

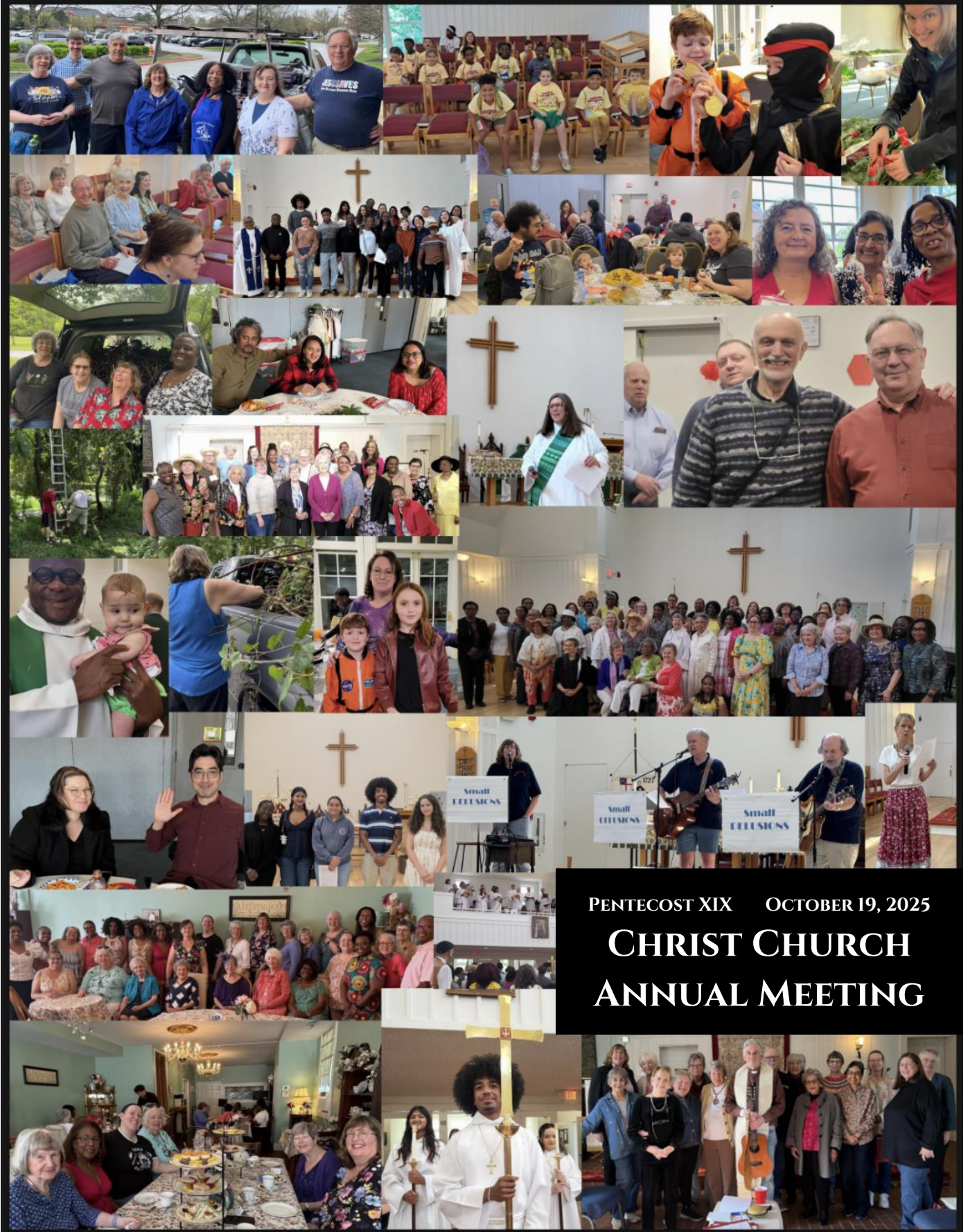


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

EXTENDING THE LOVE AND EMBRACE OF CHRIST

THE HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

10:00 A.M.



PENTECOST XIX OCTOBER 19, 2025

CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

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: www.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.

OPENING SONG | Create in Me

*Terry Talbot
led by Phil Bray*

Create in me a clean heart oh God
Let me be like you in all my ways
Give me your strength, teach me your song
Shelter me in the shadow of your wings
For we are your righteousness
If we die to ourselves and live through your death
Then we shall be born again to be blessed in your love!

PROCESSIONAL HYMN | Peace Like a River

*African American Spiritual
Led by Sunday School Children*

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul.
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river,
I've got peace like a river in my soul. | 2. I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul.
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river,
I've got love like a river in my soul |
| 3. I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul.
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river,
I've got joy like a river in my soul. | |

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.
People: Amen

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.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

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

The people may be seated.

THE FIRST LESSON | Jeremiah 31:27-34

Reader: A reading from Jeremiah.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will sow the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of humans and the seed of animals. And just as I have watched over them to pluck up and break down, to overthrow, destroy, and bring evil, so I will watch over them to build and to plant, says the Lord. In those days they shall no longer say:

"The parents have eaten sour grapes,
and the children's teeth are set on edge."

But all shall die for their own sins; the teeth of everyone who eats sour grapes shall be set on edge.

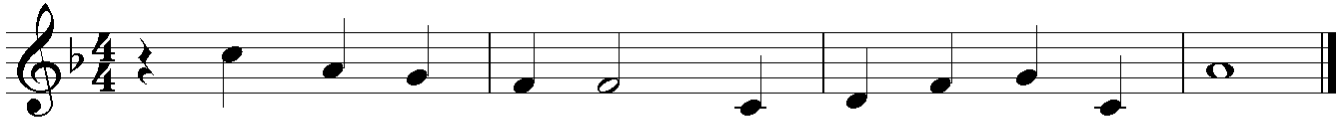
The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt-- a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALM

Psalm 119:97-104 | *Quomodo dilexi!*



Your words are sweet - er than hon - ey to my mouth.

Oh, how I love your law! *
all the day long it is in my mind.

Your commandment has made me wiser than my enemies, *
and it is always with me.

I have more understanding than all my teachers, *
for your decrees are my study.

I am wiser than the elders, *
because I observe your commandments.

Antiphon

I restrain my feet from every evil way, *
that I may keep your word.

I do not shrink from your judgments, *
because you yourself have taught me.

How sweet are your words to my taste! *
they are sweeter than honey to my mouth.

Through your commandments I gain understanding; *
therefore I hate every lying way.

Antiphon

THE EPISTLE | 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Reader: *A reading from 2nd Timothy.*

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

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

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 630 | Thanks to God Whose Word Was Spoken

Wylde Green



1 Thanks to God whose Word was spo - ken in the deed that
2 Thanks to God whose Word In - car - nate heights and depths of
*3 Thanks to God whose word was writ - ten in the Bi - ble's
*4 Thanks to God whose word is pub - lished in the tongues of
5 Thanks to God whose Word is an - swered by the Spi - rit's



1 made the earth. His the voice that called a na - tion;
2 life did share. Deeds and words and death and ris - ing,
3 sa - cred page, rec - ord of the rev - e - la - tion
4 ev - ery race. See its glo - ry un - di - mi - nished
5 voice with - in. Here we drink of joy un - mea - sured,



1 his the fires that tried her worth. God has spo - ken:
2 grace in hu - man form de - clare. God has spo - ken:
3 show - ing God to ev - ery age. God has spo - ken:
4 by the change of time or place. God has spo - ken:
5 life re - deemed from death and sin. God is speak - ing:



1 praise God _____ for his o - pen word.
2 praise God _____ for his o - pen word.
3 praise God _____ for his o - pen word.
4 praise God _____ for his o - pen word.
5 praise God _____ for his o - pen word.

THE GOSPEL | Luke 18:1-8

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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

Celebrant: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE 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 worshipped 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 |

As children of God, we are called to be holy, to be just, and to love our neighbor as ourselves. In his letters, Paul reminds us of his care and determination to share the gospel and himself with others. That is also our call in relation to our community and the world. Let us rededicate ourselves to God's work, saying: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

We ask Your grace and guidance for all elected leaders throughout the world that they may govern with justice and the courage to do what is right for their people. In our church, we pray for our Presiding Bishop, Sean; our Diocesan Bishop Carrie; our rector, Emmanuel; Clergy; Richard & Marcia, and Seminarian, Yehinuel. In the Anglican cycle of prayer, we remember The Episcopal Church. In the diocesan cycle of prayer, we pray for Emmanuel, Cumberland, St. George's, Mt. Savage and St. James', Westernport. We lift up all who are new or visiting with us today and welcome them at Your table, saying: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

Heavenly Father, today, on the occasion of our Annual Meeting, we will review the highs and lows of this past year and reflect on the ways we have tried to do Your work. We pray that in the coming year, we may be like the Psalmist's trees planted near the streams and bear much fruit. We offer our deepest gratitude and ask Your blessing for the outgoing members of the Christ Church Vestry. We give thanks for those parishioners who have agreed to be candidates for election to the Vestry. No matter what the election outcome may be, we pray that they all may continue to do Your work with wisdom and grace wherever they may best serve You, saying: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

(continued)

We pray for all who are in need and those who suffer from illness of mind, body, or spirit, especially Diane, Priscilla, Kayode, Pamela, Isaac, Abel, Rachan & Sherry, and those you now name. May they and their caregivers find their courage in You. We pray: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

We remember all those who have left their earthly home and now abide with You, especially Sheila Foor and those you now name. Comfort those who mourn them with Your peace that passes all understanding.

We pray: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

With grateful hearts, we rejoice in the birthdays and baptismal anniversary, and other happy occasions we celebrate this week, and especially for Amisha, Gavin, Amanda, Jenny, Nicholas & Nancy; and Diana. We thank You and pray: **"Lord, help us to walk in Your ways."**

Lord, help us to be ever mindful of the two great commandments: to love You with our whole being and our neighbor as ourselves. Show us how best to do Your work each day as we strive to live the gospel teaching. **-AMEN.**

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION |

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.**

THE PEACE |

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: **And also with you.**

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



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS |

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | Father, We Praise Thee

Handbell Choir



Please scan to give.

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 HOLY COMMUNION



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A |

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

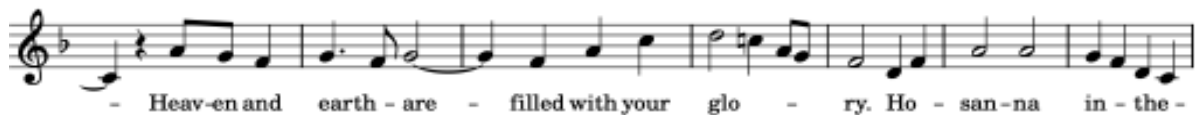
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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:



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 S 164 | Jesus, Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) from *Deutsche Mass*

Franz Schubert
arr. Richard Proulx

Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

COMMUNION ANTHEM | Lift Thine Eyes, from *Elijah*

Felix Mendelssohn



1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
 let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain
 when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing sun,

O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____

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.

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS' PRAYER |

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

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

THE BLESSING |

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

CLOSING HYMN 600 | In Christ There Is No East or West

McKee

C G/F C/E F9 Bb Bb/D F C F Am Dm7 G7 C F/C C

1 In Christ there is no east or west, in him no pride of birth;
2 For God in Christ has made us one from every land and race;
3 It is by grace we are as-sured that we be-long to him:
4 So broth-ers, sis-ters, praise his name who died to set us free
5 In Christ there is no east or west—he breaks all bar-riers down;

Am G C Am C/G G9/F C/E G7/D C F C/G D9/F# C/G G7 C

the cho-sen fam-ily God has blessed now spans the whole wide earth.
has rec-on-ciled us through his Son and met us all with grace.
the love we share in Christ our Lord, the Spir-it's work with-in.
from sin, di-vi-sion, hate and shame, from spite and en-mi-ty!
by Christ re-deemed, by Christ pos-sessed, in Christ we live as one.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

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

ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

10:00 a.m. Service

Acolytes: Lucinda Hart, Wynstan Eguakun, Abby Boyer,
Avery Leeman, Malcolm Leeman, Allison Whong, Abby Marvel

Altar Guild: Jan DeBoissiere, Virginia Jarrett, Cara Ocampo, Maria Rios

Chalicians: Sonni Aribiah, Cheryl Lucente

Lectors/Readers: Cheryl Lucente, Robin Bradley

Tellers: Catherine Miller, Lisa Taitt-Wynter

Ushers: Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams, Jo Emily Knox,
Cherry Williams, Betty Dagne, Alex Amponsah, Andrea Leeman

Vestry Table: Denisa Abdallah

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 19 – 25, 2025

Sunday, October 19

10:00 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Annual Meeting Lunch – New Brick, LL
12:00 pm – 4:00 pm	Annual Meeting – New Brick, UL
12:30 – 5:30 pm	Tabernacle of David Church – Old Brick
1:00 – 5:00 pm	Education for Ministry – Parish Hall, CR & Zoom
2:00 – 4:00 pm	Confirmation Class – Zoom

Monday, October 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – New Brick, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Refugee Ministry Meeting – Zoom

Tuesday, October 21

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 1 of 4)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am– 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool – New Brick, LL
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – ONLINE

Wednesday, October 22

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 2 of 4)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream

(continued)

Thursday, October 23

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 3 of 4)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
9:00 am– 4:00 pm	HC Homeschool – New Brick, LL
5:30 – 6:30 pm	Summer Yoga Camp – Online
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
7:30 – 9:00 pm	CEC Book Club - Zoom

Friday, October 24

All Day	Fr. Manny out (Day 4 of 4)
7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, October 25

9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Iglesia Adventista Del Septimo Dia Fidelidad – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL
12:00 – 3:00 pm	WOCC – Nature Walk
2:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall, LL
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep – Old Brick
6:00 – 12:00 pm	Youth Group Lock-in – Parish Hall, LL

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have an announcement to share with the church,
Please send to communications@christchurchcolumbia.org by Tuesday evening.

