

Generational stewardship gatherings a hit

The Stewardship Commission hit a home run with their decision to take a generational approach to the Fall Commitment Campaign for 2007. Special events were planned during the third week of October for each generational group to gather together and share what is most meaningful and relevant to them. Each gathering was well attended and parishioners expressed enthusiasm and support for the church's mission and vision for the year ahead.

Senior crowd enjoys an afternoon tea

Christ Church seniors gathered in the lounge for an afternoon tea sponsored by the Stewardship Commission on Friday, October 20. About 24 parishioners brought their own tea cups to enjoy fresh brewed teas, while sharing memories of their years at Christ Church.

Builders

The event was targeted to the Builder generation—folks born before 1927 and known for building big business, government and religious denominations; preferring traditional church services; faithfulness in giving to their church; and committed to being involved in parish life.

“Those who attended said it was wonderful to gather in fellowship and share some memories. Many of them had not seen each other for some time, as they attend different services or they don't often get out of their homes,” said Kevin Goss.

The Stewardship Commission would like to thank hostesses Angie Keller, Jo Reiner and Luceil Pedler for their help in coordinating this event.

Silent generation meets for breakfast club

The so-called silent generation of parishioners—those born between 1927 and 1945—were treated to a light breakfast on Wednesday, October 18. They were also introduced to the vision and mission of various church programs for the 2006-07 church year.

Silents

The most affluent generation, “silents” tend to be faithful workers who may be overlooked and underappreciated. They believe in leaving a legacy, responding to capital campaigns and planned giving initiatives. More than 60 percent of silents participate in worship.

Martha Amis, Joyce Faulds and Toc Dunlap did a great job of organizing this gathering of very special parishioners.

Boomers gather for Oktoberfest

Jeanne Martens and Jamie Connelly graciously opened their home to 34 baby boomers on Saturday, October 21. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, while Jamie described the 2007 narrative budget.

Boomers were born between between 1946 and 1964 and their sheer numbers make them the driving force in society and culture. They are the quintessential “ME” generation and their careers tend to define them.

Boomers

At the end the evening, Diana Brehob asked everyone to write on index cards their fears about giving. Then they went outside and threw their cards into the open fire to symbolize “letting go of their fears and burning them up.”

The Stewardship Commission thanks Diana Brehob, Jeanne Martens, Jamie Connelly, Erika and George Morrison and Michele Nolan for their efforts in making this event a great time for everyone.

Dinner and conversation for Gen Xers

Born after 1965, Gen Xers tend to be independent risk-takers, prefer short-term commitments and value friendships over careers.

The Generation X crowd at Christ Church met for a tasty chili dinner and warm-hearted conversation at Danny and Lynn Borg's house on Sunday evening, October 22. The gathering of young families—22 people in all—discussed the meaning of giving and stewardship, while sharing how they strive to hold Christ Church as a priority in their busy lives.

Gen Xers

Sine Cookman said, “Often the difference between a little and a lot is very tiny. It just takes one small thing, one simple action.”

Our thanks to Sean Quaint, Stephanie Thomas, Jean Angel and the Borgs for organizing this event.

FROM THE ASSOCIATE RECTOR

Giving thanks in fragile places

This past week during the prayers of the people, along with giving thanks for our Muslim brothers and sisters during the fast of Ramadan, we also remembered our Jewish compatriots during the feast of Succoth (also spelled Sukkot, and pronounced soo-COAT). Living as it does under the shadow of Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur, this holiday probably took many of us off guard: “Huh? What did they say? Did they say something about Sucanat?” But as we move through this season of stewardship conversations toward Thanksgiving, this Jewish harvest festival bears further attention.

“...When you have gathered in the produce of the land, you shall keep the festival to the Lord ... You shall live in booths for seven days ... so that your generations may know that I made the people of Israel live in booths when I brought them out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God” (Lev 23:39a,

42f). And through the generations, the Jewish people have done just that: lived in booths, or huts, during the seven days of Sukkot each year. Each family builds a hut called a sukka (plural: sukkot) outside their house, and during the following week, they eat meals, study and sometimes even sleep in it. Kind of a sacred camping out, if you will. And let's be clear: this is not some deluxe camper with every modern convenience. Jewish



law requires that the roof be more sky than covering; if it rains, it rains.

That's because the central image of this festival is fragility. They give thanks for the gift of the harvest not from amidst the warmth and security of their houses, but from this fragile, temporary place. To remind them that their only sure possession is God. To remind them of the journey they have always been on as a people.

They dwelt in huts, Leviticus reminds them, when they came out of slavery and into the freedom of serving God. And right from the first, it was clear that this was an insecure step: “Why did you take us away from the fleshpots of Egypt to starve in this desert?” they asked Moses (Exodus 14:12; 16:3; 17:3). As slaves of Pharaoh, at least they had known what was expected of them, and where their next meal would come from. Set free into the wilderness, they had to trust and accept what God would give them.

Living in a sukka, open to the elements, the Jewish people give thanks for what they have, while reminding themselves that any security they have built up could be lost. They flat-out admit that life is fragile. That God will give what God will give, and that the only thing they can never lose is God.

As we walk through this season, can we too enter into that fragile, temporary space? Can we hold what we have been given with open hands, giving thanks without grasping? It is an invitation to treasure it all as gift, simply for the moment, rather than be consumed by the fear of loss. It is an invitation to stand under an open sky, deeply grateful and grounded in the Source of all Being.

