

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD



2021 ANNUAL MEETING  
OCTOBER 17, 2021

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

COLUMBIA, MD

## HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

and

### ANNUAL MEETING

#### The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 17, 2021 | 10:00 a.m.

You may stream this service from Christ Church's [website](#), [YouTube](#), or [Facebook](#) pages

## THE WORD OF GOD

PRELUDE - Two Settings of *Mit Freuden*

arr. Ernst Peeping and Charles Ore

OPENING HYMN - 522

*Austria*



1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, ci - ty  
2 See! the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -  
3 Round each ha - bi - ta - tion hov - ering, see the cloud and  
4 Blest in - hab - it - ants of Zi - on, washed in the Re -



of our God; he whose word can - not be  
ter - nal love, well sup - ply thy sons and  
fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a  
deem - er's blood! Je - sus, whom their souls re -



bro - ken formed thee for his own a - bode;  
daugh - ters and all fear of want re - move.  
cov - ering, show - ing that the Lord is near.  
ly on, makes them kings and priests to God.



on the Rock of A - ges found - ed, what can shake thy  
Who can faint, when such a riv - er ev - er will their  
Thus de - riv - ing from their ban - ner, light by night, and  
'Tis his love his peo - ple rais - es o - ver self to



sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's walls sur -  
thirst as - suage? Grace which, like the Lord, the  
shade by day, safe they feed up - on the  
reign as kings: and as priests, his sol - emn



round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.  
giv - er nev - er fails from age to age.  
man - na which he gives them when they pray.  
prais - es each for a thank - of - fering brings.

## 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.

*People:* **Amen.**

## GLORIA

Robert Powell (1932-)

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and  
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly  
King, al - mighty 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.*

*People:* **Amen.**

*The people may be seated.*

## THE FIRST LESSON

Job 38:1-7, (34-41)

The Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind:

"Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

"Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?

Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!

Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,

or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together

and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds,

so that a flood of waters may cover you?

Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go

and say to you, 'Here we are'?

Who has put wisdom in the inward parts,

or given understanding to the mind?

Who has the wisdom to number the clouds?

Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens,

when the dust runs into a mass

and the clods cling together?

"Can you hunt the prey for the lion,

or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

when they crouch in their dens,

or lie in wait in their covert?

Who provides for the raven its prey,

when its young ones cry to God,

and wander about for lack of food?"

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

*The following Psalm is read responsively by half-verse.*

PSALM 104:1-9, 25, 37B

Bless the Lord, O my soul; \*

**O Lord my God, how excellent is your greatness!  
you are clothed with majesty and splendor.**

You wrap yourself with light as with a cloak \*

**and spread out the heavens like a curtain.**

You lay the beams of your chambers in the waters above; \*

**you make the clouds your chariot;  
you ride on the wings of the wind.**

You make the winds your messengers \*

**and flames of fire your servants.**

You have set the earth upon its foundations, \*

**so that it never shall move at any time.**

You covered it with the Deep as with a mantle; \*

**the waters stood higher than the mountains.**

At your rebuke they fled; \*

**at the voice of your thunder they hastened away.**

They went up into the hills and down to the valleys beneath, \*

**to the places you had appointed for them.**

You set the limits that they should not pass; \*

**they shall not again cover the earth.**

O Lord, how manifold are your works! \*

**in wisdom you have made them all;  
the earth is full of your creatures.**

Hallelujah!

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

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

“You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

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

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

*Reader:* The word of the Lord.

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

*The people stand as able.*

SEQUENCE HYMN – 408

*Mit Freuden zart*



1 Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of all cre -  
2 What God's al-might - y power hath made, his gra - cious mer - cy  
3 Let all who name Christ's ho - ly Name give God all praise and



a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of  
keep - eth; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning shade his watch - ful  
glo - ry; let all who know his power pro - claim a - loud the



our sal - va - tion; with heal - ing balm my soul he fills, and  
eye ne'er sleep - eth. With - in the king - dom of his might, lo!  
won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, the



ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stills: to God all praise and glo - ry.  
All is just and all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry.  
Lord is God, and he a - lone: to God all praise and glo - ry.

