



CHRIST CHURCH 2026
WORSHIP & ANNUAL MEETING



OCTOBER 18, 2026

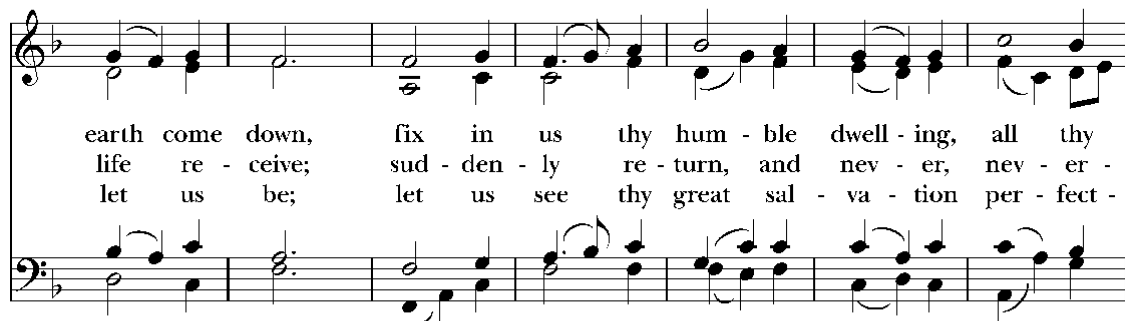
OPENING SONG |

PROCESSIONAL HYMN 657 | Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

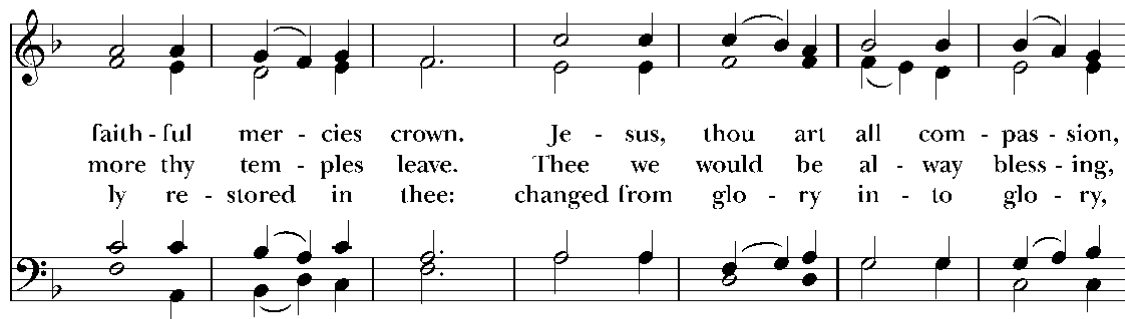
Hyfrydol



1 Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of heaven, to
 2 Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us all thy
 3 Fi - nish then thy new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less



earth come down, fix in us thy hum - ble dwell - ing, all thy
 life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and nev - er, nev - er -
 let us be; let us see thy great sal - va - tion per - fect -



faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, thou art all com - pas - sion,
 more thy tem - ples leave. Thee we would be al - way bless - ing,
 ly re - stored in thee: changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,



pure, un - bound - ed love thou art; vis - it us with
 serve thee as thy hosts a - bove, pray, and praise thee
 till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in thy per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

OPENING ACCLAMATION |

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

THE COLLECT FOR PURITY |

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

GLORIA S280 | Glory to God

Robert Powell

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

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 | Isaiah 45:1-7

Reader: A reading from Isaiah.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him--
and the gates shall not be closed:

I will go before you and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,

I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,

so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,

so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.

I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 96:1-9 | *Praise to God Who Comes in Judgement*



Sing to the Lord a new | song; *

sing to the Lord, all the whole | earth.

Sing to the Lord and bless his | Name; *

proclaim the good news of his salvation from day to | day.

Declare his glory among the | nations *

and his wonders among all | peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be | praised; *

he is more to be feared than all | gods.

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but | idols; *

but it is the Lord who made the | heavens.

Oh, the majesty and magnificence of his | presence! *

Oh, the power and the splendor of his | sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the | peoples; *

ascribe to the Lord honor and | power.

Ascribe to the Lord the honor due his | Name; *

bring offerings and come into his | courts.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of | holiness; *

let the whole earth tremble be- | fore him.

THE EPISTLE | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Reader: *A reading from 1st Thessalonians.*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead-- Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN 647 | I Know Not Where the Road Will Lead

Laramie

1 I know not where the road will lead I fol - low day by day,
2 And some I love have reached the end, but some with me may stay,
3 The count-less hosts lead on be-fore, I must not fear nor stray;

or where it ends: I on - ly know I walk the King's high - way.
their faith and hope still guid - ing me, I walk the King's high - way.
with them, the pil - grims of the faith, I walk the King's high - way.

I know not if the way is long, and no one else can say;
The way is truth, the way is love, for light and strength I pray,
Through light and dark the road leads on till dawns the end - less day,

but rough or smooth, up hill or down, I walk the King's high - way.
and through the years of life, to God I walk the King's high - way.
when I shall know why in this life I walk the King's high - way.

The musical score is written for a three-part setting (Soprano, Alto, and Tenor/Bass) in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are arranged in three stanzas, with the first two stanzas having three parts and the third stanza having two parts. The score ends with a double bar line.

THE GOSPEL | Matthew 22:15-22

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

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?"

They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

The people stand as able.

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 |

Thank you, Lord the God of Israel, Our God who has called each of us to be the Body of Christ. Today, our Parish meets to elect new Vestry members, to review our Congregational accomplishments of the past year and to hear plans for the future during our Annual Meeting. We pray for guidance and wisdom during this time together. In this pledge season here at Christ Church, open our hearts and minds to hear your call to us as we return to you the first fruits of our labor for your work in this world through our church. Let us say together, **"ascribe to the Lord the honor due his Name, bring offerings and come into his courts"**.

Bless, O Lord, the work of your church throughout our world. In the worldwide Anglican Communion, we pray today for the work in your name of the people in: The Anglican Church of Canada. In our Diocese of Maryland, we pray today for the ministers and people of the churches of: Grace, Elkridge, Holy Apostles & St Stephen, Arbutus and Living Grace, Urbana. Here in our own church, we pray that you will lead us to right decisions and right actions as we seek to do your will. We welcome all who are visiting with us today and all who are new to our congregation. Let us say together, **"declare his glory among the nations and his wonders among all peoples."**

(continued)

In the darkest times of our lives, Lord, help us feel your presence with us. When we are alone or afraid, when we are sick or dying, in those days when You seem very far away. Open our hearts to the knowledge that you never leave us. We pray today for those who are ill, especially Joi, Lenore, Shannon, Ally, Sean, Maggie, Liam, Ashley, Kimberly, Lisa, Rita, Kaci, MaryAnn, Brandon, Clarence, Mildred, Kayode, Rachan & Sherry and those we each now name. We hold up in prayer those who are serving in the military and often in harm's way. We pray also for those who have died, especially those we each recall. We are reminded and comforted by your promise to be with us as we say together, **"it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name."**

We thank God for all that is wonderful and joyous in our lives. Today we give special thanks for the birthdays of Suzanne, Amanda, Jenny, Nicholas, Nancy, Amisha & Gavin. Together we exclaim **"let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad."**

The power of our God is awe inspiring: "from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other". Send us out, Lord, to do your work in your world this day and in the week before us. By our words and by our actions, help us **"tell out among the Nations the Lord is King!" 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 | Heavenly Sunlight

arr. Mark Hayes

PRESENTATION HYMN 380 vs 3 |

Old 100th

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.

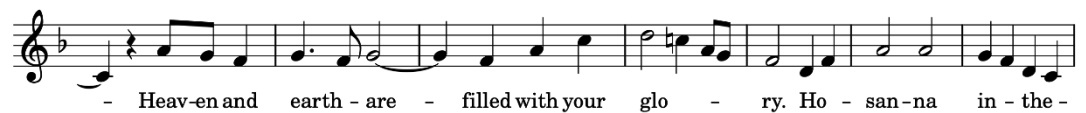
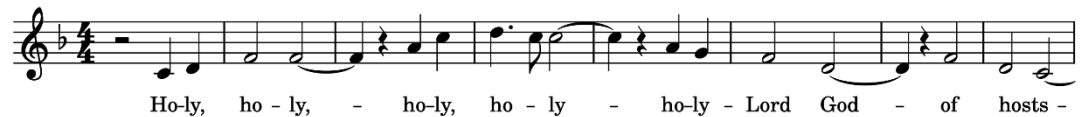
People: We lift them to the Lord.

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. Almighty and everlasting God, who in Christ hast revealed Hy glory among the nations: Preserve the works of thy mercy, that thy Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of thy Name; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

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:



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.

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."

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."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**All: Christ has died.
 Christ is risen.
 Christ will come again.**

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.
AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER |

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

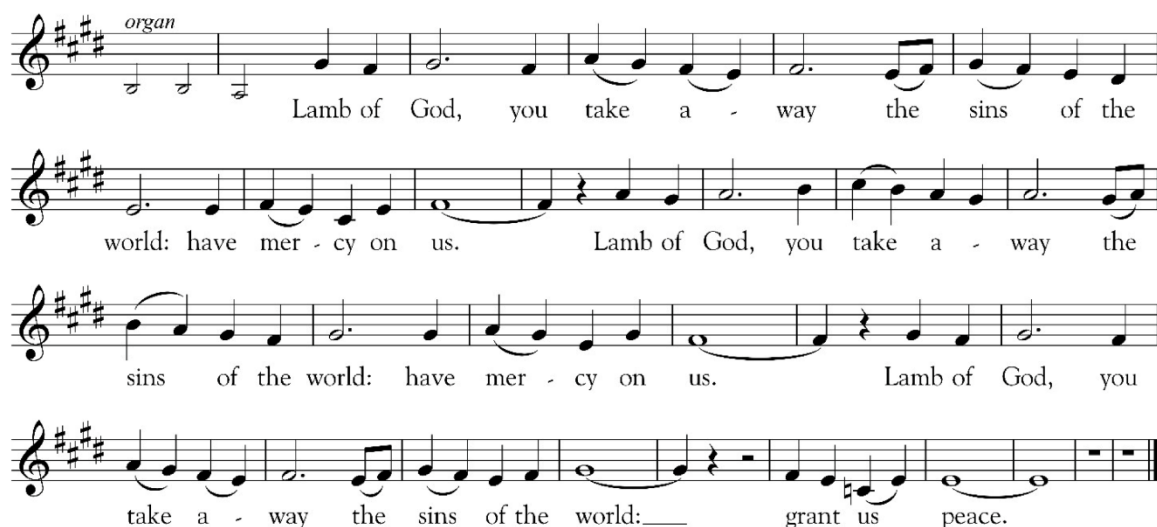
All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine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



organ



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

COMMUNION HYMN LEVAS 72 | Just a Closer Walk with Thee

American folk song


1. I am weak but thou art strong;___
 2. Through this world of toil and snares,___
 3. When my fee - ble life is o'er,___
 Refrain: Just a clos - er walk with thee,___

1. Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;___ I'll be sat - is - fied as
 2. If I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?___ Who with me my bur - den
 3. Time for me will be no more;___ Guide me gent - ly, safe - ly
 Refrain: Grant it, Je - sus, is my plea,___ Dai - ly walk - ing close to

D.C. for Refrain

1. long___ As I walk, let me walk close to thee.
 2. shares?___ None but thee, dear___ Lord, none but thee.
 3. o'er___ To Thy king - dom___ shore, to thy shore.
 Refrain: thee,___ Let it be, dear___ Lord, let it be.

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 | 8 & 10:30 a.m. service

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.

