

CHRIST CHURCH EXETER

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND ORGANIZATIONS

LIVING

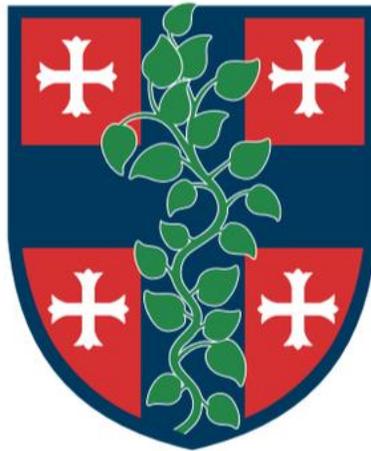
joyfully in faith

CONNECTING

with God and one another

SERVING

the local and global community



ANNUAL MEETING
JANUARY 25, 2015

Annual Recognitions by the Rector

Nearing the end of my first two years as your rector, I continue to see God's hand at work in our common life here at Christ Church.

Transitions and searches for new rectors are key moments in the life of faith communities. By now, I hope that those who may have been holding back on the margins waiting to see where we were going as a congregation with the "new guy" have seen that Christ Church is being faithful to our call to live out an ancient tradition in our very contemporary and changing world.

We have pruned back some former activities in order to see what new things God is doing in our midst. New programs have been offered to invite us to deepen our walk with Christ. It is my sense and hope that the ground is now settling that will invite continued visioning, growth and the deepening of connections that will sustain us in the years ahead.

This year, at the risk of omission, I wish to thank and lift up:

- ❖ All who attend, serve, pray, and give to allow Christ Church to be true to the faith we have been given by God in Christ. It is both cliché as it is true: we are only as strong as the sum of all of who we are and what we do.
- ❖ **Linda Carey:** Having announced her retirement in April of 2015 after 30+ years as Executive Assistant and the heart of the church office, words do not do justice to the contribution Linda has made over these many years. She has been the voice over the phone and the face of Christ Church to the larger community that has conveyed warmth, welcome, understanding, compassion and competence to so many. Replacing Linda is not an option, thus 2015 will be a time of reimagining the position Linda has held faithfully for three decades. Thank you Linda and may you and Herb share many years together in this next phase of your journey with your wonderful family.
- ❖ **Members of the parish staff:** David Holroyd, Sarah Watts, Linda Carey, Bruce Adami, Suzanne Jalbert, Norm Tremblay and Bob Prescott. David for your love of God and people that gets expressed Sunday mornings and every pastoral visit you make on our behalf; Sarah for your amazing organizational skills, positive outlook, dedication to our children and youth; Linda (see above); Bruce for your professionalism and openness to diverse musical expressions that allow us to try new things; Suzanne for the new energy and direction you have injected into the choir during your first year; Norm, our steady bookkeeper who allows Lucia to not have to be a full-time volunteer Treasurer; and Bob Prescott for happily moving tables and chairs outside all summer for our successful outdoor coffee hours.
- ❖ **Stephen Gianotti:** As Facilitator-in-Chief and consultant, Stephen's contributions with the vestry, the congregation and with me one-on-one have been a blessing.

- ❖ **Consecration Sunday** was something new for us and championed by a small, dedicated core of Chris Kramer, Eric LaMontagne, Sue Ingram and Lucia Savage. This different approach culminated with a very successful all-parish brunch on October 26 and helped us celebrate what would later be an increase of \$43,522 in pledges over the previous year with many households increasing their pledges. In 2014 we budgeted \$325,665 in pledges and in 2015 we expect to budget at least \$369,187.
- ❖ **Harris House Working Group:** Steve Portalupi joined the congregation and threw himself into the task of organizing a thorough analysis and process for the important decision of how and whether to renovate the Parish House. Tom Lambert, John Gilbert, Eric LaMontagne, Lang Plumer and Mike Yergeau Sr. (by long distance) worked through the summer into the fall to put forward options for us to consider.
- ❖ **Our newly rebooted Buildings & Grounds Committee:** With Pat Izzo as convener and Charley Johnson as trusted scribe and organizer, a rather large group of dedicated folks met monthly to coordinate the care of our facilities and grounds. In addition, thank you to the many helping hands for the fall and spring clean-up days.
- ❖ **Cuba Pilgrims:** *Gracias* to Cary Einhaus and Jim Mills for not only joining me on our first trip to Cuba in January 2014 but also championing a return visit to the island in March of this year, that will include eight members of Christ Church.
- ❖ **Members of the Altar Guild (Melissa Poirier, Director) Welcoming Team (Judy Mikami) Healing Team (Mike Woodworth), Eucharistic Ministers (Pat Izzo) Acolytes, Intercessors, Readers (Diane DiPalermo)** and everyone else who make our liturgy truly the “work of the people” i.e. the definition of the word ‘liturgy.’
- ❖ **Sunday School teachers and youth volunteers:** Under Sarah Watt’s direction we have turned Sunday “on its head” and taken over Harris Hall. Thank you to all who are helping strengthen our ministry to children and youth by also taking the time to be Safe Church trained and certified!
- ❖ **Members of the Pastoral Care Team:** for the visits you make, the gatherings at RiverWoods that help form greater community, and the encouragement you bring to so many.
- ❖ **Snookie Holroyd** for the small gatherings you lead throughout the year in the Chapel and the RiverWoods campus.
- ❖ **Volunteers for Seacoast Family Promise** with special thank you to Jim McAllister for your long support of this ministry.
- ❖ **Members of the Vestry:** For your faithfulness through months of sometimes never-ending vision/mission conversations. Yes, there were moments of “vision fatigue” but we carried on. You deliberated through some challenging and

delicate issues and conversations, and helped Christ Church move more fully into the future.

