

From the Assistant Rector Bishop Gibbs to Visit

I remember the Thanksgiving when I was seventeen. It was the first Thanksgiving since my parents' divorce. Money was tight, I am sure, although my mother worked hard to give us the sense that nothing had changed in our material circumstances. But as she gathered the makings for Thanksgiving dinner—the same dinner that we had had every Thanksgiving—she bought a jar of broken olives instead of the perfectly formed olives that we had always had. A small change; meaningless. But I whined, complaining at her choice, protesting that it just wasn't the same. I knew at the time why she had made that choice. I knew that she may have had to make that choice. I knew that my behavior was stupid and selfish and spoiled. But I couldn't seem to stop, even as I hated myself for carrying on so. Today I can see that I was trying to impose order on the chaos my life had become. And that meant trying to reassert my expectations, those expectations that had been formed long before.

Those of us who are adults have undoubtedly been forced to accept the fact that our expectations may not always be satisfied, that what may once have seemed sure is in fact fleeting. This year has multiplied the lesson in ways that have threatened to overwhelm us.

The year began with the world's attempts to come to terms with the effects of the tsunami that struck parts of Asia even as we were celebrating Christmas. During the year we have been besieged by news of earthquakes in Pakistan, India, and Los Angeles; mudslides in Guatemala and California, hurricanes in Florida, Louisiana, and Texas, starvation, civil war, and a growing AIDS epidemic in much of Africa, the threat of a pandemic of bird flu, suicide bombings in Iraq and Israel/Palestine, and so much more that I cannot bear to continue.

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Bishop Wendell Gibbs, Jr.—our diocesan bishop—will visit Christ Church on December 11. He will be present at both services to preach and celebrate Eucharist. At that time, it is appropriate that persons who desire to be baptized, confirmed, or received into the Episcopal Church come before the bishop for laying on of hands. It is also appropriate for persons to reaffirm their baptismal vows at that time.

Baptism is an initiation rite. The church welcomes us into the faith community, in which our faith can be nurtured and grow. It is that occasion when we make our own vows—or promise on behalf of our children—to follow Christ.

Because baptism so often occurs in childhood, confirmation is that moment

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Painful Decisions

The Vestry made some painful decisions in our October 16 meeting; decisions that are not entirely a surprise to many of you if you've been at our annual meetings or attended some of our Forums that have focused on Christ Church's financial state. But decisions, nonetheless, that bring us face to face with loss and disruption of our community even as they give us a way for our community to better live within the means we, its members, provide.

During at least the first 9 months of 2006, we will have a one-half Assistant Rector position, staffed by only Clare Oatney. Margaret Haas will be with us for the remainder of this year, but will leave Christ Church by the end of January 2006. At this point, we anticipate that our Communications Coordinator position will not be filled, and the essentials of the Courier and Sunday Communicator insert will be outsourced.

These were the major decisions we made in our meeting, but we are looking at all areas of our life together, asking ourselves where can we responsibly hold our costs down without jeopardizing our service to each other and those to whom we minister. As you can perhaps imagine, we all feel deeply the burden of coming to these decisions. The cost of losing the spiritual gifts and leadership of Margaret may not have a monetary tag, but we will all be the poorer for the loss.

As we continue developing a 2006 budget, we will provide Forum opportunities for those interested in following the process. We want all of us to be involved in thinking through our stewardship of life together at Christ Church, what it asks of us financially and spiritually, and how we move into the coming years being faithful to each other and our mission.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact your vestry members (listed on the back of the Courier.)

As we approach the celebration of another Thanksgiving, it occurs to me as perhaps never before that we need to be clear about what we are doing. Are we giving thanks that we are as fortunate as we are in the midst of a world in which so many millions suffer? Are we giving thanks that our own expectations of safety and well-being have been met for at least another week or day or month or year? Is that a proper thanksgiving? As we give thanks, can we find a way to do so that will unite us to those who are so clearly suffering today, rather than separate us from them in a way that seems to suggest, “There, but for the grace of God go I.”

