

Mustard Seed

NEWSLETTER OF CHRIST THE KING PARISH

DECEMBER 2016

As Christian stewards, we receive God's gifts gratefully, cultivate them responsibly, share them in loving justice with others and return them with increase to the Lord. — Stewardship: A Disciple's Response

Couple Finds Joy in Protecting the Earth

David and Rosemary Smith have always been passionate about nature and the environment. They first shared their love of the outdoors when they met as teenagers in 1962, working as counselors at Tower Hill Camp, a program for underprivileged children run by the Diocese of Providence on the site that now houses Monsignor Clarke School. David, a Wakefield native, speaks nostalgically about the camp. "The primary feature of the camp was a daily trip for the 100 or so campers to Narragansett Beach. The camp buildings are gone now, but the view over Pettaquamscutt Cove to the ocean is still there and still spectacular."

The pair married and had two children, Marah and Bryan, both now with families of their own. Marah and her husband, Zack, and their two children, Alana and James, live close enough to visit frequently, especially during the summer to enjoy the bay that she and her brother learned to love and respect during their summer trips to Bonnet Shores. For Bryan and his wife, Erica, Narragansett is a welcome break from their working life in New York City.

The Smiths have lived in a variety of places during their forty-six years of marriage, most recently in Massachusetts where David was a marketing consultant and Rosemary

taught in the public schools and traveled to give workshops on the teaching of math and science. When they retired in 2006, they moved to Narragansett, just across the Pettaquamscutt Cove. According to David, they have now completely "unretired" and are happily involved in a number of volunteer endeavors.



Rosemary and David Smith

In the ten years they have lived here, they have devoted themselves to raising funds for improvements to the South County Bike Path in memory of David's brother, Mark, and have been staunch advocates for completion of the path through Canonchet Farm to Narragansett Beach. Both belong to the Narrow River Preservation Association. As part of their volunteer work there they test water quality for the River Watch Program. In addition, they have worked for the last six years organizing the Friends of Canonchet Farm's

habitat restoration efforts along the ponds across from Narragansett Town Beach.

Because their approach to serving the environment is two pronged with a focus not only on the roll-up-your-sleeves, hands-on work, but also with a strong desire to share infor-

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Did You Know...

- ◆ Dr. Paul Cashion, DMD has retired after 45 years of faithful service to his patients.
- ◆ Steven Pinch was named the new South Kingstown Union Fire District chief. As chief, Steven will oversee the eight fire stations in town.
- ◆ Joan Spencer volunteers twice a week at a local horse rescue farm, "Horse Play" on Gilbert Stuart Road in North Kingstown, for neglected and abused horses. She shares that more volunteers are always needed.
- ◆ Spencer Martin, Joseph Matoney and William Palm became Lifetime Service Society members at an induction ceremony held at the University of Rhode Island in September for their 40 plus years of service. Mimi Keefe was awarded a posthumous membership for 50 years of employment.

Protecting the Earth ...

(Continued from page 1)

mation with others, they organized a popular winter speaker series at Maury Loontjens Memorial Library in Narragansett. "We brought three groups into a collaboration," explains Rosemary. "They all had programs involving the watershed in the warm months, but there was nothing to do in the winter, so we thought an information series would be great. The more you learn about the earth, the more you want to protect it." Thus, the "On Pettaquamscutt: Presentations on the Environment and History of the Narrow River Watershed" series was born. David and Rosemary arrange for speakers to present at the library on the last Sunday of each of the three winter months.

As if this were not enough to keep this humble couple busy, David also volunteers for South County Habitat for Humanity and Rosemary somehow found the time to become a URI Master Gardener, a group that emphasizes, according to Rosemary, "the important theme of sustainability."

Rosemary also serves on the Christ the King Hospitality Committee as a greeter at Sunday Mass and at funerals, and both she and David volunteer in the parish gardens.

