

THE COMMUNICATOR

CONSTRUCTION PLANS ALIGNING WITH BUDGET

Work to define and design the \$7 million church renovation project is moving steadily forward. In the next few months, the Vestry will receive an updated report on the construction plan.

The church renovation committee spent much of the last month scaling the project to accommodate changes, including investments to remodel the church's main kitchen and renovate the third floor of Cheney Parish Hall.

Both were underestimated in the original master plan.

The Turner Building Cost Index is an important metric to measure cost in the non-residential construction market in the United States. Since the third quarter of 2016, there has been a 4.9 percent increase in construction costs. In addition, the amount of other work Memphis contractors are juggling — partly as they respond to natural disasters elsewhere in the South — has increased the time it takes to get bids back from subcontractors, said Maryanne Macdonald, renovations committee chairperson.

Important accessibility and security features also have been added to the project, including a second elevator, exterior



Photos by Cindy McMillion

ramps and a more sophisticated alarm system. The committee has worked hard to ensure that the new facilities are not only designed well but that they are easily accessible to everyone while maintaining an appropriate level of security and safety.

"I can assure you what we are going to present to you will be a finished project you can be proud of," she told the Vestry in December. "We are wanting to have great facilities that will be around for another 65 years."

The committee has worked with the architect and construction manager to scale the project to a reasonable budget, which has meant focusing on the major tenets of the architect's design but scaling back on a few smaller things, including potentially the kitchen in the youth suite.

"The key infrastructure will be there, but some of it may not be finished out," Maryanne said, adding that the committee is working with about a dozen scenarios where it can complete the project well and still be within budget.

The Vestry will have the committee's fully designed project and matching budget by March, but likely sooner, she said.

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VESTRY BALANCES BUDGET AGAINST RISING COSTS

The Vestry approved a \$1.8 million budget for 2018, with revenue down only less than 1 percent from the year before.

For three years, pledges and gifts have been essentially flat at around \$1.7 million, says David Visinsky, treasurer.

"During the same period, expenses have increased in some areas, while we have achieved reductions in others," he said.

While the Vestry approved 2 percent cost-of-living increases for the staff, overall staff costs are down over last year.

By retooling staff health insurance, it saved in excess of \$20,000 for the coming year in health insurance costs.

"Sarah Cowens led the effort, along with Lattie Michael, Mike Murphy and with assistance from parishioner Richard Williamson," Sandy said. "We are able to

(Budget continued on page 11)

NOMINEES FOR 2018 VESTRY OPENINGS

These five candidates have been nominated for openings on the Vestry. The election will take place during the Parish Annual Meeting at 9:15 a.m. Sunday, January 21.

Mike Driscoll

Member since: 2013

Which worship service do you most regularly attend?

8 a.m.

Ministries:

Have volunteered in Book It 5K, Shrimp dinner team member, barbecue lunch team member



What differences have they made in your life?

The warmth and hospitality of the people I have met and been associated with at CHC has given me a real sense of community, which I never had in my Catholic Church. I feel welcome among friends!

Susan grew up Episcopalian in Arkansas. Her father convinced her that I was more Catholic in my faith and that it would be better to convert, which she did shortly after we were married.

About 10-12 years ago, she wanted to know if I would object to her going back to the Episcopal Church. I did not and we both started going at 5:30 p.m. to the Celtic – Taizé and loved the contemplative feeling.

What does Holy Communion mean to you?

I met Sandy and had a long meeting with him going over my Catholic history of rules and guilt, which I grew up with and continued to have at the time.

His warmth and understanding of where I was coming from felt like a breath of fresh air and welcoming relief, which I needed. We were both re-confirmed, and our spiritual life is greatly improved.

What is your vision for Holy Communion in the next 15 years?

I hope I will be a small part in the momentum that Sandy has been building in the continued growth of CHC. I hope that my business career may be of help in our expansion plans for the future. Being on the Vestry will mean a lot in my journey of faith.

Dale Jones

Member Since: 1986

Which worship service to you most regularly attend?

8 and 10:30 a.m.

Ministries:

Usher for 25 years

What differences have made in your life?

Ushering for so many years, I have gotten to know so many people. I have also taught Sunday school and worked on Habitat when we were involved in that; I felt like I had made a difference. I got much more than I gave.