SCAN THE QR CODE FOR ALL OF THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & LINKS



Halloween Youth Lock-In - Next Weekend

The Christ Church Youth Ministry hosts a Halloween Lock-In, and all youth in 6th-12th grade are invited to join us! We'll gather in the Parish Hall at 7:00 p.m., next Saturday, October 25, and stay until Sunday morning, October 26. Bring your sleeping bag, sleepwear, and your favorite snack or beverage - we'll provide pizza on Saturday night and breakfast on Sunday morning. Also, bring a friend or your favorite game! Parents, please complete the consent form that's [here](#) (one form per child), and send to christchurchassistant@gmail.com. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Youth Group Planning Session – October 29

The Christ Church Youth Group leaders are hosting a virtual gathering later this month, one that invites all of our youth's parents to join us as we discuss our plans for Christ Church Youth Group. We also want to hear your thoughts and ideas so we can collectively design a calendar for the coming year of Youth Ministry.

Please mark your calendars - join us on Zoom on Wednesday, October 29th at 7:30 p.m. so we can collaborate on the development of a fantastic plan for your kids! You'll find the Zoom details next week.

Taizé Vespers: *THANKSGIVING* - November 2

Taizé Vespers is a liturgy of Evening Prayer that combines scripture readings, prayer, silent meditation, and rich music. On the first Sunday evening of each month, Christ Church offers this truly beautiful service of contemplative prayer and music in the tradition of the Taizé community of France. This community promotes peace and justice through prayer and meditation. November's Taizé Vespers reflects on *Thanksgiving*, which is appropriate, given the season. Emphasizing attention to silence, prayer, and singing, Taizé offers an opportunity to give praise and thanksgiving for God's love and presence in one's life, to offer prayer for oneself and others, and to share in a supportive community. Gather with us at 6 p.m. in New Brick on November 2 for this powerful and peaceful worship.

Centering Prayer - Monday Evenings

Centering Prayer is a special evening prayer gathering that can help lead to a more intimate union with God, a gathering that takes place every Monday. 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 817 6254 3177, and the Passcode is CP. You can also ask for more information by speaking with Kathy Lyon at church.

Yoga Camp Online - Tuesdays and Thursdays

Parishioner and certified yoga instructor Jane Adams held Yoga Camp at Christ Church this past summer, and now she continues to offer it in a new way—join her from the comfort of your own home! Yoga Camp Online is held for an hour on Tuesdays and Thursdays from now through November 25, and starts at 5:30. It's open to everyone interested in improving their body, mind, and spirit through movement, meditation, and breathing. To make yoga a part of your path towards improved physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, email us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org, and Jane will send you the details. But email her now - space is limited.

Join the Christ Church Choir - Thursdays

If you ever thought about giving Choir a shot, how about now? We have rehearsals in New Brick on Thursday evenings—Handbell Choir at 6:45 and Adult Choir at 7:30—and all adults are welcome to join us. Whether you read music or not, have previous experience or not, and whether you are ready to commit full-time or not, there's a place for you to give it a shot in our handbell &/or vocal choirs. If interested, please speak with Larissa at church on Sundays, email her at music@christchurchcolumbia.org, or stop by New Brick on any Thursday.

CEC Book Club is Back - Thursdays

The CEC Book Club has started a new season, and you're welcome to join us! We have just begun *The Heartbeat of God* by Katharine Jefferts Schori (former Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church of the United States). You can find the book available on [many online resources](#), and can join us on Zoom. If you're interested in reading and discussing great books with a friendly, engaging, and welcoming group of readers, then this is definitely for you—we choose a book together, read a chapter or two each week, and then gather virtually for an hour or so on Thursdays to share our thoughts. If you've considered taking part or if this is your first time hearing about us, now's the time to join! Email us with any questions - bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org.

There Are Only a Few Spaces Still Available for Financial Peace University

As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer one another is guidance on how to manage our resources effectively. For those seeking better insights on enhancing their financial well-being, the Financial Peace University series can provide valuable guidance. This multi-week seminar aims to help parishioners manage their finances and become better stewards of their earnings. It's a life-changing program, but it is limited to ten people/families, ensuring a direct connection with each participant. The class will meet on Monday evenings, and the cost is \$100 per person/family. If you need more information, please speak with Fr. Manny at church or email him at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Find a Ministry that's Right for You

We can always use some more people to keep Christ Church the vibrant, active, dedicated parish that it is. You can be a Teller, Acolyte, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, or choose to assist the Christ Church Altar Guild, Inreach, or Buildings and Grounds ministries - and many others. None of these requires weekly assistance - they only require a short amount of time every few weeks or so, but the impact you have on the entire parish is significant. Email info@christchurchcolumbia.org if interested.

Countdown to Service: Take Part in the Fall Food Drive on November 8 at Dorsey's Search Giant

Be a part of one of the most rewarding ways to help feed the hungry. Please sign up for a shift during the Fall Food Drive on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Dorsey's Search Giant supermarket, 4715 Dorsey Hall Drive, in Ellicott City. Walk-ins and children are welcome as Christ Church continues a hands-on, family-friendly activity that occurs twice a year, in spring and fall. Look for a signup sheet in the Narthex or in Old Brick. Please volunteer for a one-hour shift. Groceries collected from shoppers will go to two food pantries. One is the Howard County Food Bank, which is operated by

the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC). The other is SAFE, its partner pantry that provides free gluten-free and allergy-safe foods to low-income families and individuals. At our Spring Food Drive at a Giant supermarket in Clarksville, we collected 1,294 pounds; at the 2024 Fall Food Drive held at Dorsey's Search, the haul was 1,440 pounds. Together, that totals more than a ton of food and staples! During these Food Drives, the experience provides hands-on service not only for our volunteers but also for shoppers we approach with a list of requested items. Most importantly, access to food and necessities is a lifeline for people struggling to make ends meet. In Howard County, the number of these households has grown due to inflation and the current federal workforce reductions, so any help you can give is most certainly needed and appreciated.

Now's the Time to Walk or Run in CAC's 'Steps Forward' Fall Fundraiser

It's not too late to participate in Steps Forward, a Walk/Run campaign to raise funds for the Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC). Individuals or teams are invited to accumulate miles during October while soliciting donations. Participants will receive a special T-shirt and discounted entry to the Run Through the Grapevine 8K, hosted by the Howard County Striders in Mt. Airy, Maryland, on Sunday, November 2. The annual cross-country/trail race takes place at Linganore Winecellars. On race morning, a non-perishable food drive will benefit the Howard County Food Bank, which CAC operates. As the county's designated anti-poverty organization, CAC provides multiple services as described in its 2024 Impact Report. These include early childhood education, eviction prevention, weatherization, and utility assistance.

Christ Church Sends Food Aid to Victims of War in Ukraine and in Gaza

At the Oct. 13 Outreach Commission meeting, we approved a \$750 donation to World Central Kitchen (WCK) to help feed people deprived of food in two different wars. Soon after Russia invaded Ukraine in 2022, WCK began serving meals to meet the needs of families in conflict zones, as described in a post on its website. Present conditions are dire as people cope with attacks, power outages and the approach of winter. An amount of \$500 will go to WCK's Chefs for Ukraine. Separately, \$250 will go toward aid for the starving residents of Gaza as a peace deal has been declared in the Israel-Hamas War. A new field kitchen opened this month, WCK said on its site, as Palestinians await a greater flow of humanitarian aid. In both instances, these are Vestry-approved funds derived from your pledges and contributions. Thank you!

Lake Elkhorn Middle School Kindness Pantry

Many thanks to all of you who signed up for and brought in food and household items for the LEMS Kindness Pantry. Last Wednesday, we delivered the items that counselors and staff will distribute during meetings with families in need of assistance. In addition, we helped to hand out 100 bags of fresh food from The Roving Radish at the school as parents came to pick up their children or stopped by after work. Our next project is to put together 60 "health bags" for teachers' classrooms. Each bag will contain facial tissue, Band-Aids, hand sanitizer, antibacterial wipes, and a thank-you note from Christ Church. We'll be assembling the bags at Lake Elkhorn Middle School next Tuesday, October 21st from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m., and would love to have some help putting the bags together, so please let us know if you are available - email lems@christchurchcolumbia.org.

Christ Church Sends Funds to FISH and CCC to Help Neighbors in Need

At the Oct. 13 Outreach Commission meeting, we approved \$500 in donations to Columbia Community Care (CCC) and \$300 to FISH. Recently, the two non-profit organizations became partners and merged their food pantries into one. On Oct. 11, Pantry Manager April Lee posted a plea for support on CCC's Facebook page: "These are difficult times right now for so many and, sadly, they will most likely get worse. If you are able to, would you please help us restock our inventory?" Your contributions to Christ Church for Vestry-approved funds make these donations possible. On behalf of our needy neighbors, please accept heartfelt thanks! CCC continues its distributions at three sites on Saturday mornings and by home delivery to Howard County residents. For information, go online to Get Help. FISH continues to pick up donated goods from Christ Church and others. Please put non-perishable food and personal care products in the altar basket or in a bin just inside the Parish Hall. Look for a combo label "FISH/CCC". Please keep bringing baby wipes and diapers, especially large sizes. FISH will continue to provide guidance and financial support by telephone because the personal touch is very important when people are in crisis. Consider volunteering from home by giving just one day a month to assist those who could benefit from financial assistance from FISH. Training is provided. For information, ask parishioner and FISH treasurer Andy DeLong or email andydelong.fish@gmail.com. Thanks for your support.

TWO WEEKS TO GO! **CHRIST CHURCH'S AUCTION** **is SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 1**

Get ready now, because it's almost here - just two weeks remain until the spectacular, fabulous, best-ever Christ Church Annual Auction!

The doors open on Saturday, November 1st, at 6:30 p.m., and the Live Auction begins at 7:30. The first phase of the Silent Auction will run from the start of the event until 8:00, and part two will run until 8:45. And for additional excitement, we'll draw the winner of the 50/50 Raffle at 8:00 p.m., so don't forget to buy your tickets when you get there - the more tickets everyone buys, the higher the pot, and the more you take home!

We have some pretty spectacular stuff this year, the likes of which you've never seen auctioned here before, as well as those familiar and much sought-after goodies.

What a great opportunity to knock out some of your Christmas shopping, help your college-bound kid pick art to deck out their own, one-of-a-kind dorm room, surprise your spouse or loved one, or buy tickets to a baseball game or the theater - something your family can do together or maybe as a date night with that special someone.

And bring your cash, checks, or credit cards. YES! That's right - we will accept credit cards this year so that checkout will be faster and easier than ever. Come early, sign in, get your mask, and get a glass of wine and some refreshments. Peruse all the wonderful items we'll have for sale. Enjoy the food, the music, camaraderie, the entertaining auctioneers, and some good shopping. **Bid! Bid! BID!**

But wait - there's more! Childcare will be available. YES!! That means EVERYONE can come, participate, bid, and buy great stuff. And you'll know where your kids are. And to top it all off, we've arranged for Daylight Saving Time to end that night, so you can all set your clocks back and enjoy an extra hour of sleep. You're welcome!

And thanks to all of you who donated! You can drop them off during the final week of October (dates and drop-off details coming soon). Stay tuned!

Any questions? Reach out to Robin Bradley
at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org or speak with her at church.



