

the anchor

A BIMONTHLY PUBLICATION OF CHRIST CHURCH, EXETER

from the Rector

2

Harris House Future

A full year and a half of discussions, discernment, and details coming to some fruition.

3

Important Annual Meeting

One service at 9:30 am followed by the annual meeting to discuss 2016. Childrens' activities available.

5

MLK Boston Trip

We the Youth Trip details and deadlines for a fun-filled weekend.

6-7

Global Outreach

Syrian Refugee Ministry Team updates and Cuba Night details!

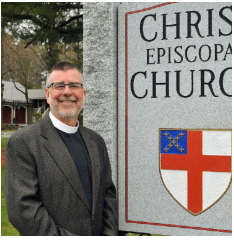


Painting by Claire Allison • 2015

{january • february 2016}

Living
joyfully in faith
Connecting
with God and one another
Serving
the local and global community

Submit your articles, stories, observations, or creative work by the 10th of each month preceding publication to newsletter@christchurchexeter.org



The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

Growing Clarity on the Future of Harris House

On Sunday, January 24 at the Annual Meeting of the Parish at 11 a.m., we will present the fruit of the multi-year process to discern a future for Harris Hall. As you may recall, one year ago at our 2015 Annual Meeting we shared the estimated costs of a repair of Harris Hall that would bring it up to life safety codes and abate the asbestos. We floated two options: repair or a new building. Many of those gathered were intrigued and open to a possible new parish house – razing the current split-level building that is 50 years old – but wanted more information. What followed was a year’s worth of work from Harris Hall Working Group led by Steve Portalupi.

Three gatherings were held in August, September and November that brought together Milestone Engineering and Construction, SMP Architects and members of the congregation. The process had wide input, stayed within the time frame outlined and was mission driven to the current and potential future needs of the Parish. Significant additional information is available for your review on the church website. The question now is: what next?

At its December meeting, the Vestry had a lengthy conversation to review the various estimates, the architectural drawings, and the outcome of the three parish-wide conversations. Our conclusion is this: it would not be a sound fiduciary decision or good stewardship to invest more than \$1 million to simply repair Harris House, leaving some of its dated features left unchanged. The costs to repair older buildings routinely escalate as contractors discover problems along the way. Therefore we intend to pursue a new build that would create a one floor facility that would be fully accessible, energy efficient, flexible and adaptable to changing ministries and technologies.

Critical pieces in this decision are not yet known: what kind of building to build, what can we afford, and how much money can we raise through a Capital Campaign? Though the initial design created by the architects is inspiring and functional, the Vestry believes that a less expensive design should also be on the table for consideration. By the Annual Meeting we should have such an option to consider that lowers the overall cost of the project to a level that we feel Christ Church can pursue without hindering our current ministries and limiting our future growth and vitality.

So, come January 24 prepared to take the next step on this journey with us. We need your continued involvement, prayers, wisdom and in the end, commitment to achieve a successful goal. ✕

LIVING

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2016 ANNUAL MEETING

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24 AT 11 A.M.

FOLLOWING OUR ONLY SERVICE AT 9:30 A.M.

PARISH BREAKFAST

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN DURING THE MEETING

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VESTRY MEMBERS

DISCUSSION ABOUT THE FUTURE OF HARRIS HOUSE

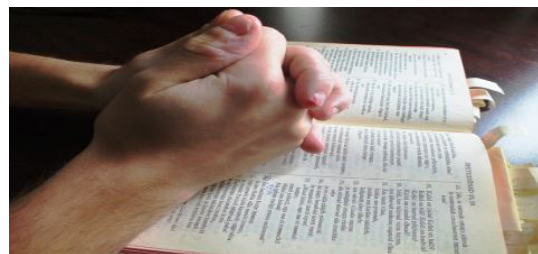
PLEASE PLAN TO ATTEND!

Living in Faith through Lent

Living in Faith: Wednesdays from 11:00 am to Noon in the Chapel.

We continue each Wednesday from 11 a.m. to noon in the Chapel using Brian McLaren's, *We Make this Road by Walking*. Each of the 52 chapters is meant to be read each week over the course of a year. Each chapter is accompanied by a set of Scripture readings and reflection/discussion questions. The title suggests that Christian faith is still "in the making."

Copies of the book are still available in the Chapel to be read anytime during the week and available for purchase for \$12.



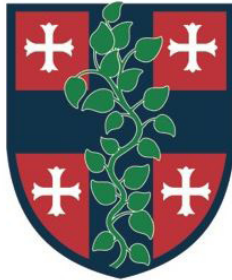
Holy Baptism in January

Holy Baptism will next be administered on Sunday, January 10th during the 10:30 celebration of the Holy Eucharist. On this Sunday we will celebrate the Feast of the Baptism of our Lord. As we remember Jesus' baptism in the River Jordan, we will welcome to the font, those who desire to place their whole trust in Jesus' grace and love.