At our forums on November 6 and 13, we will spend some time around the theme, “Simplifying Christmas.” Part of what we will explore is how we might adjust our expectations of that holiday so that in Advent we are not so harried and exhausted. So that we do not increase our indebtedness as we approach Christmas. So that when the holy day arrives, we can really have a sense that we have greeted God made flesh. How can we celebrate Christmas in ways that build us up spiritually and emotionally? How can we celebrate Christmas in ways that build us up as individuals; that build our families? Come to those forums and let’s explore it together.

But beyond the immediate celebration of Christmas, perhaps these two forums will allow us to explore our continuing expectations of life. What is important and what can we let go of? What do we need—really need? With that understanding of ourselves and our relationship with God and our relationship to our “stuff,” perhaps this Thanksgiving we will be able to focus, not so much on what we expect from life, but on the gifts that we may have overlooked. That chief gift is the presence of God, “tingling” (as I was reminded by a prayer I read recently)—“tingling”—in the air we breathe, indeed in our very bodies. Rejoice and give thanks!

Margaret

Bishop's Visit—continued

when, as adults, we reaffirm publicly our intention to follow Christ. For those persons who come to the Episcopal Church from other branches of the church, confirmation is not required. Instead, those persons are received into the Episcopal Church. In that way we honor the religious experience in which they were formed, even as we welcome them to the Episcopal Church.

The Church encourages persons who are experiencing life changes to consider exploring their faith at this time with an eye to reaffirming their baptismal vows. If you are nearing retirement, if you’ve experienced the death of a family member, marriage, birth of a child, illness, or the decision to take on a new ministry or new volunteer effort in the church or in the community, you are probably experiencing a life change of sorts. Think about reflecting on your experiences in terms of your faith—and consider reaffirming your baptismal vows.

Baptism, confirmation, reception, and reaffirmation of baptismal vows all require preparation. To that end, the Via Media program is being run on Sundays in October/November and January/February. By the time you read this, the first two sessions will already have been held. The next two sessions will take place on November 13 and 20, from 5:00-7:00 p.m. The evening begins with a potluck meal. It continues with a program, which features a video presentation and small-group discussion of what it means to be a Christian in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. The evening ends with a short worship service. Childcare is provided.

Even if you haven’t been able to make the first two sessions, come to the November meetings.

The program will continue with four more sessions scheduled for January 8, 15, 29, and February 12.

We all hope to see you there.

If you want to know more about baptism, confirmation, reception, or reaffirmation of baptismal vows, please speak with one of the clergy. And if you think that you would like to be baptized, confirmed, or received, please let the office know by mid-November.

Church Break-in

Early Friday morning, October 14th there was a break in. We were one of several churches in Dearborn that have been broken into recently.

It seems that the “would-be-thieves” entered the building by one of the many windows that are not regularly latched or through the back door that was locked but may not have been firmly shut. They entered the office and took nothing. They overturned the safe, but were unable to open it. It seems that they were intent on cash. They looked through the offices and cabinets but took nothing. Although we were broken into, they appeared to honor “our space” and put things back into their appropriate places. We toured the building and found no evidence of entry into other rooms or of any other missing items.

New Connections— The Journey of Faith Church

At the time that we were going to press, the Revs. Mark Jenkins and Dan Appleyard were in discussions about the possibility of The Journey of Faith Church (formerly St. David's Church, Garden City), using Room 213 as a temporary location for its worship services. This will be an opportunity to foster closer relationships between our communities and give JoF a launch point for their future ministries. Of course, we are not talking about having a service that would conflict with Christ Church times. Instead we are exploring Saturday and Sunday afternoons. As they start, Christ Church will be hosting them for a time, allowing them to use this space and other rooms for their activities. It also might afford interested Christ Church members the ability to worship with them on occasion.

All Are Invited

All are invited to the nightly Office of Compline, which will be held each week-night during advent from 8:30 to 9 p.m.

Compline is the ancient service of the day's completion, a service of quietness and reflection before rest at the end of the day.

The daily Compline office will serve to help us mark our progress through our Advent journey.

Each service will begin in fellowship and end in the shared evening quiet. There are opportunities for leading, reading, and singing. Please contact Don Cardwell at 277.0574, or <donalddcardwell@earthlink.net>.