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

2025 ANNUAL MEETING



AGENDA

- I. Opening Hymn: I, the Lord of Sea and Sky
- II. Prayer
- III. Quorum Established
 - a. Appointment of Secretary and Tellers
- IV. Rector's Address
- V. Treasurer's Report
- VI. Legacy Committee Presentation
- VII. Right of Floor – Q & A
- VIII. Presentation of Gifts
 - a. Vestry
 - b. Staff
- IX. Result of Vestry Election
- X. Adjournment & Dismissal Prayer
- XI. Closing Hymn: I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

Daniel L. Schutte

Houston



**VESTRY CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES
ARE LOCATED ON PAGES 54-57**





Verses



I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my
I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my
I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the



peo - ple cry. All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will
peo - ple's pain. I have wept for love of them, they turn a -
poor and lame. I will set a feast for them, my hand will



save. I who made the stars of night,
way. I will break their hearts of stone,
save. Fin - est bread I will pro - vide



I will make their dark - ness bright. Who will bear my
give them hearts for love a - lone. I will speak my
till their hearts be sat - si - fied. I will give my



light to them? Whom shall I send? _____
word to them. Whom shall I send? _____
life to them. Whom shall I send? _____

Refrain



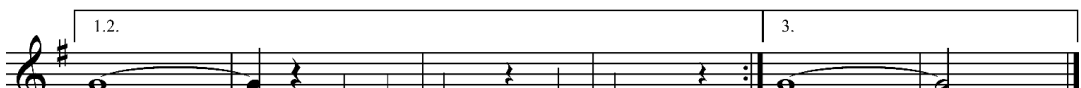
Here I am, Lord. _____ Is it I, Lord? _____ I have



heard you call-ing in the night. _____ I will go, Lord, _____

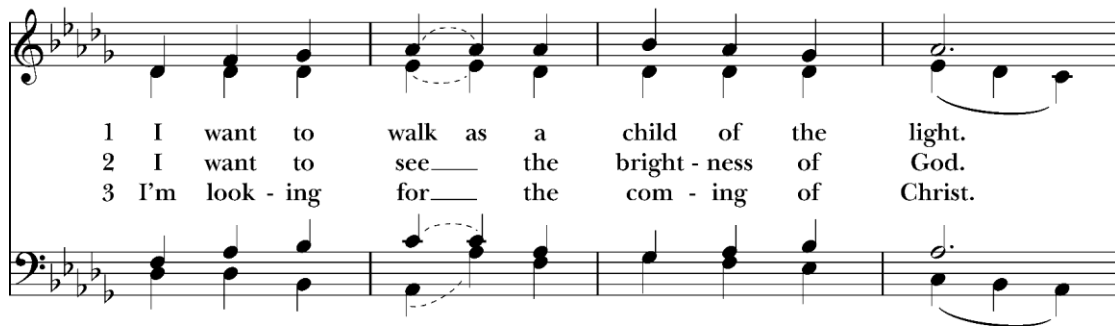


— if you lead me, _____ I will hold your peo - ple in my

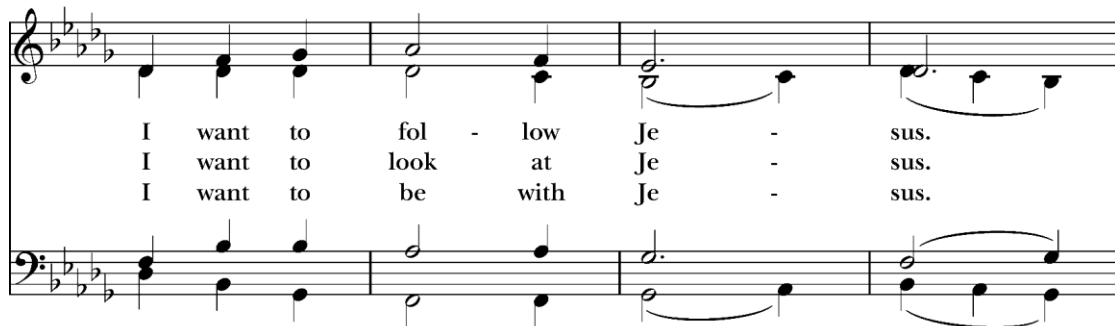


heart. _____

heart. _____



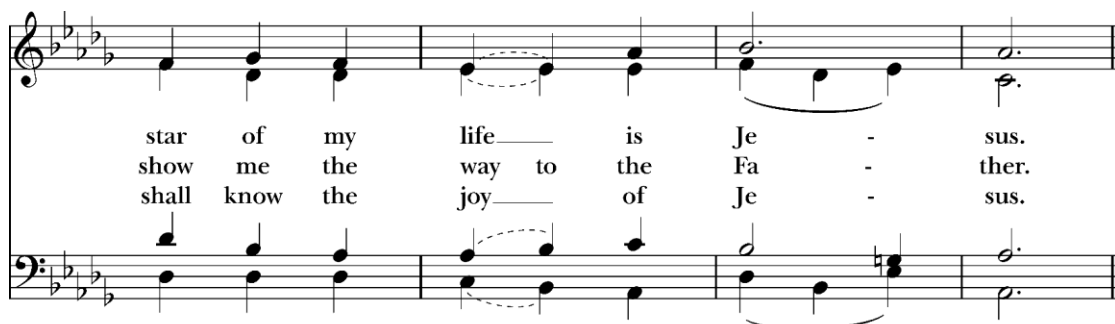
1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright - ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
 Clear sun of right - eous - ness, shine on my path, and
 When we have run with pa - tience the race, we

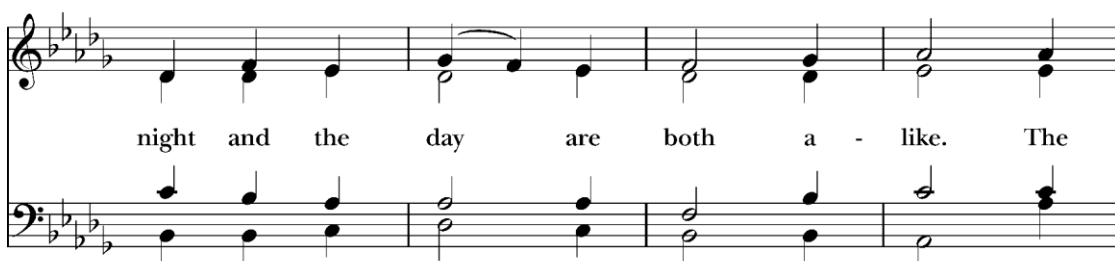


star of my life is Je - sus.
 show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The

musical score for two staves (treble and bass clef) in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The tempo is marked *rel.* (rallentando).

Lyrics: Lamb is the light of the ci - ty of God.

Lyrics: Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

The score includes a *a tempo* marking above the second system.



REPORT FROM OUR RECTOR

Building Relationships through LOVE

MAKE MY JOY COMPLETE

In my sermon last Sunday, I reflected in praise and made this statement: “Your (God) praise shall always be in my mouth. Not only for what you have done for me, but for who you (God) are to me.” I am very much aware that I am not the only one who feels this way about God. Billions of people around the world also feel this way about God, and I am thankful for that.

I made this claim because of my deepest belief that who God is to us has absolutely nothing to do with who we are. We are broken - broken pieces of earthenware pots which have no use - but that isn't how God sees us. God uses us as we are to accomplish God's purposes, and for me, the grace in that fills me with utmost pride and humility.

I wake up each morning with the feeling of being blessed beyond measure. I embrace each day with all the challenges that it presents. I cherish each day with the grace of doing my very best. I live thankfully, knowing that I cannot take anything for granted, but to approach life and ministry with a deep sense of appreciation and humility.

It is with this humble spirit that I give thanks for the ministry we all share together at Christ Church. This ministry continues to see an extraordinary burst of life. Despite these challenges, some of which are systemic, ministry at Christ Church is rich, healthy, and strong, and thanks be to God, our congregation is thriving - and I am thankful for that.

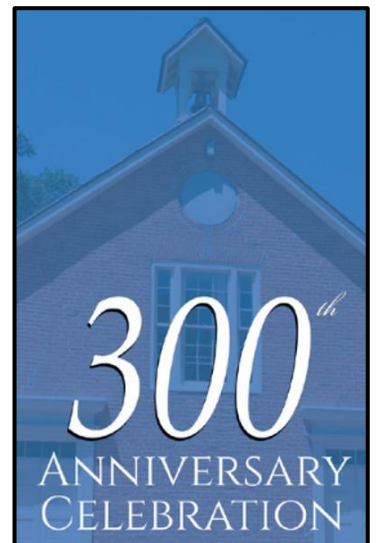
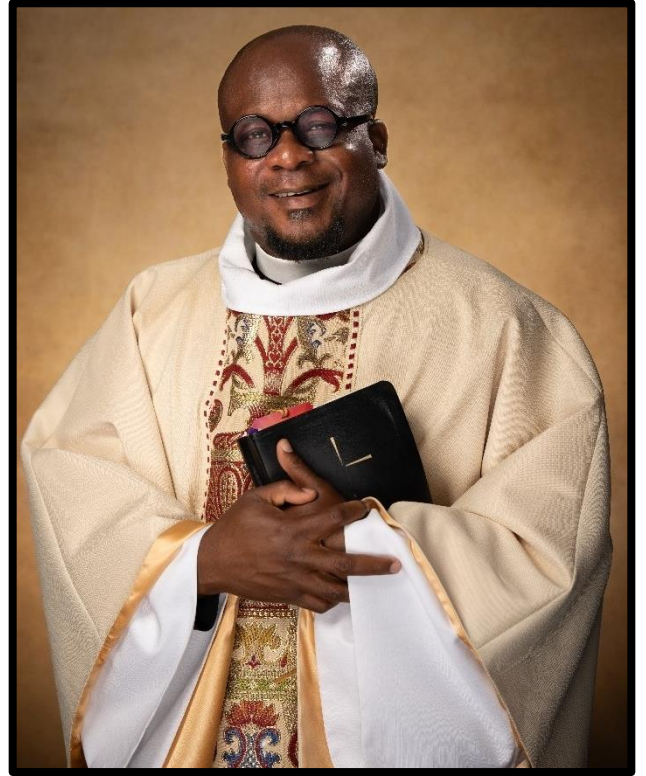
I'd like to touch briefly on some aspects of our common life that bring me so much joy. Karl Barth once remarked that, “Joy is the simplest form of gratitude.” And my joy tells the story of my deepest appreciation to each of you for all that you do to make our common life rich, life-giving, holy and transformative.

300 YEAR-ANNIVERSARY

In the next couple of years, Christ Church - which began as Queen Caroline Parish - will be celebrating 300 years of ministry in this part of God's kingdom. This is a huge milestone, and we ought to be very proud of it. The fact of the matter is, not many churches can boast of having ministered in the exact same location for three centuries. I believe that we have been blessed, and we will use this anniversary to showcase the blessings of God.

Over the past several months, I have worked with a lot of our parishioners to draw up a year-long celebration of this milestone. I am grateful to Robin Bradley for working so hard on this project. As the Coordinator for the anniversary, she has worked tirelessly with all the different committees who are involved in planning the different aspects of our celebration. The plan for the entire year is nearing completion; the dates are set, and the activities have been lined up. Over the next year, we will publish the plans we have created for the celebration.

(continued)



One of the fantastic tasks that we will try and accomplish at this annual meeting is to come up with a theme for the celebration. We have worked on three different themes that invites us to look back, and also look forward into the bright future that is ahead of us.

It is my prayer that we will all work together as we approach this pivotal moment in the life of our community.

As we reflect on the celebration, we are also mindful of the legacy that we will bequeath to our future parishioners. It is my hope that you will get yourself deeply involved in this conversation because of its importance to the future sustainability of our beloved Christ Church.



WORSHIP

One of the important reasons why we gather is to worship. Over the past year we have been driven by the desire to provide additional worship opportunities that speak to each and every parishioner in a way that helps them deepen their faith and respond to God's call to serve.

Beginning with the eccentric 8:00 a.m. service, the exuberant 9:00 a.m. service that welcomes children in creatively unbelievable ways, the music filled 10:30 service and the quiet and reflective Taizé Vespers that has introduced us to a genre of music that calms the soul and invites us to a much deeper reflection. A few weeks ago, George Toth created two torches to help with the 9:00 a.m. service. Each season infuses different ideas to what we could do to make the service open and accepting to children. One of the exciting services we had was the Blessing of Pets. It was fun to see all the different pets that were blessed.

I have no doubt in my mind that our worship feeds our weary souls and keeps us grounded in God. To the many volunteers whose tireless work behind the scenes bring meaning to so many of our worshippers, I am thankful.

OLD BRICK

I have always had a deep fondness for Old Brick. It is a beautiful sanctuary with untold history. Part of its history has never been shared. But whenever I see the building, I am struck by the fact that this building has not only served thousands of people, but it has been a witness to some of the atrocities perpetrated on the enslaved who worshipped within its walls.

If only this building had a mouth, you and I would be amazed at all that we could learn from it. But unfortunately, it doesn't. But that doesn't mean that we cannot unearth and tell the stories. I am very sure that in as much as some of the stories maybe pleasant, there may be unpleasant ones too. But I believe that as a community we are matured enough to deal with any of the stories about Old Brick.



As a result of the desire to unearth these stories, and more importantly to take care of the building, the vestry voted to create an Old Brick Foundation, a 501(c3) organization with the sole purpose of sourcing both private and corporate funding to take care of some of the needed repairs and to ensure the long term ...

(continued)



PASTORAL CARE

This ministry is of utmost importance to our common life, and it is one of the areas that we need to work on. Our Lay Pastoral Care Committee hasn't been as strong as I would wish, but it is important to note that many of our parishioners work hard to reach out to those parishioners who need care. Over the past several months, some of our parishioners started a new Inreach ministry that has been calling parishioners who are homebound. The Vestry makes it a point to also call parishioners and check in with them.

I am eternally grateful to the Lay Eucharistic Visitors - these parishioners take the Eucharist to those parishioners who cannot be with us. I am grateful to Joan Harvey, Kathy Lyon, and Julie and Matt Lawser for being part of this group of visitors. We are always looking for more volunteers to help with this ministry, so please let me know if you are interested in helping.

PARISH LIFE

There are many activities which enrich our parish life and create for us the opportunity to for fellowship. First Wednesday Fellowships have been a great way for parishioners to relax, have fun and enjoy a meal together. More than that, parishioners have found great value in playing games and getting to know each other. The one event that has attracted more people is the annual Crab Feast. It was truly special this past summer, and our hope is to make it more exciting in the years to come. I give thanks to Jenn Atkins, Leigh Smith, and everyone who helps make FWF a reality.



The Women of Christ Church have enriched our parish life with activities that I cannot number. The Men of Christ Church has also been extremely active. I have had several monthly Happy Hour gatherings with the young adults in our church, and we plan to keep it going. There's also conversation about resuming the monthly Theology on Tap series. These are but a few examples of activities that have helped deepen our parish life, and I am thankful to every parishioner whose vision, dedication, and drive helps hold our community together.



