

Christ Episcopal Church

Extending the Love and Embrace of Christ

Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

The Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Sunday, October 20, 2024 | 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!

Opening Hymn 535 | Ye Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

Paderborn

1 Ye ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 God rul - eth on high, al - might - y to save;
 3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne!
 4 Then let us a - dore, and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad his won - der - ful Name;
 and still he is nigh: his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud, and hon - or the Son.
 All glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

the Name all - vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol:
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 and hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

his king - dom is glo - rious; he rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fa - ces, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er - ceas - ing and in - fi - nite love.

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.**

Gloria S 280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

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, forever and ever. **Amen.**

The people may be seated.

A Reading from Isaiah 53:4-12 |

Reader: A reading from Amos.

Surely he has borne our infirmities
and carried our diseases;

yet we accounted him stricken,
struck down by God, and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions,
crushed for our iniquities;

upon him was the punishment that made us whole,
and by his bruises we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray;
we have all turned to our own way,

and the LORD has laid on him
the iniquity of us all.

He was oppressed, and he was afflicted,
yet he did not open his mouth;

like a lamb that is led to the slaughter,
and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent,
so he did not open his mouth.

By a perversion of justice he was taken away.
Who could have imagined his future?

For he was cut off from the land of the living,
stricken for the transgression of my people.

They made his grave with the wicked
and his tomb with the rich,

although he had done no violence,
and there was no deceit in his mouth.

Yet it was the will of the LORD to crush him with pain.

When you make his life an offering for sin,
he shall see his offspring, and shall prolong his days;

through him the will of the LORD shall prosper.
Out of his anguish he shall see light;

he shall find satisfaction through his knowledge.

The righteous one, my servant, shall make many righteous,
and he shall bear their iniquities.

Therefore I will allot him a portion with the great,
and he shall divide the spoil with the strong;

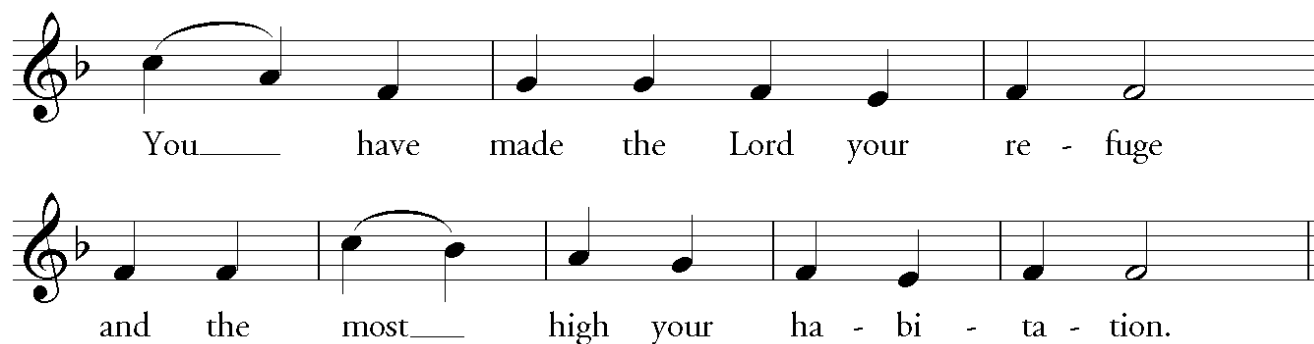
because he poured out himself to death,
and was numbered with the transgressors;

yet he bore the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalms 91:9-16 | *Qui habitat*



Because you have made the LORD your refuge, *
and the Most High your habitation,

There shall no evil happen to you, *
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over you, *
to keep you in all your ways.

They shall bear you in their hands, *
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

Antiphon

You shall tread upon the lion and adder; *
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent under your feet.

Because he is bound to me in love,
therefore will I deliver him; *
I will protect him, because he knows my Name.

He shall call upon me, and I will answer him; *
I am with him in trouble;
I will rescue him and bring him to honor.

With long life will I satisfy him, *
and show him my salvation.

Antiphon

Reader: A reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews.

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;
as he says also in another place,

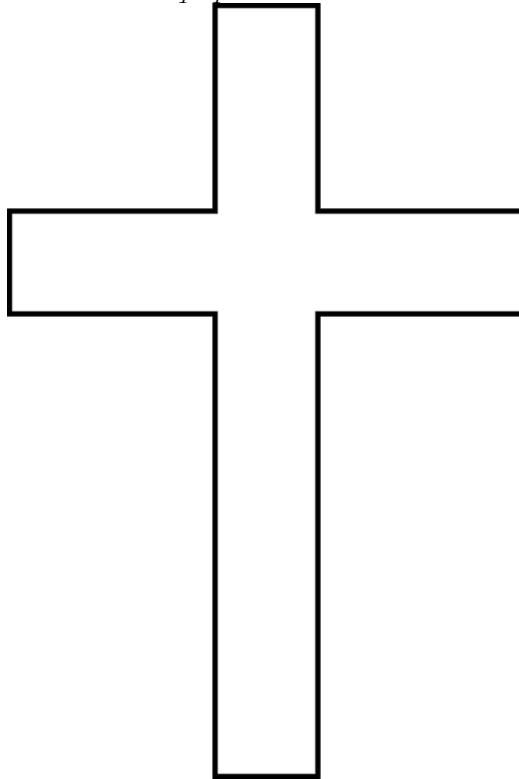
“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

***People:* Thanks be to God.**

The people stand as able.



Chorus

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show
us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.

1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2 Neigh-bors are rich and poor, neigh-bors are black and
3 These are the ones we should serve, these are the ones we should
4 Lov - ing puts us on our knees, serv - ing as though we were

Repeat Chorus

feet, white, love. slaves; Mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
All are neigh-bors to us and you.
this is the way we should live with you.

The Gospel | Mark 10:35-45

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People: **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to Jesus and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?” And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?” They replied, “We are able.” Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John. So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Lead me, Lord, lead me in Thy right-eous-ness,

Make Thy way plain be - fore Thy face.

Optional Ending

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou, Lord on - ly, that

mak - est me dwell in safe - ty.

The Nicene Creed |

All:

We believe in one God,
 the Father, the Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth,
 of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
 the only Son of God,
 eternally begotten of the Father,
 God from God, Light from Light,
 true God from true God,
 begotten, not made,
 of one Being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation
 he came down from heaven:
 by the power of the Holy Spirit
 he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
 and was made man.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the Prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People |

Lord, grant us your grace to continue in works of faith, labors of love, and constancy of hope. May we experience joy through the Holy Spirit touching our souls and through service to a living true God. **We praise Christ for the gift of His Presence**

We pray for Christ Church today as we: celebrate our Stewardship, elect new Vestry members, review the past year's accomplishments, and set goals for the future. Our Parish is blessed with a caring Rector, clergy, staff, and dedicated laity who worship and work together. We also lift up in prayer the worldwide Church, the hands of Jesus on Earth: to reduce poverty, provide treatment and prevention of disease, house the homeless, care for abandoned children, provide for prisoners, assist refugees, and end violence. In the Anglican Communion, we remember the Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda. In the Diocese of Maryland, we pray for our sister parishes of: Ascension, Westminster, Holy Comforter, Lutherville, and Immanuel, Glencoe. We also ask the Lord's blessing for: Michael, our Presiding Bishop, Sean, our Presiding Bishop-Elect, Carrie, our Diocesan Bishop, Emmanuel, our Rector, our assisting Clergy, Marcia, our Postulants: Kiona, Rebecca, and Mike, and for our Retired Rector, Richard. **We praise Christ for His Guidance and Truth**

Lord, we pray for those who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit, especially Jay, Ronald, Andrea, Dolores, Edvon, Kitzel, Claudia, Sarah, Rachan, Ian, Ron, Jerry, Kristin, Kim, Sabrina, Jim, Erica, Marilyn, Carolyn, Mary Ann, Barbara, Cindy, Tim, Sherry, Roberta, Samuel, Ashley, Alta, Mildred, and Nell. We ask that they be restored to health and wholeness. We are so grateful for the love and care provided by nurses, physicians, friends, and family on the long journey to recovery. We especially remember those who have been injured in the fire in Jigawa, Nigeria. **We praise Christ for His healing touch**

We remember those who have entered the realm of Heaven and share eternal life, especially Iquo Aribiah, Ed O'Connor & those lost in the fire in Jigawa, Nigeria, and those you now name. May light perpetually shine upon them. We comfort those who grieve their loss. **We worship Christ in His Holiness**

We warmly welcome all visitors and newcomers to our Parish. We hope you have been encouraged by our prayers, music, and fellowship and shared in our Communion. Your presence has enriched us, and we hope that you return. **We joyfully share the love of Christ**

We rejoice in the celebrations this week of the birthdays of Amisha, Gavin, Nicholas, Jenny, Fran, Nancy & Ellen, and the baptismal anniversaries of Andrew & Diana in our congregation. We are blessed to mark these special occasions in the lives of our family of faith. **We thank our Lord for His goodness and mercy**

Jesus reminds us that we are living in two worlds, one ruled by man and his government and one everlasting kingdom of God- the material world and the spiritual world. Our material wealth is subject to human laws. The fate of our souls is subject to Divine law. **Let us proclaim the Greatness of our God**

Confession of Sin |

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.
Amen.

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.

Passing the Peace | I Love You with the Love of the Lord

Jim Gilbert

**I love you with the love of the Lord,
Yes, I love you with the love of the Lord.
I can see in you the glory of my King
And I love you with the love of the Lord.**

Welcome and Announcements |

THE HOLY COMMUNION



Please scan to give.



Doxology Hymn 380 (v. 1) |

Old 100th

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Eucharistic Prayer A |

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.**

Celebrant: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth...

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho-ly, ho - ly, - ho-ly, ho - ly - ho-ly - Lord God - of hosts -

- Heav-en and earth - are - filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san-na in - the -

high - est - ! Bless-ed is the One who - comes in the name - of the Lord, -

- of the Lord - Ho - san - na - in the high - est, Ho - san-na

in - the - high - est. -

Celebrant: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant: After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

All: Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Celebrant: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer |

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All: **Our Father,**
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of the Bread |

Celebrant: Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Fraction Anthem LEVAS 270 | Lamb of God

Marjorie Landsmark-DeLewis

organ



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world: have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Communion Hymn LEVAS 154 | Taste and See

James E. Moore, Jr.



Taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord. O
taste and see, taste and see the
good - ness of the Lord, of the
Lord.
1 I will bless the Lord at all times.
2 Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me. To -
3 Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo-ple.



Post-Communion Prayer |

Celebrant: Let us pray.

All: Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing |

*The Celebrant offers a blessing and the People respond **Amen.***



Lead— me, guide— me, a - long the way,

For— if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord,— let me walk each day with Thee.

Continued

Fine

Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

The first system of the musical score. The vocal line is in B-flat major (two flats) and 4/4 time. It begins with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment consists of a right hand with chords and a left hand with a simple bass line. A fermata is placed over the final Bb4 note of the vocal line.

1. I am weak and I need thy strength and power to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

The second system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A fermata is placed over the final Bb4 note of the vocal line.

1. help me o - ver my weak - est hour; Help me
2. aid when sa - tan and sin op - press; I am
3. blind with - out thy light to see; Lord, just

The third system of the musical score. The vocal line continues with a half note G4, followed by a half note A4, then a half note Bb4. The piano accompaniment continues with chords and a bass line. A fermata is placed over the final Bb4 note of the vocal line.

1. through the dark-ness thy face to see,
 2. put - ting all my trust in thee.
 3. al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

D.C.

1. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 2. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.
 3. Lead me, Oh Lord, lead me.

Dismissal |

The Celebrant dismisses the people, who respond:
Thanks be to God! Alleluia, Alleluia!

Postlude |

*Today's altar flowers were donated in honor of Alex Amponsah's birthday
 by his family.*

PERMISSIONS | *New Revised Standard Version Bible*, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in United States of America. All rights reserved. Used by permission. | Book of Common Prayer, 1928 & 1979, Church Publishing. Public Domain | Music/texts under copyright are reprinted and broadcast by permission under OneLicense.net #A-701378 | Holy, Holy, Holy, from *A Mass for a Soulful People*, Grayson Warren Brown

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Lector/Reader: Joan Harvey

Ushers: Jo Emily Knox, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Eva Oladipupo, Hope Oladipupo

Acolytes and Crucifer: Ainsley Couch, Alex Opiri, Jasmine Opiri

Chalicians: Joan Harvey & Dione Mahoney

Altar Guild

Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente, Sarah Mugo

Teller

Cathy Gold, Leanne Sheriff

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 20 TO OCTOBER 26

Sunday, October 20

10:00 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, upper level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Annual Meeting Potluck – New Brick, lower level
12:00 pm	Annual Meeting – New Brick, upper level
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:15 – 5:45 pm	Sundays at Three Concert – New Brick, upper level
1:30 – 4:00 pm	EFM – Parish Hall, conference room & Zoom

Monday, October 21

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, lower level
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Zoom

Tuesday, October 22

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting – Zoom
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom

Wednesday, October 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Adult Children of Alcoholics – Parish Hall, lower level

Thursday, October 24

8:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Howard County Homeschool – New Brick, lower level
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Virtual Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:45 – 7:30 pm	Handbell Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, upper level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, lower level
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club – Zoom

Friday, October 25

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
5:00 pm	Event Rental Setup – New Brick, lower level
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream
7:00 – 9:00 pm	“Darwin’s Dilemma” Movie Screening – Parish Hall, lower level
8:00 pm – 12:00 am	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick

Saturday, October 26

12:00 pm -	WOCC Kittamaqundi Lake Walk & Lunch
12:00 – 10:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, lower level
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, lower level
4:00 – 7:00 pm	Event Rental – New Brick, upper level



*Because he loves me," says the Lord, I will rescue him; I will protect him,
for he acknowledges my name.
He will call upon me,
and I will answer him;
I will be with him in trouble,
I will deliver him
and honor him.
With long life will
I satisfy him and
show him my salvation."*

Psalms 91:14-16



The 35th Annual
Christ Church
AUCTION
"An Evening in Paris"

ONLINE AUCTION:
October 26 - November 1

SILENT AND LIVE AUCTIONS:
Saturday, November 2

VIEW THE
CATALOG!



