

# Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting

January 25, 2009



Christ Episcopal Church

One Main Street

Towanda, PA 18848

(570) 265-5035

The Rev. Maureen AtLee Hipple, Rector

The Rev. J. Lawrence Holman, Deacon

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“Loving God and Others Through Christ”

Christ Church Evangelism Statement

## Mission Statement

Christ Church- Towanda, PA

Christ Church, a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit and in unity with Jesus Christ, is a place:

1. ...to be grounded in the Holy Scriptures and God's love in order to develop faith in and love for God, and to develop gifts to do the work of ministry.
2. ...to worship and glorify our Lord and Savior, Christ Jesus through Eucharist and other forms of praise and thanksgiving.
3. ...to pray for forgiveness, reconciliation, and healing.
4. ...to be united in fellowship within our church family, joyous in giving, sharing, encouraging, and being compassionate.

With love and faith in God our Father, Christ our Lord and Savior, and energized by the Holy Spirit, we are a church that endeavors to share God's gift of love by:

1. ...evangelizing the good news of Jesus Christ in our community.
2. ...bringing wholeness to the human soul through forgiveness, reconciliation, healing, compassion, and encouragement through the assurance of Jesus Christ's resurrection.
3. ...showing the knowledge of God's compassion through serving the community where social needs are found.
4. ...inviting others to join our Christian community through our involvement in the secular community.

**Minutes of Christ Church Annual Parish Meeting**  
**January 20, 2008**  
**166<sup>th</sup> Annual meeting**  
**25 Members Present**

Marsh Dawsey, Senior Warden, called the meeting to order at 11:40AM asking for a prayer from Mother "Mo." Polly was appointed Secretary protemp. A motion to accept the January 14<sup>th</sup> 2007 minutes was made by Marg Shaner, seconded by Ginnie Schoonover; motion passed.

The outgoing Vestry members, Marg Shaner, Art Johnson, and Jim Vanderpool were thanked for their service. Since Jim was appointed to finish the term of a vestry person who resigned, he agreed to serve another term.

Projects finished in the church were the refurbishing of the Bell Tower. Work on updating the lighting has been started and will continue in 2008.

A motion to accept reports by title (except for the treasurer's) was made by Connie Burruss, seconded by Larry Gehring. Motion passed.

Treasurer, Gene Weisbrod, reported extra cash was needed to refurbish the rectory after the less than desirable tenants were removed. The rectory is now housing excellent folks, adding to the church income. The new budget is about the same as 2007's. Pledges are down. The good years offer a cushion so we should be O.K.

A motion to accept the budget was made by Jim Haight and 2<sup>nd</sup> made by Marg Shaner. Motion passed.

Marg Shaner, nominating chair man, reported 3 names suggested for 3 year terms on the vestry: Jim Vanderpool, Gary Paddock, & Bill Kovalcin. Marg called for nomination to be closed. Polly Dawsey seconded. Motion passed.

The secretary was instructed to cast a unanimous ballot to accept the slate.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 11:50 by Hilary Haight, seconded by Jim Haight.

Meeting adjourned.

Secretary Protemp,

Polly Dawsey

## Rector's Annual Parish Report – 2008

Last year I was a little wordy . . . so I'll begin my report without any further ado: In 2008 we celebrated 52 Sunday Holy Eucharist Services, 28 Anointing/Laying on of Hands, 95 Weekday Holy Eucharist Services, 58 Home/Hospital Holy Communion visitations, 3 (Towanda Personal Care Home) Holy Eucharist Services, 5 TMH – Skilled Nursing Facility Holy Eucharist Services, 8 Baptisms – Corrina Ann Bump (Brusso), Samuel Alfred Bump, Adrianna Mignano (“Addie”), Frederick Johnson Jr., Travis E. Johnson, Olivia DeAnn Stoudt, Ashlyn Elizabeth Moore, Emma Alyee Moore, Amanda Priest and Rebecca Priest, 4 Confirmations – Melina Ann Hoffman, Lowell Ray Patton, David Gary VanDerlyke & Hilary Margaret Haight, 5 Receptions – Melba Zurn VanDerlyke, Eugene Walter Weisbrod, Paulette Zerfoss Patton, Brian Robert Andrew Daly and Tamara Rose C. Patterson officiated by Bishop Paul on Feb 24, 2008 during his visitation to our parish, 6 Marriages – Timothy James Patters & Tamara Rose Coolbaugh (Wickwire), Robert Andrew Cusson & Caroline Grace Iglie, Matthew David Pavey & Tara Jane Pavey, Scott Edward Teel & Stacey Marie Allen (Brown), Lowell Ray Patton & Paulette Ruth Zerfoss and Richard Delmar Woodbeck & Dana Lynn Mitros. 7 Funerals/Memorial Services – Col. Stephen Neiley, Olive Cochran Thomson, Marie Bronson Devine, Gloria Moshier Shoemaker, Hazel Spencer, Thomas Malcolm Cowling and Emma Nevaeh Robinson. We do have some new parishioners: Corrina Ann Bump, Samuel Alfred Bump, Addie Mignano, Tonya Lane & Dominik Isbell, Sarah & Corban May, Dana & Rick Woodbeck, Stacey & Scott Teel.

