

CHRONICLES

August 2007

The mission of Christ Church is to be a diverse, inclusive community which, through its lively worship of Jesus Christ and witness in His name, serves the Christ in all persons and stands as a beacon of hope in the heart of Detroit.

Christ Church Detroit

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Hours

Monday-Friday: 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

Saturday Mornings by Appointment

Sunday: 7:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Holy Eucharist

Sunday 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Interim Rector

The Rev. Carol Cole Flanagan

Assistant to the Rector for Christian Education

The Rev. Geoffrey Piper

Assisting

The Rev. Rollin Norris

The Rev. Canon William Logan

Deacon

The Rev. Joyce Treppa

Assistant to the Rector for Music Ministry

Mr. Jeffrey Walker

Business Administrator

Mrs. Joanne M. Case

Administrative Assistant

The Rev. Cn Saundra Richardson

Sextons

Mr. Alvin Clark

Mr. Keith Lucas

Construction Report

By David M. Coleman
Architectural/Construction Chair
16 July, 2007

Dear Christ Church Parishioners:

This month we have much to report in terms of progress, and will mostly let some pictures do the talking!

The only significant negative 'surprise' was the discovery of hidden asbestos in the floor tiles and mastic as they were being demolished by the contractors. Per law, the state was notified, a special license pulled, and after the mandatory 10 day wait these materials were quickly abated using EPA protocol. Monies for such 'surprises' come from the 10% contingency built into the project budget.

The final Occupancy Permit for Sibley House has been issued and all of the construction permits for the balance of the project (except certain HVAC details) have been issued. Most of the construction materials are either on-order, or will be ordered shortly, to strive to keep the project on time.



"We're growing!" This also assures folks that we're not demolishing anything or going out of business!!



"Excavation for footings for new structure to connect the Cary Building and the Church.

(Article continues on p. 8)

News of the People

Sure to be inspiring is the new book authored by our **Dr. Oliver S. Coleman**. Entitled *Perseverance: A Conversation Between Father and Daughter*, it will be published this month. His story evolved from a challenge to document his life experiences. Traced back through several generations, it is a legacy passed from father to daughter of overcoming obstacles. Examining the multifaceted details, we learn how Oliver became a doctoral degree holder, high school principal, superintendent of schools, and college administrator; while daughter, **The Rev. Karen Coleman** is ordained and becomes one of the first black Episcopalian priests in an all-white congregation. Website for the book: www.perseveranceosc.com

The Logan girls (seems like they were in Sunday School only a couple of years ago) have brought great pride to parents Mary and Bill. **Dr. Margaret Logan Detty** is now a tenured Assistant Professor of Chemistry at the State University of New York at Brockport, NY. **Molly Logan Foard's** twin boys have graduated: **Colin** from Union College *Summa cum laude* and **Alexander** from the University of Rochester *Magna cum laude*. We roundly applaud the whole family!

Our lovely parishioner, **Maribodine B. Robinson** has sent the *Chronicles* a note asking us to "Thank all of the Christ Church family for your prayers, greetings, and cards I received on my recent birthday (April 20th.) Each one was appreciated. Thank you so much." From all of us, Maribodine, "May God grant you many years."

We extend sympathy to our devoted chorister **Dorothy Howett** and her son **Chris**. On June 29th, Dorothy's sister **Elsa Zeisel** passed away. Elsa and another sister **Ruthe** lived together in New York City. Preceding Elsa, their fourth sister **Leonora** died earlier. At this time of sadness, we offer Dorothy and Chris our love and prayers.



"Girls Night Out": From the *Free Press* Style Section - The group shown here meets each month at restaurants to celebrate friendships. **Letha Ann Steward** is 4th from the right in the back row. This night the ladies discussed their travel adventures at the Whitney. (Any openings for membership, Letha Ann?)

Although claiming it not to be 'especially pastoral', on July 4th Interim Rector **Carol Cole-Flanagan** seized the opportunity to 'dunk' **David Coleman** in a DYC fund-raiser for youth swimming and sailing programs. With astonishing power and accuracy she was successful on her first toss, much to Coleman's chagrin. We now admire, not only her fine leadership, but her accurate aim as well!

Parish Offices

The parish offices have moved to Sibley House, just east of the church. The entrance is on Jefferson Avenue. There is a ramp entrance past the front door on the east side of the house.