Auction! Auction! AUCTION!
One Week Away!

The Online Auction Begins Saturday, October 26

GET READY!

And don't forget to join us for the big event - the Great Hall doors open for the in-person silent and live auction on Saturday, November 2nd at 6:30 p.m.

We're looking for people to help provide refreshments for the event, so if you can bring an appetizer, dessert, or drinks, please visit our sign-up sheet at tinyurl.com/CEC-2024AuctionRefreshments.

Have any questions?

Email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org and let us know!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

To submit announcements, email to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

For a digital copy of this service leaflet with working links, etc., visit the main page of our website,

or visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/worship-archive

THIS SUNDAY: Annual Meeting, Vestry Elections, & Potluck Lunch

We will host our Annual Meeting and Vestry Elections this Sunday, October 20th. We begin with our only service for today, held at 10:00 a.m. in New Brick. Following that is a potluck lunch, our Annual Meeting, and the Vestry Elections. Please be sure to join us or stay after church; since it's the day that we review our past year's ministries and activities while making plans for our leadership in the coming year, it's one of the most important gatherings of the year.

No Formation this Sunday

All adult, youth, and children formation classes are suspended this weekend and will resume next Sunday.

Stewardship 2025

We are so blessed to have a community of dedicated parishioners who support our ministry of faithful service, and we hope that each parishioner will prayerfully consider their contribution to Christ Church. You may pick up a pledge card in the Narthex to complete, or you can safely complete one electronically on our website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/pledge-2025

Church Office Closed - Monday

The Church Office will be closed next Monday, October 21st, and reopen on Tuesday, October 22nd.

Centering Prayer – Monday Evening

Centering Prayer is a weekly evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God and a more powerful experience of God's presence in our lives. This active presence heals, transforms, and offers freedom and peace. We are a hybrid gathering, so be with us in Old Brick or online via Zoom at 7 p.m. on Monday evenings. The Zoom link is here, the Meeting ID is 875 9496 3596 and the Passcode is Centering! You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church, or by emailing centering@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Choirs – Thursday Evenings

Thursday's a busy night of music! Children's Choir rehearses from 6-7 p.m., Handbell Choir gathers from 7-7:30, and Adult Choir rehearses from 7:30-9 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, or if you have any questions, please speak with Larissa or email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org.

***Darwin's Dilemma* Film Screening - October 25**

Frequently described as “the Cambrian Explosion,” the development of these new animal types required a massive increase in genetic information. “The big question that the Cambrian Explosion poses is where does all that new information come from?” says Dr. Stephen Meyer, a featured expert in cellular biology. The film interviews numerous scientists providing evidence that the creation of novel genetic information requires intelligence, and thus the burst of genetic information during the provides convincing evidence that animal life is the product of intelligent design. Join George Toth in the Parish Building Theatre (lower level) at 7 p.m. next Friday.

If you have a film that you'd like to share with others and screen at Christ Church, email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org and let us know.

WOCC Nature Walk - October 28

Come walk through the colorful autumn leaves at Lake Kittamaqundi on Saturday, October 26th, beginning at 12 noon. Bring your lunch and we'll enjoy some conversation before setting out. Lots of other events coming up, too! The WOCC calendar is posted in the Narthex in New Brick and on our website and contains all the fun events planned. Speak to any WOCC member or email WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org if you need more info. And mark your calendars for the next WOCC meeting, on Monday, November 4th at 7:30 p.m. This is a hybrid meeting (in person and on Zoom), so join us any way you can.



Taizé: In Praise of Peace - November 3

The Sunday before Election Day is our November Taizé worship, which will center around the vital importance of peace. We will pray for the people of this nation: for acceptance, for healing, and for reconciliation. We'll ask the Lord to bind and unite us in the bonds of democracy, help us in our quest for justice, truth, and liberty, and remind us to engage with one another not with hatred or bitterness, but with love. This is a very special service each month that could not come at a better time in November, so we invite everyone - no matter where you might sit on the political spectrum - to gather and share in this prayerful gathering of peace and unity.

First Wednesday Fellowship - November 6

November's FWF will be a costume and pasta party that celebrates Halloween/All Saints' Day, so come decked out in your fun Halloween getup! There will, of course, be a prize for the best costume, so get yours ready! And be sure to bring their leftover Halloween candy to share with others. See you there!

Please Support the Rector's Discretionary Fund

We want to thank those of you who have helped replenish the Rector's Discretionary Fund. The RDF typically helps fund - among many other things - rental assistance, gas and electric bill aid, financial support, mortgage assistance, and transportation needs. As you know, the needs of those in our community are always present - there are real people with real needs that we support on a consistent basis, so we appeal to you to consider supporting the RDF in order for us to help our neighbors. Visit our main Online Giving Form and select "Rector's Discretionary Fund" from the *FUND* dropdown menu if you'd like to help.

Help Us Plan Christ Church's 300th Birthday

The new landing page for the 300th Anniversary celebrations is live on our website, so visit www.christchurchcolumbia.org/300 and see how we are gearing up for a year-long series of special gatherings, activities, and parties! Please bookmark it and check for updates often. It's still early days, but committees are already taking shape and making plans. We are always looking for more people to provide their input and would love to have you join us. This celebration is a massive milestone for our church, and we encourage everyone to consider being a part of this historic occasion.

Communion to You

In an effort to connect more directly with those of you who are local and worship virtually, Christ Church offers Communion to You, an opportunity to have altar gifts delivered to you or made available for pickup at the Church Office. If you want more information, [please complete this form](#) or [email](#) the Church Office.

Altar Flowers and Gifts

If you would like to present altar flowers and gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on any upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and 2023 sign-up sheet at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltarflowers>. 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.

Christ Church Sends Disaster Aid to Victims of Hurricane Milton

As Hurricane Milton made landfall on the west coast of Florida on October 9th, the storm unleashed multiple tornadoes on the east coast. At least 14 people have lost their lives and many others are suffering through power outages and destroyed properties. The massive storm, whose damage is depicted in [satellite imagery by the National Ocean Service](#), hit while people were still recovering from Hurricane Helene.

[Episcopal Relief and Development](#) (ERD) asks that we join in praying for all of those harmed, sharing these [Hurricane Season prayers](#).

ERD collaborates with faith-based and community-led organizations in hard-hit places. "Our hearts go out to the people who have been affected by Helene and Milton. We are continuing to work on responses that were already underway due to Helene, and are adapting and creating new plans in collaboration with dioceses to meet new needs," said Katie Mears, Senior Technical Specialist, Disaster Risk and Resilience, in a [statement by ERD on Oct. 10, 2024](#). Christ Church quickly responded in Milton's aftermath. Members of the Outreach Commission this week approved a \$750 contribution to ERD, which follows a \$500 donation to ERD last month. Its president and CEO thanked Christ Church for helping Helene's survivors: "Monetary donations like yours in the first phase of a disaster give affected communities more agency and flexibility, and boost the local economy," wrote Robert W. Radtke. "As the stages of this disaster progress – from rescue to relief to recovery – people's needs will change, and we are prepared to assist them. Thank you again for your compassionate support and prayers. At times like these, I am especially amazed at this community's deep sense of generosity and goodwill."

Christ Church also responded to Hurricane Helene by donating \$500 to Global Refuge, which was helping 600 immigrant families in Florida. A leader of that nonprofit organization, formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, expressed gratitude directly in a phone call to an Outreach member.

These are the latest humanitarian aid donations by Christ Church. Earlier in 2024, Outreach approved giving to UNICEF for humanitarian aid in Sudan and to ERD to help U.S. wildfire survivors. Before that, two donations went to World Central Kitchen to help victims of Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean and to feed displaced people in Gaza. These are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Heartfelt thanks go out to one and all who make this possible.

Help Families in Need by Filling the Altar Basket, our FISH Bin on the Breezeway

If you missed the food drive or remain concerned about people going hungry in Howard County, this is a reminder to donate non-perishables weekly to [FISH of Howard County](#). You can put groceries and/or toiletries in the basket at the altar in New Brick or a marked yellow bin on the breezeway between Old Brick and Parish Hall. FISH provides committed support to select families in need. The neighbors you help give thanks for all you do in their support.

Columbia Community Care Needs Diapers, Recruits Volunteers of All Ages

Columbia Community Care (CCC) has lengthened its pantry hours, now held on Wednesdays from 11:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., in hopes of attracting youth who can earn community service credits at their public schools by sorting supplies. Also teens can help at upcoming events that CCC is sponsoring. Find options on the CCC Facebook Group.

People of all ages can volunteer at the pantry, located in the rear of the Long Reach distribution site at Long Reach Village Center, Suite 107, 8775 Cloudleap Court. Also, please consider volunteering at that site on Saturdays from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. or one of the other locations: Wilde Lake Interfaith Center, 10431 Twin Rivers Rd., and The Barn at Oakland Mills Village Center, 5853 Robert Oliver Place. Go online to learn how to volunteer. Those who need groceries and other necessities can find information by going online to “Get Help” on CCC’s website. CCC continues to request baby-care items and diapers, especially sizes 4-6. Put these along with sanitary and personal care items and adult diapers in the yellow bin, marked “CCC,” inside the Parish Hall. Drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open or on Sundays. The Christ Church point of contact is Leigh Smith, who monitors the bin and delivers items.

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.



**To pledge to Christ Church for 2025, please visit
<https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/pledge-2025>**

You can 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.

You can also continue to pledge and give to Christ Church online. It's a safe and secure method of contributing toward 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

Stewardship is our personal response to God's generosity in the way we share our resources of time, talent, and treasure. Stewardship reflects our commitment to making God's love known through the realities of human life and our use of all that God has given us. It is also our service to God's world and our care of creation.

Thank you very much for your support of our vital common life.

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING 2024

AGENDA

- I. Opening Hymn: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing*
- II. Prayer
- III. Quorum Established
 - a. Appointment of Secretary and Tellers
- IV. Rector's Address
- V. Reports to the Meeting
 - a. Wardens' Report
 - b. 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 Prayer
- XI. Closing Hymn: *Now Thank We All Our God*

**VESTRY CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES ARE LOCATED ON
PAGES 59 - 63**

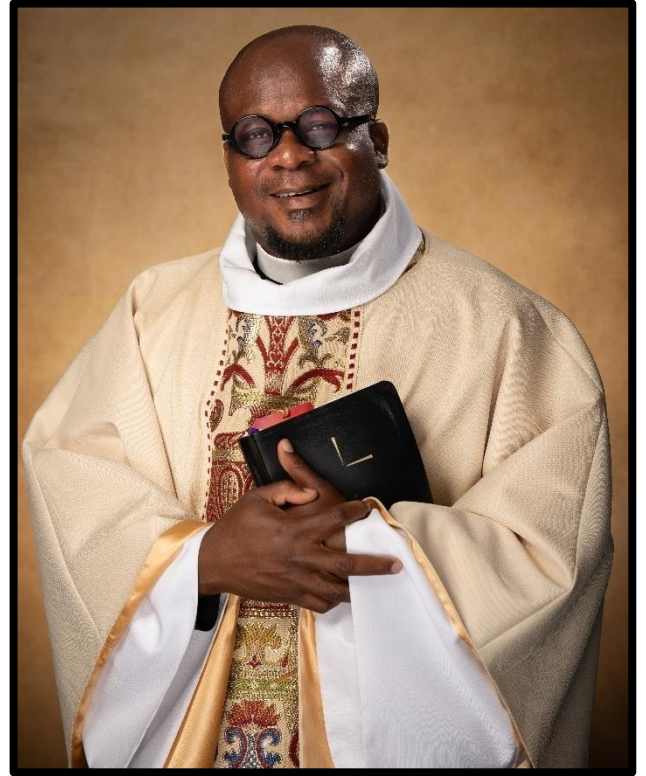
REPORT FROM OUR RECTOR

Reaching Out in Faith

Mark 5:30

The Past Year

It has been a magical year, and I give grateful thanks to God for God's sustaining presence and grace. I often wonder about how blessed I am to be in such a magnificent parish. Our Christ Church congregation is not only magnificent, but it is a wonderfully thriving congregation of which we must all cherish and be proud of. I personally know a lot of parishes who want to have even half of our energy and enthusiasm, or even half of the ministries that happen here at Christ Church. Someone once remarked that if you want to see how busy this parish is, wait for the announcements. The announcements, by themselves, sometimes lasts as long as the sermon. I love that, and I love it because it tells of the vibrancy of this place and opens the door for others to find their niche within this congregation.



I am proud of the mission and ministry of this congregation. Every clergy person who visits this parish, whether from the diocese or elsewhere, speaks highly of the joy that is literary felt within this holy space. The transformational ministries that occur here are amazing and joyful, and I want you to be proud of the work that we all do here. And not only that, but I also want you to be thankful as well. I invite you to offer grateful thanks to God for such an amazing place that serves as our spiritual home.

The past year has been both an inspiration and a challenge. I, for one, derive deep inspiration from my daily interaction with parishioners, whether by phone call, text messages, emails, or seeing you on campus or elsewhere. The thought of knowing that I walk together in faith with you, and that together in faith we can touch and change our own lives and those of others.

The challenge has always been about how to better serve you. I love serving you. I love service. I love the call of discipleship. And for me, my only desire is to give my all through serving you by serving God. For that reason, I must constantly challenge myself to serve joyfully, a little humbler, and a little harder than I served the day before. For me, every day is an opportunity to do my absolute best as a disciple - serving you.

Sabbatical

This year, I was blessed to take a sabbatical. I have one more month left that I will be taking in mid-November. But I had a wonderful time of my life traveling around and exploring beauty and evil. During Lent next year, we will offer an Adult Forum gathering, *Faces of Evil*. One of my sabbatical goals was to reflect on how, despite the human capacity to design and build some of the beautiful things in the world, that same human being is capable of the most egregious evils of which you can think. Beyond that, I had the time to relax and be with family and friends, and I am thankful to all of you for allowing me the space to do that. It would interest you to know that this was my first sabbatical after 25 years in ministry. I am glad I took the time off, and I am thankful to all of you for providing me with the space to do so, so I can better serve you in the future.