The Altar Flowers are given today in celebration of Alex Amponsah's birthday

CLOSING HYMN 599 | Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson

Introduction



1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring, ring with the
2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, thou who hast

har - mon - ies of lib - er - ty. Let our re - joic - ing rise
days when hope un - born had died; yet, with a stead - y beat,
brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might

high as the lis - tening skies; let it re - sound loud as the
have not our wea - ry feet come to the place for which our
led us in - to the light; keep us for ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has
par - ents sighed? We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been
path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the pla - ces, our God, where we

taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has
wa - tered; we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the
met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for -

brought us; fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new
slaugh - tered, out from the gloom - y past, till now we
get thee; sha-dowed be - neath thy hand may we for

day be - gun, let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
ev - er stand, true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

THE DISMISSAL |

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

POSTLUDE |

Assisting in Worship Today

10:00 a.m. Service

Acolytes:

Abby Boyer, Lucas Hernandez, Christina Hernandez

Altar Guild:

Ivy Amponsah, Sonni Aribiah, Jai Fatodu, Kathy Simms

Chalicists:

Erin Whong, Joan Harvey

Lector/Reader:

Joan Harvey

Ushers:

Cherry Williams, Isaac Olajide, Yetti Lipede, Jane Adams,
Jo Emily Knox, Andrea Lewis

Tellers

Catherine Miller, Lisa Taitt-Wynter

OUR MOST IMPORTANT FUNDRAISER OF THE YEAR!

DID YOU DONATE? DID YOU DONATE?



DONATIONS ARE DUE NOW!

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7 6PM

CHRISTCHURCHCOLUMBIA.ORG/AUCTION

PARISH CALENDAR

OCTOBER 18 – 24, 2026

Sunday, October 18

All Day	Annual Meeting
10:00 am	Holy Eucharist w/music – New Brick, UL
11:30 am – 5 pm	Annual Meeting Lunch & Meeting
4:30 – 7:30 pm	Total Restoration Church – Old Brick & Parish Hall, LL

Monday, October 19

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
6:00 – 8:30 pm	Food Addicts Anonymous – Parish Hall, LL
7:00 – 8:00 pm	Centering Prayer – Old Brick & Zoom

Tuesday, October 20

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
11:00 am– 12:00 pm	Weekly Staff Meeting
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour - Zoom
1:00 – 10:00 pm	IRC Prep – Parish Hall, LL
4:30 – 6:00 pm	Larissa Recital Practice – New Brick, UL

Wednesday, October 21

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Exercise Class
7:00 – 8:30 pm	Theology on Tap – Frisco & the Reckless Shepherd
7:00 – 9:00 pm	300 Yr Leadership Committee Meeting – Zoom

Thursday, October 22

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Healing Eucharist – Old Brick
12:00 – 1:00 pm	Coffee Hour – Zoom
6:30 – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal – New Brick, UL
6:30 – 9:00 pm	EfM: Fast Track – Zoom
7:30 – 9:00 pm	Boy Scouts – New Brick, LL

Friday, October 23

7:00 am	Morning Prayer Livestream
7:00 pm	Evening Prayer Livestream

Saturday, October 24

8:00 – 10:00 am	Altar Guild prep
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Solo Flight Fellowship – Pumpkin Farm or Apple Orchard Visit
2:00 – 4:00 pm	AA Meeting – Parish Hall
3:30 – 4:30 pm	Altar Guild prep
4:00 – 6:30 pm	Trunk o' Treat Event – New Brick, LL
6:30 pm – 9:00 am	Youth Group Sleep-in – Parish Hall



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

LAST CALL: Get Your Donations Ready for the Christ Church Auction

The countdown to the best Christ Church social event of the year has begun, and the donation window ends soon! This is easily the largest fundraising event for our church all year, and to make this the best event ever, we need your donations. Please tell us today - [click here to access the auction's donation page](#), where you can enter all the info yourself, or email auction@christchurchcolumbia.org with what you plan to donate.

Here are some ideas for donations: Gift baskets, filled with all kinds of goodies; Baked goods - think pies, cakes, baklava...; Hosted dinners; Holiday decorations; Monthly meal delivery; Concerts, theatre, & sports event tickets; Services like car washes & yard clean-up; Wine by the bottle or the basket; Vacation home/condo stay; Fitness lessons; Language lessons; Memorabilia and collectibles; Lottery tickets. *Let your imagination run wild!* If you have questions about donations or need help with the Auction website, please reach out, and we will help you! Email us at auction@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll get back to you.

We Need Your Photos for a New Parish Directory!

As our church community continues to grow and flourish, staying connected is more important than ever. Christ Church is creating a new to make it easier for everyone to reach out, connect, and care for one another, put faces to names, welcome newcomers, and help long-time members stay in touch across our services and ministries. The "faces to names" part of that is where you come in - we need your individual or family photo so we can add it to the Directory. You can email them to office@christchurchcolumbia.org. A directory helps our clergy, staff, and lay leaders easily recognize, reach, and support parishioners when they need pastoral care or community outreach. Knowing one another also better builds a tightly knit, supportive spiritual home where everyone is truly seen and appreciated, so thank you in advance for helping make this Directory a reality.

Solo in Flight's Fall Farm Market Field Trip • Saturday Morning, October 24

Join us for a festive autumn Field Trip to explore two of Maryland's wonderful local farmers' markets: Bougher's in Westminster and Miss Jenny's in West Friendship!

- When: Meet in the upper parking lot of Christ Church at 9:00 a.m. to organize carpooling.
- What to Expect: We will enjoy a fun morning selecting fresh seasonal produce, crisp apples, vibrant pumpkins, local honey, and artisanal fruit butters. Don't forget to treat yourselves to fresh apple cider, warm donuts, and delicious homemade pies to celebrate the harvest season and fill our treat baskets!
- Call for Drivers: Please let Mother Marcia know if you are available and willing to volunteer to drive for the carpool.

We look forward to a wonderful morning of fellowship and fun as we welcome the autumn season together!

Ministry Calendar Meeting • Saturday, October 24

It's time for Christ Church's next calendar planning meeting, where we'll cover events scheduled for the remainder of the 2026-2027 program year. We'd like to ask one representative from each ministry to attend, and we encourage everyone to attend in person. However, the office will send a Zoom link for those who cannot attend in person. We'll serve breakfast to those meeting on-site. Gather with us in the New Brick Narthex or on Zoom on Saturday, October 24, at 10:00 a.m. If you have any questions, please email the Church Office.

This Halloween, Join Us for Trunk or Treat! • Saturday Afternoon, October 24

Get ready for some family-friendly Halloween fun! Join us on Sunday, October 24 at 4:00 p.m. for our new Trunk or Treat event right here at Christ Church. Bring your little ones dressed in their favorite costumes to trick-or-treat safely from

decorated car trunks in a welcoming community environment. The church parking lot will be completely transformed into a safe, festive staging ground lined with creatively decorated vehicle trunks. Kids of all ages can fill their bags with plenty of sweet treats while showing off their most creative, spooky, and fun costumes. All in all, it's a fantastic, worry-free way for families to enjoy the Halloween season together right here in our community. Fellowship, fun, and treats for all ages—we can't wait to see you there!

Halloween Lock-In · Next Weekend, October 24 & 25

The Christ Church Youth Group hosts a Halloween Lock-In, and all middle and high school youth are invited to join us! We'll meet on campus at 4 p.m. to assist with the Trunk or Treat, then go right to our Lock-In after their event is over. We'll have pizza, gather around the bonfire, enjoy smores and marshmallows, play board games, and watch some movies. We won't have faith formation the next morning; we'll just relax, have breakfast, enjoy a quiet morning, and parents can pick up their children at 10:30 a.m. If you have any questions, please call the church office.

Welcome Newcomers to Christ Church at the HoCo Pride Festival · Sunday, November 1

Christ Church is proud to represent our community at this weekend's Howard County Pride Festival! The no-cost festival takes place this Sunday, October 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to staff our booth (canopy, table, and chairs provided), welcome festival-goers, and share Christ Church's message of God's inclusive love. Whether you can give an hour or spend the afternoon with us, your presence and support make a meaningful difference. [You can learn much more about this event here](#), and [volunteers can register here](#). Thank you for helping us connect with the larger community and let them know about Christ Church - a place that's truly for everyone.

Taizé Vespers: *THANKSGIVING* · Sunday Evening, November 1

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 1 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.

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.

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.

CHRIST CHURCH'S AUCTION IS HERE IN A FEW WEEKS



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH'S 2026 ANNUAL MEETING



AGENDA

- I. Opening Hymn 686 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing *Nettleton*
- II. Prayer
- III. Appointment of Parliamentarian
- IV. Quorum Establishment
 - a. Appointment of Secretary & Tellers
- V. Proposed Amendment of By-Laws
- VI. Rector's Address
- VII. Treasurer's Report
- VIII. Vision & Strategy Committee Presentation
- IX. Right of Floor – Q & A
- X. Adjournment & Dismissal Prayer
- XI. Closing Hymn LEVAS 189 | Great Is Thy Faithfulness *Faithfulness (Runyan)*



**VESTRY CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES
ARE LOCATED ON PAGES 57-59**





1 Come, thou fount of ev - ery bless - ing, tune my
2 Here I find my great - est trea - sure; hith - er,
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly



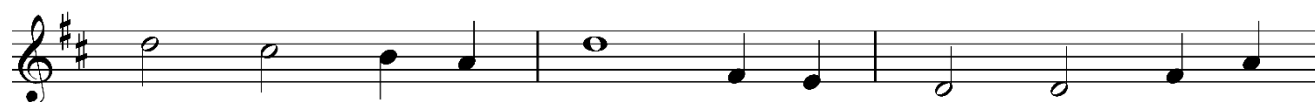
heart to sing thy grace! Streams of mer - cy nev - er
by thy help, I've come; and I hope, by thy good
I'm con - strained to be! Let thy good - ness, like a



ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
fet - ter, bind my wan - dering heart to thee:



Teach me some me - lo - dious son - net, sung by
Je - sus sought me when a stran - ger wan - dering
prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it, prone to



flam - ing tongues a - bove. Praise the mount! Oh, fix me
from the fold of God; he, to res - cue me from
leave the God I love; here's my heart, oh, take and



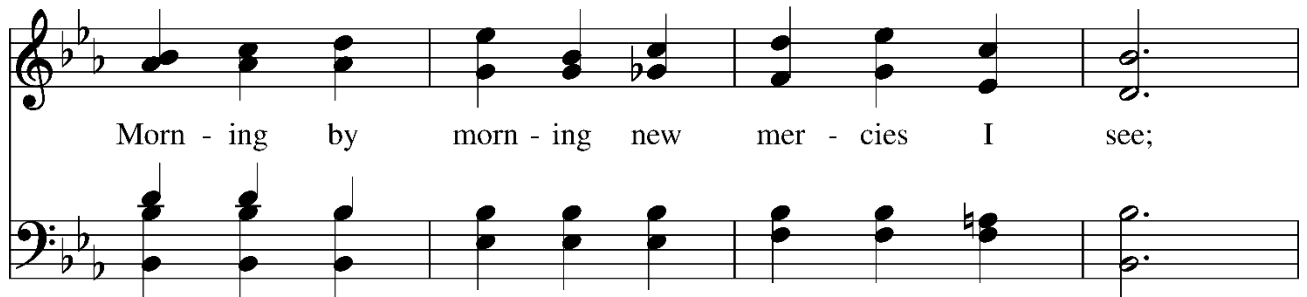
on it, mount of God's un - chang - ing love.
dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
seal it, seal it for thy courts a - bove.

1. Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther,
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

1. There is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
 2. Sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 3. Thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide;

1. Thou chang - est not, thy com - pas - sions, they fail not,
 2. Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness,
 3. Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

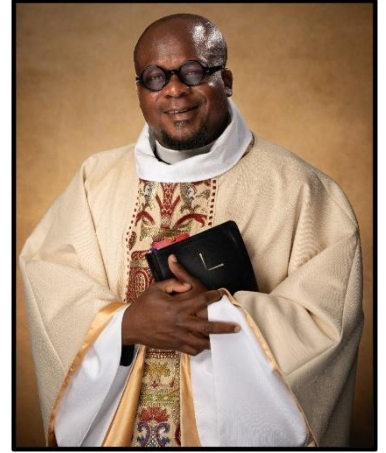
1. As thou hast been thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 2. To thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy and love.
 3. Bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



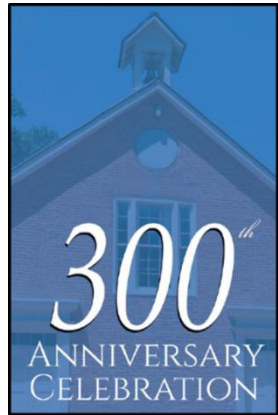
REPORT FROM OUR RECTOR

“My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved,” St. Paul charged the church in Phillipi. And we also encourage each other with these words: *“Stand Firm in the Lord.”* We encourage each other with these words because we believe the Lord is the foundation upon which we build our lives of faith.

