



Composer
John Rutter
visits
Delaware
See back page
(Page D)

IN THIS ISSUE

- B** Bishop's Letter & Calendar; St. Anne's School Clothing Drive
- C** Rite Living: A Financial Fast; Delaware Events
- D** Choir School awarded Jubilee Ministry Designation; Social Media Usage Guidelines; Lenten Lunches; John Rutter visits Delaware

Parishes in Transition

Please pray for Immanuel on the Green, New Castle, and St. Peter's, Smyrna, as they are in the process of discerning their next rector.



Time for Camp Arrowhead!

Reserve your favorite camper a spot in their favorite Camp Arrowhead session now. And plan to visit camp during their open house on Sunday, April 1 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Visit CampArrowhead.net for details and registration information.

FROM MAINTENANCE TO MISSION

Calvary Chooses Two-Year Path to Rebirth

by Jen Mason,
editor

Like many small parishes, the one at Calvary Church, Hillcrest, Wilmington, was getting smaller as its aging population (most members are 70 or older, many being lifelong parishioners) gradually passed away. When their rector retired at the end of the program year in 2010, it didn't take long before the parish realized that if they kept going on the same course, they would be forced to close their doors in two-year's time.

So when new lay leadership was elected and the Rev. Canon Lloyd Casson (retired) agreed to help, the vestry committed to an intensive process of workshops and retreats to discern the road ahead, calling the summer of 2011 their "Summer of Discernment." After much prayer, study, and work, they developed two options for the congregation to consider for Calvary's future.

"Rebirth" was a commitment to find ways to renew Calvary, in full recognition that the odds were against them. "Legacy"



was developing a process to bring the 150-year chapter of Calvary Church to a close with love and intention. The vestry engaged the parish with hearings, culminating in a special parish meeting in October to take a formal vote on which path to pursue. The results were overwhelming, with 85% choosing "Rebirth."

This vote was not taken lightly. The entire parish knew that choosing this path meant the need for change and personal commitment for every member.

As the vestry conveyed in a recent letter to parishioners: "The essence of this ["Rebirth"] option came from findings of an Episcopal Church study based on factors contributing to growth in congregations. Growing churches, it reported, are characterized by spiritual vibrancy; inspired and varied worship; fully active, financially supportive, multicultural membership; active recruitment;

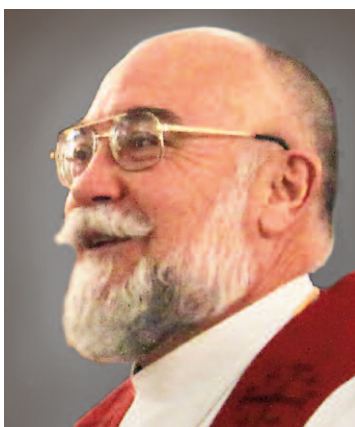
continued on next page (Page B)

DELAWARE CLERGY

Two Ordinations to the Priesthood in January.



The Rev. Gary Taylor, the new chaplain at St. Anne's School in Middletown, was ordained by Bishop Wright in the midst of the entire St. Anne's community on Friday, January 20. Fr. Taylor graduated from Yale College and the Harvard Graduate School of Education before attending Virginia Theological Seminary. Find a link on our website to a wonderful article about the ordination from the *Middletown Transcript*.



The Rev. Ken Athey celebrated his ordination to the priesthood with parishioners from the parishes he's served: All Saints, Delmar; St. Paul's, Georgetown; and St. Philip's, Laurel, on Saturday, January 21. Fr. Athey was raised up for the priesthood in Delaware, discerning the call while a parishioner at St. Philip's and pursuing it with Bishop Wright's blessing and support over the past decade. He attended Virginia Theological Seminary and will serve at All Saints, Delmar.

