



News from Christ Church September 15, 2021

Dear friends,

My Grandad Carswell was a man of few words, and those few words were usually jokes. His favorite response was a roomful of groans. One of the classics went like this: one day, a wife files for divorce from her husband after thirty years of marriage. He's totally shocked and tells her so. The wife exclaims, "You never tell me that you love me!" The husband replies, "Well, I told you so 30 years ago, and if that had changed, I would've let you know!"

I hope you'll honor my grandad's memory right now with an audible groan and a visible wince.

I tell you this joke because I had a quick trip away this past weekend to celebrate a friend's wedding, one of those occasions delayed multiple times by the pandemic. The couple had decided to get married anyway on their original date over a year ago, so the celebration this weekend was a service of a renewal of wedding vows.

I'd never been to a renewal of vows, but Melissa and I left excitedly hatching our own plans for a renewal celebration at ten years, and fifteen, and twenty, and... You get the idea. If you couldn't tell by my chosen vocation, repetition is something I dig. We renew our baptismal vows at every baptism, I renew my ordination vows every year, we say the same thing every single Sunday.

Repetition frees our minds from the pursuit of novelty, a pursuit our culture teaches us and profits upon in every possible way. What's new? What's flashy? What's exciting? "Novelty," writes Wendell Berry, "is a new form of loneliness." The deep and meaningful things of our lives are slower, understated, and always in danger of being taken for granted.

On Saturday, we flew home just in time to catch the 9/11 dedication at Stanley Deming Park. "Never forget," people kept saying, in the same words (though a different tone) that they had at the renewal ceremony -- in both places, acknowledging the entropy via forgetfulness that dissolves our tragedies, relationships, good intentions, our most cherished vows. It was a weekend of remembrance, and that's worth repeating.

faithfully,
Amber

Book club

Fourth Wednesdays of the month, 6:30 p.m., Parish Hall

Our next gathering will be September 22. We'll chat about Francis Spufford's *Unapologetic: Why, Despite Everything, Christianity Can Still Make Surprising Emotional Sense*. Bring your own beverage and snack!

Blessing of the animals

Sunday, October 3rd at 5:00 p.m.

Bring your beloved pets to receive a blessing at this service on the lawn. We will have Holy Eucharist, hear a special St. Francis' Day homily, and pray for all God's creatures.

Evening prayer on Zoom

Wednesdays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm

Join us this evening. [Click here for link](#). If you are interested in leading the service or reading the lessons, please [email Charlotte Trott](#).

Community Breakfast

Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.

Christ Church continues to serve a free breakfast to anyone who wants or needs it. If you are interested in learning more, or in helping to prepare or serve, [contact Liz Houlton](#).

getting ready for sweater weather

THRIFT SHOP
open Saturdays
9:30am to noon for
shopping & donations



Feed your family and support your church

You can purchase ShopRite or Price Chopper gift cards every Sunday immediately following worship, or stop by the parish office during business hours Monday through Friday. At no cost to you, Christ Church earns a percentage that goes to supporting church programs.

Congregational singing resuming

We are gradually returning to congregational singing at both the 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. services. The choir will return September 26 at the 11:00 a.m. service. Please remember that the service is always live-streamed to the parish hall at 9:00 a.m. for those who would like more time or distance.

Sunday service guidelines

Communion is served in one kind, bread only. As always, receiving communion is optional to the person. Masks are recommended for all. Distance is at one's own discretion, but do continue to be mindful of your neighbor's needs. The 9:00 a.m. service is livestreamed to the parish hall for those who would like to remain masked and distanced; the priest will bring communion to those present in the room.

Vestry: Matthew Mumford, Senior Warden; Bill O'Keefe, Junior Warden
Elena Chavez Carey, Billie Gallo, Linda Garcia, Judy Girod, Sharon Kelly, Steve Laico, Chris Loftus,
Charlotte Trott, Diana Van Fossen, Louise Schultz (Treasurer)

[Website](#)

[About](#)

[Worship
Schedule](#)

Sundays at Christ Church

9:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, in-person and
livestreamed to Vimeo and the Parish Hall

10:00 a.m. - Coffee hour in the Parish Hall
and on the lawn

11:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist, in-person

5:00 p.m. - Holy Eucharist on the lawn

Find us on social media:

