

**Christ Episcopal Church  
Annual Parish Meeting  
January 31, 2010**



*The Order of St. Vincent, Sunday, January 17, 2010*

The Rev'd Canon Dr. Patrick P. Augustine, Rector  
The Rev'd Dr. Jo Glasser, Deacon

John Pederson, Senior Warden  
Gary Veldey, Junior Warden  
Lora Stefanski, Clerk  
Bob Weathers, Treasurer

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**Vestry**

Mike Conway  
Lee Donahue  
Ed Gansen  
Jonathan Majak, Sr.  
Carla Marcou  
Robert Olson  
Joyce Sanders  
Lisa Sauer  
Marian Thomson

**Staff**

Mary Larson, Organist/Choirmaster  
Kris Geiwitz, Office Ministry Coordinator

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## Agenda

*Those who wish to speak are asked to use the lectern or the microphone so that everyone may hear*

I. Call to Order and Prayers for the Parish

Almighty and everlasting God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be one of heart and mind within your Holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

II. Election of Clerk

III. Approval of Minutes of 2008 Annual Parish Meeting

IV. Elections: Canon 30, Section 7

*Baptized members of the local Episcopal congregation, who are at least 16 years of age, who are regular attendants at the service of the local church, and who are regular contributors to the support of the local church and to the work of the Diocese and National Church, shall be entitled to vote at all Congregational Meetings.*

a. Senior Warden (green ballot)

b. Junior Warden (green ballot)

c. Vestry Members (green ballot)

d. Deputies and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention (gold ballot)

V. Reports (appended)

a. Rector

b. Senior Warden

c. Junior Warden

d. Parish Ministries

e. Treasurer

VI. 2009 Budget

VII. Vestry Recognition

VIII. Questions and Feedback

IX. Adjournment

*Vestry members and officers are asked to remain for a few moments after the Annual Meeting for a brief initial meeting to elect a secretary and treasurer.*

Christ Episcopal Church La Crosse  
Annual Parish Meeting Minutes  
January 25, 2009

Father Augustine called the meeting to order at 12:40 p.m.

1. Call to Order and Prayers for the Parish.
2. Lora Stefanski was nominated as Clerk. The nominations were closed. Election moved by Jonathan Majak, seconded by Pete Hammond, and passed.
3. Approval of the minutes from the Annual Parish Meeting of Sunday, January 27, 2008 was moved by Charles Isely III, seconded by Carla Marcou, and passed.
4. Elections:
  - a. Senior Warden: John Pedersen was nominated. Motion to close nominations and elect by unanimous ballot; seconded by Charles Isley III; passed.
  - b. Junior Warden: Gary Veldey was nominated. Motion to close nominations and elect by unanimous ballot; seconded by Vivian Andresen; passed.
  - c. Vestry Members: Robert Olson, Joyce Sanders, and Carla Marcou were nominated. Motion to close nominations and elect by unanimous ballot; seconded by Ed Gansen; passed.
  - d. 2009 Deputies and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention. A motion to accept the previous list of 2008 Deputies and Alternates, moved by Charlie Miller. Seconded by Charles Isley III:
    - i. Deputies: Bill Chamberlain, Jake Delwiche, Mike Conway, Jim Glasser and John Pederson.
    - ii. Alternates: Laurie Kartman, Carla Marcou, Edie MacDougal, Charlie Miller and Bob Weathers.
5. Reports:
  - a. Rector: Father Augustine read the Rector's report at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. Motion to accept the report was made by Charlie Miller, seconded by Charles Isley III, and passed.
  - b. Senior Warden: John Pederson presented the Senior Warden's report. Motion to accept the report was made by Vivian Andresen, seconded by Charles Isley III, and passed.
  - c. Junior Warden: Gary Veldey presented the Junior Warden's report. Motion to accept the report was made by Vivian Andresen, seconded by Charles Isley III, and passed.
  - d. Parish Ministries: Motion to accept the reports was made by Charles Isley III, seconded by Carla Marcou, and passed.
6. 2009 Budget: Bob Weathers presented the Treasurer's Report. Motion to accept the report was made by Charles Miller, seconded by Vivian Andresen, and passed.
7. Vestry Recognition: Father Augustine thanked all the Vestry members for their faithful service to our parish.

8. Questions and Feedback:
  - a. Mike Byers asked if the Youth Group was still active. Chris Frye said that it's not active at this time, but he will be sending them an email next week regarding Shrove Tuesday.
  - b. It was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting packet with the minutes and reports be posted on the website to view versus sending it on electronic mail because some computers cannot handle the volume of data submitted.
  - c. Charlotte Markos asked if people could turn in their quarterly grocery receipts prior to the end of the quarter as she only has 14 days to turn them in.
9. The 2009 Annual Parish meeting was adjourned at 1:43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Stefanski, Clerk

# Christ Episcopal Church Annual Meeting

## January 31, 2010

### Rector's State of the Parish Report 2009

Canon 30 Section 1 of the Diocese of Eau Claire prescribes:

“In every Congregation, the Annual Congregational Meeting shall be held on a date set by the Vestry of the Congregation. The Vestry shall inform the Diocese of the date of the Annual Meeting. Public notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given at all services on the preceding Sunday.”

Christ Episcopal Church – 2009 Attendance				
Year ending Dec. 31, 2009	Number of Services	Total Attendance	Average Per Service	Average Per Week
Sunday HE and Saturday Eve				
8:00 am	52	2441	47	
10:30 am	52	4876	94	
Easter Vigil	1	81		
<b>Total</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>7395</b>		
Christmas Eve and Day				
	3	287	96	
Weekday Eucharists	88	807	9	16
Weekday Daily Office	186	471	3	9
Private Eucharists	62	190	3	
Marriages	1			
Burials	5			
Good Friday	1	80		
Advent I Evensong	1	59		
<b>Total Services</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>9288</b>		

Seven years ago during this week I arrived from Virginia as your new Rector at Christ Church in La Crosse. Since then Myra and I have celebrated our lives through many Wisconsin winters while you all have blessed us and warmed our hearts with your generous affection. This year has been a particularly important year to be blessed with your prayers and love. Last February my mother died after being in La Crosse for four years. She was a seasoned churchperson. She served the Church in Pakistan as a wife of a parish priest and Mother's Union leader for more than forty years. She always told me, "You have a very good parish and your people love you." Last May our son Gibran married Sana Walter Massey and many of you helped us to plan and celebrate their wedding. My mother was right that we are blessed with a wonderful parish. Myra and I are grateful for all the love and support we have received from all of you. As I begin another year to serve among you as your rector, I ask your prayers that I can remain a faithful pastor to serve people of God at Christ Church.

