Planting Seeds of Hope and 

Experiencing Grace

Christ Church—Fall 2012
“This morning I would like to speak with you about planting seeds of hope. Like the seeds scattered on fertile ground, our gestures of generosity, our actions on behalf of others, our willingness to listen to other people’s dreams, and our desire to help others grow in the Christian faith and life bear fruit far beyond the present into the future.

As members of Christ Church, we know that this place and this community has been fertile ground for people to be generous, for people to help enable and heal others, for people to listen to other people’s dreams and visions, for people to instruct and teach others by word and example what it means to be a follower of Christ, and for countless others to be touched by the power of the Holy Spirit by merely walking through our church doors to see the beauty of this chancel and of our beautiful stained glass cross.

At this time of year when we prayerfully consider what financial pledge to make to Christ Church for 2013, I invite us to consider pledging as planting – planting seeds of hope. “

Excerpt from October 7, 2012 Sermon
Rev. Robert G. Windsor

For full sermon visit our website: www.ccneedham.org
Community Concerns Ministry † Is an outreach body of Christ Church’s annual operating budget. The committee is able to turn your generous pledges to Christ Church into food, medicine and educational resources to help people in need.

By planting the seeds of hope; “We are holding the hope not only for ourselves but also for countless others. By believing in the Christ Church community we: Bring the Good News of Christ to the least, the last, the last and the lonely through clothing to the Long Island Shelter, through hearty and healthy lunches with the Monday Lunch Ministry, through our commitment to the Millennium Development goals at the school in Lazile, Haiti.”

B-Safe † Christ Church is now beginning its sixth year as a partner with the Diocese for this summer program.

Circle of Hope † A non-profit subsidiary of Christ Church serving the Greater Boston Area and Lazile Haiti.

Ecclesia Ministry † Christ Church prepares and serves lunch to the homeless on the Boston Common several times a year.

Haiti Parish Partnership † Christ Church continues support to St. Luc, Lazile Haiti.

Shelter Cooking † One of the largest ministries at Christ Church. There mission is to provide a nutritious meal once a month at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Boston.
By planting the seeds of hope; “We are holding the hope not only for ourselves but also for countless others. “By believing in the Christ Church community we: Maintain a beautiful church building as a place of prayer and worship but also as a resource to the wider community whether it be a pre-school like First Bridge, an outreach program like AA, or a meeting space for the Needham High School or a diocesan event like Episcopal City Mission.”
By planting the seeds of hope; “We are holding the hope not only for ourselves but also for countless others. By believing in the Christ Church community we: Use faith and practice in a safe Christian community where mutual pastoral and healing support happens everyday while allowing members to worship together every Sunday enjoying our beautiful choir and hearing and receiving both God’s holy word and receiving the Spirit of Christ through the Eucharist.


Staff Julia Baker, Parish Administrator Robert Begin, Facilities Coordinator Pamela Goody, Music Director Jane Flummerfelt, Organist Bari Weiss, Controller

Ministry and Mission Occur With Faith and Practice

Pastoral Response Ministry
Lay Eucharistic Visitors
Healing Ministry
Intercessory Prayer
Knitting Ministry
Choir
Church School classes gather in the sanctuary to present a check to Amistad Mission.

By planting the seeds of hope; “We are holding the hope not only for ourselves but also for countless others. By believing in the Christ Church community we: Create a place and a space where families find teachers and mentors, who by their word and example instruct our children and youth to grow into the full stature of Christ.”

Church School
  Children’s Chapel
  Gather’ Round
  Re:Form
  Confirmation
Youth Group
Adult Bible Study
The Episcopal Way
Adult Forums
Women’s Spirituality
Retreat Days
Men’s Group

Christ Church Youth Group
Mission Trip 2012

The Episcopal Way
Class of 2011
By planting the seeds of hope: “We are holding the hope not only for ourselves but also for countless others. By believing in the Christ Church community we: Serve as a home to us where we can meet for fellowship, knitting, lunches, dinners, breakfasts, or to have fun for Halloween or Christmas.”

You and I are called to be planters of hope by supporting Christ Church both for us and for others. During this season of sowing, let us be generous, sowing seeds of hope so that all people will come to know the loving and redeeming power of God through Jesus Christ our Lord.” witnessed here at Christ Church.
By planting the seeds of hope; We open ourselves to God’s grace. “Jesus…asks each of us to give up our reliance on wealth, or status, or self, or whatever it is that keeps us from God, and instead to accept God’s divine love and live into the grace God pours freely upon us, and to live in its abundance.

Paul, in his letter to the Hebrews…sums it up perfectly: ‘Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.’ No matter where we come from, or what we have, we all can approach the throne of grace with boldness…

Be all in, with whatever it is you have been given in abundance – wealth, talent, time, compassion. This is the time of year, the season of Christian stewardship, when we give thanks for the grace we have received and think about our gifts to the church for the following year. Stewardship season asks us to carefully consider our gift for the coming year and to please be as generous as we can – to be our most generous selves, as Skip says, in what we give of our treasure and of our time.

Being all in means being open to receiving God’s grace through giving: of our wealth, of our time, of our hearts – of all that we have, and of all that we are. I suggest this year that we live into that grace, that we try to be all in. So try this: Keep the pledge card near you, pray with it, and wait. Wait to fill it out until you encounter one of those little moments of grace that abound at Christ Church.

Just imagine with me the grace that will flow when we follow Jesus’ call to be all in. All in. Our money, our time, our hearts. May this be the year we approach the throne of grace with boldness – together. May this be the year we receive God’s grace, and pass it on. And may Christ Church always be a place where grace, amazing grace, abounds.”

Adapted from October 14, 2012 Sermon

Myra R. Anderson

For full sermon visit our website: www.ccneedham.org