This foundation allows me to consider the opportunity to serve here at Christ Church as one of the greatest honors of my life. I enjoy every bit, both large and small, of the ministry I share with each of you. Like any relationship, there are times when the pendulum will swing in the opposite direction; it can, at times, create moments of unhappiness, discomfort, and even some discontent. But I can assure you that those moments are very rare, and even when they do occur, they do not shake the foundation of my core belief in each of you as fellow partners in God’s great vineyard.



The Christ Church vineyard that we tend together is incredibly resilient, strong, and very deeply rooted in the faith of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is this faith that motivates, inspires, and strengthens those of us who tend the vineyard to overcome our personal, individual, and communal challenges. Fact is, the gospels enjoin us to do the difficult work of healing amid our hurt, and I am glad that we can all work and worship together to shape the life and mission of this sanctuary.



THE 300TH YEAR

One year from today, we will be at the threshold of launching our 300-year celebration. I give grateful thanks to Robin Bradley, who began the initial work of organizing our celebration plans. When Robin had to step down for personal reasons, Toni Summerell stepped up to lead the effort as our new coordinator, and to say she has been diligent would be an understatement. Toni has been magnificent, and her continued work deserves our fullest commendation and appreciation. Toni hasn’t worked alone, so many of you have supported her and the important work that she is doing, and for that I remain eternally grateful.

There are not as many congregations in Maryland - or in the country - that have as many years behind them as Christ Church does. This anniversary will be a huge milestone for our beloved Christ Church, and in addition to celebrating the faithfulness of God to this congregation, we should use this as a platform to build a new vision for this community of faith.

I want to believe that in just the same way that the pioneers of this congregation were able to dream of a holy place of worship and a sanctuary of life-transforming ministry in obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we should believe that we are desperately needed in this community at this time, to continue the life-saving work that has characterized our presence here for the past three hundred years.

WORSHIP

At the heart of our common life is worship. Worship is what we do, worship is what brings us together, and worship is what grounds us in the life of God. We are called to gather week-in and week-out and break bread together, sing together, pray together, shake hands, kneel together at the foot of the mercy seat, and carry with us each other’s joy and sorrow.

A little over two years ago, we made a significant adjustment to our worship offerings by adding a new service at 9:00 a.m., one that caters to our young families and children – the foundational future of this, or any, church around the world.



The exciting thing is that we continue to see growth at this special service. Although the initial decision was to offer worship during the program year from September to May, we made an adjustment midway through this past summer; based on suggestions from fellow parishioners, we discussed the possibility of extending the service through this past summer and, therefore, year-round. After consultation with those people most affected by this worship, we decided to offer the 9:00 a.m. service throughout the year. It is a remarkable feat to see our beloved Christ Church take to this decision so positively, and to flourish in such a remarkable way.

Another innovative worship offering is our Taizé Vespers. We offer this service on the first Sunday of each month during the program year, and every Sunday during the Lenten season. Taizé Vespers is the kind of service that anchors you in the midst of our chaotic lives. It provides us with the opportunity to hear different styles of music, engage ourselves in deep meditative moments of silence, listen to readings that respond to the human story, and reach out directly to God with our prayers.

One of the reasons I value this service so greatly is that it provides me with the opportunity to be silent for once, and to have God speak to me in the midst of the silence of my heart, mind, and mouth. Unfortunately, the service hasn't attracted as many people as we had hoped, but we haven't given up on this important worship opportunity. As I always demur, we continue to offer it because we do not know who it is that might find that life transforming moment that they have always been looking for.

We are also beginning to think about continuing to expand our present worship opportunities by exploring a Saturday evening contemporary service. With the addition of Mother Natalie, we believe we have enough bandwidth to be able to offer this type of service soon. If you would like to know more about our plans for it, please speak with me at church someday.

PASTORAL CARE

Part of *tending the vineyard* involves tending to the needs of our parishioners and their loved ones. We have had some significant pastoral care issues within this congregation. Although our Pastoral Care Committee is not what it used to be, we are constantly exploring ways in which we can revive this important ministry, so we can consistently and fully participate in the lives of our parishioners when and as they need.

Despite our challenges, we have a strong Lay Eucharistic Ministry that supports our homebound parishioner network. This critical ministry provides us with some level of connection with those parishioners who cannot come and be with us regularly. We want each of our parishioners to always know that we care about them. This ministry has grown steadily, and it has attracted such a wonderful group of parishioners who take great joy in tending the vineyard. I am grateful to Joan Harvey, Janie James, and Matt and Julie Lawser, and Kathy Lyon. They visit parishioners at least once a month, to feed them with the broken bread and cup of salvation.

It is our plan to focus more on pastoral care; make sure it is strengthened enough to support our beloved parishioners through some of the challenges of our common life.



PARISH LIFE & HEALTH

It is humbling to report to you that our beloved Christ Church continues to be a healthy, strong, thriving, and deeply faith-filled congregation. It is as strong as it has ever been. The truth is that it is very difficult to keep up with all the different activities and ministries that enrich our common life. When I first began working on the appendix to the Vision and Strategy Report that we recently shared with all of you, I was amazed at all the work that we do here at Christ Church. I

hope that you will take a good look at the chart in that report, because in a profound way, that chart represents the many different lives that we sow, nurture, shape, and celebrate at Christ Church.

I am happy to say that there is indeed something for everyone. Young or old, seasoned Christian or a newbie, or anyone in-between, there truly is something here for you to use to build community and enrich lives.

VISION

I have been asked this question on more than a few occasions by parishioners: “What is your vision for Christ Church?” I believe that the question stems not from a place of anxiety but from a place of faithful curiosity. Answering this question has both been fun and humbling because it offers me an opportunity to share where I see Christ Church in more than a few years.

I have two visions for Christ Church.

First, Christ Church continues to be that place where this beloved congregation continues to be faith-filled, thriving, and busting at the seams with disciples fully devoted to the life-transforming values of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

The second vision that I have for our beloved Christ Church is one that allows us to explore the highest and greatest use of our assets whilst meeting three tests:

First, expand our mission and ministry to the people we serve in this community and beyond.

Second, meet the needs of the community in which we minister.

Third, ensure long-term financial sustainability for the congregation.

I share these visions because I am keenly aware that our present model of supporting ourselves isn’t sustainable in the long term, nor do we currently have the space to support some of our ministries. We recently had to convert the nursery into a Sunday School classroom, for example, because we lack the adequate space for another one elsewhere.

It is my firm belief that we can all dream together, hope together and accomplish the best for Christ Church together. Should this happen, it would be because we have all expressed our willingness to meet the challenges of the future by preparing ourselves today.



The important work of engaging with each other as we prepare ourselves for the future inspired a parishioner to donate funds to hire a consultant to conduct a feasibility study for us. I am grateful to every parishioner who filled out the surveys and shared their thoughts about our future. For those of us who could not, we still have available opportunities for you to share your deepest thoughts; please do so at the upcoming workshops or to one of our leaders, including me.

As many of you have heard me mention, I don’t believe that the consultant covered the scope of work she was contracted for. However, her work also revealed to us some of the systemic issues that weren’t all that clear to us.

Her report is the reason that we set up a Vision and Strategy Committee, so we could start to examine our common life and help us make the kind of adjustments that would inject new energy and enthusiasm into it. For this process, we had the benefit and grace of having a facilitator in Dr. Yvonne Bronner, a person who was simply interested in helping us find the right balance and help us develop our own vision.

This committee worked very hard over the summer, meeting in person every Saturday morning from 10:00-12:00 noon for more than 12 weeks. I couldn’t be prouder of their hard work and dedication. Their report was then emailed to all parishioners on Tuesday, but we also have copies here for you today, should you wish to have one.

The report is essentially an invitation to each parishioner for share their gifts of talent, treasure, and time to build this congregation up. I am of the firm belief that each of us has a dream or a vision for this place, and the best we can do is to merge all our visions into a workable one for the benefit of all of us.

I invite you to join us during the upcoming workshops, taking place later this fall. Each workshop will be dedicated to each of the four identifiable areas of ministry that call for our attention and focus, and I believe that your personal contribution of presence, questions, and input would be invaluable to this process.

STAFF

I have no doubt in my mind that Christ Church maintains a wonderfully diligent, hardworking staff. These faithful men and women never cease to amaze me with their tenacity, grace, and commitment to the mission and ministry of our beloved Christ Church. I offer grateful thanks to Mother Marcia, Yehinuel Odidi, Yetti Lipede, Chris Pouch, Larissa Sanders, Ola Oladipupo, Diya Jackson, Amanda Kirkpatrick, Shereen Benka-Coker and John Sencherey. They consistently offer their very best every single day. We have worked well together, and I am grateful for our shared ministry of faithful service.



A few weeks ago, we welcomed The Reverend Natalie Tinner to Christ Church. We are excited about her new ministry with us, and we all look forward to working with her to advance the mission and ministry of our beloved parish.

I'd like to take a moment to thank Mother Marcia for her incredible ministry to Christ Church. Mother Marcia came out of retirement to offer us some needed support. And for many years, she has done so as a faithful witness with an open heart and uncommon dedication. Recently, Mother Marcia has decided to begin her final retirement in May of next year. Although I accepted her news reluctantly, I'd like to add that it has been a privilege working with her, and I offer her my sincere and heartfelt thanks for her many years of service at this particular vineyard.

STEWARDSHIP

I give grateful thanks to God for this community, as it understands the value of stewardship to our life and faith, and with that faith, continues to share time, talents, and treasure to support the common life at Christ Church. I am amazed at all that you pour into this community of faith. It is truly a lot.

Each volunteer hour that you spend serving another person, each moment you spend thinking about the church's life and future, and each donation you send to Christ Church represents to me a faithful response to God's call to you.

I cannot thank you enough for your faithfulness, kindness and generous hearts.

CONCLUSION

It has never been clearer to me than it is today - I'd rather be here than anywhere else. This community fills me with so much more than I could ever imagine. Your prayers sustain me and many others. Your kindness breathes new life and opportunity into the entire congregation. Your compassion transforms lives of the people we know and many more we do not. Your faithfulness keeps this place alight with the never-ending fire of love. Your commitment to this congregation inspires me to work as hard and as faithfully as I can. Your worship, which is the highest gift, honors God in this sanctuary. I am always amazed at all that we have been able to do because of the many gifts that you offer to this community of faith.

On behalf of my family and myself, I offer grateful thanks to each one of you. You've been more than a blessing to me and mine, and for that, I remain eternally grateful.

Thank you for offering me the opportunity to serve you. With your permission, I join you in standing firm in the Lord through whom all things are possible.

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

Manny+

revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

WARDENS' REPORT

As we reflect on the past year, we are grateful for the many ways God continues to work through this community. Christ Church brings together worship, friendship, service, learning, and care for one another—and this is possible because so many people generously share their time, talents, prayers, and resources. Greg and I extend our heartfelt thanks to the clergy, staff, vestry, volunteers, and all parishioners for the trust you placed in us this past year.

Our work has focused both on strengthening our existing ministries and preparing for the future. Here are a few highlights from your Vestry:

- **Welcoming newcomers:** We welcomed new members to Christ Church and begun revitalizing our Welcome Ministry so that no one that walk through our doors stay a stranger for long.
- **Investing in children, youth, and families:** Because the next 300 years start with our children. The recent addition of the Reverend Natalie Tinner offers an exciting opportunity to deepen our ministry and broaden our reach.
- **Caring for what's been entrusted to us:** Our parish's finances, buildings and grounds, policies, ministries, and—most importantly—all of you.

One of the things we learned this year is that Christ Church can thrive when ministry is carried by many people. Over the past several months, for example, we have worked alongside the Vision and Strategy Committee to explore ways to help more people discover their gifts, find meaningful ways to serve, and experience the joy of doing ministry together.

We are grateful for our vibrant Outreach ministries, which serve both CEC and the broader community with love and compassion. We also give thanks to everyone who makes ministry possible—from Sunday worship, Sunday Circle, and Sunday School, to First Wednesday Fellowship, our Wednesday Lenten Supper Series, and other fellowship opportunities like our recent Parish Festival.

As we look ahead to celebrating our 300th Anniversary, we hope to grow deeper in faith, closer as a community, bolder in serving our neighbors, and to welcome change whenever it helps us live out our mission.