What does Holy Communion mean to you?

Holy Communion first and foremost gives me a feeling of love and hope. It has enabled me to begin and strengthen my spiritual journey in life. I feel that Holy Communion has given me a great opportunity to help others. It has shown a great sense of community. It has made me more aware of God's love.

What is your vision for Holy Communion in the next 15 years?

I would like to see a greater involvement of our congregation in our community. We will have this great facility to be able to involve and grow our church. Expanding and encouraging others.

Tracy Killen

Member Since:

May 23, 2010

Which worship service do you most regularly attend?

10:30 a.m.

Ministries:

Altar Guild, Shrimp Dinner, Knitting Ministry, Bishop's Reception and The Lisieux Community



What differences have they made in your life?

Lisieux has provided me an avenue to serve women and encourage them. It's enlightened me to struggles and

(Bios continued on page 3)

situations that I only saw from a distance.

I've made friends with women whose path I would probably never have crossed other than on the fringes. It's reinforced my belief that small acts of kindness do matter, a lot. I'm able to not only share my car as transportation but to share in conversation, listen, share a coffee or a meal, laugh and love and put my faith into action.

Altar guild is truly my happy place, and I learn something each time I'm there. To serve behind the scenes of the Eucharist is a way to extend communion for me. I love my team and always leave in a better place than when I arrive.

What does Holy Communion mean to you?

CHC is a sanctuary for me, a place of acceptance, friendship, and solace. A place that I know is working in the community to make Memphis a better place. A place that strengthens the hearts of our members, as well as the hearts of those we serve. I feel that the spirit is alive at CHC.

What is your vision for Holy Communion in the next 15 years?

To continue reaching out to the community, to grow the youth group and to continue to be a strong presence in Memphis. To be a church that is proactive in addressing the needs of Memphis and not reactive to problems. A church that continues to nurture its members as well as the strangers who walk into our lives.

Marlene Rutledge Shaw

Member since: 2003

Which worship service do you most regularly attend?

5:30 Sunday evening

Ministries:

Eucharistic Minister, Member of Bishop and Council

What differences have they made in your life?

Serving as a Eucharistic Minister is one of the most meaningful ways I have been involved at church. Being able to serve communion during worship speaks to me deeply as I look into the faces of those who are coming up for communion. Though undeserving, I am able to deliver Christ's message of salvation and stand up as a minister for Christ—a public demonstration of the quiet faith I strive to live.

What is your vision for Holy Communion in the next 15 years?

My vision for Holy Communion is that we take to heart



Paul's message to the Ephesians to grow in passion, zeal, abundance and grace—not to become complacent. What does that mean for Holy Communion in the 21st Century in Memphis? I would like to be a part of a church that is dynamic and growing in learning opportunities for Bible study and discussion of our Christian responsibilities; in worship opportunities that are welcoming and relevant; and in opportunities for service and outreach. I envision Holy Communion as a model of support for those less fortunate. I envision Holy Community as a source of enlightening Christian education. I envision Holy Communion as a place of worship that invites all to the Lord's table in joyful praise and encourages a passion for Christ's work.

Richard Williamson

Member since: 2017

Which worship service do you most regularly attend?
10:30 a.m.

Ministries:

Junior and senior high formation on Sunday mornings, men's small group ministry, CHC Insurance Committee, Young Adult Formation, Shrimp Dinner server, More Than A Meal, Supper Club, Book-It 5K water station volunteer.



What differences have they made in your life?

The ministries I participate in are a reminder that it is our responsibility to be disciples and followers of Christ. Whether it's diving into scripture with a small group, preparing for Sunday morning formation, sharing insights on benefit plan designs or serving a warm meal to those less fortunate, I see Christ at the center of it all. As a result, it brings life to Paul's writing, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

What does Holy Communion mean to you?

Church of the Holy Communion is where I am at home. It's where I go to learn, fellowship and serve. It is a community that cares about the well-being of others and responds with love through action. It is where all are welcomed, conversations are encouraged and new ideas are generated. I find it to be a place where the past is respected while looking forward to the needs of today and tomorrow. Church of the Holy Communion embodies hope, peace, joy and love.

A TALE OF TWO ICONS

By Benjamin Badgett

In journeying back to Memphis in the spring of 2015, I knew this return trip would have significant implications on my personal and spiritual growth.

