

CLOSE CALL

JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2011

A Newsletter of
Christ Episcopal Church,
New Brunswick NJ

A 'close' is the precinct or space around a cathedral or a church.

This edition will cover the rest of January and all of February.
We will return to our usual monthly format in March.

From the Rector

Beloved in Christ,

This fall and winter have been a season of much change at Christ Church. The restoration of our historic facilities has required us to alter how we enter the church, how we get from one part to another, the sounds we hear as we worship; we have even been given the "opportunity" to worship with even less light than usual, as our beautiful stained glass windows have been boarded up!

And you have been in-trepid, tolerating inconvenience and messiness with good humor and patience. I feel that I should give each one of you a World War II poster: Keep Calm and Carry On.

Now that the restoration work on our sanctuary is nearly complete, it is time to turn our attention toward the selection of a new, permanent Director of Music. While we have been greatly blessed in the leadership of John Sheridan, our Interim Director, it is

unsettling to our congregational life to have uncertainty in so crucial a position. Having acknowledged that, I suspect that it has been a healthy thing for us that we did not have to make a permanent selection immediately after Mark's departure. After Mark's long and fruitful tenure here, pausing has given us an opportunity to mourn his departure, celebrate what he has brought us, and learn who we are at this stage in our congregation's

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Adult Confirmation and Inquirer's Class Forming!

—Mother Deborah

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, some of John's disciples came to him and asked him, "Rabbi, Where do you live?" Jesus replied, "Come and See." This class is your chance to come and see how you can live more closely with God. It is an opportunity to explore your faith and deepen your

relationship with Jesus. It will also prepare people to be confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church when Bishop Cancell comes on June 5th, although there will be no expectation that participants will make that commitment.

There will be a brief organizational meeting on Sunday, **February 6th** at 12:00 noon in

Deborah's office in order to determine a meeting time that works well for you. At this point, I am thinking of Wednesday evenings, but other options do exist. If you would like to participate in the class but cannot be present on the 6th, please e-mail me at rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org to let me know of your interest.

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CLOSE CALL**PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS****Black Heritage
Weekend**

Our annual Black Heritage Weekend will take place on the 26th and 27th of February.

There will be a festive dinner on the 26th. The preacher on the 27th will be Dr. Cheryl Wall, the Zora Neale Hurston Professor of English in the School of Arts and Sciences at Rutgers, and a leading authority on the African-American literary tradition.

2010 Annual Meeting

—*Mother Deborah*

One of the healthiest things about the Episcopal Church is that leadership at all levels is shared by lay persons and clergy. Bishop William White, who was the real architect of our polity, was also the Chaplain to the Continental Congress, and was deeply invested in the democratic ideals of the time. As a result, our denomination elects its leaders (rather than appointing them) and takes seriously the gifts and ideas of every baptized Christian in seeking to build up the church.

**Adult
Forum**

The adult forum will conclude its study of *Why Go To Church?* on February 20th.

Beginning on the 27th, seminarian Peter Helman will lead us in a four-week Bible study on each Sunday's Gospel reading and collect.

The 2010 Annual meeting will take place on **Sunday, January 30th at 12:00** in the **Auditorium**.

We will be electing representatives to the Vestry of this parish and to the governing bodies of our Diocese. We will also approve the 2011 budget, learn how we are doing on the Living Stones Capital Campaign and respond to your questions about the health and plans of Christ Church.

I hope that all of you will be there!

**A Reminder
from the
Treasurer**

—*Kathy Brennan, Treasurer*

Donation envelopes for 2011 are at the back of the church.

Please pick yours up if you have not done so already. If you want a box of envelopes, please let Irene know. We have a limited supply of extras.

For retirees with IRAs that require a yearly distribution, the tax legislation passed in December reinstated the ability to make charitable contributions directly from IRAs for 2011. However, it is for 2011 only unless Congress extends it in future tax legislation. If you wish to make a gift to the Church directly from your IRA, please give me or Irene a "heads up" that you are doing so. Some brokerages and mutual fund companies do not do a good job of identifying the donor in such cases.

Thanks to everyone for their faithful and continued financial support of Christ Church.

**Ash
Wednesday**

Ash Wednesday will fall on Wednesday, March 9th. There will be services with the imposition of ashes offered at 7 a.m., 12:15, and 7:30 p.m., all at Christ Church.

The parishioners of Emanuel Lutheran will be joining us for the evening service.

Lenten Retreat

Reviving the Weary Heart, a Lenten retreat for young adults in the Diocese, will be offered at Christ Church on Saturday, March 26th. Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will refresh you." And yet, so often we feel worn thin, pulled in too many directions, and paralyzed by choice.

Come take some time to rest in the presence of God. Pray the psalms with other young adults. Listen for the Christ-centered call which will make our hearts whole. Revs. Greg Bezilla and Deborah Meister will co-lead this offering. Cost is \$5; lunch is included.

Please register at www.newjersey.anglican.org by March 22nd.

Construction Update



—Mother Deborah

After all these months, we are in the final weeks of the restoration of our sanctuary. The builders

will return in the Spring to attend to some final details which require warm weather, but we really are about to regain our beautiful sanctuary. The Tiffany lanterns have returned and will be reinstalled in the church. In addition to being restored, they will be enhanced with additional lighting capacity, which should improve the lighting in the pews. The roofers are making good progress, even with the snow. The barrel vault has been insulated, which should both save us money on heating in winter and

shield us from some of the heat in summer. The windows we restored have been reinstalled in the auditorium, so we no longer look boarded-up and bit dodgy.

