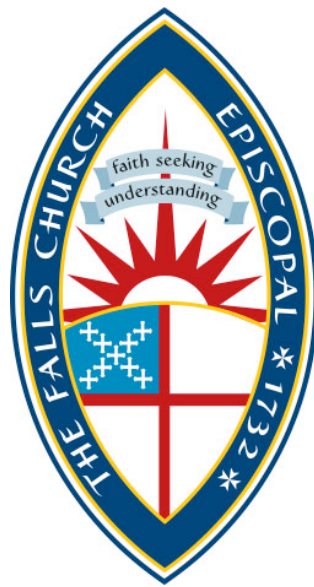


# THE FALLS CHURCH (EPISCOPAL)



ANNUAL REPORT 2010

## The Seal of The Falls Church (Episcopal)



Founded in 1732 as a chapel of Truro Parish (later Fairfax Parish), a colonial parish of the Church of England. As such, The Falls Church (Episcopal) finds resonance with its Anglican roots, expressed through worship, service, and fellowship. The Seal incorporates both the shield of The Episcopal Church and the Compass Rose of the Anglican Communion, both to which The Falls Church (Episcopal) proudly belongs. The phrase “Faith Seeking Understanding” is a quote from St. Anselm, former Archbishop of Canterbury, and it symbolizes our desire to not only believe, but that through believing we might come to understand and see God.

## ABOUT US

We are a congregation of believers in Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life. Our theology is always informed by listening to Holy Scripture, the traditions of the church, human reason, and the experience of Christians discerned in community.

Our theology is both Orthodox and Open, and we seek to exercise this, not through conflict or denominationalism, but through service to our neighbors.

For us, Jesus' words are paramount. His commandment summarizes and describes our life together: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind...[and] you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

We believe that all Christians are called to unity under one Lord, and our unity is Christ, not conformity of opinion. As we continue to discern the presence and will of God, we pray for this unity, that our witness to the world would not be one of strife, but one of love.

We are a worship-centered community, gathering weekly to be fed and nourished by the experience of God in community.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS	5
PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT	6
PRIEST ASSOCIATE REPORT	13
MINISTER OF MUSIC REPORT	17
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE	19
PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE	20
OUTREACH COMMITTEE	22
ALTAR GUILD	24
STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION COMMITTEE	25
TREASURER'S REPORT	26
CONTACT INFORMATION	28

## MEMBERSHIP STATISTICS

***Total Membership as of December 31, 2008....*** **137**

Additions

Baptisms: 0	Confirmations: 0	+23
Transfers: 23	Receptions: 0	

Losses

Certificate: 0	Deaths: 1	-2
Inactive: 1		

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship Services: 64

***Total Membership as of December 31, 2009....*** **152**

Additions

Baptisms: 3	Confirmations: 4	+25
Transfers: 14	Receptions: 4	

Losses

Certificate: 0	Deaths: 0	-10
Inactive: 10		

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship Services: 68

***Total Membership as of December 31, 2010....*** **178**

Additions

Baptisms: 4	Confirmations: 0	+28
Transfers: 24	Receptions: 0	

Losses

Certificate: 0	Deaths: 0	-2
Inactive: 2		

Average Attendance at Sunday Worship Services: 74

## **PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REPORT**

*The Rev. Michael R. J. Pipkin*

This has been an amazing, growing year for The Falls Church (Episcopal), and I give thanks to God for all of the many blessings that have been bestowed on us throughout this time of growth and change. We have been truly blessed.

As 2009 came to a close, we all watched the economy continue to decline, and there were predictions of dire days yet to come. As I have listened to you over this past year, I know that each of us has been affected – personally, professionally, spiritually – by the uncertainty and negativity that we experience whenever our prosperity is threatened. And yet, despite all of the uncertainty and instability, the story of our parish in 2010 is one of blessing, prosperity, and of a continued mission to share God’s love with all of those around us. I give thanks to God for this past year because we can attest to the fact that our God is one who cares for the welfare of his people. Indeed, God is always working on our behalf. God provides.



**The Rev. Michael Pipkin**



In the pages that follow you will read about the many joys, the many blessings, the many moments where we not only received the benefit of God’s care, but also were agents of God’s care and providence. You will read about our growing membership, and all of the opportunities that are available to us. You will read about our developing ministry of worship, and how it is central to the joy and love in our parish. You will read about our Christian Education program, our

growing Sunday School, our developing Adult Education programs, and how God has blessed us with leaders who not only have the gifts for teaching, but have also discerned teaching and “life-long Christian Formation” as a vocation.

In the pages that follow, the story of God’s many blessings will be laid out alongside the many opportunities that await our loving and faithful response. You will read about our parish’s mission to serve our community, and of the diligent and faithful work of our Outreach Committee that receives numerous requests each month for help. You will read about the growing administrative ministries in our parish, and how our Vestry took a faith-filled risk, establishing offices for our staff. In the pages that follow, you will read about the



**From left to right: The Rt. Rev. Shannon Johnston, Bishop of Virginia; The Rev. Michael Pipkin, Priest-in-Charge; The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, Priest Associate**

blessings of financial support, and the challenge of how a growing parish responds to God's call, even in the midst of financial uncertainty.

This is not the story of The Falls Church (Episcopal), and it is not the story of our work. What you will find in the pages that follow is a testimony of how God has been at work in our lives – how God has brought us together, how God has raised up leaders amongst us, how God has moved us to meet challenges, and how God has given us blessing upon blessing so that we could then be a blessing to others.