“If God is our father, the church is our mother.” These are the words of the Swiss reformer John Calvin. Several biblical passages speak in this way, notably Galatians 4:26-27. The church is first and foremost a community, a collection of people who

belong to one another because they belong to God, the God we know in and through Jesus. Though often we associate the word “church” with a building where a community of Jesus meets to celebrate their common faith in the risen Lord, in another true sense it is the people, the “Community of the Way,” as known in the early church, who matter. There is no doubt God has blessed us with a vibrant body of Christ with eyes focused on the mission of Christ. It is my joy to watch our faith community emerging by the grace of God as an authentic or living church. You may notice here that I am not saying that we have become an authentic or living church but are emerging to be an authentic missional church. You may ask me: “What do you mean by missional church?” I would like to give you a brief description of it.

A missional church is a community of God’s people who live into the imagination that they are, by their very nature, God’s missionary people living as a demonstration of what God plans to do in and for all of creation in Jesus Christ.<sup>1</sup> Church is no accident but has been called out on this purposeful mission as an *ecclesia* by Jesus Christ himself. He has called the church into life to be both the means of this mission and a foretaste of where God is inviting all creation to go. Just as its Lord is a mission-shaped God, so the community of God’s people exists, not for themselves but for the sake of the work. Mission, therefore, is not a program or project some people in the church do from time to time as in mission trip, mission budget, and so on; the church’s very nature is to be God’s missionary people. We use the word *missional* to mark this big difference. Mission is not about a project or a budget, or a one-off event somewhere; it’s not even about sending missionaries. This is the purpose of our call, that the mission of Jesus Christ will shine through the lives, programs, proclamation of the Gospel, liturgy and worship at Christ Church so the world may know the risen Christ lives here through the witness of our faith community. This is exactly what I mean when I say we are a missional community.

At a glance for a report on 2009, we are blessed with steady growth in attendance and parish activities. Not only have attendances continued to grow, but also our finances. Last year I challenged you to meet a balanced budget. We were afraid as the economy had taken a terrible downturn. Many of you experienced reduced income. Our parish treasurer, with conservative outlook, had predicted a shortfall in the budget of \$30,000. But with your generous and faithful support we have met a budget of \$290,834 and ended up with a surplus income of \$2,537. This has been a practice of generous stewardship in the face of scarcity and economic down turn. This tells lot about our parish and how we live and practice our faith. Let me share with you two examples of extraordinary generous giving:

1. Ted and Mike Solie, lifelong members of our parish, have donated \$100,000 to Christ Church. Ted particularly wants to support the work of the Altar Guild as Mike has served for 70 years as a member of the Altar Guild here. Altar Guild has such an important ministry to care for this holy space for us to experience the presence of the risen Christ in the Holy Eucharist.

At this annual meeting of the parish I want to announce a fund to support the work of the Altar Guild. This fund will be managed by the Vestry as part of our endowment, but its income would be restricted to be used specifically to support the liturgical needs of our worship. The fund will provide opportunities to give

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<sup>1</sup> Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk, *The Missional Leader*, Jossey – Bass, 2006, p.15.

gifts in appreciation of the dedicated work of the members of the Altar Guild of the present and of the past.

2. God blessed us with another bequest of \$1,492,000 from the Estate of Mary Jane Skaff. Her bequest was added to the endowment fund where the income will be used to support the mission and ministry of our parish. The Skaff bequest has already helped us to start the much needed repair of the bell tower and chimney which will cost us \$400,000 at the time of completion.

Nothing is small when you touch any part to repair or renovate our historic church building. With our previous investment we borrowed heavily from our endowment for renovation of the undercroft. Over three years parishioners have pledged and paid to more than restore the endowment. Shrewd stewardship of the Vestry and support of our parishioners has kept us debt free. We are blessed as our endowment has grown back to \$1.9 million.

Like nearly all congregations, Christ Church depends on charitable gifts to support our operations and goals. We have always relied on the generous giving of past and present members of the congregation. We have placed a brochure on your tables "Giving Now and for the Future at Christ Episcopal Church" which will explain ways in which members can more generously help their parish through planned giving. There is no doubt in my mind that our God is an awesome God and you are an awesome community. I thank you for your time, talents and generous giving. You do make a difference in many ways! The ministry of our church changes lives in our congregation, the wider community, and the world. There is much for which we as a congregation can be grateful and we continue to look forward to an exciting and challenging ministry under God's grace and guidance.

I have been told by many visitors as they come through the doors of our parish they find here a warm welcome. The practice of the gift of hospitality is foundational to the spiritual life. Henri Nouwen, a Catholic priest and writer, has said, "Hospitality is the creation of a free space where strangers become friends. Hospitality is not to change people, but to offer them space where change can happen." I notice every Sunday energetic conversations and laughter as we gather for coffee and refreshments in the undercroft. Long time members, strangers, homeless, poor and rich together break the bread and share our common life in Jesus Christ. On Thursdays at noon times we gather as a Jesus community to share a meal. I want to thank Jake Delwiche, Justin Bogusz and Jimmy Jones for their support of the Thursday meals ministry. Through hospitality, Christians imitate God's welcome. Therefore, hospitality is not a program, not a single hour or ministry in the life of our congregation. It stands at the heart of a Christian way of life, a living icon of wholeness of God. We welcome all as our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Christian Education is led by lay members of our parish. I am grateful to Jim Glasser and Randy Condit to lead the teaching of the lections of the Holy Scripture on Sunday mornings.