- ❖ **Members of the Executive Committee:** Chris Kramer (Senior Warden), Eric LaMontagne (Junior Warden), Lucia Savage (Treasurer), and Karen Geary (Clerk). Thank you for your seriousness that you took your responsibility to prioritize the work of the vestry and to hold in trust the deliberation of the various sensitive issues that come before us as a congregation.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton, Rector

Remembrances

We remember with thankful hearts those dedicated parishioners and servants of Christ, who died and were buried from this church in 2014.

Floyd Parkman
Esther Chandler
Don Pope
Robert Gustavson
Audrey McMahan
Peggy Gage
Dottie Dalrymple
Peter Corson
Patty Heath

New Members Welcomed on September 7

On September 7th new members of Christ Church were welcomed in this new rite:

Dear Friends, I introduce to you the people of Christ Church of Exeter. Is it your wish to make this community of faith your church family, and the people with whom you will share your journey of faith? Is it your wish to make this the place where you continue your journey into greater wholeness; where you listen to the story of God's salvation and the Good News of Jesus Christ, allowing Jesus to be an example and teacher to you, where you are called to a life of ministry and justice; and where you are fed at the table of new life?

The following persons responded: "Yes, that is my wish."

Elaine and Steve Portalupi
Suzie and Frank "T" Murray
Katharine "Bunny" Baker
Sonja Schaezle (Transferred from Church of the Good Shepherd, Rangeley, ME)
Lauri Ayers and son, Will
Betsy and Bob Figenbaum (Transferred from St. Mark's, Burlington, MA)
Susan Friedman
Emily and Eric Hinnov, and son, Eli
Sheila Ryan and sons, Nick and Timmy
Susan and John Leslie
Bill Batal
Liz Lund
Deborah Delworth
Georgina Eldredge
Allan Reynolds
Lissa Simard
Marv Hohenberger

Out of town or unable to attend:

Michael Jutras
Courtney and Bill Brady
Deb Fournier with children, Olivia and Quinn
Kirsten and Jeremy Ray
April and Rob Lepere

Christ Church
Exeter, New Hampshire

Minutes of the 149th Meeting of the Parish
January 26, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM.

Rector, Mark Pendleton, stated his assumption that all present were voting members, than began with a prayer.

Minutes were moved, seconded and approved without correction.

Mark thanked members of the vestry who had completed their terms of service, including Betty Wescott, Cindy Eaton, Morgan MaCay (finance committee). Mark thanked Joe DiPalermo, for his years of service as the Junior Warden and presented him with a gift. The congregation stood and applauded.

Nominations

The following slate was put forward for officers and vestry

Senior Warden:	Chris Kramer
Junior Warden:	Eric LaMontagne
Treasurer:	Lucia Savage
Clerk:	Karen Geary
Vestry:	
3-year appointment	Cindy Nottage, Kevin Sorber, Tom Lambert
2-year appointment	Susan Johnson
1-year appointment	Walter Huston

Finance Committee:	John Gilbert
Alternate to Convention:	Eric LaMontagne
Nominating Committee:	Lang Plumer, Walter Huston, Judy Blaisdell, David Corbett, Duncan Holcomb

Nominations were opened from the floor, but none were made. A motion was made and seconded that nominations be closed and that the slate be cast as one ballot, elected by acclamation with the clerk's completed ballot representing the will of the congregation. The motion passed with a voice vote.

There being no further business, the meeting was concluded with prayer at 11:13 AM.

Note: The business portion of the Annual Meeting was followed by a collaborative visioning exercise to inform the vestry and the parish of our hopes and goals for the parish community.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen L. Geary, Clerk

PRIEST ASSOCIATE FOR PASTORAL CARE

It is with great thanksgiving and joy that I share my annual report for 2014 on behalf of Kay Gauffreau and myself. It is hard to believe that Kay and I were in the same group of newcomers late in 2009 when I was blessed to join the staff of Christ Church. It is a privilege to be on a staff under Mark Pendleton's leadership as our Rector and to serve in such a vibrant and healthy community of faith.

2014 was another wonderful year. The pastoral caregivers who share ministry with me are a blessing to Christ Church. They serve as Lay Eucharistic Visitors and pastoral visitors in homes, hospitals, and in communities such as Riverwoods, Langdon Place, Sanctuary Care in Rye, Oceanside in Hampton, Clipper Home in Portsmouth, Laurel Center in Bedford, Rockingham in Brentwood, and Spruce Wood in Durham. Some of them assist me in monthly services of Holy Eucharist at Riverwoods and Langdon Place. I am so grateful to all of them.

Another highlight of our year included spring and fall gatherings for our independent residents at Riverwoods. I am especially grateful to my co-chair Kay for her assistance in putting these events together. The spring gathering provided an opportunity to formally welcome Sarah Watts. The fall gathering was highlighted by informal remarks from Mark and Sarah who shared their involvement with the Cross of Nails ministry at Coventry Cathedral.

It is also a privilege to be nurtured as part of the worship team -- to participate in the liturgy as a presider, preacher, and assistant. What an honor!

Of course, no year would be complete without a summer pilgrimage to Manchester for a Fishercats ballgame, preceded by the Courtyard tailgate party. The Christ Church choir, under the leadership and direction of Bruce and Suzanne rendered another superb version of our National Anthem before the game. Please mark down July 19 as the date for this year's fifth annual game. The choir will sing again and Yours Truly will toss another ceremonial first pitch. We are particularly pleased that the Fishercats will be playing the Portland Seadogs; you will have the opportunity to watch your future Red Sox stars. Please plan to join us for another great outing!

Let me reiterate what a joy it is to serve on a staff with Mark Pendleton, Sarah Watts, Bruce Adami, Suzanne Jalbert, and Bob Prescott. In this particular report, I want to express my gratitude for the ministry of Linda Carey at Christ Church. During these many years that Linda has served, we have all been truly blessed. Linda has been more supportive and helpful to me during these past five years than words can express. She has been a magnificent colleague and friend. Although I fully support her decision to step down in April and spend more time with Herb and her family, I will truly miss her voice on the other end of the phone and her warm greeting every time I walk into the office. God bless you, Linda, and well done!

