

Christ Church, Exeter

Reports of Officers and Organizations

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church strives to be a joyful diverse community, anchored in Christ.

This strengthens us to live in and minister to the world around us.

Christ Church provides opportunities for children, youth and adults of all ages to deepen their faith and their connection to God in their daily lives.

We do this by:

- Welcoming all people to worship;
- Encouraging spiritual renewal and growth;
- Offering small group activities that join our lives to one another and God;
- Reaching out and sharing God's gifts with others.

ANNUAL MEETING

January 31, 2010

Annual Recognitions by the Rector

What a privilege it is to serve as the Rector of Christ Church. As I look at who we are today and who we are becoming, I am filled with gratitude for the various and abundant ways that the people of this parish serve our Lord Jesus Christ, this congregation, and the community beyond our walls. Thank you for who you are and for all you do. Christ Church remains a strong, vital, and faithful Christian community. As we move into a new year together, I lift up a few people who made a difference in 2009.

Thank you . . .

- **Members of the Vestry:** Your commitment and leadership is a blessing for all of us. Without your willingness to attend our meetings, make challenging and faithful decisions, and to see the possibilities before us, we would not be the strong parish we are. Special thanks to **Carol Allard, Beth Kerr, and Joe DiPalermo** who are completing their terms on the vestry this year. You have served well and faithfully and deserve the thanks for a grateful parish.
- **Members of the Executive Committee:** Peg Gaillard (Senior Warden), Mike Yergeau (Junior Warden), Lucia Savage (Clerk), and Chris Kramer (Clerk). Your counsel and advice has made more of a difference than you can imagine.
- **Mike Yergeau, Junior Warden:** You have more than earned your retirement from elected parish leadership. Thank you for filling in when we needed someone to take on this role, even though it meant an extra year of service. What you have accomplished, with limited resource but an abundance of know-how, has been a blessing for this parish.
- **Financial Team:** Lucia Savage (Treasurer), Al Parker (Bookkeeper), Morgan McCay, Jane Abbiss, and Tom Streep (Finance Committee). We've come a long way from where we were in 2006! This past year was one the ~~we~~ easiest+ we've had, even in the midst of a recession. We made it through financial reviews by the auditors and have made great strides in our record keeping and reporting. Thank you for the time and skill you have brought to this ministry.
- **Members of the fall pledge campaign team:** Jim and Darlene McAllister, Derek Wyskiel, and Peg Gaillard. Although pledges were down slightly this year . due in large part to the loss of a few key pledges because of death, geographic moves, or job loss . we gained almost 30 new pledges for 2010! Thank you for the time and effort you have given to this ministry.

- **Members of the parish staff:** Linda Carey, Anne Plumer-Fisher, Al Parker, Paul McKenna, Chris Drelich, Bruce Adami, and Karen Foote. The parish has been made stronger by the gifts and skills you have offered to God in this community. Thanks especially to Anne Plumer-Fisher and Al Parker, both of whom resigned from the staff recently. Over the past several years you have been a blessing to the church and to me. Your service to Christ Church is appreciated more than words can express.
- **Annie Thornberg and David Holroyd:** Although Annie is not yet ordained, it has been a privilege to include her and David in the clergy team at Christ Church. After Caroline Hines's long tenure, it is easy to imagine that the transition could have been difficult. The two of you have enriched the life of the parish and become partners in ministry for whom I am grateful.
- **Cast and Crew of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*:** Few ministries at Christ Church are as inspiring as our youth ministry, not only for the youth who performed but also, and perhaps most especially, for the intergenerational team of people who came together to make it possible. Over 100 people from within and without Christ Church make youth theater a success each year. (A special note of thanks to Elizabeth Holcomb for giving me the chance to sing and dance on stage. What a joy! Uh huh!!)
- **Members of the Altar Guild, Hospitality Team, Eucharistic Ministers, Healing Team, Acolytes, choirs, readers, and everyone else who has helped with our liturgical ministry.** Worship is at the heart of who we are and what we do as a Christian community. Your ministries make it all possible because the clergy can not do this alone.
- **Sunday School teachers, Chapel leaders, and Youth Advisory Committee members:** One of our great strengths has been our ministry to and for children and youth. Thank you for your dedication to making our children a priority and for giving them a spiritual home.
- **Sarah Loy, Paul Stinson, and the Rummage Team:** The 2009 rummage sale was the most successful during the 11 years I have served as rector. Success in this case can be understood on many levels . the people in the community we served, the experienced and new parishioners who gave their time (and their rummage!), and the dollars raised for outreach.

- **Volunteers for the Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network:** It takes a large number of people and an extraordinary number of hours for Christ Church to host the homeless families who so need the warm embrace we offer. Thank you to the various coordinators for giving your time to keep this ministry going. Special thanks for Nicolle Casey who is retiring as co-coordinator after giving so much to make this ministry successful.
- **Everyone who helped with the fall and spring clean-up days:** So many people give their time to ensure that our grounds are kept neat and our gardens attended. Beyond those who help with the two clean-up days, I offer thanks to those who watch over our gardens. This dedicated crew keeps up our outward appearances so that we can offer guests and new members a welcoming atmosphere.
- **Stephanie, Taylor, and Hannah:** We've begun an interesting transition in our lives with Taylor beginning college. Through this transition, we have managed, as always, to hang together and keep loving each other. You are more than a blessing in my life; you are the ones who remind me daily what love really means.