Just for a change, just for right now, let's not count our blessings. Let's simply give thanks.

In peace, Clare

STEWARDSHIP MOMENTS

Walking into worship, the bells of Christ Church call. The organ sings, majestically warming our hearts and preparing us for God's word. The choir sings. Their voices blend, their harmony vibrates within us. We join the singing, feeling the joy of God's word. We are thankful. After the service, the music thoughtfully asks us to reflect, as we prepare to go forth to do the work God has chosen for each of us.

Our choir director, Sean Jackman, our children's choir director, Tess Dawgiallo, and our organist, Jung Yoo, bring all these gifts together for our benefit. They are there. They have music to

work with; an instrument, tuned and ready for action; and bells to add depth in celebration.

This must be the work of our Lord in our midst. How else can you explain all these resources being on hand year after year? With these musical tools Sean, Tess and Jung, along with all of the choir members and bell ringers, help each of us to allow God to enter our hearts week after week.

They are thankful. We are thankful. Your gifts supporting Christ Church generate the joy they create. This must be the work of God in our hearts.

The Stewardship Commission wants

INGATHERING

Sunday, November 12

Bring your 2007 pledge card to present at the altar. Refreshments, prepared by the Church School youth, will be enjoyed following the 10:00 service. Share in the fellowship and celebration of our continued commitment to each other and to the mission of Christ Church.

to share the stories of ministry at work at Christ Church. Let the whole parish know about what your commission or committee or group is doing. Contact Monica McLeod at 313. 581.6268 or monicamcleod@yahoo.com.

COMMUNITY HIGHLIGHTS

Future of Chapel Day Preschool considered at Adult Forum

Chapel Day Preschool has been part of the ministries at Christ Episcopal Church for more than 30 years. You probably know someone who went to Chapel Day, whose children go to Chapel Day, or who served on the board for Chapel Day. Current and past families have all expressed their overwhelming enthusiasm with the program. Unfortunately, enrollment and support from our parish has dwindled over the past several years. This year the program has 16 students in their four-year-old program and 11 in the three-year-old class.

Concerned parishioners formed an advisory committee several months ago to discuss the situation and ask the tough questions. Do we still have sufficient energy within the parish to continue our involvement with Chapel Day? Is there still value in having a preschool at Christ Church? Is there something else we should be doing?

At the Adult Forum on November 5, the advisory committee will be sharing what we have been doing and report our findings. At the same time, we'd like to hear what you have to say and answer any questions you may have. Please join us for this important discussion.

Jerry Behm

Rector review completed

At the Vestry retreat each year, part of the discussion focuses on establishing goals for the following term. Last February, the decision was made to either pursue another mutual ministry review or a rector development review. In June, 2006, the Vestry decided that a rector development review was overdue, and plans were set in motion to complete one before the summer ended.

A small group was convened at the end of June to brainstorm and develop a process to follow for the review. After communicating via email through the month of July, the review team met with Daniel on a mid-August afternoon for a prayerful reflection on our life together over the last 12 months. Many thoughts were shared, both by Daniel and the team, in a thoughtful and supportive environment. The main idea was to provide constructive feedback about what worked well in the last 12 months and what could use additional work. Goals were established for the future, which will be incorporated into the next review. The team agreed that a similar review should be conducted every two years.

A more detailed report was made available to the Vestry prior to its October meeting and is available in the office for review by any interested persons.

Jamie Connelly

Lay Weeders celebrate with end-of-season garden party



Members of the Class of 2006 Lay Weeders Guild volunteer their time to keep the Memorial Garden in first-class condition. Left to right: Doug Brim, Virginia Ebling, Jim West, Ruth Warner, Ruth West, George Ebling, Dorothy LeBlanc, Jan Shaw, Dorothy Hartmann and Phyllis Brim.

The Lay Weeders Guild was organized some 20 years ago to maintain the Memorial Garden during the summer months. The Guild is active from the end of May through September. Like many other Christ Church groups, the Guild performs its duties relatively anonymously. That is, until this year, when it was decided to gather all Guild volunteers for an end-of-season event to acquaint parishioners with these faithful volunteers. The event was highlighted with cheese and fruit snacks speeded on their way with modest sips of adult beverages both red and white. Hopefully this end-of-season occasion will be celebrated again next year.

The Guild wants to thank Don Cardwell for his photographic work and for using his considerable skills to make all us members look good.

George Ebling

Mid-week Eucharist Services

Last month we reported that weekday Holy Eucharist services had been moved to Wednesdays at 11:00am to accommodate Clare's new office hours. However, every second week of the month, Holy Eucharist will be offered on Tuesdays, the same day St. Martha's Guild meets. The St. Mary of Bethany Prayer Group will meet similarly -- on Wednesdays every week except the second week of the month. This month, mid-week services will be held on November 1, 8, 14, 22 and 29.

Vestry Reflection

By Stephanie Mulkern

I had not been to the gym for months. Mustering up all my willpower, I finally headed out. I took with me my gym shoes, guilt and shame. When I got to the front desk and pulled out my member's card the young woman working there looked up. A smile crossed her face and she said, "Hi Stephanie, good to see you. I've missed you."

I was very surprised she knew my name. I began to make all the usual excuses when she said, "It doesn't matter; you're here now, do you need help getting started?" Wow! That wasn't so bad.

That evening I told my husband how good it made me feel that the young woman at the desk knew my name and how all that guilt and shame just melted away as she welcomed me back.

