

CHRIST CHURCH RIVERDALE

mini-NEWSLETTER

Vol. LXXIII No. 5

June 2010

Breathing while ringing the bell at Christ Church Riverdale by Gilbert Creutzberg

It has been more than twenty years ago that Bill Bjorkgren, the old sexton, taught me how to ring the bell. There is a trick to everything and even something requiring a seemingly simple ear-hand coordination can easily go wrong. The first time I had the rope in my hand I was nervous. I lost control and the rope got entangled. The bell was out of commission and had to be fixed. Bill had faith in me and didn't give up. He knew I wanted to learn how to become a bellringer like Jan Du Fossé, the sexton in the church where my father was the minister before it was destroyed by the Nazis – to which I refer in my book "The Mosaic."

Bill taught me patiently. One Sunday, after mass, I rang the bell twelve times, without mistake. I now could ring for high holidays and funerals. When Bill retired, I became the official bellringer and I must have rung that beautiful bell hundreds of times. When it needed repair and a year passed without the faithful hundred-plus year old bell, the day came when I took the rope in my hand with some trepidation. Yes, the bell sounded all right after the repair job, but I wasn't satisfied. I wondered why it didn't sound like it should.

Today, I noticed that I was breathing. I inhaled as I let the rope go up and exhaled as I pulled it down. "Don't forget to breathe!" my Yoga teacher would have said. It suddenly dawned on me: I'm doing a Yoga exercise. I'm becoming aware of my breathing. I allow the Infinite power of the One who lives within me to send that message of hope and love with the joyful ringing of the now magnificently sounding bell of Christ Church Riverdale, with thanks for every breath we take!

TENTH ANNUAL ART SHOW- June 12/13 and 19/20

This is a showcase of the many incredibly talented visual artists who are a part of our Church community. Many works are for sale and a portion of each sale is contributed to the church. If you are interested in exhibiting, please contact Gunther Kilsch or Aija Sears.

PARISH PICNIC

The 11:00 am service on June 28 will be followed by a potluck picnic. Please bring a dish or beverage to share.

SUMMER SERVICE SCHEDULE

For July and August, Sunday Services will be at 8:30 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. and there will be no Christian education or Wednesday service. The nursery will operate on a rotating volunteer basis. We will resume our fall schedule and celebrate homecoming on Sunday, September 12.

INTERNATIONAL DINNER THANKS

This was a wonderful evening with good friends and good food. Many thanks to all who brought dishes, volunteered, and who attended. A very special thank you to Bernard Appia and Kolu Baysah.

CALLING ALL GRADUATES

Please contact the parish office so that we can recognize all graduates, from Pre-K through graduate school!

MIDYEAR DEFICIT ELIMINATION CAMPAIGN

We began the year with a gap of a little less than 10% between anticipated revenues and operating expenses. This gap is significant, and closing it is both important and quite achievable. Watch in the coming weeks for information about how you can help your parish achieve a balanced budget for the second year in a row under challenging economic circumstances. Yes we can!

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The Rev. Robert C. Lamborn, D. Min., Rector

The Rev. Deacon Eugenia T. Wilson, SSG, Deacon

Lois Stern, Production

Wednesday Eucharist

June 2, 9, 23 & 30 at Christ Church, 11:00 am;
June 16 at the Methodist Home for the Aged, 11:15 am

June 5 Christ Church Choir Concert with Restored Organ, 7:30 pm

June 12-13 and 19-20 Annual Art Show

June 26 Parish Picnic

July 4 Summer Schedule begins:

Sunday Services at 8:30 and 10:00 am; no Wednesday Service

PIPE ORGAN INAUGURATION AND DEDICATION

This month's choir concert will only begin to explore the riches of our new Foley-Baker organ that incorporates the Austin organ of 1928 and 1970. The next few months will allow us a shakedown period to identify any fine adjustments that may be needed—as are typical for an instrument of such complexity.

Please mark your calendars for the weekend of 25 & 26 September. On Saturday evening we will hold a gala inaugural concert and fundraiser featuring a major organ recitalist. On Sunday afternoon, we will formally dedicate the organ to the service of God, with Bishop Roskam presiding.

If you have an outstanding balance remaining on your organ restoration pledge, please make every effort to see that it is brought up-to-date, or even paid ahead. We need the funds to make the remaining payments on this beautiful and inspiring instrument. As Director of Music Darin Lewis said recently, he tells his students at Horace Mann that their performances can end with a variety of "punctuation marks"—period, semicolon, question mark, or exclamation point. Let's complete the organ campaign with an emphatic exclamation point!