And God bless all of you who make Christ Church such a God-filled community!

David D. Holroyd, Pastoral Associate

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

As we say good bye to 2014 and look forward to 2015, what is most striking to me is how the parish coalesced around our new Rector and a full staff contingent to focus on who we believe we are and to explore a vision for the future that not only meets the needs of our parish, but reaches out into the world, as we strive to make a difference more globally. This work is just beginning, of course, but it has created an exciting anticipation within the parish to really see what we are capable of as a community of faith.

Our various programs and ministries continue to flourish under the able coordination of Sarah Watts. The new Sunday School format is particularly stimulating and fun for the kids. Youth programs for middle school and high school parishioners continue to be a vital part of our church life. Music at Christ Church continues on a very high level, with the continued leadership of Bruce Adami and Suzanne Jalbert Jones. And, we have a children's choir again!

The Vestry has worked diligently during the year to manage both the business end of Christ Church and continue their visioning process with a view toward the future of our parish. We have many challenges facing us in the years ahead, and the quality of our Vestry is sure to stand us in good stead as we develop a direction and goals for the future.

2014 saw a major change in our stewardship program as we moved away from a budget- focused "here's what we need to run the church" to a focus of "what are you willing to help the church do to meet your spiritual needs". This was a huge shift for us and implementing Consecration Sunday resulted in a 14% increase in pledged dollars, while maintaining the number of parishioners participating in the program. We are so grateful that the majority of parishioners appreciated this change and we look forward to using this same process in 2015.

2015 will include a major celebration for us at Christ Church. In September, we will officially celebrate our 150th anniversary as an Episcopal Parish, and in November we will celebrate 50 years in our facilities on Pine Street. Earlier this Fall, we published a survey asking for input from the parish about how we should celebrate this event. We received 43 responses and some great suggestions and ideas. We have formed a steering committee to oversee the planning for the celebration incorporating many of the ideas provided to us. As we move forward, we will be looking for lots and lots of volunteers to help with various aspects of the event.

It has continued to be my privilege to serve Christ Church as the Sr. Warden, and I look forward to 2015 and working with all of you to move closer to our vision for our parish.

Christine Kramer, Sr. Warden

JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT- *Buildings & Grounds (B&G)*

Worship Space

The worship space had some major upgrades and repairs this past year.

In January we had a major problem with our heating system which we had repaired by Control Technologies out of Manchester. They are the company that originally put the system in when the church was renovated. We now have an agreement with them to annually inspect the system and repair when needed.

The lights above the altar were replaced with LED lights. They are the lights that are recommended for the system installed. These lights are guaranteed to last between seven to ten years by the manufacturer.

The altar rail was repaired. We need to take special care when the rails are removed and replaced as needed for events.

We had problems with some of the locks in the church. Those affected have been repaired or replaced as needed.

The Narthex was painted this year. I want to give a big "thank you" to Jim Fellows and Judy Blaisdell for the great job they did in painting it, it looks great.

In August we had a problem with ants in the church, narthex and chapel. We had an exterminator in, and they sprayed all areas.

Buildings

There was a hole in the roof in Harris Hall which has been repaired. The lightning rods have been repaired, and the ground reconnected.

The stacks for the furnace leaked water down into the boiler room, so the flashing around the stacks has been repaired.

The gutters have been replaced, and stone was put down for drainage to try to keep the walkways ice free. The walkway going to the handicap entrance has been repaired.

All the carpet in the church offices has been cleaned. They look and smell great.

We had a problem with some electrical outlets in the offices which caused problems with the computers. They have been repaired and all is well with the router now.

Grounds

Our Buildings and Grounds Committee continues to do wonders with our grounds. They have kept the inside and outside of the church looking and working great.

The front sign and driveway are now lit by solar panels. Christ Church is the first in town to do so.

The latest mural and frame are in place.

Life Safety

In 2014, after an inspection by the fire department, we found we have issues regarding the future housing of the families from Seacoast Family Promise. The fire department is responsible for issuing our permits. The main issue is the building itself. You will be informed of the issues and briefed on some possible solutions. We are working with Hutter Engineering on the issues and what we need to do to conform to code.

Cost Control

Our gas and electric bills have gone up as have most everyone's. The gas bill is better now that we have found and fixed the problems with the furnace. We all need to do our part to help keep them down. If you see a light on and no one around, turn it off. Every little bit helps. The heat is electronically controlled through Linda's computer.

Special Recognition

Finally, I would like to personally thank Linda Carey for all the help and support she has given me throughout this past year. I will miss her after she retires in April, as I am sure we all will.

Eric LaMontagne, Junior Warden

EPISCOPAL YOUTH COMMUNITY (EYC)

We have two EYC groups that meet both separately and together: Jr EYC (Grades 6-8: ages 11-13) and Sr EYC (Grades 9-12; ages 14-18). For the past year, we have been working to ensure that the youth groups have ample opportunities to meet on a regular basis. EYC offers Middle and High School youth regular gathering time, retreats, mission experiences, lock-ins, fundraisers and just fun activities. Christ Church promotes participation in fellowship retreats as well as mission trips designed to provide growth opportunities for both the Middle and High School levels.

Since January 2014, we started to meet together on Sunday nights. The program for the evenings includes a combination of fun activities and/or crafts, a focus on a particular issue or topic, prayer and dinner. In the Winter & Spring of 2014, EYC focused on personal exploration and completed various personality and gifts tests. For the 2014-2015 program year, EYC is focusing on Team Building activities and learning about the Sacraments. Another opportunity that youth have to meet regularly is Tuesdays from 3:30pm-5:00pm at Me & Ollies. During this time, youth are invited to come together for a time of fellowship and a bit of homework. Finally, youth are invited to Sunday School on Sunday mornings. Please see more information regarding Sunday School programs below.

