

CHRONICLES

October 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.

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 Saundra Richardson

Sextons

Mr. Alvin Clark

Mr. Keith Lucas

Nursery

Mrs. Carolyn Lucas

On the Subject of "Stewardship"

(Megan Norris was invited by the editor to write out her thoughts on 'giving'.

With thanks to Megan, the following is her response.)

I recently had the opportunity to attend the dedication of a new building at my alma mater, Wesleyan University. The person after whom the building was named had given a significant amount of money to the school and was in attendance for the celebration. In the course of his remarks, he talked a great deal about the way his college education had affected his life and his desire to give back to the institution which had educated him so that future students could benefit. At the end of his speech, he also said that while it was going to take him a little while to recover from paying off his current gift, he would be ready for the development officers to come asking again in a few years. I was struck with the immense joy that the donor felt upon separating from a significant amount of money.

Nobody will be naming any buildings after the Norris/Matthew family unless we hit the lottery. However, I find that our motivations for giving to Christ Church are remarkably similar to those I heard articulated at the dedication ceremony.

First, we really like to give. It is not something that we do out of a sense of guilt or obligation, but rather out of a sense of possibility. A few years ago, I told the story of the Christ Church parishioner who, upon hearing a presentation of the Journey to Adulthood program at a finance committee meeting, pulled out his wallet and paid for the first year. Nobody had asked him to do that, but he was so excited about the idea that his grandchildren could participate in a program of such promise that he happily parted with his money to make sure the program happened. More recently, we have witnessed enthusiastic generosity in our capital campaign. Individuals have made significant sacrifices because they want to be a part of positive change at Christ Church. These gifts, which are above and beyond the normal annual pledge to the operating budget, were not extorted by guilt trips. They were given out of a sense of hope.

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Change of Service for October 21st to October 20th



Due to the Detroit Free Press Marathon on Sunday, October 21st, we will have **Holy Eucharist on Saturday, October 20th, at 5:00 PM.** A proper English Tea will follow the service. There will be **no services on Sunday, October 21st.**

News of the People

With our prayers we extend our sympathy to **Karen and Jim Fleming** who recently experienced the loss of Karen's mother, Laura Grieb. Karen and Jim give thanks for the love, support, and messages of condolences which they received from so many members of our congregation.

And to **Debbie and David Faust**, and to Debbie's mom, Anna Kilgour, we send prayers and condolences following the death of Debbie's father, Herb Person, on September 17th. After a brief illness he died peacefully at home. David has sent thanks to everyone for their kindness during his illness.

Maren Laura Coleman, daughter of **Dave and Patsy Coleman**, and Linda Mason, was married on September 8th to Greg Sharrow at the Fort Street Presbyterian Church in Detroit. Maren was a life-long member of Christ Church having participated in many activities over the years. The couple has moved to Philadelphia where Greg started his new position with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. Maren, a singer/songwriter, is working on her second commercial CD and will also be looking for new performance opportunities in Philly.

Dave and Patsy Coleman, looking forward to eventual retirement days (partially) in northern Minnesota, are founding members of a *new* Episcopal Parish in the little Lake Superior hamlet of Grand Marais, MN. It is over 90 miles to the nearest Episcopal Church (in Duluth). The local dentist and his wife ran advertisements this summer in the weekly newspaper, seeking interest in the formation of a new Episcopal ministry and the Coleman's became active participants. The group has rented space in a beautiful, but little-used historic church for the next year and will pattern their ministry on a Total Ministry concept which will involve some clergy led services, as well as Morning Prayer services led by the laity. From afar, Dave has set up and maintains a website to help promote the ministry (see <http://www.spiritofthewilderness.org>). Not surprisingly, our own former Rector, the Rev. Ervin Brown will lead several services in the summer during his annual vacation trek to the Coleman's cottage, as will the Rev. Mary Ellen Ashcroft who is an English Professor and the Chaplain at Kalamazoo College and who also owns a summer home in the area.



