

The 2009 Annual Parish Report



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Gordonsville, Virginia

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A WORD ABOUT THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

The canons of the church only require the election of new vestry members during the “annual meeting”. Therefore this year, the only official business to be conducted will be the election of new vestry members. Once the election is conducted, the official meeting will be concluded. The remaining time will be spent in fellowship over lunch and an informal question and answer period with the Priest-in-Charge.

Questions about the specific content of any of the reports that follow should be addressed directly to the individual who submitted said report.

As always, the Priest-in-Charge is willing to meet and discuss any aspect of our common life in Christ with anyone attending Christ Episcopal Church, Gordonsville. Please feel free to contact him at the office 540-832-3209 or at home or by email rfichterjr@msn.com.

1. Priest-in-Charge

As a whole, 2009 has been a positive year in the life of Christ Church. We have come together each Sunday as well as other holy days to worship God with gladness and joy. We have worked hard to redirect our outreach to help those in our local community and county. We have supported Our Little Roses, a ministry to orphan girls in Honduras, whose US operation is directed by our fellow parishioner, Bev Allison. We have made a concerted effort to participate in and financially support civic activities in town. We have made our facilities available for appropriate non-church groups. And we have made remarkable progress in consolidating and bringing into canonical compliance our financial and business processes. There is truly much to be proud of and give thanks to God for.

This past spring, the Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston granted my request to assign the Rev. Mary Beth Wells as our parish deacon. (A parish deacon is a non-stipendiary position.) Mary Beth is an incredibly gifted individual and a remarkable addition to our clergy staff. I have already found her to be a blessing to this parish and to me personally.

In many ways, the upcoming year is very unpredictable. The well worn campaign phrase – “it is the economy, stupid” – unfortunately is front and center. I am well aware that many of you are under financial stresses, even more so now than at the beginning of this year. And those stresses may often lead to family and other relationship stresses. These are the times when you need your church community to be there for you and it is my prayer that we will be. The finance committee and the vestry have done their best to keep the parish budget under control without sacrificing those necessary projects that maintain our facilities and keep a welcoming environment. However, the economy will eventually recover, hopefully sooner rather than later; and when it does, please remember that financial giving to the church should also recover.

As a community of faith, you show an abundance of support in your various ministries giving not only of your treasure but also of your time and talents to the Glory of God. And while I cannot in this space thank each of you by name, I do wish to give public thanks to our parish staff: Tom May, our organist; Ben Armistead, our uncompensated choirmaster; and Sharon Chapman, our sexton, with her crew.

Finally, I would like to personally thank Kerri Creel who has been a real asset to this parish. Unfortunately for us, she has resigned her position as parish secretary / administrator as of November to follow a new and higher calling of being a mother to two foster children. I will truly miss her presence and assistance but wish her all of God’s blessing in her new endeavors.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Richard E. Fichter, Jr.

2. Senior Warden

It has been my honor to have served as your Senior Warden this year. During my tenure, Fr. Richard and I have made calls to various parishioners. Individually and together we have visited members in their homes, hospitals and nursing care facilities. On occasion these visits have included the administration of communion from the reserved sacrament. Those visits have been especially meaningful and moving experiences for me.

I would like to personally thank our Junior Warden, Floyd Hill, for his many hours of service to Christ Church as well as the services of his work crew. I do not believe that there has been a week that he has not been here or at the rectory to repair, build or paint. And this he does always with a cheerful smile!

We frequently overlook the many hands that help our parish run smoothly week to week. The dedication of our Sunday school teachers, coffee hour hosts, altar guild, ushers, acolytes, organist, choirmaster, and choir builds a community where everyone, including visitors, receive a warm genuine welcome to our church and all to the Glory of God.

My goal for 2010 is to work to strengthen and increase our membership. To do this we need to make a special effort to encourage individuals and families to come and worship with us. For if we do not do this, our community of faith will dwindle over time. Therefore, I challenge each one of you to make it a goal to invite at least one person who does not have a church home to come and join us.

When I see the many wonderful things that have been accomplished by so many this year – quilts for injured service members, support for community outreach projects such as fund raising for the Orange Free Clinic, the Sheltering Arms shelter and ministries outside our nation's borders like Our Little Roses in Honduras – I am encouraged by what we have done in the name of Christ. I am even more excited as this is just a token of what, with God's help, we can do in the future by working together.

Finally, I wish to thank Fr. Richard for his continued support of Christ Church and for giving his all to help us make Christ Church the wonderful parish it is and will be.

