

CHRONICLES

January 2008

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.

Christian Education

Sunday 9:30am

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 Sandra Richardson

Sextons

Mr. Alvin Clark

Mr. Keith Lucas

Nursery

Mrs. Carolyn Lucas

Epiphany

A theologian once said, "The Church exists for mission as fire exists for burning." If it isn't burning, it isn't fire, and if it isn't advancing the mission of Jesus Christ, it isn't the Church. An English bishop put it another way, "The Church is the only community which exists primarily for those outside the community." In January we celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and the baptismal covenant expresses these truths in three of the vows we make:

"Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?"

"Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?"

"Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?"

Evangelism, to proclaim by word; and outreach, to proclaim by example; are two parts of one mission, like a peanut with two equal halves. We live in a world that needs to hear the message of God's love, but it can only believe it when it sees it lived out in acts of mercy and the concrete struggle for justice.

In his Epistle, James puts it this way:

"What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace, keep warm and eat your fill,' and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead."

Since the days of the war in Vietnam, the use of militaristic hymns has waned, and with some reason. The Church has sometimes, albeit inadvertently, contributed to the glorification of war. However, the metaphor of the Church as a mighty army has sometimes served us well.

Through history, we have distinguished the saints on earth from the saints in heaven by speaking of the "Church Militant" and the "Church Triumphant." An army has a mission. To be baptized is to be inducted into that great army which engages in warfare on a daily basis as it lives out the command to "persevere in resisting evil." An army doesn't exist for itself, or its own members, or to keep citizens constructively occupied, it exists to serve a larger purpose. It exists to "provide for the common defense," and to protect society from the forces of evil that would destroy it, as does the church of God.

(continues on p. 5)

Parishioners News

We extend our sympathy to **David and Patsy Coleman**. David's mother, Virginia Segler, died early in December. The Colemans traveled to Solon Springs, Wisconsin for her funeral services.

Megan Norris, whom we recently reported was named a Super Lawyer in the 2007 Michigan Super Lawyers review process, has also been named one of The Top 50 Women Lawyers in the state!

Congratulations to our "newest" family. **Debbie and David Faust** have completed the adoption process of their two new teenage daughters. **Jennifer and Kasey** join **Sean and Ryan** to round out this marvelous family.

Jo Zedan's niece, **Helen Zedan**, wants very much to thank everyone at Christ Church for their prayers of good health for her. She is extremely appreciative of being included in our prayers, the friendship and phone calls that she has received. *'Thanks Be to God.'*

Following the 5:00 Christmas Eve Service, everyone was invited to a very special "Coffee Hour". **Thanks to the Staif Family** for bringing and serving the hot chocolate and candy to add to our celebration of Jesus' birthday – and to **Geoff Piper** for the birthday cakes.

Sad News to Relate

Services were held here at Christ Church on January 4th for **Taj Harnois** died on Sunday, December 30th. He is the son of Margie Harnois and Jon Miller who have always felt so fortunate to have been able to raise him from infancy. This is extremely heartbreaking for all of us to bear. We watched Taj grow up, be a real part of our congregation, magnificently processing in with the choir as an acolyte, a role he loved. His contagious smile is lost to us now, but it will remain in our memory. We have loved Taj and we can only express our deepest sympathy and prayers to Margie, Jon, and the family.

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We give thanks to God for the gratitude, blessings and generous commitments made by these additional members of Christ Church to the glory of God for the mission and ministry of this parish and its work at home and abroad.

Katherine Albert
Gwendolyn Ald
Steven & Cathy Berlage
Harold Cherry
Bob Crouch
Johanna Finn
Helen George-Howarah
Mary Carolyn Harms
Marjorie & Charles Hughes
The Rev. & Mrs. William Logan
Carolyn & Kevin Maher

Aretha J. Marshall
Micheline Monsour
Marlene & Don Moses
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Nihem
Eliza Parkinson & Kim Benbow
The Rev. Geoffrey Piper
Loretta Ryder
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Sanom
Lisa Staif
Letha Ann Steward

CHRONICLES

The official monthly publication of Christ Church

The deadline for the February issue is:

January 10, 2008

Chronicles printed courtesy of Budco Corp

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Our Jesse Tree

"A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots." Isaiah 11:1

From the variations of traditions used to honor a Jesse Tree, we at Christ Church have yearly chosen to use the symbols of Advent to decorate a real tree. Parishioners who selected one of the decorations, and placed their name on it, did so to convey their Christmas greetings to fellow members and friends. The donations accompanying each symbol are then used as one of the forms of our outreach.