Commitment Campaign Update, Our Campaign has ended

At the end of our commitment campaign, we can announce that the final pledge count is 153 pledging "units" for 2005/2006. With the final pledge cards counted, the total amount pledged for the year is \$332,300.

—The Stewardship Committee

VESTRY REFLECTIONS

By Jamie Connely

I have been fighting the fact that summer is over, and fall is here. Over dinner one recent evening we were discussing the changing seasons and I realized that September and February are my least favorite months. I guess these are sort of transition months, where one season is ending but the next hasn't quite started. It seems to me that the older I get the harder it is to adjust to a new season.

I have been running a lot lately, so one day on a particularly long run I started thinking about why I am so sorry to see fall here. Generally when I run my mind flashes around like an ipod on scramble, so at first it was hard to concentrate on one topic, but I forced myself to start thinking about all the things I like about summer: the long sunshine filled days; checking the daily progress in the garden; drinking a cold beer on the patio after cutting the grass; barbecuing chicken on a Sunday afternoon, to name just a few.

Then it occurred to me that I wasn't thinking about why I was *sad to see fall here*, but rather I was thinking about why I was *sad to see summer end*. Although this distinction doesn't seem very significant as I am writing it, in the delirium of a long run it seemed like a major breakthrough. In my newfound awareness, I realized that during all this forced concentration (while I was running) I was looking at the ground right in front of me. I wasn't aware of what was coming up ahead, only what I was about to pass. As I picked my head up, I realized how beautiful the changing trees looked. Suddenly I could smell Autumn in the air. It was a beautiful crisp day, and I failed to recognize it because I was lamenting what I was about to lose instead of what I was about to gain.

So then I started thinking about what Autumn brings. I thought about going home and sitting in my recliner watching a football game. I thought about making a pot roast for dinner. I thought about the approaching holidays. I was no longer sad at what I had to let go, but optimistic about what was coming my way. At some point the transition happens: between dreading or fearing change and accepting and looking forward to it.

Our Parish life is undergoing an abundance of change right now as well. Among these changes are the new building signage; the changes in the operation of the committees and commissions; and changes that must be made as a result of the current budget situation.

The challenge to all of us as we work through these changes is to pick our head up and focus on what lies ahead. We must not dwell on what is about to pass, but rather on the new opportunities that the changes present us. As a Parish, we must help each other through the transition toward accepting these changes.

Vestry Seeks New Members for 2006

The Vestry will have the following openings in January 2006: Four member positions for 3-year terms; and one member position for a 2-year term. Interested persons should contact Susan Ward or Jane Culp of the Vestry Nomination Committee.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

BREAKFAST BUNCH

Sundays, 9AM

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

St Marys Bethany Prayer Group

Tuesdays, 10AM

Intercessory prayer offered for the needs of those on our current and sustaining prayer lists. Also sends notes of encouragement to those prayed for. All are welcome.

Wednesday Bible Study

Wednesdays, 10:00-11:30am

The next Wednesday morning Bible study will take place on November 2 from 10:00-11:30 a.m. The remaining sessions will be held on November 2 and 9. Assignments for reading in preparation for the meetings are as follows: November 2: We will read about the expansion of the early church from the land in which it was born. In preparation for the session, read Acts 10:1 - 19:20. November 9: Witness unto the end of the earth, cont'd; read Acts 19:21- 28:28

VIA MEDIA

Sundays, 5:00-7:00PM

The Via Media program continues into November on the 13th and 20th. This program, which focuses on video presentations and small-group discussions, draws participants into an exploration of what it means to be a Christian in the Anglican tradition. The program will begin at 5:00 pm with a potluck meal and ends at 7:00 pm. Child care will be provided. This program is especially helpful to newcomers to the Episcopal Church and to inquirers

THE ADULT FORUMS

Sundays, 11:30AM-12:15PM

CHILDRENS EDUCATION

PRAYER ROOM

Sundays, 10:05AM

Worship activities for children 3-7 years.

CHURCH SCHOOL

Sundays, 11:30AM

Bible stories, singing and crafts for children preschool-aged to 9.

JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD

Sundays, 11:30am-12:15pm

Coordinators: Jerry Behm & Monica McLeod

RITE 13

Rite 13 for youth ages 11-13 continue to meet, led by Erika

Morrison 791.2709 and John Porter 354.3169.