John Sheridan is contacting the organ builder about coming here to unwrap the Richards Fowkes organ, probably in February. I know that this has been a bit of slog for all of us, and, at times, a significant inconvenience. I am deeply grateful for your good humor and patience during this process!

Diocesan Convention

Diocesan Convention will be held **March 5th**. The Convention Eucharist will be on **Friday, March 4th at 7:00 p.m.** at Trinity Cathedral, Trenton.

All are invited, however, you need to register through the diocesan web site if you wish to attend the Saturday working session.

Hall Education Fund Wine-tasting Fundraiser



You are cordially invited to a wine-tasting fundraiser for the Hall Education Fund.

The event will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Wine Chateau at 1378 Centennial Avenue in Piscataway. Wine expert Brian Freedman <http://www.brianfreedmanphiladelphia.com/> will introduce us to the fine points of wine culture, while we

enjoy refreshments. The Wine Chateau is generously offering a ten percent discount on non-sale bottles purchased that night.

Please join your fellow parishioners and our friends from the The Reformed Church and The Presbyterian Church, and feel free to invite colleagues and friends. Tickets are \$25 for one and \$35 for two and will be available from the Hall Fund Trustees: Chris Rasmussen, Fernanda Perrone, and Mary Nelson at Christ Church: Susanne Clark, David Waanders, and Kathy Fekete at First Reformed; and

Agatha Asamoah, and Steve Farkas at the Presbyterian Church.

The Hall Education Fund of New Brunswick was established in 1801 by a Christ Church parishioner, William Hall, with the intention of providing educational opportunities for the children of the poor in New Brunswick—there was no public education in those days.

Christ Church is one of the three parishes in New Brunswick, along with The Presbyterian Church and First Reformed Church, responsible for the administration of the Hall Education Fund, Inc.

Today the Fund grants scholarships for post-secondary education to students resident in New Brunswick who otherwise would not likely be able to receive scholarship aid.

For more information, please contact Chris Rasmussen at chrisr@fdu.edu or Fernanda Perrone at hper-rone@rulmail.rutgers.edu.

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Music Notes

—John Sheridan

Although it is already mid-January, the glorious music that our choirs and instrumentalists sang and played during Advent and Christmas is still ringing in my ears. I want to take yet another opportunity to thank all of those who worked so hard rehearsing and performing the music that enhanced our worship so much: the **Youth Choir**, under director **Renata Koumendouros**, who prepared anthems for Youth Sunday, Lessons & Carols and Christmas Eve; the **St. Cecilia Ensemble** who did the same, with a special shout out to soloists **Chioma Egekeze** and **Caroline LaPorte-Burns**; **Canticum Novum**, who led our worship the morning of December 19th and then sang a rockin' spiritual that afternoon during Lessons & Carols; the **Parish Choir**, who sang a spectacular concert of Bach, Vivaldi and Handel on December 12th with the New Brunswick Chamber Orchestra with solos by **Diana** and **Cathy Whitener**, **Giulia Utz**, and **Fred Fischer**; and turned around the following Sunday to sing Lessons & Carols, followed by Christmas Eve just five days later, with beautiful

solos by **Diana Whitener**, **Giulia Utz**, and **Karl Manger**. We also were blessed on Christmas Eve with instrumental music provided by **Leslie Pruess** on the flute, **Benny Barksdale** on the sax, and **Scott Whitener** who brought Majestic Brass to play for us. This parish is richly blessed with music, and I ask you all to join me in thanking all these who give so much to make it so.

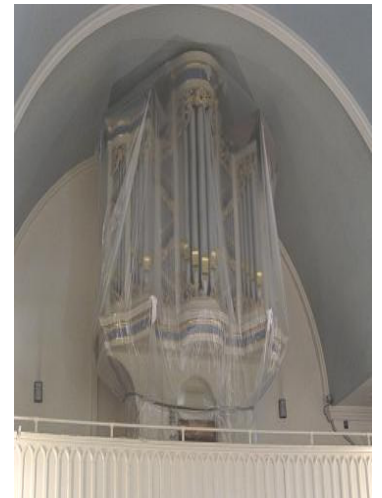
I want also to thank all of you who made monetary donations for Christmas music this year. Your donations make the hiring of extra musicians, like the Majestic Brass, possible. They also make it possible to purchase new anthems for our choral library, at least one of which was heard at Lessons & Carols. But most of all, perhaps, your donations are a concrete way of supporting this particular vibrant outreach ministry here at Christ Church. Through you and all who participate, whether by gifts of time, or talent, or money, this parish is able to minister to this community through beautiful music sung and played to the glory of God. And that is a wonderful thing.

Now, we have entered the Epiphany season. This year, Easter is very late; so the Epiphany season is as long as it can be: nine weeks. During these nine weeks of Epiphany we will consider the revelation of Christ through his ministry on earth, and as always, the music in our services, hymns and anthems, will be carefully chosen to reflect upon and amplify the readings from scripture that will shape and inform our worship during these weeks. I am also looking forward to a Christ Church “epiphany” as the construction draws to a close and our Richards, Fowkes organ is unwrapped and “revealed,” again, ready to lead our worship in music and song.

We in America experienced a profound epiphany in the life and work of Martin Luther King, Jr., and as always during this time of year there will be worship and music reflecting upon, and rejoicing in the African-American experience.

Might you, or your child, be interested in joining us as we explore these manifestations of grace through music? We have room in all our choirs; and there is also ample opportunity for any of you who play musical instruments. If you'd

like to join us, you would be most welcome! Please contact me through the church office, or on my cell at 201.563.7489, or let me know personally after a church service.



Christ Church Organ is Under Wraps

Due to ongoing construction at Christ Church, there will be no 2010-11 Sunday Evensong Series. However please check our web site often for special concerts to be held throughout the year.

Food Pantry

— *Gwen Greenberg*

The Food Pantry received a 2010 Jubilee Ministry Health and Nutrition Grant for \$750. We requested funds to assist us in purchasing more refrigeration for fresh produce and eggs. We would also like to expand our shelving to help us more efficiently distribute the food we receive.

We received a donation in December of 6 (3x3) cartons of food and some new clothing for children from Rutgers Against Hunger (RAH). We hope to establish an ongoing relationship

with RAH. On January 17, a group of students from the School of Public Health will be coming in to clean some of the walls and floors of the pantry. They do an annual community service day and have helped us in years past.

Julia Der Bedrosian was able to collect a number of new and used winter garments (coats, hats, etc.) for our clients. She brought her company van filled with bags of clothes for distribution.

In November, an editorial about us was published in the *American Journal of Public Health*. The issue focused on food security, which has become an even more major topic in America due to the economic trends. A copy of the article is posted on the

bulletin board outside the Nicholas Room.

Please continue to collect plastic bags for us in addition to other donations you make. This mission is one we all can relate to and our clients are grateful that we are here.

The 17th Annual Christ Church Black Heritage Celebration

The annual Black Heritage Celebration dinner will be held on February 26th, 2011, at 6 p.m.

Tickets: (\$20/Adults and \$10/children and students) will be available shortly and can be purchased from committee members.

On Sunday the 27th, the Rector has arranged for our guest preacher, Professor Cheryl Wall.

The Committee thanks you in advance for your continued support.

CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY DISTRIBUTION AND VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2011

February 2 (Wednesday)

AM—MCFOODS pickup

February 8 (Tuesday)

8:00AM—Unloading truck (s) from Hillside

February 9 (Wednesday)

AM—MCFOODS pickup

11:30-1PM—Bagging

6-7PM—Distribution

February 16 (Wednesday)

AM—MCFOODS pickup

11:30-1PM—Bagging

6-7PM—Distribution

February 17 (Thursday)

6-8PM—Bagging

February 18 (Friday)

9-10AM—Distribution

February 19 (Saturday)

9-10:30AM—Bagging

February 23 (Wednesday)

AM—MCFOODS pickup

11:30-1PM—Bagging

6-7PM—Distribution

February 24 (Thursday)

6-8PM—Bagging

February 25 (Friday)

9-10AM—Distribution

February 26 (Saturday)

9:30-10:30 AM—Bagging

10:30-11:30AM—Distribution

CLOSE CALL

VESTRY MINUTES

—Paul Ambos,
Rector's Warden

December 14, 2010

The December regular vestry meeting was held December 14 at 7:30 p.m. All vestry members were present in person or by telephone call except Zida Abbott and Austin Cooper. Minutes of the November 9th regular meeting were on motion accepted with corrections.

Clerk Kuldinow reported correspondence from Elijah's Promise, Rev. Lisanne G. Finston, Executive Director, thanking Christ Church for their generous donation of \$594.69 from the Thanksgiving Service.

Assistant Treasurer Don Edwards distributed the November monthly Bookkeeper's Report. He noted that expenses are running near or under expectations, but combined pledge and plate income are more than \$27,000 under budget for the first 11 months. There is no hope of making this up by the end of the year. A third draw on PNC line-of-credit for \$200,000 has been made to finance the Living Stones project. The Diocese has approved a 12-month, \$100,000 no-interest loan that will allow us to begin repaying PNC and reduce further interest charges. When we receive the \$412,000 Historic Trust grant monies, we will use it to repay the balance of PNC and the Diocesan loans. As of November 22, the Living Stones Campaign had received \$361,115 in pledges, of which \$190,007 has been paid.

Committee Reports

Stewardship Committee:

Co-Chairs Beth Angell and Meegan Adames thanked the members of the committee, Don Edwards, Mervis Johnson, Marie Thompson, Molly Newling, and Paul Ambos for their hard work in making follow-up contacts over the month of November. 120 households have pledged a total of \$273,065 for 2011. The goal of \$300,000 may not be met.

Finance Committee:

Finance Chair Don Edwards noted that the Audit Committee (John Vitali, Wendy Benjamin, Terry Dennehy, and Towanda Stovall) expect to make a preliminary report to the Finance Committee on January 4, 2011. A draft budget developed by the Finance Committee was presented along with Budget Notes that highlight significant budget lines and a proposed change in the Calculation of Investment Transfer. The Committee believes we should consider temporarily using a four-year average to calculate the draw. This will require a total investment transfer equal to 10.7 percent of the four year average of the fund, well above our planned target of eight percent for 2011. A final draft of the budget for action at the January meeting will be prepared. Beth Angell suggested script shopping as a means to generating additional income; she will investigate particulars.

Annual Meeting Committee:

Annual Meeting Committee Chair Jonathan Gloster reported that work was continuing and that the Commit-

tee expected to be able to announce a slate by the January meeting. The Committee has developed an information sheet describing the responsibilities for offices and will distribute this to potential candidates.

Personnel Committee:

Report by Chair Annette Johnson: a recommendation regarding employee benefits will be made next month and Performance Evaluations will be conducted after the January meeting.

Property Committee:

Report by Jonathan Gloster and Art Erickson: We have approved participation in the PSE&G Direct Install program as a cost saving measure. There have been 20 projects which have been completed in 2010 with the assistance of committee members. There are 10 projects under way currently.

The Rector's Report noted our rather large number of special services in our somewhat-disassembled sanctuary. Celebration for the birth of Graciela Adames (daughter of People's Warden, Meegan Adames and Samuel Adames). Audrey Bruden has been cancer-free for one year. Of note was the request from the Diocese of Wiawso in Ghana, requesting monetary assistance from Christ Church, which will allow for the establishment of a creche for young children so that their sisters can complete school and have a hope of obtaining employment.

Under Old Business, Warden Paul Ambos updated the



exterior renovation report by noting that landscaping had been completed and roof-slate removal was under way. The cloister ramp was substantially complete.

Under New Business, the Rector advised that the job Description Committee for Music Director has completed a description to be used for advertising the position.

A plaque to be provided for the generous anonymous donor who funded restoration of the Annunciation Window was discussed and agreed upon, particulars to follow.

Deacon's Report submitted, it was noted that Deacon Cornell had added Wi-Fi to the youth room to enable Skype for video conferencing.

Rector's Warden Paul Ambos noted that Vestry member Austin Cooper had exceeded the number of absences allowed under section 7.3(b) of the Parish By-laws, and accordingly he moved that the vestry consider whether he should continue in office, which motion was seconded. Mr. Ambos then moved to table such motion so that Vestry member Cooper could have an opportunity at a later meeting to explain his position, and the motion to table was seconded and carried.

The meeting was closed with prayer at 9:50 p.m.

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VESTRY MINUTES (CONTINUED)

January 11, 2011

The January regular meeting was held January 11 at 7:30 p.m. All vestry members were present in person or by telephone conference except Austin Cooper. Minutes of the December 14, 2010 regular vestry meeting were accepted with corrections.

Treasurer Kathryn Brennan presented a written and oral report. Pledge income through the month of December was 92 percent of the \$273,176 that was pledged for 2010. Plate, Rental and General Fundraising income all exceeded projections. Expenses in most categories were at or below projections. Twice during 2010 we skipped the \$11,000 monthly transfer from the investment account. We began the year with a cash surplus of over \$14,000 and may be able to skip the February draw on the investment account. Ms. Brennan expressed many thanks to Assistant Treasurer Don Edwards, Bookkeeper Irene Fialkowsky, and Parish Administrator Julia Utz for keeping the parish finances running smoothly during her extended absence in the month of December.

Committee Reports

Stewardship Committee:

A written Stewardship Committee report was presented by Beth Angell and Meegan Adames. The 2011 stewardship campaign is coming to a close, with a total of 123 pledges for \$276,895. The committee is in the midst of making a final contact with 10 households which pledged for 2010 but not yet for 2011

and will be sending out thank-you letters to the congregation before the annual meeting.

Annual Meeting Committee:

A written and oral report provided by Chair Jonathan Gloster included a current list of Annual Meeting candidates; they are still pursuing options for People's Warden, and one more Vestryperson is needed. We also need a candidate who would be a good Finance Committee Chair; Don Edwards has graciously agreed to assist and if necessary Co-Chair during the transition phase. Mr. Gloster expected a full slate within a week or so.

Music Committee Report:

Chair Arthur Erickson provided a written report.

Finance Committee Report:

Chair Don Edwards presented a written report including a revised proposed 2011 budget based on Vestry discussion last month, input from Julia Utz on office expenses, and Irene Fialkowsky's end-of-year numbers. The major open item regards compensation. It remains unclear whether the Diocese is mandating a clergy increase (as indicated by a November mailing) or not (as reported at the 2010 Diocesan Convention), but in light of the Social Security payroll tax cut for calendar year 2011 that was signed into law at the end of last year, which gives employees the equivalent of an extra two percent of their salaries, the Committee was awaiting a further recommendation from the Personnel Committee. Pending such input, the budget salary figure

for 2011 had planned no increase over the 2010 amounts. On behalf of the Personnel Committee, Chair Annette Johnson recommended, first, that in light of cost-of-living increases, non-interim non-clergy employees be given a one percent salary increase over 2010 amounts. This would amount to about \$500 to \$600 and would not apply to John Sheridan, who was paid pursuant to a separate agreement. Secondly, in view of the fact that the parish would be required starting in 2012 to offer to match qualifying lay employee voluntary pension contributions up to four percent of their salary, the Committee recommended that we phase this in in 2011 by offering to match up to one percent of such salaries. This would amount to another \$500 or so if both Julia Utz and Brian Breen made maximum contributions. Mr. Edwards agreed that phasing this in was a good idea but suggested that the parish budget to match up to two percent in 2010, which Personnel agreed to. Finally, Ms. Johnson advised that the Committee recommended a one percent salary increase for full-time clergy for 2011 over 2010. Mr. Ambos noted that such an increase would still comply with the recently proposed diocesan salary grid, since Dr. Meister had started her employment at a salary above the diocesan minimum. Mr. Ambos moved the three Personnel amendment recommendations for purposes of discussion. In the course of discussion Mr. Edwards noted that he thought that the Social Security tax holiday, as applied to self-

employed taxpayers such as clergy, would require the parish to reimburse Dr. Meister the full amount of the employee share of Social Security tax plus the two percent amount, and this had been budgeted for in the latest draft, but he was not sure that this was the case. Mr. Ambos said he would look into the law and the rector's contract. Following discussion, the three Personnel proposals (the second one as amended by Mr. Edwards) were unanimously approved, and the budget as so modified by these changes was then approved by the vestry. In response to a question, Mr. Edwards advised that the Audit Committee has not yet completed their work but expects to provide a progress report for the Annual Meeting.

