

Christ Church  
What's Next?

# Then and Now

Dear Friends,

It has been several years since Christ Church adopted “a vision to re-Generate” our parish. The conclusion of our wonderful centennial celebrations last November provided an ideal opportunity to review these priorities and to test what we believe God is asking from us now.

For example, we’ve worked hard at becoming a more welcoming community. We now recognize the imperative to become a more inviting community.

Similarly, we have a long history of coming alongside people who are disadvantaged, for instance through our work with people transitioning to permanent housing, and our monthly collective kitchen with moms and tots from CUPS. Now, however, we have identified a calling not only to act, but also to advocate – in other words to speak knowledgeably and powerfully for those who have no voice, or whose voices are discounted by others.

Again, a church located at the juncture of two dead-end streets in a residential neighbourhood has to work very hard at creating public profile if people are ever to “come and see.” We now urgently need to update our communications strategy, for instance by redesigning our web site to be more interactive and a little less buttoned-down, to enhance our presence on social media, and to find a more appealing, less wordy, format for our weekly email to the parish. We have made progress in our goal to attract newcomers to Christ Church. In the process we

have discovered that the old pattern of weekly church attendance just isn’t possible for many people who consider Christ Church their spiritual home. We now want to find ways of helping people get to know more than each other’s names, so that we can continue to think of ourselves, and act, as a compassionate “household of faith.”

Among those we have welcomed into our midst are younger families, and this prompted us four years ago to hire a part-time Coordinator of Children’s, Youth, and Family Ministry. This ministry has grown in scope with our continuing baby boom, the difficulty faced by teachers and children alike to be here every Sunday, and the creation of an Advisory Council to assist in clarifying expectations for our programs. We now need to re-tool our Sunday School and youth programs to be more responsive to these challenges, and to provide clear educational objectives shared by both parents and teachers. To do this work effectively will require us to restore the Coordinator’s position to four days per week (from three).



In a society where people often proclaim themselves “spiritual but not religious,” and in a Church which assumed that the essence of “Anglican spirituality” would simply be imbibed from exposure to the Sunday liturgy, we recognize that many Anglicans do not in fact feel well informed about the treasures of their own spiritual tradition. We want now to be very intentional about offering and naming opportunities for spiritual renewal and growth. Our newly formed “Friends of the Labyrinth” will be among those with a role in this ministry.

# Then and Now

In any parish, there is a natural rhythm or oscillation between the Gathering of the Community and the Un-gathering, between looking inward and looking outward, between nurturing our own souls and caring for the world. We are called to “continue in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers” (i.e. to *gather*). We are called equally “to seek and serve Christ in all persons loving our neighbour as ourself” (i.e. to *leave* the place of worship, and to go out and mend the world).

All these ministries, and the hopes we have for our future, are dependent upon adequate staff support – and you will see from the materials which follow that the Board of Management is presenting a financial goal which includes the cost

of restoring a second priest to our staff complement, and adding one day a week to the Family Ministries position. The work of staff is both to *do* ministry, and to *animate* the ministry of the entire community. Together, with the prayers, participation and material support of every member of Christ Church we can move from then to now.

What’s next? Look and see...

Yours faithfully,



(The Venerable) M. Ansley Tucker, Rector

“We appreciate all of the time and energy you give to us and the new ways of seeing things, always stimulating”



# What's Next?

What a great year we had in 2013! Our Centennial celebrations ranged from fabulous liturgies to terrific social events. We completed the first phase of our Legacy Project with the laying of our Labyrinth, and we look forward to the installation this spring of the surrounding Tranquility Garden. Retrospectives are lots of fun, but we can't simply rest on our laurels. And so, in November, we called together about 45 parish leaders to identify priorities for the future. Following on this work, the Annual Meeting of Parishioners in February identified several areas for emphasis over the next few years.

We decided to align these with the "Five Marks of Mission" of the international Anglican Communion. First adopted over 30 years ago, the Marks of Mission have recently proved to be a rallying point for Anglicans the world over. They have allowed us to focus on what unites us as a Church, as opposed to those doctrinal and moral differences that have distracted us from getting on with the work of building the kingdom of God.



