

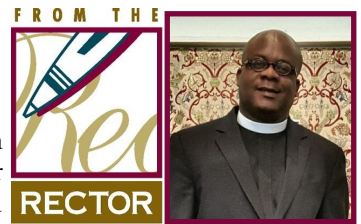


Gathered Together

THE CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NEWSLETTER



THE FALCON AND THE BRANCH



We say good-bye to 2019, and welcome 2020. The past year has been a remarkable one. I give thanks to God for the many blessings upon our lives. I give thanks to God for the blessing of being together as a community of faith, for the many stories of our faith journeys, for enriching each other's life, and for blessing each other in ways that cannot be quantified.

Often times, blessings come with their own peculiar challenges. And for any dynamic community such as ours, there are often challenges that tend to cause divisions. Divisions are a fact of life, but they need not necessarily be a bad thing. There are three examples to explore: first, placing people in different divisions in an organization may be helpful and important. King David engaged in such a division of ministry in [1 Chronicles 24:1-26:19](#).

Second is the division that will take place on the Day of Judgment. This is a necessary division between good and evil. [Psalm 92:1-15](#) reflects on such division between good and evil, and [Matthew 25:31-46](#) also reflects on the division between sheep and goats on judgement day.

There is also a third kind of division, one which is not good, helpful, or necessary. This division, unfortunately, leads to disunity and division in the church, which is in itself a tragedy. This kind of division is one we must do our very best to avoid. In [1 Corinthians 3:1-23](#). One of the issues Paul raises is division in the church. He argues that such divisions which are often caused by attitudes like jealousy, boasting, and quarreling are 'worldly' and 'unspiritual'.

For me, every New Year looks like a new chapter, an opening that offers us the opportunity to write a new narrative, or to re-write old ones. The attempt to actually engage in such practice depends on which of the three divisions listed above appeal to you the most, and which of the three has some value for you.

In a sense, there's the opportunity to fly, to break loose, to realize our full collective potential should we see our divisions as both necessary and enriching for ministry. The idea of flying reminds me of the story of the falcon and the branch.

Once there was a king who received a gift of two magnificent falcons. They were peregrine falcons, the most beautiful birds he had ever seen. He gave the precious birds to his head falconer to be trained.

Months passed, and one day the head falconer informed the king that though one of the falcons was flying majestically, soaring high in the sky, the other bird had not moved from its branch since the day it had arrived.

The king summoned healers and sorcerers from all the land to tend to the falcon, but no one could make the bird fly.

He presented the task to the member of his court, but the next day, the king saw through the palace window that the bird had still not moved from its perch.



Having tried everything else, the king thought to himself, “Maybe I need someone more familiar with the countryside to understand the nature of this problem.” So he cried out to his court: “Go and get a farmer.”

In the morning, the king was thrilled to see the falcon soaring high above the palace gardens. He said to his court, “Bring me the doer of this miracle.”

The court quickly located the farmer, who came and stood before the king. The king asked him, “How did you make the falcon fly?”

With his head bowed, the farmer said to the king, “It was very easy, your highness. I simply cut the branch where the bird was sitting.”

We are all made to fly - to realize our incredible potential as both individuals and as a community of faith. However, there are moments when we become soaked up in destructive divisions that reduces us to falcons sitting on branches and clinging only to the things that are familiar to us.

As a community of faith, I know that the possibilities that exist within this parish are endless and immense. Having been a part of this community for the past couple of years, I attest to the amazing potential that abound here but, for the most part, remain undiscovered and untapped into.

It is my prayer that this coming year will be one where you will take the leap of faith, refuse to be guided by divisions of yesteryear, look towards the cross whose invitation of unity beckons, pledge to live lives of excitement, thrilling, and fulfilling.

I believe that this year will be our best one yet, and to make it happen, let us learn to destroy the branch of fear we cling to, and free ourselves to the glory of flight.

Fly into the New Year with all the blessings of God and the warmth of a community that loves you and prays for you.

Fly into the New Year with the strength of the God who lifts us up when we fall.

Fly into the New Year with the knowledge that within the Godhead is a division sustained by love.

Fly into the New Year with hope in the abiding grace of the God of our lives.

