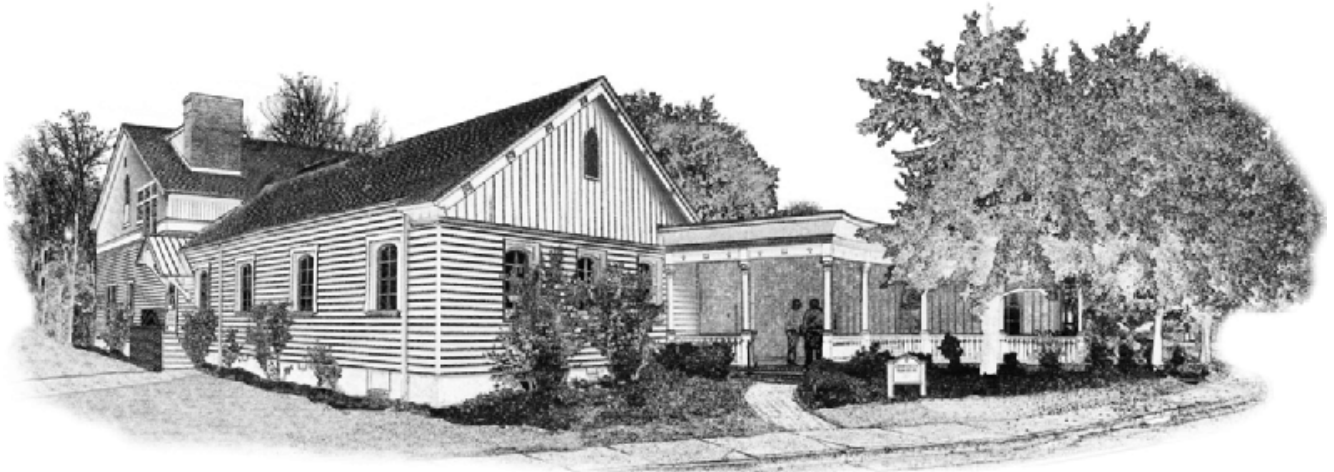


CHRIST CHURCH
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

333rd Annual Parish Meeting

FEBRUARY 13, 2006



CHRIST CHURCH
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH
FOUNDED 1672

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Monday, February 5, 2007

The Martyrs of Japan, 1597

**CHRIST CHURCH
ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH**

The meeting begins with refreshments at 6:00 PM and dinner at 6:30 PM.

7:30 PM Annual Meeting

Hymn 525 – The Church's one foundation

Opening Prayer

Minutes of the February 2005 Annual Meeting

Appointment of the Teller/Registrar – *the Chair*

Report of the Nominating Committee – *Jim Maffitt, Chair*

Parish Elections:

Junior and Senior Warden

Members of the Vestry

Delegates and Alternates to the 2008 Diocesan Convention

Comments from the Senior Warden – *Jim Maffitt*

Recognition of those completing vestry terms – *Jim Maffitt*

Comments from the Implementation Team Chair – *Lynn Barrett*

Recognition of those who served on the Parish House Implementation Team – *Lynn Barrett*

Capital Campaign Report – *Kay Perkins & Hank Spire*

Annual Stewardship Campaign Report – *Carl Widell, Chair*

Finance Reports for 2006 – *Ed Sipe, Treasurer*

Budget for 2007 – *Bob Holden, Chair of the Finance Committee*

Ministry Focus: Outreach & Wider Mission

Reports: El Hogar in Honduras – *Margie Steffens & Alison Sanford*

Habitat for Humanity – Apostles' Build Project – *Martha Austin*

Comments from the Associate Rector – *Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt*

Comments from the Rector – *Mark Nestlehutt*

Closing Prayer and Blessing

Hymn 657 – Love divine, all loves excelling

CONTENTS

<u>Senior Warden's Report to the Parish</u>	Jim Maffitt	page 5
<u>Rector's Report to the Parish</u>	Mark Nestlehutt	page 6
<u>Associate Rector's Report to the Parish</u>	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt	page 7
<u>Report of the Nominating Committee</u>	Jim Maffitt	page 8
<u>Christian Formation</u>		
Adult Christian Formation	Doris Fink	page 9
Attachment		Appendix A
Church School	Mark Nestlehutt	page 9
Sunday Youth Group	Mark Nestlehutt	page 10
Youth Confirmation Class	Mark Nestlehutt	page 10
Adult Inquirers Class	Mark Nestlehutt	page 10
Disciples Program	Christopher Whyman	page 10
<u>Outreach and Wider Mission</u>		
Community Grants	Paul D'Zmura	page 11
Back to School Project	G. Whyman/P. Parsons	page 11
Community Food Pantry	Fred Tompkins	page 12
Community Youth Initiative	Mark Nestlehutt	page 12
El Hogar Project	Margie Steffens	page 12
Habitat for Humanity	Martha Austin	page 13
<u>Parish and Community Life</u>		
Docent's Guild	Kathryn Hutton	page 14
Episcopal Church Women	Joan Crompton	page 15
Men's Club	Leo Foulds	page 15
Welcoming Committee	Alison Sanford	page 16
Visibility Committee	Frances Maffitt	page 17
<u>Pastoral Care</u>		
Eucharistic Visitors	Jessie Weddle	page 18
Pastoral Visitors	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt	page 18
Care Circle	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt	page 19
Prayer Chain	Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt	page 19
<u>Stewardship</u>		
Annual Campaign	Mike Kerrigan	page 20

Finance Report	Bill Wilson	page 20
Attachments		Appendix B
		Appendix C
Treasurer's Report	Ed Sipe	page 21
Attachment		Appendix D
Permanent Endowment Fund	Bill Ginder	page 21
Building & Grounds	Dick Crompton	page 22
Tellers	Ed Sipe	page 22

Worship and Music

Acolyte Report	Lee Hamilton	page 23
Altar Guild Report	Helen Bower/Judy Hause	page 23
Bell Choir	Bernice Walk	page 24
Oblation Committee	Bill Jacoby	page 25
Ushers	Fritz Riedlin	page 25

Capital Campaign

Fundraising	Kay Perkins/Hank Spire	page 25
Implementation Committee	Lynn Barrett	page 26

<u>Minutes for the February 2005 Annual Meeting</u>		Appendix E
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CHRIST CHURCH

St. Michael's Parish

Senior Warden's Report to the Parish

As you settle into reading this annual report, it is likely that you just participated in the Parish's First Annual Meeting in our new Parish House. While we celebrated the completion of the Parish House in November with the Bishop's visit and have been busy acquainting ourselves with all the wonderful additions and improvements to the Parish House, the Annual Meeting is a clear indication that we are indeed at home and life is good.