Rector's Report: Rector Meister circulated a written report and noted that the search for a new Music Director is on-going. Close Call was not published during December but will be back on track for January.

Deacon's Report: Deacon Peter S. Cornell had filed a written report in absentia since he was traveling on business.

Under Old Business, Warden Paul Ambos noted that the roof replacement was nearly completed. He had received papers for submission to the N.J. Historic Trust for reimbursement and expected to submit these within the next week or so.

Mr. Ambos noted that the motion concerning the con-

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CLOSE CALL

Do We Need a New Hymnal?

—John Sheridan

According to a press release from the Episcopal Church Office of Public Affairs: A General Convention resolution “authorizes Church Publishing Incorporated, working with the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music (SCLM), to conduct a feasibility study on the need for revision of *The Hymnal 1982* by speaking to congregations, dioceses and all seminaries of this Church,

and to report its findings to the 77th General Convention.”

As part of this effort the SCLM is currently conducting an **on-line survey** which will be available **until January 31, 2011.**

“The study seeks answers to two basic questions,” said Dr. Matthew J. Price, Church Pension Group Director of Analytical Research. “First, do the hymnal and the other authorized resources

that the Church has for worship music meet the needs of the Church? If the answer to the first question is ‘no’, then the question should be asked as to whether a new Hymnal is the most efficacious means of answering these new needs.”

The results of this study, along with recommendations for next steps, will be presented to General Convention 2012 as part of the SCLM report.

Christ Church was involved years ago in trial studies leading up to the *Hymnal 1982*. Let’s let our voices be heard again in this important survey.

The survey can be accessed online at: <http://www.cpg.org/hymnalstudy2>. Remember that you must take the survey **on or before January 31st!**

From the Rector (Continued)

musical life. It has allowed us to become open to the gifts of whomever God is preparing to lead our musical ministries.

In addition, it has allowed me and your Vestry to wrestle with balancing the competing priorities of our congregation. For more than a century, musical excellence has been integral to the vitality of Christ Church. More than fifty of our parishioners participate in our choirs, which are more than an artistic and spiritual outlet: they are weekly communities of affection, support, and growth. (I am still grateful for the warm encouragement and continuing support that my home parish’s choir gave me during the months after my stepfather’s death.)

Music draws people to our doors, attracts them into our congregation, and carries our prayers each week when we worship together. It is vital to our health that we maintain the excellence which we have achieved in this—and build on it.

However, Christ Church is a church, not an artistic agency, and that means we need to support other areas of our congregational life as well: worship; the formation of our children, teenagers and adults; the outreach ministries with which we help our neighbors in need and fulfill Christ’s command to seek him among the poor, the hungry, and the sick. This has been particularly on our minds as we have wrestled with

how to live in the shadow of one of Mark’s gifts to this congregation: he chose to be on his partner’s health insurance, offering the church a substantial savings on his compensation. We cannot, however, assume that the new Director will not need health coverage, which leaves us with a deficit of \$8,500/year between what we have been paying Mark and what we would need to pay a new, full-time Director. After careful consideration of the parish budget, the Vestry and I have concluded that we simply do not have the funds to make up the difference. The only way we could continue to fund this as a full-time position would be to increase the draw on

our investment account, which we have been working to wrestle down from a level which puts the continued existence of the parish at risk. We are not willing to make that decision.

Therefore, we have decided to offer the position at 30-35 hours/week. This does not represent a cut of any sort in the music budget of this church; it is simply the result of our inability to allocate even more of our resources to the music program. It may seem like a radical cut, but, in fact, Mark was here only 30 hours a week until 2006, when he picked up some of the responsibilities which were left unfulfilled by the departure of Rev. Judith Lee, our associate rector. We are convinced that this

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VESTRY MINUTES (CONTINUED)

tinuing vestry member status of Austin Cooper was still tabled but that he was not present to address the situation. Warden Meegan Adames moved that it remain on the table, which motion was passed unanimously.

Under New Business, Personnel Chair Annette Johnson provided a proposed modification of the Personnel Policy to provide for reimbursement of unused vacation time. Upon suggestion of the rector, the addition to the end of paragraph four was amended to read "Upon the voluntary termination of an employee not facing disciplinary action, the employee shall be compensated for up to one week of unused vacation time." This amendment was carried, and Ms. Johnson agreed to circulate the amended Policy.

Outreach Committee:
Gwen Greenberg reported

that the Food Pantry has been the recipient of a Jubilee Grant from The Episcopal Church. And she received word on the "2010 Health and Nutrition \$750" Grant Request sent to the Office of Social and Economic Justice of the Episcopal Church was approved. Plans are underway as to the best use of these monies, updates to follow. An article appeared in the *American Journal of Public Health*, November 2010 issue, which highlighted our food pantry and the excellent work of Gwen Greenberg and her troupe of volunteers.

