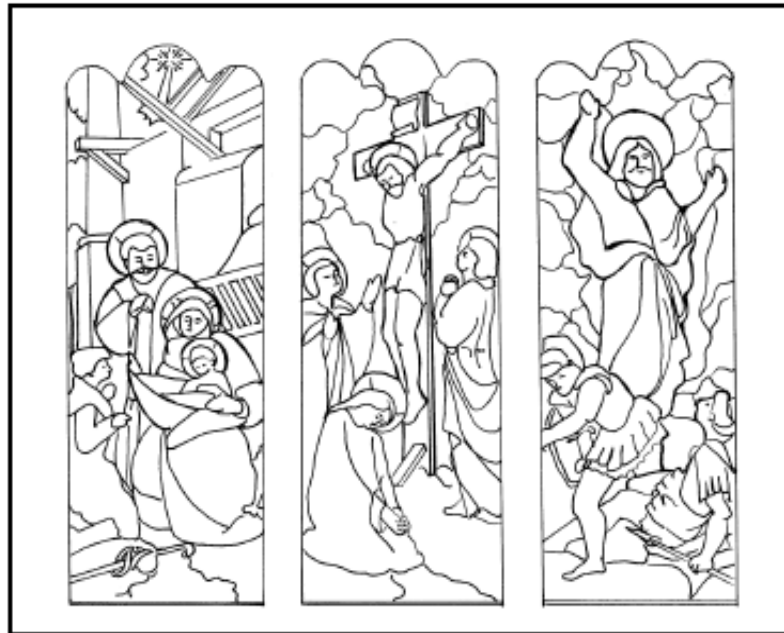




The Church of Our Saviour
Episcopal

10 Amherst Street (P. O. Box 237)
Milford, New Hampshire 03055



To know Christ and make him known

Annual Report

January 24, 2010

The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr.
Rector

The Congregation
Ministers

CHURCH OFFICERS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Rector	The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr.	
Senior Warden	Peter Ten Broeck	2010
Junior Warden	Elizabeth Rotch	2012
Treasurer	Kim Bock	2010
Clerk	Clifford Davis	2010
Vestrypersons:	Diane Babb	2012
	Arthur Julier	2012
	David McBee	2012
	Frank Manley	2011
	Karl Norwood	2011
	Robert Treadwell	2011
	David Cady	2010
	Stephen Uurtamo	2010
	Peter Wolczko	2010
Youth Vestryperson:	Joey Abis	2010

DELEGATES TO THE 2009 CONVENTION*

Mabel Durrell
Elizabeth Rotch (Secretary to Convention)
Bill Andrews
Martha Manley

ALTERNATE

Bill Marot
Brian McGuire
*Joyce McGuire

**Joyce McGuire was elevated to delegate upon the election of Elizabeth Rotch as Secretary to Convention. Her vote was then as an Officer of Convention.*

THE CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR

10 Amherst Street
Milford, NH 03055

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The Right Reverend V. Gene Robinson, Bishop
The Reverend David G. Robinson, Jr., Rector
The Congregation, Ministers

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Church of Our Saviour is a parish of the Episcopal Church. Jesus Christ is our Lord.

As children of God and as Christians, our mission is to know Christ, to live Christ, and to make Christ known, together. We do this as we gather in worship through Word and Sacrament, and are sent to serve in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Through education, fellowship and stewardship, we foster the Christian life to which we have been called in our baptism; and we minister through the practical applications of the gifts of the Holy Spirit given to every member.

+ + + + +

OUR PARISH PRAYER

Come Holy Spirit of God, and enlighten the hearts of the people of the Church of Our Saviour.

Help us to share in the vision of community and ministry which you have given us in your Son, Jesus Christ.

Instill in us the zeal to nourish and encourage our growth in Christ, and bring others into the knowledge of the Gospel.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

January 24, 2010

AGENDA for the ANNUAL MEETING

**The Third Sunday After the Epiphany
The Holy Eucharist, Rite Two + 9:00 a.m.**

*After a 15-minute break to allow sign-in and set-up,
the meeting will begin at approximately 10:30 a.m..*

OPENING PRAYER & OPENING OF THE MEETING	The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr. Rector
DECLARATION OF A QUORUM & MINUTES OF THE 2009 ANNUAL MEETING	Clifford Davis, Clerk
NOMINATION AND INTRODUCTION OF CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION Candidates' Forum	Nominating Committee Position Statements; Clarification Questions
ELECTION OF OFFICERS, VESTRY, DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES	David Cady, Steve Uurtamo Tellers
TREASURER'S REPORT 2009	Kim Bock, Treasurer
BUDGET 2010	Dick Dyer, Chair, Finance Committee
ORGANIZATIONAL REPORTS	As printed in this booklet; to be received by title
SPECIAL ORDER Progress Report: Conflict Transformation	Elizabeth Rotch, Junior Warden
ANNOUNCEMENT OF ELECTION RESULTS	The Rector
INTRODUCTION AND COMMISSIONING OF NEWLY ELECTED OFFICIALS	The Rector
RECOGNITIONS	Elizabeth Rotch, Junior Warden
BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT	The Rector

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
January 25, 2009

The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Reverend David “Chip” Robinson, Jr. at 10:40 a.m. A motion was made that in the absence of Clifford Davis, Frank Manley would act as Clerk for the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed with no objections. There being 65 members of the parish signed in Frank Manley declared a quorum.

The minutes of the last annual meeting having already been certified by the vestry were presented for approval. A motion to accept was made and seconded. The motion carried without objection.

The tellers distributed the ballots. Fr. Chip introduced the candidates asking each to stand in turn. The candidates are:

Junior Warden for a term of three years:	Elizabeth Rotch
Members of the Vestry for a term of three years:	Diane Babb Art Julier David McBee Brian McGuire
Youth member for a term of one year:	Joey Abis
Delegates to Convention for a term of 2 years:	Mabel Durrell Joyce McGuire Elizabeth Rotch

There being no further nominations Fr. Chip declared the nominations closed. Fr. Chip gave instructions on filling out the ballots. The ballots were completed and collected by the tellers, Susan Tinnin, Valerie Hungerford and David Cady.

Treasurer’s Report 2008:

Fr. Chip recognized the treasurer, Kim Bock. Referring to page 15 of the annual report Kim made her report: This has been a good year. Income exceeded expenses by \$11,000. Income was \$8,000 over budget. There are several reasons for the good news. Members paid their pledges. We were without a paid organist for some time and we got a very favorable contract from the oil company. Some adjustments were made so that we do not show a negative balance in year end assets.

Following a question about a figure on the year end fund balances report Kim said that the report was incorrect and needed to be resubmitted. Kim also said she would provide a report breaking down the funds outside the parish.

There has been a one time payment from the Wilton Fund and we received a grant from the Bishop of \$15,000.

A question was asked about the expenses of the Angola Fund. Kim said she had no further information with her, but could look it up.

A question was asked regarding the investment of Embracing Our Future funds. Peter Ten Broeck replied that they are very conservatively invested in FDIC insured funds.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the treasurer's report. The motion passed without objection. There was applause for the treasurer's report.

The Budget 2009:

Fr. Chip recognized Dick Dyer Chair of the Finance Committee to present the Budget. Dick gave a brief history of the past several years. The '06 and '07 budgets were passed with deficits. In 2007 we ended with a deficit. In 2008 a balanced budget was presented. This was achieved by taking funds from the Wilton Fund and with a grant from the Bishop. We had expected that the national church would use funds from their investments to pay the cost of clergy health insurance. This is not going to happen because of the current economic situation. We had a good stewardship campaign this year. Unfortunately the last mailing was not received until a week after pledge Sunday.

There is \$16,000 less in pledge income this year. As a result we have had to cut the rector's salary by \$6,000, with a corresponding adjustment to his Letter of Agreement. Valerie's hours will be reduced by 4 hours. There is no money budgeted for Outreach. Individual members give money directly to outreach. This is not "taxed" by the Diocese by way of Fair Share.

In conclusion we are going in the wrong direction. We need to attract more members.

In response to the question why have people left, Fr. Chip said people have moved away and in some cases there have been deaths. Others have left because there are not a critical number of children for an effective church school. Others have been discouraged by the building program and have said they would come back if we started work on our new church. Peter Ten Broeck and Fr. Chip have contacted people to find out why they may have left. The Angola partnership has been a reason why some have stayed. Fr. Chip thanked Dick Dyer for his report. We are one of the few parishes to be operating with a balanced budget. There was applause for Dick's work.

Organizational Reports:

Father Chip asked for a motion to accept all the reports by title. It was moved and seconded to accept the reports.

Discussion:

It was pointed out that there were two omissions. There is no New Building report and no Grow the Church report. It is requested that these be submitted. It was moved and seconded to make this an amendment to the motion on the floor. The amendment passed. The question was called and the motion as amended passed. Fr. Chip said the two reports would be distributed once they have been received in the church office.

Special Order:

Fr. Chip recognized Peter Ten Broeck to present the Parish Reconciliation Process. Peter asked that the title be changed to Conflict Transformation. Peter expanded on the information presented in the Annual Report in this regard.

Fr. Chip thanked Peter. He said that the conversation with the wardens and Charles LaFond was a positive development. The Vestry will meet with Charles on Monday evening and there will be Church wide meeting on March 15.

Fr. Chip called on Roger Woodhull to present the New Building report. The New Building committee has 8 thoughtful individuals who have committed themselves to build a new church. We need to find a way to get to where we are going. We are confused. The committee has determined that there are three areas: bricks and mortar, money and mortgages, and people. All are equally important. The committee will be transparent and minutes of all meetings will be sent to all for whom e-mail addresses exist. One person said he did not have access to e-mail. If someone does not have e-mail the reports will be mailed. In response to a question Roger said that the meetings are open and you are invited to attend. Roger thanked the committee for their work.

Announcement of Election Results:

Fr. Chip announced the results of the election:

Junior Warden:	Elizabeth Rotch
Vestry:	Diane Babb, Art Julier, David McBee
Youth Vestry:	Joey Abis
Delegates to Convention:	Elizabeth Rotch, Mabel Durrell
Alternate:	Joyce McGuire

The newly elected individuals were called forward and presented by Peter Ten Broeck. Fr. Chip commissioned each individual. There was applause. The Junior Warden was asked to recognize and give thanks to those whose terms have expired. Sue Tinnin is the only one actually leaving the vestry. Elizabeth thanked her for her service.