Many wonderful things happened to us during 2005 and for that we can feel truly blessed. As the Parish House was finally moving to completion under the diligent and watchful eye of Bud Keiser, the Capital Campaign itself was concluding, thanks to the very dedicated efforts of Hank Spire and Kay Perkins, as well as the generosity of so many of our Parishioners. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of these individuals and our members, we are in our wonderful new facility with very, very little debt.

Under Mark's very able and energetic leadership we not only accomplished the tasks mentioned above, but we also reached new heights in our Parish giving for 2005. Mark asked us all to "step up to the plate" and you responded wonderfully. With an inspiring twenty five percent (25%) increase in annual giving, we concluded 2005 with a surplus of approximately Forty Six Thousand Dollars (\$46,000). After the year we have had, I think we can all agree that this is quite an accomplishment.

We continue to be lucky to have Mark and Abigail with us, providing both leadership and spiritual care to us all. Speaking personally, it has been a real pleasure to work with both Mark and Abigail this year and to see their own growth and further dedication to their calling. Their energy and leadership are clearly demonstrated by the increase in our attendance at services, in Sunday School and for all our Parish programs. We are an active and vibrant Parish!

It has been my pleasure and privilege, as your Senior Warden, to witness the successes of 2005 and the many ways in which God has walked among us. Our job has been made easy by the dedication, cooperation and enthusiastic support of our Parish Members, especially our Vestry Members, to the life of our Parish. I am humbled to be a part of it all.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Maffitt, *Senior Warden*

Rector's Report to the Parish

At our annual meeting in early December 2003 we gathered in the parish hall of the old building and looked to our future. Would we go ahead with building a new parish house facility? It was a legitimate question at the time. At last year's annual meeting—held in February 2005 in order to facilitate better financial disclosure—we gathered in the sanctuary for a combined worship service and to conduct the annual business of the parish. We did so, because we had taken that great leap of faith and broken ground on our new parish house in July 2004.

When we gather for our annual meeting this year to review 2005 and to look to the current year's plans, we do so having accomplished an enormous achievement—we gather in Etherton Hall in the new Parish House having successfully completed the building and capital campaign project. Of the many wonderful accomplishments of last year, the building project stands as a testimony and tangible sign of what we believe about our selves and our community. The Holy Spirit is alive at Christ Church as we look towards ongoing growth in membership, depth of faith, and our willingness to open our doors to all those in the broader community as a sign of God's love for others and our love for God.

Many, many hands were involved in building a new parish house. There were the 267 families, individuals, and organizations that contributed \$2,100,000 to the capital campaign. There were those parishioners who envisioned the project—the members of the building committee, along with my predecessor, Erv Brown. There were those who offered leadership by serving on the vestry in 2004 and 2005. Nevertheless, there are twelve parishioners who I want to thank by name. They are the women and men who constituted the Implementation Team and without whom this project would not have succeeded. Bud Keiser, who oversaw the construction and building, gave his heart and soul to seeing this parish house built. He contributed more hours to this project than anyone could imagine. Kay Perkins and Hank Spire continued to advocate for the project and raise funds for the capital campaign through three rectors—Erv Brown, interim Tim Raasch, and myself—a struggling economy, and rising project costs. Nevertheless, they overcame all obstacles to successfully complete the campaign by the end of 2005. Paul Janson and Tom Norris deftly handled the logistics and moving of the program and contents from our 5,000 square foot facility, into temporary spaces, and back into our 11,000 square foot new building. Sal Simoncini assisted Bud Keiser during the construction phase and contributed his vocational gifts and knowledge of the trade to our project. Mike Sheridan helped us to segregate our operating and capital campaign accounts and served as treasurer for the project. Fritz Riedlin, senior warden from December 2002-February 2005, served as liaison to the vestry and worked on the policies and procedures for the new building. Michelle Roark and Kim Weller, along with their committee, were masterful at furnishing and decorating the new parish house in an inviting and attractive manner. Lastly, wardens Jim Maffitt and Lynn Barrett served as vestry liaisons at a critical time during the building and construction phase. Lynn chaired the Implementation Team through hours of meetings and months of intense work. We owe all twelve of these men and women a heartfelt thank you for a job well done.

I also want to thank the two vestry members who have completed their terms: Bill Wilson and Mike Kerrigan. Bill Wilson has served on the Finance Committee for several years and during his three years on the vestry he masterfully oversaw the monthly finances and the annual budgeting. Mike Kerrigan completes his three-year term having chaired our annual stewardship campaign for 2004, 2005 and 2006. We also say goodbye to our junior warden. Lynn Barrett served two years on the vestry before being elected junior warden last year. Her commitment to the Implementation Team, as

well as her wisdom and insights in governing the matters of the parish were excellent. Thank you to Bill, Mike and Lynn for your leadership these past three years.

In the midst of the building and construction, we managed to accomplish several programmatic goals and initiate new programs. The new Children's Chapel service and Sunday Youth Group were added to enhance our programs for children and youth. In the area of outreach and wider mission, we sent a work team to El Hogar in Honduras in May 2005 and another team departs for El Hogar in May 2006. We partnered with other faith communities as the lead contributor for the Apostles' Build Project of Habitat for Humanity, and we partnered with the Community Center to create a new teen youth initiative based at Christ Church. We also welcomed more than a dozen new families who joined Christ Church during the past year.

The mark of any parish is how it lives its faith. Are we a welcoming and loving community? Do we reach out to others in service—seeing Christ in all persons? I believe that the answer to both these questions is yes and pray that we will use our new facilities to serve others as we endeavor to glorify God.

Faithfully,
The Reverend Mark Nestlehutt, *Rector*

Associate's Report to the Parish

2005 brought the end of maternity leave and also the beginning of ministry in our new parish house. In between were many wonderful months of accomplishment in various areas. As I reflect back on the year I know that I am grateful for all the support that our young family has received and I am grateful for the ministry of all the people of Christ Church with whom it is a joy to work. Together we have strengthened the pastoral visitors program and expanded the ministries of pastoral care by adding a teaching component to monthly pastoral visitors meetings, maintaining a prayer chain, putting to work the care circle and communicating about the pastoral needs of the parish. Together we have celebrated as the community of Christ Church and the community of St. Michaels with three different events for the opening of the parish house as well as carrying on with traditional events at St. Luke's Church and the Women's Club of St. Michaels when we did not have our own building. Together we have welcomed newcomers into our midst through a developing newcomer program as well as events at our home. Together we have praised God in worship and through our work in the world with well planned and executed liturgy and outreach programs like Habitat for Humanity. Additionally, I had the opportunity for continuing education with a conference in May. I thank you for the privilege of being one of your priests.