NOAH "Bag Lunches"

The NOAH "Bag Lunch" project will be held October 10 & 11. We will meet on Oct. 10th at Central United Methodist Church at 6 PM to assemble bag lunches which will be distributed on the 11th. If you are interested in participating by either donating food items, money, or helping to assemble lunch bags, please sign up on the bulletin board in the Narthex. Volunteers are also needed to assist with distribution on Oct 11th. Please see John Williams, or contact him at - johnmwilliamsjr@comcast.net if you have any questions.

Central United Methodist Church is located at 23 E. Adams Detroit (between Elizabeth & Adams). Parking is available on Elizabeth and the packing will take place on the 2nd floor.

CHRONICLES

The official monthly publication of Christ Church

The deadline for the November issue is:

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Blessing of the Animals

The Blessing of the Animals will be held on Saturday, October 6, 2007 in Sperry-Mackey Park at 10:30 am. It is one of the more popular ways that Christians observe the feast of St. Francis of Assisi who died in 1226. The son of a prosperous merchant, Francis enjoyed his youth but became more serious as a young adult as a result of his encounters with beggars and lepers. He decided to devote his life to Lady Poverty in defiance of his father. In 1210 the pope confirmed his simple Rule for the Order of Friars Minor which rapidly spread throughout Europe. It is said that Francis is among the most admired and least imitated. The Blessing of the Animals reflects his devotion to creation. He is often depicted in communion with birds or animals. This is a great occasion to bring friends, and if you know someone who may be in need of a church, this is a great event for guests!

Stewardship (continued from p. 1)

Second, we believe that we should give back. This involves a fundamental acceptance of the notion that we have been blessed. We work hard at our jobs, but not as hard as many for much less pay. We are well-educated, but many with less aptitude for school or less financial support take their education just as seriously but do not have the opportunities we have had. We try to live life the "right" way, staying out of trouble and serving as productive members of society, but we also have far fewer temptations and distractions than many who survive in a different environment. In short, we have the benefits we have not because we are so good or so special, but because we are fortunate. If we accept that our talents, circumstances, and opportunities are gifts from God and not simply earned payment for our efforts, then it seems normal to return a portion of God's generosity to the church so that others can share in our blessings. There are parts of the Bible that suggest we should give up everything we have. In comparison, the tithe seems like a very small price to pay.

Finally, we understand that meaningful giving means making a sacrifice. I have never met a person who thinks that he or she has too much money. Perhaps those people exist, but most people I know, including those with enough to get their names on buildings, believe that they need what they have. Howard and I are no different. We "can't afford" to buy a new car, but that's because we "need" to take family vacations, we "need" to have Taylor in private school, and we "need" to live in a house that is at least four times the size of the houses we grew up in. For others, it's the car, electronic gadgets, or cottage. It's amazing how quickly "wants" turn into "needs" for all of us, at every income level. Part of the benefit of giving money away is that it forces us to recognize that we are fortunate enough that we never have to worry about our true needs and that we make choices. Consciously choosing to give to something other than ourselves makes us feel much less selfish than we know we can sometimes be, so the sacrifice actually makes us feel good. That doesn't mean that we'll drive the green heap we call an automobile forever, but it does mean that we are happy to drive it now.

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CHEERS FOR VOLUNTEERS

2007 Annual Parish Picnic in the Park

by Jo Mashour



This year's event came at a time when we were having rainstorms that did not "threaten" -- they were for real!

On Sunday morning, August 26th, the sky was blue and sunny but underfoot there seemed to be more mud than grass. There is something of a pioneer spirit within our parish family because no one complained about this inconvenience that could have caused slips and spills. We may be able to control the purchase of hamburgers, hot dogs and potato chips but we have no control over the heavens. The patience shown by everyone that morning was a gift from God.