A few days later I was reading a book of sermons by Frederick Buechner. In one of his sermons, he talked about visiting an Episcopal church and going to the altar for communion. He knelt down and he heard the minister as he moved along the rail giving bread to the people. "Body of Christ, Bread of Heaven." When he got to Buechner he said, "Body of Christ, Freddy, Bread of Heaven." Like me at the gym, Buechner was surprised and deeply moved that he had been called by name.

In John 10:3-4, Jesus, talking about the good shepherd says, "The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own by name and he leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow because they know his voice."

In my gym experience and reading I am reminded that Jesus calls us each by name, knowing us intimately, welcoming us back in our brokenness and inviting us into the fold no matter what "shape" we're in. The voice of Jesus comes to us in many ways, sometimes when we least expect it, offering us love and acceptance, giving us permission to lay down our guilt and shame and inviting us to start anew.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PARISH COMMUNICATIONS



The Common Vision Working Group, in consultation with the vestry and clergy have developed a plan to facilitate communication across commissions and throughout the Christ Church community. The goal of the plan is to help all commissions and ministries work in greater cooperation and collaboration towards fulfillment of the Christ Church Mission Statement. The plan is meant to complement current tools such as the *Courier* and parish web site.

The components of the plan include:

- Commission Working Group — This group takes the place of the Executive Committee and consists of representatives of all of Christ Church's commissions and ministries. Under the direction of the rector and the vestry, it will meet two to three times per year to share information and work collaboratively to coordinate parish events and activities toward maximizing a sense of focus and continuity throughout the work of the parish. The Commission Working Group should work closely with the church office and the vestry to prepare and carry-out a strategic approach to both event planning and communication.

- "Commission Spotlight" — This column will appear in each issue of the *Courier* and on the parish website to describe the work of a particular commission and communicate activities, events and stewardship opportunities to the parish. A "Commission Spotlight" schedule will be maintained by members of the Commission Working Group in consultation with the church office and vestry communication liaison.

- Commission Bulletin Board — The bulletin board provides an opportunity for parish commissions and ministries to share information and publicize events in a visual presentation for anyone who visits the church. Bulletin board materials will be available in the church office. The board's focus will rotate among commissions on a monthly basis according to a schedule maintained by members of the Commission Working Group in consultation with the church office and the vestry.

- Email Update — The email update is a bi-weekly update on parish events and activities that is sent to all interested members of the Christ Church community. It will utilize a reusable template with content supplied by commissions and community members. The newsletter will be maintained by the parish communication director in consultation with the vestry communication liaison.

Combining face to face contact with a variety of communication media, this plan will allow us to work collaboratively and strategically to bring focus and continuity to the way Christ Church tells its story both inside and outside the Christ Church community.

Summer reading program travels around the world

Miles and miles of reading got done this summer through Christ Church's "Around the World Summer Reading Adventure." Of the 15 children participating in the program, 13 made it around the world. That is, they read 400 pages, or 10 books, per month!

Participants included Isabelle Appleyard, Julian Appleyard, Andrew Behm, Charles Bell, Victoria Bell, Ben Cookman, Daniel Cookman, Joel Cookman, Adam Culp, Lindsay Culp, Griffin Giberson, Shannon Giberson, Melanie Swiecicki, John Vandevent and Breanne Warner.

Victoria Bell traveled the farthest, reading 26,472 pages. For her effort, she gets to choose a book to be placed in her honor in the Murray Stover Library as our 6,000th volume. Look for her choice in our showcase soon.

We also gave away 57 books as reward for those who made their monthly goals. In June, Dan Cookman and Isabelle Appleyard were winners. Joel Cookman and Charles Bell won in July, while Lindsay Culp and Victoria Bell took the prize in August.

Jane Culp

Planned Giving Committee forms Pilgrims of Grace

Last year a subcommittee of the Stewardship Committee was formed to discuss and plan ways to encourage members and friends of Christ Church to make planned gifts to the church. The term "planned gifts" usually refers to contributions made to charitable organizations when the donor dies. They are most often made as a bequest in a will or trust. After much prayerful thought and discussion, the vestry has completed policies and procedures for receiving such gifts, ensuring us of responsible stewardship.

The Planned Giving Committee is in the process of planning a legacy soci-

ety at Christ Church. We have chosen "Pilgrims of Grace" as the name. You will be receiving a letter during Advent with more information. We hope that everyone, young and old, will consider exercising this important form of stewardship.

Stephanie Mulhern

Training for new acolytes

Calling all 4th graders and up who would like to serve as Acolytes! Have you ever wondered what is happening up at the altar? Perhaps you would like a closer look and an opportunity to participate in the liturgy more closely. Well now is your chance. We will have Acolyte Training for children 4th grade and up on Sunday, November 5, at 9:00am. Please meet in the choir pews. Contact Susan Ward 313.791.0483 or smw@ameritech.net or Matt Sallman at lincolnmat@aol.com if you would like more information or have any questions. If you would like to serve as an acolyte, but are unable to attend this training session, please let us know and we will arrange another time for you to train.

Susan Ward

Bell pedestal gets a makeover

You have probably noticed that the patio area surrounding the bell pedestal has been sodded to replace the unsightly bricks. For this we are indebted to our Boy Scout troop which volunteered to take on the job. Once they received permission to go ahead, they pitched in and accomplished the job not only competently, but quickly. So thanks to the scouts and their leadership for providing an attractive bit of greenery for us all to enjoy.

