

A Letter from the Rector

February 1, 2006

Dear Friends,

This is the first edition of the new, monthly *Chart*. As I noted last month, the *Chart* looks to me virtually the same as it did in 1971 when I first came here. The new *Chart* will be printed on larger paper, will have more pages and will have more information that we hope will be of interest to the congregation. Doug Schmidt-Spadaro has volunteered to help with the production of the *Chart*, but we need more help to make it a better source of information for the parish.

Among the new features we would like to have is a **Christian Education** section, featuring programs and educational activities for children and adults; a **liturgy and worship** section, outlining the services for the month, the music that will be part of worship and any special music programs; a section for **Vestry news** covering issues considered by the Vestry in the month passed and anticipated work in the Vestry for the month to come; and a section with news from members of the Christ Church parish family and the Diocese of Long Island. This implies that we will do more planning for the future and will have our programs set long in advance. I also hope that we will have articles on topics of interest from members of the parish. Of course, the *Chart* will continue to have a comprehensive calendar of parish events. It will take us a few months to get this put together. In the mean-time we will do our best to get information out to you as completely and accurately as possible.

In this edition of the *Chart* I have chosen to reprint, in a somewhat edited form, my written report to the Annual Meeting of the Parish. Although many of you will hear my remarks in person, others will not have that opportunity—and I think there are sufficient important issues that we are presently considering that a wider dissemination of my remarks may be helpful.

I hope you find the new *Chart* more readable and filled with more information than in the past. As always, your comments are appreciated.

This comes with my best wishes.

Sincerely,

Christ Church, Manhasset Rector's Report for the Annual Meeting—February 5, 2006

A few matters I would like comment on and then spend time on the four issues that will, I believe, determine the future success of Christ Church: parish growth, the sale of part of the Christ Church campus, the building of a new parish house and a capital campaign.

First, I want to thank those who have worked so hard for Christ Church in the past year. I wish especially to thank the Wardens and Vestry, who have not only worked hard, but also have been most pleasant to work with.

The Every Member Canvass went very well again this year. Pledging has increased 40% over the past two years and there were 18 new pledges this year. Special thanks go to Tim Carr and the canvassers for the excellent job they did.

Sunday attendance for the year reached levels last seen at Christ Church in 1999. In 2003 the average Sunday attendance was 84; in 2004 it was 103 and in 2005 it was 116. Our Christmas attendance this year was 297; last year it was 246 and in 2003 it was 229. So we are making slow, but steady progress. I wish to thank the lay-Eucharistic ministers, the lay readers, the acolytes, the members of the Altar Guild, the ushers and those who have prepared post-service fellowship for all their help.

Another standard for comparison is communions for those in hospitals, nursing homes and shut-ins. In 2005 there were 147 private communions; in 2004 there were 74; in 2003 there were 3 shut-in communions; in 2002 there was one and in 2001 there were 16. Karen Davis, our diocesan intern this fall, and Gideon Polloch, our seminarian last spring, were of great help in making our pastoral care programs work so well.

The Sunday School continues to do an excellent job. I owe special thanks to Heather Bennett and her teachers and to Vera Davis in the nursery for all their excellent work. The music program has been greatly enhanced by the addition of Nancy Ludwig; I thank her not only for her professionalism, but also for her good spirit. Lisa Carr put on another excellent pageant. I thank her for her energy, creativity and perseverance.

Finally, thanks to Valarie Siener, Audrey Eisser, Oriana Cyprus and Jane Lightcap for pulling together another successful Holly Fair—and for all of you that worked at the fair. Connected to and beyond the fair, I give continuing thanks to Audrey Eisser for her long hours at the Almost New Shop. It is a great and unrecognized resource for Christ Church and the community; now, on to our issues.

The Need to “Grow” Christ Church

It is the mission of the church to bring people to Christ and to minister to the spiritual needs of the congregation and the community. That mission can never be fully realized. The church must always struggle to do more; to bring more people into the household of faith. Beyond that, Christ Church has had the on-going problem of being land rich and current revenue poor. Although the congregation is generous in its response to the financial needs of Christ Church, reality is that I have been told that in 1947 a committee was formed to address the poor condition of the Parish House and the lack of available funds to make the necessary repairs. That was 59 years ago! And the repairs have never been made.