This coming year we ask each of you to try one new thing at Christ Church - join a ministry, bring a friend to worship, or say **YES!** to coming out to bid in support of our annual Auction on Saturday, November 7th! Remember - every one of us has something to offer.

Together, let us dream boldly, serve joyfully, and grow deeply in Christ.

Denisa Abdallah, Senior Warden & Greg Schuckman, Junior Warden

wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org



MUSIC MINISTRY

Our Music Ministry reflects the vibrant life at Christ Church. At 9 a.m. Family Services, our youngest members and their families sing well-known children's songs, hymns, and Taizé chants. At our 10:30 services, a variety of music from all over the world is presented every week. The congregational singing is led by our Adult Choir from September through early June. The choir, which continues to grow, has benefitted from collaborating with professional singers who read music and can serve as anchors to the volunteer choral singers around them. During the Christmas season, our choir was joined by a brass quartet for our Lessons and Carols service and a brass quintet 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.

Our Handbell Choir continues to grow and meets weekly to rehearse on Thursday evenings. This year, the Handbells presented an anthem on a monthly basis during 10:30 services as well as during our Lessons & Carols service.



During the program year, we offered 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 musical selections are led from the piano by Larissa Sanders, and joined by professional singers and instrumentalists.

During Sunday School, Jan DeBoissiere again generously donated her time to help teach the young children church songs with movements and sign language. This summer, we had another very successful Vacation Bible School and Choir Camp in June. During the week, the children sang many songs and learned to sign and sing a 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. 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.

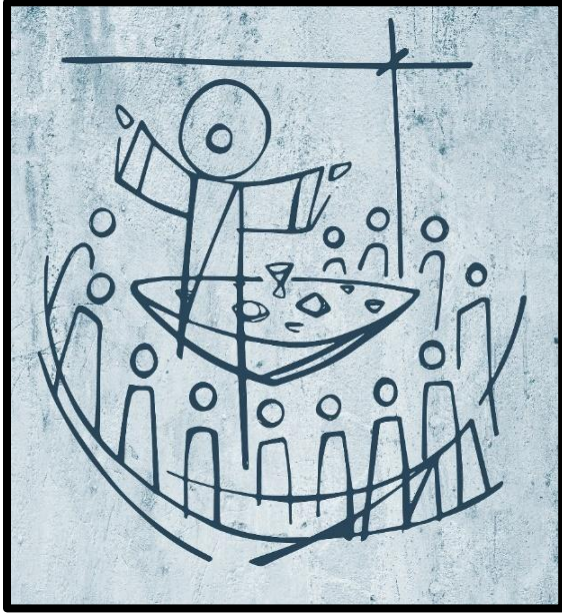
In addition to providing music at all of these important services, members of our Music Ministry have been active in providing music for many other events at Christ Church during the year. Our *Larissa & Friends* Recital has now become an annual event where guest musicians join Larissa Sanders to offer a concert for a free will donation to the Music Ministry. Larissa also brought in the Caritas Vocal Ensemble to offer a powerful Juneteenth Concert. Small Delusions offered free concerts throughout the year and often volunteered their time to provide music for other events. And this year saw the return of the very popular *Gospel Brunch* event offered by the Choir and Larissa to the annual Christ Church Auction.



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 25 years now, and we are so grateful for the support given by our parish and this opportunity to serve. Our group met last month, and we prayerfully decided that Christ Church's Spiritual Life Theme for the 2026-2027 Ministry Year will be **Bound to Christ in Love and Hope**. We truly appreciated the response of everyone at Christ Church over the last year, and for your enthusiastic support and participation in our programs, retreats, and publications. Stay tuned for many more spirit-enriching gatherings in the coming year – we hope to see you enjoying all of them.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER

This ministry was initiated by Father Manny and our Communications Administrator, Chris, to connect people during COVID, and it has continued in subsequent years at the request of parishioners. These broadcasts of Morning and Evening Prayer are provided by the Spiritual Life Commission and we have both parishioners and anonymous folk from around the world joining us on any given day. You can find these streams on our Facebook page and on the main page of our website at 7:00 a.m. Monday through Friday, and 7:00 p.m. on Friday evenings. Many thanks to Ellen Hoke, Jane Adams, Jan DeBoissiere, and Jonelle Ocloo, for their consistent efforts in providing video leadership during these prayer streams. If you are interested in helping out this ministry, please email Chris at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and he will help get you started. It only takes about an hour a week of your time, and very little tech experience.



ADVENT QUIET DAY

This in-person retreat was held in December, 2026 and was a morning of peace, openness, and reflection. There were periods of meditation, discussion, reading and composition. It was led by the Reverend Timothy Grayson, Priest-in-Charge at St. Barnabas, Sykesville.

LENTEN MEDITATION BOOK

This has been an ongoing tradition since 2005. Using our 2025 theme, **Building Relationships through LOVE**, we created a 78-page booklet with meditations from twenty-seven members of the congregation, as well as a Daily Office with readings for every day during Lent. We ordered nearly 200 copies of our booklet – our largest print order to date – so that parishioners could take a free copy home and use it any time they wished. 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, where we are able to connect with thousands of individuals worldwide.

(continued)



LENTEN REFLECTION DAY

This reflection time, a Christ Church tradition, was led by longtime Christ Church friend, the Reverend Kirk Kubicek, on February 21, 2026. This year, we had more than two dozen people gather with us in Old Brick for this start to the Lenten season.

WEDNESDAY LENTEN SUPPER SERIES - *Five Wednesdays in Lent*

Spiritual Life organized a series of five in-person weekly lectures by the Rt. Reverend Robert Ihloff on February 25th, the Reverend Richard Ginnever on March 4, by the Reverend Timothy Grayson on March 11, by our Rector, the Reverend Emmanuel Mercer, on March 18, and then by Archdeacon Denise Schiavone, who concluded the series on March 25. In all, we had a couple hundred people gather with us, both in person and online via Zoom.

THE SLC'S 2026-2027 SPIRITUAL LIFE THEME

The SLC met online on August 27th, searching for a meaningful theme for the upcoming 2026-2027 ministry year. We entertained Scriptural passages from both the Old and New Testaments, and after much prayer and discussion, we felt that ***Bound to Christ in Love and Hope*** 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

In 2026, the Spiritual Life Commission sponsored one-hour book discussions each week. We discussed ***God's Joyful Surprise: Finding Yourself Loved*** by Sue Monk Kidd, ***How to Be Brave*** by Mariann Edgar Budde, and ***Theo of Golden*** by Allen Levi. We also plan to discuss ***The Universal Christ*** by Richard Rohr soon. If you are interested in joining us for upcoming weekly Zoom discussions, email bookclub@christchurchcolumbia.org.

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 and was inspired to revive our Inreach Ministry, and so she collaborated with our Communications Administrator, Chris, to refresh its website page - 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's Inreach page and see if you can help.

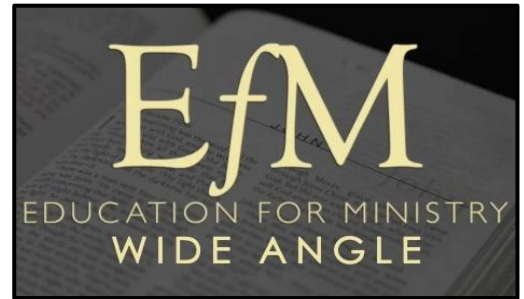
This ministry is truly a rewarding experience.

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.”

In its second year, the University of the South is offering a condensed one-year EfM course called **Wide Angle**. Participants can be integrated into the classic four-year program or participate in a different group. This year, along with a co-mentor from St. John’s Ellicott City, Lucia Martin, I am mentoring a Thursday night Wide Angle zoom group with six participants representing three local Episcopal parishes. They will use a different combination of materials. The combination of the Wide Angle materials which include a range of media supplements, with the Classic year by year material lends itself to group-wide learning and discussion rich in theological reflection. It is a joy to see this small-group ministry thrive and spread as an offering to our neighbor Episcopal parishes.

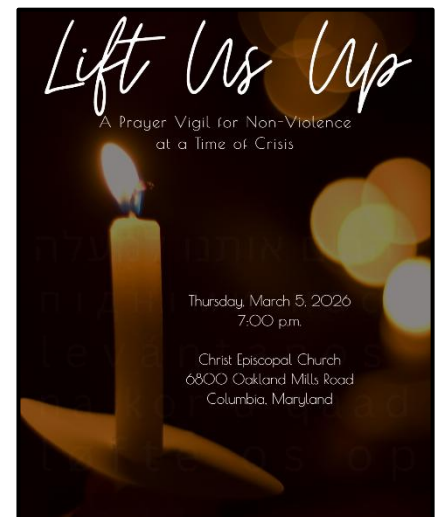


This year, 2026-27, marks an important occasion for the participants in the **Classic** EfM program, which meets on Sunday afternoons throughout the year. Our first graduating class of four people will complete the four-year study by June 6 of next year and will then celebrate their graduation and reception of formal certificates of completion from the University of the South. Their graduation will take place with a ceremony and appreciation for the accomplishment later that month.

In the Classic program this year, we have enrolled one first year student with *Hebrew Scripture* study, one second year student with the *New Testament* curriculum, and four final year participants in the *Christian Ethics* and *Spirituality* stream. It is a diverse and lively group of participants who have learned to use the model of theological reflection to understand their own spiritual journeys and reflect on the world around them. I am so very proud of these students, as they have spent six or more hours learning each week, and are then sharing their insights with us.

As a small group ministry, the EfM program engenders a level of Christian community that forms ongoing and deep friendships and appreciation for others. Last year, our group hosted ***Lift Us Up, a Prayer Vigil for Non-Violence at a Time of Crisis***. This vigil was attended by over one hundred people, both from our own church and from several other denominations, each expressing concern over the widespread abuse of immigration policies. We had representation from Latino/Hispanic pastors and congregations, the Diocesan missionary for Hispanic ministries in the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland, the Quaker Friends, the Roman Catholic, Presbyterian, and United Methodist parishes, and various indigenous American participants. Each victim of ICE killing was mourned in song, bells, and the reading of each victim’s name. All of this initiative emerged from a single theological reflection within the seminar group.

(continued)



Thanks to our Communications Administrator, and the efforts of each one of our EfM participants, strong interest in EfM at Christ Church and nearby parishes has continued to increase. We have enrolled participants who were directed to our groups by the EfM program at Sewanee, by the Diocese of Maryland and through contact with neighbor parishes and their rectors.

There are currently six participants in the Thursday evening Wide Angle EfM seminar, including one from Christ Church, four from St. John's and one from Trinity Elkridge. With the addition of Lucia, a graduate from last year's Wide Angle program who also completed her training as a mentor this summer, we are reaching out to expand this track offered to those whose work schedules are more compatible with a shorter weeknight seminar.

In all, EfM is very much alive and well at Christ Church, and we hope that you'll prayerfully consider joining us next year.

Mother Marcia Davenport

EfM@christchurchcolumbia.org

FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

We closed 2025 with all of 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 also finished 2025 with a small surplus which we applied to some current expenses and to build our maintenance reserves.

The Budget Committee started working on the 2027 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



OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT

YOUR CHRIST CHURCH OUTREACH COMMISSION AT WORK IN 2026

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 these 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. Thank you.
- **Food drives.** On May 16, more than a dozen parishioners, volunteering in shifts, 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. 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 baskets 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 West Baltimore youth.** At a visit in May, a leader of St. Luke's Youth Center (SLYC), described volunteering options at its Camp Inspiration and, in July, several parishioners cheered the children's performance and artwork at the camp showcase. At year-end, we send winter coats.
- **A summer clothing drive.** Living Above Limitation Charity Foundation will ship the natural-fiber clothes to Nigeria to visually impaired people and their families.
- **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 rollerblades to a comforter.
- **Support of Somos Amigos Medical Missions.** On March 1, Christ Church welcomed Founder and CEO Frank Brightwell (pictured) 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) support rebuilding homes after disaster.



We are prayerfully distributing \$27,225 from the CEC parish budget, all of which will be distributed by Dec. 31. In addition, by year-end approximately \$6,200 in parishioners' contributions will be distributed, including gifts intentionally carried over from 2025.

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Fulfilling Outreach's mission of helping people locally, nationally, and internationally, we report sending funds to 17 different organizations located as close as a mile away to as far as the other side of the world.