Benediction followed with a prayer. Fr. Chip declared the meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Frank Manley, Clerk pro tem

2009 PARISH STATISTICS

As reported to the Diocese & National Church

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>2009</u>
Baptized Members	405*
Communicants in Good Standing	274*

Services

Sunday Eucharists	88
Weekday Eucharists	104
Private Communion	48
Marriages	2
Burials	4
Baptisms	2
Confirmations	0
Total Number of Services:	
Sundays	88
Weekdays	125

Attendance

Christmas Eve	172
Christmas Day	42
Ash Wednesday	52
First Sunday in Lent	85
Passion Sunday (Palm Sunday)	110
Maundy Thursday	50
Good Friday	22
Easter Vigil	47
Easter Day	153
Pentecost	98
Trinity Sunday	96
Thanksgiving	19
First Sunday in Advent	72
Total Attendance	6,084
Average Sunday Attendance	79

*start of the year

RECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2009

*Note: This report is not being delivered verbally at the Annual Meeting this year.
Please read it prior to the meeting. Thank you!*

From time to time, every parish (indeed, every organization) needs to step back from the day-to-day routine of its ministry and think afresh about its God-given mission and purpose. What is at the heart of our ministry? Why are we here? What is our vision?

Ideally, these questions are ones that receive fresh attention on a periodic basis. Our Mutual Ministry Reviews in 2003 and 2006 come to mind as times when we took some “time out” to consider more deeply such matters in a prayerful and reflective way. But every now and then, such thinking is “forced” on us by a situation we cannot afford to ignore. This year, twin forces converged to put us in that position. The first was the rapidly escalating level of conflict in the parish leading up to and following our October, 2007 vote not to proceed with the building plans that had, as of then, been developed. The second was the economic recession that affected the finances of the parish in no less devastating ways than it did the larger society.

The Wardens, Vestry and I began to realize a need for some kind of extraordinary action as far back as December of 2007, when we met with Canon to the Ordinary Tim Rich to discuss possible ways forward following that fateful parish meeting. Through much of 2008, we continued to look for positive solutions, but they were slow in coming – and often were undermined by some of the less seemly (indeed, less Christian) behaviors that had emerged in our discourse.

Finally, by early 2009, we realized we could not put our parish “back on track” without a lot of prayer and significant help. And so, in February of this past year, we signed a letter of agreement with two trained facilitators, the Rev. Canon Charles LaFond and the Rev. Celeste Hemingson, to help us, over the course of a year, to transform our conflict and set the stage for a renewed vigor in our common life as a congregation.

The first step in the Conflict Transformation process was to teach the Vestry, parish leaders, and ultimately, the congregation at large, how to deal with one another fairly and honestly. Our Leadership Retreat in March focused on this, as did our first parish-wide plenary with Charles and Celeste in May.

The next step was to express, in a variety of settings, just what we saw the problems to be. In small groups in late May and early June, people were given uninterrupted opportunity to speak their minds. Then in late June, the full parish came together to speak their concerns in a large-group setting.

In September and October, two parish-wide plenary sessions were held. At these meetings, six areas of conflict were identified, and a “road map” to addressing them was developed.

Now, as 2010 begins, the Vestry and parish leaders are beginning the process of implementing these recommendations.

Our first step in that regard was just two weeks ago, when our entire Vestry, plus those who are nominated for Vestry posts in today’s elections, gathered with the Rev. Kevin Nichols, who, like Charles and Celeste, is a trained Conflict Transformation facilitator, to clarify our understanding of the roles, responsibilities and leadership qualities of Vestry members. In response to one of the six areas of concern to emerge last September, we did some intentional education around canonical guidelines, best practices, and appropriate ways of creating a culture of inclusive, consistent and reliable decision-making in our parish.

As the coming months unfold, there will be other significant steps toward healing and developing a renewed vision:

- We will take concrete steps to create a culture that makes effective communication the norm and not the exception in our parish life. Among the possibilities we will explore are the appointment of a communications team under the leadership of a trained coordinator to help us gather and disseminate information in a timely and effective way.
- We will next month begin a ten-month process of developing a unified vision and corresponding budget for our parish that includes all our ministries in one accessible document. Outreach initiatives and other cherished programs will be evaluated as to whether they fit into our agreed upon mission and vision – and those that do not will be allowed to die gently. It is better that we be focused on the, say, half dozen initiatives we are able to do effectively than to continue with a “laundry list” of projects that are beyond our scope to do well.
- We will develop a parish-wide curriculum for helping our people learn and listen in the area of human sexuality. This curriculum is envisioned to include a book study of two books that offer differing views on the subject; story sharing as to how our views about homosexuality have been formed; viewing the film, *For the Bible Tells Me So*; and continued reinforcement of the values of understanding one another, having empathy and respect for one another, and helping learn constructive and positive ways to stay in loving community even when we continue to disagree.
- Finally, we will determine, once and for all, what legal alternatives are available to us for the use of the Capital Funds raised over the last three years, and then, based on what we can appropriately do under the New Hampshire charitable laws, reopen the conversation concerning our facility needs, openly discussing all legally available alternatives. Along the way, we will renew our understanding of all the costs involved (both initial and ongoing), the possible ways of financing any such project, and the pros and cons of each potential way of moving forward. It is important in all this discussion not to let “the cart come before the horse.” We need to clearly understand what we wish to accomplish by means of our building infrastructure – and why and how what we are planning meets those needs. A building just for the sake of fulfilling a vague “dream” of building a “new church” (or, for that matter, substantially renovating the current structure) does not ultimately serve us well.

Obviously, it is not my place as Rector to impose upon the parish my vision of how, or on what timetable, all of this is to be accomplished. That is the parish’s work, and while the Vestry and I can provide leadership in helping bring a renewed vision to fruition, that vision will not ultimately succeed if it is not shared by all of us.

I do think it incumbent on me, however, to share with you my sense of what I see, in broad brushstrokes, as the top priorities for the ministry we share. At the heart of my vision for the Church of Our Saviour is a three-fold overarching purpose for our being here as a community in Christ:

- First, I see our parish as a community in which people receive the Christian formation they need to live their day-to-day lives as people of faith. To use the language St. Paul uses, our chief purpose as a church is to “equip the saints for the work of ministry.” While effective Christian education for all ages and all stages of Christian development is important to this, other elements of our parish life – and in particular, our liturgical life – also need to reflect this important purpose.

- Secondly, we are called to be a community that looks beyond its own walls and ministers effectively to the needs of the larger community. The key word here is “effectively.” Giving small amounts of money to community organizations has its place – but ultimately what has impact in the community is our commitment to those few things that we really “throw ourselves into” as a Christ-centered, all-parish commitment. Over this next year, we need to identify what those few things are – but then really emphasize them and commit to them as never before.
- Finally, we need to be a community that not just wants to grow, but takes all efforts necessary to grow. We are good at caring for people once they walk through our doors. The love and pastoral care this parish offers its members is second to none. But we remain reticent to do the really hard work of proactively getting folks to our doors in the first place – and be sure we understand the needs that brought them here so they don’t continue right on through, marching out the back door.

Can we do all this? Most certainly we can. But there is one thing standing in our way, and I cannot close this report without addressing it.

How often in Scripture we hear the words, “fear not” or “be not afraid.” One of my observations over the course of all that we have lived through these past several months is that we have allowed ourselves to become filled with fear. Ultimately, in the corporate sense, that fear has been expressed as a fear of death. “What if we are dying as a parish?”

As people of faith, we have to move beyond that fear and, prayerfully, return to the vision Christians are called to have – being people of hope. What I feel we lose sight of is that anything God calls us to do, God will equip us for doing. We need to stop thinking of working in our own limited abilities and resources. God’s resources are limitless. We need to let God out of the box we have created and let our Lord work freely within us to accomplish the divine will.

To that end, I invite you – I invite *us* – to embrace new life, a new beginning here at the Church of Our Saviour as 2010 unfolds. We need to embrace the Spirit, who, I’m convinced, wants to birth through us, individually and corporately, a new chapter in our life and ministry.

If we can open ourselves to this possibility, these can be exciting times as the smoldering embers of the church we “were” are fanned into new life and made visible and tangible in the church we “are” and “will be.”

So, with three overarching goals – Christian formation, effective community ministry, and a hunger to grow – in mind, and with six measurable and achievable objectives to accomplish, let’s set aside any fear, be infused with the joy of the Lord, and come along for what holds the potential of being an exciting adventure. What is at the heart of our ministry? Why are we here? What is our vision? By God’s grace, we’re soon going to find out. And I think the end result will be worth all the hard work, the hard prayer – and (for those who are impatient for the outcome) the hard wait.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr.
Rector

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

In January, 2009 we welcomed our newly elected Vestry members Diane Babb, David McBee, Joey Abis and Peter Wolczko, who is filling a one-year unfulfilled term. Our monthly meetings continued in the context of the Eucharist, which enabled us to focus on Christ's presence as we offered our Vestry work to him. We continued the acceptance of the covenant for the Church of Our Saviour, which was created in 2008. This is posted throughout the church and states that we believe that we are called by God to speak the truth in love, enumerating the ways we will do that in our interaction with others.

In our budgetary deliberations the Vestry had to make some painful recommendations regarding the 2009 budget. Among them were reducing the salaries of Fr. Chip, Rector, and Parish Administrator, Valerie Hungerford, by altering their number of work hours. Sadly, we had to eliminate Outreach as a line item, and had to reduce our Diocesan contribution to Fair Share.

March 6 and 7 was the annual Leadership retreat at the Barbara C. Harris Center in Greenfield, NH led by Canon Charles LaFond. The emphasis of the retreat was becoming closer as a Vestry, learning meditation skills, listening to God and listening to each other.

