

Timeline of Events in the Life of Christ Church, Albemarle 2005—2011

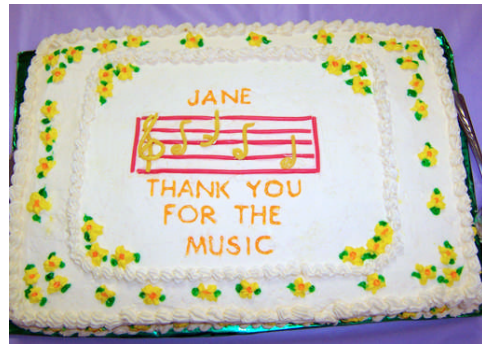
- 2005 Christ Church is recognized with the Diocesan Green Award in recognition of the importance and uniqueness of the recycling program.

2006



Walter Davis, Crucifer, Father Bernacki & Jane Scheer on Easter Sunday, 2006

Father Bernacki and the parish surprise Jane Scheer at the conclusion of Holy Eucharist on Easter Sunday by recognizing her service to Christ Church as organist-choir director. Jane has served in that capacity since 1972, marking her tenure in that position as the longest in the history of Christ Church.



On June 15 the parish celebrates the 60th Anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist replicating, as much as possible, the way it would have been celebrated in 1946. This includes use of the 1928 Prayer Book, the 1940 Hymnal and use of vestments typical of that era. The altar is moved against the rear chancel wall causing the priest to celebrate the Eucharist with his back to the congregation.

2007

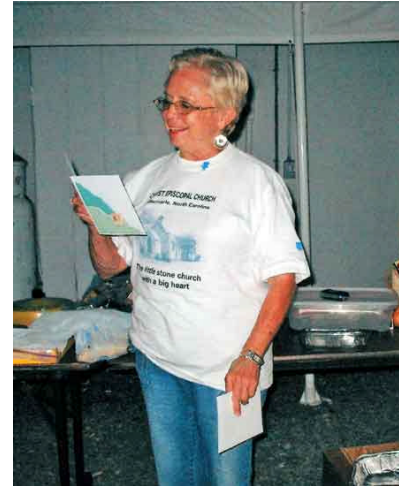


Bishop Bauerschmidt & Fr. Bernacki
June 24, 2007

Former Christ Church Rector, The Rev. Dr. John Bauerschmidt is elected the 11th Bishop of the Diocese of Tennessee on October 28, 2006 thus becoming the first rector of Christ Church to be elected to the episcopate. Members of Christ Church travel to Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville on January 27, 2007 for his consecration and, as a gift from the Christ Church family, present the new bishop with a crozier as the symbol of his office.

Bishop Bauerschmidt returns to Albemarle on June 24, 2007 to celebrate Holy Eucharist on the occasion of the anniversary of the consecration of Christ Church. The parish welcomes the Bauerschmidt family while renewing friendships and enjoying reminiscences of Father John's tenure at Christ Church.

Members of the parish continue to operate the church's food concession at the Stanly County Fair requiring considerable planning and the contribution of hundreds of hours of service of time towards the project. The year 2007, however, is somewhat bittersweet due to the fact that the group that has been operating the rides for many years will not be returning in 2008 due to schedule conflicts. Both parishioners and traveling concessionaires have developed a special bond over the years that is treasured and will be missed. The fair food booth takes an enormous amount of effort on the part of many individuals but we have also learned much over the years and established friendships that will remain important for a lifetime. We trust that the years ahead will allow us to begin that process with new friends.



Judy Ross reads a card signed by the fair concessionaires who have become "family"



The Library

The vestry establishes a committee to begin working to redesign the Christ Church website originally launched in 2002. A new color brochure is printed and the new website published to the internet in early 2008.

Parishioners Walter and Marianne-Bumgarner Davis fund the redecoration the Library in the Parish House and refurbish the children's playground next to the church.

An architectural committee is established to make recommendations for the aesthetic treatment of the church buildings including choice of colors and furnishings. In June, the church's exterior woodwork is painted with colors selected to harmonize with the stone walls and tile roof.



The Outreach Committee begins hosting a monthly birthday celebration at area nursing homes to the delight of the residents and their families. Festive decorations, snacks, birthday cake, ice cream and small gift bags with useful personal items are much appreciated.

The vestry approves the final design for a new stained glass window honoring James Harris. Although it is not known at the time, this window becomes the first of four new windows in the nave and transepts that will follow in the next four years.



