

Bread & Wine

Epiphany Season February 2010



Christ Episcopal Church

P.O. Box 657 (428 Pee Dee Avenue)
Albemarle, NC 28002
Website: <http://www.christalb.org/>

Phone: 704 / 982-1428 Fax: 704 / 982-1001
E-mail: info@christalb.org

Mission Statement:

*This mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to...Love the unlovable; Help the helpless; Inspire the discouraged;
Be a family to those who have none; Be the right hand of God in the world.*

1890—Christ Church's One Hundred Twentieth Anniversary—2010

"2010: A YEAR OF DISCERNMENT, PRAYER AND COMMUNICATION"

By Father Jim Bernacki, Rector

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

In a fairly recent sermon to you, I outlined that this year—2010—is to be a “*year of discernment*” for our parish. Since giving that sermon, I have added two extra pieces to this year: “*prayer*” and “*communication*.” Let me explain why I chose these terms for this year together as God’s people here at Christ Church, Albemarle.

THE YEAR OF DISCERNMENT:

In my sermon, I had mentioned that this past year, we, along with many churches in our area and nation, were faced with the same financial realities that plagued our households and businesses. I guess you could call this a “trickle effect,” since the Church depends primarily on its members—via tithes or sacrificial gifts—for its income. If our members’ incomes decreased, and if they had been accustomed to giving a tithe (10%) or other percentage of their income for the needs of God’s Church, then it follows that the income of Christ Church would also be reduced accordingly. This was clearly evident in our recent vestry financial reports. Although it seemed that we were only about \$ 11,000 “in the hole,” we had to borrow an extra \$ 19,000 from reserve funds (**not** “Rectory Funds”), in order to make ends meet and pay our bills.

Compounding our financial difficulties is the fact that, under the new diocesan assessment program for 2011, we will need to find an extra \$8,000—10,000 in our budget to give to the diocese. In 2011, we will also have to pay health insurance and pension payments to any part-time employees working 20 or more hours per week. The vestry has initially dealt with this in regard to the position of secretary. (Please see the article about this position in this edition of the newsletter.)

As I write this article on February 1st, I realize that I have officially been your Rector for seven years. I hope that, in that time (although I am human and have made some mistakes), I have ministered to you pastorally and have shown you in many ways the face of Jesus. At this time, our 2010 pledges are about \$13,000 short of our budget of \$168,000. This budget, as you may know, has been trimmed somewhat. ***I have also taken a voluntary pay cut*** to the minimum salary prescribed by our diocese for full-time rectors. For me, this is a cut of about \$6,000, and amounts to \$30 above my 2005 salary. (Please see the approved 2010 budget in this newsletter.)

I told the vestry that I would voluntarily take this salary cut, to be a witness that we all need to sacrifice, in order to spread the “good news of Jesus” and further the mission of His Church. (I did **not** take this step to be looked at as a “martyr,” nor did I do this so that people in our parish would feel complacent knowing that their rector is making it possible for them to keep on doing the same things financially!) However, I also told the vestry that I could not do this for the following year, since my wife Sandy is still unemployed but looking for work outside the home, and our home addition, which was started while my wife was still working, increased our mortgage, taxes, and insurance.

The downturn of our economy and its effect on our church may prove to be a ***sign from God***. Although Sandy and I love Christ Church, and find most of you very warm and friendly, and although God willing, we would like to retire here...God may be saying something to this congregation and your rector as well. ***Does God want me to stay here for a while, or is this time for me to look at a new parish?*** Or, to rephrase this another way: ***Is God calling us (people and rector) to stay in this pastoral relationship, or is God calling us to***

change this relationship? Our sacrifices to God via donations to the Church and the needs of the poor, may be an indicator here. In previous churches that I served, sometimes the inability of a parish to “make ends meet” is a sign that God is calling the rector to look somewhere else for ministry. Let me undeniably state that I have **not** looked at other churches, nor have I “put my name into the hopper!” However, sometimes when finances run low in a church, God **MAY** be using this as a sign for the rector and congregation to do a little “soul-searching.”

At this point in time, there are a number of people who for perhaps many reasons, have not filled out a pledge to Christ Church. I do not know why they haven’t offered a pledge—at least a minimal one. I do know that many of our parishioners have been adversely affected by the recession; however, I firmly believe that, despite our economic woes, we are truly blessed by God in ways that we could never even imagine! Do you and I go to bed hungry (unless we’re trying to diet)? Do we have at least one or two good meals a day? Oftentimes when our economy takes a downturn, people grow inward and hoard the little they think they have; God often gets “the boot” financially. These times may prove to be a blessing for us, because maybe they’re causing us to depend more on God—spiritually, morally, **AND** financially. I told the vestry that, although my pledge will decrease slightly as my salary decreases, we will still tithe our income to Christ Church and some other charities. We know that God is never outdone in generosity, and that our efforts to give Him the “first fruits” of 10%, means that we place our income, and our lives, in His loving hands. Although we’ve had “ups and downs” financially, we firmly believe that we can live on 90% of what God gives us. That’s what the biblical notion of the tithe is all about.

