

ANNUAL REPORT

2007



January 27, 2008

**The Church of Our Saviour
Lakeside, Arizona**

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VISION STATEMENT

The Church of Our Saviour: Practicing God's Graciousness

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

Opening Prayer

Motion to authorize the Vestry to certify the minutes of this meeting

Elections and Appointments

Appointment of Tellers

Appointment of Clerk

Appointment of Treasurer

Appointment of Assistant Treasurer

Appointment of Senior Warden

Election of a Junior Warden

Election of a Columbarium Board Member

Election of three vestry members

Shall we elect delegates to the fall Diocesan Convention today or shall we authorize the Vestry, at its July meeting, to select delegates to the Convention?

Finances

Report of the Budget and Finance Chairperson

Presentation of the Budget; your Vestry recommends approval

Reports

(*The submitter of each report is asked to verbally summarize how that office, committee, or team will practice God's graciousness in the coming year.)*

Senior Warden – Barbara Stone

Junior Warden – Jim Fugate

Sexton and Groundskeeper – Joe Stone

Episcopal-Lutheran Church Women

Columbarium Trustees

Ministry Team Leaders

Worship Ministries – Vicki Earle

Altar Guild – Pat Trout

Welcoming Ministries – Heather Steiner

Newcomers' Program – Sherry Herring

Pastoral Care Ministries – Billie Fugate

Christian Formation Ministries – Carol Hosler

Library – Joey Nelson

Outreach Ministries – AJ Taylor

Office Ministry – Vicki Howell

Rector's State of the Parish report

Prayer and Adjournment

NOMINEE BIOGRAPHIES

All nominees fulfill the requirements for church officers: they are of church voting age, have been associated with the parish for a minimum of six months, have been baptized, are a financial contributor of record, and are regular in attendance.

For Junior Warden – Elect 1

No nominees were found by the Nominating Committee.
Nominees will be accepted from the floor. All must meet the above qualifications.

For Vestry – Elect 3

Heather Steiner

I have been an Episcopalian all my life and have particularly found the Church of Our Savior to truly practice our new mission statement: *Practicing God's Graciousness*. I would look forward to the opportunity to grow and expand this mission statement.

Currently I am the Welcoming Ministries Team Leader. In this capacity I have planned and coordinated the “Welcome Packets” given to visitors during the church service, fellowship picnics and potlucks, Christmas in July and the retirement celebration of Father Jim Porter, and with the able assistance of the ministries team we have initiated welcome meals and fellowship of new members. Many years ago I was the ECW President of the Episcopal Church in Medellin, Colombia, South America.

My working experience has primarily been administration in the health care field. I am proficient at program planning and implementation, hiring qualified staff and managers, budgets and other financial matters, along with other leadership responsibilities. As a semi-retired nurse and health care administrator I currently teach nursing and health care management to undergraduate and graduate students on line through the University of Phoenix.

Jean Zagar

My many experiences over the years and especially being on the Vestry at Our Saviour, have certainly contributed greatly to my life. I was a fairly active vestry member at Christ the King Episcopal Church in Arvada (a suburb of Denver), where I became one of the first female chalice bearers in that diocese. I attended that church until Joe and I got married in 1978 and moved to Grand Junction, Colorado. When we moved to Corpus Christi, I was very active in St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church and became a lay reader there, as well as being active in other aspects of the congregation.

I am especially interested in the inclusion of newcomers and hope that the vestry will do whatever is necessary to make this a reality in Our Saviour. I will try to do the best job that I can manage if I am voted a member of the vestry. If it does not turn out that I am elected, I will assist the members of the vestry in any way that I can.

Pat Trout

During the last 40+ years of attending Our Saviour I have served in many capacities: several terms on the vestry and three times as the Secretary of the Vestry. Teaching in the Sunday School and summer Bible School were some of the early things I did. Later on I was active in all things that pertained to the ECW and Altar Guild.

Stan Wagaman

I was a cradle Catholic, coming from a very strong Catholic family. I have served in the fire service for 26 years. Most of my career was in Longmont, Colorado. I retired from the Longmont Fire Department to accept the Fire Chief position in Winston-Dillard, Oregon. I retired to move to southern Arizona to be with my terminally ill dad and help Mom. After Dad passed on, I continued to assist Mom through her grief. I accepted a job as Facilities Manager/Human Resources Director for the Catholic Church in Green Valley, Arizona.

Then I met my future wife, Dawn. The Catholic Church did not meet our needs or expectations. We were married in the Episcopal Church in Green Valley and started our new spiritual life together. We were received into the Episcopal Church by Bishop Kirk. I became a member of the Vestry and six months later became the Junior Warden. I served as acolyte, crucifer, lector, intercessor and chalice bearer. We moved to the White Mountains when I came out of my three-year retirement to accept the Fire Chief position for the Heber/Overgaard Fire Department. As Fire Chief in Winston-Dillard, Oregon, I was an active member of approximately 23 civic clubs and organizations. Since starting as Fire Chief for Heber/Overgaard, I have continued that community involvement by becoming a member of the Chamber of Commerce board and the Big Brothers/Big Sisters board and volunteered for Santa's Kids.

