



Seeking. Living. Sharing Christ

Christ Church Chronicle

Christ Episcopal Church
69 Fair Street
Cooperstown, NY 13326
E-mail: christchurch@ceccoop.net

February 2009
Volume XVI- Number 1
Phone: 607-547-9555 / Fax 607-547-7414
Website: www.christchurchcooperstown.org

For Your Calendar

Sunday, February 1: 12 noon - Newcomer's Luncheon in the library

Saturday, February 7: 9:00-3:00 - Parish Leadership Conference, St. Mary's School, Oneonta

Sunday, February 8: 10:00 a.m. - Praise Band leads worship

Sunday, February 15: 5:00 p.m. - St. Valentine's Day Choral Evensong in the church

Thursday, February 19: 7:30 p.m. - Anglican Faith and Practice led by Fr. Sam in the library

Wednesday, February 25: Ash Wednesday services at 8:30 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. in the chapel

Friday, February 27: 7:00-9:00 p.m. - Teen Night Out sponsored by Youth for Christ in the CSC gym

From the Rector

Dear Friends, "Every Kingdom divided against itself is laid waste and no . . . home divided against itself will stand." Mt. 12:25

February 12th is the bicentennial of the birth of our greatest president, Abraham Lincoln. I write that conscious that some fault him for pursuing a long and bloody civil war rather than allowing the Southern states to secede in peace. Others fault him for freeing the slaves to preserve the union rather than for abolition's own sake.

For his entire public career Lincoln held fast to one big idea: that sovereignty is indivisible and the union of states indissoluble. Once a state is allowed to secede, what is to prevent a county from seceding from a state, a town from a county, a village from a town? Soon government is replaced by anarchy.

Lincoln hated slavery but would have tolerated it in the Southern states. It was the extension of slavery to new

states and territories in the West that was the sticking point for him. He would not allow the institution of slavery to grow; he wanted it to wither away. But the Southern states insisted on extending slavery to maintain parity between slave states and free and protect their special institution. So they seceded and war came.

Lincoln was the least qualified man in terms of public service ever elected President: he had served one term in the House of Representatives and ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate. Yet his wisdom, courage and charity saw us through our darkest hours as a nation.

Much has been written about Lincoln's religion. He was never a member of any church. But as the war progressed his reliance on God grew. After his death a book of daily devotions, well used, was among his personal possessions.

Assassination spared Lincoln the dilemmas and frustrations of presiding over reconstruction. As we sing in the Battle Hymn of the Republic, "as [Christ] died to make men holy, let us die to make men free." Lincoln did. It is no coincidence that he was shot on Good Friday.

Now another man from Illinois, partly African-American, is president. Let us pray that Lincoln's example, dependence on God, wisdom and charity may enable Barack Obama to meet today's challenges.

Faithfully,
(*The Rev.*) *Samuel B. Abbott, Rector.*

Thanks and Praise

Thanks to you, Lord God, for:

- Pledges for 2009 surpassing those made and paid in 2008;
- Ending the year with a \$21,000 surplus in the operating budget;
- Despite the one third decrease in the value of our endowment, the opportunity to be less dependent on it;
- Beautiful music, decorations and pageantry at our Christmas services
- For a generous outpouring of support for Angel Tree, the Mitten Tree, Caring Coins, Cookie Project and the Rector' Discretionary Fund;
- For volunteer snow shovelers;
- For the successful mission trip to the D.R. by Mike, Kelly, Lily and Mariah;
- For the baptisms of Kate Johnson and Ellie Cooper on December 28th.
- For extra work by our parish secretary and The Fold to produce our Christmas service leaflets.

Adult Class

Father Sam will offer a class, "Introduction to Anglican Faith and Practice". After a survey of the English Reformation and the development of the Prayer Book, we will look closely at our current (1979) Prayer Book. The goal will be to deepen our understanding and use of this resource. The class will also serve as a confirmation class for those who would like to be confirmed or received when the bishop visits on April 26th. If interested, contact F. Sam. The class will meet Thursday evenings, 7:30-9:00 in the library from Feb. 19th to April 16th except for April 9th (Maundy Thursday).

Search for a New Rector Continues

The vestry, acting as the search committee for the new rector, has been able to adhere to its planned schedule thanks to the guidance of Bob Birch. The ads for the position open at Christ Church have appeared in national Episcopal publications over the past several weeks. As a result, the Albany diocesan office has received many letters of inquiry from interested ministers. Included among these was a letter from Texas. One of our vestry made the dour observation that this individual should be warned that presently we are roughly 90 degrees colder than Texas, a factor that perhaps should be considered!