The work on our parish house classrooms, chapel and offices was very desperately needed! Money was taken from our “rectory funds” (which can be used only for remodeling/building) and from a loan. We are hoping that some of our past members and community leaders will also lend us a hand with some donations to help pay off the 5-year loan sooner. There may not have been “the best time” to do this work, but I think we did well by spending frugally, and by helping to employ some local workers who needed some projects to keep their heads above water. The finished product is an office/classroom wing that is very welcoming to our children, organizations, service groups who use our facilities, and anyone who comes through our doors. The next step for all of us—after service, at meetings, and at coffee hours—is to be the “welcoming presence of Christ” to one another, especially newcomers and visitors.

Besides our finances, you and I will need to discern our **outreach**. Please remember that the prime purpose of Christian outreach is to show the face of a loving Jesus to a world in need. By doing various outreach activities, **we are not guaranteed** to have new members come into our church, but if we do what God wants us to do in outreach, **AND** if you and I are truly welcoming and affirming to visitors who come our way, **GOD WILL ADD MEMBERS TO OUR CHURCH!** I understand that some of you are upset that we have spent much time, energy, and funds on our E.S.L. (English as a Second Language) program, but “we do not have any new members to show for it.” Again, the key to this is **NOT** necessarily to gain new members, but to further the love and mission of Jesus Christ in our community! With fewer volunteers for E.S.L. and other venues for those who wish to learn English, perhaps the time has come for us to review our need to host an E.S.L. program at our church. Moreover, some parishioners at our Annual Meeting mentioned the possibility of our hosting a “community garden” for the parish and our neighbors. Our outreach committee, headed by Lana Erickson, will need to discern what’s possible for us to do under God’s grace. (I should ask you to look at the Outreach Committee report in this issue, to see all the outreach we as Christ Church are involved in currently!)

To sum this part up, I am hoping that God will want me to continue ministering with and for you at Christ Church, **at least** through our parish’s 125th Anniversary in 2015. However, this is ultimately not up to me or you, **but up to God**, for God calls priests to serve Him in different parishes. A financial crisis in the parish may or may not be a “sign from God,” but it certainly is something to be considered in our life together.

THE YEAR OF PRAYER:

Does God want me to remain as your rector? Does God want us to continue on as a parish, or to become a “mission” under the direct control of the bishop? *Maybe God doesn’t care what we do;* I think God is more interested in loving us, and helping us to make disciples for His Son, here in Albemarle, Stanly County and the surrounding areas!

Prayer does help! Remember the drought we had over two years ago? The drought inspired the first “Stanly County Prays” service, which drew over 500 people across denominational lines, praising God and asking for the much-needed gift of rain. And guess what? --It rained! God answered our prayers, and taught us that, despite our denominational differences, He loves and cares for us all!

Do you pray daily? When you get up in the morning? Before you eat? And at bedtime?

God cherishes our prayers, and He wants you and me to LISTEN TO HIM, AS WELL AS SPEAK TO HIM, in prayer. I invite you to join Sandy and me in a special period of prayer this year—for our parish, as we celebrate 120 years in this community, and for our members and clergy, as we minister to God’s people in the name of His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Throughout this year, I hope that we will be able to set aside three or four weeks of dedicated prayer for specific intentions. Many of you commented favorably after we had a designated “week of prayer” before the bishop’s visitation and confirmation last fall.

THE YEAR OF COMMUNICATION:

Admittedly, we have been slack in getting our newsletters out! The December issue became the December/January issue, and now it’s the **February issue!** With our secretary’s new duties, she will be editing the newsletter; our deadline date will be the 15th of the month (i.e., for the March issue, the deadline is February 15th!) This will be a strict deadline, as we will need to get the newsletter out before the end of the month. *Schedulers of the various liturgical ministries will need to get together soon, so that we can have another three-month schedule for our liturgical ministers!* I apologize for the lack of communication, but here are the steps we’re going to take to help in this area:

- 1) Newsletters will go out promptly before the beginning of the month.

- 2) The parish “phone tree” (automatic dialing of a pre-recorded message), which has been giving us problems, will be revamped and used more frequently.
- 3) We will re-do the parish calling chain, consisting of vestry members and other lay leaders personally notifying you of special activities and emergencies in the parish. (Had the calling chain been in effect, we would have had better success in contacting our parishioners about the cancellation of our Sunday services yesterday, Jan. 31st, due to inclement weather.)
- 4) It is my aim to visit EVERY household in this parish this year, just to reconnect with you, and see if you have any concerns that need to be addressed.
- 5) Our Parish Life committee will be sponsoring FOUR AREA GATHERINGS of church members (similar to what we did five years ago). This will be an opportunity for us to see what’s happening in the parish, and to address any concerns you might have at this point.