Donna Rehman

Skills and experiences I would bring to this office:

- \$ Sincere belief and commitment to staying open to God's leading in every aspect of life.
- \$ Worship and music committee member ~1988-92, Holy Trinity Lutheran, Brunswick, OH.
- \$ Keyboard and organ, 1988-91, Holy Trinity Lutheran; monthly special music with instrumental ensemble at St. Patrick Episcopal, Brunswick, OH, 2005-06.
- \$ Served as team member three times and on Continuation Committee of Lutheran Reconciliation Renewal of Medina County, OH, ~1990-95.
- \$ Song leader for Sunday School, Holy Trinity Lutheran ~ 1989-92.
- \$ BA in psychology, Kent State University, OH, 1981.
- \$ Four years experience as a licensed social worker in Ohio, specializing in child abuse/neglect investigation.
- \$ Once deciding to primarily to be a stay-home mom to our son, started my own business teaching beginning through intermediate piano, 1991-2006; varied from ~12-25 students weekly.
- \$ Quilting, primarily art quilts, with some recognition at local shows in Ohio and one in New York State, plus honorable mention [along with many other quilters] in a national competition, the Hoffman of California Fabrics Challenge, 2000. I'm not sure what this brings to the vestry, but it's currently the main focus of my work energies. ~1990-today
- \$ I have a part-time paying job at the Heber Center of Northland Pioneer College doing clerical and registration work, roughly 12-20 hours weekly. My hours can vary greatly and unexpectedly when special workshops are offered, including evenings and Saturdays; for example, I worked almost every Saturday fall semester because of an EMT course rarely offered here in Heber. I work almost full time at the beginning of each semester. August, 2007-today.

For Columbarium Board – Elect 1

Vicki Howell

Skills include organization, working with people, interest in completing that which needs to be done, and willingness to learn more about our Columbarium needs/practices/plans.

Experiences include serving as Office Ministry Team Leader for the past year, dealing with occasional questions/concerns/contacts regarding the Columbarium, organizing files, accurate record keeping and working with our members.

Very early in life I was taught to care for the numerous family burial lots we have in Illinois-physically, financially and take care of the business end of these lots. The living owes it to those who have gone on before us to care for their place of burial. During a particularly difficult time for one of the largest and oldest cemeteries in Illinois I worked with many others to bring it back to the pristine condition it once again is noted for. Only through following up on record keeping, creating historical significance, financial assistance, and hands on care of the lots was all of it possible. Like my family places of burial, the Columbarium at Church of Our Saviour needs work, interest, carry through, accurate records, a smooth manner of taking care of business.

Finances

The Budget and Finance Committee

The following people served on the Budget and Finance Committee during 2007: Charles Hannan (Chairperson), Interim Rector Carol Hosler, Treasurer Peter Bish, Asst. Treasurer Gwen Pentecost, and John Nelson. Senior Warden Barbara Stone also attended meetings.

Responsibilities and duties of the B&FC:

The Budget & Finance Committee is an advisory arm of the Vestry, and reports directly to the Vestry. It is not a policy making entity. The B&FC is charged with the responsibility of formulating the proposed Annual Budget and presenting it to the Vestry for discussion, any necessary revision, and ultimate approval. It is also responsible for addressing all issues that affect the financial well-being of the parish; and if necessary, developing suggested solutions for presentation to the Vestry for discussion and vote. In addition, the Budget & Finance Committee is responsible for the development, implementation, and reporting of the annual Stewardship Campaign.

Issues addressed by the Budget & Finance Committee in 2007:

- § Negotiated a contract with the Rev. Carol Hosler to be our Interim Rector and forwarded it to the Vestry for approval.
- § After much discussion of the pros and cons, the Stewardship Campaign was conducted during the summer months for the first time. This enabled us to reach the majority of members, and “Friends of The Church of Our Saviour” when they are here. As of Dec. 31, 68 pledges had been received, with the total representing a substantial increase over previous years.
- § Developed and presented at the Sept. 16 Vestry meeting a new protocol for the secure, confidential handling and recording of all church income coming from contributions, bequests, special donations, gifts, etc..
- § Discussed and agreed on the benefits of having an Assistant Treasurer. Interviewed Gwen Pentecost and recommended her at the Oct. 21 Vestry meeting, at which time she was appointed by the Vestry.
- § Much time, thought and serious discussion was spent on projecting, revising, re-projecting, and more revising of the 2008 Annual Budget, which will be covered in greater detail in the Treasurer’s Report.

§ It now appears that after paring much from the 2008 Budget, including the decision to *defer* for the time being the hiring of a part-time office secretary, a projected income deficit of approximately \$15,000 is forecasted. The current plan is to cover the deficit with some of the carry-over funds from 2007. 2008 will require the constant scrutiny of all expenses, plus developing innovative ideas for raising additional income. However, we proclaim that our Lord is gracious to us. We acknowledge that what He graciously provides is not determined by, nor a reward for, any good deeds we do or actions we take, but are pure gift. What is our rightful response?

“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand”. Isaiah 41:10

*Charles Hannan
Chairperson (Retired as of this meeting)
Budget and Finance Committee*

The Treasurer

It seems incredible that this is the end of my third year, where has the time gone? First and foremost, it is a pleasure to have Gwen Pentecost as the Assistant Treasurer since October.

1. END OF 2007 BALANCES

The first report summarizes the Parish Account balances at the end of 2007 including the Certificates of Deposit. There are ONLY \$1,700 of 2008 Pledge funds included in this amount. There is a \$20,000 increase in our assets compared with 2006. There are no liabilities.

The second report shows how these funds have been allocated to various designated accounts. This report enables the Vestry to keep track of designated funds.

These two reports provide checks & balances since the totals MUST match.

During 2007, the funds from the ELCW and the Altar Guild were integrated into the primary church accounts. The Boutique account was integrated in the first week of this year.