I know as I write this that I have forgotten something significant that has happened this year. No doubt there are many others that I should mention by name. Any omissions are not intentional. It takes an entire community of people working together, those who are seen and those who are not, to make a church vital and strong. So many give so much of their time and talent, not so they will be recognized but simply to serve God and the church. Thank you for being who you are and doing what you do.

Remembrances

After losing many matriarchs and patriarchs of the parish in 2008, this past year saw far fewer deaths in the parish. We remember them with thankful hearts for their dedicated service to Christ.

Bill Towle
Ernie Rutherford

Christ Church
Exeter, New Hampshire

Minutes of the 145th Annual Meeting of the Parish
January 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m.

The meeting began with Morning Prayer, which included the Rector's Annual Address to the Parish (which is attached to the official record).

It was determined that a quorum was present to enact parish business.

Apologies were extended to Barbara and Steve Armstrong for the unintentional omission of Naomi Billings in the *in memoriam* section of the Annual Report.

The Minutes of the 2008 Annual Meeting were approved as presented.

Nominations

The following slate was put forward for officers and vestry:

Treasurer:	Lucia Savage
Clerk:	Christine Kramer
Vestry:	Sue Ingram, Jim McAllister, Wendy Gladstone
Finance Committee:	Jane Abbis, Tom Streep (3 years each); Morgan McCay (2 years)
Delegate to Convention:	Fran Wriedt, Shirley Jackson
Alternate to Convention:	Sarah Loy
Nominating Committee:	Joe DiPalermo, Beth Kerr, Carol Allard, Mike Yergeau, Dick Ingram, Cindy Nottage

Nominations were opened from the floor but none were made. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed. **The motion was adopted.**

As there were no contested elections, a motion was made and seconded that all nominees be elected by acclamation, with the Clerk's completed ballot representing the will of the congregation. **The motion was adopted.**

Financial Report

The 2009 financial report was formally presented by the Treasurer and the head of the Finance Committee (having been originally presented one week prior during the pre-Annual meeting forum on January 18, 2009). The report is included in the 2009 Annual Report. Questions were asked about the zero budget line for Outreach. Tom Gaillard explained the pass through process. During 2008 the Church gave \$21,000 this way. It was also mentioned that the Feed My Lambs line item showed a discrepancy in money

in and money out as well as why Feed My Lambs was selected. Christ Church took over administration of the program from the Congregational Church when their prior ministers left. As a result, all donations come here. St. Michaels, the Congregational Church and Christ Church provide food and gas to people who need the assistance. Sue Benoit, the Welfare Officer for Exeter assists heavily in determining the direction of this program.

It was announced that as a result of receiving a payout on the Dodd Trust, the Church no longer has any debt and there is a significant amount of money in a money market fund.

It was moved and seconded that the congregation give consent to the 2009 Budget. **The motion was adopted.**

Reports

The Rector referred those gathered to the written reports contained in the 2009 Annual Report. Opportunity was given for questions and discussion.

Announcements

The Rector recognized and thanked several members of the parish for their ministries and contributions to the parish over the past year. Recognition was given to the outgoing vestry members and most particularly to Caroline Hines.

A full list of those recognized is contained in the 2009 Annual Report.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded with prayer at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Christine Kramer*, Clerk

PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

On October 25 it was my pleasure to officially join the Christ Church community as Priest Associate. Since that time I have been slowly adjusting to this part-time position which involves liturgical assistance on Sundays and Holy Days and special responsibility in the area of pastoral care. During the last two months of 2009 I have spent much of my time visiting and getting to know our wonderful people at RiverWoods, Langdon Place, Rockingham Nursing Home, Oceanside in Hampton, and have also visited some parishioners in Exeter Hospital and in homes. Christ Church is blessed to have a large number of people in these various settings. Several of them are able to attend church; for those who cannot, the church is very pleased to visit them!

In the context of these visits I have already had the privilege of leading a Thursday morning Eucharist at RiverWoods and sharing some private Communion. Having had the opportunity to meet the majority of the people in the above-named places, I am now in the process of connecting with those lay people who have made pastoral visits prior to my arrival. It is my plan to develop a visitation program that will include not only those who are already participating but also some new recruits. Training and support will be available for all who participate.

I am very grateful for the efforts of the pastoral care team that already exists, especially its co-chairs Ann Malconian and Pam Bourgeois. This team coordinates transportation, meals when needed, and receptions following funerals. They also participate in flower delivery after Sunday liturgies and following the great celebrations of Christmas and Easter. Volunteers to coordinate and participate in all of these areas are always welcome and needed! A big thank you from John and me to all those who are already participating in this vital ministry.

On Sundays it has been a joy to serve as Celebrant of the liturgy on several occasions, to preach three times in 2009, and to lead one adult forum. Although these privileges are not new to me by any means, it is always a time of adjustment when it comes to new space and remote microphones. Thank you all for your patience and your encouragement and affirmation. This is a truly wonderful and special place to serve God.

I also wish to tell you how impressed I am with the rest of your staff. I meet with them regularly as part of my Thursday routine. It is a joy to be with Annie Thornberg and to participate in her journey as our Curate-Intern here. I save my biggest thanks for John Denson who welcomed this stranger on board and invited me to be one of his partners in ordained ministry. I could not serve with a better Rector!

Snookie and I thank all of you for being such a welcoming community of faith!