Please join me in thanking God for all His blessings, and in discerning His will for us; praying to Him daily, and communicating with Him and with one another in Christ.

With love from your priest,
Fr. Jim Bernacki+

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Christ Episcopal Church will be starting a prayer shawl ministry early next year. This movement was first started ten years ago by two women in the New England area. Since then it has grown to be a nation-wide ministry. The purpose is to give comfort and solace to those facing difficult trials in their life.

The shawls are either knitted or crocheted. Gene Hinson has offered to teach those people who are interested in learning to crochet. Anyone else who would like to help teach crocheting would be more than welcome. We are currently seeking a knitting teacher for those who want to learn that skill. If you would like to volunteer please leave your name with Carol. It would be ideal to have one teacher paired with one student.

Although the formative meeting was held on Sunday, January 3rd, the group has decided to meet monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month, at 6:30 pm in our parish hall. The next meeting will take place on **Thursday, February 25th at 6:30 pm.** Bring your needles and yarn and a desire to create a prayer shawl. Patterns and additional information about this ministry will be provided.

Building and Grounds Committee Report

This has been a very busy and productive year for building and grounds. We would like to thank those that gave so generously of their time, talents, and money. Without out their contributions, we could not have accomplished all that we did this year.

The Parish House is almost completed, there is a little more touching up and a few little repairs that needs to be done up stairs. Our biggest Parish House project remaining is the repainting and rearranging of the foyer downstairs. If you haven’t yet seen the Parish House upstairs, we would like to invite you do so, the transformation is amazing. We cannot express enough our gratitude to Stan Sheer for overseeing and directing this project, without his dedication and hundred of hours of work this project would nowhere near completion.

Building and Grounds Committee Report (continued)

Other projects just completed, were the repair and reinstallation of the Rebecca Senter stain glass window and the repair of the stone work on the ramp at the Sacristy door.

A special thank goes to David Wilhelm and Craig Kennedy for their help and guidance with these repairs.

If you talk to anyone around this area, and they find out that you go to Christ Church, one of the first things they say is how beautiful it is. The reason for that is not only because of the building itself, but the grounds surrounding it. With that in mind, we would like to thank Linda Burris, Craig Kennedy, and all of you that spent so many hours pruning, planting, raking, and mowing the church grounds, because a beautiful building without beautiful grounds is only half a picture. We would like to invite anyone interested in being on the Building and Grounds Committee to contact the church office, David Wilhelm, or Tony Hinson. We are always looking for new ideas and help.

(Christ Church's) Annual **Oyster Roast** will take place on Saturday, **February 20th** (*postponed from February 6th due to inclement weather*) from 5:30 p.m. in Christ Church Parish Hall. All you can eat flounder, shrimp & oysters (all served with hushpuppies, red slaw, dessert and drinks). Tickets are \$ 25 each for adults, and \$10 for children 12 years old and under. A portion of the proceeds will go to charitable organizations. If anyone has any questions about this event or would like to purchase one or more tickets, please call our church office at 704/ 982-1428.

All are welcome to attend our Annual **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, sponsored by our Men's Group. This will take place on **Tuesday, February 16th from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in our church hall**. Pancakes, bacon, etc. and beverages will be served. Although there is no charge for the event, donations will be gladly accepted. Part of the proceeds will benefit charitable causes.

Lifeline Screening will be doing stroke prevention and other tests, here in our parish hall, on **Friday, February 26th**. There is a fee charged for their services. If you'd like more information, or would like to sign up for one of their tests on Feb. 26th, please call **1-800/ 324-1851**.

LENT 2010:

- **Ash Wednesday Services on Wednesday, February 17th in Church:** 7:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist, 12 Noon Word Service, and 6:30 p.m. Holy Eucharist. All service will include the optional imposition of blest ashes as a sign of our mortality and dependence on God.
- **Rite II will be used at all services**, and the "service music" will include a "**Kyrie**" ("**Lord, have mercy**") instead of the "**Gloria**." Also, we will not sing "**Alleluia**" from Ash Wednesday, until the Easter Vigil Eucharist on Easter Eve. The "Prayer Over the People" replaces the priest's final blessing at the Eucharist.
- **Fr. Jim** will lead a **four-part Bible discussion** on "**The Last Week of Jesus' Life**": **Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. in the parish hall: March 3, 10, 17 and 24.**
- **We will continue our adult education series on Sundays at 9:30 a.m. in the parish hall parlor** with "**Twelve Extraordinary Women**" led by **Dr. Marianne Bumgarner-Davis**.
- **The weekdays of Lent are "Days of Special Devotion,"** whereby we are asked to **give up something dear to us, or give/sacrifice extra for the sake of Christ and the Church**. Although Sundays are not included in the "forty days" of special devotion, one who works on a particular act of charity, prayer, self-denial or service should not necessarily stop that activity on the Sundays in Lent. Also, a pious tradition calls for meatless meals to be taken during the days of Holy Week, from Palm Sunday until the Easter Vigil; one may or may not follow this practice, as they so choose. **Ash Wednesday** (Feb. 17) and **Good Friday** (Apr. 2) are days of fasting, i.e., normally only one full (meatless) meal is taken, but one or two lesser meatless meals may be taken as needed.
- **Holy Week services will be held on: Wednesday March 31st at 6:30 p.m.; Maundy Thursday, April 1st at 6:30 a.m., 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m.; Good Friday April 2nd at 12 Noon, 3 p.m. at 6:30 p.m.; Easter Eve, Saturday, April 3rd, at 8:00 p.m., and Easter Day, Sunday, April 4th at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.**

