

Timeline of Events in the Life of Christ Church, Albemarle 1985—2004

- 1985 Parishioner, Jim Harris prints a limited edition of a charcoal drawing that he made of exterior of Christ Church to be used to raise funds for building an addition to the Parish House. Another example of Jim's handiwork and artistic ability is a commemorative plaque featuring the profile of the front entrance of the church made from the original woodwork salvaged from the 1978 sacristy renovation.



The men of the church form the Pee Dee Investment Club followed shortly thereafter by the Women's Investment Club. The purpose of these groups includes fellowship and education on the subject of investment.

The mid-1980's sees the creation of Foyer Groups—an idea that is spreading in the Episcopal Church at this time. Adult parishioners who wish to participate allow their names to drawn at random to create a number of groups consisting of eight to twelve members. Each group meets once a month at different homes with members providing food for the dinner. The idea is to keep the menu simple and inexpensive so that everyone feels able to participate. Every six months the groups are reassigned. In this way large numbers of parishioners get to know each other in an informal social setting. Newcomers to the parish are added to a group at any time, providing them with an opportunity to make friends quickly.

- 1986 J. C. Baucom serves his intern year at Christ Church while enrolled in the Deacon's Training Program.



Parish House Addition Groundbreaking Ceremony—January 11, 1987
Jean Ritchie, Helen Harris, Bill Comber, James "Poss" Wilhelm and George Reaves

- 1987 After years of considerable work and prayer, the groundbreaking ceremony for the addition to the Parish House is held on January 11. Participants include Father Phil who turned the first shovel of earth, followed by 1986 Sr. Warden, Helen Harris, and 1987 Sr. Warden, George Reaves and vestry member Bill Comber.

Next were parishioners present at the 1956 groundbreaking for the Parish House: Doris Gehring, Frances Harris, Jean Ritchie, Bill Wilhelm, Jim Harris, Poss Wilhelm and Mina Surratt. D. A. Holbrook, contractors for the original church and Parish House is engaged for the major construction with parishioners working on as much of the building as possible including painting, laying carpet and tiling floors. Most of the work is completed by December.

Diane Corlett is ordained Deacon at Christ Church on June 29, the first ordination in the church since Daniel Sapp was ordained in 1953. She is the first woman from Christ Church to take advantage of the 1976 General Convention approval of the canonical change that opens the priesthood to women. She is ordained in 1987 at All Saints' Church in Concord.

1988



Parish House Cornerstone & Memorial

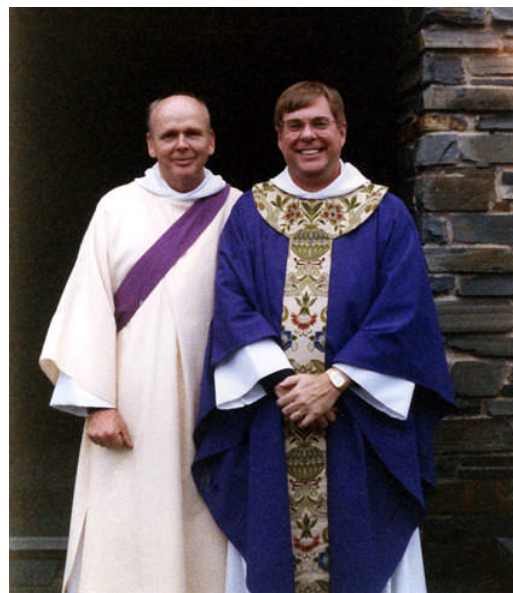
On Sunday, May 1 the parish gathers to dedicate the Parish House addition and witness the setting of the cornerstone and memorial plaque for Edward L. Gehring. The original building, constructed in 1956, was designated by the parish as a memorial to Mr. Gehring for his significant contributions to the life and growth of the Episcopal Church in Albemarle. Mayor Carlton B. Holt is present for the occasion and makes special mention of the active presence that Christ Church has today in the community, which is especially remarkable in view of the size of the parish.

Following the ceremony the parish holds an open house for the community and friends of the Christ Church family. It is a joyous occasion not only because of the completion of the long-needed and anticipated addition to the

physical facilities but also because of the personal involvement of so many people in the actual work of completing the building through the donation of funds, talents and labor.

1989 The parish holds a surprise celebration to mark the 20th anniversary of Philip Byrum's ministry at Christ Church on January 29. Over 200 people squeeze into the church and attended the social events in the Parish House.

1990 Sonja Snyder Hudson, member of the parish, is ordained a Deacon at Christ Church on June 23, 1990. She is ordained to the priesthood on June 1, 1991.



Deacon Marvin Aycock & Father Phil Byrum

- 1991 Father Philip Byrum celebrates his last Eucharist at Christ Church following a call to serve as the rector of St. Timothy's parish in Wilson, North Carolina. Father Phil's dedicated service of 22 years to Christ Church is a milestone in the history of the parish. His warmth, enthusiasm, and untiring devotion won him the hearts not only of this congregation but also that of the entire Albemarle-Stanly County community.



Father Phil with his parents



The cake says it all

While the diocesan established period of one year between rectors at first seems to be an especially long time, the parish is blessed to be served by several interim clergy who become dearly loved by the parish and are adopted as members of our church family. The Rev. Joe Hayworth of High Point, The Rev. Tom Taylor of Rockingham, Father Ed Scott of Concord and The Rev. Roger Butler are amongst several clergy who serve the parish in an interim capacity during this and subsequent transitions.