Fly into the New Year with the love of the God who sits the center of all our lives and nourishes it.

Fly into the New Year with a joyful and grateful heart.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Manny.



WARDENS' MESSAGE

Each new year brings exciting opportunities and challenges for us all, and the parish of Christ Church is no exception.

First, we would like to announce that in mid-December, the Vestry passed a balanced budget about 12% larger than the 2019 budget. That means that we took what we calculated the parish revenue would be through pledges for 2020, our projected loose plate offerings, and fees for building use. Then, we looked at all of the expenses that the Rector, Commissions, and staff requested, plus our projected operating expenses such as utilities, supplies, diocesan assessment, and salaries. Remember that the parish is responsible for the Rectory, too.

We have increased allocations for the Music Ministry, primarily for the Royal School of Church Music Choristers Program, Formation (Sunday School), facility maintenance, and cost of living increases and raises for staff members, in addition to increasing allocations for most other aspects of our common life.

Notably, we have set aside some money for a part-time paid parish coordinator to step in where Mary Keath is leaving off. We cannot thank her enough for all she has done for the parish, and many of us individually, over the years! While she has given selflessly, Fr. Manny believes that this function is so important that it should be compensated. In addition, there is money earmarked for a part-time trained lay Youth Minister. Fr. Manny is working with current youth volunteers to devise a job description, which we hope will be filled in the spring.

Our parish is now the size of a large Transitional or small Program parish, which is extremely taxing for only one priest. Fr. Manny is also attempting to find a seminarian or deacon to help share that load. Please pray that the right candidates for all of these positions are led to our parish.

As always, the Wardens and Vestry are here to serve the parish. Please don't hesitate to contact us: wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org

Steve Alpern

Sara Kirkpatrick

Wardens

HAVE AN ANNOUNCEMENT YOU WISH TO SHARE? SEND IT TO US!

If you have an announcement or news you wish to share with your Christ Church family? Send it over so that we can spread the news! Please send to announcements@christchurchcolumbia.org and have it arrive no later than Wednesday mornings (for the weekly *Gatherings* email and/or Sunday bulletin) or by the 25th of each month (for the *Gathered Together* newsletter).



NEW AT CHRIST CHURCH



CENTERING PRAYER

Beginning on Monday, January 6th at 6:00 p.m. in Old Brock, Christ Church will begin offering Centering Prayer. This is prayer method based on the intuitive prayer rooted in Lectio Divina. It is a method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer, prayer in which we experience the Divine's immanent presence with us. Centering prayer is grounded in relationship with God, through Christ, and is a practice to nurture that relationship.

Centering Prayer compliments and supports other modes of prayer— verbal, mental or affective prayer, and facilitates resting in the Divine Presence. Centering Prayer offers a way to grow in intimacy with God, moving beyond conversation to communion.

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY

An important part of our individual lives is not only how we earn income, but how we spend what we earn. There are many of us who live paycheck-to-paycheck. As much as we can earn quite a bit of income, we end up spending more than we earn and so our lives are virtually in a perpetual cycle of debt. As a community of faith, one of the gifts we can offer each other is the prudent use of our resources, and so we will be offering the Financial Peace University here at Christ Church. This nine (9)-week seminar will teach parishioners you how to pay off debt, budget, save money, and give generously. Classes begin on January 20th at 7:00 p.m. in Old Brick. The cost for the class is \$99. but there are scholarships available. There's a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Childcare will be provided. For further information, please contact Elizabeth Everett at ecghem7@gmail.com, Traci Eaton at pumpkineaton@yahoo.com or email Fr. Manny at revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

THURSDAY EUCHARIST

Beginning on Thursday, January 9th Christ Church will offer a noonday Eucharist in Old Brick. Our Wednesday Bible Study will now be solely devoted to Bible Study, and Thursdays will be our weekday Eucharist. Please join us if you are able.



LITURGY AND WORSHIP

JOIN US ON NEW YEAR'S EVE - TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

All are invited to join us for a New Year's Eve at Christ Church, a gathering of gratitude for an exceptional past year, and one in which we offer ourselves into God's continual care as we welcome the New Year. If you are looking for a New Year's Eve experience with no pressure - just a prayerful walk into the coming year - join us at Christ Church for this contemporary worship. Our gathering begins in New Brick at 11:00 p.m. with Eucharist, meditation, and fellowship as we celebrate the stroke of midnight. Speak with Sonni or Yetti for more info.