Listed next are some ministries in which our parish have given of our time, talent and treasure: The Abuse & Rape Crisis Center, Children and Youth Services, United Thank Offering, The Presiding Bishop's Fund (Episcopal Relief & Development), TACO (Towanda Area Community Outreach), The Grace Connection (with Laureen Farr as our Parish Contact . . . Thank You!) and a Grace Connection Christmas Adopt a Family Project, The New Hope Campaign for a New Sudan and the Needy in Pennsylvania, our own food pantry, and church discretionary account, (which helps many needy people with medical food, gasoline, clothes, rent, and heat needs). WE also have an outreach of prayer, altar flowers and cards. Our prayer chain is very faithful and appreciated. If you would like to be a part of this ministry please contact me at 570-265-5035. Our gifts of altar flowers and the sending of assorted cards to others is another way we have outreach in Jesus' name. Marg Shaner, Doris Lewis, Jay Spencer, Donna Darrow, Rita Nelson and I send out the cards. If you know of any person in need please let us know. Thank you! We have started a Secret Pals Ministry for our Shut-ins. If interested please call me at 570-265-5035.

We need help with Altar Flower ministry too if you would like to help . . . please let me know. These ministries are needed and are truly valued by those who receive them and those who do them. Being valued, feeling connected and remembered is important and our Christian commitment to our Lord. Easter Basket Gifts for the shut-ins is our Lenten project. It's coming soon! Let's start collection all of the needed, creative, and fun type items for these baskets! If someone would like to take charge of this ministry . . . please let me know! (any new ideas or thoughts are very welcomed!) If you have an outreach which you feel we should do . . . please share your thoughts!

Our parish has received extra gifts from many generous people; listed here are a few: Ruth & Tom Bloss, George Crouch, Donna Darrow, Larry & Maurine Gehring, Bill & Sue Hubbard, Marie Hvezda, Doris Lewis, Lula Morash, Marg Shaner, Barbara Sowinski, Gene & Debi Weisbrod, Nick Weisbrod . . . Praise God for all of the supportive and faithful gifts given to our church. Christ Church has been extremely blessed by the parish and God.

Also, Lynn Daly, who now provides our altar flowers, donates the flowers each week in the Parish Hall. They are beautiful! Thank you for allllll you do!

Another way to give is by the giving of our personal time. During the year we have several parish dinners. Marie and Connie coordinate the dinners, make the main course and then all of our terrific chefs in the parish bring special dishes . . . delicacies made with the greatest of care. We all have a fun time. Spending time with others is another way to give to our Lord; it blesses us all. Our next parish dinner will be held on February 7<sup>th</sup> . . . our Italian Dinner! Come and join in the fun.

Deacon Larry and Sharon will be back before Easter Day! :) They spend a few months in Puerto Rico. During their time in Puerto Rico Larry officiates several services for those in the area. Deacon Larry, when in Towanda, helps with preparing some of the schedules, working with the acolytes, preaching and filling in for me with the services when I'm on vacation!!! Thank you Larry for allllll you do! We miss you both! Annnnd next time . . . we're alllllll coming with you!!!!!! :) Everyone get your suntan lotion!