Linda Weaver, Lisa Sauer, Sanna Yoder with the help of several dedicated teachers and parents provide an excellent leadership at Christ Church for our children to be nourished in their Christian faith. This program has been growing and now we have 24 children participating in our Sunday school program. Linda has completed writing a

curriculum for Sunday school classes. We are waiting to hear from a publisher to publish her work.

Lee Donahue, Gail Vaughn and April Denny worked with our children and teens to present a beautiful program at Christmas the reenactment of the birth of Christ. Thank you for your talent and enthusiasm.

Last year I read a book *The Living Church: Convictions of a Life Long Pastor* by John Stott. Dr. Stott gives in his book three essential marks of a living church. I like to share those with you.

Living Church people are committed to the church and they care for each other. Let me share with you two examples of our caring community:

1. A week before Christmas Charles Miller, Margie Neader and Vivian Andresen accompanied me to visit 14 senior members of our parish to bring them a plate of cookies baked in our parish Kitchen and to share with them the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist. Also, Barbara Newcomer and John Pederson accompanied me to carry a full truckload of gifts to share with a young family who recently moved out of the Salvation Army shelter into their own apartment in La Crosse. It was a joy to share your gifts with a young family with a new beginning. Those acts of kindness were done in the name of Jesus Christ to share his love and compassion.

2. Living Church community is committed to the mission of the church. We believe that the church has a double identity. On the one hand we are called out of the world to belong to God, and on the other we are sent back into the world to witness and to serve. Moreover, the mission of the church is modeled on the mission of Christ. He himself said so. "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you" (John 20:21). His mission meant, for him, the incarnation. He became human without ceasing to be God. And, now, he calls us to enter other people's worlds, as he entered ours. All authentic mission is incarnational. Last October you all commissioned me to go on a mission to Southern Sudan and Pakistan. You collected funds to support the education of Sudanese children who have suffered the misery of ongoing war for the last twenty-five years. I took your gifts and prayers into areas of conflict both in Sudan and Pakistan. You stood in solidarity with me through your prayers as I carried a peace mission to give hope where there is hatred, to sow seeds of love as it is in giving that we receive and fulfill the mission of Christ.

Living missional church community is also a giving community. You will be happy to know that our total outreach in 2009 to our community, diocese and the wider church in the Anglican Communion exceeds more than \$65,000. Thanks be God for generous hearts.

3. Living Church community is committed to the renewal of the church. This can only happen if the parish is committed to the worship and the practice of being a missional community. At Christ Church we offer two Sunday services, Adult and children education hour, Wednesday and Thursday Holy Eucharist, Bible Study and at noon Community lunch. I must say that I do not find the majority of our

parish participating and supporting our weekday worship and educational opportunities. I humbly beg you to dedicate to support these educational programs and weekday worship opportunities. Let the year 2010 be of the renewal of our parish. I have often expressed my desire to visit you and hold evening prayers or celebrate Holy Eucharist in your homes. Please invite your friends and other members of our parish in your neighborhoods. I shall come to visit and pray with you.

I am pleased to inform you that Christ Church is, by the grace of God, a healthy community of faith. Your spirit of joy opens doors to welcome all God's children and makes Christ Church a fun parish to belong to. The Gospel is faithfully proclaimed, the Sacraments are administered with a sense of awe and wonder, and glorious music and Divine Liturgy are offered to the worship of Jesus Christ. I am a lucky man to be called among you to serve as your priest.

I give thanks to God and to all of you, and particularly my wife, Wardens, Vestry, Deacon, staff and assisting clergy for your encouragement and support in my service here as priest and pastor. It is a privilege and honor for me to serve as the Rector of Christ Church.

### **Deacon's Annual Report**

The Rev'd Dr. Jo Glasser

The end of 2009 marked the end of my first full calendar year serving as deacon at Christ Church La Crosse. It was an eventful year, and I am grateful to God for the opportunity to serve his people at Christ Church and in the community of La Crosse. At the service for the Ordination of a Deacon, the bishop summarizes the role and duties of a deacon in the church and the world during the examination of the ordinand. This summary from that service will serve as the basis for this report on my diaconal activities over the past year.

*"You are to interpret to the Church the needs, concerns, and hopes of the world."* Not only does the deacon make the church aware of needs, concerns, and hopes, but she also mobilizes the resources of the church to meet the needs in the world. Some of this work is informal, such as calling individuals and families to help with specific needs of individuals and groups in the community as I become aware of them. I also work to make the congregation aware of the concerns and hopes of the world through communications such as monthly articles in the *Belfry*, meditations, Prayers of the People, and sermons.

*"You are to assist the bishop and priests in public worship and in the ministration of God's Word and Sacraments."* I serve as deacon at the 10:30 AM Sunday Eucharist each week, and also serve at the 8:00 AM Eucharist on festival days and on the last Sunday of each month. I assist with special services, for example, during Advent, Lent, and Holy Week, and with several lay ministries that are involved in the Holy Eucharist: preparing or selecting the Prayers of the People; training and scheduling lay Eucharistic Ministers (chalice ministers) and lay Eucharistic Visitors (ministers of communion to the ill and homebound); and working with the Acolyte Master, Lector Coordinator and Prayers of the People Coordinator to train acolytes, lectors and prayer leaders. I assist when the Sacrament of Holy Baptism is celebrated, and visit parishioners and others in hospitals, nursing homes, and at home to bring communion, anoint, or pray with them, depending on the circumstance. One of the greatest privileges of the deacon is the

opportunity to work with individuals and families who are preparing for reception as members into the church; this may be on an individual basis or in group meetings. In the past year I have met with five families and individuals to prepare them for membership.