NEW YEAR'S DAY EUCHARIST - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

We will gather in Old Brick at 10:00 a.m. on this first morning of the new calendar year and join in celebrating the beginning of this coming year with a Holy Eucharist and prayers for a healthy and peaceful 2020.

HEALING MINISTRY

We have made a change to our Sunday healing ministry. On the third Sunday of each month (January 19th, in this case), we will invite parishioners to gather around the altar and Fr. Manny will offer laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil. On all other Sundays, we will continue to have lay ministers offer laying on of hands and anointing with holy oil by the doors into the Sanctuary.

AT COMMUNION

From now on, we ask all parishioners drink from the chalice or give your wafer to the Chalicist, who will dip it in the wine and feed it to you. Thank you.



Please note that the Church Office will be closed:
January 1st - New Year's Day





BE A PART OF YOUR SUNDAY MORNING AT CHRIST CHURCH!



RING THE BELL IN OLD BRICK

Have you heard the bell ring as you arrived for church? Or shortly before the service started?

Several parishioners are trained to ring the rather finicky bell in Old Brick belfry (it has its idiosyncrasies!) and ring the bell before either the 8 or 10:30 service. It not only alerts those in New

Brick to the start of the service, but it's friendly note to the nearby neighborhoods that Christ Church is a welcoming community of faith. If you would like to serve as bell ringer, please contact [Mary Keath](#) or [Yetti Lipede](#).

GREETERS

Greet people in the narthex, as they arrive for worship. In addition to being welcomed and given a service leaflet by the ushers, we are welcomed to New Brick by designated "Greeters". Greeters are parishioners who are especially on the lookout for visitors or those fairly new to Christ Church to welcome them and give them a chance to ask questions. Serving as a greeter either before or after the service is an easy way to learn the names of fellow parishioners and serve as an "ambassador" for the parish. Greeters serve either on a monthly rotation or ad hoc – arriving 15 minutes before the service or staying afterwards. Please contact Mary Keath or Yetti Lipede if you would like to be scheduled for the ministry, or simply show up and "greet"! Being a greeter is a great way to put names and faces together, whether you have attended Christ Church for two months, or have done so for twenty-five years!

HOST REFRESHMENTS

We are in the full swing of Formation at Christ Church. As a result, we are using New Brick, Old Brick, and the Parish Hall for classes and activities. As a result, our refreshment time after each service has been modified. Coffee, tea, juice, and light refreshments will be served in Old Brick after the 8:00 service, where the Adult Forum will convene at 9:30. The refreshments will then move to the Hospitality Room (elevator room) in New Brick for serving after the 10:30 service. Parishioners are urged to sign up to provide light refreshments on a given Sunday, so please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex of New Brick to indicate which Sunday you wish to host. As volunteer for Coffee Hour, one large bottle of juice or lemonade should be brought, and some examples of store-bought food you can provide are: cookies, cakes (banana, pumpkin, pound), cheese & crackers, muffins (mini-sized; nut-free), mini bagels (or regular ones cut in half or quartered) and cream cheese, yogurt, or a selection of fresh fruit such as apples, grapes and strawberries that are washed and plated, or larger fruit items such as melons cut into bite-sized pieces. You can choose a selection of a couple different items, or feel free to keep it simple and bring just one type.

Thank you very much for all of your contributions!



PARISH LIFE

PARISH LIFE

Parish Life's next meeting will be Monday, January 6th at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall conference room.



PARISH MINISTRIES COORDINATOR

At the December Vestry meeting, the Vestry voted to fund a new Parish Ministries Coordinator. This position was heretofore occupied by Mary Keath, who is stepping down. Our new hire should be a parishioner who has deep knowledge of this parish, and also be someone who knows the faithful people who worship here. We are therefore working on hiring a parishioner who will lead this position. If you're interested, [please contact Father Manny](#).

THIRD SUNDAY BRUNCH

Our next gathering for Third Sunday Brunch at Stanford Grill is scheduled for January 19th at 12:30 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the narthex. Please sign up and join us for good food and fellowship.