I am particularly proud to be a part of this story, and I hope that you are, too.



**Michael spends time with his son, Elliott.**

Of the many blessings of 2010, I am particularly thankful for the generosity of the Vestry and of all of the members of TFCE for the time that was given to me for paternity leave and for continuing education/sabbatical time during the summer. When Molly and I welcomed Elliott to our family in March, it was especially helpful to spend two weeks adjusting to fatherhood and settling into life with our son. Indeed, I am continuing to learn and benefit from the wisdom of many fathers in our congregation, and your advice and admonitions of patience have been especially helpful. Thank you.

As many of you know, I am nearing the end of my studies for a Doctor in Ministry (D.Min). When I came to The Falls Church (Episcopal) in January of 2007, I had just begun the classroom work, but I took a break to focus on the mission and needs of our growing parish. I restarted my work toward the D.Min in October of 2009, and was grateful to be able to use my sabbatical time for a required residency at the seminary. After one last residency period in the summer of 2011, I will embark on writing my dissertation, and then – God willing – I will be awarded my doctorate in May of 2013.

After my time away this summer, I was glad to get back to our parish, and to focus on our continued development and mission.

One aspect of our continued development is the enhancement of our Administrative Ministry, and when Falls Church Presbyterian Church offered us the use of a large office, the Vestry and I jumped at the opportunity to move our “office” from the second floor of my home to a place that was more accessible to you and to our community. I continue to give thanks to God for our friends at Falls Church Presbyterian Church – their partnership with us has given us a place where we can worship joyfully, and now it has given us a place to work and collaborate throughout the week. I want to say “Thank You” to Cathy for helping me paint the new office, and to Kees Dutilh for serving as our General Contractor for various upgrades. I am doubly thankful to the Vestry for allocating the funds for this opportunity, and for the Diocese of Virginia for a special grant that will offset the cost of furniture and some utilities. When you have an opportunity, please offer a personal word of “Thanks” to the Rev. Jon Smoot, FCPC’s Interim Pastor, to Jack Sarver, recent Chair of FCPC’s Buildings and Grounds Committee, and to the members of FCPC’s Session (which is similar to our Vestry).



**We give thanks for all who share their gifts during worship. Here, Kathi Dutilh serves as a Chalice Bearer.**

debt to my staff – the Rev. Cathy Tibbetts and James Jelasic – and to the many dedicated volunteers whose leadership make our worship service especially joyful: Kathi Dutilh (Altar Guild), Bill Forester and Doug Hansen (Vergers), Lillian Anderton (Nursery), and Paul Miller (Lay Readers and Chalice Bearers). Worship is the primary way that we respond to God working in our lives, and I know that when I come to church on Sundays, I can expect to see God moving in and through the lives of these people, and through all who come to offer their gifts. We are truly blessed.

Worship will be an especially important topic in the coming year, as we continue to welcome more visitors and new members. While our Average Sunday Attendance for 2010 is 74 people, if we consider the trend from September through December, our Average Attendance is much higher – nearing 85 people (and recent January 2011 attendance is approaching an average of 100). This is a wonderful opportunity and blessing, and I am thankful that so many people are attracted to the work of God in this place. As we continue to grow, consideration of our vocation to make room for everybody will be important. How will we do this? While many options have been suggested, no decisions have been made, and no decision will be made until we have solicited everybody's input and prayerfully considered how God is calling us to respond to this blessing.

As we welcome more and more newcomers, there must be an acknowledgement of the extraordinary gifts for hospitality exercised by members of this parish. Truly, people come to worship and stay for fellowship – and they are welcomed and fed by some extraordinary people and led by the Parish Life Committee, which is charged with organizing our fellowship ministry. Everything from our weekly Coffee Hour to our Annual



**Hospitality is a gift! Here, Bill Fetsch greets a parishioner during the Peace.**

Parish Retreat is organized by Parish Life, and their ministry continues to enrich our community. Thank you to Nancy Councilor for your diligent and faithful work on this committee for three years! I also give thanks for the ongoing ministry of Lee Corey, and for the many folks who help you on Sunday mornings – we have the best coffee hour in Christendom; and I want to also thank Mike Lockaby and Matt Rhodes for your work in putting together the best Parish Retreat that I've ever known, and to Bill and Robin Fetsch for welcoming over 100 parishioners to their home for our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Christmas Party.

Our Parish Seal highlights a quote from St. Anselm of Canterbury – “Faith Seeking Understanding.” We are called to not only worship and celebrate the work of God in our lives, we are called to learn about how God has worked in and through people and the church throughout the ages, and we are called to an ever-deepening faith that is formed through study. We have been blessed with men and women who not only have a gift for teaching, but who have personally experienced God working in their lives, and they have much to offer all of us as we “seek understanding.” In the middle of 2008 we welcomed the Rev. Cathy Tibbetts to our parish, and I asked her to help set up a Sunday School program that would eventually be led by members of the parish. Through her faithful efforts and gifts, she not only set up a Sunday School, but established an entire Children's Education program for our parish that continues to move toward a member-led model. Likewise, in 2009 I asked Margret Hjalmarson to come and help us to continue the development of our Adult Education programs, and with the help of Mike Lockaby, Matt Rhodes, and Doug Hansen, we have developed several excellent offerings for our adult members throughout the year. There is no shortage of opportunity for people of any age to “seek understanding” and I am thankful for these partners in ministry.

