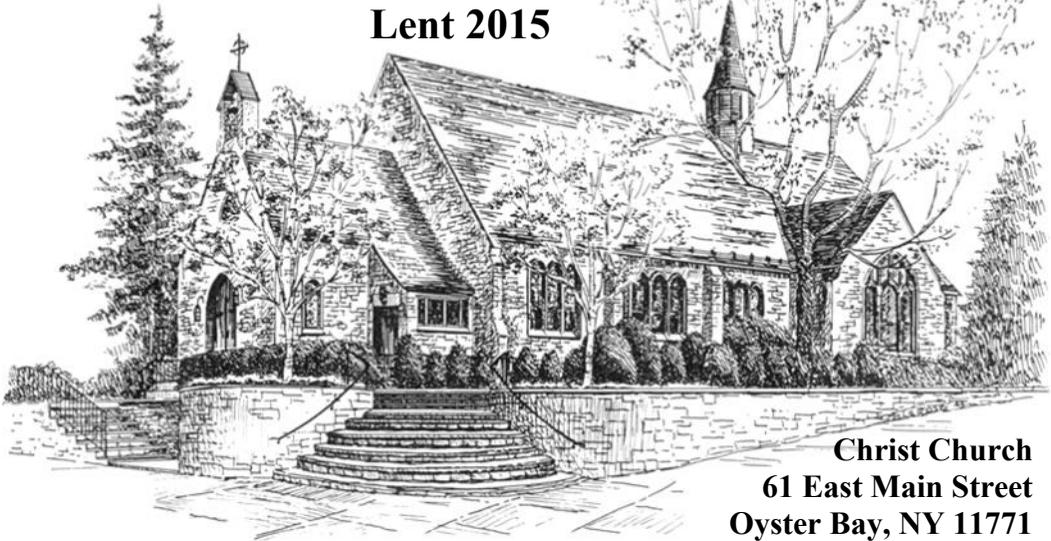


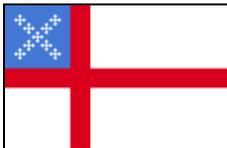
The mpass

Lent 2015



Christ Church
61 East Main Street
Oyster Bay, NY 11771

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Save the Date..... | 2 |
| Rector's Corner..... | 3 |
| From the Editor..... | 4 |
| Flourish in Faith Update..... | 6 |
| Search Committee Update..... | 7 |
| Warden's Corner..... | 8 |
| Construction of Habitat House..... | 11 |
| Curate's Message..... | 12 |
| Lessons From Church School..... | 14 |
| Buildings and Grounds Update..... | 16 |
| Parishioners' Corner..... | 18 |
| Holy Week Worship Schedule..... | 19 |



Dear Reader,

The blanket of snow that once covered Oyster Bay has melted. As the winter chill leaves us, parishioners will soon be planting in Sylvia's Garden again.

The renewal we see in nature reflects the renewal we see in Christ Church. Seeds that were planted long ago are now trees bearing fruit; funds that were raised over the years are now raising a home for a family in need.

Charlie, Fred, the Wardens and Vestry have kept Christ Church on the path of renewal. They have tended to the Garden and ensured its perpetual growth.

Joseph LoBianco
Editor

Save the Date!



Friday, March 20 5:00 pm—8:00 pm ***Parish Game Night***

Join us for a night of fun and games. All ages are welcome! Bring a favorite board game and potluck dish to share.

Sunday: March 22 3:00 pm ***Long Island Baroque Ensemble***

Info and tickets: info.LongIslandBaroque@gmail.com

Thursday, March 26 6:30 pm—8:30 pm ***Power of Forgiveness***

The Lenten Series continues. Preceded by simple soup supper.

Saturday, March 28 2:00 pm ***Mystery Walk***

Interactive Stations of the Cross. Children, families, and community members of all ages are invited to come together and have fun while thinking about Easter and its meaning.

Saturday April 11 8:00 pm ***Long Island Sound Vocal Jazz***

Internationally recognized ensemble from LIU Post directed by Jennifer Scott Miceli, Ph.D. Tickets at door \$15

The Compass is the official newsletter of Christ Church.

Submissions should be directed to the editor, Joseph LoBianco, by e-mail: joseph_lobianco@hotmail.com. Hard copy submissions may be left in the *Compass* mailbox in the Parish Hall. Please clearly indicate the source of any material that is not original. Submissions from the internet will not be used if they cannot be cited or are not clearly in the public domain.