Mr. Ambos moved the following continuing resolutions, each carried unanimously:

Resolved, That the appropriate officers of the parish be authorized to make expenditures at the rates of the two per-

cent parish budget during the month of January 2011, pending adoption of the annual budget for 2011.

Whereas, the Reverend Dr. Deborah Anne Meister is compensated by Christ Church, New Brunswick exclusively for the services as a minister of the Gospel; and

Whereas, Christ Church New Brunswick does not provide Dr. Meister with a rectory;
Now therefore be it

Resolved, That the total compensation paid to Dr. Meister for calendar year 2011 include \$11,000, of her regular cash salary, which is hereby designated to be

an additional housing allowance over and above the designated housing allowance of \$24,000 for a total of \$35,000; and be it further

Resolved, That the designation of \$35,000 as housing allowance apply to calendar 2011 and all future years unless otherwise provided.

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m. with prayer by the Rector.

The Annual Parish Meeting is scheduled for January 30, 2011 following worship. The next Regular Vestry Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 2011, at 7:30 p.m.

Interested parishioners are welcome to attend and observe.

MEN'S MINISTRY

—Deacon Pete Cornell

The Men's Ministry met for Bible study on January 9th at 9:30 a.m., as we continued our study on the Sermon on the Mount (as found in Matthew). We are using a guide from the *Lifeguide Bible Study*, which has 12 sessions of reflection and questions on this very familiar story. Seven men from the Parish were in attendance. We considered what are the effects on society that when others see Chris-

tians acting out our good deeds. When others see us do good, they may be compelled to do good as well. As Christians, when we see good acts of others, it gives us strength to continue our own good works. And as we become known to be Christians, others come to expect us to act in a certain way, which causes us to raise the bar for our behavior. We also discussed what acts and services we engage in that can bring the Church closer to the community,

and therefore enable the community to come closer to God. The most effective act we can embrace is to approach others with humility, respect and dignity as we try to show them we are an open and welcoming community.

The next meeting of the Bible Study group is scheduled for January 8th and we will continue to reflect on Matthew 5:13-16. Please feel free read the passage, and you can contact me if you would

like the questions we will address ahead of the session.

All men of the Parish are invited and encouraged to attend, we always have lively and interesting discussions as we explore who we are and how we can be better Christians in the role we play as men. Please contact Deacon Pete Cornell if you want more information or have any suggestions about how to improve this Ministry within the Parish.

CLOSE CALL

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Call Sally Edwards (609-395-1467) and Julia Utz (732-545-6262) when you have made a substitution.
Please note the deadline for names changes in the Sunday Leaflets is noon on Wednesdays.

	January 30	Feb. 6	Feb. 13	Feb. 20	Feb. 27	March 6
8 AM						
EM	Joan Borden	Jose Castillo	Peter Clarke	Bruce Rydel	Kevin Stansbury	Joan Borden
L/P	Patricia Warren	Kevin Stansbury	Jonathan Clark	Sheila Cooper	Patricia Warren	Jonathan Clark
CB	Syl Pratt	Rosalyn Sugihara	Austin Cooper	Sheila Cooper	Syl Pratt	Rosalyn Sugihara
U	Sheila Cooper	Beverly Briggs	Debra Lowe	Evangeline Guy	Sheila Cooper	Don Braun
U	Pat Lowe	David Briggs	Elfrida Gooding	Pat Lowe	Debra Lowe	Sarah Braun
10:30 AM			<i>Teaching Sunday</i>			
EM	Chris Davies	Sally Edwards	Penny Gordon	Artie Phillips	Andrea Cunnell	Chris Davies
L	Jennifer Murphy	Liz Roberts	Rebecca Chant	Liz Roberts	Paul Ambos	Chris Brennan
I	Benjamin Hicks	Molly Newling	Gigi Ager	Cathy Whitener	Catherine Ambos	David Burns
CB	Mary Nelson	Molly Newling	Allie Graham	David Heinlein	Mary Nelson	Molly Newling
U	Laurel Evans	Chris Davies	Joseph Ambrosio	Ken VanLoo	Mel Garber	Peggy Smith
U	Thelma Fergusson	Hansford Kilkenny	Matthew Ambrosio	Marva VanLoo	Martha Golfphin	Ken VanLoo
U	Mel Garber	Peggy Smith	Pete Murphy	Laurel Evans	Hansford Kilkenny	Marva VanLoo
U	Martha Golfphin	Wendy Benjamin	Sam Murphy	Thelma Fergusson	Molly Newling	Wendy Benjamin
G	Chizoba Nwankwo	Marie Thompson	Robin Brown	Annette Johnson	Judith Kuldinow	Chizoba Nwankwo
Acolytes						
S	Graig Fergusson	Oluchi Egekeze	H La-Porte Burns	C La-Porte Burns	Kabir Golfphin	Joanna Kuldinow
C	Joanna Kuldinow	Sam Kuldinow	Chioma Egekeze	Ashlinn Stansbury	Adam Hess	Graig Fergusson
T		Emma Chant	Amelia Wilkerson	Audrey Orford	Kendall Beckles	Rebecca Chant

Eucharistic Minister Lector Psalmist Intercessor Chalice Bearer Usher Greeter Server Crucifer Torchbearer

From the Rector (Continued)

job—with its scope, the quality of the organ, the health and vitality of the congregation—will still be seen as highly desirable. (There are currently few open positions in this area at more than 20-25 hours/week.) It may, in fact, make the position more attractive to certain candidates: people raising children, or who desire to have a concert career and need time to travel, or who wish to have a certain amount of time to teach or to compose.

