Christ Episcopal Church

Columbia, MD



2022 Annual Meeting

October 16, 2022



Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost and Annual Meeting

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II — Sunday, October 16, 2022 • 10:00 a.m.

Welcome Home!

Welcome to worship at Christ Episcopal Church. If this is your first time with us, we invite you to complete a visitor's form. Our website provides up to date information about our vibrant church community: christchurchcolumbia.org. This bulletin contains all you need to join us in worship, everyone is welcome to receive communion at God's table, and the clergy are happy to speak with you at any time. We are delighted you're here - welcome home!

Prelude |

Opening Hymn | 698 — Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ — *Flentge*

Opening Acclamation |

Celebrant: Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People: And blessed be his kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

The Collect for Purity |

Celebrant: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***

Glory to God | S280 Canticle 20 | *Gloria in excelsis* — setting: Robert Powell

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.
Celebrant: Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

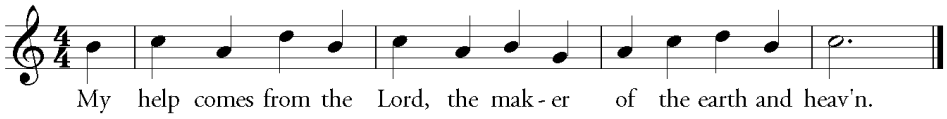
The First Lesson | Genesis 32:22-31

Reader: A reading from Genesis.

The same night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm | Psalm 121 *Levavi oculos*



I lift up my eyes to the hills; *
from where is my help to come?
My help comes from the LORD, *
the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot be moved *
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

Antiphon

Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel *
shall neither slumber nor sleep;
The LORD himself watches over you; *
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,
So that the sun shall not strike you by day, *
nor the moon by night.
The LORD shall preserve you from all evil; *
it is he who shall keep you safe.
The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in, *
from this time forth for evermore.

Antiphon

The Second Lesson | 3:14-4:5

Reader: A Reading from 2 Timothy.

As for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it, and how from childhood you have known the sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.

In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage, with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound doctrine, but having itching ears, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires, and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The people stand as able.

Sequence Hymn | 632 O Christ, the Word Incarnate *Munich*

The Gospel | Luke 18:1-8

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus told his disciples a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, `Grant me justice against my opponent.' For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, `Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

The people stand as able.

The Nicene Creed | BCP Page 358

Prayers of the People |

Thank you, Lord the God of Israel, Our God who calls each of us to be the Body of Christ. Today during our annual meeting, our parish meets to elect new Vestry members, to review the past year's congregational accomplishments, and to hear plans for the future. We pray for guidance and wisdom during this time together. Let us say together, **"Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts."**

Bless, O Lord, the work of your Church throughout our world. In the worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray today for the work in your name of the people in Iglesia Anglicana de la Region Central de America. In our diocese, we pray for the churches of Holy Trinity, Baltimore; Memorial, Baltimore; and Nativity & Holy Comforter, Cedarcroft. Here at Christ Church, we pray you will lead us to right decisions and right actions as we seek to do your will. We welcome all who are visiting with us today and all who are new to our congregation. Let us say together, **"Declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples."**

In the darkest times of our lives, Lord, help us feel your presence with us. When we are alone or afraid, when we are sick or dying, in those days when You seem very far away, open our hearts to the knowledge that you never leave us. We pray today for those ill in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jim, Cynthia, Betsy, Neal, Valentin, Kandi, Bradley, Rená, Catherine, Mary Ann, Caroline, Mary Lou, Joan, Gina, Megan, Alfred, Ashley, Alta, Farris, Mildred, Sherry, Nell & Kathleen, and those we each now name. We hold up in prayer service members Kevin DeBoissiere and Conner Warlow, who serve in harm's way. We pray also for those who have died, especially those we each recall. We are comforted by your promise to be with us, as we say together, **"It is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name."**

We thank God for all that is wonderful and joyous in our lives. Today we give special thanks for the birthdays Hannah, Karita, Amanda, Kathy, Nicholas, Bob, James & Suzanne. Together we exclaim, **"Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad."**

Good and gracious God, you call us to be disciples carrying out your mission. Transform us through the power of your Spirit. Open our hearts to acknowledge your many blessings, to use your gifts wisely, to share generously, to serve joyfully, to live responsibly, to be a gift to others. Help us nurture a stewardship way of life, which connects, serves, and impacts our communities. Guide us as we prayerfully discern how to give of our time, talents, and treasures, to further your kingdom on earth. We pray, **Through Christ our Lord, Amen.**

The power of our God is awe-inspiring: "From the rising of the sun and from the west, there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other." By our words and by our actions, help us "tell out among the Nations the Lord is King!" **Amen.**

Confession of Sin | BCP 360

The Peace |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People: **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord and then be seated.

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offering Choral Anthem | Fill-a Me Up

The people stand as able.

Presentation Hymn | 380, V. 1 *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving | Eucharistic Prayer A | BCP Page 355

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The people remain standing as the Celebrant continues with a prayer of thanks to God. In response we proclaim:

Sanctus | LEVAS 255

Holy, holy, holy, holy, holy Lord God of hosts.
Heaven and earth are filled with your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord, of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer | BCP 365

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Wherever you are in your spiritual journey, you are welcome at God's table.
You may receive just the bread if you prefer.
If you wish, you may dip the bread in the wine or drink from the chalice.
If you do not wish to take Communion, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest to receive a blessing.
If you would like Communion brought to you, please let an usher know.
Consecrated gluten-free wafers are available.

Fraction Anthem | LEVAS 154 (Refrain) *James E. Moore, Jr.*

Taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord.
Oh, taste and see, taste and see
the goodness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Communion Hymn | LEVAS 109 What a Friend We Have in Jesus *Traditional Spiritual*

What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Ev'rything to God in prayer!

Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness,
Take it to the Lord in prayer.

Are we weak and heavy laden,
Cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge,
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?
Take it to the Lord in Prayer.
In his arms He'll take and shield thee,
Thou wilt find a solace there.

Eucharistic Visitors' Prayer |

Celebrant:
In the name of this congregation we send you forth bearing these gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's Body and Blood.

People:
We who are many are one body because we all share one bread, one cup.

Post-Communion Prayer | BCP 365

The Blessing |

The Celebrant blesses the People, who respond ***Amen.***

Closing Hymn | 401 The God of Abraham Praise Leoni

Dismissal |

Postlude | Prelude in F Minor *Leon Boellmann*

Today's altar flowers were donated by the Rev. Marcia Davenport
in honor of her husband, the Rev. Bob Davenport.

PARISH CALENDAR
OCTOBER 16 TO OCTOBER 22

Sunday, October 16

10:00 am	Annual Meeting Eucharist – New Brick, upper level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Annual Meeting Brunch – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Annual Meeting – New Brick, upper level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Monday, October 17

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, October 18

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Ho Co Homeschooling Cooperative – New Brick, lower level
11:00 – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
12:30 – 2:00 pm	Japanese Play Group – Outside New Brick
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Children's Choir – New Brick, upper level

Wednesday, October 19

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
10:00 am	TOPS – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap - The Ale House, Columbia
8:00 – 9:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, October 20

8:00 – 8:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Ho Co Homeschooling Cooperative – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Bible Study – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 pm	AA Women Only – Parish Hall, lower level
7:00 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 8:30 pm	Waterloo Al-Anon – Old Brick

Friday, October 21

7:00 – 7:30 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 7:30 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Book Club – Zoom
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, October 22 – Silent Auction Begins!

