

## SENIOR WARDEN'S ADDRESS – May 15 Annual Meeting

One of my daughter Trish's favorite musicals is *Rent*, and because she was such a big fan of it, Lu and I have seen it performed many times and become fans too. For those of you who don't know it, *Rent* is a modernization of Puccini's opera *La Bohème*, which told the story of the plague sweeping through Paris in the 1800's. *Rent* is set in modern day New York City and instead of the plague, HIV/AIDS is the viral centerpiece of the story. One of the memorable songs in *Rent* is called *Seasons of Love*, although many of you probably would know it as the "Minute Song"—*Five Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Six Hundred Minutes*—sing a few bars. One of the provocative questions the song asks is "How do you measure the life of a woman or a man?" As I started to think about this talk, I began to wonder how you would measure our life together here at Christ Church and, motivated by that thought, I began searching out and pestering for facts and figures that might scratch the surface to give us some measure of ourselves.

So let me start...one of the things that binds us together is that virtually all of us get to Christ Church by driving. We turn off of or cross over Route 100 onto Buck Road...

### Physical Plant

- .7278 miles from the stoplight to the entrance of the church parking church, 4 speed bumps, 2 stop signs (only one of which you ignore—right??), 1 "Approach with Caution" sign, two "One Way" signs to keep us headed the right way around the traffic circle, 203 parking spaces
- 21.9 acres, 121 foot 4 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches spire height, 893 trees
- 3 Residences—the Rectory, Squirrel Run Cottage, and the Sexton's residence, the Church with its 19 rows of pews on the main floor and 7 rows in the balcony, the Parish Center that houses the Christ Church Episcopal Preschool, its 7 classrooms and 2 offices, the 8 Church offices on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the Chapel of the Christ Child with its 8 rows of pews on the main floor and 3 in the balcony, the Parish Hall, a kitchen and 6 classrooms for "Sunday School." Two other buildings for storage. All in all, there are 29 bathrooms, 35 toilets in these buildings.

### Operations

- In 2010, \$107,963.90 for Utilities, \$12,847.01 for phone, and \$24,425 for insurance, 1,800 rolls of toilet paper, 365 reams of paper, 1 case of pencils, 21 toner cartridges for the copy machine, 100 boxes of Goldfish, and 10,100 cups of coffee
- We have one mower, one maintenance truck, one tractor—under the capital projects budget that projects out 25 years, we expect to have to replace those in 2017, 2018, and 2022 respectively at an expected total cost of \$65,000.

### Non-clergy Staff/Committees

- 13 staff members
- Length of Service totals 62,606 days for all 13 staff members as of today or an average of 13 years, 3 months, and 9 days. Keith Dawson is our longest tenured employee—33

years, 10 months on the dot; Jo Harney, the Head of the Preschool is our shortest tenured—9 months, 26 days

- Much of the work of this place is done by parishioners working on one of 53 Committees. Some of those committees—like Eucharistic Ministers and Greeters—work within the rhythm of our weekly worship. Others—like the Friendly Freezer, Helping Hands, and Notes of Care are there to help take care of us in times of need. Some—like the Wedding Committee and celebration of Life—help us through significant life events. Take a look at the committee listings in your bulletin and you can't help but be impressed by the many facets of our life together that are touched by other members of our parish family.

### **Budget/Financial Information**

- Financial town meeting on June 5 at 4:30 PM, so I won't get into much detail.
- Total Income in 2010 of \$1,924,182.10—of that amount, \$1,200,499.17 came from parish giving (pledges and regular giving), and \$381,000 came from our regular draw on our endowment.
- Total Expenses in 2010 of \$1,973,991.04
- The difference was made up by a draw from our contingency reserve of \$49,808.97
- In 2009, we built a budget for 2010 based upon 536 pledges totaling \$1,161,372. We also have people who do not pledge but are “regular givers.” When you total up the amount paid toward pledges and given by regular givers, we collected 103.9% of the pledge total. Of those pledging, 132 (or almost a quarter of those pledging) paid more than their pledge, and 55 pledges (or about 10% of the pledges) were unfulfilled by 10% or more. Although this latter information is in some ways troubling, you might be surprised to learn that in these difficult economic times, this was the best performance in terms of folks not paying their full pledge in many years.
- To show how remarkably consistent we can be, in 2009, the Easter Collection was 11,108. In 2010, it was 11,501. This year, it was 11,481.

### **Outreach**

- In 2010, the Green Show netted \$88,000, all of which was used for Outreach in 2011.
- For 2011, the Outreach Committee, with the blessing of the Vestry, allocated \$222,058 to over 40 agencies and groups ranging from AIDS Delaware to the YWCA, from DAPI to SOAR, from Interfaith Housing to Habitat for Humanity, from Camp Arrowhead to Urban Promise.
- Interfaith potlucks have been held since 1998, primarily with Congregation Beth Emeth, but in recent years Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church has joined us. Two events a year—one in the Spring and one before Thanksgiving. Over that time, we have assembled bags of Thanksgiving meals for almost 10,000 people. The past 4 years, the Spring event supported kids leaving Foster Care, 100 bags each year of household items/non-perishables. And in a shameless plug that will make my wife happy, there's an event at Beth Emeth this afternoon.