## Here is how Christ Church hopes to implement the Marks of Mission in our own context.



**First Mark of Mission – to proclaim  
the Good News of the kingdom.**

*We want to become an inviting, rather than  
merely welcoming, community.*

# What's Next?



## **Second Mark of Mission – to teach, baptise and nurture new believers**

*We want to strengthen our emphasis on spirituality and spiritual renewal, and to solidify relationships amongst those who think of Christ Church as their spiritual home.*

## **Third Mark of Mission – to respond to human need by loving service**

*We want to find ways of marshalling our volunteer energy and availability in short term and meaningful outreach projects.*



## **Fourth Mark of Mission – to seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation**

*We want to work towards the full inclusion of any who may be marginalized, whether in Church or society, and especially at this time members of the LGBT community.*



## **Fifth Mark of Mission – to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth**

*We want to provide educational resources concerning food security and clean water as issues which belong to the concerns of a gospel community.*

Our Parish Council is currently drawing together working groups to propose and evaluate ways to implement these very broad goals.

# Vision and Goals for 2013/14

We had a terrific year in 2013 with many wonderful celebrations and innovations throughout the year. Momentum continued in to 2014 as we celebrated Holy Week with Fred our Primate.

## Education

- continued our highly successful Christ Church Café, with such speakers as Robbie Babins-Wagner, James Lockyer, Andrew Mosker, Carlene Donnelly, Donna Balzer and Shauna Currie
- co-sponsored the visit of Rabbi Rami Shapiro to Calgary



## Worship & Spirituality

- “Period liturgy” marking the 100th anniversary of the first service in January 1913
- celebrated the Eucharist monthly at Fountains of Mission Retirement Residence, and provided Communion to residents in several other facilities
- provided our 5th annual Living Nativity, attended by over 400
- welcomed our Primate, the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, over Holy Week
- followed a live donkey in procession on Palm Sunday



## Music

- hosted the three-performance Centennial Concert series featuring pianist Jan Lisiecki, Cowtown Opera, and the Choirs of Christ Church Calgary & Christ Church Cathedral Vancouver
- recorded a new CD, “Seasons,” featuring music for the entire Church Year
- went Christmas caroling to housebound, and others who needed a bit of cheer, and took Choral Evensong “on the road” to Balzac

## Pastoral Care

- provided an informal network for providing rides to church
- participated in group trips to Rosebud Theatre
- provided prayer shawls to members of the parish, and Ronald McDonald House



## Youth and Children’s Ministry

- hired Charmaine Evans to assume staff leadership of children’s, youth, and family ministries
- created and sold an environmentally friendly housecleaning product to benefit the Centre for Affordable Water & Sanitation Technology (CAWST)
- hosted the Diocesan annual Youth Gathering
- sponsored and prepared a winter Soup Luncheon to benefit Prairie Gleaners
- sent young people to a leadership development camp at the Sorrento Centre

# Vision and Goals for 2013/14

## Facilities Maintenance and Upgrades

- replaced the water heater
- repaired the louvers in the bell tower to stop leaks
- replaced outdated lighting in the church with new energy efficient bulbs
- repaired roof damage, leaks and eavestroughs
- repaired leaking sterilizer and replaced kitchen floor tiles

## Facilities for Community Usage

- served as “barracks” for YouthWorks mission groups in June & July
- provided meeting space for 12-Step, pain-support, and other regular meeting groups
- provided training space for Alberta Guide Dogs
- continued to be a popular venue for concerts and music workshops such as Calgary Girls Choir, Early Music Voices, Spiritus, Calgary Welsh Society, Encore, One Voice and many others
- hosted Leanne’s Art Camp, the “Ujaama Grandmas” fundraiser, and World Day of Prayer
- provided space for numerous youth activities such as Brownies, Sparks, Glamorgan Karate, and Sportball

## Outreach

- provided food, beverages, washrooms, massage, chiropractic, power and meeting space during and after the Flood for hundreds of area residents
- facilitated two healing circles on the labyrinth
- provided space for a flood relief concert, Elbow Park School graduation, and City of Calgary Flood information sessions
- collaborated with the One World Child Development Centre to host a monthly collective kitchen, with cooking and nutrition-education for adults, and a children’s program
- assisted several individuals to stave off homelessness and hunger by assistance with rent, utilities, food, and public transit
- raised over \$11,000 for the food security initiatives of the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund (“Fred Says”)

## Parish Administration

- reviewed and updated computer security
- purchased a new safe

## Stewardship

- hosted our second annual Legacy Circle reception for those who have made a future provision for Christ Church, for example, in their wills
- provided “Stewardship 101” sessions on annual giving, legacy giving and trends in the giving across Canada
- organized the Centennial golf tournament at the Sirocco Golf Course
- successfully completed the debt retirement campaign

## Centennial Celebrations

- completed the Labyrinth Centennial project and raised sufficient funds to complete the second phase of our Centennial project, the Tranquility Garden, this summer
- hosted the Centennial Homecoming weekend in May welcoming back former parishioners and clergy
- hosted three major social events

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“My family and I live close to the Church and we want to thank everyone for all they did for the neighbourhood post-flood. We could not have made it through the first few days without you.”