2:00 – 3:00 pm	AA - Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 – 9:00 pm	NA - Parish Hall, lower level

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Formation this Sunday
Because of the Annual Meeting and 10 a.m. service, there will be no Adult Formation, Sunday School, or Confirmation class this weekend. These all resume next Sunday, October 23rd.

Altar Flowers and Gifts
If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2022 sign-up sheet at **https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts**. You can also sign up and reserve a slot by using our **Realm Online Giving Form**; just choose "Altar Flowers and Gifts" from the *FUND* drop-down menu, and place the dedication name(s) and service date in the *MEMO* line. **Email the Church Office** with any questions.

Still Looking for Help on Sunday Mornings
Christ Church is still in need of volunteers to assist us on the occasional Sunday morning. Please speak with Jan DeBoissiere (Altar Guild assistance) or Yetti Lipede (Teller help), or email us at **info@christchurchcolumbia.org** if you might be interested or have any questions. Thank you.

Stewardship 2023
We recently mailed each parishioner their pledge card for 2023. We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service. We pray that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. Our in-gathering service is on Sunday, November 6th, but in the meantime, parishioners can still return their pledges **or pledge online**. You may also pick up a pledge card in the Narthex.

Centering Prayer - Mondays
Bishop Sutton recently led a day-long retreat at Christ Church that focused on Centering Prayer and how it can help manage life's crises and stresses. Centering Prayer is a unique method of prayer that helps us be present and open to God, moving us beyond conversation with Christ and towards communion with Him. Everyone is welcome to join us for this special gathering on Mondays at 7:00 p.m. The Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **859 2522 4340** and Password is **Centering!**

Christ Church Choir - Tuesdays and Thursdays
Adult Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9 p.m. and the Children's Choir rehearses on Tuesday evenings from 5-6 p.m. **You can find links to the registration forms on our website's Music Ministry page**. Whether you read music or not, whether you have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit or not, there's a place for you in our choir! If you're interested, please speak with Larissa or email her at **music@christchurchcolumbia.org**.

Theology on Tap - Wednesday, October 19th
Join us next Wednesday, October 19th at the Ale House in Columbia from 7-8:30 p.m. to socialize and talk theology. All are welcome and we encourage you to bring a topic you want to discuss. **One item we may discuss was recently in the Washington Post**. If you're interested or have any questions or suggestions, email Mike Looney at **getlooney@gmail.com**.

Bible Study - Thursdays
This season, the class studies some of the major themes of Paul's Letter to the Romans and looks into the Gospel of Matthew. You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and we'll all study and learn together. Bring a Bible and gather with us in Old Brick at 5:30 p.m. any week you're able. Thursday Bible Study is a hybrid gathering; the Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **837 0456 2866** and Password is **CECBible**

The CEC Book Club Returns Next Week

The CEC Book Club takes a break this week but resumes next Friday, October 21st at 7:30 p.m. We always enjoy having new people join our virtual gathering, so if you like curling up with an insightful read and discussing it with others, join us! Just **email Ellen Hoke at efboudreau1@gmail.com** for details. Then simply log in to Zoom for an hour or so. The Zoom link is **here**, Meeting ID is **894 0227 6226** and Password is **CECBooks**

WOCC October News

- **Robinson Nature Center WOCC Walk:** Wednesday, October 26th, 12 noon - 2-ish. Come walk through the colorful autumn leaves at the Robinson Nature Center. The leaves should be "peaking" in color, and it's a beautiful setting to view them. The trails are short and friendly, with lots of signs and small creeks. Bring your lunch and we'll enjoy some conversation before setting out. If you have any questions, shoot us an email at **wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org**.
- **Save The Date:** Sunday, December 4th, 1:00 p.m. - Women of Christ Church Christmas Luncheon at King's Contrivance Restaurant. Come join us for friendship and feasting at King's Contrivance Restaurant for our Christmas Luncheon. We will be advertising the details and the menu selections soon. As usual, we will use this event to gather Christmas presents for our friends at Springfield Hospital. Hope to see you there!
- **Seafarers Donations Needed:** We will be making another trip to our friends at Seafarers in Baltimore Harbor in early November, so please bring your donations to the Seafarer's bin in the Tower Room of New Brick by the end of October. They are in need of 2023 calendars, recent magazines, cards, warm weather hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. Thanks in advance for your support of Seafarers!

TEN DAYS AWAY... THE AUCTION IS COMING!

We're only 10 days away! Away from what, you ask? Well, away from Christ Church's largest fundraiser of the year, of course! There are three auctions to take part in, so let the bidding begin!

Saturday, October 22nd at 7 p.m. is the start of our **Online Auction**, a silent auction where you can browse and bid on the many wonderful donated items. Bidding for this auction will run all week and conclude on Friday, October 28th at 8 p.m.

Then on Saturday, October 29th we will gather for the first in-person Auction in three years! Our very own Steve Alpern is the auctioneer for the evening's Live Auction, and he will make you laugh so much you may think you're going to roll on the floor. This has always been an exciting social gathering filled with lots of fun. You don't need to bid to come, although when you do you may find an item or two that you would love to take home (and help support Christ Church in the process), especially with the holidays coming up.

We will also have a Silent Auction in the Great Hall that night, with an array of unique items that you can silently bid on... and counterbid after someone bests your original one!

The CEC Auction is held in the Great Hall of New Brick. Doors open for registration, cocktails, and Silent Auction at 6:30 p.m. and our Live Auction begins at 7:30. There will be appetizers, desserts, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. In the meantime, be sure to check out the Auction slide show in the Narthex for some of the wonderful donations that are available for you to bid on... AND WIN!

For those who have donated items: please deliver your items to the lower level of New Brick on Friday, October 28th from noon to 7 p.m. or on Saturday, October 29th from 9:00 to11:30 a.m. **Questions? Email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org**

Outreach Continues the Quilt Raffle to Benefit SLYC at the Annual Meeting
You can buy raffle tickets at the Christ Church annual meeting to continue our support of St. Luke's Youth Center, which operates year-round as the nonprofit **SLYC**. We helped launch the raffle in August when SLYC leaders visited and displayed the quilt. It was handcrafted by parishioner Nancy Winchester, who designed a queen-size quilt and separate pillow cover in a fall theme.

Please buy tickets (1 for $5, 5 for $10, and 10 for $25) either before or after the annual meeting this Sunday, October 16th. They will be on sale from Outreach members at Christ Church that day and during later opportunities through December 4th. The raffle drawing is on December 10th.

Future stops for Nancy's quilt will involve some of the area congregations that support SLYC, which is the former St. Luke's Episcopal parish. The **Episcopal Diocese of Maryland** is among the partners, and its reparations task force **awarded a grant** to SYLC and five other organizations.

You, too, are partnering with SLYC in that Vestry-approved funds for Christ Church Outreach supported Camp Imagination, held during the summer as described in **the July newsletter**. The Outreach Commission contributed $500, and others at Christ Church made donations.

West Baltimore families participate in SLYC's leadership and offerings, which include "Moms on a Mission," Camp Imagination, and an after-school program. We heard about how it was founded on faith from Executive Director Amanda Gardner Talbot. She spoke of her calling when delivering **the sermon on Sunday, August 7th** during both services at Christ Church.

On Sunday, October 9th, we heard more about SLYC from parishioner Michon Semon, who is the Outreach member who serves as its liaison. Semon was among several parishioners who spoke during a panel discussion during Sunday Circle. It was part of October's stewardship series, this one entitled: "Stewardship of Others: How We Love Our Neighbors."

In her remarks, Semon told about being inspired to become involved with the West Baltimore collaborative non-profit by its founder, The Very Reverent Van H. Gardner. He had retired as Dean of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore. SLYC makes his words available to all by providing **a link to a podcast** of some of his sermons.