Our Wardens and Vestry members give of their time, talents and faithfulness too. Marshall Dawsey is very committed and faithful. He does a marvelous job as our Senior Warden. Thank you tons! Lee Baker has been working away on his list of special tasks to keep our parish in good repair. Thank you both for all of your diligence in the work you do for the parish and our Lord. Achieving God's will for us takes many working together. A thank you to the vestry members too! Working on the vestry requires commitment, patience, honesty, devotion and faithfulness to God and His people . . . His church. Attending a vestry meeting can be scary and intimidating . . . and sharing opinions can be the most daunting of tasks. It means we are to be willing to be vulnerable and honest; we are to be imitating Jesus' way. Everyone is entitled to have and share their own personal thoughts and feelings while still feeling valued, listened to and respected. Everyone may not agree, however, we are to allow one another the same opportunity of sharing different ideas in the same respectful and holy way. The Presence of the Holy Spirit is working and active in us when we are able to accomplish this and work together to continue God's work. Be sure to thank each vestry member for the effort: Jimmy Haight, Marie Hvezda, Connie Burruss, Larry Gehring, Ginnie Schoonover, Gene Weisbrod, Jim Vanderpool, Gary Paddock and Bill Kovalcin. Give special thanks to Ginnie who has been our efficient and faithful Clerk of the Vestry for many years and Gene our dedicated and precise Treasurer and our steadfast Sr. Warden Marshall, and also Lee, our Jr. Warden!!! Thank you all!

The Altar Guild is another truly devoted group of parishioners who work together and give of their love, time and talent to prepare our altars for all of the different services celebrated during the year. And there were approximately 185 services!!! Polly is the President of this Guild. Cindy Williams is the Treasurer. Frankie Neiley has laundered the Fair Linens for many years. Doris Lewis takes meticulous care of all the preparations needed for the services held in our Nativity Chapel!!! Polly & Melba, Ginnie & Sue, Dr. Kippy & Cindy, Sharon & Hilary, Jon, Johnny & Dorena, Doris Lewis (solo) and last but not least Karen & Marg are the teams for this ministry. Thank You all!!! If you are interested in this ministry please contact me, Polly and/or any other Altar Guild member. They would be more than happy to share this ministry with you! And it would benefit you personally and spiritually as well.

A Big Thank you to Lauren! You have done a GREAT job as our organist! We all appreciate your organ music. It adds extra spirituality to our services. A BIG Thank You goes to Larry & Maurine Gehring who helped out once again during Marie's, our guitarist and the choir's needed vacation. Another BIG BIG Thank You goes to Marie Hvezda!! She is the Choir Director and always willing to

help throughout the year with her beautiful guitar music . . .and when Lauren is not able to attend due to illness Marie instantly gets her guitar and plays spontaneously & with much expertise!!! Thank YOU Marie! WOW! You are amazing!!! Our proficient musicians and gifted choir are a vital portion of our worship. Their facilitating our music is a form of prayer, which we all value. Their music brings a sense of God's Holy Presence into our midst. Thank you Connie, Ron, Brian, Lauren and especially Marie who selects all of the beautiful anthems throughout the year. Christmas Eve's music was sensational, once again, this year with EVERYONE taking a part. Marie, Lauren, Brian, Maurine, Larry, Ron, Freddy, David, Kevin, and Connie . . . they were alllll in EXCELLENT voice and form! Thank you for your willingness and commitment in Praising God with your talents. The congregation is privileged by your ministry! If you would like to join them please contact Marie at 570-265-3186 or ask the other choir members! Oh and pleeeeee don't forget our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on February 24<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds help our choir in buying their music. Let's be sure to support them and invite everyone to our Pancake Supper!!!! Please volunteer to help out! The choir does an excellent job with the supper but they can't do it alone! Besides . . . the more the merrier!!!

And speaking about dinners . . . Marie and Connie also share their talents with the dinners hosted every other month or so. We usually bring a dish to pass. Our next dinner will be our Italian Dinner held on Saturday February 7<sup>th</sup>. Come and join us! We always have great food and lots of fun and fellowship. Maybe we will try again and set up board games on the tables . . . so please come and test your proficiency. We can play them either before or after the dinner! Tell Connie, Marie or me what you think! Would anyone be interested in a family night of games, movies & snacks?