Outreach Committee

January 2010

The Outreach Committee was active in many areas for 2009. In addition to the regular ongoing subgroups of Meals on Wheels, Stanly Co. Fair, Sat. Soup Kitchen, Nursing Home, Environment and ESL, we also participated in Habitat for Humanity Chicken Bar-B-Q, Community Inn, Community Christmas Dinner and Angel Tree/ Families in need Outreach. For 2010 a new Prayer Shawl group will be added.

Nursing Home

Due to lack of participation there was only one nursing home birthday party in 2009. Only the same small group of people donates or volunteers to serve at the parties. We have been unable to get any parishioners from Christ Church to volunteer to entertain. For the past three parties we had people from outside the church provide the entertainment for us, however, I hate to keep asking them to give their time since it is our mission. There is a possibility that Katherine Deeck would be willing to play the harp (per Sally Aycock). I (Lana Erickson) will try to get something set up for early spring for the next party.

Community Christmas Dinner

Julie Russell and Marilyn Fitzgerald were our contacts for the dinner and did a great job coordinating the food donations and volunteers. Per Julie "Our church donated more than we were requested to bring. We had fourteen volunteers, some were turned away as we had too many workers show up." This seems to be a recurring problem since the last year our volunteers were also turned away. Julie will attend the post dinner meeting Thursday Jan 7th.

Environmental

A new recycling bin needs to be purchased at the cost of \$1,600, as the Delco bin now in use is very old and in unsafe, poor condition. (It would cost \$1,300 to have it repaired.) Michael Lowder consulted the environmental group at SCC and, after inspecting the old bin, they advised against repairing and suggested it be scrapped. A request will be made to the men's group to donate \$600 to add to the \$1,000 from the Environmental committee funds generated by the sale of the cans. The recycling program not only has a positive benefit to our environment but makes financial sense as well (pun intended, by Matt Amick). Sally Aycock coordinates this ministry at Christ Church.

English as Second Language

Our parish connected again with many in our Latin-American community with the spring and summer semesters of ESL classes. Discussion was held as to whether to continue to offer ESL at Christ Church or find an alternative mission to involve the community. ESL has not had the full support of the congregation. A suggestion was made to involve the community in a community garden on the property behind Christ Church. Various plans for community gardens used by other churches will be looked into. In early 2010 we could possibly have someone from St. Luke's in Salisbury come and speak to the congregation on how their garden is working. Linda Burris has agreed to take the lead on this.

Saturday Soup Kitchen

Per Matt Amick: Norwood (Community Table 2) averaged 65-70 people served per Saturday with usually 4-6 volunteers serving. Albemarle (Community Table 1) averaged 75-80 with 4-6 volunteers serving. Many people in the parish donated food, and we have not had any problems getting food or volunteers this past year. We did have 2 Saturdays where we served over 100! For 2010 more churches are participating so for the first half of the year we served in Norwood Jan. 2nd and will serve in Albemarle on May 15th.

Prayer Shawl Group

The group, headed by Joanne Christman, had their first meeting on Sunday Jan 3rd. There are 9 women signed up so far. They will meet the fourth Thursday of the month for fellowship, prayer and knitting. A request is made of the vestry for \$250 to purchase yarn wholesale. The members will then repay as they purchase yarn from this supply.

Community Inn

After much time cutting through the "red tape", the Community Inn has opened to help those without housing for short-term stay and long term goal planning, and Christ Church has been active in volunteering staff. Elizabeth Cook is serving as our liaison for the Community Inn; we are currently serving on the 2nd Monday of the month, providing dinner and intake ministry on that day.

Fair Booth

The fair booth was successful again this year despite the poor weather thanks to all who worked the booth, prepared food and/or donated money. Joe Burris chairs the Fair Booth Task Force.

"Meals on Wheels"

Some of our parishioners are staying busy working with "meals on wheels." We have teams that take turns every Wednesday of the month. Lori Kirkingburg coordinates this ministry for us.