Respectfully submitted,
Greta Shaw

3. Junior Warden

The following projects were in progress during the 2009 calendar year:

1. Church door repaired and painted (north vestibule)
2. New church Cellar door installed and painted
3. New rubber roof installed

4. Gate into side yard fabricated and installed
5. Sunday school windows made operable
6. Fall clean up in church yard completed

Plans for the 2010 calendar year include completion of any outstanding work from 2009 as well as the following new projects:

1. HVAC system at rectory to be updated for better efficiency
2. All other bathrooms in rectory to be remodeled
3. Rectory lawn to be redesigned to be more efficient
4. Crawl space at rectory to have proper vapor barrier and treatment for mold
5. Leaks in parish hall metal roof
6. All external and yard lighting for the church will be examined and redesigned as needed

Respectfully submitted,
Floyd C. Hill

4. Treasurer

The following unaudited “balance sheet” gives a snapshot of Christ Church’s financial state. It is divided into two major sections. The first section contains the asset accounts. These are the instruments used to maintain Christ Church’s financial resources (i.e. bank and brokerage firm accounts). The second lists the Fund Balances that represent how the monies are distributed. Therefore, the total value of all assets must be equal to the total value of all funds.

The Fund Balances are subdivided into four groupings. The first grouping represents the monies used to operate Christ Church on a day to day basis. The “Operating” funds include the “General Operating Fund”, which is the budget, and “Surplus”, which are monies that remained from prior years when income exceeded expenses.

The “Designated” funds are those monies with designated purposes. The “Christ Church Discretionary Fund” is what used to be called the “clergy discretionary fund”. The change in nomenclature for this fund is because of IRS rules. The funds are available for use at the discretion of the clergy but cannot be used to benefit the member of clergy personally. The altar guild fund comprises gifts to the altar guild for flowers and other needs of the altar guild not covered by the standard budget line item.

The “Specified” funds are what are commonly called “endowment funds” at Christ Church. Technically and in a legal sense these funds are not endowments but are rather funds set up by prior vestries for specific purposes. Their existence and usage is at the pleasure of the vestry.

The final subdivision is comprised of those monies which Christ Church has been asked to hold for St. John’s Chapel, which is technically a diocesan chapel. We are merely the local agents for paying the expenses related to the upkeep of said chapel.

THE BALANCE SHEET FOR OCTOBER 31, 2009

<i>Account Name</i>	<i>As of October 31st</i>
Bank of America Checking	11,413.64
Christ Church Discretionary	1,281.30
Trustees of Dio of Va Fund	25,815.09
DMS Fund	1,000.00
SS General Endowment Inv	156,598.88
SS General Endowment MM	10,868.95
SS SD Outreach Inv	154,336.77
SS SD Outreach MM	15,935.29
SS SD Building Maint Inv	113,915.84
SS SD Building Maint MM	3,029.56
SS Organ Inv	25,753.21
SS Organ MM	1,297.41
SS Yard Inv	4,476.96
SS Yard MM	2,515.02
<i>Total Assets</i>	<i>528,237.92</i>
General Operating Fund	-20,664.94
Surplus Fund	14,139.14
<i>Total Operating Funds</i>	<i>-6,525.80</i>
Christ Church Discretionary Fund	2,109.57
Altar Guild Fund	1,014.92
ECW General Fund	206.31
ECW Chapter Mission Fund	11.35
Outreach Guild General Fund	1,068.98
Youth Group General Fund	173.77
Designated Offerings	444.00
<i>Total Designated Funds</i>	<i>5,028.90</i>
General Endowment	202,221.57
Outreach Fund	170,226.16
Building Maintenance Fund	116,797.98
Organ Fund	26,163.62
Yard Fund	6,991.98
<i>Total Specified Funds</i>	<i>522,401.31</i>
St. John's Chapel Fund	7,333.51
<i>Total Non Christ Church Funds</i>	<i>7,333.51</i>
<i>Total Fund Balances</i>	<i>528,237.92</i>

The loan balance on the parish hall renovation will be in the \$15,000 range by the end of the calendar year. At the November 18, 2009, vestry meeting, it was decided to complete this loan in January 2010 thus eliminating the "Debt Service" line item from the budget. When this is accomplished, all aspects of Christ Church's finances will be truly represented on the "balance

sheet” thereby giving full transparency to our accounting. (The exception is the value of our land and buildings.)

