

## **CHRIST CHURCH GREENWICH HISTORY for CHURCH WEBSITE**

**1705-1706** – Armed to protect the Rev. George Muirson, the missionary sent from the Anglican Church in England by the Society for the Propagation of the Bible, Colonel Caleb Heathcote, member of the Rye Episcopal Church, travels with Rev. Muirson to Connecticut where the Reverend holds the first Episcopalian service in a Greenwich resident's home. Together these two men lay the groundwork for what will become the large and vibrant parish of Christ Church Greenwich.

**1725-1744** – A native of Connecticut, the Rev. James Wetmore travels regularly from his parish in Rye NY, to minister to the faithful at Horseneck, the center of Greenwich CT. Rev. James Caner of Fairfield also preached at Horseneck during this era.

**1738** – Episcopalians in Greenwich object to paying taxes to support the Puritan's Congregational Church (the established church of the British colony at this time). They and others submit a petition for tax exemption to the General Assembly, which is turned down.

**1742** – To serve the increasing number of communicants in the Greenwich/Stamford area, the Parish of St. John's in Stamford CT is established on December 18, 1742.

**1747** – The building of the Horseneck Chapel (largely funded by Mr. St. George Talbot, a wealthy layman and devout churchman from the parish of Rye) begins on what is known as Put's Hill. Israel Knapp, an innkeeper, donates the land. Some steps are built up the side of the hill to accommodate parishioners from Cos Cob. In 1779, during the Revolutionary War, General Israel Putnam escapes down these steps on horseback when pursued by British troops.

**1749** – Construction of Horseneck Chapel is completed and it becomes a mission of St. John's Parish in Stamford. The Rev. Ebenezer Dibble officiates at services on the second Sunday of each month. Rev. Dibble reported to the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel the chapel "is often much crowded ... both Church people and Dissenters give devout attendance and earnest desire to his {Rev. Dibble's} continuing to officiate among them ..."

**1770-1775** – As open rebellion against England grows, the Rev. Dibble prophetically writes, "God have Mercy upon us [the Episcopal Church], if the Provinces here should throw off their connection, dependence and subjection to the Mother Country."

**1775-1783** – The Revolutionary War. The clergy in Connecticut vote to uphold the oath of allegiance to the king, which they had pledged during ordination, and they close all Episcopal churches in Connecticut in the summer of 1776. Branded as loyalists, many clergy are forced to flee their homes and parishes. Despite destruction to his property and death threats, the Rev. Dibble remains in Stamford and ministers to the faithful throughout the war.

**1783** – On September 3, 1783, the United States and Great Britain sign the Treaty of Paris. The end of the war does not however end the problems facing the Episcopalian Church in America. Without a bishop, the Church in America would cease to exist. At a meeting in St. Paul's rectory in Woodbury, ten priests elect a Connecticut-born clergyman, the Rev. Samuel Seabury, as their choice for America's first Bishop. Rev. Seabury arrives in England in July 1783. After months of fruitless appeals to waive the oath of allegiance to the crown, Rev. Seabury is advised to seek consecration in Scotland. On November 13, 1784, he is consecrated by three bishops in Skinner's Chapel in Aberdeen.

**1789** – The Ratification of the Book of Common Prayer, by the Bishops, the clergy and the Laity of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, in Convention ... do hereby establish the said Book and they declare it to be the Liturgy of the Church.

**1792** – Bishop Seabury, who had organized the Diocese of Connecticut, preaches at Horseneck Chapel.

**1796** – On February 25 Bishop Seabury dies at the age of 66. The opening lines of his epitaph reads: “ingenious without pride, learned without pedantry, Good without severity ...”

**1821** – A great gale destroys Horseneck Chapel. William Knapp, a descendent of Israel Knapp, donates more land near the destroyed chapel for the building of a new church on the south side of the Post Road.

**1832** – The building of the new church begins in earnest on July 4. The building contractor William Eddy completes the job at a cost of \$2,280.12. The parishioners pay for their new church through subscriptions and donations.

**1833** – Christ Church is organized as a Parish on September 25 by a voluntary association of Greenwich residents, including Justus L. Bush, Silas Davis, Drake Mead, Nelson Bush, Zabed Finch, William Husted and Albert Knapp.

**1834** – On May 4, Christ Church is consecrated by Bishop Thomas Brownell.

**1835-1838** – At the annual Parish meeting, Justus Luke Bush, Drake Mead and nine additional vestrymen are elected Wardens and form the governing body of the church. Each spring they vote on membership applications submitted by male heads of households. They also set the pew rents and rent pews to the parishioners for the coming year. Pew rents are the “income” of the church, augmented by Sunday plate collections, and fund all church business. The Vestry calls the Rev. Joseph H. Nichols to fill the pulpit.

**1839-1840** – The Rev. Benjamin Mowatt Yarrington is called and accepts the position of Rector at a yearly salary of \$350. He is Rector of the Parish until his retirement in 1985. Henry Bush is appointed Treasure, a position he holds until 1873. Warden Drake Mead purchases three acres adjacent to the church from Abrem Mead for \$1,200 to establish the church’s cemetery.

**1842** – On February 25, the cemetery is officially incorporated and registered at Town Hall. Lots (18 by 25 feet) are sold to parishioners for \$40. Nelson Bush is elected Warden and serves until 1875. The Glenville Chapel (serviced on various Sunday afternoons by Rev. Yarrington and originally purchased by Samuel G. Connell) is deeded over to the Diocese of Connecticut.

**1843-1844** – The Vestry raises \$2,000 by subscriptions from parishioners. Mr. Dixon is contracted and builds a parsonage, per plans approved by the Vestry.

**1845** – The Parish celebrates the first anniversary of its Sunday school which is located in the new parsonage.

**1851** – Parishioners purchase land across the street from the church on the north side of the Post Road from Solomon Mead Esquire. Thirty horse sheds are built at a cost of \$23 each. The parishioners who purchased the land have free use of one of the sheds for 15 years. Others pay \$2 per year for use of a shed.

Rev. John Williams D. D., President of Trinity College is consecrated as Assistant Bishop. He serves at church functions in place of Bishop Thomas Church Brownell, whose health is slowly failing. Titus Mead is elected Vestryman, a position he holds until his death in 1869.

**1853** – Mr. James W. Dominick and Mr. William Francis Dominick join the Parish. They pay \$25 pew rent, the highest rate at the time. (Drake Mead is the third parishioner who pays \$25 for his pew rent.)

**1854** – Mr. Frances Tomes, Jr. joins the Parish.

**1856-1857** – The Parish votes to build a new church in lieu of repairing and adding to the 1832 church. Architect Frank Will's design is selected and building begins once the subscription for \$15,000 is raised from the parishioners. The old church is torn down; the congregation rents space for \$88 at the Methodist church to hold services. The completed church is consecrated on January 14, 1857, by the Assistant Bishop Rev. John Williams. The final cost of the new church is \$14,607.20. Isaac Emmons is elected Warden and he serves until 1881. Rev. Yarrington's salary is raised to \$800 per year.

**1860** – Parishioner, Benjamin Paige, takes office as one of Greenwich's Townsmen (Selectmen) who are responsible for recruiting volunteers and raising funds to meet Federal appropriations to support the military draft during the Civil War.

**1861-1865** – Six Parishioners served in the Union Army during the Civil War. Two died during the conflict.

Captain David Olyphant Benson of the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry (also known as the Fairfield County Regiment), died at the age of 23 while on active service in Baltimore and is buried in Christ Church cemetery on November 14, 1862.

William R. Booth enlisted on August 6, 1862, in the 17<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Volunteer Infantry, which participated in the Battles of Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was honorably discharged as disabled on December 10, 1862.

Sergeant Charles S. Glover served in the 37<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York Infantry National Guard, which saw action at Sporting Hill. He died in 1907.

Captain Nathaniel N. Hubbard served in the 21<sup>st</sup> Regiment, Connecticut Infantry which fought in the Battle of Fredericksburg as well as other engagements. He died in 1888.

Martin J. Keating served in the 5<sup>th</sup> Regiment, New York Heavy Artillery, which fought in the Battle of New Markets and other operations. He died in 1887.

James G. McCombs served in the 33<sup>rd</sup> Regiment, New Jersey Infantry, which took part in the siege of Atlanta. He was killed on July 10, 1864, at the age of 41.

**1862** – Mr. Francis Tomes, Jr. becomes a Vestryman and serves until 1868; his pew rent is \$25.

**1863** – The Calvert Vaux designed home of Mr. Francis Tomes, Jr. is erected on the property adjacent to Christ Church on the west boundary.

**1865** – Bishop Thomas Church Brownell dies and is succeeded by Rev. John Williams as Bishop of Connecticut.

**1869-1870** – The vestry increases Mr. Yarrington’s salary to \$1500 per year. The Vestry increases the pew rents, the highest pew rent is \$75 paid by Mr. Francis Tomes, Jr.

The Vestry employs an engineer to re-survey and re-stake the cemetery. A new plot map is drawn up showing 122 lots. It is posted in the Vestry room and registered at Town Hall. Mr. William R. Tweed (“Boss Tweed”), a parishioner who owns the estate on the south side of the church grounds, donates \$1000 to finish the stone wall on the south boundary of the cemetery. A carriage path with a concealed drainage ditch in the center is constructed in the middle of the cemetery at a cost of \$800, which is paid for by contributions from parishioners. Mrs. Titus Mead is President of the Ladies Sewing Society, which donates \$342 for the music program.