Other

Susan Knowles will be this year's contact for the Habitat for Humanity Chicken Bar B Q.

Submitted January 2010 Lana Erickson, Chairperson, Outreach Committee

THE "ALLELUIA" PAGE

This page is going to be reserved for any reason to praise God! This will be used, not only for birthdays or other special occasions, but also for any of your reasons to praise our God! Please submit your input by February 15th for the "Alleluia" page! (Remember that "Alleluia" means "Praise God!")

Happy Birthdays!

The Parish Family of Christ Church
wishes the following parishioners a very (belated)
"Happy Birthday" in December, January & February:



December	January	February
5-Helen Harris	1-Mollie Burris	1-Ray Allen, Matthew Hinson, Don Belch
6-Don Hinson	3-Julia Moore	4-Jacob Moore
8-Charles McComas	5-Bobby Layton, April Hartsell	6-Lisa Brandyberry, Katrenia Davis
12-Coy Ritchie	7-Carol Kennedy	7-Bruce Stickney
13-Alan Russell	8-Becky McKeon	12-Cindy Moore
14-Stan Scheer	10-Anna Ballenger	27-Walter Davis, Caroline Sawyer
15-Thomas Covington	11-Sandy Bernacki	28-Michael Lowder
16-Robin Hughes, Claudia Covington	15-Laurel Huneycutt	
17-Roger Cook	16-Isaac Irvin	
18-June Mabry	17-Joanne Christman	
19-Jim Bryfonski, Harrison Gullette	20-Bradley Davis	
20-Tess Whitley, Kate Mabry	22-Michael Bloom, Sr.	
21-Fr. Jim Bernacki	24-Gavin Olivieri	
23-Jane Scheer	25-Graylin Olivieri, Mike Mayer, Rich Erickson	
26-Brenda Huneycutt	26-Alice McKeon	
	27-Rita Burris	
	28-Miranda Throneburg	
	30-Maynard Stickney	
	31-Benjamin Gullette	

Dear members and friends of Christ Church,
We wish to thank the anonymous person who donated the beautiful flowers on the altar on January 10th, in honor of our late son Matthew's birthday on January 5th.
Sincerely, in Christ,
Fr. Jim & Sandy

January 11th, 2009
Dear members of Christ Episcopal Church,
We are so grateful for the \$265 you sent as part of your double tithe of recycling aluminum cans. We are also grateful for the many other ways you make the Community Inn a priority in your local mission outreach. The Inn housed more than 30 homeless men and women through December for a total of 679 nights. Your good works make that all possible. God bless you.
Skeet Ayscue, Executive Director, Homes of Hope, Inc.

Dear Christ Church, May the Lord bless you.
Thank you for the very generous gift of money you gave me for Christmas! I am so blessed to know you and serve Christ as your secretary. I truly love you and my job. May God bless each of you. In Christ's love,
Carol Bowman

On January 26th, Christ Church donated 10 pounds of food to the SCCM Assistance Center.

Please remember Rose Harris and her family in your prayers. Rose's husband, Dillon, passed away on December 17th. Among Dillon's many talents was his service as a football coach for the Albemarle H. S. Bulldogs.

Dear members of Christ Church,
We wish to sincerely thank you for your most kind and generous gifts to the staff at Christmastime! We really appreciate your remembrance, and wish God's blessing for you and yours in the weeks and months ahead.
Sincerely, with our love and prayers,
Fr. Jim Bernacki, Rector,
and Jane Scheer, Organist/Choir Director

During our recent Diocesan Convention in Winston-Salem, led by the youth delegation, we filled **100,500 meal packages for those in need!** Each package contains dehydrated rice, vegetables and minerals to feed a family of four. Most of these meals will be sent to the people of Haiti. This was part of the "Stop Hunger Now" project that is being done by many churches and community outreach organizations in the U.S. For more information about "Stop Hunger now," please feel free to contact Sally Aycock (704/ 986-6669). We are glad to report that Fr. Marvin Aycock, who had been suffering from cellulitis, is now well on the mend and is continuing his recuperation at home.

THE POSITION OF SECRETARY, & OFFICE HOURS

At its retreat last month, your vestry decided to eliminate the position of *parish and financial secretary*. The vestry and our stewardship & finance committee met on numerous occasions toward this end. There are a number of reasons for this action, and I will summarize:

- 1) The current position has taken on more responsibilities than when it was originally filled. In particular, the increase in the number of checks that have to be written out, along with the corresponding duties entailed with financial reporting, have made it next to impossible for the parish and financial secretary to complete her work in a timely fashion.
- 2) Individuals and committees have sometimes asked the secretary to do things that can be done by themselves, i.e., printing, copying notes, etc.
- 3) The position of parish and financial secretary is part-time; however, in 2011 the national church will be mandating that anyone working 20 hours or more shall be entitled to health insurance and pension payments. Currently the secretary is receiving pension benefits but not health insurance. With the increasing cost of health insurance—along with the prospect that we will need to be paying at least \$ 8,000 more on our assessment to the diocese in 2011, we have decided to eliminate the position of **parish and financial secretary**, and create a new position of *parish secretary*., which will be a part-time position working 18 hours per week.