In its February meeting the Vestry voted to sign a letter of agreement to accept the offer by the Diocese of New Hampshire to participate in the Conflict Transformation Process, (CTP) which is a mediation program designed for parishes in conflict. Our facilitators, Canon Charles LaFond and Rev. Celeste Hemingson, conducted small group meetings, sent out questionnaires to the entire parish and facilitated four all-day workshops, held on May 16, June 28, September 13 and October 25. These workshops were well-attended with at least 70 parishioners participating in each of the four meetings. The May and June workshops were focused on improving communication and listening skills, through the use of small groups, Samoan Circles and written exercises.

By September it was clear that the collective work of the parish in the Conflict Transformation process resulted in the pinpointing of six major areas of conflict within our church. These include:

1. The process by which decisions have and have not been made regarding building a new parish church.
2. The lack of effective communication between individuals and groups in our parish.
3. The lack of inclusive, consistent and reliable decision-making in our parish.
4. A difference of opinion about the way in which resources – people, money, space etc. – are used.
5. Interpersonal conflict resulting from different leadership styles and differing expectations of pastoral care. This conflict has its locus in the leadership of the Rector and Vestry over which there is also interpersonal conflict.
6. The differing views about the state of the Episcopal Church and the life of the Church of Our Saviour regarding human sexuality.

Prior to the September 13 meeting the entire parish was sent a worksheet, identifying the first three areas of conflict, asking opinions on forward-looking solutions to these problems and asked to bring them with us to the meeting. We then filled many pages of newsprint with our ideas and met in small groups to discern the best of these solutions. The last three areas of conflict were handled in a similar manner at the October 25 meeting. As of the writing of this report all of this information on possible solutions to the six major areas of conflict has been collated and sent to the parish. It will be up to the 2010 Vestry to digest this information and prayerfully discern what direction to take to solve these problems.

Our greatest asset at Church of Our Saviour is the congregation—all of you who show loving leadership to make our programs really special and reaching out to the world beyond our walls. Some of the activities which raised money for the parish and provided outreach include the Fall and Spring rummage sales, the Peach Festival in August, and the Christmas Fair. Thanks to all of you who helped out with these projects. Thanks also to the church school leaders, all of whom work tirelessly on behalf of our youth. Many of you give countless hours to provide pastoral care to our fellow parishioners, quietly behind the scenes. Special thanks to Karl Norwood who arranged for the painting of the kitchen, rehabilitation of the cabinets, and for the tiling of the Amherst Street entrance. There was an army of wonderful souls who reorganized the items in the kitchen after it was painted. Thank you to those who volunteer in making our liturgy more meaningful—LEM's, altar guild, acolytes, choir, intercessors, and lectors. Special thanks to Mike Therrien, who headed the cookbook committee. Thank you also to those of you who help to winterize the church, rake leaves, and are involved in other building and grounds projects. I know that there are countless others who quietly serve.

Thank you to retiring Vestry members Steve Uurtamo, Joey Abis, David Cady, Peter Wolczko, Kim Bock, who was our tireless treasurer for the past two years. A special thanks to Elizabeth Rotch, Jr. Warden, who was willing to work with me as a supportive teammate. Valerie is invaluable as our Parish Administrator and is always willing to walk the extra mile. Thank you, all.

We have just turned the calendar to a new year — a new gift to be unwrapped. The one constant in our personal lives and our life at Church of Our Saviour is God's love for us. The following Biblical passages are worth savoring for 2009 and this brand new year:

But those who wait upon the Lord will find new strength. They will fly high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not grow faint.
Isaiah 40:31

Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new. Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.
2 Corinthians: 17-18

May God continually bless the Church of Our Saviour, and may we grow in His love.

In Christ's love,

Peter Ten Broeck
Senior Warden

TREASURER'S REPORT

2009's balanced operating budget began the year with \$197,145 in planned income and expenses. COOS actually received \$197,421.71 in income and expended \$197,260.74, leaving a positive balance of \$160.97.

Income:

In general, income met predicted targets. Non Pledge income exceeded expectations by \$4,400. This was balanced by a slight shortfall in member pledges and fair/fundraising.

Expenses:

All expense categories ended the year within \$500 of their budgeted amounts. A few line items varied greater than anticipated and are worth an explanation:

1. Water and Sewer – Exceed expectations because of a leaky toilet.
2. Oil – because of a more-than-fair contract with Ciardelli, oil is nearly \$2,000 under budget.
3. Repairs and Maintenance – under Karl Norwood's capable hand, many repairs were made to the church building. Karl was able to secure over \$11,000 in insurance proceeds to begin fixing the roof and to make other repairs around the church. Doors were also fixed and the undercroft received a partial facelift. Expenses exceeded predictions by \$1,800.

Bottom Line:

2009 should be celebrated for a good response by non pledging and pledging members of COOS. Budgets can be created and followed when pledgers keep on target with their pledge payments. However, we cannot lose sight of the fact that rector and church administrator hours were reduced and our fair share obligation to the diocese was not met. Clearly, building maintenance is underfunded. It is hoped that conflict resolution will lead to a common vision for our parish which will ultimately result in growth.

As was the case last year, everyone involved with money, in any aspect, does exactly what they are supposed to do. COOS has a healthy percentage of pledgers. Pledges have increased over the past 10 years with the rate of inflation. People support fairs and fundraising efforts. Expenses are kept in check. Committee conveners rarely spend their entire budget. Valerie is aware of every dime spent and every stamp used and is diligent about finding more cost effective ways of performing jobs. Dawn is an excellent bookkeeper.

Outreach:

Outreach was removed from the 2009 budget. There is a common misconception that removing the line item indicated COOS is no longer involved in Outreach. In an attempt to improve communication, an additional Outreach report is included in this treasurer's report. \$31,999.54 was sent to other organizations for outreach.

Kim Bock, Treasurer

FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee met on a quarterly basis this past year in order to review the quarterly financial picture and to make sure that our income and expenses were in line with the 2009 Parish Budget approved at the annual parish meeting in January 2009. Preliminary results for 2009 show a small surplus.

Our parish ran on a deficit budget for several years. The deficit budget was \$5,492 in 2006 and -\$16,489 in 2007. In 2008 we were able to match expenses with income only because of a \$15,000 one-time grant from the Bishop and tapping an additional \$10,500 from the Wilton Fund. In order to balance the budget for 2009 the following undesirable cuts were necessary:

- Reduced Fr. Chip's salary and hours by four hours a week [\$6,085 savings]
- Reduced Valerie's salary and hours by four hours a week [\$2,399 savings]
- Reduced our Diocesan Fair Share from the standard 17% to 10% of income [\$14,323 savings]
- Rolled over \$7,000 surplus from 2008 into 2009 [no such rollover is anticipated for 2010]
- Eliminated the Outreach line item [\$3,000 savings]

The results of our 2010 Stewardship Campaign has resulted in an anticipated pledge income for 2010 of only \$147,901 from 86 pledging families, which means that we have a - \$6,404 shortfall from our 2009 pledging level. This is down from pledges of \$168,813 in 2008 and \$153,945 in 2009.

This means that in planning for the 2010 Parish Budget we have a estimated shortfall in income of \$8,500 assuming that we carry forward all of the cuts that we made in the 2009 budget [see list of cuts above]. It should be noticed that staff and diocesan Fair Share make up 67% of the 2009 budget.

The Vestry will be holding a special Vestry meeting on January 5th to discuss our current financial situation

Dick Dyer, Chairman
Committee Members:
Bill Andrews, Frank Besse, Kim Bock,
Gail Coad, Peter Ten Broeck, Robin Warren

CHARITABLE TRUST

The Church of Our Saviour Charitable Trust is a trust fund that was organized in 1982 as an endowment fund for the parish. The trustees invest moneys given to the trust, with the income used to support the ministry of the Church of Our Saviour. The expectation is that the funds will be used to encourage new ministry efforts.

The Charitable Trust holds investments in an Edward Jones Advisory Solution Core Research Model, with a Balanced Growth and Income portfolio. This program draws upon the knowledge of Edward Jones professionals to provide guidance and advice. The account is rebalanced at the discretion of Edward Jones when an asset class drifts from its target allocation by more than a specified percentage. The Charitable Trust also has funds invested in the New Hampshire Community Loan Fund, and holds an equity interest in the rector's house. During 2008, the Trust's investments decreased considerably in value. Although the market experienced some recovery in 2009, there are no current plans for withdrawing funds. The pledge to the building fund will be reconsidered when the time arrives.

In recent years, the Charitable Trust has supported outreach ministries, provided funds for the engineering studies of the land on Route 13, paid \$25,000 for the consulting fees for the capital funds campaign, and approved a grant of \$9,000 to support an advertising and new member recruitment campaign.

In 2009, the parish continued to draw on its grant for advertising, and the Charitable Trust renewed its challenge grant to the parish for outreach in the form of a \$5,000 match for funds donated to the Angola project. In December 2009, this grant enabled the Church of Our Saviour to send \$20,000 to the parish of St. André, Ondjiva, Angola to begin construction of a new church. In addition the Trust provided \$2,500 for materials and meals for the Conflict Transformation workshops in the parish.

The Charitable Trust is a means of making a significant contribution to the ministry of the parish, one that will continue for years to come. All parishioners are encouraged to consider the trust in their wills. Additional information is available from the trustees.