**1872-1873** – The Vestry approves the installation of a hot water heating apparatus; a job completed by Messrs. Smith & Co. for \$1500. Mark Banks is elected Treasurer and serves until 1896. Dr. James H. Brush is elected Clerk and serves to 1893.

**1874** – The Ladies Sewing Society donates \$200 to re-roof the Rectory and \$500 to re-upholster the church pews.

**1875** – Warden Nelson Bush dies. The Vestry Record documents a moving tribute to his services to the Parish. The Ladies Sewing Society pays for the painting and repairs to the Rectory.

St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in Riverside is founded.

**1879** – Mr. A. Foster Higgins joins the Parish and is elected as a Vestryman and a delegate to the yearly Diocesan Convention. He and Treasurer Mark Banks pay the highest pew rents of \$75. The Vestry declines the request of the Arch Deacon of Fairfield County, Rev. William Tatlock, to make the Episcopalian chapels at Glenville, Round Hill and Riverside missions of Christ Church.

**1882** – The Parish approves the removal of the gravestones and remains of the dead in the old churchyard on Putnam Hill to two lots in the church cemetery, which were purchased and given to the church for this purpose by H. O. Havemeyer.

**1886-1888** – The Parish resolves to relocate the unsightly horse sheds on the north side of Putnam Avenue and accepts A. Foster Higgins’ donation of a plot of ground called Park Place, which he purchases for \$500. At his own expense, Higgins erects new horse sheds on Park Place.

**1887** – The church builds a Sunday school chapel addition to the church, which is designed by Henry Dudley and funded by donations and legacies from parishioners.

**1895** – Rev Benjamin Mowatt Yarrington retires; he served as the Parish Rector 1840 to 1895. The Vestry honors his service, grants him free occupancy of the rectory and the front pew in the church and elects him Rector Emeritus. The Rev. Mr. M. George Thompson of Holy Trinity Church in New York becomes the second Rector of Christ Church. His first service is on the first Sunday in July. His salary is \$2000 per year.

**1897** – The Vestry pays Mr. Higgins an annual rent of \$500 for the house he had built on Park Place to be used as a Rectory for Rev. Thompson.

**1898** – Rev. Benjamin Mowatt Yarrington dies; the Vestry Record records a tribute to his 55 years of devoted service.

“The New Church Fund” is launched after the Vestry completes a thorough study of the condition of the church and concludes that repairing and expanding the 1857 church does not meet the needs of the Parish.

**1899** – The Rev. Chauncy B. Brewster becomes Bishop of Connecticut upon the death of Bishop John Williams.

Christ Church celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary during the week of June 18-23, and the Vestry raises Rev. Thompson’s salary to \$2400 per year.

**1901-1902** – The Rector’s Aid Society donates \$10,000 to “The New Church Fund” and the Summer Amusement Club donates another \$2000. Young lady students from the recently opened Rosemary Hall in the Rock Ridge area of Greenwich attend Sunday services at Christ Church. Mr. and Mrs. A. Foster Higgins celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with family and friends at the Tomes-Higgins House.

**1903-1904**- The Parish approves a resolution to build a new church on the existing property.

**1906-1907** – The Building Committee Chairman, George F. Dominick, Sr. engages William F. Dominick, his nephew and an architect to design the new church, parish house and rectory at a cost of \$1325. Mrs. Rebecca Witherell pledges \$19,000 toward the building of the parish house and later offers an additional \$16,000, provided that the full sum of money to build the remainder of the buildings is raised by the Parish as soon as possible.

**1908** – In March, Mrs. Witherell notifies the Vestry that she was withdrawing her offer of \$35,000 to build the parish house because the additional funds had not been raised. James McCutcheon proposes that the Parish build only the new church with the funds that had already been secured. The motion is passed unanimously.

**1909** – On May 1, Bishop Brewster lays the cornerstone for the new church. Five months later, George F. Dominick, Sr. offers to contribute \$35,000 to build the parish house, if the remaining funds are raised and secured for the building of the church and the rectory by January 10, 1910. On October 18, Bishop Brewster consecrates the newly built St. Bede’s Chapel on the campus of Rosemary Hall. Rev. Thompson conducts services at the Chapel.

**1910** – Mrs. Rebecca Witherell donates the stained glass windows in memory of her late husband, Nathaniel Witherell. Four stained glass windows from the 1857 church are re-installed; “Christ Blessing Little Children” by Louis Comfort Tiffany, “Resurrection” by Louis Comfort Tiffany, “Christ, Apostles and Children” maker unknown and “Floral Window” maker unknown.

Rev. M. George Thompson’s salary is increased to \$4,000 per year. The Parish meets Mr. Dominick’s challenge contribution of \$35,000.

**1911** – The Parish establishes the Endowment Fund, which is not to be drawn on until it reaches \$100,000. Mr. Dominick reports on the final accounting for the completion of the church buildings; the total is \$213,502. The Vestry approves the design for ten clerestory windows by Messrs. Heaton, Butler & Bayns at a cost of \$320 each. These windows are donated and installed over the course of 20 years.

**1912** – Mr. Edmund Converse donates funds for the completion of the belfry tower and the installation of the bells as a memorial to his wife.

**1914** – Deaconess Mrs. Rachel O. Hemphill begins her services with Christ Church to relieve the Rector of his heavy load. She serves as Deaconess until 1934.

**1915** – In a letter to his son, who is a member of the Repairs and Supplies Committee, Warden George F. Dominick, Sr. describes the deterioration – primarily due to water damage – of the new church buildings. The repairs cost \$3,000 and are completed in 1916.

**1916** – St. John’s Chapel in Byram becomes a mission of Christ Church. Honorary Warden, A. Foster Higgins, dies on November 28 and is buried in the cemetery, alongside his wife, daughter and grandson. The Parish Vestry approves the Pension System, created by the General Diocesan Convention in 1913, with a commitment to pay an assessment of \$15,000 per year. Due to the increasing financial strain of funding church maintenance and activities, the Treasurer and Vestry form a new plan for parishioner contributions, the so-called “Envelope System.”

**1917** – On April 6, American declares war on Germany. The U. S. joins the Allied forces, commanded by General Pershing. Representatives of the federal Fuel Administration in Greenwich ask all denominations to conserve fuel due to the war effort and the exceptional cold weather.

**1918** – To conserve fuel, the Rev Thompson, with the Vestry’s unanimous approval, invites the neighboring Protestant churches to Union Services held in Christ Church in January. In February and March, Christ Church closes and the Parish participates in Union Services at the Second Congregational Church and the First Presbyterian Church. The collections from these services are donated to Greenwich Hospital and the Greenwich Public Health Association. The last Union Services are held at Christ Church in December.

Christ Church contributes generously (\$3,630) to the Diocese Church War Fund; the funds are used by the Diocese to aid soldiers in training camps and in the field. On November 11, Germany sues for peace and the armistice is signed, ending the war. At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Year Book is suspended. At the Rector’s discretion, timely pamphlets are distributed detailing Parish news.

**1919** – For the first time in the history of the church, nine of the thirteen new members voted into the Parish are women, including: Alice B. McCutcheon, Lavinia Thorne, Laura E. Sutherland, Fannie R. McElhinney, Ella M. Worth, May Talbot and Susan Talbot.

**1920** – The Parish resolves that Vestrymen will now serve in three year terms. Twenty-two new members are admitted to the Parish, thirteen are women. The Diocese delivers complete ownership of St. John’s Chapel in Byram to Christ Church. The first “Parish Notes” are published and heartily approved by parishioners.

**1921** – A Capital Drive is conducted to raise funds to offset a considerable deficit in the operating budget. On June 21, the Rector receives his degree of D. D. from Trinity College. The Parish rejects Rev. Thompson's resignation and grants him a year of leave at no salary (per the Rector's request). Amid much controversy, some Vestry members ask the Bishop to remove the Rector. Rev. E. E. Mathews is engaged as Minister in Charge in the Rector's absence.

**1922** – The Rector reminds the Parish of their duty to contribute to "The Nation Wide Campaign," which was launched by the National Episcopal Church in 1919 to raise money from all parishes and to redistribute the funds to the parishes and mission in dire financial need. Christ Church Greenwich is expected to contribute \$10,257 per year. The Vestry adopts a move to carry out a comprehensive financial survey of the Parish, per the directions laid down by the General Convention. Boy Scout Troop No. 10 is founded under the auspices of the Parish. Repairing, restoring and decoration of certain portions of church walls is approved and carried out.

**1923** – Dr. Carl E. Martin, the Choir Master of Christ Church, 1899-1923 resigns. Mr. Ray H. Harrington, the Organist is engaged as Choir Master; he serves in this position until 1934. Following the deaths of George F. Dominick, Sr. and Robert Wellstood, a beautiful memorial is recorded in the Vestry Record, recognizing the years of service these two men contributed to their church.

**1924** – The Parish celebrates the 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the building of the Horseneck Chapel. The Rector Rev. Dr. M. George Thompson announces that he will retire on June 30, 1925, having completed thirty years of service to the Parish. His annual salary is \$4,000. The Vestry and Parish elect him Rector Emeritus, commencing July 1, 1925. The Year Book's List of Voters records 459 persons and the List of Communicants records 920 individuals. Architect William F. Dominick designs the Wayside Cross, a monument commemorating those who served in WWI; under his supervision the Cross is completed.