The Need for a Capital Campaign:

To make all of this come to fruition, we will need to go forward with a capital campaign so the proceeds from the sale of property can be part of long-term endowment and not just a short-term ‘financial-fix.’ Further, it is never healthy to live off an ‘inheritance.’ The sale of

property is our current use of what past generations of those at Christ Church have left for us. In the 20th century Christ Church has had three capital campaigns: one in 1912 after the church burned down; one in 1928 to build the current parish House and one in 1969 to renovate the church and install a new organ. Interestingly all three fell short of their goals and changes had to be made in the three projects to fit with the funds that were available.

I have evaluated a number of proposals from fund-raisers. I have compared them to my experience with capital campaigns (one for a camp and conference center and the other for a senior housing center) which were far more complex than what we want to do. Fund raisers are expensive. In wide-ranging capital campaigns they are necessary. It is my opinion that within our small community we can do most of what a professional fund raiser can do.

I would foresee a relatively simple campaign. The first phase is making the case for a campaign, getting Vestry approval for the case and preparing materials to be shared with the congregation and community. The second phase is made up of meetings (dinners, cocktails) with the congregation and community. The third phase is focused on calls on potential donors. It is a good deal of work—but none of it is rocket science.

Taking Care of Ourselves and Reaching out to Others:

Almost all that I have written about has to do with our needs within the parish of Christ Church. Of course we have done numerous outreach projects over the past year. However, one ‘project’ we have not yet undertaken is to lend a helping hand to the churches and people in southern Mississippi and in the New Orleans area. Over the past week I have had conversations with leaders in the church in New Orleans and they are now ready to move forward with a low-to-moderate income housing program in the shadow of Christ Church Cathedral, where I had been dean. I will be forming a special *ad hoc* committee to help me and the Vestry evaluate our participation in that project.

Pulling together all the programs for Christ Church (growth, campus, parish house, a capital campaign and outreach) are the challenges and the potential for the future of Christ Church.

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Worship and Liturgy

The entire month of February is taken up with the Sunday's after Epiphany. Epiphany begins with the Feast of the Epiphany, which completes the Christmas Season. The Feast of the Epiphany is the Twelfth Day of Christmas and always falls on January the 6th. The Season of the Epiphany continues until Ash Wednesday. The last day of the Epiphany is in English speaking lands known as "Shrove Tuesday" a designation taken from the old English term *shriving* which refers to confession and absolution which was often done on that day in preparation for the beginning of Lent. This year "Shrove Tuesday" is on the 28th of February and Ash Wednesday is the 1st of March.

The word Epiphany means manifestation and it is the season in which the various manifestations of Jesus Christ, as the Messiah, are recognized and celebrated. Most obviously the appearance of the wise men on the Feast of the Epiphany denotes the recognition of the world that the Christ is the Messiah. However, in the history of the church, the season of Epiphany started with the recognition of Jesus' baptism in the river Jordan by John the Baptist. Mark's gospel which has no story of the birth of Jesus and no note of the wise men was the primary text for understanding the baptism of Jesus as the ultimate act of Epiphany. The church filled out the season of Epiphany with other stories of the manifestation of Jesus. The first was the Wedding Feast of Cana of Galilee where Jesus turned water into wine and his disciples recognized his miracle as one done by the chosen of God. Beyond that the church recognizes Jesus' Epiphany in Peter's confession where Peter said that Jesus was "The Messiah the Son of the Living God", and a variety of healing miracles and Jesus' transfiguration, when He shone glistening white much like Moses had when he met with God on Mount Sinai. The liturgical color for Epiphany is green and we will continue to have a green frontal and green vestments through the end of Epiphany.

Epiphany is one of the two church seasons vary in length since the date of Easter moves from the last week of March through the last week of April, depending upon when the spring full moon occurs and since Lent is always forty days prior to Easter the season of Epiphany must be flexible. This year with Easter falling about in the middle of its potential span, from late March to late April, this year there are eight Sundays for the Epiphany. To balance the church year when there are more Sundays in Epiphany, there are fewer Sundays in the Pentecost season, and when Easter falls early and Epiphany is short, there are more Sundays in the season of Pentecost.