As always we have volunteers to thank. Helen Staif and Jo shopped for the abovementioned lunch fixings as well as necessary supplies. Joyce Esse, Miriam Costandi, Mary Lou Solomon and Rosemary Esse formed a telephone chain to inform everyone of the change of venue at the park, from pavilion to nearby tent.

Marilyn and Art Shahly with Harold Cherry covered all the tables and distributed "Wasp Nests" for our protection. The wasps, though, had their own picnic later that day!

Bill Peck arranged for the musicians who enhanced our outdoor service with their lovely hymn renditions played on Recorder instruments.

Margaret Hammond provided the Altar and Eucharist accoutrements needed by Carol Flanagan to create a Christ Church setting under a tent in the middle of a lakefront park -- and having to deal with processions to and from Communion -- all done with grace and ease. It was truly a beautiful service, made even more so by the children and parish members dramatizing the Gospel that day, led by Carol. We'd never done that before but let's do it again!

We cannot end this report without thanking our three stalwart chefs who never let us down year after year. John Staif, John Leney and Howard Matthew flipped those burgers and hot dogs, assembled them and had them ready to add to an already sumptuous pot luck table. They are a great team and we are blessed to have them so willing to do this year after year!

There is indeed one more person to thank and that is Alec Mashour, who, willing or not, made a supreme effort to be at the park at 5 a.m. that morning, only to find three SUVs waiting ahead of him to secure the pavilion. We lost out on that but we were given the tent as a consolation, muddy ground and all! (Jo will be going to the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting at City Hall to champion a change in policy -- the sheltered pavilion should indeed be reserved on a first come-first served basis. Lotsa luck, Jo.)

We had a wonderful turnout this year, 75 to 80 guests in attendance. Special thanks to Sandra Richardson who updated the picnic list assiduously. That was very helpful in the planning. A lovely time was indeed had by all and we invite you who were not with us to join us for the Picnic in the Park 2008 next year, God willing.

Time to Think About Vestry Nominations

In October the Nominating Committee will begin receiving names of persons proposed for nomination to the Vestry. For those of you whose calendars fill quickly the date of the annual meeting is January 27, 2008. Please mark your calendars!

The requirements for service on the vestry are that a nominee be at least 16 years of age, have been a regular worshipper at Christ Church for the preceding six months, be a regular contributor to the parish, be baptized and be physically present at the annual meeting.

The task of the Nominating Committee is to nominate two persons for each vacancy. This year there will be five positions open. Additional nominations may be made by written petition signed by at least 5 persons eligible to vote at a parish meeting and delivered to the Rector or one of the wardens at least nine days in advance of the annual meeting. The petition must indicate the nominee has consented.

To suggest names to the Nominating Committee please forward them to the Rector or one of the Wardens.

From the Search Committee



The last few months have been a very busy, but productive period for us. We have spent our time gathering questionnaire responses received from everyone. Then the process required that we study the responses to determine the mind and wishes of our congregation. A culminated picture of a rector best suited to our parish has emerged.

A narrative profile has been completed, describing Christ Church in several areas, our Church History, Membership, our position at Worship, Music, Christian Education, Parish Organizations and Activities, Outreach, our Church Properties, a Finance and Budget statement, our Church staff, and a profile of our community and the broader metro area.

In addition, a Position Profile has been determined and is now prepared to be submitted soon to the Church Deployment Office where it will become available nationally to prospective interested priests. Other means of receiving applicants include names received from our diocese, which we would expect to obtain by mid-October. We also invite parishioners to suggest applicants whom they believe would be a good "fit" for our parish and who may be interested in becoming our Rector. If you have someone in mind that you wish to have considered, you may give that name to any member of the Search Committee.

If you have someone in mind that you wish to have considered, you may give that name to any member of the Search Committee. Please provide the name, e-mail address, and phone number. Names must be submitted by **October 15th**.