The Rev. David D. Holroyd, Priest Associate

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: Passing the Torch

This year was marked by the significant loss to our community of Ernie Rutherford. Ernie was a member of our community whose contributions were consistent, loving and generous. At the same time that we feel this loss, we need to recognize the passing of the torch: in 2009 Christ Church welcomed over 30 new households to our community. These people, many young families, represent our future. This is happy and healthy and just the way Ernie would want it to be. I recall the day when my son, Charlie, was born – it was the same day (almost the same hour) that my beloved grandmother died. Although at the time this was difficult for me, the beauty of this transition from death to life is now something that I hold dear.

Our youthful Vestry nominees this year represent this torch passing as well. I am so thrilled to welcome Christy Bodnar, Derek Wyskiel and Adam Fallon onto the Vestry and look forward to working with them in the years to come.

Thank you again to the members of the Vestry for their commitment to the mission of Christ Church and their willingness to serve in this capacity and to John Denson for his passionate dedication to this parish.

I look forward to all that is to come in 2010.

Peg Gaillard, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Worship Renewal Project Status

Replacement of the ventilation duct tee with a silencer type unit was completed; duct work located behind the organ. The ventilation noise level is not quite where we would like it, but there is little else we can do given the configuration of the space.

Formal "Step Forward Campaign" recognition will be incorporated into a new "recognition board" concept that is expected to be in place by Easter.

First Impressions

Many thanks go to Judy Blaisdell, Scott & David, and her entire team that have made such a difference in outward appearance.

Many thanks go to Judy Wainwright and her entire team who ensured that the Spring & Fall cleanups were a big success; and to Lang Plumer for his tireless commitment to this effort.

Select tree maintenance was performed out front, along the driveway. Thanks to Joe DiPalermo for overseeing this work.

Thanks to Pete Baldwin and the 5-6 grade class, we have another beautiful mural highlighting our entrance from Pine Street. Many thanks to Joe DiPalermo, and the Gaillard & Yergeau families for "making this happen".

The History

It is often said that you can't know where you are going if you don't know where you have been. David Corbett has taken on an effort to properly catalogue and better display our historical treasures, including the preservation of the more sensitive items. Many items once disbursed and sometimes hidden throughout Harris House are now stored in an Archives office in the room (#5) below the back entrance stairs. David is looking for interested folks of all ages to extend this effort in 2010.

Some leftover pew material from the renovation project has become (via donation) candle holders at the Epping Community Church. It has also become various stools in our family bathroom thanks to Paul Wainwright.

The Building

The Dodd Room makeover was completed thanks to Chris Drelich.

Special fire extinguishers were acquired for the back of the organ and the A/V room. These chemical extinguishers will suppress an electrical fire without necessarily destroying all nearby electronics.

The Harris House roof was finally restored and is now leak free. The rear entrance/closet roof area was also repaired. The Dodd Room and main fireplace

chimneys were pointed and coated during this effort. An anti-ice dam system for the Harris House roof eave facing the courtyard was authorized by the Vestry, but not installed due to contractor unavailability. The cost of this effort was covered by insurance funds received from the hail storm a few years ago.

The family bathroom in the lower level of Harris House was completed for the first 2009 visit by our IHN guests. This room has exceeded all expectations and the guests were truly touched by the effort. Thanks to Lang Plumer, Joe Fisher, Paul McKenna, the Izzo family, and others for making this happen.

The former mens bathroom room in the upper level of Harris House was completely made over as a unisex bathroom. Again, many thanks to Lang Plumer, Mark Corke, Paul McKenna, and Mario Izzo for making this happen.

Emergency lighting was upgraded in the boiler room and part of the Harris House lower level.

The teachers reference and media rooms were combined into Room #4, clearing the way for the Archives and Buildings & Grounds teams to share Room #5.

Cost Control & Efficiency

Electricity use was down from the previous year by almost 4,200 kilowatt-hours. We spent approximately \$600 less on electricity this year, due in part to a 15% cooler cooling season.

We spent approximately \$960 less in heating fuel, now natural gas, than last year. When considering the late 2008 natural gas billing that was paid this year, the real annual fuel cost savings is closer to \$2,960; all despite it being a 3% cooler heating season than in 2008.

Self Reliance & Efficiency

Assets & Process

A Life Safety Code Inspection was performed by the Hutter Construction/SFC Engineering team. The results will support capital planning efforts as mentioned later.

Chariot II (our snow plow) continues to serve us well, not having to contract out any plowing this year. We continue to need to put a little TLC into the 23 year old vehicle, but combined with volunteer plow drivers we are able to spend a fair bit less on this than if we contracted for the service. Thanks to Lang Plumer, Joe DiPalermo, and Mike Yergeau for making this happen.

The boilers continue to operate under their extended warranty, with Briar Patch Heating (Epping) being very responsive to our needs. We replaced one failed circulating water pump without the need for outside services. We keep such spares on hand to be as self-reliant as we can.

Very limited driveway pothole maintenance was accomplished. The upper and lower parking areas are in serious need of repair.

Wireless internet service throughout the church has improved thanks to Joe DiPalermo.

In response to the H1N1 (swine) flu pandemic, hand sanitizer was made available throughout the buildings.

Building Use Policy was updated to reflect the increase in use of our facilities. Fees and related user and church staff responsibilities were also updated.

B&G Financial Status

B&G was over budget for the year by approximately \$1,666. This was due primarily to the inability to fully recover from natural gas costs that weren't properly billed in 2008. This was the result of the utility not properly shifting from estimated use to actual use following our boiler replacement.

Environmental "Minute"

Our conversion to natural gas for heating and use of more efficient boilers has reduced our carbon and emissions footprint significantly. Combined with our watchful eye on electricity use and our own compost pile, we can be proud of our efforts to be reasonable stewards of our environment.