The Wonder Group had a "WONDER" full Bazaar! WOW alllll of the baked good, fudge, candies, soups, corn chowder, sloppy joes, hot dogs . . . alllllll the food was delicious! Ymmmmmmmm – I'm getting hungry . . . just thinking about it! They readied the tables with all of the Attic Treasures given from everyone and worked tirelessly the whole week! They are beyond doubt a dedicated and energetic group of ladies . . . exceptionally talented and a hart working group of ladies!!!! One of the latest brain storming ideas is to have a Springtime Chinese Auction! We have lots and lots of ideas/themes for baskets. If you are interested in donating a basket for the event call Ginnie, Debi or me! Praise the Lord for these ladies!!!

Our counters are all very dedicated, accurate, dependable and honest. Here is the list of our faithful counters: Marie Hvezda, Polly and Marshall Dawsey, Jim Vanderpool, Connie Burruss, Doris Lewis, and Wayne Thomas. Thank you allllll . . . especially during the weeks when we have our "Penny Pot" collection!!!!

Ushering is an excellent way to greet and welcome all people in Jesus' name when they come to our church. It's an effective approach for having evangelism right at our front door! Wayne Thomas is our Usher Captain. If you interested pleeeeee give him a call at 570-265-2262. It is an essential ministry. Having a smiling, helpful, interested greeter at our door is absolutely integral when striving to share Jesus' love and His invitation of "Come and See." Thank You Wayne and all your ushers!!!! Please call Wayne if you would be willing to serve as an usher annnnnd if he calls YOU . . . :) please help out if you are able!

Coffee Hour is another way to share God's love and calories! You may make it simple (which I usually do) or you may put on a veritable feast!!! It's your choice! The thought behind coffee hour is for us to have a small snack and some "Quality Christian Fellowship Time" with one another. It's a time for searching out those whom we don't know; a time in which we may visit by getting to know and understand one another, with the sharing and receiving of ideas, blessings, thanksgivings, burdens,

stresses and our times of heartache. Learning and caring more about others is one of the ways in which we may live and receive Jesus' way of community living. Our fellowship at coffee hour does help to build up and encourage the community of Jesus Christ.

Debi Weisbrod is our Awesome Sunday School Superintendent! Dr. Kippy Vail, Cindy Williams, and Debi are our Tremendous Teachers! These ladies are not only committed to God but also to the children in our parish. They do an important ministry. Each Sunday (and during the week too . . . for preparation) they devote a lot of effort, time, perseverance, love and joy in the teaching of the children about God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the faith we are all to have in Him!!!! The teachers impart their own personal faith, knowledge and love of our Lord to the kids. Would you be interested in helping out just a little bit??? Variety is the spice of life and that definitely includes our life in Christ. The more the merrier! Jesus was always trying to teach His disciples about the importance of bringing the children to Him. All of us are children of God and each one of us is important to Him . . . so are these children!!! Once again, these teachers truly exemplify and teach the faith we are to have in Jesus to these children. Thank You!!! Let's remember to support the teachers, children, and parents! Please help out by thinking of a way YOU can support them!!! Also, Thank You Kippy, Cindy and children for the wonderful Christmas Program you did for us!!!

Our Verger and Webmaster, Larry Gehring, does a stupendous job with each ministry!!! Thank you Larry for alllll of your help! If you want to check out his work on our church website go to [www.christchurchtowanda.org](http://www.christchurchtowanda.org). Our church's website is truly incredible thanks to Larry!!! If you need help in sleeping Larry even has all of my sermons on the web site too! Lots of zzzzzzzzzs!! As verger, he readies our lectionary book for our readers on Sunday mornings, and also gets the Gospel book to the correct page. He also . . .welllll . . . there are soooo many tasks . . . I'm not going to even try and list all of what he does! But WOW Larry certainly knows how to multi-task!!!!