**1925** – Rev. Dr. Frederick G. Budlong of Ascension Church, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, becomes the third Rector of Christ Church Greenwich, commencing October 1, at an annual salary of \$12,500. In his acceptance letter to the Vestry, he writes: "Your declared intention of rousing the Parish to meet its missionary obligations ... is the deciding factor in my acceptance of your invitation." The Parish fulfilled its financial obligation to The Nation Wide Campaign by November. Rev. Hamilton H. Kellogg of St. Albans Church in Syracuse, New York, is hired as Curate at \$3,000 per year.

**1926** – The Parish has 1,162 members and ministers to 3,000 people. Miss Katherine C. Smith is hired as the first Directress of the Church School, which has 385 students and 52 teachers. Classes are held in both the Parish House and the Church. Rev. Budlong asks the Vestry to expand church buildings to accommodate the school's growth.

**1927** – Rev. Kellogg becomes Vicar at St. John's Chapel in Byram. A year later, he resigns to become Rector of St. James in Danbury. He ultimately was elected Bishop of Minnesota. Rev. John H. Chapman accepts the position of Honorary Associate Minister. A memorial tablet, in honor of George F. Dominick, Sr. is unveiled and blessed in the sanctuary of the church on October 9. The first Girl Scout troop in Greenwich is started at Christ Church.

**1928** – The Parish rolls grow to 3,163 and the Rector notes, "Our biggest need is an expanded Parish House to accommodate the Sunday school." Edward Campion Acheson is elected the Sixth Bishop of Connecticut; he serves from 1928 to 1934.

**1929** – Pew rents are abolished, effective January 1930. Parishioners are expected to add their former pew rent to their yearly pledge. Staff ministries cover 100 square miles and 3,636 individuals are on the Parish list.

**1930** – The “Every Member Canvas” is conducted to raise pledges to fully fund church operations. The campaign does not raise enough money. The remaining \$17,000 deficit is paid by accumulated interest from Endowment Funds.

**1931** – **The Rector writes: “It is most gratifying to report that most of those who pledged for 1931 gave as much or more in spite of ‘hard times.’** This generosity combined with 75 new pledges has helped defray the reduced pledges from those hit by the times.” On September 9, Rev. Budlong is elected Coadjutor Bishop of Connecticut.

**1932** – The Rev. Albert J. M. Wilson is retained as the new Rector at a salary of \$8,000. In his first message to the congregation on October 2, 1932, he writes: *“I appreciate very deeply and keenly and honor the responsibility that has been conferred upon me ... I am human, so I shall make mistakes; and you are human, so you will make mistakes too: but let us never permit any error to interfere with the determination that must be hidden in every heart, viz., to make Christ Church, in spite of present perplexities, to dare to do bigger and better things for Christ and His people in this lovely community.”*

Also in 1932, a quartet of male singers is hired.

**1932-1936** – The Great Depression continues to take its toll as pledges drop to less than half of former years. The loss of \$20,000 in income results in a deficit that is covered by a reduction of expense, including a \$15,000 reduction in clergy and staff salaries and a reduction in insurance coverage and the Diocesan yearly stipend. The remainder of the deficit is paid by a draw down from the Endowment, leaving a \$122,000 balance by 1936.

**1934** – Organist and choirmaster Claude Means is hired at an annual salary of \$1,500.

**1935** – To accommodate increased enrollment in the Sunday school and the need for additional office space for the clergy, Rev. Wilson moves from the Rectory to an apartment. Christ Church pays \$175 per month for this rental property.

**1937** – On May 7, the 11:00 a.m. service is an Observance of the Coronation of His Majesty, King George VI as King of England and Emperor of the British Dominion beyond the seas.

Over the summer, new tile floors and altar steps are installed in the sanctuary and choir stalls; a new credence table with a carved oak Altar Book Stand and a new communion rail of carved oak are also installed. The Processional Cross is redecorated and the choir stalls are refinished to their original color. Work on the newly enlarged, modified and electrified organ is completed at a cost of \$10,000.

The first candlelight service is conducted in the church for the Christmas season.

**1938** – A parishioner donates Bishop Seabury’s carved oak Bishop’s chair and an engraved portrait of Bishop Seabury.



**1939** – The Parish grows to 2,966 persons; 836 are legal voters. On April 30, The Parish commemorates its 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at the 11:00 a.m. service.

*“Two hundred years ago a small group of Greenwich families allied themselves together to worship God as a congregation. These people met when and where they could under the leadership of the then missionary clergyman from Rye. In 1739 arrangements were made whereby they were able to worship regularly once a month with the Rev. James Wetmore of Rye as Officiant.”*

Architect William F. Dominick is engaged to design the St. John’s Chapel in the west transept of the sanctuary. The chapel is completed in October at a cost of \$14,000, paid by parishioner’s pledges and gifts.

The choir’s first broadcast of Christmas music airs on December 22 on WICC radio station.

**1940** – With Great Britain standing alone as the last bulwark against Nazi Germany’s domination of Europe, Hitler launches the German Blitz against England on September 7, 1940. For 57 consecutive nights, London is bombed by the German Luftwaffe. At services on September 29, prayers and intercessions are offered for Great Britain and the British Commonwealth of Nations and for the guidance of the Holy Spirit to us in America in time of this crisis.

In a show of support, parishioners regularly attend meetings held by the Greenwich Branch of the British War Relief Society, Inc. at Christ Church’s Parish House.

**1942** – With America now at war, the Greenwich Branch of the Red Cross meets every Tuesday and Thursday in the Parish House; parishioners participate in sewing dressing gowns and other garments. The Air Raid Wardens hold their meetings in the Parish House Annex on Wednesday evenings. The Vestry approves the investment of \$77,500 of Endowment and legacy monies in the purchase of Series F and G Defense Bonds.

**1943-1944** – The Ashforth property (on the eastern boundary of the church property) is purchased by Christ Church for \$15,000. In 1944, the old house on the Ashforth property is taken down and the Peter Mitchell Construction Company begins plans to install a parking lot on the property.

On May 7, 1944, a Memorial Tablet and two stained glass windows are installed in the church. Formal thanks are given to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Blunt who donated the tablet in memory of their son Harry Raynor Blunt, a former Crucifer who was killed in action on October 3, 1943.

**1945** – On February 21, the Finance Committee sends parishioners a memo notifying them that the church will again be operating at a deficit. With the exception of 1940, the church has operated at a deficit since 1932. Operating deficits have been met by withdrawals from un-restricted funds and the Endowment. Stating that this procedure is unwise, subject to criticism and should not be continued, the Committee enjoins parishioners to make every effort to make expenses conform to income during the current year and suggests that a capital campaign be considered.

The Church Bulletins continue to support the war relief efforts. An appeal is made for donations of canes and crutches for the wounded. Parishioners are encouraged to support the United National Clothing Collection in April, which asks the people of Greenwich to donate 90 tons of clothing for those in desperate need. A report by the Women’s Auxiliary notes that it is making progress in its aid to

children of our Philippine allies, supplying dressings for a hospital in Liberia and knitting articles for the Merchant Marines.

Because of gasoline shortages for the past three years, attendance at Sunday school is greatly diminished.

On August 15, V-J DAY (Victory over Japan) is announced and a service of thanksgiving is held at 8:15 p.m. in the church. On August 19, the church holds an 11:00 a.m. "Service of Thanksgiving to Almighty God for the Victory Vouchsafed to the United States of American and Her Allies over Japan."

Two lancet stained glass windows are installed in the east vestibule room of the church; they are dedicated to Joseph John Kajack (a former choir boy) who was attached to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

A Union Service of all of the Protestant churches in Greenwich is held on November 11 in memory of those who died and in honor of all who served from 1939 to 1945.

**1946** – Mr. Claude Means, Music Director, returns to Christ Church after 3½ years in the army and begins to rebuild the Boys Choir, asking parents to send their children to audition. He also requests the organ be repaired; his request is granted and repairs are completed at a cost of \$1,532.50.

A lancet window is dedicated in memory of Richard Chalmers Finn (Ensign, U.S. Naval Air Corps), a former choirboy, who was killed May 1, 1945 in the Western Pacific. This window is later reinstalled in the basement choir room.

Mr. Paul Badger, Chairman of the Maintenance Committee reports on the condition of the church buildings on September 3, noting that the windows require caulking and painting, pointing work needs to be done to the stonework, slate slabs need replacement on the roof, valleys and gutters need repair, additional valleys need to be installed and some terra cotta needs replacement. The committee also recommends that terracotta and the gargoyles on the tower have become hazardous and should be replaced with a limestone parapet. The Vestry resolves that the Maintenance Committee carry out all necessary repairs and engage the Hayes Construction Company of Waterbury on a cost-plus basis, not to exceed \$10,000. The bad conditions in the roof and a lack of provision for carrying off rainwater are discovered and incur additional costs. By 1948, work on the exterior of the Church and the Parish House is completed at a cost of \$19,000.

The Annual Service of Carols by Candlelight is broadcast over the new Greenwich station WGCH-FM.

**1949** – The Anglican Church throughout the world commemorates the 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First English Prayer Book.

**1950** – Plans for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Capital Campaign are initiated. The campaign goal is to raise \$100,000 and is to be handled by the firm of Marts and Lundy for a fee of \$300. The funds are targeted for a new Memorial Parking Lot, commemorating members of the Parish who had given their lives in World War II, a new organ a new room in the Rectory for a Sunday school and replacement of kneelers and hassocks in the Church. The campaign is officially launched at a Parish Meeting in November. In December, the campaign is expanded to raise \$100,000 for the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Fund and \$50,000 for a "Fund of Encouragement" for the third century of Christ Church. Door to door canvassing by 200 parishioners results in subscriptions of \$150,502.20.