With respect to the ministration of God's Word, I preach at Sunday Eucharist approximately six times per year, and participate three or four times a year as leader of the Adult Education lectionary class on Sunday mornings, and assist the Children's Ministry leaders in developing and delivering curriculum for the Sunday School, First Communion class, and special observances, such as the Stations of the Cross on Passion Sunday. In 2009 I coordinated the Lenten mid-week Wednesday evening program. As a deacon in the Diocese of Eau Claire I am a member of the diocesan clergy and attend clergy meetings as often as my schedule allows. There is also a Deacons' Council, convened by Archdeacon Jeanne Stout, that meets approximately quarterly for study and professional development. I am a member of the North American Association of Deacons, which holds an annual conference and disseminates information about matters of concern to the diaconate including continuing education, which is a requirement for all ordained clergy in The Episcopal Church.

Recognizing that the role of the diaconate in The Episcopal Church is often not well understood, I would be happy to talk with anyone in the congregation about our order, our call, our training, or our roles in the church and in the world. Please feel free to call me about any of these questions, or with any other need or question, at 788-9177. You can also contact me via email: [deaconjo@christchurchlacrosse.org](mailto:deaconjo@christchurchlacrosse.org).

### **Senior Warden's Annual Report**

John Pederson

Another year has come and gone at Christ Church. As was my second year as senior warden, I want to thank everyone I worked with for making it a rewarding year. Father Patrick continues to be the leader of our church and does such stellar work as rector and priest. Deacon Jo Glasser works hard, making Christ Church a place of grace. Reverends Tom Winkler, Kathy Charles, and Mary Limbach do much-appreciated work by filling in for Fr. Patrick when he is gone.

Gary Veldey as Junior Warden does such a good job keeping the church property in fine condition. With an old building it is an endless task. Much thought and effort went into the bell tower renovation. Bob Weathers continues to do yeoman work as treasurer with clear, concise reporting, keeping the rector, wardens, and vestry informed on finances so good decisions can be made. Mary Larson continues her excellent work as organist and choirmaster. Kris Geiwitz keeps the office organized.

As I write this report the financial data is not complete, but it looks as if income and expenses were in line with budget and expectations which, in this economic climate, is no small matter. Thank you, all of the congregation, for your generous support.

There were no overwhelming problems during the past year which is a good thing. During my time here there have been no problems which were divisive and could fracture a congregation. For this we can all be grateful. God has blessed us with people who, although not always agreeing on issues, keep sight of the big picture and see the church as God's gift on earth to further Christian mission. Christ Church is a vibrant and alive place. Our many programs in adult and children's education, outreach to the poor and marginalized, and our many other programs continue to be effective and rewarding. Please take the time to read all the attached reports of the various commissions and ministries.

I thank God for all of you and wish you the best in 2010. If you need to talk to me about any problems you perceive please don't hesitate to call on me. We all face

challenges in our lives but we are fortunate to members of a family at Christ Church and as a family we can face some of these challenges together.

### **Junior Warden's Annual Report**

Gary Veldey

Last year, it was reported that contractors and structural engineers had inspected the bell tower and determined that there was significant deterioration of the sandstone columns around the bell. Further evaluation revealed that a breakdown of any of these components could lead to a failure of this part of the tower. Given the age and unique construction of the tower, it is difficult to predict outcomes. A committee comprised of Ed Gansen, Jo Glasser, Sig Gundersen, Peter Hammond, and the Junior Warden met with several contractors to solicit their ideas for the strengthening and restoration of the tower. Based on the nature of the anticipated work, Poellinger Construction was asked to make a proposal. They suggested a three-phase project:

- Phase I            The structural integrity of the bell tower would be enhanced and safe access to the tower provided. The cost would not exceed \$122,000.
  
- Phase II           Steel bracing would be attached to the existing structure, proper drainage put in, and new lighting installed. An estimated cost of \$58,900 was submitted.
  
- Phase III          With the tower stabilized, the replacement of existing sandstone arches, columns and supports would be addressed. Those components not requiring replacement would be restored. There are 28 columns in total. The proposed cost of \$226,500 for this phase envisions the replacement of all columns, although it is believed that a number of them can be salvaged. Those not removed will be “plastered” with a synthetic compound, developed by Cathedral Stone Products of Boston, to match the new columns.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$497,599. The first 2 phases are essentially complete. Phase 3 will not begin until spring. In the process of inspecting the bell tower, it was discovered that the mortar in the chimney and a buttress was in such poor condition that they were becoming unstable. Both have now been tuck-pointed.

Finally, in connection with the restoration of the bell tower, the committee looked at the manner in which it is lighted at night. This led us to an evaluation of the lighting of the nave and apse. Issues here are the inadequacy of the illumination, the inaccessibility of the fixtures, and the expense of lighting these areas with antiquated, oversized bulbs and equipment. If the Vestry decides to proceed with some or all of this work, information will be provided in the Belfry.

Thank you to all of you for helping make the buildings and grounds of Christ Church a beautiful and secure place where we can worship and gather.

### **Acolyte Report**

Tim Donahue

Three new acolytes joined and started serving at the 8:00 AM service. Acolytes develop lasting friendships as more experienced acolytes mentor and help train the newer ones. We always seek and welcome new members, eight years and older, since we lose acolytes each year as graduates move on to college. We recognized the new members at their induction into the Order of St. Vincent January 17th. Our next acolyte orientation

and training session will be in February. Come check us out and see how you can light up your life and our altar through this glorious service to Christ. Tim Donahue 783-7418, [tim\\_lee\\_donahue@hotmail.com](mailto:tim_lee_donahue@hotmail.com)

### **Altar Guild**

Joan Henthorne and Cindy Hood

The Altar Guild of Christ Church supports the clergy and the congregation by keeping the Altar area prepared for Sunday and weekday services. This includes caring for the Vestments, the Altar proper, and the Sacristy and Chapel before and after services. The dedicated membership is divided into teams, and each team takes a week of services each month. This may include extra services such as weddings and funerals beside the Sunday and weekday services. Also, some members do special projects such as planning the floral arrangements for the altars, delivering flowers to the sick and/or shut-ins, laundering the Altar linens and the Eucharistic linens, preparing for special services, taking care of candles, repairing vestments and linens, and ordering new supplies as needed. Extra thanks are extended to the women who have spent more than the usual time to repair some of our older vestments and linens. Twice yearly clean-ups are scheduled before Christmas and Easter to give special attention to the polishing of the silver and brass. This task is always accomplished with the help of not only Altar Guild members but also other parishioners who give graciously of their time to assist with this labor of love. Their generous giving of time makes the work of the Altar Guild lighter. For the past couple of years members of the Altar Guild have assisted in instructing the children and adults in the Communion Class. We, Cindy and Joan, are delighted to be a part of this. We extend our sincere gratitude to Altar Guild members and involved parishioners for their loyal service. If any parishioner is looking for a quiet and personally meaningful way to serve our Lord, please talk with Father Patrick or any Altar Guild member.

