



# MANNA



Christ Episcopal Church, 824 Fairmont Avenue, Fairmont, WV 26554

May 2008

Dear Parish Family and Friends,

Last week I returned home from a wonderful conference in Ft. Lauderdale. That is the second time this year that I returned to Fairmont this spring, feeling good about being home again. Fairmont and this congregation have become 'home'. I haven't felt that way for years as in interim ministry, we have moved around so frequently. For that gift, I am grateful. My feelings are mixed with sadness however, as you and I both prepare for our next era of ministry, you with the call you'll make to your new Rector and me as I seek my next position.

As I continue with interim ministry, I'm presently seeking a position anywhere up and down the east coast from Boston to Washington DC. Interim searches are much shorter than those for Rectors -- two to three months is the general time frame. I ask your prayers during my search.

Please see separate articles in this issue of the Manna, "Saying Goodbye" and "CREDO Conference".

Plans for the upcoming Strawberry Festival are well underway. Many of you are involved with Mike Lawson and Neal Hamilton to plan it. There is positive energy for this parish and community event as we all soon will be into our summer schedule.



Parents don't forget to send your children to Peterkin Camp near Romney this summer. Their friends are welcome also.

We will recognize our graduating Seniors on Sunday, April 27. Our church school kids will be recognized Sunday, May 4.

The season of Pentecost, just like all our special services, is very early this year, Sunday, May 11. Though Christ has ascended unto the Father after his resurrection, we celebrate Christ's return to his Church with the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles and 3000 other witnesses. During this season (May-November) we listen to this story as it tells us of our ministry today. As it was with the early church so is it to be among us today. In the Sunday lessons this year listen for the sub-text of what was going on in the early church. Listen for clues to understand how in our own day we are called by Jesus, in his absence, to do "greater things" than even what He did.

Blessings and Pentecost power,  
Fr. Steve



## Search Committee Report

Dana Riedeman

The Search Committee has sent inquiries and packets of information to ten possible candidates for the position of rector at Christ Church. We are awaiting responses from the candidates and will begin a review process as those responses are received. We would welcome leads from any parishioner who might have contacts who would be aware of other possible candidates. Keep us in your prayers.

## CREDO Conference, April 7-14, 2008

Fr. Steve

Fr. Steve recently returned from a national conference, CREDO (Clergy Reflection, Education, and Discernment Opportunity). The conference is funded by the Episcopal Church Pension Fund to support clergy in planning the course of their ministry. In a collegial manner, participants work out vocational, financial, spiritual, and medical plans for their careers/lives. There have been 141 CREDO conferences since its beginning in 1999. More than 3000 of the church's 8700 active clergy have participated in this conference. Its impact on the quality of life for clergy has been significant. Fr. Steve characterizes his experience at CREDO as profound.

## Thank You !

Dana Riedeman

As the Chief Financial Officer of a non-profit agency (HOPE, Inc.), I have been opening mail and reading E-mails as of late that bring news of drastic budget cuts - many from the federal level. The bad news just keeps coming.

Last week, however, I received an E-mail from Tiffany Samuels, the new director of the United Way of Marion County, letting local participating agencies know that our United Way had met its goal for the first time in four years. I can't tell you how much that news meant to all of us who struggle to locate funds to keep our agencies alive and to keep services in line with the demand for services.

I attended the public celebration at the Marion County Court House early the next morning and was heartened by the news and a new sense of enthusiasm that I hadn't experienced in this area for a while. The acknowledgements that morning included a special thank you to **Toni Balenger**, one of our parishioners, who is the Administrative Assistant for the United Way of Marion County. Toni has been a strong force in keeping that agency viable. I left there, along with personnel from other agencies, knowing that an important event had just occurred. The funds are vital to the existence of the agencies funded by the United Way of Marion County. The monies are critical, and local funds are critical. Many federal and state funding sources require a local match for the dollars they appropriate. If agencies can't demonstrate local support for the work they do, the dollars are not available.