The Reverend Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt – *Associate for Pastoral & Community Ministries*

Report of the Nominating Committee

Monday, February 13, 2006

According to the by-laws of Christ Church (02/06/05), the Nominating Committee consists of the following individuals:

Jim Maffitt	Lynn Barrett
Richard Granville	Helen Bower
Kim Kerrigan	Chris Whyman
Mark Nestlehutt	

The following persons have been nominated by the Committee for election at the 2006 Annual Meeting:

To serve as senior warden (1 year term): **Jim Maffitt**

To serve as junior warden (1 year term): **Martha Austin**

To serve as vestry members (3 year term): **Craig English**
Robert Holden
John Hunnicutt
Ann Roe

To serve as Delegates and Alternates for the Year 2007 Diocesan Convention:

<u>Delegates</u>	<u>Alternates</u>
Ed Sipe	Fritz Riedlin
Nancy Sipe	Mary Riedlin
Jessie Weddle	Chloe Pitard

Jim Maffitt, for the Committee

MINISTRY AREAS OF CHRIST CHURCH:

CHRISTIAN FORMATION; OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION; PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE; PASTORAL CARE; STEWARDSHIP; and WORSHIP & MUSIC

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Adult Christian Formation Committee

The Mission Statement of the Adult Christian Formation is to provide Sunday morning forums for parishioners that deepen our understanding and commitment to our faith so that we may proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ; to seek and to serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves; to strive for justice and peace among all people; and to respect the dignity of every human being.

The weekly topics focus on Holy Scripture, Church History, Christian Theology, Studies in Contemporary Society, Christian Ethics and Moral Theology, and Ministry.

The forum takes place on Sunday mornings from 9:15 AM to 10:00 AM in the Etherton Hall of Christ Church from September through May. The forum sessions feature clergy, guest presenters and parishioners who use a lecture or interactive, multi-media format. A trifold is used to advertise the current year's programs. (See attached). Weekly attendance continues to increase and averages between forty and fifty people.

Since the beginning of this Church School year snacks and juice have been provided in Etherton Hall for the church school children during the coffee hour. It is an opportunity for young people and adults to share a period of fellowship on Sunday mornings.

I wish to thank everyone in the parish who so faithfully contributes to making Sunday forums meaningful.

Submitted by Doris G. Fink, *Adult Christian Formation Committee Coordinator*

Church School

Church School is held on Sunday mornings from 9:15 to 10:00 AM on the second floor of the new Parish House. From January-May 2005, the Church School classes met at St. Luke's UMC while our new facility was under construction. Debbie Keller and Bill Parsons served as teachers during this period. Enrollment at the end of May was 15 (excluding nursery age children under three years of age). In September 2005 the school moved into the new facility and additional teachers were added. In October our Church School Director, Debbie Keller, stepped down from the position to pursue other opportunities. At year-end, there are two church school classes for children: a Preschool/Kindergarten class, led by Annette English and Gena Newberg; and a Primary Grades class, led by Carol Fegan, Kim Kerrigan, Ann Roe and Kim Weller. Enrollment in the Preschool/ Kindergarten class is 9, with an average Sunday attendance of 5; and 19 in the Primary Grades class, with an average Sunday attendance of 10. Total Church School enrollment at year-end is 28. Both classes use the Episcopal version of the *Living the Good News* curriculum.

Submitted by Mark Nestlehutt

Sunday Youth Group

The Sunday Youth Group is a new initiative started by teen, Svetlana Widell and her father, Carl Widell. Beginning in late-October 2005, the group met with the rector weekly on Sunday afternoons from 4 to 5 PM. In addition to the discussion times, the group participates in monthly outings. Thirteen middle school-age youth participate in the program.

Submitted by Mark Nestlehutt

Youth Confirmation Class

The Youth Confirmation Class met during the months of February through April to prepare for confirmation during the bishop's official visitation on April 24th. Bishop Shand confirmed six young people during his visit: April Hall, Cameron Keller, Elizabeth Lewis, Dylan Stewart, Elizabeth Newnam and Patrick Weller.

Submitted by Mark Nestlehutt

Adult Inquirers Class

The adult inquirer's class met three times at the home of Abigail and Mark Nestlehutt to discuss the teachings and history of the church, as well as the meaning of Confirmation and Reception. The primary texts for the course were *Welcome to the Episcopal Church*, by Chris Webber, and *The Book of Common Prayer*. Eight adults participated in the class and four were confirmed or received by Bishop Shand during his April 24th visitation: Carolyn Coyle Finch; Al Finch; Charlie Leaver; and Leslie Leaver. Due to scheduling conflicts, four more were confirmed or received by Bishop Shand at Holy Trinity in Oxford on July 17th: Pat Holmes; Alan Holmes; Rex Kilbourn; and Carol Kilbourn.

Submitted by Mark Nestlehutt

Disciples Program

14 parishioners completed the 30 week 'Jesus In The Gospels' course in June. During the course the participants studied all four Gospels and related readings and met weekly to view videos by biblical scholars and to discuss their daily readings. In the Fall 13 parishioners completed the 8 week 'Invitation to the Old Testament' course during which they read several chapters of the Hebrew Bible daily and met to view two videos each week and to discuss their readings.

Submitted by Christopher Whyman

OUTREACH & WIDER MISSION

Community Grants

The Community Grants Committee is provided a budget by the vestry each year. The committee considers needs and disperses grants to charitable organizations as deemed appropriate. Christ Church parish members are encouraged to advise the committee of local and regional groups in need of assistance.

In 2005, the following grants were made:

1	El Hogar	\$2,000.00
2	Apostles Build (Habitat for Humanity)	\$1,000.00
3	St. Michael's Community Center <i>for middle school after school program</i>	\$1,000.00
4	Court Appointed Special Advocates <i>for neglected and abused children</i>	\$1,000.00
5	Easton Day Care <i>for after school care in St. Michaels</i>	\$1,000.00
6	American Red Cross <i>for hurricane relief</i>	\$2,000.00
7	St. Michael's Boy Scout Troop #741 <i>for camp scholarship and van insurance</i>	\$1,000.00
8	Community Food Pantry	\$500.00
9	Episcopal Relief & Development	\$500.00
<hr/> Total		\$10,000.00

Submitted by Paul D'Zmura - *Community Grants Committee Chairman*

Back to School Project

This year we were able to deliver 25 full backpacks to St. Michaels Elementary School before the first day of school. Along with the backpacks, we were able to fill the supply cupboard with additional supplies and we are reaching our goal for the monthly periodicals and field trips.

This is the fifth year for Back to School Outreach Program. And with each year the support by the congregation and visitors has increased. Prior to the opening of the school year, we consult with the school administration to identify the school supply needs of the children and we also get an estimate of the amount of money that will be needed for field trips.