Martha R. Manley, chairman

Trustees at December 2009:

Peter Ten Broeck, senior warden
Kim Bock, treasurer
Richard Dyer, finance committee chairman
Martha R. Manley
Robert Treadwell
Robin Warren
Roger Woodhull

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
2009 SUMMARY**

	BUDGET 2009	ACTUAL 2009
INCOME		
Plate Offerings	3,000.00	2,218.46
Contributions – Non Pledge	10,000.00	12,613.00
Contributions – Other/Special	4,500.00	6,287.00
Contributions - Operating Reserve from 2008	6,970.00	6,970.00
Subtotal – Non-Pledge Income	24,470.00	28,088.46
Member Pledges	148,745.00	147,757.81
Building Usage Gifts	2,400.00	1,921.00
Fair/Fundraising Income	18,000.00	16,313.66
Investment Income – General Fund	3,500.00	3,317.24
Checking Account Interest/Inv. Inc.	30.00	23.54
Subtotal – Pledge/Other Income	172,675.00	169,333.25
TOTAL INCOME	197,145.00	197,421.71
EXPENSES		
Rector’s Salary/Housing	62,517.00	62,516.93
Mileage Expense	2,400.00	2,649.14
Pension/Insurance	26,478.00	26,744.16
Supply Clergy	600.00	300.00
Search Committee Fund	.00	.00
Refresher Leave Fund	1,000.00	1,000.00
Rector’s Discretionary Fund	500.00	30.00
Support/Continuing Education	500.00	166.85
Pastoral Care Via Ordained Ministry	99,792.00	93,407.08
Church School/Nursery	600.00	301.07
Adult/Other Education	100.00	59.00
Babysitting Salary	975.00	812.50
Fellowship	100.00	37.18
Youth Activities	.00	.00
Stewardship	500.00	426.76
Vestry Retreat	200.00	200.00
Pastoral Care	.00	.00
Subscriptions	100.00	186.60
Christian Education and Ministry	2,575.00	2,023.11

**CHURCH OF OUR SAVIOUR
2009 SUMMARY**

Altar Supplies	300.00	251.40
Organist Salary	15,000.00	15,150.00
Other Music	250.00	227.48
Liturgical Expenses	250.00	221.83
Music and Worship	15,800.00	15,850.71
Diocesan Fairshare	20,462.00	20,461.98
Outreach	.00	0.00
Convention Expenses	100.00	60.00
Evangelism	.00	.00
Mission to the Wider World	20,562.00	20,521.98
Administrators Salary	13,699.00	14,230.76
Admin. Health Insurance	3,300.00	3,760.76
Admin. Pension	1,370.00	1,425.40
Payroll Taxes	2,757.00	2,796.32
Telephone	1,400.00	1,425.09
Internet Expenses	725.00	726.15
Office Supplies/Expenses	1,600.00	1,268.04
Maintenance Contracts	1,450.00	1,558.95
Postage	1,200.00	1,094.50
Building and Other Insurance	5,952.00	5,952.00
Capitol Equipment Reserve Fund	.00	.00
Printing/Advertising	250.00	234.00
Recognitions	100.00	0.00
Fair/Fundraising Expense	6,000.00	6,098.58
Checking Account Fees	.00	20.00
Audit Reserve Fund	.00	.00
Administration and Communication	39,703.00	40,590.55
Housekeeping	6,360.00	6,677.89
Oil	11,000.00	9,095.42
Propane	700.00	627.00
Electricity	2,500.00	2,478.83
Water and Sewer	450.00	655.00
Repairs and Maintenance	3,500.00	5,333.17
Capitol Improvement Reserve Fund	.00	0.00
Care & Upkeep of Our Church Home	24,510.00	24,867.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	197,145.00	197,260.74
NET (INCOME-EXPENSE)	0.00	160.97

2009 YEAR END ASSETS

CASH ASSETS

Checking – Citizens Bank	29,623.54
Petty Cash	200.00
Women’s Group 7/8 Mo CD	2,061.70
Women’s Group 3 Yr Rising Rate CD	1,176.15
Women’s Group 2007 3 Yr Rsg Rate CD	1,377.94
Embracing Our Future – Ed. Jones Mny Mkt Acct	150,456.47
Embracing Our Future - Ocean Bank CD	202,081.43
Embracing Our Future – First Colebrook Bank CD	202,352.16
Subtotal Cash Assets	589,329.39

INVESTMENTS

NH Community Loan Fund	14,000.00
Diocesan Investment Fund	106,652.32
Subtotal – Investments	120,652.32

TOTAL ASSETS

709,981.71

2009 YEAR END FUND BALANCES

	Beginning Balance	Ending Balance
General Funds	0.00	160.97
Memorial Fund	3,056.86	3,056.86
Cheney Fund	949.56	989.56
Peter Andrews Fund	805.06	855.06
Capital Improvement Fund (Reserve)	4,873.18	2,240.31
Capital Equipment Fund (Reserve)	2,650.97	1,546.97
Flower/Altar Lamp Fund	78.45	.00
Other Funds Within Our Parish	292.01	2,517.79
Funds Designated Outside Our Parish	7,841.12	1,248.65
Search Committee Fund (Reserve)	6,500.00	6,500.00
Charitable Trust Fund	750.28	(197.32)
Investment Fund	96,261.37	106,652.32
Workcamp Fund	3,125.40	2,198.57
Refresher Leave Fund (Reserve)	2,532.29	3,532.29
Holmes Fund	6,195.55	4,157.22
Rector’s Discretionary Fund	130.00	.05
Alpha Fund	217.21	717.21
Audit Fund (Reserve)	41.00	41.00
Women’s Group Fund	7,078.83	7,233.03
New Church Capital Fund	544,421.92	558,156.96
St Andres Church Angola Fund	.00	462.21
New Church Maintenance Reserve Fund	7,000.00	7,000.00
Operating Reserve Fund	6,970.00	6,970.00
Total Fund Balances	701,771.06	709,069.71
Liabilities	412.00	912.00
Total Fund Balances	702,183.06	709,981.71

EMBRACING OUR FUTURE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

2009 Income & Expense Report

Opening Balance January 1, 2009	<u>544,421.92</u>
Income 2009	
Individual Contributions	9,070.00
Edward Jones Money Market Dividends	279.89
Interest/Realized Gain/(Loss)	4,433.59
Tree Harvesting Proceeds	.00
	<u>13,783.48</u>
Total Income 2009	<u>13,783.48</u>
	<u>558,205.40</u>
Expenses 2009	
Property Tax	18.44
Ed Jones Wire Transfer Fees	30.00
	<u>48.44</u>
Total Expenses 2009	<u>48.44</u>
Ending Balance December 31, 2009	<u>558,156.96</u>
Individual Contributions to Date	
Pledge	526,282.55
Non-Pledge	2,948.50
Total Individual Contributions	<u>529,231.05</u>
Account Balances	
Citizen's Bank Checking	10,266.90
Edward Jones Money Market Account	143,453.95
Ocean Bank CD	202,081.43
First Colebrook Bank CD	202,352.16
Total	<u>558,154.44</u>

Notes:

Realized Gain/(Loss) from the sale of Donated Stock.

COOS Funds Designated for Outside Our Parish 2009

January 1 - December 31, 2009

	Funds Raised	Fundraising Cost	WC Travel Expense	Given to Designated Organization
Crop Walk	20.00			20.00
UTO*	414.49			398.50
Habitat For Humanity	95.00			95.00
Episcopal Relief & Development	455.00			455.00
Good Friday Offering	76.00			76.00
Lenten Offering	325.00			325.00
Noise Offering	246.88			172.44
ChIPS	740.00			760.00
PF Booklet Proceeds or Outreach	524.50			524.50
Christmas Fair*	236.46			228.10
Rectors Seminary	163.00			163.00
Group Workcamp	10,749.87	1,434.70	1,460.00	8,782.00
St Andres Church, Angola	21,635.34	1,173.13		20,000.00
 Total	 35,681.54	 2,607.83	 1,460.00	 31,999.54

*Additional funds received after check was sent to designated organization(s).

**2010 BUDGET
APPROVED BY VESTRY 1/12/2010**

Plate Offerings	2,200
Contributions - Non Pledge	11,000
Contributions - Easter	1,250
Contributions - Christmas	2,100
Anticipated Growth - Recruitment	2,000
Contributions - Other/Special	500
Transfer from Wilton Fund	0
Diocesan Grants	0
Contributions: Designated	0
Total Non-Pledge	19,050
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Member Pledges	147,901
Discount <i>to reflect uncollectables</i>	(2,958)
Building Usage Gifts	2,000
Fair/Rummage Sale Income	17,000
Additional Fund Raising	0
Investment Income	3,300
Checking Account Interest	30
Total Pledge/Other Income	167,273
<hr/>	
Total Income	186,323
<hr/>	
Rector Salary	32,977
Housing Allowance	29,540
Mileage Reimbursement	2,400
Rector Pension	11,253
Rector Insurance	15,636
Supply Clergy	600
Discretionary Fund	0
Refresher Leave Fund	1,000
Continuing Ed	0
Total Ordained Ministry	93,406
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Church School/Nursery	600
Adult/Other Ed	0
Babysitting	975
Fellowship	100
Youth Activities	0
Stewardship	500
Vestry Retreat	250
Subscriptions	100
Total Christian Ed/Ministry	2,525

Altar Supplies	250
Organist	15,000
Other Music	0
Liturgical	250
Total Music & Worship	15,500
<hr/>	
Fair Share	29,012
Discount <i>to reflect shortfall</i>	(11,946)
Outreach	1,000
Millenium Development Grants	0
Convention Expenses	0
Total Mission to Wider World	18,066
<hr/>	
Admin Salary	13,699
Payroll Taxes	2,757
Telephone	1,400
Internet	725
Admin Health Ins.	3,327
Admin Pension	1,370
Office Supplies	1,300
Maintenance Contracts	1,000
Postage	1,000
Insurance	3,696
Recognitions	0
Fair/Fundraising Expense	6,000
Checking Account Fees	25
Total Admin & Comms	36,299
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Housekeeping	6,360
Oil	8,500
Propane	700
Electricity	2,500
Water & Sewer	450
Repairs and Maintenance	2,017
Total Care & Upkeep	20,527
<hr/>	
Income	186,323
Expense	186,323
Residual	(0)

RECTOR'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

The Rector's Discretionary Fund has been established to quietly and confidentially assist people in need either through direct personal aid (helping people with utility bills, rental and heating assistance, etc.) or through participation in community-wide charitable efforts.

In 2009, nearly \$1,300 was distributed to 13 households, some of which were within the parish. Thankfully, this represents a decrease from 2008 – but with the economy continuing to struggle, there is no reason to believe 2010 will be an “easy” year for those who seek the Fund's help.

While honoraria from weddings and funerals generally form the bulk of the Fund's regular income, individual contributions this year exceeded \$500 – a great help in those times when the need is urgent. My sincere thanks to all whose generosity made this possible.

This year did bring with it one small, but significant change, to the Fund. For many years, the Discretionary Fund was an interest-bearing account that incurred a service charge whenever its balance fell below \$1,000. The Fund has now been placed in a non-interest-bearing “non-profit checking” account that charges no service fees regardless of balance. The loss of a few cents' interest will allow us to put more of our donated dollars to work – a change that seemed to make sense in these lean times when every dollar counts.