In addition to these fun and relaxing activities, we have been blessed by spiritual nurturing through the work of the Spiritual Life Commission. The Advent and Lenten Quiet Days, the *Wednesday Evening in Lent* supper series, and the production of the Lenten Meditation Booklet have been life-transforming for so many of us. And I am thankful for the tireless work of Ellen Hoke and the members of this committee.

Over the past year, we started a new initiative led by our then-Seminarian, Mike Looney. Through his efforts, we started the Center for Spiritual Nourishment. The CSN is dedicated to providing extraordinary opportunities for us to gather, study, and reflect on our spiritual practices. Through this monthly gathering, we can express our spiritual longings and seek ways that satisfy them.

VESTRY

I am thankful to our Vestry. Their dedication to their work has been superb. They have served as faithful and good stewards of the resources that each of you commits to this congregation. They have been a source of good counsel, comfort and strength for me. I am thankful to the Wardens-Denisa, Diane and Drew. I am equally thankful to Ron Couch, our dedicated Secretary, and all the Vestry members. To the retiring members, Denisa Abdallah, (who is running for another term) John Curley, Ray Lyon and Aldred Titus-Glover, you all have been incredibly marvelous and generous with your time, talent and treasure, and for all that you are and have given, I am thankful. It is important to recognize that the Vestry members we elect today will be the very ones who would be responsible for the 300-year anniversary celebration.

(continued)

STAFF

I sincerely believe that our beloved Christ Church has a truly dedicated corps of staff members. Mother Marcia has been incredible. Her energy and absolute commitment to Christ Church isn't lost on anyone of us. From her grandmotherly approach at keeping the 9:00 a.m. service going and leading two EfM groups, among many others, Mother Marcia continues to be an asset for our congregation and we remain thankful for her ministry.

We welcomed Yehi, a seminarian from Virginia Theological Seminary. He is a wonderful addition, and is learning the ropes of ministry and we are so glad he is with us.

After having served as an interim Parish Administrator for close to a year, Yetti assumed the substantive position and combines that with being the Ministry Coordinator. I call her "Boss Lady" because everything runs at Christ Church because of her dedicated work, but I am very much aware that the two roles she fills is, at times, draining. It is our plan to hire a Ministries Coordinator to support her work. I am thankful for all that she does.

For those of us who made it to the *Larissa and Friends* recital last weekend, you would have found yourself listening to some of the best music on the planet. That was an example of Larissa's work with our music ministry. From leading the 9:00 a.m. worship, the Bell Choir, our 10:30 service, Taizé each month, and other services, Larissa's work has proven to be very pivotal to our worship experience. For all her work, I am truly thankful. Thanks also go to Ola Oladipupo for supporting and working with Larissa in growing our music ministry.

Chris typically shies away from any public acknowledgement of his work. But as I always remind him, I have no idea what we would have done without his deep involvement, insight, thoughtfulness, and expertise. Everything related to communications has Chris' imprints on it. He works tirelessly and cheerfully to share our common life with people across the entire world, and his work expands our territory beyond Columbia. Chris' humble approach to ministry always reminds me of Jesus' words: *'I came not to be served but to serve.'* I am thankful for all the work that he does.

I am thankful for Diya's youthful exuberance and attention to detail. We deeply appreciate her immense support.

To keep our holy space welcoming for all of you, John has been of tremendous help, and I am thankful for him each day.

Amanda and Nytia have kept our children safe in the nursery. Their work is invaluable, and I thank them for their work.

Augmenting the work of all our dedicated staff are the countless volunteers who bless us with their cherished gifts. There isn't enough space for me to fill it with my depth of gratitude for all our volunteers. Your passion and deep love for this congregation brings light and life to this sacred ground and I am deeply, deeply thankful to all of you for all that you are and all that you do.

Christ Church is a thriving and healthy congregation. And I am thankful for it because not every congregation in our diocese is healthy and strong as we are. In spite of being healthy, we also have challenges like every organization. But we are able to meet all these different challenges because faithful parishioners like you support this congregation in overcoming these challenges. And for that, I am sincerely grateful to each and every one of you for your faithfulness, grace, wise counsel and support. All the gifts that you share with this congregation bring life, healing and transformation to distances far and near.

My joy is complete because of the gracious favor of God, your individual blessings and prayers, and the love of my family. It is my joy to serve you, and there's nowhere else to share my joy than to share it with you. I am grateful for the joy, the laughter and the sorrowful tears, all these make our life worth living.

My deep and sincere appreciation for your faithfulness and unfailing love,

Manny+

revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

WARDENS' REPORT

It has been a privilege serving as wardens this past year and we express our heartfelt thanks to the clergy, staff, vestry, volunteers, and all parishioners for the support and trust that you placed in us.

We meet at least monthly with Fr. Manny and Drew (our Treasurer) to discuss the administrative and operational business of the church, and the Vestry also meets monthly. Over the past year, we have developed close friendships and a mutual respect for our fellow Vestry members who exhibit such dedication and care for our Christ Church community.



We spent several months leading a search committee to find a part-time Associate Rector to support Fr. Manny, as we are very aware that Fr. Manny works extremely hard, long hours and he needs help. Although we were not successful in hiring an Associate, we are continuing to think of ways to help Fr. Manny, and we are grateful that Mother Marcia stepped in to help with our 9 a.m. Family Worship service on Sunday, among other things. We also conducted an annual mutual evaluation of the Rector and Vestry to identify opportunities for improving our effectiveness. We offer special thanks to all the parishioners that participated, and we continue to work hard to implement suggestions and recommendations.

We give thanks to our vibrant Christ Church Outreach ministries that continue to serve both our parish and the broader community with joyous energy that, repeatedly, strikes Diane and I both as truly unmatched. Their dedication is a living testament to the love of Christ in action, and it truly defines our Christ Church family. We also give thanks to all who make ministry possible – from Sunday worship, to Sunday Circle, to FWF and other fellowship opportunities, to Pastoral Care, and beyond. Diane and I try to attend and assist with as many gatherings as possible.

Finally, we would like to ask all parishioners to remain prayerful and engaged, and to help Christ Church continue building a community based in faith, love, and joy. Together, let us dream boldly, serve with joy, and grow deeply in Christ.

Denisa Abdallah, Senior Warden & Diane Phillips LaGuerre, 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. The congregational singing is led by our Adult Choir from September through early June. The choir has benefitted from collaborating with professional singers who read music and can serve as anchors to the volunteer choral singers around them. This September, we resumed the practice of processing into the church on the first Sunday of the month. 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 program year, we offer a Taizé Vespers service on the first Sunday of each month as well as every Sunday during Lent. This beautiful service features music from the ecumenical Taizé community of France, prayers, readings, and poetry for a quiet and meditative evening. The music portion is led by two of our professional singers, Caitlin Gompf and Catherine Hinton, and Larissa Sanders and other instrumentalists.

Our Handbell Choir continues to grow and meets weekly to rehearse on Thursday evenings. This multi-generational group presents music on a semi-regular basis during 10:30 services as well as during our Lessons & Carols service.

During Sunday School, Jan DeBoissiere generously donated her time to help teach the young children some church songs. They shared some of these songs with the

congregation during a Sunday service and we plan to expand on this practice for the coming year by having the children sing during Family Worship and at other services throughout the year. This summer, we had another very successful Vacation Bible School and Choir Camp at the end of June. During the week, the children sang many songs and learned a contemporary praise song to share during the service on Sunday.

We have so much musical talent in our congregation. Jan DeBoissiere, Phil Bray, Patrick Frith, JB Hanson, and Shannon Pruitt led us with guitars and vocals for several services over the last year. Greta Barnes has joined the choir with both her singing voice and her flute. Our liturgical dance group, Lumen Christi, collaborated with the choir for a very beautiful opening to our Lessons & Carols service, for our contemplative Meditations on the Passion service on Palm Sunday evening, and for a very moving Survivors Sunday service.

In addition to providing music at all of these important services, members of our Music Ministry have been active in providing music for many other events at Christ Church during the year. Our *Larissa & Friends* recital has now become an annual event where guest musicians join Larissa Sanders to offer a concert for a free will donation to the Music Ministry. Small Delusions offers free concerts throughout the year and often volunteers their time to provide music for other events. The Music Ministry donated several items to the Church Auction, including an in-house recital given by Larissa Sanders and “Music for Your Event” donated by members of the choir led and accompanied by Larissa Sanders. Members of the choir took the lead in caroling to visit parishioners who are home-bound. Larissa played the organ and members of the choir joined singers from other churches to lead the singing for three ordination services at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Baltimore for Rebecca Warlow and Kiona Lookingbill.

Thank you to all for your donation of time and talent!

Larissa Sanders
Director of Music
music@christchurchcolumbia.org



SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

The Spiritual Life Commission has been in existence for over two decades now, and we are so grateful for the support given by our parish and this opportunity to serve. We met last month and decided that the Spiritual Life Theme for the 2025-2026 Ministry Year will be **Building Relationships through Love**. We truly appreciated the response of everyone at Christ Church over the last year, for your enthusiastic support and participation in our programs, retreats, and publications. Stay tuned for many more gatherings in the coming year.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

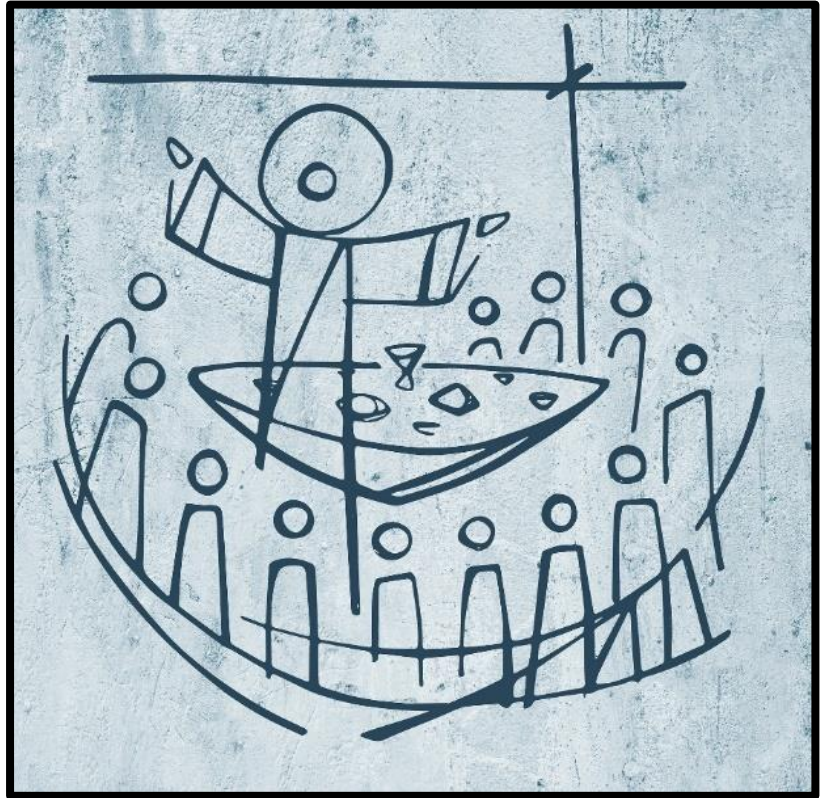
For 40 Sundays during the Church year (excluding Lent), the weekly Prayers of the People are composed and provided by the Spiritual Life Commission. These have all been written by members of our congregation over the last 14 years. Please join us - new writers are always welcome and encouraged, and we will provide you with guidance.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

A ministry created to keep people connected during COVID and continued at the request of parishioners, the broadcasts of Morning and Evening Prayer each week are provided by the Spiritual Life Commission. You can find these on our Facebook page and on our website at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 7:00 p.m. on Friday evenings.

ADVENT QUIET DAY

This in-person retreat was held on December 7, 2024 and was a morning of peace, openness, and reflection. There were periods of meditation, discussion, reading and composition. It was led by the Reverend Kirk Kubicek. It was entitled **Reaching out in Faith to God and One Another**.



LENTEN MEDITATION BOOK

This has been an ongoing tradition since 2005. Using our 2024 theme, **Reaching Out in Faith**, we created a 58-page booklet with 48 meditations from twenty-seven members of the congregation, as well as a Daily Office with readings for every day during Lent. We ordered 150 copies of our booklet so that parishioners could take a free copy home and use it any time they wished, and this year, we had to print a second run because the first were gone within the initial week. Each year for more than a decade, Chris Pouch, our Communications Administrator, has edited and published the Lenten Meditation Booklet and 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, was led by Rev Emmanuel Mercer, our Rector, on 15 March 2025, replacing Sister Theresa Irene, who was ill and couldn't meet her commitment. There were over twenty people in attendance.

(continued)

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPER SERIES - 5 WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

Spiritual Life organized a series of five in-person weekly lectures from the Rt. Reverend Robert Ihloff on March 12th, the Reverend Marcia Davenport on 19 March, the Reverend Kirk Kubicek on March 26th, the Reverend Richard Ginnever on April 2nd and our Rector, the Reverend Emmanuel Mercer, concluding the series on April 9th. Many people gathered with us in person and online via Zoom.

THE SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION 2024-2025 THEME

SLC met online on August 27th, searching for a meaningful theme for the upcoming 2025-2026 ministry year. We entertained numerous Scriptural passages, from both the Old and New Testaments. After much prayer and discussion, we felt that **Building Relationships Through Love** 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.