EVERY THREE YEARS

What is General Convention and Why Do We Care?

by the Rev. Mark Harris, St. Peter's,
Lewes, Second Clergy Deputy to
General Convention

Regular as clockwork, every year the Diocese of Delaware has an annual convention. Seems normal enough, even necessary. Budgets are approved, people elected and appointed to various committees and offices, and then we go back to normal parish life. Every year we designate a portion of our diocesan budget for the work of The Episcopal Church as a whole, and every three years we elect deputies and send them off to General Convention. Why? Why General Convention? For that matter, why Diocesan Convention?

Well, basically we have these conventions (sometimes called convocations or synods) because we believe the governing of our church requires participation of the whole church – lay

and ordained – in decision making. That's it, friends. We believe it takes the insights of lay persons, bishops, priests, and deacons, on every level, to make this a Church that expresses the faithful witness of the whole church. In this sense we are a democratic church.

We are Episcopalians – meaning a church with bishops. So our democratic leanings are tempered by our sense that we are bound together in community with our bishop, and that the bishop has pastoral oversight of our life together. But we Episcopalians also firmly believe that bishops ought to be elected by clergy and parish representatives of a diocese and exercise their ministry in concert with lay and ordained leadership in a diocese. Diocesan conventions provide the basic gathering place for community debate of issues and concerns, for decisions regarding mission and ministry, for election of leadership within the diocese,

continued on inside back page (Page C)

The Queen of Feasts

by the Rt. Rev. Wayne Wright, Bishop of Delaware.

As I sit to write this, the season of Lent is about to begin. In the annual cycle of the Christian calendar, our hearts and minds turn toward Easter. Easter is the Christian festival. Early writers spoke of Easter as "the Queen of Feasts." Easter reminds us of the central tenet of our faith: Jesus died and was raised from the dead. Our Sunday by Sunday worship in Lent points toward the Easter miracle. Most scholars suggest that the entire Christian year grew and developed upon the Easter foundation.



The Easter faith defines our thinking about Lent. The 1979 Prayer Book places Easter in the center of our worship. It makes Easter the primary season for baptism. As a result, in more and more Episcopal congregations, Lent is when we prepare candidates, their families, and sponsors for Easter baptism. For the rest of us, who were baptized long ago, Lent is an opportunity to renew our own baptismal commitment to Christ – to ask the questions: How has faith in Jesus Christ changed my life? How can I invite others by my influence and example to share this same faith?

For a very long time, most of us thought about Lent as a time for fasting and penitence. Many wonder why this has changed. The new Easter baptismal emphasis is almost certainly more in keeping with the original intention of Lent. Looking at the historical evolution of Lent, it is easy to see why. The forty days of Lent, as we now know them, evolved over the first 400 years of church life. By the early fourth century, all churches in the Mediterranean world had a well-established custom of celebrating the death and resurrection of Jesus in the spring. The precise date of that celebration varied, and still does, because of differing calendars.

The early Easter celebrations also had a strong association as the season for baptisms. As Paul and so many others taught: in and through the sacrament of baptism every believer participates in the death and resurrection of Jesus. What better time to baptize than at Easter when the whole church celebrates Jesus' victory over death. Naturally, the season before Easter became a time of intense preparation for baptismal candidates.

As the fourth century progressed, church life shifted dramatically. Before that time, the church had been a persecuted, but growing, minority. With the conversion of the Roman emperor, Constantine, much changed. Christianity became the official religion of the

Roman Empire. Within only a few generations, almost every adult in the Roman world was baptized. Increasingly, the candidates for baptism were the infant children of already converted parents. The use of Lent as a time to prepare adult converts for baptism began to decline. In its place a new understanding grew.

Scholars suggest that from very early days a few monastic communities observed forty days of fasting and prayer in January, just after the Feast of Jesus' Baptism. Their practice imitated Jesus' own time of temptation in the wilderness. Over time this personal emphasis on fasting and penitence became commonplace in most Western European churches. The spirit of Lent became more closely associated with the spirit of Good Friday.