Christian Education and Literature

The continuing religion and literature programs now turn their focus to two southern authors from twentieth century America. Both of them are Catholics and they are unique southern Christian characters which is reflected in their literature. On Wednesday night February 22, we will be discussing Flannery O'Connor's "A Good Man Is Hard to Find". Flannery O'Connor was born in 1925; she was an only child adored and precocious, and very Catholic. Her family was exceptional, being an openly practicing Catholic family in an evangelical Protestant area. Flannery O'Connor was always mesmerized by the strange and bizarre, and her literature points in that direction. She was also always deeply influenced by her Catholic faith. Afflicted by lupus young in age; she lived a painful and in many ways tragic life and died as a young woman. "A Good Man Is Hard to Find" is actually a series of short interrelated stories which we will read together in the form of a quasi novel. In many ways it is Flannery O'Connor at her best. Faithful to a Christian and Catholic faith while observing the world in all its weirdness and bizarreness. It is quite a rollercoaster ride. For those who might be interested in some background, not only on Flannery O'Connor but also on southern Catholic literature, I recommend Paul Elie's book

entitled, "An American Pilgrimage: The Life You Save May be Your Own". It is probably available in limited numbers from the library and it is a fascinating read. We will stay in the South for our April reading selection which will be Walker Percy's "The Movie Goer". Like Flannery O'Connor, Walker Percy was a "Catholic" author from Mississippi. Although raised an Episcopalian, through the influence of his uncle who acted as his guardian after the probable suicide of his mother and father, Walker Percy became an important voice for the Catholic Church in the South. Trained as a doctor, he hated medicine. Trained as an Episcopalian he embraced Catholicism and he reflects in his novels all the contradictions that were part of his family, his faith and the culture in which he grew up and lived.

Christian Education Children

Mark your calendars for Shrove Tuesday Pot Luck Supper on Tuesday, February 28. Join us for the feast before the fast!

Sunday School Parents - Please make sure to check the Chapel Assignment Sheet that was mailed home to you. If you child is assigned as a lector and cannot read on his or her assigned Sunday, PLEASE advise Heather Bennett so another child has time to prepare/practice for that day.

Among the Parishioners at Christ Church

In this section we would like to focus on the interesting lives, activities and successes of members of Christ Church. For this to succeed we need to get information from you about what is going on in your lives. We hope that this will help us get to know each other better.

This is a very special month for David Paterson, a long time Member of Christ Church. David's movie *Love Ludlow* was released in DVD from on January 31st. The story of a young woman caught between her somewhat dysfunctional brother and a young man with whom she works is a tale about the struggle of family love and personal growth. It is a kind and gentle movie. Much of *Love Ludlow* was filmed in the Parish Hall at Christ Church. Part of the fun of watching *Love Ludlow*, is imagining how David Paterson and his crew transformed the Parish House into a Queens apartment, including a stairway with doors for apartments confected out of the stairs at the Parish House at Christ Church. Those of us who have seen the movie highly recommend it. If you would like to order a copy of the DVD through the Christ Church office please call to make your order. The cost is \$15.00 per copy, it takes about a week for the order to be made and the DVD's to arrive.

At the same time that *Love Ludlow* is being released, David Paterson is in New Zealand putting finishing touches his work to prepare his mother's book the *Bridge to Taribithia*, for filming. We congratulate David on his great successes.

congregational giving makes up a little less than 50% of parish expenses. Such a relationship between revenue from giving and other revenues to cover core expenses will be difficult to sustain.

Both for the more noble 'mission of the church' and Christ Church's financial future, the church must continue to work actively to grow. I have written to some of our young families in the church to meet with me to plan for programs to more fully engage other families from the community in Christ Church. More energy toward this task is crucial.

The Christ Church Campus

With regard to the sale of a portion of the Christ Church campus, we will receive two formal offers for the purchase of much of the Christ Church campus for senior housing. One will be a 'cash-up-front' offer for the property with the developers taking all associated risks; the other will be an offer for an option on the land with a pay-out to the church upon zoning approvals. Obviously the former is discounted. At our request, both offers include the 54 and 66 George Street properties. When the offers are received they will be carefully evaluated by the *ad hoc* Christ Church campus committee. The committee will make a full report to the Vestry on those offers.