Doug Brim

Outreach Opportunity

A great opportunity for outreach is coming up on Saturday, November 4, at Spirit of Hope Church (formerly Trinity Church) in Detroit. We will prepare and serve delicious food for the Soup Kitchen Clients. The meal coordinator for this

month's soup kitchen is Peg Poceta. Please join us in preparing and/or serving the food. If you can help prepare the food, meet in our church parking lot at 8:30am to carpool down to Spirit of Hope Church or meet us at Spirit of Hope at 9:00am. If you can help serve the food, please arrive by 11:30am. We typically finish by 2:00pm, but if you cannot stay until then, we still would appreciate your help! So please grab your cooking hat or apron and join us on November 4. Any questions, please contact Susan Ward at 313.791.0483 or smw@ameritech.net.

Susan Ward

Baskets and brunch

Share your bounty for Thanksgiving. We will once again prepare Thanksgiving baskets for those in need. Please help us share with those less fortunate than ourselves by bringing your favorite (or not so favorite) Thanksgiving foods to the Fellowship Hall kitchen by Sunday, November 19. Please bring canned or boxed non-perishable items. We also would love to receive grocery store gift cards which the churches in Detroit will use to buy fresh fruit and vegetables on the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to pass out with the baskets.

On Sunday morning, November 19, after the 10:00 service, we will have a light brunch and then prepare the Thanksgiving Baskets. Please bring a brunch dish to pass; an entree will be provided. So please bring your appetites and your packing skills or just join your fellow parishioners for a fun brunch! Questions? Please contact Susan Ward at 313.791.0483 or smw@ameritech.net.

Susan Ward

Community is first and foremost a gift of the Holy Spirit, not built upon mutual compatibility, shared affection, or common interests but upon having received the same divine breath, having been given a heart set aflame by the same divine fire, and having been embraced by the same divine love.

-Henri Nouwen

CONGREGATION CONGREGATION

TREASURER'S CORNER

By Mark Jenkins

When I was at General Convention last June, I had the wonderful chance to meet Fred Plumer, president of the Center for Progressive Christianity. Fred is a well-known author, producer and speaker who has long devoted his time and talents to his passion: reclaiming the authentic message of Jesus.

The Center for Progressive Christianity has been significant in the life of Journey of Faith. When we were struggling a few years ago to develop a vision for our new congregation, we happened upon their "8 Points," a statement of what it means to be a Progressive Christian Community. That statement helped us to crystallize our thinking about who we wanted to become as a congregation. (You can read it at their website www.tcpc.org.)

*Journey
of Faith
Church*

On Saturday, November 18, from 9:00am to 3:30pm, Journey of Faith will be hosting a workshop led by Plumer to be held at Christ Church. The morning session will be: "What is Progressive Christianity?" and the afternoon session will ask "How do we catch the Progressive Spirit in our Churches?" This workshop is for clergy and laity interested in reaching out to people that our churches often fail to reach: progressives and liberals, young and old alike.

The cost for the day is \$10.00 per person with a light lunch being served. Scholarships are available. That evening, at 4:30pm, Plumer will preach at Journey of Faith and he will be preaching at both services at Christ Church the following morning. I hope that as many friends from Christ Church as possible will be able to join us for the workshop. It's going to be a practical exploration of how to reach out to new members.

Please register before November 9 at www.JoFChurch.org or call 313.565.5512.

Automatic payment for your pledge

If you like to pay all of your bills by automatic payment, perhaps you would like to consider making your pledge contributions to Christ Church in the same manner. This is a great way to keep your pledge contributions on track if you travel or have a summer or winter home. Or if you just lead a chaotic life like I do, sometimes you just forget to bring your contribution to church.

The Finance Committee looked into offering an automatic payment program, such as department stores or utility companies have through their websites and local banks, but it turns out that it would be too expensive for us at this time.

However, if you like to pay your bills online through your bank, there is another option. You can set up an automatic payment through your bank for whatever amount and time period that you would like, e.g. \$100 per month payable to Christ Episcopal Church Dearborn. Typically, the only information you need is the name and address of the payee, which is: Christ Episcopal Church Dearborn, 120 N. Military, Dearborn, MI 48124. The bank then cuts a check for the amount and automatically sends it to the church on the day of the week, month or quarter that you specify. Most banks do have a fee for this service, so please review any fees prior to signing up.

I realize that this type of contribution is certainly not for everyone, as some people want to have the experience of giving their contribution in Church. If you have any concerns, thoughts or questions on this topic, please let me know.

Susan Ward

Music Notes

by Sean Jackman

Wednesday Workshops

Our Wednesday Workshops began on October 11. As you may know, the workshops are an opportunity for children, young people and adults to be involved in music making and fellowship. We will share what we have learned and experienced with the congregation on either Sunday, November 12 or 19.

Wednesday Workshops will occur again on November 29 and December 6 and 13 with a sharing in church on Sunday, December 17. This second workshop will include work with Orff instruments (xylophones) and drama. Small instrumental ensembles will be included as we are able.

Schubert Mass in G Major

Please consider attending our performance of Schubert's Mass in G on Sunday, November 19, 2006 at 3:00pm. The concert will be held at St. Paul's Lutheran Church (at the corner of Monroe and Beech) and conducted by John Haury of St. Paul's. The hour-long concert will also include several vocal and organ solos to complement the Schubert Mass. A reception will follow.