Happily, their work has not gone unnoticed. For their consistent efforts and dedication, they have received the Knights of the Rockingham Arch Award from the town of Narragansett and each has also been awarded, at separate times, the NRPA's W.E.R. La Farge Memorial Friend of the River Award. During the award ceremony in October, David was described as someone who is "the living embodiment" of the NRPA mission.

When asked what motivates them to be so involved, David answers, "Stewardship is part of the gospel. We have an obligation to care for the earth and to share our understanding with others and with future generations." Clearly, this dedicated and busy couple is living up to this obligation.

— Kathy Pesta

New Leadership for 'Mustard Seed'

In this issue we welcome Kathy Pesta and Marie White who together will manage the operations of the "Mustard Seed" our parish newsletter. Both women are well qualified to see that the quality and high level of the newsletter continue as they have in the past.

Both have a love of writing, are excited at the prospect of being involved, and are looking forward to serving our community by offering their time and talents to the "Mustard Seed."

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Kathy Pesta



'Mustard Seed' ...



Marie White

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Marie is a long time parishioner of Christ the King while Kathy has been here for just about a year. When asked why they chose to be members of our community they agreed that the commitment and depth of giving to those in need, the sense of warmth and welcoming,

the music at liturgies and the feeling of the community's sense of understanding what the Gospel is really all about are their primary reasons.

Marie is a native Rhode Islander who graduated from Warwick Veteran's High School, has been married to Bill for forty-nine years and has two children, Bill and Anne Marie, one grandchild and two step-grandchildren. Bill is retired from Wilson's of Wickford and currently works part time as a pet sitter.

Marie recently retired from the Diocese of Providence after thirty-three years of service. During this time, she worked in the Office of Religious Education, Catholic Charities, Stewardship and Development Office and spent fourteen years as an assistant in the business office of The Prout School. She is a commissioned lay minister and has served as a Eucharistic minister here at Christ the King. While a parishioner of St. James parish in West Warwick, Marie was involved in the CCD and RCIA programs.

Marie considers herself a "closet" writer with her favorite piece of writing being a collection of sayings of her now nineteen-year-old grandson, Andrew, since he was a small child. She hopes one day to put it together as a gift of her love for Andrew. She is an avid reader of history and mysteries.

Kathy has been a resident of Rhode Island since she was

six years old. She has been married to Michael, whom she has known since first grade, for forty-one years, has two daughters, Martha and Amy, and a granddaughter, Avery, who is six months old. Michael is retired from Brown University where he was, at the end of his career, the university registrar.

Kathy graduated from South Kingstown High School and from Mt. St. Joseph College with a B.A. in Education and a minor in Theology. She studied graduate courses in English at URI and taught English and Religious Studies at The Prout School for twenty-seven years where she still substitutes. Her favorite English classes to teach were creative writing and grammar. For six years while at Prout she was the campus minister.

Following her retirement, Kathy worked as the Confirmation coordinator at St. Catherine's parish in Warwick, all the while continuing with her free-lance writing and editing. She has published over forty articles and her poetry has appeared in the English Journal and America. Last year, she self-published a small book of poetry, "Spinning through Warm Air." According to Kathy, "I feel most alive when I'm writing."

We are grateful to Kathy and Marie for their dedication to Christ the King and ask God's blessings in this new and important stewardship.

— Margaret Riley

Share Your Ideas

Is there a person or event you would like to see highlighted in the "Mustard Seed"?

Let us know by leaving a note in the main office or by contacting Marie White at mbwhite42@verizon.net or Kathy Pesta at kathyp9195@verizon.net. Thank you.

Young Artist Shares Her Talent

A recent article in the local newspaper brought attention to a new library in South Kingstown: the Village Green Little Free Library. This library just joined the National Little Free Library honor system, begun in Wisconsin in 2009, which now has 40,000 members world-wide. In this honor system, anyone can take a book, leave a book or sign the guest book in tiny, decorated containers that usually contain between 20 to 40 books.