Here are the causes:

- Local housing, utility and eviction-prevention (Community Action Council of Howard County (CAC), Bridges to Housing Stability).
- Food and other essentials for our less-fortunate neighbors (Grassroots, Columbia Community Care, FISH, SAFE, and CAC's Howard County Food Bank).
- Eye care and oral diabetes medicine for rural residents in the Dominican Republic (Somos Amigos).
- Disaster relief in the aftermath of wildfires in Washington State, tornadoes in Mississippi, earthquakes in Venezuela and Colombia, and flash floods in Nepal (Episcopal Relief and Development, Salvation Army, World Central Kitchen, 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).
- Supporting youth:
 - A member of our Youth Group represented Christ Church on DreamBuilders' fourth trip to build homes in flood-damaged Kentucky.
 - After-school and summer programs for West Baltimore children attending SLYC, including a week of sleepaway camp at Claggett for two children.
 - 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 parishioners and more than a dozen students whose families cannot afford school fees. Sponsors pay primary or secondary tuition and exchange letters or use an app to build relationships. Our annual hybrid meetup is like a family reunion.

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. Our partnership with LEMS is coordinated through Cindy Drummond, the Community School Site Coordinator. Cindy is the person who keeps us informed about the ways in which our parishioners can support the school and assists in all the details of making that happen.



This fall, the school year began with a Community Block Party that celebrated 50 years of education in the Cradlerock/Lake Elkhorn Building. It was a wonderful event at which past and present administrators, staff and students chronicled the growth of the education program there through music, poetry and personal remembrances. Christ Episcopal Church parishioners brought school supplies for about 100 students which were distributed to families. For the first time, we had a table at the Block Party where church members shared information about our many programs for families.

Another new addition to our partnership was funding **Agenda Books** for each LEMS student. The Agenda Books provide students with a reliable place to record their homework assignments and upcoming events. Both teachers and parents are very pleased to have these books which support students' organizational skills and enhance communication between the school and home.

Each month we supplied the school with requested food and household items at the **Kindness Pantry**. Our members brought the items to the church monthly and transported them to the school. The staff distribute these contributions to families they know to be in particular need. In the winter months our parishioners supply many warm hats, gloves and coats for children. Between 60 and 100 families come monthly to take home a protein box from the Roving Radish which is filled with fresh fruits, vegetables, eggs and other fresh foods. We assist by unloading the boxes and welcoming the families as they come after school to pick up these healthy foodstuffs.



Each week, two church members assisted in a math class that serves students who need additional help to meet grade level expectations. We also provided help during the busy lunch hour. Others attended special school events such as the Black History Month Celebration, High School Musical, the National History Day research projects, the Hispanic Heritage Dinner, or a school/community discussion. This is the second year that we will be putting together Health Bags for the teachers that include facial tissues, band aids, Lysol and disinfectant wipes.

Our LEMS Committee is 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 be an occasional visitor to school events, please let us know. We are happy to try to answer any questions.

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



***FIVE YEARS, 16 CONGREGATIONS, 17 FAMILIES, OVER 100 REFUGEES HELPED -
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.”

Two years ago, when the 2024 annual report of the Christ Church Interfaith Refugee Ministry opened with these heartfelt words from one of the refugees we serve, the Refugee Ministry was comprised of volunteers from six congregations serving four refugee families.

As this report is written in late September 2026, the Refugee Ministry now has continuing relationships with 17 refugee families (79 family members!), and so far in 2026, has helped roughly two dozen other local refugee men, women and children with temporary or one-time assistance.

We are Episcopalians, Lutherans, Quakers, Methodists, Jews, Unitarians, Roman Catholics, Mormons, and people of no specific faith, all working together to help mostly Muslim refugees from Afghanistan. We have also helped Nicaraguans, Rohingya from Myanmar, Guineans, and have offered our help to local Haitians and Syrians when our federal government terminated their legal immigration status.

Using the financial contributions from many, many people within and outside of our Christ Church congregation, and from the Christ Church parish budget and several of our partner congregations, here’re some examples what money given to the Refugee Ministry has made possible over the past 12 months:

- Help paying rent (monthly assistance for two families, occasional or temporary assistance for others, forestalling eviction for still others)
- Help paying for utilities (gas, electric, water, sewer), and landlord-related charges
- Help paying for community college tuition, books and fees for certification programs and for-credit classes
- Helping families adjust to termination of food stamps assistance, not because they are not still poor or are not working (and paying taxes), but because they do not yet have green cards
- Setting up “healthcare assistance accounts” for the adults whose Medicaid coverage was terminated, again not because they are not still poor, or are not working (and paying taxes), but because they do not yet have green cards
- Covering one-time costs for registering and titling donated cars and for families moving to Maryland; help paying for car repairs and inspections
- Helping pay for much needed dental work not covered by Medicaid, or when there is no insurance, or an emergency procedure is needed
- Buying shoes and socks and underwear (items that should be new, not used)
- Assisting with legal costs and filing fees for green card applications
- Paying for multiple odds and ends needed by families who just didn’t have the financial bandwidth to pay for something needed, not discretionary

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Donations of time, talent, knowledge, and items from the *many* people and congregations across the Refugee Ministry have meant:

- Transportation to jobs, community college classes, medical appointments, food banks and other food distribution sites, social services meetings, job interviews, grocery stores and halal food markets, school meetings, soccer practices and games, mosque, social gatherings
- 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. Being “talk buddies” for people learning English.
- Public school registration for students of all ages; help with parents interfacing with their children’s schools and teachers; enrollment assistance and in-depth follow-up for children in infants and toddlers and pre-school programs. and for older children with disabilities – in six different school districts.
- Preparing and presenting education sessions on options for healthcare after losing Medicaid coverage and on “standby guardianship” agreements.
- Developing a database of healthcare providers for low-income families across Central Maryland.
- Creating an interactive “decision tree” to help families figure out healthcare coverage options.
- Accompanying families to immigration-related meetings, interviews, proceedings
- Requesting and coordinating donations of furniture, household goods, food, clothing, diapers, gift cards, children’s toys and books, etc., etc., etc.
- Help finding immigration-related legal assistance
- Contacting U.S. Senator Van Hollen’s office and Maryland state legislators for assistance with immigration and social services issues
- Everything involved in finding and landing a job - leads, ideas, resume writing, interview practice, distributing resumes, acting as references
- Connecting families and individuals with governmental and non-profit organizations

(continued)

- 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, working with landlords on housing issues
- Responding to emergency calls for help of all kinds; trips to emergency rooms and walk-in clinics
- Receiving and distributing used electronics, wiped clean and in good condition – laptops, iPads, mobile phones, printers, Chromebooks, monitors
- 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 the Interfaith 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





The Center for Spiritual Nourishment is a staple of both the contemplative and community outreach ministries at Christ Church. A few of our regular attendees do not attend Christ Church due to denominational preferences, but they feel connected to our community via CSN. Others have been introduced to our church by way of CSN and then explored other ministries we offer, such as Centering Prayer.

This year, we continued with our movie ministries, which picked up in popularity due to the two shorter film offerings each CSN Saturday instead of one longer film. We also continued with Spiritual Direction and Meditation as well as our teaching offerings, led by Toni Summerell and Fr. Manny. This year we introduced the Sound Bath, the reverberations of the sound bowls and ocean drums relaxing the tension in our muscles. Fr. Mike, a vital member of the Center for Spiritual Nourishment since day one, continues to lead, this year opening his trauma, grief, and hope healing space.

CSN continues to be an ecumenical, contemplative space where all in the community can unwind and focus on the well-being of their souls. We always open with a communal light breakfast and time for conversation before the sessions, giving us time to connect as a CSN family and welcome newcomers. We look forward to The Center for Spiritual Nourishment being a centerpiece of Christ Church's ministries in the years to come.

Leah Chrest, Center for Spiritual Nourishment Chair
CSN@christchurchcolumbia.org

WOCC: WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH

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

WOCC holds its monthly hybrid meetings both in person and online via Zoom. They are typically on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm. To help promote fellowship, our monthly meeting is occasionally held at a local restaurant in the evening, and the December meeting is always the Christmas Luncheon celebration held at a local restaurant. Traditionally, we don't hold meetings in July and August, as we are on a bit of a summer break.



The WOCC's largest fundraiser is the annual Flea Market and Craft Fair, held on the church grounds on a Saturday in mid-September. This popular event funds most of the WOCC projects that support Christ Church and the broader community. We sold out all vendors stalls this year, and the attendance was incredible. Thanks to all the volunteers who help make this event a success.

We support Springfield Hospital by supplying clothing, body wash, books, and snacks, as requested throughout the year. We hold a Bingo event at Springfield once a month on a Wednesday afternoon, and we gather presents for the residents at the Christmas Luncheon to help brighten their holidays.

We also partner with Grassroots Homeless shelter to provide "Home Sweet Home" housewarming kits for people who transition to be on their own. We support the Seafarers Mission with calendars, note pads, magazines, hats, gloves, scarves, and we also support them through visits to their center. Several WOCC 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.

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

- *Wear Red for Heart Health* campaign to raise heart health awareness in February
- Providing the first Lenten Wednesday supper; this year it was on February 25th
- Women's History Month movie event, to watch *Hidden Figures* in the Parish Hall in March
- Guided Labyrinth Walks at St. John's in March
- Robinson Nature Center lunch and walk in April
- Evening WOCC meeting at The Corner Stable in April
- *Wizard of Oz* at Toby's Dinner Theater in April
- *Hats On for Mother's Day* event on Mother's Day Sunday
- 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 in mid-September
- Evening Meeting at Famous Dave's in October
- Greeting card crafting session led by Emily Aubin in December
- Christmas Luncheon at King's Contrivance in December



We are always looking for new event ideas, and for new ways to welcome more ladies to our meetings and events.

We welcome all your suggestions – speak with any WOCC member, or email us at the address below.

Many thanks to Father Manny, Chris Pouch, Yetti Lipede, the Flea Market volunteers, and many others for your support – we can't do all of this without you!

Women of Christ Church

WOCC@christchurchcolumbia.org



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

Dear Christ Church,

During the 2025-2026 parish year I continued to serve as the principal celebrant at the 9 a.m. Family and Children worship service, regularly assisted by our wonderful seminarian, Yehi, and occasionally also by Father Manny. We are now blessed with a small group of lay leaders who volunteer to assist by offering the children's homilies. Thank you to all of you!

I am happy to report that each Sunday's 9:00 a.m. Family Worship continues to grow in the number of attendees, children, and families attending, and we are thrilled to see new members joining us throughout the year. We hope you all feel welcome; please let us know if we can be of service to you.



The worship service itself continues to develop to include more participation by the children. We have added a weekly Psalm taken from the lectionary for each Sunday and led by a child or children, as well as the Prayers of the People. In addition, this fall, having discovered the practices of other children's ministries, we added a Sanctus bell, which is rung by two children during the offering of the bread and the wine, signaling the entire altar party to bow. Children continue to serve as a rotating cast of acolytes, with a crucifer and two torches each Sunday. Our acolyte mistress, Yetti, trains the older children to serve at worship services in the 10:30 service, or at special 10:00 joint worships during special occasions such as the Parish Festival in August, the Annual Meeting in October, and on Pentecost Sunday. The younger children all have a turn, first come, first served, to experience taking in the processional cross and torches, with all children invited to process in unison.

Our Sunday School program continues to grow in creativity. Currently, two parishioners offer ten-minute large-group activities to start everyone off each Sunday, with Jane Adams teaching yoga to parents and children, and Jan Deboissiere teaching musical choruses and songs to the kids, who later perform them for the parents and congregation. This transition time has proven to be effective and a whole lot of fun!

One of the joys of the Family service is the creation of yearly traditions by celebrations of church festivals and saints within the 9 a.m. liturgy. This year we enjoyed the ***Blessing of the Stuffedies and Plushies*** on Saint Francis Day, the visit from Saint Nicholas during Advent, wearing our halos on All Saints Day, and our first intergenerational Outreach Project over two Sundays: the making of 'snack bags' for the teachers at Lake Elkhorn Middle School, which they can distribute to children as incentives and rewards. We also collected canned good items during Thanksgiving. This year, we hope to develop with the aid of the Parent's Group two Outreach projects, one at Advent and one at Lent. These occasions are 'hands on' with the parents assisting the children to complete the Outreach project themselves. This year, we will also host an Advent Intergenerational Event, inviting parish members to join with the children in a variety of crafts, songs, the making of Advent wreaths and Jesse Trees, and a simple Outreach project all during the Sunday School hour.