We periodically look at renewable forms of energy such as solar and wind power. However, as Soltage, Inc. (solar panel energy service) indicated to us, they are cost prohibitive at this time.

2010 Cost Considerations

The 2010 B&G operating budget shows a slight increase (of approximately \$1,400) from the 2008 value. The B&G Team sees this as a challenge, but to a much lesser degree than last year's significant budget reduction.

A revised 2010-2019 capital project plan has been submitted to the Vestry, including a focus on the Life Safety Code improvement recommendations from the 2009 inspection. This particular approach was generated by the Vestry's efforts to pursue potential grant funds. A grant writer that we interviewed early in 2009 indicated that we weren't quite organized enough (work packages/plans with matching costs) in our capital needs to go after reasonable grant values. We expect the Hutter/SFC team to help us with this in 2010. The capital plan can be made available upon request and following Vestry review.

Reflection

The B&G team continues to be grateful to and proud of all of our Parishioners in these uncertain economic times. Working funds may be little short, but they are better than one might expect in the current conditions.

Last year's reflection theme was "make something happen". I must admit to struggling with this year's reflection until I recently attended my niece's son's dedication. It took place at the Valley Brook Community Church in Granby Connecticut.

The Sunday morning service took place in the Granby High School auditorium because they do not have a place of their own. I was utterly amazed at the energy and the passion displayed in this not so religious environment; all the while realizing that they had to set up and break down their place of worship every single Sunday!

I just couldn't help thinking throughout the service how blessed we are at Christ Church to have what we have. It has certainly made me rethink the things that I consider ~~inconveniences~~

This is where we would traditionally invite you to join the B&G team. Instead, I'm going to ask you to consider all that we have here at Christ Church and what Christ Church means to you and your family, then follow your heart. I have no doubt that you will make things happen.

Once again it has been my pleasure to serve with the Vestry.

Michael J. Yergeau Sr.

LITURGY AND MUSIC

It has been another excellent year and worship and music-making, and I'm pleased to offer the following summary of 2009.

Parish Choir

Our Parish Choir continues to provide music weekly at the 10:30 liturgy, and it has been an absolute pleasure working with this ensemble. We have sung a wide variety of music, including Shaker hymns, Renaissance masterworks, 20th century American choral music, Medieval plainchant, African-American spirituals, Brazilian choral music, and sacred music of the Caribbean. I have received so much wonderful feedback from parishioners, and I appreciate all of your kind words on the variety and quality of the music.

Festival Choir

We continue to pick up additional singers during our ~~festival~~ seasons . Easter and Christmas. Once again the additional voices were a welcome addition, and we have gained some full-time Parish Choir members in the process!

Youth Choir

Cathy Hammon continues to direct the Youth Choir, made up of 5th through 8th graders. While the numbers in this group have been somewhat variable, what remains consistent is the quality of singing. We are truly blessed to have such amazing young talent providing music on the third Sunday of each month. One of the highlights of the year was hearing the group perform at this year's Christmas Eve Pageant. singing and playing instruments simultaneously! Thanks so much to Cathy who continues to inspire these young people and those who hear them.

Chapel Choir

Our kids in Children's Chapel continue to learn music weekly under the leadership of Christi and Cathy Hammon. It is a pleasure having this group offer music periodically at the 10:30 liturgy. Thanks also to Juliette Gavin for lending her guitar skills.

Orchestra & Instrumentalists

Our Chamber Orchestra reconvened for both Easter Sunday and the Bishop's visit on the Day of Pentecost. It was wonderful to hear brass, organ, timpani, strings, and winds

join together in praise of the risen Savior and the Holy Spirit. Instrumentalists have continued to offer music on a solo basis or as accompaniment to the Youth Choirs and Parish Choirs anthems, and a smaller group was organized to play during the 8:00 liturgy on Christmas Eve. A very special thanks goes out to Laura Wyskiel, our amazing flutist, who has stepped in to accompany several pieces over the course of this year.

Youth Theater

Youth Theater has become a regular ministry of Christ Church, thanks to the leadership and artistic vision of Stephanie Denson and Peg Gaillard. Record crowds came to see *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat*, and over 100 children, youth, and adults were involved in some aspect of the production on stage and behind the scenes. I would be remiss if I didn't mention John's jaw-dropping portrayal of Pharaoh! Special thanks to Elizabeth Holcomb, who puts so much time and energy into the productions. We look forward to 2010's show, *Bring On Tomorrow*.

Concert Series

The Aliento Concert Series continues under the leadership of Dorothy Braker. After a very full first season, Dorothy has reworked the series to a more manageable number of performances. Among the variety of offerings this past year was our own Bruce Adami in concert, who played a spectacular organ recital to a packed house. Whether a string quartet, brass choir, or children's ensemble, we know that Dorothy will treat us to a fine musical smorgasbord.

Lively-Fulcher Organ

Our 2006 Lively-Fulcher Organ continues to provide unparalleled musical support each Sunday. Christ Church continues to be blessed with the talent of Bruce Adami, our gifted organist. His hymn playing is inspirational; his preludes set a perfectly worshipful tone; his postludes send us out with energy and enthusiasm. Bruce also oversees the maintenance and tuning of the organ and all of the church pianos, tracks all of our music for reporting to the copyright licensing agency, and generously steps in to direct the choir if I have an unavoidable conflict in my teaching job. His friendship and generosity mean the world to me, and he is an awesome partner in ministry.