Once the applications have been completed, each including C.V., letters of recommendation, and other materials, the vestry will screen and rank them. This process will take some time, as it is anticipated that more than 20 applicants will have been "vetted" and approved by the bishop prior to our perusal. Once the number has been reduced to "highly ranked" candidates, members of the search committee will visit the respective parishes to assess the applicant. Eventually two or three individuals and their spouses will be invited to Christ Church. The vestry is hopeful that we will be at this stage in April or early May. Our goal remains to complete this process and make a selection by the time of our annual meeting.

To accomplish the above we are scheduled to meet every other week for the foreseeable future. Hence, do not be alarmed to see lights burning late in the parish house library on some evenings! I will keep you informed as we progress. You are encouraged to consult with a vestry member at any time should you have a question or concern about the search, as we do not wish to function in a vacuum.

--Roger MacMillan

Vestry Notes

January 12, 2009 Meeting

Father Sam opened the January vestry meeting with prayer.

Father informed the vestry that a total of 320 persons attended Christmas Eve (5pm & 10 pm) and Christmas Day services. Father Sam was given permission to reorganize the parish library, it has become "disheveled". He plans on removing books that don't belong in a parish library, reduce many duplicate copies, classify books into one of approximately thirteen subject areas, re-shelve the books alphabetically by title within each subject area, create an index card and instruction sheet for borrowers, provide a return box for returned books and recruit volunteers to re-shelve and maintain our collection. We can now add one more title to Father's many "hats" - librarian. Father noted that a "Newcomers" luncheon will be held in February for new members of the church. Father also mentioned that a "Parish Leadership Conference" will be held at St. Mary's School in Oneonta on February 7th. Topics presented will include a treasurer's workshop, a discussion of the "Anglican Covenant", evangelism, scriptures and personal financial management.



John Mason our Treasurer reported that we had finished the year in the black! While we received only 95% of our anticipated and budgeted 2008 income, our expenses were, through very frugal and careful management, held to only 93% of the amount we had originally anticipated and budgeted. As a result, we ended the year with a surplus! Specifically, we had \$5858 to "rollover" to our 2009 budget year and, because we were able to forgo one scheduled 2008 endowment withdrawal totaling approximately \$16,000, we will have a small but very necessary cushion for our 2009 budget year. One of the reasons for this wonderful "year end fiscal news" was that our 2008 salary line was considerably less than anticipated. This was because we were without an organist for several months, two of our "treasurers" (John Mason and Phil Holz) have refused compensation for their many hours of service, and Anita Born has also refused payment for her

services as a Christian Education Coordinator. Another reason for our positive fiscal news is that we were the recipient of several wonderful gifts (social hour gifts and discretionary funds which Father has generously shared). Finally, the vestry and our staff are to be commended for their watchful and always frugal approach to the use of the church's money. In particular we have benefitted from reduced insurance costs (the result of carefully "shopping around") and carefully managed resources. The vestry will continue its ongoing efforts to be good stewards of our financial resources this year. The value and importance of our frugal stewardship during 2008 will be evermore apparent during 2009 since the principal amount of our endowment funds have decreased by approximately a third over this past year and the amount of income we can "count on" in the future has likewise been substantially reduced. We are prayerfully thankful for the increased generosity of our pledging and contributing members this year, and we as vestry and staff pledge to do our very best at conserving and stewarding your funds.

Susan Snell reported for the Stewardship Committee and informed the vestry that our members had, as a whole, come through for the church and that our total 2009 pledge amount was expected to exceed last years pledge figure. Thank you to all who pledged.

Susan then, on behalf of the Financial Planning Committee, presented the 2009 budget, a budget brought into balance after many hours of review and many tough decisions. After discussion the budget was adopted by the vestry.

New building use fees were discussed. Many fees for the use of the church's facilities were increased. These new fees were adopted to enable us to keep pace with rising costs. The vestry decided to ask the Buildings and Grounds Committee to consider a "winter months" surcharge to cover the increased cost of using the church's facilities during the winter months. The vestry also adopted new (2009) prices for the purchase of a niche in the Columbarium Wall. The new price for a niche will be \$2,136 up slightly from 2008's price of \$2,084.