Please contact me at seanjackman@hotmail.co or 313.562.0136 if you have any questions about upcoming musical events.



BUILDING BRIDGES

Interfaith Relations

Reuniting the Children of Abraham Event

The documentary Reuniting the Children of Abraham (RCOA) will be presented on Sunday, November 5, at 3:00 p.m. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 22430 Michigan Avenue, in Dearborn. The event will include dinner and discussion following the presentation.

The RCOA documentary is a creative response to The Children of Abraham Project, demonstrating the possibility of breaking through long-standing barriers of fear, prejudice and hate. Created by Brenda Rosenberg, the Children of Abraham Project is an effort by individuals and interfaith organizations in metro-Detroit to educate Jews, Christians and Muslims on their common ancestry and to encourage them to work together for tolerance, peace and civic betterment. Tickets are \$30 per person and available by calling 313.792.9389. RCOA will also host field trips to the Holocaust Museum on November 12, the Arab American Museum on January 28, and the Charles Wright Museum of African-American History on February 11.

Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebrations

A variety of faith and cultural communities in Metro-Detroit will sponsor the 20th Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration on Wednesday, November 22, at 7:30pm at University Presbyterian Church, 1385 Adams Road in Rochester Hills. The "Service of Light and Prayer" will include songs, prayer, candle lighting and the Litany of the Golden Rule from various faith traditions. A food and free-will collection for Gleaners of Southeastern Michigan will be taken. Refreshments and conversation will follow the service. For more information, call 248.375.0400.

An "early" Thanksgiving Celebration is being hosted by Friends United – an interfaith initiative of the First United Methodist Church of Dearborn and a community of Arab leaders – on Tuesday, November 14 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm at the First UM Church of Dearborn. The church is located at 22124 Garrison, at Mason. Friends United was formed to create mutual understanding of and appreciation for our neighbors and friends. The thanksgiving celebration includes a meal and presentation of "Images from Lebanon" followed by discussion. If you'd like to help with this event, call Paul Good at 313.274.5420 or Claudia Nickel at 313.278.3941.

Difficult Dialogues Lecture on Katrina

The Difficult Dialogues initiative of the University of Michigan-Dearborn will host a free lecture called "Historic New Orleans/Katrina's New Orleans: A Study of Historic Place, Identity, Dispossession" on Tuesday, November 14, from 6:00-9:00pm, at 1500 Social Sciences Building in Dearborn. Dr. Daniel E. Walker, author of *No More, No More: Slavery and Cultural Resistance in Havana and New Orleans*, historian of the Black Voice Foundation, and director of the Center for Public History and the Arts, will present his research on 19th century New Orleans. He will be joined by Film and Television Studies Professor Samuel Pollard, from New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. Pollard is the producer and supervising editor of Spike Lee's documentary on Hurricane Katrina, "When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts." For more information, please contact Dr. Gloria House at 313.593.5366 or Dr. Claude Jacobs at cfj@umd.umich.edu.

Pre-Christmas Planning: An Alternative Approach

Alternatives for Simple Living (www.simpleliving.org) asks us the question: What has happened to Christmas? Too much time spent on parties and not enough on the people important to us? Too much money spent on things, but not enough care given to our loved ones? Too much rush and chaos and crush to fit everything in? Why is Christmas so important to us, and why do we so often feel like we've missed it?

"Whose Birthday is it, Anyway?" is an alternative to the negative pressures on Christmas. We have asked the same questions and felt the same disconnection between the season and our celebrations.

This magazine – and website – has practical ideas to help re-think the ways to celebrate Christmas. Everyone deserves a Christmas that has meaning, value and peace. Slow down, take a breath and read these suggestions that let the real Spirit of Christ come home this Christmas.

*Doyle Burbank-Williams,
Chair, Alternatives' Board of Directors*

PUT IT ON YOUR CALENDAR

ALTAR GUILD MEETING & CLEANING

December 2, 9:00am

GREENING OF THE CHURCH

December 17, 11:15am

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve

Sunday, December 24

9:00 am – Fourth Sunday of Advent

5:30 pm - Family Eucharist

(Child-friendly Service)

11:00 pm - Festive Eucharist

Christmas Day

Monday, December 25

10:00 am

JOIN US

Soup Kitchen

Saturday, Nov. 4, 8:30AM-3:00PM
Help prepare and serve lunch to Detroit's less fortunate. Meet in Christ Church's parking lot at 8:30am to carpool or meet at Spirit of Hope at 9:00am. Sign-up sheet is posted near the church office. Call Susan Ward at 313.791.0483 or this month's coordinator, Peg Poceta at 313.561.2975 for more information.

Stewardship Ingathering

Sunday, Nov. 12, 11:15AM
Celebrate the ingathering of pledges for 2007 at an enhanced Coffee Hour and meal.

Progressive Christianity Conference

Saturday, Nov. 18, 9AM-3:30PM
See back cover for the details on this special conference presented by Journey of Faith Church.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Sunday, Nov. 19, 11:15AM
Share your bounty with those less fortunate than ourselves by bringing canned or boxed non-perishable items fit for a Thanksgiving meal to the Fellowship Hall kitchen by the 19th. Grocery store gift cards will also be accepted to help purchase fresh fruit and vegetables. Baskets will be packed after a light brunch following the 10:00am service. Please bring a brunch dish to pass; an entree will be provided.