FAMILY POTLUCK GATHERING

One of the many ways in which we can get to know each other and build strong and lasting relationships with fellow parishioners is to find multiple ways of fellowship. Beginning on Saturday, January 25th at 6:00 p.m., Jason and Erin Whong will host the first Family Potluck gathering in their home. All - individuals, couples, and families with children - are invited to join in. You can also bring neighbors and friends. It IS a potluck, so please bring a dish or beverage to share. We have a sign-up sheet in the narthex. For information, contact revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org

VESTRY NEWS

The Vestry will hold its annual Vestry Retreat on January 10th and 11th. The gathering on the 10th is generally social, while the 11th is more business-oriented. Please don't hesitate to reach out to any Vestry member with a suggestion.

OUR NEW FITNESS GROUP - JOIN US!

The Christ Church Health Ministry walking group meets on Saturdays at 10:00 a.m. (depending on the weather) for about a thirty-minute walk. It is a wonderful way to exercise and to get to know other parishioners. There's a sign-up sheet located in the narthex. If you are interested, or would like some more information, contact Pauline Karikari-Martin by emailing irakirak@hotmail.com.



WOCC 2020 NEWS

Happy New Year! We invite and welcome all women, ages 18 and above, to our monthly meetings, activities, and social events. The next monthly meeting will be Monday, January 6th at 1 p.m. in LLNB Vestry Room. We will be planning our activities for 2020, so all input would be greatly appreciated. Come and join us!

The 2020 WOCC Officers are:

President: Suzanne Ziobro

Vice President: Gail Braatlien

Secretary: JoEmily Knox

Treasurer: Mary Vail

Chaplain: Pamela Brown



MEN OF CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE

Please let everyone know that due to lack of interest our Church Shirt Fundraiser has been canceled. Unfortunately, we did not meet the minimum order quantity needed for printing.

I want to thank those that did try to support the MOCC by purchasing a shirt. Those individuals should be receiving a refund for the shirt price shortly (via the method they used for payment). If anyone who bought a shirt has not received a refund yet, please let me know.

Some individuals made an extra donation to our fundraiser, and that amount totaled \$29.00. The MOCC will be getting a check for that amount from Custom Ink within the next few weeks.

Again, I thank everyone who tried to support the MOCC in our efforts, and apologize that we were not able to get the shirts printed this time around.

Duane Smith

Chairman, Men of Christ Church (MOCC)

Twitter: [@church_men](https://twitter.com/church_men)





Our Lenten Meditation Book is Underway...
Start Sending Us Your Submissions, Please!

We plan to have our Lenten Meditation Book ready for our Christ Church family on Sunday, February 23rd so that you can have it in your hands prior to Ash Wednesday on February 26th. Therefore, we must have all of your submissions in by Sunday, February 9th in order to put this publication together on time and to have the meditations up on our website and social media (we post one reading per weekday). Our sites are viewed by thousands of individuals worldwide during Lent, so we invite all of you to compose and submit your prayers, songs, stories, poems, readings, or personal reflections so that we can include them in this year's LMB. We also invite you to include your favorite inspirational pieces by writers or theologians.

Submit by email to: efboudreau1@gmail.com or place in box on the narthex table. If you need help or some more information, please email the church office.

Thank you ever so much!





SUNDAY MORNINGS AT CHRIST CHURCH



Winter is here! Christ Church has begun the year with much enthusiasm and excitement about all the work we have done over the past several months to begin a new journey. There will be changes to our Sunday mornings, but all of these changes are designed to meet the needs of every parishioner &/or visitor, young or old, who finds him or herself gathering on Sunday mornings at Christ Church. We hope to minister to all.

One of the changes we have made is to dedicate the Great Hall exclusively for Sunday School. All of the children and youth will gather in the Great Hall, share breakfast, and then retire to their classrooms. The youth will have their classes in the two new classrooms which will be developed and furnished for the middle and high school.

Sunday School for children and youth will run from 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. The children and youth will then join their parents at service during the peace. Children who are not old enough to join Sunday School are very much welcome to the nursery.

[Contact us](#) if you need nursery information.