2. 2007 IN REVIEW

The first item is the budget itself. This is a living document which is adjusted as circumstances change. Our experience last year illustrates this all too well. It was necessary to revise the original budget four times. At the end of the year the expenditure portion of the budget was very little changed but the income side increased dramatically. At year's end we had a positive

balance of over \$27,000. Our actual expenses were below forecasted. There are many factors for this including an increase in offerings and not having to pay a full-time stipend for a priest. In a nutshell it turned out to be a wonderful year. For the FIRST time in four years we have not had to use advances on the following year's pledges to survive. Also, since mid 2007, payments for our apportionment to the Diocese have been made on or ahead of schedule.

3. 2005, 6 & 7 QUARTERLY COMPARISON

There are many factors which make precise comparisons VERY difficult. The one MAJOR conclusion which can be drawn is that the final 3 quarters of 2007 had dramatically higher incomes than in the prior years. I have previously made comparisons with a rowing team – every member has to pull at the same time. When we focus on the strengths of each other rather than on weaknesses we practice God's graciousness and pull together. We need to continue this approach in 2008. The health of the parish is in the hands of each and every one of us.

4. 2008 BUDGET

The Vestry recommends approval of the 2008 Budget as presented herein. As you are all well aware, six ministries teams were created in 2007. The structure of the budget has been changed to more clearly show these ministries.

The budget was developed in various stages. In the first stage the ministries teams each submitted a request for their activities for the coming year. Later they met to learn about each other's plans and to pare the budget. There has been broad support for the hiring of a part-time secretary, but including the position created a projected deficit in excess of \$25,000. The Vestry decided that the secretary line item should be kept in the budget but that the position would not be funded until the year's finances become more clear.

There are many areas of uncertainty for 2008: How much will our search process cost? When will the new priest come on board? What will be the cost of relocation? How large will his/her family be? What will be the cost of health insurance? What housing arrangements will be negotiated, and what stipend will be agreed upon? The basis for this budget is for our new priest to come on board on April 1st. A July 1st date might now be more realistic.

2008 pledges have been received from 68 families amounting to \$94,665, a little short of the \$100,000 goal. There is still time for further pledges to be made so that the goal can be met!

The proposed 2008 Budget has a projected deficit of almost \$15,000. There being about \$20,000 now in reserves, the vestry recommends that \$15,000 be used to offset the deficit. This is therefore a manageable Budget

Your adoption of this budget does NOT set it in concrete but gives the vestry a base line management tool. The vestry has the authority to make budget amendments during the year and this is bound to happen as our year of uncertainty plays itself out.

5. CONCLUSION

It has been a privilege to serve the parish as your treasurer and I look forward to continuing in this capacity. Thank you one and all for your assistance and support during the past three years. I have tried to be brief and at the same time to give you an accurate picture. 2008 will be a year of challenge and hard work. Practicing God's graciousness and pulling together will make this a great year.

*Peter G Bish
Parish Treasurer*

REPORTS

Senior Warden

Two days before our 2007 Annual Meeting Fr. Jim Porter called and mysteriously asked me to bring Joe and meet him in the church office. In his office he told us that at the Annual Meeting he would announce his retirement. He was pale and drawn as he told us how tired he was. He talked of being unable to be the priest that Our Saviour needed and also to be the husband that Candy needed. He cried as he told us how precarious Candy's health was; he feared he was going to lose her. He told us how much he would miss Our Saviour, but that he needed to care for Candy. He had discussed his retirement with the Bishop, and everything was in place. And then he asked me to be Sr. Warden! I reeled as he went on. What on earth would make him think of me? But I agreed, and he appointed me.

The Bishop assigned Pastor Carol as our Supply Priest beginning March 1 for three months, and in that time the Diocese would find an Interim Priest for us. It was my special gift to poll the vestry's opinion about asking the Diocese to appoint Carol as our Interim, the unanimous "yes!," and it was a joyful relief to receive Diocesan affirmation.

Immediately I began to comprehend the Sr. Warden's role. Not only is the Sr. Warden the priest's warden. My biggest early discovery was that when there is no regular priest, the Sr. Warden is the Ecclesiastical Authority, i.e., the Sr. Warden is in charge of the church and the Sr. Warden is the liaison to the Diocese. I leaned very heavily on those who knew far better than I did how to do what needed to be done, what and when. I am deeply in your debt for all your help and patience - you were good and kind tutors.

I saw our church differently than ever before. We desperately needed organization and predictability in our day-to-day life. I saw relationships between tasks and activities that were functioning disparately, and I began to imagine Ministries Teams as a way that we could arrange ourselves beneficially. Aided by a draft organization chart, the vestry approved this vision and the concept of our six Ministries Teams was given life. I prayed for guidance and inspiration, and one-by-one I was directed to the people who accepted my invitation to serve as a Ministries Team Leader. I have relished my role as coordinator and resource to the Ministries Teams and Leaders. The vestry is adopting ministries descriptions which will enhance everyone's understandings of the roles and responsibilities of our vestry, officers, ministries leaders, and church employees. I have begun to plan a Parish Nursing Program that will serve our health and spiritual needs.

Being first Fr. Jim's, and then Pastor Carol's, Sr. Warden has been an indescribable time: a blessing, a loving and trusting friendship, a chore, a lot of hard work, a strengthening and deepening of my faith, a closer and stronger relationship with God, a greater knowledge and

appreciation of the Episcopal and Evangelical Lutheran Churches, a lot of late nights and early mornings at my computer, a lot of meetings, a lot of problem-solving, a lot of listening, a lot of talking, a whole lot of tolerance and patience, a lot of thinking, a lot of soup!, and always loving each and all of us. It has been my great privilege to work so closely with Pastor Carol, to be her friend and counselor regarding The Church of Our Saviour. Please thank Joe for living with and loving the Sr. Warden.

*Barbara Stone,
Senior Warden*

Buildings and Grounds

Junior Warden

The first half of 2007 was fairly routine with no major projects. There were a couple of Saturday work days and I would like to give thanks to those who helped.