(continued)

Center For Spiritual Nourishment

Several months ago, I spoke to Michael Looney, our Seminarian Associate, about beginning a Center for Spiritual Nourishment, and expressed my desire to have him take the lead on it. The establishment of the CSN is in response to the dearth of spiritual development offerings available in this parish. The goal was to help each parishioner take his spirituality seriously, and to deepen that spirituality. Ours was to offer an amazing experience which will cut across many disciples offering a variety of opportunities for each parishioner to experience or learn something different and new. It has been an incredible journey, and I am grateful to Mike, and the team he assembled, as they work with him in planning and nurturing this seed.



The Center now meets on the second Saturday of every month, and the goal is to establish some consistency to achieve effectiveness. I led my first CSN session on October 13th, holding a conversation on spiritual practices.

The reality is that different parishioners have unique needs, but the one thing we all need is to enrich the depth of our spiritual lives. Seeing the Center grow will take on a life of its own, but it remains my major priority that we continue to build on this important work. My hope is that many of you would take some time and explore what the Center has to offer you. I think you will be immensely impressed with the richness of diversity, the openness of the programs and, most of all, the desire to see each one of you grow. We offer a spiritual path for you to explore, and my hope is that you will be open to having us help you in walking that path.

Pastoral Care

One of the ministries that I care deeply about is Pastoral Care. From calling parishioners, emailing parishioners, or texting parishioners to check on them, I value the personal experience that pastoral care offers. Apart from my personal outreach to check on parishioners, I encourage and lead the Christ Church Vestry members to also make calls to parishioners. It is important for each parishioner to know that they are deeply cared for by the clergy and leadership of the congregation.

Our Lay Pastoral Care Committee, which used to be one of the high functioning engines of our parish before COVID, has not yet been able to recapture that energy. This is not for lack of trying, but it is because things have changed - but the care that people need has not. We simply must adapt, and one of the goals for this coming year would be to lead the team in adapting to the changing landscape of caregiving within the parish.

I am immensely grateful to John Curley who, as the Chair of the Pastoral Care Committee, is helping to revamp this important ministry. Many are the parishioners who send email updates about parishioners who need prayers. We all owe them sincere appreciation for their work.

An important part of our work is the Lay Eucharistic Visitor. These are parishioners who take Holy Communion to other parishioners who are homebound and thus cannot participate in worship. We send them out on Sunday to share in the blessing of the Eucharist with those who cannot join us. We are also grateful to them for their ministry.

Worship

Worship is at the center of our common life - there is not one thing that we do that does not involve some form of worship. Our worship defines who we are and, for me, the gift has always been to offer as many worship opportunities as possible so we can all stay connected with the God of our being. I find great fulfillment in the Eucharist. It is that one meal we all partake in as our token to remember with thanksgiving the salvation that has been secured for us. It feels humbling to celebrate the Eucharist. It is the gift that keeps on giving-not that we deserve that gift, but that it continues to be freely given to us.

The good news for me is that for over two thousand years, Christians around the world continue to celebrate this simple feast. It tells of the simplicity of the gospel.

Beyond the Eucharist, we offered Jazz Vespers, and now we offer Taizé Vespers on the first Sunday of the month through the program year and every Sunday evening during the season of Lent. What a blessing it has been to quietly sit, hear the music, sing, pray, hear poems, meditate, light a candle, and hear devotion from others. One of our parishioners, Greg Schuckman, said to me after the service on October 6th, "I wish many of our parishioners know the qualitative value of this rich worship experience." His observations are sincere, and I totally agree with him. I wish every parishioner would take the time to experience this worship. It is my prayer that as many of you would lean into the idea of gathering for our different worship experiences. They all help deepen our faith in God and grow our spiritual lives.



Mission and Outreach - Discipleship

I am reminded of the words of Jesus to the young man who came to inquire about what he can do to gain eternal life. Jesus told him about that one thing he lacked: "Go, sell all that you own, give the money to the poor and come follow me." Unfortunately, he could not do that one thing that Jesus said he lacked. But for many in this congregation, we have not only taken on the mantle of discipleship, but we have expanded it in ways that we never thought possible.

One of the ministries that continues to excite me is the Refugee Ministry. It is such an incredible testament to the power of faith. I remember its modest beginnings and the explosive ministry it has become. This ministry now involves many churches and people of different faith traditions working to support five different families. If I had listened to those who felt that we did not have the financial wherewithal or the volunteer bandwidth to pursue this ministry, we would not be celebrating a ministry that is changing lives in our very eyes. I was told that during the last Food Drive, a member of the family joined our parishioners in soliciting food for those who are hungry within our community.

Now, what better testimony beats that? When you are touched by kindness. When you are transformed by kindness. When you come to believe in the power of kindness. When you wake up to the reality of kindness. When you are shaped and informed by kindness. All you want to do is to be kind and to be transformed by another life through kindness. A disciple is one who believes in being dispossessed - and so can live a life of kindness.

Before that recent Food Drive at Giant Supermarket, our first refugee family joined us at Christ Church as we bid farewell to Deacon Denise. They gave moving and powerful testimony about Deacon Denise, and offered their heartfelt thanks to you, our parishioners, for all the ways in which you have blessed and transformed their lives.

What has been amazing to watch is the fact that many of our parishioners who felt that they had done their bit and were ready to simply worship, were so moved by this new ministry that they became re-engaged. It is a joy to see the excitement on their faces as they help support the lives of these families.



Ministry and discipleship provide all of us with a deep sense of purpose - because you know that the little action that you are taking is changing someone else's life, and someone is benefitting from the decisions that you are making.

That Food Drive, which supported Howard County Food Bank, is a wonderful inter-generational ministry. What moves me during moments like this is the joy that I see on the faces of parishioners. Remember, what I hear when other clergy come to visit - especially when I was on sabbatical - was the joy that permeates this holy place. That joy is palpable, and even when we are engaged in difficult tasks, tasks that we otherwise would not do, there's always that sense of joy that is so visible on each person's face.

It is that same joy which sustains this place, because we look at service, ministry, and discipleship not as a burden, but as a calling. And we follow Christ - not out of chore, but because we are excited about the good news that has changed our lives, and we want other lives to be changed as well.



Three Hundred Year Anniversary

Beginning in the fall of 2027, Christ Church will begin a year-long celebration of our 300-year anniversary. This is a magnificent milestone for our congregation and for the larger church as well. Just think about it - three hundred years ago, people of faith gathered on these very grounds to express their faith in God and to live out that faith in ways you and I can never imagine. Despite the daunting challenges that they faced, and the challenges that the church has faced over the years, Christ Church still stands strong because of faithful people like you who sowed the seeds, and faithful people like you have continued to water the seeds over the years.

We have formed several committees to help us with the planning of this unique celebration. Some of our committees have been strong and diligent in their approach to the celebration. Others, not so much just yet, but the good news is that it is not too late for us to take charge. One of the thoughts that has recently come up is to hold a community-wide meeting so we can explore different events to honor and celebrate this occasion.

My hope is to invite all parishioners to a meeting on November 10th after the 10:30 a.m. service, and we can think about different events that we believe can help us honor our ancestors and celebrate the work that they did.

I believe, very strongly, that we should all be immensely proud of this milestone and pull our resources together to celebrate this anniversary. We have lots of talented people within this congregation who can help with the planning and coordination.

Part of our task going forward, as we think about this milestone, is to also think about the legacy that we want to leave for future generations. Over the past several months, we have had conversations about our legacy. We are not settled on any idea yet, but it is my hope that we will work together to discern what God is calling us to do in this part of God's kingdom. I am not under any illusion that this would be easy, but my unclouded vision is to make sure that as a community we leave a legacy for future generations.

My focus would be to galvanize us to redevelop our campus.

A few months ago, when Jan DeBoissiere, John Curley, and I attended the College of Congregational Development, we had the opportunity to visit All Saints in Frederick, Maryland, to learn about that church and its mission within the city of Frederick. That church has some beautiful history. But one of the interesting stories we



learned was that the church paid their last installment of a mortgage they took to build a parish hall and offices to enhance their ministries.

If as individuals, we can take a mortgage to buy homes for ourselves, what stops the church from doing so? I have heard several stories about the last mortgage we took to build New Brick. Many of our parishioners have shared several stories about that experience and they believe that as a church we should not go down that route. That is perfectly reasonable, but I believe that if we are smart with what it is that we want to accomplish and are equally smart about the best and viable way to do it, we should not have any problem with that.

My goal is to crank up our legacy and fundraising committee so we can get to work and present the congregation with some ideas about what it is that we can do to ensure that we have a legacy that will serve the community, but also ensure that we have the necessary funds to support ourselves in the many years to come.



Parish Life

We have a remarkably busy parish life. I sometimes get lost among the myriads of things that go on in our parish. One of the benefits of the strategic planning sessions that we undertook a couple of years ago has been the re-engagement of parishioners. I am eternally grateful to Jenn Atkins for leading this effort. She has been supported by Mother Marcia and others in the planning of our First Wednesday Fellowship dinners. On one of those Wednesday dinners, instead of meeting at the church, we all went to an Orioles game. That was a wonderful time for many of us. It is my hope that we will continue this practice and consider adding other games as well. Crab Fest has been another remarkable part of our common life. Although I missed this year's Crab Fest, my understanding is that it was the best - great food, fellowship, and lots more.

One of the offerings that Mike began this past year, Theology on Tap, has slowed a little bit, but I hope that we will resume the practice of this engaging monthly get-together. It is a wonderful time to fellowship with other parishioners in a casual and enjoyable social setting.

Our Wednesday Evening Lenten Series has always been fantastic, with a wonderful blend of speakers. It was especially marvelous to have our former Diocesan Bishop, Eugene Sutton, conclude his tenure in Maryland with a visit to Christ

Church to launch our 2023 WELS series. This year was vastly different because we had the benefit of Small Delusions serenade us with music. I am very grateful for Small Delusions and their talents, glad that everyone loved the music provided by them, and I hope that this practice will continue.

For the second year in a row, we were able to offer a Health and Wellness Fair at Christ Church. What a magnificent way of reaching out and showing concern to your neighbors that their health is important to us. Sincere appreciation to Bunmi, Diane, Lisa, Ron, and all of you who are involved in this ministry. I am glad we were able to offer it, and I hope that we will have more people walk through our doors to seek information about their health.

WOCC - I celebrate the Women of Christ Church for their constant and never-ending support of our common life. Many are the wonderful and great ministries that you all have supported and continue to support. Your signature event, the annual Community Flea Market and Craft Fair, is always special. This year's Flea Market was not an exception - for me, events like that are not so much about the quantifiable returns, but rather the fellowship that is made possible.

MOCC - This year has been quite different for the Men of Christ Church. I am grateful to Duane for taking on the task of leading this group. The monthly breakfast meeting has been one great way of getting to know each other and building some relationships, and I am looking forward to our annual dinner gathering in December.

These are but a few of the many life-giving ministries that continue to shape our parish life. I am so thankful to our many volunteers that contribute so much to make life at Christ Church beautiful, nurturing and life-sustaining.

Staff

We have had the benefit of having a small but mighty staff. It has been great working with this caliber of talented people who give their best. One of the things that I refrain from doing is to count the number of hours that our staff put into their work, because that scares me, frankly. The reality is that our staff overwork every single day, week, and month, to make sure that everything runs smoothly for us all.

There are times that I look at the output of our parish and compare that with several other parishes - some our size, others bigger than ours. And I implore you to do the same. What you will come to find out is that with the resources that we have, we are able to do exceedingly more.

Mother Marcia continues to be an incredible asset to us at Christ Church. I am thankful for all the many gifts that she shares with this congregation. Although she can be challenged by her age, that really does not stop her from doing the things she does to help support our common life. Over the past year, she started the Education for Ministry (EfM) program and is actively mentoring all the students in the class. She has helped us tremendously with the 9:00 a.m. service. The children love her for her grandmotherly approach to worship and the creative ways in which she engages them. At our last Vestry Meeting, Mother Marcia was honored with Associate Rector Emeritus of Christ Church, for her long years of voluntary service to this community of faith. We all owe her a deep sense of gratitude for her ministry.

Deacon Denise - Although she is no longer with us, we feel a deep sense of loss over her departure. She brought an amazing gift of pastoral leadership to this community, and in my absence, took charge of this congregation and with the support of the Wardens and lay leadership, led this congregation with grace and a deep sense of commitment. Her absence is deeply felt but we are grateful for the many years that she spent with us.

Kiona - This year, Christ Church was able to send to of our youth on a Mission Trip to Kentucky, thanks to the effort and drive of our Director for Youth and Family Ministries. Kiona has been a fantastic addition to the parish. She has ably led the youth and recruited many parents and adults to be part of this important ministry. She continues to give of her best. Although she is ¼ time, she puts in more than those ten hours each week. A few days ago, she organized a Sports Festival. That was a magnificent day for all those who were able to make it. Everyone had fun. I am sure you

will all share in my joy that Kiona will be ordained a deacon in December and a priest in the summer. I pray that we will all give her our best wishes as she transitions from being a lay to being ordained.

Michael - His enthusiasm and zeal for the gospel is palpable. Mike's gift of ministry at Christ Church has been wonderful. From beginning the Theology on Tap, beginning a worship community at Vantage Point, and taking on the request to help us begin a new Center for Spiritual Nourishment, Mike has been able to walk and chew at the same time. Mike does not spend as much time with us as he used to because he is taking the year off to focus on his Clinical Pastoral Education at Anne Arundel Medical Center. Mike involvement at Christ Church is limited to leading the Center for Spiritual Nourishment, preaching and leading Vantage Point. He is still under my supervision, and it is my hope that Mike will return to Christ Church after his Clinical Pastoral Education internship.