We continue our collaboration with other churches through "We the Youth," and participated in an Urban Mission to Boston in January 2014, 30-Hour Famine in April 2014 & CROP Walk Lock-in in October 2014. In the winter & spring of 2015 we are looking to have a Lock-in in Eliot, ME focused on hunger education combined with service at Operation Blessing in Portsmouth, NH and we hope to go on an Urban Outreach program with City Mission Society to Boston in the spring. Other service activities this past year include working at a thrift shop in Laconia, NH while attending SoulFest in August 2014.

We also offer fun activities which provide a safe space for fun and fellowship. Thus far, these activities have included snow tubing in February 2014, movie nights every once in a while, Game & Movie night in collaboration with St Matthew's, Goffstown & All Saints, Peterborough in March 2014, and a Christmas Party in December 2014. The youth also had the opportunity to lead many aspects of Vacation Bible School in June 2014.

We're happy to announce that we've also begun to offer a few activities for children ages 3rd – 5th grade called EY35 (short for Episcopal Youth 3rd-5th Grade). Activities include food and team building, and focus on a fun service or outreach project! Thus far, we have taken a field trip to Scammam Farm for the Corn Maze, packed meals for 68 Hours of Hunger, made Christmas Cards for the Christmas Baskets, and had a Potluck Christmas Dinner.

Youth leaders from around the Diocese were invited to meet with the Bishop in October 2014 to begin discussing youth programs, exchange ideas, and plan for a diocesan youth event in the spring of 2015. We're all very much looking forward to this possibility. I would like to personally thank every single person who has supported this program. Children & youth ministry is such an important aspect of our community and every member of the parish has something to offer. From those who have made us dinner, donated to a fundraiser, chaperoned for and driven us to events, and helped with programming, games, and the overall atmosphere of EYC, we are so grateful.

Volunteers have included Anne Plumer-Fisher, Joe Fisher, Aby Fisher, Diane DiPalermo, Joe DiPalermo, Paul Staller, Christine Hodsdon, Malinda Virkaitis, Angela Fallon, Shannon Tossatti, Sue Pepper, Joanna Postle, Chrissy Dube, and Elizabeth Holcomb. I look forward to another great year.

Sarah Watts, Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination

EDUCATION FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

As many of you may be aware, there were many changes to the Sunday School program this program year in the hopes of bringing new energy, resources, and gifts from the congregation at large, and provide a fun and formational hour for the children of Christ Church. Before we made the changes, however, through the winter & spring of 2014, we continued using "All Things New" for Pre-K through 5th Graders, carrying on as in previous years with separate classrooms on the bottom floor of Harris Hall. After much thought and discussion, we decided to not only update the curriculum, but also to change the structure of Sunday mornings. Now, Pre-K through 5th Grade begin and end together in Harris Hall and break up into 2 groups (Pre-K-2nd Grade & 3rd-5th Grade) for lesson related games and crafts.

Our new curriculum is called Weaving God's Promises, an online curriculum which was recently published by Morehouse Publishing for the Episcopal Church. For more information about the curriculum, you can read the little blurb below, visit the Sunday School webpage on the Christ Church website, or visit <http://www.weavinggodspromises.org>.

Weaving God's Promises for Children is a comprehensive, three-year Christian education developed and written exclusively for the Episcopal Church. The "Mission" of Weaving God's Promises for Children is to help children experience how God's promises of salvation are woven into our lives, to give children a solid grounding for future youth and high-school formation programs, preparing them for Christian adulthood, and to foster the spiritual formation and growth of our children in Christ's love and mercy and to teach the spirit of forgiveness and reconciliation.

The focus of the 2014-2015 year is "Weaving our Faith" and the theme of the year will be "God loves us and stays with us—no matter what—to bring us back to God's divine love". This will focus on the Gospel of Matthew, emphasizing the Kingdom of God and our Anglican tradition and faith. For more information on Weaving God's Promises, you can visit our Sunday School webpage on the website or <http://www.weavinggodspromises.org>.

Weaving God's Promises follows the typical flow of a Eucharist service – Sunday mornings for children include storytelling, workshops, activities and crafts, prayers, snacks and opening and closing group activities. At the start of each liturgical season we have a more household focused Sunday School hour with activities and workshops dedicated to fostering a deeper understanding of each liturgical season. Although we do have designated Household Sunday School days, parents are invited and encouraged to stick around during Sunday School and support the children as they grow in faith – there are various ways in which you can support this program. Throughout this semester, we have also focused on a few outreach projects and provided an opportunity for the children to raise coins, products, etc. for a local organization or project. Thus far, these projects have included CROP Walk and adopting a family for Thanksgiving & Christmas Baskets, as well as the Giving Tree.

Middle Schoolers (6th-8th grade) are invited to Room 7 for their lesson and art work (in the spring) with Peter Baldwin. The Middle School class continues to focus on the Gospel lesson for each week, and Pete Baldwin helps the kids relate the lessons to their everyday life. As many of you may be aware, the Middle School class of 2013-2014 finished their beautiful mural of a fish made out of hands and feet which is currently hanging on the front of the church.

High Schoolers (9th-12th grade) are invited to Room 2 where they learn about the ancestors of Christianity and discuss difficult questions with Tim Shaw & Joe Fisher. They are using the Sparkhouse curriculum that encourages the youth to wrestle with theological concepts from the historic Christian Faith, including Old and New Testament basics.

We currently have two Toddler Room childcare providers: Nancy Taylor and Allissa Younan. The Toddler Room hosts 1-3 children each week.