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

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

From the Interim Rector

Over the summer I had an opportunity to have some conversation with the search committee and one of the topics we discussed was that of spirituality. We live in a time when there is widespread agreement that it is important and no agreement on what it means. If you have ever tried putting it into a search engine you'll see what I mean. Instead we found it more helpful to talk of deepening our faith.

In fairness, faith is a gift that not everyone has, and more difficult yet are those cases when some tragic event causes people to lose their faith. At those times we may need to offer to believe on their behalf and trust on their behalf, and then trust that the Holy Spirit will continue to be present and active in their lives in ways we may never know.

For those of us blessed with the gift of faith there is a duty to nurture that faith however, and to share it. Episcopalians may not be great at evangelism, but none of us would be here and none of us would be reading this if someone had not shared their faith with us and nurtured it along the way.

One of the best indicators of our growth in the life of faith is our growth in stewardship. Whether we are conscious of it or not we are exercising stewardship, for good or ill, every moment of every day. Every moment we are making decisions about the use of our time, talent and treasure even when we are not aware of having made that decision. In Sunday School we learned that everything we have is a gift from God and never truly "ours". But our ability to live with that, to sit lightly with it, is an indicator of the extent to which we trust God. Do we trust that God will provide? Do we believe that God has already provided in many cases? Do we take the time to experience and express gratitude? Someone once said that all prayer can be reduced to two words, please and thank-you. Do we thank God? When our Sunday intercessions provide a space for petitions and prayers of thanksgivings do we take the opportunity to be thankful? Can we allow God to be God? Can we live on the 90% that God allows us?

Years ago a Latin American theologian rather heatedly pointed out to me that when I am living on more than 90% of my income I am living on money that does not belong to me. Worse yet, I am living on money that belongs to the poor. As you might imagine, he had some strong feelings on the matter because his people are the poor whose labor benefits us. I found it a sobering thought.

When we think about spirituality and the need to grow in faith, the first place to look is to our stewardship. It is the means by which our faith is expressed. Stewardship is not just a matter of a fall canvass, but a matter of how we exercise the trust God has bestowed on us. We can be good stewards or poor stewards but we can't refuse the job because it is a trust bestowed on us in creation when God gave to humankind dominion over the earth – the duty to care for all that God has made.

If spirituality is important to you this would be a good time to think and pray about your stewardship for the coming year – and I don't mean about your pledge. That's important too. But it is a very small part of our life as stewards. We are stewards of our time, talent and treasure, stewards of the gospel, stewards of our heritage, and stewards together with other Christians for the advance of God's reign.

May God's will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Carol

Coffee Hour Teams



The South Transept of the church is now being made available for a temporary Coffee Hour location. An idea for sponsoring a system to continue our post-service hospitality during this construction period has been devised.

Teams would be needed to host the coffee hour. About six teams of four persons each would be enlisted and they will operate on a rotating basis. This will most likely be a temporary solution until Ledyard Hall reopens. Teams will be recruited to function similarly to our breakfast cook teams. The members of a team would consult on a menu and preparation, and cover their own costs. We would expect to keep it as simple as we can. If you are hosting coffee hour and need materials from the church, please contact the church office by 12N on Thursday.

If this plan is successful, we can consider continuing the practice once construction has been completed. Please see or call Lamar Richardson if you would like to form a team or need more information (313) 525-5600.

Gleaners – October 20th



Anyone 5 years of age and up can help at the Gleaners Food Bank. The next date Christ Church is to assist is Saturday, October 20th, from 9:00 to 1130 am. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Narthex. Please see Seth Lloyd if you have questions.

From Pigsty To Palace

Originally, the person hired to guard the pigsty and tend the pigs was called a sty-ward, from which comes the word steward. Later, it came to mean someone hired to take care of another's property, especially when the owner was absent. So, the lowly pig-keeper eventually became a valuable and trusted member of the household.

In Scotland, the king had a chief steward, who cared for all of the king's property. He was steward in charge of all the stewards, a sort of archsteward, and a significant office.