CEC BOOK CLUB ONLINE DISCUSSION GROUP

The Spiritual Life Commission sponsored book discussions in 2025 on Zoom. The books were: *James* by Percival Everett and *The Second Mountain* by David Brooks.

Ellen Hoke

Christ Church Spiritual Life Commission

SLC@christchurchcolumbia.org



LAY PASTORAL CARE

The ministries of the LPC Commission must rely on many hands to do the work of assisting others, and right now, there are too few active volunteers, so we ask you to consider how you might be able to help assist others in our parish family.

One example is our Prayer Shawl Ministry. In 2021, a small group of volunteers began this ministry at Christ Church by 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, and the response to this ministry has been very positive.

More recently, a former ministry was brought back after experiencing a lapse during COVID. Earlier this year, parishioner Michon Semon saw a need to revive our Inreach Ministry, and so she collaborated with our Communications Administrator, Chris, to refresh its website page, and you can now find it at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/inreach. This ministry's mission is to assist those unable to attend church and require assistance with other concerns (person-to-person visits, shopping help, medication delivery, and so on), so please read our website page and see if you can help.

This ministry is truly a rewarding experience.

pastoralcare@christchurchcolumbia.org

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY



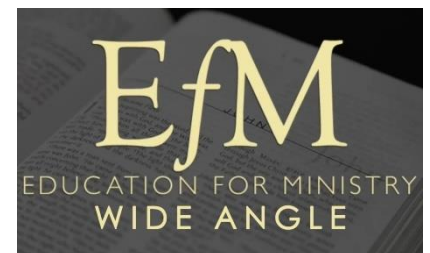
Education for Ministry (EfM) invites the people of God to discern and act in faith through small group reflection. It is a program of practical theology based on study and practice in theological reflection, helping participants discover and nurture their call to Christian service where they live, work, 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.”

New to the current EfM program this year, University of the South at Sewanee is also offering a condensed one-year EfM course called Wide Angle. Participants can be integrated into the regular four-year (Classic) program or participate in a different group. They will use a different combination of materials. Additionally, Sewanee plans to make the Path, (formerly known as the Reading and Reflection Guide) as well as ancillary course material available online, thus providing access to a wide variety of reading and video resources whose links are embedded in the Path.

In 2024-2025, seven participants (including one from St. John’s, Ellicott City) comprised Christ Church’s second year of our EfM offering in a hybrid environment. We had four second-year participants, three members who were beginning their first year, and Mother Marcia, who continued as our mentor. We studied material from and about both the Old (Year One) and New (Year Two) Testaments and continued our work on mastering the process of Theological Reflection. At the end of the year, one of our group members found that at this time she is unable to commit to continuing the program. We will greatly miss her and her thoughtful insights and contributions.

Thanks in particular go to enthusiastic recruiting efforts by Mother Marcia, our Communications Administrator, Chris, parishioner Jane Adams, and Amy Stalder, our participant from St. John's in Ellicott City, interest in the EfM program at Christ Church has exploded. As we have begun a third year of EfM, running from mid-September 2025 through mid-June 2026, a total of thirteen people have begun our new EfM year, including members from Christ Church, St. John’s, Ellicott City and St. Peter’s, Ellicott City. What a great joy it is to welcome folks with a very interesting mix of ages, parishes, Episcopal and non-Episcopal persons, giving us representatives with great and diverse spiritual journeys!

There are six people in the hybrid Sunday afternoon EfM: Classic seminar group, one of whom participates in all the sessions via Zoom. Currently, four members from the original Classic group are continuing with their third year of the program where the focus is on the history of the church, and one member who began the 2024/2025 has stayed on and will work through the second year’s New Testament material. We have one participant who is new to EfM and will begin with the first-year course content examining the Old Testament (the Hebrew Bible). Seven people comprise the new Thursday evening online EfM: Wide Angle group. We have found that participation by members at a variety of levels of study is so much more meaningful for us all.



Please consider joining us next year!

Submitted by Mother Marcia Davenport and Robin Bradley

EfM@christchurchcolumbia.org

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

We closed out 2024 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.

We finished 2024 with a small surplus which we applied to some current expenses, reserves for planned capital expenses and to increase our cash reserves.

The Budget Committee started working on the 2026 budget in September, in conjunction with the Stewardship Committee's development of the Stewardship Campaign, now underway. We expect to have a balanced budget completed and approved by the Vestry by the end of the year.

Drew Eaton, Treasurer

Denis Read, Assistant Treasurer

Bill Kirkpatrick, Assistant Treasurer

treasurer@christchurchcolumbia.org



Welcome to Christ Church's 2026 Pledge Campaign. It is that time of year when we reflect on what it means to be part of an inclusive and dedicated Christian community of faith supporting the ministries we share. It is that time of year when we humbly invite you to consider funding as one of the many ways God can use to radically transform who we are as disciples.

Regardless of the level of giving, we believe making this promise for the year ahead is a sign of hope and an affirmation that we are rooted in God's abundance. Each year, we focus on encouraging all of us to make a pledge because it both changes who we are as individuals growing in generosity and as a community **building relationships through love**, and to be an expression of God's love in the world.



Building Relationships through
LOVE
Our 2026 Pledge Campaign

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
WWW.CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG

OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

YOUR CHRIST CHURCH OUTREACH COMMISSION AT WORK IN 2025

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



- **Monthly meals for the homeless.** To serve 150+ neighbors at Grassroots' DRC at Dorsey Center and its Emergency Shelter, a team buys the highly-anticipated fried chicken and prepares side dishes and desserts in our own kitchens. We supplement with fruit and pantry items. Midday at the DRC, a team of four to six volunteers serve in person. For the evening meal, parishioners drop off prepared or purchased menu items that are served by the shelter's staff. Scheduling meals for both sites on the same day helps Christ Church make the most of our resources – including your time and talent.
- **Food drives.** On April 5, a group of more than a dozen parishioners held the Spring Food Drive at a Giant supermarket. The result: a half-ton of non-perishables for the Howard County Food Bank and SAFE, a gluten- and allergy-free pantry. The 2025 Fall Food Drive is set for Nov. 8. Our annual Thanksgiving collection of sides for holiday meal kits also helped the food bank, a part of Community Action Council of Howard County.
- **Weekly collections of necessities for the less fortunate.** Now that FISH and Columbia Community Care have combined forces, you can put non-perishable food, staples, and diapers in the altar basket and a single bin inside the Parish Hall. Both groups offer in-person volunteer options; for FISH, participate from home once a month by phone.
- **Supporting vulnerable students near and far.** In New Brick on July 13 and during a hybrid meetup on Zoom on Aug. 5, parishioners interacted with a leader of St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC) and with leaders and students of Friends of Sabina (FOS) in Uganda. Several members of Outreach went to SLYC's camp showcase to see a performance and artwork by the West Baltimore children. As for FOS, the Aribiah family took the concept of "field trip" to a new level by traveling during their trip to Africa to Sabina Primary School for a tour and the meetup.
- **Coat drive for SLYC.** Parishioners brought in gently-used kids' outerwear and Outreach provided funds for a thrift-shop run so that 37 children kept warm last winter.
- **Angel Tree gifts for 12 middle-schoolers.** In collaboration with the Salvation Army, our annual list makes kids' Christmas wishes come true: a new outfit and shoes, plus gifts ranging from a soccer ball to a comforter.
- **Support of Somos Amigos Medical Missions.** On March 9, Christ Church welcomed Founder and CEO Frank Brightwell for his annual sermon and Sunday Circle presentation. He also met with former and repeat volunteers who travel each year to the clinic in the Dominican Republic.
- **Goods to raise funds for DreamBuilders.** Our sales of coffee, tea and chocolates to the parish and participation in the annual spaghetti dinner (including silent auction donations) supported the third trip in a row to rebuild homes in flood-damaged Kentucky.

(continued)

We are prayerfully distributing \$24,750 from the CEC parish budget, all of which will be distributed by Dec. 31. In addition, by year-end approximately \$3,900 in parishioners' contributions will be distributed. This includes gifts intentionally carried over from 2024.

Fulfilling Outreach's mission of helping people locally, nationally, and internationally, we report sending funds to 17 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, SAFE, and CAC's Howard County Food Bank).
- Medical, dental care, and referrals to specialists for residents of a remote area of the Dominican Republic (Somos Amigos Medical Missions).
- Disaster relief in the aftermath of wildfires in California, floods in Texas, and landslides and famine in Sudan (Episcopal Relief and Development and UNICEF).
- DreamBuilders, trips to rebuild after disasters.
- Support for incarcerated citizens: Materials to address spiritual needs of men and women at the Howard County Detention Center (Christian Jail Ministry).
- Help for immigrants in Baltimore County through RISE at Christ the King.
- 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 Claggett Center (Episcopal Diocese of Maryland).
- Supporting youth:
 - Summer camp at Claggett for Mid-Atlantic youngsters.
 - 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 2025, 15 students 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

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.

The biggest positive change in our partnership has been the addition of Cindy Drummond, the Community School Site Coordinator, to the LEMS staff. Cindy keeps us informed about the ways in which our parishioners can support the school and assists in making that happen. This has made a huge difference since there is now one person that we can interact with and because we know that the things they request are real needs coming from the school staff on behalf of the families.

Cindy has invited us to support several new projects this year. We purchased age-appropriate prizes for the students that celebrated their academic and social progress during the first quarter of the school year. The students were so excited at the awards ceremony and loved all the positivity that was directed at them.

Lake Elkhorn students participated in a Turkey Trot around the school with gift bags and prizes for students standing out in the school P.R.I.D.E. Positive Behavior Program (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Dependability and Excellence). Christ Church contributed to the event by supplying medals, Gatorade, chips, and candy.

Shrek was the school musical this year and before the Saturday matinee the school held “Snacks at the Swamp” at which younger children could meet some of the characters, participate in fun arts and crafts and have snacks. It was a great way to have families with younger children come to the show. Christ Episcopal funded that event.

Jan DeBoissiere has taken on the challenge of creating costumes for various events which are worn by the 6th grade science teachers, including a Hawk Mascot. The teachers wear these costumes at the beginning of each science unit. The students love seeing their teachers in their crazy costumes and it helps the children remember the unit content.

Throughout the school year, we get phone requests to help families in need. During the past year we purchased a stroller/car seat for a young mother and clothing for two brothers who were new to the school.

Each month, we supplied the school with requested food and household items at the Kindness Pantry. There were over 60 families who came to shop for supplies and also take home a protein box from The Roving Radish. Our members brought the items to the church monthly, transported them to the school, and welcomed the families.



In August we stuffed 125 backpacks with the help of many parishioners and delivered them to the school during their Block Party orientation event. Yetti and John were invaluable in helping this happen. This is a huge help to struggling families and it is fun to see the children come to the Block Party and pick out their backpack.

There are many new opportunities that Cindy Drummond has suggested. Church members are welcome to tutor during the math classes or after school from 3:30 to 4:30. We also are needed during the lunch periods to just be a friendly face for the students. Sometimes we just show up for community building events like the Black History Month Celebration, the Hispanic Heritage Dinner or a school/community discussion.

We want to thank Maggie Thompson and Mary Vail for their dedication to the LEMS Partnership as they move on to new pursuits. We now have a small committee composed of Jenny Cecil, Jan DeBoissiere, Sara Kirkpatrick, and Cathy Whittaker. If you would like to join our committee, become involved at the school as a lunchroom friend, tutor, or occasional visitor to school events, please let us know.

Cathy Whittaker - Chair, LEMS partnership
LEMS@christchurchcolumbia.org





***FOUR YEARS, SIXTEEN-PLUS CONGREGATIONS, EIGHT FAMILIES, AND GROWING -
OUR MISSION OF GIVING HELP AND HOPE TO LOCALLY SETTLED REFUGEES***

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

When the 2024 annual report of the Interfaith Refugee Ministry (IRM) opened with these heartfelt words from one of the refugees we serve, the IRM was comprised of six congregations serving four families.

As this report is written in early October 2025, the IRM has continuing relationships with eight refugee families (with 30 family members), and so far in 2025, has helped nearly 30 more local refugee men, women and children with temporary or one-time assistance.

Members of more than 16 different congregations, and many people not affiliated with religious organizations, now help these refugees and often other refugee families supported by their congregations. We are Episcopalians, Lutherans, Quakers, Methodists, Jews, Unitarians, Roman Catholics, Mormons, and people of no specific faith all working together to help (mostly, but not exclusively) Muslims.

Some of the major milestones since last October in the families we serve:

- Three more of our families became financially self-sufficient in 2025. (Three of the eight came to us financially self-sufficient; the other two currently receive significant financial assistance, principally to pay rent, but both are on tailored financial plans to become financially independent.) We continue to help with one-time or temporary financial needs.
- A condo was bought!! Thanks to a Howard County program helping moderate income families.
- When a family’s car was carjacked and totalled in early 2025 – meaning the father could not work his delivery job – enough money was donated so quickly that within a week he was able to buy another used car, but one new enough to be eligible to drive for Uber and Lyft, significantly increasing this family’s income.
- A medical professional in Afghanistan now works as a certified dental assistant
- Two teenagers graduated from high school
- A new American citizen was born
- After nearly a year of discouraging job search, two members of a family now have fulltime work
- Members of the families we have helped are now helping other refugees – with their knowledge, donations of used clothing and household items, translating and interpreting, transportation

(continued)

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 arrived here with literally nothing. But money is just one piece of the help that we can and do give.