1051 – The Christ Church Women’s Auxiliary Group reports on its accomplishments:

1634 articles sewn for Greenwich Hospital  
137 articles sewn for Foreign Relief  
2056 books and magazines distributed  
25 Christmas boxes packed and sent to the Seamen’s Church Institute  
230 garments knitted for the Seamen’s Church Institute  
101 infants’ garments made for the Church Mission of Help  
19,436 dressings made for the Red Cross  
430 used toys and garments sent to the appropriate agencies  
118 presents sent to the State Mental Hospital  
32 Christmas presents sent to the Town Farm

The Sunday school enrollment resurges with 478 students enrolled and 53 teachers. The girls’ choir, designated the St. Cecilia Choir, welcomes 15 new girls.

Rev. Walter Henry Gray is elected the Eighth Diocesan Bishop of Connecticut. In his Pastoral Letter to the congregation he writes:

*“The immediate and obvious enemy of Western civilization is Russian Communism, but the deepest enemy is the godless materialism which bred the illusions and cynicism of Communism and weakens us from within.”*

**1952** – Rector, Dr. Wilson, who is 65 years old, announces his retirement on October 1. The Vestry accepts his retirement date and honors his 20 years of service.

The Diocese of Connecticut launches “The Episcopal Development Program.” Connecticut is the fastest growing state on the Eastern seaboard and the entire nation, and the diocese needs help ministering to the spiritual needs of the state’s two million people. The goal is to raise \$1,000,000 in the next three years.

The Church buys the Daphne Day property at 108 Park Avenue, Greenwich at a cost of \$47,750. The house is renovated at a cost of \$14,000 to provide a home for the new Rector. Parishioner/realtors Mrs. Auersch, Mrs. Close and Mr. Ives are thanked by the Vestry for their work in handling the purchase and waiving commissions on the transaction. The Endowment reimburses the Church for this purchase.

In September, a Service of Gratitude is held to commemorate the success of the 200<sup>TH</sup> Anniversary Thanksgiving Campaign. The Memorial Parking Lot is completed at a cost of \$7,600. A kindergarten has been started in the Sunday school. The new organ is installed and the church, parish house and annex have been renovated.

In October, the Rev. Robert Bracewell Appleyard, is installed by the Right Rev. Walter H. Gray, Bishop of Connecticut. Formerly Rector of Christ Church in Watertown, Connecticut, Rev. Appleyard’s salary is \$12,500 per annum. In his opening comments to the congregation in the October 5 Church Bulletin, he writes:

*“I want all of you to know that it is a tremendous joy and privilege for me to be your new Rector. Because I believe deeply in laymen’s sharing the work of Christ’ Church on earth, you may be assured*

*that I shall call on you for help and leadership. If I may be of assistance to you day or night, please do not hesitate to call upon me. Will you please remember me in your prayers each day, for without God's guidance I will not be able to do his work on Earth."*

**1953** – Rev. Donald Crawford is hired as an Assistant Rector. His major work will be the Director of the Church School; his salary is \$8,000 per annum.

Mrs. William F. Auersch is the first woman voted onto the Vestry in January 1953. She serves on the Vestry for six years. In January 1956, Mrs. Samuel F. Pryor, Jr. joins the Vestry. Mrs. Anthony P. Mazza is elected in 1957, Mrs. John R. Currier in 1959 Mrs. John T. White in 1960 and Mrs. William E. Frey in 1961.

The Vestry Record expresses Christ Church's deepest appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hall and Mr. and Mrs. Euclid McBride for their generous donation of the "Triangle" piece of real estate diagonally across the road from the church property (between Park Place and Park Avenue).

**1954** – The National Episcopal Church launches a nationwide campaign called "Builders for Christ," dedicated to the building needs of the Episcopal Church, including new churches, seminaries and schools. The goal is \$4,150,000.

**1956** – Rev. Appleyard, in a message to the Parish in the February 12 Church Bulletin announces a capital campaign that will be launched in the fall.

On June 10, the first service of the North Greenwich Mission (the future St. Barnabas) is held at the property of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore J. Greef on John Street. Services will be held each Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

**1958** – The Cornerstone is laid for the new building at the 4:00 p.m. Evening Prayer Service. The entire congregation walked in procession to the site of the new Chapel, led by the two choirs and Crucifer, representative of all Parish groups, Wardens and Vestry, the lay Readers and Clergy of the Parish. The service concluded with the singing of "Now We All Thank Our God".

**1959** – On January 20, \$1,032,506.09 has been received in pledges with an outstanding balance on pledges of \$222,336.49 for the Development Fund. By November 17, the estimated cash requirements to complete payments for the Development Program are approximately \$150,000. The Finance Committee recommends that this deficit be paid by the Endowment Fund. In 1962, the Endowment loan is paid back in full.

St. Barnabas Chapel holds its first service on October 11.

**1960** – Enrollment in the Church School reaches 863 with 94 students in the nursery. There are 43 classes and a total of 100 teachers, administrators and consultants.

The Vestry and Rev. Appleyard thank Mr. Paul Grady, a former Warden, for donating his home in Khakum Wood to Christ Church, specifically to be the rectory for Rev. and Mrs. Appleyard.

The Vestry approves the sponsorship of an Indonesian refugee family in the name of the entire Parish Family, as part of the World Refugee Year effort backed by President Eisenhower and the National

Episcopalian Church Leaders. The Parish Re-settlement Committee, led by Mrs. Gertrude White, successfully integrates the Keijner family into Greenwich life. In August 1961, the Vestry approves the re-location of the family to their new home in California.

**1961** – The Christ Church Nursery School opens in September. Tuition is \$250 per pupil; the applications exceed expectations.

**1962** – The Vestry votes to adopt a Christ Church shield, design by Canon West, for the official shield of Christ Church.

The new Christ Church Banner with the Blazon of Arms of the Parish is introduced at the Easter Sunday services. The heraldic description of the Arms is as follows:

*“The banner speaks to us of our Lord as would be expected in a church that bears His Name. The Iota, for example, is the initial letter of the Name, Jesus, in Greek, and the Chi is the first letter of the title, Christ. The six-pointed star represent creation, the old creation Christ came to redeem and the “new creation” in Him. The vine is the symbol Christ used for Himself and His Church, as we read in John 15. The cross upon which the letter Chi is superimposed is the cross of St. Andrew, reminding us of our link with the church of ages through the Church of Scotland. St. Andrew is often regarded as the first Christian missionary, and therefore we follow the banner of our Lord out into the world to bring all nations to His feet in love and complete devotion.”*

The presiding Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the most Rev. Arthur Lichtenberger, calls upon the more than 3,500,000 members of our Church to offer frequent and regular prayers, during the sessions of the Second Vatican Council, called by Pope John XXIII for October 11.

The Protestant Episcopal Church consecrates Rev. J. M. Burgess, a Black man, as Suffragan Bishop of Massachusetts.

**1963** – Christ Church purchases the Tomes-Higgins house from the Grant family. The final cost for the purchase of the house and the renovations comes to \$250,000, which is paid by parishioner pledges and gifts and the sale of the Grady home in Khakum Wood for \$101,000.

On September 8, the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church recommends, at this time of racial crisis, that all members support the presiding Bishop in his wise and timely expression of Christian leadership.

*“Resolved: That the House of Bishops of the Protestant Episcopal Church urges the Congress of the United States to pass such civil right legislation as shall fairly and effectively implement both the established rights and the needs of all minority groups in education, voting rights, housing, employment and access to places of public accommodation.”*

On June 9, 1964, it was *“Resolved: that the Vestry of Christ Church urges the passage of such national civil rights legislation as shall fairly and effectively implement both the Constitutional rights, and the needs, of all Americans; and that the Parish Clerk be instructed to convey the Church’s support to all elected officials in the State of Connecticut.”*

**1964** – Effective January 1. Christ Church provides a pension and group life insurance for the lay employees of the Parish, as well as major medical for both lay and clergy. On June 14, the Rev. and Mrs. Appleyard and family hold an open house for parishioners, so they may visit the newly renovated Tomes-Higgins house. On December 27, at a Special Meeting of the Parish of Christ Church, Rev. Appleyard announces his resignation as Rector of Christ Church, effective February 1, 1965.

**1965** – The Rev. William Bradford Turner Hastings from All Saints Church in Worcester, Massachusetts, becomes the sixth rector of Christ Church at a salary of \$15,000.

**1967** – On May 17 the Vestry approves resolutions that establish St. Barnabas as an independent parish.

**1968** – Dr. Robert B. Appleyard, fifth Rector of Christ Church, is consecrated as Bishop Coadjutor of Pittsburgh.

In response to the assassination of civil rights leader Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and ongoing racial problems, a group of Christ Church Greenwich parishioners create a day camp to bring together children from a variety of religious, socio-economic, racial and cultural backgrounds. Camp Seabury later changed its name to Camp Sunbeam and is still held every summer at Christ Church.

**1969** – Rev. John Henry Esquirol is elected the ninth Bishop of Connecticut. He serves until 1971 upon his death in office. Rev. Joseph Warren Hutchens is elected and serves as the tenth Bishop of Connecticut until 1977.