Over the years, the position of chief steward became an inherited office, handed down by custom and law from father to son. The family in which this responsibility resided became known as the Steward or Stuart family.

The time came when the Scottish king, with no son to succeed him, arranged for his daughter to be married to the head of the Stuart family. In this way, the crown of Scotland was passed to the Stuarts and their line. Eventually, the English Parliament invited the Stuart monarch to become king of England. So the term that once referred to the hired keeper of the pigs now named James VI, king of Scotland who would become James I, king of England and Ireland, and in whose reign the King James Bible was produced.

THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A SERIES OF EIGHT FORUMS

Last Lent, a group of about 25 parishioners gathered in Cary Lounge for the annual Lenten book study program. While those gathered knew each other, they came together with no real expectation for what the program might involve. We knew the title of the book that was to be the basis for our study, but little else. Some were there because they always do the book study at this time of year – a Lenten discipline of sorts; some were there because it was the last opportunity to be in a small group with Phil; some attended because they knew of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and wanted to study their origin and meaning with some intensity. None of us could have predicted that, by our last meeting on the Wednesday in Holy Week, we would have each committed to contribute to a MDG supporting agency 7/10 of one percent of our income and that we would come together regularly in the months thereafter to work toward alerting the parish to the MDGs and the work that is being done to fulfill them, inside the Church and out.

What captured our hearts and minds? We learned about the billions – BILLIONS! – of people in the developing world who live in extreme and desperate poverty. Many of these people live on less than \$1 per day, or \$365 per year. We learned about the many reasons why this poverty continues. We learned about the eight goals, called the “Millennium Development Goals,” proposed initially by the renowned economist Jeffrey Sachs (who, by the way, grew up in the Detroit area, the son of a prominent Detroit lawyer), and adopted by all member nations of the United Nations. These goals have the overall aim of cutting in half by 2015 those who live in the kind of extreme and desperate poverty described above. We learned that the National Church has adopted the accomplishment of these MDGs as a mission priority for the entire Church, and that our own Diocese at its last Convention in 2006 had committed itself to contributing 7/10 of one percent of its income to the accomplishment of the MDGs, and urged all congregations and parishioners to do the same. We also studied the Biblical imperative that we seek justice and serve the poor.

In short, our study changed each of the parishioners in this study group. Now, we hope to interest you. Last April, many of you heard Rollie Norris’ wonderful sermon on the MDGs. On August 5, some of you heard the MDG liturgy which we developed, with Carol’s help, recounting Old and New Testament lessons which direct us to care for the poor, whether near to us or far away, and telling personal stories about those living in the worst kind of poverty. There’s more to come!

Beginning in October, and continuing for the next seven months, we will focus each month on one of the MDGs. We will have one forum – on a Sunday morning between services – which will focus on each of the MDGs. During each month, we will distribute material about that month’s MDG. We pray that, by the end of this church year, you will be moved, as we were, to take action in support of the MDGs.

What are the MDGs? Here they are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a global partnership for development

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The Millennium Development Goals

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Look for our **October program, on Sunday the 28th**, regarding “**universal primary education**” and its importance in defeating desperate poverty in the developing world.

One final point: Some have asked why we are concerned about poverty in the developing world when there is so much to do in Detroit. Believe me, we agree that there is much to do in our own backyard. The work toward fulfilling the MDGs is not meant to be in place of our work here; it's in addition to our work here. If we allow ourselves to focus only on the poor far away, we will have failed. But, we firmly believe that it would be equally wrong to focus only on Detroit and ignore those living in desperate, grinding poverty far from our shores. This is particularly true when, as now, the entire world community, including the Church, believes that it is possible to cut such poverty in half. So, we are not in any way interested in diminishing our efforts locally; we believe that we all should do more. We hope you will agree.

Join us in our eight programs. Join us in studying the possibility of cutting desperate poverty worldwide in half by 2015. Join us in pushing our government, our Church, and ourselves to make a difference at this crucial time.