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

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

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

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

*Deacon:* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## THE NICENE CREED

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

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:**

**by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

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

## THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members of one another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us.” *Romans 12:4-6* ***Oh Lord, let my soul rise up to meet you as the day rises to meet the sun.***

This Sunday, as we prepare in heart, mind and spirit for our Annual Parish Meeting, you join us to one another in unity and love. We give thanks today for the blessing of Christ Church and for the deep history to which we add our voices, our prayers and our praise. We pray for all who have worshipped upon this ground throughout the centuries: for those we are able to name and for those whose names are known to God alone. ***Father, shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

We pray for our worldwide church: for our Presiding Bishop, Michael and our Diocesan Bishops Eugene and Robert. We lift in prayer our Rector, Emmanuel; our Deacon, Denise; our assisting priest, Marcia and our Rector in Emeriti, Richard. We give thanks for the unwavering dedication of Chris, our Director of Communications, who has kept us connected throughout this pandemic. By your grace, Lord, we are blessed with Wardens, Vestry, staff and volunteers who have carried us throughout this time. ***Father, shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

Within our diocese, we lift in prayer St Thomas, Owings Mills; Sherwood, Cockeysville and Trinity Long Green. In the Anglican Cycle of Prayer, we lift our hearts for our sisters and our brothers in The Church in the Province of the West Indies. ***Father, shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

Merciful God, source of life and health and comfort, we pray for all who suffer in mind, body and spirit and for all those who minister to them. Show them your mercy, Lord, and ease their anxieties. We pray especially for Peggy, Robert, Kindra, Ana, Ritta, Mindy, Bunmi, Frantz, Sam, Chad, Alta, Alfred, Theresa, Nell, Victoria, Jim, Roberta, Kathleen, Ashley & Jeanette, and those you now name. ***Father shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

We pray for those who have passed from this life, especially Chris Hall, Shelly Battle, Garth Burleyson, and Elizabeth Mercer-Ricketts. Shelter them in your love and carry them home into your waiting arms. Heal those who grieve their loss. ***Father, shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

We thank you Lord, for the many occasions we are so blessed to celebrate. We rejoice with all those members of our church family who are celebrating birthdays especially Kathy, Bob and Suzanne. ***Father, shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

Dear Father, open our hearts to migrants and refugees in need, so that we might see in them your own migrant son. Give us courage to stand up in their defense against those who would do them harm. (LIRS) ***Father shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day.***

As we approach our annual meeting and our 2022 stewardship drive, we pray for your grace to discern the best way to do our part to support the ministries, programs, staff and buildings that form the foundation for Christ Church's work in the world. Open our hearts and inspire our minds as we each determine what we will, in thanksgiving, offer of our time, our treasure, our talents. ***Father shine your light upon your people this day and on each new day. Amen.***

## CONFESSION OF SIN

*Priest:* Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

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

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

*People:* **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

# THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY ANTHEM – *Many and Great*

Dakota Indian Chant, arr.

*Many and great, O God, are your works, maker of earth and sky.  
Your hands have set the heavens with stars;  
your fingers spread the mountains and plains.  
Lo, at your word the waters were formed; deep seas obey your voice.*

*Grant unto us communion with you, O star-abiding One.  
Come unto us and dwell with us;  
with you are found the gifts of life.  
Bless us with life that has no end, eternal life with you.*

