



# In Spire

## *Christ Church Staff*

The Rev. Mimi Savidge  
*Rector*  
 Jim Sauls  
*Administrative Assistant*  
 David Bennett  
*Organist/Choirmaster*  
 Carolyn Johnson  
*Director of Christian Ed.*  
 Cosette Hardwick  
*College Coordinator*  
 Melissa Robinson  
*Youth Group*  
 Kathy Kapp  
*Sexton*  
 Allene Wright  
*Senior Warden*  
 Bill McLaughlin  
*Junior Warden*  
 Linda Justin  
*Clerk*  
 Joanne Phillips  
*Treasurer*

### **Church Office Hours**

**Mon. & Tues. 8 am-12 pm**  
**Wed., Thurs. Fri. 8 am-4 pm**  
**Mother Mimi Sat. 8 am-12 pm**

### ***February Events***

#### **Thursday, February 4**

6:30 pm St. Furseys

#### **Friday, February 5**

12:05 pm Holy Communion  
Mother Mimi out of office after service

#### **Saturday, February 6**

Office Closed

#### **Sunday, February 7**

##### **5 Epiphany**

8:00 am Holy Communion  
No Church School

##### **9 am Breakfast**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist  
Donation Sunday ODFK

#### **Monday, February 8**

11:15 am Service Day ODFK

#### **Thursday, February 11**

6:15 pm Vestry

## **From the Rector**

*“If these were silent, the very stones would cry out.” (Luke 19:40)*

I have been asked to bless a new set of vestments for the children’s altar. Nothing in this world could make me happier than to do this for the children and for our God. This past year we have done a lot of work in the church; we’ve put on a new roof, repaired and renewed some of the stained glass windows; planted, watered, and cared for plants on the front porch of the church, installed new copper pipes to replace ones that were stolen and with the help of some Missouri Western students, moved a mountain of trash from the second and third floors. It seems so often we are consumed with the temporalities of the church.

But the temporalities of a church are sacred. Our churches were built for the same reason the princes and artisans of the Middle Ages built their soaring cathedrals and abbeys—to give glory to God. The buildings themselves are acts of worship. Our building represents the best that we have to give. To have the care and custody of such a space is an awesome thing, a holy calling.

If you want to know just how holy, go and spend some time alone in the church. The praise and thanks, the hopes and fears, the joys and sorrows, the sins and repentance of those who have worshipped here are as much a part of the fabric of the building as are the stone and mortar. The walls have soaked up all the prayers ever prayed inside it. Stand quietly in the nave and let those prayers flow over you. Summon the memory of a child’s baptism, a friend’s wedding, a father’s funeral, all the holy laughter and holy tears that have attended life’s rites of passages through generations. Recall the sound of a hundred hymns and anthems swelling in your ears. Watch the light stream in through the stained glass; see the candles flicker as the gospel procession. Remember how it feels when the Host touches your lips and your heart floods with grace. Wander into the Sunday School rooms and imagine all the little ones who met Jesus for the first time at those tiny tables or at that small chapel with its tiny altar. Taste the coffee and donuts and the fellowship that fills the parish hall. It’s all still there, lurking in the shadows, and all of it singing praise to God.

One of the most astonishing things about blighted neighborhoods is how long the churches remain after the stores vanish and the housing decays. When everything else is gone, the sacred stones stand amid the rubble and the vacant lots, a testament to the prayers that live on inside the walls. Sometimes the congregations are still there, keeping the prayer alive through their worship and outreach and loving care of a sacred space, sometimes the congregations themselves are gone, yet some unspoken pact, some wordless treaty, shields these holy places from the forces of destruction that surround them. These churches are alive in the midst of death, their very presence shouts to the heavens. We are the stewards of such a temple. If all the parishioners were silent, the stones should still cry out “Hosanna!” to their Creator. Whether they will be in any condition to do so is largely up to us. The work continues.