Mixer Memorial Concert & Music Fund

As part of our efforts to continue support for the Mixer Music Fund, established by Jim and Phebe Mixer, the first annual Mixer Memorial Concert was held on May 2nd. The program, entitled *The Dueling 'A Cappellas'*, featured the amazing harmonies of The Bow Tie Guys of York, Maine, and our own Mamapella women's ensemble. Attendance was gratifying, and we were able to add \$1,000 to the Mixer Music Fund. The 2nd Annual Mixer Memorial Concert is scheduled for April 30, 2010, featuring our own Bruce Adami along with organist Brian Jones of Boston in a program of organ masterworks!

Worship and Liturgy

We have continued to explore alternative forms of worship, while remaining true to our Episcopal roots. Throughout the year we have had the opportunity to profess our faith in new and interesting ways using other creeds, confessions, and prayers from around the

Anglican Communion. During Holy Week we held our second solemn Stations of the Cross with works of art from all over the world projected during the various readings. Christmas Eve once again featured three distinct liturgies . the Pageant, Festival Eucharist, and Candlelight Vespers. It is this diversity in our worship that sets Christ Church apart, and we are blessed to have the vision and guidance of John, Annie, and David as our spiritual leaders. Their willingness to think outside the box has allowed us to experience God's presence in unique and powerful ways.

All who are involved in the Music Ministry (and there are a lot!) bring such unique and special gifts, and I am so very grateful to have the opportunity to work with all of them. I cannot thank you enough for your words of enthusiasm, support, and encouragement.

God's Peace –
Chris Drellich, Director of Music

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild ministry is dedicated to assisting the clergy with preparation of the main sanctuary and chapel for worship. We are responsible for all worship services, including weddings, funerals, and special celebrations. The membership is currently 17 men and women serving in teams of three scheduled in one-week rotations throughout the year. Fall and spring work parties/luncheons are held as part of our regular activities and provide fellowship opportunities.

Altar Guild is open to men, women, and teens. We are looking for new members and encourage anyone interested in joining us to call Sue Ingram at 964-6142. Discover a new way to serve and be a part of our church community.

Sue Ingram

ACOLYTES

Our acolyte program, lead by Annie Thornberg, Sue Pepper and Morgan McCay, continues to thrive. Four of our acolytes graduated from high school last spring, but one new acolyte joined us in the fall. We have seventeen returning acolytes with at least one year of experience. They are a wonderful group of young people who are not only doing a great job, but are committed to this ministry.

Our acolytes are divided into four teams of either four or five acolytes each. Each team has a peer leader and/or co-leader who is one of the more experienced acolytes. They are responsible for contacting team members prior to the Sunday they are scheduled and helping the adult leaders with ongoing training. Team leaders this year are Holly McCay, Wallis Gaillard, Aby Fisher, Emalyn Loh and Doug Abbiss. Acolytes are Doug Abbiss, Drew Baldwin, Hannah Denson, Aby Fisher, Wallis Gaillard, Matthew Geary, Michelle Hobbs, Harry Hubbell, Lindsey Hubbell, Abby Hughes, Sarah Klingelhofer, Emalyn Loh, Robyn Marshall, Holly McCay, Natalie Pollet, Matthew Radford, Laura

Steere, and Mia Stilwell. Six of our acolytes will graduate this year and we will miss them!

Many thanks to Annie and Sue for their leadership and dedication, and to all of the acolytes for the fine job they are doing.

Morgan McCay

HEALING MINISTRY

Currently healing ministers offer the laying on of hands and anointing at each of our Sunday liturgies. This year the Healing Team continued its participation in the Taizé Contemplative Prayer on Wednesday nights during Lent and monthly thereafter. We provided individual healing prayer after the meditation and chanting portion of the service. Members of the team are available almost any Monday night between 6:00 and 7:00 pm for healing prayer. Appointments are made by calling Linda Carey, the church secretary.

The healing team also conducted an evening Labyrinth Walk in November under the full moon. This involved meditation and prayer while walking the labyrinth and healing prayer in preparation for the meditation or after for some special intention.

In December, Father Dave took over the role of clergy liaison for the team from Rev. Caroline who accepted a church assignment in Maine. Also longtime team member Ernie Rutherford died in December. We are waiting to see who will be called to fill the gap. The team is soliciting new members. Please contact Father Dave or any team member if you are interested. The training involves reading and discussion of The Healing Light by Agnes Sanford, the development of a Spiritual Map and participation in prayer and other discussions at the regular meetings. Members of the Healing Ministry Team meet twice a month to study and pray together, and continue to explore ways to expand this ministry. Members of the team are Barbara Beardsley, Judy Blaisdell, Patti Buck, Nicolle Casey, Cindy Corson, Pat Izzo, Robin Sirois, Michael Woodworth and Robin Yergeau. Note: Judy Hinds helps praying for persons on the Prayer List. Also the team hopes to conduct a Healing Mission here at Christ Church featuring a well known healing minister.

Since 2007, the Rev. Gloria Wong, the Regional Director of the Order of St. Luke (OSL) has been assisting the team by providing her expertise and training material for the development of a Healing Mission. Recently Gloria retired from her leadership role in OSL. The Order of St. Luke is an ecumenical organization dedicated to the Christian healing ministry.