Rector's Corner



I have spoken at various times about our need as members of Christ Church to expect a direct experience of God in our lives. As Christians we must expect encounters with God and enjoy a dynamic relationship with The Divine or we are missing an important part of our lives.

Lent is a time when we can focus on improving our openness to God. For us, Jesus reveals the nature and availability of God. May the 40 days of Lent help us to be more open to renewing our faith. St. Augustine, the 1st Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote powerfully of this:

“How late I came to love you, O beauty so ancient and so fresh, how late I came to love you! You were written within me, yet I had gone outside to seek you. Unlovely myself, I rushed toward all those lovely things you had made. And always you were with me, I was not with you. All these beauties kept me far from you—although they would not have existed at all unless they had their being in you. You called, you cried, you shattered my deafness. You sparkled, you blazed, you drove away my blindness.”

During Lent I suggest that we try to be a bit more open to God's Presence, that we get out of the way so God can enter our lives more tangibly and powerfully. Thomas Merton, the great 20th century mystic spoke of this:

“Life is this simple: We are living in a world that is absolutely transparent and God is shining through it all the time. This is not just a fable or a nice story. It is true. If we abandon ourselves to God and forget ourselves, we see it sometimes, and we see it maybe frequently. God shows Himself everywhere, in everything - in people and in things and in nature and in events. It becomes very obvious that He is everywhere and in everything and we cannot be without Him. It's impossible. It's impossible. The only thing is that we don't see it.”

The great psychologist Carl Jung knew this also when he said: “Bidden or not bidden, God is present.” These words were carved over Jung's front door and also on his tombstone. God is present to us all the time. We are the ones who need to be more present to God. Lent is a good time to make us this our disciplined focus.

For us, the Christian life is not primarily about beliefs, dogma, and rules, but rather about having a real and life-changing relationship with God. All else follows. +

— Charlie

From the Editor

Fear and Comfort

Over the past few years I have received ashes, the ceremony has taken on a deeper meaning for me. As I walked up to the altar, I began to realize that I was acknowledging my own mortality. Dust to dust is a pretty hard concept to grasp, and it is both humbling and unsettling to me. Then I think of the inescapable fact that anyone who has ever lived has eventually traveled down the same road, even Jesus.

There are times when I have doubts, when I need to put my fingers in Jesus' wounds in order to believe.

I believe that God gives us signs—sometimes in our waking hours, sometimes in slumber, or even in our deep subconscious. Sometimes during my darkest sojourns into doubt, signs and unlikely coincidences appear in my life. I get goosebumps when those waves of realization and déjà vu wash over me. It's like God is saying "I'm still here."

I think at those moments of clarity, the Holy Spirit is making its presence known. I am comforted when I read about the Pentecost, how the apostles and disciples, still reeling from the death of Jesus and afraid of suffering the same fate, are suddenly infused by and with the Holy Spirit. With "tongues of fire" over their heads, they are fearless, and go out among the people to preach in foreign tongues and start the Church.

The Raising of Lazarus is a Bible passage that I like to read several times over in one sitting, because I often discover additional nuances in the text. In this passage, Jesus' words always give me faith and courage, and re-affirm the truth I know in my heart:

Jesus says to Martha, ***"I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die."***

I also love to see Jesus' humanity. He knows he will raise Lazarus from the dead, yet he weeps when he arrives at the tomb.

The Gospel of Luke contains my favorite lines of text in the New Testament, and perhaps even the entire Bible. As Jesus is dying on the cross, two criminals are crucified on either side of him. One of the criminals says to Jesus that if he is truly the Messiah, then why not save himself and the others from agony and death? But the other condemned man jumps in, and reprimands the other. He reminds him that they are being justly punished for their crimes, but Jesus is being put to death though he did nothing wrong.

The penitent criminal turns to Jesus, and says, "remember me when you come into your kingdom." Jesus replies:

"Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

In that one line, Jesus offers hope and assurance to a dying man, while he himself is suffering and dying. To me, those are the most beautiful words I have ever read. Those words are meaningful and comforting on the deepest level. It's as if Jesus has taken me by the hand and has calmed all of my doubts. It means that he conquered death, and made it something not to be feared. It means that I have a place in his kingdom. It means that in the end, we will walk the same road together.