Larissa - Christ Church's music continues to grow because of the tireless efforts of Larissa. We have been able to offer variety of worship experiences such as Jazz Vespers or Taizé Vespers, and the Christ Church Music Ministry, under the leadership of Larissa, has been able to provide us with more to celebrate. During the Christmas holidays, she led us to different homes of our in-bound parishioners to share the joys of the season with them. And on our high festal days, we had the blessing of great music to support our worship. It is my belief that music is critically important in worship, and so we must always provide the choir with the resources that it needs. One of our new challenges is that since our services are livestreamed, we must make sure that the music is good. And I am thankful that Larissa has been leading the choir. Last year, Larissa began this ministry of offering a recital in appreciation for all your support to Christ Church. Larissa and her friends will be holding a recital on November 9, so please come and support her and our Music Ministry.

Ola - A few months ago, Ola became the Assistant Organist at Christ Church, supporting Larissa. Ola has a deep passion for music and for the organ, and I am thankful that he has brought his gifts to support Larissa in providing great music to enrich our worship. Ola's skill and zeal at the organ is highly commendable, and I honor him for his support and dedication to the music ministry of Christ Church.

Chris - I am not exactly sure what I can say about Chris without embarrassing him. One of the staff members who works so hard - and not only that, but overwork - is Chris. He works more than 40 hours a week - which is many more hours than what we pay him for. His job responsibilities have risen astronomically since COVID, and our growing, busy life contributes to that. Every parishioner who calls him with an issue gets a prompt response and a solution to their problem. I am grateful for his dedication to Christ Church and to our shared ministries. I am thankful for the many years of service that he has often freely given to us. The truth is, if Chris were to charge the market rate for the services that he renders, it would be extremely difficult for us to keep him. Nonetheless, I am so thankful for his extraordinary service to Christ Church.

Aisha - Hard-charging, extraordinary staff member. Most of the time, Aisha works more than 40 hours. Her main goal has been to serve you, the members of Christ Church, with a deep sense of dedication and grace. It does not matter to her which ministry needs her help; Aisha will attend to that ministry and make sure that the event is a success. Aisha handles Christ Church's business with great skill and competence, and I am grateful for all that she does for Christ Church. She makes all our lives a little easier.

Yetti - She has shown great dedication to Christ Church over the many years that she has been a staff member. She is the face of Christ Church on Sunday mornings, working and making sure that things run smoothly and that each of us - and those online - have a wonderful worship experience. Yetti continues to be a great asset to this community of faith, and I am grateful for her ministry.

Amanda - has been one of the longest serving staff members in my tenure. She has been a dedicated colleague and has provided an environment of welcome to all the children who use the nursery.

Nytia - the second and supportive hand in the nursery. Thank you for all your work and care for the children who use the nursery, Tia.

John - has been a fantastic addition to the Christ Church community. As our Sexton, he works hard to keep the sanctuary and offices clean and ready to welcome each of you. I am incredibly grateful for all the work that he does here at Christ Church.

Many of you may not know some of our staff members, but I am proud to say these are some of the best people in the world, and their love for Christ Church and our mission and ministry means a lot to me—they are the real MVP's who make our lives a little more comfortable, and I sincerely thank them for their commitment.

Stewardship

I am always, always grateful to God for each of you for your gift of time, talent, and treasure. I cannot count the number of volunteer hours that you all commit to helping our church be what it is. It is inspiring to see many of you commit yourself to our mission and ministries—and the important thing for me is that you all do it with a deep sense of joy and pride. You have committed yourself to the work of this place because of our belief that God has called each of us to do God's work—and you do it with all joy.

There is no way that we could do all the work that you help us to do without your joyful support. As always, we need more than enough of you to sign up as a volunteer in many of our ministries. We still need new hands to help.

This year, we have been working with the Canon for Development in the diocese of Maryland to help us with our Stewardship Campaign. Thankfully, we have launched our campaign, and we look forward to November 3, which is our Stewardship Sunday. Our goal is to raise \$600,000 in pledges. This is an ambitious target, but I have no doubt that we have the capacity within this congregation to raise that money in pledges to support our common life.

Pledges are investments that we make to support our own spiritual growth and nourishment. More than that, they express our belief in God and through it we acknowledge that all that we have is given to us by God. For that reason, we give of ourselves in appreciation for what has been given to us.

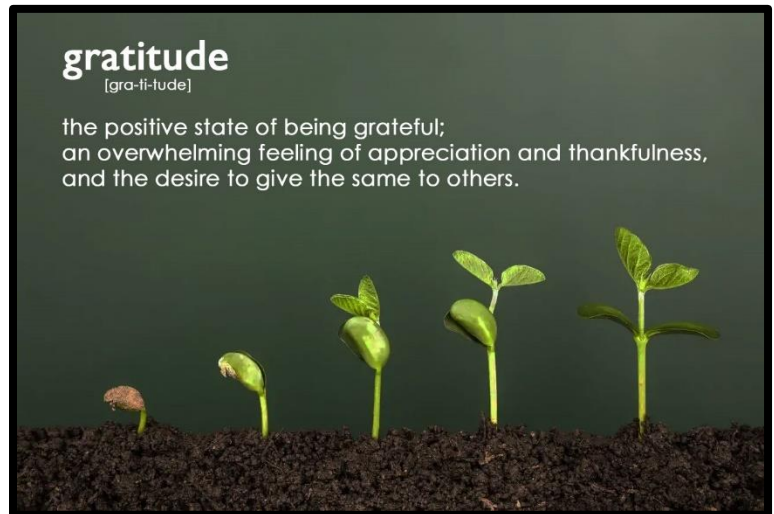
As always, we will be counting on each one of you to feel invited, to believe that you do have a stake in the life of this congregation and that your support is critical to the life of this congregation.

Reimagining: Looking Into The Future

Sabbaticals are meant to be joyous moments but it takes some real readjusting when one returns from a sabbatical. I am even worried about taking the second part in mid-November. Over the past several weeks that I have been back, it feels like I am in this mode of learning, unlearning, and relearning. It is taking me more time to readjust. But I am working on it.

I have taken on a new challenge - a program on Spiritual Journey. It is an interesting program, and I believe it will help me serve you much better - especially now that we have a Center for Spiritual Nourishment.

As I look into the future, I invite you to join with me and ask yourself, where do you want to see Christ Church in the next 5, 10, or 15 years? I have no doubt in my mind that you want to see Christ Church flourish, thrive and be a beacon of hope and transformation within this city and beyond.



We must reimagine the future-listen to Proverbs 'Without vision, the people perish.' We are invited to be visionaries and that would take a significant effort on all our parts. My goal is to have us connect New Brick and Old Brick, with a new parish hall with commercial kitchen, meeting rooms, children and youth rooms and offices. That would be part of our legacy to the future members of this church, and so we would be working on that, and you would be hearing more about that in the days and weeks to come. The good news is that it will take all our efforts - our time, talent, and treasure - to make this happen, and so Christ Church would be counting on you as we re-imagine this future for our children and grandchildren. This is such an exciting time for Christ Church, and I am so pumped up and I hope you are as pumped up as I am.

I give thanks to God and to all of you for your faithfulness. You have all been so good and kind to me and my family and words cannot capture my sense of gratitude. I am and will always be eternally grateful to you. Thank you.

I would like to conclude with these words from Paul to the Philippians: ***"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things."***

I know you think about these things, and I am glad you do. May God continue to bless you - my faithful disciples.

With Blessings,

Manny+

revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

WARDENS' REPORT

Issac and I are retiring as Wardens after two years and are feeling the bittersweetness of wishing we had accomplished more while feeling relief. Wardens work very hard to attend lots of church activities and services, diocesan events and meetings. We support ministries and Vestry in their work and, of course, support Father Manny in his planning and work. We counsel each other and counsel Father Manny almost as much as he counsels us. We've prayed more in the last two years than I've probably prayed in my life before becoming a Warden. Our praying is often as a group but also privately as we seek God's guidance in our work.



We are so very grateful for everyone's support, ideas and willingness to step into tasks and roles when we reached out for help. I've often heard church members say that it seems it's always the same small group that does most of the work at church but in my experience it's been over a hundred volunteers that I've had the pleasure to work with: Sunday School teachers, volunteers of all ages who support our worship services, people who stay and clean up after events or who plan them and make them happen, people who volunteer to fundraise and those who serve so many through our many outreach ministries, those who garden or clean our grounds and repair our broken equipment, the youth who lead us in worship and serve us meals or delicious baked goods. And don't forget those who pray for others and bring food or hand-made gifts of comfort to those who are grieving or caring for others who are sick.

This church is filled with so many loving hands and feet working to fulfill our baptismal covenant. We are truly a FAITH-FILLED and GENEROUS congregation. You are a blessing in our lives, and we look forward to working with you in another capacity as we retire from Warden duties.

Jan DeBoissiere, Senior Warden & Isaac Olajide, Junior Warden

wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org

MUSIC MINISTRY

The goal of the Music Ministry at Christ Church is to enhance our worship services and the spiritual life of our church. Over the last year, our music ministry has been very active in doing this. At our 10:30 services, there is a variety of music presented every week. Our handbell choir presents a musical selection on a monthly basis. The singing is led by our adult choir from September through early June. The choir has benefitted from the addition of four professional singers who read music and can serve as anchors to the volunteer choral singers around them. We were again joined by The Leister Quartet for Jazz Eucharist on the 5th Sunday of the month throughout the last year. During the Christmas season, our music ministry was joined by a string quartet for our Lessons and Carols service and a brass quartet for our Christmas Eve services. On Easter Sunday, our full choir, brass quartet, and timpani made our Easter celebration the most joyous of the year.

During the Lenten season, Christ Church offered a Taizé Vespers series featuring music from the ecumenical Taizé community of France. Due to the popularity of these Taizé Vespers services, we began to offer a monthly Vespers service on the first Sunday of the month. After a break for the summer, we are bringing back the monthly Taizé Vespers service on the first Sunday of the month.



This summer, we combined our Children's Choir Camp with Vacation Bible School. During the week, the children sang, played instruments, and learned some hymns. We finished the week by singing a musical offering the following Sunday. We hope to continue making music with the children this year during our 9am Family Service and at the start of Faith Formation on Sunday mornings.



We have so much musical talent in our congregation. Ola Oladipupo has generously shared his music at the organ as our Assistant Organist. Kiona Lookingbill, Sam Jackson, and Diane Phillips Laguerre worked with our teen members to provide music for our Youth Sundays. Jan DeBoissiere, JB Hanson, Shannon Pruitt, and Patrick Frith led us with guitars and vocals for several services over the last year. Our Palm Sunday service started out with a lively procession led by Jim Schempp on bagpipes. Our liturgical dance group, Lumen Christi, collaborated with the choir for a very beautiful Survivors Sunday service.

Music is such an important part of the life of the church, and we look forward to more participation from members of the congregation in our ensembles or sharing instrumental music. As we continue to open up our doors to music teachers and other local groups for their recitals and concerts, we hope they will continue to return to share their music with us during our services.

Larissa Sanders

Director of Music

music@christchurchcolumbia.org



In 2021, a small group of volunteers began 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. Later they were distributed to the ill or shut-in parishioners to provide warmth and comfort. The shawls also reminded recipients that they remained in the thoughts and prayers of the people of Christ Church. Feedback for this ministry has been very positive.

Meal preparation and delivery are provided to those who are ill or have recently returned home from a hospital visit. This ministry stays at the ready to assist at a moment's notice.

The Healing Prayer Station 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 was restarted in 2024 and will be offered again in 2025.

With the many ministries offered, LPC is exploring how to increase effective communications across CEC seamlessly to meet the parishioner's needs as well as to automatically document those we serve for process improvement. A Realm group chat will be created by December 2024 and LPC quarterly meetings will follow.

The ministries of the LPC Commission rely on many hands to do the work of assisting others. Right now, there are too few active volunteers. I ask Christ Church parishioners to consider how they might help take care of others in our community.

This ministry is truly a rewarding experience.

Respectfully Submitted,

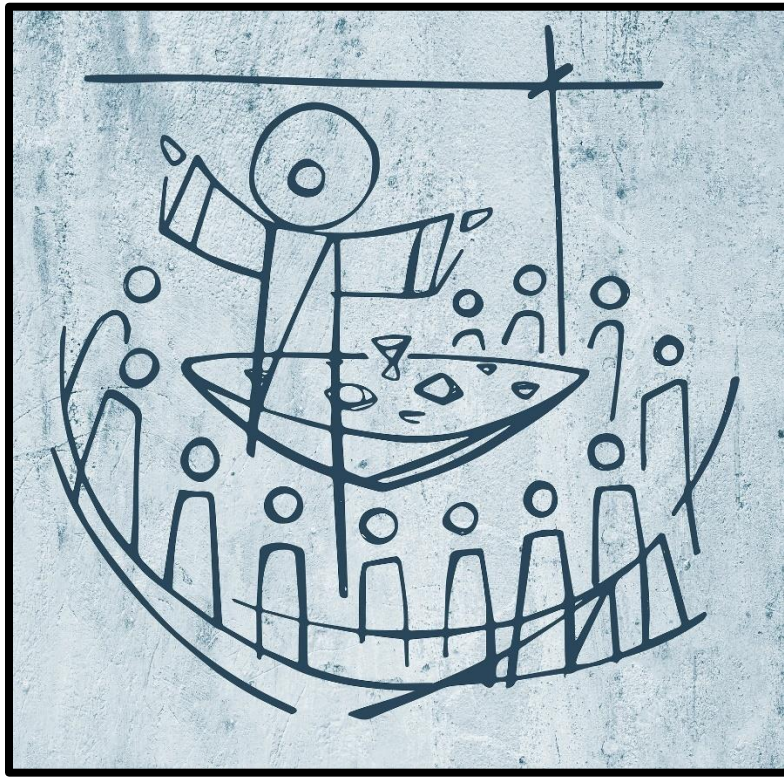
John Curley

LPC Commissioner

pastoralcare@christchurchcolumbia.org

SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

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. The Spiritual Life Theme “Be a Joyful Gift to Others” for the 2023-2024 Ministry Year was from Romans 12:6-8. We truly appreciated the response of Christ Church over the last year, with the enthusiastic support and participation in our programs, retreats, and publications.