For much of the Fall, a committee has been working to craft a job description for the new Director. We have focused on preserving the core work of the music ministry: supporting our worship and serving as a creative and spiritual outlet for our parishioners. Thus, we have—at least for a while—eliminated the Sunday Vespers service, which was drawing only a handful of people. We also envision a reduced Sunday recital series, with offerings perhaps once a month. We have retained all our choirs and the Winter and Spring concerts, and have written in some scope for the new Director to develop initiatives following his or her own passions.

It is now time to pull together a Search Committee. It will consist of:

- Four representatives from the Parish Choir, whom they will select.
- Two representatives from Canticum Novum, whom they will select.
- The Rector
- The Chair of the Music Committee
- A Warden
- Three or four representatives from the congregation. If you have interest in serving, please send the Rector an e-mail indicating your interest, qualifications, and why you wish to engage in this work. *Please indicate your interest no later than February 6th.*

We considered asking for a representative from the St. Cecilia Ensemble, but homework schedules and extra-curricular involvements would make it difficult for them to serve. Instead, we will include them in the face-to-face interview process in order to ensure that the candidates have the ability to encourage, teach, and inspire our youth.

Our goal is to select a candidate by Pentecost, and to have him or her in place by midsummer. This will allow the Director to have adequate time to prepare for and plan our Fall semester offerings. It will also make things easier on our choirs, who have been racing to learn music on a shorter horizon than usual, necessitated by Mark's

autumn departure. However, if we do not find the “right” person—a person with excellent musical abilities and a personality and temperament which will work well in this congregation—we will scrap the search and start over. I would rather take more time in the selection than make a weak hire.

Finally, on a personal note, I have noticed that there seem to be a number of rumors circulating in the congregation, the vast majority of which are completely unfounded. Please ignore them. Do not pass them on. We are working hard to communicate clearly and openly whenever there is actual information to be shared. Having said that, it will be crucial to the success of this search that the members of the Search Committee preserve the confidentiality of the applicants. As I am sure you will agree, it would be totally unfair to them if a rumor that they were seeking to move were to put their current positions in jeopardy.

I look forward to working with you on this task, and to seeing the person whom God will bring us!

Blessings and Grace,
Deborah+

Holy Eucharist with Music and Mediation is offered every Wednesday from 12:15-12:45 p.m. in the Clarke Chapel. This service is fully accessible for parishioners and community members who use walker, canes, or wheelchairs.

All are welcome.

CLOSE CALL



Spring 2011

Register online at newjersey.anglican.org

KEY: E for Everyone, C for Clergy, L for Laity, Y for Youth, YA for Young Adults, O for Other

E and L: Contact Ms. Sarah Paige, spaige@newjersey.anglican.org or 609 394-5281, ext. 10

C: Contact Ms. Cecilia Alvarez, calvarez@newjersey.anglican.org or 609 394-5281, ext. 22

Y and YA: Contact the Reverend Debi Clarke, Deacon, dclarke@newjersey.anglican.org or 609 394-5281, ext. 37

January–June 2011

ONE BOOK! *Almost Christian: What the Faith of Our Teenagers is Telling the American Church* Across the Diocese
By Kendra Dean

January 2011

12	<i>Calling All Clergy: The New Ministry Portfolio</i> (C) (2 sessions on same day)	Diocesan House, Trenton
15	New Testament 2 (E) (8 weeks; School for Deacons; open to laity)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
20	Epiphany Clergy Day	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
22	<i>The Almost Christian: A Wake-Up Call for the Church</i> Christian Educators' Day with Bishop Councill (E)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
28	52 nd Bishop's Ball (Y)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton

February 2011

9	Adults who Work with Youth Workshop: <i>Bullying</i> (E)	Diocesan House, Trenton
12	Discerning a Call to the Priesthood	Trinity, Princeton
12	Acolyte Festival (E)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
13	Absalom Jones Service of Witness to Black Ministries (E)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
16	<i>Calling All Clergy: The New Ministry Portfolio</i> (C) (2 sessions on same day)	Diocesan House, Trenton
19	Living into the Millennium Development Goals (E)	St John's, Somerville
25–27	Deacons Retreat (C; Deacons)	Stella Maris Retreat Center, Elberon
26	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	St Mary's, Burlington

March 2011

5	227 th Convention of the Diocese (E) (not a MI event)	Collingswood
6–8	Clergy Lenten Retreat (C)	Stella Maris Retreat Center, Elberon
11	Discovering Your God-Given Gifts for Service (E) (six weeks)	St Luke's, Metuchen
12	Lenten Retreat: The Experience of God in African Spirituality (E)	All Saints', Princeton
12	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	Christ Church, Woodbury
26	A Retreat for Young Adults: Reviving the Weary Heart (YA)	Christ Church, New Brunswick
26	A Day of Godly Play (E)	St. Matthew's, Pennington

April 2011

2	Clergy, Wardens Vestry and Finance Officers Day (E)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
3	Annual Diocesan Recovery Sunday Service (E)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
8–10	Senior Retreat (Y)	Convent St. John the Baptist, Mendham
9	Living into the Millennium Development Goals (E)	Holy Spirit, Tuckerton
9	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	Christ Church, Toms River
13	Adults who Work with Youth Workshop (E)	Diocesan House, Trenton
14	Renewal of Vows (C) (not a MI event)	Trinity Cathedral, Trenton
29–May 1	Analyzing and Understanding Systemic Racism: <i>Introductory Training</i> (E)	Grove Hall, Ocean Grove