When I was a child, my family moved to Memphis in 1990, and for the 9 years until I graduated high school, Memphis life for me was a mixed bag of blessing and struggle. So, when I was called back to Memphis some 16 years later as a priest, I began to ready myself for a reckoning of the past, present and future. And these last 2 ½ years did not fail in that reckoning.

As it was in my first journey through Memphis, this latest excursion was also filled with blessing and struggle. My family was blessed with our third child, Ian Francis. We were blessed to share ministry in a parish that encouraged growth and family spiritual formation. We were blessed with embracing our neighborhood, buying our first house and sending our oldest off to elementary school. But the challenges were equally as important.

I was challenged in defining my ministry in sharper and clearer ways. I was challenged in reconciling myself with an ever-growing understanding of who I am and how to bring my gifts to bear. I was challenged in making mistakes and owning them for the sake of maturing as a husband, father and priest.

For me, my time in Memphis became a great crucible of reconciliation. In some senses, my time in Memphis and at Holy Communion is a tale of two icons. I'll explain:

The first class I taught at Holy Communion was titled, "God's Story, My Story." I was fortunate to share this series with other courageous and faithful parishioners. I shared an icon that had come to represent a part of who I was at that time and how I was trying to understand myself in my life with God. The icon was that of Mary and Martha — the women who show us the difference between busyness and being present. When Jesus comes for a visit, Martha busies herself with the "doing," making the house presentable. Mary busies herself with the "being" in the presence of Jesus.

So much of my life, I had worked to be like Martha — hard at work and earning my keep. But at that time in my life and ministry,

I sensed God challenging me to spend more energy on "being" with Jesus and others. I discovered that "being" relates much more to a core identity we have of ourselves and of who we understand God to be. So, for the next two years, my life at Holy Communion became about understanding my being in a new and life-giving way.

The second icon that shaped my life came when I went to a clergy wellness conference (CREDO) a few months ago (in September). During a time of meditation, we were invited to pray with an icon.

I picked up the icon of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. (Lazarus also happens to be the brother of Mary and Martha, ironic? I'll let you decide.)

I began to reflect on a sermon I had just given in which I recalled experiences of early childhood (particularly in my first life in Memphis). And as I read this icon, I found that the person who was unbinding Lazarus was a child. It was a key for me in understanding where God had been leading me in my second life in Memphis and perhaps what would happen next.

My time at Holy Communion and in Memphis was a freeing experience — like that for Lazarus. Though it has come with great challenges, it has also brought about new life for me and my family.

As I look back at the stories of Mary, Martha and Lazarus, I find that this iconic family symbolizes the family we have at Holy Communion. We are blessed with "do"-ers, "be"-ers and those

who find new life when their chains are loosed. As a family of God, we are all doing our best to be the people God calls us to be. As we walk this road, I have found we all have needed each other to take each step.

On behalf of Kendall, Edward, Keenan and Ian, I want to thank you for walking these last 2 ½ years with us. Thank you for giving us space to grow as a family and in our ministries. Thank you for encouraging us when we felt the weight of the challenges and celebrating with us in the levity of the laughter.

As we make our journey to Waynesboro, Virginia, we will certainly be taking you with us in all the ways you have shaped our life and given us perspective. Please hold us in your prayers as we hold you in ours.



Photo by Cindy McMillion

The Reverend Benjamin Badgett and his family, Ian, Kendall, Keenan, and Edward. Their last Sunday with us is January 28.

THESE BASKETS HOLD OUR GOOD WISHES

Beyond formal worship, fellowship and formation, much of the work in any congregation is carried out by an army of volunteers, quietly tending to the flock.

At Holy Communion, a battalion of about 50 people -- almost all women -- write notes, deliver food and flowers, knit shawls, bears and prayer squares, and deliver the Holy Eucharist to people who can't easily get to church.

And while it's a rare family that has not experienced the pastoral care network in action, the work happens person by person, delivered from family cars into living rooms and hospital rooms across the city.

Christmas is one of the few times a year when the whole network gathers as a unit to fill wicker holiday baskets with piles of goodies — lotions, soaps, candy, teas and paperbacks — the team members buy. Then they each take two or three baskets and start making deliveries.