CHRONICLES

The official monthly publication of Christ Church

The deadline for the September issue is:

August 2, 2007

Chronicles printed courtesy of Budco Corp

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Church “SERVICE AND PICNIC AT THE PARK”

The Christ Church Annual Sunday Service and Picnic in the Park is going to be held on Sunday, August 26, 2007 at 10 a.m., with the service to begin at 10:30 a.m. It will be held at the Grosse Pointe Woods Lakefront Park.

Following the Eucharistic Service, a Pot Luck luncheon will follow. Everyone is asked to bring a side dish or dessert and one's own beverage and lawn chair. Hamburgers and Hot Dogs will be provided by the church.



IMPORTANT: A guest list needs to be provided for admittance at the gate of the park. Please call the church office with your “reservation” so the list may be compiled. It would be most helpful if you could please call by Wednesday, August 22nd.

There are wonderful swimming opportunities including two for very young children, tennis courts, indoor basketball and racquetball courts, and a 1.25 mile walking path.

DIRECTIONS: The entrance to the park is accessed from the eastbound lanes of Jefferson (Lakeshore Drive.) It is located between Vernier and Nine Mile Road, almost immediately west of Marter Road. (There is a small Kroger/RiteAid shopping plaza on Marter and Jefferson.)

From the Kids

“The Yellowjackets” of Detroit Country Day took a Second Division 3 state title in boys track. **Chris Jackson** and his teammates ran by the slogan “Harambee,” Swahili for “Let’s all pull together.” It worked! Congratulations, team.

Congratulations to **Steven Esse** and proud parents and grandparents **Steve & Tina** and **Richard & Joyce Esse**. Steven has been nominated to the National Young Leaders Conference in Washington D.C. Hand picked by his teacher, the purpose of the Conference is to distinguish exceptional students for their scholastic merit and leadership ability and to provide them with the opportunity to witness history in the making, to meet leaders affecting the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the federal government, and to bring to life the Constitutional process.

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Brides, Dogs and Chancels

by The Reverend Carol Cole Flanagan

There is an old story told of a newly married couple. She is fixing her first roast for dinner and her new husband is keeping her company and watching. She unwraps the roast, cuts off an end, throws it away, seasons the roast, puts it in the roasting pan and then into the oven.

Her husband is perplexed and asks her why she cut off what looked like a perfectly good piece of meat and discarded it. After a moment's pause she said her mother had always prepared it that way and she didn't know why, but they could ask her mother that coming weekend.

The weekend came and they stopped to see her parents. The young husband described his bride's preparation of the roast and asked the mother why she cut the end off of the roast and threw it away. The mother said her mother had always done it that way and she had never thought to ask why she did it.

"Granny is in the living room," she said, "Why don't you go and ask her." He did.

"Oh," said Granny, "I just did that because my pan was too small for the roast."

One of the things that I like about that story is that it reminds me of the church. We have various practices, ornaments or ceremonial that had a very clear purpose at the time they originated but the purpose is sometimes lost in antiquity. In some cases we have covered it with layers of assumptions or pietistic associations and then find ourselves being startled or amused when the origins suddenly surface.

Not long ago someone was speaking with me about the communion rail and I mentioned that it originated to keep the dogs away from the altar. A number of people were intrigued, amused or both, and asked me to write about it in these pages. It led to conversations on other things like verges and vergers, standing and kneeling, pews and *sanctus* bells, so perhaps I will write about those another time. It may help to keep our sense of humor in good repair!

Frans Jozef van Beeck, S.J., senior professor of theology at Loyola Chicago writes that dogs have frequented public places since Roman times. They were a familiar sight in Roman basilicas, the law courts, "and still frequented eighteenth-century churches before pews were adopted to keep the people in their place. (Dogs must have disappeared from churches soon after; they know the difference between kennels that imprison you and friendly, public places where people and dogs expect to see others--and to be seen.) says van Beeck."

In ancient times, when the church outgrew the homes in which it first met, the Roman basilica was the formal model on which it developed. At the far end of the basilica there was an elevated area called the bema. van Beeck describes it as "the area for serious business: lobbying, currying favors, conspiring, stitching coalitions together, and trading commodities. There were no seats at all. Standing meant interacting with others and the freedom to walk around and not be locked into one place. Since the judges held court there, no dogs were allowed. van Beeck says, "To contain them they put up wooden latticework fences (*cancelli*), low brick walls, or even metal grating to separate the court personnel from the crowd and from the dogs that love crowds--an essential requirement for serious business, since dogs are shameless about doing their business in public. A minor official, the *cancellarius*, or fence keeper, was stationed at the place of entry. He kept out strangers and dogs. Now we know what happens when officialdom enters the picture: ...the fence keeper became the 'chancellor.'" (to p. 5)

“This is a brief history of the "chancel" in Anglican churches and the communion rail that marks off the sanctuary. Originally designed to keep out dogs and strangers, *cancelli* came to be used to keep out "the people."