Fellowship creates community, worship gives us strength, and education gives us depth – and all of these ministries help us to join in God's work in the world around us. Even as God has blessed us, we are called to bless others, and through the work of our Outreach Committee, we continue to make a difference in people's lives. In 2010, we offered dinners at the local homeless shelter, we helped to rebuild the home of one of our neighbors, we helped to raise funds for our ministry partner – Falls Church Community Service Council, we sent care packages to men and women deployed abroad, we helped local students in need, we shared the fruits of our harvest through Thanksgiving dinners, and we gave the gift of Christmas to local children. In addition to all of this, we collected and donated food to our local food pantry each month, and we helped men and women who came directly to us in need. Each and every member of our parish is a member of our Outreach Ministry – but I am especially grateful to those who help organize our efforts: Sally Brett (Chair), Lillian Anderton, Elizabeth Bass, Neal Callander, Cary Cavness, Kathi and Kees Dutilh, Robin Fetsch, Gretchen and Mike Snyder, Edie Smolinski, and Nancy Councilor.

Finally, I am grateful for the work and ministry of our Vestry – for their dedication in coming to 7:00am meetings (with nary a complaint), for their willingness to take risks knowing that God continues to provide for us all, for their leadership, and for their patience with me and with our growing parish. We have reached a threshold in the life of our congregation, with our membership nearing 200, with growing attendance in programs and worship, and with all of the blessings and opportunities that come from this growth. I continue to give thanks for their friendship and their leadership, and I ask



**The Falls Church (Episcopal) Vestry and Clergy with the Bishop of Virginia. From left to right: Matt Rhodes, Jason Matechak, Jim Councilor, Peggy McCan, Doug Hansen, Bishop Johnston, Michael Pipkin, Debby Miller, Cathy Tibbetts, Sally Brett, and Michael Gardner.**

that you offer prayers of thanks for Jason Matechak, Debby Miller, Jim Councilor, Peggy McCan, Doug Hansen, Michael Gardner, Matt Rhodes, Sally Brett, Lillian Anderton, and Mike Lockaby.

Without a doubt there are many people to thank, and many ministries to highlight. These past four years have truly been a blessing. As we enter our fifth year together, there are more blessings than can be numbered, and many more opportunities that call for our faithful response.

No matter what we are called to do in God's name, we will

continue to live into what early Christians understood about ministry and the church: this is not our story. This is the story of how God is working in us and through us. This is the story of how we continue to grow in every way into "him who is the head, into Christ." May we be knit together, building each other up in love. Amen.

*We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.*  
-- Ephesians 4:15-16



**"Go into the world in peace. Be of good courage, hold fast to that which is good. Render to no one evil for evil, but strengthen the fainthearted, help the afflicted, honor all persons. Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. And may the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you always."**

SENIOR WARDEN REPORT  
*Mr. Jason P. Matechak*

Has another year already gone by for us at The Falls Church (Episcopal)? While many of us have been together for many years, we have been blessed in our fourth year together as the continuing congregation of The Falls Church (Episcopal) with many new faces and families. In 2010, we continued to experience growth in the numbers of parishioners worshipping together and also, even in a trying financial time, we were able to stick together and meet our financial obligations. Thanks to all of us, and of course to our Presbyterian hosts, we are in a good position to move forward into 2011.



**Jason Matechak, Senior Warden, sits with Vestry Member, Matt Rhodes, during coffee hour.**

We remain grateful for the service of the Reverend Michael Pipkin, the Reverend Cathy Tibbetts, and Mr. James Jelasic. As our Priest-in-Charge, Michael continued to lead us spiritually, pastorally and administratively in the growth of our parish family—as he and Molly grew their own family with the birth of Elliott. Overall, and especially during Michael’s paternity leave and summer sabbatical, Cathy provided tireless energy to our overall ministries and especially to our youth programs. And James, as our Minister of Music, once again ably led our choir and treated us to many guest musicians over the course of the year.



**Volunteers, Bob McCan, Peggy McCan, and Mike Lockaby, invite the community to visit our parish during the annual Memorial Day Festival in Falls Church.**

I think Michael, Cathy and James would be the first to recognize that it really is the efforts of our lay volunteers that has allowed us to achieve all that we accomplished this year. At the risk of unintentionally omitting thanks where thanks are due, let me extend my personal thanks to our Executive Committee Officers: Debby Miller (Junior Warden), Jim Councilor (Treasurer), and Peggy McCan (Register) and to all members of our Vestry: Doug Hansen, Mike Gardner, Matt Rhodes, Lillian Anderton, Mike Lockaby and Sally Brett.

Thanks are also due to Mike Lockaby and his team for pulling off our largest parish retreat since 2006 at Shrine Mont, to Nancy Councilor for her leadership in Parish Life,

to Lee Corey and Dail Turner for their tireless efforts in Sunday Hospitality, to Kathi Dutilh for her leadership of the Altar Guild, to Lillian Anderton for her Communications efforts and overall service, to Robin Fetsch for Outreach, to Amanda Upton and Carl Garris for supporting “Parents Night Out,” all of our parents on Sunday School support, to Tom Harter, Dail Turner, and Elizabeth Bass for their work on the finance and audit committees, to Gretchen Snyder for her work with the Food Bank, to Paul Miller for his coordination and to all of our lay readers and chalice bearers, to our Choir, and to Bill Forester for his support in liturgy and leadership in prayer, and many, many more of you for your tireless efforts behind the scenes.

And while I am giving thanks, let me once again thank the Rev. Jon Smoot and all the Presbyterians for graciously allowing us to share their spiritual home. Also, I would be remiss if I didn’t offer thanks to Bishop Johnston and Bishop Jones for their support and prayers.