"We each spend \$10 or more on things to put in the baskets," said Rosanne Anderson. "Usually, we have barely enough. This year, we had tons of stuff," she said, marveling at the mounds of hard candy, trinkets and puzzle books that covered the tables.

Part of the gift of the basket is the visit, she says.

"Even if someone is in bed, I try to sit and talk to them for a little while," she said. "Even people who have the finances and wherewithal to do things don't always have people to visit them."

The talk always circles back to what is happening at church.

"They always want to know church news. I take a bulletin for each one," Anderson said.

Debbie Campbell has been part of the network for years.

Last year, she became a lay Eucharistic Minister and delivers communion.

"It's such a blessing to enter someone's home. It's so sacred

to me to share a little conversation, to read the Gospel to these parishioners who don't get out very much anymore and share the cup and the bread. It's a privilege to be able to do that. It's meant more to me than the folks I go see.

"Each time is so special," she said, "I learn so much. I am amazed what our elderly parishioners did in their lives. They are doctors, lawyers, schoolteachers."

Helen Carey, 103, the oldest member in the congregation, called the church shortly after her basket arrived to express her joy.

The week before Christmas, Jeanne Crawford came home after a day of her husband's medical appointments to a basket at their door.

"I hope everyone was as pleased as we were. There was

such a variety of things, and the basket was done so attractively, I really hated to take the cellophane off.

"While we normally would have been giving a basket, someone was thinking about us," Jeanne said. "I was surprised and very pleased to find a basket I had no idea I was going to get."



Photos by Cindy McMillion

Making baskets is a family affair for Hope, Katherine and Stewart Dobbs.

"The Christmas basket party is great because we get to do it all together."

— The Reverend Benjamin Badgett



WINTER AT HOLY COMMUNION...



Photo courtesy of *The Commercial Appeal*

SUNDAY MORNINGS

January 14 | Meet the Vestry Candidates Nominees have been recruited by the Vestry nominating committee. Now, it's the congregation's turn to listen and ask questions.

January 21 | Annual Parish Meeting Sandy will lead the meeting and deliver his semi-annual State of the Parish Address. A barbecue lunch follows the 10:30 service.

January 28 | I Am a Man Several of the sanitation workers who were on the job in 1968 will discuss their experiences.

February 4 | Meet the Mayor Jim

Strickland will talk about the work he did to bring the statues down and the work to get \$50,000 pensions for the sanitation workers.

February 11 | The Rector on Race Sandy offers a personal reflection on his experiences with race, and how they impact his understanding of race relations today.

February 18 | A Failure to Communicate: A Memoir Dr. John Bakke, political strategist and retired professor at the University of Memphis, will talk about how breakdowns in communication—between the city and the citizens, the workers and the city—plus the tone of media coverage, hardened the sides in their camps as the sanitation strike loomed.

Words³

A reading series of writers of all genres and backgrounds. Listeners and contributors welcome. Free snacks! *January 17 at 5 p.m. | Room 307* **THEME:** Pets



Meals on Wheels

If you want to help with routes, contact Sara Hall (Sara.Hall@stjude.org) to volunteer on the first and third Fridays of each month.

YOUNG ADULTS *Lunch with the Deacon*

We've planned lunch at a cool place for the Young Adults with Randy McCloy, our deacon who spent his career practicing medicine and then went back to seminary to serve people in a way physicians cannot. The group will meet at Hog & Hominy, 707 W. Brookhaven Circle, at 12:30 p.m. on Sunday, January 28.



GROUPS A

All Saints' Guild <i>Second Tuesday</i> 10:30 a.m. Carrick Room	Brotherhood of St. Andrew <i>Second and fourth</i> <i>Saturday</i> 8 a.m., Chapel	Centering Prayer <i>First Saturday</i> 9 a.m., Chapel	Daughters of the King <i>Second Sunday</i> noon Carrick Room	Knitting Ministry <i>Third Tuesday</i> 11 a.m., Room 307 <i>Every Wednesday</i> 6:30 p.m., Room 307
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Tell Your Story | Take a Journey | Make a Difference



Here@HolyC Wednesdays at 5:45 p.m.

Come and enjoy our brand of family-style dinner, followed by compline and small-group discussions. All the choirs practice, plus, there's Zumba, BBC Watch Party, activities for children and Bring It Food Hub pickup. Repeat each week!