**1971** – Following three years of plans to relocate, rebuild and expand St. John's Chapel, the Vestry regretfully accepts parishioners' lack of enthusiasm for the project and their poor response to a capital campaign. With declining membership in the Chapel and deteriorating conditions, the Vestry votes to sell the St. John's vicarage on Weaver Street for \$82,000 and close St. John's Chapel. It also accepts the sum of \$270,000 from the Town of Greenwich in full settlement of all claims for compensation in connection with the Greenwich Board of Education's acquisition of the church's 12.355 acres at Riversville Road, Glenville. On October 3, at a special Parish Meeting, the resolution is put to a vote and unanimously passed by the Parish.

**1972** – St. John's Chapel is de-consecrated and formally opens as The Gateway Nursery School in October.

Mr. Claude Means, organist and choirmaster announces his retirement. The Vestry records a unanimous resolution of appreciation for his 38 years of devoted service. Robert Tate is hired as the new choirmaster and announces the formation of a chorus of men and women.

**1973** – On July 15, the Parish approves the sale of the former rectory at 108 Park Avenue for \$101,000.

**1974** – Following the recommendation of the Organ Committee, chaired by Mr. Prescott S. Bush, Jr. and Mr. Robert Tate, the Vestry approves the purchase and installation of an Austin Organ. The organ is dedicated on November 28, 1976. The final cost comes to \$354,078.96.

**1976** – In response to Parish concerns that the Vestry did not identify with the rest of the Parish, the Vestry approves "A Statement of Purpose for the Vestry." The Vestry has the responsibility, in partnership with the Rector and Staff as representatives of the congregation, of achieving within the

Parish of Christ Church its fullest potential as a witness to our Lord, by leading, overseeing and evaluating the operations, ministry and actions of the Parish.

As the central leadership corps, the Vestry should have a clear sense of the Parish Mission, develop policies for its realization and encourage and support groups and individuals in accomplishing that mission.

As the legally responsible corporate body, the Vestry also makes necessary business decisions.

The Vestry forms the "Property Use Task Force" to study present and potential uses of Christ Church properties. Over time, the Task Force oversees the sales of a number of properties, which once housed the clergy.

By the end of the Vietnam War, three parishioners are among the 58,000 American servicemen killed in action: William H. Mason, Aston H. Prindle and Peter L. Tripp. Their sacrifice is honored on a Memorial Plaque in Christ Church.

**1976** – On September 16, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church votes to approve women's ordination to the priesthood and the episcopate.

**1977** – Rev. Hastings announces the formation of the Rectory Disposition Committee to study the disposal of the Rectory property, which was recently registered as a historical landmark.

Upon the retirement of Bishop Hutchins, the Rev. Morgan Porteus is elected the eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Connecticut.

**1979** – As refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos continue to flee their war-torn homelands, the Parish sponsors the resettlement of an Indo-Chinese family.

The General Convention approves the use of the newly revised Book of Common Prayer, replacing the 1928 Prayer Book. The Episcopal Church states that the revised prayer book will be the only official book to be used.

The Vestry approves a resolution to increase the Parish's commitment, to Outreach programs, which support worthy causes and individuals outside the Parish.

Plans to sell the Rectory and Park Avenue Triangle Property, retaining one acre on which to build a new rectory, to the Greenwich Library for \$1,250,000 are rejected by the Vestry because the Parish would be responsible for removing the Tomes-Higgins house (the rectory) to a new site.

**1980** – In January, a Laotian family is assigned to the Parish and is settled in a residence at 1 Anne Street in Greenwich.

Following the recommendation of Mrs. George Stevens and Mrs. Edward Barrett and a committee, the Vestry approves the construction of a Memorial Garden on Christ Church property at an estimated cost of \$149,800. The loan from the Endowment will be re-paid as plots are sold in the garden.

After a Parish survey, the Vestry rejects a developer's bid to buy the rectory property, as well as the triangle land, to develop town houses.

**1981** – Upon the retirement of Bishop Porteus, Rev. Arthur Walmsley is elected the twelfth Bishop of Connecticut.

Mrs. George C. Stevens (Lydia) is elected the first female Warden of Christ Church at the Annual Parish Meeting.

Rev. William Bradford Hastings, Rector of Christ Church Greenwich, is elected Suffragan Bishop of Connecticut; he serves in this capacity until 1986.

**1982** – On September 12, the Rev. John Wesley Bishop is unanimously elected the seventh Rector of Christ Church. Rev. Bishop's annual salary is \$42,000.

**1983** – The Vestry announces a year long Celebration of the Parish's Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) Anniversary, which will begin on December 24, 1983. Betty Davies and Lana Holland, co-chair the anniversary committee. Mr. David Corbett, with historical research assistance from William Finch Jr., writes "The Heritage of Christ Church."

The Vestry passes a resolution to preserve and enhance the endowment.

*Resolved, that whereas the Church's endowment is invested for total return, a fixed percentage of the corpus shall be transferred to the Church's operating budget each year. This percentage shall be 8.5% of the average value of the corpus on December 31 of the current year and the two previous years for 1984 and shall decrease by half of 1% annually until a target figure of 6% is reached.*

**1984** – Christ Church sponsors two Cambodian refugee families.

The Heritage Week Celebration – the Sesquicentennial (150<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of Christ Church and the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the consecration of Bishop Samuel Seabury – begins with the arrival of the Seabury Cross a six foot, rough-hewn, pinewood cross commemorating the consecration of Samuel Seabury as the first Bishop of Connecticut. Mr. William Finch, Jr conducts a historical forum. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Choir of Men and Boys is celebrated. On October 5, former clergy (Bishops Appleyard, Hastings and Stewart) attend a Parish Dinner Party. On October 7, the celebration concludes with a Festival Service.

The Christ Church bookstore, founded by Penny Winters and Marijane Marks with the aid of Rev. Bishop, opens on December 9.

**1985** – A new sculpture, "Resurrection Cross," is dedicated in the Memorial Garden on May 12. The Resurrection Cross, by sculptor James Knowles, is a gift of Lydia Stevens in memory of her husband George Stevens, who had served Christ Church as Warden from 1967 to 1972.

Mr. Sydney Woodd-Cahusac is ordained to the Diaconate at Christ Church on February 19. Rev. Canon Woodd-Cahusac becomes a member of the clergy staff in April 1990 and serves as an associate rector until his death in 2004.

**1986** – Rev. Bishop and Rabbi Hillel E. Silverman of Temple Sholom lead their respective congregations in an Interfaith Weekend. The yearly interfaith weekend continues to the present day.



The Reverends Janet and Terry Elsberry join the clergy staff of Christ Church.

**1988** – Parishioners approve the Sesquicentennial Capital Campaign. Its goal is to raise \$23.1 million for capital replacement and renovation of buildings, for meeting the needs of both aging and young people, for its Outreach program and the music program. The funds would be administered as part of the Endowment Funds and could only be used for purposes by a two-thirds vote of the entire Vestry.

On September 27, 1989 the Rector, Rev. Bishop, announces that the goal of the campaign had been surpassed; over 400 pledges have been received. The Vestry formally expresses “its sincere gratitude to Roger Craton for his leadership and untiring dedication to our Capital Campaign.”

The Vestry authorizes money from the Endowment Fund to repair the Parish House roof and the slate roof of the church.

Rev. Lee Walker joins the clergy staff as a full-time minister to seniors. Rev. Terry Elsberry becomes Senior Associate Rector.

**1989** – Mary Cattan is appointed full-time Spiritual Director and Pastoral Assistant of Christ Church.

**1990** – The Rev. Sandra Stayner joins the clergy as Assistant to the Rector. Mr. Chuck Morrell is appointed Head Sexton, replacing Mr. John Ennis who had died.

Christ Church establishes a relationship with the Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, which continues still. Over the years, the church sponsors missionaries, including Bob and Laurell Mathis and Peter and Cheryl Kyle. It also supports such projects as the installation of eight twenty-thousand-liter tanks for harvesting rain water, a nursery school, student scholarships, funding for a clinic and funding for Bishop Makundi’s discretionary fund.

Funding is authorized to repair the Parish Hall’s foundation and roof.

**1991** – The maintenance of church properties reaches a critical point. In June, the Vestry acknowledges that it has been under-funding property maintenance and approves a loan from the Endowment Fund to cover a projected shortfall.

Former President Jimmy Carter speaks at the Evensong Service on September 29. His subject is the “Ministry of Lay Christian Work.”

**1992** – In April, the Rector, Dr. Bishop, announces plans to retire in November, Interim Rector Rev. Terry Elsberry oversees funerals for Mrs. Dorothy Walker Bush, mother of President George H. Bush, and for Bishop Brad Hastings, which included seven bishops, including the former and present Presiding Bishops.

**1993** – Rev. Chuck Huffman accepts the appointment as Interim Rector as of April 8.

Laurel Mathis is appointed Chair of the Property Steering Committee. She later reports to the Vestry that it would cost \$875,000 to restore the rectory to a single-family residence.

Rev. Clarence Nicholas Coleridge is elected the thirteenth Bishop of Connecticut.

On September 19, Rev. Jeffrey Hartwell Walker is elected the eighth Rector of Christ Church.

James A. Baker III, former Secretary of State under George H. W. Bush, speaks to the congregation; his subject is "Faith, Friendship and Collective Responsibility."

**1994** – The Vestry recommends and parishioners approve the rehabilitation of the Tomes-Higgins House with space for Church functions and staff apartments and the construction of a new rectory on the apex of the Triangle.