We have heard from an agent about possible interest in our land by a governmental entity. It appears, however, that there is sufficient uncertainty what the governmental entity wishes to do that we have put that possibility on the "back-burner." We have been in contact with the Town of North Hempstead to see whether the town might have interest in the property for the site for a new town hall. Mr. Kaiman and several of his associates have visited the site, but we have not had any further communication with the town. Prior to formal consideration of any other offers, we will contact the Town of North Hempstead.

Ida Miletich continues to work on an arts center use for the Parish House. She will have the same opportunities as other potential developers of the property to make a timely offer for the use of the campus.

We hope to make a decision about the campus within the coming two to three months. However, we must be realistic about the sale of a portion of the campus. The sale alone will not stabilize our long term finances. We need to raise capital within the parish and the community to assure a stable future for Christ Church. When we sell part of the property we will lose the use of the current Parish House. We will also lose (some) rental income from the Parish House and (some) of the parking income.

Building a New Parish House

Which leads to the 'new' Parish House: Peter Andel has headed-up a committee to define what Christ Church needs in a parish house. John Bernard has rendered a design and Carol Bentel has kindly agreed to advise us on design and engineering. The Parish Hall design focuses on usable space and flexibility. The Parish House will be built on the land where the old rectory is located.

More Member News

Marissa Mazek has been accepted to Barnard College of Columbia University. Marissa keeps very busy at school and yet finds time to sing with the Christ Church Choir and will work with choir director, Nancy Ludwig, with the Junior Choir.

All about Words—“Antidisestablishmentarianism”

Each month we will have a new word—most ecclesiastical—to add to your vocabulary. The word for February is *antidisestablishmentarianism*, which is most probably the longest word in the English language. The word originated in the battle in the 1860s over whether the (Anglican) Church of Ireland would be the official church in Ireland in spite of the fact that only one-in-eight Irish were Anglicans. The battle was most bitter and pitted those who supported continued establishment of the Church of Ireland against those who wished for disestablishment of the church. Using some skillful double-negatives, the supporters of the official Church of Ireland coined the word *antidisestablishmentarianism* to describe their cause. In 1871, the Church of Ireland was officially disestablished and *antidisestablishmentarianism* became little more than curiously long word.

View from the Choir Loft – Nancy Ludwig

As I thought about a name for the music column, this came to mind, only to cause a chuckle, since we don't really have a choir loft ... but so be it. The choirs are coming along well, as you can hear on Sundays; we appreciate the many words of support from all of you. Newcomers are not only welcome, but NEEDED – in both the adult and children's choirs. As we approach the season of Lent, consider membership in a choir as a discipline to take on rather than something to give up.

Bear with me as I wax poetic about musical training for young people. As you know, studies have concluded that children who sing or study musical instruments seriously over a period of time have a better sense of balance in their lives, tend to develop organizational skills at an earlier age, actually experience as reality what for many is simply the concept of “beauty”, learn to listen carefully, learn to strive towards realizing their own full potential, learn performance skills (poise, stage presence) and receive the joy of realizing a “job well-done”. The “fun” which is garnered from a good musical education is not a frosting-on-the-cake sort of fun, but a deep joy that no one can ever take away and which will remain with that child throughout life. Your child may not decide upon music for a profession, but no matter what the vocation he/she selects, it will be enriched by music. If musical training received a higher priority in this country, I am convinced there would be a lower crime rate among young people: children are naturally creative – they are closer in age to their own creation – and are bursting with urges for creative outlets. And one very personal thought: if God is at the center of your spiritual life, music in your house of worship can be the touching of the robe of the Almighty.

NEWS The Children and I attended a Cathedral Girls' Choir rehearsal on January 31, followed by a Q & A session with Parker Kitterman, Assistant Organist and Amanda Le Sueur, senior choir girl. In addition to singing a communion anthem during March, on April 2, the Children's Choir will be the featured soloist for Mendelssohn's magnificent motet for soprano and chorus, *Hear My Prayer*, the text of which is loosely based on parts of Psalm 55. The children will also join in the singing of Handel's *Hallelujah Chorus* on Easter Sunday.

