

Christ Church Chronicle

Pentecost Summer 2014



Meditation from the Rev. Jean Jersey

Ever since I was asked to write something on discipleship, an old gospel hymn has been playing in my head:

I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
I have decided to follow Jesus,
No turning back, no turning back.

The understanding is that we make a one-time decision to follow Jesus and we're done. I find it far more likely that such a decision is made and remade throughout life. Or perhaps we make the decision but then we lag behind at times. Maybe the chorus should be "No hanging back, no hanging back." The very first disciples were invited by Jesus to come along with him, and, as they began journeying with him, others followed along. Some were sightseers, some were miracle seekers, some were just plain curious, and some wanted, deeply desired, longed for, the kingdom Jesus preached about.

For most of my life the call to follow Jesus meant ordination or going out into a mission area, usually in another country, to teach and to preach. I grew up on tales of missionaries home on leave from China or India or Africa, tales of their adventures in these mysterious and far-away lands. Things are very different now. We know all that goes on around the world, often far more than most of us are comfortable knowing, and we live with the history of colonialism in China and India and Africa. As late as 1964 an Anglican bishop from India was in New Jersey trying to talk American priests into going to his diocese to work. He offered household servants and a summer "in the mountains" as inducements. We live in a very different time and discipleship has taken on a very different identity. For me, it is not so much a matter of going out to preach and teach as it is a matter of going out to listen. Where is the Spirit working in Montpelier? What is our role as modern disciples?

continued inside...

The Episcopal Church

The Anglican Communion is a global community of over 80 million Anglicans in 44 regional and national churches in over 160 countries.

*Archbishop of Canterbury,
The Most Reverend and Right Honorable
Justin Welby*
Lambeth Palace
London, England SE1 7JU
www.anglicancommunion.org

The Episcopal Church in the United States is a community of over 2 million members in 110 diocese both in the United States and abroad.

*Presiding Bishop,
The Most Reverend Dr. Katharine Jefferts
Schori*
815 Second Avenue
New York, NY 10017
www.episcopalchurch.org

The Diocese of Vermont is a community of 8,200 members in 50 congregations.

*Bishop,
The Right Reverend Thomas Ely*
5 Rock Point Road
Burlington, VT 05401
(800) 286-3437
www.dioceseofvermont.org

The Parish of Christ Episcopal Church is a community of 388 members.

*Priest-in-Partnership,
The Reverend Paul Habersang
Associate Priest,
The Reverend Auburn Watersong*
64 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-3631
www.christchurchvt.org

The first disciples included working fishermen, a tax man, and some others whose occupations aren't given. What followed was an intense period of instruction. Jesus had to teach these people what he was hoping to accomplish and how he wanted them to do it. He had some major teaching times that are recorded but much of his impact came through encounters with individuals. It seems to me that if we want to be effective disciples in our day we need to know those stories a lot better than we do. I learned early on in my preaching days that I could not refer to gospel stories and expect everyone would know the reference. The Rich Young Ruler or Zaccheus may mean something to some but others may not have a clue as to who they are. We need to follow Jesus around, through the gospels, and read about what he did, how he met people, when he taught and when he healed, how often he went away to restore himself through prayer. That's the first step: learn about the one we say we are following.

The second step is to ask God to help us discern the way we should follow, discern the kind of disciples we should be. And that will be different for each person, and will be different at each stage of life. For some people, discipleship means praying daily and fervently for the needs of individuals and the needs of the planet. For others, discipleship means working in a steamy kitchen on a hot summer day or mentoring a young person. Discipleship can mean marching in a Gay Pride celebration, or standing outside the Post Office on Friday noon with a peace placard, or honoring and praying for the earth as the Earth Pilgrims did recently. Discipleship must also mean listening, listening to the voices of the city, listening to the voices of joy and of pain. As we learn about Jesus from the gospel stories of his life, so too we can learn about Montpelier from the lives of the people on the streets. This is where we start, in our church neighborhood and in the neighborhoods where we live. Jesus grew up in a conquered country. He knew the oppression of his people, the discouragement, the sense of futility. When he offered a different vision of a future of healing and wholeness, he was speaking directly to the needs of his listeners. Some walked away but many stayed and listened to his description of the Kingdom of God. Jesus knew the situation in which he was living. I'm not so sure that we know the situation in which many of the people around us are living. I'm not talking just about poverty, I'm talking about the culture in which we live. I'm talking about the values people have, and what their struggles are, what hopes and fears they have for themselves and their children. Do we know? We have very little to offer until we know the needs.

