.net
We had a very special Sunday on June 24, as many members of York Lodge No 22, A. & F. Masons from Kennebunk joined us for worship, processing in formal regalia. The Masons celebrated the bicentennial anniversary of their lodge by worshipping with us in the morning and presenting a grand concert in our sanctuary in the afternoon. During the Morning Worship service, their representative, George Pulkkinen, played bagpipes along with the organ, and read our scripture lessons for the day. In the afternoon, eight outstandingly talented local musicians joined our Music Director, Warren King, in presenting music composed and famously performed by Masons. The first half of the concert was classical music, from Mozart and Frederick the Great up until Morton Gold, who lives in Springvale, performing his own composition. Thesecond half was more modern, from John Philip Sousa to George M. Cohan, George Gershwin, Louis Armstrong, and more.

We have begun a new tradition here at Christ Church. On Communion Sundays, we bring non-perishable food to gather and dedicate it at the altar for the York County Food Bank. The next Communion Sunday will be July 7; be sure to remember your contribution to ease hunger for our neighbors.

Bethana Adams, a devoted member of Christ Church for nearly forty years, passed away peacefully at the age of 100 on May 4, with her daughters by her side. There will be a memorial service here on Saturday July 27, at 11:00 a.m.

Our Search Committee is working hard to complete our congregational profile, an essential element in the process of identifying our next settled Pastor. On the Committee are Rev. Jim Anderson, Denise Butler, Dick Cadmus, Rhoda Frederick, Beverly Heald, Carol Holmberg, and Elizabeth Schofield. They will be meeting weekly through the summer. May our prayers and thanks and God’s guidance be with them as they embark on this crucial task.

Muchas Gracias!
The annual York Association UCC campaign to feed school children in impoverished areas of Honduras was a big success, thanks to your great generosity! At Christ Church, over $800 was raised and sent through secure channels purchase and distribute fresh, nutritious food to the children so they can start their school day nourished and ready to learn. It’s all about the children!
Christian Education

The Christian Education Committee will be meeting during the summer to brainstorm engaging new programs for our children. This past year, we had a rotating team of Sunday School teachers, so no one could get “burned out” from the teaching. The teaching team all found the experience enriching and joyful. As one of the volunteers, Beverly Heald, put it: “This is not my area of expertise, but I had a great time with the children working on the Palm Sunday dramatizations. I found them to be interested and responsive to the biblical teaching of Holy Week and I got as much from them as they got from me.” If you enjoy interacting with children, please think about it in a prayerful way, asking for insight into how you might be able to help bring God’s love to our children.

We also have a need for nursery and toddler child care. Hannah Engel, who has been our beloved angel caring for our young children each Sunday, has moved away. She will be greatly missed by the children, and they are in need of someone who can step into this role. If you think you would like to give this ministry a try, please let Allison know right away. We are all God’s children, and our smallest ones need special TLC.

Mission Opportunities

Your York Association, UCC, has both youth and an adult mission trips planned for Seacoast Maine. Housing rehabilitations of all kinds are needed in many of the coastal communities and islands in Downeast Maine. Your York Association is now accepting applications for a 2-day weekend trip for October 5-6, and 5-day mission trips October 7-11, 2013, or with the youth October 4-9, 2013. The two-day trip will be focused on youth oriented projects. The 5-day trip is focused on more difficult projects. Adults have three options, a two day trip with the youth, a 5-day trip that includes two days with youth, or a 5-day adults only trip.

**Youth Mission Trip** for youth 15 and up (adults welcomed). Group will travel late afternoon, arrive evening, on Friday October 4 and stay in accommodations in Cherryfield Maine. Costs, including fees, accommodations, and meals will be $150 per person. Return mid-afternoon, Sunday, October 6.

**Adults Mission Trip**- Arrive afternoon of Sunday, October 6 Or Friday October 4, and. depart afternoon of Friday, October 11 or Thursday October 9. Costs, including fees, accommodations and meals will be $250 per person.

**Payment schedule** $15 due with application. Final payment will be due August 1. Once we have sent the payment in to Maine Seacoast Mission, that payment cannot be refunded. The portion of the total cost for meals and other expenses will be refunded if you have to cancel.