Prayers of the People

Spiritual Life continues to coordinate the weekly Prayers of the People offered during our Sunday worship service and for the celebrations of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The PoP are composed by a group of dedicated individuals in our congregation, who share their joy in liturgy and worship on over forty occasions each year. This has been an ongoing ministry since 2006. Please join us - new writers are very much needed, welcome, and encouraged, and we will provide you with guidance.

Morning Prayer

The broadcasts of Monday and Tuesday's Morning Prayer each week are provided by the Spiritual Life Commission. You can find these on our Facebook page and our website at 7:00 a.m.

Family Weekend Parish Retreat

This three-day retreat is sponsored by the SLC and since 2008 has been held at the DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth, Delaware under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. The 2024 Christ Church Rehoboth Retreat was held from May 3-5, and was led by the Reverend Marcia Davenport on the theme of *Be a Joyful Gift to Others* with 15 parishioners in attendance.

Advent Quiet Day

This in-person retreat was held on December 2, 2023, and was a morning of peace, openness, and deep joy. There were periods of meditation, poetry reading and composition. It was led by Carol Abbott, a Spiritual Director who has recently joined our congregation from her previous home in California. Thank you, Carol.

Lenten Meditation Book

This has been an ongoing tradition since 2005. In 2023-24 for our theme, *Be a Joyful Gift to Others*, and we had a 63-page book with 61 meditations from thirty members of the congregation, as well as a Daily Office with readings for every day during Lent. We printed 150 copies of our booklet so that parishioners could take a copy home and use it any time they wished. For the past 11 years, we have posted our meditations daily on the Christ Church website, Facebook, and Instagram, reaching thousands of individuals worldwide.

Lenten Reflection Day

This reflection time, a Christ Church tradition, had to be cancelled on February 17th this year, due to a snowstorm.

Wednesday Lenten Supper Series - 5 Wednesdays in Lent

Spiritual Life organized a series of five in-person weekly lectures from the Rt. Reverend Eugene Sutton on February 21st, the Reverend Earl Mullins on February 28th, the Reverend Richard Ginnever on March 6th, the Reverend Barbara Seras on March 13th, and our Rector, the Reverend Emmanuel Mercer, concluding the series on March 24th. Many people gathered with us in person and online via Zoom.

The Spiritual Life Commission 2024-2025 Theme

SLC met online on July 16th, searching for a meaningful theme for the upcoming 2024-2025 ministry year. We entertained numerous Scriptural passages, from both the Old and New Testaments. After much prayer and discussion, we felt that ***Reaching Out in Faith*** in ourselves, our communities, our nation, and the world said it best. 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. You can learn more about the coming year's Spiritual Life Theme on the Christ Church website - www.christchurchcolumbia.org/spiritual-life-commission

CEC Book Club Online Discussion Group

The Spiritual Life Commission sponsored five book discussions in late 2023 and through 2024. The books were: *Faith* by Jimmy Carter, *The Nine Essential Things that I have Learned About Life* by Harold Kushner, *Care of the Soul* by Thomas Moore, *How to Know a Person* and *The Road to Character* by David Brooks, and *Madness* by Antonia Hylton. 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

SLC@christchurchcolumbia.org

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY 2024 REPORT



Education for Ministry (EfM) invites the people of God to discern and act in faith through small group reflection. It is a program of practical theology based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, and play. It is that vocation we pray for at the end of the communion service: “And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.”

The unique method of learning in EfM is based upon the Oxford/Cambridge Tutorial Model utilized within a seminar group of 6-12 participants. And there is no doubt that this program requires a rigorous commitment of time and emotional and spiritual energy.

A year ago, a small group of eight members of Christ Church parishioners (seven plus a mentor) embarked upon that four-year program of study and theological reflection. Seven of us participated in person and one virtually. By the end of our first year, we finished with six participants and our mentor. And two of the six decided that they were unable to make the commitment to continue the program at this point. We applaud their involvement during the year - they provided such unique perspectives to the program. We will miss you!

For the 2024-2025 year, we are back to eight, including our mentor. This year, in addition to our Christ Church participants, we have one member of St. John’s Ellicott City who has joined our group. Because of the program’s cyclical nature, individuals may begin their studies during any calendar year of the four-year cycle. We have four members in the second year of the program and three beginning their first year. Participation by members at a variety of levels of study will be so enriching for us all.

Please consider joining us next year!

Submitted by Robin Bradley
EfM@christchurchcolumbia.org

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

We closed out 2023 with all our bills paid. This achievement was the result of our parish members' continued provision of financial support and many in our church, working to carefully manage our spending.

Though we achieved the goals that we had set for 2023, it really challenged us. With that in mind, 2024's budget was focused on preparing us for what's ahead. As we shared in our budget meeting in January, we expected to lose Deacon Denise and Mike at the end of the summer. We are now in that place, and it's clear that we will need to bring in some assistance to fill the gap they had been ably filling. With that in mind, we'll be working on the 2025 budget with an eye to funding additional resources to keep our Parish healthy and vibrant.

The Budget Committee started working on the 2025 budget in October, 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

Denis Read, Assistant Treasurer

Bill Kirkpatrick, Assistant Treasurer

treasurer@christchurchcolumbia.org

**PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER YOUR 2025 PLEDGE
TO CHRIST CHURCH.**



USING THE GIFTS GOD HAS GIVEN US,



TO DO THE WORK GOD IS CALLING US TO DO.

OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

YOUR CHRIST CHURCH OUTREACH DOLLARS AT WORK IN 2024

We encourage volunteering and multi-generational interactions (join in, pitch in, feel the love!). We offer multiple hands-on options through email, the Sunday bulletins, and in the weekly Outreach blog with details on how you can get involved in activities such as these:

- Monthly meals for up to 130 homeless neighbors at Grassroots' DRC at the Dorsey Center and Grassroots' Live-In Facility. 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, a crew of four to six volunteers serves the food we provide midday and cleans up afterward. For the evening meal, parishioners drop off prepared or purchased menu items that are served by the Live-In Facility's staff. By providing meals for both locations on the same day, Christ Church makes the most of our resources—including your time and talent.
- Four food drives. On April 20 and on Oct. 5, groups of more than a dozen parishioners held the Spring Food Drive and the Fall Food Drive by engaging shoppers at two Giant Food supermarkets. The results: about a ton of non-perishables for the Howard County Food Bank and SAFE, a gluten- and allergy-free food pantry. The annual Thanksgiving Food Drive benefited the food bank. And, culminating on Pentecost Sunday, we collected more than 140 pounds of rice, beans and Maseca corn flour for RISE, which helps immigrants and others in Baltimore County.
- Ongoing collections of food, staples and diapers for FISH of Howard County and for Columbia Community Care, respectively, in an altar basket and bins at the Parish Hall.
- Supporting vulnerable students near and far. During hybrid meetups on Zoom and in the Great Hall on June 23 and on July 28, parishioners interacted with representatives of Friends of Sabina (FOS) — including students in Uganda — and with representatives of St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC), who reported on progress in West Baltimore and invited us to Camp Inspiration in August.
- Coat drive for SLYC. Parishioners brought in gently-used kids' outerwear and Outreach provided funds for a thrift-shop run to make sure that 40 children kept warm last winter.
- Angel Tree gifts to brighten Christmas for 12 Howard County children, who received clothing, new shoes, and wished-for items ranging from a scooter to a comforter.
- Hands-on support for Somos Amigos Medical Missions, including two volunteers making an annual trip to the Dominican Republic and two parishioners at a Virginia FUNdraiser.



We are prayerfully distributing \$22,500 from the CEC parish budget, plus by year-end 2024 approximately \$7,000 in contributions from parishioners specifically for Outreach needs.

As of September 25, 2024, Outreach has distributed \$14,460 of the \$22,500 parish budget, has allocated (but not yet sent) to specific organizations a further \$7,460, and will determine distribution of the final \$580 as year-end needs arise. As with every year, the entire parish budget for Outreach will be distributed by Dec.31. Of the \$6,535 in parishioners' contributions received as of September 25, \$5,203 has been distributed. Nearly all contributions will be distributed by year-end 2024, with a small amount intentionally carried over to meet early needs in 2025.

Fulfilling Outreach's mission of helping people locally, nationally, and internationally, we report sending funds to 20 different organizations located from as close as a mile away to as far as the other side of the world. 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-prevention (Bridges to Housing Stability, Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC), Salvation Army).
- Food and other essentials for our less-fortunate neighbors (Grassroots, Columbia Community Care, FISH, RISE, SAFE, and CAC's Howard County Food Bank).
- Medical and dental care for residents of a remote area of the Dominican Republic (Somos Amigos Medical Missions) and help with prescription costs (FISH).
- Disaster relief in the aftermath of hurricanes in the U.S. Southeast and in Caribbean nations and of wars in Gaza and Sudan (Episcopal Relief and Development, World Central Kitchen, Global Refuge, and UNICEF).
- Rebuilding through DreamBuilders. Sales of goods to support Puerto Rico and KY trip.
- Support for incarcerated and returning citizens: Aid to women recently leaving prison (Baltimore Area Aftercare Program); materials to address spiritual needs of men and women at the Howard County Detention Center (Christian Jail Ministry).
- Help for refugees newly arrived in Howard County.
- Supporting the disabled: Housing and physical/occupational therapy for disabled children and young adults (CCD/Thailand and Philip's House in Uganda); Enable one adult to attend Special Challenge Camp at the Claggett Center (Episcopal Diocese of Maryland).
- Supporting youth:
 - Summer camp at Claggett for Mid-Atlantic youth whose families are harmed by the opioid crisis.
 - After-school and summer programs for West Baltimore children attending SLYC
 - Angel Tree Christmas gifts for pre-teens (Salvation Army).
 - Early childhood education and wraparound parental services (CAC).
 - Promoting literacy, digital knowledge, and academic progress through FOS at the Sabina Primary School in Uganda. We pay the librarian's salary and a portion of internet and periodical fees, enabling the library to function as a community resource center in remote Kyotera District. We facilitate direct ties between Christ Church households and individual students whose families cannot afford school fees. As of Summer 2024, 15 students ranging in age from 11 to 19 have sponsors, who pay their tuition and exchange letters or use an app to build relationships.

All provided with love, respect, and prayers.

Patricia Fanning

Christ Church Outreach Commission

outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org



LAKE ELKHORN MIDDLE SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP (LEMS)



Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) is an under-resourced school less than two miles from Christ Church. Over the years, many parishioners have been involved with the students and families of LEMS through a variety of activities. This year we collected almost \$8,000 that was used toward LEMS activities.

In this economy, many families simply do not have enough money for food and clothing, much less funds for school supplies for each child. We were able to supply school supplies for 125 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 13, 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.

In addition, we assisted LEMS parents in a new way this year. Lake Elkhorn Middle School invited families to two workshops to support them in the challenging job of being parents. Tracey Williams, the Pupil Personnel Worker at LEMS, asked Christ Church to supply a dinner for the families and provide childcare during the workshop. The workshops were held Wednesday, April 10, and Tuesday, May 14, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm. Many from our congregation organized games and art activities to engage the children while their parents enjoyed an engaging discussion with the presenter. The families loved the food and gratefully took home whatever was left at the end of the evening.

Sadly, Tracey Williams, the Pupil Personnel Worker who helped us so much during the past year has been reassigned to another school. However, Kevin Lee has taken her place and we are looking forward to working with him during the upcoming school year.

Cathy Whittaker and Mary Vail
Co-Chairs, LEMS partnership
LEMSpc@christchurchcolumbia.org

INTERFAITH REFUGEE MINISTRY REPORT

THREE YEARS, SIX CONGREGATIONS, FOUR FAMILIES, AND EXPANDING OUR MISSION OF GIVING HELP AND HOPE



“Every time I want to talk with you guys, I remember your kindness, blessings and helpings.”

A year ago, when the Interfaith Refugee Ministry’s Annual Report began with these heartfelt words from the oldest son in our first Afghan refugee family, this ministry was Christ Church - mostly on our own - helping just this one refugee family.

A year later, your Refugee Ministry has grown to a six-congregation interfaith ministry providing help and hope, of all different kinds and at all different levels, to four refugee families settled in our area, and help as we are able to several other families and individual refugees.

To many people in our congregations, the word “help” automatically and only means money, and, of course, money is needed to help these families who have arrived here with literally nothing. But money is just one piece, and a declining piece, of the help that we can and do give to these refugees.

Working with St. John’s Episcopal Church, Columbia Jewish Congregation, New Hope Lutheran Church, Wesley Freedom United Methodist Church, and the Patapsco Friends (our local Quaker Circle), here’s a list of just *some* of the help, from our congregation and the other five congregations, that’s been given to refugee families over the past year:

- A steadily decreasing portion of our first family’s rent. This family will be financially self-sufficient by January 2025, paying all of their rent, household bills, personal expenses. In 2025, the ministry will continue to help with education-related expenses.
- Tuition and education-related assistance for classes at Howard Community College.
- Transportation to jobs, the community college, doctors’ appointments, the food bank and other food distribution sites, social services meetings, job interviews, halal food markets.
- Tutoring in English and for HCC coursework. Finding and arranging for English language classes, in-person and on-line.
- Howard County and Baltimore County public schools - registration of a high schooler; enrollment assistance and in-depth follow-up for three little boys in Child Find (a Howard County program for pre-schoolers) and in both counties’ Infants and Toddlers programs.
- Requesting and coordinating donations of furniture, household goods, clothing, diapers, gift cards, children’s toys and books.
- For our newer families, helping as the ministry has funds available with the cost of their utilities, medical bills, WiFi service, car insurance, immigration-related legal bills, gas, halal food, rent, driver’s license costs.