And thirdly, we keep our eyes and ears open to discover what God is already doing on the streets of Montpelier, what the Spirit is up to here and how we can support that work. We have a lot of learning to do. Jesus sent his disciples out with a mission. They were to teach and preach. I think our mission at this moment in time is to listen and discover. It is not enough to sing "I have decided to follow Jesus." There must also be recognition that following means being sent out, sent out to listen, sent out to learn, sent out to love--No turning back, no turning back.

Jean Jersey

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Knitting or crocheting prayer shawls and baptismal baby blankets ignites the disciplines of intention, warmth, and rhythm. Intention takes the form of prayers and blessings for the recipient as the creations take shape. Shawls and blankets become tangible symbols of God's warmth and our caring for each other. The rhythm of yarn passing through fingers with each stitch is a gentle meditative discipline. During the Easter season our abundant supply of shawls from a long winter of knitting was dispersed. Many thanks to those who took shawls to give to others. We are now slowly rebuilding our stock. Might you be called to this discipleship?

Maggie Thompson



Photo courtesy of the Prayer Shawl Ministry at St Luke's Episcopal Church - Rochester, MN

A MESSAGE FROM REV. PAUL - Got Discipleship?

Recently, a friend of mine went away on vacation with his family and I volunteered to take care of his lawn and garden while they were away. After some back and forth bantering about him wanting to "pay me" for this little bit of service, I finally convinced him to accept the gesture and take me up on my offer. I told him that I *wanted* to do it. It would be fun! I didn't look at taking care of their lawn as a chore, but instead, I wanted to give it as a gift. Of course, when they came back home, my friend was nearly insistent on paying me for the job. Again, we went back and forth, but in the end, I encouraged him to be a gracious recipient. After all, this was for me a chore of delight that was both enjoyable and rewarding.



Image from picgifs.com

I've shared this little story because to me, it highlights what discipleship can be all about: the giving of ourselves for the sake of others without expecting anything in return. Sometimes, the concept of discipleship has been compared with "taking up our cross" which can sound dreary and burdensome. And as Christians, while we are indeed called to be disciples for Christ, serving as a disciple doesn't have to be drudgery. Instead, engaging as Christian disciples can actually be enriching and rewarding, not only for those whom we serve but for ourselves as well.

In the gospel of John, Jesus reminded his disciples (and he continues to remind us) that real discipleship is all about loving one another in the way that Jesus loves us. "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." Here at Christ Church, many of you already engage as loving disciples for Christ every single day of the week. Whether you serve in the Full Ladle Soup Kitchen, serve on the Altar Guild, Vestry, or some other ministry, you are serving as a missional disciple for Christ. And as we at Christ Episcopal Church continue becoming that "cathedral in the city," the ways in which we reach out and respond to our neighbors are acts of intentional, missional discipleship that will not only change others' lives but will ultimately change ours as well.

Thanks to each and every one of you who work so hard and give so much to this church and to the Montpelier community. Your Christian discipleship is making a difference by touching hearts and changing lives.

Your partner in Christian discipleship,
Paul

CONVENTION DELEGATES

As your delegates to Diocesan Convention 2014, our annual discipline has begun. The "First Call to Convention" informative email arrived last week, to be followed by many more. This year's theme, "Equipped for the Journey: Formation for Mission," will be addressed by three guest speakers with expertise on this topic, prompting lively and thoughtful discussions. Convention will be at Jay Peak Resort, Oct. 31 – Nov. 1. In preparation we will take part in one of the fall Ministry Fairs and in a simulcast Pre-Convention Presentation to familiarize us with diocesan business matters that will be brought before Convention. It is always broadening, as well as fun, to engage with other disciples in our Diocese. Stay tuned!



Maggie Thompson
Ruth Beard

FROM THE DESK OF THE SENIOR WARDEN

While Christ Church's congregation is strong in the Spirit, the physical structure suffers from lack of preventive maintenance over many years. Leaks in the roof, water in the undercroft, moisture in the walls, and floodwaters have all had an impact. This summer we are taking steps toward a comprehensive and long-term plan to repair and rehabilitate this glorious structure, making our building a safe, comfortable and inviting resource for us and our community.