# Making Ministry Happen

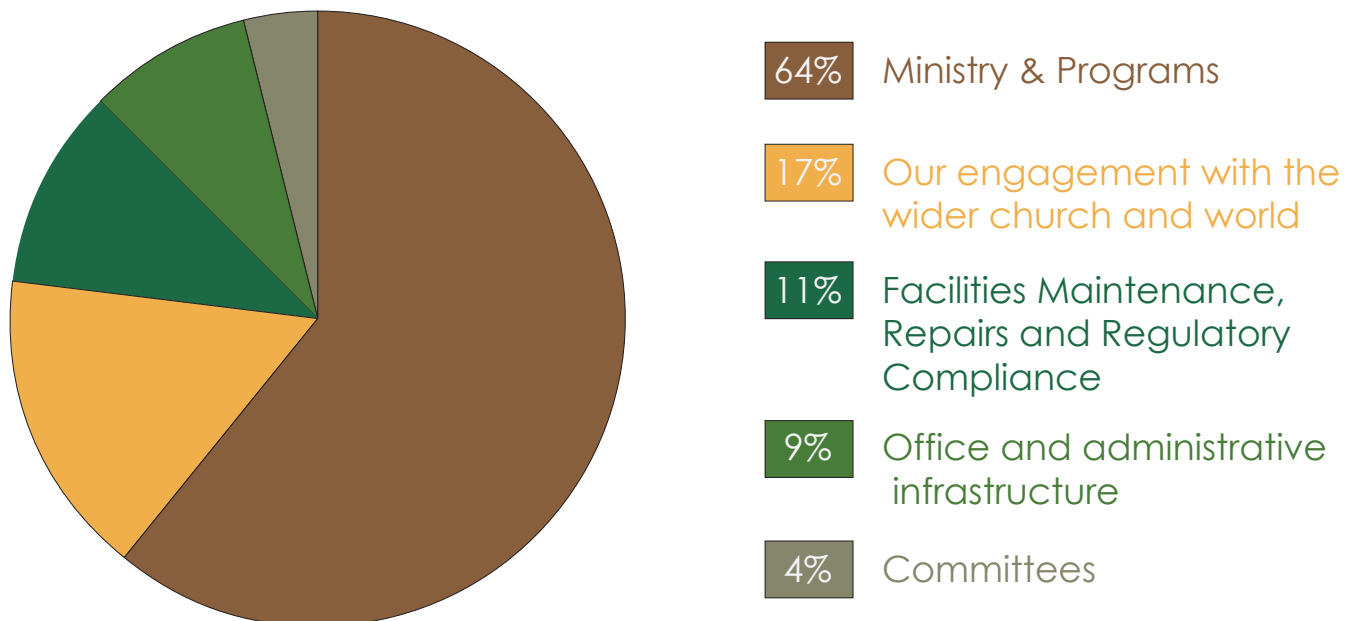
We are seeking \$905,000 in offerings for the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015. This is an increase of 8.0% over our actual offerings in 2013.

Some may wonder why we would be looking for an increase, when we were fortunate to finish 2013 with a small surplus. The truth is, that surplus was achieved by reduced expenditures on programs and staffing. Not only did we delay the hiring of a new coordinator of Children's, Youth and Family Ministry for six months: we also reduced the hours for that position by one day a week. In addition, the departure of the Reverend Tara Livingston at the end of November provided some unexpected salary relief.

Without strong pledge support we cannot proceed in good conscience to hire a second priest, nor to restore our program staff to previous levels of service. The budget underlying this year's appeal addresses both these needs. It also restores a modest cost of living increase (1.1%) for staff, and provides for inflation and new program initiatives.

In addition to the ministry Christ Church provides locally, we remain deeply committed to assisting with work at the national and international level – work to which we can contribute, but could never hope to provide all by ourselves. Our annual "apportionment" of \$134,000 is a large part of our commitment to national and global initiatives. We ourselves have been on the receiving end of such help, and it gives us great pleasure to return the favour to other less "re-sourced" communities.