**Ready to Go?** Put in the appropriate application and include a deposit per the schedule on the application.

**Need more info?** Contact Dick Cadmus, Mission co- chair at 207 985-6788, or email: rcdmus@maine.rr.com or follow this link: [http://www.seacoastmission.org/housing_repair.html](http://www.seacoastmission.org/housing_repair.html) For info on the facilities and transportation provided to the islands, follow this link: [http://www.seacoastmission.org/sunbeam.html](http://www.seacoastmission.org/sunbeam.html)

**Undecided?** Put in an application. mark "UNDECIDED". That will get you on our email list, so you can then attend the first meeting. If you decide not to go after that meeting, your deposit will be refunded.
Comming Events

Kids Free to Grow Fundraiser

The Ladies’ Fellowship of Christ Church supports Kids Free to Grow (Child Abuse Prevention Services of York County) throughout the year. Saturday, July 13 we have an opportunity to volunteer our services at the Private Garden Tour of the Kennebunks, their summer fundraiser. Volunteer 2 or 3 hours, and you will receive a free ticket to the tour, for which you would otherwise pay $30! Please contact Helen Newton if you can help: 985-1223.

Summer Senior Expo

Looking for information on senior communities, products, or services? The Summer Senior Expo at Kennebunk Elementary School on Wednesday, July 24, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will have 42 booths, family story and iPad workshops, a AAA Keeping the Keys class, and antiques appraisals to benefit the Alzheimers Association. A complete program is at www.MaineSeniorGuide.com, or call 232-7847. The school is at 177 Alewive Road in Kennebunk.

Flute Concert

Our friend, Rachael Barter, who played so exquisitely at the Masonic concert June 23, will bring several of her colleagues to Christ Church to present a concert of compositions for flute on Sunday, July 28, at 2:00.

Volunteer Orientation – Help Grieving Children

The Center for Grieving Children, in Sanford, will be holding Volunteer Orientations this summer the last Wednesday of each month: July 31, and August 28th, from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. There are a variety of ways to get involved and help this vital resource. FMI: Janice@cgcmaine.org

SOULFEST: Music, Love, Action

July 31 through August 3: SOULFEST, New England’s largest social justice and Christian music festival, with 125 renowned artists and speakers on 5 different stages in the beautiful White Mountains of Gilford, NH, with a variety of ways to get involved, and camping spaces available. Information is available at thesoulfest.com or 978-346-4577.

Downeast Spiritual Life Conference

August 23-24: The second annual Downeast Spiritual Life Conference in Bar Harbor “Spirituality in Our Times: Embracing Diversity, Creating Community.” Speakers from varying religious and spiritual perspectives, workshops, a spiritual retreat, and a concert by Noah Paul Stookey. downeastspiritual.org 374-5200

Turkey 2013

Plans are currently underway for a trip to Turkey, October 21-31. Rev. Bryan Breault and Rev. Susie Craig will lead in exploring this country of mystery and legend, with history at every turn. Mosques, Synagogues and ancient Christianity will mark the itinerary. The underground city of Cappadocia, the Blue Mosque in Istanbul, the ancient city of Ephesus and more await. Contact Susie Craig at susiecraigmca@aol.com with questions.
Local Outreach

Summer Free Lunch Program
Concerned people in Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, and Arundel are organizing to serve nutritious lunches twice a week to the children of RSU #21 who receive subsidized lunches during the school year, but have no such resources in summertime. Lunch preparation will take place on **Tuesday and Thursday** mornings from **10:00 to about 11:30** at a rotation of area churches. The volunteers will be preparing and packing lunches at Christ Church July 16 and 18, and August 6, 8, 13, and 15.

If you can help prepare or deliver lunches, please call Beth Jones, **967-3613**. If you know of a family that could benefit from this program, please encourage them to call their General Assistance Officer: Arundel: Wendy Lank, 985-4201; Kennebunk: Karen Winton, 985-2102, ext.1342; Kennebunkport: Judy Barrett, 976-4401.

**STUFF THE BUS!**
The words of a famous song tell us it’s summer time and the livin’ is easy. Those of us who live with four weather seasons of the year love summer but we need to be like the ants and think about what lies around the corner. There will always be a new school year and children will need supplies.

**STUFF THE BUS** is a school readiness program based in the Sanford/Springvale area which provides backpacks, school supplies and used band instruments for low-income students in these towns and surrounding areas where needed. The program helped 700 children last year including those in York County Shelters. Some of the supplies have been more useful to teachers and “Teacher’s Tables” are also set up throughout the school year to fill teacher’s needs.