A simple thank you hardly seems enough for all your support over the last five years. We wish all of you could see the joy on the faces of these children when they get a backpack or the notebook that they need. It just makes it all worthwhile. Thank you so very much for your compassion and generosity to the children of St. Michaels.

Submitted by Gillian Whyman and Peggy Parsons

Community Food Pantry

I am happy to report that the Community Food Pantry is in excellent shape both financially and well stocked. After moving the Pantry back to our Parish House following the restoration into a room well fixtured it was found to be workable in every way.

I wish to thank the following organizations and generous people who contributed to the Pantry this past year: The Wine Festival, St. Michaels Boy Scout Troop #741, The Crop Walk, and members of both St. Lukes and our congregations, and lastly the St. Michaels Volunteer Fire Department and the dedication offerings.

Individuals who helped set up the Pantry included: Robert Thompson, our Sexton, Lillian Watts and Linda Tompkins. I also want to personally thank Oscar Carlson for keeping the books in good order and Carolyn Coyle, our Secretary. We also wish to welcome Anne Pilert to our team.

Those who made up bags and baskets included the aforementioned plus Mary Thomas, Lillian Watts and, from St. Luke's, Ted & Jo Clark and Bill Dunton, the liaison for St. Lukes. They all did a yeoman's job in filling 77 "baskets" (boxes) of food for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Each included a frozen turkey, rolls and ample amounts of food for the special days plus many extras. During the year 2005 the Pantry provided over 200 bags of food for the needy in the Bay Hundred area.

We are looking forward to opening a satellite Pantry in the Tilghman area as soon as an adequate space can be located.

Submitted by Fred L. Tompkins – *Director, Community Food Pantry*

Community Youth Initiative

The Community Youth Initiative is a joint venture of Christ Church and the St. Michael's Community Center. Beginning in the summer of 2005, the two organizations co-sponsored a series of summer splash (swimming pool) parties for middle school-age youth. In September, the program moved into the new parish house where it meets on Wednesday afternoons from 5 to 7 PM. Staffing is provided by the Community Center and parish volunteers from Christ Church provide the meal. The program is funded from a line item in the parish's operating budget.

Submitted by Mark Nestlehutt

El Hogar Project in Honduras

In May of 2005, in effort to accomplish our stated mission of reaching out with love to the poorest in today's world, thirteen parishioners from Christ Church made a commitment to travel to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The purpose of our journey was to work at *EL HOGAR*, a school for poverty-stricken and orphaned boys, which is sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Honduras.

The participants were Tom & Suzanne Newnam, their teen-aged children, Elizabeth and Camper, Tony Vaughn, Rebecca Jones, Peggy Rogers, Margie Steffens, Deborah Colborn, Ned & Eddie McCall and Alison Sanford. Our rector, Mark Nestlehutt, accompanied us.

Our mission was to assist in building the dormitory at the Technical School of *EL HOGAR*, to work with the staff in the kitchen or laundry and wherever we were directed, and engage in play and personal interaction with the children whenever possible.

The cost of the program was \$800.00 per person. Some scholarships were offered, and donations for the school were accepted. Several members of Christ Church contributed to a Bird-a-thon Fundraiser, which netted \$1,000 for the school. The school received all donations and much gratitude was expressed.

We spent approximately a week at the school, with minor delays in travel, some of us working out-of-doors, doing manual labor at the Technical School, and others engaging in household chores at the primary school. Margie Steffens also traveled to the Agricultural School, another component of *EL HOGAR*, to present the school with 2 pairs of binoculars, and birding books for the students.

Several members of the group spoke Spanish, and all made attempts at the language, although knowledge of Spanish was not required for the trip. It was a deeply satisfying and unforgettable experience for all who participated. Some of us, inspired by our experience have committed to sponsoring a boy's schooling at *EL HOGAR* for the years to come. Another team, which includes some of the above mentioned participants have elected to return to *EL HOGAR* in May of 2006.

Submitted by Margie Steffens

Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County - Apostles Build

Let Your Light Shine

In the spring of 2005 our parish joined with approximately 16 other churches in Talbot County and committed to seeing to the prayerful funding and building of one house in our community. The churches represented Christ's 12 apostles and highlighted the fact that HFHTC is a "Christian ministry dedicated to eliminating sub-standard housing."

A home site and member family was selected by HFHTC. The house was in Unionville.

Our responsibilities were as follows:

- Pray regularly and often for this project, therefore the Apostles Build project was mentioned in the Prayers of the People
- Contribute \$8,000.00 toward the cost. \$8,400.00 was the total Christ Church gave
- Provide 2 workers each Saturday for the duration of the project, easily accomplished
- Provide lunch and snacks for workers one Saturday
- Provide a lead contact person for communication and organizational purposes; Martha Austin arranged for workers and food delivery, Ted Taylor spoke to the congregation and wrote a letter regarding financial giving and Abigail Nestlehutt saw to it that Apostles Build was kept in our hearts and prayers

The project began in September and the house is due to be finished by the end of February 2006.

Seeing that this kind of project is at the heart of our calling, the Vestry unanimously agreed to our commitment and made individual contributions as a show of leadership and support. From the

congregation, approximately 75 people gave their time or money generously and promptly. Workers from the site commented how rewarding their efforts were and would likely pursue more opportunities to work with Habitat for Humanity of Talbot County.

Submitted by Martha B. Austin

PARISH & COMMUNITY LIFE

Docent's Guild

The Docent Guild is active from May 1st to November 1st each year. Visitors are welcomed and offered a guided tour of the church or the opportunity to be alone. One or two docents are on duty from 2PM to 4PM each day and during Holy Week and Christmas in St. Michaels. People came from St. Michaels and nearby communities and from China, Russia and Thailand, among other far away places.

The Docent's keep their own register recording the number of visitors and amount of donations. This year our records showed approximately 2000 people came while a Docent was on duty. Donations were somewhat less than in previous years.

2005 was another good year for the Guild because of our beautiful church and it's rich history and our loyal and dedicated members. We are very pleased with the new parish house and the Lea Library in particular. The recognition and mention of the Guild's contribution to the library has pleased us all.

In addition to paying our own expenses (postage, The Cross in my Pocket, brochures, etc) the Guild has paid for framed explanations of the Allegiance to the Crown and several other pieces in the library.

Docents were on duty in the parish house October 22nd, welcoming people to the Community Open House. Although the number of guests was disappointing, the Docent's had an opportunity to really learn about the parish house, their particular station and each other.

An election of officers of the Guild was held at the October meeting. Peg Tyler retired from doing the scheduling after many years of efficient labor. Susan Kilmon and Faye Shannahan were elected as schedulers. Ginny MacLeod will continue as Secretary and Alice Cohee will continue as treasurer.