About midway through the year with the help and advice of our Rectory Committee, it was decided to renovate and update the rectory. To that end we have

- \$ mowed and cleaned the yard area,
- \$ power cleaned the outside of the house,
- \$ removed the old floor coverings in some rooms in anticipation of replacing them,
- \$ updated the baseboard heating and electrical outlets, and
- \$ replaced the old windows with new double paned ones for better insulation.

Weather has stopped work temporarily but still to be done is:

- \$ exterior and interior painting,
- \$ master bath remodeling,
- \$ a new back porch and
- \$ the previously mentioned new floor coverings.

We hope to practice God's graciousness in this project by making available to our new pastor (and family if applicable) the best residence we can offer.

I owe special thanks to the Two J's (no not the car lot in Snowflake!): Jerry Nansen who is leading and doing our rectory renovations, and Jerry Howell who took over Junior Warden duties while I was gone for eight weeks. Both of them are greatly appreciated.

*Jim Fugate
Junior Warden*

Groundskeeper

Plantings are maintained in the front and rear of the church, in planters in the parking lot, and in various pots. Some native plants are also found and encouraged on our grounds. Native plants are trimmed and get some benefit from the supplemental watering and upkeep of our other non-native plantings in or near their root zone. Native plants usually do better if left alone.

Again this spring and summer, plants such as bulbs, some small bushes and iris tubers were moved into the new beds that were defined in 2004. There are still certain crocus bulbs to move. Irrigation was used in the driest months. A fertilizer schedule was maintained. The roses

received fertilizer mixed with pesticides and fungicides. No insect were noticed this year. However, there were weeds; far fewer weeds in 2006 than the previous year, however. Certain of the roses became infested with fungus and were sprayed to reduce the fungus. In the winter, pre-emergent herbicide will be applied before snow and (or) rain.

Additional wood chips are needed over areas of bare soil. Also additional railroad ties were placed in the parking lot for parking markers in front of the flood control project. Flood control at the south end of the garden was mostly a success. In areas where flooding occurs we lose wood chips to the drainage ditch. The flood control materials were obtained from one of the rectory projects. There was enough extra soil and gravel from the work at the rectory to also build up the road at the rear of the church, which has turned out to be a success.

Irrigation was terminated and pipes were drained for the year. Winter trimming of tree limbs will occur during the winter. The roses will be trimmed later, but before spring growth.

Sexton

The sexton part time janitorial and other duties have thus far include weekly trash pick-up and removal, cleaning, vacuuming, moping and miscellaneous other light maintenance. Periodic activities also occur, such as wet vacuuming the carpets, and so forth. There was a “Saturday work day” when extra cleaning, painting, and certain building repairs were accomplished. Maintaining the cleanliness of our church building, office and grounds continued through 2007 with two absences; each covered by substitutes.

*Groundskeeper and Sexton
Joseph Stone*

Episcopal-Lutheran Church Women

At its June, 2007, meeting, the Episcopal-Lutheran Church Women voted to disband due to these issues:

- § Membership had been dropping for at least 5 years
- § Responsibilities such as the annual Rummage Sale had become parish projects
- § The core members of the group were also active in many other ministries at Our Saviour, creating a burden on those members—especially for fund raisers and memorial luncheons
- § Beginning in 2007 an increase in the number of fellowship events increased providing many opportunities for social interaction for all Our Saviour members
- § At the same time various responsibilities within Our Saviour were clearly defined into Ministries Teams. The women were invited to lead and/or become team members of these Ministries.

When this decision was announced last summer, I did request any women interested in continuing the tradition of monthly luncheons to contact me. There was but one response. Certainly this is something that can be assessed each year.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sherry Herring,
Previous ELCW President*

Columbarium Trustees

The Columbarium Trustees for the first half of 2007 were Lou Tate, President; Mary Lou Strong, Secretary; and Lynda Klingler, Treasurer. When Lynda Klingler resigned from the board, Pastor Carol appointed Nikki Nansen to replace her. The Board unanimously ratified the appointment of Nikki Nansen.

The Board then decided that Nikki Nansen would be the chairperson; Lou Tate, treasurer and Mary Lou Strong, Secretary. The board began to make plans for a proposal to increase the number of niches available. It will finish that proposal in the coming year for presentation the vestry.

One niche was purchased in 2007 – \$350.00 by Dorothy Coleman.
Mary Stotera was interred in September.
An interment is scheduled for Mae Wiley on March 20th, 2008.

Lou Tate will rotate off the board at the Annual Meeting, to be replaced by election.

The end of the year savings account balance: \$4,187.41

End of the year checking account balance: \$1,663.18

MINISTRIES TEAMS REPORTS

Worship Ministries

The Worship Ministries include: the Prayer List, the worship leaders including acolytes, lectors, oblation bearers, chalice bearers, ushers, and the Altar Guild. The Prayer List is maintained by volunteer office workers, the liturgical leaders are coordinated by Lynda Klingler, and the Altar Guild is headed by Mary Jane Ater and Pat Trout.

The liturgical year begins with the first Sunday of Advent. Advent and Christmas are a big focus every year at Church of Our Saviour with our Christmas Eve services taking center stage. Next year we hope to mark the first Sunday of Advent in some special way – perhaps with a program based upon the “O” Antiphons. This may be possible because we have a new music director – Julie Holtan. We all look forward to the gifts she brings to our worship.

During Lent last year we marked Fridays with the Stations of the Cross. Attendance was low, but that made the dinners afterward particularly intimate. Those of us who attended were able to get to know one another much better during that time of sharing the solemnity of Lent. Again this year we will observe the Stations of the Cross on Friday night, with light dinner and “Companions on the Way,” a discipleship program planned by Pastor Carol.