Finally the vestry reviewed our annual parish outreach. We can all be justifiably proud as a congregation to know that because of our careful stewardship we as a church funded \$25,862 in outreach during 2008 not including our "Alternative Christmas" receipts and gifts totaling \$4,212. Many prayed for needs were met through our combined generosity and our sharing of God's many gifts.

Following a prayer, the vestry meeting adjourned at 8:11.

Faithfully,
Martin H. Tillapaugh, Sr. Warden

December 8, 2008 Meeting

Father Sam opened the December meeting with prayer.

The members were reminded of our intent to expedite and shorten the vestry meeting to permit the vestry, at the conclusion of its meeting, to excuse Father Sam and thereafter reopen as the "Search Committee" so as to continue our efforts to find a priest to succeed Father Sam following his retirement next June.

The minutes of the vestry's November 10th meeting were reviewed and amended to more clearly state the vestry's policy to require all committees with spending authority, including committees responsible for non-operating funds (i.e. flower committee, music committee, altar guild, etc.) to submit an annual "spending plan/budget" at the beginning of each year. This clarification of our budgeting process will, the vestry hopes, enable us to maintain better oversight of our "non-operating funds".

Our esteemed Treasurer, John Mason was present and reviewed his November Treasurer's Report. He noted that while 91.7% of the 2008 year was behind us, the amount of income we have received was only 81% of the anticipated and budgeted (2008) total.

Nevertheless because our expenses were also less than anticipated at this point in the budget year (i.e. 85% of the budgeted amount) we are in the "black". John also noted that we have not taken all of the endowment transfers to which we are entitled so he feels "comfortable" with our current 2008 financial status.

Susan Snell reported that our 2009 "pledge drive" was proceeding and that the initial responses looked "good". She noted that the amount pledged to date was up slightly from our 2008 budgeted amount and that we still have not heard from 18 households that pledged in 2008. She is hopeful that we will meet or exceed our 2009 pledge goal of \$133,000.



The Financial Planning Committee presented a balanced budget for the 2009 budget year. The vestry will be asked to vote on the 2009 budget at our January meeting.

We learned that the Buildings and Grounds Committee is reviewing the schedule of building "use/rental fees" with the intent of making adjustments in the various fees.

The vestry voted to change the "apportionment" of the portion of the diocesan assessment we control. Our new apportionment is 10% to the national church, 5% to overseas missions and 6% to support the diocesan Spiritual Life Center.

The meeting adjourned following a closing prayer offered by Father Sam.

Faithfully,
Martin H. Tillapaugh, Sr. Warden

Music at Christ Church

We welcome newcomers to Christ Church Choir this season: William Lange, baritone; Jeje Viek, alto; and Marly and Rebecca Miller, sopranos. If you would like to take part in our special music for Lent, Palm Sunday, and Easter, we would welcome you. Please contact Roberta, our Organist/Choirmaster, at the church office.

We have been asked by Otsego Manor to provide music for their service on Sunday, February 1st, at 2:15 p.m. Soloist will be Yolanda Sharpe accompanied by our organist.

Choral Evensong will take place on Sunday, February 15, at 5:00 p.m. If you attended Choral Evensong in November, you know that it was a beautiful and inspirational service. This winter Evensong will feature Christ Church Choir and soloists. Your attendance will encourage our musicians and is an indication that you understand the extra dedication that goes into making this service truly special. Mark this date on your February calendars.

Lenten Chamber Concerts are a new program here at Christ Church. They will take place during the month of March on Wednesdays, from 12:15 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. The first concert on March 4 will be "Back to Bach" presented by Roberta Rowland-Raybold at the organ. The remaining concerts will be presented by Michael Luby, tenor, Katie Boardman,



classical recorder, and Hakan Hromek, cello. These programs promise the finest in sacred and classical music during the Lenten season. Concerts are sponsored by friends of music at Christ Church. We welcome both church and community to these special events at no charge. Please lend us your support by your attendance and share this information with neighbors and friends. Watch for further information.

Pledge Support and Budget

At the January Vestry meeting, a budget for 2009 was adopted.

Last fall, we began the budget process aware that it would be a challenging year. We faced additional costs in our search for a new rector, oil prices had climbed rapidly, we had \$13,000 less in endowment income and no income for capital expenses due to declines in the investment markets.