Mr. Gregg E. Gregory and Mrs. Lauren Hill Gregory are appointed Directors of Children's Ministries.

**1995** – Frank R. Parker III (Rusty) is appointed Chairman of the Building Committee for the new rectory. Marnie Dawson and John W. Watling III are Co-Chairs for the Special Gifts Drive for Properties. Mrs. John Baity (Pat) is appointed Chair of the Sub-Committee on Construction.

The Vestry approves a contract to build a 4200 square foot house with a cost ceiling of \$1.2 million, inclusive of all design fees, construction and related costs on the Triangle Property. In November 1996, construction begins at an estimated cost of \$834,000.

Rev. Hugh Tudor-Foley joins the clergy as a new assistant to the Rector.

**1997** – The new rectory is completed with a \$100,000 cost savings, which is transferred to the account for the Tomes-Higgins Rehabilitation.

The Vestry approves the site plans for the Tomes-Higgins Property, as well as the plans for the use of the Carriage House. The Tomes-Higgins Property Project ultimately costs \$2.3 million – more than twice its original budget.

**1998** – The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend George L. Carey, participates in the August 30, 10:00 a.m. service at Christ Church. The Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Frank Griswold and the Bishop of Connecticut, the Rt. Rev. Clarence Coleridge, participate in the service. During his four-day visit, he thanks Christ Church for its support of The Anglican Investment Agency and the Anglican Worldwide Communion Fund and encourages parishioners to continue their support.

**1999** – In October, the Tomes-Higgins Designer Show House with 23 designers participating raises \$303,557 for Christ Church.

Rev. Andrew Donnan Smith is elected the fourteenth Bishop of Connecticut upon the retirement of Bishop Coleridge.

Rev. Sandy Staynor and Rev. Lee Walker receive calls to new ministries in New Haven and California respectively. The Rev. Pamela Strobel and Rev. Anthony Dinoto join the clergy staff.

**2000** – The Vestry allocates 15 percent of the Annual Appeal pledge income for Outreach programs and causes.

Junior Warden and Property Liaison Rusty Parker advises the Vestry that the 1910 buildings are in need of extensive restoration and renovation due to water penetration. Additionally, the interiors of the

church and the stained glass windows need to be restored. These projects will cost several million dollars.

**2001** – Pledge income and other parishioner contributions reach \$1.3 million, the highest ever, thanks to the efforts of Pam Barry, Stewardship Director and Annual Appeal Co-Chairs Jim Mabie and Carter Harris. An All Parish Survey is completed; 300 parishioners respond, providing insight in how the Parish will move forward in the future.

The Christ Church Nursery School, which became accredited in 2000, reaches its capacity of 152 students.

The Rev. Ted Babcock joins the clergy staff to minister to seniors. Rev. Hugh Tudor-Foley resigns to pursue other pastoral opportunities in the area of health care.

On the evening of September 11, Bishop Andrew Smith conducts services in memory of those who died or lost loved ones in the terrorists' attacks. Christ Church becomes a center of relief work for the Red Cross. The votive candle stand is placed in the church for mourners to light candles for the deceased. The clergy and parishioners go to serve at St. Paul's Chapel, adjacent to Ground Zero.

On December 2, the new Christ Church sign monument is dedicated. The stone structure is the gift of the family of William Finch Jr., a deceased parishioner and vestryman.

**2002** – Due to the Vestry-imposed endowment draw-down restrictions, significant budget cuts are made in the music and Outreach programs, clergy staff and the contribution to the Diocese. The Stewardship Commission reconvenes on April 16 after several years of inactivity. Karen Royce is elected Chairperson. The PERSONNEL Commission is also re-established; John Pearl is elected Chairman.

Work begins on the restoration of the stone envelope of the 1910-1911 church buildings. The estimate for the complete restoration of the masonry work is \$2 million dollars (\$1 million for the church and \$500,000 each for the Parish House and Annex).

Dr. Rowan Williams is confirmed the 104<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury in St. Paul's Cathedral on December 2.

**2003** – Rev. Mark I. Fitzhugh joins the clergy staff to serve young families with children and new members.

Despite limited funding, a new chapel roof is completed, year round climate control in the parish office is installed and re-pointing of the main church walls and stained glass window maintenance continue.

Low parishioner pledge commitments delay the Endowment draw-down reduction program and many programs, e.g. Music and Outreach, are under-funded. The Church is also not meeting its financial obligations to the Diocese.

Rev. Gene Robinson, an openly gay priest, is elected Bishop of New Hampshire at the National General Episcopal Convention in August. Gay marriage, performed by Episcopal priests, is a controversial subject discussed at the convention. Connecticut Bishop Andrew Smith holds a meeting at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in New Canaan, CT, to field the questions and concerns of hundreds of Episcopalians who attend

the meeting. Rector Jeffrey Walker informs the Vestry at Christ Church, "We at Christ Church do not perform same sex unions because there is no liturgy for this and there is no law for it in the Episcopal Church."

**2004** – The Rev. Canon Sydney Woodd-Cahusac passes away on January 3. His funeral and burial in the Memorial Garden celebrate his long life and years of devoted service to his country, the Greenwich community and Christ Church.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, the Rector and Wardens announce that the Parish will embark on "The Year of Discernment" to address urgent restoration and repair issues and the need for a capital campaign.

The Property Commission completes the installation of oak flooring in the church, continues masonry re-pointing and installs air-conditioning in the Education Building.

Christ Church parishioners generously support a fundraising dinner at the Hyatt Hotel in Greenwich in honor of the guest speaker, Archbishop Rowan Williams who established a fund to enhance the Anglican Church's role at the United Nations.

On November 28, the Rev. Dr. John W. Bishop, the seventh Rector of Christ Church passes away. His life and service at Christ Church are honored by hundreds of parishioners at his funeral service and interment in The Memorial Garden.

Christ Church parishioners generously donate to Episcopal Relief and Development, which is providing \$250,000 in initial emergency assistance to victims of the December 26 tsunami in the Dioceses of India and Sri Lanka.

**2005** – The Visioning Committee, the guiding force behind The Year of Discernment, presents its findings at a Parish Meeting entitled Our Dreams, Our Challenges, Our Vision. The Spirituality Sub-Committee designates "Lift High the Cross" as the Year of Discernment theme hymn. Additionally the Vestry confirms Christ Church's new Mission Statement: The mission of Christ Church Greenwich is to seek and serve God in all persons and to welcome all who desire a sacred home for worship, spiritual growth and community.

Pope John Paul II dies on April 2, 2005. The Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold, Presiding Bishop and Primate of The Episcopal Church, USA, issues the following statement:

*With the death of His Holiness John Paul II, Bishop of Rome, the world has lost one of its great Christian leaders ... His commitment to the unity of the church expressed itself in his personal willingness to meet with representatives of other faith communities and in invite those outside his own tradition to reflect on how the ministry of the Bishop of Rome might be of greater service both in the cause of Christian unity and the well-being of the world.*

The large Chancel stained glass window "The Good Shepherd" (valued at over \$1 million dollars) is fully restored. Christ Church Nursery School provides \$80,000 of the \$100,000 funding for this restoration, along with other Parish "angels."

The Vestry and Parish approve the permanent transfer of Gateway School property rights to Family Centers, Inc. for \$500,000. \$427,000 of the proceeds is allocated to the Capital Campaign.

Christ Church parishioners contribute generously to The Episcopal Relief and Development Fund, as well as contributing \$25,000 directly to the Diocese of Louisiana, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

The Rev. Constance Connelly joins the clergy staff; she replaces Rev. Ted Babcock in addressing the needs of senior parishioners.

The Neapolitan Baroque Crèche is fully restored. Mrs. D. Bruce Moyer donated 11 Neapolitan Baroque figures in 1976. Under the leadership of Peggy Young (Mrs. Moyer's niece), who spearheaded the restoration, Ilse Victor-Haight's generous contribution of a new case and Lynn Garelick, who implemented the project, the crèche is celebrated and rededicated by the Parish in December.

**2006** – Senior Warden Ted Pryor and Junior Warden Tim Carpenter announce that the development of the Capital Campaign is in full swing. Junior Warden Tim Carpenter agrees to become the Campaign Chairman. His co-chairs Louisa Greene and Tie Schieffelin. Bill Jarvis is appointed the Chairman of the Architecture Committee. Farewell, Mills & Gatsch are retained as design architects.

On May 14, all four Episcopal churches in Greenwich participate in The Celebration of 300 Years of Anglican Worship in Greenwich at services in Christ Church.

At its General Convention on June 18, the Episcopal Church elects Katherine Jefferts Schori, Bishop of Nevada as its 26<sup>th</sup> Presiding Bishop. She succeeds the Most Rev. Frank T. Griswold.

After the resignation of Robert Tate, the Music Director who served the church for 34 years, Geoffrey Silver is retained as Interim Director of Music.

**2007** – Robert Tate, former Music Director, pleads guilty and is indicted on child pornography charges, Attorney Philip Russell, the first attorney retained by the church in this case, is also pleads guilty and is indicted on charges of destroying evidence.

Rector Jeffrey Walker takes a long-planned and well-deserved sabbatical from January through March.

Gregg and Lauren Gregory, after many years of leading the Christian Education Program, resign.

Rector Jeffrey Walker takes early retirement after 12 years of service and re-locates to Texas.

The Rev. Dr. James Lemler, is nominated and accepts the position of Priest in Charge; he conducts his first service at the start of the Advent season.