BREAKFAST

We will continue one of the new offerings from last year, which was a continental breakfast for children and youth, and for families who may want to share a breakfast meal with the children before Sunday School. The goal is to get children to initiate the building of a community by way of eating together. Just as Jesus invited his friends for breakfast after the resurrection, all are invited to join us in the Great Hall in New Brick each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m.

WORSHIP AT 9:30

New this fall is a worship opportunity for children, youth, and any adult who would like to pray and sing with children. This will be a simple service with prayer and music. The service will be held at the Lower Level-New Brick, right where the children and youth gather for breakfast. All are invited to join us.



ADULT FORMATION

BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAYS

Wednesday Morning Bible Study resumes on January 8th at 10:30 a.m. in the Vestry Room on New Brick's lower level. We will be completing the Book of Hosea. You don't have to know much about the Bible to join us, as we are all learning together. Your presence is more than enough, so stop by on any Wednesday.



SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Sunday Morning Bible Study will resume on January 5th. One of the longest running Bible study groups at Christ Church, they meet right after the 8:00 a.m. service in the conference room of the Parish Hall. All are welcome.

EPIPHANY AND *THE WAY OF LOVE* SERIES

Adult Forum begins on January 12th with Prof. Lesley DiFrancisco leading us through *The Way of Love* series. Please join us in Old Brick each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. for an insightful gathering and conversation.



CHILDREN & YOUTH FORMATION

YOUTH MINISTER POSITION

At the December Vestry Meeting, the Vestry voted to fund a new Youth Minister position. This is such an important milestone for our church. We met with the Diocesan Missioner for Youth a couple of months ago and, with her input, some of our youths' parents are working on a job description for this new Youth Minister. We should be able to advertise the position soon, and have a Youth Minister working with our youth in the coming year.

Sunday School takes place each week in January. Worship and singing is at 9:30, breakfast at 9:45, and class from 10:00 to 11:10.



YOUTH GROUP EVENTS IN JANUARY



January 18th

Annual Whitetail Ski Resort Field Trip

Email [Yetti Lipede](#) for more details.

January 26th is the Whitetail trip rain date.

January 19th to 20th

MLK Jr. Lock-in (Diocesan Event)

grades 6-12

Sunday 7:00PM – Monday 3:00 p.m.

Cost: Donations for the food pantry or warming bags

Location: Memorial Bolton Hill, Baltimore

This lock-in that celebrates the life and mission of Dr. MLK Jr.! We will have an evening focused on the sin of racism, how to continue our work to dismantle it, a film about overcoming racism, and discussion. There will also be time for fellowship and food. On Monday we take time to create posters, work on a service project, and march in the parade alongside Memorial, Bolton Hill.

Please join us as we take steps for the Jesus Movement!

[More info is here.](#)

[Registration forms are here.](#)

February 7th to 9th

Happening #13 (Diocesan Event)

grades 9-12

Arrive Friday at 7:00PM – Parent pick-up on Sunday 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$95 Deadline: January 24

Happening is a national program designed, staffed, and run by Episcopal youth. This weekend will deepen your relationship with Jesus and connections with those on similar spiritual journeys. Most of this weekend is kept a surprise for those attending so they can fully live into the moment and the community. General activities include large group talks, small group discussion, prayer through art, and games! This retreat is similar to New Beginnings for middle schoolers and Cursillo for adults.

Happening is being held at Claggett Center in Adamstown, MD.

[More info is here.](#)

[Registration forms are here.](#)



MUSIC MINISTRY

I want to thank everyone at Christ Church for a beautiful and meaningful Christmas celebration. I particularly want to recognize the hard work of our fabulous choirs. The Choristers rehearse for an hour once a week on either Tuesday or Thursday (though some choose to come both days!), and the adult choir rehearses every Thursday evening and sings almost every Sunday during the year (in addition to other special services). Chorister parents help us keep the program running smoothly by chaperoning both the group rehearsals and individual vocal coaching sessions. In short, there is a ton of work “behind the scenes” to present our contributions to worship.