Birthday preparations at Stanly Manor

2008



Bishop Curry, Doris Stickney and Fr. Bernacki

Bishop Michael Curry celebrates Holy Eucharist and confirmation on Sunday, April 20. Following the service, parishioner Doris Stickney is honored for faithful and dedicated service to Christ Church. Doris served on the Altar Guild and for numerous years organized and kept the church kitchen in order, which is no small task considering the number of individuals who prepare meals for both parish and non-parish functions.

The first edition of a comprehensive Altar Guild Handbook is completed, printed and made available online on the church website.

Studies are initiated to improve access to the church offices including much-needed signs to guide visitors to the office area on the second floor of the Parish House.

2009

Remodeling of the second floor of the Parish House begins early in the year with the relocation of the church offices to a temporary location near the Miller Street entrance. After months of noise, construction debris and disrupted routines, the October newsletter invites parishioners to view the project's completion marking the first time since the 1987 addition to the Parish House that a comprehensive project has been completed to refurbish the second floor of the building. Photos are available in the Photo Album page of the church website.



New Waiting Room adjacent to the church offices.



Installation of the St. Francis window

Between 2007 and 2011, family members and friends add four stained glass windows to the church in memory of James Lyles Harris, Jane Ellen Boaz, George T. Reeves III and George William Bostian. Two of the windows are installed in the east wall of the nave and one in each in the north walls of the two transepts. All of the windows may be viewed in the Photo Album page of the church website.

- 2010 Christ Church begins participation in the Prayer Shawl Ministry movement with an organizational meeting on January 3. Initially the group selects the name, "Yarning for Others", which is later changed to "Stitching for Souls".

The parish partners with other churches and the Stanly County Homes of Hope in operating the Community Inn, which provides immediate housing for the homeless. Members of Christ Church provide food and serve as hosts on the second Monday of each month.



Deacon Vern Cahoon

July 4 - The Rev. Vern Cahoon, who was ordained a Deacon in the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina on June 19, is assigned by the Diocese to Christ Church. Vern works full-time as a lawyer and lives in Concord. He is a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Charlotte where he was active in a number of ministries. Prior to ordination, he also served at All Saints Concord where he was involved in pastoral care ministry and ministry to residents of nursing homes and assisted living centers. Shortly after arriving, Deacon Vern begins offering Holy Eucharist at two local nursing facilities.

The chapel on the second floor of the Parish house is given the name "Chapel of the Apostles". At the time of the 2009 Parish House renovation, the hand-carved wood representation of Leonardo Da Vinci's Last Supper was inset into the front panel of the chapel altar. The framed carving, given to the church by parishioner Mary Alice Bybee following her death in 1990, had been hanging in the first floor stairwell for many years where its beauty and significance were unappreciated. Its relocation caused renewed appreciation for the beautifully hand-carved work of



Chapel of the Apostles Altar

art and led to renaming of the chapel. See the November 2010 Bread & Wine newsletter for additional information on the Chapel of the Apostles.

- 2011 In March, the Vestry establishes an endowment fund following the receipt of a very generous bequest from the estate of Jane Alan Blood (1926-1981) Jane became a member of Christ church through transfer of letter from Emmanuel Church in Southern Pines on September 23, 1967. Jane was active in the Stanly county Community Concert Association and served as choir director at Christ Church. In 1973 she returned to her home state of Illinois where she was a member of St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Mt. Carmel.



The Rev. Philip R. Byrum

The Vestry resolves to pay tribute to The Rev. Philip R. Byrum, our former rector who faithfully served Christ Church for 22 years, by naming him, "Rector Emeritus." This honorary title is given with thanks to God for Fr. Phil's many years of dedicated and faithful service to our parish and community. Fr. Phil is honored at a special combined service and brunch on Sunday, June 5th.

Following worship on June 19 all of the furnishings are removed from the church in preparation for the first complete renovation of the church interior since the building was completed in 1940. Work includes plaster repair, painting of walls and ceiling, woodwork refinishing and new lighting. All of the carpet in the main aisle and chancel is removed in order to refinish the original oak floors.