If you are interested in baptism for yourself or your child, please contact the Rector at 772-3332, ext. 12 or mpendleton@christchurchexeter.org.

CONNECTING

with God and one another



By the Grace of God and the People consenting, the Bishop of New Hampshire, the Right Reverend A. Robert Hirschfeld, will ordain Reed Julian Loy to the Sacred Order of Priests

In Christ's One Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church

On Sunday, January 17, 2016

The Eve of the Feast of the Confession of St. Peter

at 3:00 p.m.

St. Alban's Episcopal Church

885 Shore Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME

Your prayers and presence are requested.

Clergy: White stoles

Reception to follow

RSVP by December 31, 2015 to megan@stalbanmaine.org

2016 Save the Dates:

Finance Forum – January 18
Shrove Tuesday – February 9
Community Forum – February 28
Maundy Thursday – March 24
Holy Saturday – March 26
Community Forum – April 3
Pentecost – May 15
Memorial Day (Summer Worship Hours begin) – May 29
Vacation Bible School – June 27-July 1

Annual Meeting – January 24
Ash Wednesday – February 10
Palm Sunday – March 20
Good Friday – March 25
Easter Sunday – March 27
Mother's Day Pancakes – May 8
Recognition Sunday & Parish Picnic – May 22

{formation activities for children & youth }

We the Youth: MLK Boston Trip • Sunday, January 17 – Monday, January 18

All youth 6th – 12th grade are invited to a lock-in and service trip to Boston on January 18th. We'll spend the night at Stratham Community Church where we'll have dinner, play games and watch a movie. On Monday, we'll travel to Boston and work with City Mission of Boston where we'll join hundreds of other volunteers for a day of service, worship and celebration. Living into the spirit of service that King so boldly embodied in his own life, each year CMS organizes people of faith from greater Boston to do projects all across the city, ultimately impacting 3,000 individuals. Service opportunities might include: preparing meals, sorting clothes, packing books, cleaning, painting or organizing. Following a few hours of service, we'll have lunch and a Closing Celebration (for those who went 2 years ago – the service was SUPER cool!). We'll be back in Stratham around 4pm. Registration Deadline: Monday, Jan 11. Cost is \$10 per person.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper • Tuesday, February 9 • 6:00 pm

(Youth Prep Night: Sunday, February 7 • 5-7 pm)

You are invited to an evening of food, fun and fellowship on Tuesday, February 9, beginning at 6:00pm. Wear your best Mardi Gras attire, bring those fashionable beads, a fruit salad, side dish or juice and join us for this evening of fun! People of all ages are welcome to this pancake supper and to participate in the liturgy of the burning of the palms and the burying of the Alleluias.



Suggested donation to benefit youth programs: \$5/person \$15/household. Hope to see you there!!!

Sunday School 2016 Schedule

"Once we were no people..... but, now we are God's people!"

Jan 10 - Lesson 20: The First People in Jesus' Ministry

Jan 17 - Finance Forum: *No Sunday School*

Jan 24 - Annual Meeting: *No Sunday School*

Jan 31 - Lesson 21: Jesus Shows His Power in Cana and at the Temple

Feb 7 - Lesson 22: Nicodemus Pays a Secret Visit

Feb 14 - Lesson 24: Jesus Heals the Sick

Feb 21 - School Vacation: *No Sunday School*

Feb 28 - Lesson 26: Who Does Jesus Say He Is?

Mar 6 - Lesson 29: Jesus Brings His Friend Lazarus Back to Life

Mar 13 - Lesson 30: Jesus' Ministry Draws to a Close; Mary Prepares Him for Burial

Mar 20 - Palm Sunday, Lesson 31: Jesus' Hour Has Come; He Prepares His Disciples at the Last Supper

Mar 27 - Easter Sunday: *No Sunday School*

Apr 3 - Lesson 45: John Newton and "Amazing Grace"

Apr 10 - Lesson 35: Jesus Helps Catch Fish

Apr 17 - Lesson 36: The Story of Peter: From Fisherman to Saint

Apr 24 - School Vacation: *No Sunday School*

May 1- Lesson 43: Thomas Cranmer and Friends and the Book of Common Prayer

May 8 - MOTHERS DAY PANCAKES

May 15 - Pentecost

May 22 - Lessons 47 & 48: Women Who Struggled for Freedom & Men Who Struggle for Justice

SERVING

the local and global community

Syrian Refugee Ministry Team

At our Christ Church anniversary celebration, Bishop Rob gave an impassioned plea for us to consider helping Syrian refugees. After the Paris terrorist attacks, our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, asked us to look with compassion on the same refugees:

In the Book of Leviticus, God says to the people of Israel that, “the foreigner who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you. You shall love the foreigner as yourself, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt.” Accordingly, we welcome the stranger. We love our neighbor. The Episcopal Church has long been committed to resettling refugees fleeing violence and persecution, in our own communities.

