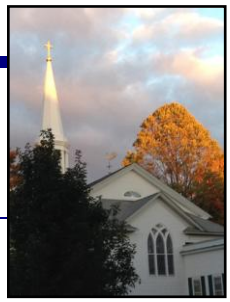
GLAD TIDINGS



Christ Church Parish is a welcoming community of loving Christians exploring our faith, serving others, and growing in God's love.

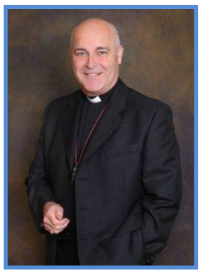
Christ Church Parish - Redding, CT AUGUST 2017

"Come and See" is coming soon!

and we hope it will provide numerous opportunities for attendees to renew their faith in God, or perhaps even to spark new faith. I am excited about our preacher for all 3 evenings:

The Rt. Rev. Stephen Cottrell of England

And I'm looking forward to seeing YOU there as we all take this little journey together. Remember, we gather SOON at St. Stephen's in Ridgefield on



Sunday, August 27
Monday, August 28
Tuesday, August 29

Each evening starts with supper at 5:30-ish and goes till about 8:45.
Kids of all ages are welcome.

Sunday evening is POTLUCK
Monday evening WE provide the supper
Tuesday evening St. Stephen's provides the supper

Won't you join me and other parishioners as we come together with others from our region and see how God will work this opportunity for good? It's yet another chance "to deepen and expand our spiritual growth."*

In Christ,

Marilyn+

- Why the asterisk? It's because this phrase is right from the Parish Profile written just before you called me as your rector in 2005. It was the first of the items on the list for the new rector to accomplish, "To deepen and expand the spiritual growth of all congregants." But I can't do this alone. Like the proverbial horse and rider—you can take a horse to water, but you can't make it drink. Likewise, we must each respond of our own accord to opportunities for spiritual growth. No leader can force it. And remember, "all things work together for good." So—what choice will you be making?

Help Needed for Our Revival

By now I hope that most of our needs have been filled for help at our Revival. MEN and WOMEN, sign up at church on the easel or by emailing Beth in the office at christchurchparish@sbcglobal.net Here are our needs:

8 people to bake a batch of cookies (4 dozen or more) for Monday the 28th, and put them in tins or plastic containers with lids.

People to be a part of a "kitchen crew" to serve & clean up for each evening. We would love to have 2 folks to help each evening. We'll use disposables so there shouldn't be much hard work.

2 shoppers to go with the rector to Costco the weekend before the event (August 26 or 27). FILLED! Thank you!

4 people willing to bake frozen meatballs (supplied by us) at home on Monday the 28th of August.

2 Strip Snippers. What's that, you ask? People to help Joey Davey cut strips of muslin...they are for Monday evening's worship. Joey will be in touch with you...it may be the only time in your entire life that you can be called a Strip Snipper... FILLED! Thank you!

*Tuesday's supper is provided by St. Stephen's in Ridgefield.
Thanks for thinking about helping. We need you...

A note about that word "Revival"

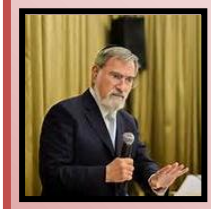
Please don't let that word put you off. Our event in Ridgefield will be very "New England" and low key. No shenanigans or wacky behavior, I wouldn't think…no more than on a typical Sunday, that is. We are calling it a "revival" because it will give us each a chance to renew/revive our faith. Come and see how staid a revival can be! I would love to see 50 of our parishioners there…including you. Thanks.

~Marilyn

Ted on Tap One More Time

By popular demand we'll have one more TED on Tap session. That will be on Wednesday evening, September 6, from 7 pm till about 8:30 pm. This session will be the final installment in our series in which we've been asking, "What makes a good life?"

We'll watch three informative and entertaining TED talks that evening:



1. Rabbi Lord Jonathan Sacks, "How we can face the future without fear, together"

2. Shawn Achor, "The happy secret to better work"

and

3. Gen Kelsang Nyema, "Happiness is all in your mind"

Bring a favorite snack or beverage to share.
See you soon, TEDsters. All are welcome, even if this will be your first TED on Tap.

ANNUAL ICE CREAM SOCIAL!

September 10th

Join us in the parish hall after the 10:00 service to enjoy Sunday Sundaes with fellow parishioners and catch up after summer vacations!

Hope it's been a good summer! I'm looking forward to seeing everyone!