As in past years, a separate accounting has been maintained for income and expenses from the Nelson Fund, which is an unrestricted fund that may be disbursed at the Rector's discretion. You will find Nelson Fund related line items in *italics* in the spreadsheet below.

The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr.
Rector

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

Balance as of January 1, 2009		<u>\$1,295.73</u>
	<i>Nelson Fund Beginning Balance (included in above)</i>	\$357.87
Income		
Church Contributions	285.00	
Individual Contributions	525.00	
<i>Nelson Fund Income</i>	518.87	
Wedding, Funeral and Baptism Honoraria	275.00	
Interest	0.48	
TOTAL	<u>1,604.35</u>	
SUBTOTAL		<u>\$2,900.08</u>
Expenditures		
Direct Aid to Individuals	1,281.92	
<i>Expenditures Funded by Nelson Fund</i>	235.99	
Bank Charges	62.50	
TOTAL	<u>1,580.41</u>	
Balance as of December 31, 2009		<u>\$1,319.67</u>
	<i>Nelson Fund Ending Balance (included in above)</i>	\$640.75
	Funds available for normal Discretionary use	\$678.92

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Over the past several years, the Stewardship Committee has presented a comprehensive series of programs with the intention of helping us all to take a closer look at the ministries that bind us together as a family of Christian stewards. For 2009, we used as our theme, “*Let Your Light Shine*,” based on the words of our Lord in the Sermon on the Mount, “Let your light so shine before others that they may see the good work you do and give glory to your Father in heaven.” (*Matthew 5:16*)

Through mailers, sermons, activities, and personal testimonies, we invited members of the congregation to take time to reflect upon and more deeply explore the importance of our relationship with God and one another as family in Christ. We challenged ourselves to assess just how much we reflect the light of God, and how much time and effort we really put into “letting our light shine.”

As with the previous three campaigns, we worked to position stewardship for what we truly believe it to be – a spiritual conversion of life, an awakening to what God is asking of us. To do this we repeatedly emphasized the facts that:

- Everything good in our lives, *everything*, comes from God.
- God is calling each of us to fulfill our end of this relationship by reflecting the light and continuing the work of Christ here on earth
- Doing God’s work requires a commitment from each of us
 - A commitment of our time
 - A commitment of our talents
 - And a commitment of our financial resources.

As in the previous campaigns this year’s program ran for five weeks and culminated on *Let Your Light Shine Sunday*, where, during a special single service, we presented our pledges for the coming year. Afterwards, we joined together to enjoy a delicious celebratory breakfast.

Financially, as of the end of December, the parish had raised \$147,541 in solid pledges for the upcoming year. Among these 86 total pledges were 8 new pledges and 28 increased pledges. Only 9 pledges were decreased – though there have been some losses as well with parishioners dying, leaving the area, or becoming inactive.

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who participated in this year’s campaign, and prays that we all continue to *shine God’s light* as we become increasingly aware of our roles as stewards of God’s abundance and of all we accomplish in the name of Christ.

Your Stewardship Committee:

Fr. Chip Robinson, convener; Jenny Lussier, Paul Murphy, Martha Rooney,
Elizabeth Rotch, Mary Sanchez, Peter Ten Broeck, Bob Treadwell

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE

This past Spring we had a productive and much needed clean up on the outside landscape. Included were some new donated plantings that soften and improved the appearance.

The Vestry recognized the deteriorating condition of the inside and authorized painting a portion of the undercroft, kitchen and entryway. Volunteers stripped and re-waxed the floors in this area. In addition new tiles were placed in the entryway. This has gone a long way in brightening and improving the appearance.

Routine maintenance has been neglected over the past few years due to budget restraints. Many items such as cleaning, waxing and buffing floors, steam cleaning rugs and interior painting can and should be done with volunteer help. This will go a long way in preserving the wonderful asset we have and at the same time helping close the budget gap. Many hands make light work and yes you can make a difference!!

Beyond this the Vestry realizes that the outside of the building needs professional attention. To that end a list of items needing specific attention has been outlined with an estimated budget. The recommendation would be to plan for a capital outlay of approximately \$10,000 per year for the replacement of windows, trim and paint over a three-year period. Funds have not been authorized to date. The western end is in worse shape and should be addressed first. Each gambrel on the south side could be addressed separately in future years. If a decision is to remain in the Church building for a period of time with requisite renovations and improvements those capital costs could be incorporated in that budget.

Dan Chouinard, Convener
Karl Norwood, Vestry Liaison

NEW BUILDING COMMITTEE

The committee met regularly during the first part of the year. It was decided that our focus should be two-pronged; one to try and reduce the cost of the new church and two, as the cost picture became clearer to then determine how we would address the costs (where the necessary monies would come from). We were able to work with ARENCO and cut some costly items and effect a significant cost reduction. We had also gone out for alternate bids, none of which proved to be of any significant difference than that which we had. A strategy was beginning to be developed regarding where the money would come from to pay for a new church.

During the process ARENCO came up with an alternate location to build our new church, about a mile or so out to the west on Elm Street (Rt.101A). We were in the process of assessing this alternate strategy as well as all the data that had been gathered when it was decided that any further pursuit of the new building while we, as a parish, were in the middle of our Conflict Resolution program, would be counter productive. So all activity came to a halt and is at a complete standstill at this time.

Arthur Julier
Vestry Liaison

LITURGICAL COMMITTEE

The Liturgical Committee has been quite active in 2009, planning for a variety of services and events throughout the year. This also proved a year of significant transition as we welcomed our new Minister of Music, David Brandes, whose ministry began January 1, 2009. We would encourage you to read his report, as it outlines a number of the initiatives he has been instrumental in getting underway this year.

Last winter, after months of planning, a Saturday evening contemporary service was added to our schedule once a month. A core of dedicated people worked really hard to develop some delightful worship experiences for this new service. Alas, after an initial “curiosity factor” surge of attendance, participation dropped off sharply as winter turned to spring. With sadness, we suspended the services in June. For the present, we have incorporated some of the music and creative elements from those services into our monthly family Eucharist on Sunday morning – but it is unclear when (or whether) some type of contemporary service will return in an other-than-Sunday-morning setting.

While this effort was a disappointment, another initiative paid off more concretely. Last spring, the committee circulated a questionnaire seeking the congregation’s input on our Christmas service times and format. A second, more limited questionnaire this fall presented the top two alternatives for each service – and the result was that we changed our service times to 4:00 and 10:00 Christmas Eve. The result was well worth the effort: The early service remained strong, while the later service nearly doubled in attendance from a year ago. Overall, a nearly 20% increase in Christmas attendance was recorded.

Another schedule change has been similarly encouraging. After several years of declining attendance, our mid-week service was moved from Thursdays to Wednesdays – and was combined with a brown-bag Bible study. Average attendance at these services doubled since the change – and the Bible study has proven a very worthwhile addition to our weekly schedule. The passage each week is the Gospel for the coming Sunday. This has allowed our participants to “perk up their ears” for what’s coming when Sunday rolls around.

Another service that was well-received was this year’s Episcopal Relief and Development Sunday service on the Fourth Sunday in Lent. This creative offering seemed to work better at that point in the season than the previous year’s I Lent timing. It was agreed that we will do the same in 2010.

It had been our hope to “try again” integrating the children’s Christmas pageant and the Festival of Lessons and Carols. A cast was recruited, an initial rehearsal was held – but it soon became apparent that our plans were too ambitious for the cast we had in place. Accordingly, we defaulted to a less ambitious Lessons and Carols service for this year. A coalition of parents has offered to help rewrite the event for next year. We are still of the belief that an intergenerational program is possible, even with our reduced numbers in the Church School.

I wish to extend my thanks to this hard-working and dedicated group of individuals, whose thoughtful and prayerful consideration has considerably enhanced our worship life. As always, our meetings are open to any who might be interested in attending. Why not come and offer your input? We’d love to see you.

The Rev. David G. Robinson, Jr.
Convener

MUSIC MINISTRY

December 31, 2009 marks the completion of one full year of my music ministry at the Church of Our Saviour. I wish to express my sincere thanks to all of the people who gave of their time and talent to provide music for our services throughout the year. Without the commitment and contribution of the members of our choirs and soloists, our music program would not be possible.

Regular Adult Choir rehearsals were conducted on Thursday evenings from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 in the sanctuary and prior to the 10:00 a.m. service at 9:15. The adult choir provided musical leadership for our service music and hymns, and sang offertory anthems every Sunday. They also sang at most of our special services. The members who participated on a regular basis are Lu Abbot, Dolores Abelson, Scott Barrows, Donna Brown, Alice Corbett, Judy Dennis, Debbie Donnelly, Brian McGuire, Joyce McGuire, Steven Taylor, Jean Treadwell and Ann Willis. On occasion, we also appreciated the voices of Clifford Davis, Brett Dennis, Henry Goodwin, Nancy Goodwin, Rolf Goodwin, Father David Robinson and Peter Sevier.

The Children's Choir rehearsed most Sundays after the 10:00 o'clock service in the sanctuary. The children sang on February 15th, April 12th, June 12th, November 1st and 22nd, December 20th and 24th. The children who participated on a regular basis are Izzy Anton, Cailyn Chisholm, Megan Chisholm, Annie Hazelton, Holly Hazelton, Abigail Riseman, Hannah Riseman and Kevin Therrien. I wish to give special thanks to Cathy Hazelton, who provided invaluable assistance as a choir mother to the children's choir.

We were fortunate to have several instrumental and vocal soloists throughout the year. Their contribution enhanced our services and was greatly appreciated. The people who provided solos were Lu Abbot, Joey Abis, Donna Brown, Judy Dennis, Holly Hungerford, David McBee, Robert McGinness and Joyce McGuire.

The Franklin Pierce University Singers were guest performers at our 10:00 a.m. service on April 26th. They provided choral music throughout the service and presented a musical sermon of spirituals. A special "Workcamp Service" was conducted by workcamp performers at the 10:00 o'clock service on April 27th. They provided both music and a dramatic sermon presentation.