The following is the unaudited “Treasurer’s Report on the General Fund”, better known simply as “the Budget Report”.

The Vestry at their November meeting passed the “expense side” of the 2010 Budget. The 2010 Budget contains a 1% raise for both the Organist and the Sexton. (The Priest-in-Charge has for a second year refused a salary increase due to stewardship and national economic shortfalls). The secretary’s position may or may not be filled during 2010, thus it was decided to budget approximately half of the 2009 amount for that line item. The Diocesan Pledge was raised by \$1,500 with the intent of restoring it to the required 10% of operating income. Other minor adjustments are based on prior usage or known increases for 2010.

TREASURER’S REPORT ON THE GENERAL FUND FOR OCTOBER 31, 2008 WITH 2010 BUDGET

Account Name	As of Oct 31	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
Plate Offering	1,643.22	4,000.00	
Pledge Offering	75,219.05	93,000.00	
Regular Giving	16,618.00	3,000.00	
Prior Year Pledges	268.00	0.00	
Special Offering	0.00	0.00	
Misc. Income	615.00	0.00	
Memorials	910.00	0.00	
Interest	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Endowment	0.00	0.00	
Transfer from Surplus	0.00	0.00	
Sales of Assets	0.00	0.00	
Total Income	95,273.27	100,000.00	
Rector Salary	38,750.00	46,500.00	46,500.00
Rectors SECA Reimbursement	2,700.00	3,500.00	3,500.00
Rector Pension	9,250.20	12,334.00	12,334.00
Rector Insurance	4,200.00	5,040.00	5,460.00
Rector Transportation	170.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Rector Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Deacon Expenses	n/a	n/a	1,000.00
Secretary Salary	6,021.30	7,226.00	3,500.00
Organist Salary	5,811.90	6,975.00	7,065.00
Sexton Salary	3,524.90	4,230.00	4,273.00
Child Care Salary	0.00	600.00	600.00
Supply Clergy	683.10	1,000.00	1,200.00
Payroll Tax	1,174.80	1,500.00	1,200.00
Payroll Services	371.25	600.00	600.00
Total Personnel	72,657.45	92,505.00	90,232.00
Misc	1,600.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total Miscellaneous	1,600.00	2,000.00	2,000.00

THE 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

Account Name	As of Oct 31	2009 Budget	2010 Budget
Electricity	1,965.64	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fuel Oil and Gas	4,669.49	7,000.00	7,000.00
Water and Sewer	350.37	1,200.00	800.00
Telephone	2,018.26	2,200.00	2,200.00
Rectory Electricity	2,301.48	0.00	
Rectory Water and Sewer	528.45	0.00	
<i>Total Utilities</i>	<i>11,833.69</i>	<i>15,400.00</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>
Repair and Maintenance	4,051.13	8,000.00	5,000.00
Lawn Care	0.00	500.00	500.00
Facilities Insurance	4,496.40	6,500.00	7,000.00
<i>Total Facilities</i>	<i>8,547.53</i>	<i>15,000.00</i>	<i>12,500.00</i>
Office Supplies	2,021.13	4,000.00	4,000.00
Debt Service	8,673.70	10,409.00	n/a
NFS Checks -- service charges	0.00	0.00	0.00
Stewardship	205.87	300.00	300.00
<i>Total Administration</i>	<i>10,900.70</i>	<i>14,709.00</i>	<i>4,300.00</i>
Diocesan Pledge	8,750.00	10,500.00	12,000.00
Region 15	0.00	500.00	500.00
Diocean Council	335.48	500.00	1,000.00
<i>Total Diocesan Obligations</i>	<i>9,085.48</i>	<i>11,500.00</i>	<i>13,500.00</i>
Altar Supplies	469.49	1,400.00	700.00
Choir Supplies	28.00	300.00	300.00
<i>Total Worship</i>	<i>497.49</i>	<i>1,700.00</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
Christian Education	683.15	1,000.00	1,000.00
<i>Total Christian Ed</i>	<i>683.15</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>	<i>1,000.00</i>
Hospitality Comm.	132.72	300.00	300.00
<i>Total Parish Life</i>	<i>132.72</i>	<i>300.00</i>	<i>300.00</i>
Contribution to Discretionary Fund	0.00	600.00	600.00
Christian Welfare Board	0.00	700.00	700.00
Fire Department	0.00	200.00	200.00
Theological Education	0.00	150.00	150.00
<i>Total Outreach</i>	<i>0.00</i>	<i>1,650.00</i>	<i>1,650.00</i>
<i>Total Expense</i>	<i>115,938.21</i>	<i>155,764.00</i>	<i>141,482.00</i>
<i>Difference</i>	<i>-20,664.94</i>	<i>-55,764.00</i>	

Respectfully submitted,
 Claudia Shiflett

5. Altar Guild

Mission Statement: This group prepares for the meeting of the people of God. Each member is devoted to Christ and His Church to give of herself/himself to the service of the altar.