Being the leader of the Docent Guild has been a very rewarding and meaningful experience for me. After serving for six years, it is time for me to retire and for someone with new ideas to take charge. An election for a new leader will take place at the March meeting

Submitted by Kathryn Hutton

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The Board planned a year of information, spirituality, caring, and friendship. This is being accomplished.

A snowy day did not discourage our annual Fellowship Luncheon at the Women's Club which was catered by Ellen Lally. Our winter speakers included Chris Whyman (Women of the Bible), Sherry Crompton (Celtic Spirituality), Abigail Nestlehutt and Melody Sutherland (Death and Dying), Mark Nestlehutt (El Hogar), Joan Wetmore (Smithsonian Museum), and George Merrill (Rewards of Aging). The annual May trip was to the Washington Cathedral's Flower Mart. The season ended with a picnic at Dorothy Mowry's Home. We were pleased to have Bill Thomas and the Easton High School Chamber Singers share their talents with the community. It was a full year of varied programs.

Our rummage sales netted \$3,945 in April and \$5,252 in October. We gained \$6,402 from the Bazaar.

The budget has planned gifts for many needy organizations, including adopting a boy from El Holgar. Christmas cactus plants were delivered to twelve shut-ins. The Angel Tree response was overwhelming. Gathered gifts were presented to thirty children at a Christmas Party, and \$355 was donated for future needs. Outreach this year has been very heartwarming.

I wish to thank all the many women and men who made this year so successful. We are excited about our programs for the New Year. Please check the *Tidings* and *Bulletin* for our events. All women of the Church are members of the ECW. We welcome you to our meetings.

Submitted by Joan Crompton, *ECW President*

Men's Club

Objective – to unite male church members in brotherhood and prayer and to strengthen our knowledge of the many aspects facing our world and society in general together with local issues.

Membership – Telephone list of 58 members.

Active – Meetings on the second Saturday of each month encourage approximately 25-35 members to attend.

Guest Appearances – Having speakers volunteer is an on-going challenge to maintain interest levels positive on the subjects chosen. This year, Rev. Paul Winters educated us on stained glass art, Sergeant Michael Marvin, United States Marine Corp Recruiter, was very informative on recruiting challenges [he unfortunately was killed in a freak auto accident in July]. Judge Jacques Baker of the Orphan's Court informed us of the many complexities of probate settlement. The chairman had to fill in after a short notice cancellation and addressed the true story of the "Calcutta Light Horse" in WWII. This was followed by a very entertaining address by Angela Eade-Spence, a multi-trans Atlantic sailor and one time solo from South Africa to the West Indies. Chief Ed Henry of St Michaels Police outlined the various challenges of law enforcement in our town. The program planning is ongoing!

Future Objectives – To encourage membership to actively enroll new members and to be more vocal in suggesting topics of discussion in which they are interested and also in recruiting speakers of interest.

Breakfast Meetings – Ellen Gordon Lally continues to perform admirably in culinary execution.

Financial Situation – Our current financial position is \$485.54 although this was reduced due to seven members committing to breakfast who did not show. We had to reimburse the cost of breakfast product to Ellen. Our scholarship account is now \$199 and optimistically it will increase by next year to an amount that we can award to a suitable scholar. As a group, we continue to support the Boy Scouts with the Annual Pancake Supper and last year donated \$365.41 to their cause.

Footnote – My second term as Chairman finishes in June 2006 when it is hoped that another “fearless” leader will emerge.

Submitted by Leonard H. Foulds, III, *Chairman, Men’s Club*

Welcoming Committee

PURPOSE:

The Welcoming Committee serves to ensure visitors are welcomed and given the opportunity to learn more about Christ Church.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2005:

1) In March 2005, we held our second welcoming event. Twenty newcomers attended this late afternoon event at the Nestlehutt home (in comparison, ten newcomers attended the event in February 2004). It was very successful and we intend to continue them on an annual or semi-annual basis, depending on the number of local newcomers.

2) After reviewing the current visitor pew cards, the Welcoming Committee was unanimous in its decision that they were outdated and in need of replacement. We are pleased to say that these cards were replaced in 2005 with attractive and more current visitor pew cards.

3) Christ Church has a tradition of welcoming visitors, primarily local visitors, with “gift bags”. During 2005, the committee designed a new canvas welcome bag. These bags have been imprinted with our Christ Church crown logo and contain information regarding worship schedules, community events, a newly designed Christ Church bookmark, a current issue of the TIDINGS newsletter, and a small folder containing history and information about Christ Church and its ministry. These welcome bags are picked up by visitors at the conclusion of Sunday services or delivered by a clergyperson during a home visit.

4) In October 2005, we held our first ever “Bring a Friend” Sunday. This was held in conjunction with St. Francis Sunday. As part of the celebration, we enjoyed a ministries fair showcasing many of the ministries at Christ Church, a special coffee & refreshments hour, and we gave out all of the 25 gift bags that were assembled especially for this event.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE:

1) The next welcoming event is scheduled for January 22, 2006. Although this has taken place by the writing of this report, it will be reported upon in the 2006 annual report. Suffice it to say that this was the most successful welcoming event to date!

2) Abigail has introduced the terrific idea of instituting a “shepherding” program. This would be a largely lay-led effort and would pair up newcomers with Christ Church parishioners. Abigail had experience with this at her former church and has indicated that a successful “shepherding” program can facilitate the welcoming committee in meeting its goal - to ensure visitors are welcomed and given the opportunity to learn more about Christ Church.

3) In the coming year, we plan to restructure the welcoming committee and recruit new members to serve in this vital ministry. In the meantime, all Christ Church parishioners are unofficial members of the Welcoming Committee and everyone can do his/her part by personally welcoming new faces on Sunday mornings. Lately, it seems that there are more of them to welcome!

4) Due to the success of “Bring a Friend” Sunday, we plan to hold a second such event in 2006. This will likely be held in conjunction with St. Francis Sunday in October.

Submitted by Alison Sanford

Visibility Committee

The Visibility Committee of Christ Church St. Michaels was formed in the fall of 2004 with an overall goal of increasing the visibility of Christ Church in the surrounding communities, stimulating involvement in the Parish from current Parish members and attracting new communicants and attendees to the services and activities of the Parish. The original members of the committee along with a Chairman appointed by the Associate Rector began monthly meetings on November 16, 2004. The Associate Rector attended meetings and acted as an advisor to the Committee

The Committee increased communication with the Community Editor of the Star Democrat and its affiliate publications and began running regular notices of Sunday services and special Christmas and Easter Service notices. Through this contact with the Star Democrat plans were made, and later accomplished, to have articles published by the paper about the renovation of the Christ Church Parish House and the history of the Church. The Church was featured in very nicely presented articles with photographs through the completion of the Parish House in the summer of 2005 and the Dedication of the Building in the fall of 2005.