Wednesday Workshops

Wednesday, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 & 13, 5:30PM
The second workshop for adults, young people and children to enjoy an inter-generational time of music making and fellowship using Orff instruments (xylophones) and drama. Small instrumental ensembles will be included as we are able. On December 17, participants will share with the congregation what they've learned and experienced.

FAMILY INTEREST

Baptism — Preparation Class:
Nov. 4, 10AM-12PM; Baptism,
Nov. 5, 10AM

Preparation class is required for parents and godparents of children being presented for baptism the next day. If you're interested, call the church office as soon as possible.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Breakfast Bunch

Sundays, 9AM
Meets after the 8:00am service at Leon's Restaurant in Dearborn.

St. Mary's of Bethany

Prayer Group
Wednesdays, 10AM
(Meets on Tuesday during second week of the month) Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. All are welcome.

The Adult Forums

Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM
Nov. 5 The Future of Chapel Day
Preschool
No Forums Nov. 12, 19 and 26.

CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Prayer Room

Sundays, 10:05AM
Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

Church School

Sundays, 11:30AM
Children aged 4 to 7 and 8 to 11 participate in a variety of creative learning experiences exploring a biblical story or theme in three- to four-week blocks.
Nov. 12-26: Singing and Handchimes

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

Pre-Rite 13

Sundays, 11:30AM
One-year bridge program from Church School to the Journey program, with a focus on building the dynamic of trust and attention needed for the Journey program. Contacts: Jeanne Martens, Mark Cookman and David Blake.

Rite 13

Sundays, 11:30AM
For youth ages 12-14. Contacts: Erika Morrison, 313.791.2709 and John Porter, 313.354.3169.

J2A

Sundays, 11:30AM
For youth ages 15-16. Contacts: Susan Gregg and Dale Taylor, 313.277.1975.

MEETINGS

Outreach Committee

Tuesday, Nov. 7, 7:00 PM

Property Committee

Wednesday, Nov. 8, 7:00 PM

Stewardship Committee

Sunday, Nov. 12, 9:00 AM

St. Martha's Guild

Tuesday, Nov. 14, Noon
The topic of this month's meeting is, "A Child's View of the History of the Church." Bring a sandwich; dessert and beverages will be served. Hosts are Shirley Wever and Julia Vokac.

Library Committee

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 1:00PM

Finance Committee

Thursday, Nov. 16, 7:00PM

Vestry Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 19, 1:00PM

MUSIC MINISTRY

For more information about the music program, contact Sean Jackman at seanjackman@hotmail.com or 313.562.0136.

Adult Choir

Thursdays, 7:30-9PM
Those interested in joining the choir may attend weekly rehearsals.

Handbell & Children's Choir

These choirs will not meet weekly but will have opportunity to participate in singing and playing throughout the year.

HEALTHY OPTIONS

Hatha Yoga

Mondays, 7:00-8:15PM
Lessons are tailored to the individual abilities of participants and include a spiritual-meditation component. \$7 per class, payable on a monthly basis. Contact: Kirsten at 734.558.7625.

Martial Arts — Sundays, 3:30 & 4:30PM; Wednesdays, 6:30PM

ShitoKan martial arts for children and adults designed to address the body as a temple of spiritual life. Contact Michael Mroczyk or Martha Amis at 313.724.8845.

LOOKING AHEAD

St. Martha's Guild Luncheon

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 12:00PM
Make your reservation for the Guild's December meeting with catered luncheon to celebrate the holidays. \$6 per person. Call Luceil Pedler at 313.563.1843 by December 5.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 5:30 Wed Workshops 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Cycling Club 7:30 AA	2 11:30 AA 7:00 Garden Club Bd 7:30 Choir	3 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break 6:00 Rehearsal	4 8:30 Soup Kitchen 10:00 Baptism Prep 11:00 Journey/Grief 12:00-1:30 AA 4:00 Scharf Wallace Wedding 4:30 Journey of Faith
5 All Saints Day 8:00 HE 9:00 Acolyte Training 10:00 HE & Baptism 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 3:30&4:30MartialArt	6 7:00 Yoga 7:00 Scout Leaders 8:00 AA	7 9:30 Quilters 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Outreach 7:00 Boy Scouts	8 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 5:30 Wed Workshops 6:30 Martial Arts 7:00 Property Meet 7:30 AA	9 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	10 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	11 11:00 Journey thru Grief 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
12 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Stewardship 10:05 Prayer Room 11:15 Stewardship Enhanced Coffee Hour/Meal 3:30&4:30MartialArt	13 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	14 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	15 1:00 Library Meet 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA	16 11:30 AA 7:00 Finance 7:30 Choir	17 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break	18 9:00-3:30 Progressive Christianity Conf 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
19 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 11:15 Thanksgiving Baskets 1:00 Vestry Meet 3:30 Martial Arts 4:30 Martial Arts	20 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	21 9:30 Quilters 5:30 Girl Scouts 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	22 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA 7:30 Interfaith Thanks Service at University Presbyterian Church	23 Office Closed for Thanksgiving 11:30 am AA	24 Office Closed for Thanksgiving	25 12:00-1:30 AA 4:30 Journey of Faith
27 8:00 & 10:00 HE 10:05 Prayer Room 3:30 Martial Arts 4:30 Martial Arts	28 7:00 Yoga 8:00 AA	29 9:30 Quilters 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 5:30 Wed Workshops 6:30 Martial Arts 7:30 AA			