Care Packages

This year we have 5 new high school graduates: Alex Darlington, James Fleming, Julianna Frank, Andrew Johnson, and William Wyland. Let's put together some fine Care Packages for them from our parish! Please bring in 3 items, one for each person, and drop them in the boxes in the parish hall. Additionally we'll set up a table for writing short notes to the them, should you desire to do that. We'll ship it all off the first week of October. Items are due in by Sunday, October 1. (Please avoid chocolate, as it may melt and make a mess.) Thanks for your help!

WHAT'S UP from September to All Saints Day

September 10 First day of Messy Church for grades K - 5th
Cherub Room opens
Grades 6th & up are in church today
Ice Cream Sunday Social after the 10 o'clock worship

September 17 After the Collect, K - 5th follow Meredith to their classroom
6th - 10th meet with The Men in the parish hall.

September 24 All grades report to the Parish Hall for Food Pantry Day: The Bag Brigade!

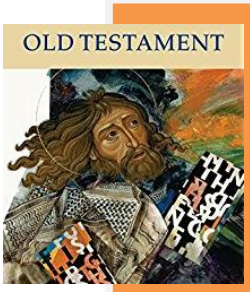
October 1 After the Collect, K - 5th follow Meredith to their classroom
6th - 10th remain in church
Blessing of the Animals at 4 o'clock in the churchyard

October 8, 15, 22, 29 K - 5th with Meredith & 6th - 10th with The Men

October 29 is Creativity Sunday & Jazz Vespers at 7 o'clock

November 5 All Saints Day...we begin the worship outside in the graveyard
After the Collect, grades K - 5th follow Meredith to their classroom.
Grades 6th - 10th remain in church today.

All your children will be taught by the Lord,
and great will be their peace. ~ Isaiah 54:13



We have a new curriculum for our Grade 6th - 10th parishioners. The format and publisher are the same, but the material is centered on the Old Testament, with focus on our "Ancestors", as the name of the curriculum suggests. Please encourage your older children to come with you to church on Sundays as this more challenging course is a good middle ground between the church school classroom and the pulpit.

~~ Meredith McClung, Director of Church School Ministries

Blessing of the Animals

October 1 at 4:00 pm
in the church yard

We'll celebrate the liturgy that in some ways is fun, and in other ways very poignant.

See you there—all are welcome.
Bring friends and neighbors… it is a hoot.

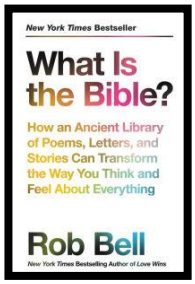
Save The Date - Oct 14

Fall Spruce Up is scheduled for
Saturday, October 14
and *many hands make light work*.

We'll start at 9 am with breakfast snacks and coffee provided. I hope you can help us keep the church looking great. We just need a couple of hours of your time.

Thanks in advance, Your Property Committee

Sunday Adult Ed (9 till 9:45 am) and
Sunday Schedule for September through November



The rector has found a new book by one of our favorites, Rob Bell. Do you remember his engaging videos and his book, Love Wins? Well, Bell has just published a masterful treatment of the Bible and its major themes. It has the most boring title in the world, but I guarantee you, you will not be bored if you read it! It's called What Is the Bible? How an Ancient Library of Poems, Letters, and Stories Can Transform the Way You Think and Feel About Everything. He actually says in his book, "If you're bored with reading the Bible, then you aren't *reading* the Bible." (I told you it was provocative. That is only the beginning—trust me.) So, order your copy of this amazing book on Amazon or wherever…and fasten your seatbelts. Disclaimer: he is free and breezy in this book and you will find a few mild expletives and some talk about sex. It's all in keeping with what's in the Bible, sometimes … and it is very interesting … no one who reads it will be bored …

Sept 10 - THIS God Is Different: Read Deuteronomy 34:1-7; Genesis 6:11-22; and Genesis 12:1-4. AND Bell, pages 8-17; 91-95; 119-124.

Sept 17 - Blessings all around: Abraham is so important for so many reasons. Read Gen 22:1-18; Gen 17:1-19; and Gen 14:17-20. AND Bell, pages 107-112; 125-131; 145-150.

Sept 24 - I'm mad because God loves them, too. Read Jonah 1-4 (the whole book—it's short) AND Bell, pages 97-106.

Oct 1 - God loves all things and will save all things: even me. Read Ephesians 1 and 1 Corinthians 3:1-23. AND Bell, pages 39-46 and 169-181.

