CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT

CHRONICLES

January/February 2009

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
960 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan

Telephone: 313.259.6688
Facsimile: 313.259.1087
Email: office@christcd.org
Website: www.christcd.org

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 9:30 a.m.

Interim Rector
The Rev. Robert Hart

Assisting
The Rev. Rollin Norris
The Rev. Canon William Logan

Deacon
The Rev. Joyce Treppa

Director of Christian Education
Mrs. Amy McEvoy

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. Keith Lucas
Mr. Craig Lucas

Nursery
Mrs. Carolyn Lucas

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR:

"Voices calling us to Mission"

Today I saw some of the photographs from the Christmas pageant. They are wonderful, and soon to be up on the website. I have to admit, Christ Church may have the best Christmas pageant I've seen. Everyone is to be congratulated and the kids applauded for their participation.

Last Sunday I had the privilege to give the children in the first communion class a tour of the church. It was an occasion for a series of visual lessons on the church year, the origins of the Eucharist and how the symbols of the church all fit together. That short time with the kids was an experience not unlike that of the Christmas pageant in the positive impression it left. The kids were engaged and forthcoming. It was as good a first communion class as I've had in a long while.

Those moments I just mentioned only underscore how important the mission of Christ Church is. This is a place where young and old encounter God and grow in faith. This parish church is community and is a witness to the larger community. Throughout this year Christ Church will be called to define its mission more closely and decide how that mission will grow.

The first voice to call us to our mission will be the voice of challenging economic circumstances. We're going to have to define the mission in order to decide how to fund it. We will want to come to a common mind around who we are and what God is calling us to do, so we can see how to be good stewards of our vocation. Make no mistake, we can't continue to do the same old thing and dip into the usual old pot. It's time for a fresh look at what we believe we've been sent here to accomplish in God's name and to commit ourselves to make it happen. And that's going to require some hard thinking, praying and giving.

The second voice to call us to our mission will be the voice of the next rector. The priest who comes here to lead us as pastor and rector will listen, learn and begin to articulate the mission of God in this place. I have no doubt the rector will be realistic. The candidates have seen the figures. They've looked around the buildings. They've toured the area. Once they meet you, the good people of Christ Church, their sense of what God requires of us will take shape. The next rector of Christ Church will lead us into God's future.

continued on p. 2

Annual Meeting Jan 25th—see page 8

Parishioner News

Sadly we report the death of **Natalie Abdo**, daughter of Mark and the late Lisa Abdo. Her grandparents, Sherman and Dolly Abdo, have ties to Christ Church going back many decades. The loss of this young girl brought even deeper grief to the family as her mother succumbed to cancer earlier in the year after a very long illness. We offer our heartfelt thoughts and prayers of sympathy to Natalie's family and friends.

Address Change

Word has come from Christine Franklin that Aunt **Mary Howard** has moved from her Roseville home to an assisted living apartment.

Her **new address** is

36550 Grand River Avenue, Apt. 215
Farmington Hills, MI 48335
Phone: 248-478-3096

Prayer Thank You

Dear Christ Church friends,

Your prayers were heard by God and helped so much to get us through these difficult times. Your cards and notes were so welcome. Both of us are healing and getting stronger every day. Thank you!

Sincerely,
Grace and Robert Mickelson
(Marilyn Shahly's parents)

FROM THE INTERIM RECTOR (continued from p. 1)

Christ Church is a vital congregation. The challenges we face are being faced by every church in this region, if not in the whole country. We should feel blessed not threatened by our times. Look into the faces of the children. They are the church. Notice how many who are now older faithfully volunteer to get the work done. They are the church. See how the parents and those who are still active in their careers are here Sunday by Sunday and serve in countless ways. They are the church. All we need to do is make sure all these people who are Christ's Church have seen the vision of God's mission. Then, we will be what God is calling us to be – beacons of hope.

Faithfully,
Bob Hart

CHRONICLES
The official monthly publication of Christ Church
The deadline for the March issue is:
February 5, 2009
Chronicles printed courtesy of Budco Corp
Editorial Staff:
Miriam Costandi: costandim@aol.com
Saundra Richardson: srichardson@christcd.org

Merry Christmas to All of You

To each of you, and all of you, Especially to say
"May every happiness be yours, On this glad Christmas Day…"
And may the year that lies ahead, Be bright and happy, too,
Filled with all the nicest things, For each and all of you.