I provided organ and piano music for all Sunday morning 10:00 a.m. services with the exception of November 8th, when I was on a medical leave of absence, and during my summer vacation. In my absence, Mr. Paul Bordeleau of Bedford, New Hampshire served as my substitute. I also provided organ music for special services including The Epiphany Feast of Lights, The Feast of The Presentation, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, both the ecumenical and traditional Good Friday, The Great Easter Vigil, The 8:00 a.m. Easter Sunday Service, Ascension Day, Thanksgiving Day, both the 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve services and Christmas Day. I also attended all Liturgical Committee meetings and conducted extra rehearsals with soloists.

It is my sincere hope that my music ministry in the year 2009 has provided a meaningful contribution to the life and worship services of the Church of Our Saviour.

Respectfully submitted,
David E. Brandes
Minister of Music

ALTAR GUILD

*“O memorial wondrous of the Lord’s own death;
living Bread that givest all thy creatures breath,
grant my spirit ever by thy life may live,
to my taste thy sweetness never failing give.”*

Thomas Aquinas

Anyone who is familiar with my annual reports, knows that I am having a love affair with the prayers of St. Thomas Aquinas! Prayers put to music!! Precious prayers that so eloquently express the essence of Christianity and the essence of Eucharist! I thought about quoting another this year, but I cannot seem to get away from the spirituality of this man! I am always pulled toward his very sound and beautifully prayed theology! So there you have the above verse, for your meditation!

Each year in my altar guild report, I attempt to express my own theology regarding the Eucharist, as best I can. I try to convey just how very meaningful the Eucharist is to me – how it speaks to me, how it has shaped my life, and how it feeds and nourishes and strengthens me. Many of you know that I have been serving on altar guilds for thirty years, and I am in love with this ministry for a variety of reasons. It thrills me, and I am not sure that words always adequately describe the depth of my feelings regarding this ministry. I am blessed to share this ministry with six others who demonstrate their own zeal and passion for the Lord’s Table! My thanks to Joy Brewer, Judy Dennis, Barbara Mayerle, Mary Sanchez, Suzy Ten Broeck and Eleanor Wallace. All of these women faithfully prepare the Table weekly, so that we, as a congregation, can be empowered to go forth into the world sharing the Good News, after having dined on Christ! You are all a wonderful Christian witness! Your love is always shining forth, as you quietly prepare the sanctuary! I suspect that you would all agree with me that it is not easy to articulate the depth of passion that we feel for what we do!

Not every year can be wrought with bustling activity, and this past year was quiet in the sacristy. We had a few bump dances going (since they’re tough to resist), but all in all, it was a relatively quiet year. Three items need to be mentioned: First, Judy Dennis did a wonderful job of stitching our purple burse early in the year. We needed the burse for Lent, and it had come unstitched. Judy very kindly and lovingly put it back together for our Lenten Eucharists. For those who don’t know, the burse holds the corporal and extra purificator, and sits on top of the chalice veil. Remember this! There will be a test when you least suspect it! Second, several weeks ago we were in need of followers for some extra candles that were being used at a particular Eucharist involving a large number of acolytes. Thanks to Chipper Brown for supplying us with followers for these additional candles – candles that will be used from time to time in the future, and for which we will need followers. We are grateful to have these, and Chipper was kind to supply them. Third, Dolores Abelson has expressed an interest in joining the altar guild in January. We look forward to her participation in the coming year! Dolores has been wanting to join us for several months, but was not free to do so until now. She is anxious to begin, and we are anxious to have her on board! Welcome, Dolores!

I leave you with the words of John Donne (Anglican priest, 1573-1631), as he speaks of the Epiphany Feast, and discusses how the Eucharist is an epiphany of its own:

“So also this day, in which we commemorate and celebrate the general Epiphany, the manifestation of Christ to the whole world in his birth, all we, we who besides our interest in the universal Epiphany and manifestation implied in the very day, have this day received the Body and Blood of Christ in his holy and blessed Sacrament, have had another Epiphany, another Christmas Day, another manifestation and application of Christ to ourselves. The peace of that Table is to come to it with a contented mind; and to be at that Table in the peace of the Church, without the spirit of contradiction or inquisition, without uncharitableness towards others; and then to come from that Table with a bosom peace in your own conscience, in that seal of your reconciliation, in that Sacrament; that so, riding at that anchor and in that calm, you may depart in peace, according to his word, that is, as he shall be pleased to manifest his pleasure upon you.”

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia L. Robinson

PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care continues to be a source of communication for the Church of Our Saviour family. Through e-mail, prayers are offered for the sick, those in need, and in moments of joy and recovery.

We always have our ‘silent angels’ – those who send cards and notes, deliver flowers at Easter and Christmas, prepare and deliver meals, visit members who are unable to get out of their homes, are in nursing homes or hospitals, provide transportation to and from church, to doctor or other appointments, grocery shopping, or provide a supportive presence to individuals and families during difficult as well as joyous times. We believe that there are those individuals who participate in this ministry in quiet ways that only the recipient may know.

Should you wish to join in this ministry, all I need is your e-mail address, or should you not have e-mail, your telephone number will do. Please phone me at 595-0334 or e-mail – magsabc@comcast.net. Pastoral Care is for all – either as a ‘giver’ or a ‘receiver’.

And, as always, a grateful thanks to the many who already share in this ministry!

Mary Auer, Convener

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

This year was particularly challenging without a designated budget line item for Outreach. Additional sources of funds, such as the Peach Festival booklet and the 2009 Lenten offering, were used to provide Outreach grants, which were, in turn, matched by the Charitable Trust. As a result, over \$3,200 was issued for Outreach grants. In addition to the Outreach grants, close to \$400 was received for the UTO (United Thank Offering), and was sent to Convention. These funds, combined with all the other special interest fundraising that has been done, resulted in \$21,700 given to other charitable organizations. A detailed analysis of the 2009 Outreach grants, (\$3,200) is available upon request.

The monthly Reverse Offering, which we started in 2004, continues to be extremely successful in our parish. Many thanks to Paul Murphy for delivering the donated items to the SHARE food pantry every week. In addition, special thanks go to Siobhan Taylor, for printing the monthly slips.

In early May, several parishioners participated in the annual Crop Walk, which benefited the Church World Service, along with a portion that remained locally. Also in May, several parishioners either climbed Mt. Monadnock or worked in the registration tent as part of the Habitat for Humanity annual fundraiser

During 2009, several of our parishioners have continued supporting the Greater Nashua Interfaith Hospitality Network (GNIHN) at the Anne-Marie House (at the Presentation of Mary Academy in Hudson), by preparing/hosting dinner, spending an overnight, etc.

The 2008/9 Church School Noise Offering, in the amount of \$172.44 was sent to St. André's Church in Angola.

At the 2009 Christmas Fair, Alice Corbett took charge of the Outreach room, selling a variety of holiday items. A special thank you to Alice for her ministry.

Thanks to *all* of you for your continued support and generosity to the Outreach ministry at Church of Our Saviour. I am particularly grateful for the dedicated, hardworking members of the Outreach Committee, Cliff Davis as our Vestry Liaison, and many others who worked in 2009 "behind the scenes".

Mary Sanchez, Convener

CHURCH SCHOOL

For the sixth year in a row, church school numbers are down, with 33 students enrolled at the end of December 2009, down from 39 a year ago and 87 at the end of 2003. One new family joined us in 2009 but left after 2-3 months, and two additional families left. Some have been reluctant to share their reasons, saying just that they've decided not to be involved with COOS, whereas the other who tried us out for 2-3 months and left spoke of a lack of connection with the rector and of inadequate outreach emphasis for children and families.

The decreased population led to the decision to combine some of the younger classes, with the numbers breaking down as follows: six in the Godly Play class (includes Pre-K, kindergarten and grades 1 and 2), ten in the grades 3-6 class, three in Rite-13, eight in J2A, and six in YAC. We continue to use a staggered schedule, with Rite-13, J2A and YAC classes meeting from 9-10 am (YAC meets just the 1st and 3rd Sundays) so that older students may attend either service, acolyte, take part in choir, or assist teachers; the pre-K through 6th grade classes meet from 9:45-10:45. The decreased numbers also led to the Christmas pageant being abandoned this year due to insufficient interest; a group of parents plans to meet in 2010 to explore other options.

A bare bones budget again in 2009 has meant ongoing recycling of curriculum, with the same lessons of the Montessori-modeled Godly Play curriculum being repeated for the younger students. The 3rd-6th grade class is using recycled Bible Quest and ECC curricula, focusing on Old Testament stories in the fall/winter, and New Testament lessons in the spring; drama, games, art and music are incorporated into the classes to appeal to different learning styles and reinforce the day's lesson. The Journey to Adulthood curriculum is used by the Rite-13, J2A and YAC classes. The current groups have just finished the third semester of their respective two-year cycles. Beginning in January, the J2A class will include specific confirmation preparation through several meetings with Father Chip and through weekly meetings with individual confirmation mentors; this will culminate in confirmation in May. The J2A class is also actively fundraising to pay for their weeklong holy pilgrimage (destination not yet pinned down) in August.

The 2008 parent meetings generated various ideas for retaining and attracting new members. We began implementing many of these in 2009 including: reinstatement of the junior choir; more uplifting, varied and easier to sing music in church; keeping the services under 1 ¼ hours; a rewritten communion class curriculum; a monthly contemporary worship service (currently on hiatus and under review); greater involvement of children/youth in parish-wide service projects (specifically the Angola Fun Day and the ChIPsproject); more fun community building activities (like the Angola Fun Day and the COOS Carnival on Rally Sunday); a new prayer wall; more partnerships between younger kids and teens (the J2A staffing of the Christmas Fair children's room and the teens running the carnival games on Rally Sunday are two examples); and cleaned up classrooms (a work in progress, but getting rid of the wall of cribs is a good start). The list of ideas will be revisited so that progress can continue in the hopes of retaining our current families and attracting new ones.