PS . . . just to let you know . . . the original duty of a verger was to beat off the vagabonds and wild animals who would try to attack the priest! (no comment) :)

There are many ministries to be involved with and for the Glory of God and for the common good. Here are a few . . . LEM (Lay Eucharist Minister) Our own Lou Adams does this ministry for The Wyalusing Personal Care Home! Hooooooray for Lou! You can choose being a server, Chalice Bearer, Crucifer, Torch Bearer, Book Bearer, Thurifer, and don't forget . . . the Prayer Chain, Altar Guild, Lector/Reader, Choir, Coffee Hour Host/Hostess, Usher, Flower and/or Card ministry . . . and many many more. Each one of us needs a special area to use our God given gifts.

Brian Daly not only has a music ministry but he additionally works conscientiously to keep our parish hall and church building clean. Brian, I really appreciate the pride with which you take and dedication you show in all you do! Thank you!!!! If anyone notices a cleaning need and/or a small patch up job around the church building please let me know. I'll ask Brian to carry out the needed repair. He is more than willing to keep our building clean and shipshape!!! Brian's effort is a prayer to God too and a service to us!!!

Last but definitely not least is our new secretary Amy McDonald! Amy is outstanding in all she does. Amy is a quick learner, shows great initiative, commitment, determination, patience, multiple skills, creativity, organizational ability, perseverance . . . annnnd is trullllly a joy to work with! Everyone, I believe, is trying to be patient, encouraging, kind and ready to lend her a hand . . .but . . .since Amy is such a superb secretary . . .actually so impressive . . . that it can be difficult at times for me to

remember that she has only been here for a few months! Please continue in helping her out wherever and whenever she needs! Hooray and Thank You Amy!!!! :)

So, that's it for now! And although I did say this last year . . . it's true . . . I do feel this parish is Great!!! None of us is perfect but we are willing to admit that we do have our occasionally weaknesses, (which is a strength in and of itself) : ) annnd then we try . . . all the harder . . . to work together for God's Purpose . . . not our own! I guess that's what makes our parish exceptional or as Charlie Eisengrein would have said . . . we're "first-rate"!!! I truly feel this parish is intentionally striving towards becoming even more loving, welcoming, and dedicated to our Lord and each other with and through the power of our Lord's Holy Spirit. You are all a blessing to me!!! May God bless all of us as we continue to do Jesus' ministry in our homes, schools, parish, community, diocese, and world. He loves us and values us as no other!!! What a gift to us from God!!! Our desired goal, our command from God is that we become skilled at knowing how to value/accept/and love each other as we look for the Christ in ourselves and allllll those around us. Praise God for His mercy, forgiveness, strength, comfort, power, joy and love. May He be present with you each and every moment of your lives now and always. To finish my report here is one of my favorites from the Bible:

**“The Lord bless you and keep you,  
The Lord make His face shine upon you,  
And be gracious to you;  
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,  
And give you peace.”** Numbers 6:24-26

Submitted with much appreciation, respect,  
gratefulness, and God's joy, love and peace to you,

Maureen (aka Mother Mo)

## 2008 Senior Warden's Annual Parish Report

I would like to thank Maureen and the Vestry for all their hard work during 2008.

Special thanks goes to Connie Burruss, Jim Haight, and Marie Hvezda for their service on the Vestry for the past three years.

The Vestry has been busy governing this parish by keeping the Budget balanced, maintaining our House of Worship, and helping Maureen provide all the services she does for each and every parish member and those who visit our church. Please read the reports contained in this binder to find out what happened in our parish this past year.

In addition to what is in the reports I feel there is another "Happening" occurring. I believe our parish is going through a transformation of love, respect and friendliness toward each other which we have learned from our priest, Maureen.

May we be filled by Christ's Love for us!

Respectfully Submitted,

Marshall Dawsey

ANNUAL MEETING REPORT FOR 2008 – CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
ex DEACON LARRY HOLMAN

Aside from absences from travel (a 10 week trip, a 1 week trip and a weekend), I enjoyed participating in the activities of Christ Church and being with its people.