May 2011

5–6	<i>Radical Welcome</i> Evangelism Conference (Province II)	Doubletree Inn, East Syracuse, NY
7	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	Trinity, Red Bank
8	Passion & Purpose Sunday (E)	Everywhere
13–15	Spring Youth Event (Y)	Camp Lebanon, Lebanon
14	Discerning a Call to the Priesthood (E)	St. John's, Salem
14	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	St. Paul's, Bound Brook

June 2011

9	Clergy Day at the Beach (C)	Holy Innocents', Beach Haven
11	Sexual Misconduct Awareness Workshop (E)	St. Thomas, Glassboro

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Sunday

8:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist with Music, Rite I
 9-9:30 a.m.—Youth choir rehearsal
 9:15-10:20 a.m.—J2A
 9:30-10:20 a.m.—Education Hour
 9:30 a.m.—Men's Ministry (2nd Sunday)
 9:30 a.m.—Parish Choir rehearsal
 10:30 a.m.—Choral Holy Eucharist, Rite II,
 followed by Coffee Hour
 12-12:30 p.m.—St. Cecilia Ensemble rehearsal

Monday through Friday

7:30 a.m.—"Open" AA meeting for men and women in the Auditorium.

Monday

7:15 p.m.—Lyme Disease Support Group
(first and third Mondays of the month)
 7:30 p.m.—Canticum Novum Choir
 Rehearsal
 7:30 p.m.—Narcotics Anonymous

Tuesday

7:30 p.m.—Vestry *(second Tuesday of the month)*

Wednesday

12:15 p.m.—Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary
 6:00 p.m.—Food Pantry *(last three Wednesday of the month)*
 7:30 p.m.—WomenSpirit
 7:30 p.m.—Property Committee *(first Wednesday of the month)*

Thursday

8:00 p.m.—Parish Choir Rehearsal

Friday

9:00 a.m.—Food Pantry *(last two Fridays of the month)*

Saturday

10:30 a.m.—Food Pantry *(last two Saturday of the month)*

Christ Church

5 Paterson Street
 New Brunswick, NJ 08901
 Telephone 732.545.6262
 FAX 732.545.6264

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister

Rector

(mobile 732.570.3767)

rector@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

The Rev. Deacon Peter Cornell

Deacon

deacon@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

The Rev. Gregory Bezilla

Rutgers Chaplain

(mobile 609.240.1554)

bezilla@rci.rutgers.edu

John Sheridan

Interim Director of Music

music@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Renata Koumendouros

Youth Choir Director

rkoumendouros@hotmail.com

Julia Utz

Parish Administrator

admin@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Brian Breen

Sexton

Kathryn Brennan

Treasurer

treasurer@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Christ Church Web Page:

www.christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Parish Office Hours

Monday through Thursday:

9:00 a.m.—4:30 p.m.

Friday:

9:00 a.m.—noon

Close Call deadline is:

**Friday, February 11, for the
 March 2011 Issue**

closecall@christchurchnewbrunswick.org

Christ Church Vestry

If you wish to become involved in any of our ministries, please contact the Vestry committee chairs.

The Rev. Dr. Deborah Meister

President

Paul Ambos

Rector's Warden

Meegan Adames

People's Warden

Zida Abbott

732.545.0748

Fundraising/Special Events

Beth Angell

732.317.2766

Stewardship

Gerri Callahan

732.937.9043

Evangelism/Communications,

Youth Formation

Austin Cooper

917.279.8099

Evangelism/Communications

Donald Edwards

609.395.1467

Finance

Art Erickson

732.777.1877

Music, Property

Jonathan Gloster

732.951.2356

Property

Gwen Greenberg

732.249.0222

Outreach

Andrea Hawkins

908.709.4319

Children's Formation

Annette Johnson

732.568.1152

Fundraising/Special Events, Personnel

Judith Kuldinow

732.846.3953

Children's Formation, Clerk of the Vestry

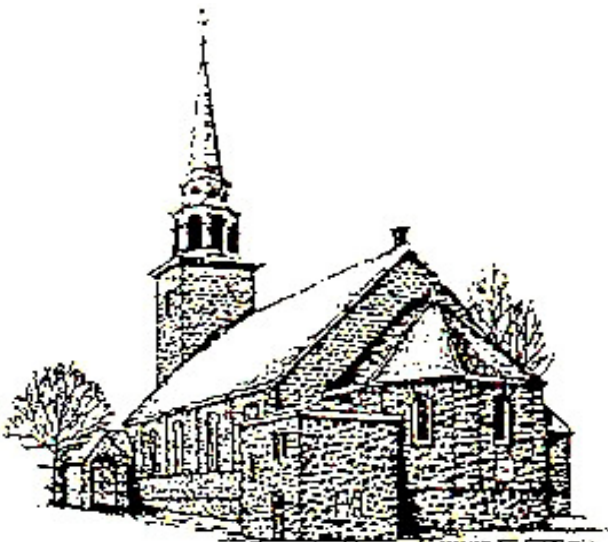
Marie Thompson

732.828.4830

Newcomers/Hospitality

Christ Church
5 Paterson Street
New Brunswick, NJ 08901
Phone: 732.545.6262
Fax: 732.545.6264

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Close Call

The Newsletter of **Christ Church** New Brunswick, NJ

- ❖ Parish News
- ❖ Announcements
- ❖ Calendar of Events