

*"Summer time and the livin' is easy"*

As we head toward Pentecost and ordinary time in the church, we look at our services and activities and ask are we offering services that will attract enough people for them to be viable or are we offering what people in the congregation will be around to attend. Most churches experience a sharp decline in attendance through the summer months and Christ Church is no exception. Statistics about church attendance that tell us that if the congregation is too sparse it will be a turn off for a visitor and conversely if the church is 85% full people will feel it is too crowded and visitors will leave.

The worship committee has had an intense yet productive discussion about the summer schedule. At the request of Stefanie Carroll, Youth Sunday will be on May 12<sup>th</sup> and our youth will lead a combined service at 10:00 am. The young people will lead the worship, preach the sermon and do everything but celebrate the Eucharist at this special service. I look forward to being part of this wonderful tradition.

The next Sunday is May 19<sup>th</sup> and a big Pentecost celebration. On this day, many activities are planned with fund raising for the Dominican and our ministry there. Stay tuned for the details.

From May 12<sup>th</sup> throughout the summer we will have an 8am and a 10am Holy Eucharist on Sundays. Beginning on Sunday, June 2<sup>nd</sup> we will add a 6:00pm Eucharist. We plan on using lots of the Honey Creek music at this service and utilizing our young people. Following the service there will be a cook out for the young and young at heart so that they can have a time to get together. We will be asking for volunteers to help with music, acts as servers at the altar, and coordination the picnic suppers. Please call Kim the office if you are willing to help with any of these activities.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the members of both of our choirs for their dedicated service to the church. **Through your efforts**, our worship is joyful and glorious. The members of these groups are at worship, week after week. The leaders work hard planning practices and putting together music for the services. Thank you all for your faithful service to this community. The vestry is planning a thank you dinner for both choirs.

This is a time of transition at Christ Church. We are all trying to hear what God is calling us to do and to be in this city at this time. Please deal gently with those whose opinions differ from yours. We are called to give special thanksgiving on Sundays for all that God does and has done for us. We are called to be the people of God and that means that we are called to love one another. There will always be differences of opinion; but we are called to disagree in love.

Joye Cantrell, Interim Rector