This latest addition to the “little library” system is a reconstructed kitchen cabinet, which serves as the “library building.” Alison Kates is the curator while her father, George, is the woodworker who performed the surgical alteration. But the beautiful designs on the

faces of the waterproofed wooden structure were painted by Nicole Gennari of CTK. Nicole is a recent graduate of South

Kingstown High School and a first year nursing student at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut.

Nicole’s involvement began when the SKHS art department was asked for aid in painting the structure and immediately Nicole was chosen to help. Having

taken numerous art courses over four years and having the ability to transform fantasy/fairies/gnome projects into stunning fairy tale stories, Nicole dove into the volunteer project whole-heartedly. Her resulting images will bring smiles and feelings of happiness to all those who view them.

Nicole also entered a Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary art competition and her charcoal/pastel drawing of a little girl in combat boots playing a bugle shadowed by a combat veteran placed first in Rhode Island. Her picture was then displayed along with all of the state winners at the White House. Nicole commented, “It is my favorite drawing – and it really made an impression on the people who saw it.”

— Mary Lou Morissette



Youth in Action

What a joy it is when young people find their voice, realize their power to do good, and use it to make the world a better place.

- ◆ Congratulations to Collin Benzoni who, as part of his senior year project for school, petitioned the state for greater safety features on a local road. Collin had noticed that the small guard rail by the sod farm on Slocum Road did not properly protect travelers from the adjacent railroad tracks. He wrote to the town and eventually to the state engineer to ask for greater protection. As part of his project, Collin gathered information, sent in measurements and eventually persuaded the state to install a new and longer guard rail, making the road safer for all travelers.
- ◆ Congratulations to Christina LoPresti whose evocative photo highlighting nature’s beauty, “Oak Outside My Window” won second place in the Student Division I category of the seventh annual photography contest sponsored by the Richard B. Dunne Memorial Scholarship Committee. Winning photos were published in the Sept. 29 issue of The Independent.

Welcome to Christ the King's Two New Staff Members

Here at Christ the King we are blessed with a great staff. And now we are doubly blessed with the addition of a new Associate Music Director, Heather Skidds, and a new part-time Youth Ministry and Confirmation Preparation Program Director, Robert Ferri.

Heather has a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York, where she also studied voice, and a Master of Arts in Liturgical Music from St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota, where she studied voice, choral conducting and organ.

Heather serves as the Director of the North Kingstown Community Adult and Youth choruses. She is also on the board of the Providence Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Heather has offered workshops in many topics in liturgical music, liturgy and theology at diocesan meetings and regional conferences. She comes to us after ministering as the Director of Music at St. Gregory the Great Church in Warwick for the last eleven years.



Heather Skidds

Heather has performed for many years as a church musician, soprano soloist, choir director, pianist, organist and teacher throughout Rhode Island, Massachusetts, New York and Minnesota. She lives in Exeter with her husband, Dennis, and children Aidan and Rachel. Heather came to Christ the King because of our celebrated music program and because she and her husband have known Fr. Jared for many years. We welcome Heather and her family to our parish family.

Robert has a wide range of experience in both religious education and youth ministry. He is a former owner of a successful business who went on to receive a Master of Arts in Teaching from Johnson & Wales University. He has over twelve years of experience as a Director of Religious Educa-

tion, having served the parishes of St. Brendan in Riverside, St. Elizabeth in Bristol, and Immaculate Conception in Cranston. Robert is an avid cyclist who loves hiking, camping and bowling. He and his wife of thirty-six years, Denise, love walking their two pit bull mixes. Their son, Russell, lives in New York and their daughter, Stephanie, lives in Los Angeles. Robert and Denise have been members of Christ the King parish since February. Robert accepted this position at Christ the King because of his extensive background working with Fr. Jared.



Robert Ferri

Fr. Jared said, "I have known Heather for more than twenty-five years (and her husband, Dennis, since first grade!). I have known Robert for more than twelve years (nine of them working with him in parish ministry). Both of them are extremely gifted, passionate and very dedicated."