The Adult Choir has been invited to sing Part II of Handel's *Messiah* with the Garden City Community Church choir for their morning worship service on Sunday, March 12. The

Sunday following Easter – “Low” Sunday – the adults will sing Henry Purcell’s *Come, Ye Sons of Art* with a string quartet from COS and organ. The Garden City Community Church Choir will join with ours for a Sunday afternoon Evensong in late spring, featuring C. H. H. Parry’s cantata, *Hear My Words, Ye People*.

COMING SOON TO THE CATHEDRAL

- Evensong for Candlemas sung by the Cathedral Choirs of Girls and Men, Sunday February 5, 4PM (free)
- Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin in concert, Friday, February 10, 8PM (tickets required)
- Adelphi University Symphony Orchestra with soloists Maxine Thevenot and tenor, Jonathan Goodman, Friday, April 28, 8PM (tickets required)

About Preludes and Postludes

The prelude and postlude serve an important place in the worship of the church. Typically, both pieces are selected to illuminate the message contained within the readings of the day. Sometimes, they may be through a composition based on a chorale, the text of which is especially appropriate on a particular Sunday (such as a Bach chorale prelude) and other times, it may be a piece that conveys the overall message of the lections on a given Sunday (such as the common use of a dazzling French toccata on Easter Sunday). Both the prelude and postlude allow time for contemplation and prayer as an integral part of the service and parishioners are encouraged to listen to the music offered to the Glory of God each week as a spiritual aid to their own worship.

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THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 5, 2006

2 Kings 4:8-37; Psalm 142; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Ricky Scheib
By Kay and Dick Scheib

THE SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 12, 2006

2 Kings 5:1-15; Psalm 42; 1 Corinthians 9:24-27; Mark 1:40-45

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Jack L. Bruckner
by Marion Bruckner

THE SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 19, 2006

Isaiah 43:18-25; Psalm 32; 2 Corinthians 1:18-22; Mark 2:1-12

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Roy Trempy, Sr.
by Tom Trempy

THE LAST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY – FEBRUARY 26, 2006

1 Kings 19:9-18; Psalm 27:5-11; 2 Peter 1:16-19, 20-21; Mark 9:2-9

There are openings for altar flowers If you would like to make a donation as either a thank offering or a memorial, please call Diana Tadler at 627-0128 or the Parish Office.

ASH WEDNESDAY – MARCH 1, 2006 AT 7AM, 10AM AND 7:30 PM

Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 103:8-14; 2 Corinthians 5:20-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Holy Eucharist and Imposition of Ashes

Happy Birthday!!

We are pleased to congratulate these friends and parishioners who have birthdays during this month...

Jeff Lightcap, Senetta Koch, Karyn Sherwood, Anthony Hegyesi, Kristin Scherer, Carole Beinecke, Lori Kelly, Elizabeth Kelly, Vincent McGill, C.J.(Carole) Sevely, Will Ivers, Jade Blocker, Thomas Allen, Scott Beinecke.

Happy Anniversary!!!

Our congratulations to all those friends and parishioners celebrating their wedding anniversaries for this month... Dick and Kay Scheib, Angus Stopford and Jeannine Daly.

CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. David B. Lowry, Rector, Residence: 516-570-0318
 Ms. Nancy Ludwig, Organist and Choir Director
 Ms. Kathy Hoffmann, Administrator Church Office: 627-2184
 Mr. Enrique Valdes, Sexton

THE CALENDAR

5 Epiphany 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	February 5th Holy Eucharist Bible Study Church School Holy Eucharist/Annual Meeting Holy Eucharist	7 Epiphany 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	February 19th Holy Eucharist Bible Study Church School Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	February 7th Children's Choir	Monday 7:45 p.m.	February 20th Vestry Meeting
Thursday 10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	February 9th Holy Eucharist Adult Choir	Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	February 21st Children's Choir
6 Epiphany 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	February 12th Holy Eucharist Bible Study Church School Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	February 22nd Book Discussion
Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	February 14th Children's Choir	Thursday 10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	February 23rd Holy Eucharist Adult Choir
Thursday 10:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	February 16th Holy Eucharist Adult Choir	Last Epiphany 8:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.	February 26th Holy Eucharist Bible Study Church School Holy Eucharist Holy Eucharist
		Tuesday 5:30 p.m.	February 28th Children's Choir
	Ash Wednesday 7:00 a.m. 7:30 p.m.	March 1st 10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist	Holy Eucharist