

## Weekly Update: May 31, 2016

### A Word From Pastor Darryl

This past Sunday we concluded our sermon series entitled *“Reclaiming Our Wesleyan Vitality.”* Our sub-theme was *“The Warmed Heart – The Need for Assurance.”* I posed these questions to the gathered community: which of the following questions do you consider to be the most basic religious questions of life? Does God exist? Does God care about me? Is Jesus Christ really the only Savior of the World? How can I be **sure** of my relationship with God? Is death the end? What must I do to be saved? What is the true meaning of life? The conclusion I drew from these questions is that the most basic religious question for people is not, “Does God exist?” God’s existence is taken for granted by most people, and there is no need for theoretical proof of this. The primary religious question therefore is, *“How can I be **sure** of my faith, **sure** of my relationship with God?”* People generally can cope with disease, disappointment, disillusionment, and even death, but beyond the tragedies of human existence, we want an assurance of divine acceptance – how can we be certain that we are forgiven and acceptable to God? Despite of all our shortcomings, failures, and selfishness, how can we be sure that there are no longer barriers to divine fellowship with God? There is an inherent need for assurance and God has given us this assurance of our faith and salvation in Jesus Christ. It is a central teaching, one of the major emphases of our United Methodist Church, beginning with John Wesley’s heart-warming experience at Aldersgate Street in London England. But long before Wesley, the apostles had an assurance of their faith and salvation in Jesus Christ. We see it in the letter of Paul to Timothy – an unashamed confidence in Jesus Christ: *“...I am not ashamed, for I know in whom I have believed, and I am sure that he will keep me until that day what has been entrusted to me.”* (2Tim. 1:12)

How can I be sure of my faith, sure of my relationship with God? We know that when someone becomes a Christian, God’s Holy Spirit lives within that person. The Holy Spirit enables us to be sure of our faith in Christ. The Spirit transforms us from within and produces the character of Jesus in our lives. This is called “the fruit of the Spirit”: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.* (Gal. 5:22-23) So when the Holy Spirit lives within us this fruit begins to grow. Our character changes and that light often shines on others – evidence of the Spirit’s witness – we grow in God’s grace, a life-long process of pruning, and nurturing, and growing. We hope by God’s grace that over time other people will see that we are more loving, more joyful, more peaceful, more patient, kinder, more self-controlled and more God-controlled. Our attitude toward others changes and we have a renewed concern for people we meet – in the street, at the coffee shop or grocery store, at the office or in other places having had that inner experience of God who creates a deep, personal conviction that we are children of God! We are offered the assurance – the blessed assurance of a warmed heart – Expect it! Seek it! Experience it! Share it! As always, I am praying for you and with you daily. May God’s love and blessings be always with you, and my love to all of you. Invite someone to join us for worship this Sunday!

## Daily Bible Reading – 2016      Shaping Our Life Experience

Excerpts from both the Old and New Testament are included each day. This is a great way to support your ongoing growth in faith and the Christ Church community as well.

May 31: 2 Chronicles 1-3; John 12:1-19

June 1: 2 Chronicles 4-6; John 12:20-50

June 2: 2 Chronicles 7-9; John 13:1-17

June 3: 2 Chronicles 10-12; John 13:18-38

June 4: 2 Chronicles 13-16; John 14

June 5: 2 Chronicles 17-19; John 15

June 6: 2 Chronicles 20-22; John 16:1-15

## In Our Prayers

**Ed Maker** – Sisters Hospital; **John Yungbluth**

Our sympathy & prayers are with **Donna Hammond** on the death of her brother, Ron Trammell, on May 29.

Sympathy & prayers are extended to the family of the **Rev. Richard (Dick) Harrington**, who served Christ Church as an Associate Pastor in 1961 and as Senior Pastor from 1980-1988. Dick died on May 25 at the age of 85 years. A memorial service will be held at a future date.

**Guy Ferrelli, Fred Painton, Patty Keller, John Lopez, Carol Corsaro, Gaetano Castellino Sr. Charles Terranova, Elvira Gonzalez, Glenn Hurst**

**New pastor appointment process**

**Alex Dunbar, Lindsey Darling & Ian Johnson\* (deployed)** – all serve in the US Navy

## This Week at Christ Church

Monday, May 30 - Church office closed in observance of  
Memorial Day

Wednesday, June 1 - 6:30 pm – Praise Team Rehearsal  
7:30 pm – Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, June 2 - **Upper New York Annual Conference June 2-4, in Syracuse**

**No Life Lessons Bible Study this week**

6:30 pm – Elizabeth Circle Dinner @ Milos Restaurant

7 pm – Circle of Joy – at church

Sunday, June 5 - 9 am & 11 am – Worship

4 pm – **Sacred, Secular & Comedy Concert**

with Valerian Ruminski, Reception to follow

Contact Carol Teresi (839-4373) for tickets and to help with the reception

## Opportunities to Make A Difference

**Food Pantry** - suggested items:

**May 29 – Soups & Stews**

*All food items, **paper products** and **toiletry items** are welcome anytime.  
Grocery carts are available in the church for your donations. Thank you!*

### **Summer Sundays - Host the Cafe**

Sign up on the bulletin board in the café to host some Sunday morning!

Invite your family, friends, ministry team or group to join you!

Share in this Café ministry of hospitality and welcome.

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### **Health & Wellness**

#### **Workshop - Navigating Health Insurance**

**Saturday, June 11 at 10:30 am**

Geoff Hill will help you navigate the complex health insurance network. Bring your laptop and Geoff will walk you through the information and options.

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### **A Date With Darryl**

**Sunday, June 19**

Join in a celebration of the ministry of Pastor Darryl Barrow on Sunday, June 19. It will be a special day for honoring Darryl's ministry and presence with and among us and for sending Darryl, Pauline and their family off to their new church and new home in Lockport.

Worship at 9 and 11 am  
Party at noon!



## Sacred, Secular and Comedy Concert

Sunday June 5  
4:00 pm – Reception to follow

With  
**Valerian Ruminiski**

Singing songs from all genres as well as a preview of music from the musical “SHOT” a story of the events of the 1901 Pan American Expo and the death of President McKinley, part of Buffalo history.

There’s still time to bid on **two tickets** to the opera “**Shot**” at Shea’s Theatre. Bid sheet located in the café or call Carol Teresi (839-4373).



## Graduate Recognition Sunday

**Sunday, June 12**

If you have a high school or college graduate in your family, please send the information in to the church office by **Wednesday, June 8**



“But, Jesus isn’t so easily boiled down. You can’t take the breadth, length, height, and depth of the power that created the earth and everything in it, and the love that suffered death on the cross, and capture it in a tagline or a bumper sticker.” ~ Rick Morley, *Episcopal priest, author*