Members of the Healing Team have been participating in Healing Services and events at other area churches to explore the ecumenical nature of Christian healing. The team participates in the Healing Circle at United Church of Christ, North Hampton; St. Michael's Healing Mass here in Exeter and provides a prayer team for the monthly healing service conducted by Canon Mark Pearson (Charismatic Episcopal Church) at the Newton Junction Baptist Church. This year Mike Woodworth participated in a Healing and Training conference in Vermont. Robin Yergeau and Judy Blaisdell are in their third year of Education for Ministry (EfM). Pat Izzo and Patti Buck are in their first year of Education for Ministry (EfM). In September Judy Blaisdell and Robin Yergeau participated in a conference on Ecotheology at SSJE in Cambridge.

Mike Woodworth

RUMMAGE MINISTRY

Looking Forward – The Rummage team gathered to debrief after the sale and has begun to compile a Rummage How-to so that all the institutional knowledge that keeps the sale going from year to year can be passed on easily. It will be in electronic form so that it is a starting point and will accommodate transitions to new approaches and fresh ideas.

There are some challenges that need to be addressed for next year. The amount of stuff that was donated this year was down from previous years so we are hopeful that folks will make an effort to contribute in 2010. With the great turn out we had there were slim pickings for the folks who shopped on Saturday.

Even with so many new participants and many returning folks we were understaffed. A few generations of loyal rummage workers are aging out of participation and we will need more new participants next year to fill their shoes. We also continue to struggle with getting folks to sign-up early enough and a great deal of time and energy is spent on soliciting participation even from folks who plan to help but don't get around to writing down their name. If folks would sign up when the request is first announced it would free-up 40-60 hours of the volunteer coordinators time.

We now have an established team of folks to diversify the work of coordinating the sale for 2010 and this will help lighten the load for the co-chairs. This is a great improvement but it is time for a few more folks to step forward and take leadership roles. Sarah is interested in transitioning out of the co-chair position so please prayerfully consider if you may be called to this wonderful outreach ministry.

2009 - We can't remember another sale where we had so much fun as this year. From beginning to end we had great participation, selfless attitudes and wonderful generosity. The youngest participants were less than a year old being carried around by mom or dad (or Sarah) and the oldest were in their eighties. We had many folks who have worked on rummage their entire adult life and over thirty folks for whom it was their very first rummage sale. Some participated from home by baking, sending e-mails or praying, others were at the church during their lunch hour or everyday for the whole week, and some were out and about posting signs to advertise the sale. Local businesses supported the community by giving discounts on the tent rental (Exeter Rental), providing us with a place for our banner downtown (Fenelon's Auto Repair), sharing proceeds from their sales (Ian's Hotdogs) and allowing us to post our signs (many, many places). We had parishioners, neighbors, folks from other churches, SeaCare volunteers, kids home from college, Boy Scouts and friends from Trinity Jubilee Center in Lewiston, Maine all working side by side to make the sale a success. Some donated goods while others gave of their time but no matter how each person contributed it was clear that they did so out of love for their neighbors.

We had one of the largest turnouts of customers that we can remember in many years and good attendance on Saturday in spite of very rainy weather. In addition to providing a wide variety of stuff to those who shopped, we were able to send the extra rummage

to Trinity Jubilee Center, Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity, Re-Store, an IHN family who is about to move into permanent housing, a family who recently experienced great loss from a house fire, and four young adults who are getting back on their feet after dealing with drug addiction. The proceeds from the sale totaled approximately \$7000 dollars and will be split between Feed My Lambs and SeaCare Health Services.

The presence of the Holy Spirit could be felt in all that happened through your efforts and we are so thankful for all of it and thankful for each of you.

Sarah Loy and Paul Stinson

EXETER ECUMENICAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Christ Church participated in the Exeter Ecumenical Thanksgiving/Christmas Food Baskets and Gifts program again this year. We gave out 30 Thanksgiving food baskets, six of which were delivered. At Christmas we gave out 17 food baskets and provided gifts for 22 children. We only had one delivery for Christmas.

If you are interested in this wonderful program, please call Linda in the Church office for more information (772-3332). Thank you to Rita Corke who helped out with the Christmas baskets and gifts this year.

Lee Woodworth and Phyllis Rutherford

HOSPITALITY TEAM

The mission of the Hospitality Team is to insure regulars and visitors have a warm reception into our parish community and a sense of comfort and belonging as they participate in Christ Church services and activities. This was the mission instilled in us by our leader Ernie Rutherford. With his passing we are committed to carrying on his passion for insuring every person who walks through the doors feels cared about, informed and included. Team members are vigilant in helping attendees to safely enter the church, don name tags and provide any supports necessary to comfortably participate in the service (cushions, elevator, assistive listening devices). Hospitality team members help guests by: familiarizing them with the facilities; providing any information, supports or guidance needed to participate in the service; inviting them to join in coffee hour; establishing connections with parishioners. During the service, hospitality team members serving as ~~%ushers~~+gather the collection and direct the flow of parishioners during the Eucharist. Those serving as ~~%hosts~~+ assist with bringing the bread and wine to the front of the church in preparation for the Eucharist. We are fortunate to have a highly dedicated Hospitality Team. Each week our Team includes a member of the vestry who join in greeting people as they arrive. We would love to expand our Team. We are seeking to have a team representing all ages. Recently we were fortunate to have Bella Valinoti join us to help greet at the elevator entrance as children and parents make the journey from Sunday School into the 10:30 service. Katherine Gaillard also joins her mother Peg as a greeter on some Sunday mornings. Serving on the Hospitality Team is perfect for those who wish to contribute to Christ Church but are short on time or must travel too far to participate in those ministries that require a commitment beyond the hours of worship. If you have an interest in serving on

the Hospitality Team or if you have suggestions on how we can better serve our parish, kindly contact Judy Mikami (cell: 603-493-4609; email: jmikami@myfairpoint.net). Your time and/or suggestions will be deeply appreciated.