This is a great time for you to jump in and help out with this important work. Our first Adult Choir rehearsal will be Thursday, January 16th from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Our Chorister rehearsals will resume on Tuesday, January 14th and Thursday, January 16th from 5-6 p.m., with a snack from 4:30 to 5. There are no auditions – all we ask for is a good attitude and a willingness to commit to regular and timely attendance. Even if you can’t join these groups, please encourage others to join, especially parents with children ages 8 and up. Our Choristers are always ready to welcome new young professionals to their ranks. You can find more information about the RSCM program at www.christchurchcolumbia.org/rscm.

In 2020, we hope to launch a new initiative - a “Choral Scholars” program to support our new offerings of Choral Evensong. Four paid singers (as well as auditioned volunteers) would lead Tuesday rehearsals and Choral Evensong once a month, while our Sunday morning choir would retain its all-volunteer character. Ideally, we would hire singers from local high schools or colleges, and train them to lead worship in the Episcopal and Anglican traditions. This would cost around \$8,000 for the calendar year of 2020.

Would you consider donating to support this important mission? Choral Evensong is the “crown jewel” of our denomination’s musical tradition. In the United Kingdom (and here in the



United States), where cathedrals and collegiate chapels have been offering this service regularly for decades (or centuries!), more and more young people are returning to churches to worship in this way. This brief (30-45 minute) and contemplative service is a way to “re-center” at the end of the week and prepare for the week ahead. Best of all – there’s no sermon! (No offense to Father Manny!)

Our central location, historic Old Brick Church, and copious parking all position us to offer this beautiful service to our community. We can be a center for musical excellence in Columbia, but it will take time, talent – and treasure. Please prayerfully consider this request, and do not hesitate to be in touch with me if you have any questions about this new initiative.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me with any other comments, questions, concerns, ideas, or for any other reason, at music@christchurchcolumbia.org. See you in church!

In Christ,
Adam Detzner



Christmas Pageant - December 24, 2019



MISSION AND OUTREACH

OUTREACH LOOKS FORWARD AND BACK WITH AN OUTPOURING OF PARISH SUPPORT

LOOKING BACK: There are few more logistically challenging ministries than the annual Angel Tree project, in which people pitch in during many different ways and at many different points of time to brighten Christmas for needy families. Examples range from getting the dollhouse donated by Ellen and Charles Hoke safely loaded into Melanie and Nick Yaksich's SUV to making sure that two boys, who are each named Gregory, are getting the items they had wished for rather than presents on the other boy's list. It's not easy, whether you're shopping for a stranger or volunteering with fellow parishioners to match tags and gifts on deadline. The challenge includes securing unwrapped items big and small — a baseball bat, a puffy winter coat, a video-game gift card — into bags for delivery to the Salvation Army, which chooses the families at the outset and drops off the gifts as the countywide drive concludes. (See photos on page 18) Hats off to Melanie for directing the Christ Church portion of the effort from start to finish. And to everyone who stretched their own holiday budgets and found the time to buy 105 gifts for 21 middle-school age "angels." Please make a New Year's resolution to volunteer or help lead the effort in 2020.

LOOKING AHEAD: And while anticipating 2020, here's a way early in the new year to have fun and to help the less fortunate: a chili cook-off to be held in two stages. This is the second year in a row that Christ Church will participate in "[Hotter than Thou](#)," a countywide chili cook-off that benefits Bridges to Housing Stability. The nonprofit, which helps to prevent homelessness and combat housing instability in Howard County, recommends congregations hold a competition to raise funds and select their "official chili." We skipped this stage in 2019, when the main event took place at Savage Mill and when Outreach was still new to the game.

This January, we have become a seasoned team (get the pun?). So we are asking parishioners to choose their best chili recipes and get ready for a taste-off in February. The setting is likely to be a potluck after the 10:30 worship service, with the date still to be determined. Bridges' big contest takes place from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on March 29 at Dar



Al-Taqwa Islamic Center, 10740 Route 108, Elliott City, Md. 21042. We are asking that recipes not contain pork, out of respect for the hosts, and that each cook be able to provide a list of their ingredients. That means you need to list content but not the nutritional facts, though it does rule out anyone's homemade spice blend in the mason jar that you rely on in your own kitchens. The winning recipe is the one to be entered on March 29th, but the owner of the recipe will not necessarily be the cook who produces Christ Church's 12-quart (3-gallon) entry. Save the date (3/29) for the big event so that you can either dine or put on a blue Christ-Church apron as a server on our team, or enjoy the chili, or do both. For questions, ask Melanie Yaksich or Jim Collins, who is on the Bridges' board.