DOXOLOGY

Old 100<sup>th</sup>

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER A

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

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

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

*All:* **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

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

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

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

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

*Celebrant:* Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

*Celebrant:* We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

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

*All:* **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

## THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

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

## FRACTION ANTHEM – S163

*Agnus Dei*

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 – 655

Nyland

1 O Je - sus, I have prom-ised to serve thee to the end:  
 2 O let me hear thee speak-ing in ac - cents clear and still,  
 3 O Je - sus, thou hast prom-ised to all who fol - low thee,

be thou for ev - er near me, my Mas - ter and my friend;  
 a - bove the storms of pas-sion, the mur-murs of self - will;  
 that where thou art in glo - ry there shall thy ser - vant be;

I shall not fear the bat - tle, if thou art by my side,  
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol;  
 and, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve thee to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way, if thou wilt be my guide.  
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, thou guard-ian of my soul.  
 O give me grace to fol - low, my Mas - ter and my friend.

COMMUNION HYMN – WLP 825

Jaques Berthier

Bless the Lord my soul and bless God's ho - ly name.

Bless the Lord my soul, Who leads me in - to life.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

*Celebrant:* Let us pray.

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

THE BLESSING

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

CLOSING HYMN - 405

Royal Oak

*Descant*  
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, crea-tures great and small,  
*Refrain*  
All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea-tures great and small,  
all things wise and won - der - ful, God made them all.  
all things wise and won - der - ful, the Lord God made them all.  
1 Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
2 The pur - ple - head - ed moun-tain, the riv - er run - ning by,  
3 The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,  
4 He gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell  
*Repeat Refrain*  
he made their glow-ing col - ors, he made their ti - ny wings,  
the sun - set, and the morn - ing that bright-ens up the sky,  
the ripe fruits in the gar - den, he made them ev - ery one.  
how great is God Al - might - y, who has made all things well.

## DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE - *Con Moto Maestoso (Sonata No. 3)*

Felix Mendelssohn

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ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
COLUMBIA, MARYLAND

Diocese of Maryland

The Right Rev. Eugene Taylor Sutton, Bishop of Maryland

Parish Staff

The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, Rector  
The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, Associate Priest  
The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, Deacon  
Len Langrick, Interim Director of Music  
Aisha White, Parish Administrator  
Christopher Pouch, Communications Administrator  
Yetti Lipede, Ministry Coordinator  
Todd Domer, Youth Minister

The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church

Sara Kirkpatrick, Senior Warden  
Jan DeBoissiere, Junior Warden  
Andrew Eaton, Treasurer  
Ron Couch, Registrar

Tim Beaty  
Alfred Titus-Glover  
Lynn Foor  
W. Ben Jackson III  
Greta Pike-Barnes  
Jason Whong  
Jane Adams  
Diane Phillips-Laguerre  
Beth Johnson  
Andrea Leeman

*In accordance with the canons of the National Church, you must be present to vote.  
Absentee ballot or voting by proxy is prohibited.*

## RECTOR'S INTRODUCTION

*“Be One Body in Christ, Belonging to One Another.”*

It has been one long year. When we gathered on Zoom last year for our Annual Meeting, I was hoping against all hope that this year will be different, that it would be some sort of a new beginning for many of us, that, at least, we will go back to what we used to do pre-COVID. But here we are, still dealing with the pandemic and its effect on our common life.

Life has changed a great deal as a result of COVID. I am sure that in the next year or two, when all this is finally behind us, we will look back and with some deep sigh of relief, laughter and appreciation, exclaim, “Ebenezer! That’s how far God has brought us.”

In spite of the changes that the pandemic has wrought on us, it has also offered us the opportunity to do ministry and worship in a totally different way... often in ways that we never thought possible. A few of the examples are conducting Confirmation and Adult Inquirer’s Classes, Vestry Meetings, WOCC Meetings, and Outreach Meetings - among many others - on Zoom. The most innovative has been our online presence. Christ Church has had a daily online presence since the middle of March last year.