Judy Mikami

SEACOAST INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

At Christ Church we have begun our 9th year as a host congregation for Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network. Nicole Casey and I began the year as co-coordinators. We continue to work with The First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter with coordinator Helen Kruppa, as our partnering host congregation. They are now providing all of the volunteer hosts for Wednesday and Thursday evenings, as well as volunteers for set-up and breakdown. Fred Pineau has brought his experience in facilities management and much enthusiasm to being sure we are prepared to welcome our guests and put the church school back in order after their one week stay with us. Fred will always welcome additional help the morning of set up or putting things back in the classroom the second Sunday.

At the end of 09 we completed our first year under our new leadership structure and I think it has worked well. Our team leaders include Sunday- Donna McCay; Monday **we are looking for a new team leader**, Tuesday- Darlene McAllister, Wednesday and Thursday- Helen Kruppa (FUSE), Friday- Judy Blaisdell and Saturday- Carol Allard. Each team leader would welcome new volunteers for their Team. We have several faithful volunteers who stepped up to help this year. Cindy Nottage has been great at keeping us informed. Thanks to the many who make this a successful outreach program .. we couldn't do this most important ministry without you.

Volunteer response has been wonderful but we are always looking for ways to involve more parishioners in IHN. Contact one of the team leaders listed above if you would like to get involved with IHN. Our first host week of 2010 begins February 14th. We will be hosting every eight to eleven weeks thereafter, with a total of five host weeks during the whole year.

SIHN remains under the directorship of Pati Frew-Waters, who continues to spread the word about homelessness in the Seacoast through appearances at community organization events and publicity through local media. She also is working at bringing more host and support congregations into the Network to ease the hosting responsibility for the rest of us.

As a service organization, SIHN receives grant funding from a variety of organizations, including United Way of the Seacoast. There are also an increasing number of fund-

raising events and opportunities, such as an annual SIHN auction held in the spring, which supplement the funds for services provided. At Christ Church, we have had tremendous response to our requests for support for our host weeks, which involve significant expenditures for food and supplies to provide for our guest families. In fact, we have received donations, which have enabled us to go beyond purchasing necessities for a host week to equipping the new family bath and shower that Lang Plumer and his crew completed downstairs in Harris House. We have also purchased Aero beds to remain at Christ Church for our overnight hosts. Thank you to all of you who have responded to our requests for financial support over our years of serving SHIN.

We are saying good bye to Nicolle Casey as her young family needs her as a MOM. Nicolle has been a hard worker for IHN at Christ Church and will be missed. She is only leaving as Co- coordinator she will leave her spirit and appreciation for the program to inspire us. Thank you Casey Family for sharing Nicolle with us.

Our six host weeks in 2009 saw an average of forty volunteers logging 232 hours per week, with a total of 1,391 +hours for the year. My sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this ministry meaningful. Please feel free to contact me with suggestions or just to help make the program grow.

*Jim McAllister, Co-Coordinator
jim@profplanllc.com*

To: Christ Church Members
From: The Finance Committee, Morgan McCay, Chair
RE: 2010 Budget

In conjunction with Treasurer Lucia Savage and Finance Committee members Jane Abbiss and Tom Streep, I am pleased to present for the Finance Committee and vestry the 2010 budget. We prepared this budget with the following elements in mind:

- A breakeven budget balancing expenses against projected income;
- Income expectations driven by pledges in hand;
- Salaries in line with Diocesan standards; and
- Preservation of existing programming.

This memo briefly describes our assumptions and highlights significant variances from 2009 amounts. With this report you will find a summary of the 2010 parish budget. If you desire more information, a detailed budget will be provided.

For brevity's sake this memo highlights significant elements only, and rounds all figures to the nearest \$1,000.

Christ Church 2010 Budget	2010 Budget
OPERATING INCOME	
Total Pledges	\$ 326,885
Total Plate	\$ 29,500
Total Endowment	\$ 116,736
Total Other Income	\$ 14,860
TOTAL OPERATING INCOME	\$ 487,982
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Total Clergy	\$ 190,426
Total Music	\$ 51,508
Total Worship Support	\$ 3,950
Total Buildings & Grounds	\$ 53,749
Total Office and Admin.	\$ 87,735
Total Outreach	\$ -
Total Diocese Support	\$ 85,002
Total Christian Formation	\$ 15,557
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$ 487,927
Surplus / Deficit	\$ 54

OPERATING INCOME: \$488,000

We have two principal income streams: operating pledges and endowment income, which represent 67% and 24%, respectively, of our \$488,000 projected revenue. Plate and miscellaneous provide the balance. Total income is projected to decline 9% or \$49K compared to 2009, with pledge income down 2% and endowment income down 23%.

The 2010 budget is based on \$344,000 of operating pledges in hand as of January 12. We anticipate an attrition rate of 5%, which reduces the operating pledge budget by \$17,000 to \$327,000. The 201 pledges in hand (excluding \$0 Faith pledges) are 3% below 2009, and the pledged value is 5% below (values differ slightly from the realized amount due to attrition, which was an unusually high 8% in 2009). Given the uncertain economy, we can feel good about these relatively modest declines. It is also worth noting that there were 29 pledging units in 2010 that did not pledge in 2009. Of the 29, 20 have pledged to Christ Church for the first time in 2010.