Here is how our church will be affected by this move:

- 1) Our financial data will be discreetly handled by a local financial firm which is bonded, and has done excellent work in handling financial data for neighboring churches. This firm will, for a reasonable fee, do our monthly financial reports and have quarterly reports ready for our pledgers on a timely basis. Our treasurer, Archie Chase, will write checks at least twice a month, assisted by Senior Warden Tony Hinson and myself (Father Jim). The firm will also handle our state and federal tax information.
- 2) We will hire a parish secretary, effective February 8th, 2010. Our current parish and financial secretary, Carol Bowman, will serve in this new capacity on a probationary basis, and her performance will be reviewed in 90 days.
- 3) Due to the decrease in the hours of the new position, the church office will be open from Monday through Thursday, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.; this will be effective on Monday, February 8th. ***The office will be closed on Friday***, which is also Fr. Jim's day off. This means that if anyone needs to come into the office after 1:45 pm or on Fridays, you will need to contact me (Fr. Jim) and we can set up a time for you to come in. Although I will be in the office most afternoons, if you see the church calendar, e.g., for February, you will see that there are times what I will be unavailable due to meetings and visitations. However, you have access to the office phone and my cell phone (704/ 322-8434); please call me if you need to see me or stop in to the office at times other than office hours.
- 4) The "farming out" of our parish financial data will relieve the secretary of financial duties, thus making it easier for her to focus on other items such as the newsletter, weekly bulletins and other areas of communication, in her shortened work week. This move will also help to save the parish some money in the long run, since the monthly fee for the financial data processing, together with the salary of the new position of secretary, will be cost effective.

What should we do in the meantime?

Please understand that this is a "work in progress!" We do want to be available for our parishioners at the church office, but we also feel that we need to be good stewards of our financial resources. We feel that overall, this will be a good move for our church. But please be patient with us! If you have any suggestions that will help in any way, please feel free to contact your vestry members, warden or myself. Thanks for your prayerful support!—Fr. Jim+

PS The 2010 Budget approved by the vestry does not reflect any changes in the Secretary salary, owing to the fact that we do not have the final numbers on the cost of outsourcing our financial data. An amended budget will be formulated by mid-year, to reflect any savings we might have by the end of the year.

WHO SCHEDULES WHAT?

In our parish, we have a plethora of volunteers who work to schedule various ministries for God's people here at Christ Church. We wish to commend all those who serve on these ministries, as well as those who take on the extra task of scheduling them here at Christ Church! Our church secretary, Carol Bowman, has "inherited" some of these scheduling duties. Although she has done very well in this role, your vestry and I feel that this does not need to be—nor should it be—one of our secretary's duties. To this end, I have asked a couple of our members to take on scheduling roles. You can see from the table below, that we will need a couple more of you to step up to the plate, and help us with these schedules. Carol and I will be most willing to help you out; please notify us at the church office if you can help us with scheduling any of these ministries. Thank you very much, and God bless!

Fr. Jim+

PS We wish to thank **Cindy Moore**, who had just completed *umpte*n years as the scheduler for our acolytes! She has done an outstanding job not only in scheduling, but in getting “last minute replacements” on Sunday mornings!

CHRIST CHURCH SCHEDULERS

MINISTRY SERVICED	IN THE PAST	CURRENTLY SERVING	IN THE FUTURE
Altar Guild	Gene Hinson, past Altar Guild Coordinator	Pat Bryfonski, current Altar Guild Coordinator	Pat Bryfonski
8:30 Liturgical Ministers	Jane Almond	Jane Almond	Jane Almond
10:30 Ushers	The late George Reaves	Wayne Davis	Wayne Davis
10:30 Acolytes	Cindy Moore (for the last few years!)	Fr. Jim Bernacki	<i>We need someone here!</i>
10:30 Lectors, Intercessors and Chalicists	Marianne Bumgarner-Davis, David Cook	David Cook	<i>David Cook?</i>
10:30 Nursery	Diane Robinson	Carol Bowman, Parish Secretary	Amber Kubik/ Miranda Throneburg
10:30 Refreshments	Rita Burris	Carol Bowman, Parish Secretary	Sandy Bernacki
Sunday Collection Counters	Fr. Jim & Wardens	Fr. Jim & Wardens	Fr. Jim & Wardens
ECW (Women’s Ministries) Monthly Kitchen Cleanup Schedule	ECW Chairs	Carol Bowman, Parish Secretary	<i>We need someone here!</i>
Lawn Care Schedule	Craig Kennedy	Craig Kennedy	Craig Kennedy
SCCM Helpers	Carol Bowman, Parish Secretary	Carol Bowman, Parish Secretary	<i>We need someone here!</i>
Tuesday Evening Prayer leaders	Tom Lowe	Fr. Jim Bernacki	<i>Tom Lowe?</i>