Today the balance of thinking about Lent is shifting. Reflection and self-examination continue to be important. We are all sinners, and humility and repentance are essential for growth in faith and personal discipleship. But today there is a growing emphasis on the promise and power of Easter. Being a disciple of Jesus means living by his teaching and example. It means trusting in the power of faith, walking the path of hope, and sharing the divine gift of love.

I pray that, during this Lent, the spirit of the Risen Christ will renew and inspire each of us. It is my hope, as the old self dies away, that Christ will be more present and powerful. It is my belief that as we grow, our churches will grow in spirit, in witness, and in service. This would be a gift to us. It would also be a gift to Delaware. Through the presence and witness of growing, generous, and faithful Episcopal churches, the risen Christ invites you and me, as well as the communities around us, to participate in the Spirit's good work of redemption.

Wayne

Calvary Chooses Two-Year Path to Rebirth

continued from front page (Page A)



fully engaged children and youth; multiple and currently relevant pastoral, education and support ministries; addressing wider community needs; and very important, open to change and 'trying new things.'

"By voting for 'Rebirth,' we were declaring ourselves to be in favor of Calvary becoming a vital faith community that reflects those characteristics; so alive spiritually, whose worship and ministries at the parish and in the community bring many more people from the youngest to the eldest, from all 'tribes and tongues' to experience and tangibly express the true meaning of God's love for the world. Now that we have voted, we are called to put our prayers, personal and congregational energy, finances and other resources toward growing this new mission, in whatever form the Holy Spirit may lead us."

The vestry then turned its attention to practicalities. They decided that the two-year window that had been cited for Calvary's survival would be their timeframe for building Calvary's new mission, setting a deadline of January 2014 for completion. And they developed a plan of action, including mission and vision statements and a set of specific goals and objectives, to serve as a roadmap for this time, calling it "From Maintenance to Mission."

While each of the plan's eight goals are seen as vital to the mission's success, central among them are the recognition that Calvary must renew their spiritual life and find innovative ways to partner with other parishes and/or ministries for resources.

The vestry presented the goals at the January 2012 Annual Meeting, gaining parish buy-in and engaging parishioners in developing strategies to achieve each goal and objective. "Canon Casson kicked off the discussion by asking everyone to imagine a huge celebration in January 2014 and then to spiral backward in their imaginations to see what it would take to get to that point," said Mary Morgan, Sr. Warden. "Parishioners chose a goal that excited them, sat together in small groups that were facilitated by vestry members, and began to work on strategies to meet the goals and objectives. Those discussion groups are now committees, each one committed to work until that January 2014 goal is reached. We know that the odds may be against us, but we have a renewed sense of hope and anticipation for what this process will mean to us – both as individuals and as a parish."

No matter what and no matter how, the people of Calvary know that they will grow, with God's grace.

THE BISHOP'S CALENDAR: 2012

MARCH

- 4 Sunday**, Morning Visitation, St. Mark's, Millsboro
- 5 Monday**, Board of Trustees Meeting, St. Anne's Episcopal School, Middletown
- 6 Tuesday**, Bishop's Group, Baltimore
- 7 Wednesday**, Bishop's Day in Georgetown
- 11 Sunday**, Morning Visitation, St. George's Chapel, Harbeson

- Thursday 15 – Wednesday 21**, Spring House of Bishop's, Camp Allen
- 22 Thursday**, Trustees Meeting, Cathedral Church of St. John
- 25 Sunday**, Morning Visitation, St. Paul's, Camden
- 27 Tuesday**, Standing Committee Meeting, St. Andrew's School, Middletown
- 27 Tuesday**, General Convention Meeting, St. Andrew's School, Middletown



Each class at St. Anne's School, Middletown, hosts a community service project each year that supports a non-profit or other philanthropy in the area. This year the fourth graders chaired the school's annual clothing drive for the Clothing Bank of Delaware. The students collected, sorted, and packaged two vans full of clothing.