Joseph LoBianco
Editor

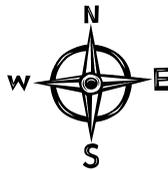
Flourish in Faith Update: *2015 Stewardship Campaign*

All of us should have received the 2014 giving statement for your records and tax purposes. We thank you very much for your faithful support of the work of Christ Church.

Our reports show that in 2014 we received 113 pledges promising to contribute \$247,000 or an average of \$ 2186 per pledge. Of this pledge amount we collected \$230,000. Although we were \$17,000 below the pledged amount, we did have a record number of pledges in 2014 and for that we are very grateful indeed.



Thus far, the 2015 pledge drive has resulted in about 85 pledges for a total of \$210,000 or 7 % below our budget for 2015. The average pledge now stands at \$2471. Your stewardship committee is hard at work to make up the shortfall in the coming weeks. They will contact each parishioner who pledged in 2014 and has not yet pledged for 2015. If those parishioners pledge what they pledged in 2014, we will record a pledge amount of close to \$ 250,000.



In this time of transition, your support is very important as applicants will look at the total number of pledges as one element of deciding whether or not to apply and accept a potential offer to be installed as the next rector of Christ Church.

Please keep the member of the Search Committee in your prayers as they enter the crucial phase of the search process: deciding on the short list of candidates from the list of all applicants.

We thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm for the work of Christ Church!

Your 2015 Stewardship Committee:

Denise and Courtney Carney – *Stewardship Committee Chairpersons*

Stephanie Augustine, Laura Dougherty, Ton Heijmen, Regis Lake, and Frank Rinck - *Stewardship Committee Members*

Search Committee Update

Your search committee has been diligently working through the detailed process of selecting applicants to present to the Vestry.

Since we only had 19 applications by January 20, we decided to extend the deadline to February 15. As of February 16th, we have 37 applications.

On February 16, we forwarded four questions to all the applicants with a deadline for responses by March 11 (three weeks). These questions cover four areas of concern by the congregation of Christ Church as determined in the Parish Summit last September. The questions cover Inclusivity, Outreach, Fellowship and Personal Spirituality. The questions have been extensively debated by the eleven members of your search committee, so that we can consensually evaluate the answers, thereby determining a ranking of the applicants.

Following that process, projected to be completed by the end of March, we will narrow the list of applicants to around a dozen. We will then conduct telephone interviews with those applicants.

The completion of our work should be in June when we will present the Vestry with several finalists for their consideration and ultimate selection.

Peter Colgrove,
Search Committee Chairman

Warden's Corner



We are at the end of a long and cold winter and in the middle of the search process. The winter has brought much cold weather, snow, and ice to Oyster Bay. We should all thank Hector for keeping the church grounds safe and shoveled, notwithstanding an aging and not-always-working snow blower....

The application window for rector candidates closed on February 14th, with some 37 applicants. Please keep the members of the Search Committee in your prayers as they enter the very difficult phase of choosing the 10-12 candidates with the most promise. Elsewhere in this Compass you will read about the process and how we are moving forward.

Thanks to all the parishioners who have braved the winter elements and have attended our services. As is experienced by many churches in transition, we have seen somewhat of a decline in the average Sunday attendance and weekly donations. We hope to make this up as we go into spring and are getting closer to choosing the next rector for our beloved Christ Church parish.

Many great events have taken place, including the Twelfth Night celebration in the parish hall on January 6 – thanks to the Hospitality Committee and in particular Gina Maisano. The evening was a great success and a worthy continuation of the tradition the Casparians started 11 years ago. Over 60 parishioners joined us, even with an early start of 5:00 pm.

We had our first parish pot luck supper of the year at the beautiful home of Susan Peterson. We are planning additional suppers, so everyone will have a chance to attend one of these fun events. Since they have proven to be very popular, we may continue this effort after we have installed our new rector.

The feast of Candlemas was celebrated with a beautiful 4:00 pm Evensong. Unfortunately, we had a very small congregation and will be looking at how to get a full church next year for this wonderful service, with our own accomplished choir. Suggestions on improving attendance are very welcomed.

The Shrove Tuesday Celebration was – as always – very well attended, and with the help of the Church School and Men’s Fellowship groups, we properly celebrated Carnival as the last “hurrah” before Lent. Lent started with two Ash Wednesday services, the evening service with full choir and Eucharist. The Lenten program started on the 26th with an address by Assistant Bishop Chilton Knudsen on Forgiveness.