### **Altar Flower Fund**

Jeanie Kilbey

Altar flowers can express many things. First, they are an offering of love and worship of Almighty God. Second, they afford an opportunity to remember a loved one or a special occasion. Third, they are a thoughtful and cheery gift, when taken to sick and shut-in members of the parish. Special thanks to Sandy Kapellas, Mary Veldey, and Laura Chariton and those who volunteered to take plants and flowers to these members during the year.

During the past year, flowers were placed at the High Altar every Sunday except during Advent and Lent. Greens and heather were used during Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. During Lent, a period of self-denial and penitence, the Altars remained bare. On many Sundays there were also flowers at St. Paul's Altar.

Thanks to everyone who has helped make our church beautiful by contributing financially to the Flower Fund, and/or by contributing lovingly in many other ways. Grateful acknowledgement is given for the kind bequests from the Eastons, Gunds, Olbergs, and the Hood family which have helped support the Flower Fund for many years.

### **Christian Education**

#### **Adult Christian Education**

Jim Glasser

During 2009 regular weekly Adult Christian Education continued to meet on Sunday mornings at 9:15, between the worship services. The format has been and

continues to be the same as for the past four years: study of the lectionary readings of the day, including the Old and New Testament readings, the Psalm, and the Gospel. The intent of our study is to learn about the texts themselves, and what they are saying to their original readers and to us. The class was taught this year principally by Randy Condit and Jim Glasser, with occasional assistance by Mother Kathy Charles and Deacon Jo Glasser.

Attendance on Sunday mornings averages about nine. At times we feel that we are tapping into a long-standing tradition on the part of adult Episcopalians of non-involvement in Sunday School and education – a tradition we are trying hard to change. Those who have attended say that they have profited and been blessed. You can join them.

If you have questions about the program or suggestions for its improvement, please contact Randy Condit or Jim Glasser.

### **Children's Ministry**

Linda Weaver, Lisa Sauer, Sanna Yoder

**Sunday School:** The Lord continues to bless the children as they learn more and more about Him through our curriculum but even more importantly through the teachers, parents and parishioners who give their time, money and energy to reach the children with the saving grace, mercy and love of our Lord Jesus Christ. In 2009 we had more new families and continue to maintain about 15 children every week. In the spring Father Patrick generously allowed the Children's Ministry to present a Sunday School lesson on Our Greatest Treasure (AKA the Bible) during the worship service. I think the highlight of 2009 for me as teacher, parent and coordinator was service of the Stations of the Cross for children held on Palm Sunday. It was truly blessed with the presence of the Holy Spirit. The support of the parishioners in covering the cost of the color printed *Stations of the Cross for Children* booklets was overwhelming. Even in tough economic times our priorities remain focused on reaching our children with Jesus. In 2009 we received 2 generous donations that put 24 Children's Bibles in the pews and 5 more in the classrooms. The Bibles have fun covers and great color pictures but they are not just for children. I encourage everyone to open one up and dig into God's word. Thank you for your continued prayers and support. God's provision of support for the Children's Ministry program is a true sign of the love our church family has for one another.

**Junior High Sunday Class:** This is our second year of having a Junior High Sunday morning class. The numbers are small but consistent and the teachers are wonderful in making the curriculum come alive, engaging the children in conversation and making Christ real in their lives.

**Worship Connection:** We are starting small and hope to continue to slowly grow this ministry that encourages children and their parents to contribute to and participate in the worship service. We had an enthusiastic response to the children's bulletins and also to the Children's message during occasional worship services. It was wonderful to receive the bulletin from children, to watch them assist in collecting the offering and greet us as we entered church.

**Kids Connection to Christmas:** December 20<sup>th</sup> marked the fourth annual children's Christmas event at Christ Church. Lee Donahue, Gail Vaughn, and the children worked hard and were rewarded with a wonderful reenactment of the birth of Christ. The High School teens who volunteered to sing worked hard and donated precious time to prepare.

It truly made the meaning of Christmas clear. The event was well attended and helped all of us prepare for the true meaning of the Christmas Season.

**Christmas Eve Children's Service:** This was a beautiful service focusing on contributions by the children and text centered on the Christmas story as told in the style of the Godly Play curriculum. The church was wonderfully full that night with many new families from both in town and out of town. Many families described the experience as "awe-inspiring," with both visiting and member families excited about our church, and our inclusion of children.

The Children's Ministry appreciates your support, encouragement and prayers. We have a wonderful team of co – leaders, teachers, and parents. The children are opening the Bible and learning about the saving grace of our Lord and Savior. Thank you and please keep us in your prayers.

### **Church Women United**

Susan Miller

Participation by Christ Church in Church Women United for 2009 included the Four Celebrations: World Day of Prayer, May Friendship Day, World Community Day, and Human Rights Celebration and Tea with gifts for New Horizons. These celebrations are also scheduled for 2010, with the World Day of Prayer to be held here at Christ Church March 5, Friday, 9:30am to about noon. New officers were installed Jan. 8, 2010.