- Immigration law support, provided pro bono to our first family by a Christ Church member, and help finding other immigration law assistance for the other families.
- Contacting U.S. Senator Van Hollen's office multiple times for assistance with immigration issues.
- Helping New Hope Lutheran get organized to take the lead in helping a new family that needs significant assistance of all kinds right now.
- Job leads, ideas, resume writing, interview practice, distributing resumes, acting as references.
- Fund-raising, including running the white elephant/rummage sale table at the WOCC annual flea market, asking organizations and individuals for financial contributions.
- Connecting families and individuals with governmental and non-profit organizations.
- Finding housing, registering with food banks, finding utility cost reduction programs, running interference with Medicaid and temporary cash assistance issues, helping the families understand budgeting and the banking/credit and debit card, insurance, paying of bills and loans systems in this country.
- Responding to emergency calls for help of all kinds.
- Providing used electronics, wiped clean and in good condition – laptops, iPads, mobile phones, printers, Chromebooks.
- Helping put important communications into grammatically correct English.
- Arranging for paid and volunteer translators and interpreters.
- Figuring out how to obtain an Afghan birth certificate from the former Afghan government's consulate in Canada.
- Maintaining close, frequent communication with our partner congregations about what help (financial, volunteering, and otherwise) is needed and what they can give.
- Being friends, advocates, mentors.
- Answering every request for help with "Here's what we can do. Here's where you can also find help. We will do what we can. We welcome you. We are glad you are here."

How you can help:

- **Pray.** For the refugee families we are helping and for refugees everywhere.
- **Volunteer in the Ministry.** Contact Ann Barnes at annbarnes001@comcast.net to discuss.
- **Donate.** No amount is too small (nor too large!) and you can securely donate via Realm or by check payable to Christ Church and marked 'Refugee Ministry'

To read more about the families and the work of the Refugee Ministry, please visit our website:
www.christchurchcolumbia.org/refugee-ministry.

On behalf of the Interfaith Refugee Ministry and the refugees to whom we give help and hope, thank you for your interest and your support.

Respectfully submitted by the Interfaith Refugee Ministry Leadership Team

Steve Alpern, Ann Barnes, Jan DeBoisierre, Pat DeLorenzo, Diana Hall, Ray Lyon, Paula Rees, and Cherrylynn Williams
rmlt@christchurchcolumbia.org



WOCC: WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH

The WOCC provides opportunities to serve God, our parish, community, and one another. All women who attend Christ Church, ages 18 and older, are automatically members and encouraged to participate in our activities. Information about meetings, events and activities is advertised through the Sunday service leaflet, the *Christ Church Gatherings* emails, and the Christ Church website.

WOCC holds its monthly hybrid meetings both in person and online via zoom. They are usually held the first Monday of the month at 7:30 pm. To help promote fellowship, twice a year, our monthly meeting is held in the evening at a local restaurant at 6:30 pm, and the December meeting is the Christmas Luncheon celebration held at 1:00 pm at a local restaurant. Traditionally, we don't hold meetings in July and August.



The WOCC's largest fundraiser is the annual Flea Market and Craft Fair, held on the church grounds on a Saturday in mid-September. This popular event funds most of the WOCC projects that support Christ Church and the community. WOCC also receives funds given as memorials, and we greatly appreciate those.

We support Springfield Hospital by supplying clothing, body wash, books and snacks, as requested throughout the year. We gather presents for the residents at the Christmas Luncheon to help brighten their holidays. We look forward to the day when we can again visit in person, and maybe play some bingo! We partner with Grassroots Homeless shelter to provide "Home Sweet Home" housewarming kits for people who transition to be on their own. We support the Seafarers Mission with calendars, note pads, magazines, hats, gloves, scarves, and through visits to their center. Several members also support their boat tour fundraising event.

Everyone deserves to feel at home.

Help the WOCC provide new home kits for Grassroots.
Speak with Sara Kirkpatrick or JoEmily Knox, or scan the QR code for details.

We also send birthday cards to all women of Christ Church, either through emails or post.



We set a busy calendar at our January meeting, and this year, the activities include:

- Wearing Red for Heart Health campaign in February
- Providing the first Lenten Wednesday supper in February
- Women's History Month tour of Historic London Town & Garden in March
- Guided Labyrinth Walks at St. John's in February and March
- Robinson Nature Center lunch and walks in April
- Evening Meeting at Corner Stable in April
- The May Tea at Elkridge Furnace Inn in May
- "Hats On for Mother's Day" event on Mother's Day in May
- Sponsoring Dance for Survivor's Sunday by Lumen Christi in June
- Greeting Card crafting session led by Emily Aubin in June
- Toby's Dinner Theater outing to see "Jersey Boys" in July
- The Flea Market & Craft Fair in September
- Movie night featuring "Cabrini" in September
- Evening Meeting at Olive Garden in October
- Lake Kittamaqundi Nature Walk - lunch and walk in October
- Christmas Luncheon at King's Contrivance in December

We are always looking for ways to attract more ladies to our activities, and we welcome all suggestions.



Many thanks to Father Manny, Aisha White, Chris Pouch, and all the Flea Market volunteers for your support!

Shabra Toth
WOCC President
WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org

YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Greetings in the name of Christ.

Our mission is to create a safe and nurturing space for youth to form their faith, discover their identity in Christ, and serve the larger community while building supportive relationships and having fun times with their peers at Christ Episcopal Church, Columbia. Thanks to the exceptional team of Youth leaders - Stacey & Patrick Frith, Preethi & Sam Jackson, Leanne Shepherd, Kathy & Ed Chzernowskis, and Diane Philipps-LaGuerre - and with God's help, I think we have done just that last year and will continue to strive for this goal.

We had a welcoming brunch to kick off our program year. 5th Grade through 12th Grade youth have been meeting in Parish Hall's lower level Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:20 a.m., starting with an icebreaker or game and then breaking up by age groups to explore and develop their spirituality through discussion of the Lectionary readings. Throughout the year, we will offer teachings based on the church calendar and themes important to the youth such as Creation Care and Inclusivity.

Last year, Confirmation classes started in the fall and ended with a pilgrimage to St. Anthony's Shrine, where the participants walked the Stations of the Cross. Four of our youth were confirmed when Bishop Carrie celebrated on Easter Vigil. our parish. We hope to see many more publicly confirm their faith this coming year.

Our Youth Sundays were well attended. Our four high school graduates preached at the last Youth Sunday and had a send-off not too long after that. We pray they are easing into life as a young adult and that God's protection will be upon them.

Many events that will be recurring were planned and executed last year. The highlight is our Outreach effort, where two of our youth joined Chaplain Kiona and Maryland DreamBuilders, an interfaith nonprofit organization, to build homes for flood victims in Hazard, Kentucky in June 2024. The week started with "I wanna go home," and ended with "I wanna come back!" God bless them! We hope many more of our youth will join next year.



This year, we hope to have the Halloween Lock-In in October, a Friends-Giving Dinner in November, Wreath Making Social & Fundraiser on Advent I, Youth Sunday on Advent II, a Tubing Trip when we have snow, the Souper-Bowl Sunday Fundraiser early February, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser early March, a community-inclusive Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday, another Youth Sunday in May, and the Mother's Day Flower Sale early May.

The youth came up with service project ideas including car wash, Sleep in Heavenly Peace (building bed frames for families in need), Tech Teach (guiding those who need help navigating Apps and/or their electronic devices), babysitting as a Date Night sponsorship; gift wrapping before the holidays, card making & sale.

The money raised by the fundraisers would fund future youth group activities such as a visit to Hershey Park or Great Wolf Lodge water park, bowling, game night, karaoke night, Top Flight, ropes course, iFly, rollerblading/-skating, Laser Tag, Escape Room, Arcade, Camping trip to Assateague, Smithsonian Museums/National Gallery Art to discuss religious art.

The youth are encouraged to attend Diocesan events. Our youth liaison Deepti and her alternate will be attending the Diocesan Convention in early November.

High schoolers can attend the Happening Retreat in February and middle schoolers the New Beginnings Retreat in April. A pilgrimage to the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City called NightWatch is also offered.



I have been faithfully attending the 9 a.m. Family Worship, leading the service and preaching regularly. The bell choir initiated last year is now a regular feature of Sunday School music education. We hope to 'perform' at Christmas and Easter services.

We ask that you please pray for our children & youth and their spiritual growth, and that you will support us in any way you feel led by the Spirit.

In His Service,

Chaplain Kiona Lookingbill, M.Div., BCC,

Director of Youth & Family Ministries

Candidate for Holy Orders

kiona@christchurchcolumbia.org



The Sunday school program has:

9 Volunteers
and 20 students.

Sunday school classes are offered for all children who are in preschool through 12th grade.

The elementary curriculum (3-year-olds through 5th graders) is the Episcopal Children's Curriculum - Cross Year. Students will learn about the Episcopal Church and its traditions, as well as a variety of Bible stories. The focus of the Cross Year is Worship. These children meet in the lower level of New Brick for 45 minutes on Sunday morning following the 9 a.m. service. New this year is a 10-minute music or yoga time to begin our class. We have nine volunteers who take turns leading the program and 20 students who have registered. We would love to have additional volunteers, even if only once in a while, so please reach out!

We are always looking for more adults to assist us, either weekly or on an occasional basis. If you can help, please come speak with me any Sunday, or email me at the address below.

Jennifer Atkins

Christ Church Sunday School

sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

GET READY FOR
Sunday
SCHOOL
at Christ Church

JOIN US! **REGISTER AT**
WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG



The Christ Church Nursery is active every Sunday morning, with 3-5 children attending weekly. The kids have fun and we're implementing an art enrichment-based program, as well.

In order to keep things safe, age-appropriate, and fun, we do have some needs that require assistance. For example, many of our current toys are getting very worn or are broken, and we have no toys for older children. If you are interested in helping us replenish our toys so that we can provide a better environment for every child, you can do so via Realm. Simply visit tinyurl.com/CEC-nursery and select "Nursery Fund" from the FUND dropdown menu. We truly appreciate every gift.

We also could use some human backup – if anyone 18 or older would like to volunteer to spend an occasional Sunday morning with us in the Nursery, that would be great! We need to have at least 2 adults present at all times, so the more we have, the better.

Please reach out to us on a Sunday morning or email us if you have any questions or wish to assist us.

Thanks,

Amanda and Tia

nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Vacation Bible School & Music Camp was fun and engaging this year with a new class and theme. Along with the usual activities, we introduced a fantastic music program that everyone thoroughly enjoyed. We are so blessed to have great volunteers who give their all that entire week, and we thank them tremendously – could not do this without each of you!

See you all again next year!

Yetti and Larissa



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

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

Buildings and Grounds work continues with a small and mighty group of volunteers who keep things running. In the coming year, you'll see more regular work days to complete more work that we've neglected due to lack of funds or lack of volunteers.

Our hope is that the 2025 budget will allow some of the improvements on several projects including windows/doors, the playground, etc. We hope to also build up our reserves so we can continue to save toward repaving our driveway and other long-term projects like roof replacements. Much of the work done by this team is done quietly during the week and done without any fanfare.

This is the perfect ministry for busy people who want to occasionally volunteer time to serve our Church. The small pothole that Josiah L. and I repaired earlier this year is still holding up and is a simple reminder of the good work we did together. We were certain that it would only hold up through the spring but so far so good. Watch for workday announcements and join in when you can!

Jan DeBoissiere

Senior Warden

BG@christchurchcolumbia.org



CHRIST CHURCH HEALTH MINISTRY

CEC Health Ministry reports serving to promote good health throughout the parish and community. This year's ministry leaders were Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Bunmi Daramaja. Health Ministry meetings took place monthly on Zoom and was open to all who chose to participate in planning healthy activities for the church and/or organizing programs to promote better health. Participants included professionals of health care including Pharmacists, RN's, Physicians, and Nurse Practitioners, and other professionals including those skilled in Engineering and Informatics, as well as lay church and community members all who were willing to share their wealth of experiences. In addition to the feedback obtained during meetings, churchwide parishioner survey information was collected and tallied for analysis. The expression of first-hand experience caring for family members was an integral part of knowing what was most important.

It is hoped that every adult who survived the COVID-19 pandemic has developed an understanding that the connection between physical health and mental health are linked and that link can be greatly supported and enhanced through the practices of religion and spirituality. One of the recurring activities of the Health Ministry was to conduct monthly physical health checks. The health checks included blood pressure measurements and 1 to 1 time with a pharmacist in between the 8am and 10:30 a.m. services on the 3rd Sundays of every month. This was an opportunity for parishioners to routinely have an available time to check their BP and discuss any questions they may have about their healthcare. The results of the BP readings were given to them to share with their primary care provider for any follow up as it was emphasized that the communication of results and any pharmacy discussion was for informational purposes only. Gentle reminders were also shared to help parishioners remember to take care of their health and the health of their loved ones.

One of the largest activities of the Health Ministry is the annual CEC Community Health and Wellness Fair. This year the Health Ministry hosted its 2nd anniversary of the fair (*above image*). The fair allowed a convenient half-day program, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., with increased participation from the community and parish as compared to the prior year. The event, held in the Great Hall of New Brick, included various speakers including personal testimonies, community resources, and promotion of modern therapies. Audience feedback and questions were encouraged. Door prizes including health tools including BP machines, healthy shake shakers, skin care items, fitness jump ropes, yoga stretch bands, orthopedic hand braces, and bike lights were distributed throughout the event based on raffle ticket purchases.

The fair was initiated by a prayerful and inspirational message shared by Chaplain Kiona. It set the tone that Christ Episcopal Church recognizes Health as one of God's greatest blessings. A cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR)



and automated external defibrillator (AED) demonstration was the very first presentation. This presentation generated a command of attention as the speaker was an enthusiastic member of the Howard County Fire Department. She emphasized the importance of being up to date and familiar with life-saving activities and served as a stark reminder that many people die of preventable heart attacks every year. This was followed with a slide presentation by a professional exercise trainer, who had helped a parishioner reach a health goal through weightlifting. Afterward, a cutting-edge regenerative health presentation explained interesting maintenance medicines that are new but promise to extend the quality of one's life. A heartfelt presentation on mental health was given by a survivor of the crippling effects of mental illness who is also a member of the National Alliance for Mental Illness (NAMI). A presentation was then given by 2 of our own parishioners who have had personal experiences with the impact of Alzheimer's disease, which sadly afflicts many. Other presentations included information related to the administration of Narcan to manage opioid overdoses as well as a local Personal Care agency who can provide support to families throughout Maryland. The environment of the Health Fair was motivational, and attendees seemed pleased with the health information received along with the variety of nutritious food options provided. During breaks, attendees were witnessed quietly discussing people who were affected by these conditions.