Why Good People Do

Nothing History is full of examples of good people doing nothing to stop the forces of evil. It's a concept that has long fascinated Thayne Muller, who is leading this five-week course. Class begins Wednesday, January 10, at 6:45 p.m. in the Carrick Room. Class will end at 7:30. For details, contact TDMuller@aol.com



2018 SPRING SPORTS

SOCCER: Registration runs through February
Boys & Girls Age 4 – 13
Games: End of March to Mid-May
BASEBALL/SOFTBALL
Registration: February and March
Boys & Girls K – 4th
Games: May to early June



Shrove Tuesday Chili Cook-Off Evening of February 13

We're adding our always-fun chili cook-off to Shrove Tuesday and adding johnnycakes (cornbread pancakes) for fun.



We'll have live music performed by Winchester and the Ammunition.

The teams are forming. Final details to come.

Exercise Schedule at Holy Communion

Beginner's Gentle Yoga	Intermediate Yoga	Tai Chi	Zumba
Monday & Wednesday 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Tuesday & Thursday 4:15-5:15 p.m. Room 308	Monday & Wednesday 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Room 308	Monday 6:15-7:15 p.m., Gym Wednesday 6:30-7:30 p.m., Gym Saturday 9:30-10:30 a.m., Gym

AND GUILDS

Men's Bible Study <i>Friday</i> 7 a.m. Room 214	More Than a Meal <i>First Sunday</i> after 10:30 service at Grace-St. Luke's	The Reading Life <i>First Tuesday</i> 11 a.m. Carrick Room	Sandy and Mimsy's Biblical Adventure <i>Thursday</i> 10 a.m. Room 308	Words ³ (Words, Cubed) <i>Third Wednesday</i> 5:00 p.m. Room 307
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The performance included a recessional. Singing here are, from left, Daniel Anglin, former CHC staff singer and now member of Opera Memphis, Hubert Minton, Edith Langston, Jane VentersDike, Katie Pollorena and Linda Christopher.



Photos by Cindy McMillion

“O” ANTIPHONS STEEPED IN HISTORY, SPIRITUALITY

(Editor’s note: The Great “O” Antiphons Advent Concert on December 10 was a big success. Not only was it the first time the “O” Antiphons were performed here, but more than 175 people attended, many of them members of the larger community.

This is an interview with Dr. David Ouzts, minister of music and liturgy.)

What is the “O” Antiphons tradition?

The origin of these “O” Antiphons is not really known, but they have been found in manuscripts from the ninth century and are historically attributed to St. Gregory the Great. These antiphons were originally chanted before and after the Magnificat canticle in daily monastic life during Vespers on the evenings leading up to Christmas Day. In the Roman Catholic tradition, they are also used as the antiphons with the Alleluia verse for Mass on these same days.

The writings of Boethius (480-524), a Roman senator and philosopher, make a slight reference to the “O” Antiphons, which might suggest that they were used as early as the sixth century. By the eighth century they are in regular use in liturgical celebrations in Rome, thus dating them back to the very early Church.

The dates for the “O” Antiphons are outlined in the printing of the verses of the hymn “O come, O come, Emmanuel,” Hymn 56 in our hymnal *The Hymnal 1982*.

It seemed to tell the faith’s story like Lessons & Carols. Does it?

Yes, indeed. Both liturgy formats reach back into the Old Testament prophesies to trace and mark the coming of the Christ. If an Advent choral liturgy serves to prepare our hearts and minds to receive the Christ Child again and anew, tracing the journey of the Christ into the world makes perfect sense as a devotion or observance. And we Episcopalians like liturgy that makes sense! If the purpose of music in our liturgy is to set the stage to hear the read or preached word, then this format is perfect.

We sing hymns and anthems that illuminate the scriptures that document the journey of the Christ into the world. We also sing hymns each Sunday morning that illuminate the read and preached word, which is the reason we occasionally have to stretch ourselves and sing a hymn that is not quite as familiar.

Why break with tradition?