Patricia Fanning, Outreach chair
410-992-4110

PROJECT WARMTH

Project Warmth is a student-led charity with the goal of helping people in need in Baltimore City stay warm during the winter. Last year, the project was able to collect over 2,000 pairs of socks and hopes to replicate that same success this year. The collection of socks for the homeless in cooperation with Project Warmth will continue for the next several weeks. Last year, we joined with other churches and mosques in this effort and contributed several boxes of socks. Please consider contributing new or "almost new" socks again this year - look for the Project Warmth box in the narthex/tower room. Thank you.

BALTIMORE INTERNATIONAL SEAFARERS CENTER DONATIONS

Please consider donating hats, gloves and other cold weather items to the Seafarers Center. Carolann Sawyer and Cindy Read will be carrying donated items to the Center within the next month, as soon as there is enough in the Seafarers bin that's located in the Tower Room. The Seafarers Center's mission is to welcome seafarers from all over the world and to support their spiritual and practical well-being. For more information about the Center's work, volunteer and donation opportunities, please visit www.baltseafarers.org and speak with Carolyn or Cindy about what other items can be donated.



FOOD DONATIONS FOR FISH

Following on our successful recent food drive, we invite you to also bring non-perishable food each week to place in the basket in front of the altar. This food then goes to FISH of Howard County each week. You are also invited to give grocery store gift cards which Fr. Manny gives out to our neighbors-in-need. Those gift cards may be placed in the offering plate on Sundays or dropped off at the office.

DORSEY CENTER (RT. 1) NEEDS

Right now, the Dorsey Center needs travel size toothpaste, toothbrushes, 20 oz. size bottled water, deodorant, men's jeans in sizes 30-32-44 & up, women's size 10 jeans, hooded pullover sweatshirts in all sizes, and men's underwear in all sizes. Thank you.



ANGEL TREE



PASTORAL CARE

“HELPING HANDS” MINISTRY

This ministry has begun anew, offering transportation to people in our congregation who need a ride to the grocery store or a doctor's appointment, or perhaps need a dog walked after having surgery, or during a short illness. This ministry is just one of many that enable us to take care of one another. If you would like to participate in this ministry, please call the Church Office at 410-381-9365, or [email the office](#).

CHRIST CHURCH’S SPRINGFIELD HOSPITAL MISSION

Members of Christ Church have been visiting Springfield Hospital since 1951, with the aim of bringing some happiness to the patients. Our visits take place on the morning of the third Thursday of each month from September through May. There are currently ten people participating in this ministry. We rotate the schedule so that three of us will go each month. We are very grateful for any donations of bingo prizes: toiletries, socks, hats, gloves, t-shirts, sweat shirts, in sizes L through 3XL (new only, please). If anyone is interested in joining this ministry, please contact Cathy Gold at heycathy@verizon.net



PRAYER LIST INFORMATION

We ask that you obtain permission from those you are commending to the prayer list. Thank you.

Please let us know if you:

- Would like to place a name on the prayer list
- Would like to request visit from Fr. Manny or LEV
- Have been admitted to the hospital
- Need help with meals or assistance getting to appointments

For the above, and all other Pastoral Care needs, call: 410-381-9365 or 410-844-1850.

TOM MACKIN

A member of our Christ Church family, Tom Mackin, passed away on Christmas Eve of this year. As many parishioners will recall, Tom was an enthusiastic driving force in the fundraising campaign to build New Brick. Many people have referred to New Brick as “The house that Tom built” so much so that his boss at Goddard (also a parishioner) would give him as much time as needed to watch over the contractors and negotiate with Howard County on parking. His coffee hour discussions in the Parish Hall were important gatherings that helped establish friendships among our parish members. He also helped start the July Texas Barbecues - even with square dancing! His energy was contagious, and he was a true ambassador for Christ Church.