Breaks were also a time when attendees took time to walk around and talk to vendors. The event concluded with a parishioner discussion about the benefits of cycling and an exciting introduction to new bicycles including electric bicycles by TREK. Each participant received a CEC gift bag with a generous-sized portion of personal care items such as toothpaste and pillboxes along with information sheets on good health habits.

In addition to the Health Ministry Fair, BP Screenings and 1-to-1 time with pharmacists, the CEC Health Ministry ran a cycling group named Cycling for Health and Fellowship. The group this year was led by cyclists Diane Phillips LaGuerre and Kevin Osborn. The group met in the CEC parking lot twice a month on Saturday mornings during the warmest months and encouraged new riders from the parish and community to start or restart a cycling habit. Although the first two rides were rained out this year, the group easily got in eight other rides. True to the club's name, the rides all included a mid-way stop for fellowship, which also provided a time to talk about good health, exercise history, other bike rides, etc. The group tested and became proficient and safe at multiple 10-mile routes. The group size once reached over 20 cyclists this year when the popular cycling group (The Baltimore Bicycle Club Instructional Group) joined us. Moreover, all cyclists learned how to bicycle safely in a group, and while we encourage all ages to participate, we have mostly had adults. Perhaps in the future, rides will just be on trails, avoiding roadways so we can encourage more youth participation. This year, we served riders from 11 to 70+.

Many Blessings,

Bunmi Daramaja, RPh. and Diane Phillips LaGuerre, RN

CEC Health Ministry

health@christchurchcolumbia.org



JOIN THE
CHRIST CHURCH
**ALTAR
GUILD**



Christ Church Altar Guild is a vital part of
our parish life and worship.



ALTARGUILD@CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The Christ Church Altar Guild has rotating teams that make Saturday preparations for services on Sunday. On Sunday, the sanctuaries in Old Brick and New Brick are set up and cleaned up for worship. We also prepare and clean up for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. During this year we have added new members, and we very thankful! Thank you to current and recent rotating team members: Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Ed and Nicole Koharik (relocating), Pam Foreman, Cheryl Lucente, Sarah Mugo, Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Finda Sharpe (relocated) and Kathy Simms (currently in training). Thank you to our support group members: Cindy Read, Gail Braatelein, Yetti Lipede, Sarah Mugo (recent change) and Sherry Beaty (recent recruit!).

With our focus on Jesus Christ, we take pleasure in the fact that we all play a personal role, and corporate role, in the preparation of bread and wine which He chose as the means in which He becomes present in us and nourishes us spiritually.

We are thankful for support of prayers and financial contributions through pledges from our church family. We have been able to make purchases to improve and continue the spiritual enrichment of our church family. This year, we were able to add an island cart in the sacristy that has been so helpful in our preparation work!

We are always happy to welcome and invite more people to join us, and look forward to anyone who is discerning a call to Altar Guild to gather more information and to speak with one of us! We are motivated by the love of God and of His Son, Jesus Christ. We serve directly with our hands at His Altar. We are thankful for the blessings of having contributors to this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Foreman

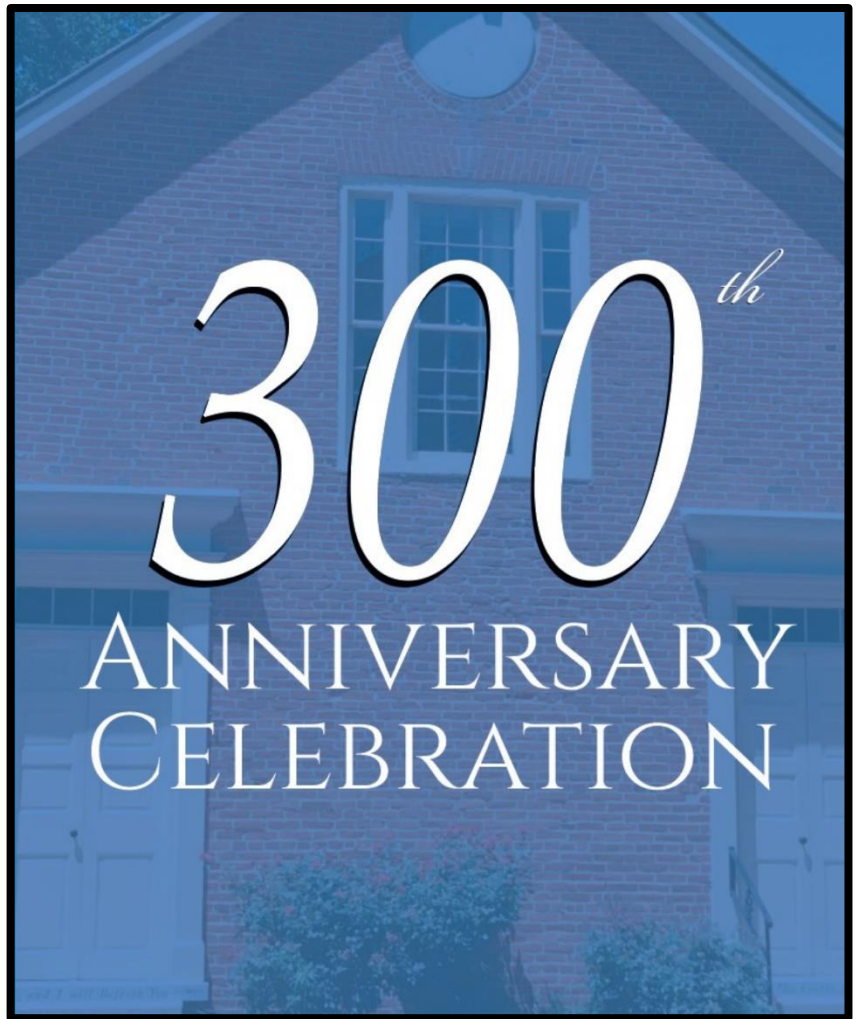
Altar Guild Director

altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE REPORT

The 300th Anniversary Committee has the lead in planning a year-long series of celebrations to honor the 300th anniversary of the creation of Queen Caroline's Parish from parts of St. Paul's Parish, All Hallows Parish and St. Anne's Parish (all of Anne Arundel County) and the establishment of Queen Anne's Parish Church which eventually would become known as Christ Church Guilford.

We will celebrate this 300th anniversary beginning in 2027 on November 7, All Saints Sunday, and culminating on November 5, 2028 on All Saints Sunday. All Saints Day falls on November 1 and is celebrated in honor of all the saints of the Church, both known and unknown. It is therefore a fitting date to honor all those persons responsible for the founding and building of the parish that has grown to be our beloved church and home in Christ.



The 300th Anniversary Committee, established approximately two years ago, originally comprised eight subcommittees working to provide more comprehensive historical documentation about Christ Church and, with that information in mind, to identify ways to commemorate, celebrate and honor past, present, and future members of and contributors to our parish. Not surprisingly, the committees have discovered that there is a significant amount of overlap and interdependency amongst them and therefore, they will begin a different approach, beginning with asking how we would like to celebrate this milestone in our history.

It is the intention that all activities and celebrations commemorating this anniversary will be self-funding or paid for through dedicated fundraising activities or discrete donations to the 300th Anniversary Fund (available on the Christ Church website Welcome tab). It is important that this celebration doesn't come at a cost to the church's operating budget.

As we approach All Saints Day 2024, we are a mere three years from the kick-off of our celebration. That feels like a long time, but if our 275th celebration which was made up of many different activities is any measure, that time will pass all too quickly.

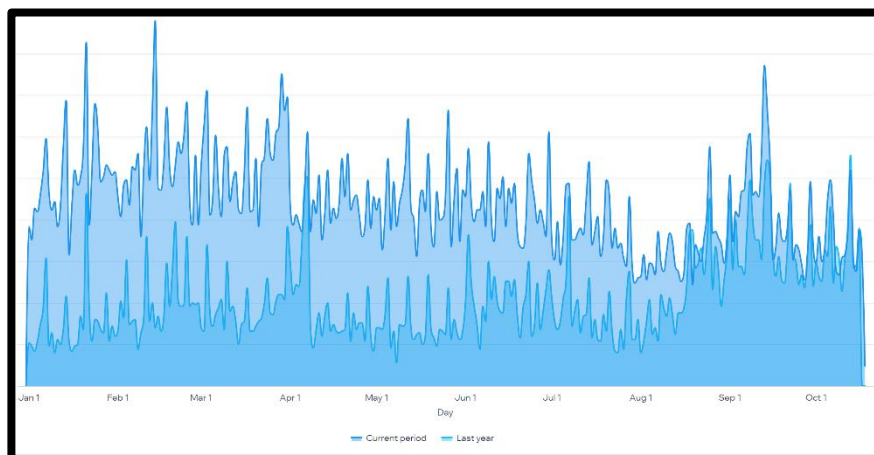
We invite you, the members of Christ Church, to participate in planning for this celebration.

Submitted by Robin Bradley
300@christchurchcolumbia.org

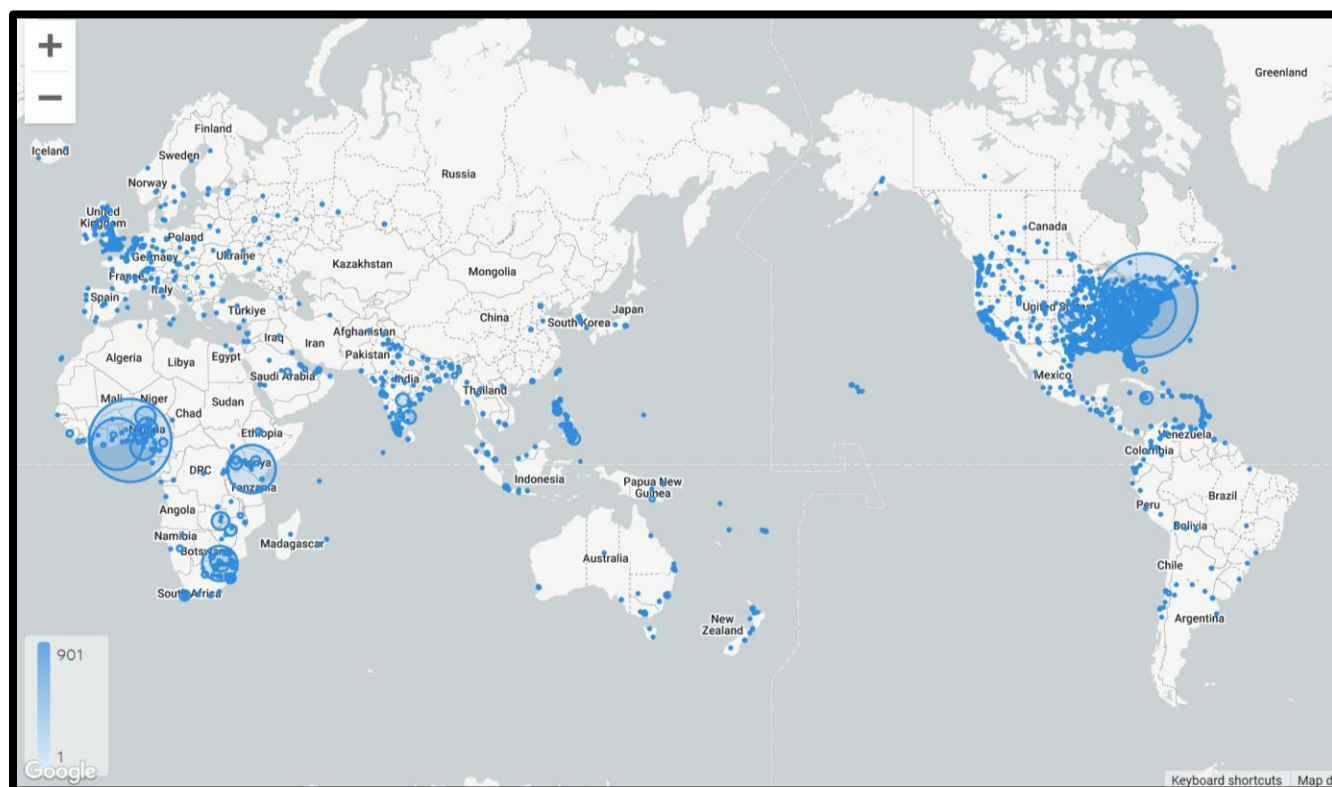
COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

We thank Father Manny for continuing to prioritize the importance of communications both within and beyond Christ Church, and continue to work towards providing better clear, thorough, and consistent accessibility to the spiritual, outreach, and social gatherings of the parish.

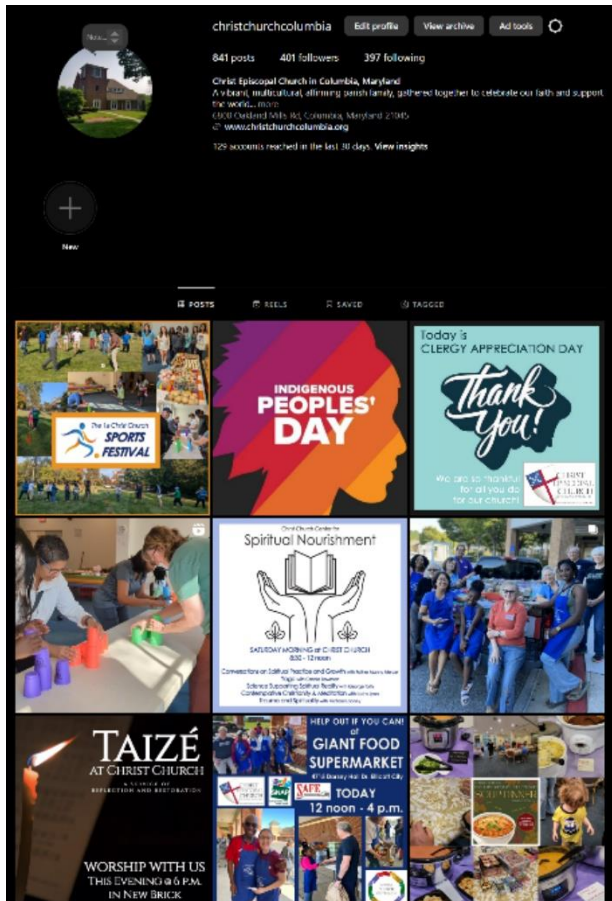
Online communications will become more integral to our parish life every year, providing communication and engagement for everyone. Our Christ Episcopal Church website connects to our congregation, our community, and our world. We nearly doubled the number of unique visitors to our site in 2024 – there were only two days with more visitors in 2023 – and we continue to work to find ways to bring everyone closer.