In September 2014, we had a great turn out for our first day of Sunday School with nearly 50 children and youth in Sunday School. As usual numbers fluctuate each Sunday, but there are generally between 17-30 children and youth present.

For the 2013-2014 program year we had 18 volunteers for Sunday School, including: Amy Brown, Diane DiPalermo, Jeanine Hanson, Maryellen Izzo, Debra Levesque, Joanna Postle, Robin Ratigan, Katie Simon, Colleen Valinoti, Lee Woodworth & Laura Wyskiel. For 6-8th grade, Pete Baldwin led the class with assistant Christy Bodnar. For high school, Tim Shaw and Joe Fisher. For intergenerational education events, Sarah Loy, Helen MacNeil, and Sue Pepper.

For the 2014-2015 program year we have 27 volunteers for Sunday School as workshop leaders, storytellers, snack providers and safe church aids including: Lauri Ayers, Melissa Bishop, Anne Plumer-Fisher, Maryellen Izzo, Pat Izzo, Maia MacDonnell, Mark Pendleton, Isabella Postle, Joanna Postle, Katie Simon, Anne Sorber, Kevin Sorber, Derek Wyskiel, Laura Wyskiel, Kristen Doherty, Ami Faria, Emily Hinnov, Carol Murray, Jeremy Ray, Sheila Ryan, Kierstan Shultz, Lissa Simard, and Carey Thomas. For 6-8th grade, Pete Baldwin teaches with assistant Mario Izzo. For high school, Tim Shaw and Joe Fisher.

I would like to take the time to thank each and everyone one of these volunteers for sharing their gifts, experiences and time with these children and youth. It has been such a blessing to work with all of them, and I know that the children have been blessed by these relationships as well. Building up and cultivating the faith and spirituality of the children and youth of our parish is so very important and all of these volunteers have devoted time, energy and gifts to that very task. Thank you.

Children's Chapel continues to meet in the St. Michael's Chapel. The children leave during the sequence hymn, and gather for their own stories, crafts, activities, music and prayers based on the day's gospel lesson. In January 2014, with the help of Duncan Holcomb (and his guitar) and Suzanne Jalbert, we have begun to incorporate singing into Children's Chapel with the children singing for the congregation for the first time in December 2014 – a tradition we hope to continue. Several volunteers have been crucial in ensuring Chapel runs smoothly: Duncan Holcomb, Lauri Ayers, Kevin Sorber, Lee Woodworth, Leslie Pendleton, Isabella Postle and the many parents and grandparents who find themselves in Chapel. Thank you to each and every one of them.

Sarah Watts, Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination

COORDINATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Over the last year, beginning with the visioning process, we have been beginning to assess the various ministries at Christ Church. We have asked and surveyed the members at Christ Church to get a sense of where members' energy is, and have begun to form structures to ensure that our ministries fulfill and enable members to live out our vision with new energy and to also improve communication and coordination. We have asked representatives from each ministry to take a look at their ministry and then answer a few questions. These questionnaires have been very helpful in seeing and understanding the work of Christ Church and where the passions and energy of the parishioners resides.

We have categorized, as best as possible, the many ministries going on at Christ Church into 6 different categories or ministry teams. Please note, this is an ever evolving list as

Christ Church and her ministries adapt to the climate of the church and needs of the community.

- Local & Global Mission
- Welcoming Ministry
- Worship & Music
- Faith & Formation
- Inreach/Caring Ministries
- Communications

Beginning in fall 2014, we began to gather these groups together at team meetings for discussions, assessments, goal setting, coordination, leadership training and collaboration.

This fall, we began with a Ministry Leaders' Summit and continued with Local & Global Mission, Welcoming and Worship & Music Ministries Team Meetings. We have learned that each group has a different role to play within the church whether it be an advisory role, a hands-on action role, or just a space to meet and discuss the ministries going on within the given category. Below you will find a brief summary of each meeting. **Please note, every parishioner is invited and encouraged to attend these meetings, even if not currently involved in a ministry within the given category.**

Local & Global Mission Meetings, September 16 & October 7

During the September meeting, we began with a discussion of the valuable aspects, processes, goals, outcomes, and theology of outreach, service and mission. We used various thoughts, definitions, quotes, bible verses & blurbs from well-known people, church websites, dictionaries, the Bible & the Book of Common Prayer. We identified that we could connect with each other and those we serve on a deeper level, and that we could begin to lift up and celebrate what people do in the congregation and broaden our exposure. We discussed what role this group could have in the future and have decided to wait to begin discussions regarding how this group could support the ministries dedicated to service and outreach at the Church.

Welcoming Team Meeting, October 21

During the October meeting, the team discussed the accomplishments, changes and additions made since the group met on May 6th, which include an usher training, new additions to the greeter team for the 8:00am service, new member liturgy welcome on September 7, welcoming bags for newcomers, a newcomer dinner at the Pendleton's on September 4, updated and clarified information on the "How to become a member" information on the website, and additional nametags placed at both church entrances. We shared names of newcomers and set a spring date for a Newcomer Dinner & a liturgical welcome. The group will continue to meet to assess progress and set goals for the future.

Worship & Music Meeting, November 16

Using an educational document, we discussed liturgy and the role of worship in the Christian life. We took time to discuss the role of the group: the Worship & Music Team's mission is to invite the people of Christ Church of Exeter to the celebration of God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, in thanksgiving, praise and worship through various expressions. The team is committed to providing meaningful worship experiences. Its role is to examine all our various worship experiences and

make recommendations for ways that each can be strengthened and improved. The team serves in an advisory role to the rector. The Worship & Music Team represents the various ministries that serve to assist and enhance our worship celebrations as well as various parishioner demographics, such as young families, retirees, and new members of our congregation. Finally, our conversation centered around the possibility of moving the Baptismal Font, the changes to the music in the fall of 2014, the definition of “contemporary,” and how to engage and encourage parishioners to actively sing during services. The group will meet again, and Mark will continue to send the group articles and information on liturgy and worship.