“While we had dogs in our churches,” writes van Beeck, “one thing was clear: the whole church was the sanctuary. It was the common property of God's people. And people were proud of it. The church embraced the world; so did church buildings. Churches were public places and dogs abounded. They were only kept away from the area where we were being serious in church. An unsatisfactory situation. Seriously. So we got serious about church buildings.”

For example, Colin Price, an Englishman, writes of a village church, “Tadlow had been singled out by Archbishop Laud on Christmas Day 1638 for not having communion rails: because of which a dog snatched the communion Bread from the Table. He was executed in 1645: the Archbishop, that is, the dog got off scot-free!”

“People were no longer welcome, except to “attend” religious services, and the chancel was no longer needed. So it was canonized: it became the communion rail--an object of devotion, and much later on, of discord between the kneelers and the standers at the banquet of unity. Dogs, of course, were gone; their place had been taken by the laity, and the sanctuary was a restricted area, reserved to the ordained.”

Centuries from now when historians look back on the church of today its hallmarks will be the ecumenical movement and the liturgical renewal movement, and their mutually prophetic relationship. The work of Vatican II has had an enormous impact on all sorts and conditions of Christians. New churches are increasingly being built without communion rails. New York churches have encouraged those who walk to church to bring their dogs, and attendance has steadily improved especially among older members.

At its heart, many of the changes of the past century and the current one are not departures from tradition but the recovery of an earlier tradition and of a baptismal theology nearly obscured by the digression of the Middle Ages and the centuries immediately following.

Like the bride and her roast, we have various practices whose origins once made sense, and today bring smiles to our faces. Enjoy!

Frans Jozef van Beeck, God's Best Friend - communion rail as symbolic representation of church divisions with thanks to the Commonweal Foundation and the Gale Group, copyright 2001.

Our Church Symbol



Have you ever wondered how and why our church symbol, ‘a crown above crosses’ came to be? Well, our Interim Rector, Canon Flanagan did. She did not let the thought just – go away. She asked questions and found the answer.

Appropriately enough, she, too, is somewhat the result of the same source: Shortly after The Rev. Ervin Brown came to Christ Church, he decided that Christ Church needed a “logo” that would be fitting for us. He designed our Cross and Crown, Christ the King symbol and called it *Christus Victor*, symbolizing resurrection over death, the triumph of his life.

Later, he presented a woman to the vestry who felt the call to ministry but was not able to be sponsored by her own parish. (Many dioceses would not approve the ordination of women at that time but our Michigan diocese did.) The Rev. Brown brought her plight to our vestry. We sponsored her, and the ultimate final result – we are blessed with having a loving and committed interim rector!

PARISH QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS BEING TABULATED AND ANALYZED

Upcoming Chronicles Will Share Findings With Congregation



Recently, the Rector Search Committee asked all active parishioners, along with those less active members of the parish living in the Detroit metropolitan area, to complete a Parish Questionnaire. The Search Committee plans to use the questionnaire results to explain the Parish to potential candidates and to determine what characteristics best suit the congregation. For example, if parishioners indicated that good preaching was highly important to them, then the Search Committee will consider preaching as an important characteristic for any candidate considered.

The Questionnaire came in two separate sections: 1) a series of questions concerning parish life and Rector responsibilities, and 2) a demographic survey. To protect the confidentiality of the responders, each section of the questionnaire is being tabulated separately.

The Search Committee was very pleased and grateful for the response to the questionnaire and wishes to thank everyone who took the time to complete and return it.

A total of 117 individuals filled out the question section of the questionnaire and 122 people filled out the demographic section. It is not clear why there were several fewer question sections turned in, but possibly some married couples filled out the question section together and the demographic sections separately.