"Jesse Tree" Greetings from:

To my dear Christ Church Family.
Wishing you a blessed Christmas. Joan Harper
Mollie Gram
Merle Watts
Peggy Stoepel
Danielle Starkey
Elsie and Bill Peck
Ernestine Rogers
Jim and Karen Fleming
Mary Maloney
Merry Christmas, Margaret Hammond
Christine Rogers
Brandon S. (Starkey and Shahly Family)
Pat Ald
Miriam and Kareem Costandi
In celebration and love. We'll miss you! Sue Barber
Jackie Gazoul
Magellan and Thelma McCrary
Betty, Christian, and Patrick Warner
Charles and Marjorie Hughes
Milli Stennis
Jan Weir

Inside this Issue

From the Interim Rector	p. 1, 2	Annual Meeting	p. 8
Annual Meeting	p. 1, 8	Maintaining the Mission	
Parishioners News	p. 2	Celebrate II	
Address Change		Check Request	p. 9
Prayer Thank You		Mark Your Calendars	
Merry Christmas to All of You	p. 3	Absalom Jones Eucharist	
From Christian Ed Director	p. 5	Vestry Highlights (Dec)	p. 10
Christmas 2008 Pictures	p. 5, 6	Holy Land Pilgrimage	p. 11
Thank You's	p. 6, 7		

From Our Christian Education Director

Happy New Year!

I am always happy to have a new year and a fresh start. We definitely had a strong finish to 2008. The pageant proved to be a crowd pleaser. I think all of the children did a great job! Again, **thanks to** Cathy Berlage and Carolyn Maher for all of their help and dedication. Also, thanks to Darlene Marshall and Laura Sanom for their help with the costumes. We can't forget our dedicated stage hands Bill Fleming, Kevin Maher and Sean McEvoy. I also owe Fr. Hart a thank you for all of his support behind the scenes. It was great because of all of you. **THANK YOU!**

Our **Sunday school attendance was phenomenal from Sept.-Dec**. We averaged 38 children per week. I am pretty sure the national average, spanning all faiths, is about 30% per week. We held steady at 65% per week. Thank you to the parents for their dedication. Without you, I could not brag about these numbers. As I have said before, God is very happy to see you share your faith with your children. Please pray for continued participation throughout the balance of this school year.

I hope some upcoming events and some changes that will take place by the end of 2009, will keep all of you interested and dedicated. Sunday, Jan. 11th was the first lesson for the Holy Communion class. This is a wonderful learning experience for children. When they receive Holy Communion on May 17th, they will do so with full understanding and awareness of the Eucharist.

By the time you receive this, you probably came to Family Fun Night (FFN). I hope to have at least one more FFN before June. I am looking at some fundraisers to benefit the Christ Church Christian Ed Department. Christian Ed is also working with the MDG committee to purchase an Ark through Heifer International. This project will most likely be on going for approximately 18 months.

Together the teachers, the Christian Ed Committee, Fr. Bob and I are working on some small but necessary changes in the Christian Ed area. We are taking a look at the curriculum to create more cohesiveness. I would like to develop a logo, a theme for the lower level, a mission statement specific to Christian Ed, and an FYI sheet for each grade level. I want to accomplish these tasks by the end of 2009. With some of these changes in place, the goal of increasing enrollment will hopefully be met.

Christ Church has a great Christian Ed program. The dedicated teachers, parents and parishioners give this church so much. I can't even express how great our gifts of people and community are here. We owe all thanks to God, He provides all. With His help, it can only get better.

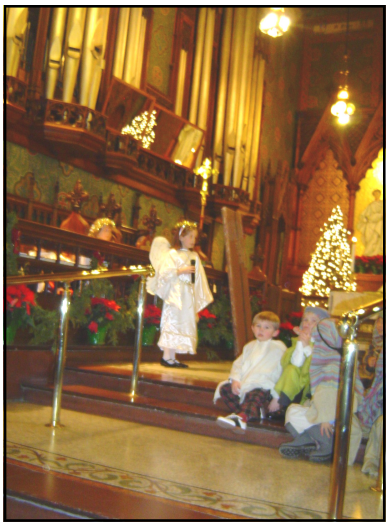
Please pray that we carry out God's will in all that the Christian Ed program does this year. As always, if you have any suggestion or concerns, please do not hesitate to let me know. If you feel you can lend a hand in any way, please do so.

Blessings,
Amy McEvoy

Scenes from Christmas 2008

Actors prepare in the lower level.

Ryan Mondalek & Erin Leney (Joseph & Mary)



Angel of the Lord, Grace Brandon speaks to the Shepherds.

Dana (cello) & Marisa (violin) Leney

Three Kings—Will Berlage, Eric Jackson & Jacob Maher bring their gifts.