J2A

Rite 13 group graduates into the J2A component of the program. Led by Dale Taylor and Susan Gregg 277.1975 (for more information.)

MUSIC MINISTRY

Starting in November, the young people of the congregation will be invited to begin rehearsing for our Christmas Eve presentation which is entitled Candelight Christmas Garden. It features a variety of new and traditional holiday and has a multi cultural focus that highlights the Christmas story as it is told in different parts of the world - Mexico, Europe, China and the US. Watch for rehearsal notices going up around the church. There are parts for singers, speakers and actors.

CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Sundays, 9am

Choir for elementary school-aged children. This year Choir will continue to include chimes. Meets in Rm 213. Choir led by Tess Dowgiallo.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00PM

ADULT CHOIR

Thursdays, 7:30-9:00PM (Childcare will be provided.)

MEETINGS

ST. MARTHA'S GUILD

Tuesday, November 8, 12:00PM

Ms. Needra Williams, Grief support Services Manager for Hospice of Michigan, will be sharing ideas on coping with grief and loneliness. We will also learn about the varied services Hospice has to offer. As always, the guild will provide complimentary beverages and dessert. Bring a friend and be a part of the continuing learning opportunities.

St. Martha's Guild will meet for their Annual Christmas Luncheon on December 13th in the lounge at noon. The cost is \$6.00. Make reservations with Luceil Pedler at 313.563.1843. Everyone is welcome for an afternoon of fellowship.

"Not Necessarily Religious Book Discussion Group"

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 7:30PM

The next book of the book club will be To Ride A Pegasus by Ann McCaffery. We have a supply of the books in our library. See Peg Poceta or Kevin Green with questions.

GRIEF SUPPORT

3RD SATURDAY, 11:00-12:30

Our own Sharon Smith, Hospice Care Coordinator will facilitate the Grief Support session, offering information and support to understand and live with grief. They will be held once a month, the 3rd Saturday from 11:00am-12:30pm. Call Needra at (313) 291.9700 to register.

COMMUNITY

THANKSGIVING BASKETS

Sunday, November 20

Time again to share our bounty with those less fortunate. Christ Church will once again put together baskets to share with St. Stevens/St. Phillips and those in our immediate neighborhoods on November 20. Please bring nonperishable foods and put them in the downstairs kitchen. We will have a potluck brunch and assemble the baskets after the 10:00am service.

19TH ANNUAL

INTERFAITH THANKSGIVING

CELEBRATION

November 23, 2005, 7:30pm

Temple Kol Ami
5085 Walnut Lake Rd.

W. Bloomfield

(see page 6 for more details)

DETROIT PRINCESS INTERFAITH CRUISE FOR LOCAL HURRICANE RELIEF

November 14, 2005, 6:00pm

We have a great opportunity to make a common interfaith witness and provide relief for many victims of the Hurricanes in New Orleans, Texas and now Florida. The Detroit Princess has graciously offered to take us on a no expense trip for a half-priced ticket (\$20)...all proceeds go to local hurricane relief (the Detroit Red Cross, and the Detroit area Salvation Army, and local food pantries). Our goal is to raise at least \$30,000. The cruise is on November 14, 2005, boarding at 6 pm., sailing from 7 to 9 pm. We will have a brief interfaith service for the victims on the 1st deck at 7:30, there will be ethnic entertainment on the second deck, and mingling on the 3rd and 4th decks. We invite you to order tickets as individuals, or in blocks for your group. Also bring canned goods for local food programs. Call 1-877-DET-BOAT for reservations.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE & Healing 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	2 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Cycling Group 7:30 AA	3 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	4 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	5 8:30-3:00 Trinity Soup Kitchen 10:00 Baptism Prep 11:30 J2A Outing 12:00-1:30 AA 4:00 Journey of Faith
6 8:00 & 10:00 HE & Baptism 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 1:00 Mutual Ministry	7 11:30-1:15 Detroit Historical Society 7:00 Scout Leaders 8:00 AA	8 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	9 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:00 Property Meet 7:30 AA	10 11:30 AA 7:30 Choir	11 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	12 12:00-1:30 AA 4:00 Journey of Faith
13 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Church School, Rite 13, J2A, Forum 1:00 Vestry Meet 5:00 Via Media	14 8:00 AA	15 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	16 12:30 Library Meet 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA	17 11:30 AA 7:00 Finance Comm 7:00 LWV 7:30 Choir	18 1:00-2:30 Take-A-Break Carers & Tots	19 11:00 Grief Support 12:00-1:30 AA 4:00 Journey of Faith
20 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:30 Thanksgiving basket making 5:00 Via Media	21 8:00 AA	22 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	23 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA 7:30 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service	24 Office closed for Thanksgiving 11:30 AA	25 Office closed for Thanksgiving	26 12:00-1:30 AA 4:00 Journey of Faith
27 8:00 & 10:00 HE 9:00 Childrens Choir 10:05 Prayer Room 11:15 Gift Giving Card Dist	28 8:00 AA	29 9:30 Quilters 10:00 Prayer Group 11:00 HE 12:00 St. Martha's 6:30 Energy Healing 7:00 Boy Scouts	30 7:00 Handbell Choir 7:30 AA			