In the Anglican tradition, we depend upon doing the same liturgy week after week, year after year, century after century, which is how we get our “We-don’t-like-change” reputation. It is comforting to Episcopalians to know that, no matter what has gone on in your life that week, you may depend upon rock-solid liturgical worship on Sunday morning. Any Episcopalian can walk into any Episcopal Church in the land and depend

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upon solid Book of Common Prayer worship. In our parish, there are some services that will never change: Christmas Eve and Day, Easter Day, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday noon and Thanksgiving Day. However, to keep us all engaged and afresh, there are some services that maintain the order but depart from the norm: Parish Picnic, Interfaith Thanksgiving, Good Friday evening, Easter Vigil, and now our Advent Choral Service.

We have had great feedback about our Good Friday evening service, which has alternated between meditations upon The Seven Last Words of Christ and The Stations of the Cross, and we thought we would explore what other sorts of Advent seasonal services we might enjoy.

Will you comment on the children's parts?

Speaking of Episcopal worship that makes sense, whether they realize it or not, all children love worship that they can learn and know. This is the hallmark and pudding-proof of The Royal School of Church Music choir training scheme. On Sunday mornings, I see delight and confidence on the faces of

our choristers when we say the Nicene Creed, the Prayers of the People, and all the responses in the Eucharistic Prayers. When they can fully participate, mainly by memory as we all do, they just beam with self-approval.

The same applies to The Great "O" Antiphons service: The children sang music that highlighted the very same scripture lessons they heard, and we were able to feature not only our Choristers but a small group of our senior Choristers, who, over time, are "growing up" into teenage and adult choristers. Ms. Ellen Koziel is excellent at teaching our choristers exactly what is happening in the liturgy, and they soak it all up quickly. The RSCM and Episcopal formation training coupled together is always a win-win.



Members of the Choristers who participated in the Great "O" Antiphons Advent Concert are: Below, from left, Corinne Cowan, Erin Maury, Hudson Mattern, Connell Simmons, Abby Bakelaar, Sophie Fernandez. The children sing several times a month in worship with the Parish Choir.



Staff are scheduled to move to the lower campus of St Mary's Episcopal School shortly after Easter. When school is out for the summer, work will begin to remove hazardous materials in Blaisdell and Greenwood. The total process will take more than a month. When the abatement is finished, Linkous Construction will begin demolition and construction in the two halls and the ensuing work to expand the front parking and landscaping.

All of Blaisdell and Greenwood will be sealed off before the abatement starts and remained closed until the project is complete, which is expected to be in mid-2019.

The hallway by the elevator on the third floor of Cheney will be blocked at the ramp. A construction wall will close Blaisdell by the current reception area. The west door in the Nave will also be closed.

NAVE DESIGN

Since the week before Christmas, the Vestry has been weighing a complex set of short- and long-term needs as it studies the latest plan for investment in the Nave, a process it formally began more than two years ago.

On December 19, church designer Terry Byrd Eason presented his latest plan, updated to include comments from listening sessions with the congregation last spring and more than six months of consultation with the Nave design committee.

The draft plan that the Vestry received is similar to what the congregation saw in listening sessions last May, but it is now more developed. In the simplest terms, it includes flattening the ceiling, deepening the choir loft by bumping it out over the top of the last several rows of pews and moving the altar to a central location on the chancel platform — putting it on the same east-west axis as the chapel — and creating more flexibility in the worship space.

“The Nave is the most important space we have,” Sandy said. “It’s a space we all love tenderly and in different ways, and we need to make sure we get it right.”

Eason’s plan also includes potentially replacing the roll-away partition between the chapel and Nave with a glass wall, an architectural feature that would better define the chapel as its own space and keep soundwaves from the Nave from being “pulled in,” Eason said.

He also suggests upgrades to the floors, carpets and other finishes throughout the Nave and chapel that he says would

better match the architectural grandeur of the original design. Some of these investments could be phased in over time, or removed from the plan, as the process continues to unfold.

The Vestry took no action on the plan and will meet again in early January to further discuss its intentions.

The Nave has several issues. Its acoustics are poor for a room that functions to transport sound, both music and the spoken word, and Mr. Eason has been working closely with professional acousticians to ensure that any new design will resolve as many sound issues as possible. The Nave also has significant mechanical issues, including the expense and difficulty of maintaining heating and cooling systems above

the ceiling. When the organ was moved from the front of the church to the balcony around 1980, access to HVAC system was diminished.

Maintenance issues with the aging system will require attention in the next year, adding urgency to Nave design process.