Talbot is his daughter, who was moved to carry out his mission after his death. Results among the children at SLYC are impressive. Semon described how their reading and math scores have improved at the same time their attendance figures in school are above the Baltimore City average.

Registration Begins this Sunday for the January 2023 DreamBuilders Trip to Puerto Rico!
Our mission trips to San Juan in 2019 and 2022 were so successful and rewarding that we are heading back for a third trip to repair homes damaged by Hurricane Maria. Hurricane Maria, a category 5 hurricane with sustained winds of 155 mph, devastated Puerto Rico in September 2017. FEMA estimated that 53% of all structures on the island were significantly damaged. Now, 5 years later, thousands of families in Puerto Rican are still living in damaged homes or crowded in with family members waiting for the day when their home can be made livable again. We are delighted to work with the SBP Puerto Rico team, who share their professional skills with friendship and fun.

We have reserved great housing in apartments a few blocks from the beach and near restaurants and shops. The average temperature in Puerto Rico in January is between 80-83 degrees. We will be opening registration for this trip soon, but we are limited to only 20 people, so visit the DreamBuilders website - **www.dreambuildersmd.org** - for more information.

Join Us for an Interfaith Vigil for Refugees - November 13th

Christ Church's Refugee Ministry will host *United We Pray: Interfaith Vigil for Refugees* on Sunday, November 13th at 7:00 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church. This community service is open to people of all faiths and traditions, as we gather to show our unified support for those around the globe forced to leave their homes due to war, persecution, or disaster. We will pray particularly for our refugee neighbors who live, work, and attend school in our communities. The service, to be held in St. John's historic church at 9120 Frederick Rd. in Ellicott City, will include readings, prayers, music, and reflections from the Christian, Jewish, Muslim, and Quaker faith traditions.* A light reception will follow in the adjoining All Saints Hall building immediately following the service, with the opportunity for refreshment and fellowship, and the chance to meet some of the refugee families in our area. We welcome all community members to this event, as united we pray for the plight of refugees around the world.

**Sponsored by St. John's Episcopal Church, Columbia Jewish Congregation, Dar Al-Taqwa Mosque, Patapsco Friends Meeting (Quakers of Howard County), and Christ Episcopal Church.*

Donate Diapers, Baby Care Items to Columbia Community Care

Starting this fall, Leigh Smith has become our representative and takes parishioners' donated items to **Columbia Community Care** (CCC), so that they can be distributed on Saturdays or stored until needed for home deliveries. Information about distribution sites, home deliveries, and how to volunteer in multiple ways can be found on the **CCC Group on Facebook**. At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to continue supporting the primarily volunteer organization. Please collect diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Put them in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sunday.

FISH Asks Our Prayers Along with Snacks and Cookies

Our representative from **FISH of Howard County** recently had surgery. Paul Wisniewski is recovering; please pray for his good health. Pickups have resumed from our yellow bin between Old Brick and the Parish Hall. Please continue donating cookies, crackers, and snacks to fulfill the shopping lists. Thanks for your contributions to our neighbors in need.

In general, if you have suggestions about ways to help the community, if you want to get involved, or if you need assistance, please email Christ Church Outreach at outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org. Your help is greatly welcomed and appreciated. Thank you.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING
2022

AGENDA

I. Opening Hymn: 542 - *Christ is the World's True Light*

II. Prayer

III. Quorum Established

   a. Appointment of Secretary and Tellers

IV. Rector's Address

V. Reports to the Meeting

   a. Senior Warden

   b. Junior Warden

   c. Treasurer

VI. Presentation of Gifts

   a. Staff

   b. Vestry

VII. Result of Vestry Elections

VIII. Right of Floor – Q&A

IX. Announcements

X. Adjournment & Dismissal with Prayer

XI. Closing Hymn: 490 – *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

THE VESTRY CANDIDATES ARE LOCATED ON PAGES 29 & 30.

REPORT FROM OUR RECTOR

Lord, Make Me an Instrument of Your Peace

St. Francis

A few days ago, we celebrated the life of St. Francis, an important example for our own spiritual growth and development. His was a mystical life not lived in mystique but in very real and practical way. His prayer listed above is part of a prayer that he offered - and if you agree with me, he employs the human gift, your gift and mine as a means by which we can usher in God's peace. That peace which surpasses human understanding.

In my daily prayer, I pray for peace for you - that you, too, may experience God's peace in your own life. The reality is that oftentimes the challenges that we experience in our lives, and we may be presently going through makes us feel that that peace is inaccessible to us. I once heard a story about someone who was so battered by a precarious health situation that this person thought that life offered nothing worth living for anymore. I wondered to myself, is there not more to life than the frailness of the human body? Is there not more to life than the seemingly unsolvable health conditions? There is, and it is always my prayer that we find the strength within us to be intentional about the ways in which we can find life in the dead places of our lives!

As your pastor and friend, visiting you at home or hospital to offer pastoral presence and prayer is one of the ministries that always humbles me. Not only do I identify with the pain and discomfort of the illness that you may be dealing with, but I am deeply reminded of how God's mercy touches you and me and renews us for a purpose fit for his glory.

We can all attest to the difficult health challenges that we have lived with over the past couple of years. Our communal and individual lives have been deeply affected by COVID-19. Many of us lost loved ones through the virus; many of us - including me - contracted it. In my case, I had to miss Christmas Eve services for the first time in over thirty years. Many of us also saw our loved ones battle the virus. In any of these circumstances, there was this belief that we have reached the end of our rope. I am thankful for the many lives, including mine, which overcame the virus. I am also thankful for those lives that succumbed to the virus - I say this because we are encouraged by scripture to be thankful in all things.

COVID posed a lot of challenges and our response to those challenges often felt like a seesaw. But I am grateful for the tenacity and dedication of each and every one of you - our beloved parishioners and staff - for all the work you did to more than keep us afloat, but to keep us thriving in the midst of these dire circumstances.

Amid the challenges of COVID, I recruited some parishioners and our Vestry members to engage in a strategic conversation to discern our common life and what we want it to look like. This group of about 26 people worked extremely hard, sometimes weekly, to listen to the consultant and to deliberate on some of the tasks that the consultant gave us. The consultant helped us to identify two things that we can do that would enrich our common life. We decided on worship and fellowship.

With regards to worship, the question was: how do we offer a worship experience that is meaningful and accessible to both children and parents? How do we support the desire of parents to worship together with their children?

(continued)

There's no question that COVID destroyed our communal bond by rendering it impossible for us to gather as a community to celebrate life and to fellowship with each other. One of the things we value most at Christ Church is fellowship over meals, so we discussed how we could rebuild our communal life in a way that opens us up to honor each other, celebrate each other, get to know each other and build new relationships and rebuild old ones if we want to create the community that we want.

With your support and input we now offer a new 9:00 a.m. children and family service. This has been such a refreshing time for our community to see all the children and their parents eat breakfast, worship together, and go downstairs for Sunday School. I have been blown away by the response and I am glad that we made the decision to offer such an opportunity to a segment of our parishioners who wanted something different for themselves and their families.

With your support and input, we now host First Wednesday Community Dinner and Fellowship. This is a monthly gathering for food and fellowship among parishioners and members of the wider community.

As I indicated above, Christ Church is noted for hospitality and welcome. A few weeks ago, I received an email from a newcomer.

This is what she wrote:

> *"I just LOVED the service, thank you Father. And the flowers were gorgeous and so unexpected.*
>
> *I brought the bulletin home to share with my partner, we love to see how involved the Church is in our community! I hope to attend an event and/or join the choir, and plan to come get my car washed.*
>
> *You really have a wonderful, welcoming, warm Church. Please apologize for me - it's been so long since I've received communion that I forgot to say "AMEN" and instead said "Thank you."*
>
> *Oh boy! Regardless, it felt so wonderful to be in your company yesterday and I can't thank you all enough."*

In many ways, this is the kind of feeling we want newcomers to experience when they worship at Christ Church. More than that, it is my hope that our overall character should reflect our deep sense of welcome and hospitality to all.