Of the 122 people who filled out the demographic section of the questionnaire, 76 were female, 44 were male and two gave no gender. From an age perspective, the following distribution was discovered: 3 less than 20, 2 between 20 and 30, 4 between 30 and 40, 15 between 40 and 50, 27 between 50 and 60, 23 between 60 and 70, 26 between 70 and 80, 14 between 80 and 90 and 1 person 90 and older. While this age distribution may reflect the demographics of the congregation, clearly the age distribution of the questionnaire results are tilted toward the more experienced and seasoned members of the congregation! The Search Committee will keep this in mind as it interprets the results. Racially, 97 individuals identified themselves as "white," 20 as "black," two as "other" and 3 gave no response. From a relationship perspective, 83 individuals indicated they were currently married or in a committed relationship and 39 were single. From an education viewpoint, 89 individuals had at least a four year college degree and 72 had at least some graduate school time. This clearly shows a very educated group of people.

While tabulation of the results is nearly complete, interpretation of the results has only just begun. For example, 45 people indicated that "sharing the good news of the Gospel with the unchurched" needed more emphasis. While this is a minority of the people who answered this question, it is a large minority and more thought needs to be given to what this kind of response means. In addition, inter-relationships between questions need to be considered. For example, a high percentage of people thought that "members are well informed about what the various committees and groups in the congregation are doing," but a much lower number felt that "disagreements and conflicts are dealt with openly rather than hushed up or hidden behind closed doors." What this combination of responses means again must be considered carefully.

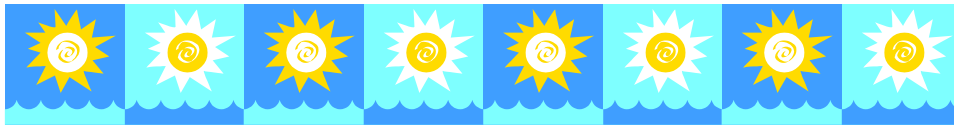
(continues on p. 7)



From Deacon Joyce – Attention All Golfers

As part of my ministry to the community, I serve as a board member of Project Compassion Ministries. Project Compassion Ministries Incorporated is a 501 (c) (3) not for profit organization dedicated to enriching the quality of life for nursing home residents through chaplains, Love Bus outings, and other programs.

This September I will be involved in the 2nd annual Livonia Woods Nursing Home golf benefit to raise funds to build a chapel for the residents for worship and to have quiet moments. The golf outing will be held on Sunday, September 23, at the Fox Creek Golf Course in Livonia starting at 1:30 p.m. Dinner is included in the round of golf. Please join us that day as either a golfer or as an event sponsor. Please see me for more information or call Livonia Woods Nursing Home @ 734-421-6564.



Questionnaire (continued)

It will take a number of weeks to interpret the questionnaire results and prepare summaries of these interpretations for the congregation. Therefore, over the next few months, the Chronicles will devote a section to sharing the questionnaire results. In addition, if you wish to receive a copy of the raw tabulated scores for the questionnaire, please place your request with any member of the Search Committee and a copy will be mailed to you sometime after the end of July (when tabulation is expected to be complete).

Of course, the questionnaire is only one source of data for the Search Committee. In addition to this rich source, the Committee held focus groups in May, met with the Vestry for a half day session in June and plans to touch base with a few more special groups. Most importantly, the Search Committee, as a representative body selected by the Vestry, will rely on its own collective judgment to sort out and create a clear sense of what Christ Church needs in its next Rector. Your prayers are requested for the Committee as it pursues this most important task.

Compilation and report, thanks to Tom Cragg.

The committee members:

Philip Campbell
David Chivas
Miriam Costandi
Thomas Cragg (co-chair)
David Jackson (co-chair)
Howard Matthew

Marilyn Shahly (co-chair)
Lisa Staif (secretary)
Betty Warner
Sue Webb
Jan Weir
Theresa Zajac

Construction Report (continued from p. 1)

At their July meeting the Vestry considered two non-scope alternatives. The first was to provide simpler egress from the altar through the Chest Room. This was rejected due to the negative impact on the budget, and also the realization that some of the same objectives could be achieved programmatically. The second alternative included the addition of two more classrooms in the lower level. This was tentatively accepted but with the strict stipulation that additional funds be raised to cover their cost prior to July 31st; otherwise the existing plan stands.

Work on the Chapels, in terms of both design and physical labor, continue as described last month. The 'old' St. Michael's Chapel is now isolated with a construction wall for the duration. Installation of the new (campus-wide) security system started this week. Next month we'll be in a position to document some exciting new construction!

We again thank you for your continued understanding, patience, and prayers as we all strive to do the right things. If you have questions please do not hesitate to contact any of us.