We have assembled a team that includes both dedicated, talented parishioners and accomplished, caring professionals to lead our work. Shawn Bryan is the point person from the parish, serving as facilitator to keep things on track, ensuring open and candid communication, and bringing key decisions to the Vestry. Tom Keefe of Middlebury is our architect. Tom focuses his talents on restoration work and has numerous projects similar to ours in his portfolio. Bob Neeld is an engineer from Burlington with a love for and interest in restoration work. Finally we will be working with Bruno Gubetta of Alpine Restoration, a company that specializes in performing restoration work on historic structures.

Another partner is a consulting organization called Partners for Sacred Places (PSP). PSP and the diocese recently selected Christ Church to participate in a program that will help us develop a strategy to fund the repairs. PSP chose to partner with Christ Church so they can help us build on all the good things we are already doing. They are as excited as we are about expanding our outreach in our community and furthering our vision and mission. In short, we were selected because we have been successful, not because we are perceived to be in trouble.

PSP will help us build a strategic plan for the building's future. This plan includes not only the building's structural issues, but also our outreach plans and our capital fund raising plans.

Because of the unique nature of our historic building the first step was finding the right team to bring to the project: people with the experience and knowledge to address the unique challenges our building presents. The team in place today has those skills and knowledge. When I start thinking the work is overwhelming, I remember God brought us this team at just the right time, and His divine hand will continue to guide our work and bolster our resolve.

With the team assembled, the next step in designing a strategic plan is understanding the nature and extent of the issues we face. In May, the vestry approved "destructive investigation" – an important step in understanding the building's issues. Alpine Restoration removed several layers of stone from the NW corner of the church to explore why the wall is bulging and to assess what our short-term and long-term repair options may be. It may have been unsettling to see part of the wall opened up, but it was the only way to know the extent of the damage.

In July, the PSP team will conduct a detailed site visit and the vestry will discuss and take action on the report from the initial exploration into the northwest wall. Over the next several weeks and months you will see and hear many signs of activity. While the Vestry and the building team will strive to be candid and frequent in our communications, please do not hesitate to ask questions or join in a meeting to learn more.



Sharon Winn-Fannon
Senior Warden

CHRIST CHURCH FOOD SHELF

Every week on the small screen of your computer, you see an announcement in the "Announcements & Upcoming Events", an article about the food shelf. This reinforces our beliefs in the story of the five loaves and two fish in the bible as a little feeds a lot, so keep on bringing the cans and bottles with you on Sunday and we will continue to feed those in need.

Bill Beard



FULL LADLE SOUP KITCHEN

The Full Ladle Soup Kitchen has been a rich and rewarding ministry for many at Christ Church. Every Wednesday, the Soup Kitchen serves a nutritious noon meal to guests from our community. A group of faithful volunteers gather each Wednesday and have a very good time working together in the kitchen and serving our guests. There is much laughter and comraderie, both in the kitchen and around the tables. For all of us, the pleasure comes from getting to know the members of the community who come each week, and enjoying a meal with them.

On a typical Wednesday, Bill Beard and Don Lyons arrive first to start the coffee and begin setting up for lunch. Bill keeps everyone on task and entertained. His joke telling is legendary. Don arranges pastry platters with the eye of an artist. Mayling Holm soon walks in and starts unstacking chairs. About 8:30, Gloria Walker and Aldora Chamberlin arrive. Nicknamed the "dynamic duo of Northfield", they, along with Ida Lange, are the queens of the prep crew....making salads, doctoring and stretching soup and pitching in with whatever needs doing.

About 11:00, the lunch service begins. Soup is ladled out by a variety of folks in rotating shifts. Anna Nagy, often accompanied by her mother Erica or brother Rick, comes bearing delicious, homemade gluten free bread...a crowd favorite. The Nagys stay to serve and clean up. Ed Skea, dishwasher emeritus, takes the first shift at the sink. We all know to stay out of his way, as he is a veritable white tornado!

Towards noon the second shift arrives. Ellen Doyle and Les Bloomberg, neighbors of Bill's, and Linda Prescott and her husband Michael are regulars who are tireless in helping to serve and clean up. Denise Wormer often stops by to help if she is not fixing something somewhere else in the building. Mary Hooper is another veteran volunteer who comes in the summer when the Legislature is not in session. Susan Reid arrives (often to a round of applause) to take the second shift at the dishwasher. From time to time, she throws off her apron and picks up her fiddle to provide the entertainment.

Charlotte and Ernest Gibson arrive about noon. Charlotte clears tables and helps guests find what they need. Ernest, clearly a crowd favorite, eats lunch and chats with a growing circle of friends, who thoroughly enjoy his company.