- 1992 The Rev. John Bauerschmidt becomes rector of Christ Church.
- 1993 The EYC makes a Youth Pilgrimage to Washington Cathedral on October 9-11 following several months of preparation led by David Cook. In June of 1994 the group takes a trip to Charleston, South Carolina for a tour of the historical churches.
- 1994 The choir recognizes James "Poss" Wilhelm's forty-four years of faithful service as a member of the Christ Church choir by officially "retiring" his cotta, which is appropriately labeled with the numerals "44" and hangs in the choir rehearsal room in the Parish House.



The Rev. John Bauerschmidt

- 1994 The church is nominated as a finalist for the annual "Nine Who Care" Award from WSOC and the Volunteer Center in Charlotte. The awards have been established to recognize nine individuals, businesses and organizations in the Greater Charlotte area who have made outstanding contributions to their communities. In 1994 the group of nominees consists of over 30 finalists from over 10 counties with Christ Church being the only church nominated. Christ Church is selected as a winner and receives the award at a luncheon held in Charlotte on September 8.

- 1996 Father Bauerschmidt and delegates from Christ Church attend the Diocesan Convention on February 1 –3 and are surprised when the Christian Education & Formation Commission of the diocese recognizes the parish for its “outstanding contributions to the ministry of Christian Education” through the Christ Church newsletter, *Bread & Wine*. Although the newsletter is intended principally for parishioners of Christ Church, it serves the larger Church as a resource through a mailing to 230 addresses in 16 states.

Father Bauerschmidt receives the Doctor of Philosophy (*E. Phil.*) from Oxford University on July 13. Father John was a student at the New College in Oxford from 1987 – 1991. He defended his thesis on Saint Augustine of Hippo in January 1995.

On December 8 the parish participates with the Pee Dee Neighborhood Association in a Home Tour for the purpose of raising funds to assist in the application for historic district status that will include Christ Church. The ECW provides refreshments in the Parish Hall and the church is open for tours while organist, Jane Scheer, provides appropriate seasonal music.

- 1997 The March church newsletter announces that the new playground is now installed east of the church. It is a gift from Walter and Marianne Bumgarner-Davis in honor of their parents.



The Rev., Dr. John Bauerschmidt celebrates his last service at Christ Church on June 22 and moves to Covington, Louisiana to become rector of Christ Church.



Pee Dee Avenue Neighborhood Marker



Christ Church Historical Marker

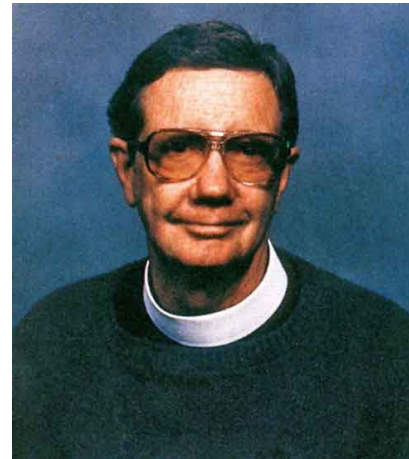
- 1998 Christ Church and the Pee Dee Avenue neighborhood are added to the National Register of Historic Places by the United States Department of the Interior on January 7, 1998.

The Rev. Tom Taylor of Rockingham begins serving as interim rector on January 4, 1998.

Christ Church enters the electronic age by posting an email address.



Christ Church Acolytes at National Cathedral



Father Tom Taylor

On October 10, eight acolytes from Christ Church participate in the International Festival of Acolytes at National Cathedral in Washington, D. C. with more than 2,500 acolytes from around the world. Preparation for the trip, which includes visits to the Smithsonian and other area interests, includes classes on architecture, church history and the tradition of acolytes in the church.

- 1999 The Rev. Alan Edgar Belton becomes rector of Christ Church and celebrates his first service on September 19.



Father Alan Belton with family of baptismal candidate



Dedication of the Christ Church sign
on Pee Dee Avenue—April 22, 2001

After much discussion and considerable reluctance, the vestry determines and announces in the December newsletter that present-day circumstances dictate that the church can no longer be left unlocked for 24 hours a day, 365 days a year as has been the practice for more than sixty years. Plans are made to have the church open during daylight hours and secured at night.

- 2000 Following the trends of the times and the guidelines for clergy housing established by the diocese and national church, Christ Church sells the rectory built in 1949 at 445 East Cannon Avenue on June 2.
- 2001 Father Belton leaves Christ Church to become the associate rector at Christ Church, Hudson, Ohio. His last Sunday is June 10.

In November, The Rev. Edward Scott of Concord begins his tenure as interim rector of Christ Church.



Father Ed Scott

- 2002 Maureen Davis announces the appearance of the first Christ Church website in the April issue of the parish newsletter.
- 2003 On January 26, Father Ed Scott, interim rector, celebrates Holy Eucharist with our new rector. The Rev., Dr. James B. Bernacki comes to us from Point Pleasant, West Virginia where he was rector of Christ Church and served as Missioner of the River Bend Cluster of Episcopal Churches, which includes three parishes in West Virginia and one in Ohio.

On May 29 Bishop Gloster is present for the Celebration of New Ministry marking Father Bernacki's official installation as the rector of Christ Church.



Father Jim & Sandy Bernacki with son, Matthew,
son-in-law, Denny, daughter, Rachelle and
granddaughter, Riley

Father Ed Scott, interim rector and woodworking craftsman, designs and builds a shelf behind the altar to hold the cross. He also adds the hand railings at the chancel steps.

2004 In June, a sub-committee of the Buildings & Grounds committee begins meetings as an Environmental Task Force following the city of Albemarle's decision to discontinue recycling aluminum cans. Several collection bins are purchased and the "Albemarle Recycles Aluminum Cans" program begins.



Craig and Carol Kennedy with Linda Burris at the Eastgate Shopping Center recycling bin.