



To the Members of Christ Church,

It has been an extremely busy last 5 months and as your Senior Warden I think it is time you were updated on all that has been accomplished and is planned for you and our church. In addition I will try to answer some of the questions I am often asked.

I apologize for the length of this letter but please read it all.

Stephen Wilkinson,
Senior Warden

Vincent O'Neill
Interim Priest

Robert McNaul,
Associate Priest

Bonnie Polley, Deacon
Outreach Coordinator

DeLaney Armstead,
Deacon, ERD

Ann Seay,
Parish Administrator

Mark Petrimoulx,
Maintenance Supervisor

Kathi Colman,
Director of Music

Graci Vargas, Christian
Youth Education

Louise Fortier,
Archivist

Bonnie Todd,
Parish Reception

Alleluia Capital Campaign

Since this spring the kitchen has undergone a complete remodel. Sinks, the dishwasher, the floor and counters have been replaced and equipment upgraded. All that is left to do in the kitchen is to install a fire suppression system above the stove and the remodel will be complete. Many thanks to Travis Smith, Bill Leonard, and our Maintenance Staff for their tireless efforts.

In mid-June L F. Harris Construction will begin removal of our current choir loft (to include asbestos removal) and then construct a new loft which will include additional space for the choir, musicians, organ console and of course our magnificent new Schantz organ. During the loft construction period (expected to last 90 days) the church entrance on Maryland Parkway will be closed off. Large plastic barriers will be placed floor to ceiling in the church to seal off the construction area from the rest of the church. The northern most set of side doors off the patio will be used for a construction entrance and entrance to the church will be through the other side doors on the patio. The piano will be moved from the back of the church to the front (on the Epistle side) and a few front pews on that side will need to be temporarily removed. Once the loft is finished representatives from Schantz will install the casing, organ and console. The organ install should take 2 months.

Miscellaneous stuff on Alleluia Capital Campaign:

Question: Who will play the new organ?

Answer: Several people. We have requests from several organists, including Alice, to play the new instrument. Alice will have the first opportunity. Sometime this fall our Director of Music, Kathi Colman and a committee she selects, will begin interviewing candidates for the position of Organist. It's a part time job that currently is budgeted for \$18,000.00 per year. Kathi's committee will present their evaluation and recommendations of the candidates to the Vestry who will make the final selection.

Question: Does the organ really cost a million dollars?

Answer: No, but the entire project, loft and organ will be nearly that.

Question: Why in these economic times did we commit to this expensive project?

Answer: When the decision to move forward with the projects was made (May of 2008) the economic crash had yet to occur. Once the contract with Schantz was signed (in May 2008), Christ Church was obligated to see the project through to completion.

Money for the campaign is tight, I won't lie to you. Since the pledges are based on 3 to 5 years and the construction and organ costs are billed on a set schedule the Vestry authorized me to secure a construction loan to help fill the gap. Christ Church has been approved for a loan from Bank of Nevada. I am still attempting to secure a loan with more favorable terms from private individuals or other sources.

Parish Administration

Since assuming the position of Parish Administrator, my goal has been to improve communication within the church at every level, improve and streamline the way the office conducts its business, look for as many ways as possible to attract new members, reduce costs, increase revenue and along with Father O'Neill, help promote healing of our congregation. Everything that I have attempted to accomplish is to ready you, the Vestry and our church for our next Rector.

Rector Search

Bishop Edwards has advised the Vestry to allow the process to move slowly. At the Bishop's urging we have contacted Rev. Dr. Anne Hallisey, an Episcopal priest and search consultant to help us in the selection process. In addition the Bishop has asked that when the time comes to select a Search Committee that it be composed of members that were not members of the previous Search Committee. His reasons (and I agree) are to give others a chance to participate in this very important endeavor. We will, of course, be talking to those members who have experience in this process in order to learn from them.

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Parish Finances

The economy has hurt all of us. The Church and its day to day finances find itself juggling bills and payments constantly (just like you are at home). The Endowment Fund has seen its principal shrink to the point that it will be unable to provide any help to the church for the foreseeable future. Our two main community service programs, Epicenter on the Parkway and Treasure House find themselves with a greater demand of their services and a massive influx of clients. At the present time neither is a drain on the church finances, in fact Treasure House has been a good source of revenue, but planned improvements and any additional programs will have to be postponed. Improvements to the church, parish hall, south property, and any programs which are aimed at enriching our own parish members, if they cost money, will have to wait. Let me be very clear on this: No Outreach programs (and funds) compete with what many of you call Inreach. For the most part both community service programs are self-sustaining. Our budgets have been slashed everywhere we can. Where we can find a way to do something cheaper or eliminate it altogether we have. We find ourselves burdened by some contracts which we will continue to pay for some time to come.

Miscellaneous stuff on Parish Finances:

Question: Does it really cost \$15,000.00 per week to operate the parish?

Answer: Amazingly, yes. That figure in The Electric Epilogue represents the pledges and South Property income needed to operate the church. If the monthly income from the South Property is removed, the weekly pledges required are slightly over \$12,000.00. The average monthly total church expenses are approximately \$60,000.00 and an average monthly income is \$45,000.00.

Question: Can we use any of the Endowment Fund to help us?

Answer: No. The rules governing the Endowment Fund prohibit use of any funds until the amount in the fund exceeds \$500,000.00 and then any funds in excess can be used for improvements only. The Fund currently has approximately \$450,000.00.

Question: How do we pay the bills with a monthly deficit of a minimum of \$15,000?

Answer: Christ Church has been fortunate to be the recipients of gifts from estates of parishioners who have passed away. These gifts have supplemented our income and help the church at least maintain a break-even situation. These funds are nearly depleted. Note: By lease agreement and the economics of commercial real estate the only potential source of funds that has even the remotest possibility of increase is gifts or pledges. Costs have already been cut to a minimum. Due to the economic situation Father O'Neill takes a minimum salary which probably just covers his expenses and I take neither salary nor expenses.

Question: How long can we continue this way?

Answer: We still have some funds (approximately \$25,000.00) yet to be distributed from the estates. Once those funds have been distributed our source of income becomes pledges, gifts and of course the South Property income. It is hoped that with the new organ more people will join us at Christ Church and begin helping with the operation of the church.

I have written enough letters and I do not want to burden you with a talk on Sunday but the situation is serious and we all need to pitch in where we can either time or money. Withholding your pledge and waiting to see if you agree with the rector selection or punishing (or blaming) the Vestry for events of the past are counterproductive now. Right now we all need to come together and step up.

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