Bill Jarvis, Chair of the Architect Committee, announces retention of the architecture firm, Farewell, Mills & Gatsch, who are working on plans for the restoration of the 1910-1911 buildings.

The Capital Campaign, "To the Greater Glory of God" is launched, led by Co-Chairs Louisa Greene and Tim Schiefflin.

**2008** - The Church Year 2008-2009 is launched with a new logo and new slogan, "Nourishment for the Journey."

Jamie Hitel, formerly organist and choir master of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Akron, Ohio, is hired as the new Director of Music.

Wendy Claire Barrie, formerly Director of Education at All Saints' Church in Pasadena California, is hired as the new Director of Children's Ministries.

Diana Sanderson, affiliated with the Christian Young Life Organization, is hired as the Director of Youth, to help grow the youth programs.

New welcoming programs are initiated, including Men on Fire, Breakfast Epiphanies, Alpha and The Exploration Series.

The completed 17 panel Christ Church historical timeline (1579 to 2006) researched, written and produced over the past two years by Lynn Garelick and her committee, is installed in the Glass Hallway.

**2009** – Restore, Transform and Sustain .... The opening words of Rev. Lemler's letter to the parish at the Annual Meeting in January 2010. These verbs outline the actions that have been taken in the course of the past year to describe the new life of the parish going forward.

The congregation responds positively and generously to the new austere financial program put in place to bring the budget into balance by giving additional gifts to "Close the Gap."

New partnerships are established with Temple Sholom, Trinity Church and the Stanwich Church in which programs and spaces at the Christ Church campus are utilized.

The Exploration Series: What Matters – a series of them based adult education offerings, with notable speakers engaged, is initiated. The themes focus on Family, Faith, Church, Community and Self.

Conversations on Courage and Faith is launched, founded and directed by the Rev'd Ian Cron, a program focused on issues of spirituality and leadership.

The east and west gables of the sanctuary are restored, thanks to the early donations to the pending Capital Campaign.

The Parish Hall, through the generous donations of one parishioner, is fitted out with HVAC systems and the interior surfaces are refreshed with new paint, wallcoverings and window treatments.

**2010** – The Institution of the Rev. Dr. James B. Lemler as the ninth rector of Christ Church Greenwich is celebrated at the 100 Year Centennial Celebration service on June 4, 2010.

The Archbishop Desmond Tutu is the honored guest and preacher at the Centennial service.

The newly formed Administration Commission oversees the administration, operations and partnerships/program of Christ Church Greenwich. Jim Lemler appoints Junior Warden Nancy Maulsby as Operations Warden of this new commission. Her duties include overseeing Human Resources needs,

Operations and Administrative needs, the Bookstore Committee and the Christ Church Nursery School. In the fall of 2010, as part of this streamlining of the daily operations of Christ Church, Susan Marks is appointed Parish Administrator. Don Ostrower is hired as the New Controller in the Business Office.

The Capital Campaign Commission, chaired by Patricia Chadwick and aided by Dr. Dickerman Hollister, Jr. and Nancy Maulsby, Junior Warden, raised funds for and oversaw the restoration of the beautiful bell carillon adding some additional bells to complete the carillon.

The Horseneck Foundation is now a viable 501(C)(3) entity whose duties include generating outside funding to be used for restoration, maintenance, education, outreach and support of the arts at Christ Church.

Rev. Mark Fitzhugh accepts a call to become Rector of \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, Florida. His clergy position is not filled due to budget restraints. The Sexton's staff is also reduced due to the austere financial condition of the church.

On August 29, 2010, a Special Parish Meeting is called, mainly to address the financial crisis of the church endowment and yearly budget. The Treasurer's Report presented at this meeting lays out the following facts:

Our funding through June is below budget, especially Parishioner income. Expenses are also below budget due to timing differences, caution on spending and lower income cost. Bottom line is the deficit, six months into the year now stands at \$91,402, which is \$74,536 over the budgeted \$16,866.

There is a risk we will not make budget by year end. We overtaxed our Endowment, especially during the '07-'08 emergency and are targeting to reduce the deficit to its lowest level in over ten years in 2011 and to zero in 2012. The 2011 challenge is larger than it appears. Total expense reductions/funding increases needed: \$215,000. Rector Lemler and the Wardens are working with the Budget Task Force. We look forward to having a budget that is right-sized to the Vision and Stature of Christ Church.

The Endowment Market value as of 6/30/10 is \$8,547,755, down 0.66% for the year. We continue to borrow using the Endowment as collateral; i.e. original Capital Campaign Startup Costs, purchase Griffith Road house, a total of \$2.6 million. Assuming Parish and Diocesan approval, we will sell the Ridge Road property and use all the proceeds to reduce the debt on Griffith Road.

At this meeting, the parish voted to sell the Griffith Road property.

Conversations on *Courage & Faith*, led by Rev. Ian Cron. In June, the first season of *Courage & Faith* culminated with a visit from Archbishop Desmond Tutu and a very successful Centennial Celebration. In the fall of 2010, *Courage & Faith* brought Dr. Marcus Borg and a reprisal of the fabulous Rob Mathes concert, *At Night a Song is With Me*, written specifically for the 100 year old Christ Church sanctuary.

In October, 2010, the Sholom Center for Interfaith Learning and Fellowship is established by Rabbi Mitchell Hurvitz and the Rev'd Dr. Jim Lemler as a formal branding of the ongoing interfaith relationship between Temple Sholom and Christ Church Greenwich. The two congregations participated in a trip to the Holy Land in February; another trip is planned for 2012. In December, the two congregations came together for a "Celebration of Light" as more than 130 members of the two congregations came together to bless and light a menorah and a Christmas tree on the front entrance of Christ Church. Additionally, Rabbi Mitch and Jim can be heard on local radio as regular guests of Darby Cartun on "Darby and Friends" WGCH 1490 AM every Monday at 5:00 PM.

The ministries at Christ Church were remarkable in 2010: response to the earthquake in Haiti, work on new housing in Stamford through Community Bridgebuilders, recognition of Midnight Run and Rosalia Barnes, Christ Church receiving the Elizabeth Bush Volunteerism Award from Family ReEntry. The Heavenly Treasures Tag Sale, held in the Parish Hall in the fall, chaired by Bobby Eggers, participated in by many leaders, donors and volunteers of the parish was a huge success, which raised a significant amount of money, all donated to the Outreach Program.

In 2010, the restoration and renovation of the historic buildings continued, including the installation of an HVAC system in the sanctuary, funded by a generous donor.

**2011** - A Long Range Planning document, "in the position to plan – planning our future – living our faith" was developed over the course of the year and handed out parishioners at the Annual Meeting in January 2012. The plan reflects the energies and interests of the parish. The plan is the result of the several conversations within the parish in 2011 and is built upon the foundation of the planning that resulted in the Visioning Plan and the positive growth of the parish membership and is intended to guide the parish future in the years to come.

The 9:15 AM service was introduced to meet the needs of a growing number of worshippers. Additionally, Sunday evening Compline & Communion became a part of the planned worship services.

Conversations in Courage & Faith concluded a second successful year which brought programs featuring Marcus Borg, Rob Mathes and Jeremy Begbie among others.

The austerity budget adopted for the year was very successful; in fact, a surplus of \$68,902 was achieved versus the planned deficit of \$74,432. In 2011 the annual appeal goal was met exceeded and parishioner giving increased. This success was accomplished by the launch of the Consecration Sunday Stewardship Program on Sunday, November 20 wherein those present filled out their pledge cards for the following year and dropped them into the baptismal font after the 9:15 service, followed by a celebratory luncheon in the Parish Hall.

Capital giving also continued during 2011. The Capital Campaign itself was in a slower phase of its implementation, but capital gifts in 2011 exceeded a half million dollars, and the total raised to date in the Capital giving is over \$4 million dollars.

The Horseneck Foundation is now fully incorporated. The purpose of the Foundation is to generate outside funding that can be used for the restoration, repair and maintenance of our historic buildings, as well as support funding for education, outreach and the arts.

Two facilities enjoyed restoration in 2011 funded by a very generous donor. The Chapel was restored, under the leadership of Chair Hilary Bernard. The Parish House Loft was also restored to its original 1911 beauty. Both areas now offer flexible seating facilitating various types of programs.

The Reverend Pam Strobel departed the Christ Church clergy staff to pursue missionary work for the Episcopal Church. The Reverend Dane Boston, a graduate of Yale Divinity School, joined the clergy. Adjunct clergy, Kate Heichler, Ian Cron also continued to serve throughout the year.



Expanded partnership relations were continued and expanded in 2011. The World Vision Africa AIDS Experience, (sponsored by many communities of faith) was hosted by Christ Church in the Parish Hall. Over \$1,000,000 was raised for World Vision Aids Relief.

The youth of this parish engaged in significant service through the Midnight Run program. Christ Church launched the first youth mission trip in November 2010 and completed it in July 2011. Christ Church partnered with the International Division of Young Life on a trip to the Philippines to build a camp for kids. Twenty one people from the church participated in this trip including several adult leaders.

**2012** – The Long Range Plan, presented at last year’s Annual Parish Meeting has been worked on this year. The plan is based on the foundational and overarching purpose of “nourishment for the journey” as well as a vision for the future ... a vision of the transformation of people, the human heart and the world itself. There are three areas in which we live out this purpose and vision:

- Building our Faith
- Supporting our Faith
- Living our Faith

We continue our work in these areas of purpose and vision.

Nancy Maulsby is honored for her five years of service as Junior and Senior Warden.