In 2015 we hope to continue with the following meetings:

- Faith & Formation, February 10 at 7:00pm
- Inreach/Caring Ministries Team Meeting, March 10 at 7:00pm
- Communications Meeting, April 14 at 7:00pm

While the Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination continues to work with groups who have been in place for a time at Christ Church – gathering people and groups into conversation and relationship in order to better plan, strengthen and communicate those ministries – for those who wish to begin new ministries, we have been working to create and set practices to enable those new ministries and teams to flourish. The parishioners at Christ Church have so many gifts to offer, and it is our hope that these guidelines and resources will empower new teams.

In an effort to lift up every parishioner’s passions, gifts and dreams we ask parishioners wishing to begin a new ministry to engage with the information on the “Resources for Ministries” page of the website and complete the New Ministry Questionnaire (found on the website) to help the Rector, Vestry, and Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination better see, understand, support and celebrate those ministries that fit within Christ Church’s vision.

Finally, the Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination will continue to meet with ministries and their representatives throughout the year through Summit Meetings, team meetings and individual meetings to offer support, set goals and aid in communication and coordination of those ministries.

Sarah Watts, Assistant for Ministry Development and Coordination

MUSIC AND LITURGY

2014 was a busy and exciting year for Music and Liturgy at Christ Church! This was the first full year with our new Choir Director, Suzanne Jalbert, on board. Along with her choral directing experience, Suzanne brings an extensive background in musical theater, something that we benefit from in many ways, and saw evidence of during the Christmas Pageant of 2014.

In the fall the church hired Richard Gress, a high school senior, as Music Intern. Richard will spend one year with us playing the organ and piano for services, accompanying the Junior Choir, and singing in the Parish Choir. This is an opportunity for us to provide a learning experience for this young musician who aspires to a career as a church musician.

Liturgy includes a wide variety of music drawn from many Christian traditions both ancient and modern. There were a number of special liturgies during the year. The Great Vigil of Easter began in darkness in Harris Hall and then moved into the church for the Gospel and Eucharist. The other special liturgies were on Maundy Thursday, The Stations of the Cross in Art and Music on Good Friday, and the 4:00, 8:00 and 11:00 Christmas Eve liturgies.

The most active of our choirs is the Parish Choir. They are an extremely dedicated group of faithful people who gather twice each week, once for Thursday evening rehearsal and then again on Sunday morning. Their willingness to take on a variety of music with enthusiasm and solid musicianship is amazing! 2014 saw the expansion of the choral and congregational music in at least two ways; beginning in the fall I regularly programmed more contemporary liturgical music, and because of the arrival in the choir of several new singers we were able to sing more challenging music this year. The Parish Choir was again invited to sing the National Anthem for a Fisher Cats baseball game in Manchester during the summer. This event is clearly evolving into an annual tradition.

Suzanne directs the Junior Choir and they sing once each month during worship. At the end of 2014, there were seven very enthusiastic and talented young singers participating.

We are fortunate to have a number of adult and youth instrumentalists that share their talents with us on a regular basis. We thank Alyssa DiPalermo, Dominic DiPalermo, Wendy Gladstone, Bonnie Porter, Walt Porter, Matthew Radford, Dalton Vega, and Laura Wyskiel for adding so much to our music.

In the fall, the Vestry made the decision to move forward with the restoration of the Steinway Grand Piano, Model L, built in 1938, that is in the church sanctuary. As of December 31, 2014, over \$7,500 had been raised in a quiet buy-a-key campaign. That amount represents nearly one third of the funds needed to complete the project.

Music and liturgy remain healthy and strong as we exit 2014, and I am looking forward to continuing to work with Suzanne, as we move into the church's sesquicentennial year. Plans are being developed for the celebration in the fall of 2015 and there will certainly be musical components to that celebration.

Bruce Adami, Director of Music and Organist

ACOLYTES

The word acolyte means “follower” or “one who helps.” Acolytes are important persons in the worship service, and are a great help to the clergy. This past year the following young people served as regular Sunday morning acolytes.

8:00 a.m. Andrew Hodsdon, Alyssa DiPalermo, Dominic DiPalermo
10:30 a.m. Jake Raum, Ethan Pollet, Nick Tosatti, Margaret Staller, Jimmy Staller,
Tommy Baker, Mac Baker, Grace Baker.

Instructions were updated this year with the help of Bob Figenbaum. Thanks to Bob for his interest and support.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild ministry is dedicated to assisting the clergy with preparing the sanctuary and chapel for worship services. We are responsible for both the set up and clean-up for Sunday services as well as weddings, funerals, and baptisms. Some other duties include preparing the palms for Palm Sunday and the hand held candles used during Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil services. Our membership consists of 15 women and men serving in teams of three scheduled in one week rotations throughout the year. These teams change every four months to provide the opportunity to work with different members. The time commitment is not great and we are flexible in our scheduling. We also schedule one fall and one spring cleaning party/luncheon which allows us all to come together for fellowship opportunities.

Altar Guild is open to men, women, and teens. We are always looking for new members and encourage anyone interested in joining us to call Melissa Poirier at 772-2823 or email lissa-lou@comcast.net. Discover a new way to serve and be a part of our church community.

Melissa Poirier

HEALING MINISTRY

For many years at Christ Church we celebrated the Holy Eucharist with a Service of Healing on Wednesday mornings. Because many people were not able to attend that service, the Healing Ministries Team was formed in the fall of 2003 to offer the laying on of hands, anointing and prayers for healing on Sunday morning. We began by offering this sacrament on the first and third Sundays of each month. In 2006 four new members were commissioned to the team, which allowed us to offer the laying on of hands and anointing at each of our two Sunday liturgies. Healing Ministers are available during communion for anyone who wishes to receive this sacrament. Also, some members of

the team are available almost any Monday night between 6:00 and 7:00 pm for healing prayer. You can make an appointment by calling Linda Carey in the church office.