Calling "Time Out"

"The gift of the Sabbath has been given to us by God to free us from slavery to time which drains our strength (Ex. 16:22-30).

"To observe the Sabbath means to call "Time Out!" This day of rest is to re-create that which has been expended during the week. The Sabbath allows us to receive the strength God supplies, so we can continue to produce wealth, while keeping wealth in the proper perspective." [*Partners With God*, Eklund and Austin]

The tithe -- giving ten percent of our income to God's work -- gives us the same opportunity. It helps us to take a "time out" from serving the god of money so that it cannot become a compulsive destroyer of our lives.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will meet in Sibley House on Sunday, October 7th, following the 10:30 service.



A good time was had by all.

Bishop Riah to Visit

In the middle of the 1970's, our parish began an association with the Anglican Diocese of Jerusalem which lasts until today. In the beginning, and lasting for many years, our relationship stemmed from a desire to assist the then Rev. Riah Abo El-Assal , Rector of Christ Church, Nazareth, in building schools for the Arab children in Nazareth. The Arab population had been driven from their homes to ghetto-like locations without much of what we consider necessities – from the water and food supply to most of the basic electrical needs. The children were not allowed to attend the schools there.

The FECN was founded here - Friends for the Education of the Children of Nazareth. We began a series of Syrian Dinner-Dances which most of you know as Hafli(s) plus many other smaller projects to send financial help to Father Abo El-Assal for the schools. By his world-wide efforts, he led his parish to complete the construction of elementary, secondary, and special education schools.

Many of you remember him from the several visits he made to our church. You may also remember his son Hana who visited here while attending Eastern Michigan University. Hana is now the principal of the schools.

In 1998, The Rt. Rev. Riah H. Abo El-Assal was installed as the Bishop in Jerusalem. Anglican churches in five Middle-Eastern nations came under his direction. This past year he was retired and a new Bishop has been installed.

We have been a friend to Bishop Riah and he to us for 30 plus years. He is an acknowledged authority on the conditions in Israel and Palestine. On **Sunday, November 18th**, Bishop Riah will be with us once again to preach and renew old friendships.

Please mark the date to be on hand to welcome him.

YouthWorks - Detroit

For the past three years we have had a working relationship with YouthWorks-Detroit, an organization under the direction of Curtis Street, its Program Director. This group organizes high school age youth to be a part of two work crews from the middle of June to the end of July. College age interns volunteer their summer to supervise the crews, leading, mentoring, and befriending these high-schoolers.

Following days of hard work, the StreetTeam group and interns come together for day or weekend outdoor adventure trips. Mr. Street tells us, "These were great times of fun and fellowship that really allowed many strong Godly relationships to be built." He has written to thank us for our support and participation with them and the program made possible by it.

These young adults have been hired by us to do some very hard jobs. This year our office administrator, Joanne Case, tells us that they came the week after the staff moved into Sibley House. They washed woodwork and windows, vacuumed and cleaned all the pews in the church, and polished most of the brass. Outdoors, they cleared the park and the back parking lot of all litter. It is with pride that we have become associated with YouthWorks.

Adventures in Faith

Reflections of the Assistant Rector

“Mom! Dad! Look what I can do!!”

If you are a parent of a young child, you have heard that joyful cry recently. If you are not currently a parent of a young child, you can remember former days when you spoke these words. We delight in discovering and demonstrating our abilities: I’m strong enough to jump over this barrier; I can run swiftly; I have figured out a complex problem; I can pick up my little sister and not drop her on her head.

Carol Flanagan, our interim rector, and I both remember something of that feeling when we were young children in an Episcopal Church in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. We were given envelopes for regular Sunday offerings, and “Mite Boxes” for a special offering on Palm Sunday. All the young children of the parish were expected to, and given the opportunity to share their worldly wealth to the glory of God and for the support of the church’s mission.