The Visibility Committee worked on ideas for a “phrase” or “tagline” that could be used to best describe Christ Church, its message, and its local identity. After several months of work on this project, the effort was tabled. The committee then began concentrating on planning for the events surrounding the opening of the newly renovated Parish House. The Committee will later decide whether there is a need for a “tagline” in the continuing work of the Committee..

Parish House Opening Events included an Open House for the St. Michaels Community with guided tours and refreshments, an open community concert in the Church, a Consecration and Dedication Service with the Bishop of Easton in attendance followed by a reception for parish members and special guests in the Parish House, and a special afternoon party for the congregation of St. Luke’s Methodist Church in thanks for Christ Church’s use of the fellowship hall of St. Luke’s during the Parish House renovation.

An ongoing project of the Visibility Committee has been the design and publication of a two sided color “rack card” for Christ Church to be used throughout the Talbot County area as a church visibility and information piece. The card is in the final design phase and will be published by the spring of 2006.

The Committee continues to explore the possibility of sponsoring a concert series in the Church, and the feasibility of using the Parish Hall for community outreach programs such as a “coffee house”, or a gathering place for lectures, music, discussions etc. The Visibility Committee plans to continue working on other new ideas and following up on plans in progress to make Christ Church continually visible and easily accessible to all persons in the Bay Hundred and the greater Talbot County community. The Committee wants to visibly spread the word of Christ to all those who come to participate in the Christ Church family of communicants and friends.

Submitted by Frances Maffitt

PASTORAL CARE

Eucharistic Visitors

Eucharistic Visitors are those dedicated and compassionate souls who take the service of Holy Communion to the sick and to shut-ins. This is generally done following either of the Sunday Eucharistic Services using Wine and Bread which have been blessed during the service thereby providing a link between the sick and/or shut-ins and the congregation. During the year 2005, six Eucharistic Ministers, all lay parishioners, took 61 Communion to private homes, William Hill, Candlelight Cove, Londonderry, Easton Memorial Hospital and The Pines. The ministries of V. J. Lehrkinder, Morris Osborn, Peggy Rogers, Hank Spire, Mary Len Trippe and Jessie Weddle in concert with the Rector and Associate Rector help to assure those unable to attend church services that they are a very real part of Christ Church and are not forgotten.

Submitted by Jessie Weddle, *Vestry Liaison*

Pastoral Visitors

In the fall of 2005 the Lay Pastoral Visitors made a simple but significant name change to Pastoral Visitors. This switch highlights the fact that pastoral visiting is an important and equal ministry of both the lay and the ordained. Also in the fall of 2005 the pastoral visitors changed their monthly meeting time from Wednesdays to Tuesdays and added a teaching component to each meeting. Our topics have included an expansion of the understanding of what it means to be a pastoral visitor, realities of divorce and mental health issues led by speakers from within and outside of Christ Church. We added one new member of our group and are always ready to add more. The Pastoral Visitors each visit people in need to whom they are assigned. We are moving toward a model of offering pastoral visiting to a broader range of our parish. Toward this end we encourage all parishioners to alert the clergy of any and all pastoral care issues. In November members of the Pastoral Visitors decided to explore the possibility of a knitting group as a means of fellowship and outreach. Led by Linda Spire, the group has started meeting with great success.

Submitted by Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Care Circle

The Care Circle is a group of people who have volunteered to be available to provide assistance when a parishioner is in need. In 2005 the care circle provided many meals to families and individuals who were recovering from illness or accident or adjusting to life with a new baby. Additionally, from time to time the care circle provides rides to those who are unable to drive to appointments. We are grateful to all who serve in this way and welcome others to join this ministry of extending ourselves in Christian love in a tangible way.

Submitted by Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

Prayer Chain

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. *Amen.* Book of Common Prayer page 395

The Prayer Chain is a group of twelve people who pray regularly for a list of people in various circumstances. The Prayer Chain prays for the people on the regular prayer list as well as those on the silent prayer list, the shut-ins, those serving in active duty, those grieving, those preparing for marriage and baptism. Since its reinvigoration in 2004 the prayer chain has been meeting monthly for updates as well as fellowship and support along the journey. As always, we welcome new members and encourage all people to add petitions as they wish. Believing strongly in the power of prayer we are grateful for the ministry of the prayer chain.

Submitted by Abigail Crozier Nestlehutt

STEWARDSHIP

Annual Campaign

In 2005 we received 207 pledges totaling \$379,127 towards our stewardship goal of \$370,000. Looking to the 2006 campaign, in the fall of 2004 we set a goal of increasing stewardship to \$400,000 in order to fund the ministry of the parish. As of 12/31/05 we had received 174 pledges totaling \$360,589 towards our goal of \$400,000. *(As of 2/7/06 we had 188 pledges totaling \$385,022)*

For the 2006 campaign: 14 of these pledges are new, first-time pledges. 85 people who pledged in 2005 increased their pledge for 2006.

Submitted by Mike Kerrigan, *Chair*

Finance Report

Christ Church had an excellent year financially. We bettered our budgets for both income and expense and had an operating surplus of \$46,103. The Parish Hall renovation required substantially less debt than expected thanks to the success of the Capital Campaign, bequests from estates and a \$150,000 transfer from general operating funds. Our general operating funds remain healthy at \$236,009 and we have established a new Community Grants Fund of \$72,282 with a bequest from an estate. The Permanent Endowment Fund assets increased from \$175,049 to 391,673.

The operating budget highlights for 2005 and 2006 are:

2005

- Income was \$454,821 (108.8% of budget), an increase of \$67,014 (17.3%) over 2004.
- Expenses were \$408,718 (98.4% of budget), an increase of \$22,945 (5.9%) over 2004. The only significant budget misses were in unplanned property maintenance, computer upgrades and the celebration and blessing of the new Parish Hall.
- Operating surplus for the year was \$46,103 versus \$2135 in 2004 and deficits in 2002 and 2003.

2006

- Income is budgeted at \$463,500, an increase of \$8679 (1.9%) over 2005. Based on past experience, the target of \$400,000 in pledge income is reasonable but has not been reached as of the end of January.
- Operating expenses are budgeted at \$446,354, an increase of \$40,022 (9.8%) over 2005. The increase is primarily the result of personnel cost increases of \$13,556 (5.1%), a \$4,000 increase for community grants and an approximate \$15,000 increase in operating costs for the Church and Parish House mostly due to utility and insurance costs. We had little cost for the Parish House in 2005.
- The budgeted operating surplus is \$17,146 before debt service of \$10,000 for the Parish House giving a net surplus of \$7,146.