Teddy, Elle & Jack McEvoy

Everyone gathers as we close.

Thank You's

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

December 21, 2008
by Jo Mashour

Once again a group of dedicated volunteers gave of their time and talents during a busy time to decorate Christ Church for the Christmas season. Despite inclement weather (snow and ice, i.e.), we had a terrific turnout, in fact more were there than expected. There was an unusual number of smaller children, and what a wonderful way for them to be instilled with a sense of community and duty. On Christmas Eve, the white lights, the festive greens, ribbons and candles, the pageant were validation that they were a part of something special.

Unfortunately, dear Eloisa Lopez was not with us to make her delicious tacos, refried beans, etc. Eloisa has moved to Tennessee and we miss her dearly. To keep the tradition alive, however, Jo Mashour called Eloisa long distance, gleaned some of her secrets and with the help of friends, the taco lunch proceeded nicely. (Assembling and eating them was no problem at all!)

Please acknowledge and thank the following volunteers for the pleasure their work brought us:

Liza Parkinson, Kim Benbow, Evan, Reid and Olivia
George Ellenwood
Darlene Marshall, Cassidy and Robbie
Jane Forbes
Margaret Hammond
Sue Barber
Laura Sanom, Emily Sanom-Fleming
Lauren and John Leney, Marisa, Dana and Erin
Carolyn and Kevin Maher, Katherine, Jacob and Elizabeth
Betty Rutherford
Sue Webb
Tracy, John and Meghan Williams
Gwen and Pat Ald, Ryan and Brenna
Lucinda and Lauren Keils
Ann and Steve Hughes, Logan, Mira and Stella

Special thanks to those, too, who helped with lunch preparations. Armando Apess took Jo on an interesting journey through Mexican Village to purchase the fixings. Armando once owned the Acapulco Restaurant and he really knows his tacos and enchiladas! Joyce Esse, Mary Basse, Christie Galli and Joshua Lucas were welcomed hands. We thank them and extend a very special thank-you to Roger Basse who stayed to the very end to clean up and wrap up the day. Keith Lucas, as always, was nearby to help, if needed. Thank you, Keith. Many hands made a very special day for us all and we are most grateful.

Thanks to Bakers

The Scottish Celebration during our Worship Service last November brought so many delicious goodies to our Coffee Hour. It's never too late to acknowledge and thank all of the contributors. Hopefully no one has been overlooked. (Of course, apologies come from the organizers if such a slip has occurred.) Thanks to all:

Thelma McCrary
Gale Smith
Patsy Coleman
Kathryn Ellis
Marjorie Keils
Megan Norris
Eileen MacDonald
Mary Vitolins
David Chivas
Katherine Orlowski
Dorothy Coleman
Terry and Seth Lloyd
Harriet Ald
Barbara Cushing
Margo and Rollie Norris
Ann Harrington
Joyce Treppa & Jon Campbell

Seamen's Church Institute Sends Thanks

We received another thank you note from The Seamen's Church Institute, which is an Episcopal ministry to mariners around the world. Our own Josephine Zedan has been knitting warm helmets which are distributed by the Institute to seamen. The note reads, "Please thank Miss Zedan for us for her contribution to the Christmas-at-Sea Program. The Peace of God be with you. With much appreciation, Christmas-at-Sea."

If you would like to join Jo and others in knitting helmets, chemo caps, prayer shawls and other items, we meet on the third Saturday of the month from 10:00 to noon in Cary Lounge. See Marilyn Shahly if you have any questions.

Note Received by Margaret Hammond

I have received your ***United Thank Offering Ingathering*** of $1601.07. This gift will be used to assist the Episcopal mission interests and compelling needs of God's people all over the world.

May your parish continue to expand their thankfulness by using their UTO Blue Boxes every day.

God's blessings are with you and your mission work.

Gratefully yours,
Peggy Ann Wilds
UTO Diocesan Coordinator

Annual Meeting, Sunday, January 25th

Following the 10:30 Service, and lunch, our Annual Meeting will be held in Ledyard Hall. Please indicate how many will attend from your family on the sign-up sheet.

This is where we are all updated on all of our activities, committees, resources, etc. It's also our opportunity to select five new Vestry members who will replace those rotating off. Information on the nominees will have been placed in the three previous bulletins. Once more we are blessed with eleven outstanding candidates:

Sue Barber	Kathy Ellis	Jan Weir
Tom Cragg	Seth Lloyd	Ben Wilbert
Susan Diehl	Eileen MacDonald	Anthony Younan
George Ellenwood	Kevin Maher	

Maintaining the Mission

This special Forum sponsored by the Vestry was held on January 11th. The discussion was to talk about how each of us can be part of our Mission, supporting the many wonderful reasons we all feel about Christ Church as our Parish Home, even as we face tough economic times. A full follow-up to the Forum will be reported in the March Chronicles.