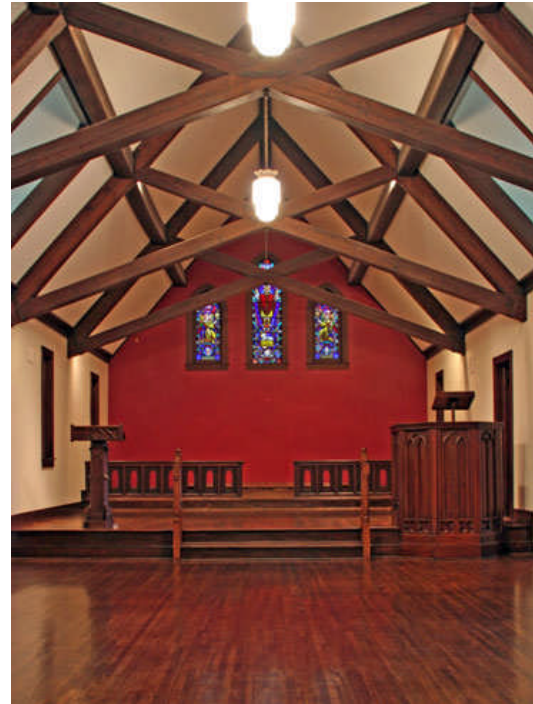


Left: The large speaker cabinets from the old organ are removed from the upper transept lofts. Right: The church interior minus pews, lectern, font and altar. The oak flooring, some of which is covered with adhesive from the old carpet, waits being refinished to its former beauty.

Beginning on Sunday, June 26 services are held in the Parish Hall while the renovation takes place in the church. On September 4 we are able to move back into the church although it will be a few weeks before the new chandeliers are hung and the pews and modesty screen at the front of the nave are installed.



Above: The former “gray” marble font returns “white” after being cleaned and repolished. Right: The beauty of the refinished oak floor and lectern are visible in the otherwise empty space. The old pendant lights continue hanging over the main aisle in this photograph. Photographs of the completed space may be found in the Photo Albums section of the website.



Just as the remodeling project is getting underway, the church receives a second gift from the Jane Blood trust, which provides an opportunity to replace the church’s 1969 Allen organ. The new instrument is built to specifications drawn up by parishioner, Stan Scheer and is heard for the first time at the noon community Advent service on December 14 and used for the first service on December 18.



The new organ arrives on December 8



The console of the Christ Church Organ built by Cornet Zimmer Organ Builders

Dec. 11- Christ Church participates in the Albemarle Downtown Development Corporation's "Tour of Homes" fund raising event. The church hosts numerous visitors, many of whom have not seen the interior of the church previously.

An important opportunity that presented itself during the summer months was the availability of the property on Pee Dee Avenue adjacent to the west side of the church. Known affectionately as the "Teeter property" by church members because of its original owners, the purchase of the property was completed in early December 2011. Due to the condition of the house and issues related to maintaining an unoccupied structure, the decision was made to remove all of the structures and wood fencing, do the necessary grading of the land and plant grass.



July 2011



Demolition May 20, 2012



The property was entirely cleared in one day,
May 20, 2011

Postscript to Christ Church: One Hundred Years

...it does seem to me that a church which has commanded the love, loyalty, and service of so many special people for so long must have been doing something right. I have been struck over and over again by the sense of community many have found at Christ Church throughout its history—a rare and precious quality in a materialistic culture that increasingly encourages isolated individuals to forget their common past and to ignore their obligations to one another and to future generations in the elusive pursuit of personal satisfaction. I hope that this history might help, however feebly, to remind us that such community does not happen accidentally but requires constant nurturing. It takes the time, money, and talents of faithful people willing to cook, sew, sing, teach, baby-sit, sell, pray, wait tables, wash dishes, make posters, paint walls, lay floors, mow the lawn, keep the books, take out the garbage, visit each other, listen to each other, study together, laugh together, cry together, and worship together. Over the past hundred years, such people have been there, willing to be the Body of Christ in this place. may it always be so.

—Juanita Kruse



Most of the information about the early history of Christ Church presented in this timeline was drawn from the church history, Christ Church: One Hundred Years, written in 1990 by Dr. Juanita Kruse. The sources for the church history in the years since 1990 include the church newsletter, *Bread & Wine*, and other church documents. A word of special thanks goes to the staff of the Stanly County Library and the Stanly County Museum for their assistance in providing copies of the historical photographs of Albemarle and Stanly county. Most of the black and white photographs of Christ Church, its activities and events were taken by parishioner, Marie Chivington. Special thanks to her daughter, Beth, for permission to scan and use them.