

H O M E C O M I N G



Father Brian K. Burgess, Rector

An invitation from the Rector
I invite you and your families to join all those
of Christ Church Woodbury who begin each
conversation, each offering, and each reach as
a people of Great Thanksgiving.

Word from God. It is also why an altar has been established at 62 Delaware Street in Woodbury, NJ. This is our Galilee; and because it is, it is home. It is where we encounter the priorities of God for us in word and sacrament, in mission and ministry, in education and outreach, in worship and hospitality.

As you and your loved ones address the invitation you hold in your hands, I ask you take into your consecrated hearts the invitation to **come home**. This invitation can be defined in many and various ways depending on where it is each of us falls into the seduction of flattery. We give our time, talent and money to that which we love and cherish. Your parish church has always and will always define herself as being worthy of your devotion, commitment, adoration, and sacrifice. It is where we baptize our babies, catechize our children, share in the breaking of bread, and bury our dead. It is where we meet our risen Lord.

I look forward to our gathering on Sunday, September 29th, the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels, as the means of giving glory to God, articulating our common stewardship of all that has been entrusted to us, and being home with those who live to this side of Christ's resurrection. Your presence completes us.

Dear Family of Christ Church:

On the first Easter Day, Matthew the evangelist announces the resurrection of Jesus Christ in this way:

Suddenly Jesus met (his disciples) and said, "Greetings!" And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me." (28:9-10)

The brilliance of Matthew's writing is how he includes others in the story of salvation history even today. Christ Church is where we encounter the risen Christ, and where it is we are spiritually nourished in order to conduct the mission He sends us out to fulfill.

Why is our stewardship of sacred time, sacred space, and sacred lives so important at this time? Because the salvation of souls has been entrusted to us as the Church. The salvation of souls is why we have a



"Greetings!" . . . "Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers to go to Galilee; there they will see me."



Come home to worship

Every Sunday and through the week we experience the feeling of homecoming by walking through the beautiful oak doors of Christ Church. We see the familiar faces of our parish family and feel gratified and comfortable with our strong sense of traditional worship – rich in literacy and strong in Christian education. This is our spiritual home and we are beckoned to renew and re-energize our faith with those we know and love. This is a place of worship and an invitation to commune with God the Father, His son Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost. This is where we belong. This is our home.

Time to come home

In today's fast-moving world there never seems to be enough time to give of ourselves. But there is a secret. Make time for what is important in your life and to your spiritual growth. Your church needs your seconds, minutes and hours. Your time, given freely, is valued and holy. When you offer your precious time through volunteering or in a ministry, you are providing a foundation for a strong future for our church, its parishioners and for generations to come. It is a personal blessing and a priceless gift of love for God.

Talent for your home

God has graced each of us with very special talents. We can choose the path to share these valuable gifts with our Christ Church family. When we serve God we also serve our friends, our community and ourselves. Talent is a key to the strength of our family core. Likewise, such sharing with our church is a strengthening of our ties to Jesus Christ who taught us the importance of helping others, including those less fortunate. We should strive to bring our gifts home to this beloved stone church and our spiritual family.

Treasure comes home

Of all the gifts God instilled in us, perhaps there is none greater than generosity. We ensure our future and the future of our church with giving. It is the blessing that enables our church to serve generation after generation. We stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before us, we have an obligation to them to continue their vision. Our ability as a parish to maintain its compassion is tightly tied to our support. Just as we sustain our homes and families, our church is reliant on our pledge and contributions. This is our humble means of showing our thanks to God for all we have and cherish.

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From the Chair of Stewardship

Christ Church has been my family's home for many years. I cherish all the people who have entered these doors and who have entered my heart. It makes me smile to think back on those who have helped me become the person I am today. Please join my family and me to help support Christ Church and to share your time and talent with us.

Faithfully,

Jane Gosdis,

Jane Gosdis

Vestry Chair of Stewardship

jane@gosdis.com



All are welcome to be with us
Sunday, September 29th, 2019
Michaelmas
8:00 AM - Holy Eucharist
10:00 AM - Solemn Choral Eucharist
We invite you to return your
Annual and Electronic
Giving Commitment cards
11:30 AM - Brunch & Stewardship
Presentation