Celebrate II on February 28

All-day ministry fair in Detroit

"Celebrate II - Becoming a whosoever church that can, by grace, grow everywhere" is a continuation of the collaboration begun last year between the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and the Southeast Michigan Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

At this all-day ministry fair, the morning will feature two keynote speakers: the Rev. Lottie Jones Hood, who revitalized the historic First Congregational Church of Detroit, and the Rev. Stephen Bouman, the executive director of the ELCA's Evangelical Outreach and Congregational Mission office. Two rounds of workshops will follow on various topics related to church growth, extending hospitality and making your church a "whosoever kind of place".

Celebrate II will be held at the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Detroit on Saturday, February 28, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Registration is $15 and a box lunch can be ordered in advance for $10. **Congregations are encouraged to bring a team to gather as much information and as many experiences as possible.**

Questions and registration inquiries can be directed to Beth Rowley at browley@edomi.org or at 313/833-4421. A complete listing of workshops will be on www.edomi.org website by February 1.

Check Request—Are You the Donor?

Our office has received a check sent from Wells Fargo Investments dated 12-18-2008. Will the donor of the check please call the office at 313-259-6688 or contact John Leney, the church's treasurer at 248-641-5952, so that credit may be made on their contribution statement.

Mark Your Calendars

January 31 – February 8 – We host guests during the **Rotating Shelter Week**. Co-chairs Margo Norris and Mary Basse will be looking for volunteers. Sign up poster in Ledyard Hall.

January 31, 11:00 am – Spirit of Hope Soup Brigade
Sign-up sheet posted in Ledyard Hall. See Jon Miller

February 5 – Early deadline date for March Chronicles

February 7, 9:00 am – Bagging at Gleaners Food Bank
Sign-up sheet posted in Ledyard Hall. See Seth Lloyd

February 24, 5:00 -7:00 pm – J2A sponsors Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

February 25 – Ash Wednesday Services 12 Noon & 7pm

Absalom Jones Eucharist

The Annual Diocesan Absalom Jones Eucharist will be held here at Christ Church on Sunday, February 15th at 3:00 pm. The Rev. Absalom Jones was the first African-American priest in the Episcopal Church. February 13th is his feast day in the church calendar. This service is coordinated by the H. Irving Mayson Chapter of the Union of Black Episcopalians. More information will be forthcoming in the Sunday Bulletin and on the Christ Church web site.

CHRIST CHURCH DETROIT
VESTRY HIGHLIGHTS
DECEMBER 2008

The Rev. Bob Hart opened the meeting with prayer.

John Leney presented the Financial Report through the month of November. Operating revenues are up for the month, which is typical for the end of the year. Operating expenses are right in line with what was budgeted. Actual pledge revenues are down compared to what was budgeted for the year. Year to date expenses are down compared to what was budgeted. This is due, in large part, to making some tough choices on expenditures, including staffing. We will need to make tough choices in 2009 as well.

John reported that the Finance Committee is recommending approval of the Comerica loan which replaces our bridge loan on Capital Campaign outstanding pledges. This is a three year loan without a prepayment penalty, so as additional Capital Campaign pledges are received, they will be applied to the loan. The Vestry passed a motion to approve the Comerica loan.

Tom Cragg presented the revised 2009 budget. As requested by the Vestry at the November meeting, the Finance Committee revised the budget to decrease expected pledge income and to further cut expenditures, with a resulting deficit of $198,750. The Finance Committee made specific recommendations to support the expenditure cuts, such as a Utilities Committee to manage a significant reduction in utilities, and an active communication of spending/fundraising strategies to the congregation. The Vestry expressed continued concern about the need to cut further, to monitor execution of budget cutting, to increase fundraising, and to have an ongoing, active communication with the Parish. We cannot continue to rely heavily on the endowment for operating expenses.

Therefore, the Vestry made the following decisions. Communication to the entire Parish will start immediately with an announcement on Sunday regarding a "Maintaining the Mission" Forum to be held on January 11th, between services, to share our concerns with the parish, to provide some hard numbers, and to ask parishioners for their assistance by working with small groups on specific initiatives to curb expenditures and/or increase fundraising in specific categories. Groups and their sponsors so far are:

Music Ministry:	Jeff Walker and Genet Barthwell
Insurance Expenditure:	Finance Committee
Staffing/Security/Office Expenditures:	John Williams, Bob Hart, and Staff.
Utilities Expenditure:	Chuck Atwater and Howard Matthew
Millennium Development Goals:	Tom Cragg will call Seth Lloyd on this category.