Application to mail at Periodicals Postage prices is pending at Bryn Mawr, PA and additional mailing offices. Episcopal Journal is published monthly by the Episcopal Journal. POSTMASTER: Send change of address to Episcopal News Monthly, PO Box 1402 Voorhees NJ 08043-7402.



DELAWARE
Communion

The Episcopal Diocese of Delaware
2020 N. Tatnall Street, Wilmington, DE 19802
302 656-5441 • www.DioceseofDelaware.net

The *Delaware Communion* is published monthly from September to June for members and friends of the Diocese of Delaware. Jen Mason, Editor; Danny Schweers, Designer. Find us on the Web at www.DioceseofDelaware.net. The deadline for submissions is the first day of each preceding month. Submission specifications are found on our website. Send submissions and feedback to Jen Mason at editor@DioceseofDelaware.net, the mailing address above, or call 228-7488. Those without Web access may obtain Web-published stories from parish offices or from the editor. Please submit subscription and address changes to Mary Ann Brillhart at the Bishop's office at MA Brillhart@DioceseofDelaware.net or call 656-5441.

A Financial Fast

by Blake Bichlmeir, St. David's, Wilmington

From the time I reached the “age of reason” until my late teens, my parents required their children to participate in an annual Lenten ritual of saving spare change for charity. As part of that routine, we were reminded that the offerings were for those less fortunate than ourselves. This was orchestrated by our church more than a few decades ago. Fast forward to the present, and we find a similar practice at St. David's, collecting spare change in UTO boxes for United Thank Offering. Good traditions seem to sustain themselves for good reasons.

While I support the idea of sacrifice in the context of Lent, this is not the “financial fasting” that I mean. Rather, I am acknowledging an idea in *The Power to Prosper: 21 Days to Financial Freedom*, by Michelle Singletary, who also writes a personal finance column for the *Washington Post* and is widely published in Gannett newspapers, including the *Wilmington News Journal*. Michelle challenges us to spend 21 days without shopping for things we don't need. Yes, we must continue to pay our mortgage, rent, utilities, and other subscriptions. We may buy food and other necessities. We are also encouraged to give to charity – generously, if we can.

Studies show that people who use plastic tend to spend more than those who use cash, so she advocates giving up using credit cards for 21 days – not with the intent of giving them up forever, but as a means to raise our awareness. Michelle argues that “we spend so much buying stuff that often it's just, well, stuff.”

Can you practice financial fasting for 21 days? How about for Lent?

How does one grow wealth to the point where a will and inheritance and legacy decisions become important? “Stop Acting Rich . . . And Start Living Like a Real Millionaire,” argues Thomas J. Stanley in his book by the same name. Stanley's premise is that “you must take a cold hard look at your balance sheet and your life, and determine if you would be wealthier if you would stop acting rich.”

Stanley has researched behavior of millionaires and has come up with these jewels:

- “86% of luxury vehicles are driven by people who are not millionaires.”
- “Male millionaires pay on average about \$16 for a haircut.”
- “Three times more millionaires live in homes valued at less than \$300,000 than millionaires living in homes valued at over \$1,000,000.” Warren Buffet has lived in the same

modest home for decades and does not drive a luxury car.

“The favorite clothing store of millionaire women is Ann Taylor.”

Stanley's book seems to take the old adage “live within your means” and that old saw “save for a rainy day” to a whole new level.

In another lesson in her book, Singletary encourages us to leave an inheritance for our children. In thinking of supporting our children in the broadest sense, I would add the idea of leaving part of our wealth as a legacy to a worthy charity, especially our church, for funding future ministry.

Oh, if this were only as easy to do as it is to write these words! In concept, it does make sense to me that a part of my legacy should be funding future ministry. I am not talking about financial support for the regular work of the church. I am talking about a specific and directed gift in my last will and testament.