We had our second First Wednesday Fellowship a couple of weeks ago. It was a great event. Four of our newcomers attended, and they shared with me their appreciation for the event. All of this is meant to further solidify our core disposition as a welcoming parish. If you have not been to First Wednesday Fellowship as of yet, we warmly invite you to join us in the coming months. Our next FWF gathering is Wednesday, November 2nd.

It is this same sense of welcome that propelled us into a new Refugee Ministry. It was a scary moment for many of us because we had not done any work like that before at Christ Church and we didn't know how we were going to handle this new ministry. The great joy in all this work is that we get our faith tested - and every test reaffirms why we do the work we do in honor of God's glory.

This year has been a fascinating one. Sometimes, I wonder how we do all the work that we do. For a church and staff of our size, we are doing extraordinarily more than many churches our size. But we can do all this work because we have dedicated and faithful parishioners like you who are willing to back us all the way - as a congregation, we punch above our weight and that's the most exciting thing about this place.

(continued)

As you read these pages, may you be reminded of the work that you do. May you be reminded of the contributions that bring life to this place. May you be reminded of the faith that holds this place together, even in times of disagreements and turmoil. May you be proud of the work of our fellow parishioners whose volunteer hours compliment the work of Marcia, Denise, Mike, Larissa, Aisha, Chris, Yetti, Kathy, Todd, Amanda, Napoleon, Sam, Maxwell and Jocelyn.

I owe a great deal of thanks to our dedicated clergy and staff. They work so hard - incredibly hard - to offer the best to all of you.

One of my many blessings is serving you. Each day is filled with thoughts on how best to serve you. I deeply appreciate the opportunity to serve you and I give thanks to God for the blessing of being a part of your lives.

The reports that you will read expresses the deepest faith of our staff and parishioners. As you read, you will feel the hand of God on our parish and on the people who wrote them – that, in spite of all that they themselves were dealing with in their individual lives, they found time to serve God by serving you.

I give thanks to each and every one of you. I give thanks to my family. I give thanks for the many ways in which each of you bless me and thank you all for being a part of this wonderful community of faith.

Manny.



ASSOCIATE PRIEST'S REPORT

The late Dag Hammerskjold wrote in his poems: 'For all that has been, thanks, to all that will be, YES!'

Reflecting on one year plus serving as associate priest at Christ Episcopal Church, I continue to be grateful for the privilege of being part of this faithful and actively Christ-centered congregation. It has been a year of learning, to know many of you, and to experience Christ Church in the fullness of its ministry as Christ in the world.

I have served as preacher and celebrant regularly at the 8 a.m. and the 10:30 a.m. Holy Eucharists, and as of September, as celebrant and homilist at the new 9 a.m. family and children's service. This has included all of the major feasts of the liturgical year. Last Christmas, with Fr. Manny struck down with COVID and in isolation, I celebrated eight Holy Eucharist services in six days - a record I hope not to repeat, but grateful for the enormous good-willing support of our deacon, Denise, and our parish staff, Aisha, Yetti, and Chris, as well as the many lay readers, acolytes, and choir members who pulled together to make Christmas as festive and Spirit-filled as possible! I was active during the Advent season with daily "Jesse Tree" meditations on the ancestral forebears of Jesus in the Hebrew Scriptures, coordinating with the parish Jesse Tree in the narthex (thank you, George Toth and Jenn Lavanish).

In Lent, I was glad to share my love of the Taizé liturgy with weekly Friday evening services featuring Taizé music, prayer and meditation.

Walking through Holy Week was a solemn joy, starting with Ash Wednesday, preaching on Good Friday, and joining Fr. Manny and Deacon Denise for the daily celebrations of the Passion.

I joined the parish in the celebration of new life as we held memorial services this year for the former rector, Father James Shields, and his wife, Seiko, as well as for the beloved mother of Dianne Phillips Laguerre, and Brady Johnson, and our parish artist, Kelmie Snyder. How fitting, but peculiar, to find myself speaking with children I taught in Sunday School and remember from 30 years plus ago, now adults with families of their own.

I served as retreat leader for two parish retreat days, the first our Lenten Reflection Day, on a day of snow and rough winter weather but still so many came to experience the desert, the oasis and the garden of our faith journey, with meditations formed from one of my favorite mentors, Fr. Larry Hart. Only last weekend I happily led the Parish Retreat weekend at Memorial House in Rehoboth, focused on Jesus' charge to be peacemakers. Using Biblical texts and the work of Dr. Robert Wicks, professor emeritus of Loyola Pastoral Counseling program, we explored accepting God's peace, making peace with ourselves, and being in peace with others. I am deeply grateful to Chris Pouch for his professional expertise in creating a moving meditation video, and to all the generous participants who shared their gifts and talents as we met in the sacrament of community.

My primary area of staff responsibility has focused on Christian education. I worked last year as a resource person for the online Sunday School program, and this year, worked with our faithful and active Sunday school teachers to discern a new curriculum, the Episcopal Children's Curriculum from Virginia Theological Seminary and to produce the materials and review the different age levels K-High School with teachers as we prepared for classes.

I am also an active team leader for our adult formation program which meets on Sunday mornings, *Sunday Circle*, working with the facilitators to discern and prepare presentations, to offer a wide variety of topics to widen and embrace our call to grow as Christians. This is an ongoing education program which is molded around the interests and gifts and talents of the facilitator teams, clergy staff, and outside speakers.

(continued)

I participated and led Bible Study classes on zoom in the past year, less so as we now have transitioned to a weekly hybrid model. I also participated in the Confirmation preparation for students and adults held on Zoom.

When my schedule allows, I enjoy joining the CEC Book Club which meets every Friday evening on zoom and studies a wide array of books speaking to the evolution of our spiritual journeys.

One activity I felt privileged to resource and design has been the liturgy for the 9 a.m. Family and Children's Service. Having spent a majority of my ministry as a Christian educator and Children's Chaplain, I really enjoyed researching and combining different resources to formulate a short, 25-minute Children's Holy Eucharist, using Episcopal, Lutheran, and Anglican sources. I have also invited parents and parish members to train as lay preachers at this service and have provided training and materials for their use.

As clergy staff, I serve on the Fellowship and the Worship Committees, working with teams of parishioners to plan and carry out the activities of these committees.

Another area of my ministry has been supporting the blossoming Refugee Ministry and, in particular, working with Ziba Mahmoud, the mother in our Afghan family who arrived last January, to practice her acquisition of English language skills. I meet with Ziba weekly, for 90-to-120-minute sessions, offering help with her homework for HOCO college classes, teaching English grammar and conversation as preparation for her moving towards employment and self-sufficiency. It has been pure joy to get to know the family and to have a small part in helping them to acclimate and settle into their new life in Columbia and the United States. My own time as an expatriate in both Saudi Arabia and Iran has helped create areas of cross-cultural familiarity. And, of course, Ziba, Anwar, Ijhaz, and Mati are gracious and caring in every encounter - even eating pasta we cooked together (and I subsequently discovered Ziba dislikes)!

Over the past year, I have offered pastoral care through the Pastoral Care Commission of our parish; visiting or calling parishioners at times of illness or death. In addition, with my professional background in pastoral counseling, I have offered individual pastoral care and counselling by appointment. Last Christmas, Kathy Lyon and I held a pre-Christmas workshop for those who were grieving, to facilitate ways to move through the holidays with a fresh start as well as honoring their loss and beloved family members.