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING & ELECTIONS

A REPORT ON OUR Annual Meeting (Sunday, December 6, 2009) will be given in our next issue. However, we wish to let you know that the following individuals were elected to three-year terms on the vestry (ending December, 2012): **Lana Erickson** (who attends the 8:30 service); **Dr. Marianne Bumgarner-Davis** (who attends both 8:30 and 10:30 services), and **Tom Lowe** (who usually attends the 10:30 service but occasionally the 8:30 service). They join continuing vestry members **Matt Amick**, **Dr. Lisa Brandyberry**, and **Michael Lowder**, whose terms end at the end of this year, and **Joe Burris**, **Tony Hinson**, and **Lisa Deese**, whose terms end at the end of 2011. The vestry approved Fr. Jim’s nomination of **Tony Hinson** for a one-year term as Senior Warden, and the vestry elected the other following officers for a one-year term: **Joe Burris**, Junior Warden; **Marianne Bumgarner-Davis**, secretary, and **Archie Chase**, Treasurer. The Executive Board of the vestry is responsible for any pending matter between vestry meetings. Besides the rector and wardens, the following two vestry members were elected as at-large members of the Executive Board: **Matt Amick** and **Lana Erickson**.

The following are the chairs and vestry liaisons for our parish committees:

COMMITTEE	Chair	Vestry Liaison	COMMITTEE	Chair	Vestry Liaison
Buildings & Grounds	David Wilhelm	Joe Burris	Christian Formation	Lisa Deese	Lisa Deese
Evangelism	Michael Lowder	Michael Lowder	Outreach	Lana Erickson	Matt Amick
Parish Life	Janet Treadaway	Lisa Brandyberry	Pastoral Care	Lori Kirkingburg	Marianne Bumgarner-Davis
Stewardship & Finance	Russ Hollins	Joe Burris	Worship	Tom Lowe	Tom Lowe

We wish to thank the outgoing members of the vestry for their tireless service to God and our parish these past three years: **Cindy Moore**, **David Wilhelm** (Senior Warden), and **Archie Chase** (Junior Warden)!

TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) welcomes those from our parish who would like to join them! TOPS meets every Thursday in our church hall. Weigh-in is from 5:45 to 6:25 pm, and a meeting takes place from 6:30 to 7:30 pm. There is a \$26 sign-up fee per year, and a \$1 charge to attend each meeting.

NEW ADDRESSES: **David Aycock**, Freedom Farms, 4807 US Hwy. 321 N., Sugar Grove, NC 28679
Donald and Debbie Belch, 5304 Woodrun on Tillery, Mt. Gilead, NC 27306 Phone: (910) 439-8970

CHRIST CHURCH BUDGET—2010 (adopted by the Vestry at their retreat, January 2010)