A summary of my activities follows:

“UPSTAIRS” SERVICES = 44

DEACON’S MASSES = 8

Sunday = 2

Tuesday = 5

Wednesday = 1

OTHER SUNDAY PREACHING = 1

LED 1 WED. NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

FUNERALS = 2 )

BAPTISMS = SEVERAL ) ASSISTED

WEDDING = 1 )

VESTRY MEETINGS = 3

AREA CLERGY BIBLE STUDY: w/BISHOP = 3

ATTENDED REV. ERIC SNYDER’S 50<sup>th</sup> ORDINATION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

(W/Senior Warden & Rector)

DIOCESE

Convention (Reading, PA)

Clergy Day meeting = 1

Clergy Retreat

Attended Deacon’s meeting w/Bishop (Bethlehem)

Member of Project Hope Diocesan Parishes New Mission Award Committee

TORCH BEARERS, CRUCIFERS, SERVERS & CHALICE BEARERS

Issued 4 quarterly schedules with follow up.

Only 6 Torch Bearers: 5 youth & 1 adult in 2008:

2009 starting w/4 youth & 2 adults – NEED ANOTHER ADULT PAIR!

## Usher Captain Report for 2008

I will start with the same message as about the last 20 years. The Usher Schedule is on the board to sign the week or weeks that you will and can usher. It saves hard of hearing old Uncle Wayne a lot of loving telephone time.

We thank the following people who worked at the Greeting and Meeting Ministry this past year: Craig Dawsey and Trevor Williams, Robin and Dia and Devon Turner, Tina Turner and Kory Foster, Sharon Brutzman and Marion Bowker, Jim and Hilary Haight, Bill Kovalcin and Lee Baker, Chip, Mary Beth, Joshua, Jonathan, Jared and Jayden Harris, Jon Beth Lindsay and Elesha Shulze, Art Johnson, Mary Jane and Bob Roof, Gary and Julie Paddock family, Marg and Ken Shaner, Greg and Cindy Williams family, Mark and Kippy Vail family, Bill Bowker, Barb Sowinski, Brian Daly, Dorena and Jon Rineer family, Lou Phillipi, Jo Burke, Donna Darrow, John and Sue Schoonover family, Paulette and Lowell Patton, Alice Moore, Doris Lewis, Jim Vanderpool and Brent Hugo, Fred Johnson and Polly and Marsh Dawsey. If I have missed anyone, I'm sorry. - Thanks again- Wayne

This is a very important ministry – it is a part of every service.

Thank you for your cooperation.

With Love and Appreciation:  
Respectfully Submitted,

Wayne Thomas

## 2008 Junior Warden' s Report

### CHURCH PROPER

- Drywall repaired in Parish Hall by M&G Construction.
- Parish Hall, kitchen and vestibule painted by Tina Turner.
- Parish Hall floor sanded and polycoated (parquet design) - such a good job was done that there was no room for the floor to expand and contract, so the floor heaved when the humidity got high. Chip Luckman was contracted and the problem was fixed.
- Debi Weisbrod and Lynn Daly repainted the Rector' s office.
- Brian Daly did an exhaustive tracing of the church' s electrical circuits (saved some money doing this).
- Gene Helmuth Electric added, separated and updated many of the circuits. Exp: separated refrigerator from the upstairs main nave lighting. He also hooked up the stove exhaust fan in the kitchen.
- Radiator covers added in Chapel by Doris Lewis.
- Donated commercial dishwasher to a local restaurant - not needed because we don' t do public luncheons anymore.
- Supports added under pews - this was an Eagle Scout project for Nick Weisbrod and involved lots of man hours and man power. Nick recruited a great group of volunteers for this project.
- Carpet added to handicap ramp. This was also part of an Eagle Scout project for one of the Harris twins.
- Nave lighting - tried fluorescent bulbs - they washed out the beautiful colors and woodwork tones. Really made the nave look cold and uninviting. More to come in 2009 on the nave lighting.
- Bought a new Windsor vacuum cleaner (commercial vac) and it seems to be working nicely.
- Jim Haight made repairs around the organ light.
- Leaking radiators fixed.
- Bell rope put back on pulley - discovered netting that kept pigeons out of bell tower has been compromised and needs to be replaced (2009 summer job).

### RECTORY

- Tenants left in June and new tenants were approved in June.
- Sink in upstairs was removed and other plumbing was improved or repaired.
- New front door knobs installed.
- New outlets added (2).
- Some improvement made by new tenants (painting, side lawn brush cut down).
- New appliances installed (discounted by Sears owners - good savings).
- Some improvements are scheduled for 2009.