The request to our members is for any and all new school supplies and/or financial donations to: United Way of York County, P.O.Box 727, Kennebunk, ME 04043 or to Christ Church with a memo of **Stuff the Bus** on all checks. This program will be active until **August 15th** and a collection box will be in the dining area at Christ Church throughout this time. You may also see school buses in parking lots at various stores and malls with Stuff The Bus signs as a reminder, where supplies may also be dropped off.

Please also keep in mind that our Mission Committee will be collecting donations for the annual **“Sneaker Project”** for school children in the care of “Caring Unlimited.” This project will run from **August 18 to Sept. 8.**

Christ Church **Knitting Ministry** is a satisfying way to contribute to ministries in our community. Projects large and small are welcome, such as small prayer squares, seafarers’ caps, and lap robes and prayer shawls. Directions and yarn are available in the knitting room, and you can knit with us Sunday morning, or work at home, as suits you.

As well as hand-knit caps, the **Seafarers’ Friend Mission** in Portland also very much appreciates donations of books and magazines. These can be dropped off in the Vestry.

**Bon Appetit** is a free community meals program in Biddeford. On the **fourth Tuesday of the month, at 3:45 p.m.,** a team from Christ Church carpoools to Second Congregational Church in Biddeford to help prepare and serve dinner for those in need. Volunteers are always welcome to join. See Judy or Dick Cadmus for more information, 985-6788.

**Tuesday morning Bible Study Group** will be taking the summer off, to resume in September.
Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers are an extremely important part of successful daily operations at York County Shelter Programs, the non-profit agency that serves homeless and hungry people in our area. At the present time, volunteers are needed in several different areas:

1. Volunteer drivers: using the agency vehicle and must have a good driving record
   a. will transport shelter residents to locations in Sanford afternoons, evenings
   b. once every other week to the social security office in Saco, day is flexible for the driver
   c. food pick-up’s several days a week
2. Food Services: volunteers 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 waiting on bakery customers, wrapping products, etc.
3. Food pantry: organizing food, cleaning, distributing food
4. Serve noon meal: includes set-up and clean-up, no cooking, Saturday or Sunday 10:30 a.m. to 1:30.
5. Special events: Shaker Hill Apple Festival, Saturday and Sunday, September 14, 15, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 or 12:00 noon to 3:30, for both days. About 70 volunteers are needed.

If you can help in any of these ways, please contact Joan Sylvester: 324-1137 ex-105, joans@ycspi.org

From the York County Shelters Program website, shakerhill.mainesysadmin.com:

What is Homelessness?
Homelessness is sometimes represented by the skid row derelict or someone displaced as a result of a job loss or other economic hardship. Neither stereotype adequately describes homelessness in rural Maine at the turn of the millennium. Homelessness is a condition of extreme poverty and neglect and possible for almost anybody.

Persons Affected By Homelessness Are:
- persons discharged to the community without adequate supports
- persons who are physically and mentally handicapped
- victims of sexual, physical, or emotional abuse
- single moms and their children
- whole intact families
- victims of medical catastrophes
- the unemployed
- individuals and families not earning a livable wage
- folks with profound learning disabilities
- folks forced off disability
- families unable to manage on reduced TANF (Temporary Assistance to Needy Families) and General Assistance payments
- persons like you and me

How many are Homeless?
In recent years, the tragedy of homelessness has reached epidemic proportions. Estimates on the number of homeless in America range from two to four million. Statewide, on any given night, more than 1200 men, women, and children are without adequate shelter with many more at risk. (Maine Coalition to End Homelessness, 2003).

Who Are Our Clients at York County Shelter Programs?
Last year, our program served 560 homeless individuals who occupied more than 48,000 bed days of service. Of our clients, 60% were male and 40% were female; 20% were children under the age of eighteen; 43% have a twelfth grade or equivalent education; 26% have a mental health diagnosis; 49% have a chronic substance abuse problem; 56% were unemployed at the time of admittance; and 0% actively sought a homeless lifestyle.
Like us on Facebook; Kristen Holmberg is doing a great job of keeping our page updated, and filled with more photos – thank you, Kristen!

Christ Church

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