With all of us working together with friends around the community and diocese we certainly have continued to grow into our mission to be: A welcoming group of believers whose message is one of trust in the hope-filled promises of Jesus Christ, love for one another and service to our community. While we have a lot to be proud of for 2010, we cannot rest on our laurels for 2011.

## PRIEST ASSOCIATE REPORT

*The Rev. Catherine J. Tibbetts*

2010 began with a bang for me. On January 1<sup>st</sup>, my ministry at TFCE expanded from part-time to full-time ministry. To say that this year has been transformative is quite an understatement. For each of us, our lives and ministries are part of God's unfolding history and offer up fresh opportunities each and every day for worship and service to His glory.

This report on my ministry during 2010 has been organized into seven key discussion areas:

- Worship
- Education / Christian Formation
- Outreach
- Pastoral Care
- Administrative Support
- Diocesan Committees / Ministries
- Continuing Education

**Worship:** As Episcopalians, worship is central to the way we identify and celebrate our individual and corporate relationship with God, and also with one another. Worship, therefore, is the foundation of all other parts of our lives as followers of Jesus Christ. As a priest of the parish, it is a precious privilege to participate with you, Father Michael and with lay leaders who come together in worship for the Liturgy of the Word and then afterwards gather around Christ's own table to share in the bounty of his grace and



mercy. As I reflect on times of worship this past year that have been most especially significant for me, I have many warm memories of God's transforming power in and amongst us. For me, each gathering is special and unique on its own merits. Often we come and go without knowing all that God has accomplished. Again and again I have been reminded of how crucial worship is for each of us within community. Our decision to participate each week in worship nurtures much more than our own personal needs. Our presence in worship is indeed one of the most important means we exercise in our ministry to one another. In my ministry among you, this coming together for times of common worship is very similar to what we see in Jesus and his coming to live amongst us. Being present for each other is in and of itself a sacramental act of supporting one another along in companioned journeys of faith at TFCE. Even beyond those who are present with us in the act of worship it also is our means of corporately addressing the needs of those



**The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts shares a story with the children on Christmas Eve.**

for whom we pray. Accordingly in 2010, I especially reveled in the many times that my ministry brought me into deeper relationship with each of you and your stories of faith. I am ever mindful as I share in leading worship that your presence with me is an integral part of my ongoing journey of faith. As one of your priests, my prayer is that I may be used by God in a manner that best nurtures and supports you in your own journeys.

**Education / Christian Formation:** Throughout all of our lives, as people of faith and with God's help, we seek to grow into ever deepening knowledge of, and relationship with God in an ongoing process we call *Christian Education* and/or *Christian Formation*. One key focus of my ministry in 2010 was in the area of leadership of Christian Education / Formation within our parish. Such ministry occurs in a variety of different ways. Certainly this occurs during each Sunday during the Liturgy of the Word but even more so during other programs and ministries such as Sunday morning education for all ages. Of special note in 2010, a group made up of Margret Hjalmarson, Mike Lockaby, Matt Rhodes and Doug Hansen stepped forward to expand TFCE's adult education programs. Additionally, the parents of children at TFCE stepped forward to expand TFCE's children's Sunday school programs, establishing three distinct classes for children and youth ages 4 – 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Also in 2010, Tyler Fox, a young adult member of TFCE, stepped forward to assist me with the programming for middle and high school youth at TFCE. For all of these teachers and ministry leaders I give special thanks. In 2011, I see TFCE continuing to expand and strengthen its programming for ongoing Christian Education and Formation under the leadership of an engaged and active Christian Education/Formation Committee that will work closely with me to enact goals and objectives for this ministry that are under development with TFCE's vestry.



**During our Christmas Pageant, children help to lead worship.**

**Outreach:** In 2010, outreach was an important part of my overall ministry. Outreach is near and dear to my heart and to my personal sense of calling. Throughout Jesus' life and teachings we repeatedly see that God expects us as his children to respond assertively care reaching out to those in need. In my ministry during 2010 outreach, the form of "*faith in action*" was integrated into the curriculum and program planning for Christian education/formation with children and youth, including:

- The youth's Lenten retreat which culminated with their feeding 78 homeless individuals at the Bailey's Crossroads shelter;
- The younger children's ingathering of food for the Knox Food Pantry in association with Sunday School and during VBS;
- Our gift of PNO once each month to parents within the community, offering to them the resource of a safe place for them to come and place their children under our care; and

- The annual practice of supporting the children at Christmas time to offer a gift supporting the Episcopal Relief and Development Fund's *Gifts for Life* initiative to those in need around the world.

**Pastoral Care:** As TFCE has grown this past year, so too have its pastoral needs. Father Michael and I share in this ministry, supported by lay ministers who provide much in the way of support to members during periods when an extra hand is needed. In 2011, I anticipate that this ministry will continue to be a central part of my time and schedule, both in direct care and also alongside Father Michael as we welcome and train lay ministers who are called to join with us in this important ministry.

**Administrative Support:** There are a variety of necessary administrative tasks that need to be accomplished to support my ministry and the overall life of the parish. In the office, Tuesday – Friday, I work closely with Father Michael on tasks ranging from answering the phones to planning and producing written materials needed for worship, Christian education and other TFCE programs. I participate in weekly staff meetings and various other meetings with Father Michael and other leaders of the TFCE, in coordination meetings with the clergy and staff of Falls Church Presbyterian Church, and from time to time, with meetings within the Falls Church Community that are associated with our programs and ministries. I also participate with Father Michael in monthly regional clergy meetings, in Region 8 Council meetings, and in meetings called by the Bishop in association with the Annual Council and others scheduled for clergy on behalf of the Diocese of Virginia.