This has been made possible by clergy and parishioners who have dedicated themselves to leading our Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer. I cannot thank: Rebecca, Kathy, Donna, Ellen, Jonelle, Jane, Erin, Jason, Bunmi and John for their contribution towards this ministry. The most enchanting is on Wednesday when Allison joins her parents, Erin and Jason, to lead Evening Prayer. It is interesting to know that we have lots and lots of people who actually view our Morning and Evening Prayer on Facebook. Although it sometimes feels like shutting it down, it is a blessing to witness the ownership that our parishioners have taken to sustain it. The real gem, I must add, is that if people are viewing the worship, then we must be offering enough sustenance for them. The plan, then, is to continue to offer the service.

A few Sundays ago, I remarked that I remember standing behind the altar table by myself for a long time. That has changed, and I now feel like a sandwich. Christ Church has been blessed with two incredibly gifted clergywomen in Marcia and Denise. We welcomed Marcia this past September, and Denise has been with us for over a year now. I have totally enjoyed working with Denise. I believe strongly that mutual respect makes collaboration possible, and so as I celebrate the collaborative way in which we have worked, I look forward to working with both Marcia and Denise in advancing the ministry and mission of this wonderful parish.

Over the past year, we lost two of our Staff Members - Christie Anderson and Adam Detzner. However, we recently hired Aisha White as Parish Administrator and Executive Assistant to the Rector, Todd Domer as Youth Minister, and Len Langrick as Interim Director of Music. All three are working very hard and beginning to inject some new life into our community. I’d like to thank them for all that they do and I look forward to working with them in the months and years ahead. I also want to thank Chris Pouch, our Communications Administrator and Theodocia Lipede (Yeti), our Parish Ministries Coordinator for the excellent ministry that they offer to Christ Church. They have been indispensable.

*(continued)*

I will be the first to admit that there are times when I feel lost and a deep sense of loneliness. Those are often very difficult days. I am glad that I have Sara Kirkpatrick, our Senior Warden, and Janette DeBoissierre, our Junior Warden, to count on during those difficult times. They have been incredibly great and supportive of me and of our common life, and I sincerely thank them for all that they do. I also want to thank Tim Beaty, Jan DeBoissierre, William Jackson, and Alfred Titus-Glover for their dutiful and faithful service. Christ Church is blessed to have leaders like you.

This past year, New Brick flooded. This, unfortunately, is a perennial problem for which we have little-to-no resolution. I want to thank the Wardens, the Vestry Members, and the parishioners who stepped up to the plate on the Sunday morning when the flood occurred and ensured that New Brick was well taken care of.

One of the highlights of the year, for me, is gathering with members of the Spiritual Life Commission to reflect on the theme for the year. A few months ago, after a deep and prayerful reflection, we settled on this theme “*Be One Body in Christ, Belonging to One Another.*” For me, there is nothing more gracious, welcoming, and affirming than creating a place and a space of belonging for those who walk through our doors on any given day of the week.

Of the many blessings that I savor, one is to serve you all. Each moment of my days and nights is filled with thoughts about the best way to serve. I give thanks to God for the opportunity and blessing to serve here at Christ Church. It means the world to me to know that I have lots of people to love here at Christ Church, and beyond. More importantly, my heart is always filled with gratitude and praise for you - each one of you - for all that you do, individually and collectively, to support Christ Church. May God richly bless you for blessing this wonderful parish with your time, talent, and treasure.

As you read through these pages, you will feel the hand of God guiding the people of this parish to do amazing things - even in spite of the pandemic. We have a lot to celebrate, and we have a lot to be thankful for. The reality, however, is we still have a lot of work to do but I am confident that with God’s help and guidance, we will be able to do the very work that God has given us.

If you agree with me, let’s join together to build a holy and beautiful space at Christ Church for all of God’s children.

*Manny*

[revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:revmanny@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S REPORT

It feels a little strange to begin an Annual Report when I have actively served as Priest Associate for a mere six weeks. Despite the short length of time, I feel joyfully grafted back into this beloved community of faith which sent me out on my journey as seminarian and priest so many years ago. Over the past eighteen months while waiting out the lockdown in my Irish home, I had time to reflect on why I felt drawn or called to renew my priestly ministry at Christ Church, at Father Manny's gracious invitation.