During Holy Week (between Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday), we observed Maundy Thursday with a traditional foot-washing service (see John 13). Thank you to Juanita Simpson for supplying the basins and ewers. After the service, we participated in a traditional Middle Eastern dinner. We plan on doing so again this year.

On Good Friday, in lieu of participation in the ecumenical community service, we held the thoroughly Episcopalian service of Tenebrae. This is a service wherein participants truly experience the pathos of Good Friday as the light gradually and utterly departs, the earth quakes, and the worshipers depart in silence.

And then, at the Easter Vigil on the eve of Easter Sunday, the paschal fire was lit, the light returned, and we greeted and responded to each other for the first time of the year with the joyous declarations, “Alleluia, the Lord is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed. Alleluia!” At the start of this service, the church was in darkness. The Paschal candle was lit from a flame at the back of the church and the participants lit their own candles from the Paschal flame as it passed among them. Eventually, the lights came up and we could see the beautiful altar surrounded by Easter lilies. The Altar Guild did an exceptional job – thank you. And of course, there were two glorious services on Easter morning.

On Pentecost, we celebrated by releasing red balloons into the sanctuary. Thanks especially to Joe Stone for inflating most of the balloons and for cleaning up when they deflated. Thanks also to Deborah Velasquez, whose enthusiasm for this event resulted in a classic photograph which is on our website.

In May we honored the earth that sustains us by celebrating Rogation Sunday. Thank you to Dr. Daniel Neel for playing his bagpipe and leading us out into the garden after the service. Celebrants took home cups of dirt which Carol had blessed, to throw onto their own gardens.

In May and June, we paid homage to our mothers and fathers with flowers and boutonnieres.

In July, we celebrated Christmas in July as we do every year. But this year was slightly different in that we also took the opportunity to close our relationship with the Porters and bid them farewell. The Bishop was present to preside over this service and he joined us for our dinner afterward.

In July we also had a Fourth of July themed worship followed by a Ministry Fair in Polycarp Hall. This Fair assisted our members with identifying the various ministries and deciding where they may fit in, as they look to serve the community of worshipers. The service was outside, which presented a challenge with setting up the audio equipment and the keyboard which Juanita played – thank you, Juanita. Your playing was above and beyond. Thank you all who organized this with special thanks to Joe and Barbara Stone.

At the end of September, we honored St. Francis of Assisi with a “Blessing of the Pets” ceremony held outside. We were fortunate in our choice of dates – the weather cooperated that week, but made a serious turn for the worse the next week. There were all sorts of dogs, cats and birds present – all of whom were extraordinarily well behaved. I know that one would expect this service to degenerate into chaos, but in all the pet blessing services I’ve attended, I can honestly say that that has never happened. We were joined by some visitors who were there just for that service, and our treasurer assured us that the plate collection was up. Very special thanks to Deborah Velasquez who took charge of organizing this service. Thank you to Everett Peterson who brought in and set up audio equipment. Thank you, Juanita for again playing outside for us. You’re a saint! Thank you also to the attendees who helped set up chairs outside and then helped bring everything back inside afterward. We couldn’t have done it without you.

At the end of October, we held a small, intimate All Hallow’s Eve service in Polycarp Hall. Afteward, we watched the movie, “The Red Violin” and enjoyed potluck.

Throughout the year, we have celebrated some services in a Lutheran style, which varies very little from the Episcopal services. Carol Hosler has been educating us on the similarities and differences of the two traditions through remarks in the margins of the bulletins.

We had planned on holding a Madrigal Dinner at the start of Advent in December 2007. That date was problematic, so the event was moved to Twelfth Night (January 5, 2008). That date, too, turned out to be impractical, so we decided to postpone the event until Advent this year. If you wish to assist with this project, see Vicki Earle or Barbara Stone.

During this past year, we decided to purchase preprinted bulletin scripture inserts to assist with worship. We are still determining how best to meet the needs of worshipers who prefer large type. We also changed the Eucharist service slightly by using oblation bearers to carry the wine, water, and bread up to the altar. This symbolizes our invitation to God to accept our gifts of thanksgiving and praise. After the elements are blessed, God then invites us to join Him at the table and partake of the transformed gifts.

Pat Trout has done an exceptional job filling the very large shoes of Mary Jane Ater, as Mary Jane's Assistant Director of Altar Guild. Mary Jane has endured trying health this past year, and has been unable to attend our services often. Please keep Mary Jane in your prayers – she has a long, honorable record of service to The Church of Our Saviour and we miss her. The Altar Guild kept busy with the innovate services we held in addition to the regular ones. During the year the also set up for one wedding and four funerals, including two of our Altar Guild members, Barbara Moody and Mary Stotera. We were blessed with the addition of Deborah Velasquez as our flower designer. She has done a wonderful job for us. The Altar Guild now consists of rear round residents Mary Jane Ater, Pat Trout, Mary Lou Strong, Vicki Earle and Lauren Novy. Our summer members are Pat Brewer, Marilyn Allen, and Pat Greenman. Their help is deeply appreciated when we go to two services and need everyone we can get. Thank you all. At this time we have four people who said that they would like to join us as new members. Thank you to them as well. Pat Trout is especially grateful to Mary Lou Strong and Lauren Novey for stepping up when she was laid up.

Lynda Klingler has been marvelous in ensuring that there are readers, chalice bearers, and acolytes to lead the services each Sunday. She also schedules ushers and oblation bearers. Thank you to all who have responded to her when she has asked for your assistance. Billie Fugate, head of the Pastoral Care Ministries Team, has extended our worship by initiating and overseeing the Eucharistic Lay Visitor program, taking the bread and wine to those who are unable to join us here.