This year Sarah Watts and Deb Delworth completed the Training. The training involved reading and discussion of "The Healing Light" by Agnes Sanford, the development of a Spiritual Map and participation in prayer and other discussions at the regular meetings. Members of the Healing Ministry Team meet twice a month to study and pray together, and continue to explore ways to expand this ministry. The team is soliciting new members; please contact any team member if you are interested.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton is spiritual director of the Healing Ministry Team. Members of the team are, Pat Izzo, Rita Corke, Patti Buck, Bill "Scott" Scott, Deb Delworth, Robin Sirois, Cindy Corson, Mike Woodworth, Judy Blaisdell, and Wendy Mac Arthur-Keith. In addition Sarah Watts, Chrissy Dube, Fran Wriedt, Joyce Reed, Stephanie Van Kleeck, Sheila Ryan, and Nicolle Casey help out when available.

In addition an Intercessory Prayer Team has been formed. – Members of the team include Chrissy Dube, Judy Hinds, Joyce Reed, and (Lee) Elizabeth Woodworth. They are praying for the Mission Trip to Cuba, the Church Clergy and Staff, the AA Groups, that meet at church and the parishioners on the Prayer Concerns list.

Members of the Healing Team have been participating in Healing Services and events at other area churches to explore the ecumenical nature of Christian healing. The team participated in St. Michael's Healing Mass here in Exeter.

This year Mike participated in Order of St. Luke (OSL) Healing and Training conferences in New York. Lee, Deb, Judy and Mike were all in Maine at *St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, Lisbon Falls, for an OSL conference on healing*. Bill Scott has completed three years of EfM; Judy Blaisdell, Pat Izzo and Patti Buck have graduated, completing four years of EfM.

Mike Woodworth

EXETER AREA ECUMENICAL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Each fall we assist with Exeter's Feed My Lambs Thanksgiving and Christmas program. Whether providing turkey with all the trimmings for area families or purchasing gifts for kids to open on Christmas Day, those with very limited incomes are blessed with the bounty given to them by members of the parish. Without your generosity we would not be able to assist so many families in our community.

This year we provided Thanksgiving dinners for 40 families. At Christmas 22 dinners were provided and gifts for 39 children, under the age of 18, were collected and distributed. I would like to thank Rita Corke, Pat Izzo, Charlie Johnson, Sarah Watts, and the volunteers from our parish youth group who helped carry and distribute baskets and gifts at the parish house. A total of 6 baskets were delivered to the homebound by Mark Corke and Mike Woodworth.

Lee Woodworth

WELCOMING TEAM

2014 has been a year of exciting change for the Welcoming Team-beginning with the change of our name! We have transitioned from being the Hospitality Team to the Welcoming Team to have a title that better reflects our mission. As a part of a parish-wide effort to create more clarity, organization and smooth operations to our teams, the Welcoming Team used various tools and a great deal of input from seasoned and new parishioners to refine and improve our current efforts and to look ahead. As a result of our efforts we have: reviewed and re-revised role descriptions for ushers and greeters; created an emergency plan should a fire or medical event occur during a service; added greeting to the 8:00 service; instituted new approaches to be more welcoming and informative for guests who are considering Christ Church as a new parish home.

With input from Welcoming Team members, and Mark and Sarah, we reviewed and have revised role descriptions of Ushers and Greeters. With these revisions the heart and soul of our mission remains similar-to insuring the safe passage, warm welcome and comfortable participation to all those entering our church for worship. With an emphasis on comfortable participation and full access to the service, we now have available enlarged print hymns for those with vision concerns and have been encouraging those with hearing impairment to test out our listening devices. Parishioners with vision concerns have so appreciated the enlarged print hymns that they have requested enlarged print bulletins. This is to be considered and acted upon in the near future. Our youngsters continue to enjoy the children's bulletin as a way they can meaningfully participate in the key lessons of our services each week.

As a part of a church-wide effort to review and revise emergency preparedness, Robbie Izzo, gave his time and expertise to review procedures and Welcoming Team member's roles and responsibilities should an event occur during a service.

Throughout 2014 most of our planning meeting efforts have been devoted to the question: "How can we more warmly welcome newcomers into our parish?" It has been of tremendous help to have a number of newcomers joining in the planning to offer their fresh perspective and strategies. As a result of our discussions we have: added greeting to the 8:00 service (thank you to Pat Izzo for organizing, and to Tom and Liz Kelsey for initiating); consistently have greeters at the elevator doors for the 10:30 service; created Welcoming bags with enticing information and treats (thank you Sarah!); for guests who are seeking a new church home; conducted the first of two yearly welcoming services to acknowledge new members in our parish; Mark and Leslie have hosted two newcomer dinners. This question of "How do we warmly welcome newcomers?" will continue to be our emphasis in the year ahead. We have discovered in our discussions that as Episcopalians we are concerned with warmly welcoming without overwhelming. Our hesitancy to not overwhelm, however, can cause us to lose opportunities to welcome others, answer their questions, and get to know more wonderful people! This will be an area of focus as a team and parish in the year ahead.

I end 2014 with tremendous gratitude and appreciation for the seasoned members who have been dedicated year after year, our new team members who have re-freshed us with new ideas, and the energy and enthusiasm of our families and youth.

Our parish is a vibrant, loving community of people to welcome on Sunday mornings! If you have an interest in serving on the Hospitality Team or if you have suggestions on how we can better serve our parish, kindly contact Judy Mikami (cell: 603-493-4609; email: jmikami@myfairpoint.net). Your time and/or suggestions will be deeply appreciated.