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 6

Acolytes tbd
Ushers (8am) G Borgeson
(10am) Team 4 – D Hipp, M Hipp
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) M A Zawada
(10am) K Green, D Brehob, M Amis
Altar Guild C Goss, E Boyar, L Coghill, G Morrison
LEVs P Poceta, C Goss
VPOD S Ward
Sunday Readings: **All Saint's Sunday**
Ecclesiasticus 2(1-6)7-11; Psalm 149;
Revelation 7:2-4,9-17; Matthew 5:1-12

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 13

Acolytes tbd
Ushers (8am) K Goss
(10am) Team 5 – J Groover, D Piernick,
L Leduc, D Young
Lector/L.E.M. (8am) M McLeod
(10am) N Lehnert, Youth Reader, D Brehob,
M A Zawada
Altar Guild L Pedler, S McCullen, J Cohoe
LEVs M Shelton, D LeBlanc, S Mulkern, S Quaint
VPOD J Culp
Sunday Readings: **The 26st Sunday after Pentecost**
Zephaniah 1:7,12-18; Psalm 90:1-8,12;
1 Thessalonians 5:1-10; Matthew 25:14-15, 19-29

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 20

Acolytes tbd
Ushers (8am) D Baker Sr
(10am) Team 6 – Brimm, Mills, Searles
(8am) K Green
(10am) D Petts, D Cardwell, B Hall
Altar Guild K Hipp, D Hipp, G Morrison
LEVs M Pellegrino, A Johnson
VPOD J Connelly
Sunday Readings: **The Last Sunday after Pentecost**
Ezekiel 34:11-17; Psalm 95:1-7;
1 Corinthians 15:20-28; Matthew 25:31-46

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 27

Acolytes tbd
Ushers (8:00am) L Crane
(10:00am) Team 1 – Baker, Garris
Lector/LEM (8:00am) N Lehnert
(10:00am) M Piernick, R Groover,
M Sallman
Altar Guild J Reiner, L Conklin, B Caldwell
LEVs B Hall, J Anderson
VPOD J Culp
Sunday Readings: **The 1st Sunday in Advent**
Isaiah 64:1-9a; Psalm 80:1-7;
1 Corinthians 1:1-9; Mark 13(24-32)33-37

THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION

The 19th Nineteenth Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Celebration, sponsored by over 20 diverse cultural faith organizations in Metro-Detroit area, will be held on Wednesday, November 23rd, at 7:30 PM, at Temple Kol Ami, 5085 Walnut Lake Road, West Bloomfield, MI 48323. Our host, Rabbi Norman Roman, has graciously opened the facility for this unique annual interfaith event that not only marks the celebration of America's Thanksgiving remembrance, but also as a witness to our common spirituality. A reception will follow.

Under the theme, "A Service of Interfaith Blessing," this year's celebration will highlight the diverse spiritual richness that is to be found in the Detroit Metropolitan Area. "The Blessings will be opened with the Drums and Sage of the Native American community," said The Rev. William Gepford, founder of the event. "Liturgical contributions of the Spirit will be made from the Muslim, Hindu, Christian, Sikh and Jewish traditions, and members of the Bahai community will mark our special time together and lift our spirits with chant."