Merry Christmas and God's Blessings from -

Brenna Ald

Pat Ald

Miriam & Kareem Costandi

Rosemary & Doug Esse

Jacqueline Gazoul

Joan Harper

Mary Latiff Maloney

Thelma & Magellan McCrary

Ryan Mondalek

Elsie & Bill Peck

Milli Stennis

Mary Vitolins

Merle Watt



We Give Thanks – It Was a Most Holy Christmas

We give thanks to God for providing all of us with a most precious, holy Christmas. He gave us the remembrance of Our Lord's birth through scripture and in the cherished Christmas Pageant. He endowed us with loyal parents and teachers who were sure to have all the children and costumes prepared for the rehearsals. The joyful singing from the little ones, to the Piper family, and to our ever-masterful choir must have been heard in heaven. We are blessed with our devoted clergy, Carol, Geoff, and Joyce. And, of course, you, the congregation filled our church and hearts. We give thanks – it was a most holy Christmas.

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Cheers for Volunteers – Christmas Greening of the Church

By Jo Mashour



December 23, 2007 was a day in which we were definitely a multi-tasked congregation. In one area of our newly-configured edifice, a J2A Bazaar was being held, having been postponed because of the previous week's untimely snowstorm. In the Christ Church Chancel, Geoff Piper was conducting Christmas Pageant rehearsals. In the Altar Guild Sacristy, George Ellenwood and Liza Parkinson were trying to organize the traditional "Hanging of the Greens", or, as is now appropriate, the "Greening of our church. This all took place while the activity (Is there a euphemism for "chaos?") of silent auctions, bake sales, taco lunch preparation and unwinding of cedar garlands took place.

Well, it all worked out! Many hands made lighter work in preparing our beautiful church for the glorious Christmas celebration. We have the following volunteers to thank, personally or in prayer, for the gift of their time and commitment:

Gwen Ald	Lucinda Keils	Mary Vitolins
Roger Basse	Howard Matthew	Merle Watts
George Ellenwood	Liza Parkinson	Sue Webb
Margaret Hammond	Jim Perry	Ben & Emma Wilbert
Christopher Jackson	Josephine Powell	Tom Vermeersch
Arlene, Robbie and Cassidy Marshall		

Jane Forbes could not be here for this labor of love, but, as always, donated the greenery and wreaths. (Did you see and didn't you love the two beautiful wreaths that graced our Jefferson Avenue doors...and yes, they were still there the following Sunday.)

We thank Eloisa for preparing the traditional taco lunch and Keith and Alvin who were on hand to help when needed.

Won't you join us next year? The feeling of joy and gratification cannot be explained, just in knowing that your hand was there to help create such beauty.

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING JAN 27TH FOLLOWING 10:30 SERVICE

Lost Overcoat

Now that the gentlemen of our parish are back to wearing overcoats, we want to repeat a "lost and found" item from the end of last winter.

A man's navy blue, *almost black*, wool overcoat was left on the coat rack inside Ledyard Hall on Easter morning. It has the label, "Made in Slovakia" in it.

John Leney's similar style coat was missing when he went to retrieve it after Coffee Hour that morning. The label in John's coat is from "Hart, Schaffner, and Marx."

We believe John's coat was mistakenly picked up by the owner of the coat that was left on the rack. If you suspect you may have the wrong coat, please check the label, and if you do, call John Leney at 248-641-5952, or the church office at 313-259-6688.

Epiphany (continued from p. 1)

Once a week the army that is the church is brought to the “rear” for “the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of the bread, and the prayers,” to feed, supply and equip the troops, which are then sent out to the “front” once again to advance the mission. How well a quartermaster does his or her job in supplying the troops depends on the resources available. How effective our mission is depends on our stewardship. Mission and stewardship are opposite sides of the same coin. As a community of faith, we must never forget that our primary work is “out there,” not “in here.”

The mission field begins at our front door. To advance its mission, an army is divided into squads, platoons, companies, and battalions. The same could be said for the Church, we just use different terminology. We call them missions, parishes, dioceses, provinces, the Anglican Communion, and Christ’s one, holy, catholic and apostolic church.