The final mop up crew, consisting of Sue Skea and Wendy Dale and anyone else we can grab, drift in later, as their work schedules permit, and provide much needed relief. By about 1:30, all is done, and peace and quiet returns to the kitchen.

For those of us involved with the Soup Kitchen, this is our discipleship – it is so important for the body, mind and spirit.

Please consider coming and spending time with us at the Soup Kitchen. The work is truly rewarding and fun!

Sharon Wilson



MEET OUR NEW JUNIOR WARDEN

My faith journey to Christ Church started in Arlington MA. I am the oldest of five children, each a year apart. My parents were raised Catholic and attempted to have us follow the same. We occasionally went to Sunday service and a few years of Sunday School. As we grew older, my parents became disillusioned with their practice of faith and disagreed with many of the social teachings. They did however teach us about our Savior and we always said grace. My parents taught us many things, but what stuck the most was work hard, a welcoming, and giving spirit, and to be as tenacious as a bulldog. I was asked to write a biography around discipleship; even before I knew what that word meant, it was the way I embraced life.

Growing up, our home was always a full house. We never had very much, but we always shared whatever we had. My mother was always "making something better". She was the family handy man and "jack of all trades", while my dad worked to support the family. We did many projects together as a family. Sundays were huge meals with all the fixings. The kids set the table with china, and we peeled the vegetables and did the dishes. Our parents and grandparents fussed over the rest of the meal preparation. The Perry household only had had two requirements for a dinner invitation: clean hands and a shirt. Sometimes our meals were so big we had three tables set. Grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends and neighbors all came over. We always had a new guest of honor. Dave, the one-armed Veteran; Jess, the flamboyant cross dresser; Dawn, our hippy babysitter; and, of course, Mo-Mo, our surrogate grandfather. All were welcome without exception and no one was left out. This is how I grew up understanding God's welcoming, giving spirit and abundance.

The other lasting impact on my faith was our family summers growing up. On the last day of school, my Mum would pick us up and we headed off to Terrace Pines Campground in Ossipee, NH. It was just Mum and the five of us for the entire summer. My Dad came on some Saturdays and left on Sunday. We had a Nomad Canvas Tent Trailer with bright orange Add-a-Room. We stayed through storms and bad weather. This absolutely mortified Mum's folks, as they were true Bostonians. Undeterred by their disapproval, along with her persistent and independent spirit, we had the best of childhood summers. I was a busy daredevil tomboy, fishing, swimming, tracking, playing Cowboys and Indians, building forts in the woods, catching frogs, playing cribbage and scrounging for firewood. To this day, every year I disappear for a while by myself with my dog camping. I reconnect with my Lord and His wonderful playground. It is my annual retreat.

I found my way to Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church in Pittsfield NH. I went to a Sunday Service and that was it. It filled the hole that was missing in my life. It was the first time the teaching and the gospels felt open to me. It was like coming home. Bishop Gene Robinson confirmed me a few years later. After a time, I became Junior Warden at Saint Stephen's, then at Saint Mark's in Springfield, VT.

I have worked many 'jobs' and am pretty crafty and handy. I have been a property manager, financial clerk, and a trucking supervisor to name a few. I enjoy yard sales and up refurbishing found items. I love the woods and fishing and I love to train dogs.

My husband Ron and I met five years ago and I have never been happier. He is my rock and my biggest supporter. We live in West Berlin with our three great children – Shawn, Joshua and Niki - a sixteen year old cat, Miss Mittens, and our three-year-old Burmese Mountain Dog, Prudence. I followed and embraced my family traditions of an open home and huge Sunday meals. We were always embarking on a new adventure together.

I question a lot and always think about the "possibilities" the "what if's" and the "why not's" of life. I am tenacious like my Mum; I believe this spirit helps me be a better disciple. I believe that you should embrace all things that come your way, especially the not-so-good stuff; of course, that is a lot easier said than done.

In conclusion, as your Junior Warden, I have tried to use my life experiences to help me understand the needs of our community and to serve as a better disciple for Christ. Together we have cleaned the Taplin, the kitchen, the Courtyard and rehabilitated the Lower Level, repaired the stain glass windows and replaced the fascia. Soon the Courtyard and the District Heat will be completed.

Although we have daunting tasks ahead such as the Northeast Corner and the Bell Tower, I am confident that with continued hard work, our welcoming and giving spirit, and with the tenacity of a bull dog along with His help and the assistance of Sacred Places, we can accomplish all we set out to do.