The biggest unknown in the 2006 budget is the operating cost of the new Parish House and the amount of debt we will carry on the Parish House. We have been conservative in our outlook for both. We would also feel more comfortable if the remaining expected pledges were finalized.

The major focus for the Finance Committee in 2006 after 3 years of concentrating on funding for the Parish House is the investment strategy for our growing financial asset base.

Submitted by William L. Wilson, *Finance Committee chair*
Enclosurers

Treasurer's Report, for the year ended December 31, 2005

Weekly givings, i.e. pledge receipts, friends and plate, exceeded budget by \$25,689 for a total of \$441,889. What is especially great about this is that pledge overpayments of \$22,855 exceeded underpayments of \$17,715 by \$5,140. This is something that the parish, as a whole, can be very grateful for!

Personnel expenses of \$264,332 were \$2,622 under budget. Operating expenses of \$144,387, i.e. non-personnel, were also under budget by \$4,203. Total expenses of \$408,719, were \$6,825 under budget.

The net result was a positive result of \$24,921 for December and \$46,102 for the year. This is something we all should feel good about, and positive for the next year, 2006.

A Revenue and Expense Report, as well as a Balance Sheet of the respective funds are included

Submitted, Ed Sipe, *Treasurer*

Permanent Endowment Fund

This is the second Trustee report to the Parish since inception in May 2001. The fund was started when we became recipient of a share of a Charitable Remainder Trust. The Vestry provided \$50,000 seed money for the fund. The Parish does have the ability to withdraw funds annually. That amount is 5% of the last three years average market value. We do not under Maryland law have the right to invade the Historic Principal that is at year end \$373,111 or total contributions.

This year the Trust gave the Permanent Endowment Fund \$22,353.80. We also received in December \$205,704.98 from an estate. \$20,000 of the Fund was transferred to the Capital Fund Drive fulfilling the Funds commitment.

The Fund has earned over the 4.75 years 26.10% for an annual rate of 5.49%. This year 2005 the rate of return for the Fund was 4.80% as compared to the S&P 500 which returned 3.0%.

	<u>2005</u>	<u>To Date</u>
Contributions	\$228,058.00	\$373,111.00
Market Value @ 12/31	\$391,673.00	\$391,673.00
Gain after Capital Fund Transfer		\$18,562.00

Submitted by Trustee,
William Ginder, *Chair*
Ted Taylor, Bill Wilson

Building and Grounds

Buildings and Grounds began the year with a walk-around with the Rector to identify needed work on the Church. There proved to be a number of major items requiring attention, plus an assortment of others less pressing. Pressing problems included:

1. Two persons had been buried in improper locations, due to large tree roots near the gate that prevented grave digging. Brady/Bartlett removed the tree and most of the roots. Robert

Thompson finished the job and added turf to the area, allowing the correct reburial of the two caskets.

2. A number of slates that had fallen from the roof had to be replaced. We were very fortunate that St. Luke's solved our failing search for a slate roofer by choosing this time to put a new roof on their Church. Their roofer agreed to do our job while he was here at a cost far below what we had expected. We hope this problem does not recur.
3. Our graveyard, which is visited by many people, had many broken monuments and sunken areas requiring regrading. It was good to see this corrected.
4. The varnished oak front doors on the Church were overdue for refinishing. We were fortunate to find a skilled man who did an excellent job.

Many smaller problems have been fixed. Others are "in process." The writer is thankful to those who bring them to his attention. He is also thankful to Craig English for having offered his very able assistance in this work area. The willingness and knowledge of Robert Thompson is invaluable.

Our budget for 2006 includes such things as tree pruning and additional lighting of both the exterior and interior of the Church. We now have the added responsibility for the enlarged Parish House.

Submitted by: Richard H. Crompton, *Chairman, Buildings and Grounds*

Tellers

There are 7 teams comprised of 12 parishioners who count the weekly offering and deposit the funds in the Mercantile Eastern Shore bank. The tellers fill out a report which credits each parishioner for his/her weekly offering. This report and the deposit slip is then given to the Parish Secretary who enters the information recorded into the computer system.

Submitted by Carolyn Coyle, *Parish Secretary*

WORSHIP & MUSIC

Acolyte Report

In January 2005 there were eleven acolytes serving at Christ Church St. Michaels, in June one graduated from high school and three resigned. Currently there are eight active participants. Recruitment has been attempted with little success. Discussions between the Acolyte Director and the Clergy have been in progress to address the problem of recruitment, with a decision to possibly train

younger children as torch bearer (9 years old). In the beginning of 2004, four acolytes (1 crucifer, 1 sub-deacon and 2 torch bearers) were scheduled for the regular family service each Sunday; by the summer those numbers were reduced to three. Acolytes served for the Easter Vigil service, two Easter Sunday services, Thanksgiving Day service, three Christmas Eve services, and Christmas Day service. Also, acolytes serve as needed for special services (ordinations, funerals, weddings). The annual Acolyte Sunday trip to the National Cathedral was offered but no acolytes were able to attend.

Members of the Acolyte Guild

Lee Hamilton	Megan McCall
Bill Parsons	Eddie McCall (graduated)
Peggy Parsons	Lily Sanford
Jackie Novak (resigned)	Avery Noyes (resigned)
Camper Newnam	Patrick Weller
Cameron Keller (resigned)	April Hall

Submitted by Lee Hamilton, *Acolyte director*

Altar Guild Report

During the church year, Advent 1, 2004 to Advent 1, 2005, St. Mary's Altar Guild prepared for 197 services. This number includes Sunday Services, Wednesday Healing services, Easter and Christmas services as well as ten (10) Baptisms, five (5) weddings and 14 funeral/memorial services.

There are 27 current members serving on the Altar Guild. Two faithful members, Anne Keiser and Pat Janson, have resigned

We welcome two new members, Sue Kilmon and Faye Shannahan, and also the return of Linda Seemans.

When Pat Janson resigned, the office of Guild treasurer was eliminated. The Altar Guild monies received are deposited into the operating fund overseen by the Church treasurer.

St. Mary's Altar Guild received a \$3,000 bequest from the estate of Mary Dietrich Eggers.

Submitted by Helen Bower and Judy Hause, *Co-Directresses*

Bell Choir

On behalf of the handbell ringers, let me extend our gratitude to your speedy follow-through on the request for lights for each ringer's stand. This has been a wonderful addition to the inadequate lighting in the balcony area and has improved the ringing ability of each person.