"Be doers of the word, not merely hearers." –James 1:22. Putting their faith into action, the Church School has participated in various outreach ministries in 2009 including: making Valentines and cookies for nursing home residents; donating the "noise offering" to our companion parish in Angola to help build their new church; helping with pie-making, games and face-painting at the Peach Festival; packing shoeboxes of gifts for children worldwide through Operation Christmas Child of Samaritan's Purse; collecting donations

and shopping for Christmas gifts for ChIPs (children of incarcerated parents); plus baking and running the children's room at the Christmas Fair. A large group of teens and adults again enthusiastically volunteered a summer's week to repair homes of low income, disabled and elderly residents through Group Workcamp. Many children take turns carrying in the elements and SHARE donations each week, and take on jobs of greeter, usher, lector, intercessor, noise offering collector, and children's choir member during Family Eucharists. Others are active as acolytes and workers at outreach events like the rummage sale, Peach Festival and Christmas Fair.

The teachers to whom we owe thanks for their service in 2009/2010 include:

Godly Play: Diane Babb

Grades 3-6: Debbie Donnelly and Laura Fiebke

Rite-13: Lisa Anderson and Dan Chouinard

J2A: Chipper Brown, Debbie Murphy, and Sue Tinnin

YAC: Scott Barrows, Jenny Lussier, and Paul Murphy

In addition, Elise Shattuck has faithfully staffed the nursery on Sundays (even though most weeks she has no one to care for), backed up by Barbara Kremen when Elise is out. Sue Tinnin keeps us on track as Safe Church Minister. Cathy Hazelton shares her gifts as choir mother, working with Music Minister David Brandes to build an active children's choir that delights God and the congregation every time they perform. Diane Babb keeps us connected with the vestry. Leslie Anton worked with Father Chip to rewrite the communion class curriculum. Leslie and husband Joe also graciously hosted church school families and other parishioners at their Mont Vernon home for the Angola Fun Day, and members of the Angola Group fixed wonderful African foods for that event. Parishioners generously donated prizes for our Rally Sunday carnival and our teens and teachers staffed the carnival games. Jenny Lussier led the children in making wonderful lighthouse centerpieces for November's stewardship campaign celebration brunch. We are truly appreciative for all these dedicated volunteers and our enthusiastic students. Together they are journeying to live out our parish's mission statement "to know Christ, to live Christ, and to make Christ known."

Debbie Donnelly, Church School Coordinator

ANGOLA PARTNERSHIP

The year 2009 was filled with both excitement and frustration around our relationship with St. André parish in Ondjiva, Angola. [Is “frustration” just another word for our impatience with how we interpret what God is asking us to do?]

This parish has been active. A group met a number of times to learn about Angola. We read books, watched movies, and ate African food. In June, Debbie Donnelly organized an Angola kid’s day, where our young people experienced some of the same things. They played a game that involved carrying water, to give them a taste of the chores required of children in Ondjiva. We made paper doves to give to our children, similar to the ones we had taken to Angola. In August, Elizabeth Rotch spear-headed a lobster dinner fund raiser as part of the peach festival.

Our involvement with St André’s is about establishing relationships with people we do not know. Our challenge is to learn to see them as our brothers and sisters, in spite of very limited knowledge and communication. We need to learn to share common experiences, such as building families, making a living, educating our children and staying healthy – and to recognize that the people in Angola are doing the same things.

St. André’s has been able to find help to build a school. Episcopal Relief and Development has funded a building for the Nets-for-Life malaria prevention program. There is help for a program to build wells, and to encourage new businesses. The one thing that no agency will help fund is the building of a church.

The church is the core of who they are and the center where they gather as a community. We are trying to help them build that church, but we both need to work at understanding that this is a two way street. We may help them materially, but in turn we are blessed by having expanded our horizons. We are learning how far reaching and encompassing God’s presence is. We are also learning patience. Communication continues to be extremely difficult, and at times feels nonexistent.

December brought a major breakthrough in the process. St. André’s has some basic plans; they have identified a contractor. They have worked out agreements between the parish, the Bishop’s office, and the contractor. With these in place, we have been able to send \$20,000 to get the building started. This has come from fund raisers, individual gifts, and a \$5,000 matching grant from the COOS Charitable Trust.

This is only the beginning. The total cost of the building is expected to be about \$75,000. We have a long way to go, but we have found that by sharing in the experience with St. André’s, we have experienced the joy and excitement of seeking, and seeing, God.

Frank and Martha Manley

WORKCAMP

Reveal: Luke 4: 18-19 NLT

The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor, he has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.

Workcamp 2009 found 22 youth and adults traveling to the “Coolest Small Town in America” – Owego, NY. The group was comprised of 8 - 1st timers and 14 veterans. Of the 1st timers, 4 were from the Church of the Resurrection in Nashua, tagging along so to speak to check things out. They say the Lord has a plan, to be revealed at his choosing and it certainly was revealed for many on this trip. The greatest thing to come out of this particular trip was watching the spirit move through our youth and adults. The enthusiasm was contagious – so contagious that the leaders from the Church of the Resurrection have now formed their own Youth Workcamp Group and are traveling, as we are, to Montgomery, WV next summer.

As I've said so many times before, it's not just the building of the homes that keeps us going, it's the lives we touch and change through our generosity of spirit. It's people's unselfish willingness to help those in need; our desire to grow in Christ and to make him known not only in our own community but also across the globe.

Many thanks to all whom have supported us in this invaluable ministry!

Pattie Chouinard, Youth Advisor

YOUNG ADULTS IN THE CHURCH

The YAC'ers (Young Adults in the Church) have had a nice year chatting up the good works of Jesus; with, of course, eating many a doughnut along the way!

The Advisors' goal this year was to provide a review of the Gospel reading of the week. Fr. Chip often uses the Gospel reading as the center of the sermon; by discussing the historical and contemporary perspective that these passages offer, we hope to increase our understanding of the Word, gain insight on the discussion from a young adult point of view and reflect on it in our lives and our life at COOS.

This spring will mark the second group of COOS youth to complete the entire Journey 2 Adulthood program. It is quite the journey they have made and we are blessed to have shared Sunday mornings with them these past two years in YAC.

Scott Barrows, Jenny Lussier, Paul Murphy
Youth Advisors

DIOCESAN AFFAIRS

For yet another year, the members of the parish you elected to represent you at the Diocesan Convention have done so, meeting in November at St. Paul's Church in Concord with our counterparts from every other congregation in the diocese.

- We approved a diocesan budget that was about \$350,000 less than last year, and said goodbye to staff whose positions were eliminated by those cuts.
- We approved the recommendation of the Clergy Compensation Committee for a 0 percent cost-of-living increase. At the same time, the committee strongly encouraged congregations to approve a 3 percent increase for their clergy.
- We approved a resolution asking the Bishop to designate one Sunday as Episcopal Relief & Development Sunday in the diocese.
- We said yes to a resolution that each of our congregations will affirm the importance of ministry with youth and young adults, and agreed to encourage their participation in local and diocesan events. We voted in support of the Youth and Young Adult Commission of the diocese, and to encourage organizing at least one diocesan event for youth and one for young adults.
- We supported the development of an evangelism "toolkit" to equip congregations and individuals to engage in culturally appropriate evangelism and mission.

Convention is the culmination of work your delegates do all year. Our parish is part of the Southern Convocation, eleven congregations from Peterborough to Hampstead. Delegates meet each month. In the months just prior to the convention, we discuss the resolutions that will be presented at Convention, and we hear about the budget.

Other programs are presented throughout the year. One month, for example, we heard from the Jewish congregation that has been sharing quarters with Church of the Transfiguration in Derry, and has recently built its own temple on a campus shared with the Episcopal church.

In January, we will meet in Goffstown to hear from the Environmental Concerns committee of the diocese and to tour the new community clothing center and food pantry at St. Matthew's. In February, we will learn what shape our convocation-wide spring event will take.

As secretary of the Convention, I serve on the diocesan Convention Business Committee, and I hear about the difficulties other churches have in finding alternates to fill in when a delegate is unable to attend convention.

I am proud of the group from Church of Our Saviour, in which the alternates are active, participating members of the delegation, attending convocation meetings and convention with the delegates, willing -- and able -- to step in if necessary.

Elizabeth Rotch
Delegate and Vestry liaison

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The year started with planning for the Annual Parish Meeting. It was decided to have the Vestry and Hospitality Committee bring a planned dish for the Luncheon after the meeting on advice from the Vestry. Cakes were furnished for two Baptisms. The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was planned and carried out with help from Workcamp Youth and Adults. We were asked to assist with the Stewardship Celebration Breakfast in November. Committee Members assisted with other events as asked.

More members would make it easier for all. There is always room and need for new members on this Committee.

We are always looking for ways to help make sure that Coffee Hours (after both 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.) are covered and that someone from the Committee doesn't have to host the coffee hours all the time. It has been suggested that we assign each parish family a Sunday to be Coffee Hour Host, if they are not available when assigned it would be their responsibility to get someone to fill in for them. This may be the answer to an on-going problem – time will tell if we need to go this route. Please sign up on the sheets for this purpose.

Kings' Cakes (a tradition for Epiphany) were planned for January 3th, 2010 after the 10 a.m. Eucharist during Coffee Hour.

Annual Meeting is planned for January 24, 2010, and will be followed by a Pot-luck luncheon. Bring any item you want – only the Vestry and Hospitality Committee will be requested to furnish specific items.

The committee would like to thank everyone who has hosted coffee hour this year. We also say thank you to those who helped with set up and clean up at various suppers and events. Thanks to Fr. Chip for allowing each of our members to share in this opportunity to be part of this wonderful ministry.

Brian C. McGuire, Convener;
Committee Members: Lu Abbot, Patricia Currier, Mabel Durrell,
Joyce E. McGuire, Rev. David (Chip) Robinson,
David Cady, Vestry Liaison

NEWCOMERS' COMMITTEE

On April 17th we welcomed two new members to our COOS family. Frances Pierce and Eleanor Wallace were guests of honor at a potluck dinner provided by the Vestry, Conveners, Hospitality and Newcomers' Committee. The two ladies were informed about the various ministries in the church and what each consisted of as far as time commitment and who to contact if interested in joining. A leaflet with contact people and phone numbers was handed out.

The evening was relaxing and just plain enjoyable. The next Newcomers' Dinner is scheduled to take place in the spring of 2010.

The Newcomers' Committee is grateful to all who provided food, set up and cleanup help as well as to Elizabeth Ux who kid-sat after dinner for one youngster who attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Owen, Mary Auer, and Fran McBee,
Newcomers' Committee

FOYER GROUPS

Following in the footsteps of Mary Auer, who chaired the Foyer Groups program with excellence for a number of years, David and Fran McBee announced the formation of groups at several worship services, board notices and email transmissions. The response was gratifying. Three groups were formed.