To help us think about funding future ministry and to provide supporting tools, the Episcopal Church established the Episcopal Church Foundation in 1949. For 60 years, this foundation has provided a wide array of leadership and financial programs, products, and services. These include support of Planned Giving Programs to fund vital ministries and Endowment Management Services to preserve and grow endowments and permanent funds. More details about this can be found at www.EpiscopalFoundation.org. The Foundation provides information on ways to go about planned giving in order to maximize your legacy and minimize tax consequences.

Singletary closes her column on pretending to be rich with this quote from Proverbs 13:7 from Today's New International Version Bible: “One person pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.”

How refreshing to read a quote from the bible in a contemporary news article! Financial fasting, an inheritance for your children, a legacy for funding future ministry in your name . . . think of them as dots. They are all connected, if you want them to be.

Blake Bichlmeir, Ph.D., covers topics related to personal finance for “Rite Living,” a publication of St. David's which focuses on various aspects of personal and corporate stewardship. Blake is a Six Sigma Black Belt working on intellectual property matters at DuPont. The latest issue of “Rite Living” can be found at www.StDavidsDE.org.

Spend
21 days
without
shopping
for things
you don't
need.

What is General Convention and Why Do We Care?

continued from front page (Page A)

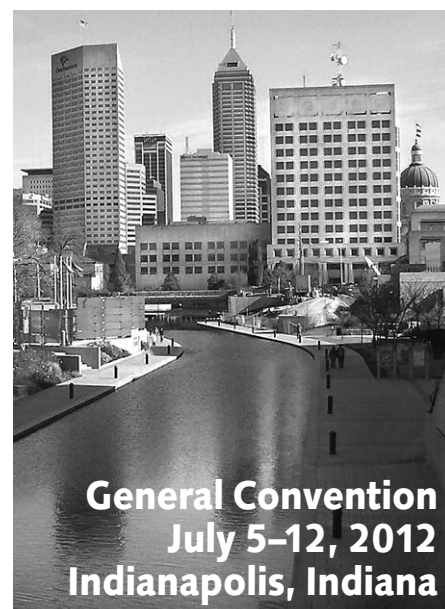
and for expression of our life together as a diocesan family or household, with Christ as its head and the bishop providing oversight.

We Episcopalians also believe that bishops are accountable, along with the people in their charge, to the expectations of a larger community of dioceses that make up a national or regional Church – in our case The Episcopal Church. Those expectations are spelled out (sometimes more clearly than others) in the Book of Common Prayer, the Constitution and Canons of the Episcopal Church, and the reflection by the whole church on the Holy Scriptures. Bishops, having been elected in a diocese, must also be approved by a majority of the diocesan bishops and Standing Committees, thus connecting them to this larger convention or synod of dioceses.

The Episcopal Church consists of all those dioceses – bishops and churches in their charge – who are in union with the General Convention. Ours is a united Church, one sharing a Book of Common Prayer, common discipline, and common mission.

Why General Convention? Because that is the context in which representatives of all the dioceses in The Episcopal Church determine how best to order common prayer, provide guidance for the various ministries of the church, and reflect on the meaning of scripture, reason, and church tradition for the times in which we live.

For the Bishops and Deputies who attend, General Convention is both hard work and a joy. Hard work because in a very brief period of time – eight days – they need to listen to one another and to the Holy Spirit working through the legislative and meeting processes (the Holy Spirit can work through anything!). They have to make the best decisions they can about a wide variety of concerns brought to the convention by resolutions from the many committees of the church, from diocesan conventions, and from bishops and deputies themselves. They approve and fund programs to be carried out by the



staff and agencies of the Church, establish new missionary work, formalize ecumenical relationships, and encourage new and continuing ministries. For these eight days, a highly-responsible and faithful community of church people do their best to direct and guide the work we hold in common as The Episcopal Church.