THE YEAR OF FELLOWSHIP: Building Community with Open Hearts

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5

Acolytes TBD
 Ushers (8am) T Foster
(10am) Team 2 – Ludwig, Sallman, D Leduc
 Greeters TBD
 Lector/L.E.M. (8am) A Johnson
(10am) D Petts, A Johnson, D Cardwell
 Altar Guild S McCullen, C Goss, J Shaw
 LEVs Clergy
 VPOD J Connelly
 Sunday Readings: All Saint's Sunday
 Ecclesiastics 44:1-10, 13-14; Psalm 149;
 Revelation 7:2-4, 9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12

Acolytes TBD
 Ushers (8am) J Pedler
(10am) Team 3 – M Piernick, Prokopp, Kedzo
 Greeters TBD
 Lector/L.E.M. (8am) R Groover
(10am) N Lehnert, M Amis, A Johnson
 LEVs M Shelton, B Hall
 Altar Guild K Green, A Green, J Piernick
 VPOD R Groover
 Sunday Readings: The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
 1 Kings 17:8-16; Psalm 146:4-9;
 Hebrews 9:24-38; Mark 12:38-44

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19

Acolytes TBD
 Ushers (8am) G Borgeson
(10am) Team 4 – J Groover, D Young
 Greeters TBD
 Lector/L.E.M. (8am) M Sallman
(10am) M McLeod, D Brehob, E Simpson
 LEVs A Johnson, A Angel
 Altar Guild K Hipp, D Hipp, L Pedler
 VPOD C Serfass
 Sunday Readings: The 24th Sunday after Pentecost
 Daniel 12:1-4a (5-13); Psalm 16:5-11;
 Hebrews 10:31-39; Mark 13:14-23

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26

Acolytes TBD
 Ushers (8am) K Goss
(10am) Team 5 – Brim, Searles
 Greeters TBD
 Lector/L.E.M. (8am) E Simpson
(10am) M Farquharson, M Amis, R Groover
 LEVs
 Altar Guild S McCullen, G Morrison, B Caldwell
 VPOD E Simpson
 Sunday Readings: The Last Sunday after Pentecost
 Daniel 7:9-14; Psalm 93;
 Revelation 1:1-8; John 18:33-37

Christ Church's generous giving sparks centers of light

Many of you at Christ Church may know that the security situation in Afghanistan has continued to worsen during 2006. To many it may seem that Afghanistan is going to fall back into the darkness of chaos and fighting. Certainly, Sakena and all of the female staff of the Afghan Institute of Learning (AIL) have to be more careful nowadays, but the assassinations and killings are not stopping the work of AIL. We have added nine new educational centers for women and chil-



dren in 2006 and held 63 seminars and workshops to train teachers and other members of civil society in pedagogy, democracy, leadership, human rights, management and reproductive health. Every month approximately 9,000 patients are treated in AIL's three rural health clinics and 7,000 women and children receive health education lessons. If you think about it, that is really quite amazing.

But what gives us the greatest hope for Afghanistan is the changes we are beginning to see in the communities where we work with a commitment to involve the community in all of our programs and because of the visionary, multifaceted programs that AIL supports in the communities where they work.

For example, AIL works in Sar Asia, a small, rural village about an hour outside of Herat City. In early 2003, we began supporting a Woman's Learning Center (WLC) there for women and girls. The community donated a house and AIL provided floor coverings, blackboards, sewing machines and salaries for three teachers. At the time there were no

girls' schools in the village and almost none of the females were literate. Three village women with an eighth grade education served as teachers.

About 40% of the females in the village came to the classes in the WLC. Today, all of those women and girls have completed a tailoring class and are sewing clothes of their family and, sometimes, their neighbors. Students in the literacy class are now studying at the fourth grade level.

There is such interest in education, that a girls' school has opened in the village and one of the students from the WLC is a teacher there.

Recently AIL began a Community Health Worker (CHW) program out of

its nearby clinic. Each village was to have one male and one female CHW, but they had to be literate. One of the students from the WLC, Malika, became the female CHW because she could read and write. If there had been no WLC, there would not have been a woman in Sar Asia to be a CHW. Listen to what Malika has to say about her life because of AIL:

"My name is Malika. I am 25 years old and a student in the WLC classes. It has been wonderful for me and my family. My family did not think a woman of 25 with two children and the heavy workload that every woman in the village has to perform could be able to learn new things.

"My hand was not used to holding pen and chalk. I had never seen anyone in my family write or read when I was with my parents. It was hard for me in the literacy classes to write a word or make a sentence but my teachers encouraged and helped me. They said not to believe the old ideas 'that older people can't learn how to read or write.' I wanted to be literate so I can help my

children with their lessons.

"Four years have now passed and I am in the fourth grade. I have not only become a literate person but know many things like famous poets, writers, Afghanistan history, geography, religion and Pashtu language. I have knowledge about the human body and health. I have learned math and geometry. I help my son in first grade and my daughter in fourth grade. We both try to help each other with our lessons.

"I earn good money from my sewing skills. I use that money on my children's education and if there is any left over I help my family. I also completed the Holy Quran class and am able to teach it to my children. I am eager to learn more and more.

"I started CHW training and now know about diseases and prevention of disease. I give advice to women on reproductive health. I know first aid and can do dressings and give injections. I can prescribe for common illnesses.