GROUP A

David & Fran McBee, **First host**
Diana & Givin Owen
Michael & Staci Therrien
Ann & Jim Willis

GROUP C

Dick & Linda Dyer, **First host**
Dan & Pattie Chouinard
Siobhan & Steve Taylor
Peter & Suzy Ten Broeck

GROUP B

Mary Auer, **First host**
Bob & Marolyn Cook
Frank & Martha Manley
Helen & Steve Uurtamo

The first Foyer dinner was held by Group C on Saturday, November 21st at the Dyers'. It appears that all went well because they've scheduled their second dinner at the Ten Broecks' for Friday, January 15th.

Initiated by Group A, the second Foyer event to take place this year was a gathering of several of us to attend the Messiah Sing at Franklin Pierce University, Rindge, NH on December 5th, conducted by our own music director, David Brandes. This particular event was opened to any and all church members to participate as a group, and several met for dinner prior to the concert, with others meeting at the concert. The company at dinner was enjoyable; as were the meals themselves (consider trying Lilly's On The Pond, located at 426 Route 202 in Rindge). All thought the concert was magnificent, with 280 singers, a full orchestra, and absolutely top drawer soloists. David Brandes wasn't bad, either.

Group B met at Mary Auer's Friday, December 19th for "...a relaxing 'respite' in the height of approaching Christmas. It was a very enjoyable evening, getting to know one another better socially while filling our 'tummies' with yummy food." Keeping with good Foyer practice, the next host and date were chosen prior to departing for the night. Pictures were taken, but none shared outside the group. Hmmm, guess what takes place at Mary's stays at Mary's.....

It is anticipated that all groups will meet in January and follow that up with monthly get togethers. Anyone is still welcomed to join a Foyer Group. Just call David or Fran McBee, at 603-654-3350.

David & Fran McBee

GROW THE CHURCH

This committee was started in July, 2007 to “market” the Church of Our Saviour and to try to increase membership. This project was approved by the Vestry, and \$8591.00 was generously funded by the Charitable Trust.

“Come Grow With Us” postcards were designed, printed and sent to new home buyers in eight area zip codes with labels and mailing lists provided by New Pro Co. every month. Approximately 2800 cards were sent out from September, 2007 until October, 2009.

A two-color 1/16 display ad was placed with Idearc Media to be printed in the Nashua Fair Point Yellow Pages. Approximately 17 ads were purchased through the Church Ad project and featured seasonally appropriate photos with thought provoking text. These ads were published in three local newspapers along with supplement newspaper publications and featured during the school and liturgical year.

MAILING

Monthly mailing list/labels from New Pro Co.: \$668.00
3000 “Grow the Church” postcards: \$220.00
Postage for 3000 cards: \$780.00

NEWSPAPER ADS

10+ ads from Church Ad Project: \$350.00
13 ads placed in 3 local newspapers: \$4,273.00
Supplement newspapers: \$1008.00

YELLOW PAGE AD

1/16 display ad (\$108.00 per month) \$1292.00

The end result of this campaign is elusive and difficult to judge. Hopefully, there are some “Grow the Church” cards stashed away in new residents’ homes to be discovered at a later date!!

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Murphy, Jenny Lussier,
Suzy Ten Broeck, Peter Ten Broeck

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP

The men's group has met for breakfast on the first Saturday of each month. Attendance has been light, but there have been a number of new faces. We opened with prayer at 7:30 a.m., had breakfast and informal discussion until about 9:00 a.m..

At our October meeting Laurie Skibba, director of Anne-Marie House, spoke to us about their work providing transition housing for homeless children and their families.

Thanks to Scott Barrows and Mike Therrien for cooking great breakfasts.

Peter Wolczko, Frank Manley, Co-chairs

WOMEN'S GROUP

The Women's Group had a good year in 2009. This is a social group open to all women of the church, and we try to meet the third Saturday of the month at 11 a.m. for a little catching up with each other, followed with a pot luck lunch brought by ladies who have signed up in the Narthex with their specialty dish. We follow this with a program, usually chosen by any member who has a great idea for all to enjoy. Sometimes it is just a time for visiting and reflection, other times it will be a craft that will be offered for sale at the Peach Festival or Christmas Fair, this year we made cards and decorated balls for the Christmas Fair. Other programs were inspirational readings written by women of many faiths, making pottery soup bowls for the hungry, and mosaic tiles from broken pieces of old worn out dishes from the church kitchen. This is just a partial list of what has been done and we welcome all to join us.

Lu Abbot

PEACH FESTIVAL

The Sixth Annual Peach Festival was held on Saturday, August 15th, at Lull Farm in Milford. Despite being one of the hottest and sunniest days of the summer, crowds still turned out for our fabulous peach goodies, auction items, crafts, great music and fun!

Our peach products were once again very popular! The fabulous COOS peach pies sold out quickly as usual. We sold most of our peach products, despite thinning crowds as the heat built through the afternoon. Peach jam, both regular and sugar free, was popular as was the peach bread, peach butter and rum sauce. Products not sold at the festival were either donated to SHARE or saved to sell at the Christmas Fair.

Throughout the day, fair goers were entertained by a wonderful selection of musicians including our own Church of Our Saviour Peach Tree Singers, Cooper and Kenneally, and G.S. Picard. Marie Duprey, Ed Thomas, Rahel, Ken LeBlanc and Refuge also returned once again with their wonderful music.

Net income from the 2009 Peach Festival after expenses and putting aside \$2000 for next year's festival expenses was \$3700.00. This is approximately \$550 less than income from the 2008 festival.

I want to extend a very special thank you to each member of the Peach Festival Committee for all of their help and hard work. Of the four years that I have been involved in planning and chairing the Peach Festival, this was by far the easiest. And thank you once again to all of the members of the Church of Our Saviour for your help and support on festival day. Without you, the festival could not happen. Not only do our friends and neighbors come to our festival for yummy peach goodies and fun, they come to meet all of us and be introduced to the Church of Our Saviour family. Thank you all for making all of our friends, new and old, feel so very welcomed.

Lisa Anderson
Peach Festival Committee Chairperson

CHRISTMAS FAIR

This year's fair was held on Saturday, December 5, 2009. Having only 4 chairpersons this year, instead of 5, stretched the chairpersons some. Susan Robinson, who has helped with the luncheon in the past, took over the reins to coordinate the luncheon. The day began clear, with a hint of snow and with clear roadways - great for people walking from fair to fair.

The Luncheon offered a variety of delicious sandwiches and soups. However, some persons sat at the luncheon tables to visit "a bit" after finishing their meals and on occasion persons were waiting for a seat to eat. Our tables are also at a point that they need to be reinforced temporarily in order to keep them from collapsing.

The Children's room was coordinated this year by the J2A, who made gingerbread cookies of various sizes to decorate. The J2A class and parishioners provided myriad toppings to decorate the tasty treats. The class did a great job with help from some experienced parishioners: the Taylors and the Benois. We did receive some feedback from persons visiting the Children's room that they missed the gingerbread houses. (Someone is considering coordinating the Children's room in 2010 and offering a combination of houses and cookies.)

The Country Store was well stocked this year with jellies, breads, chocolate trees, snacks, cakes, and other delectable goodies. As usual, the Cabot cheese sold out quickly. As we paid much less this year for the cheese, we were able to offer it at a lower price than last year.

The Cookie room had an ample array of cookies for shoppers, though many people are still looking for the more unique cookies; as one woman put it, "I want the ones that aren't easy for me to bake at home." A goal next year is to encourage bakers to provide these fancier varieties. While there were not tons of leftovers, there were just enough left to allow parishioners at Sunday coffee hour a taste of what was available on Saturday.

The Craft room had some old standards: glass ornaments, table runners, and hanging dish towels. There were also afghans, bookmarks, thank you cards, "Let It Snow" pictures, angel ornaments, and aprons.

The Outreach room had less "groups" in it this year, but the room was packed: Workcamp offered a delightful selection of goodies (including candy sushi!), J2A sold beautiful swags, and information about our partnership with St. André's in Ondjiva and other organizations supported by COOS outreach were available. In addition, Alice Corbett humbly asked for some new or gently used items from Christmases past to directly support our Outreach program due to our current fiscal crunch. On Dec. 3 she had a *few* items. On Dec. 4 she had 1/2 a room full of items - most of which were sold!

Comments heard from shoppers included:

- Would like to see: more chocolate trees (thought underpriced); pear-nectarine jelly; sugar free jellies/jams, treats, and candies; crackers to sell with jellies & cheese (wanted to drop off to other people - e.g., post office); gingerbread houses as well as gingerbread cookies to decorate
- Would like to see: beads, jewelry items
- Luncheon: would like kids' menu (hot dogs, pb&j), pasta items, cookies, brownies, chips in individual bags, chocolate milk; food was good but overpriced for grilled cheese (\$28.00 for family of 4) (SHARE had hot dogs, popcorn, American chop suey, "regular" chili, hamburgers/cheeseburgers.) (A shopper told

a couple of people that were thinking about eating at our fair that the SHARE fair was offering more food and much cheaper than ours.)

- Luncheon: Waitstaff should wear aprons so diners would know who they are; need to keep desserts covered or have a sneeze guard on them out in the open to general public; too many hands touching straws (cold and flu season)

There seemed to be a smaller but steady crowd of people all day, even with the inclement weather later in the day. Cleanup went smoothly, and everyone was able to go home within a few hours.

During planning and preparation for the fair, it was sometimes frustrating not to have people sign up to help - even after announcements, sign-up sheets, and bulletin inserts. There were numerous gaps of coverage for the fair, including greeters.

Many people put a lot of time and energy to set up the fair, make or bake crafts and edible items, work the day of the fair, and to clean up afterwards and return the church to “normal.” To each of you, we are grateful - the fair doesn’t happen without you.

Yes, we raised a little money, but more importantly, we spent time sharing of ourselves with each other and with our community. See you next year!

Fair Committee:
Diane Babb, Susan Robinson,
Staci Therrien, Susan Tinnin