It is also a joy to do so: there are hundreds of small stories of work being done, of ministries that succeed or fail, but more importantly happen. There are amazing opportunities to meet people from across the whole church. There is time to pray and sing and share Communion together with thousands of others who share the hope that The Episcopal Church will be an acceptable vessel for the gift of life in Jesus Christ.

Why General Convention? Because it gathers us as Episcopalians from all across the church and sends us out with encouragement to do the work God has given us to do.

In the coming months, the Delaware Deputation to General Convention will share insights into their preparation for this triennial event, provide real-time updates during those eight days in July, and will follow up with a full story in September about their experience.

DELAWARE EVENTS

To find the latest listing of upcoming events in the Diocese of Delaware, see the *News & Events* page of our diocesan website.

MARCH EVENTS

A Holy Lent

Parishes up and down Delaware have plans to observe a holy Lent. Visit our website to find a listing of opportunities for worship, reflection, and enrichment around the state.

Tuesdays, February 28–April 3
11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Lenten Lunches, Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington. See details on back page (Page D).

3 Saturday & 4 Sunday
John Rutter, Musician-in-Residence, Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville. See details on back page (Page D).

19 Monday–23 Friday
Mediation Skills Training Institute for Church Leaders, Grace Church, Wilmington. Presented by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center. Designed to equip church leaders with the skills necessary to deal effectively with interpersonal, congregational, and other forms of group conflict. For details and to register, visit www.LMPeaceCenter.org.

24 Saturday, 2:00 p.m.
Majore Trio, Trinity Church, Wilmington. Details: TrinityParishDE.org.

23 Friday–24 Saturday
“From Sin to Amazing Grace” Lenten Retreat, All Saints’, Rehoboth Beach. Sponsored by Integrity-DE; Dr. Patrick Cheng, retreat leader. Details: DioceseofDelaware.net.

Cathedral Choir School Awarded Jubilee Ministry Designation

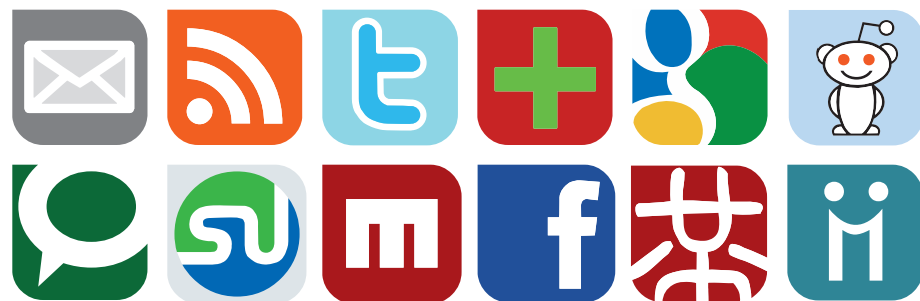
The Cathedral Choir School recently received word that the Executive Council of The Episcopal Church affirmed the school's designation as a Jubilee Ministry. The ministry was established via a General Convention resolution in 1982, calling for "a ministry of joint discipleship in Christ with poor and oppressed people, wherever they are found, to meet basic human needs and to build a just society." The Jubilee Network is now comprised of over 600 ministry centers (both parishes and independent ministries) across the Church.



The Rev. David Andrews, Diocesan Jubilee Officer, said, "We are thrilled to add another member to the Jubilee Network here in Delaware. The work of the Cathedral Choir School is vital for the community, empowering and strengthening young lives. I can't think of any other organization more deserving of this honor." The school joins the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew in the Jubilee Network.

To learn more about Jubilee Ministries or to see how to apply to become one, visit www.EpiscopalChurch.org/Jubilee or contact David Andrews at 656-6628.