Our weekday prayer service livestreams continue to thrive thanks to the tireless efforts of Ellen Hoke, Jane Adams, Jonelle Ocloo, Jan DeBoissiere, and Donna Campagna. We also thank Bunmi Daramaja and John Curley for their assistance. These streams would not be possible without these people giving their time and energy to bring prayer and worship to the world every weekday. Heartfelt thanks go out to Yetti and Larissa for their willingness to test microphones and adjust cameras so our Sunday worship livestream helps the worshippers at home feel more a part of the congregation. Viewership extends far outside of our own community and to countries around the globe. We welcome newcomers everywhere to worship with us six days each week and we pray that they, too, will continue to make Christ Church a part of their lives no matter where they reside.



In addition to service livestreams, many ministries congregate and communicate regularly using our Zoom accounts. Another great group of Christ Church volunteers are initiating and hosting these online gatherings, and we thank you all! Whether it's Book Club, Outreach, WOCC, Education for Ministry, Health Ministry, Sunday Circle, Centering Prayer, or any other hybrid gathering, we hope that you all have been able to gain comfort from the knowledge that we can be a vibrant and engaging parish family regardless of location. A huge "Thank you!" to Yetti, our Sexton, John, Aisha, Patricia, Diane, Kathy, and others who have played a part in making these virtual meetings happen. This, literally, could not be done without you.



We are always using new ways to promote Christ Church events and gatherings to a larger audience. Through our social media, local websites, and community bulletin boards, we promote upcoming events, which have proven to be a worthy use of time and budget. You can easily find links to all of our social media outlets at the top of every page on www.ChristChurchColumbia.org and can sign up to receive our weekly *Christ Church Gatherings* and other emails there, as well. We display upcoming events before and after every service livestream, and the Narthex TV continues to promote upcoming event, as well, so if you have an announcement that you wish to share with everyone, or need a graphic, banner, brochure, or t-shirt created for a Christ Church event or ministry, email details to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and we'll collaborate with you to help better spread the word.

With the hundreds of hours that we broadcast digitally each year, it's inevitable that equipment starts to feel the strain, and ours is no exception. When the pandemic first hit, we pieced our tech infrastructure together using a very limited budget (sometimes using personal funds and equipment) and little time – we didn't want anyone to feel disconnected from Christ Church for a moment - and had things up and running quickly. We continue to

use a lot of the same equipment today, but we now need to update several key bits around the campus. All of this comes at a cost, of course, so if anyone is called to contribute towards these needs, please email us at the above address, and we'll set up a time to talk.

The Communications Commission works because we do just that – communicate. Every parishioner is welcome to reach out at any time so that together, we can connect and share our wonderful and vibrant Christ Church life with more and more people, both regulars and newcomers. Realizing that there is always more that we can do to communicate more effectively through email, website, livestreams, Realm, social media, and hybrid meetings, we hope that you'll share your time, talent, or treasure to help spiritually feed our Christ Church community and its many visitors. If you have questions or ideas you'd like to share, or if you'd like to help, please email me. Thank you.

Christopher Pouch

Communications Administrator

communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

VESTRY CANDIDATES

FOR THE 2024 ELECTION

Five candidates, in alphabetical order

ED CHRZANOWSKI

I know that a lot of people know me as “The 49ers Fan” - thank you Father Manny, but my name is actually Ed Chrzanowski and I have been attending services at Christ Church since 2004. I was born and raised Catholic, but have been attending an Episcopal church since my wife and I met in college.

First and foremost, I am a family man, so let me introduce my family. My wife is Kathy Chrzanowski, and we have two daughters, a senior in high school Amisha, and a sophomore in high school Shreya. We also have two fur babies, Luke and Apollo, who may be the most spoiled ones out of the four siblings.

My wife and I started our involvement in Christ Church early on, by teaching Sunday School, and then by attending, participating in, and supporting many programs along the way. We have participated in sessions for picking a new pastor, parent forums, youth group, youth activities, MOCC breakfast, WOCC activities, Theology on Tap, and trying to support wherever we were able, with our busy family lives.

I am running for vestry now because I feel that my children are beginning to be a bit more independent (time flies, you blink and they start to grow up). This affords me more time to get involved.

As an educator of 23 years, a parent, uncle, and friend, I have said to many in my lifetime, if you don't get involved, you cannot complain if things aren't going the way you wish they would. My desire is to do all I can to make Christ Church an even better place than it is already. It is time for me to practice what I preach. I plan to do that by listening to all of the members in our community and to accumulate what things our community desires and thinks might lead to a stronger community, both mentally and spiritually.

If I am elected, I will do everything in my power to implement those things and to keep our church community as amazing as it is now.

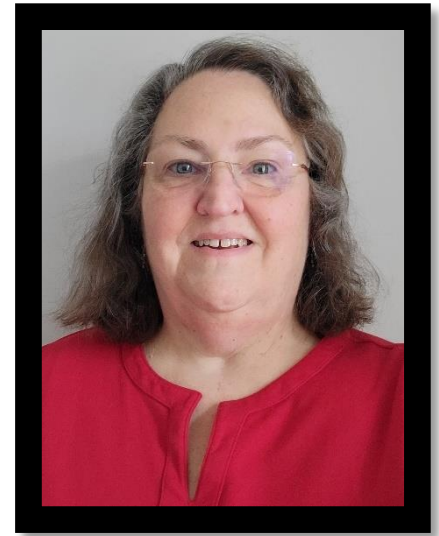


SARA KIRKPATRICK

Tell the congregation a little about yourself (career, travel, family, time at Christ Church, hometown, time in Columbia)

I was raised in the Presbyterian Church by my Baptist mother and Episcopalian father. My dad ran a small hardware store, and Mother was his primary employee. I grew up in that store. I went to public schools and was involved in many activities including Girl Scouts, piano lessons, chorus, swimming, roller skating, bowling, youth group, and summer church camp. By the time I was in high school, I sang with the adult choir at church.

In college, my best friend and roommate and I found a combined campus ministry at Jacksonville State University in Alabama, sponsored by the Presbyterian (mine), Methodist (hers), and Episcopal churches. An English professor was also an Episcopal priest and offered a mid-week Eucharist on campus. I liked the call & response nature of the service. We attended one church or another on a sporadic basis, even singing in the choir for a while. During my junior and senior years, I was the American roommate of a foreign exchange student in the JSU International House.



After graduating with a Secondary Education degree, the University of Alabama offered me a Graduate Teaching Assistantship. Once there, I made a conscious decision to look for an Episcopal church, and that's when I became a member of Christ Church, Tuscaloosa! When my studies were over, I got an offer from a school system in south Florida that needed a Spanish teacher. There I joined the choir at St. Mary Magdalene's. I'd been in Florida for just a few months when I agreed to come to Maryland in July of 1983 for a federal job. When I first moved to Laurel, I attended St. Philip's.

Bill and I met at work, were married in Old Brick in 1987, and our son Will was baptized here. We moved to Brevard, NC, for jobs, where our daughter Amanda was born and baptized at St. Philip's. When we returned to Maryland in Nov. 1993, we knew we had to come back to Christ Church. Since then, I've sung in the choir, taught Sunday School (including a bunch of 3rd & 4th grade boys in the balcony of Old Brick; and never lost a one!), served on Profile and Discernment Committees, the Spiritual Life Commission, participated in Women of the Church events, helped with the youth groups, worked the Flea Market, donated items for the auction, and joined work parties. I retired in 2023 after 40 years with the government and took on the new duties of "Grandma"!

What is it that you value most about Christ Church?

Christ Church is Family. Having a small family, genealogically-speaking, my extended family here is especially important to me. As you can see from my biography, a church home has always been a part of my life. That's because "coming to church" is something I want to do, not something I have to do. It's coming home—to family. I rejoice with members who are celebrating, and I am saddened when they suffer.

What skills and experience could you bring to the leadership position on the Vestry?

Just as in any family, making it work takes some effort. I'm comfortable talking to people, and I hope, a good listener. I am a pretty good problem-solver, taking a situation and turning it over to look at all sides. I'm not afraid to brainstorm, even if the ideas seem unworkable, because it may lead to the one that does work.

Previously, I was on the Vestry from 2017 to 2023, serving as Junior and Senior Warden part of that time. I've learned a lot about what it takes to keep an organization this large and busy running. I have been asked to be a candidate again, and I readily agreed. As I've said before, in October, we will elect the Vestry members the parish needs.

ISAAC OLAJIDE

Greetings to all parishioners in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

My name is Isaac Gbenga Olajide, a long-time parishioner at this great church, I'm originally from the Southwest region of Nigeria, baptized in the Anglican (Episcopal) Church. My parents were of Anglican faith and have always kept the faith with Episcopal Church.

I am married to my dear wife, Janet, and we have 3 children who were baptized and attended our church as parishioners until they left for college.

I am a pharmacist by profession and worked with one of the largest chains in the country for several years as a pharmacy manager. I resigned my position as a manager in Rite-Aid several years ago to establish a retail/community pharmacy in Baltimore and became a partner in another pharmacy here in Columbia, MD.



I have continuously volunteered my time and services within and outside our church.

At Christ Church:

- As an usher in the church since 2010
- A member of LOC for the Children of Uganda (COU) during the Tour of Light of Howard County in 2014
- Served in the vestry between 2012-2015
- A member of the discerning committee in the search for our parish Administrator a few years ago
- Volunteered at the last Flea market as a member of the traffic management team.
- Currently serving as a member of the Vestry and a Junior Warden for the past 2 years

Outside of Church:

- In my professional organization, served on the Board of NAPPSA, Chairperson of the DMV group and a deputy Chair of the Endowment Fund.
- I have also served as an assistant secretary and Auditor of a non-profit organization called TOIOG. I also participated in the organization's Medical Mission to Nigeria in 2014 at the peak of Ebola crisis.
- A volunteer member of the State of Maryland Pharmacist Response Team on Bioterrorism which has now been changed to The State of Maryland Emergency Preparedness.

Above all, it gives me a great joy and spiritual fulfillment to be of service to our God. Psalm 84 vs 10 says: "better is one day in your court than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a door keeper in the house of my God". Christ Church has opened my spiritual eyes and my heart to giving and serving humanity, wherever they may be.

In conclusion, I am grateful, honored and humbled for the nomination and I am ready and excited to serve the church with vigor, passion, diligence, sensitivity and team player attitude without wavering if elected. My past experiences will be of immense value to the Vestry.

Thanks for reading and God bless!!!

KATHY SIMMS

Hello, my name is Kathy Simms. I have worked for Anne Arundel County Public Schools for 14 years and am currently a School Librarian at South River High School. Prior to working at SRHS, I worked as a Marketing & Outreach Specialist at AACPS Central Office. In that position, I was responsible for writing and editing digital communications, creating graphics and website content, managing the social media presence, planning special events and fundraising campaigns, and working with the Deputy Superintendent on the 2018-2023 AACPS Strategic Plan.

Prior to my career in education, I worked for 18 years as a Bank Officer and Assistant Vice President in the financial services industry, with experience in retail branch management, private banking, service management, and commercial lending. I was known as a change agent providing leadership in the implementation of new modes of service delivery and state-of-the-art technologies.

My professional work experience in the non-profit sector includes managing communications for the executive team, working as the principal liaison with nonprofit boards, and managing annual giving campaigns. Some of my relevant volunteer experience includes working as Finance Chair for Asbury Town Neck UMC, and as Treasurer and a member of the Staff/Pastor Parish Relations Committee (SPPRC) for Asbury Broadneck UMC.

I earned a Masters of Library & Information Science from the University of Pittsburgh, and a Bachelor of Science in Public Policy & Management from Carnegie Mellon University. I grew up in Columbia, and recently moved back to the area in 2022. Outside of work, I enjoy spending time at Christ Church, and spending time at home with my three adult children, gardening, and exploring museums and galleries.

Thank you for reading and considering me for the Christ Church Vestry.



GEORGE TOTH

The vestry of a church is one of the most important lay positions of service as it reflects the amalgamated image of the parish and rector. Christ Episcopal Church has a long heritage of reflecting its namesake, and I am committed to making that reflection ever brighter.

The church's image is composed of many smaller pieces working together. A properly maintained facility is the first impact image to newcomers. The welcoming smiles and embraces of our congregation is the second. The activities both for our membership and projected outside into the world is the third. All three components must be alive and vibrant if we are to reflect the image of Christ and continue to draw newcomers to Him for nourishment and growth.

Within this community I have focused my time and energy primarily on grounds maintenance and outreach support. As an engineer I bring a pragmatic discipline to discussions and evaluation of problems with a good understanding of how proper structure, teamwork, and support are needed to execute projects. I expect to continue providing guidance in these areas, and as a member of the vestry have better data for budget needs to maintain and grow our facility. In our spiritual life I am deeply committed to emphasizing the reality of spiritual truth, and have provided a discerning environment in the exploration of "Science Supporting Spiritual Reality".

It is my sincere hope and goal that Christ Episcopal Church becomes a bedrock of Christian voice and teaching to which the hungry in spirit will come and find abundant, filling nourishment. My efforts always strive to drive our community to live lives worthy of His namesake of this church.





Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector Emeritus*

Kiona Lookingbill, *Director of Youth and Family Ministries*

Michael Looney, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Music Director*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Jan DeBoissiere (*Senior Warden*) • Isaac Olajide (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Deepti Jackson (*Youth Liaison*)

Denisa Abdallah • Ronald Baran • Tim Beaty • John Curley • Simone Kolnik • Ray Lyon • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre

Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Cherry Lynn Williams