

Christ Episcopal Church Xenia  
63 East Church Street  
Xenia, OH 45385  
(937) 372-1594  
[www.chrstepiscopalxenia.org](http://www.chrstepiscopalxenia.org)  
[chrstepiscopalxenia@gmail.com](mailto:chrstepiscopalxenia@gmail.com)



March 2011

Volume 2, Issue 3

---

## A message from the Bishop to the people of Southern Ohio (reprinted from email)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

After input from hundreds of people in two series of deanery meetings we have reached a crucial turning point in the Mission Priorities process. Next week, the Mission Priorities Task Force will craft a report that outlines the five strategies that have emerged as the focus for our ministry in Southern Ohio. The report also will share the journey of how we arrived here - and what's next.

We embarked on this process nearly a year ago. Last summer, the Budget Committee of Diocesan Council looked at the requests for funding - and the sources of revenue - and found that there was a predictable shortfall of \$300,000. Instead of cutting budget requests arbitrarily, the committee recommended engaging the people of the diocese in a conversation about spending priorities. As you know, the process quickly became much more than about how we spend our money. It became a transparent and collaborative process of reflection on our mission priorities.

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Reprint of Bishop Breidenthal's letter
- 2 Service Calendars for March and April
- 3 List of Birthdays and Anniversaries
- 4 Poem on Telling Your Story
- 5 Homeless Shelter Schedule
- 5 Parish News

We entered this process knowing that the status quo is not an option. If we want the Episcopal Church in Southern Ohio to reach new generations and to be an agent of transformation in our part of the world, then we must make some changes ourselves. This includes how we support congregations and engage new audiences, and how we approach formation and mission. And it demands that we look closely at our diocesan structures to make sure that they are efficient and well-equipped to support new ways of being church.

Some may ask why we need diocesan structures in the first place. Why shouldn't individual congregations simply function on their own? We can't answer that question by saying "we've always done it this way." We must get down to the heart of what it means to be an Episcopal Church, in which the basic unit is a diocese with its bishop. Here's how I see it.

First, as many of you have heard me say, the diocese is the smallest unit in which we are forced to be in close fellowship with followers of Jesus who are different from us. Congregations can and do sort themselves out by shared preference and comfort zone. But diocesan life mixes us up and helps us imagine our Christian walk more broadly.

Secondly, diocesan life invites whole congregations to relate to one another the way individuals are called to relate to one another in Jesus Christ. Paul says we are to "bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2). When different congregations exchange spiritual and material gifts, each comes closer to being a training ground for the kingdom of God. Rich and poor, big and small, urban, suburban and rural - all have burdens to be lifted and gifts to be shared. This is what Mission Share should be about - not a tax to "headquarters" but a direct expression of mutuality among all our congregations in solidarity with one another for the common good. The diocesan budget should reflect and serve that mutuality.

Thirdly, the "Episcopal principle," if I may call it that, is about connection without coercion. God made us for connection, and we hunger for it. But that connection should go hand in hand with more freedom of expression, not less. Our tradition is not about top-down governance, although it has sometimes degenerated into that. At our core, we are

## Christ Episcopal Church, Xenia Service Calendar, March 2011

Ministry	Mar 6	Mar 13	Mar 20	Mar 27
Worship Leader	Barbara Bonham (MP)	Rev Betty Coleman (tentative)	Pam Feinour (MP)	Rev Lynn Sinnott
Altar Guild	JoAnne Earley Phyllis/Elaina Walker	Ruth Hazel Jonathan Feinour	Jonathan Feinour Pam Feinour	JoAnne Earley Phyllis/Elaina Walker
Lector	Doug Pultz	Michael Taint	Nancy Nickell	Jack Kitch
Ushers	JoAnne Earley Summer Watts	Elaina Walker Doug Pultz	The Donovans	Elizabeth Clark Tommy Thomas
Intercessor	Mark Cummings	Ruth Hazel	Dana Rhyne	Summer Watts
Chalice		Pam Feinour		Debbie Gillespie
Vestry Member of the Week	Kim Holbert	Vikki Carter	Jack Harrison	JoAnne Earley

## Service Calendar, April 2011

Ministry	Apr 3	Apr 10	Apr 17	Apr 24
Worship Leader	Debbie Gillespie MP	Jack Kitch Sermon: Betsy Kitch	Palm Sunday Rev Lynn Sinnott	Easter Sunday Rev Lynn Sinnott
Altar Guild	Ruth Hazel Betsy Kitch	Becky Gentry Pam Feinour	JoAnne Earley Phyllis/Elaina Walker	Ruth Hazel Betsy Kitch
Lector	Barbara Bonham	Chandra Hightower	Betsy Kitch	Mark Cummings
Ushers	JoAnne Earley Summer Watts	Elaina Walker Tommy Thomas	The Donovans	Elizabeth Clark Tommy Thomas
Intercessor	Rick Feinour	Barbara Bonham	Debbie Gillespie	Ruth Hazel
Chalice			Jack Kitch	Barbara Bonham
Vestry Member of the Week	Jack Kitch	Summer Watts	Chandra Hightower	Michael Taint

If your name is down and your schedule conflicts, contact Becky as soon as possible.

## MARCH BIRTHDAYS

**04 Heather Holland Schroeder**  
**07 Russell Walker**  
**09 Elizabeth Clark**  
**15 Sue Ralston**  
**17 Shirley Ellis**  
**18 Jonathon Feinour**  
**23 Pam Feinour**  
**29 Summer Watts**

**Oops...if we ever miss your birthday/anniversary please give Tanya a call 767-1578.**

To keep the Church Directory “up to date”... if you are planning a move in the near future, or have a new phone number or e-mail address please be sure and let the church know. *Thanks!*

**Check out our Church website:**  
[www.christepiscopalxenia.org](http://www.christepiscopalxenia.org)

**New email address for parish office:**  
[christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com](mailto:christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com)

**New Church Directory:** If you would like a copy of the new directory, please let Becky know and she'll make a copy for you. You can call her at the Parish office during the week, or email her at church, [christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com](mailto:christepiscopalxenia@gmail.com) or at her home, [rvg1947@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rvg1947@sbcglobal.net).

about the discipline of collaboration in union with the bishop as a visible and personal sign of our connection with one another. When we get that balance right, we can be a powerful model for all kinds of connection with people of good will. I would go still further: the Episcopal principle is our particular witness to the Gospel - the Good News that in Christ our connection with one another has been redeemed and has become the medium of salvation.

In my view, our future as a church stands or falls on this principle. Our world hungers for connection without coercion, and for our witness to vital and joyous communion with one another in Jesus Christ. This is the witness that will draw young adults and the unchurched to Christ. If we embrace this witness we will thrive. If we turn our backs on it, we won't.

Embracing this witness starts with talking together about our common ministry and making decisions together about diocesan priorities. This is inevitably a messy process, partly because we are just learning to talk together about these things, and partly because it is a tall order to canvass the entire diocese in any meaningful way. I am deeply grateful to all of you who attended the deanery meetings in December and February, and to Douglas Argue, Sallie Schisler and David McCoy, who so ably facilitated those meetings. I am aware that none of those meetings was perfect. For some, the exercises seemed simplistic; for others, they assumed too much knowledge about how the diocese works. With regard to the second round of meetings, three concerns have been raised: (1) that there was not sufficient lead time to evaluate the task force's draft of a one-page outline of strategies and plans; (2) that the relation of this document to the December deanery meetings was not obvious; and (3) few people understood the Procter Fund well enough to say how its purpose might differ from Mission Share funds. I want to address these concerns briefly.

(1) I think it was probably a mistake not to publish the draft one-pager ahead of the February meetings so that people could come prepared to evaluate it. We were trying to build in consistency across the range of meetings, but it is now clear that this consistency came at too high a price. I apologize for this.

(2) The Mission Priorities Task Force spent many, many hours, both in plenary session and in subgroups, poring over the information from the December meetings in order to develop the strategies and plans that were, in turn, presented to the February meetings. Those strategies and plans were constantly checked against the data from December, and are now being further revised in light of the feedback received in February. One of the unavoidable flaws in this process is that there wasn't enough time at the deanery meetings to lay out the Task Force's work in detail, but if you take a look at the revised draft of the one-page summary of strategies and plans (posted on the website - just click on Mission Priorities Process), I think you will see that some significant changes have been made.

(3) I am not surprised that many people felt ill-prepared to talk about the Procter Fund, still less to reflect on how its purpose might differ from Mission Share. For me, the chief object was to get us talking about this at all. I am glad that this conversation has now begun. I hope we are all beginning to see that the Procter Fund is properly a source for bold new initiatives, not a means to fill in gaps in the diocesan budget. We have long been in the habit of relying on the

## six billion stories and counting

but this is your story  
a tangled holy mess of contradictions  
and understanding  
of decisions made in every moment  
to say yes  
or to fight  
to relinquish  
or reclaim

in every moment  
every breath  
the choice made new  
of how to live

and there's nothing unusual about this  
nothing extra-ordinary  
- this is what it is  
to be alive -  
except that this is you  
and you are  
ours.

six billion stories  
and counting,  
every one.

From:

<http://holdthinspace.org.au/six-billion-stories-and-counting/>

Do you want to tell your story? We'd love to hear it!  
See page 6 for details.

## Sunday Scriptures for March

March 6<sup>th</sup>  
Exodus 24:12-18  
Psalms 2  
2Peter 1:1-16-21  
Matthew 17:1-9

March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Genesis 12:1-4a  
Psalm 121  
Romans 4:1-5,13-17  
John 3:1-17

March 13<sup>th</sup>  
Genesis 2:15-17,3:1-7  
Psalm 32  
Romans 5:12-19  
Matthew 4:1-11

March 27<sup>th</sup>  
Exodus 17:1-7  
Psalm 95  
Romans 5:1-11  
John 4:5-42

Procter Fund to support ministries and fulfill obligations that should properly be funded through Mission Share (e.g., our youth program and our support for congregations in need). I doubt we can kick this habit all at once, but owning this as a problem is a crucial first step.

Finally, some have expressed concern that the process is not transparent because I have made some decisions in midstream, in particular, the hiring of Jane Gerdsen as Missioner for Fresh Expressions. I understand this concern and am not surprised by it. However, as I said in my address at convention last November (when I announced my intention to create this position), the need for an aggressive focus on young adult ministry is too urgent to be delayed and, is, in any case, clearly a diocesan priority, as has been borne out in all the deanery meetings, without exception.

So, yes, the process has not been perfect. Nevertheless, however messily, we are launched on a path that honors our connection, relies on broad leadership, and reflects a commitment to transparency. We have definitely learned enough to steer a forward course with confidence and clarity, and to develop a 2012 budget that embodies values and decisions that we can all own.

So what's next? In March, Diocesan Council and the Trustees will receive and review the final report of the Mission Priorities Task Force. The report will then be posted online at [www.diosohio.org](http://www.diosohio.org) and in the April Interchange. In May, at the reconvened convention, delegates will, I hope, accept the report and commend it to the Budget Committee as the basis for the 2012 budget. Over the summer, the Budget Committee will develop that budget, and in November, delegates to the 137th Convention will vote on whether to approve it. Beyond November, it is my intention that we will continue to build on the work of the Mission Priorities Task Force to create a three-year strategic plan.

We are in a time of urgency and opportunity which demands courage, trust, and the willingness to change. May these words from our Book of Common Prayer express ever more deeply what we ask of God for this diocese and for our church:

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Yours in Christ,  
+ Tom Breidenthal  
800.582.1712  
[tbreidenthal@diosohio.org](mailto:tbreidenthal@diosohio.org) Spiritual Direction

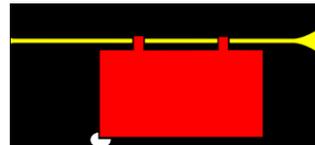


(Lectors need to verify the readings for their Sunday.)

<b>ROTATION DATES</b>  <b>Updated: March 8 2011</b>	<b>Xenia Emergency Homeless Shelter – Christ Episcopal Church</b>							
	<b>63 East Church Street, Xenia OH Phone: 372-1594</b>							
<b>Shelter Coordinator: Mike Taint 937 304 1115</b>								
<b>SHELTER ATTENDANTS</b>	<b>Church Coordinator</b>	<b>MON</b>	<b>TUES</b>	<b>WED</b>	<b>THURS</b>	<b>FRI</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>SUN</b>
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Feb 27 – Mar 6 2011	Mike Taint 304 1115	Ona & Andrew	Carolyn C & Mark Cummings	Steven Kidd & Sharon	Otto A & Ruth Petri	Sharon & Bob P	Mike & Carol	Odd Fellows volunteers (new) Judy Rose and Steve Kidd
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH March 7 - March 13	Mike Taint 304 1115	Lucia Livingston, Andrew & Jeremiah	Judy Rose & Mark Cummings	Sharon & Josh Long	Otto & Ruth Petri	Kim Holbert & Vicki Carter	Sharon & Steve Kidd	Steven Kidd
March 14 - March 20	Mike Taint 304 1115	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Mike & Carol	TBD
March 21 - March 27	Mike Taint 304 1115	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	Kim Holbert & Vicki Carter	TBD	TBD
March 28 - April 3	Mike Taint 304 1115	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD	TBD

**Prayer Requests:**

\*Jennie Hudson asks that we keep Mia, our friends daughter, in our prayers...she needs prayers of strength and good health and the Lord's healing. She has just been sent to the hospital, according to last reports.



\*I thought I would take a moment to explain to all why I asked for my mother, Connie, to be on the prayer list. She has recently been experiencing issues and there is a history of dementia and Alzheimer's in the family.

**\*Have you seen someone in need of a call, care package, or visit?** Tell a member of the Vestry. Tell your wardens, Summer and Mike. Tell your communications person, Tanya. Let us know so people in need are not missed.

**The Healing Prayer Group** is collecting items for will be collecting items for Scott Cummings who is serving in Afghanistan. Please bring food items that will withstand the desert heat. Sorry...no chocolate Easter bunnies. Previously, people brought in items such as pop tarts, hard candies, beef jerky, chips, crackers..etc. We will be collecting items until Sunday, April 3rd. Give all items to Summer Watts.

**Soap Collection:** Glenn Donovan is still collecting soaps and sanitary products for underprivileged students. There is a box in the Parish Hall for contributions.

**Coffee Hour:** We need volunteers for the coffee hour for the rest of the year. Sign up is in Parish Hall.

**Lenten Series**

All across our communities we see people suffering and often we wonder how we can respond. Episcopal churches are reaching out in extraordinary ways to serve the poor in our midst. This Lent, join us to reflect on how we are can offer hope in the midst of despair. We will hear stories about those who are wrestling with poverty and about how the church is responding. We will reflect on Scripture and ask what our faith teaches about the poor. We will pray together as we listen to how God is inviting us to deepen our commitment to ministry in the Miami Valley.

The Lenten Series will be held on five Tuesday nights during Lent. The program will begin with prayer and a simple soup supper from 6:00 – 6:45 pm. The study program including speakers and small group discussions will be from 6:45-8:00 pm. This program will be held at several of our deanery churches. We invite you to join us as you are able on this special Lenten pilgrimage!

- March 15: Christ Church Dayton
- March 22: St. Mark's
- March 29: St. Christopher's
- April 5: St. George's
- April 12: St. Paul's

**Episcopal Church Women of Province V will hold their Annual Meeting in Columbus, May 13 - 15.**

The agenda is full and exciting. We look forward to having women from all over our Diocese.

**Christ Episcopal Church Xenia online shop**

<http://www.cafepress.com/CECX>

Find t-shirts, mugs, bags and other great gifts from the Christ Episcopal Church Xenia CafePress shop. High quality. 24 hour shipping available. Not comfortable with buying online, see Tanya Ellenburg-Kimmet. She can show you color choices and items available. She'll even order it for you and have it shipped to the location of your choosing.

*If you are not on the email mailing list or not receiving emails and you thought you were on the mailing list for the church, email Tanya at [cecxtanya@gmail.com](mailto:cecxtanya@gmail.com). Make sure any spam filters allow email from [cecxlist@googlegroups.com](mailto:cecxlist@googlegroups.com) and [cecxtanya@gmail.com](mailto:cecxtanya@gmail.com)*

**Submissions:**

Anyone who wishes to submit information or creativity (links of information, information of upcoming events, shout outs of recognition) for Trumpet, should do so ASAP. Deadline for submissions is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Submit information by hand to Tanya or emailing it to [cecxtanya@gmail.com](mailto:cecxtanya@gmail.com).

Christ Episcopal Church Xenia  
68 E Church St  
Xenia, OH 45385

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

**Tell Your Story:**

Last year, an initiative was launched during Lent. We were asked to share our story, which is part of our Common Story – our Common Ministry. Those of us who attended the Lenten Series were talked through various aspects of stories and how they relate. We learned the story which pertains to the history of the Episcopal Church. We learned the story of how each of the churches in the Dayton Deanery came about. We shared our personal stories.

We are trying to share stories as a feature in the Trumpet. Tell us how you came to the Episcopal Church. If you are cradle Episcopalian, tell us what was the circumstances that led you to decide this is where you would stay or what reaffirmed or reaffirms your attachment Christ Church Xenia. If you came from another Diocese or congregation, tell how you found Christ Church Xenia. If you feel you need help writing it or don't know where to begin, ask me and I will make arrangements. It doesn't have to be long or encompass your entire life. Everyone's story is important.

Ask me for more details on how to share your story.

-Tanya (Trumpet editor, CECX Communications)

BUILD RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO.
0000

Mailing Address  
Street Number and Name  
City, State 98765-4321