Sunday School is also growing in both number of kids and in number of classes we offer. At the request of our faithful Sunday School teacher team, a decision was made to attempt to recruit several extra teachers to allow a third Sunday School class for the youngest pre-K and K children to be created, and to relieve the crowding and age differentiation for the early elementary children. The teachers felt that the skill level variation made it difficult to complete crafts and activities with the combined group as it had been. Because of this, I am happy to say that Brad and Trina Neff and Kathleen Simms have volunteered, and are now teaching the early childhood class in the Nursery. Thank you, Kathy, Trina, and Brad!

All of the classes are using the curriculum ***Weaving God's Promises***. The faithfulness of our Sunday School teachers led by Jenn Atkins is amazing, week after week, they volunteer, cover for absences, and offer creative, engaging lessons for which they prepare each week. We're deeply grateful for the service they offer to our children, and to their families.



This year during Lent, we offered a modified Instructed Holy Eucharist, breaking the celebration into small segments and 'stopping the action' to talk with the children about the meaning of that portion of the Eucharistic rite. I hope this will develop into a more formal teaching of the primary Sacraments of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist for parents and children.

This year, as in previous years, our **Parents Group** meet together in the Great Hall during the Sunday School time. Our newest facilitators, Natalie and Kate, have the opportunity to present topics for discussion relevant to Christian parenting which I research every week or to discuss their experiences of parenting in an increasingly complex culture and world. The Parents Group offers support to the Sunday School and Family Service by choosing and providing the snack each child receives at Sunday School, and providing assistance and organization for the Intergenerational Outreach events and during the Christmas Pageant for the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve celebration. This is totally parent-led and each year becomes the highlight of the family celebration of Christmas for the families and for many parishioners who come especially to be delighted by the energy and faithfulness of our youngest members in telling the story of Jesus' birth in song and action.

Another yearly tradition is the ***Burying of the Alleluia***. Each year, on the Sunday following Ash Wednesday, our Alleluia banner is taken by the children to be 'buried' ie. Hidden away from sight during the Lenten liturgies and the spoken Alleluias are dropped from our Liturgy. The children are VERY attentive and catch any slips loudly and emphatically! At the first Sunday of Easter, the hidden banner is found, transformed with new additions, and proudly processed by the children and hung during the whole Easter season.



As I noted last year, this is ‘church by immersion’. Our 9 a.m. children participate in all of the liturgy to the degree with which they are comfortable. They actively process, read the Psalm and Prayers of the People, participate in the homily acting and responding to questions and offering their own. They offer their own prayer petitions, I especially love one little boy who consistently prays for God! At the Offertory we all process to the altar and the children stand literally beside the celebrant, some even repeating the words of the liturgy, while Holy Communion is celebrated. We bow, we ring, we hold hands during the Lord’s Prayer and then receive the Bread and Wine with eager hands. Even our youngest baptized members are welcome at the table and know they are welcome to God’s Love and Grace.



If you’ve never been to one, I strongly encourage all of you here at Christ Church to join us at a 9 a.m. Family Worship service some Sunday and experience the joy and wonder of our incredible younger half of our parish family.

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 Kirkpatrick and Shereen Benka-Coker, Nursery Coordinators
nursery@christchurchcolumbia.org





SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Sunday school program has three classes, nine teachers, one yoga, and one music leader. There are about twenty-five students with attendance averaging eight students per class. Classes are held almost every Sunday from 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. in the lower level of New Brick. We begin with singing or yoga that is led by our wonderful volunteers. The children get a snack after that, then head to class. The classes are: **Lamb** class (kids under age 4), the **Sheep** (students in K, 1, and 2) and the **Shepherds** class (students in 3rd - 5th grade). *Weaving God's Promises* is the curriculum that is used, a three-year

curriculum. Class sessions are structured around the Holy Eucharist as set forth in the Book of Common Prayer and have multi-aged lesson plans. We are currently in Year 2: Weaving Together the Family of God.

From the Scope and Sequence:

The lessons of the second year cover the story of how we become God's people and part of the household of God, the Communion of Saints. The theme is Once we were no people, but now we are God's people. The New Testament lessons focus on the Gospel of John, with its stories of the encounters of individuals with Jesus and their transformation in the light of his love. Later lessons focus on the "Easter people," the saints in the Church up to the present time.

We always welcome new students and teachers, so if you're interested in helping us out, speak to myself or any Sunday School adult, and we'll answer your questions!

Jennifer Atkins, Christ Church Sunday School
sundayschool@christchurchcolumbia.org

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

**"Keep seeking. Keep trusting. Keep believing.
 God will lead you where you need to go." —
 Matthew 7:7**

This year, our Vacation Bible School & Choir Camp theme was **Tropical Trek**. Through Bible stories, music, art, games, and exciting science experiments, our campers discovered that God guides our steps and leads us along the path He has prepared for us. They learned about His saving grace and experienced the joy of knowing God's great love for each of us.

Our wonderful volunteers played an important role in helping our campers grow in Christ and learn the Word of God. Through their time, love, patience, and dedication, they helped make this year's camp a meaningful and memorable experience.

To all of our amazing volunteers, we love you, appreciate you, and thank you for helping our children seek, trust, believe, and grow in God's love.

Larissa Sanders and Yetti Lipede, VBS & CC Coordinators
VBS@christchurchcolumbia.org



CHRIST CHURCH YOUTH GROUP

The goal of Youth and family ministry is 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, Seminarian Odidi, Preethi & Sam Jackson, Leanne Shepherd, Kathy & Ed Chzernowskis. With God's help, we will continue to strive to complete this goal.

This past year 6th through 12th grade youth have been meeting in Parish Hall's lower level Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:20 am, 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 interested in. The lessons we have started off with this year is our creation unit. The Youth have had the opportunity to make their own creature or creations, create a world for it to live in, and come up with how they as the creator view their creation. We have connected this activity to the Christian belief that God is the creator of all things, inspiring youth to use their own imagination to create something unique from materials around them. Before the start of the school year, the Youth leaders also met to plan out the ideas that we had for the fall and to finalize important dates for the upcoming year.

Last year, we had two Youth Sundays - one in the Fall and the other in the Spring, which were a huge success! The Youth put a lot of time and effort into running those services as they are involved in ushering, being readers, planning the sermons, providing music by singing or playing instruments, writing the prayers of the people, and more. During last Spring's Youth Sunday our three high school graduates - Luke, Javier, and Marileigh - wrote and gave the sermon for that service. Not long after that, we were proud to give them a proper send off as they were making their way off to college. We plan to have two Youth Sundays this year as well - one on November 15 and the other on April 25.



This year, we are planning to hold a Halloween Lock-In on October 24th as well as support the Trunk-or-Treat event that afternoon. We plan to provide games and entertainment for the younger participants as well as decorate a youth group car complete with lots of candy. This event will also allow us to connect more with the younger kids that are involved at Christ Church and bridge that divide between the younger and older youth. Some other events we would like to hold include a henna tattoo event in November, wreath Making Social and Fundraiser in December, a bowling event in January, Shrove Tuesday pancake supper fundraiser in February, bake sale fundraiser, Mother's day flower sale in early May, and HersheyPark in the Spring. Money raised by the fundraisers fund future youth ministry events that they are interested in, including iceskating, bowling, laser tag, escape rooms, HersheyPark, and others like this.

The Youth also have a variety of Diocesan events available to them. High schoolers are able to attend the Happening retreat in February and middle schoolers have the New Beginnings retreat in April. Another event called the Nightwatch is also available to middle and high school youth where they have the opportunity to sleep over at the Cathedral of St. John the divine in New York City. These events provide young people with opportunities to grow in their faith, build friendships, develop a stronger connection to the church, and experience a sense of community with other youth who share their faith. The memories they make through these experiences can continue to influence their faith long after the event has ended. However, the cost of registration, transportation, and other expenses can sometimes prevent a young person from participating. Fundraising can help remove these financial barriers and ensure that every youth has the opportunity to attend, regardless of their financial circumstances.



We are proud to recognize Shreya Chrzanowski (center in image) for her year of service as the Youth Liaison for Christ Episcopal Church. Throughout the past year, Shreya has played an important role in strengthening communication between our youth and church leadership. Her service has been a meaningful part of our youth ministry, and we are grateful for all the work she has contributed in the past year. We are excited to announce that Shreya will continue to serve as this year's Youth Liaison for Christ Episcopal Church.

As we continue to nurture and support our church's youth, we invite you to keep our children and youth in your prayers. Pray that they may continue to grow in faith, develop a meaningful connection to the church community, and recognize God's presence in their lives. We also ask that you support us in any way that you feel called to whether that be through your time, talents, financial gifts, or encouragement. Together, we can create a church community where every young person feels welcomed.

Thank you,
Diya Jackson, Office and Youth Assistant
christchurchassistant@gmail.com



BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMISSION

The Building and Grounds committee has struggled to achieve a critical mass capable of executing larger projects. The church is in desperate need of a number of major contractor related repairs most notably driveway, roadway, and Old Brick exterior wood restoration. Bids need to be secured and presented to the Vestry for approval and budgeting. Smaller projects can be done by a team of about 6-10 individuals, but membership seems only able to establish two or three allowing only the smallest of tasks to be completed. Numerous small tasks were executed including the installation of large bulletin board on the New Brick Narthex landing and placement of exterior surveillance cameras. Additional projects which could be accomplished with sufficient membership involve the upgrades of the playground, restoration of exterior lighting of New Brick which failed this year, and window repair, Great Hall painting and restoration, interior painting of New Brick stairwells to name a few.

Without significant help from our congregation in helping in the Building & Grounds efforts, our repairs will be relegated to contractor efforts with very little oversight. It will be costly and done according to their desires, and not ours. Our buildings are our responsibility. They should be our pride. We understand that many feel unfamiliar with home repairs, but know that we happily teach. It is an excellent opportunity for teenagers to learn skills, feel joy of giving and building, and know that you are truly a part of this community taking pride in whom we are.

If you are interested in joining the Building & Grounds committee, please contact me at chair email address, bng@christChurchColumbia.org, or speak with me personally. Some have expressed an interest to me and have provided their contact information; until we have a reasonable number, we can do very little, so encourage others to join so we can become an effective repair force.

George E. Toth – Buildings and Grounds Chair
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

We are motivated and guided by the love of God, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. We serve directly with our hands at His Altar. We set and clear His table as well as partake of His meal. The work we do is vital to worship in the church. We help by preparing items needed for services and support the clergy in leading us in worship.

The Altar Guild coordinates with Father Manny on special services (Weddings, Funerals, Baptisms, Taizé) and arranges the set up needed. We also set up for any other services that occur in addition to Sunday services.

Altar Guild members have a manual that we use as reference and guidance for preparing for Sunday services and special services and includes 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 with!

We have rotating teams that spend 60 to 90 minutes on one weekend each month on various tasks. On Sunday, the sanctuaries in Old Brick and New Brick are set up and cleaned up for our three morning services.

We have opportunities to help the Altar Guild as a member of the support team (being a substitute, helping with special services, and pitching in when available). Thank you to **all** members of the Altar Guild for demonstrating that many hands make light work. Thank you to each and every current and recently added rotating team members! And with our focus on Jesus Christ, we are gratified in the fact that we all play a personal role, and corporate role, in the preparation of the bread and wine which He chose as He becomes present in us and nourishes us spiritually.

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

We look forward to meeting with anyone who is discerning a call to Altar Guild, to share more information about our ministry! 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

We are officially one year away from CEC's 300th Year Anniversary. On **November 7, 2027**, we will begin our year of celebration of the history of Christ Church. Our 300th Anniversary celebration will continue for an entire year with events honoring our past, celebrating our present and looking forward to our future. As voted upon in last year's annual meeting, the theme of the celebration year is: "**Learning from our history, living into our future.**" The year's festivities will culminate with a final weekend of celebration including a celebration event and then a worship service on Sunday, **November 5, 2028**.

These dates were 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.

Over the last year, the committees have been working diligently to shape the celebration year. They have been doing various forms of research and have been putting final touches on the calendar of events. The draft calendar (located further down in this update) is about 85% confirmed. It includes events such as walk-bike-run activities, 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.