On the following four Thursdays our interim rector Father Charles Colwell will continue this discussion, by leading a Forgiveness Course. Please mark your calendars and join us for this program of a simple soup supper followed by interactive lectures.

Other activities to mention: the rehabilitation of the Ecumenical Youth Center is in full swing and the rectory and the Sydney street house will be updated this spring as well. We are determining the work that needs to be done to our beautiful stained glass church windows - more about that in the near future. Also, we are giving all of our staff a much deserved evaluation as part of their contract with us, including the interim rector and curate. Teams of the warden and vestry have been scheduling these reviews.

Habitat for Humanity (H4H) is an example of how we are trying to connect with our Episcopal and other neighbors and engage in joint projects and events. We are teaming up with the Presbyterian Church Oyster Bay and St. John’s CSH to fund a house to be built under the auspice of H4H in Wyandanch. The wall raising took place on February 12 and the three churches are contributing some \$30,000 each (with Citibank providing the remainder) towards this home for a deserving family in need. Several working parties will be formed to help with sweat equity on Saturdays. The first is on February 28 and some of our Youth will be working the site. John Sant’Angelo is coordinating this effort and you will be hearing more about this from him.

HHI continues to function well and we are very grateful for the support we are getting from the parish in staffing the Sunday afternoon kitchen and sleeping rooms for the homeless men in our area.

The Stewardship Campaign (Flourish in Faith) under the leadership of Denise and Courtney Carney has done fairly well as we have around 80 pledges for about \$210,000. We are very hopeful that we will reach our budget goals of \$225,000 for the full year. You can read more about this in a separate article elsewhere in this Compass issue.

This summer (June 22 – July 3) will be the 78th General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Salt Lake City. This year a new presiding bishop will be elected and several other very important decisions and reports will be debated and acted upon. One will be the report on marriage and another on the way the Episcopal Church is governed. You can see these reports on the General Convention web site: www.GeneralConvention.org. Your Senior Warden is the second alternate for the lay delegation from the diocese of Long Island and there is a chance that he will be attending the convention. Especially the report on Marriage will provoke much debate and – most likely – concern among the faithful. Possibly, a parish-wide “pulse taking” on this topic could be useful for the delegation as they ponder the many different angles of these issues.

I am grateful to the CCOB congregation to have allowed me to fill a fifth year as your senior Warden through the rector transition. I urge you to do what you can to support our church and participate in the many excellent programs we have in store for you.

A heartfelt thanks to Father Charles Colwell and Father Fred Miller for leading us through Transition 2015. Please make sure you tell them what a great job they are doing.

In Christ
Ton Heijmen, *Senior Warden*

Construction of Habitat House Begins

By John Sant'Angelo

Construction has started on our Habitat for Humanity house, but the family cannot move in without your help!



Ton, Stephanie and I attended the Wall Raising Ceremony at the house in Wyandanch on February 12. We were there with all our co-sponsors, the First Presbyterian Church of Oyster Bay, St. John's Cold Spring Harbor and Citibank.

At the ceremony we had an opportunity to meet the whole Beato family whose home this will be, and their excitement was contagious. Robert and Yoha Beato have 3 children, their son Yoel and younger twin daughters Miriel and Livelis.

This home will provide the Beato family with safety, stability and the pride of living in a house they can call their own.

So the building has started and we will be announcing a number of dates to volunteer and work. You don't need construction or building experience, just the desire to work and help a wonderful family.



Our volunteer days will most always be Saturday's and we will organize our transportation from Oyster Bay. For more information or any questions, please contact:

John Sant'Angelo at 516-628-2023 or john.sant-angelo@hp.com.

Curate's Message

The Rev. Frederic Miller



In high school English class, we learned about “the pathetic fallacy,” the idea that nature could share the feelings or events of a story. So in a tragedy or some very sad scene, a naïve author might write about the winds raging and the rain lashing the hero or heroine, nature joining in to punish them or share their sorrows.

Writing at the beginning of February, it's hard not to think this way about the elements, even when we remember what our English teacher taught us. Winter can certainly feel like it lasts forever, and don't we often find some malicious echoes in the snow and cold when we are feeling down ourselves? There really seems to be something like Seasonal Affective Disorder, after all, so maybe our winter blahs also have a scientific basis as well?