The United Way of Marion County works with a very small staff to keep administrative costs low. Local volunteers work long hours to solicit funds, to make tough funding decisions, and to serve on the Board of Directors of the United Way. Some local citizens have done this work for years. They are a dedicated group of people. I didn't know until the next evening that **Christ Church** had made a generous donation that had helped make this possible. Our parish has helped so many people with this gift. We have helped feed, clothe, and shelter local citizens. We have helped people acquire medicine and rent money. We have helped people pay their utility bills. We have helped provide disaster relief. We have helped children have a voice as they go through the court system, and we have helped provide children in need with a Big Brother or Big Sister. We have helped support programs such as the scouts and the YWCA that are vital to this community. Additionally, we have helped contribute to a positive spirit that must be kept alive in Marion County. I really feel good about what we have done. *Thank You.*



I recently had the privilege of attending the 'Magnetic Church' seminar at The Church of the Good Shepherd in Parkersburg. I say privilege because I came away with so many ideas, so much information and such a feeling of enthusiasm that I felt privileged for having been there!

The 'Magnetic Church' seminar is all about evangelism - a word that strikes fear and recoil in most of us Episcopalians! However, we're much better at evangelism than we think we are! The 'good news' here is that we (Christ Church Fairmont) are doing a lot of things right - something that we often overlook as we assess our own strengths and weaknesses. Evangelism encompasses a wide area - church signage, handicap accessibility, church school promotion, youth activities, community communications, community outreach, as well as greeting new or prospective members. My hope is that we might host this seminar at some point next year. I think the energy created by this would be invaluable to this church.

Speaking of evangelism - our *Strawberry Festival*, scheduled for Sunday, June 8<sup>th</sup> fits neatly into that category. Not only is it a great social event, it also extends us out into our neighboring community and welcomes outsiders in. We hope everyone in the parish family will make an effort to participate and enjoy this event!



The Outreach committee recently pledged \$25,000 to the *United Way of Marion County* to help them reach their 2008 goal (something they haven't been able to do in the past few years). You may have seen the article in the *Times-West Virginian* last week acknowledging our support. Both the committee and the Vestry felt that there was no better way to impact our total community than to contribute to an agency that covers a wide range of social agencies in our area. A mission statement and format for consideration of gifting has also been developed for ongoing use. Thanks to the members of this committee for all their work thus far - but there is much more to be done!

A new roof and drainage system soon will be in the works as the Capital Improvements committee gets started on the first of our renovation projects. Our goal is to make our parish home more functional, more energy efficient and more inviting. Much more on these projects to come as things develop.

**PICKING and GRINNING Saturday!**

**Chris Metheny**

As many of you know, the Strawberry Festival is right around the corner (June 8<sup>th</sup>) and the Chairs have rigorously solicited coordinators for this church-wide project.

Please be sure to mark your calendar for Saturday, *June 7th as PICKING and GRINNING Saturday!*

We will need pickers to pick strawberries early in the morning. Please let Chris Metheny know if you need a reminder call to come pick on that Saturday.

## Multiphasic Blood Screening - A Big Success

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Christ Episcopal Church (under the direction of Barb Barkley) hosted a Multiphasic Screening at Fairmont General Hospital. This is a great money-maker for Christ Church; we made \$675.00 !!!!

Special thanks to **Barb Barkley, Susie Hawkins** and **Toni Balenger** for their help during this event. We certainly appreciate your time and effort.

## Christian Education

**Chris Metheny**

The Christian Education program is winding down its year with a Bon-Fire Cookout at **Gary & Chris Metheny's** on Saturday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning at 6:00 p.m. All Christian Education families are invited to come roast hot dogs, and made smore's. Please bring lawn chairs and/or lawn games, and a dish to share. There is a big yard, tree house, swing set and trampoline for all ages to enjoy.

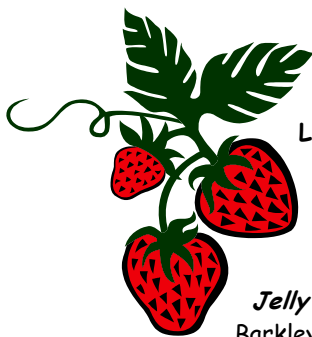
Christian Education will recognize the children and teachers during the worship service on Sunday, May 4th.