Then, Christ Church and Fr. Shields offered me the privilege of exploring my call to ordained ministry as chalice, cantor, Christian education leader, Baptism Study group member, and as vestry member who was often interrupted by phone calls from my three children. Under Fr. Shields' able and loving mentorship, I entered and persisted in the Diocesan discernment process, and when I went to seminary, Christ Church was there, to support me with payment for my books and materials, to allow me to preach when I could 'come home' and later to be a treasured part of my ordinations to the Diaconate and Priesthood. You have always been there.

Now, I have been so warmly welcomed, by those who I recognize and know from 30+ years ago, and so many who have been at of this thriving and diverse community for 6 months or 16 years or more. I have rejoiced in being back in the well-known and remembered spaces and rituals, and I have found much which is new and exciting to discover more about. This community has always been one of great faithfulness, from the witness of the gravestones to the dedication of its members in lay and ordained ministry. Now, the ministries of Christ Church are vibrantly alive and visible in the community around us, the world, and in our Zoom fellowship. I'm just beginning to know a little of what happens here ably led by your lay leaders and staff.

A few weeks ago, I was present for the Burial Service for Kelmie Snider, to see her wonderful smile in the portrait displayed and be filled with such lovely memories of working with and being her friend, and to greet the now grown-up man, her son, Jay, and still see in his eyes the boy I knew at 11 years old. Speaking the words of the Commitment service at Kelmie's gravesite, here at her Christ Church home, I knew again how deeply grateful I am to be 'coming home' to all of you and my beloved Christ Church. To God be the glory!

*Mother Marcia*

[revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:revmarcia@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## DEACON'S REPORT

It's hard to believe 14 months has passed since I joined Christ Church. Despite the long and devastating pandemic that has restricted our worship and fellowship, I'm thrilled that we are flourishing in diaconal ministries that serve the needs of the world. In so many ways, Christ Church embodies the *Diakonia of all Believers*: we "[care] for those in need, carrying out God's vision in word, action, and in attending to all God's creation," as an essential part of our discipleship and of fulfilling our baptismal covenant.

As I reflect upon the past year, I realize that, a bit like a wedding, our diaconal ministries have Somethings Old, and Somethings New, along with Somethings in Between, with a healthy dose of God's call and the Holy Spirit stirring in each.

Across our community and around the globe, for example, our long-established **Outreach** work is thriving. Thanks in no small part to the tireless leadership of commissioner Patricia Fanning, Christ Church has left an indelible mark in reaching out to care for a hurting world. Indeed, we enjoy a reputation in our diocese for our broad, inclusive and engaging outreach ministries and programs. For more information, you'll find a wealth of information in the Outreach Commission's report.

Additionally, as we serve those suffering in body, mind and spirit, our **Pastoral Care** Commission continues, despite COVID-19, to offer care in meaningful ways. Most powerfully, perhaps, this group prays faithfully for all those who request it. The commission also sends caring cards and prepares meals for those who could use a break from cooking for myriad reasons—such as illness or injury, the birth of a child, or the loss of a loved one. In the "Something New" department, the Prayer Shawl Ministry we began last year just brought forth 14 prayer shawls and dozens of prayer squares, all lovingly knit or crocheted by dedicated Christ Church servants. Father Manny blessed these during this past Sunday's Eucharist, and we'll be delivering them in the coming weeks to those in need of these gifts. For more information about our pastoral care support, contact Commissioner Kathy Lyon, [rklyon@cablespeed.com](mailto:rklyon@cablespeed.com).