Oct 8 - Gandalf to the rescue! Read 2 Peter 3:1-13; Rev 4; Rev 19:1-16; and Rev 22:1-6. AND Bell, pages 199-202 and 203-210.

Oct 15 - Informal cuppa and chat with Bishop Ian Douglas, 9 till 9:45.

Oct 22 - Law-breaking and risk-taking. Read Leviticus 1:1-2; Lev 19:17-19; Lev 20:1-16; and Acts 4:32—5:11. AND Bell, pages 229-232 and 233-240.

Oct 29 - CREATIVITY SUNDAY. Sip your coffee and enjoy our parishioners' creations as we relax from 9 till 9:45.

Nov 5 - Celebration Sunday Brunch—no adult ed.

Nov 12 - More—more—more! and the Problem of Soteriology (great Scrabble word). Read Psalm 20; Psalm 27; Colossians 1:15-20; Matthew 20:27-28. AND Bell, pages 211-216, 241-246. This is our last session using Bell's book.

Nov 19 - Come and meet Carlos de la Torre, our Southwest Region Missionary in ECCT and learn about his work to bring parishes together to discern God's dream for our neighborhoods and our diocese

Nov 26 - Informal cuppa and chat with the Rev. Mark Glidden.

Bishop Ian Douglas visits Christ Church on Sunday, October 15 to visit with the parish and the Vestry, and to consecrate our Memorial Garden.

Be sure to come to visit with Bishop Douglas. He will celebrate and preach at each service that morning. After the 10:00 we will process outside around the church and over to our new Memorial Garden, where the bishop will consecrate the ground as a place for Christian burial. This Memorial Garden caps years of effort and just wait till you see it. It's taking shape beautifully, thanks be to God. Our landscape designer is Terry Karpen of Queen of Spades, http://www.queenofspadesct.com. She is doing wonderful and inspired work.

Creativity Sunday October 29

Come to see our art displayed and come for Jazz Vespers. What a fun day this always is. Thanks to our artists and of course to our musicians (led by Martha Meyer) who are working now to present a terrific program at Jazz Vespers that evening at 7 pm. See Martha's piece in this Glad Tidings for more info about Jazz Vespers. And thanks to Becky Holden for helping once again with our art show for Creativity Sunday.

FOOD PANTRY DRIVE begins August 30 -- last day for donations here is September 18.

Angelica Fontanez, Redding's Social Services Director, assures me that our Food Pantry drive is still very much needed despite the recent News 12 coverage. Our parishioners continue to fill in the gaps on the shelves when the State Food Bank cannot; individuals' donations are always appreciated, but they cannot keep up with the needs of over 30 families in our town who visit the Food Pantry each week. The table for your donations will be up in the parish hall beginning on September 1. Please consider bringing in a bag or two of non-perishables, bathroom tissue, Kleenex, cocoa, staples such as flour, oatmeal, sugar, hot and cold cereals for the old and young, sauces, soap, shampoo, laundry detergent, dish liquid; COCOA flies off the shelves during the winter months...the articles you need for your own home make a great shopping list to use.

If you have kids, have them take their own cart at the market -- they feel the very real joy as they go 'round the store putting in what they know other kids like to eat. I did this for years with my own boys; we loved the trip...and somehow I never found the tally at the cashier's hard to swallow. ~ Meredith McClung

Special Visit from a Former Parishioner

Jean (née Bennett) Hammett lived in Redding Ridge for the first ten years of her life in the little house across from St. Patrick's Church. Her father was on the Vestry at Christ Church Parish and her mother was the church organist. She remembers with love her many days here during the week while her mother was practicing ("oh, I played all over the church!"); Jean and her siblings sang every Sunday in the Children's Choir.

On Easter Sunday her sister Nancy climbed up the ladder to the belfry and, after the bell rang out Jean's mother would begin the Processional, "Jesus Christ Has Risen Today" while Nancy, from the belfry, accompanied her mother on trumpet. Sadly, her father was killed in a head-on collision on his way home from work in 1969 and the family had to move away.

She found us on our church facebook page, we began our "post-dialogue" and, as Jean put it, the Spirit was calling her back to visit her first home town and her first church. She and her daughter flew out; I met them at the church on a Monday in mid-July and took her and her daughter all around the church.