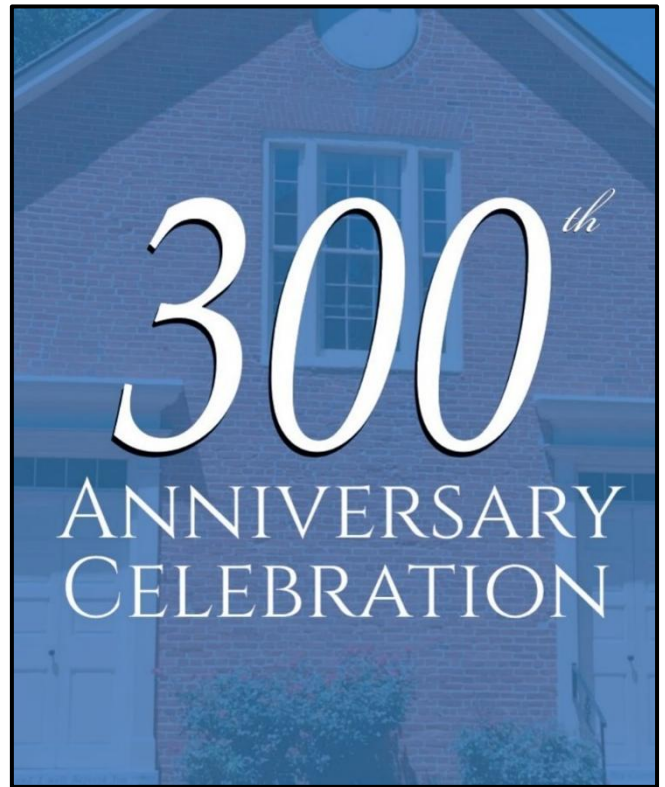
The active committees that make up the 300th Anniversary Team include the **Race, Slavery & History Committee**, **Communications Committee**, **Events Committee**, **Fundraising Committee**, and **Worship, Music & Liturgy Committee**. The Legacy and Endowment committee was paused while the church worked on its Vision and Strategy efforts (more on this committee is elsewhere in this Annual Report). Once finalized, the Legacy and Endowment committee will work to support the actions highlighted in the church's strategy moving forward.

You will have noticed that the Race, Slavery & History Committee has been providing historical updates monthly at church, sharing History Teasers that are related to their findings. Each of the sub teams are focused on different time frames or groups throughout the last 300 years. They have been visiting various historical repositories, like the Archives of the Maryland Diocese, museums, other Episcopal churches, and local historical societies. The committee is using this research to shape specific events throughout the celebration year that reflects the discoveries of their research.

The **Worship, Music & Liturgy Committee's** work has been focused on finalizing the specific events throughout the year to support the 300th celebration. Some events are specially focused normal church functions whereas others will be unique events specific to the celebration itself.

Now that we are a year out, the **Communications and Events Committees** will be posting more updates monthly as we get closer to the celebration year. They have been meeting to work on deconflicting the calendar, creating the communications strategy, and outlining the specific needs for each activity.

(continued)



The **Fundraising Committee** has been given permission from our Vestry to start applying for different grants and scholarships for the preservation of the church as well as contributions to the various events throughout the celebration year.

Though there is still a lot of work to be done, each of the committees is excited for the celebrations to begin. If anyone would like to volunteer for any of the committees or join a list for volunteering for the specific events themselves, please let us know.

This DRAFT calendar of events as of October 2026 is as follows: (85% confirmed)

Date	Event
Oct 16 2027	Church 300 th Opening Celebration Bike Ride/ Walk
Oct 17, 2027	Parish Annual Meeting
Nov 6, 2027	Trail of Souls Event
Oct 30, <u>2027</u>	Annual Auction
Nov 7, 2027	All Saints Sunday 1st BIG Service (1700s focus)
Dec 19, 2027	Historical Christmas (Lessons and Carols) 1700's focus
Jan. 15, 2028	New Year's Celebration Event
Feb 12, 2028	Renewal of Wedding Vows & Special Music & reception
Feb 27, 2028	2nd BIG service (1800s focus)
Feb 29, 2028	Shrove Tuesday
Mar 1, 2028	Ash Wednesday
Mar - Apr, 2028	Speaker series - Bishops Presentations Wednesday Lenten Super Series
Apr 8, 2028	Driving tours of child churches of Queen Caroline Parish
Apr 9, 2028	Palm Sunday
Apr 16, 2028	Easter Sunday
Apr 22, 2028	Earth Day Community Service Event
May 6 & 7 2028	Garden Weekend Event
Jun 4, 2028	Pentecost Sunday - 3rd BIG service (1900s) Luncheon of Thanksgiving
Jun 17, 2028	Juneteenth Music Event
Early July, 2028	Crab Feast
Aug 19, 2028	Campout/bonfire - Soccer Match
Sep 9, 2028	Parish Ministry Fair / Festival
Sep 10, 2028	4th BIG service (2000s)
Sep 16, <u>2028</u>	Flea Market (rain date -Sep 23)
Sep 30, 2028	Larissa & Friends Concert
Oct 7, 2028	Church 300 th End of Year Celebration Bike Ride/ Walk
Oct 14, 2028	Driving tours of manors and graveyards associated with Queen Caroline Parish
Oct 28, 2028	Annual Auction
Nov 3, <u>2028</u>	End of Celebration Event
Nov 5, 2028	All Saints Sunday - Final BIG service

Submitted by Toni Summerell, 300th Anniversary Committee Chair
300@christchurchcolumbia.org

FIRST WEDNESDAY FELLOWSHIP

We welcome everyone to come, 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 gatherings during Lent, but there is one in July – *and it's a huge one!*

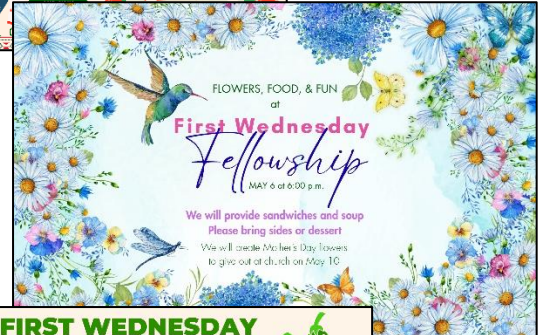
This year's plan includes:

- **October 7 - Chili Cook-off!** Come show off your favorite chili recipe!
- **November 4 - Friendsgiving and creating care packages for the teachers at Lake Elkhorn Middle School**
 - The church will provide the main dish (turkey).
 - Bring your favorite holiday side or dessert.
- **December 3 - Ugly Sweater Night & Pie-Making Contest**
 - Wear an ugly sweater to get into the holiday spirit.
 - Bring your favorite pie - sweet or savory!
 - The church will provide soup.
- **January 6 - Winter Trivia/ Pub Night**
 - Come play team trivia and enjoy some pizza!
- **May 5 - Cinco de Mayo**
 - It's taco night! Sign up to bring a part of the taco meal.
- **July 7 – Our Famous Crab Feast Cookout**
 - Look for more information next spring. This is a ticketed event, so stay tuned!



The fun begins at 6 p.m. each month's first Wednesday. Donations to help defray the cost of food are always welcome.

Jennifer Atkins, on behalf of all FWF Volunteers
info@christchurchcolumbia.org



PARISH ADMINISTRATOR AND MINISTRY COORDINATOR'S REPORT

A year of faith, service & gratitude

It has been a busy and blessed year, filled with church events, Lenten suppers, Holy Week, and the many preparations that went into getting our buildings ready for celebrations and worship.

Through it all, this journey has been meaningful, rewarding, and filled with many wonderful moments. I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving and to keep moving forward together.

Serving as Parish Administrator and Ministry Coordinator has given me the opportunity to get to know so many wonderful people in our parish. Each conversation, event, ministry, and shared experience has helped strengthen my connection to our church family.

I am especially grateful to all of our volunteers who give their time, talents, and hearts to help guide and support our church. Your dedication, encouragement, and presence mean more than words can express.

Thank you for allowing me to serve alongside you. It is truly a joy and a blessing, and I look forward to continuing this journey together, trusting in God's guidance and grace.

Yeti Lipede, Parish Administrator & Ministry Coordinator
office@christchurchcolumbia.org



ARCHIVE COMMITTEE

The Archive Committee at Christ Church was established in early 2026 as an outcome of the research being done into the history of the church for the 300th anniversary celebrations. The Race, Slavery and History (RSH) 300th Committee very quickly learned of the extensive work done to transcribe historical church records in the 1950's and again in preparation for the 2011 celebration of the consecration of Old Brick. The RSH Committee also unearthed research done by the Old Brick celebration committee. It was quickly apparent that the documents from these endeavors needed to be preserved and secured. Hence the birth of the CEC Archive Committee, comprised of Chris Pouch, Yeti Lipede, and Jeannette Wild.

This effort is in line with the purpose statement for the 300th History Committee: 'to better preserve and make available to the congregation and the general public the 300 years of history that Christ Church represents.' The Archive Committee envisions that the effort to preserve important church documents will last well beyond the 300th celebration efforts as we hope to establish best practices to preserve new records as they are created.

The archive team is first focused on digitizing 300 years of vestry notes and register. The 2011 Old Brick celebration committee transcribed much of the vestry notes from the original handwritten document. This and the work of Diya Jackson to scan a decade of recent vestry records has jump started the work of the Archive Committee. We now have most of 300 years of vestry notes preserved with only 20 years remaining to be scanned and organized into the online archive. With the assistance of the RSH Committee, we have located and scanned letters, diary notes and other records relevant to our history from the Diocese of Maryland Archives, and other local historical organizations and stored them in our archives. We appreciate the assistance of Mary Klein – the Diocese Archivist in this effort.

We are designing a snapshot of today's parish members based on the concept behind the *Humans of New York* project by Brandon Stanton. This will be a collage of photographs and thoughts of our current members. This will help future generations better know who we are and what we care about. We are also actively collecting programs, announcements, news articles or other items from significant Christ Church events, including major celebrations, visits from persons of note to the parish, etc. If you have something to contribute to this effort, please email us – archive@christchurchcolumbia.org.

COMMUNICATIONS REPORT

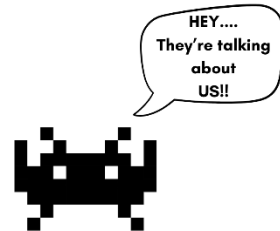
First of all, thanks go to Father Manny for continuing to prioritize the importance of communications within and beyond Christ Church, and allowing us to continue to work towards providing better clear, thorough, and consistent accessibility to the spiritual, outreach, and social gatherings that make up our common life.

We all know that digital communication is the hub of today's world, and it's no different at Christ Church. It's how we stay connected to church worship, upcoming gatherings, and community needs. We do this in several ways; because everyone has their own method of receiving information on their devices, we rely on several to ensure no one is left out. We use our website, Instagram, Facebook, Linktree, email, QR codes, and much more to securely pass the information on from our office, ministries, and outreach groups to you. We don't rest on these, however – we're always testing new platforms and mediums to help bring everyone even closer together.

Like this one....



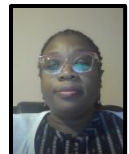
You've no doubt seen this odd character on the left around campus. For some, it might bring back Space Invaders vibes (shout out to you), but in today's world, it's a QR code. Everyone with a phone can easily use them to learn about upcoming Christ Church events or details - one might have directions to the next Theology on Tap location or WOCC dinner, and another might give you a way to quickly and safely handle your weekly offering. Go here to learn how to use them in a one-minute video - CECevents.org/QR



We're not leaving the past behind, however – one thing we have been missing for a long time is a parish directory that works for everyone. Soon, we will have that sorted (with your help; more on that in a bit), as we are creating a Christ Church Directory that can not only be accessed online, but one you can also print a paper copy of. The online version will be safe and secure – no one outside of our church can access it, and you can reach someone on it from the website or free app – and the paper version will be customizable. To make it the best it can be, though, we need your photo, so please email the office – office@christchurchcolumbia.org - one so we can insert it into your profile on the directory. Thanks!



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 send their video recordings or livestream, and I share it on other platforms and our website to have them reach further out into the world. These streams would not be possible without them giving their time and energy to bring prayer and worship to the world every weekday.