Judy Mikami

SEACOAST FAMILY PROMISE (Seacoast Interfaith Hospitality Network)

This year marks the 11th year of Christ Church as a host congregation for Seacoast Family Promise, formerly known as Interfaith Hospitality Network. ***First Unitarian Universalist Society of Exeter (FUUSE)*** continues to provide all of the volunteer hosts for Wednesday and Thursday evenings. Coordinated by Helen Kruppa, volunteers from FUSE help us with set-up and breakdown as well as providing the meals, evening hosts and overnight hosts for those two evenings. Donna McCay continues to lead a group of dedicated volunteers to ensure that we are prepared to welcome our guests and put the church school back in order after their one week stay with us. Donna will always welcome additional help on the morning of set up or cleanup.

Our leadership structure of "Daily teams" continues to work well. If there is a particular day you are able to help, please contact me or the team leader. Our team leaders include: Sunday- Donna McCay; Monday- Toy Fountain; Tuesday- Darlene McAllister; Wednesday and Thursday- Helen Kruppa (FUUSE), Friday- Judy Blasdell and Saturday Carol Allard. Cindy Nottage has been great at keeping us informed about the SFP events on a timely basis. Emma Ratigan is in charge of keeping the laundry up to date. We can always use queen/twin sheets and towels.

Volunteer response has been wonderful, but we are always looking for ways to involve more parishioners in SFP. Contact Jim McAllister or one of the team leaders listed above if you would like to get involved with Seacoast Family Promise.

Our first host week of 2015 is Jan 4-11. We have a total of 5 weeks to host this year. Our church is used an extra week to provide a place for Greenland to host. In addition to volunteer time, we are always looking for extra furniture that can be used for guests who are leaving the program and moving into permanent housing. They often are starting from scratch and are in need of everything it takes to run an apartment. Members of the parish who have extra furniture or household items should contact Jim. You can always leave a message with Linda for Jim or one of the team leaders to contact you.

SFP remains under the leadership of Pati Frew-Waters, who continues to spread the word about homelessness in the Seacoast through appearances at community organization events, and publicity through local media. She continues to work diligently to bring more hosts and support congregations into the Network to ease the hosting responsibility for the rest of us. Executive Director, Pati Frew-Waters said "The SFP portion of our program is the most important piece. We could not have done this work without all of the fine volunteers from Christ Church. It is important for the volunteers to know that they have changed the lives of families, and the hope and destiny of many children through their kindness and love."

As a service organization, SFP receives grant funding from a variety of organizations, including United Way of the Seacoast. There are also an increasing number of fund-raising events and opportunities such as The Annual SFP Auction held in the spring, which supplements the funds for services provided. At Christ Church, we have had tremendous response to our requests for support for our host weeks. Thank you to all who have responded to our requests for financial support over our years of serving SFP.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who help to make this ministry successful! The number of volunteer hours logged into this program is amazing! Please feel free to contact me with suggestions, or just to help make the program grow. Again, thank you for your dedication! This will be my last year as Coordinator it is time for someone else to serve in this rewarding outreach program.

Jim McAllister, Coordinator, jim@profplanllc.com 207-232-1590

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Elected by the Parish at the Annual Meeting, the Finance Committee serves as a resource to the Vestry and Treasurer in carrying out their fiduciary duties to fund and care for the assets and properties entrusted to Christ Church. Functions include reviewing monthly detailed financials, presenting the annual operating budget, assist with the establishment of a Planned Giving legacy program, and establish ways to better communicate the financial realities to the larger parish.

2014 saw the return of monthly meetings preceding Vestry meetings. Jeff Neil spoke to the congregation before the summer months to encourage the use of ePledge giving to smooth out cash flow issues over the slower months.

Elected members include Chrissy Dube, Jeff Neil, and John Gilbert. Lucia Savage and the rector, Mark Pendleton, also attend (*ex-officio*).

Accomplishments included regular reporting of summary financial reports to the congregation, reception of the 2012 completed Audit, and the creation of documents approved by the Vestry for a Planned Giving program that will invite and encourage legacy gifts to Christ Church. New giving envelopes to be sent directly to households via bulk mail were also approved by the Committee as a way to increase giving and better reach members.

Members of the Finance Committee also took part in the Consecration Sunday program.

Chrissy Dube takes over this year from Morgan McCay as the point person for the budget process.



EPISCOPAL
CHURCH OF NH

Parish Officers and Staff - 2014

2014 Vestry Officers

Senior Warden

Chris Kramer

Junior Warden

Eric LaMontagne

Clerk

Karen Geary

Treasurer

Lucia Savage

Vestry Members

Term ends Jan. 2015

Judy Blaisdell

Walter Huston

Lang Plumer

Term ends Jan. 2016

Christine Hodsdon

Susan Johnson

Tim Shaw

Term ends Jan. 2017

Tom Lambert

Cindy Nottage

Kevin Sorber

Delegates to Diocesan Convention & Seacoast Convocation

Term ends 2014

Robin Sirois

Judy Wainwright

Term ends 2015

Barbara Armstrong

Walter Huston

Alternates

Term ends 2014

Betsey Farnham

Eric LaMontagne

Term ends 2015

Peter Baldwin

Mario Izzo

Nominating Comm.

Lang Plumer

Walter Huston

Judy Blaisdell

David Corbett

Duncan Holcomb

Parish Staff

Rector

Mark B. Pendleton

Priest Associate

David D. Holroyd

Asst. For Min.

Develop. &

Coordination

Sarah Watts

Dir. of Music

And Organist

Bruce Adami

Choir Director

Suzanne Jalbert Jones

Executive Assistant

Linda Carey

Music Intern

Richard Gress

Bookkeeper

Normand Tremblay

Sexton

Bob Prescott

Childcare

Nancy Taylor

Allissa Younan