Audrey came to greet her, too; she filled Jean in on some of the faces who were in church when Jean and her family were living here. Marilyn came over from the Rectory to chat with her. It was a warm, heart-filled reunion, and testimony to the memories that life in church can accompany children into their adult years. Today Jean and her family are active members of St. John's Episcopal Church in Ocean Springs, Mississippi. Jean still sings in the choir!

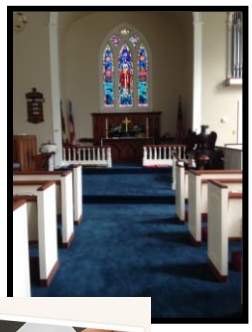
~ Meredith McClung

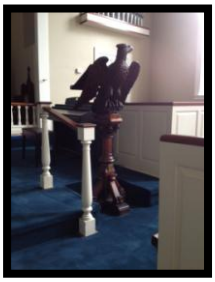
The choir will gather Saturday, September 9 for a rehearsal at church followed by a pot-luck at the home of Eric and Linda Stones.

From a summer conference for choral directors held at my alma mater, Smith College, I brought back a quantity of publishers' samples with many good anthems for future services.

Our theme for October 29 Jazz Vespers, *Present With the Past* celebrating Redding writers, motivated the reading of many authors--Mark Twain of course, but also Joel Barlow, Ruth Stout, Anne Parrish, Elizabeth Janeway, Jack Lawrence, Joseph Wood Krutch, Alvin Toffler, among others. For the music we have an exciting sextet featuring flutist Ali Ryerson, saxophonist Dave Savitsky, and vocalist Samantha Feliciano joining piano, bass and drums on some well-known jazz standards. --

~Martha Meyer





The color blue triggers the release of the calming hormones in the brain, making it the best color for relaxation and study.

~ unknown

Perfect

Annual Giving Tax Tip for Parishioners over 70 ½

courtesy of our own Janet Metzger

The Stewardship Committee would like you to know that you can make a non-taxable distribution from your IRA directly to a charitable organization such as Christ Church. If you are over 70 ½ and use some of your IRA funds to pay for your pledge, you might want to consider this. It is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and can be done at any time during the year. Although this contribution cannot be used as a tax deduction, it has other benefits. In addition to being non-taxable, but still counting as part of your required distribution, it lowers your AGI (adjusted gross income) and may lower your CT liability. As with anything of this nature, check with your tax advisor or IRA manager.

It's Almost Stewardship Season
Our Theme: Growing in Generosity; Rooted in Faith

We are so excited about the image on our campaign poster that we had to share a sneak preview with you. It was designed by our own Eileen Honey. Thank you, Eileen!!

Mark Your Calendar

Here are some important dates to remember:

1. Leaders' Reception and Chili Supper is on Sunday, Oct 22, at 6 pm. This event is for Vestry and committee chairs and their spouses/guests. Food is provided by the Stewardship Committee.

2. Celebration Sunday (Pledge Sunday) is November 5, which is also All Saints' Sunday AND the day we turn the clocks back one hour. Food will be provided for the brunch; come and help us celebrate God's goodness.

We thank our Stewardship Committee for their hard work this year: Ingrid Heller and Kathleen Perrott, chairs
Burdin Hickok and Nicki Kimes
Lisa Bartro and Laura Nelson
Way to go, Stewardship!

May we all be as generous as we can be so that our parish will continue to thrive. Thanks for your support, everyone.

~Ingrid Heller and Kathleen Perrott

STAFF

The Rev. Marilyn Anderson	Rector
Meredith McClung	Director of Children's Ministries
Martha Jeppesen Meyer	Music Minister
Beth Cox	Parish Administrator

OFFICERS

Laura Russell	Clerk
Gretchen von Dwingelo	Treasurer
Joey Davey	Warden
Connie Borofsky	Warden

VESTRY

2018 Becky Holden	2019 Nancy Given
2018 Carol Tolonen	2020 Lisa Bartro
2018 Eric Marx	2020 Michele Markelon
2019 Mark Darlington	2020 Laura Nelson
2019 Steve Hunter	

PRESIDING BISHOP
The Most Rev. Michael Curry

DIOCESAN BISHOP
The Right Rev. Ian T. Douglas

BISHOP SUFFRAGAN
The Right Rev. Laura J. Ahrens

DEANERY DELEGATES
Connie Borofsky
Susan Watson
Joey Davey (alternate)
Janet Metzger (alternate)

EDITOR of Glad Tidings
Connie Borofsky – dreamcatchercb@aol.com

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