Woody Canaday completes his term as Treasurer in which he and his team, during a time of austerity, achieved the first balanced budget in over two decades. Due to generous parishioner giving, the 2011 year ended with a surplus of \$68,902 against a budgeted deficit of \$74,431.

Because the church ran an operating surplus of \$68,902, total endowment drawdown, for the first time in years, was limited to the budgeted 5% drawdown at \$424,848, or 17.2% of church operating expenses, one of the lowest ratios reported. The loan from the Endowment to the church for the Griffith Road house and the Capital Campaign has been paid down from \$2,433,123 to \$1,686,539. The sale of the Griffith Road house enabled the reduction of this loan.

The Reverend Jenny Owen joined the clergy staff as Curate and Director of Youth Ministry.

A renewing interfaith journey to the Holy Land was made by members of Christ Church and Temple Sholom and other communities of faith.

In 2012, the call, purpose and mission of restoration, release and renewal was accomplished in the following projects.

- The renewal and renovation of the bookstore. This project was also funded by a generous donor. Marijane Marks, long time manager of the bookstore retired; her years of service were honored. Laurel Meakes was retained as the new bookstore manager.
- The front living room in the Annex was restored and became the permanent home of the Conversations in Courage & Faith program.
- The first floor of the Parish House was re-painted and the bathrooms were renovated.

In 2012, the following musical highlights occurred.

- Twenty-four choristers toured England and performed at the cathedrals in York, Coventry, Warwick and Oxford.
- The production of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dream Coat” had two sell out performances and raised \$10,000 for the music department. Jamie Hitel, the Christ Church Music Director and George Belshaw were responsible for the staging of this outstanding event.

Conversations on Courage & Faith offered the following outstanding programs.

- Author Andy Crouch, “Playing God: Creativity, Faith & the Dangerous Gift of Power
- Author and musician, Jeremy Begbie, “The Sound of Hope: How Music can help us to Face the Future”
- Singer Mavis Staples accompanied by the Rob Mathes Orchestra, “A Night of Celebration”
- Author Jim Wallis, “Whatever Happened to the Common Good? The Role of Faith in the Upcoming Elections
- “An Evening with Rob Bell” talk and concert with Rob Bell, author and musicians Jill Phillips and Andy Gullahorn
- Jack Heaslip, Anglican priest and advisor to the band U2, “Relating to an Outrageous God” – a day’s retreat in the Parish House Loft I

The Outreach Program was renewed, expanded with support for existing grant recipients as well as new areas of focus for funding now and into the future.

The Parish stepped forward with prayer and support for two disastrous situations affecting us and our neighbors, Super Storm Sandy and the tragic shooting of many children and adults in Newtown CT.

**2013** – The Capital Campaign, “Rise Up, Restore, Rejoice!” is launched in May. Skip Schlafer of J. D. Klote Associates is hired as the Capital Campaign Consultant to advise the church through the thirty weeks of the campaign. Jim Elrod agrees to Chair the Capital Campaign along with Marnie Dawson Carr and KC King as Vice-Chairpersons. Nancy Maulsby and George Belshaw agree to lead the assessment phase of the campaign. The goal of the campaign is to raise \$8,000,000 to \$10,000,000 to restore the 104 year old church buildings (Church and Parish House), renovate many items in the 1958 buildings, including adding an elevator and to add to the Endowment.

The work completed by the capital campaign team in 2007 – including drawings, site studies, testing and architectural work – is very relevant for moving forward in 2014. An owner’s representative, Steph Slater, is retained from the firm of Turnberry Planning Inc. to assist the parish with managing the upcoming projects. He assures the capital projects committee, that the initial work done will allow them to immediately begin cost estimates thus saving money. In fact, after perusing the documents generated between 2006 and 2008, Mr. Slater and his associate, Mr. Wajdi Attalla of SBI Consultants, Inc. were able to begin capital projects sooner than expected with potential cost savings, thus demonstrating Turnberry’s buying power and ability to manage competitive bidding effectively on the church’s behalf.

For the third consecutive year, the budget is balanced. Woody Canaday, Treasurer reported that for the second year, a surplus of \$48,962 was posted, due to coming in under the 2013 budget of \$2,395,750 at total expenses of \$2,264,496.

Jim MacPherson, Chair of the Endowment Committee, reported that for the second year, the drawdown from the endowment did not exceed the target rate of 5%. The year's drawdown of \$403,000 was only 17.2% of operating expenses, one of the lowest ratios recorded.

In 2013, the church entered into an agreement with a well-respected facilities management company, Sodexo, Inc. The partnership with Sodexo produced a five-year maintenance plan that will continually be updated to keep our maintenance budget and needs current, allowing for better fiscal planning and to ensure that our historic campus will remain in good working order.

The year saw many improvements to the campus.

- New sidewalks were installed allowing for handicap ramps to facilitate entry.
- A new second floor was added to the bookstore, funded by a generous donor and renovated by Brian MacDonald's Davenport Construction Co. This second floor contains book shelving, an espresso bar and functions as a meeting and performance space.
- Through a generous capital campaign donation, all of the computers were replaced for the staff.

The Horseneck Foundation, Chaired now by David Yudain, had a very successful year, which resulted in a \$50,000 grant from the Foundation to the Church at the end of the year. The gift, the largest ever donated from Horseneck, was a result a very successful Seabury Classic Golf/Tennis tournament chaired by Terry Darling and Chip Skinner.

The Christ Church Nursery School is revitalized thanks to the efforts of Phoebe Lindsay and Kevin Ryan; the new director, Julie Colligan is terrific and the school is now a member of the National Association of Episcopal Churches.

The new "Loft" service at 5:30 PM is initiated, supported by the Conversations on Courage & Faith program. Reverend Ian Cron leads these services along with invited musicians.

The church hosts the Laurel House Art Show in September, 2013 to coincide with Mental Health Month. Lynn Garelick serves as curator of this show.

Nancy Thode's Cabaret Presentation of "What's a Creature to Do: Toto Pulls Back the Curtain" is a wonderful evening of entertainment and raises funds for the church's Outreach Grants' Program.

Linda Austin-Small, Administrator of the Music Department, retired after many good years of service. Meredith Vartuli is welcomed as the new administrator in October. Jonathan Ryan is welcomed as the new Assistant Director of Music. The association begun last year with Philip Moore, Organist Emeritus, continues through the generosity of funding by Susan and Rob Morris. As visiting artist, Philip continues to compose inspiring works for the different ensembles in the music program.

At the Annual Parish Meeting, Senior Warden Carter Harris announced recognition of two parishioners, Lynn Garelick and Marijane Marks. Lynn is responsible for the research and production of the church historical panels in the glass hallway. She is also the church archivist. Carter declared Lynn the official Christ Church Parish Historian.

The renovated patio outside of the Bookstore will be named in honor of Marijane Marks, who has been involved in all aspects of parish life since 1963, but who most especially is the spiritual force as founder

and manager of the Christ Church Bookstore for 29 years during which she welcomed and assisted people from Greenwich, Fairfield County and beyond.

**2014** – The Parish answers the call of the Capital Campaign to “Rise up, Restore, Rejoice” and through more than 300+ generous donations that total over \$10.2 million dollars is raised and allows for the start of the actual work.

The first major project, the Parish House, is completed renovated with new roof, new coping, re-pointed stone work and repaired windows. The second floor, now named “The Loft” is the new site for many meetings, classes, music instruction and wonderful programs.

The number of meetings, events and activities continues to grow to an all-time high; a story that is beautifully told in the January 2014 issue of Greenwich Magazine.

At a special Parish Meeting in June 2014, the parish votes to invite the Neighbor to Neighbor organization to build a much needed new facility on the campus for its essential work of feeding and clothing many of the less fortunate members of our community.

A transition in personal occurred in 2014 in which The Reverend Dane Boston, Gervais Hearn, Director of Fund Raising, and Laurel Meath, Director of the Bookstore moved on to new venues using their gifts developed at Christ Church. New colleagues were welcomed; Chris Edwards, Interim Youth Minister, The Reverend William Stanley, Sr. Berkeley/Yale Divinity School Interim, Eric Gregory, Bookstore Manager, Cheryl McFadden, Yale Youth Fellow, Meredith Day, Yale Divinity School Intern for Courage and Faith and Laura Addis as Courage and Faith Administrator. These leaders, along with the Interim Director of the Nursery School, Julie Colligan, join the deeply committed staff to lead and serve the church.

The year saw an expansion of the youth ministry programs under Jenny Owen’s direction. With the addition of youth ministers, Chris Edwards and Cheryl McFadden, the confirmation class is one of the largest in recent years, an energetic Christ Church Youth Group and a planned mission to Kentucky in 2015. Chris organized monthly youth services, launched a Christ Church Youth Blog and arranged for volunteer days at Neighbor to Neighbor.

For the fourth year in a row, the church finished with a balanced budget. The Endowment grew. An outside firm, Northern Trust Company was hired to serve as advisor to the Endowment to provide their expertise and advice in managing these long term assets of the Church. For the sixth year in a row, the membership grew; over the past two years 134 new families have been welcomed into our community of faith.

**2015** – The Conversation on Courage & Faith opens on March 7 with a musical program “A Taste of Tennessee” led by world famous singer and song writer Marcus Hummon; six of his songs have charted #1 on Billboard. On May 5-10, Suzanne Stabile returns with her Enneagram series and on May 16, Mia Chung, renowned pianist will perform.