In addition to these 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 Outreach, WOCC, Education for Ministry, Vestry meetings, Sunday Circle, Centering Prayer, or many other hybrid or online gatherings, 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, for being my "on-site pair of hands" on Sundays, and to Yetti, Patricia, Jan, and many others I'm embarrassed to have forgotten here, as you all have played a part in making these virtual meetings happen. This, literally, could not be done without them all.

Heartfelt thanks go out to Yetti and Larissa for their willingness to help me with mic and camera adjustments (and the occasional tech issue) so our worship livestream helps those at home feel more a part of the congregation. 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.



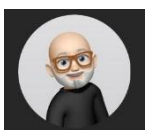
Speaking of cameras, by the time you read this, we may have already installed two new cameras that allow us to pan and move about the sanctuary and better focus on what's happening at a given time. And next week, we have our brand-new audio system installed! This is a state-of-the-art setup with more wireless microphones, brand new speakers, amplifiers, signal processing, and – a first for Christ Church – a hearing-assisted system to allow those who need to hear Father Manny's ~~jokes~~ sermons more clearly. Our system comes with a few handheld receivers, headphones, and neck loops to start, but if we have more people who may need to benefit from this system, we can invest in many more of them. And

we thank you from the bottom of our hearts, because none of this would have been possible if it wasn't for a very generous gift from a family of parishioners, and matched by donations from fellow parishioners. THANK YOU.

Truth is, as we all know, technology is not cheap - and it is never permanent. We have had, even recently, items short-circuit or simply stop working – and unfortunately, most of them happen when we're needing to use the equipment (live, mid-service, say) – the worst possible time, of course. Although we have been very fortunate, for the most part – for example, we had originally pushed two camcorders that were laying around into immediate service for our livestreams at the start of COVID, and they've performed admirably *for five years* – every now and then we need to replace bits and pieces (some small, some very large). Christ Church's communications budget has never been a significant one, nor was it ever truly designed for the scope and amount of technology that today's online world requires. From audio hardware to software subscriptions, flat-panel displays to AA batteries, laptops to webcams, there are so many components that go into making sure we are able to communicate to and with each of us securely and efficiently. All of this comes at a cost, so if anyone feels called to contribute towards supporting these needs (personally or financially) and would like to know more about how any part of our communications work at Christ Church, email me at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org, and we'll set up a time to meet up on campus and I'll share what we might need to address in the near future.

You can easily find links to 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 posters (with QR codes!) and the Narthex TV continues to promote upcoming events, so if you have an announcement you wish to share with everyone, or need a graphic, banner, poster, brochure, sign, or shirt created for a Christ Church event or ministry, email details to me at communications@christchurchcolumbia.org and I'll collaborate with you to help better spread the word.

Effective communication works here because we communicate with one another, and Communications handles everything that's worked on with the same level of care – whether it's Mother Marcia's nightly Advent Compline videos, a CSN poster on a wall in Old Brick, or this very document you're reading now – it all matters equally. While this position is part-time, it takes flexible (and additional, at times) hours behind the scenes to keep our parish running smoothly. The top priority is making sure you have the information you need when you need it, to best enrich our shared life. I invite every parishioner and ministry to reach out anytime so we can continue sharing the vibrant life of Christ Church with longtime members and newcomers alike. Knowing 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 support our Christ Church community and its many visitors. If you have questions or ideas or want to help, email me. Thank you.



Chris Pouch, Communications Administrator
communications@christchurchcolumbia.org



CEMETERY COMMITTEE

The Cemetery Committee was reconstituted this past year and is currently composed of four members, all of whom are Vestry members. We believe this number is a minimum number, so congregant members wishing to participate should contact the Chair.

The initial mission of the committee was to present for Vestry approval the updated cemetery map, its expansion, and enumerated newly available plots. The committee further researched the pricing of the cemetery plots within area. Although the final recommended pricing was significantly more than previously used, it still represented a cost far below other areas and did not require any annual maintenance contracts. The committee felt it acceptable to clearly open the cemetery to the public; there was no restrictive provision before and it is unknown if any non-member interments ever occurred. To show favor to our membership, the pricing shows a significant discount in purchase price.

With this revision there are approximately 25 new full-casket capable plots available, and equal number of cremains-only plots. For those interested in establishing a resting place within the cemetery, the office will provide a list of available plots, and you may always contact the Cemetery Chair for clarification and assistance in locating any existing or open plot.

In addition to the work noted, the Rules and Regulations were adjusted to provide more Vestry oversight and approval requirement for changes to the grounds and added provisions to help restore available plots that have been abandoned or forgotten and for which no contact information can be secured. It should be clearly noted, that plots are not property deeds but rather an extension of the privilege of resting in this hallowed ground.

In addition to the substantial effort of surveying and creating the upgraded cemetery map, column markers were installed to help ease the effort of locating a grave. The benches of the cemetery were acquired, and mounting blocks readied for their installation. Look for the new benches when installed.

The metal benches will be of the type on the Scout patio on the New Brick church side.

For formal communications with the Cemetery Committee and all plot or cemetery related matters kindly email us at cemetery@christchurchcolumbia.org.





CANDIDATES FOR THE VESTRY

in alphabetical order



RON BARAN

Hello. It is a genuine pleasure to introduce myself to the Christ Church community. I have had the privilege of serving as a Vestry member here for the past three years, and every day in that role deepens my appreciation for this congregation — its warmth, its faith, and the remarkable people who make it such a special place to belong.

By profession, I am a retired pharmacist. Over the course of my career, I dedicated myself to the field of hospital pharmacy — a specialty that placed me at the intersection of patient care, clinical medicine, and pharmaceutical science. Working within hospital settings gave me a profound respect for precision, compassionate service, and the responsibility that comes with caring for others during some of the most vulnerable moments of their lives. Those values — diligence, care, and a commitment to the well-being of the community — are ones I carry with me to this day, and they continue to guide my service here at Christ Church.



I was born and educated in Chicago, Illinois, a city that shaped both my character and my work ethic. My academic journey began at the University of Illinois in Chicago, where I earned my Bachelor's Degree in Pharmacy. Eager to deepen my expertise, I went on to pursue a Master's Degree in Hospital Pharmacy Practice at North Dakota State University in Fargo, North Dakota. I completed my formal training with a residency at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Fargo — an experience that was as humbling as it was formative, serving those who had given so much in service to our country.

It is a true honor to serve alongside so many faithful and dedicated individuals as a member of the Vestry at Christ Church. I look forward to continuing this journey together with each of you, and I am grateful for the trust and fellowship this community has extended to me.

In my present term, I have the privilege of serving on both the Outreach Committee and the Cemetery Committee — two areas of ministry that reflect the church's deep commitment to caring for our neighbors and honoring those who have come before us.

These past three years as a Vestry member have been a truly enlightening and rewarding experience, offering opportunities for growth, fellowship, and meaningful service that I treasure deeply. With God's guidance and the steadfast support of this wonderful congregation, I humbly hope to continue serving for the next three years, and I look forward to all that we will accomplish together.

JAN DEBOISSIERE

Hi, I am Jan DeBoissiere. I am married to Tom, and we have two grown sons, Bill and Kevin. We've been members of Christ Church for over 35 years. I've recently retired after 35 years as an attorney in the Public Defender's Office. I was raised in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and often still visit there to see family.

Christ Episcopal Church is a gift, a blessing in my life. I love the diversity in our parish and the range of music and worship styles. My friendships here have sustained me through many difficult moments in my life.

I can bring many skills to a Vestry position. I work hard, and my legal training and experience will my organizational skills. I have served on the Vestry twice before, in fact. I have also Choll, Altar Guild, Choir, WOCC, and many other events and projects.



Thank you for your consideration.

GREG SCHUCKMAN

Hi! My name is Greg Schuckman, and I serve as your Junior Warden. I found my way to Christ Church in 2022 by way of a Men of Christ Church bowling night — I came for the bowling and stayed for the parish. My wife Pam and I have lived in Ellicott City since 2011. We have three children, two of whom are married and live nearby, and two grandchildren who excel at keeping me humble. I grew up in New Jersey and Georgia and graduated from the University of Florida and the University of Pennsylvania. For most of my career, I have worked in government relations for public and private universities, at both the federal and state levels. I have also volunteered with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society for the past 25 years, including a term as board chair of our local chapter. Christ Church is the first church where I truly feel at home, and for that, I am grateful to all of you.



The diversity of our congregation is Christ Church's greatest strength and what distinguishes us in many ways within the Diocese. We have parishioners from all around the world, and you can hear it on a Sunday morning — in the range of voices reading scripture, congregating in the Narthex, and especially at our Taizé services. When Father Manny preaches, I hear a church that is vibrant and nurturing and looking toward its next 300 years.

As Junior Warden, I lead our Stewardship Committee and serve on the Vision/Strategy Workgroup formed in July. The strategy work concludes this year; stewardship never does. What I would most like to bring to a second term, though, is a hand in our 300th Anniversary in 2027 and 2028 — a moment most parishes never get, and one that will ask a lot of this Vestry.

Behind that is 35 years on 25 public and nonprofit boards and commissions, ten of them as President or Chair. What that experience taught me is practical: how to read and manage a budget, how to run a strategic planning process that produces something more than a binder, how to recruit and keep volunteers, and — maybe most important for a Vestry — how to offer counsel without drifting into managing the staff who do the actual work.

I also chair the Howard County Commission on Disabilities and have lived with a disability myself for more than 25 years. That experience has given me a degree of empathy I would not have had otherwise.. I have preached at four of our Taizé services over the years, and will be preaching again on October 4. I would be glad to keep serving Christ Church in whatever capacity is most useful and am grateful for the opportunity to serve you as a member of our Vestry.

ALFRED TITUS-GLOVER

Hello. My name is Alfred Titus-Glover, and I've served two terms on the Vestry in the past.

I am from Ghana, West Africa. I was baptized and confirmed in the Anglican Church. My father was Anglican, and all my siblings were also baptized and confirmed into the Anglican (Episcopal) faith, except for my mother, who remained steadfastly Methodist.

Christ Episcopal Church has been my home church for the last 20+ years, and my family and I have been tremendously blessed to be part of this wonderful and accepting church. The least I can do to give back is to serve the church wherever I am needed. I served in leadership roles at my former church before Christ Episcopal Church, including as a member of the Board of Trustees and the Staff/Parish Relations Committee. I learned so much about church operations, outreach, engaging with parishioners, and also the importance of service to God and the Church. My past terms on the Vestry were wonderful because I served with great members with vast experience, which still guides me in important decisions I make today. I am ready once again to assist and to contribute to a more perfect grounding of our great church.



Having attended a Presbyterian Boys' Boarding High School in Ghana, I thus grew up in a church community. My educational journey continued in Montreal, Canada, where I received my undergraduate diploma, and I later earned two graduate degrees from colleges here in the United States. I have been employed for over 30 years in Engineering and Urban Planning for both private/government agencies in the Baltimore/Washington region, and I currently work in Environmental Engineering and Planning in the Washington area.

I am married to my best friend and wife, Professor Doris Titus-Glover, and we have three big boys who have all graduated from college and graduate school. I have a twin brother who lives in New Jersey, a sister who attends Christ Episcopal Church, and her twin brother who also lives in New Jersey. The two sets of twins (back to back) in my family have the same birthdate (April 8th), three years apart.

I have been blessed to congregate with members from Methodist, Presbyterian, and Anglican churches throughout my life and have gained diverse experiences that will continue to serve me on our Vestry, if selected once again. I strongly believe I can continue to contribute much to Christ Episcopal Church. Together we can achieve the mission and goals of our beloved Christ Episcopal Church.

God Bless Christ Church, and God bless us all.



Christ Episcopal Church

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The Rev. Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev. Marcia Davenport, *Senior Associate Rector*

The Rev. Natalie Tinner, *Associate Rector*

The Rev. Richard Ginnever, *Rector Emeritus*

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*

Shereen Benka-Coker, *Nursery Care Assistant*

John Prempeh Sencherey, *Sexton*

Vestry

- Denisa Abdallah (*Senior Warden*) • Greg Schuckman (*Junior Warden*) • Andrew Eaton (*Treasurer*) • Ron Couch (*Registrar*)
- Shreya Chrzanowski (*Youth Liaison*) • Diane Phillips-LaGuerre • Ronald Baran • George Toth • Sara Kirkpatrick
- Ed Chrzanowski • Kathy Simms • Jay Abbott • David James • Katie Adams • Jim Berkson