We asked parishioners for renewed and increased pledge support. The response has been strong and we thank everyone. Our pledge total is now \$133,000, an \$8000 increase over last year. In addition, the family of Jim Brady made a generous gift to the Rector's Discretionary Fund. Father Sam has authorized that \$25,000 of the gift may be used to maintain the funds available for outreach.

The budget adopted for 2009 is prudent. We were not able to fund many of the requests that were made. Some expenses have been deferred. We have reduced the amount we will send to the Diocese. We have eliminated payment for the positions of Treasurer and Christian Ed Coordinator and will rely even more strongly on volunteers and the economical use of our resources.

In these challenging economic times, we have worked hard to be good stewards of our financial resources. Thank you again for your pledges and contributions. They represent a strong commitment of support for the ministries of Christ Church.

In faith,
Susan Snell, Jr. Warden



Our Trip to the Dominican Republic

January 5th-12th, 2009

“The Almost Trip”- that is the best way we could think of to describe our mission trip to the Dominican Republic. We left at midnight from our freezing town only to almost miss a deer by six inches, less than an hour into the drive. Once we endured four hours of freezing cold and lack of sleep, we arrived at JFK airport at four in the morning. We gathered up our many bags and headed into the airport, half asleep yet excited! Once we got through baggage and security, we settled into our gate and waited to board. We thought that it was getting close to boarding and wondered why it was taking so long--then we heard over the loud speaker, “Mariah, Lilly, Kelly, and Mike please report to your gate, number 2, ASAP.” We had to run to catch the plane in time, yet again another “almost.” We made it aboard fine and landed safely, to be greeted by the sisters and Father Nephtaly who drove us to lunch. We settled into the warm weather immediately and found our rooms to be very suitable.

After two days off due to the holiday, we started working on the school. We had to sand the walls with a rock; it was supposed to make them easier to paint, but we couldn't feel much difference. Once we started painting, we quickly made friends with two pre-teen boys who had volunteered to help. We each practiced one another's language and exchanged cultural dancing and rhyming games while we primed the entire outside of the school.

We ended up priming the inside of the school as well; we then painted the entire outside and did some minor woodwork. We got to meet many different people that Mike knew, visited some very poor towns, and brought clothes and candy to children who didn't have much to look forward to. The Dominican Republic is a completely different world from here; the people are truly suffering, and yet many of them hang on to their belief in God. I am proud to say that I went and did my part to help, I can't wait to return, and I hope that everyone gets to experience a Dominican Republic trip of their own.

—*Mariah Courter*

Lenten Study



Handel's "*Messiah*" is one of the most magnificent and moving pieces of choral music. Most of us have heard it performed, but did you know that every word of the libretto is taken directly from Scripture? I didn't. And not being a musician, I was only familiar with Handel's work as a casual listener, but never really heard it until I participated in a Lenten Study a few years ago. This study not only opened the Bible, especially the book of Isaiah, but showed me a whole new dimension in the soaring music.

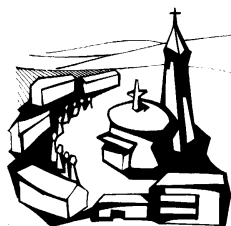
During the Sundays of Lent, beginning March 1st, Christ Church will be offering the course, "The Bible and Handel's *Messiah*", following the Social Hour, from 11:45 - 12:45 in the Library. If you are interested in joining me in exploring this wonderful piece of music, see me at the Social Hour, email me at : hunter.vicky@yahoo.com, or call the parish office, 547-9555.

--*Vicky Hunter, Deacon-in-training*

Christ Church Chronicle a Century Ago

We need moral tonic. Revelations that have amazed the world show criminal idleness on one hand and dishonest business on the other. Insurance magnates are not the only sinners. New York and Newport are not the only Gehennas. There is a little cleaning up to be done in our own community, more especially in our own business and social life, and in our own homes.

--*Ralph Birdsall, 1905*



Stephen Ministry at Christ Church

Stephen Ministry is alive and well at Christ Church. 2008 has been an exciting and challenging year for us. Just as in your own life, each year brings changes to the church. Our main ministry is to help anyone who is experiencing a major change in their life through one on one confidential Christian care. This year has brought some care receivers to the realization that they may move on without our help. It has also brought us new people who suddenly find themselves in difficult situations.

The year has brought a new way for us to reach out to our congregation. We now bring out our book cart at the social hour following the 10:00 a.m. service (first Sunday of the month). We hope everyone will feel that they may borrow any of these books. We have continued our practice of sponsoring the Longest Night service in December. It is a time that we can remember loved ones who are no longer with us but who are especially in our thoughts during the holiday season.