John and Joey Nelson have been the Lutheran voice on our worship committee, giving us guidance with their insights.

So, thank you to the people who head up the smaller committees which come under the umbrella of “worship” and who attend our worship committee meetings: Barbara Stone, John and Joey Nelson, Juanita Mann, Julia Holtan, Pat Trout, Linda Klingler, Billie Fugate, and Carol Hosler. It's been a wonderful, fulfilling year. Thank you for permitting me to head this committee.

*Vicki Earle
Worship Ministries Team Leader*

Welcoming Ministries

Many thanks and recognition to all the parishioners who contributed to a very successful and welcoming year in the many activities listed below, and especially to the team members.

The Welcoming Ministers include:

Electra Brooks – Sunday Coffee
Sherry Herring – Newcomers
Heather and Mike Steiner -- Fellowship
Jean Zagar – Church Historian

Our Saviour's Newcomers' Program is a work in progress. By the end of the summer of 2007, when Pastor Carol invited Visitors/ Newcomers to identify themselves, we provided newcomer folders to them. On October 14th the first Newcomer get together was a dinner provided by members of the Welcoming Ministries in the parish hall. Newcomers received invitations via a phone call to the event. All the Newcomers except those who would be out of town accepted and 15 attended.

We coordinated several picnics and potlucks including the Welcome Back Picnic, the Thomas Bray/End of Summer Picnic, Spring Potluck, Fall Potluck, Advent Potluck, and the Christmas in July celebration which included a retirement party for Father Jim Porter and his family.

Under the able leadership of Barbara Stone a Mardi Gras potluck and Spaghetti Annual luncheon were served. Weekly Sunday coffee hours after the 10 AM service were served and we sponsored Friday Night Movies in the summer.

In the spirit of supporting the mission, *Practicing God's Graciousness*, our goals for 2008 include expanding and further welcoming new members vis a vis a Shepherd's program and quarterly newcomer get togethers; and sponsoring monthly fellowship activities that include and expand on the above.

*Respectfully submitted,
Heather Steiner, Welcoming Ministries Team Leader*

Pastoral Care Ministries

I was pleased to be asked to be the Leader of the Pastoral Care Ministry as this has always been a meaningful ministry for me. One of the first things needed was to get an active Lay Eucharist Visitor ministry started again since we would have a part time pastor/rector for at least a year. Two communion kits were generously donated by two COS families.

- § Chuck Hannan, Mary Stotera, Deborah Velasquez and Billie Fugate were commissioned by Pastor Carol in March.
- § Due to health problems Mary and Deborah were unable to continue in this ministry.
- § Chuck Hannan is a summer visitor who is able to serve during those months.
- § Two other summer visitors are interested in helping out while they are here. One has already been trained and looks forward to serving this summer. The other person is looking forward to LEV training.
- § A Lay Eucharistic Visitor has visited six COS members since March. Four of those have been visited on a monthly basis.
- § Our biggest need is to commission one or two more year round parishioners so that coverage is always available.

A Parish Nurse Program is in the works. Barbara Stone has contributed articles for the newsletter the past few months and a church health care newsletter has been ordered for further information. It is hoped that a grant might enable a part-time nurse to be hired to serve our parishioners but that is still in the future.

An attempt to form a Pastoral Care Committee (other than LEV) was not successful but timing seemed to be the problem. There are already plans to start a “quiet ministry” such as sending cards to those in hospital, nursing home or at home and unable to attend church. There is also a need for a few good folks to visit homebound, hospitalized parishioners or those in other care facilities as needed. As we have many elderly people in our congregation another ministry to consider is a “phone call” ministry to check on the homebound on a regular basis.

I believe that we can consider ourselves blessed that our congregation has remained relatively healthy in 2007. It is my hope that we can share in practicing God’s graciousness by keeping each other informed when there is a need and by meeting that need. We encourage you to call if you would like a visitor or if you know someone else that might. If there are other areas of need or interest in pastoral care or if you are interested in being a part of this ministry, please contact the church office or me.

*In Christ,
Billie Fugate
Pastoral Care Ministries Team Leader*

Christian Formation Ministries

At the present time the Christian Formation Ministries include the Sunday Morning Adult study, the library and now, in Lent of 2008, a multi-generational class for the Lenten preparation of baptism and confirmation candidates, and those who wish to reaffirm their baptismal vows.

During the summer assessment processes a strong desire for a fuller array of Christian formation activities was expressed and a few people expressed an interest in assisting, but at that stage of the process the responses were anonymous. Though a team leader has been sought, no one has stepped forward. There remains a great deal of uncertainty about where to focus church school efforts. There is no age category where a critical mass of young people is evident and uncertainty about the feasibility of starting something when the targeted population is unclear. Pray that in the coming year God will guide us all into greater clarity about this matter.

Christian formation efforts are strongly supported by the very active Worship Ministries Team which provides a variety of worship opportunities throughout the liturgical year to deepen our experience of God's graciousness.

The Adult Study

Shortly after my arrival, the Sunday morning adult class decided to study the Millennium Development Goals. These goals were developed by the United Nations as a way of focusing development efforts around the world. Since then many churches, including our national church and diocese, have adopted the goals as a clear description of how we can express God's love for the world, far and near. We saw how we could help achieve the goals locally.

When it came time to decide on the next course of study, the group chose a course from the *Kerygma* series entitled *Interpretation*. It focused on the Lutheran/Episcopal approach to Bible study which includes rigorous attention to who wrote the books of the Bible, who were the books written for, and what was the meaning in their day. With that knowledge, our interpretation of what the Bible means for us in our day is much richer.