### **Cursillo Reunion Groups**

Nick Charles

The Men's Cursillo Group Reunion continues to meet regularly on Wednesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at Fayze's. The Holy Spirit guides, strengthens, and refreshes our lives, our minds, and our souls as we meditate upon and study God's Word. Each week the group shares with one another opportunities that have arisen for us to practice the presence of God in our lives and how we may have helped others to also come to cultivate or discover God's presence at work. We invite anyone of all faiths, whether having attended Cursillo or not, to join us. So come- see, how your life and others lives can be enriched as each of us have come to know the Lord more and more in prayer and in worship, in witness, and in service.

### **Healing Hands**

Marsha Blank

"We believe in the power of prayer... We believe in the faithful teaching of scripture.. We believe that when two or more are gathered He is with us." We meet in faith the first Monday of every month following evening prayer believing Jesus is our healer. As we gather, Father Patrick offers a reading from Sacred Scripture giving us proof of God's word regarding His gift of healing to His faithful. Then we are encouraged to meditate on His word and for a brief time we discuss what we have learned. We maintain a deep reverence to our Lord as we listen and learn and it's at that time we come to the altar kneeling, opening our hearts to our Savior. In silence or as we desire to speak we petition Jesus and the Holy of Holies to come to us. We ask in faith and from our hearts for the healing hands of Jesus to touch us, our families, our community and all those who have entrusted their prayers to us. Those sharing this time place "their healing hands" on each other as we ask God to hear our prayers. Everyone has their turn, and when we all have come to Our Lord we conclude with His prayer...

*Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever And in faith and believing we all say. Amen.*

### **Lectors**

Rick Walters

#### **Transition in leadership:**

Phyllis Haden retired as coordinator of the lector ministry this past fall after more than 15 years of service. Rick Walters is the new coordinator.

#### **Total number of Lectors: 48**

14 for the 8:00 service; 34 for the 10:30 service. We added five new lectors during ministry Sunday this year.

#### **Activities:**

An orientation for new lectors was held January 3 following the church service. Three of the five new lectors attended. Several experienced lectors also attended. The workshop was an opportunity for lectors to practice reading and gain comfort with the rhythm of how readings fold into the worship service.

### **Mobile Meals**

John and Cathy Pederson

Mobile Meals is a local not-for-profit organization, about 30 years old, whose purpose is to supply healthy, inexpensive meals to people unable to shop and/or prepare food. The organization works through local churches, local service organizations, and individuals to deliver those meals, whether a hot noon meal or a cold supper. No funds are received through any government organization and it depends entirely on the United Way and on individuals for support. Recipients of meals are charged only for what the ingredients in the meal cost. Christ Church is one of the organizations involved in the delivery of meals and volunteers from our church deliver meals on a rotational basis one week out of every four. We share our route with three other churches.

Our participation depends upon volunteers from Christ Church and a few non-parishioners. By our rough estimate we deliver in excess of 1,000 meals during the year. Our thanks go to our volunteers, who are: Fr. Patrick Augustine, Vivian Andresen, Mike Conway, Theresa Gaines, Ed and Nancy Gansen, Jim Glasser, Shari Godbold, Betsy Goodnough, Sandy Kapellas, Charles and Susan Miller, Cathy Murak, John and Cathy Pederson, Bob and Nancy Schmid, Jim and Linda Sherwood, George and Cindy Waltershausen, and Ed Wood.

Winter leaves us short, so if you are willing to help only in the winter, please let Cathy or John know. People who could help year round are, of course, always needed. The time commitment is about one hour during the week Christ Church is responsible for.

### **Music Program**

Mary Larson, Organist/Choirmaster

2009 was a great year for growing the choir. We increased in not only membership, but in choral repertoire. (If all members were able to be present each Sunday we would be 21 strong) The choir is an extremely dedicated group of individuals who lead us in worship and give wings to song.

## Highlights of 2009

- ◆ Quintessence - a quintet featuring Jon Cowan made its Christ Church debut at our 10:30 liturgy
- ◆ The Coulee Region Gospel Choir performed an afternoon concert
- ◆ Hope Cowan presented an afternoon harp recital
- ◆ Choral evensong was held on the first Sunday of Advent
- ◆ Dean Whiteway, organist, and the La Crosse Chamber Chorale once again performed their annual community Advent Hymn Sing
- ◆ Christ Church band accompanied hymns for a Sunday liturgy
- ◆ Sunday school children under the direction of Gail Vaughn provided offertory music for the 10:30 on three Sundays
- ◆ Rachel Bottner, the Cowan family (Karen, Jon, Hope, and Joe, Apryl Denny, Chris Frye, the Hindson family (Jean, Harry, Ellen, and Abigail), Lauren and Kelly Huffman, Bill Ratekin, and Shannon Roberts shared their instrumental talents with us throughout the year.

I am truly blessed to have Lynn Feuerhelm take over my choir and organ duties in my absence. Charlotte Grant graciously continues her ministry of music as pianist for the 8:00 liturgy. And we are grateful to Chris Frye who donates his services as piano tuner to keep our sanctuary piano in good shape. Gail Vaughn leads our Sunday School children in song and encourages young soloists in their endeavors.

### **Nursery Ministry**

Ingri Lombardi

The nursery program enjoyed a successful transition in the fall, with two new attendants, Erika Lockhart and Zarah Augustine. We continue with our dedicated group of volunteers, staffing both the 8:00 and 10:30 Eucharists. While attendance is not large, it continues to offer parents the opportunity to attend church while their young ones are cared for.

### **Office Volunteers**

Kris Geiwitz

I have several faithful volunteers to assist me in the office: Vivian Andresen, Barbara Conway, Nancy Gansen, Susan Miller, Cathy Pederson, Bob and Nancy Schmid, George and Cindy Waltershausen. I also have a dedicated team of volunteers to mail the monthly newsletter, The Belfry: Ed and Nancy Gansen, Mike Kilbey, John and Cathy Pederson, and Marian Thomson. Jim Glasser has been an invaluable help as my editor-in-chief of the Sunday bulletins and the monthly newsletters. Thank you to all those who volunteer and make my job easier.