We are living in exciting times here at Christ Church and I believe the best is yet to come.

Blessings,

Denise Wormer
Junior Warden

SAINTS DAY

All feast days from Palm Sunday to the Sunday after Easter are superseded by Holy Week and Easter Week

July 11th: Benedict of Nursia – abbot, founder of many monastic communities, wrote the Rule of Saint Benedict, which governs thousands of religious communities around the world even to this day.

July 17th: William White – twice Presiding Bishop, and rector of two historic congregations in Philadelphia, he was a tireless supporter of education and was known as a dedicated philanthropist.

July 19th: Macrina – a nun and ascete, her family includes the saints Basil the Great and Gregory of Nyssa

July 22nd: Mary Magdalene – a disciple of Christ, the “Apostle to the Apostles”, she followed Jesus through much of his ministry and was the first to see him after his resurrection.

July 24th: Thomas a Kempis – a monk and priest of the 1300s, devoted to study, he copied the Bible four times.

July 25th: James, Apostle – with his brother, John, they left their father Zebedee to become Jesus’ followers.

July 26th: Joachim and Anne – the parents of Mary, of whom little is known definitively, they are mentioned in some apocryphal texts.

July 29th: Mary and Martha of Bethany – examples of the life of active service and of contemplation, Mary and Martha are seen as women of great faith, friends of Jesus and financial supporters of his ministry.

July 30th: William Wilberforce – a tireless champion of the anti-slavery movement in the UK, he also became an ardent supporter of the Evangelical movement and Church mission.

July 31st: Ignatius of Loyola – a 16th-century Basque knight, who became a monk, priest and missionary, and founded the Jesuits.

Aug 6th: The Transfiguration – the glorification of Christ on Mt. Tabor, and his meeting with Moses and Elijah.

Aug 7th: John Mason Neale – founder of the Society of St Margaret, a UK nursing society, and of an ecumenical society between the Anglican and Eastern Orthodox Churches, he is best known as a hymn writer/translator.

Aug 8th: Dominic – a Spanish priest and founder of the Dominican order, he lived a life of extreme poverty and religious devotion, encouraging the use of the rosary.

Aug 11th: Clare – early follower of St Francis, abbess and writer of the Rule of Life for the monastic order she founded, known to us as the Poor Clares.

Aug 12th: Florence Nightingale – a social reformer and statistician, revered as the mother of modern nursing

Aug 13th: Jeremy Taylor – an Irish bishop best known for his extensive religious writings.

Aug 14th: Jonathan Myrick Daniels – a seminarian from Keene, and a passionate Civil Rights activist and martyr

Aug 15th: Mary – the mother of Jesus, and venerated by millions, she is an example of purity, faith and simple devotion

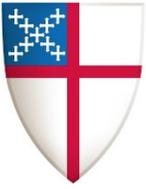
Aug 18th: William Porcher Dubose – priest and theologian, founder of the School of Theology at the University of the South

Aug 20th: Bernard – French abbot, theologian and reformer, named a Doctor of the Church, he called the Cistercian order back to its pure and stringent roots

Aug 25th: Bartholomew, Apostle – often linked to Nathaniel in the Gospels, he was one of two evangelists to bring the country of Armenia to Christianity.

Aug 27th: Thomas Gallaudet and Henry Winter Syles – Gallaudet was co-founder of the American School for the Deaf, and Syles was his student and the first deaf person to be ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Aug 28th: Augustine – considered one of the greatest of the Church Fathers, his seminal works of Christian theology and philosophy, including *The City of God* and *Confessions*, are still read by millions today.



Christ Episcopal Church
64 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602
802 223-3631

Christ Episcopal Church, Montpelier

The Reverend Paul Habersang, Priest-in-Partnership

The Reverend Auburn Watersong, Associate Priest

Shannon Winn-Fannon, *Senior Warden*

Denise Womer, *Junior Warden*

John Jaworski, *Treasurer*

Brian Webb, *Director of Music/Choirmaster*

Carl Schwartz, *Associate Organist*

Dierdre Allen, *Administrative Assistant* – administrator@christchurchvt.org

Diane Holland, *Chronicle Editor* – vtmaestra@myfairpoint.net

www.christchurchvt.org

Facebook – <http://on.fb.me/ncqhmp>

Twitter – <http://bit.ly/olaqsc>