Following that series, the group decided it wanted to learn more about The Appreciative Way, which is the positive and forward-looking approach that Pastor Carol used this summer during our assessment process. It helps people to focus on appreciating what others do well and affirming all the ways God has gifted us, individually and as a parish.

The group waxed and waned depending on personal preferences but has maintained a strong core of people who care about continuing learning and growth. A new study will be starting soon.

Pastor Carol
Christian Formation Ministries Team Leader

The Library

Joey Nelson reports that 2007 was a very productive year for the church library. The library now has its own room. Many shelves that were not being used are now in use and are filling up fast. The library purchased a used desk for the librarian. The Nelsons gave a computer and printer to be used in the library.

All books have been cataloged according to the National Church Library Association protocol. Each book has 3 cards, namely author, title, and subject. All cards are in a file, accessible to everyone. Joey has started formally accessioning all books in the library. At the end of 2007 the library had approximately 550 adult books plus 150 children books. The library also has started receiving some periodicals.

During 2008 the librarian hopes to finish the accessioning of all books and to begin the inputting of all books and holdings on the computer.

The library could use helpful hands to shelve books, file cards, or input books on the computer.

*Joey Nelson,
Church librarian*

Outreach Ministries

As a faith community, in 2007 our outreach focus was not well-developed and thus, our outreach strategies were not well defined. When the ELCW disbanded, its activities and projects were absorbed by the Welcoming and Outreach Ministries Teams. Presently the Outreach Ministries Team is working to develop a stronger and clearer outreach purpose to help us practice God's graciousness through our Outreach Ministries.

In 2007 the Outreach Ministries included the Love Kitchen/First Fruits, Rummage Sale, Angel Tree Project, United Thank Offering (UTO), and Polycarp Hall Users.

Near the end of each month many of us received an e-mail from Tom McCoy reminding us to bring our First Fruits, i.e., gifts of food and money for the Love Kitchen, and our gifts have been offered to God in thanks for His gifts. Then they were given to the Love Kitchen to feed the needy in our communities. For the past 20 years the Love Kitchen has served about 80 meals each weekday. Meals include a hot meat dish, salad or vegetable, hot buttered bread, fruit, dessert, and beverage. Each Wednesday the Love Kitchen gives about 80 food bags that include 1 of each: meat product, fruit, soup, 2-3 cans of vegetable, pasta and sauce, dry beans. The Food Kitchen keeps boxes of toiletries that are given when requested. In 2007 the Love Kitchen served approximately 20,785 meals and 3100 food bags. The Love Kitchen always welcomes gifts of food items, toiletries, blankets, checks, cash, gift cards. Volunteer opportunities are always available. Call 928 367-6505 or write to: Love Kitchen, P.O. Box 1373, Pinetop, AZ 85935.

The BIG Rummage Sale was on August 10-11, after 2 pre-sales in the spring. Over 50 members of The Church of Our Saviour and two community members helped: they picked up, sorted and priced goods, asked motels for used linens, baked, distributed flyers, brought water for workers, etc., etc. The total receipts were \$6622.15; less expenses of \$617.65, the net amount raised was \$6004.55! Marty and Ron, we thank you for the extraordinary quality of God's graciousness you extended with your time, energy, and souls. \$5000 was given to the General Operating Fund and \$500 to the Love Kitchen. The recipient/s of the remainder will be determined by the Outreach Ministries Team.

This year's Angel Tree party truly did practice God's graciousness on December 15. Church members and two White Mountains Women's Club members gave gifts, cash donations of \$535 (\$139.41 from 2006); DMC Auto Rebuilders, Pinetop Safeway, Walgreen's, Walmart, Eddie's Country Store, and Diamond West Gallery were kind supporters. Randy Harris from the Show Low Police Department was Santa. Each of the 30 children who have one or both parents in prison received a gift and stuffed toy, and the 14 families received a Christmas food box that included a turkey.

On November 11 the United Thank Offering ingathering collected \$348.43 for the support of projects and ministries in the United States and internationally.

We are blessed that we can share our facilities with community groups. The Church of Our Saviour provides meeting space for Narcotics Anonymous groups (NA), Barbershoppers, Wolf Pines Homeowners Association, White Mountain Women's Club-Craft Group, and Parents of Children with Autism. The St. Alban's Youth Group stays at Polycarp Hall for their annual February ski trip. The last Saturday in June the Journey of Hope cyclists stay at Polycarp Hall. This is a cross-country bike ride that raises funds for people with disabilities. Over 30 cyclists shared dinner which was cooked and served by Ron and Marty LaMar and NA members. In sharing God's gift to us of our facilities, we are practicing God's graciousness.

*Barbara Stone
Senior Warden,
with input from Marty LaMar and Tom McCoy*

Office Ministry

Along with the other Ministries Teams, the Office Ministry Team was created in March 2007. The purpose was to have the office at Church of Our Saviour open on a regular basis. The first day open was March 12th, 2007. For the remainder of the year the office was open with the exception of 3 days. The office was open from 9 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. This was allowed due to volunteer time and talents. Without the volunteers who gave, gave and gave, it would not have been possible. Over 500 hours were given by the volunteers during 2007 in the office.