In response to these calls to ministry, our parish has begun to take action to help those refugees in several ways. At a forum in November, the ministry team introduced the possibility of a two-phase project:

1. Helping to bring Syrian refugee high school students to our local schools by working with Robert Azzi who facilitated a successful student program during the Bosnian crisis.
2. Working with Episcopal Migration Ministries under the auspices of Ascentria to resettle refugee families in the Exeter area.

On the four Sundays in Advent, the team provided prayer and information booklets. Special prayers have been added to the Prayers of the People. Parishioners filled out surveys to indicate interest in this ministry. The majority wanted the parish to support both phases and expressed an interest in helping in a variety of ways. We have heard from parishioners and clergy of other churches who would like to help as well. The vestry voted to direct the Christmas plate offering to this ministry – the distribution to be determined as we learn more about immediate and long term refugee needs.

Over the next few months, we will continue to discern ways to support the refugees. We will be hearing from several organizations that send supplies to them, one way to possibly offer some immediate help. As 2016 begins, we look forward to hearing more from you, the parishioners, in how to best carry out our Christian mission and we thank you for keeping the refugees in your prayers. We hope those of you who would like to participate in planning this ministry will join us as members of the team.

Current members of the Syrian Refugee Ministry Team: Cindy Nottage, Judy Blaisdell, Sarah Loy, Patti Buck, Jane Gallant, David Michaud, Carol Allard, Helen MacNeil.



Cuba Night Returns • Saturday, February 27

Christ Church will host its second Cuba Night of Latino food and music as we prepare for the upcoming mission trip in April. Christ Church has a companion parish in Cardenas, Cuba. On the 27th we will be joined by the Exeter Rotary Club, who will make its own trip to Cuba the week after the church trip. Our Rector, Mark Pendleton, will lead both trips. Bishop Rob and his wife Polly will be joining the church trip of 18 from New Hampshire. The Exeter Rotary Club has already secured \$9,000 in funding for additional water filtration systems. All donations from the evening will help us to purchase and transport much needed medical supplies to the island.

Seacoast Family Promise

Host Weeks:

Feb 14 – Feb 21

Aug 21 – Aug 28

Apr 3 – Apr 10

Oct 9 – Oct 16

May 22 – May 29

Dec 18 – Dec 25

Seacoast Family Promise (SFP) unites congregations of various faiths to assist families experiencing homelessness due to a crisis. These families are no different from you or me; they just had one too many things go wrong. When they enter the SFP program they are given hope and encouragement. As our primary local outreach ministry, Christ Church supports Seacoast Family Promise mainly by acting as a host church. As a Seacoast Family Promise host church, we strive to create and provide a safe space - a place where those who are wearied by the changes and chances of this world may find food, shelter, safety, respite, warm beds and hearts, and most of all love.

On a rotating schedule with other local faith communities, we turn the lower level of Harris House into a temporary home with bedrooms and dining area for 3 to 5 families for one week. Throughout a host week, many volunteers are present each day from 5:00pm to 7:30am eating dinner with guests, tending to hospitality requests, and just being present to listen. Depending on the role, volunteers have the opportunity to spend time with and get to know the families who come through our doors...a truly rewarding experience.

Volunteers are called on in many regards (see detailed descriptions below). It takes at least 25 volunteers from Christ Church that week to create a welcoming and accepting environment for our guests. **Christ Church is always looking for more volunteers to serve in any capacity!** If you would like to come for a portion of the evening to find out more about any given volunteer role, please email Sarah Watts (swatts@christchurchexeter.org).

Here are more detailed descriptions of volunteer roles:

- Providing Food: Volunteers provide food by 6:00 pm on one evening during a hosting week.
- Evening Host: Volunteers spend the evening (5:30pm-8:00pm) with the guests, eating dinner with them and being the Christ Church presence to answer questions, open doors, and handle any urgent situations that may arise. Please note, Safe Church Training is required for this position.
- Overnight Host: Volunteers spend the night with guests, arriving for duty by 8:00pm and leaving by 7:30am. Volunteers are responsible for locking and unlocking doors, and being a presence in case of an overnight emergency. Please note, Safe Church Training is required for this position.
- Laundry Volunteers: Volunteers collect and clean dirty laundry at the end of each host week and return it clean before next host week.
- Team Leaders: Volunteers help to coordinate volunteers for a given evening during a host week.

CHRIST CHURCH
43 Pine Street
Exeter NH 03833

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CHRIST CHURCH



*A joyful and
diverse community
anchored in Christ*



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Organist Bruce Adami
bruce@christchurchexeter.org

Building Manager Mark Antlitz
manager@christchurchexeter.org

Church Office

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(603) 772-3332 x11

Darla Watt, Executive Assistant
office@christchurchexeter.org

Office Hours:

MONDAY - THURSDAY
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

FRIDAY
9:00 am - 12:00 pm

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The Anchor

Christine Hodsdon, Design Editor
Mark Pendleton, Executive Editor

*All parishioners are invited to
submit articles to The Anchor,
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*E-mail articles or questions to
newsletter@christchurchexeter.org*