I have offered grief counseling regularly to CEC members on request, as well as marriage counselling. These are necessarily solution centered and briefer therapy sessions, and I recommend outside resources where appropriate.

I also, as do the clergy staff, note congregation and staff issues and respond initially and then periodically 'check-in'.

As we progress in this year at CEC, I hope to use the gifts of my years of ordained ministry to further the witness and strength of Christ's own community, his beloved people. I am truly at home.

Thank you!
Marcia+

DEACON'S REPORT

Oh, the things we've accomplished in our shared diaconal ministry this past year! As I move into my third year here at Christ Church, I feel truly blessed to serve alongside such spirit-filled clergy and lay leaders—and thrilled we are flourishing in so many diverse ministries that serve the diverse needs of the world.

On the outreach front, I'm incredibly grateful to Patricia Fanning for her leadership and guidance of our many efforts that support those on the margins. The Outreach Committee's report offers many details about our endeavors across global, national, and local initiatives. This committee operates seamlessly, giving me full confidence in their work, as they serve as a model in our diocese for outreach ministry that truly enriches the lives of those in underserved communities near and far.

I'm also grateful to Cathy Whittaker and Mary Vail for their leadership of our Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) partnership. I encourage you to read the LEMS report for details about how this congregation has generously supported the children of one of our county's most-under-resourced schools.

Additionally, Kathy Lyon has well and faithfully served as Pastoral Care Commissioner for over a year now, ensuring we provide pastoral care to those in our congregation who are ill, injured, grieving, or in need in other ways. You can learn more from the Pastoral Care Commission's report. As Kathy recently transitioned out of this role, I offer a huge note of thanks for her dedication to and leadership of this ministry.

Perhaps the most-exciting development in diaconal ministry this past year lie in the Christ Church-led Refugee Ministry, an ecumenical effort in partnership with St. John's Episcopal of Ellicott City, Columbia Jewish Congregation, and Patapsco Friends Meeting (Quakers of Howard County).

With more than 50 ministry volunteers, we welcomed a refugee family of four from Afghanistan last December and have been helping them transition to self-sufficiency in their life here in the U.S. When we began the ministry, we had rich soil already in which to plant this seed. But the effort has grown a bounty beyond what I ever imagined it would, fostering the kind of deep, relational ministry that we are called to at our core, as disciples of Christ. Additional details can be found on the Refugee Ministry page online at https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/refugee-ministry.

As appreciative as I am for the success of all our ministry, I'm also keenly aware of how the needs of the world continue to grow, in the face of increasing violence, division, and injustice. The work of building God's kingdom requires many hands. I encourage *every* member of Christ Church, no matter how new you may be, to find a way to engage in diaconal ministry of some kind—as we are called to by our baptismal covenant. We need *everyone* to bring their diverse gifts to the table. No amount of time, talent, or treasure you can offer is too small—God uses all these for the good works he prepared for us to do.

Finally, I feel truly blessed to be part of Christ Church's clergy team and our dynamic staff, and grateful to Father Manny for giving me the opportunity to try new things and to be fully engaged in helping to lead and nurture our common life.

God's Peace –
Denise
deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org

WARDENS' REPORT

The Christ Church Vestry continued to meet online this year. Tim Beatty and Sara Kirkpatrick attended what all had hoped would be an in-person Diocesan Convention, but proceeded virtually again. We also ensured that the parish managed COVID protocols in accordance with Diocesan regulations. This summer, the protocols shifted from "pandemic" to "endemic," meaning that COVID is here to stay, that vaccines work, that most infections are manageable, and we may return to a less restricted way of doing things. We are thrilled that Sunday School and other learning opportunities have returned to in-person sessions!

One of the more important decision the Vestry made this year was to solicit donations for the Diocesan Reparations Fund. We set the donation goal at $10,000. Remember, only a few years ago we raised $80,000 for a new organ! This is really a modest amount given this parish's history of generosity. The Diocese is using this fund to award grants to groups like St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC) that we have already been working with, and whose director preached for us one Sunday in August. The idea of Reparations is to level the playing field and mitigate some of the institutional practices that have kept people of color from reaching their full potential. Remember, "a rising tide lifts all boats."

As a result of the Strategic Vision survey done last year, the committee made several recommendations. First was a new Mission Statement for the parish, "Extending the loving embrace of Christ." The survey also revealed the yearning of people to reconnect with others, so out of that came the idea for a short family service and a fellowship opportunity, now known as First Wednesday Fellowship evening. Both have already proven to be well-attended and we look forward to their continuing success. Thanks to all who worked to distill these ideas and put them into action!

We celebrated the return of our choir. A hearty thanks goes out to Len Langrick for his interim leadership and we welcome Larissa Sanders as our new Director of Music. The Women of Christ Church held a successful Flea Market for the first time since 2019. It was great to see everyone who turned out.

Of course none of this would be possible without our clergy, Fr. Manny, Rev. Marcia, and Deacon Denise. We welcome Seminarian Associate Mike Looney, and we continue to support Rebecca Warlow on her journey towards the diaconate. Thank you all for your service and leadership. Thanks also to other staff members, Aisha, Parish Administrator, Yetti, Ministry Coordinator, Todd, Youth Minister. And we can't forget all of our volunteers in the Altar Guild, Ushers, Choir members, Custodians, and many, many more. Thank you!

The Vestry members whose terms are ending are Greta Barnes, Jason Whong, and Lynn Foor. We thank them for their service and wish them many blessings in their future contributions to the life of the parish. Beginning this month, we are planning to return to in-person Vestry meetings, while considering how to incorporate online participation.

We have also been blessed with a number of newcomers and visitors over the past year. Welcome, we hope you find a church home with us. We also want to thank all parishioners who serve on commissions and in other ministries. You are crucial to the life of this parish! For both longtime members, those who have recently arrived, and everyone in between, please consider where the Lord is leading you and join a commission or ministry as part of your commitment of time, talent, and treasure. "Many hands make light work."

Sara Kirkpatrick, Senior Warden
Isaac Olajide, Junior Warden

LAY PASTORAL CARE COMMISSION

The purpose of the LPC Commission is to reach out and provide support to Christ Episcopal Church parishioners in their time of need. The Commission encompasses a variety of ministries that together give evidence that our Church community takes care of its members like family. Lay volunteers give of themselves to address both physical and spiritual needs.

The foundation of the LPC Commission is our **Prayer Group.** Volunteers in this ministry commit to praying faithfully on their own for those struggling with illness, injury, or the death of a loved one. Parishioners can request prayer for themselves or for family members or friends. The coordinated effort provides powerful spiritual support.

To go along with prayer, we have a **Cards** ministry handled by a single volunteer who makes her own cards for any occasion and mails them to parishioners on behalf of the Christ Church community.

To address a very practical need, our **InReach** ministry volunteers prepare and deliver meals to people who could use a break from cooking for reasons that include illness, injury, coping with a death or even caring for a newborn child.

For our **Keep In Touch** ministry, volunteers use telephone calls to connect with parishioners who are temporarily (or for the long term) unable to participate in worship services or activities at church. These personal contacts let people know that they continue to be a part of our community.

Baptism Preparation is another LPC Commission ministry. Lay volunteers work with the clergy to help parishioners who desire baptism (for themselves or for their children) prepare for this sacrament of initiation into the Church community.

Lay Eucharistic Visiting is a ministry offered for parishioners who are physically unable to attend church. Trained volunteers are commissioned during Sunday Eucharist to take communion to parishioners in their homes. Those who request this service are generally visited once a month.