We have had a progressive year with our kids, having two classes averaging 6 in each class. Special thanks to our teachers and to the Christian education families for bringing their children to our programs and activities. We really enjoy seeing them grow in Christ's love over the year.

If you are interested in becoming more active in our Christian Education programs, please see any on the Christian Education teachers with your time, talents, and ideas.

## Strawberry Festival (June 8th)

**Mike Lawson & Barb Barkley**



Thanks for EVERYONE's help so far. The number of volunteers is staggering.....and the energy level is extremely high with all involved! This is going to be a great festival, so join the fun and volunteer. Please see **Louise Starr, Barb Barkley, Neal Hamilton or Mike Lawson** if you are feeling left out.

Calling lists will be distributed in the near future. Calls will be made between May 18th and May 30th for baked goods, shortcakes, etc.

**Jelly Jar Request** - As part of the strawberry festival, we will again have Strawberry Jam. Barb Barkley is asking for jelly jars (8 oz) which will help us from having to raise the price. Barb will be happy to pickup or you can drop them off at the church. Also, if anyone would like to place a special order (4 jars or more), please give Barb a call. She will be making the jam over Memorial Day weekend. Barb's phone number at work is 367-0232 and her home phone is 366-7149.

**Gift Basket Raffle** - Don't forget that we will have a gift basket from the **Tuscan Sun Spa** that will be raffled off during the Strawberry Festival -- (courtesy of **Cheri Satterfield**). If you won't be able to attend the festival, you can get a ticket from Mary Hoylman (\$1.00 each) to put your "name in the hat" for the drawing on Sunday. There will also be an Italian Food/Wine Basket for raffle. Wine is being donated by **Barb Barkley**. Should be exciting!

(See Chris Metheny's Article regarding "Picking and Grinning" also)



When Fr. Steve arrived here almost 5 years ago, he and the Vestry had two goals for the interim. First was to restore stability, a sense of well being to the congregation, and to prepare CEC for a new era of ministry in partnership with the new Rector. The last interim part of that preparation is saying goodbye. Fr. Steve and the Vestry have determined the following details: 'concluding conversations' in small groups of current and last year's Vestry members; a sermon on Saying Goodbye; a "liturgical" goodbye on Sunday, June 8 (separate article); and a coffee hour on whatever Sunday turns out to be his last Sunday.

Reflections on saying goodbye:

Saying 'goodbye' is never easy. Few people are known to like saying goodbye. Typically it is something we just want to get past us and to get on with our lives. We know it is not going to be fun. If there was just some way to get it all over quickly.....

Actually, saying goodbye well is one of the best ways to say 'hello' to your new Rector. It is a time to reflect on both the good and the challenging times, to give thanks for what has been accomplished, and prayerfully to support each other in our separate search processes.

As part of interim ministry on 'saying goodbye', Sunday, June 8 (Strawberry Festival Sunday), we will have a special Eucharist. During that service Fr. Steve will give to the congregation the instruments and symbols of his ministry as Priest-in-Charge, (a chalice, a Bible and a prayer book, for example). These same instruments/symbols will then be given to your new Rector in his/her installation as Rector by the Bishop (see "*The Celebration of a New Ministry*", BCP p. 559f.).

**Stewardship (Getting Tired of Me Yet)****Mike Lawson**

Just a couple more verses to help keep it all in perspective.....

- ◆ "What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?" (Psalm 116:12)
- ◆ "For the measure you give will be the measure you get back." (Luke 6:38)
- ◆ "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16)
- ◆ Remember, our souls become dyed with the color of our thoughts

**Manna Article****Mary Hoylman**

Articles for the Manna are requested by the 22nd of the month to meet the deadline of the next month's publication.

Articles can be sent to Mary Hoylman via email at mhoylman@indres.com; fax at 367-9737; phone at 363-4100 (daytime) or 367-0240 (evenings) - or articles can be dropped off to Bessie McCardle at the Church Office.

If you are on a Church Committee, please assign one person on the committee to submit updates to our congregation through the Manna on a monthly basis.



The Outreach Committee continues to have meetings regarding the guidelines/requests for financial support for our community. As Kyle Hamilton stated in his article, they voted to contribute \$25,000 to the Marion County United Way to help them meet their goal. You will be kept up to date as we work on the implementation of this program.