Both Robert and Heather are excited to be a part of our parish family. Heather has already created a youth choir (and they sounded great at the annual CTK concert). Robert and Fr. Jared are constantly assessing the needs for the Youth Ministry Program and are open to suggestions. Robert tells me that we have a diverse number of children from fourteen districts in the state. He hopes to make religious education fun for all the students.

So, let us give a warm welcome to our new staff members, Heather Skidds and Robert Ferri. Both bring a number of years of experience to their respective programs and will be a talented, compassionate and enthusiastic addition to the Christ the King staff.

— Marie White

The Catholic Center Turns 50



It was a joyous event as clergy, faculty, students, parishioners from Christ the King and other friends came together September 24 to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the University of Rhode Island's Catholic Center, formerly known as the Newman Center.

In attendance at the celebration were seven of the ten priest chaplains who have served at the Center, as well as a representative from the bishop's office and other clergy. Fr. Joseph Upton, cur-

rent chaplain, was the main celebrant and Fr. Randy Chew, long-time former chaplain, gave the homily. In addition, approximately 250 others who had somehow been touched by the Center gathered to pay tribute, to meet old friends and to share memories.

Named for Cardinal John Henry Newman, whose writings inspired the idea, the first Newman Center was established in 1888 at Oxford University in England. Newman believed that students attending secular colleges needed a place to meet, pray and practice their faith. In 1893 the first American Newman Center was established at the University of Pennsylvania. Today there are over 2,300 centers on college campuses in the United States alone. Many of those have changed their name, as has URI, to Catholic Center, but they all continue to honor Cardinal Newman's original vision.

This fidelity to the original purpose of the first centers was echoed in a touching story shared by Fr. Chew in his

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Seven of the ten former priest chaplains at the URI Catholic Center gather for Mass Sept. 24 at Christ the King Church prior to the 50th anniversary celebration at the Catholic Center.



Catholic Center ...

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homily at the anniversary celebration. He recounted an anxious mother dropping off her freshman daughter at URI. After she had shared her anxieties with him, Fr. Chew pointed to a banner on the wall that read, “There are no strangers here – only friends who have not yet met.” It was



**Judy Klopfenstein, Shelly McConnell
and Pam Taplin**

at that moment, he said that he himself realized “what the Catholic Center was and could be as a haven, a sanctuary, a safe place ... for the entire community.”

Today, Christ the King parish and the Catholic Center both benefit from the call to stewardship that each emphasizes. When asked what the relationship between the two is, Fr. Upton explained, “From its inception, the Catholic Center has enjoyed a close collaboration with Christ the King. Before the parish hall was built, the Catholic Center was, for all intents and purposes, the parish hall of Christ

**Julie Chasen,
Julie Grosso,
Tim Marran and
Pat Marcantonio**



the King. Parish programming was held alongside campus ministry programming. There were shared resources, staff members and programs. That relationship has always evolved and is continu-



Dan with Fr. John Soares

ing to evolve. While the parish and the center remain distinct ministries, there is still a close friendship between the two programs, and the parish generously provides – through its Stewardship Sharing Program – a subsidy to help finance our ministry.”

According to Fr. Upton, “parishioners often volunteer for campus ministry events and students participate in parish programming like Religious Formation. The anniversary celebration provided us an opportunity to see firsthand how mutually enriching the university and parish community are for one another.”

— *Kathy Pesta*

Choir Member Goes Above and Beyond

Perhaps you've noticed that there is a transformation underway in how our choir members are handling their music. The fat green books and black binders are giving way to slim electronic devices. Maybe that is something that would have happened anyway, sooner or later, but in the case of this choir, one man's misfortune resulted in good luck for everyone else.



Peter Nardelli

Peter Nardelli, steadfast bass, suffered a stroke four years ago and one result was that he had trouble holding a book and turning pages during Mass. Not wanting to give up choir, Peter began to think about how he might put his choir music on an iPad. He noticed that Tom

Kendzia and flutist Linda Price were using electronic devices, so he turned to them.