Our devoted members continue to perform in this ministry with much grace.

We wish to give thanks to our monthly Altar Guild members who have continue to keep the altar ready for church service.

Special thanks and appreciation to several groups:

Linens: Bev Allison for the cleaning of the Fair Linen and to Gail Bowers for weekly cleaning all of the other church linens.

Brass Polishing: Melanie Fredericks, Virginia Jarvis, and Serena Wiley for polishing all of the brass in the spring and Melanie Fredericks and Serena for polishing in the fall.

Parish Secretary: Kerri Creel for ordering flowers and for taking flower vase inserts to Colonial Florist.

Christmas and Easter Decorations: Tom May, Ben Armistead and committee providing their talent and time for decorating the church for Christmas and Easter celebration.

Special thanks to Father Richard for his time and guidance.

Thanks to all members for your time and service to this ministry. This ministry is a wonderful example of good stewardship and devotion to our Church.

Thanks,
Gail Parrish & Beverly Tucker
Co-Coordinator

6. Music Department

As we approach the end of 2009, I would like to thank the members of the choir for their dedication and tireless support of the music program. It would not exist without them.

In addition to Sunday services, your music department has provided support for extra services including Christmas, Holy Week, the Community Thanksgiving Service, funerals and one wedding. We also will have supplied music for three services at St. John's Chapel, Green Springs.

As reported during a presentation on the organ during a "Children's Minute" this past Fall, the replacement value of our organ is now currently over \$250,000. It is well maintained and in good working condition. There remains "gift opportunities", either as memorial or in thanksgiving, to make enhancements to the instrument. These include the *trumpet en chamade* and a MIDI interface that would allow the organ to be "played" without the physical presence of an organist.

It goes without saying that it would be most difficult to have a more dedicated and talented organist than Tom May; who besides playing at the services and rehearsing the choir spends many additional hours each week practicing.

I would encourage members of the parish to consider joining the choir as we worship God through our music.

Finally, as Tom and I conclude our twenty-first year as organist and choirmaster we wish to thank you all for your support and encouragement.

Respectfully submitted,
Benjamin C. Armistead
Choirmaster

7. Children's Sunday School

I would like to thank Carolyn Smith and Susette Goodwin for agreeing to teach our children again this year. We have also added an intermediate class between the elementary class and the middle school class. Desiree Floyd has volunteered to teach this class with a class format that she has used in the past. The children as a whole this year are learning the names of the Old Testament books and are doing very well.

We thank Stephanie Small for all her help in the nursery in the past and miss her when she cannot be there this year due to her work schedule. I would like to especially thank Kathy Small for all her work with the children as she is the one who does the nursery helper schedule and stands in for Stephanie on a regular basis. Her dedication to the children of the parish is amazing and much appreciated.

We are looking forward to the Christmas pageant and Cookie Making Saturday coming up soon.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Shaw
Children's Christian Education Coordinator

8. Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women of Christ Church began the year meeting each month, July and August excluded, at members' homes or in the Parish Hall, enjoying socialization over refreshments before conducting its business meeting. The purpose of the business meetings were to work on ways to raise monies and encourage service and ministries in the parish, community and beyond.

2009 major events and service projects:

- In March, the ECW and Outreach Guild / Committee sponsored a parish wide appeal for donations of paper and plastic goods for Sheltering Arms, a homeless shelter in Orange. The response was wonderful, and two carloads of donated supplies were collected and delivered to this facility.
- In May, the ECW and Outreach Guild / Committee hosted a Women's Luncheon in the Parish Hall. This event provided an opportunity to visit with friends, and to begin new friendships, over a delicious meal. Mary Hensel of Sheltering Arms and Adrienne Rumph of Neuro Care gave informative speeches about their respective organizations. It is hoped this event will become an annual event.
- During the summer, the ECW sponsored a church wide appeal for cash donations to Orange County Free Clinic. With donations from parishioners and from the ECW monies, the Free Clinic was presented with a check for \$425 in September, earmarked to support their prescription program for Orange County residents without health care insurance.
- Throughout the year, the ECW continued its support of the veterans at Neuro Care. In the spring, the ECW put together an Easter basket of candy and a large bag of craft supplies (a special request), including clay, paints and brushes, for the young men to use in their therapy programs. The ECW has continually reminded the knitters/crocheters of the parish to use their talents to create afghans for the second year of Christmas gifting to the veterans. These finished items will be on display in the Parish Hall in mid December, before delivery to Neuro Care.