The Outreach Committee Mission Statement is:

**We endeavor to financially support non-profit organizations that attempt to help people meet their basic needs by reducing poverty, improving education and providing health care.**

The Guidelines/Criteria for Seeking Financial Assistance are:

- ◆ All requests must be in writing and presented to the committee on a form that will be provided from the church office upon request.
- ◆ All requests must fall into one of the categories outlined in the committee's mission statement.
- ◆ Monies will be allocated the first quarter of every calendar year.

**Treasurer's Report**

**Steve Hoylman**

Below is the Financial Report for March 2008.

Our loose plate and pledge collections were somewhat ahead of our projections due primarily to pre-payment of some of the pledge amounts. Further, our expenses were somewhat lower than projected.

<b>January 1 thru December 31, 2008:</b>	Budget	Actual	Over / (Under)
Loose Plate Collections	2,750	3,436	686
Pledge Collections	19,500	22,357	2,857
Expenses	46,776	43,507	(3,269)

<b>March 2008 Only:</b>	Budget	Actual	Net Difference
Loose Plate Collections	917	1,190	273
Pledge Collections	6,500	8,254	1,754
Expenses	15,592	16,651	1,059

**2008 Graduates**

We would like to Congratulate the following students that will graduate in May!

- Taylor Hamilton
- MacKenzie Boyles
- Ross Lawson
- Eric Lopez



We'll hear more about these outstanding students on April 27<sup>th</sup>, Senior Recognition Sunday.

# HELP WANTED

Below is a listing of "current" liturgical assistants we are using when making up the monthly rotation. Our hope is that persons will not have to serve more than once or twice a month -- **we need more liturgical assistants.**

Lectors: Bruce Hamilton, Dot Hamilton, John Burford, Louise Lawson, Tara Steed, Carla Wood, E. Lopez, Dede Burnell, Kent Brown (and of course our youth that rotate).

Ushers: Glenn Boyles, Dick Hawkins, Lenin Leon, John Burford, Kent Brown (*need a lot of help here – 2 serve at a time !!*)

Eucharistic Ministers: Neal Hamilton, Jude Miller, Louise Lawson, Bruce Hamilton, Dot Hamilton, Kyle Hamilton, Caroline Carlot, Tara Steed. Barbara Barkley

As you can see from the above list, we have "multi-tasking" which makes persons serve quite often.

Please contact Mary Hoylman (367-0240) or Bessie McCardle at the Church Office if you would be willing to be put into the rotation for Ushers, Lectors, and/or Eucharistic Ministers. If you are a current "server" – THANK YOU !!

- or -

Please complete the form below and drop in the collection basket during the collection.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Please put me on the schedule for:** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Usher, Lector, Eucharistic Minister)



## Junior Warden Report

**Kent Brown**

John Lee (general contractor) has had people in to look at replacing the boilers remaining in the basement with forced air heating & cooling units. We should have at least 3 quotes on re-doing the roof within 2 weeks and we should be receiving at least one estimate on getting the drain water away from the foundation on the high side of the Parish Hall.

## Yoga Classes Continue

Sally Tennant is continuing to have her Yoga Classes in the gym at Christ Episcopal Church on Thursdays and Saturdays. Level II Classes are from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Thursday and 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on Saturdays. Beginners Classes are 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays and 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. on Saturdays.

Please contact Sally if you would like to talk about starting a class. Also, if interested, please give Sally your email address as future schedules will be emailed to you (along with any class changes as needed).

Price:                      Community Members \$50 per month or \$7/drop-in  
                                 Church Members \$40 per month or \$6/drop-in

Contact Information:    Certified Instructor Sally Tennant, cell (304) 694-0107 home (304) 287-2515  
                                 Email: sjotennant@aol.com

## New Grandparents

Steve and Mary Hoylman are grandparents for the first time. Their daughter, Stephanie, gave birth to Eliot Paul Sparacio on April 15<sup>th</sup>. At birth, Eliot was 7 lbs. 14 ounces and 21.5" long. Steve and Mary visited Stephanie, Micah and Eliot, who live in Morrisville, PA, and are happy to report Eliot is JUST PRECIOUS. Steve (*the accountant*) won't have any trouble remembering Eliot's birthday!