Linda introduced him to the app forScore and explained what she had done to upload her music. With that, Peter began researching the best way to accomplish his goal. There was a significant learning curve that eventually gave

way to accomplishment as he scanned and uploaded the digital copies into forScore on his iPad.

When Peter started using the iPad at Mass two years ago, those around him asked how they could do the same. So he responded by inviting them to come early to rehearsal with their devices. Meanwhile he created a file of Christ the King choir music in Dropbox where any choir member who signed on could access the music. Peter helped those first few interested singers put forScore on their gadgets and gave a tutorial on how to pull together the music for each Sunday. The following week more people asked for help. Forty-five members of the choir now use forScore, and Peter has worked with each person individually to bring them up to speed. The number of songs he has scanned presently totals 265. Peter won't tell you exactly how many hours he has invested in this ongoing project, but it is many hundreds.

The electronic users are enthused about having all their music at their fingertips at a fraction of the weight and with none of the rustling noise of paper copies. All are extremely grateful to Peter for his patience and his generous gift of time.

Peter and his wife, Teri Lowe, have been members of Christ the King for over 20 years, and both have served in various ministries and committees over the years.

— Lucy Mueller

The Importance of Christmas

“For unto us a child is born. Unto us a Son is given.” — Isaiah 9:6

The great challenge of every Christmas is to observe it, not merely as a season that celebrates events that took place 2,000 years ago, but to celebrate it as the lived and living reality that it is.

When Joseph knocked on the innkeepers' doors looking for a warm and safe place for Mary to deliver Jesus, he was told repeatedly that there was “no room in the inn.”

But what about the “inn” of our hearts? When God comes knocking at our door, how do we respond? Do we, like the innkeepers, say, “Sorry, too much going on in here. There's no room for you” or do we, like Mary, with humility, faith and courage, open our hearts and our very being to bringing forth Christ on earth once again?

— Kathy Pesta



Make a Joyful Sound

Parishioners and friends enjoyed the 28th annual CTK concert November 17 and 18 to benefit CTK's sister parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Providence. The concert featured guest artists Theresa Donohoo, Gary Daigle and Rory Cooney, who had performed at the first CTK concert, along with Tom Kendzia and the CTK choir.

"The music was great!" – Bill Babcock

"It's always nice to put a face to the music that is so common to our liturgies" – Edna and Bill DeCesare



"We work very hard so that we can give to our church family. We love to share our faith through song. Our souls are fed as we sing and feed others."

– Michelle Saslow,
choir member

At left, Carolina Ray plays cello with the Children's Choir; Tom Kendzia at the piano. At right, Fr. Jared speaks prior to the concert; guest artists Theresa Donohoo and Gary Daigle; members of the CTK Children's Choir.



Stewardship Begins at Home



Pope Francis

Excerpt from “Laudato si” – “On Care for Our Common Home,” the second encyclical of Pope Francis:

“213. Ecological education can take place in a variety of settings: at school, in families, in the media, in catechesis and elsewhere. Good education plants seeds when we are young, and these continue to bear fruit throughout life. Here, though, I would stress the

great importance of the family, which is “the place in which life – the gift of God – can be properly welcomed and protected against the many attacks to which it is exposed, and can develop in accordance with what constitutes authentic human growth. In the face of the so-called culture of death, the family is the heart of the culture of life”. [149] In the family we first learn how to show love and respect for life;

we are taught the proper use of things, order and cleanliness, respect for the local ecosystem and care for all creatures. In the family we receive an integral education, which enables us to grow harmoniously in personal maturity. In the family we learn to ask without demanding, to say “thank you” as an expression of genuine gratitude for what we have been given, to control our aggressivity and greed, and to ask forgiveness when we have caused harm. These simple gestures of heartfelt courtesy help to create a culture of shared life and respect for our surroundings.”