**Committees / Ministries Outside TFCE:** As your priest, and also as a priest of the Diocese of Virginia, it is my privilege to serve from time to time in various capacities. In 2010 some of these included:

- Being one of the homilists at the Falls Church Good Friday Service held at St. Anthony's Roman Catholic Church;
- Leading four workshops as a certified trainer for the diocese's Prevention of Sexual Misconduct training (required for all clergy, staff, and other lay ministers);
- Representing TFCE in Region 8's Youth Leadership Committee (which planned and implemented three youth events in 2010);
- Being the clergy Director for the Diocese's *2010 Family Conference* held at Shrine Mont July 11 – 17; and
- Completing the third and final year of membership on the Diocese's Committee on Mental Health.

**Continuing Education:** Vocationally it is my responsibility to participate in ongoing educational and Christian formation that strengthens my gifts and skills as needed in my ministry as your parish priest. In 2010 my continuing education included:

- Participation during the spring of 2010 in two one-day conferences that were offered at Virginia Theological Seminary, one focusing on youth programming, and the other on an update of the latest in resources for Episcopal Christian education and formation;

- Travel to Nashville, Tennessee in May to participate in a week long national continuing education program that focused on preaching;
- Participation in October at the Diocese's fall clergy retreat with Michael, during which we participated in sessions addressing "*The Spirituality of Conflict*"; and
- Participation in an October program on "*Internet Safety in Ministry.*"

My ministry with you during 2010 was one that brought me great joy. As I look forward into 2011 and to my ministries with all at TFCE, I am excited about the energy I see being poured into planning and preparing for the life of our church as we strive with God's help to live into the fullness of the life and mission of TFCE.

## MINISTER OF MUSIC REPORT

*Mr. James Jelasic*



**James Jelasic**

The Music Ministry at The Falls Church (Episcopal) has had a productive and joyous 2010!

Past musical highlights, graciously hosted by the Fetsch family, have included our annual summertime Ladies Tea with jazz and classical piano accompaniment and a Christmas Congregational Gathering ending with a spirited carol-fest accompanied by several pianists including our own Kate Anderson! Our choir participated in our First Annual traditional December Holiday Sing-Along at the outdoor

Filene Center main stage at The Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts accompanied by the 80-piece President's Own Marine Band. Singing along with 300 other church, school and community choir members to an audience of over 5,000 was inspirational for all who attended! We all bundled up and sang, seeing each breath vaporize in front of us!

Once again, our candle-lit Christmas Eve service was peaceful and elegant with our glorious choir being accompanied by harpist, Holly Avesian—a lovely tradition.

Throughout the year, we gladly incorporated singers from around the globe whilst they were visiting our church. Please keep your ears open for any possible new recruits—including high-schoolers!



**Members of TFCE's Choir at the Holiday Sing-Along**



**St. Augustine said, "when you sing you pray twice." TFCE Choir members offer their music to God and help to lead worship.**

For 2011, my wish is to be able to establish a budget to: (1) hire a bass/baritone section leader as a steady presence to enhance our Sunday service music and (2) purchase initial choral music scores. Our choir has such devoted members who contribute greatly in both their time and talents! We are fortunate to be blessed with them.

Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions about or for our Music Ministry. I am keeping a close

eye on expenses within the music budget due to our continued lean economic times.

In joyful anticipation of a smooth musical transition, sometime in the future, to a church-service space with either an electronic or a pipe organ (while retaining a grand piano!), I am continuing to hone my organ performing capabilities. I so enjoy my Minister of Music position, our congregational members, our staff and my choir! Here's to another year of spiritual and educational growth through music!

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, Mr. Mike Lockaby, Ms. Margret Hjalmarson,  
Mr. Doug Hansen and Mr. Matt Rhodes*

TFCE's Christian Education Committee is charged with oversight, planning, and coordination of lifelong Christian education.

Christian Education takes many forms at TFCE, including Sunday morning education for children, teens, and adults, small group Bible study offered at church and also in the homes of our members. In the fall of 2010 it included special events such as TFCE's annual Shrine Mont retreat, where the very gifted speaker and author Rev. Barbara Crafton led participants in a deeply meaningful exploration of spiritual practices of forgiveness. TFCE carried Christian education into our surrounding community in some unexpected places—places like Starbucks, and Madison Park where parents worked with children and a local naturalist to install a new Children's Sensory Garden as they learned more about stewardship of creation.

Throughout 2010, as TFCE has continued to grow, so too did the variety and opportunities for ongoing Christian formation.

Looking ahead in 2011, the Christian Education Committee has recently been charged by our Priest-in-Charge to consider TFCE's long-term Christian Education and the depth and breadth of programming that will best serve our growing community. The Committee begins this process early in February and will issue a report of its findings to Fr. Pipkin and the Vestry. The ministry of Christian education is a vital one. At its roots is our very connection to our baptismal covenant, and through this, to our relationship with God and with one another. As we plan and prepare for our life and ministries as the people of The Falls Church (Episcopal), Christian education serves to lay a foundation for all else that we hope to achieve.