"I am able to do all of this because I am literate. I am respected in my community now and I am extremely grateful to AIL and its people who caused my life to be changed. If AIL was not in our village I would have remained as an illiterate and useless person and I would never have been able to serve my people. Now I can have an effect on others. I learnt from AIL and now I help others to learn and that is the new meaning in my life."

Neighboring villages have watched the progress of the WLC in Sar Asia and now two other villages have WLCs being supported by AIL. The male supervisor of the Sar Asia WLC is helping the other two villages to organize their WLC.

AIL's centers are like eternal flames of light that shine forth in the darkness. They will not go out and their light will be seen by others who will start their own eternal flame of light. By giving us space to work and through your donations, all of you at Christ Church are also a part of helping to start these eternal flames of light. We would like to thank you!

Toc Dunlap and Sakena Yacooobi

ETCETERA

Volunteer Opportunity

Oakwood Common is looking for musically inclined people or those who like to read aloud to volunteer in their Alzheimer's-Dementia unit. Various times available in morning and early afternoon, as well as evening or weekend. Call Shavon Baker at 313.253.9594.

DID YOU KNOW?

You can see the color version of the *Courier* on our website. Log on and check it out.
www.christchurchdearborn.org

PASSAGES

BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Elizabeth Gauthier
- 02 Alex Boyar
- 03 Emily Brehob, Collin Kappauf
- 05 Alyssa Kish, Mei Ling Marzonic, Richard Petts
- 08 Linda Joens
- 10 Susan Audi, Jean Hoffman, Erika Stanis, Joey Swiecicki
- 11 Thomas Ludwig
- 14 Kade Blake
- 15 Richard Baker, Joshua Groover, Holden Spencer
- 16 Alice Boltrick
- 18 Dale Taylor
- 19 Lena Russu
- 21 Joseph Norat, Chase Porter, Dalton Stuber
- 22 Ellen Chapman
- 25 Marion Bloye
- 26 Nicole Nichols, Carol Waddell
- 28 Kimberly DeGiulio, Helena Thornton,
- 29 Barry Kish, Ruth Warner
- 30 Erin Nini, Jo Reiner

ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Alex & Elizabeth Boyar, 10 years
- 07 Douglas & Shirley Baker, 64 years
- 18 George & Erika Morrison, 18 years
- 22 Daniel & Kristin Hipp, 31 years
- 26 Frederick & Barbara Brandenburg, 57 years
- 27 Jerry & Isabelle Behm, 14 years
- John & Jane Culp, 14 years
- 28 John & Tracey Audi, 8 years

To Jane Culp and Elizabeth Appleyard

On behalf of all the children, I would like to thank Jane Culp and Elizabeth Appleyard for organizing the "Read Around the World" summer reading program. Thank you for buying the Borders gift cards, drawn monthly for the lucky children. The program was a very good way to encourage children to read, especially the passports and maps. Thanks to the many people who donated books so that the children could choose from a wider selection as a reward for going "around the world."

I am very excited to have the opportunity to pick the 6,000th book for our church library. The book I have chosen is *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo. He is an English author whose writing is just becoming known in the U.S. My family and I think he is a wonderful author; we like him because he makes good stories of important world issues. We were excited to meet him at an international book festival in Sweden. My family has also chosen nine other books by Michael Morpurgo to donate to the church library. We hope that many other children will enjoy them too. Thanks again.

Victoria Bell

To Daniel Appleyard

On behalf of the people of Dearborn, I'd like to thank you for participating in our special ceremony to mark the fifth anniversary of the September 11 attacks on America, and the Freedom Walk to show support for our men and women in uniform serving our nation. It is important to remember those who were lost on 9/11 and to let our armed forces know that we appreciate the sacrifices they and their families are making. Your prayers over the urn of ashes from Ground Zero helped Dearborn to achieve that goal. Thanks again for being part of the event, and my best wishes for the future to you and the staff and membership of Christ Episcopal Church.

Mayor Michael A. Guido

To Daniel Appleyard and the People of Christ Church

Praise God from all blessings flow! Thank you for your gift of \$200 for our community programs to help the needy and hungry in our neighborhood. Your gift went to our Hope-to-Cope (Soup Kitchen) Fund, used to supply a hot meal every Saturday at noon to between 150 and 350 individuals. The fund also supplies food baskets of both fresh and non-perishable items to 40 families every week. Your gift specifically assisted us in acquiring our new stove! Thank you! Many blessings to you!



The Rev. Matthew Bode, Pastor

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of September 30, 2006

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$260,895	\$260,264
Other	\$24,142	\$20,885
Total Operating Income	\$285,037	\$281,149
Less Operating Expenses	\$298,214	\$312,541
Surplus / Deficit	\$(13,177)	\$(31,392)

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Website: www.christchurchdearborn.org

Journey of Faith Church
presents

RECLAIMING THE MESSAGE

A DAY WITH FRED PLUMER

President of The Center for Progressive Christianity

SATURDAY,
NOVEMBER 18

9:00AM-3:30PM

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
120 N. MILITARY (AT CHERRY HILL)
DEARBORN, MI

A workshop for clergy and laity
interested in reaching out to people our
churches often fail to reach: progressives
and liberals, young and old alike!

\$10 per person
(includes a light lunch)

Morning Session:
*What is Progressive
Christianity?*

Afternoon Session:
*How do we catch
the Progressive
Spirit in our
Churches?*

Register before
November 9 at
www.jofchurch.org
or call 313.565.5512

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