We don't have to be superstitious to find special meaning in the weather. All we know about the world doesn't change the fact that we are in it. No matter how advanced our thinking and our understanding, our bodies and our emotions are always engaged in the here and now. The good things we experience, and the bad times, too, leave their imprint on us and how we see the world around

us. There is no way around this condition, what philosophers call the contingency of our lives. It shouldn't be a surprise, then, that the weather echoes within us, that we hear the rain, the darkness, the ice crystals rhyming with our thoughts and the innermost vibrations of our being.

When we remember that God is with us, we can see these harmonies in a deeper, more purposeful way. God wants us to understand the glory of creation, in all its intricacy and vastness. Yet no matter how much we study and learn, or simply stand back in awe, God's creation will always be greater than we can ever know.

In our prayer walk through the hamlet of Oyster Bay on a cold and rain-swept All Saints' Day, we remembered the words of Canticle 12, "Glorify the Lord, O chill and cold, drops of dew and flakes of snow, frost and cold, ice and sleet glorify the Lord, praise him and highly exalt him forever."



Even when the weather makes us miserable, in other words, God must be praised. And the reason is, God loves us and will see us through, because we ourselves are part of God's great creation. And God's plan, the blueprint of meaningfulness we can find in every part of this world, that is our blueprint, too.

We know how the story will end for us, after all. Spring will come. Our Lenten journeys will sometimes take us through dark and cold places, but they will be followed by the joys of Easter resurrection. God's embodiment in Jesus Christ brings life to the entire world and life to us fragile creatures, too, regardless of how harshly the winter treats us. God's love is with us and will remain with us forever.

Blessings,

Fred +

Lessons from Church School

By Melinda Wenner Bradley
Director of Religious Formation

“Now, this kingdom [Jesus spoke of] was not like any kingdom the people had ever visited. It was not like any kingdom they had even heard of. It was a mystery to them. Jesus said, “This kingdom is not far away. It is right here, right now, closer than breath. It is all around you and it is inside you.” And he didn’t just talk about this kingdom; he showed people, again and again, what the kingdom is like.”

As we started the new calendar year, the children and teachers in Church School embarked on an exploration of the New Testament that will include parables told by Jesus and other stories of his life and ministry, particularly his teachings about love and forgiveness. Two recent Godly Play® story experiences, which include the quotations in this article, were powerful examples of how making space for children to explore scripture affirms their identity as Christian seekers.

After we hear a Godly Play story, the children are invited to wonder about the story. They are asked what they

liked best, what seemed most important to them, and where they saw themselves in the story. On the morning we heard “Jesus and the Children,” I also invited the children in the class to add a small “child” figure to the story. Several of them placed their wooden person with great care in the story as close to the Jesus figure as they could get – right up against Him. They knew where they were in that story!



When asked what Jesus had meant about needing to be more like children to enter the Kingdom of Heaven, they responded that children are: curious and ask questions, joyful, kind to everyone, like to play and less stressed than adults. During the “work time” that comes after the wondering, one child created a self-portrait, another worked with the Jesus story materials, the older boys worked with Old Testament materials in the desert box, and

another child quietly spoke with me about their hope for their life's work would be to help others in some way. It's hard not to feel the presence of God in that moment, when a room is filled with the quiet hum of Spirit-led activity! That morning when we returned to Church, the Treble Choir sang and it felt like here, too, the voices of the children were being heard and lifting up to bring us closer to God.

"Sometimes what Jesus showed the people was hard for them to understand. Even today, we are still trying to understand."

How do we love our enemies and forgive those who hurt us? This was a focus of the wondering after hearing a story based on Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. The children were able to connect the teachings of the story to their own lives: one child said that the most important part of the story is that God forgives everyone, and another reflected on forgiving classmates at school, and that it makes her feel happier when she does. We discussed Jesus teaching us that love and forgiveness are the way to live, even though yes, they can be challenging. At the end of our wondering that day, I repeated the language about the kingdom of God being here and all around us. A child

leaned into the circle we were sitting in and said quietly, "Like right now."

I lift up these examples of the children's work in Church School not to tell "cute" stories about them and the things they say, but to affirm for all of us that supporting the spiritual formation of our youth is vital. Through their hearing of the Gospel – and reflecting on where they see themselves in the story, or recognize the story in the struggles and hopes of their own young lives – we plant the seeds of life-long Christian formation.