In 2021, a small group of volunteers came together to begin a **Prayer Shawl** ministry at Christ Church. The members of this group started knitting colorful, soft shawls meant to be worn around a person's shoulders. After the first dozen shawls were completed, Fr. Manny blessed them during a Sunday Eucharist. Later they were distributed to ill and shut-in parishioners for the purpose of providing warmth and comfort. The shawls also reminded recipients that they remained in the thoughts and prayers of the people of Christ Church. This year, the group has continued to knit and distribute blessed shawls. Feedback for this ministry has been very positive.

The arrival of COVID-19 in 2020 forced the LPC Commission to put some of its ministries on hold. The only ministry that we have not yet re-started is our **Healing Prayer Station**, which happens at the back of the sanctuary after communion during Sunday Eucharist. A lay minister offers anointing with holy oil and laying on of hands for any parishioner who wishes to be prayed over. This ministry will soon be offered again.

The ministries of the LPC Commission rely on many hands to do the work of assisting others. Unfortunately, right now, there are too few active volunteers. I ask Christ Church parishioners who have not been involved to consider how they might help take care of others in our community. It is truly a rewarding experience. Just get in touch with Fr. Manny.

Kathleen Lyon
LPC Commissioner, November 2020 – September 2022

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

The Commission's theme for the 2021-2022 Ministry Year was **"Be one body in Christ, belonging to each other"** from Romans 12:5**.** We truly appreciated the response of Christ Church over the last year, with the enthusiastic support and participation in our programs, retreats, and publications. This is the 19th anniversary of the Spiritual Life Commission, which was launched in October 2003. We are so grateful for the support given by our Parish and this opportunity to serve.

Prayers of the People - Spiritual Life continues to coordinate the weekly Prayers of the People offered during our Sunday worship service and for the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The Prayers of the People are composed by a group of dedicated individuals in our congregation, who share their joy in liturgy and worship on over 40 occasions each year. This has been an ongoing ministry since 2006. New writers are really needed, welcome, encouraged and are provided guidance.

Family Weekend Parish Retreat - This 2-3day retreat usually occurs in early October sponsored by the Spiritual Life Commission and since 2008 was held at the DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth, Delaware under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. The 2021 Christ Church Rehoboth Retreat was held from 1-3 October and was led by Reverend Emmanuel Mercer and Deacon Denise Schiavone on the theme of 'Building our Congregation' with 20 parishioners attending. The 2022 Rehoboth Retreat was led by the Reverend Marcia Davenport on the theme of 'Be an Instrument of God's Peace' with 17 attendees.

Advent Quiet Day - This in-person retreat held on 4 December 21 and was a morning of peace, openness, and deep joy. There were periods of meditation, poetry reading and composition. It was led by the Reverend Kirk Kubicek, a past Interim Rector for our Church and currently Priest in Charge at Christ Church, Rock Springs-Forest Hills Parish.

Lenten Meditation Book - This has been an ongoing tradition since 2005. In 2021 for our theme **, "Be one body in Christ, belonging to each other"** we had a 91 page book with 85 meditations from 30 members of the congregation. We printed 100 copies of our booklet for our Parish. For the past 11 years, we have posted our meditations daily on the Christ Church website and FaceBook reaching thousands of individuals worldwide.

Lenten Reflection Day - This reflection time was led by the Reverend Marcia Davenport on February 12th. On the theme of 'Out of the Desert', a Lenten Journey, she shared with us beautiful Chants, music, stories, and incredibly insightful meditations. We had a sharing of life experiences, by those in our community and in our Parish. We had a group of 10-12 participating in this retreat due to the snowy blizzard.

Lenten Supper Series - ***5 Wednesdays in Lent*** - Spiritual Life organized a series of five in-person weekly lectures from : Rt. Reverend Robert Ihloff on 9 March, Reverend Richard Ginnever on March 16th, the Reverend Barbara Seras on March 23rd, the Reverend Freda Marie Brown on March 30th and our Rector, Reverend Emmanuel Mercer concluding the series on 6 April 22.

The Spiritual Life Commission 2022-2023 Theme - SLC met online on July 14, 2022 searching for an encouraging theme for the new ministry year 2022-2023. We entertained numerous Scriptural passages, from the Old and New Testaments with the themes of: Renewal, Strength, Joy, God's love and goodness, God's light, Spiritual Journey, Freeing your Soul and Closeness to God.

(continued)

We felt that it was best to work toward Peace in ourselves, our communities, our nation, and the world. That is why we selected the leading idea in the Prayer of St Francis- being instruments of God's peace. We thank our Lord for His continued guidance in our ministry and for the vital support of our Parish in our work to enrich our meditation and worship.

On-line Book Discussion Group

The Spiritual Life Commission sponsored 5 book discussions in late 2021 and through 2022. The books were**:** "Radical Hospitality" by Homan and Pratt, "Hope of Glory" by Meacham, "Why I Believe in a Personal God" by Archbishop George Carey, "The Dream of God" by Verna Dozier, and "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson. The book discussion groups were held on Friday evenings from 7:30pm-9:00pm via Zoom. The interest and response were excellent and future book discussions throughout the year are planned.

Ellen Hoke
Christ Church Spiritual Life Commission

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

We closed out 2021 with all our bills paid and sufficient funds left over to pay off our remaining loan balance and continue funding our reserves. This achievement was the result of our parish members continuing to provide us with their financial support and an effort by many in our church, to find ways to carefully manage our spending.

We began 2022 having restored our budget to what it was in 2019, though it has still been tight. We have a lot we want to accomplish this year and next and the list has only grown.

The Budget Committee started working on the 2023 budget in September, in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee's development of the Stewardship Campaign, now underway. We expect to have a balanced budget completed and approved by the Vestry by the end of the year.

Drew Eaton
Treasurer

OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

Your Christ Church Outreach Dollars at Work: Prayerfully distributing $16,000 from the CEC parish budget, plus more than $5,200 in contributions by parishioners. In 2022, parishioners' contributions include two large contributions by individuals of $2,000 for needs of Grassroots' Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Leola Dorsey Center and $1,000 for Bridges to Housing Stability.

As of Sept. 21, Outreach has distributed $12,250 of the $16,000 parish budget, has allocated (but not yet sent) to specific organizations a further $2,750, and will determine distribution of the final $1,000 as year-end needs arise. As with every year, the entire parish budget for Outreach will be distributed by Dec. 31. Of the $5,262 received as of Sept. 21 in parishioners' contributions, $4,442 has been distributed, with all distributions expected by year end.

Continuing Outreach's intentional giving **locally, nationally** and **internationally**, we report that 16 different organizations -- located as close as a mile away and as far as the other side of the world, and many places in between -- have received funding through Sept. 2022. Some long-term regulars, such as DreamBuilders, do not appear this year as a result of pandemic limitations.