Our primary need is proper covers for our tables. They can be purchased from the same company we bought our tables from among other companies; however, all companies are comparable in price. We

are currently using four of my cloths on loan to the church, but these are certainly not adequate enough to use for concretizing or ringing in community outreach activities. These can be purchased in either velvet or corduroy material for not less than \$1,200. We could purchase the material and make them ourselves should the support be there.

We are also in need of mallets. As you may or may not know, handbells are not always rung by hand, but often, for variety and special effects, handbells are also rung by using mallets. The cost of these will run about \$150 and will give us enough for each ringer to have their own.

Music is always a concern. Each ringer needs his/her own piece because of different sight and eye conditions. Last year, I made it clear that music rises about \$1.00 per piece per year, and we are now up to no less than \$3.00 per piece, but not more than \$5.00. I have been arranging 90% of the music we have used since I have been here, and we have enough for part of 2006. This is a wonderful feeling to be able to do this for God, but it requires much of my time which seems to be growing shorter all the time. I will need to buy a portion of the music we will ring next year. \$300 should suffice.

If we are to nurture the ringing of handbells in our church and since the youth population and attendance is increasing, we can only keep bell ringing alive by training the young children and the instruments used for this are "Chimettes" at \$450 a set and "Tone Chimes" at \$700 a set. This is food for thought. Let me express; "Don't minimize the importance of this suggestion. This is not a dessert, but is an important nourishing ingredient for church service growth among youth."

We have the best bells, we have the best tables and we wish to continue to have only the best equipment to compliment what we have and the future possibilities of hand bell ringing. For the first time, we have a full complement of ringers and do not need people to fill in for us. Progress has been made in leaps and bounds for 2005.

After we get our needs under accomplishment, then our budget should run about \$500 to \$600 annually. Thank you for your interest in so valuable an investment as handbells.

Submitted by Bernice Walk

Readers – *no report submitted*

Oblation Committee

The members of this parish organization have been extremely loyal and dependable during the year just ended. They have performed as assigned without problems.

Submitted by Bill Jacoby

Usher Report

I am pleased to provide this report in my first year as chair of the usher corps. Charlie Wilson had always done a very thorough job and his shoes have been tough to fill. Thanks to the ground work he performed, we continue to have a large number of volunteers to do usher duty at both services which means no one person or group is called on too often. The duties have been spread quite evenly. This year we have had some minor changes in the roster of usher volunteers, with the departure of some for various reasons and the addition of new ushers, some of whom have been couples. This has simplified making the team assignments. The balance between early and late service volunteers has remained very even.

It is always a pleasure to come to church and find cheerful and helpful ushers waiting to serve. On occasion, the ushers will step in and act as greeters and oblation bearers if they are needed. I think we can all thank the usher volunteers who help to make the worship services at Christ Church a pleasant experience.

Submitted by Fritz Riedlin

Building for the Future **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN REPORT**

Fundraising

As the report for the 2006 Annual Meeting of Christ Church goes to press we are happy to report the successful conclusion of the Capital Campaign for the Parish House of Christ Church.

Although there remains slightly over \$100,000 in outstanding pledges, the total dollars to date in gifts and pledges are approximately \$2,080,000 with more commitments and a final accounting still remaining. You will recall that the original goal of the campaign was \$1.9 million with a \$400,000 endowment component. You will also recall that with the delays, specification changes and significantly increased construction costs, it necessitated increasing the goal to \$2.1 million with no endowment. This became our “published” goal for the campaign, and with the payment of pledges and some additional anticipated support we should reach that full number, or go slightly over it. We are particularly pleased to have been able to accomplish this with fundraising costs less than \$15,000 or .007 % of dollars raised.

We are extremely grateful to everyone who worked so diligently with perseverance, commitment, verve and faith in the importance of the task at hand. We express special thanks for the leadership of our Rector, Mark Nestlehutt, who re-energized this project and took a strong leadership role in seeing it through to completion.

We thank you for allowing us the privilege of serving you in this fundraising capacity. We look forward to the role that this facility will play in the life of our parish and community.

Submitted by Kay Perkins and Hank Spire, *Capital Campaign Co-Chairmen*

Implementation Committee

The first meeting of the reformed Implementation Team was on March 2, 2005. The earlier team had Mark Nestlehutt, Bud Keiser, building coordinator, Sal Simoncini, contractor liaison, Hank Spire and Kay Perkins, Capital Campaign Co-Chairmen, Mike Sheridan, Treasurer, Fritz Riedlin, now policies and procedures, Tom Norris, moving and storage, and Paul Janson, temporary space procurement. Joining the original team were James Maffitt, Senior Warden, Lynn Barrett, Junior Warden and vestry liaison, Kim Weller and Michele Roark to handle the décor. Each person took care of his own area, but we all met every two weeks to discuss progress and problems as well as coordinate all the activities. We soon moved to meeting every Wednesday afternoon. Besides these meetings, Bud Keiser, Sal Simoncini, and I met biweekly with the Jaeger Contractor representatives and with Lauren Dianich, Architect. This is where the building problems were sorted out.

We were given a specific gift of an elevator, which was in the original plans. An Otis elevator was chosen and many changes were needed before installation could begin. It is now finished and available for everyone to use! All changes cause some delay, but construction continued passed the projected finish date and into the summer. The flooring and painting were finally completed so that our furniture and other stored items could be returned. The Parish House was ready to be used by the second Sunday of September when church school and the adult forum were scheduled to begin. Work on the building continued through the Fall, as new furniture was delivered and art work was put in place. Kim Weller concentrated on the nursery and the upstairs rooms, while Michele Roark saw to the downstairs furniture and hanging the artwork. It was all a cooperative venture. Many donations of furniture and art made the whole Parish House more attractive and interesting. The wonderful gift of the Wolf Gas range gave the kitchen the usefulness we had wanted.

Jaeger Construction still has a few items to correct before the final bill is paid. Attached is the Capital Campaign Fund Report. This shows that we have a bank loan of \$50,00.00 and outstanding payments due to Jaeger Construction.

The Capital Campaign has been a huge success, ending on the high note of a challenge grant that was more than met. There are pledges for 2006 amounting to approximately \$80,000.00. When these pledges are fulfilled we will reach the goal of \$2,100,000.00 raised for the Parish House. This is an enormous achievement, thanks to all the generous donors and the hard work of our co-chairmen.

The Implementation Team held its last meeting January 4, 2006, although work continues on. Bud Keiser supervises Jaeger, and installs the various items that were not covered by the contract, Sal checks on any items of construction needing corrections, Kay Perkins and Hank Spire are taking care of pledges, and we all will continue to work for the good of the Parish House to make it a wonderful house for our church and the community.

Submitted by Lynn Barrett, *Implementation Team Chairperson*