### **Sunday Potluck Buffet Luncheon**

Lee Donahue

This continues the first Sunday of most months. We promote understanding and awareness of each others holiday, ethnic, traditional and cultural foods and desserts. Bring a dish to share and explore fellowship beyond the pew. Contact Lee Donahue for more details, 783-7418.

### **Thursday Morning Bible Study**

Jake Delwiche

Every Thursday a group of members and friends meets to read and discuss scripture. The emphasis is on discussion based on the content of the book, chapter by

chapter, and increasing our understanding of how it relates to our daily lives. Sessions are led by Shari Godbold, Father Patrick and others.

We meet in the Undercroft at 11:00 a.m. after the 10:00 Thursday Eucharist Service, and continue until 12:00 noon, when we begin serving the Thursday Community Lunch. Both members and guests are welcome to attend.

### **Thursday Community Lunch**

Jake Delwiche

Since 2005, we have had a Community Lunch program, with meals served each Thursday at noon at the Church. We meet in our wonderful new Undercroft Fellowship Hall. We met 47 times in 2009.

Meals are prepared by volunteers and usually include a hot dish (soups, chili, and casseroles), sandwiches, a salad and often a dessert. There's always a plate of Wisconsin cheese. Coffee, milk and juice are available. No payment is required for the meal, though some participants donate cash, food products or desserts. Volunteers help with the cleanup afterward.

The meal begins with a thanksgiving prayer and there are always many lively discussions going on simultaneously throughout the meal. Other than meeting friends and new visitors and enjoying a meal together, there is no agenda. The program was created with the idea that community meals build parish fellowship. They are a way for us to reach out and build relationships both within our membership and with the larger community.

A newsletter – “Lunchtime Gazette” – is produced for each Thursday meal and distributed to diners. We currently are on issue number 188. Food is available promptly at noon and participants are urged to stay as long as their schedule permits. We encourage you to visit us some Thursday noon soon. For additional information, contact Jake Delwiche or Father Patrick.

### **Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Group**

Charles Miller

Men of the parish meet on the first and third Tuesdays of each month in the Chapel of the Blessed Sacrament at 7:30 am. A service of Morning Prayer is conducted after which the group adjourns to a local restaurant for fellowship breakfast. While many of the men are retired parishioners, it is an ecumenical group that is looking for new members of all ages. We often welcome community leaders to speak on topics of common interest. We welcome you to join this friendly group for prayer and fellowship.

### **Weddings**

Barbara Conway

There was one wedding during 2009, that of Gibran and Sana Augustine.

### **Women at the Well**

Karen Condit

Women at the Well began their 4th year of gathering this September. We have seen God speak to us through one another, through our own personal meditation times, and through our *lectio divina* practice on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month. We are excited that three new women have joined us this year! We welcome Joyce Sanders, Karen Cowan and Jane Hay. They join those of us who have shared in this community for several years: Karen Condit, Shari Godbold, Barbara Newcomer, Barbara Conway, Mindy McConnell, Cindy Waltershausen, Jean Hindson and Kathleen Doescher. I am grateful for all the women that have shared in drinking of the living water over the last four years. They have all left a footprint of Jesus by coming to the well.

This year we are being more intentional about prayer and are taking time to share

our stories of how we have journeyed in faith, beginning with our childhood to the present. Shari created questions for us to reflect on about our childhood, young adulthood, middle years, and for several of us, the later years. Each week we focus on a time period and share how God worked to bring us to Him. By reflecting, we see how God is intimately involved in bringing us to Him and how this relationship takes shape over time, always testifying to a God that is passionately interested in us. Hearing one another's stories encourages us to keep growing in faith, for God has an intense desire for us to be in relationship with him.

We meet and see Jesus in the eyes of one another. We feel His love in the hearts of one another. But most of all, we hear Jesus speak to us personally in the stillness of the time we spend in His Word to us.

"Be still, and know that I am God." Psalm 46:10. Thanks be to God!

### **Youth Ministry**

Christopher Frye

The Christ Church Youth Group is involved in a variety of educational, service, and fellowship activities for parishioners age 13-18.

### **Curriculum**

Most of our discussions focus on the J2A curriculum with the Holy Bible but we also spend time studying discussing the Book of Common Prayer, lectionary readings, current issues, family affairs, and a variety of other topics.

### **Fellowship and Service Activities**

The youth fellowship activities included attending community events, watching movies, preparing the Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner and canoeing. The youth group also volunteers at WAFER food pantry and has helped with the annual spring "May Basket" project by making and selling May Baskets to benefit the "Crossroads Campus Ministry."

### **Adult Involvement**

The Christ Church youth ministry would not be possible without the involvement of many parents and adults. We have had good adult support in the past from a wide spectrum of parishioners but are always looking for adults interested in being involved.

### **Youth Involvement**

We are blessed by the dedication, interest and sincere Christian faith shown by the youth of Christ Church parish. Our youth are articulate, mature and energetic young Christians and represent Jesus' teachings in their values and actions.

### **Future Plans**

The youth group is planning joint activities with other youth groups, such as St. John's of Sparta including outdoor activities, a bowling fundraiser, a Youth Eucharist, and summer plans for Camp Horstick (7/5/10-7/10/10).

If you are interested in what we are doing please let us know and we can put you on our email list to keep you updated. We invite you to join us.

### **Treasurer's Report For 2009**

Bob Weathers

From a financial perspective, 2009 was a highly successful year for the parish thanks to three watershed events.

- \$100,000 was donated by Ted Solie to celebrate the lifelong ministry of his wife, Catherine, to Christ Church. Besides recognizing Catherine's years of faithful service on the Altar Guild, Ted's gift is a thanksgiving for the many blessings received in a lifetime.
- An unrestricted bequest of \$1,492,000 was received from the Estate of Mary Jane Skaff. Per standing vestry policy, this bequest was added to the Endowment Fund where the income

will be used to support parish ministry. Ms Skaff's gift is a testament to her faith and devotion.