Here are the **local**, **national** and **international** causes to which your dollars —and volunteer hours —are going in God's name:

- Local housing, utility and eviction needs (Bridges to Housing Stability, Community Action Council of Howard County, Salvation Army).
- Materials to support spiritual needs of incarcerated men and women at Howard County Detention Center (Christian Jail Ministry).
- Support for disabled adults in Maryland who attend Special Challenge Camp at the Claggett Center (Episcopal Diocese of Maryland).
- Food and essentials for our homeless and impoverished neighbors (Grassroots, Columbia Community Care, RISE, FISH, and CAC's Howard County Food Bank). The Food Bank was a new partner in our annual Thanksgiving drive.
- Medical supplies for homeless people locally and medical and dental care for residents of a remote area of the Dominican Republic (Grassroots' DRC at the Dorsey Center, Somos Amigos Medical Missions).
- Disaster relief in the aftermath of a hurricane in Puerto Rico, flooding in the U.S. and Pakistan, wildfires in Colorado, and war in Ukraine (Episcopal Relief and Development and UNICEF).
- Promoting digital equity and literacy through Friends of Sabina (FOS) by paying for the Sabina Primary School librarian's salary, internet access, and newspaper subscriptions. This enables the school library to function as a community resource center in the remote Kyotera District of Uganda.
- Supporting youth
    - Summer camps for West Baltimore children and for Mid-Atlantic youth whose families are harmed by the opioid crisis (St. Luke's Youth Center and Claggett Center).
    - Angel Tree Christmas gifts for pre-teens (Salvation Army).
    - Early childhood education and wraparound parental services (CAC).
    - Housing and physical and occupational therapy for disabled children and young adults (Philip's House in Uganda and CCD/Thailand).
    - Facilitating direct support for Sabina Primary School students whose families lack financial means for tuition and fees. FOS links nine students in Uganda with sponsoring parishioners, who communicate through an app or by writing letters.

(continued)

Here are some **in-person activities and interaction** that Outreach arranged in 2022:

- A representative of Bridges to Housing Stability delivered the sermon and spoke during Adult Forum on March 27.
- Representatives of St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC) visited on Feb. 13, hosted a field trip on June 10, delivered the sermon on Aug. 7, invited us to a presentation on Aug. 26, and launched a quilt raffle for the fall.
- Representatives of Friends of Sabina (FOS) reported on progress and interacted with student sponsors during Sunday Coffee Hour on Zoom on Aug. 21.
- Monthly meals for about 100 homeless neighbors at Grassroots' DRC at the Dorsey Center and Grassroots' Live-In Facility offered hands-on volunteering. We buy the highly-anticipated fried chicken, and prepare side dishes and desserts in our own kitchens, supplemented by bags of fruits and packaged treats for the pantry. At the DRC, in-person food service resumed for a crew of four to six volunteers that has been multi-generational. For the Live-In Facility's meal, parishioners who prefer limited personal contact simply drop off prepared or purchased menu items that are served by the facility's staff. Because Christ Church now provides meals for both locations on the same day, we make the most of our resources –including your time and talent.

And all of the above provided with love, respect, and prayers,
Patricia Fanning
Christ Church Outreach Commission

LAKE ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP (LEMS)

Once again, our parish has made a significant difference in the lives of students and their families at Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS), an under-resourced school in our community. Because of the generosity of individuals from Christ Church, we collected over $6,800 which we used to purchase school supplies for 125 students, contribute to spirit wear for the teachers, and provide a lunch for teachers at the beginning of the 2022 school year.

On July 30 we met to put notebooks, pens, pencils, scissors, earbuds, folders and all the other items on the required list in bags for 50 students. We packaged the remaining materials for 75 students in boxes so the teachers can access them as needed throughout the school year. On August 16, nine Christ Church parishioners loaded the supplies into their vehicles. We caravanned over to LEMS and, with the help of school staff, delivered the requested items well before the student orientation day. Eleven parishioners participated in one or both of these activities.

We have offered to assist LEMS further in the future. We may be able to resume after-school tutoring or engage with the families, such as supporting parent workshops, during the 2022–2023 school year. Melissa Shindel, the wonderful principal we worked with since the inception of this partnership, has moved to another school, so we will be establishing a relationship with Brian Wallace, the new principal.

Cathy Whittaker
LEMS partnership

WOCC: WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH

The WOCC provides opportunities for all women of Christ Church (ages 18 to 118) to serve God, our parish, community, and one another. We do so through in-reach, out-reach, and educational activities; designated fund raising; and fellowship. All women who attend Christ Episcopal Church are members of the WOCC and are encouraged to participate in our activities. Information about meeting dates and other WOCC activities is dispensed through the Sunday Bulletin, weekly Christ Church newsletters, and the Christ Church website: www.ChristChurchColumbia.org. Please keep an eye out for these announcements.

WOCC is continuing to hold our regular monthly meetings via Zoom. Traditionally we do not meet in July and August. However, during these months we hold meetings via phone and zoom to work on preparations for the annual flea market and craft fair which was held in September 2022 for the first time since 2019.

In our January meeting, we plan activities for the upcoming year. In addition to our regular monthly meetings, we held or to be held the following gatherings and activities

- Celebrating Women's History Month – visited the Maryland Women's Heritage Center, toured their new location at the Women's Exchange Building in Baltimore, followed by lunch
- Labyrinth walks in April at St. John's Episcopal Church
- Tea at Sweet Simplici-Tea in May
- Lunch and walks at Robinson Nature Center - Spring and Fall
- Annual Flea market and Craft Fair in September
- Christmas Lunch at Kings Contrivance Inn Restaurant (2022) (1st Sunday in December) - (decision to be made at our October meeting)
- Election of 2022 officers was held in November 2021: Rhonda Tomlinson, President; Cathy Gold, Vice President; Cindy Read, Secretary; Suzanne Ziobro, Financial Secretary; Mary Vail, Chaplain
- In 2021 we held a virtual Christmas celebration instead of an in-person luncheon. Many gifts were collected for the residents of Springfield Hospital
- Sent e-birthday cards to the women members whose birthday is on record at the church office.
- The Don Loewecke's and Dorothy Vaughn's family donated funds to WOCC to choose a memorial in their name. It was decided to purchase combination prayer/hymnal books for Old Brick. An appropriate book cart has been purchased to store the books. The combined prayer/hymnal books are to be purchased before the end of 2022.
- "Hats on for Moms": the women had two choices - either submit pictures of themselves wearing a hat in honor of Mother's Day or for those who attended the services in person on Mother's Day, participate in a group picture taken at each of the two services. The beautiful pictures were posted on WOCC's webpage on the CEC website.
- Supported Springfield Hospital by purchasing incentive gifts and large-print bibles for the hospital. Before COVID, some WOCC members, led by Cathy Gold, would visit the hospital, play games, and provide prizes. We look forward to resuming this outreach project when the hospital permits it.
- The WOCC stores important documents such as Bylaws, minutes, financial reports, event procedures, etc. on a special drive for WOCC.

The WOCC wishes to thank Fr. Manny, the Vestry, Aisha White, Chris Pouch, the congregation and all the wonderful Flea Market volunteers for your support and help with our many events.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhonda Tomlinson - President, WOCC

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During the 2021-22 program year, Sunday school was held on Zoom. There was one multiage class that used the Weaving God's Promises curriculum. The average attendance was 10 students with 4 teachers who took turns leading the class.

For the 2022-23 program year, Sunday school has returned to an in-person format. There are 2 classes: Primary (Preschool - Second Grade) and Intermediate (Third - Fifth Grade). Classes are held in the Lower Level of New Brick from 9:30 AM - 10:15 AM most Sunday mornings. We currently have 6 Sunday school teachers who lead classes on a rotating basis.

This year, we are using a new curriculum. The Episcopal Children's Curriculum (ECC) is a thematic Sunday school curriculum tied to the seasons of the church year. It was developed by the Center for the Ministry of Teaching under the direction of the Rev. Locke E. Bowman, Jr. and Amelia J. Dyer, Ph.D. Our focus this year is the Shell Year and includes lessons on the Old Testament, New Testament, and Baptism.

The Sunday school committee also plans special activities such as the Christmas Pageant and Lenten Mite Boxes.

We welcome all children to join our classes! Additionally, more teachers would be greatly appreciated. The curriculum is very user friendly and the kids are a joy! If you have any questions, please contact Jenn Atkins (dandjatkins@verizon.net).