Social Media Usage Guidelines Available Online



At a recent gathering, the Province III youth ministers, including Delaware's Youth Ministry Coordinator, Teri Valente, created a set of guidelines for the use of social media in church work. In their introduction to the guidelines, the youth ministers said the following:

"We believe in a God who radically loves us, so much so, he entered creation as Jesus Christ and modeled and formed relationships giving us power through the Holy Spirit to continue His incarnational ministry in the world today. The ways we develop and form our incarnational relationships in the church, home and community are rapidly changing. Social media and imagined communities, and information sharing which deepens and develops relationships, offers new ways of

communication which may at times bring challenges to living out our Baptistal faith. Social Networking Sites and Media are a reality in the lives of most of our students, young adults and even adults, and it's essential for the Church to fully engage in this arena. Technological advancements in communication have diminished traditional thoughts on privacy – it is now a matter of reputation and integrity."

The guidelines provide many helpful recommendations, giving parishes and other ministries a "jumping off point" for thinking about what sorts of policies would be helpful in their circumstances. A copy of the document and a link to an informative article on the issue from Episcopal New Service can be found on the Communion page of our diocesan website.

Lenten Tradition Continues at Saints Andrew & Matthew

by Alice Smith, Sts. Andrew and Matthew, Wilmington



A favorite downtown tradition begins anew on Tuesday, February 28, with the Episcopal Church of Sts. Andrew and Matthew's (SsAM) annual Lenten Lunches and Meditation Series.

Every Tuesday during the season of Lent, SsAM welcomes members and guests to feed their souls during a noontime contemplative prayer service, and to nourish their bodies with soups, salads, sandwiches, and homemade desserts, which are served at very reasonable prices. The luncheon is hand-prepared by volunteers from the church.

This tradition has continued for over 60 years at the Wilmington parish. Lunches are served from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., and the prayer service is held at noon. The series continues through Tuesday, April 3.

The food is as much a tradition as the accompanying worship experience. Many of the recipes originated from church members and have been used for years on cards kept in a box. Now many of them have been published in a cookbook, *Scent from Heaven* (available at the church for \$12). The mushroom

soup and lemon meringue pie have been favorites for many years, according to Dot Dorsey, luncheon chairperson. "The menu has become so popular over the years that it rarely changes," Dorsey said.

For more information, contact the church office at 656-6628.

Recipe for SsAM's Mushroom Soup

- 1/8 lb. butter
- 1 lb. sliced mushrooms
- 1 chopped onion
- 2 T. parsley
- 1 clove garlic
- Pinch of salt
- 2 tsp. paprika
- 3 T. flour
- 4 c. chicken stock
- 1 pt. sour cream

Sauté mushrooms, onion, parsley, garlic, and salt in butter until tender. Mix paprika in flour and mix with 1 tablespoon water to form paste. Mix with mushrooms and add chicken stock. Warm. Add dollop of sour cream to the bowl and pour soup over.

John Rutter to Visit Christ Church Christiana Hundred

The eminent composer and conductor John Rutter will be this year's Musician-in-Residence at Christ Church Christiana Hundred, Greenville, on Saturday, March 3 (10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m., open rehearsal; 3:00 p.m. public lecture) and Sunday, March 4 (11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist; 5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong).



television, and specialist writing for such groups as the Philip Jones Brass Ensemble and the King's Singers.

From 1975 to 1979 he was Director of Music at Clare College, whose choir he directed in a number of broadcasts and recordings. After giving up the Clare post to allow more time for composition, he

formed the Cambridge Singers as a professional chamber choir, primarily dedicated to recording. He now divides his time between composition and conducting. He has guest-conducted or lectured at many concert halls, universities, churches, music festivals, and conferences in Europe, Africa, North and Central America, and Australasia, and this will be his third visit to Christ Church.

In 1980 he was made an honorary Fellow of Westminster Choir College, Princeton, and in 1988 a Fellow of the Guild of Church Musicians. In 1996 the Archbishop of Canterbury conferred a Lambeth Doctorate of Music upon him in recognition of his contribution to church music. Please visit www.ChristChurchDE.org for further information and driving directions.