This past year has been a year of transitions for adult Christian education and formation. In the spring of 2010, it began to become clear that the Wednesday night adult education program that had been going continuously for two years was not gaining traction. As a result, the leaders of our adult Christian formation programs determined to break it down into different parts. Rev. Cathy Tibbetts had already been leading a women's Bible study group Sunday afternoons. We added to this a Wednesday night book group, which has read *Tokens of Trust*, by the Most Rev. Rowan Williams, *Yes! We'll Gather at the River*, by Rev. Barbara Crafton, and *The Screwtape Letters*, by C.S. Lewis. We also added a Sunday morning class, which has read the Gospel of Mark, done a short Advent series, and is now studying the life and theology of the German Lutheran minister and martyr Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

In conclusion, we offer thanks to God for the leadership of Mike Lockaby, Margret Hjalmarson, Doug Hansen and Matt Rhodes for their leadership on the committee this past year; the many parents who continue to give so graciously of themselves each Sunday as they teach our children about God our place in His unfolding history; and also for our latest addition Tyler Fox whose ministry with our youth is really taking off.

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE

*Mrs. Nancy Councilor, Chair*

The Parish Life Committee attempts to provide fellowship opportunities for members of our parish.

Our shared ministry is also to provide care when needed and to recognize special occasions in our parishioners' lives.

One of the largest tasks befalling our committee is our amazing coffee hour following the Sunday service. It has become an especially large undertaking due to the combined service of our Presbyterian friends. We are blessed to have an amazingly cheerful, dedicated, and generous kitchen brigade headed up by Lee Corey and Dail Turner assisted by Mariana Hubbard and Bonnie Kreidler.

We had a TFCE parish luncheon in January and a luncheon in August to welcome Bishop Shannon where we included our Presbyterian friends. Thanks to all who contributed food for those events.

In March, we hosted a baby shower for Michael and Molly Pipkin followed by a small reception celebrating Baby Elliott's baptism in June.

In May, we had our second annual Ladies Tea at the home of Bill and Robin Fetsch. Thanks especially to Robin for hosting that event and to James Jelasic who provided a delightful afternoon of piano playing to enhance the festivities.



**Our Annual Parish Retreat is an opportunity to get away from it all. Here, Anna Goltz, Dana Whitley, and Margret Hjalmarson enjoy some time at Shrine Mont.**



**“Welcome all visitors as Christ himself.” Hospitality is one of our callings. Here, TFCE members share in fellowship during coffee hour.**

Mike Lockaby reports that our Shrine Mont retreat this year was by far the largest since 2006. Our retreat guest speaker, Rev. Barbara Crafton, spoke at length about forgiveness, and Rev. Michael Pipkin, Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, and Rev. Lucia Lloyd of St. Stephen's in Heathsville, Virginia received confessions, an all-too-rare event for Episcopalians! We shared our retreat with the Continuing Congregation of St. Stephen's-Heathsville, and made

new friends and connections. We intend to share our retreat with St. Stephen's again next year.

We want to thank Robin and Bill Fetsch, Matt Rhodes, Jim and Nancy Councilor, Kathi Dutilh, Dana Whitley, Rev. Cathy Tibbetts, James Jelasic and many others for all of their hard work and help in making it the best Shrine Mont we've had so far! Special thanks go to Mike Lockaby for coordinating a very successful retreat.

Our final event of the year was our wonderful parish Christmas party. Thank you to Robin and Bill Fetsch for opening their home and hearts for this special gathering and for ensuring that Santa arrived with his bag full of goodies for the children. One of the highlights of the evening was the singing of Christmas carols with piano accompaniment provided by James Jelasic, Kate Anderson and Jon Lackey.

2010 was a good year full of many blessings.

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE

*Mrs. Sally Brett, Chair*

Committee Members:

Everyone in the parish participates in Outreach; however, “official” Committee members are Lillian Anderton, Elizabeth Bass, Sally Brett, Neal Callander, Cary Cavness, Kathi and Kees Dutilh, Robin Fetsch, Gretchen and Mike Snyder, Edie Smolinski, Nancy Councilor, and *ex officio* member Jim Councilor.

During 2010, the TFCE Outreach Committee organized and supported several opportunities for our parish to serve our community and world. These ministries included Dinners for the Falls Church Homeless Shelter (Lillian Anderton, Sally Brett, Nancy Councilor); our second annual Rebuilding Together project, which helps to rebuild the home of one of our neighbors (Neal Callander and Kees Dutilh); participation in the Jazz in June fundraiser for the Falls Church Community Service Council, which raised \$6000 for the food bank and emergency needs program (Robin Fetsch, Gretchen Snyder, Kathi Dutilh); Care Packages for the Troops, which packed 27 care packages that were sent to men and women in the Armed Forces who are deployed abroad (Sally Brett); we donated 22 Backpacks full of school supplies for the Patrick Henry Family Shelter (Lillian Anderton); we organized a local fundraiser and awareness project with Fannie Mae Walk for the Homeless (Robin Fetsch), raising \$1400 for our ministry partner,



**Our Junior Warden, Debby Miller, helping a young Haitian boy at St. Damien's in Haiti.**

Shelter House in Falls Church; we donated Thanksgiving baskets and gift cards to 10 Homestretch families and one parish friend (Gretchen Snyder and Edie Smolinski); we donated boxes of food and clothing items For the Troops (Sally Brett and Cary Cavness); we adopted 4 families living at the Patrick Henry Family Shelter (Robin Fetsch and Kathi Dutilh with contributions by many parishioners), made monetary donations to Homestretch Kids Go Christmas Gift Shopping project (Gretchen Snyder), and distribution of school supplies for Homestretch (Sally Brett) and J.E.B. Stuart High School (Nancy Councilor). On top of that, each month we collected foodstuffs for our local food pantry at FCS, we collected emergency disaster response items after the earthquake in Haiti, and, we supported our own Junior Warden,