Blessings,

David (Architecture/Construction Chair)

Jim Perry (Carpentry & Chapels)

Bob Lane (Grounds, Sibley Move, & Photo Documentation)

John Williams (Vestry, Security)

Jan Weir (\$\$\$\$)

Jones, Lang & LaSalle (Greg Worthington)

J. C. Beal (Fred Beal and Brian Mooney)

Gunn Levine Architects (Ed Francis & Tom Roberts)

Plus countless support staff, construction workers, engineers, etc.



"Breezeway just prior to demolition"



"Lower level 'opened up'! Note how spacious the area has become."



"A maze of subterranean water and sewerage pipes (some in poor condition) beneath the lower level."

Recycling Helps

For the months of January, February, March, 2007, Christ Church Detroit recycled 210 pounds of paper.

1.785 trees saved
 0.315 cubic yards of landfill space saved
 735 gallons of water saved
 102.27 kilowatts of energy saved



“Heavy equipment used to demolish the breezeway and concrete. What a job!”



“The breezeway going downstairs with plenty of ‘breeze’ as it’s open to the blue skies.”



“Close up of entrance to the Chest Room. Note the dark discoloration of the limestone around the door. That’s due to heavy staining from a century of coal fires in industrial Detroit. The rest of the building was ‘cleaned’ in the early 1960’s (although not with good/appropriate technology).”

Alzheimer's Association

We have received the following information from the Alzheimer's Association Michigan Chapter and we pass it along should anyone in the congregation be interested in pursuing the materials and help available. The website below can be accessed for the fact sheets:

The Alzheimer's Association's vision is to enhance the quality of living for all persons affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders by providing leadership, programs and services, advocacy awareness, and research support. We offer educational programming in Detroit and surrounding areas to inform our community about this disease. We also offer numerous support services for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, as well as to their families and friends.

We wish to increase our visibility and outreach to religious communities, such as yours, and work collaboratively to continue to reach out to others within your community. Attached are fact sheets that provide information about the disease as well as the services that we offer. Thank you for placing these materials in your congregation where your parishioners can utilize them if needed. As you will read in our fact sheets, we offer many supports to individuals and families, including: educational programs, referrals and information, 24-hour helpline, respite programs, support groups, and counseling.

Thank you so much for your time and let us know if we can be of service in any way in the future.

Sincerely,

Hayley Gravette

MSW Intern Family Services & Education

Alzheimer's Association Greater Michigan Chapter

hayley.gravette@alz.org (248) 351-0280 ext.235



"The narrow breezeway is almost gone."



GONE!

For Members in Their Golden Years

(digitally enlarged deliberately)

*A is for Apple, and B is for Boat,
That used to be right, but now it won't float!
Age before Beauty is what we once said,
But let's be a bit more realistic instead.*

*Now A's for arthritis;
B's the bad back,
C is the chest pains, perhaps car-d-iac?
D is for dental decay and decline,
E is for eyesight, can't read that top line!
F is for fissures and fluid retention,
G is for gas which I'd rather not mention.
H is high blood pressure--I'd rather it low;
I for incisions with scars you can show
J is for joints, out of socket, won't mend,
K is for knees that crack when they bend.
L for looking—can't see the text;
M is for memory, I forget what comes next!
N is neuralgia, in nerves way down low;
O is for osteo, the bones that don't grow!
P for prescriptions, I have quite a few,
just give me a pill and I'll be good as new!
Q is for queasy, is it fatal or flu?
R is for reflux, one meal turns to two.
S for sleepless nights, counting my fears,
T for Tinnitus; there's bells in my ears!
U is for urinary; big troubles with flow;
V is for vertigo, that's "dizzy," you know.
W is for worry, NOW what's going 'round?
X is for X ray, and what might be found
Y is another year I'm left here behind,
Z is for zest I still have-- in my mind.*

*I've survived all the symptoms, my body's deployed,
And I'm keeping six doctors fully employed!!!*

Christ Church Summer Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

Tuesday

1:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study
Sibley House

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Christ Episcopal Church
960 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48207



August Calendar

August

- 2 September Chronicles Deadline
- 5 10 Pentecost, Proper 12
- 5-11 Diocesan Youth in *Compassion at Work*
for Habitat for Humanity
- 12 11 Pentecost, Proper 13
- 19 12 Pentecost, Proper 14
- 22 RSVP to church office for Picnic in the Park
- 26 8:15am Service in Chancel, 13 Pentecost, Proper 15
- 10:30am Picnic in the GP Woods Park, 13 Pentecost, Proper 15

September

- 2 14 Pentecost, Proper 16
- 6 September Vestry Meeting