The pie chart describes where the money goes to accomplish our mission.



# Giving Through Christ Church

## Isn't our pledge appeal usually in the fall?

Yes! and indeed it has been 18 months since our last stewardship campaign. This is because we agreed at this year's Annual Meeting to change our financial year-end from December 31 to June 30. Consequently, we will now hold our annual pledge appeal in April and May of each year.

There are many benefits to changing our year-end:

- Our financial planning and reporting will now closely align with our natural program year of September through June.
- December is our best revenue month and it will now be right in the middle of the budget year, thereby allowing us to make timely adjustments in planned expenditures, based on December revenues.
- Our annual campaign will no longer take place in the busiest family and charitable giving period of the year (Christmas, year-end tax time, winter vacations)
- The majority of our parishioners – including “snowbirds” – will be “home” in Calgary at the time of the annual appeal
- There are virtually no major charitable campaigns in the May/June time period, thus enabling parishioners to focus on planning their annual gift.

With the change of year-end and a renewed focus for our future, we have organized an “Every Member Visit” campaign this year with a goal of visiting 200 parish families in May. We hope you will open your door and welcome one of our visitor teams in May. This will be an important opportunity to engage in conversation with another member of the parish about our priorities and hopes for the future.

## What's Our Goal for 2014-2015?

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## The Practice of Pledging

Christ Church has encouraged parishioners to provide a written pledge for many years now. This is extremely helpful to the Board of Management in making prudent decisions to manage our resources for operations and programs. Pledges are not legally binding but are, rather, a good-faith statement of intention. They are all the more important, given that revenue from offerings can be inconsistent at certain times of the year. If you have never pledged before, do please consider joining the 277 households that do. If you have pledged in the past, we hope you will renew your pledge for the 2014-15 year.

# Giving Through Christ Church



Providing local flood relief services



Providing numerous community outreach programs such as making prayer shawls



Welcomed the community with our Homecoming Celebration, Stampede Breakfast, Blessing of the Animals and many other events



Rice and beans super to support fundraising efforts for "Fred Says"

"Both of our families were very appreciative of the Christmas gifts of toys, clothing and food donated by the Bible Study and the Outreach Network."

# Giving Through Christ Church

We are asking all who call Christ Church their spiritual home to:

- review our accomplishments for 2013 and the celebration of our Centennial
- imagine the possibilities
- prayerfully consider your own ability and desire to help us reach our goals
- fill out the enclosed pledge card and return it to the church

## Choosing a Convenient Contribution Method

Christ Church provides several vehicles for receiving contributions, including:

- pre-authorized debit (which is very beneficial to Christ Church, since the Diocese of Calgary absorbs any related administration fees);
- online or telephone banking;
- the use of weekly or monthly envelopes; and
- credit card payments (VISA or MasterCard)

Gillian, our Accounting Assistant, will be pleased to set you up, and it only takes a couple of minutes. Please give her a call at 403.243.4680 x 128.

## Stretching a Dollar

It is encouraging to know that most donors are motivated less by tax considerations than by their commitment to the causes they support. Even so, it is worth noting that both the Province of Alberta and the CRA provide very favourable tax considerations to charitable donors. In Alberta, gifts over \$200 receive a tax credit of fully 50%, thereby doubling the purchasing power of charitable gifts. A gift to Christ Church of \$10,000, for example, will ultimately cost the donor only \$5,000. Meanwhile, the Church will have use of the entire \$10,000 for mission and ministry.

Similarly, some may find it advantageous to make a gift of publicly traded securities, thereby avoiding taxation on capital gains. In such cases, a tax credit can increase to almost 70%, such that a gift of \$10,000 will cost the donor as little as \$3,100.

In all cases, we encourage parishioners to consult their accountant or financial advisor.

## The Christ Church Legacy Circle

Over the past two years, Christ Church has established a Legacy Circle to honour and thank those who have made provision for Christ Church in their Will, or other legacy vehicle. We are grateful to know of almost 40 such individuals.

Legacy giving is an effective way to ensure that the things we value here and now will continue to have an impact in the future. Growing our Endowment is an important priority for Christ Church, and we are pleased to provide advice and support to those who are considering such a gift.

Bob Baker, our Director of Stewardship Development, invites your questions and information requests on any aspect of annual, capital or legacy charitable giving. He can be reached at [devofficer@christchurchcalgary.org](mailto:devofficer@christchurchcalgary.org) or 403.243.4680 x 127





**Celebrate the past, invest in the future.**

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