Blessing,  
Mimi +

**Friday, February 12**

12:05 Holy Communion

1 pm Staff Meeting

**Saturday, February 13**

Office Closed

11 am Absalom Jones Celebration,  
Grace and Holy Trinity, KC

**Sunday, February 14**

**Last Epiphany**

8:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 am Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**Tuesday, February 16**

**Shrove Tuesday**

6-7:30 pm Shrove Tuesday Dinner  
in Undercroft

**Wednesday, February 17**

**Ash Wednesday**

12 pm Stations of the Cross

7 pm Ash Wednesday Liturgy

**Thursday, February 18**

1:30 pm Standing Committee

Mother Mimi in KC

**Friday, February 19**

12:05 pm Holy Communion

**Saturday, February 20**

10 am Diocesan Council at Christ  
Church

**Sunday, February 21**

**1 Lent**

**The Rt. Rev. Barry Howe**  
**Celebrant and Preacher**

**Baptism and Confirmation**

8:00 am Holy Communion

Reception for Bishop Howe and  
Mary between the services

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

**Wednesday, February 24**

6 pm Lent Study and Soup and  
Sandwich

**Thursday, February 25**

6-8 pm Autism Support Group,  
Undercroft

**Friday, February 26**

12:05 pm Holy Communion

1 pm Staff Meeting

**Sunday, February 28**

**3 Epiphany**

8:00 am Holy Communion

9:00 am Church School

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

3:30-5:30 pm Youth Group visits

WWI Memorial, KC

The **Brotherhood of St. Furse** will have their next dinner at 6:30 p.m., **Thursday, February 4, in the undercroft**. If you will attend please sign up on the sheet located on the bulletin board across from the church office. All men of the parish are invited and encouraged to attend.

Mother Mimi will be **out of the office** Friday afternoon following the 12 p.m. Holy Communion Service to attend a funeral in Harrisonville. She will also be away on Saturday, February 6, to attend the Diaconate Ordination of Helen Whitsitt in Booneville.

Next Sunday, February 7, is **Breakfast Sunday**. If you would like to help. Please speak to Sue Means.

Super Bowl Sunday is a big event for sports fans, but InterServ and St. Joseph churches have an even bigger event planned. Churches throughout St. Joseph are planning a **food drive** to support InterServ's Calvin Center Food Pantry. Our youth group will be collecting money or needed items such as dry cereal, oatmeal packets, dry beans, spaghetti and sauce, tuna, and canned dinners. Donations should be brought to the church by Sunday, February 7.

Mother Mimi has formed a **Confirmation Class** for those who wish to be Confirmed into the Episcopal Church during Bishop Howe's next visitation on February 21, 2010. If you would like to participate for Confirmation or if you would like to be Baptized please speak to Mother Mimi and let her know of your interest.

Grace and Holy Trinity will host a service and reception to honor **Absalom Jones** on Saturday, February 13, beginning at 10 a.m. Jones was the first ordained black Episcopal Priest in America and served his church, St. Thomas' African Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, from 1794 until his death in 1818. Like many nineteenth-century black clergymen, Jones also functioned outside his pulpit. As a teacher in schools established by the Pennsylvania Abolition Society and by his church, he helped train a generation of local black youth. As grand master of Philadelphia's Black Masons, a founder of the Society for the Suppression of Vice and Immorality (1809), and a founder of the literary Augustine Society (1817), he struggled to enhance the self-respect and skills of the North's largest free black community.

The newsletter and schedules and readings are **now being produced online** as an experiment to see if we can save some money on printing and the cost of

mailing these items to people every month. If you receive this issue and have an email address that is not on record with the church you are asked to please furnish this to us at christchurchsj@sbcglobal.net to continue to receive

the newsletter. If you do not have email and would like to continue receiving a copy please drop us a note at Christ Episcopal Church, 207 North 7th Street, St. Joseph, Missouri 64501, and let us know where you would like your copy sent

The word **shrove** is the past tense of the English verb **shrive**, which means to obtain absolution for one's sins by way of confession and doing penance. During the week before Lent, sometimes called Shrovetide in English, Christians were expected to go to confession in preparation for the penitential season of turning to God. Shrove Tuesday was the last day before the beginning of Lent and noted in histories dating back to 1000 AD.