Activities

Activities of the office included: creating a filing system, going through many years of reports, bulletins, newsletters, records, history and getting all organized. The volunteers were trained, scheduled, asked to do tasks that fit their talents. We all learned new methods, created an atmosphere of being available to the church membership, became familiar with advertising, office machines, voice mail, e-mail, matching visitors with our interim Priest, dealing with prayer lists, forms, keeping pews supplied, keeping the bulletin board current with information, flower sign up, running/folding bulletins, newsletters and their mailing, name tags made. The Friday volunteers worked with Pastor Carol during her time in the office. During the week, contact with Pastor Carol was maintained via many e-mails, phone calls and notes. It worked well; much was accomplished. Occasionally a visitor seeking assistance would call or stop by the office. Those were always a challenge as there is not a method of referral for assistance in the White Mountains. A volunteer handbook was created for each volunteer so they would have information on what each day involves, as well as general information regarding the office. A calendar system was put in place for activities held at COS. A Parish Directory was published in November and is available to all members. The membership data base continues to be updated as information is returned by members. Reminder calls are made on Friday to those serving on Sunday. New instructions for Ushers and Oblation bearers were typed and made available to those serving. Large print copies of the Book of Common Prayer are now available thanks to several members. A myriad of questions were dealt with each week, assistance was given for the rummage sale and search committee. Many, many details were attended to each day. This list is certainly not all inclusive but gives an idea of what has been done during the year.

Vision for the Coming Year

The primary vision for the coming year is to keep the office open and running smoothly by the hiring of a part-time secretary. As of the Annual Meeting this expense is a budget item, but is not funded. Volunteers can continue for a time, but for our church to grow, be successful, offer support to our new Priest, and become a larger presence in the community there needs to be a paid staff person in place on a daily basis. There is a great deal that needs to be accomplished under the leadership of a paid staff person using the wonderful volunteer staff that has shown such willingness to keep the office open.

Practicing God's Graciousness

Each day when a volunteer unlocks the office door and steps in, it is an act of God's graciousness. As the volunteers continue each day graciousness will grow. Our members and the community will benefit.

The volunteers that made all this possible are: Billie Fugate, Carol Justice, Nan Hannan, Gretchen Gottshalk, Lauren Novy, Dottie Golden, Ron LaMar, Marty LaMar, Joe Stone, Mary Lou Strong, Lou Tate. It is my hope each of our members will be as grateful as I am for all they have done since last March. To each of you, thank you and may God's blessings be with you as you continue your ministry to Church of Our Saviour.

*Vicki Howell
Office Ministry Leader-retired as of 12-31-2007*

Website

The website for the Church of Our Saviour has been in operation for about two years at this point. The domain name (Church of Our Saviour.org) and world wide web (www) server space cost \$30 per year.

Rather than trying to explain the “nuts and bolts” of the website, please visit <http://www.thechurchofoursaviour.org/> on any computer that has access to the internet.

*Webmaster
Joseph Stone*

Interim Rector Report

It has been a pleasure beyond words to have spent most of the last year serving God from the Church of Our Saviour with you all. I began the year with getting reacquainted with those of you I had previously met through the previous decade as my husband and I supplied for you during your various transitions and when asked by Father Jim to do so. It was a delight seeing you all again, especially those who had left the Church of Our Saviour for a time. And I enjoyed meeting so many new faces. As summer brought the “burnt birds” back to us, I continued to delight in the rich variety of truly committed and gifted people who call Church of Our Saviour their home church for at least part of the year.

In June we embarked on a process for the developing of a parish profile. At our first *Table for Eight Luncheon* on June 24, we sought to discover the congregation’s God-intended purpose. We told each other stories of when we had seen the Church of Our Saviour at its absolute best and shared what we value most about our parish. It was clear that hospitality and inclusivity were of utmost important to most people.

In July we asked, “*Who are the people of Church of our Saviour*”? We wanted to become more aware of the demographic makeup of Church of Our Saviour – where people live and about the ratio of summer people to year-round people and Episcopalians to Lutherans. We learned that we are scattered quite equally across Show Low, Lakeside, and Pinetop, with significant numbers of people coming in from Heber/Overgaard, Snowflake/Taylor, and points East. As expected, more summer people live higher on the mountain, but summer people are, indeed, also scattered throughout the communities. Summer attendance showed that summer people nearly triple our Sunday attendance from June to September. A very strong one-third of us are Lutherans.

At the second *Table for Eight Luncheon*, participants were assisted in identifying their personal gifts for ministry and contemplating how those gifts connect with the core purposes of hospitality and inclusivity. Individuals asked each other, “When were you at your absolute best? From what kind of activities do you get the most joy? When did you do something during which you were using your most joyful skills and talents?”

In our pledge campaign, held for the first time in the summer so that summer members could more effectively participate, we were asked to give so that Church of Our Saviour could do more of what it does so well – but even better. There were many first time pledgers and though we didn’t reach our 30% increase goal of \$100,000, we came pretty close at over \$90,000.

At one of the profile development committee’s meetings our new vision statement descended upon us like a dove. We were amazed at how “*Practicing God’s Graciousness*” so joyfully summarized our parish’s summer explorations.

Once the profile was done, the Search Committee was appointed and work began in earnest to call a new rector. The Search Committee includes Ron LaMar and Jerry Howell as co-chairs, Barbara Stone as Senior Warden, and Frank Armanno, Laura Cook, Billie Fugate, Jim Greer, Jerry Nansen, and John Nelson. I serve as consultant, providing resources as I am able. (I will not participate once the interviewing and screening activities begin.) Currently, the committee is developing the criteria for evaluating candidates, based on our summer processes, and refining the questions they will use during interviews. It is expected that the committee will soon have the names of several candidates with whom they will explore God's leading.

We have come a long way! We are moving away from our focus on the past and anticipating the future with joy. Sure, we all share some anxieties, but we can stand on God's promises, knowing that whatever the outcome of the rector search, God will be with us all.

*With you in the Ministry of Christ,
Carol Hosler
Interim Rector*

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