## **Preschool**

- We have 79 students currently enrolled, representing 68 families, 23 of which are Christ Church parishioner families.
- We have 23 teachers and staff.
- 30 pounds of Play-Doh were purchased this year.
- We put 17 cubic yards of mulch on the big playground this spring.
- We bought 750 pounds of playground sand.
- We have two sets of twins entering the Primary class.
- Our teachers take a minimum of 18 hours of professional development each year; some take much more.
- The preschool identifies itself as an Episcopal preschool. One way that Episcopal identity manifests itself is in the incorporation of God and faith and worship into the daily routine of the kids. For instance, throughout the day, maybe 10 times a day, the teachers will have the kids say and make the sign for “Alleluia.” That means that over the course of the year, Alleluia will be said and signed 128,000 times.

## **Worship Life**

- 312 on-premises services in 2010
- We use approximately 9 cases of wine per year totaling 21 gallons (8100 milliliters or 2738.93 ounces). We also use about 13,000 wafers per year and 300 small loaves of bread baked by parishioners.
- Between 1848 and 2010, we’ve performed 5328 baptisms, 1409 marriages and 1877 burials.
- We expect to have 25 confirmands at the upcoming confirmation service.
- 41 Acolytes and 8 adult advisors
- When you kneel to pray in the church or the chapel, you are kneeling on one of 400 hand-stitched kneelers. The capital projects budget calls for those kneelers to be cleaned every 10 years at a projected cost of \$2,000. The next cleaning is scheduled for 2013.
- Before and after services, one of the teams of the 73 members of the Altar Guild prepare the sanctuary for services and care for the vessels and linens used during worship services and for the frontals and hangings that adorn the worship space. All in all, over the course of a year, the members of the Altar Guild will have 195 assignments in the Church (serving in pairs), and 156 assignments in the Chapel (serving singly)—plus all weddings and memorial services, funerals, and all additional services added in celebration of particular feast days.

## **Music**

- We have 4 Choirs—St. Nicholas, otherwise known as the “Too Cute” kids choir, the St. Cecilia Choir, the Christ Church Choir, and the newest addition, the St. Agnes Choir. Did you know that Saint Cecilia is the patron saint of musicians and Church music because as she was dying, she sang to God?

- One of the centerpieces of the music here at Christ Church is the magnificent organ, which has a replacement value of \$2.5 million. The organ has 3,750 pipes playable from three keyboards of 56 keys each and a pedal board of 30 notes (pedals).

## People

- Our Nursery class for the fall includes two Jacks, two Johnnys, two Sams and two Margots.
- Within our congregation, we have 4 families that have Q in their family name and 37 families that have a Z in their family name, including one that begins and ends with a Z.
- Colors: Brown, White, Green(berg), Red(der), Rust, and Gray
- Presidents: Jefferson, Johnson, Pierce, Taylor, and Adams
- Professions: Sheppard, Miller, Porter, Hunter, Cook, Seeman, Sellers, Taylor, Weaver, Gardners, Carpenter, and Harpers
- First names for last names: Alexander, Austin, Boyd, Anderson, Carter, Cole, Craig, Dale, Dean, Davis, Duncan, George, Gordon, Grant, James, Hanna, Homer, Jackson, Luke, Marvin, Patty, Scott, Simon, Thomas, Wilson, Willis, Elder, Younger, Anthony
- Body Parts: Face and Butz
- We have what is “Good and Wright” and what is “Gross, Grave, and Savage”
- Gardens are well represented by the Fields and Dale, Peet, Ivy, and the Roses
- Food and Beverages: Foster, Fish, Rice, Ritz, Graham, Reeses, Romano, and Campbell
- Exercise: Walkers and Waltz
- Do you ever wonder what might happen of the Crosses and the Graves got together?
- Or if we’d have to call the fire department if the Strykers and the Flynts got together with Sparks and the Wicks?
- What kind of contraption could get built if the Carpenters got together with the Sawyers and the Boards?
- Then there are some names that just have a certain ring to them if you say them together: Edinger and Effinger or Hunt, Hunter, and Huntley or Cleaver and 2 Weavers

I have been serving on the vestry for over 5 years now and been the Senior Warden for 2 of those 5 years. I have been on the inside. But even so, some of what I found surprised me and made me look at this place in a very different way. I hope you can take a few of these oddball statistics that I’ve thrown at you and use that “inquiring and discerning heart” that our baptismal covenant talks about to find out more about this place and what goes on here, and more importantly, how you can get involved. By getting involved you’ll discover new ways to measure our common life here and your place in it.