**Sharing the blessings that we have received is what outreach is all about. Here, J.E.B. High School Principal and staff receive school supplies donated by TFCE parishioners.**

Deborah Miller, RN as she embarked on a mission trip to Haiti to help with relief efforts at St. Damien's Pediatric hospital in Tabarre, Haiti. With the prayers and blessings of

TFCE, she remained healthy and energetic, spending 10 days in the orthopedic clinic working with injured children and adults. (Although the short-term efforts of one individual appear puny in the face of overwhelming need, the gift of mercy was given on behalf of TFCE and gratefully received by the families Deb encountered. We continue to pray for the people of Haiti for an end to their suffering and that they would feel God's grace.)

Locally, our Rebuilding Together partnership is an example of the kind of integrated effort we are looking for (although it excludes younger parishioners, whom we also hope to bring to the committee). We hope to keep a calendar on the parish website and in a parish booklet to be available on the table at worship services, so that parishioners would not feel blindsided by “sudden” appeals for time, money, contributions, and the like. We also decided to take a team captain approach, with individual committee members encouraged to take charge of the project but to enlist parishioners who are not necessarily on the committee roster. We voted unanimously to return unused funds from our budget to the parish.

For 2011, the committee budget reflects a commitment to Rebuilding Together, For the Troops, Christmas families from Homestretch and Patrick Henry Shelter, and Thanksgiving baskets. Other commitments on the part of the committee and the parish “coworkers” will be the subject of discussion and decision at the January organizational meeting. We give thanks for Kathi Dutilh who has been elected by the Outreach Committee to serve as our Chairperson for the next year. We are hopeful that our Outreach projects will serve as a means for bringing together the parish and the parish with the larger community; they might also serve as the vehicle for greater youth involvement in parish life.

Thanks to everyone for your generous and loving donations of time, talent, and needed items. May we all continue not only to be blessed but to share those blessings with others.



**Following the devastating earthquake in Haiti, TFCE parishioners donated several carloads of emergency supplies to the Haitian Embassy.**

## ALTAR GUILD

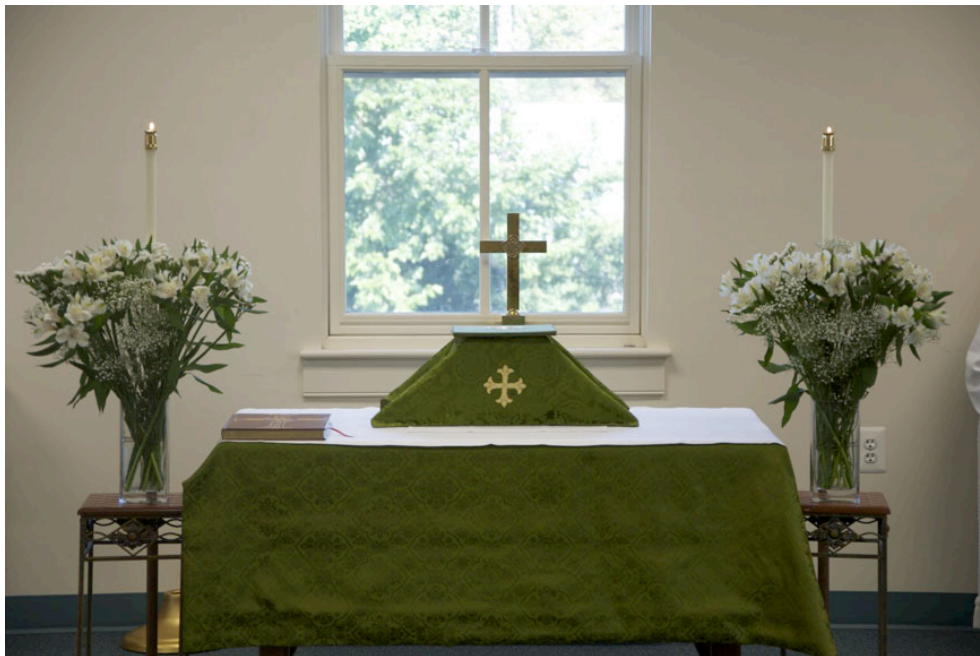
*Mrs. Kathi Dutilh, Chair*

This year's Altar Guild Ministry included Pat McDonnell, Charlotte Needham, Errin Matechak, Patrick McKeon, Edie Smolinski and Kathi Dutilh.

The Altar Guild members volunteer (in advance through email) to serve approximately two times per month. Usually two members serve each Sunday. As a reminder, a service calendar and altar setting instructions are posted in the sacristy closet. The Altar Guild members arrive in the Loft by approximately 9:15 to prepare the altar table for Sunday Communion Service (and for special services), throughout the year. Preparing the altar takes approximately 25 minutes, leaving the sacristy area free for Fr. Michael and Cathy to prepare for service uninterrupted.

Fr. Michael held an Altar Guild training session at the beginning of 2010 and unveiled a beautifully organized sacristy closet, including labeled wire baskets, which hold the gifts and supplies used to prepare the Altar. Those who can participate polish the altar silver and brass twice a year, at Easter and Christmas.

Kathi Dutilh will hold an Altar Guild training session for current members (as a refresher) and others interested in joining this Guild. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Fr. Michael or Kathi Dutilh for more information.