— Pope Francis

*To everything there is a season and
a time for every purpose under heaven.*

– Ecclesiastes 3:11

A TIME TO LOVE –

NEW PARISHIONERS

Ms. Mary Jane Cappelli
Mr. John Masson/Ms. Elizabeth McQueeney
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Napolitano and family
Mr. and Mrs. David DeSimone
Ms. Christine Pfeiffer
Mr. Franklin Rodezno and family
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Biafore and family
Mr. and Mrs. Alberto Guerrero and family
Mr. and Mrs. Jason Kizzee and family

Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Burdge
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Naugle and family
Mr. and Mrs. Chris Wright and family
Mr. and Mrs. James McGregor and family
Mr. and Mrs. David Elmer
Mr. and Mrs. Michael D’Ambra
Mr. and Mrs. Brendan Ennis and family
Mr. and Mrs. Craig DeFusco and family

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Stewardship in Action

A TIME TO LOVE –

NEW PARISHIONERS

Mr. and Mrs. John Rosa and family
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Kurian and family
Mr. and Mrs. Sean Morrison and family
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Langfield and family
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher DiSano and family
Mr. Paul Mastrangelo and family
Mr. Justin Gibson/Ms. Sarah Gower
Mrs. Laura Warner
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Skidds and family
Mr. Ziad Alchihed/Ms. Vaiga Casey and family
Mr. and Mrs. John Connell
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sullivan and family
Mr. and Mrs. Michael O'Sullivan and family
Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Stutzman and family
Mr. and Mrs. David Smith and family
Mr. and Mrs. James Wilkinson and family
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Muller and family
Mr. and Mrs. Bill Liberis and family
Mr. and Mrs. Shawn Reilly and family
Mr. and Mrs. Kent Dresser and family
Ms. Sonia Silva and family

Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Murphy and family
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Bates and family
Mr. James Calamita
Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Toohey
Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Bentley
Mr. and Mrs. William McGowan and family
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gatley and family
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Droney and family
Mr. and Mrs. Brian Hall and family
Mr. Richard Choquette
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy and family
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Palin, Sr.
Ms. Lynne Cianciolo
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Galloway and family
Dr. and Mrs. Donald McNiece
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Zamperini
Mr. and Mrs. Dean Balcirak and family
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Suellentrop and family
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Connors
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Gorman and family

A TIME TO BE BORN –

BAPTISMS

Rachel Ann, daughter of Kenneth and Kathleen Fee
Sienna Rose, daughter of Jake and Erin Mendillo
William John, son of Michael and Emily Sarette
Evelyn Mae, daughter of Steven and Felicia Mooney
Thomas Oliver, son of Mark and Roslyn Barabe
Isabelle Tara, daughter of Paulo and Jennifer Costa
Lillian Rose and Jacob Allen, children of Sean and
Amanda Cote
Alayna Marie, daughter of Patrick and Briana Casey
Finnian James, son of Kent and Meaghan Dresser
Chloe and Isabella, daughters of Brian and Gillian Quirk
Connor, son of Christopher and Lisa McStay
Jack Wallace, son of Christian and Jessica Quintin
Jayce Joseph, son of Kyle and Theresa Hemmerle
Clarke Butler, son of Thomas and Robin Schipritt

A TIME TO DIE –

DEATHS

Mark Phelps
William Gardiner
William Dube
Gloria Stewart
Mary Christoph
Allen Lindgren
Patricia Sheffield
Thomas McLaughlin
John Henneberry
Deborah Calamita
Joseph Laffey
Judith deFeo
Suzanne Dubuc

Margaret Ferrara
Judith Wright
Charles Curvelo
Jack Hamilton



Mustard Seed

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CHRISTMAS SEASON MASS SCHEDULE



Saturday, December 24

CHRISTMAS EVE

4 p.m. (*Church*)

4 p.m. (*Edwards Hall*)

10 p.m. (*Church*)

Sunday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Saturday, December 31

NEW YEAR'S EVE VIGIL

4 p.m.

Sunday, January 1

NEW YEAR'S DAY

8 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11:30 a.m.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

January 15

BLOOD DRIVE

8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

March 1

ASH WEDNESDAY

Mass 7 a.m., noon, 5 and 7 p.m.