## Contact Information

If you have any issues you would like to discuss, please feel free to contact one of the vestry members.

Vestry Member	Phone Number	Email Address
Kent Brown	366-9445	wkbrown@access.k12.wv.us
Toni Balenger	363-7815	nonatoniwv@yahoo.com
Kyle Hamilton	366-5148	kyle@wilsonfordlm.com
Ann Heim	366-5580	-----
Neal Hamilton	366-2000	-----
Mike Lawson	366-0759	mike.lawson@novelis.com
Sally Tennant	287-2515	sjotennant@aol.com
Carla Wood	363-7938	carla414@msn.com
Jeff Wallace	594-1436	jeffmwallace@yahoo.com

Christ Episcopal Church Phone Numbers and Email Addresses:

Steve Swift	366-3471 (Office) 376-1223 (Cell)	saswift@wvdsi.net
Christ Episcopal Church	366-3471	christchfmt@wvdsi.net



## May Calendar

Saturday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Christian Education Bon-Fire /Cookout at Metheny's House
Sunday, May 4 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Church School Recognition Sunday
Sunday May 11 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist & Mother's Day
Monday, May 12 <sup>th</sup>	6:00 p.m. Vestry Meeting
Saturday, May 17 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Soup Opera (Need Volunteers)
Sunday, May 18 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sunday, May 25 <sup>th</sup>	10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Monday, May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Office Closed for Memorial Day



## Liturgical Assistants Calendar

Date	Service	Eucharistic Ministers	Lectors	Acolytes	Sacristan	Ushers *	Counters
4/27/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	J. Miller L. Lawson	B. Hamilton D. Hamilton	E. Lopez B. Metheny N. Lopez	Team 4 White	K. Brown D. Hawkins	M. Lawson K. Brown
5/4/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	D. Hamilton B. Hamilton	C. Boyles N. Lopez	J. Wood M. Marsh A. Wadsworth	Team 1 White	Youth Ushers	C. Wood K. Hamilton
5/11/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	K. Hamilton C. Carlot	J. Burford L. Lawson	R. Lawson C. Boyles M. Jacquez	Team 2 Red	G. Boyles L. Leon	A. Heim T. Balenger
5/18/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	N. Hamilton B. Barkley	T. Steed C. Wood	E. Lopez A. Wadsworth M. Marsh	Team 3 White	K. Brown D. Hawkins	J. Wallace N. Hamilton
5/25/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	J. Miller L. Lawson	D. Burnell D. Hamilton	J. Wood B. Metheny N. Lopez	Team 4 Green or All Season	J. Burford L. Leon	S. Tennant M. Lawson
6/1/08	10:30 am Holy Eucharist	T. Steed N. Hamilton	B. Metheny E. Lopez	M. Boyles M. Marsh A. Wadsworth	Team 1 Green or All Season	Youth Ushers	K. Brown C. Wood

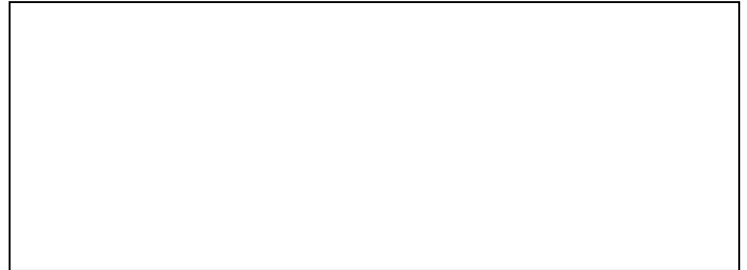
We need more liturgical assistants.

Please see "sign-up" form in this Manna and in the Weekly Bulletins.



Christ Episcopal Church  
824 Fairmont Avenue  
Fairmont, WV 26554

Phone: 304-366-3471  
Fr. Steve Cell: 304-376-1223  
E-mail: christchfmt@wvdsi.net



Remember the Strawberry Festival on June 8<sup>th</sup> !!

*Don't let your worries get the best of you;  
remember Moses started out  
as a basket case.*