Here are examples of just *some* of the help – financial and otherwise – given by the Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry and its many partner congregations so far in 2025:



- Rent and utility payments for two families of the IRM’s eight families (in gradually declining amounts); one time help for our families and other refugees, including joining with several local churches in one-time efforts to stave off eviction for two families not part of the IRM
- Tuition, fees, books, required materials for classes and certification programs at local community colleges
- Transportation to jobs, the community college, doctors’ appointments, food banks and other food distribution sites, social services meetings, job interviews, halal food markets, etc.
- Being on top of routine and emergency medical, dental, vision needs – making and accompanying to appointments, obtaining records, ensuring translation, following up, figuring out Medicaid
- Tutoring for children and adults - in English, computer literacy, financial literacy, reading, math, community college coursework. Finding and arranging for English language classes, in-person and on-line.
- Public school registration for students of various ages; help with parents interfacing with their children’s schools and teachers; enrollment assistance and in-depth follow-up for three little boys in infants and toddlers and pre-school programs. Five different county school districts.
- Providing “know your rights” presentations and information in coordination with Luminus. Helping families know what to do if they are stopped by ICE or other immigration officials
- Requesting and coordinating donations of furniture, household goods, food, clothing, diapers, gift cards, children’s toys and books, clothes, etc.
- Assistance in preparing for upcoming termination of SNAP (food stamps) and Medicaid as a direct result of the July 2025 One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA) – every one of our families will be impacted by these changes, as will thousands of other refugees living in our area
- Especially for our newer families, helping as the ministry has funds available with the cost of their utilities, medical bills, WiFi, car insurance, immigration-related legal bills, gas, halal food, rent, driver’s license costs
- Help finding immigration law assistance
- Contacting U.S. Senator Van Hollen’s office multiple times for assistance with immigration issues
- Helping First Lutheran Church of Ellicott City 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; trips to emergency rooms and walk-in clinics

(continued)

- Receiving and distributing used electronics, wiped clean and in good condition – laptops, ipads, mobile phones, printers, Chromebooks, desktops
- Helping put important communications into grammatically correct English
- Arranging for paid and volunteer translators and interpreters
- 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”



- **Pray.** For the refugees we are helping, for the families who are still separated, for refugees everywhere
- **Volunteer in the Ministry.** Contact Ann Barnes at annbarnes001@comcast.net to talk it over.
- **Donate.** No amount is too small (nor too large!) via Realm or by check payable to Christ Church and marked Refugee Ministry. Every penny goes to direct support of the refugees we serve.

To read more about Refugee Ministry, go to <https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/refugee-ministry>.

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

Respectfully submitted by the Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry Leadership Team (Paula Rees, Diana Hall, Pat DeLorenzo, Steve Alpern, Jan DeBoisierre, Cherrylynn Williams, Ann Barnes)



A large group of approximately 25 people, mostly women, posing for a group photo in a room with light green walls. Some people are seated at round tables in the foreground, while others stand behind them. A framed sign on the wall reads "GATHERING ROOM".

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, our monthly meeting is occasionally 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.



39



We partner with Grassroots shelter to provide “Home Sweet Home” housewarming kits for people who transition to be on their own. We also 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.

Another tradition we have is to send birthday cards to all women of Christ Church, either through emails or post.

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

- Wearing Red for Heart Health campaign
- Providing the first Lenten Wednesday supper
- Women’s History Month tour of Historic London Town & Garden
- Guided Labyrinth Walks at St. John’s
- Robinson Nature Center lunch and walk
- “Hats On for Mother’s Day” event on Mother’s Day
- The Summer Tea at the Kate Pearl Tea Room
- Sponsoring Dance for Survivor’s Sunday by Lumen Christi
- Toby’s Dinner Theater outing to see “Saturday Night Fever”
- The Flea Market & Craft Fair
- Movie nights throughout the year
- Evening Meeting at Famous Dave’s
- Lake Kittamaqundi Nature Walk
- Christmas Luncheon at King’s Contrivance



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

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

Women of Christ Church
WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org



MOTHER MARCIA'S REPORT ON CHRIST CHURCH'S CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

Dear Christ Church,

During the 2024 - 2025 parish year, I continued to preside regularly at the 9:00 a.m. Family Worship. I was assisted by Deacon Rebecca Warlow and Seminarian Mike Looney in presenting children's homilies each Sunday.

The children participated as crucifers leading the procession into the church each Sunday, assisting with parental help in lighting the altar candles and offering the lighting and antiphons for the Advent season. They also collected the offering during the offertory.



I rejoined the Christ Church staff in July of this year, being asked by Father Manny to assume responsibility for the Children and Family Ministry. In July and the early weeks of August, I revised the liturgy for the 9 a.m. service, adding a short Psalm selection which could be led by our children as readers, and with the congregation who offer the Prayers of the People. We were fortunate, indeed, to obtain the craftsmanship of parishioner George Toth in making two acolyte torches suitable for young children to carry these works of art, which we recently dedicated. This allows for the beginning of a 'junior' acolyte core of children who can practice and lead weekly processions as well as participate in services at the other two Sunday services periodically.

One of the most creative parts of our Sunday School program which began last year was the addition of a ten-minute singing experience led by Jan DeBoissiere and a 10-minute yoga segment led by Jane Adams. I recently had the opportunity to see our children practicing their yoga with mindfulness, Jane beginning with the drum, moving to the flute and having absolute attention and participation. During both of these activities, our children are settled into a more present presence and prepared for their Sunday School lessons.

We have expanded the offering of Sunday School Bible lessons to include our nursery children who are too young for the two younger and older Sunday School classes. This includes Bible stories and simple praise songs.



In coordination with the Sunday School teachers, led by Jenn Atkins and the Sunday School volunteers, we examined available Sunday School programs and chose to use the *Weaving God's Promises* as this program offers lessons both in the Hebrew Scriptures (for instance, at the moment until Advent the children are learning the story of Moses and the Israelites in the Passover event), and moves into the study of the Christian Gospels leading up to Christmas. *Weaving God's Promises* is a digital three-year formation curriculum for children ages 3-11, and features class sessions structured around the Holy Eucharist and includes special sessions for the seasons of the church year. Lessons are designed to be easy to understand and easy to prepare. Children also participate in hands-on craft projects throughout the year.

Our faithful Sunday School teachers, two in each class per Sunday, are, frankly, awesome! Their patience faced with 10 active learners or more, of differing ages and abilities, is amazing. They come back every year, and many Sundays, giving up their own spiritual nourishment and quiet to be present and loving with all of our children. Please thank each and all of them!

We have two formal children's Sunday School classes at this time - a younger group with pre-readers and early elementary students, and an older group with children up to grade six.

Goals

One of the goals of our family and children's programs this year is to offer family friendly and engaging liturgies and opportunities for participation at all ages. To further this objective, I have been working with our Communications Administrator, Chris Pouch, to publish a monthly Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Newsletter that's sent electronically and provides the upcoming events, pertinent articles from reputable online sources, and activities for the children and/or youth participation. This will include activities and content for the older children that Diya and the Youth Leaders send to Chris for publishing. The September issue went out before the first week of Sunday School and introduced the familiar adult leaders' faces for the upcoming year. The October issue went out before the start of the month and promoted the very popular St. Francis' Day Blessing of the Pets and the always delightful Blessing of the Plushies, beloved toys brought in by their child. This newsletter will grow and expand as we do, so if you have anything you'd like to share with the church for this newsletter, please send those ideas and links to Chris – communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

In the months to come, our Children and Family service will include a 'Harvest Sunday' prior to Thanksgiving, a special 'meet Bishop Carrie' with the children singing, processing and having an up-close homily with our Bishop, the celebration of "All Saints" Sunday complete with halos, and the Annual Christmas Pageant at 4 p.m. on Christmas Eve. These activities supported by the parents and 9 a.m. congregation enrich the lives of our child members at Christ Church.

(continued)



Parents Group

During the Sunday School hour, parents of children who are not active as teachers, have the opportunity to meet as a parent group. Each week, I prepare, as did Kiona, an offering of a pertinent parent topic - an article or theme, for parents to discuss and share their own experiences. This year, Triona and Brad Neff and Erin and Jason Whong have been acting as facilitators, and I want to thank them for their assistance – thank you!

I hope to encourage the parents and children to participate in at least one all-generational Outreach project day during the Lenten season.

Teaching Church by Immersion

If you visit the 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist, you will quickly perceive the children as active participants in the liturgy. Not only do we process together but the children actively respond to the homily, posing their questions and comments, as well as reading the Psalm and Prayers of the People and giving their own prayers requests. We celebrate birthdays. We make a BIG Peace of the Lord with our arms out wide, before singing our offertory hymn. The children stand surrounding the celebrants at the altar, bowing at the consecration, saying the loud, "Amen" and holding hands as we say the Lord's Prayer. As the year progresses, I hope along with Father Manny and seminarian Odidi, to give the children more information about why we do what is said, moved and gestured during the course of the Holy Eucharist. This hands on understanding prepares all of our children to be joyful and engaged participants in the 'adult' liturgies.

I am delighted to have the opportunity to continue my ministry to children and families here at Christ Church.

Mother Marcia Davenport

Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries

revmarcia@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.

Amanda and Tia – Nursery Coordinators

nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school program has 2 classes, 6 teachers, 3 assistants, and about 20 students. Classes are held almost every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 AM. We begin with singing or yoga that is led by volunteers. The children then get a snack then head to class. There is a Primary class (Pre-K - 2nd grade) and an Intermediate class (3rd - 5th grade). *Weaving God's Promises* is the curriculum that is used. It is a three year formation curriculum. Class sessions structured around the Holy Eucharist as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and have multi-aged lesson plans.

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

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Be curious, look in amazement, discover new things & learn different answers - Sylvia Gurtler

Vacation Bible School was a lot of fun this year with our theme, "Surf Shack – Catching the Wave of God's Amazing Love." We learned about iridescent light, like how it glows in the dark and on our skin, and we enjoyed singing a cappella together. We hope families and new volunteers will join us next year for another great adventure. Your help makes these experiences special and builds our community.

We are so grateful for our amazing volunteers who spend a whole week with us, helping children learn and grow. To our teachers and counselors, we appreciate you so much and couldn't do this without you.

Larissa Sanders & Yetti Lipede

VBS & CC Coordinators

VBS@christchurchcolumbia.org



YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRY

The goal of Youth and Family Ministry is designed to create a welcoming and safe environment for the youth of Christ Church. We would like to provide the youth with tools that allow them to discover their identity in Christ, serve the community with their talents, and create fond memories with their peers at Christ Episcopal Church. This is all thanks to the exceptional team of Youth leaders this past year - Stacey & Patrick Frith, Pastor Kiona, Preethi & Sam Jackson, Leanne Shepherd, Kathy & Ed Chrzanowski. With God's help, we will continue to strive to complete this goal. This year we are also happy to have the help of Seminarian Odidi.

The 6th through 12th grade youth have been meeting in the Parish Hall's lower level on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:20 a.m., where we discuss the lectionary readings in order to further the spiritual development of our youth. This upcoming year we will have lessons on themes in the bible that the youth are passionate about. We plan to have a Youth and Parents Information Session held over Zoom on October 29th.

We had two Youth Sundays that were a huge success. Our five high school graduates - Deepti, Amisha, Ainsley, Hope, and CJ - preached at the last Youth Sunday and had a send-off not too long after that. We plan to have two Youth Sundays this year, the first one will be held on November 16th and the second is in the spring.

This year, we are planning to hold the Halloween Lock-In on October 25th, an outdoor hike in November, Wreath Making Social & Fundraiser in December, Youth Sunday on November 16th, a skiing/tubing trip when we have snow, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper Fundraiser early March, a bake sale fundraiser, another Youth Sunday in May, and the Mother's Day Flower Sale early May.

The money raised by the fundraisers would fund future youth ministry activities such as a visit to Hersheypark, bowling, game nights, Karaoke Night, Ski trips, Ropes Course, Rollerblading/-skating, Laser Tag, Escape Room, Arcade, and any other events the youth are interested in. The youth are encouraged to attend Diocesan events. 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.

We are proud to announce that Shreya Chrzanowski will serve as this year's Youth Liaison for Christ Episcopal Church. The Youth Liaison plays a vital role in bridging communication between our youth group and church leadership. We are excited to see how God will work through Shreya this year as she helps guide our youth ministry forward.

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.

Thank you,

Diya Jackson - Office and Youth Assistant

christchurchassistant@gmail.com



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.*

We are deeply grateful for the small but impressive group of volunteers who dedicate their time and energy to maintaining our buildings and grounds. Thanks to their hard work, this past year was both active and productive. Key accomplishments included:

- Spring and summer clean-up of the grounds
- Painting of the sacristy
- Cleaning of windows and windowsills
- Installing lights along the walkway between the Parish Hall and New Brick
- Repairing the handicap ramp to Old Brick
- Adding new benches

These efforts have helped keep our campus safe, welcoming, and functional – a space that supports both worship and fellowship.

Looking ahead, our goal remains to care for our campus, so it continues to serve our Christ Church community well. We invite all parishioners to consider sharing your time and talents in this needed, meaningful work. Every helping hand makes a difference!

