

For **Spring Revels**, Zion Episcopal Church 55 Cedar Street, Dobbs Ferry New York, 10522
For more information please call **Lorraine Thompson, 914-693-9320**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Spring Revels at Historic Dobbs Ferry Church
Features Folk Artists and Musicians

May 9, 2000, Dobbs Ferry New York---On June 3rd, a number of ancient—and spirited---old English folk customs will be revived at a seasonal festival, the Spring Revels, held on the wooded grounds of Zion Episcopal Church, 55 Cedar Street, Dobbs Ferry, New York. The 168 year-old parish was a place of worship for historical luminaries such as Washington Irving and Alexander Hamilton, Junior. Zion's rector, the Rev. Richard McKeon, notes that this community celebration has roots in early church feast days, such as Whitsun, and even further back to the Jewish harvest festival Shavuot. In keeping with these ancient earth-centered holidays, Zion Church's Spring Revels will feature a "rogation procession"—a walking blessing of the parish grounds—as well as Maypole and folk dancing, bonfire, live musicians, puppet show, magician, and numerous craft activities for children. Admission is free and lunch and snacks will be available for purchase; the festival runs from 11:00AM to 4:00 PM.

(MORE)

Celebration of the Arts

Steve Schneider-- one of the country's top hammered dulcimer players—will be on hand to provide live music for the Spring Revels. Schneider was a featured musician in Broadway's *Secret Garden* and can be heard in a number of national television commercials. For this performance, Schneider's trio of musicians is teaming up with several Westchester instrumentalists to form a lively dance band. International folk dancer Stephen Kotansky, will lead revelers in Balkan, Celtic and European line and circle dances—as well as the lovely English Maypole dance. The afternoon will be punctuated by a performance of KinderFolk-- with music, storytelling, puppeteering and finger plays for children. KinderFolk's master puppeteer is Waldorf-trained Connie Manson.

Free Gift to the Community

“The Spring Revels are Zion's gift to the community,” says Father McKeon, commenting on the free-admissions policy of the festival. “In grateful response to the bounty and blessings of the earth, our parish offers this celebration to the families of Dobbs Ferry and surrounding towns.” Father McKeon notes the joyous and embracing nature of the ancient Whitsun and Shavuot festivals and hopes this will be reflected in a warm welcome to families of all—or no—spiritual persuasions. For further information and photos of last year's festival, please speak with Lorraine Thompson in the parish office, 914-693-9320.