Other groups may be added. The Forum will be followed up by Quarterly meetings to monitor and share progress. Initially, groups will be asked to prepare "Mission Plans" giving detailed strategies and tactics to reduce expenditures and/or increase fundraising.

Communication with the Parish will continue at the Annual Meeting. The Finance Committee will prepare and give an understandable report on the state of the Endowment. Bob encouraged anyone who is giving reports at the meeting to use Power Point presentations. Continued communication will be critical and achieved through Chronicles articles, items in the Sunday bulletin, announcements and email messages.

The next Vestry meeting will be January 22, 2009.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

The Rev. Ervin Brown, former Rector of Christ Church, along with Harriet Taylor from the Ministry of Money, a ministry of the Church of the Savior in Washington, D.C., will be leading a **pilgrimage to Israel/Palestine this spring, May 1-14.**

Ministry of Money has been taking groups to the Middle East since 1998. These pilgrimages have provided life-changing experiences for the participants, including Erv and Tish Brown. Not only will there be visits to the holy sites that have such significance for Christians, Jews and Muslims, but the group will also meet and visit places that are simply not included on any typical Holy Land tour. This pilgrimage offers relationship-building opportunities with Palestinians and Israelis, and the speakers and unique resource people give a very broad perspective on the terribly difficult issues confronting the region today. If interested, contact Erv Brown at the Cathedral of the Incarnation, 4 East University Parkway, Baltimore, MD 21218, or at 410-567-3750. **Registration deadline is March 8, 2009.**

Pledges – 2009

If you haven't taken the time to fill out and return a 2009 Pledge Card, have no fear. We have lots of cards waiting for your use. At this time of year things get overlooked, and sometimes we think we did something but we didn't. There is never a deadline for submitting a PLEDGE CARD to the church. We need your generous support all year long. For those of you who have turned your pledge card into the church and you expect offering envelopes for 2009- they are available in Ledyard Hall for pick-up. If you do not see your box and you have turned in a pledge card then please call the church office at 313-259-6688 and we will see how to get you a set. Remember- using your envelope helps the counting team with their sometimes challenging task. THANK YOU.

Christ Church January Schedule

Sunday

8:15 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

8:30 a.m.
Breakfast

9:00 a.m.
Choir Rehearsal

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

Kindergarten	Lower Level
Grades 1-2	"
Grades 3-4	"
Grades 5-6	"
Rite 13	"
J2A	"
YAC	"

Adult Bible Study—Cary Lounge
Adult Forum—Ledyard Hall

9:30 a.m. - 12 Noon
Nursery - Off of Atrium

10:30 a.m.
Holy Eucharist
&
Worship Center—Lower Level

Tuesday

11:30 a.m. — G.A. - Cary Lounge
1:30 p.m. — Bible Study - Cary Lounge

Wednesday

9 a.m. Walk-In Ministry - Ledyard

Thursday

G.A. — 11:30 a.m. - Cary Lounge

Saturday

A.A. 10:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. Ledyard
Al-Anon 8:30 p.m. Ledyard
G.A. 7 p.m.—Cary Lounge

Christ Episcopal Church
960 East Jefferson Avenue
Detroit, Michigan 48207

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PAID
DETROIT, MI
PERMIT NO. 4033

January/February Calendar

January

15	7:00 pm	Family Fun Night in Ledyard Hall
18	8:15 & 10:30	2 Epiphany, Adult Forum
19-20		CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED
22	6:00 pm	Vestry Meeting in Cary Lounge
25	8:15 & 10:30	3 Epiphany **Annual Meeting after 10:30 Service**
31	11:00 am	Spirit of Hope Soup Kitchen Brigade
31—Feb 7		Rotating Shelter at Christ Church

February

1	8:15 & 10:30	4 Epiphany, Family Service, No breakfast, Super Bowl Sunday
5		March Chronicles articles due to costandim@aol.com
7	9:00 am	Bagging at Gleaners Food Bank
8	8:15 & 10:30	5 Epiphany
15	8:15 & 10:30	6 Epiphany
	3:00 pm	Diocesan Absalom Jones Eucharist at Christ Church Detroit
22	8:15 & 10:30	Last Epiphany
24	6:00 pm	Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
25	12N & 7 pm	Ash Wednesday Services