Why I like Church School

By Andrea Holohan, Age 7

I have been going to Church School since I was 4 years old. I like all of the stories and all my friends that are there. It is really fun to listen to the story and learn things. My favorites are the Jesus stories. My favorite Jesus story so far is "Jesus and the Children." That was a great one because the Disciples say "take your kids home because Jesus has many things to do," but Jesus says I don't have any more important things to do and you have to be more like children to listen to me.

Buildings and Grounds Committee Update

By Helen Crosson and Ellen Nicoll

Since the 1700s our members have nurtured the souls, sanctuary and structures of Christ Church. Our sanctuary nurtures us spiritually, cerebrally, and visually. Now these structures need our TLC. Our sextons' home requires structural repairs. The rectory will receive maintenance after over 30 years of occupancy. VNA Building, 193 South Street, the newest addition to our campus was purchased for \$400,000 and will need a substantial investment as it is transformed into an Ecumenical Youth Center (EYC) under the direction of our Diocese.

Work at the EYC began in earnest in January 2015 after the permitting process was completed. The vestry hired Lou Baldino, who attends the 8:00 service, to be our architect and owner's representative. Lou will keep the job on time and on budget. The building was bought about 2 years ago and since then we have been trying to get permits from the town of Oyster Bay to move forward with the project. The permits were finally granted and work began in earnest. Improvements will be made both inside and outside of the

building making it an ideal location for the Episcopal Service Corp to use from September to May and June through Aug by the Oak Cliff sailing organization.

The sexton's house is the second project. Renovation of this Sydney St house will include the siding, plumbing, and insulation. Interior renovations of the kitchen and bathrooms will help to make it a more comfortable and warmer home in which a family can live and thrive.

The third project is that of the rectory. This is the first time the rectory has been vacant in over 35 years, so no major repairs or renovations have been able to take place. The second floor will be getting new floors, currently they are the original floors from the 1800s, and a renovation of a second floor bathroom is necessary. The first floor will have all the floors cleaned and polished to return them to their former beauty. The interior will receive a new coat of paint and all the windows will be fixed allowing them to function safely and properly.

A fourth project will preserve, repair, and save our church windows. They are in poor condition, some worse than others, and unless we take the necessary steps to repair them we may lose

them. This project will take a number of years to complete as well as a great deal of money. Ideas will be discussed on how, with your help, funds can be raised to offset these necessary preservation expenses.

We will continue to keep you updated as we move forward with these projects.



Then God said,
‘Let the earth put
forth vegetation:
plants yielding
seed, and fruit trees
of every kind on
earth that bear fruit
with the seed in it.’
And it was so.

Genesis 1:11

Parishioners' Corner



Three Crows in Conversation

By Rick Robinson

Walking along a wooded path in that strange determined fashion that only crows can achieve, they seem lost in conversation, as if discussing the latest road-kill discovered on the pavement earlier this hot May afternoon.

How unique they are, with their satiny black feathers, black beaks and feet, and cold black eyes that seemingly mock us as they often fly low and noisily through the woods, calling to one another in a timeless language of the sky.



Holy Week

Worship Schedule



Sunday, March 29, **Palm Sunday Eucharist**

Holy Eucharist Rite I - 8 am

Holy Eucharist Rite II - 10 am

10:00 am service begins with a joyous procession with palms, and includes a theatrical reading of the Passion of Christ.

Wednesday, April 1, **Stations of the Cross** - 6:00 pm

Thursday, April 2, **Maundy Thursday** - 7:00 pm

A simple meditative service commemorating Christ's institution of the Eucharist including the ceremonial washing of the feet.

Friday, April 3, **Good Friday** - 12:00 & 7:00 pm

Quiet services remembering Christ's Passion

Saturday, April 4, **Great Vigil of Easter** - 7:30 pm

Holy Eucharist

Sunday April 20, **Easter Sunday**

He is risen!

THE COMPASS

THE NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST CHURCH

An Episcopal Parish in Oyster Bay

61 East Main Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771 USA

Return Service Requested

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO. 5
OYSTER BAY, NY 11771

Mission Statement

With God's help, we strive to embody the unbounded love of Jesus Christ. Sustained by the Holy Spirit on our journey of faith, we offer hospitality, healing and hope.