Acnt #	Description	2005 Final	2006 Final	2007 Final	2008 Final	2009 Final	2010 Final	Difference (Yr. 2010-2009)
50101	Rector - Salary	\$31,500	\$33,075	\$34,730	\$35,088	\$35,088	\$31,518	-3570
50102	Rector - Travel Expense	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$3,000	+600
50105	Rector - Insurance	\$9,915	\$10,500	\$10,500	\$11,170	\$11,170	\$10,500	-670
50106	Rector - Pension	\$9,187	\$9,650	\$9,750	\$10,234	\$10,530	\$9,500	-1030
50108	Rector - Continuing Ed.	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$500	0
50113	Rector - Housing	\$21,000	\$22,050	\$22,050	\$23,392	\$23,392	\$21,012	-2380
51101	Organist	\$9,194	\$10,000	\$10,500	\$10,800	\$10,800	\$10,800	0
51102	Supply Staff - Clergy	\$600	\$600	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,380	\$1,000	-380
51103	Worship & Vestments	\$3,000	\$2,000	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,350	-150
51104	Christian Formation	\$2,500	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$1,200	+200
51105	Youth Activities	\$1,200	\$1,200	\$600	\$400	\$400	\$200	-200
51106	Nursery Staff	\$200	\$200	\$200	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300	0
51107	Outreach	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$800	\$800	\$800	0
51108	Parish Life	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000	0
51109	Music	\$150	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$100	\$0	-100
51111	Pastoral Care	\$0	\$200	\$200	\$500	\$500	\$500	0
51112	Nursery FICA Staff				\$100	\$100	\$100	0
51113	Youth Christian Ed Director						\$4,800	+4800
51114	Christian Ed Director FICA						\$370	+370
52101	Cleaning Contract	\$3,900	\$4,300	\$4,420	\$4,420	\$4,420	\$4,420	0
52102	Church Property Insurance	\$5,249	\$5,500	\$6,000	\$7,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	-500
52103	Fuel - Church	\$2,950	\$6,500	\$4,500	\$4,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	0
52104	Kitchen Supplies					\$900	\$800	-100
52105	Housekeeping	\$500	\$500	\$475	\$500	\$700	\$500	-200
52106	Grounds Maintenance	\$2,750	\$2,000	\$1,150	\$900	\$900	\$600	-300
52107	Building Maintenance	\$2,750	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,500	+500
52108	Utilities - Church	\$5,000	\$5,400	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$6,500	\$6,000	-500
53101	Secretary - Salary	\$17,160	\$17,160	\$17,160	\$17,675	\$17,674	\$17,674	0
53102	Secretary - FICA	\$1,313	\$1,313	\$1,313	\$1,353	\$1,353	\$1,353	0
53103	Equip. Maint.- Copier/Riso	\$1,670	\$1,670	\$1,200	\$1,320	\$1,320	\$1,270	-50
53104	Postage	\$1,600	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$2,000	\$1,650	-350
53105	Office Supplies	\$4,150	\$4,150	\$3,500	\$2,391	\$2,500	\$2,500	0
53106	Telephone	\$2,650	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$2,100	\$2,100	\$2,000	-100
53107	Workmen's Comp.- Staff	\$350	\$412	\$412	\$442	\$542	\$542	0
53109	Secretary - Pension	\$858	\$858	\$858	\$884	\$885	\$885	0
54101	Diocesan Asking	\$8,370	\$10,000	\$8,220	\$9,840	\$10,800	\$11,718	+918
54103	Theological Education	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$960	\$0	\$0	0
54104	Contingencies	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$500	-500
54105	Convention Expense	\$1,200	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750	\$600	\$600	0
54107	Renovation Loan					\$4,360	\$5,813	+1453
Totals:		\$157,826	\$164,798	\$160,298	\$166,019	\$171,014	\$168,775	-2239

Bread & Wine

Bread & Wine Articles DUE February 15!

Christ Episcopal Church
Mail: PO Box 657
Albemarle, NC 28002

Time sensitive material Mailed on February 4, 2010

*Christ Episcopal Church is a parish of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina,
The Episcopal Church (TEC), and the Worldwide Anglican Communion.*

Rector – The Rev. Dr. James Bernacki
Supply Priest in Residence–Fr. Marvin Aycock
Senior Warden – Tony Hinson
Jr. Warden – Joe Burris
Treasurer – Archie Chase
Vestry Clerk – Dr. Marianne Bumgarner-Davis
Parish Secretary – Carol Bowman
Organist & Choir – Jane Scheer
Acolytes – *t.b.a.*
Altar Guild – Pat Bryfonski
Flower Guild – Joe Burris
Christian Ed.— Lisa Deese
Columbarium – Helen Harris, Allison Poplin

Coord. Of Relig. Formation – Amber Kubik
ECW – Shelia Chase, Pat Bryfonski, and Jane Scheer
Lawn Care – Craig Kennedy
Lay Eucharistic Ministers – David Cook
Lectors – Dr. Marianne Bumgarner-Davis
Men’s Group – Archie Chase
Nursery – Miranda Throneburg, Amber Kubik
Outreach –Lana Erickson, Matt Amick
Parish Life – Janet Treadaway,
Dr. Lisa Brandyberry

Pastoral Care–Lori Kirkingburg., Marianne Bumgarner-Davis
Buildings & Grounds–David Wilhelm, Joe Burris
Stewardship & Finance– Russ Hollins, Joe Burris
Ushers – Wayne Davis
Worship – Tom Lowe. Pat Bryfonski
Youth – Amber Kubik, Nancy Deeck
Church Kitchen Coordinator – Doris Stickney
Parish Nursing–Becky McKeon, Felicia Amick
Evangelism – Michael Lowder

Inside this Newsletter:

- **Notes about our new Church Office Hours and new position of “church secretary”**
- **Notes from our Rector and Committees**
- **Upcoming Events of Import**
- **The “Alleluia page” and Kids’ Page**
- **February 2010 Calendar and Liturgical Minister Schedule**
- **The 2010 Christ Church Budget**

The “*Sanctus Light*” (Sanctuary Candle) burns daily in our church as a sign of Christ’s presence in the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle (box on the left side wall in the sanctuary of the church). The Sanctus Light, representing the “light of Christ,” is a candle lit from the Paschal Candle on Easter Eve; it is changed every week, since it is a seven-day candle. Traditionally, people have offered the Sanctus Light to the Glory of God, and in loving memory of a departed loved one, or in thanksgiving for someone/some special occasion. If you would like to offer the Sanctus Light for a particular Sunday, please notify us at the church office. Although there is no fee for the offering of this light, a suggested donation of \$5 for the cost of the candle is recommended.