- As you recall, the undercroft was renovated four years ago at a cost of \$1.5 million dollars. Through early 2009, \$1.13 million dollars had been raised; the other \$370,000 had been borrowed. Last spring the vestry opted to repay this loan by withdrawing principal from the Endowment Fund. This action means the parish is now debt-free.

Equally positive results were achieved in the Parish Ministry Budget despite the economic recession. Your offerings, coupled with the careful stewardship of the vestry, resulted in a \$2,537 surplus on Ministry Program Disbursements of \$290,834. Not only was our internal ministry sustained, we also sent \$65,000 beyond the parish as diocesan apportionment and outreach.

Much needed capital repairs will continue in 2010 with work being done on the bell tower and chimney at a cost of \$400,000. Funding will come from the Skaff bequest. Interior and exterior lighting will also be updated.

It is interesting to note that, over the last 5 years, \$2 million dollars in capital repairs will have been completed. At the same time, fund balances have grown from \$1.2 to \$1.9 million dollars.

To date, 97 pledges totaling \$250,500 have been returned toward our \$268,200 goal for 2010. By contrast, 109 pledges totaling \$260,400 were returned for 2009.

The vestry plan for 2010 is a cautious one. Budgeted receipts are estimated only slightly above what was actually received in 2009 while budgeted disbursements are little changed from 2009. In the spring, the vestry will re-evaluate the 2010 budget and take actions as warranted.

If you have any questions concerning the financial status of the parish, please do not hesitate to contact me ... and remember it's not too late to return a pledge card. Most importantly, thanks for your continued support of the ministry of Christ Church!

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**Comparative Operating Statement And Change In Fund Balances**  
 Summary Of Parish Ministry Program Receipts And Disbursements

	For the Year Ended December 31 <sup>st</sup>				
	2010 <u>Budget</u>	2009 <u>Actual</u>	2009 <u>Budget</u>	2008 <u>Actual</u>	2007 <u>Actual</u>
<b><u>PARISH MINISTRY RECEIPTS</u></b>					
Pledge	173,700	186,845	170,300	179,513	182,434
Prepaid Transfer	67,600	52,000	52,000	62,400	58,800
Plate	25,000	26,957	26,800	35,697	26,832
Prior Year Pledge Payments	2,000	1,607	8,000	8,896	3,122
Investment Income	27,900	23,778	17,000	16,862	22,300
Donations for Use of the Building	2,000	2,184	2,000	2,135	2,264
<b>TOTAL PARISH MINISTRY RECEIPTS</b>	<b><u>298,200</u></b>	<b><u>293,371</u></b>	<b><u>276,100</u></b>	<b><u>305,503</u></b>	<b><u>295,752</u></b>
<b><u>PARISH MINISTRY DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>					
Personnel	151,000	145,446	148,600	139,118	134,629
For the Work of the Diocese	30,600	43,600	43,600	62,200	60,200
Utilities	29,700	22,534	29,700	26,733	24,065
Maintenance and Repairs	25,900	23,488	25,900	23,371	27,824
Music	17,300	17,857	17,100	16,171	16,580
Insurance	19,300	13,890	16,700	15,434	15,252
Office Expense	15,200	15,596	14,500	14,698	16,663
Worship Support	7,400	6,272	7,200	5,437	5,668
Christian Education	1,800	2,151	1,800	1,647	1,764
<b>TOTAL PARISH MINISTRY DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b><u>298,200</u></b>	<b><u>290,834</u></b>	<b><u>305,100</u></b>	<b><u>304,809</u></b>	<b><u>302,645</u></b>
<b>YEAR TO DATE SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>2,537</b>	<b>(29,000)</b>	<b>694</b>	<b>(6,893)</b>

	<u>Dec 31, '09</u>	<u>Cash Rcpts</u>	<u>Cash Dsbmts</u>	<u>Gains, Losses, &amp; Transfers</u>	<u>Dec 31, '08</u>
<b><u>MARKET VALUE OF NON-FIXED ASSETS</u></b>					
Trust Point Inc					
Book Value					
Opening Balance/Additions/Disbursements	1,745,355	1,264,367	-	91,328	389,660
Net Interest And Dividends	19,109	23,732	(4,623)	-	-
Net Realized Capital Gains (Losses)	152,283	10,764	-	(91,328)	232,847
Total Book Value	1,916,747	1,298,863	(4,623)	-	622,507
Unrealized Capital Gains (Losses)	(507,554)	-	-	(392,099)	(115,455)
Total Trust Point Inc At Market	1,409,193	1,298,863	(4,623)	(392,099)	507,052
Checking And Savings	486,779	784,539	(412,148)	-	114,388
<b>TOTAL MV OF NON-FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b><u>1,895,972</u></b>	<b><u>2,083,402</u></b>	<b><u>(416,771)</u></b>	<b><u>(392,099)</u></b>	<b><u>621,440</u></b>

	<u>Dec 31, '09</u>	<u>Cash Rcpts</u>	<u>Cash Dsbmts</u>	<u>Gains, Losses, &amp; Transfers</u>	<u>Dec 31, '08</u>
<b><u>FUND BALANCES</u></b>					
Undercroft Renovation Loan	-	3,565	-	367,064	(370,629)
Endowment Fund	1,509,069	1,588,750	(3,551)	(844,862)	768,732
Funds Held For Others	115,134	103,562	(3,462)	-	15,034
Clergy Support	3,689	622	(1,244)	-	4,311
Outreach Fund	39,007	13,142	(21,830)	-	47,695
Designated Gifts Fund	5,793	3,991	(1,918)	-	3,720
Memorial Fund	30,191	20,891	-	(2,395)	11,695
Property Fund	99,832	35,917	(93,932)	88,094	69,753
Prepaid Pledges	67,600	-	-	19,592	48,008
Operating Fund	25,657	312,962	(290,834)	(19,592)	23,121
<b>TOTAL FUND BALANCES</b>	<b><u>1,895,972</u></b>	<b><u>2,083,402</u></b>	<b><u>(416,771)</u></b>	<b><u>(392,099)</u></b>	<b><u>621,440</u></b>

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Bob Weathers  
 December 31, 2009