Jennifer Atkins
Christ Church Sunday School

CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

Youth Group provides opportunities for community service, social activities, and engagement with other youth from around the Diocese. These events strengthen peer bonds outside and inside the church. 2022 Was a great year for the youth group. We had to meet over zoom for most of the year but that didn't stop us from having some great events that the students were able to bring their friends to. We were able to take over 30 students to Hershey Park as well as smaller events like a lock in at the church. We had a bowling night, a miniture golf night, and much more. Looking to the future, we will continue to have monthly events for the students to bring their friends to. It's the hope that with these events, students feel comfortable to invite friends to the events but then feel empowered to invite their friends to Sunday school. Because of covid, this last year has been a rebuilding year. Allowing the students to make Sunday school a time for them to learn about God and grow. The students have also had opportunities to attend confirmation classes and do some Acolyte training. We will continue to allow the students to have some ownership for Sunday school and have input on what they are learning. We went from having two to five students on our zoom calls to, now meeting in person, having over ten on a Sunday morning. The future is looking bright for the youth group at Christ Episcopal Church.

Todd Domer
CEC Youth Group

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

As we do work for God's house, we don't dwell on or stress over what we cannot get done. We celebrate what we do get done.

Our Commission assists the Vestry and Father Manny with any work that needs to be done in the Rectory, New Brick, Old Brick, Parish Hall, and all grounds. We coordinate volunteers or contractors to do the work and try to set long range goals to prepare for future work.

We currently meet monthly via zoom on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm to help organize our work. This year's goals include:

- Recruiting new chairpersons to lead this Commission
- Coordinate 8 work days or ½ days to get miscellaneous chores done
- Coordinate repairs to Old Brick (applied for a grant) to fix the roof, improve the electrical system and install wi-fi.
- Improve the lighting outside
- To repair the windows and doors of Old Brick
- To build our reserves to allow driveway repaving within 5 years ($100,000 estimate)
- To expand and strengthen our committee to help keep the cost of improvements down while also strengthening our church community.

We have a lot of fun and fellowship while we work and strong feelings of satisfaction and work for people of all skill levels. If you would like to join in, let George or Jan know - Jan DeBoissiere (jdeboissiere@gmail.com) or cell: 410-440-0363 and George Toth getoth@verizon.net; cell: 256-505-7750; home: 410-995-0451

Jan DeBoissiere and George Toth
Co-Chairs of Buildings & Grounds Commission



VESTRY CANDIDATES FOR 2022

in alphabetical order

W. DENISA ABDALLAH



Hello,

I've been a part of our Christ Episcopal Church family since 1999 and I welcome the opportunity to run for Vestry. I'm 59 years old and work for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as an attorney. I was born in Guyana, South America, and raised in the Catholic faith. When I met Ayub, he was a member of Christ Church and I joined him at a couple of Sunday services. I was struck by the diverse and welcoming community. We were married at Christ Church 21 years ago and our children (Kofi, 18, and Setutsi, 16) were both baptized here. Over the years I've helped with various duties – Godly Play, Sunday school, and as a teller but I am looking forward to taking on a more active role now that our kids are older. I'm excited to be running for Vestry but if I am not elected I still intend to find other ways to be active as I realize there is always work to be done in our Christ Church community.

Thank you for considering me.

JOHN CURLEY



John is delighted to be considered for the vestry at Christ Church. He has attended Christ Church for the last four or five years with his newly wedded wife Olubunmi. John and Bunmi were married on April 2nd at Christ Church and honeymooned on the beautiful island of Santorini. John and Bunmi have lived in the Columbia area for many years and have four children ranging from the ages of twenty-three to thirty years old. That includes Dele, Kemi, Matthew, and Alex.

John has spent a lifetime volunteering, for example, he was a pastoral visitor for a decade at the Howard County General Hospital and on occasion would visit the Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. He served under the director of volunteer services at HCGH and was trained by Chaplain Jack Dunlavey. John works for the United States Department of the Treasury as an executive coach, delivers leadership classes, and finds fulfillment volunteering as a certified mediator. He served on a non-profit board of 1500 members as treasurer, attended bible studies held by Chaplain Black in the US Senate, and visits St. John Church when in town. John loves to work out at his local gym, kayak, swim, surf, and hike. He especially loves authentic African cuisine!

SIMONE KOLNIK



Greetings Christ Church Family. My name is Simone Kolnik, I am a Christian, and member of Christ Church.

My family began attending services almost 30 years ago in Old Brick and grew with the church as it transitioned to New Brick and through leadership over the years. It all started with my mother and beloved late grandmother, then my parents and siblings, to my own wedding and holy baptism of our first child right here at Christ Church.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I enjoyed attending in-person services and serving as an usher or delivering prayers for healing as part of the ministry. As a lover and firm believer of God, Christ Church has been a cherished home during my faith (and life) journey and I have many fond memories of holidays, gatherings, events, and moments spent here. I am happy to have recently been invited by Rev. Manny to help with Sunday School breakfast.

I most value the peaceful space to pray, reflect, and worship God along with the meaningful lasting relationships and connections I (and my family) have built with other members. We miss our church family, seeing the smiling faces of people we love, sharing the peace, and exchanging warm hugs and updates.

As an event producer and Communications professional, I thrive in developing and leading events for the community. I value serving others to the glory of God and creating memorable experiences or opportunities for people of all ages to connect with others. My experience and skillset may support the logistical, creative, and outreach needs of the Vestry. In my profession, our organization has deeply leaned into action for social justice and racial equity locally and beyond. I would also contribute well in this space as Christ Church facilitates conversations and takes action toward the same goals in our community.

It would be an honor to serve God and His people as a member of the Vestry.

Thank you and blessings,
Simone Kolnik

RAY LYON



I have been a member of Christ Church for approximately three years. During this time, I have served as a member of the Refugee Ministry to help relocate our Afghan family. Prior to joining our parish, I served as the Head and member of the Finance Committee for the previous church we belonged to and did so for approximately ten years. In addition, I was a Corporator of that parish where I served in a position similar to being a member of the board of directors.

I am currently retired and worked in banking for approximately 41 years. My education includes a Bachelor of Arts degree from John Carroll University (1975) and a Master's Degree of Science in Finance from American University (1989). My wife, Kathy, and I have been married for 40 years and have two children and a granddaughter.



WE ARE ALL STEWARDS
OF OUR BELOVED CHRIST CHURCH

Because of your genuine and overwhelming acts of selflessness, kindness, grace, compassion, and love, you continue to give immensely to support and build our common life at Christ Church. You inject life into Christ Church so that we may be able to serve the world. It is your giving that has made it possible for us to accomplish some of the work that God has given us. The truth is that we have been able to minister and serve countless people because of your faithfulness, and for that, we thank God for each one of you and thank God for what God is doing in your lives.

We also want to thank ***YOU***. Your faithfulness is what makes life happen at Christ Church. Your faithfulness makes Christ Church stronger. Your faithfulness enables Christ Church to embrace, with courage, the task that God has for us. We need to remember that Christ Church is completely dependent on this faithfulness.

TEXT GIVING: You can now give securely and conveniently by using your mobile phone! Simply text ***CECGIVING*** to **73256**, and you'll receive a secure link to our page where you can set up a one-time or recurring gift.

ONLINE GIVING: You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing towards your annual pledge or another offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our overview page for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

THANK YOU.



Christ Episcopal Church
6800 Oakland Mills Road
Columbia, MD 21045
(410) 381-9365
www.christchurchcolumbia.org
office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*
Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*
Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*
Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*
Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*
Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*
Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Vestry

Sara Kirkpatrick (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
Tim Beaty • Jan DeBoissiere • Alfred Titus-Glover • Lynn Foor • Greta Pike-Barnes •
Jason Whong • Jane Adams • Diane Phillips-Laguerre • Beth Johnson • Andrea Leeman