As for endowment income, the majority of our endowment income is established by the Diocesan Trustees. The payout for those endowments is expected to be about 11% less than in 2009. We have also reduced the expected payout from the Leacock fund. Finally, the yields on our money market accounts have dropped from 2009 levels.

CLERGY: \$ 190,000

Total Clergy expense is up \$11K (6%) versus 2009. This is primarily the result of transitioning from two experienced full-time clergy in the first half of 2009 to two full-time clergy (one experienced and one newly-ordained) and one part-time clergy in the second half of 2010.

The 2010 clergy structure allows for the new clergy to play a bigger role in Christian Formation, resulting in year-over-year savings in that expenses area (see Christian Formation section). In addition, the new clergy structure will allow for flexibility as we approach 2011.

In 2010 we also funded to \$2K for continuing education for the clergy and \$1K for sabbatical reserves for the Rector.

MUSIC: \$ 52,000

Total Music expense is up \$5K (11%) versus 2009. About half of the increase is for projected equipment repair (organ and piano tuning), and half is for compensation increases for our two part-time staff.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS: \$ 54,000

B&G expense is down \$1K (2%) versus 2009. The largest reduction is \$3K in heat cost primarily due to 2008 natural gas payments made in 2009, inflating 2009 heat costs. Partially offsetting the heat cost reduction are small increases in electricity and various maintenance categories.

OFFICE AND ADMINISTRATION: \$ 88,000

Office and Admin is down \$5K (5%) versus 2009. The largest single reduction was Audit Services, down \$5K. In 2009 we had audit fees for the 2007 and 2008 reviews totaling \$15K. In 2010, we anticipate \$10K of audit fees to complete the 2009 audit. We also budgeted total other non-compensation office expenses \$1K lower than 2009, offset by a \$1K increase in staffing compensation.

DIOCESE SUPPORT: \$ 85,000

Fair Share is down \$1K less (1%) than 2009, in line with the formulaic amount dictated by our operating income. Note that the Fair Share is calculated using historical operating income. 2008 operating income determines the Fair Share for Q2 2009 through Q1 2010. 2009 operating income determines the Fair Share for Q2 2010 through Q1 2011. With the drop in operating income the last few years, the Fair Share relief will lag.

OUTREACH: \$ 0

As in prior years we have budgeted Outreach as a net zero expense. It is important to note that Outreach remains a key interest of the church, and we were able to provide thousands of dollars to Outreach in 2009 through Rummage, fund raisers, and pass-through donations.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION: \$ 16,000

Christian Formation is down \$27K (65%) versus 2009. This reduction is the result of not directly replacing our Children & Youth Minister. The new Curate will be responsible for these activities in 2010. The Curate's compensation is in clergy expenses.

CONCLUSION

This budget reflects several positive factors in a difficult economy: expenses are in line with income, we continue to preserve a strong balance sheet, programs will continue at current levels, and we are paying our Fair Share to the Diocese. However, in our view we continue to face an income problem relative to our expense levels. The 2010 budget necessitated modifications to our Clergy and Christian Formation areas, kept most expenses at subsistence levels, and eliminated the notion of operating reserve replenishment.

Unless the parish recognizes these constraints and gives more generously and/or recruits new parishioners, we will struggle to add programs and reduce our reliance on endowment income to fund operations. 2010 is the third year in a row where we've seen a reduction in pledging units and pledge dollars, and we have seen two relatively difficult years for endowment income. In addition, endowment principal will be the only source of funding for critical capital improvement/repair work. The vestry has committed to focus on finding ways to increase the size of our parish and the level of pledge commitment.

Because of the continued uncertainty of the economy and the potential impact on income, the Finance Committee and vestry will watch carefully through the year to make sure that income and expenses are tracking according to plan. If not, adjustments will be made during the year so that ministry expenses stay in line with income.

Your questions and comments are welcome both at the pre-Annual Meeting forum on January 24 and at the Annual Meeting on January 31.

Officers and Key Personnel - 2009

2009 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden

Peg Gaillard

Junior Warden

Mike Yergeau

Clerk

Chris Kramer

Treasurer

Lucia Savage

Vestry Members

Term ends Jan. 2010

Carol Allard

Joe DiPalermo

Beth Kerr

Term ends Jan. 2011

Barbara Beardsley

Patti Buck

Margaret Talcott

Term ends Jan. 2012

Wendy Gladstone

Sue Ingram

Jim McAllister

Delegates to Diocesan Convention & Seacoast Convocation

Term ends Jan. 2010

Alice Hill

Joe DiPalermo

Term ends Jan. 2011

Fran Wriedt

Shirley Jackson

Alternates

Term ends Jan. 2010

Steve Armstrong

Lucy Paine Kezar

Term ends Jan. 2011

Sarah Loy

Nominating Comm.

Carol Allard

Joe DiPalermo

Dick Ingram

Beth Kerr

Cindy Nottage

Mike Yergeau

Organization

Christ Church Choir

Chris Drelich

Youth Choir

Cathy Hammon

Parish Staff

Anne Plumer-Fisher,
Children and Youth
Minister

Chris Drelich, Director
of Music

Bruce Adami, Organist

Linda Carey, Executive
Assistant

Al Parker, Bookkeeper

Paul McKenna, Sexton

Karen Foote, Childcare

Acolyte Leaders

Morgan McCay

Sue Pepper

Altar Guild

Sue Ingram

Scouting

John Scippa

Hospitality Team

Judy Mikami

Healing Team

Mike Woodworth

The Anchor & Website

Chris Drelich