The Celebration includes not only witnessing to the Life of the Spirit, but also to the fact that we are one community. Participants will join in a Litany of Blessings, a Mutual Blessing of One Another, and a special opportunity to include one other person in our prayer time after we are dismissed. "For almost 20 years, we have been bringing together a great group of people. It has become a time to give thanks to God for all the blessings we receive in this life – for the gift of the creation that sustains us and the abundance that the human family has been given to share! It is truly an inspiring and joyful time of prayer and reflection," said The Rev. Dan Appleyard, one of the coordinators.

A free will offering will be received on behalf of UNICEF, the world organization that gives ongoing support to the health and care of children. Safe, lighted and secure parking is available at the Temple. All are welcome to this unique experience of "interfaith blessing" that promises to open new understandings of who we are as spiritual beings and children of God. For additional information please call Temple Kol Ami at 248-661-0040, or either of the numbers listed above.

CHRIST CHURCH FINANCIAL STATEMENT, CARRYOVER CASH BALANCE

At the Christ Church 2005 Annual Meeting it had been noted by several members that there exists a discrepancy between carryover cash balance from 2004 and the projected number of the same for 2005. Actually, the Finance Committee had identified the discrepancy during the budget process and at the Annual Meeting, requested an analysis. Also at that time, Rev. Daniel Appleyard set the Parish Administrative Assistant, Jan Timpko to the task of finding any inconsistencies and creating an analysis of the accounts involved.

Jan has compiled a report that summarizes her findings and the accounting errors that led to the discrepancy in figures.

The financial consequences of the report are such that the "Carry Over Cash" from 2004 is \$2,065.44 instead of the \$12,107.63 that was reported in the 2004 Statement of Financial Operations. This is not a new figure, but in fact one of the amounts that was identified and questioned by the Finance Committee, Vestry and Parish Members.

The Officers of the Vestry, Bob Buzby, Treasurer, George Morrison, Clerk of the Vestry, Martha Amis, Junior Warden and myself as Senior Warden, as well as the Vestry and Finance Committees as a whole, have reviewed the reports and analysis and concurred with Jan's conclusions. Indeed, Christ Church's accounts are complex and confusing, and we feel that there is a need for review and perhaps revision of the accounting procedure.

The Officers have taken the following actions with the approval of the Vestry and support of the Finance Committee:

1. Made corrections to the 2004 "Carryover Cash" numbers. The Officers and Treasurer Bob Buzby specifically have carefully reviewed Jan Timpko's findings and agree to the solutions she recommends.
2. Created the volunteer positions of "Internal Auditors." These two positions will review accounts and journal entries at the close of each month and at year-end. These positions will work on behalf of the Finance Committee and with the Treasurer supervising and authorizing changes.
3. Created separate checking accounts through Comerica for the Bagley and Borgeson funds. These funds are the most frequently used and thus require frequent transfer of funds through the main Comerica checking account. This step will minimize the likelihood of accounting errors.
4. We are currently arranging to review the accounting system with the Treasurer, Administrative Assistant, and Internal Auditors with help from Diocesan resources. (Diocesan Treasurer and the Canon for Resource and Support Ministries) Jan Timpko has expressed enthusiasm for outside review and the subsequent recommendations.

Thank you to Jan Timpko for her diligence in this huge task of reviewing an entire year's accounts. Thanks also to you, the parish family for your concern and patience as we resolve this issue.

—Jane Culp, Senior Warden

EVANGELISM COMMISSION NOTES

As you may have noticed by the pink-tipped stakes around the parish grounds, work is about to begin on the signage project undertaken by the Building Evangelism Subgroup earlier this year. As a subgroup of the Evangelism Commission, this group has been working to improve the accessibility of Christ Church by visitors and newcomers. Construction of external signage should be done within the next month, and work on signage inside the building will also be completed within the next month or so.