Sadly, the ECW lost a long time and well loved member this year. Margaret Pratt died in August. She had served as Vice President for many years, and brought warmth and joy to the ECW meetings. In her memory, the ECW donated to the Diocesan ECW Book of Remembrance.

In October, the ECW changed its meeting format under the leadership of the parish deacon, the Rev. Mary Beth Wells. With her extensive background in counseling and spiritual direction, Mary Beth has begun guiding the group in discovering more about the spiritual life. With this new format the meetings includes the study of some of the great Christian spiritual leaders and sharing with each other the common struggles and triumphs in living the Christian faith.

All women of the parish are considered members of the ECW and are warmly encouraged to attend the ECW meetings on the second Tuesday of the month in the Parish Hall at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Melanie Fredericks
2008-2009 ECW President

9. Hospitality Committee

The new members of the hospitality committee are Kathy Small and Marla Small. The retiring members are Dorsey Comer and Barbara Shaw. Many thanks to Nicole Greene for volunteering this past year to be part of the committee on a part time basis. We appreciate her help at all times. As always, we want to thank Beverly Tucker for being our coffee maker every Sunday.

The committee would also like to thank all the members who have signed up for the coffee hours throughout the year. The time spent together at coffee hour is a great way to get to know other members of the church and to welcome newcomers.

The members of hospitality would like to encourage anyone who has not previously hosted a coffee hour to team up with someone else and give it a try.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Shaw
Hospitality Committee Coordinator

10. Outreach Guild / Committee

Outreach Guild / Committee meets the first Tuesday of every month, for a pot luck dinner and meeting in the Parish Hall, or at member's home, if invited. This year a mission statement was developed. It states, "We are a community of Jesus that shows His Love to the Parish, our Community, and our World in the works we do in His Name."

Anyone who attends Christ Church may belong to Outreach Guild / Committee. Without the support of the Parish we would not be able to do the works that it does. Those of us who attend the meetings and determine Outreach Projects thank everyone in the Parish for their input and their concern for what we do.

Projects completed by the Outreach Guild this year include:

- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Tour of Sheltering Arms by ECW and Outreach members
- Purchase of Aprons for use at kitchen functions
- Women's Luncheon cosponsored by the ECW with speakers from Sheltering Arms and Military Neuro Clinic
- Vacation Bible School jointly with the Methodist Church in Gordonsville
- Helped with Gordonsville Police sponsored Bike Safety Event
- Rummage and Yard Sale
- Booth at Gordonsville Street Fair

Donations were made to the following projects;

- \$500.00 to Gordonsville Library
- \$100.00 to Gordon-Barbour School
- \$200.00 to Gordonsville Pool
- All refreshments for Vacation Bible School including hot dog roast and ice cream
- Water and treats for Bicycle Helmet project by the police
- \$200.00 to Our Little Roses of Honduras
- \$200.00 to “Rebuilding Together” of Orange County
- \$400.00 to Sheltering Arms plus yard sale remains

The November meeting elected a new slate of Officers which include Nelson Tucker as Chair, Nicole Greene as Vice Chair, and Marilyn Freidag as Secretary/Treasurer, to take office in January at the first meeting of 2010 on January 5th, 2010. There will be no business meeting in December, instead a celebration of Advent season at Inglewood.

Thanks to Kerri, our church Secretary, for her assistance in bulletin and newsletter information and my personal thanks to all members of the Outreach Guild / Committee for their support.

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Freidag,
Chair, Outreach Guild / Committee

11. United Thank Offering

As we know, the UTO is a personal and family devotional program of the Episcopal Church. It is the sum of our thanks for the blessings in our lives and hopes for a better life for others worldwide. We take action by putting coins in the blue box and emptying it (or a check) in the blue envelopes and placing it in one of the offering baskets in the Spring and in the Fall. These offerings are united with the prayers and offerings of Episcopalians— its ministries and grants reaching around the world. Let us continue to be active participants in God’s work in the world.

Yours in Christ and Thanksgiving,
Molly Barrow
UTO Coordinator