Diane Phillips LaGuerre - Junior Warden
BG@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 helps by preparing items needed for services so that the clergy can lead us in worship. On Sunday, the sanctuaries in Old Brick and New Brick are set up and cleaned up for our three morning services. In addition to every Sunday service, the Altar Guild coordinates with Father Manny on special services (Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Taizé) and sets up as needed. Altar Guild members have a manual that we use as reference and guidance for preparing for Sunday and special services that include step-by-step directions (such as caring for linens, caring for the silver and brass and changing Altar hangings). It has a glossary of terms that are interesting to know and to dazzle people! We have rotating teams that spend up to 1.5 hours during their weekend shift on their various tasks.

Thank you so much to current and recently added rotating team members: Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Jan DeBoissiere, Jai Fatodu, Pam Foreman, Virginia Jarrett, Cheryl Lucente, Cara Ocampo, Maria Rios, Kathy Simms, and Leigh Smith. Thank you also to current and recently added support team members: Sherry Beaty, Gail Braatelein, Stacey Firth, Yetti Lipede (who does a lot of behind-the-scenes work), Sarah Mugo, Cindy Read, and Jeanette Wild. All of these members of the Altar Guild demonstrate that many hands make light work.

We are thankful for support of prayers and financial contributions through pledges from our church family. Because of these, we have been able to make purchases to improve and continue the spiritual enrichment of our church family.

We look forward to speaking with anyone who might be discerning a call to Altar Guild, to gather more information and speak with one of us! When it is difficult to commit to a weekend (or two) a month, we have opportunities to help on the Altar Guild as a member of the support team (being a substitute, helping with special services, and pitching in when available). And 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 by which He becomes present and nourishes us spiritually. Reach out if you're interested in learning more about Altar Guild – speak to any Altar Guild member at church, or email us at altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Foreman

Altar Guild Director

altarguild@christchurchcolumbia.org

300TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

On **November 7, 2027**, we will officially begin our year of celebration of the history of Christ Church with Bishop Carrie Schofield-Broadbent officiating at our worship service. Our 300th Anniversary celebration will continue for an entire year with events honoring our past, celebrating our present and looking forward to our future. The year's festivities will culminate with a final weekend of celebration including a formal event and then a worship service on Sunday, **November 5, 2028**.

This date was selected because it falls close to the 300th anniversary of the October 3 - November 2, 1728 meeting of the Maryland General Assembly which created Queen Caroline Parish. All Saints Day, November 1, is celebrated in honor of all the saints of the Church, whether they are known or unknown. It is 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 **Events Committee**, in coordination with the other 300th Committees, has compiled a calendar of events that will take place throughout the entire year. The calendar of events will be available after the Annual Meeting. We encourage you to look at this calendar and sign up to coordinate or help with an event.

The committees have sought out opportunities to celebrate in ways that will appeal to everyone - walk-bike-run events, musical performances, lectures, reimagining and planting our grounds with native plants, a bonfire and soccer match, worship services honoring Black, Pride and Women's history, an updated book of our history and a film; a plethora of activities have been designed for all ages and interest groups. Approximately forty parishioners comprise our 300th Anniversary celebration committees. Throughout 2025 and 2026 and all through our year of celebration, committee members will head up individual projects or events and reach out to members of the congregation for their participation and assistance. Please consider joining in to help us make our 300th anniversary a spectacular, year-long celebration!

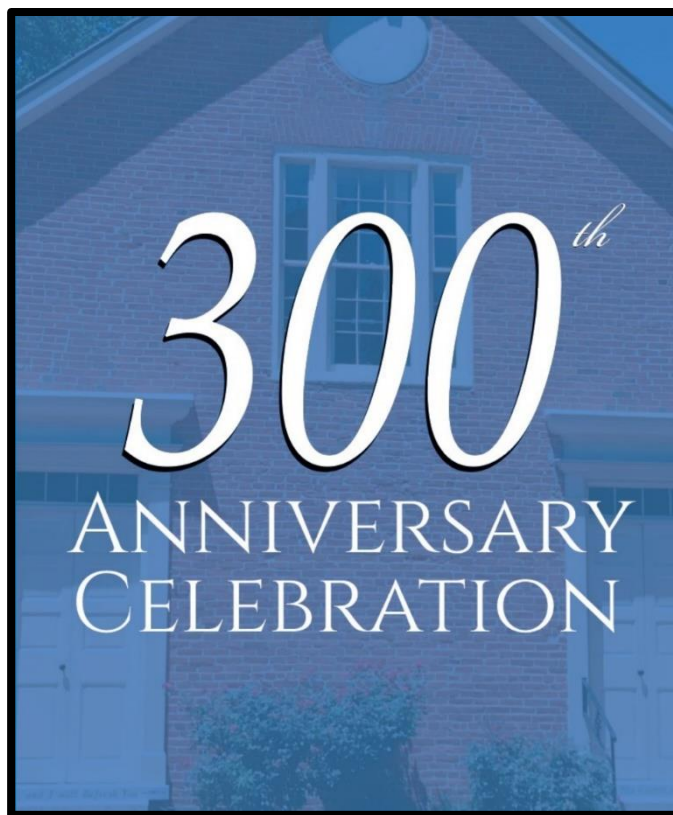
Update from the Race, Slavery & History Committee

The 300th Anniversary celebration of Christ Episcopal Church begins November of 2027. Here is the update about the work the History/Slave/Race Committee is doing.

Pamela Brown is working with other researchers and archivists to learn about the history of Christ Church from the Colonial period through the end of the Civil War. Part of her work is to identify persons who were enslaved, indentured, free (and freed) African Americans who are related to the early history of our congregation and were often overlooked in past historical summaries. She is also researching genealogical and biographical data on first family members of Christ Church and the context of the times in American/Maryland history and the history of the Episcopal Church.

Ellen Boudreau Hoke has researched the Church records including Vestry Minutes and registries. She was greatly assisted by the previous work of Steve and Linda Alpern, Tim and Sherry Beaty and many others on the FRIENDS OF OLD BRICK COMMITTEE who began this research over 10 years ago. Ellen will work with David James, Diane Phillips Laguerre and Jan DeBoissiere to update the research into our history from after the Civil War to present day and the present day challenges with the social construct of race. We are all beginners in this type of research.

(continued)



David James and Jan DeBoissiere are working with Chris Pouch, our Communications Administrator, to interview parishioners about their experiences at Christ Church. The main focus of the interviews is to gather stories and includes why they came to Christ Church, why they stayed and examples of times they've witnessed racism/discrimination or moments of reconciliation. Two interviews have been completed thus far.

The Committee continues to work toward completing a book and a video summarizing our work. Jeannette Wild will be instrumental in helping us write the book. We are exploring other ways to share the information too.

Members of the Committee have contacted members of the Maryland Native American Tribes on whose land our Church is built. We have contacted Nanticoke and Piscataway Tribes thus far. We are looking for ways to acknowledge and celebrate their history and culture in our anniversary activities.

This Committee is a small group of hard-working members. The current active members are Pamela Brown, Ellen Boudreau Hoke, Diane Phillips LeGuerre, Pam Foreman, Greg Schuckman, David James, Jan DeBoissiere, Robin Bradley. Other members who have contributed when able are Ann Barnes, Tim Beaty, Catharine Whittaker, Dianne Azu, Jane Adams, Jo Emily Knox, Paula Rees and Father Manny Mercer.

New members are invited to join us. We meet on Zoom on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30pm. We also have historical documents uploaded to our drive that we can share if you're interested. Contact Robin Bradley at robinski51@gmail.com or Toni Summerell at mscaerna@earthlink.net.

Missions of the 300th Anniversary Committees:

We realized that some of our committees have overlapping goals and combined them - now we are down to six. (You can read more below on the goals each committee has set for themselves.) They are working diligently to put together a fitting celebration in honor of the 300th anniversary of the establishment of Christ Church. The work by these committees is being done in close collaboration with one another.

Communications Committee:

To work with the other 300th Anniversary Committees to identify ways to publicize our celebration, the ongoing work by the other committees and activities planned for the celebrations.

Events Committee:

To help plan a year-long celebration consisting of many events, including events planned with the other committees. This will include worship services, speakers, receptions, fundraisers, among others.

Fundraising Committee:

To work with the 300th Anniversary committees in determining the budget needed through 2028 to fund the activities proposed by each committee, to identify realistic ways by which desired activities would be funded (outside of the parish operating budget), and to make financial recommendations to the 300th Anniversary Steering Committee.

Legacy Projects and Endowments Committee:

To conceive, research and cost ideas for one or more significant and enduring legacy gifts commemorating the first 300 years of our parish and as gifts of ourselves to the parishioners who follow us here in this place.

Worship & Music Committee:

To work with other Committees and with the Rector to create joyous services to give Thanksgiving for our 300 years as a religious community in Maryland. We will rely on historic and modern liturgy to design the services. and provide music to the events planned. We're exploring other ways to celebrate 300 years of worship here at Christ Church!

(continued)

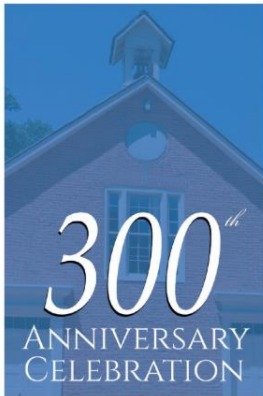
Race, Slavery & History Committee:

This committee is dedicated to uncovering new written, documentary, and artifact-based historical information to build upon existing records. Its goals include updating the 1986 written history to reflect events and developments since then, preserving and sharing the 300-year legacy of Christ Church with the congregation and the public. A core part of the committee's work is to examine and document the role of race throughout the church's history—from its founding roots involving the enslavement of Black people to the vibrant racial diversity present in our community today. The committee honors and celebrates all of our history and provides guidance to Christ Episcopal Church members for the future.

For more information about participation in a 300th Anniversary committee, please reach out to Robin Bradley or Toni Summerell mscaerna@earthlink.net at church or send an email to 300@christchurchcolumbia.org.

*Submitted by Robin Bradley
300@christchurchcolumbia.org*

LOOK FOR THESE BALLOTS AT OUR ANNUAL MEETING AND VOTE!

	
HELP US SELECT A THEME FOR OUR 300TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION YEAR! CHOOSE ONE:	
☐ LEARNING FROM OUR HISTORY; LIVING INTO OUR FUTURE	
☐ EMBRACING CHANGE THROUGH THE CENTURIES: LEANING TO THE FUTURE	
☐ FAITH FORWARD: THE NEXT 300 YEARS BEGIN NOW	
THANK YOU!	

FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We welcome everyone to come and share a meal and enjoy some fellowship on the first Wednesday of most months. We follow the program year with themed dinners and activities. There are no FWF during Lent, but there is one in July!

This year's plan includes:

- **November 5 - Fall chili dinner and game night.** Bring a pot of chilli, side, or dessert. The church will provide chips, cheese, toppings. Also - bring a fun game to play!
- **December 3 - Friendsgiving and Ugly Sweater contest -**
 - The church will provide the main dish (turkey). Bring your favorite holiday side or dessert.
 - Wear an ugly sweater to get into the holiday spirit.
 - We will make holiday cards to distribute to the community.
- **January 7 - Winter game night**
 - Bring a pot of soup or a side dish or dessert and a game to play!
- **May 6 - Spring game night**
 - Church will provide subs/sandwiches. Bring a side dish or dessert and a game to play.
- **July 1 - Crab Feast/Cookout**
 - New format this year - \$25/6 crabs



The fun begins at 6 p.m. Volunteers and monetary donations to defray the cost of food are welcome. Thank you!

Jennifer Atkins, on behalf of all FWF Volunteers

info@christchurchcolumbia.org

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR AND MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

I joined the office team just before last year's Annual Meeting, and it has been a very busy year with all of the church's events, like First Wednesday Fellowship, Christmas, and our potluck meals. This journey has been meaningful, and I am happy to keep going. Being Parish Administrator and Ministry Coordinator has helped me get to know everyone better in our parish.

Thank you to all the volunteers who help guide our church. I truly appreciate your support and presence. It is a joy to serve with you, and I look forward to continuing together with God's grace.

Yetti Lipede

Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator

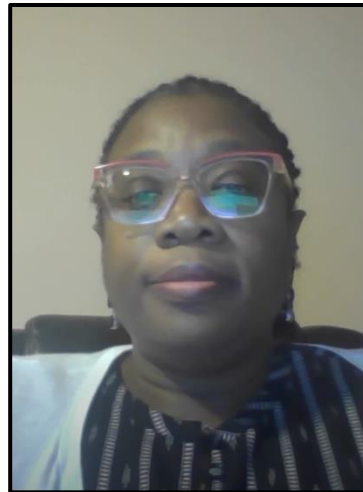
office@christchurchcolumbia.org



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 only become more integral to our parish life every year, providing communication and engagement for everyone, and the numbers bear this out again in 2025. Our Christ Episcopal Church website connects to our congregation, our community, and our world, and we again nearly doubled the number of unique visitors to our site in 2025 – and we will continue to work to find ways to bring everyone closer.