Obviously, the guiding motive for this practice was not to raise vast sums of money. I remember the pride I took in placing five or ten cents in my offering envelope each week. Carol and I both remember feeling that we were important little people as we did our part in sharing at the offertory.

The guiding motive for including our children in sharing child-sized offerings of wealth is to shape their characters. We know that faithful people need to practice in order to be *charitably fit*.

Parents may object to this approach: “It’s just one more thing to bother with in an already stressful Sunday morning routine... We adults give enough to the church for the whole family... It will turn the kids against the church, if it seems to them that the church is after their money, as little as they have.”

My response is that there are some character traits, like sharing, being generous, forgiving or helping, that must be cultivated if they are to flourish in us. We don’t give our small children a choice about whether or not they will bathe; we put them in the tub. We don’t give them a choice about whether or not they will sleep; we put them to bed.

If we want our children to feel grateful for all the good they have received, the spiritual discipline of proportionate giving will help to shape that disposition. If we want them to have a heart for the mission of Christ’s Church, placing some of their treasure there will help to shape that commitment. If we want our children and teens to know that their contributions to the life of the parish matter, then we should provide them with the means and encouragement to do so.

To this end, parents can expect to receive offering envelopes for their youngsters. It will create another domestic role for you as coaches of faithful charity. But the preparations and conversations can happen through the week. We simply make the offering on Sunday at worship. Watch what happens, and tell me if you don’t see the same joyful pride on your youngster’s face as she or he says to God, *“Look what I can do!”*



Construction Report

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



Dear Christ Church Parishioners:

We'll be brief this month, but the project is progressing *very* well.

In August, we left for 3 weeks vacation in northern Minnesota, leaving Jim Perry as acting Chair in charge, and with Bob Lane, John Williams, and Jan Weir with much to do; we were in good hands! Although I received near daily updates and photos, nothing could prepare me for the excitement of walking through the new construction areas.

Most of the structural steel is now up following completion of all of the foundation and footings work. The lower level classroom walls are all up and the electrical and plumbing work is advanced at this point. The new ramp to Sibley from the Cary building is nearing completion. We expect to be fully 'enclosed' and connected through St. Michael's Chapel by the end of this month. The new raised floor is framed in the Chest Room. Soon serious interior work can start. A few photos are appended.

Unfortunately, we did have a few 'bad' surprises that are NOT part of the *scope* of the project, but would negatively impact on the completed work. These are old deferred or neglected *maintenance* issues which range from discovered dangerous gas and electrical service to the kitchen, serious roof leaks, and serious existing water intrusion through sections of the foundations of the Sibley, Cary, and Ledyard buildings. All of these must be fixed or the new areas will be quickly damaged. The Vestry will deal with funding these repairs; the newly formed Buildings and Ground Committee will obviously generate mechanisms to better assess such problems in the future.

It appears as though the project will end up approximately 9.5% over budget due to a large number of unusual design and construction issues. 'Contingency funds' have been expended along the way, which was the intent. The next month will pretty much determine the final costs.

The *good* news is also that the project remains on schedule. We hope to complete construction shortly after Thanksgiving, and then following cleanup and acquisition of Occupancy Permits be ready to go. The entire project management team has given the Green Light to plan on a grand opening and dedication on Sunday, Dec. 9th.

We all truly appreciate everyone's considerable patience and good humor shown by all during this 'adventure.' The new spaces and concomitant ministry will more than make it worthwhile!!



Ramp looking toward Sibley door



Looking east toward new nursery, wall skeletons, door on left to Sibley and steps to lower level



Picture is facing old office window toward Sibley. New restrooms with plumbing to the left where Fr. Piper's office used to be.



Chest Room with raised floor

Altar Flowers



Dedicating a Sunday's Flowers in acknowledgement of a memorial, a birthday, an anniversary, and in thanksgiving is a fitting tribute to share with your fellow parishioners. There are many Sunday openings on which you may choose to do so. You may, if you wish, sign up with another person to share in the occasion. Please contact the Church Office for flower openings.

Attention: Sacristans

A meeting of the Altar Guild members will be held on Saturday, November 3rd, at 9:30 am. Mark your calendars now. Prospective members are encouraged to attend.

Diocesan Convention

The Diocese of Michigan's Convention will be held in Lansing on October 26th and 27th. Representing Christ Church are delegates, Lucinda Keils, Bob Crouch, and Jim Fleming. The alternate delegate will be Lamar Richardson.



WHITAKER SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
Educating • Equipping • Empowering

The Whitaker School of Theology has several new and interesting offerings for this fall. A few are listed below. For a complete list, go to www.whitakerschool.org See also their bulletin posted in the Narthex.

September 17, Oct. 1, 15, 29, Nov. 12, 26, Dec. 10: The Gospel of Luke

An in depth exploration of the Gospel according to St. Luke Faculty: Dr. Janis Fletcher

Location: St. John's, Royal Oak Time: Mondays, 7 - 9 p.m.

Cost: 7 sessions - Special fall rate \$70 (\$35 for an additional family members)

October 20, 2007: Sacred Space: Creating Your Own Sanctuary

Faculty: Sarah Campbell

Location: Christ Church, Grosse Pointe

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Cost: \$22

Mark Your Calendars - November 4th



And change your clocks! Sunday, November 4th, is the beginning of this year's Daylight Savings Time **FALL BACK** date. Be sure to turn your clocks back one hour on Saturday, November 3rd.

November 4th is the first Sunday after **All Saints' Day**. Please submit names to be prayed for on that day by October 28th.

This day is also scheduled to be our next **Sunday for Baptisms**. Please contact the Church Office if you have someone to be baptized. There will also be the Celebration of Womanhood and Manhood.



Save the Date - Party Time

The date for our annual parish **Christmas Party** this year is **Friday, December 14th**. Be sure to mark your calendars now, to save the date during that busy time of the year. More information will come later.

A special request from the Parish Activities Committee: They are looking for a new DJ. If anyone has a suggestion, please see Marilyn Shahly. Remember, however: the committee is operating under a limited budget and needs a reasonably priced DJ in order to keep ticket prices low.

Recycling Report

For the months of April, May, June, 2007, Christ Church recycled 955 pounds of paper. This resulted in savings of: 8.1175 trees; 1.4325 cubic yards of landfill space; 3342.5 gallons of water; and 465.09 kilowatts of energy.

Christ Church Autumn Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

9:30am

Sunday School

Adult Bible Study Front Office, Sibley House
YAC Next to St. Michael's Chapel
J2A Rector's Office, 1st Floor Sibley
Rite 13 Asst. Rector's Office, 2nd Floor, SH
Grades 5-6 South Balcony (parking lot side)
Grades 3-4 North Balcony (St. Michael's)
Grades 1-2 Rear of Church
Kindergarten 2nd Floor, Sibley House

9:30am - 12 Noon

Nursery

2nd Floor, Sibley House

10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

&

Worship Center

2nd Floor, Sibley House

Tuesday

1:30 p.m.

Adult Bible Study

Sibley House

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October/November Calendar

October

6	10:30am	Blessing of the Animals
7		19 Pentecost, Proper 22
10	6-9pm	NOAH bag lunch preparations, Central United Methodist
11	9am	NOAH bag lunch distribution at Central UM November Chronicles Deadline
14		20 Pentecost, Proper 23
18	6pm	Vestry Meeting
20	9am 5pm	Gleaners Food Bank Eucharist on Saturday due to Marathon
21		Free Press Marathon Sunday, No Sunday Services
26-27		Diocesan Convention in Lansing
28		21 Pentecost, Proper 24



November

4	Time Change—Fall Back one Hour	Sunday After All Saints with Baptisms, Celebration of Womanhood and Manhood
18		Visit of Bishop Riah