“We don’t want to get in our own way by making expensive, short-term decisions about replacing

equipment without a long-term plan in place,” Sandy said

Eason’s presentation took more than an hour, including questions from Vestry members, most of whom were seeing the updated details for the first time.

The design also includes options to let more light into the Narthex.

Eason’s plan did not include cost estimates for any of the components.

“To get the cost, we will have to take the design to Fleming (the architect) and Linkous,” Sandy said.

The Vestry engaged Eason in December 2015 to create a plan for improving the Nave.

The first report was presented with the campus master plan in June 2016. The changes were estimated at \$3 million. An anonymous family made a very generous \$750,000 contribution last year.

“We are committed to doing this work well, not fast,” Sandy said. “The Vestry needs more time to consider the plan and its options, and we will give them that time.”

The Nave design committee is headed by Ann Duncan. The members are: Amanda Goetze, Tom Cowens, Daniel Amsler, Alice Bolton, Bradley Fogelman and Sandy Webb.



Photo by Cindy McMillion

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT GLOWS IN OUR MEMORIES



Photos by Cindy McMillion

More than 500 people crowded into the Nave to see our annual Christmas pageant. From left, Alice Hollis, minister to children, helps Leighton Visinsky get dressed. Jack Faber was one of the proud three kings. The baby Jesus (Holmes Dudley) was captivated by the stars. Surrounding him are Eva Hogan, Abby Bakelaar, Mary-Catherine Stanford, Allie Maury, Lacey Farrell, Jane Rojas and Bays Wunderlich.



Budget *cont'd from page 1*

continue providing high-quality health care insurance for all our staff with a substantially reduced cost.”

Elsewhere, the Vestry had more property insurance claims last year, pushing up other insurance costs and underscoring the need to address long-term facility needs, Sandy said.

In the coming year, it will continue to partially fund outreach from the church’s endowment. It approved \$40,000 draw for outreach in 2018.

Three years ago, the Vestry voted to phase out the use of endowment funds for outreach, making outreach a line item in the general budget. It met the goal in 2016. But in the subsequent two budgets, it has not had enough revenue to continue the step-down

process but plans to resume the phase-out in 2019.

In addition, the church had the foresight to set up salary reserves from budget surpluses in 2014.

“We are utilizing some of these reserves in 2018 to balance and hope to be able to replenish these reserves for future needs,” Visinsky said.

Because giving has not increased, the Vestry has had difficulty funding many new strategic initiatives,

“The Vestry will be reviewing the operations of the church in the coming year in the hopes of being able to have a sustainable model that allows for strategic projects, but also ensures the daily operations of the church are maintained,” Visinsky said.

While most program spending is flat, the new budget includes more than \$5,000 more for music, a 3 percent increase, largely because the ministry is growing both in the number who participate and are served.

As an example, 178 people attended the first-time O Antiphons choral Advent service in December, an increase over the more-typical crowd of 120 for 5:30 p.m. Evensongs. Another sign of growth is that the number of children participating in the children’s choirs has doubled in the last two years.

“David has a five-year plan for the department that would culminate with choir trips to Europe. To do that requires that we make investments now,” Sandy said.

THE COMMUNICATOR



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www.holycommunion.org

WORSHIP TIMES

Sundays: 8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m.

Weekdays: *Monday through Friday 8:10 a.m.*

Wednesday 12:15 p.m.

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Sexton

Memorials & Honoraria

Received November 16 – December 18, 2017

In memory of

The Reverend Reynolds Smith Cheney II

Claude & Tay Chafin

Sally Justis

Mr. & Mrs. Charles A. Tracy, Jr.

Nick & Amanda Goetz

In memory of Philip Warren Cruzen

Claude & Tay Chafin

**In celebration of and thanksgiving for
the upcoming wedding of
Jessica Johnson and the Reverend Sandy Webb**

Debby & Steve Schadt

Barbara Wilson

All Saints Guild

Marion Morgan

Dorothy Brownyard

Ruth & Ron Thompson

In memory of Betty Barker

anonymous

In honor of Linda Kay & Randy McCloy

Lela & Jim Smith

Church of the Holy Communion, an Episcopal Church in the center of Memphis, seeks to be a sacred presence, grounded in the servant ministry of Jesus, offering spiritual growth opportunities for all.