Shrove Tuesday is known by many different names in different cultures. In the US and in Latin American countries, Shrove Tuesday is better known as Mardi Gras. Celebrations are extreme, with many indulging in lots of fancy treats, watching carnival parades, or merely taking to the streets in a joyful party atmosphere. The key to celebrating Shrove Tuesday in style is to indulge. It's not a day to count calories. With all of this background in mind **everyone is invited** to come out on **Tuesday, February 16**, and join the rest of the congregation in the undercroft for our annual Fat Tuesday dinner. The dinner will be from 6:00 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and will be prepared and hosted by the St. Fursey Men's group. The main fare will be New Orleans style cuisine but we will offer some alternatives for those who do not care for Creole.

**Ash Wednesday** is a day of repentance and it marks the beginning of Lent. Ashes were used in ancient times, according to the Bible, to express mourning. Dusting oneself with ashes was the penitent's way of expressing sorrow for sins and faults. The ashes used are gathered after the Palm Crosses from the previous year's Palm Sunday are burned. We will have two services on Ash Wednesday, February 17. There will be a 12:00 p.m. service with Stations of the Cross and a 7:00 p.m. service with the Ash Wednesday Liturgy.

Mother Mimi will conduct a **Lenten Study** beginning on Wednesday, February 24, and continuing through Wednesday, March 24. The Study will begin with Soup and Sandwich at 6:00 p.m. followed by study. Lent, in Christian tradition, is the period of the liturgical year leading up to Easter. The traditional purpose of Lent is the preparation of the believer – through prayer, penitence, almsgiving and self-denial – for the annual commemoration during Holy Week of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus, which recalls the events linked to the Passion of Christ and culminates in Easter, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Conventionally it is described as being forty days long. The forty days represent the time that, according to the Bible, Jesus spent in the wilderness before the beginning of his public ministry, where he endured temptation by Satan. This is always a good time to join with your fellow parishioners to enhance and investigate your spiritual self.

For Lent Mother Mimi is offering the congregation an opportunity to express yourself by doing a meditation on scripture. Each person is asked to pick a day during Lent and use the readings from the Daily Office to

reflect what you interpret from the scripture readings in a personal view. These will be joined together in a booklet for all of us to use and contemplate as other points of view we might not have considered. The sign up sheet and readings are on the table across from the Chapel. Please sign up and take one of the readings. You are asked to have your reflection in by February 10.



Congratulations to Helen Woods who was 106 years old on Monday, January 25. Helen celebrated this special day with family and friends including Joyce Edwards, who has been her friend and caretaker for the past several years when Helen needed some assistance, and Mother Mimi who joined in the festivities on her day off.

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS:** Kathy Kapp 4, Jennifer Bartlett Radmanesh 5, Scott Robaska 5, Gordon Robaska, Jr. 9, Nancy Ford 10, Katie Hardwick 11, Kay Temps 12, Mearl Plunkett 14, Peyton Rex Bartlett 14, Ken Paden 17, Pam Robaska 17, Mary Jane Kapp 18, Helen Polaski 19, Jerre Plunkett 22, Joan Thomas 22, Jim Bonebrake 22, Margaret Sparrow 24, Cullen Bonebrake 25, Jane Bram 26, June Potts 27.

"O God, our times are in your hand; Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives, through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen.

Prayers will be offered for those sick or recovering from an illness, especially: Winston, Claudia, Jeannie, Robert, Ruby, Mike, Sue, Gordon, Boomer, Kylie, Allison, Louise, Chanelle, Cullen and Harold. Our sincere condolences are extended to the family and friends of George Roth who died recently, May the peace of God be with all during this time of loss.

### **Memorial and Thanksgiving Flowers**

February 7 The flowers at the altar are given by Helen Woods in memory of her husband, Henry Woods, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Tramp, and in memory of Jim and Helen Riley by Kay Temps. The cascade is given by Gladys Freeman in memory of her mother, Mable DuPree.

February 14 The flowers at the altar are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kathy Kapp and Jim Sauls for their service to Christ Church.

There are no flowers at the Altar during the Season of Lent. The next opportunity for flower donations will be on Easter Sunday, March 4. Watch for next month's issue of the newsletter for order information for Easter Lilies.

If you would like to donate altar flowers or a cascade in Thanksgiving or Remembrance please contact one of our Flower Ministry coordinators, **Kay Temps (233-8179)** or **Ginny McLaughlin (901-0254)** or sign up on the flower schedule posted by the bulletin board and fill out one of the attached donation forms.

**Printable Calendar Below**