### GROUNDS

- When grant money becomes available the Mix Avenue sidewalk will be replaced.
- Outside steps were repainted with safety stripes by Larry Gehring (great job Larry!).
- Lawn and snow removal still done by Leroy Hawley - outstanding job done by him.

Thanks to many others who have volunteered time and finances for many of the projects done (Altar Guild floor and painting project in Parish Hall kitchen and vestibule).

Respectfully submitted by  
Lee Baker, Junior Warden

## Church School Annual Report 2008

Our Church School has had an up and down year maintaining attendance of about 10 children from Pre-School through 7<sup>th</sup> grade.

Church School dismissed for the summer on Pentecost Sunday, May 11, 2008.

As we started our Church School for the year 2008-2009 on September 13, 2008, some changes were made to hopefully increase attendance. Church School now meets during the church service as the children follow the cross downstairs before the reading of the gospel, and return during the exchange of peace. We have one class for all students. Christina (Kippy) Vail and Debi Weisbrod are teaching. Cindy Williams continues to be our standby helper when need be. Thank you both for your dedication and service.

Our Church School has initiated a new outreach program by collecting "A Mile of Pennies." This is to support needy children in Bradford County through the program of Partners in Family and Community Development.

The annual children's service on Christmas Eve was held at 4:00 PM. The children presented the Christmas Story pageant under the direction of Kippy Vail. The kids worked hard and it was a wonderful presentation. Thank you Kippy for all your time and efforts in putting this together.

The Church School also continues to support the children of Kajo Keji with their can collection and have raised over \$800 since the project started.

We may be small in number, but we are truly blessed to have these great kids. We applaud their parent(s) for their commitment in bringing the children to Church School, and also the children who are here to learn God's word. Many thanks to Mother Maureen who has a special way of making everyone feel welcome (and getting them to do things even when they don't "feel like it!") God Bless!

Respectfully submitted,  
Debi Weisbrod, Church School Superintendent

## **Treasurer's Report – The state of our finances**

It seems that my past 5 annual reports all began with a sentence stating that the prior year had both good and bad points, financially, for Christ Episcopal Church. This year, let's hit the positives first. We balanced our budget this year to within \$1300, and our income was more than projected due to the strength of our giving. No treasurer can ask for more than that, and it made both my job and the financial decisions of the vestry very easy.

Some very good news is that we are able to project and expect to meet a surplus budget for 2009. This is partly because the Diocese has kept the payout on our endowment at 5.5%, but it is also because your vestry had invested some significant donations back in 2004 and 2005 and we are now seeing the income from those investments. The main reason that we are keeping an income surplus is because we know that our income from our investments will decrease next year, due to the "three year moving average" effect. That being the case, your vestry is essentially planning two years ahead so that we don't implement spending this year that we cannot continue in 2010.

On the negative side, the entire nation suffered a financial setback in the last quarter of the year that will impact our investments and income for at least the next 3 years. I haven't yet seen the true impact on our Diocesan Investment Trust balance, but I assume we're down 25%. That will impact our income from these investments for the next 3 years, as all income is calculated based on a 3 year moving average balance. I'm absolutely certain that our balance this coming July 1 will be far lower than it was on July 1, 2008. That being the case, our income for 2010, 2011, and 2012 will be negatively impacted.

Regardless of our endowment income, it is your giving that is the lifeblood of our church family. Our investment income adds up to only 47% of our budget in 2009. Your giving is what pays the other 53% of our expenses. Christ Episcopal Church simply would not survive without the support of its members, and I thank you for your continued support.

One of our major expenses is the salary and benefits package for our wonderful priest. Your vestry is continuing to balance your priest's salary versus the diocese recommendations. In 2006 and 2007, we maintained Maureen's salary position at 86% of the Diocese recommendations. In 2008 and again in 2009, we budgeted an increase of \$1000 to basically maintain her salary position versus the Diocese recommendations.

We have also worked very hard to utilize our investments wisely to maintain our wonderful church building. This year we invested over \$5000, and we expect to invest more in 2009.

As your treasurer, I thank you for your support. Our monthly financial records are posted on the bulletin board following each vestry meeting, and I welcome your input on financial matters.

Respectfully submitted,

Eugene W. Weisbrod, Jr. Treasurer