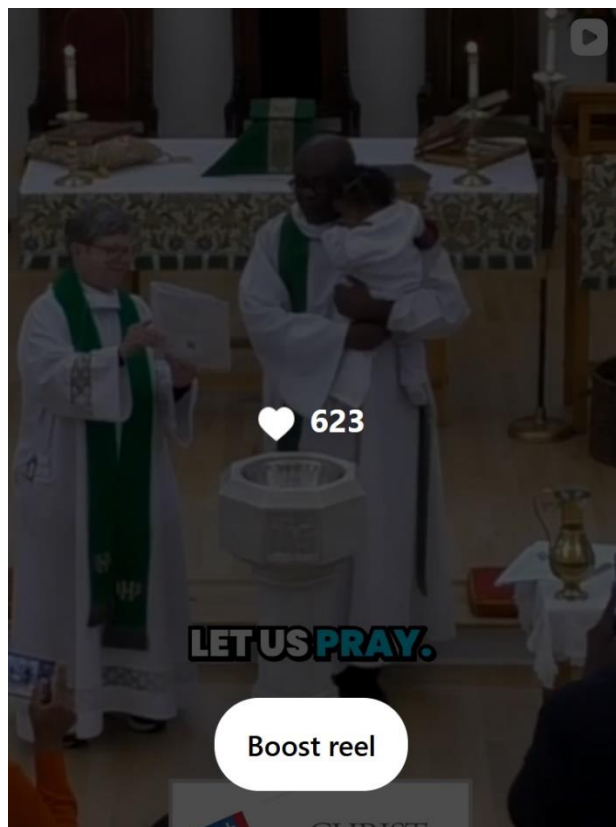


Our weekday prayer service livestreams continue to thrive thanks to the tireless efforts of Ellen Hoke, Jane Adams, Jonelle Ocloo, and Jan DeBoissiere. They coordinate with me to either send their video recordings or provide the livestream link so I can disseminate it further into the world. These streams 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 help me with mic and camera adjustment 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, Vestry meetings, 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 our Sexton, John, being my "on-site pair of hands" on Sundays, and to Yetti, Patricia, Toni, Robin, and others I've ashamedly forgotten here, as you all have played a part in making these virtual meetings happen. This, literally, could not be done without you.

(continued)



We are always using new ways to promote Christ Church events and gatherings to a larger audience. Through our social media, local community websites, and Diocesan and community bulletin boards, we promote upcoming Christ Church events, which have proven to be a worthy use of time and budget. We've also started publishing "reels" of sermons, worship, and other gatherings to show the world our common life, and why we are proud of it. In fact, one of these posts earlier this week received over six hundred likes in the first 48 hours – a huge number for us, but it clearly shows that we are doing things right here in many ways and receiving praise from others in our Diocese and beyond. Hopefully, this helps ministries see the reach of their efforts, as well, and I would like to continue to promote them any way you see a need.

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, sign, or t-shirt created for a Christ Church event or ministry, email your details to me at

communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and I'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. We initially pieced our tech infrastructure together using a very limited budget, sometimes with personal funds and equipment, and little time – but 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, more than ever, need to update several key bits around the campus. There are issues on-site that we haven't been able to yet address (such as campus-wide WiFi signal for all visitors, updated cameras for livestreaming and security needs, and the full replacement of our creaky wireless microphone and speaker system that our hearing-impaired parishioners – and those at the rear of New Brick's sanctuary - rely on). All of this comes at a cost, of course, so if anyone is called to contribute towards these needs, please email me at the above address, and I'll set up a time to meet up with you on campus and show you.

The Communications Commission works because we do just that – communicate. Every parishioner and ministry is encouraged 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, please email me. Thank you.



Christopher Pouch - Communications Administrator
communications@christchurchcolumbia.org

CANDIDATES FOR THE OCTOBER 19, 2025 VESTRY ELECTION

in alphabetical order

DENISA ABDALLAH

Hello,

I've been a part of our Christ Episcopal Church family since 1999, and I welcome the opportunity to run for Christ Church Vestry for a second term.

I'm 62 years old and work for the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission as an attorney. I was born in Guyana, South America, and raised in the Catholic faith. When I met Ayub, he was a member of Christ Church, and I joined him at a couple of Sunday services. I was struck by the diverse and welcoming community. We were married at Christ Church 24 years ago, and our children (Kofi, 21, and Setutsi, 19) were both baptized here.



Over the years, I've helped with various duties, most recently as your senior warden. I enjoy the work we accomplish on the Vestry, and I'm excited to serve another term. But if I am not elected, I will find other ways to stay active, as I realize there is always work to be done in our Christ Church community.

Thank you for considering me.

Denisa

KATIE ADAMS

Katherine (Katie) Adams has been attending Christ Church since 2019, and contributes regularly by planning and executing Sunday School lessons with the Church's young members.

During the week, Katie works as a teacher's secretary at Talbott Springs Elementary School. Service and community are extremely important to Katie; she volunteers with Columbia Community Care and the Talbott Spring's PTA, and is the admin for a local *Buy Nothing* group on Facebook.

She and her husband, Jeremy, moved to Columbia in 2013, and live in Oakland Mills along with their daughter, Abby.



JIM BERKSON

I never imagined I'd be writing something like this—not because I lack words (I've been a professor most of my life, so words come easily), but because I didn't foresee the joy and transformation that would lead me here.

I grew up in Hagerstown, Maryland, in a home that was complicated in ways I'm still unpacking. I was raised in the Jewish faith, but it never truly spoke to me. Years later, when I began attending church, something shifted. I was introduced to the New Testament—and more importantly, to Jesus. For the first time in my life, I felt spiritually grounded. I had found home.



When I moved to Columbia, Maryland, I reached out to a former student of mine—now an Episcopal priest who studied at Yale Divinity School—for help finding a church. After looking into the local congregations, she told me, “You’ll love Christ Episcopal Church. It’s open-minded, welcoming, and alive with community.” She was right. After one service, I knew I had found not just a church, but a spiritual family. My recent baptism was a profound and joyful moment that still fills me with gratitude.

In my professional life, I’ve spent decades as a professor—teaching, learning, mentoring, and trying to help people find their way. Personally, I’ve known love and loss. I’ve been married and divorced. These days, my family consists of two slightly unruly but fiercely loyal rescue dogs, Endor and Rusty. They keep me moving, laughing, and humble.

I’m also facing a long-term health challenge—I’ll eventually need a kidney transplant. It’s not something I hide from or dwell on. I face it with hope, courage, and faith that God is walking this path with me.

Why Vestry? Because I want to give back to the community that helped me rediscover joy, healing, and purpose. I want to serve, listen, support, and help guide the work of Christ Church. If my journey, my presence, or even just a shared smile can be of value, I’ll be grateful.

And if you ever want to talk about Jesus, rescue dogs, or what movie you should absolutely watch this weekend—I’m your guy.

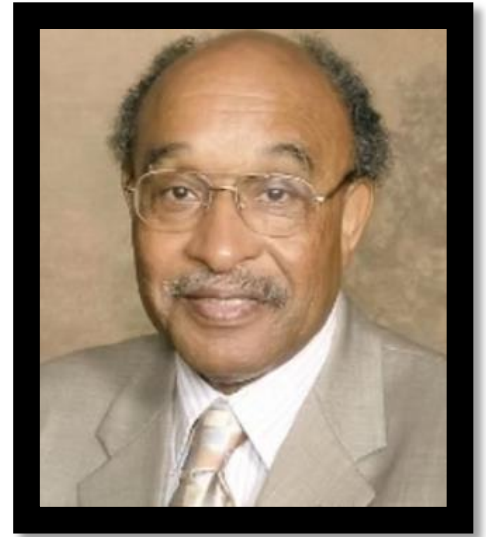
With peace and joy,

Jim Berkson

DAVID JAMES

I am a candidate for a Vestry position at Christ Episcopal Church, Columbia, Maryland. I am seeking a Vestry position based upon the following:

1. I have been a confirmed member of the Episcopal Church since January 1964, upon my confirmation at Saint Mary's Episcopal Church, Berryville, Virginia, for a period of 61 years. The Reverend David Cammack performed this service with my wife, Mrs. Janie James, being confirmed on the same date.
2. I have been an active member of Christ Episcopal Church, Columbia, Maryland, for approximately three (3) years. Christ Episcopal Church has, by far, been the most progressive church I have ever participated in, with its active agenda and outreach activities serving a unique and diverse population.
3. I am a current member of the Christ Episcopal Church 300th Anniversary Committee. On this committee, my current role, along with several colleagues, is to explore the role of the Episcopal Church after the Civil War, its role in the struggle for equality during the Civil Rights era, and its current role in the Truth and Reconciliation Campaign.
4. On March 23, 2025, per Reverend Manny's request, I conducted an Adult Sunday School lecture on the Evils of Jim Crow.
5. I served as a committee member for the part-time Associate Rector position.
6. I am an active member of MOCC - Men of Christ Church.



If elected for a Vestry position, I will, to the best of my ability, continue to promote the progressive agenda of Christ Episcopal Church and offer input and leadership to members of the congregation in meeting the needs and challenges of this diverse population.

Work Experiences

Retired Dean of Educational Development, Prince George's Community College, Largo, Maryland (1971-2008)
Teacher and Coach in the Washington, D.C. Public School System (1967-1971)
Teacher and Coach in the Clarke County School System, Berryville, Virginia (1963-1967)

Education

Ed.D- Nova Southeastern University (1978)
M.A- Georgetown University (1971)
BS- Elizabeth City State University (1962)

Membership in Professional Organizations

NAACP
National Urban League
International Mentoring Association

Awards and Honors

Elected President of the International Mentoring Association from 1989-2000. This is a professional association devoted to the retention of primarily first-generation college students to finish their degree requirements.

1988- Named the Outstanding Administrator at Prince George's Community College for ensuring minority academic success.

2007- Received the President's Medal from Prince George's Community College for exemplary service in the field of higher education and recognition of mentoring initiatives focusing on minority academic success.

2012- Received the Legacy Award from the International Mentoring Association for outstanding contributions in the field of mentoring.

2022- Listed by Zachary and Fain as one of the World's Top Mentoring Experts.

DENHOLM KENDALL

I am writing to express my interest in serving as a Member of the Vestry. I understand that the Nominating Committee reaches out to potential Vestry members, and I would be grateful for the opportunity to serve in this vital role.

Having recently moved to Columbia, Maryland, I bring over 50 years of dedicated experience in church life, including serving as People's Warden, Rector's Warden, Treasurer, Lead Intercessor, and Lay Reader at St. Stephen's In-The-Fields Anglican Church, my previous church in Toronto, Canada. I am eager to contribute to my new church community and believe my extensive background aligns well with the responsibilities of the Vestry, which include representing the interests of all served by the church and making decisions for the good of all. I am also aware that the Vestry provides oversight to the Rector.



Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest regards,

Denholm Kendall



GATHER WITH US

TAIZÉ

THANKSGIVING

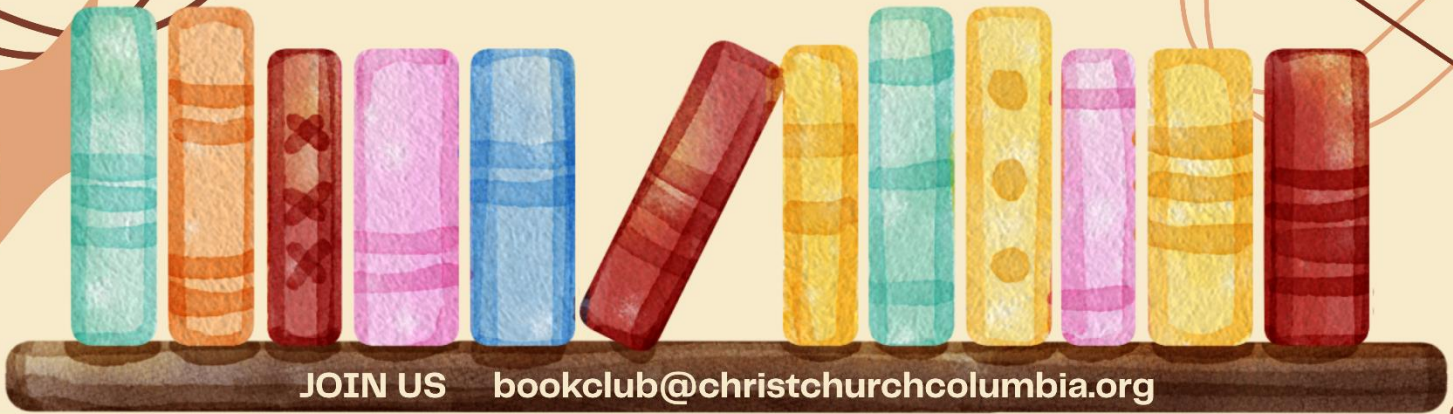
Sunday, November 2 at 6 p.m. in New Brick



CHRIST CHURCH BOOK CLUB

A casual, weekly gathering
reading and discussing inspirational books

THURSDAYS ON ZOOM AT 7:30 p.m.



JOIN US bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org

A Little Kindness Goes a Long Way.



The KINDNESS PANTRY

Scan the QR code for the sign-up sheet





Christ Episcopal Church

6800 Oakland Mills Road

Columbia, MD 21045

(410) 381-9365

www.christchurchcolumbia.org

office@christchurchcolumbia.org

The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*
The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Associate Rector for Children and Family Ministries*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

The Rev. Yehinuel Odidi, *Seminarian Associate*

Larissa Sanders, *Director of Music Ministry*

Ola Oladipupo, *Assistant Organist*

Yetti Lipede, *Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator*

Diya Jackson, *Office & Youth Ministry Coordinator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Amanda Kirkpatrick, *Nursery Care Coordinator*

Nytia Perry, *Nursery Care*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre (*Junior Warden*)

Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*) • Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*)

• Ronald Baran • John Curley • Ray Lyon • Greg Schuckman • Alfred Titus-Glover • Jay Abbott • George Toth

• Sara Kirkpatrick • Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms