

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 23, 2011

Annual Recognitions by the Rector

What a remarkable year we have experienced together. In more ways than can be counted (and some ways that can), 2010 has been an extraordinary year in the life of Christ Church. From the youth theater production of *Bring on Tomorrow* last February to Annie's ordination in December, this has been a year of growth and celebration. I have no doubt that I am one of the most blessed rectors in the Episcopal Church. Christ Church is a growing, vital, and faithful Christian community because of each person who calls this parish home. As we begin another year together, I thank a few specific people and groups that have made a particular difference in the past year. 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 faithful decisions, and to see the possibilities before us, we would not be the strong parish we are. Special thanks to **Barbara Beardsley, Margaret Talcott, and Patti Buck** who are completing their terms on the vestry this year. You have served well and faithfully and deserve the thanks of a grateful parish.
- **Members of the Executive Committee:** Peg Gaillard (Senior Warden), Joe DiPalermo (Junior Warden), Lucia Savage (Clerk), and Chris Kramer (Clerk). Your counsel and advice has made more of a difference than you can imagine.
- **Joe DiPalermo, Junior Warden:** Your first year as Junior Warden began with a microburst that knocked down the trees in the back of the property. From that point forward the phrase *It's always something* has been very, very true. You've handled each challenge and project (whether large or small) with a willing and positive spirit that exemplifies the best of Christ Church. Thanks for creating some *office space* for yourself at 43 Pine Street so you can be around as much as you are. (And while I'm thinking about it, let me add a note of thanks to **Lang Plumer** who seems to be around the church all the time focused on one project or another! Thanks, Lang, for all you do, year in and year out.)
- **Finance Committee:** After a few years of struggle, we've had another banner year and anticipate more success in 2011. Lucia Savage (Treasurer), Morgan McCay, Jane Abbiss, Tom Streep, and Dick Ingram have been excellent managers of our resources, including developing our new *Pledge* system and managing the full audit of our 2009 finances. Thank you for the time and skill you have brought to this ministry.
- **The Day of Service Team:** One of the things I love about Christ Church is our willingness to try something different. Thanks to you, we cancelled Sunday morning worship on the first Sunday in October and committed ourselves to a Day of Service in the community. We took seriously the phrase at the end of our Sunday worship booklets, *The worship is over; the service begins.* Thanks to you, it was a hugely successful day that included service to three community organizations and a fantastic lunch! Thanks to Peg Gaillard and Donna McCay who led the effort and to our team leaders: Steve and Barbara Armstrong, Adam Fallon, Burt Dibble, Pat Izzo, and Christine Hodsdon.
- **Members of the parish staff:** Linda Carey, Chris Drelich, Bruce Adami, Bob Prescott, and Karen Foote. There are no words that can adequately express my thanks for your ministries. Beyond the obvious gifts and skills you bring to Christ Church, it is your depth of faith, good spirit, flexibility, and open-mindedness that make you a strong team. You make my ministry much easier and you make Christ Church a dynamic and loving community.

- **Annie Thornberg and David Holroyd:** I cannot imagine two better clergy colleagues. Sharing the priestly ministry of this parish with you is a joy and a blessing. You are gifted and talented priests. Christ Church is blessed (as am I) that you are here.
- **Cast and Crew of *Bring on Tomorrow*:** When we began the youth theater ministry no one would have predicted that we would create our own show. Well, that's exactly what you did, thanks to the efforts of so many people, not the least of which are the youth who filled us with hope by their performances on stage. Special thanks to Jeffrey Ellwood, who is not even a member of the parish, who directed the show and has been deeply involved in all of our productions. Jeffrey, you are an instrument of transformation in the life of youth, their families, and this church. And thanks to all the rest of you who made this happen (you know who you are so I'm not going to start listing all the names!).
- **Members of The Ordination Reception Team:** What a memorable evening we had when Annie was ordained! It was made all the more special by the loving and joyful dedication of those who created the beautiful and abundant reception in Annie's honor. I couldn't have been prouder of Christ Church that night!
- **Members of the Altar Guild, Hospitality Team, Eucharistic Ministers, Healing Team, Acolytes, choirs, readers, and everyone else who has helped with our liturgical ministry (including the creation of The Open Door on Sunday evenings).** Worship is at the heart of who we are and what we do as a Christian community. I'm sure we have some of the most dynamic worship in the Diocese of New Hampshire. Your ministries make it all possible.
- **Sunday School teachers, Chapel leaders, and youth ministry volunteers:** People ask me quite often, "How do you get all those kids to come to church?" Well, the simple answer: you! Thank you for your dedication to making our children and youth a priority and for giving them a spiritual home.
- **Sarah Loy, Paul Stinson, and the Rummage Team:** The 2010 rummage sale was the most successful during the nearly 12 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 Seacoast Family Promise:** In many ways this outreach ministry is at the heart of who we are as a parish community for one of our core gifts is hospitality. When we welcome homeless families into our "home" we extend the loving hands of a faith community and a merciful God. Special thanks to our coordinators, Jim McAllister and David Michaud.
- **Stephanie, Taylor, and Hannah:** You are more than a blessing in my life; you are the ones who remind me daily what love really means. Thank you for the complete support you give me (and for keeping me grounded and humble!!).

No doubt there are many others that I should mention by name. Any omissions are not intentional. So many people help in so many ways, often doing a small task that most people don't notice. But I see you here- working in the gardens, pitching in when something needs to be done, helping in the office- and I know what a difference you make. Thank you for being who you are and doing what you do.

Remembrances

We remember them with thankful hearts those dedicated parishioners and servants of Christ who died in 2010.

Norma Harris
Elaine Anuskiewicz
Frances Irving
Pat Petroski
Phebe Mixter
Ruth Brown
Bob Wade
Julia Lamb

Christ Church
Exeter, New Hampshire

Minutes of the 145th Annual Meeting of the Parish
January 31, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m..

The meeting began with a discussion of who we are and where we're going using pictures of members of our parish. Questions discussed included: Do you know any of the people in the pix? Where was the pix taken? Pine St? Elliot St. What does it show and where have we come since?

The opening prayer was by Thomas Merton.

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

Our Archivist, David Corbett spoke briefly about our 150 year anniversary coming up in 2015.

The minutes of the 2009 Annual Meeting were approved with the correction of the Annual Meeting number from the 145th to the 144th.

Nominations

The following slate was put forward for officers and vestry:

Sr. Warden:	Peg Gaillard	(2 years)
Jr. Warden:	Joe DiPalermo	(1 year)
Treasurer:	Lucia Savage	(1 year)
Clerk:	Christine Kramer	(1 year)
Vestry:	Christy Bodnar	(3 years)
	Adam Fallon	(3 years)
	Derek Wyskiel	(3 years)
Finance Committee:	Dick Ingram	(3 years)
Delegate to Convention:	Sue Ingram	(2 years)
	Alice Hill	(2 years)
	Lucy Kezar	(1 year)
Alternate to Convention:	Paul Stinson	(2 years)
	Juliette Gavin	(2 years)
Nominating Committee:	Barbara Beardsley	(1 year)
	Margaret Talcott	(1 year)
	Patti Buck	(1 year)
	Pete Baldwin	(1 year)
	Steve Armstrong	(1 year)
	Darlene McAllister	(1 year)

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 Clerks completed ballot representing the will of the congregation. **The motion was adopted.**

Financial Report

The 2010 Financial Report was presented by Lucia Savage and Lucia and Morgan McCay fielded questions during the discussion of the Budget. Questions included:

- Is the size of the congregation shrinking? Yes, but in some instances the number is more a matter of how the count is conducted. The parish rolls were purged during the past year.
- Why is there no budget item for %outreach+? This was explained in terms of our %pass through+process. We raise funds for outreach during each year and those funds are then donated as appropriate.
- Are there funds available in the case of an emergency? Yes, there are funds available. Part of our goal each year is to build a reserve but with declining funds, it has been difficult to do that. Lucia referenced availability of capital funds for building emergencies. The Rector indicated he could not see a way in which the operating expenses would be impacted. As an example, he explained that even if he was disabled, church pension fund would reimburse 75% of John's salary to the parish.

Our annual Financial Audit resulted in 100% compliance.

It was moved and seconded that the congregation give consent to the 2010 Budget. **The motion was adopted.**

Reports

The Rector referred those gathered to the written reports contained in the 2010 Annual Report. Opportunity was given for questions and discussion.

A question was raised about what ministries are being started for adults in the Parish. The Rector explained that parishioners need to take the lead on some things since we are just not staffed to provide total support for programs anymore. The Rector indicated that he almost always approves what is being proposed, but clergy just can't take on any more at this level of staffing.

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 Mike Yergeau, the outgoing Jr. Warden, outgoing Vestry members, parish staff and our IHN volunteers.

A full list of those recognized is contained in the 2010 Annual Report.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded with prayer at 10:23 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, *Christine Kramer*, Clerk

PRIEST ASSOCIATE AND PASTORAL CARE

2010 marks my first full year as your Priest Associate with special emphasis on the ministry of pastoral care. It has been full of joy and new beginnings. Most of my time at Christ Church occurs on Sundays and Thursdays and I am able to accomplish much of my administration and coordination time at home during the week.

John Denson shared a "ministry minute" with the congregation in November during which time he explained the essence of my position as Priest Associate. He emphasized the fact that the most important dimension of this position occurs not on Sunday mornings but during the week. This report will focus mainly on what happens "during the week."

My primary goal is twofold: to visit members of the parish where they live and to recruit and train lay visitors to share this ministry with me. Much of my two months in 2009 involved personal visiting and then as 2010 began, I started to recruit and form what is a wonderful team of pastoral caregivers. This group now numbers eleven people. Seven of them are licensed Lay Eucharistic Visitors and three are presently in the training process. One has a special ministry at Langdon Place and plays a major role at receptions after memorial services at Christ Church. Three more individuals are about to be added to our group. It is truly a work in progress and I am thrilled with what is happening with pastoral care. We meet monthly as a group and converse extensively by phone and email.

When I began my ministry here, John was already offering a monthly Eucharist at the RiverWoods Lodge. We now share that service and have responded to a request from Langdon Place to offer a monthly service there. The RiverWoods service is on the third Thursday morning of the month and we go to Langdon Place on the third Sunday afternoon of each month. We are usually accompanied by at least three members of the pastoral care team who share portions of the service and interact with the residents who attend. We have recently honored a request to make it possible for two of our RiverWoods residents to attend Christ Church on Sundays and also for a Christmas Eve service. Their gratitude for this is exceeded only by our joy -- the benefits are mutual! We as caregivers often receive far more than we give because Christ Church is blessed with many special people who love to be visited and enjoy hearing about what is happening in our wonderful parish.

As we enter into 2011, it is my goal to expand our present ministry. I am going to organize the many members in our RiverWoods community to discuss ways in which we can have social gatherings and adult programs on the RiverWoods site from time to time. We hope to expand our visiting programs in ways that might assist my clergy colleagues in their ministries and I will continue to recruit more caregivers as our ministry and program expands. In fact, if you believe that any of these areas might be of interest to you, simply contact me at dholroyd@christchurchexeter.org or leave a phone message at 772-3332 ext. 11 and I will be in touch. Anyone who would like to get involved in pastoral care gets a "custom-made job description" based on what you would like to do and on how much time you are able to give. Many of my Anchor articles during the coming year will elaborate on the substance of this report and opportunities to serve.

Although I wanted to emphasize the weekday aspect of my position in this report, I don't want to minimize the privilege of what it means to be with all of you as we worship together. I had the privilege of Sunday and Holy Day celebrating, preaching, and also officiating at seven memorial services and one wedding in 2010. I even got to substitute for Bishop Robinson in August at St Andrew's by the Sea in Rye!

Finally, I want to express my gratitude to John Denson and to the wonderful people with whom I share ministry on the staff of Christ Church. John and Annie are treasured colleagues in ordained ministry. Chris and Bruce make my worship buoyant with their music ministry. Linda is always available and makes our office a special place to be. And I thank you all! It is your generosity and your welcoming hospitality that have made it possible for my ministry as Priest Associate to exist and to continue! God bless you all!

David D. Holroyd

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT: A Perfect Balance

In many ways, I feel that Christ Church is in a place of perfect balance. This has been a special and notable year: ~~Bring~~ on Tomorrow+rocked the house and filled the hearts of audiences and cast members alike with joy, we launched our first ever Sunday day of service, as a result of record rummage sale proceeds, we were able to give generous donations to SeaCare, Meals on Wheels as well as Seacoast Family Promise, under the leadership of David Holroyd our pastoral care team has been expanded and, oh yea, one other little thing, we ordained a priest!

For me, Annie's ordination was the best of the best of the year. The image of John turning Annie around to face the parish, seeing her eyes fill with tears as she looked around the packed church and into the eyes of all of us who have supported and loved her was just an amazing moment, a really perfect moment.

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 2011.

Peg Gaillard, Senior Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT - *Buildings & Grounds (B&G)*

Worship Space

The worship space sustained water damage in the ceiling following the storm in February, which damaged the shingled ridge cap. Unfortunately, this damage was not discovered until the water damage was evident inside the church. We were fortunate though, that insurance covered the entire scope of the repair, which included replacing sheetrock in the ceiling and repairing the damaged seams, as well as covering the organ to protect it from the dust of the construction. We took advantage of the lift used by the construction crew to replace lights that had burned out over time. Additional upgrades to the roof line at the Skylight are planned for the spring, and will be covered by the insurance.

The Chapel is being considered for transition to provide parishioners and guests, a place to gather in a more social as well as personal environment. Photos have been made available for viewing in the Narthex to show how the space and existing Chapel Altar and Reredos (backdrop) will be used for prayer and healing.

Buildings

With the retirement of our Sexton this year, we hired a cleaning service to maintain the general upkeep of the facilities. Many thanks go to Paul McKenna for his service to Christ Church. A part-time sexton (Bob Prescott) was hired over the summer and has been instrumental in the success of the coffee hour during the latter part of this year. I would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Sara Loy in making the coffee hour successful this year. Our first Outdoor coffee hour was a big hit during the 4th of July Holiday weekend.

Grounds

The wind storm in February did more than just roof damage. The line of Spruce Trees along the property line on the east side of the parking lot. Unfortunately, insurance would not cover tree damage and thanks to the gracious efforts of Sullivan Logging, the trees and stumps were removed at a very reasonable price. Special notice goes out to Michael Rhodes, who took it upon himself to beautify the front lawn the week before Easter. Michael single-handedly picked-up all the sticks and branches that came down with the Storm.

Christ Church was again able to support Philips Exeter Academy (PEA) Community Day. Nine students from the academy came to Christ Church in order to show their support and give back to the community. The students helped us preserve our swing sets and picnic table, and even planted some grass near the back entrance. This effort is greatly appreciated by all of the outreach programs supported by Christ Church.

On Sunday, October 3rd, Christ Church parishioners and volunteers showed the city of Exeter what it means to be a community. The first ever Christ Church Day of Service took place and was a big success. A large number of volunteers descended upon the Exeter Youth Center, Seacare, and the Exeter Trails in order to give back to the community.

The biggest event of the year was clearly the repair and re-paving of the parking lot. We were able to move this effort ahead in the overall Capital Plan and further enhance the beautification efforts of the gardening crew. We have opted to lay the second coat of pavement in 2 . 3 years to extend the life expectancy of the parking lot well in to the late 2020s.

Self Reliance

The Spring and Fall clean-up efforts this year, continue to keep our grounds looking fabulous. Special thanks to Judy and Paul Wainwright for heading up this effort, and ALL that helped, including Walt Porter for giving us his time and his tractor, and Pat Izzo for the lunch.

This year also saw the development of an impromptu gardening crew, who met once weekly to simply keep the gardens and bushes in order. This effort is open to any parishioner (or guest) who is interested in helping out with maintaining the church grounds. Please take the time to notice the Labyrinth, Memorial Garden and various Gardens around the Church and courtyard. A special Thank you goes out to the regulars who took on this task, including Judy Blaisdell, Bill Scott, Carol Allard, Judy Wainwright, and any others who may have helped. I want to also recognize Robbie Izzo who has volunteered to take on the chore of trimming and maintaining the bushes next year.

We welcome any and all volunteers to put in as much (or as little) time as you wish to help maintain our grounds. Some of the chores include weeding and gardening, maintaining the Memorial Garden, maintaining the labyrinth, edging the gardens, planting, and most importantly weed-wacking the areas where the mower can't get to. I would like to make special mention of Joe Fisher, who continues year after year, to keep our lawns looking great. This year we were fortunate to find a barely used lawn tractor to help Joe in the never ending battle of mowing the lawns. Thanks Joe!

A used Plow Truck (Chariot III) was purchased this fall to help us maintain independence against the winter snow. A group of volunteers are ready and able to keep the lot and driveway cleared. It is expected that having our own plowing capability, could save as much as \$2,500 or more in plowing fees, depending on the severity of the winter. Thanks to our relationship with the Seacoast School of Technology, we have new steps on the truck and will soon have a new bumper on the rear.

Cost Control Initiatives

With the conversion to gas heat in 2008, we continue to see savings on our heating bill, despite a slightly lower average daily temperature for 2010 versus 2009. The cost of natural gas for 2010 came in a modest \$420 under budget.

A cooler than usual summer brought about a savings in our electricity usage in 2010 versus 2009. The cost of electricity for 2010 came in nearly \$725 under budget.

Many thanks to Mike Yergeau for continuing to follow the gas and electricity reporting.

Safety

In 2009, a Life Safety Inspection was performed by a third party inspection team. The follow-on to this effort entailed the completion of a detailed engineering drawing set of the upgrades and modifications needed to bring Harris Hall up to code standards,

including fire and sprinkler upgrades and asbestos abatement. The engineering drawings are now being reviewed and will be submitted to contractors for bid. Bids are expected to be completed by the Spring of 2011.

Reflection

The B&G Team is extremely grateful for the many helping hands that have provided the support to make this year memorable. We continue to sustain a level of self-reliance and continue to save money by managing a lot of our own tasks. We have built a community within the church, and we continue to reach out to those around us. I pray that we never tire, and continue to grow.

Thanks to Lang Plumer and Mike Yergeau for the strong support and direction this past year.

Joe DiPalermo, Junior Warden

SUNDAY SCHOOL

This year we have chosen to continue with, %All Things New,+an Episcopal curriculum for children from preschool through sixth grade. %All Things New+offers a mix of age-appropriate activities centered on scripture and Episcopal "basics." It was chosen in 2008 as the best curriculum to address the goals the team developed: to ensure that our children have a basic understanding of what it is to be a Christian and what it means to be an Episcopalian. The teachers have been very pleased with this program since we started it in 2008.

In September, we had great turn out for our first day of Sunday School topping the 115 mark from toddlers to 12th graders. As usual the numbers have fluctuated from week to week but we seem to average around 45 to 50 children from toddlers to 6th grade. The 6th, 7th and 8th graders continue to focus on the current gospel lesson every week.

For the 2010-2011 school year we have 9 volunteer teachers. This fall continued to evolve our Children's Chapel. The children leave during the sequence hymn and split up into two groups. The older children go with Cathy Hammon to sing while the younger kids gather in the former youth room for their own stories and prayers. We have 10 volunteers who assist during the chapel time. Our chaplains are Christy Bodnar, Walter & Lyn Helliesen, Elizabeth Holcomb, Libby Neil, Kristen Power, Anne Plumer-Fisher, Anne Sorber, and Lee Woodworth. The children have all adapted really well to this change and seem to really enjoy the new structure. Attendance at children's chapel has been terrific this year!! We have continued to have Peter Baldwin involved in the 10:30am service on the third Sunday of the month, and all the children love to participate. If you would like to see a little of what Children's Chapel is like, here's your chance!

Maryellen Izzo has been our volunteer coordinator since September. She has done an amazing job coordinating, keeping the snack room clean and organized as well as meeting the various needs of teachers on Sunday morning.

In December, we participated in the **Heifer International "Fill the Ark"** program instead of Operation Christmas Child. We are still tallying the results!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS: Peter Baldwin, Diane DiPalermo, Christine Hodsdon, Becki Publicover, Sarah Prescott, Robin Ratigan, Joanna Raum, Shannon Tosatti and Lee Woodworth.

INFANT & TODDLER ROOM SUPERVISOR: Karen Foote, with assistance of volunteer parishioners and parents.

SUNDAY SCHOOL VOLUNTEERS: Eileen Baker, Chrissy Dube, Adam Fallon, Angela Fallon, Joe Fisher, Elizabeth Holcomb, Nick Lykling, Nancy Potter, Katie Simon, Kristen Teixeira, and Chris Van Scoy

I would like to personally thank each and every one of our Sunday School volunteers; we couldn't strengthen our children's faith and parish family without them. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers, and know that the parish would not be such a great place without their faith and dedication. It takes many volunteers to keep all of current programs going, and even more to grow new programs. **PLEASE NEVER BE AFRAID TO SHARE YOUR SPIRITUAL GIFT! WE ALL HAVE AT LEAST ONE, SO TAKE A LEAP OF FAITH AND VOLUNTEER!!!**

Annie Thornberg

YOUTH MINISTRY

In September we began a new way of looking at Youth Ministry. Our goal was to reinvent, reinvigorate and begin building a new youth program here at Christ Church. While we found a multitude of ways for us to achieve the goal, our vision was shaped by a combination of youth programs.

The final outcome was to look at youth ministry in a more holistic way. The youth program not only consists of a youth group but also includes youth choir, a Wednesday afternoon formation, Sunday school and serving in the liturgy. Moreover, our youth group now consists of two separate groups; one of which being a middle school group and the other being a high school group. This is also replicated in the Sunday School classes. Therefore, this program year, there is no longer a 5th and 6th grade class, a confirmation class and a high school class, instead we have a 5th grade class and then two youth classes one that consists of 6th-8th grade and another that is 9th-12th. One of our goals is that we are trying to solidify the youth community early so that not only do they continue to come to Sunday School post 8th grade, but that it will be their decision to do so. Another reason for making the shift was because our former model did not offer any Sunday morning formation for youth that wanted to be involved but were not ready to commit to being confirmed. Moreover, the new plan is a more inclusive way to welcome newcomers into the youth community.

Another piece of youth ministry that underwent a change was the Confirmation Program. Based on feedback from the last couple of years, we began to realize that the two year program is not sustainable for many families. While we still believe making a commitment to your faith is imperative for confirmation, our goal was to make it happen in a more realistic and organic way. Our hope was that the new program would help our youth make a commitment to their faith by incorporating it into their lives in a variety of ways, while still being able to honor their commitments to sports or dance or other

activities that may conflict with Sunday mornings. Youth that want to be confirmed have made a commitment to attend whichever of the youth activities that fit their particular needs and interests 75 percent of the time they are offered. Additionally, we expect them to attend a Lenten Youth Confirmation classes that will be about six classes and taught by the clergy.

W.H.A.M. which stands for Wednesdays Homework And Music began in September. It is a weekday formation opportunity for the youth which consists of some conversation about why we do what we do, in church about an hour for homework or youth choir and then the opportunity to play a game! This has been a huge success! We have consistently had around 12 youth each week!

This year, youth group in the classic sense of the word meets monthly for a variety of activities. We made this transition so that parents and kids could go ahead and plan on one weekend a month being designated for youth group and we can take extra time to incorporate a more intentional formation piece into the program. The middle school youth group has been a huge success. We continue to struggle with numbers for the high school program. However, at the end of January, we are planning to take the high school youth to Rumney snow camp and have 10 youth attending!

Another new component to the youth program this year has been incorporating four new mentors to join the adult team of youth leaders. Those mentors commit to attending each facet of the youth program with the hope that they will be adult role models for all the youth, not just the ones being confirmed. This year our mentors include Wallis Gaillard, Adam Fallon, Angela Fallon, Joe Fisher, Elizabeth Holcomb and Nick Lyking.

I would like to personally thank each and every one of our mentors; we could not strengthen our youth's faith and commitment to God and one another without them. Please keep them in your thoughts and prayers as we move through the next year, and know that the Christ Church community and youth program would not be the same without their faith and dedication.

Annie Thornberg

MUSIC AND LITURGY

It is an honor and privilege to serve as your Director of Music, and I am proud to report on all of the wonderful happenings of 2010.

The Parish Choir has to be the most faithful group of musicians ever assembled. They attend rehearsals after a long day at work, they love and care about each other, and they don't back down from a challenge. Throughout the course of the year we've thrown them everything from Byzantine Chant to contemporary British choral music to wild arrangements of Spirituals, and the Choir responds with genuine enthusiasm. The ensemble has a high level of musicianship and ability, and I am proud of them for their sincerity and for their willingness to praise God in glorious song. A highlight of the year was the joining together of the choirs of Christ Church and St. John's, Portsmouth, for Annie's Ordination.

The Youth Choir has had another successful year under the leadership of Cathy Hammon. They have remained a small but highly-skilled group of young people, who often play the hand chimes while singing their anthem. Please take the time to thank Cathy when you see her: she spends a good deal of time rehearsing repertoire, as well as teaching the kids elements of music theory and singing techniques. She is paving the way for them to be lifelong church musicians, and I can't thank her enough for her patience and love.

The Junior Choir has returned on a more informal basis, meeting at the same time as Children's Chapel on Sundays. Cathy Hammon works with this demographic of the church, as well, and has had the chance to work with some promising young musicians. It will be enjoyable to watch this group evolve in the coming months.

Instrumentalists remain an important part of our music ministry, offering musical voluntaries during the summer months and also joining together once again for our **Christmas Eve Festival Orchestra**. I was blessed with ten excellent instrumentalists this year who played at our 8:00 PM Christmas Eve liturgy. Special thanks to those instrumentalists who get called upon quite often to assist us on Sundays. Wendy Gladstone for her recorder skills (and for covering the organ when Bruce is away), and Laura Wyskiel for her artful flute playing.

The **Youth Theater** scene is alive and well at Christ Church, and we enjoyed the third annual production this year, a cast-written show entitled *Bring On Tomorrow*. The themes were very real, the acting was top-notch, and the singing was remarkable. Over 100 parishioners either acted in the show or helped somehow behind the scenes. Thanks to all who made this show a success. I'm looking forward to this year's *cappella* musical, *Shout!*

Aliento Concert Series entered its third year with another eclectic mix of concert offerings. Dorothy Braker continues to manage the series, which brings professional-level chamber music right here to Exeter. A portion of the proceeds from this series goes directly to Christ Church, so your attendance at these performances benefits the parish. If you haven't been to a performance yet, be sure to catch one this spring.

The Lively-Fulcher Organ celebrated its 4th birthday this past year, and was in need of some maintenance. Some of the pipes directly behind the façade pipes began leaning to one side, but Lively-Fulcher was here quickly to rectify the situation, which was fully covered under warranty. **Bruce Adami** continues to inspire us on this powerful instrument, and our music program would simply not be the same without him. His handling of the instrument maintenance and tunings, copyright licensing, and day-to-day operations gives me the opportunity to focus on music and liturgy planning. He is a wonderful team member and amazing friend. Thank you, Bruce!

The Mixer Memorial Concert continues to honor Jim Mixer, longtime supporter of the Christ Church music program. While we were sad to learn of the passing of Jim's wife, Phebe, this past year, we will continue to honor her memory through the fund and the annual concert. Bruce Adami and Boston's Brian Jones duked it out on the organ bench in a concert of organ masterworks this past April, and we are greatly anticipating the third annual performance this coming spring.

Liturgically, we continue to search for alternate Anglican and Christian resources to enhance our worship services. Materials from the Northumbria Community, the Taize Community, the Iona Community, the Evangelical Lutheran Church, and Scottish Presbyterian Church have deepened our awareness of other cultural expressions of faith. This past Maundy Thursday we designed a new program recalling the events of Christ's betrayal and the road to Gethsemane. Hundreds of candles filled Harris Hall with a dim glow where we shared the bread and wine of communion. We then moved into the church for the Stripping of the Altar paired with a recording of Samuel Barber's *Adagio for Strings*. It was very, very powerful. This past December we were treated to a new Children's Christmas Pageant. Other well-loved liturgies remained the same, including The Stations of the Cross in Art on Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter, and the 8:00 and 11:00 liturgies on Christmas Eve.

Music and liturgy remains healthy at Christ Church, and we are blessed with so many parishioners who give willingly of their gifts. As always, I welcome your comments, suggestions, or your participation in ministry. Maybe 2011 will be the year that you decide to join us!

Peace, love, and joy .
Chris Drelich, Director of Music

ACOLYTES

Our acolyte program, lead by Annie Thornberg, with help from Wallis Gaillard, Sue Pepper and Morgan McCay, continues to thrive. Six of our acolytes graduated from high school last spring, but thirteen new acolytes joined us in the fall. We have ten 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 five or six acolytes each. We also have two acolytes who do not serve on teams, but substitute regularly. 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 Harry Hubbell, Mia Stilwell, Abby Hughes, and Matthew Geary. Acolytes are Drew Baldwin, Mark Cochran, Hannah Denson, Sarah Dube, Tim Eaton, Aly Fisher, Katharine Gaillard, Matthew Geary, Harry Hubbell, Abby Hughes, Erin Keefe, Riley Keefe, Zach Keefe, Sydney MacDonald, Robyn Marshall, Natalie Pollet, Matthew Radford, Peter Scharer, Will Scharer, Laura Steere, Tom Steere, Will Steere and Mia Stilwell. Five of our acolytes will graduate this year and we will miss them!

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

Annie Thornberg

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 15 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

HEALING MINISTRY

For many years at Christ Church we have celebrated the Holy Eucharist with a Service of Healing on Wednesday mornings. Because many people are not able to attend that service the Healing Ministries Team was formed three years ago to offer the laying on of hands, anointing and prayers for healing on Sunday morning. We began by offering this sacrament on the first and third Sundays of each month. In 2006 four new members were commissioned to the team, which allows us to now offer the laying on of hands and anointing at each of our three Sunday liturgies. Healing Ministers are available during communion for anyone who wishes to receive this sacrament.

The team is soliciting new members; please contact any team member if you are interested. This year Rita Corke, Bill Scott and Chrissy Dube have substantially completed the Training. The training involved 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, Cindy Corson, Pat Izzo, Robin Sirois, Michael Woodworth and Robin Yergeau. Some 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 in the church office.



This year Rev. David D. Holroyd took over from Rev. Caroline Hines as spiritual director of the Team. The Healing Team participated in the Taizé Contemplative Prayer on Wednesday nights providing individual healing prayer after the meditation and chanting portion of the service.

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 participated in the Power from On High Conference at the *Christ the Redeemer Anglican Church* in Danvers, Massachusetts; 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 the Charismatic Episcopal Church at the Newton Junction Baptist Church. This year Mike participated in several Order of St. Luke Healing and Training conferences in Maine, and Vermont. Bill Scott, Pat Izzo and Patti Buck are in year two of (EfM), and Robin Yergeau and Judy Blaisdell are in the fourth/final year of Education for Ministry (EfM).

Mike Woodworth

RUMMAGE OUTREACH

We had another wonderful year of rummage outreach. The planning team met monthly from March until the sale to review, revise and update all aspects of the ministry with great results. We had great volunteer turnout, plenty of donated items and tremendous response from the community at large.

It is impossible to know how many parishioners are involved each year because donating 'stuff' is such an important part of the sale and we have no idea how many people bring things. In the months and days preceding and during the sale we had approximately 90 people donating their time and ranging in age from 4 to 91. We also had volunteers from Phillips Exeter Academy, Boy Scout Troop 322, Seacoast Family Promise, UNH and area residents who are not parishioners here. Area businesses and organizations that supported the rummage sale in a variety of ways include Second Generation, Wonderland Thrift Store, Rockingham County Service Link, The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Trinity Jubilee Center, Fenelon's Auto Repair, Exeter Rental and also many area businesses and residents who allow us to post flyers/ signs.

The number of people served by the rummage sale is also very hard to determine but our estimate this year is between 750 and 1000 during the sale. After the sale donations of goods went to Trinity Jubilee Center, Boy Scout Troop 322 (books), Goodwill, Habitat for Humanity Re-Store (electric lighting), Wonderland Thrift Store (jewelry) and the art department of a Haverhill middle school.

Changes that occurred this year included:

- increased efforts to emphasize that participants who give one to three hours of their time are of vital importance to whether or not the sale can take place
- expanding and improving the silent auction
- relocating several departments and creating an updated map and layout plan
- adding a fun rummage blog

- a simplified pricing structure with most clothing being reduced in price from previous years
- the addition of a food court with an expanded bake sale, hamburgers, hotdogs, drinks and *incredibly* delicious smoked ribs.

We are thankful that, once again, the publicity efforts were outstanding.

The challenges that remain include:

- getting people to commit their time early in September rather than at the last minute which causes a great deal of stress for those leading the ministry
- helping people realize that giving just a few hours, not only is helpful, it is a major factor in the success of the ministry
- finding two or three new people to step up into leadership positions -Sarah Loy and Tom Streep are stepping down this year.

Proceeds from the sale are an indication of how many folks needed our service and of our effectiveness in reaching them. Prices on most things were reduced this year but our sales were greater. A large part of the increase can be attributed to the much better turnout of volunteers giving one to three hours of their time. If we had thirty additional volunteers turn out next year and give two or three hours a piece, customers would be able to find a better organized, sorted and sized display that made shopping easy. It would be a setting that respected their dignity more faithfully than we are sometimes able to offer when volunteer turnout is low. We also had a good return on silent auction items and from the new food court. Proceeds totaled \$9183.

Thank you to everyone who was part of this ministry. It is truly impossible to name all who gave so lovingly in the service of others and, trusting that each gave as they were called, we respect and thank those who gave much and those who gave a little as best they could.

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 47 Thanksgiving food baskets, two of which were delivered. At Christmas we gave out 30 food baskets and provided gifts for 62 children. We had three deliveries for Christmas. We would like to thank all of you who make this ministry a most rewarding experience for all of us involved.

If you are interested in this wonderful program, please call Linda in the Church office for more information (772-3332). Thank you to Rita and Mark Corke, Carla Ranks and her students and Christine Nelson, who helped out with the distribution and deliveries.

Lee Woodworth and Phyllis Rutherford

HOSPITALITY TEAM

The mission of the Hospitality Team is to insure every person who walks through the doors feels cared about, informed and included. Team members are dedicated to helping attendees to safely enter the church, with a warm reception, and provide any supports necessary to comfortably participate in the service (cushions, elevator, assistive listening devices). Hospitality team members help guests by: orienting them to 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 and seasoned Hospitality Team who step in and help when they see a need, even on Sundays they are not scheduled to serve! Each week our Team includes a member of the vestry who join in greeting people as they arrive. Some of the vestry bring their children to join them which adds energy and sparkle. We are gradually expanding our team to include members representing all ages. We have young people such as Bella Valinoti, Aly Fisher and Sara Dube who serve as greeters. Looking ahead, we would love to have families sign up to greet. 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 FAMILY PROMISE (Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network)

At Christ Church we have begun our 10th year as a host congregation for Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network, now known as Seacoast Family Promise. We (Jim McAllister and David Michaud) 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. Donna McCay has brought her experience as a member of the Set Up and Break Down Team to lead a group of dedicated volunteers to insure that we are prepared to welcome our guests and put the church school back in order after their one week stay with us. Donna will always welcome additional help the morning of set up or in putting things back in the classrooms on the second Sunday morning.

At the end of 2010 we completed our second year under our revised leadership structure and we think it has worked well. Our team leaders include Sunday- Donna McCay; Monday - Toy Fountain, 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. Cindy Nottage has been great at keeping us informed on a timely basis. In addition we have several faithful volunteers who step up to help and fill in on a **last minute** basis when a host is needed unexpectedly.

Thank you to the many who make this a successful outreach program. We could not provide this most important ministry without you.

Volunteer response has been wonderful but we are always looking for ways to involve more parishioners in SFP. Contact one of the team leaders listed above if you would like to get involved with Seacoast Family Promise. Our first host week of 2011 begins February 27th. We will be hosting every eight to eleven weeks thereafter, with a total of five host weeks during the whole year.

SFP 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, SFP 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 SFP 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 our guests. Thank you to all of you who have responded to our requests for financial support over our years of serving SHIN.

Our six host weeks in 2010 saw an average of between forty and fifty volunteers logging 235 hours per week, with a total of 1,175+hours for the year. Our sincere thanks to all of you who helped make this ministry meaningful. Please feel free to contact either of us with suggestions or just to help make the program grow.

Jim McAllister, Co-Coordinator
jim@profplanllc.com

David Michaud, Co-Coordinator
dmichaud2@comcast.net

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.

Parish Officers and Staff - 2010

2010 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden

Peg Gaillard

Junior Warden

Joe DiPalermo

Clerk

Chris Kramer

Treasurer

Lucia Savage

Vestry Members

Term ends Jan. 2011

Barbara Beardsley

Patti Buck

Margaret Talcott

Term ends Jan. 2012

Wendy Gladstone

Sue Ingram

Jim McAllister

Term ends Jan. 2013

Christy Bodnar

Adam Fallon

Derek Wyskiel

Delegates to Diocesan Convention & Seacoast Convocation

Term ends Jan. 2011

Fran Wriedt

Lucy Paine Kezar

Term ends 2012

Sue Ingram

Alice Hill

Alternates

Term ends Jan. 2011

Sarah Loy

Term ends Jan. 2012

Juliette Gavin

Paul Stinson

Nominating Comm.

Barbara Beardsley

Darlene McAllister

Margaret Talcott

Patti Buck

Pete Baldwin

Parish Staff

Rector

John E. Denson, Jr.

Curate

Anne C.S. Thornberg

Priest Associate

David D. Holroyd

Director of Music

Chris Drelich

Organist

Bruce Adami

Executive Assistant

Linda Carey

Sexton

Bob Prescott

Childcare

Karen Foote