After thoughtful consideration, the Building Evangelism Commission has formally recommended to the Rector that the name of the Undercroft be changed to "Fellowship Hall." This recommendation follows consultation with the parish at a recent forum and consideration of a list of good suggestions following a pair of services this past September. While aware and respectful of the tradition associated with the Undercroft, the Evangelism Commission hopes that "Fellowship Hall" will provide both members and newcomers with a clearer and fuller sense of what the space is and can be used for, that is, a community space in which to celebrate our common lives together.

Finally, the Evangelism Commission would like to formally announce the beginning of a new greeters program at Christ Church. The program is designed to provide visitors and newcomers with a personal, face to face contact who can provide information about our church to those who enter for the first time. Greeter teams of one to two persons will be stationed in the Narthex for every 10am and holiday service to welcome visitors and to hand-out a Newcomer's Packet which contains information about our church, facilities, programs, and membership. Current members of the Greeter Program are: Marge Lee, Julia Garris, Toc Dunlap, Bob and Eunice Buzby, Valerie Whalen, Bill and Peggy Owens, Mary Ann Zawada, Thomas Trimble, and Barb Markowski.

If you are interested in being a greeter, please contact Thomas Trimble at (313) 581-6268 or by email at mars@americanmars.com

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The Courier

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: REKINDLING FAITH

A member of a church, who previously had been attending services regularly stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday."

We live in a world today which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

—Submitted by Bill and Peg Owens

FINANCIAL CORNER

Income & Expenses as of September 30, 2005

	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Income (Pledges & Offerings)	\$258,545	\$256,050
Other	\$47,776	\$19,934
Total Operating Income	\$306,321	\$275,984
Less Operating Expenses	\$323,311	\$329,839
Surplus / Deficit	\$(16,990)	(\$53,855)

PASSAGES

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 Elizabeth Gauthier | 16 Alice Boltrick |
| 2 Alex Boyar | 18 Dale Taylor |
| 3 Emily Brehob, Collin Kappauf | 19 Lena Russu |
| 5 Alyssa Kish, Mei Ling Marzonie, Richard Petts | 21 Joseph Norat, Chase Porter, Dalton Stuber |
| 6 George Breil | 22 Ellen Chapman, Charlene Heid |
| 8 Linda Joens | 25 Marion Bloye |
| 10 Susan Audi, Jean Hoffman, Erika Stanis, Joey Swiecicki | 26 Nicole Nichols, Carol Waddell |
| 11 Thomas Ludwig | 28 Kimberly DeGiulio, Helena Thornton, |
| 15 Richard Baker, Joshua Groover, Holden Spencer | 29 Barry Kish, Ruth Warner |
| | 30 Erin Nini, Jo Reiner, Lincoln Solberg |

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 05 Alex & Elizabeth Boyar, 9 years
- 07 Douglas & Shirley Baker, 63 years
John & Michele Carroll-Pearce, 25 years
- 14 William & Patricia Barber, 30 years
- 18 George & Erika Morrison, 17 years
- 22 Daniel & Kristin Hipp, 30 years
- 26 Frederick & Barbara Brandenburg, 56 years
- 27 Jerry & Isabelle Behm, 13 years
John & Jane Culp, 13 years
- 28 John & Tracey Audi, 7 years

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Council of Islamic Organizations
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Voices for Earth Justice
American Red Cross- Southeastern Michigan
Salvation Army, Detroit Division

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Staff

The Rev. Daniel S. Appleyard, Rector
The Rev. Clare L. Oatney, Assistant Rector
The Rev. Margaret A. Haas, Assistant Rector
Bob Smith, Sexton
Josh Groover, Assistant Sexton
Jan Timpko, Parish Administrator
Communications Coordinator
Jung Yoo, Organist
Sean Jackman, Assistant Director of Music
Tess Dowgiallo, Children's Choir Director

Vestry

Martha Amis, Junior Warden
Diana Brehob, Evangelism
Jamie Connelly, Finance
Jane Culp, Senior Warden
Kevin Green, Education/Christian
Formation
Ross Groover, Property Commission
Sean Quaint, Service Commission
Edwina Simpson, Evangelism
Roger Somerville, Stewardship
Susan Ward, Service Commission
Officers of the Vestry
George Morrison, Clerk
Robert Buzby, Treasurer
Susan McCullen, Recording Secretary
Jan Motsinger, Recording Secretary

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