Our biggest change has been the stepping down of several of our Stephen Ministers. They have given invaluable service to our ministry and are greatly missed. With this change, we were very happy when we

found a group of people interested in becoming Stephen Ministers. Mary and I worked together to teach the fifty-hour course. We have been very blessed to have Martha and David Vaules commissioned as our newest Stephen Ministers. We are sure that they will greatly add to our ministry. We have one more candidate who will be commissioned in a few weeks.

-- Anita High



IMAGES in this issue of the *Chronicle* are drawn from <http://www.cruzblanca.org/hermanoleon> and are in public domain.

George Herbert, Priest and Poet

Born February 27, 1633

Love (III)

Love bade me welcome: yet my soul drew back,
Guilty of dust and sin.

But quick-ey'd Love, observing me grow slack,
From my first entrance in,

Drew nearer to me, sweetly questioning,
If I lack'd anything.

A guest, I answer'd, worthy to be here:

Love said, You shall be he.

I the unkind, ungrateful? Ah my dear,
I cannot look on thee.

Love took my hand, and smiling did reply,
Who made the eyes but I?

Truth Lord, but I have marr'd them: let my shame

Go where it doth deserve.

And know you not, says Love, who bore the blame?

My dear, then I will serve.

You must sit down, says Love, and tast me meat:

So I did sit and eat.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Kristin Ratliff
- 2 Lisa Bachanas
Melanie Crawford
- 3 Debbie Dow
- 4 George Wyckoff
- 5 Leland Smith
- 7 Ed Warner
- 8 Alicia Chase
Lois Timmerman
Gilbert Cooper
- 9 Ron Johnson
Deborah Geurtze
- 10 Phyllis Lippitt
- 11 Keith Willcox
Andrew Blum
- 13 Melissa Hochbrueckner
- 14 David Vaules
Suzy Schneider
Lily Tillapaugh
Noreen Polus
Rick Jagels
- 15 Emma Schwarzhans
Hannah Pierson
Lois Holz
- 16 Perry Badgley
Maureen Johnson
- 17 George Seeley
John Clow
- 20 Eliza Higgins
- 21 Ashley Cooper
Megan Lohan
- 22 Liz Lohan
Brett Johnson
- 27 Maggie Hobbie
Abby Clark

FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

- 8 Mary & Joe Bellew
- 10 MaryJo & Ray McPhail
- 12 Betty & Bill Kukenberger
- 28 Andy & Lois Timmerman

FEBRUARY MEMORIAL
FLOWERS

- 1 Rev. Canon Thomas Blomquist
Hilma & Ruben Blomquist
Hermine & Joseph A. Rooney
- 8 Frances Reyburn Abbott
- 15 OPEN
- 22 OPEN

FEBRUARY CANDLE MEMORIALS

- 1 William R.P. Heller
- 8 Rev. William Staton & Eunice Staton
- 15 Peter Duray
Milan Duray
Harriet Duray
- 22 Charles H. Buckland

EXCHANGE STUDENTS

- Jonathan Birch - Brazil
- Anna Snell - Peru

THOSE SERVING IN THE
MILITARY

- Michael LeBron
- William Mason Sanford
- Eric Liston
- Will MacMillan
- Esmeralda LeBron
- Travis Buck
- Matthew Cummings
- Drew Jones
- Morgan Buckland
- Theodore Staubly
- Daniel Hodd
- Suzanne V. Demirel

LET US PRAY FOR

- Frances Randall
- Penny Davis
- Doris Blomquist
- Elna Dickison
- Jenny
- Carol Niedzialkowski
- Sally
- Helen Decker
- Christen
- Sheila Farrell
- Matthew Pollock
- Carol Brown
- Eric Noel
- Deacon Faye VanDermark
- Lisa
- Michael Parliman
- Sue Leahy
- Gertrude Worrall
- Don
- Betty Kukenberger
- George Murray
- Emily, Patrick & Shannon Small
- Jim Atwell
- Janet Brocklesby
- Kelly
- Kathy Lloyd
- Wendy Burbank
- Nancy Clow
- Tim Hatcher
- * Alexandra Gorris
- Cheryl Eisenhower
- * Joanne
- Joan Winhold
- * Colleen
- Catherine Black
- Leia Bailey
- * Priscilla Thomassen
- * Richard Clark
- * Gregory Eaton