Epiphany is the season in which our attention focuses on mission, and we are called to rededicate ourselves to carry the light of Christ from our hearths, and homes, and parish churches by word and deed. It will come as no surprise to you that the churches that show the greatest vitality and growth are the churches with the greatest commitment to mission! As the Archbishop of Canterbury once put it, “The Church which lives to itself dies to itself.” The only things that impede our mission are apathy and stewardship. In our baptismal covenant we recommit ourselves to mission, and God knows we have the resources, both human and financial. May God’s abundant grace dispel our anxieties, and may the light of Christ set our hearts ablaze during these weeks of Epiphany, and throughout the year.

Yours for mission,
Carol+



From the Search Committee

Excitement is high these days in the hearts of the Search group’s members. We have begun receiving prospective candidates here as our guests!

The “short” list we now have has ten candidates. Some of these will come very soon on a single day visit to see Detroit and to meet with the Search Committee. All had responded in writing to our questions and were previously interviewed on a conference phone call. A sermon has been requested and received from each of them.

Our hopes are now pretty well-grounded that we will have met them all or most by mid-January. Perhaps, then, by early February, the list of candidates will consist of three to four who will return here to meet with the Search Committee and the Vestry.

We pray for Our Lord’s guidance,

Phil Campbell
David Chivas
Miriam Costandi
Tom Cragg
David Jackson
Howard Matthew

Marilyn Shahly
Lisa Staif
Betty Warner
Sue Webb
Jan Weir
Theresa Zajac



Thank you, Thank you, and Thank you! Where do we start?

You the people of Christ Church, Detroit, made the dedication a huge success and it was such fun to see former members, long lost friends, visitors and new friends all assembled to help us celebrate a project that will enhance Christ's mission and ministry for years to come. We have lots of people we want to acknowledge and thank. As always there is a chance we will forget someone but we will give this our best effort, and pray you will forgive our inevitable oversights.

It was a treat to have former rector **Erv Brown** as our preacher and to have him and his wife **Tish** back in our midst for a few days. It was a pleasure to have **Bishop McGehee**, who pronounced God's blessing, and his wife **June**. Former and present clergy and their families included former Associate **Bill Fleming** and his wife **Becky**, **Dean Hunter, Tina** and **Mary Grahame**. We thank **Rollie Norris** for letting us put him to work, and his wife **Margo** who, along with **Terry and Seth Lloyd**, greeted clergy families and made them welcome. **Bill and Mary Logan** were in Buffalo for a wedding but present in spirit. We sent a gift basket from **Harry & David** to former rector **Phil Jackson** so he could share in our celebration and to thank him for his part in sowing the seeds for this project. **Bishop Gibbs** had a visitation and was not able to be here, but will be present to officiate at the dedication of the new chapel when it is completed.

It was a treat to have with us descendants of the **Sibley family**. **Deborah and David Gillespie** were here with Deborah's brother and sister-in-law, **Dr Charles and Mrs. Margie Johnson** and **Deborah's mother**. We are enormously grateful for their continuing interest and support in the preservation of **Sibley House**, this historic home that has been such a part of this city's history.

There were many companies, organizations and groups that contributed to the effort and that we want to thank.

There are a number of community groups and organizations that meet here on a regular basis, and it was a pleasure to have them represented on this grand occasion. In particular, **Leo and his wife** were with us and celebrating their 30th wedding anniversary.

We have been blessed by our friends at **Comerica Bank** among them **Beatrice Bragg** who has been extraordinarily helpful throughout this process.

The Breton Group that provided fundraising support was represented by **Ann Williams**.

Gunn Levine Architects are responsible for the design and we were delighted to have with us **Ed Francis, Don Vanderworp** and **Tom Roberts**.

From **Jones Lang LaSalle**, the owner's representatives, we thank **Mark Kowal**, formerly of **JLL**, and **Greg Worthington** who saw us through this project and whose daily photos of progress have adorned the narthex, south transept and web site.

J.C. Beal Construction feels like part of our parish family. Our thanks to **Fred and George Beal**, to Project Manager **Brian Mooney**, who was here daily coordinating and facilitating much of the labor, his colleagues **John Kosowski** and **Joe Jendrusik**, and **Monica Johnson**, Development Services Coordinator, whose facility in arranging for inspections and permits is unparalleled.

We thank the many skilled tradesmen and craftsmen they engaged in the project whose many labors made it all possible among them **Jim** and all our friends from **A-1 Power**.

From within our own household we want to express our gratitude to our own **Architecture and Construction Committee**; **Jan Weir**, who kept an eye on the dollars, and **Dave Coleman**, **Bob Lane**, **Jim Perry** and **John Williams**, all of whom met weekly and sometimes more often and who pitched in wherever needed, facilitating the move to Sibley House, helping to secure the bridge loan, reconstructing the altar from St. Andrew's and a host of other chores too numerous to mention.

We also want to acknowledge and thank:

the earlier **Building Committee** that paved the way, chaired by **Jim Fleming**, and all who served on it

The **Parish Planning Committee**, chaired by **Seth and Terry Lloyd**, and those who served, who first determined our needs for this space

Our very own **Steve Hughes** whose work on the chapels has been a godsend

Sue Barber and those who worked on publicity.

The **Capital Campaign Committee**, chaired by **Jim Perry**, and all those who took part in that effort

And all who contributed to the Capital Campaign, and those who worked and prayed for its success

We want to acknowledge the **Diocese of Michigan** and thank them for their support, especially the **Bishop**, and the **Standing Committee**, on which our own **Pam Wilkins** serves, whose approval was needed and granted for this project, and special thanks to **Herb Gunn**, editor of *The Record*, and a former member and continuing friend of Christ Church, for his presence, his fabulous photos that he has so kindly shared, and for the splendid piece he circulated the next morning in *The Record Weekly*. We also want to acknowledge the work of **John Gallagher** of the *Detroit Free Press* whose article appeared on December 15th along with photos.

On the day before the grand event volunteers came in to help with the extensive clean up to be done even while construction continued, tile was still being laid and windows washed. **George Ellenwood**, **Josephine Powell** and **Liza Parkinson** were on duty for the Altar Guild and did a spectacular job. **Jo Mashour** coordinated volunteers among them her husband **Alec**, **Letha Ann Steward**, **Sue Webb**, **Merle Watts**, **Betty Warner**, **John Staif**, **Gail Smith**, **Lamar Richardson**, **Mike Johnston**, and **Jan Weir**. **John Williams** and **Jim Perry** from the committee helped out as did



Dedication
Pictures by
Herb Gunn

Thank You (continued from p. 7)

The dedication reception was coordinated by Terry Lloyd for which we are very grateful. With help from Seth she saw to the invitations, engaged Genet Barthwell to provide the repast, welcomed guests, and helped to raise funds to defray costs, as did Dave Coleman. Our heartfelt thanks to the sponsors.

J.C. Beal
Jones Lang LaSalle
Gunn Levine
Robert Darvas Associates
Charles & Jodette Atwater
Bob & Claire Brown
David Chivas
Dave & Patsy Coleman
Carol Cole Flanagan
Ed Francis
Marjorie and Charles Hughes
Seth & Terry Lloyd
Alec & Jo Mashour
Howard Matthew & Megan Norris
Tom & Sally Moore
Margo & Rollin Norris
Elsie & Bill Peck
Anonymous
Jan Weir

We salute the **Wardens and Vestry** for their courage in proceeding with this project during the interim, and their continuing attention and oversight, with a special nod to Senior Warden **Melissa Cragg** whose vigilance of our financial well-being has been an important gift to Christ Church. Finally, we thank **Alvin Clark, Keith Lucas** and all the staff for the countless tasks large and small that have made them the invisible heroes of this project.

In Thanksgiving,
Carol+

Rejoice, give thanks and sing!



Dear loved ones,

Kristin and I are disappointed that we cannot be with you for the dedication and celebration, but you all will be very much in our prayers. This is a remarkable thing you have done to make yourselves an even more effective witness to God's love through Jesus Christ.

God bless you all,

The Right Rev. R. Stewart Wood, Jr.



Overheard at the dedication, "I love Christ Church. This place really 'walks the walk.'" -- a former member



We Make the News



We are not the only ones who think our new look is wonderful. Columnist John Gallagher of *The Detroit Free Press* gave high marks to the accomplishments of our renovation efforts. It was particularly gratifying for him to include comments from our Interim Rector, Carol, on why we would go to so much trouble with an older building. Carol explains, "Christ Church (is) part of Detroit's DNA, the city's basic identity that signals the future as well as the past," that updating was important because of "the elements that went into its founding and shape its continuing mission for the future."

The entire article spoke to our preparing, and maintaining, a place where the "Beacon of Hope" may shine.

Adventures in Faith

Reflections of the Assistant Rector

Try this out if you are looking for a worthy New Year's resolution. **"I will submit to God's will in the things I say, or want to say, about others."**

In any of our conflicts--whether in a family, in a parish, in national politics, or in our national and global churches—we readily open our mouths or fire up our computers to express our opinions. I offer mine from time to time. I listen to those of others. I read the observations of the faithful in the "blogosphere." As I consider what is said, I wonder how so many of us have so conveniently forgotten or ignored the central teachings of our faith about how we are to treat one another, and how we are to *speak to* and *speak about* one another. These are the kinds of things I see routinely spoken: opprobrium, vituperation, defamation, malediction, and obloquy. We slander, inveigh, blame, berate, denounce, revile, abuse, reproach, insult, accuse, dismiss and impugn. We do most of this about someone, or some group, who is not in the room with us. Something in us finds this kind of speech delicious, exciting, and gratifying. If pressed to justify this kind of talk, we might reply, "If the shoe fits..." We reassure ourselves, "I'm just telling it like it is."

Try out this definition of *gossip*: to **"tell the truth" about anyone with something less than love as our motive.**

I don't remember where that definition came from, but I know that it came from a sincere Christian who recognized the power of our speech to build up and bless, or to tear down and curse. This understanding is rooted in the conviction that every Christian has a single, overarching motive that must guide every dimension of his or her life. In our love for God, we are to behave toward our neighbors as we would have them behave toward us. We are to be loving, not just at the peace in our worship, but in all that we do and all that we say, always.

Holy Scripture has volumes of instruction for us about how we should speak. If we understood nothing else, we would do well to embrace the ninth commandment, "***You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor,***" and Jesus' explicit command, "***Bless, and do not curse.***" Let's look at each of them.

The driving motive behind the ninth commandment is more than a call to honesty. It is the recognition that ***a reputation is a fragile, intangible, social commodity.*** My name, my honor, my place of esteem and trust in the eyes of my neighbors is inevitably shaped by how others speak of me. Those who malign my name--whether they "know the facts" at first hand, whether they have drawn their conclusions from the "evidence" available, or whether they are simply passing along what they have heard--rob me of something critical and precious. They reduce my stature and value in the eyes of my neighbors. God is telling us that we have no right to steal or disfigure a neighbor's reputation. Moreover, we will be judged with the same severity that we use in our judgment over others.

Blessing, and not cursing... We used the word ***benediction*** in our worship. It is derived from two Latin words, ***bene-***, meaning good, or excellent, and ***dictionis***, meaning speech. So to give a benediction is to speak goodness toward another. It is translated as ***blessing*** in English. Jesus tells us to speak this way toward others.

* Please refer to a few of these selected passages at the end of this article.

(continues on p. 11)

Adventures in Faith (continued from p. 10)

The antonym of blessing is cursing. It too has a Latin ancestor: *malediction*. The Latin root, *male-*, means bad or evil. Malediction is speaking slander or evil toward another. Jesus tells us that children of God are not to do that. We are not to curse—defame, slander, and denounce—anyone: not our enemies; nor strangers; nor brothers and sisters in Christ, nor associates at work, nor rival political candidates, nor family members.

There may well be aspects of a neighbor's life that are reprehensible or horrid; mystifying or troublesome; offensive or injurious. Amazingly, there are probably aspects of my life that are reprehensible or horrid; mystifying or troublesome; offensive or injurious. The design of God is that we *act charitably*. If we have a problem with someone, and if we would be spiritually mature and faithful, we are directed to go to that person and speak the truth in love. Our aim is not to pronounce judgment on poor character; our aim is not primarily to vent indignation or anger. Our aim is to help restore a neighbor and a relationship to right standing with God. In the words of Psalm 34, "*seek peace and pursue it.*"

I'll join anyone who would like to adopt this as a New Year's resolution, a spiritual discipline that yields good fruit in Christ's spirit. It seems a good step toward realizing the Christmas cry of the angels: *peace on earth, and good will to all.*

Geoffrey T. Piper+

Scriptural References to godly speech

Finally, all of you, live in harmony with one another; be sympathetic, love as brothers, be compassionate and humble. Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult, but with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech. He must turn from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it." (1 Peter 3: 8-12)

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.... Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4: 29; 31-32)

Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things grow up into him who is the Head, that is, Christ. (Ephesians 4: 15)

Brothers, do not slander one another. Anyone who speaks against his brother or judges him speaks against the law and judges it. There is only one Lawgiver and Judge, the one who is able to save and destroy. But you—who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4: 11a; 12)



Christ Church Construction Report

By David M. Coleman
Chair, Architecture/Construction Committee

Dear Christ Church Parishioners:

We made it!!!! The dedication service of our new spaces was glorious and the excitement very high. For those of us who have lived and breathed details of this project for many months, it was a great day. For *all* of us who have planned, dreamed, contributed time or financial resources, etc. over the last 5 years, it was a great day.



In an extraordinary article in the *Detroit Free Press* on Dec. 15th, Business and Architecture Editor John Gallagher featured the project in “Updating the Detroit Classics: Church Shows How to Mesh Old, New.” In particular he quotes Francis Grunow, Executive Director of Preservation Wayne: “I think what’s really cool about this project is that a lot of downtown property owners could look to Christ Church to sensitively and creatively use older structures as jumping-off points and really have those things work well together for the future.” To which Gallagher adds: “Amen to that!” Indeed!!

Of course the Christ Church community has been a leader in Detroit for over 160 years. One of the underlying goals of this project was to signal to the community that we remain a vibrant place to worship and to partake and be leaders in community affairs. This is a dream come true for our faith community.

In addition to the folks at Gunn Levine (architects), J. C. Beal (construction management), Jones, Lang, LaSalle (owner’s representative) whom we have extolled in the past, I would like to pay special homage to your Construction Committee who have been so dedicated to this task: **Jim Perry, John Williams, Bob Lane, and Jan Weir**. In the last year we have met *countless* times, often early in the morning, several times a week, to shepherd every nano-detail of this complicated project. We always felt that this obligation was a special gift from God to undertake and we thank the Parish, Wardens, Vestry, and Clergy for their continuous support and confidence. Working together has been a magical experience. I would like to additionally complement the special work done by Jim Perry and by Steve Hughes in transforming the new St. Michael’s Chapel into the beautiful new worship space that it has become. It is a stunning place for prayer and reflection. [I selfishly lit the *first* votive candle in the new space in memory of my mother who had died a couple days previously.]

The work of the Committee is *not* complete. We have check-off approvals to complete, reconciliation of all financial commitments, and some work that is deferred to the spring and beyond. We will keep you apprised of that work as it is completed. Of course there are the inevitable tweaks (HVAC balancing, small repairs, etc.) typical of such projects that will extend for a few months.



Looking Ahead:

Two aspects of the project will be deferred to the spring, or beyond. The exterior of Sibley House will remain a major issue to be addressed. The long-hoped-for grant is unfortunately again in abeyance as the Atheist group has appealed the Federal Court decision that such grants for exterior improvements on religious structures were appropriate. A donation of \$20K to this task has been received from Margie Johnson in honor of her sister-in-law Deborah Gillespie, a Sibley heir. Jim Perry will continue to drive this part of the project. It will take our best efforts to come up with a financial solution so that the exterior of Sibley can reflect the quality and intent of the balance of our project. Ideas? Also, the landscaping work in the north and south courtyards is a non-funded project that is deferred to spring. The south (Woodbridge) courtyard around the new entry will have grass, trees and plantings appropriate to that entrance. Alan Gorgas has agreed to re-install the sprinkler *gratis* as part of that. The new north courtyard will integrate the benches, paving stones, etc. which are currently in storage. The new courtyard can be used for small services, summer coffee hours, etc. Alan and architect Ed Francis have devoted significant *pro bono* time to design concepts for this area. Ideas?

Looking Further Ahead:

Over the next period of time there are other areas that will eventually need to be prioritized and addressed (and funded). These include:

1. Design and completion of the new St. Elizabeth's Chapel. The appointed committee is currently working hard to this end and I am hopeful that this will be in place soon.
2. Restoration of the broken chancel light fixtures. [With some free time now available I promise to have this completed prior to spring (Easter?)]
3. Complete the refurbishment of Ledyard Hall (sand floors, repair/paint bricks, replace windows and treatment)?
4. A new, code-compliant kitchen?
5. Paint the interior of Church (with original stenciling?)?
6. Restore the great Willet stained glass window (over the balcony)?
7. Improve interior church lighting per the Steffey Plan commissioned during our Sesquicentennial?
8. Tuck-point the tower and more sections of the Church exterior?
9. Air-condition the Church?
10. Etc., etc., etc.

Of course those are bricks and mortar 'things' and we are *much* more than that. I pray that as a result of our renovations and on-going spirit that our Parish will continue to attract new members and families, and be the vibrant Beacon of Hope that we are ... and intend to be for decades to come.

Faithfully, David

New Occasions Teach New Duties

Some of us remember these words from an old hymn. The new occasions we face today emerge from the luxury of our new space and the challenge of cleaning for the dedication. We learned again that we have far more physical space than can be cared for by a small maintenance staff. The challenge has suggested some new duties.

It would be very helpful if you would “bus” your own pew when you leave it on Sunday. The ushers will follow up but have a tough time keeping up with the litter and the books in disarray. Anything you can do to reduce the maintenance required will make a difference. It would be great to be able to look down from the rear balcony and see that all is in order.

The elevator is a great addition to the building. However, we have children who have not yet learned it is not a toy. If you see children playing at the elevator please consider yourself deputized to discourage them.

The new St. Michael's entrance is wonderful, and it may well become the new main entrance to the nave. Because it allows for conversation and fellowship in the hallway we're learning to be careful not to carry the noise into the worship space. The ushers will be closing the door ten minutes before the service, and we ask that you lower your voices when entering for the sake of those in prayer.

Outside the nursery in that same hallway is a ledge where the stairway is. Young people have been seen sitting on it, and the fall from that ledge would be dangerous. It is likely that we will install a planter or something to make sitting on it impossible, but if you can help us monitor that for the sake of safety, that would be appreciated.

Inside the St. Michael's entrance is a black marble topped table that will collect things it shouldn't. It is reserved for bulletins and for flowers when we have more than usual. If you are looking for tissues or activities for children they are on a bench behind the last pew in St. Michael's.

Inside the new entrances are heaters mounted on the wall. Keith found coats and scarves there which block the flow of air. Coat racks are on the “to do” list but I think it's safe to say that placing them on the heating units is not a good idea.

Our new security system provides photos of all our public spaces, so it might be wise to alert our young people that whatever they do will be caught on camera and to plan accordingly.

We will not be placing things on freshly painted walls. If you have something you'd like posted, please check with Joanne Case. We will be making more use of easels, floor signs, and special tape.

In cleaning for the dedication we learned that we need another system for cleaning and caring for our space. It is likely that we will recruit teams of people each of whom will be responsible for the maintenance of a particular area or zone, e.g. the narthex, choir room, baptistery, etc.

We are exploring covers for the fire alarms that will send off a small internal alarm to alert us so we do not get charged by the city for false alarms. If you see someone playing with a fire alarm please consider yourself authorized to investigate.

For safety reasons, the fence in front of the Jefferson Avenue entrance will remain in place until spring. During the week, Woodbridge will be the primary entrance and we are looking at ways we might install a door bell at that entrance.

Once we have our certificate of occupancy I'm sure we will make many more discoveries, but do enjoy the fruits of your labors and help us make the space safe and hospitable for all.



Parish Christmas Party is Fun for All

The annual Christmas party was held on December 14th at the Detroit Yacht Club on Belle Isle. Dinner, and dancing which followed, made a very enjoyable time for all. Pictures from Art Shahly.



Our Recycling Efforts

For the months of July, August, and September, We recycled 230 pounds of paper.

This effort had the following positive effects on the environment:

- 1.955 trees saved
- 0.345 cubic yards of landfill space saved
- 805 gallons of water saved
- 112.01 kilowatts of energy saved

Christ Church January Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

9:30a.m.

Sunday School

(all on lower level)

Adult Bible Study

YAC

J2A

Rite 13

Grades 5-6

Grades 3-4

Grades 1-2

Kindergarten

9:30a.m. - 12 Noon

Nursery

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

&

Worship Center

Tuesday

1:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study

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Christ Episcopal Church
960 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48207



January/February Calendar

January

6		The Epiphany
10		February Chronicles Deadline
13		I Epiphany, The Baptism of Our Lord
15	6pm	Building & Grounds Committee Meeting in Cary Lounge
17	6pm	Vestry Meeting in Cary Lounge
20		2 Epiphany
21		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED (MLK Day)
27		3 Epiphany, Annual Meeting after 10:30 Service

February

3		Last Epiphany
6	7am, 12N, 6pm	ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICES
9	9am	Bagging at Gleaners Food Bank
10		I Lent
17		II Lent
24		III Lent