## **STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION COMMITTEE**

*Mr. William S. Forester, Chair*

The Parish Stewardship of Creation Committee continued its work this past year of taking our faith concerns for the environment and applying them to projects outside the doors of our shared church building. We were involved with four environmental projects that allowed us to witness our concerns for God's natural world in faith-related efforts. Our work included the following:

- Earth Day support and involvement;
- Two separate Tree Planting projects;
- Support for the City of Falls Church's Annual Clean-up Day; and
- Invasive Species Removal Projects with the City of Falls Church.

Next year's environmental support activities will begin in the spring with Tree Plantings. Later we will join forces with the City of Falls Church in local support with Earth Day projects.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

*Mr. Jim Councilor, Treasurer*

For the year ending December 31, 2010, we had total income of \$233,641, which was up slightly (2%) from 2009. This increase in income represents a combination of fulfilled pledges, donations (both restricted and unrestricted) and income related to Shrine Mont registrations. Our operating expenses for the year totaled \$249,406, and can be summarized into the following categories:

Worship	\$77,990
Outreach	\$26,773
Admin	\$77,690
Pastoral Care	\$27,643
Fellowship (including Shrine Mont)	\$24,667
Christian Ed	\$14,643

For the second year in a row we will close out the year with a deficit, with this year's deficit totaling \$15,765. While seemingly high, this significant deficit is, in fact, largely the result of several expenditures meant to improve our administrative capacity.

First, in February, the Vestry approved the expenditure of \$1,000 for the purchase and set up of Church Administration Software through ACS Technologies. The new software enables us to maintain a membership database that, once we have finished updating all of the information, will give us the ability to publish on-demand directories, manage email communications more efficiently, report on trends, and even store photographs and detailed information that is all keyword and demographically searchable. The best part of our new software is the ability for multiple users to access the software through the Internet, giving our parish leaders the ability to access the information that they need to administer the various programs and ministries of our parish. The information is always secure, and it is backed up daily through ACS's secure servers.

The second major expenditure was the increase in our Building Use Fee. Before this year we had been giving Falls Church Presbyterian Church (FCPC) \$300 per month as a "Thank You" for the use of their spaces. In late 2009, the leadership of FCPC approached us with the possibility of moving our offices into their church, giving us, for the first time, a central administrative office. Accordingly, and because we rely so heavily on space at FCPC for all of our worship and programs, we increased our giving to FCPC from \$300 per month to \$750 per month. With that increase, we have not only been able to use room 303 as an office for our clergy staff, but we also gained the use of FCPC's Building Manager, Romero Corto, for a few hours per week to help move chairs and provide some program support.

With the office space secured, the Vestry moved to provide furnishings and utilities for the office. Thanks to Michael Gardner, we were introduced to a furniture broker who was

able to secure high quality office furniture at a greatly reduced cost. Other costs included upgrades to the office's electrical circuits, which were necessary due to the increased load of computers and a copier (special thanks to Kees Dutilh for contracting this work for us), painting supplies (labor was provided by Michael Pipkin and Cathy Tibbetts), and the setup of telephone and Internet lines. In all, the total cost for the office setup was \$6,973. While this number adds to the deficit of our 2010 Budget, it is offset in our 2011 Budget by a grant from the Diocese of Virginia for \$5,000, which was not received until January 2011.

Besides the Administration Software, the increased Building Use Fee, and the costs associated with establishing our office, we are experiencing the addition of recurring costs for telephone, internet, and an increase in the need for office supplies such as paper, ink, toner, etc., all of which are the outcomes of the significant growth in our church over the past four years.

No matter what the reason, it is clear that this deficit cannot be sustained as we move forward. Without increased income, our Vestry will need to make some difficult operational decisions to ensure that we operate within our means.

In the recently completed fall pledge campaign, once again nearly 90% of our members made a financial commitment to our parish and our mission and work in our local community. Many of our parishioners utilize the electronic payment option (provided by Vanco Services), and several more use their bank or credit union electronic check payment services. Either of these options makes it easy to donate, and helps maintain regular contributions—particularly when it isn't possible to attend worship services. If you are interested in participating in electronic payments, please contact me.

Our parish has grown and matured significantly since January 2007, and it has been an honor and a rewarding experience for me to serve as Treasurer. Thank you for your confidence and many kind words.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

### **Clergy and Staff:**

Priest-in-Charge	The Rev. Michael Pipkin	703-241-0003
Priest Associate	The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts	703-241-0003
Minister of Music	Mr. James Jelasic	703-532-7200

### **2010 Vestry:**

Senior Warden	Mr. Jason Matechak	703-532-4832
Junior Warden	Mrs. Debby Miller	703-241-2593
Treasurer	Mr. Jim Councilor	703-256-8794
Register	Mrs. Peggy McCan	703-765-2973
	Mr. Matt Rhodes	703-581-9500
	Mr. Michael Gardner	703-534-8644
	Mr. Doug Hansen	703-999-2882
	Mrs. Sally Brett	703-237-1767
	Mrs. Lillian Anderton	703-534-3863
	Mr. Michael Lockaby	757-561-7057

### **Ministry Leaders:**

Outreach	Mrs. Sally Brett	703-237-1767
Parish Life	Mrs. Nancy Councilor	703-256-8794
Worship	The Rev. Michael Pipkin	703-241-0003
Altar Guild	Mrs. Kathi Dutilh	703-237-1751
Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers	Mr. Paul Miller	703-241-2593
Christian Education	The Rev. Cathy Tibbetts	703-241-0003