A memorial service will take place on January 2nd in Las Cruces, New Mexico, and memorial gifts can be sent to [St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church](#), 518 N. Alameda Blvd, Las Cruces, NM 88005



STEWARDSHIP in the CHRISTMAS SEASON

Christmas is a time of generosity. We all tend to catch up on our giving for 2019 and make our pledges for the new year. There are also Christmas envelopes for special giving at this time of year. During Christmas, one is reminded of that beautiful Christmas carol where the singer stands before the Christ child: *"What can I give him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb; if I were a wise man, I would do my part; yet what can I give him - give my heart."*

Why not an end-of-the-year gift to Christ Church?

Christ Church has achieved much because of everyone's generosity. We are carrying out an amazing ministry for a moderate-sized church. The vestry is committed to living within our means. As you consider your tax situation as this year comes to a close - if you are able - you can help the mission and ministry of Christ Church by making a year-end gift. A gift from an IRA can have significant tax advantages, for example, and such gifts in the past have greatly aided the church's ministry, enabling us to move forward into the new year in a stronger position.

We want to express our sincere thanks to you all for the support we have already received. Although we have a long way to go, we are incredibly blessed by your kindness and generosity. If you have not pledged but do intend to, please consider sending in your pledge during this season.

Thank you.

Online Giving

There is now a new way you can pledge and give to Christ Church. We've created a safe and secure online method of contributing towards your annual pledge or other offering. Whether it's a one-time donation or a recurring gift, you can go to our [Christ Church Online Giving page](#) for instructions and links. Signing up is fast and easy; if you need assistance doing so, or if you have any Stewardship-related questions, please contact us at info@christchurchcolumbia.org

Offering Envelopes

The newly assigned 2020 offering envelopes are now available for pickup in the narthex. Please don't use the old envelopes starting in the new year. Also, if someone did not request envelopes (or don't see their names) but would like to request them, please call or email the office.

Thank you.



**Christ Church Budget Report
as of**

11/30/2019

Summing It Up: At then end of November revenues were 1.5% above projections and expenses were 4.8 % over projections.

Funds on Hand

4.8 weeks average church expenses

Undesignated + Cash Reserve	\$46,302
Designated	\$168,185

Revenue	Actual This Month	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	Total Budget
Plate Offerings	\$4,299	\$43,409	\$27,500	\$30,000
Pledge Payments	\$27,627	\$373,527	\$415,498	\$453,271
Designated Gifts	\$150	\$1,877	\$5,500	\$6,000
Undesignated Gifts	\$840	\$23,883	\$0	\$0
Facility Use	\$3,349	\$29,182	\$15,583	\$17,000
Fundraising	\$26,881	\$27,268	\$27,500	\$30,000
Investment Income	\$0	\$12	\$0	\$0
Other Income	\$250	\$2,750	\$2,200	\$2,400
Total Revenue	\$63,396	\$501,908	\$493,782	\$538,671

Expenses				
Worship	\$510	\$11,311	\$10,542	\$11,500
Education	\$0	\$2,785	\$7,333	\$8,000
Outreach	\$139	\$9,985	\$10,083	\$11,000
Salaries and Benefits	\$22,388	\$241,756	\$217,734	\$237,528
Mortgage	\$2,828	\$31,115	\$31,115	\$33,944
Utilities	\$3,035	\$29,787	\$30,708	\$33,500
Property Maintenance	\$4,263	\$55,657	\$57,475	\$62,700
Office Operations	\$2,676	\$20,048	\$15,446	\$16,850
Diocese	\$7,386	\$69,496	\$69,217	\$75,509
Other	\$5,457	\$10,053	\$10,313	\$11,250
Total Expenses	\$48,682	\$481,993	\$459,966	\$501,781
Reserve Funding	\$0	\$0	\$23,833	\$26,000





CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Adam Detzner, Music Director

Christie Anderson, Parish Administrator

Mary Keath, Ministry Coordinator

Amanda Kirkpatrick, Nursery Caregiver

Papa Ephraim, Office Assistant

VESTRY

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The Rev. Emmanuel “Fr. Manny” A. Mercer, Rector

Steve Alpern (Sr. Warden) Sara Kirkpatrick (Jr. Warden)

Andrew Eaton (Treasurer) Ron Couch (Registrar)

Gavin Watson Lynn Foor John Hadley Rose Kirby Greta Pike-Barnes

Tim Beaty Alfred Titus-Glover W. Ben Jackson Jason Whong

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