In the "Something In Between" department, our **Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) Partnership Committee**, which began last summer, has undergone several transitions. We are grateful to Matt Gately, Sarah Rich and Marilyn Garcia for their leadership in this ministry for much of the past year. Matt and Sarah have transitioned to other ministry, and Marilyn will serve until December 31<sup>st</sup>, at which point she will also transition to serve in other ways. Our new LEMS coordinators, Cathy Whittaker and Mary Vail, are coming quickly up to speed to ensure we continue to meet the needs of LEMS and our partnership commitment.

For the 2020-21 school year and throughout the summer months, the LEMS Ministry supplied food for 10 families, once a month, in support of the Weekend Food Program. Additionally, we provided a shipment of masks and hand sanitizer in preparation for students' return to in-person learning. We also donated to the PTSA to support Teacher Appreciation Week, and we funded the purchase of T-shirts for staff for Back-to-School/Spirit Week—which generated excitement and boosted morale for both staff and students. Recently we provided much-needed school supplies to begin the 2021-22 school year. Once again, Christ's light shone brightly through your generous gifts: within just two weeks in August, we raised more than \$5,000 to provide school supplies for 125 LEMS students. Parishioners also volunteered their time to pack and deliver these supplies. For the current school year, LEMS requests our support in providing food and refreshments for parent-student enrichment workshops to be held throughout the year, as well as for continued Teacher Appreciation items and student school supplies next August. For more information, please contact [lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:lemspc@christchurchcolumbia.org).

*(continued)*

Another semi-new ministry, our **Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians**, met periodically throughout this past year to host conversations on race, educate ourselves on the complex issues around systemic racism and privilege, and identify specific actions to help close the gap on inequities in our community. Beyond reading, listening to, and discussing relevant materials and resources, we installed our “Reject Racism” signage on the front lawn and held a prayer vigil commemorating our commitment to stand against racism, as part of our baptismal promises to seek and serve Christ in *all* persons and respect the dignity of *every* human being. In the coming months, we’ll be planning specific actions and initiatives to help raise up the communities that have been hurt by systemic racism. For more information, contact coordinators Duane Smith at [cduanesmith@verizon.net](mailto:cduanesmith@verizon.net) or Lexi Couch at [lexicouch@gmail.com](mailto:lexicouch@gmail.com).

Finally, our newest “Something New” brings the update that Christ Church has discerned a call to embark in a **Refugee Ministry**, and specifically to co-sponsor an incoming Afghan refugee family. A group of 22 parishioners engaged in a month-long period of theological reflection, prayer, and learning, and ultimately decided to rise to the call to welcome and walk alongside a refugee family. Under the guidance of Lutheran Immigration & Refugee Services, our one-year commitment will involve raising \$3,000-7,000 to help with financial needs. I’m thrilled to report we’ve already received a very generous parishioner contribution toward that threshold. Beyond financial aid, as we prepare to assist a family with their transition to the U.S., we’ll be helping with things like navigating public transportation and social services, obtaining employment, as well as mentoring, tutoring and other support. The coming months will bring many tasks—both small and big—to help support our assigned family. Please prayerfully consider helping with this new ministry, which truly shows what loving our neighbor is all about. For more information, contact Cherrylynn Williams at [chrlynwlms@gmail.com](mailto:chrlynwlms@gmail.com).

I’ll close by saying how *deeply* blessed I feel to be walking alongside you and serving together in our discipleship and faith journeys. In the coming year, I pray we continue to discern areas for growth and enrichment in both our existing and emerging ministries, as we seek and serve Christ in *all* God’s beloved children.

God’s Peace -

*The Reverend Denise Schiavone*

[deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:deacondenise@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## WARDENS' REPORT

Father Manny is a man with vision and a deep love for Christ Episcopal Church and he mentors us as Wardens while also seeking our counsel and guidance. Father Manny meets regularly with us to pray, solve problems, share concerns, organize events and to pray some more.

When we held our 2020 Annual Meeting under quarantine, we couldn't have imagined that we'd still be dealing with COVID-19. In spite of it, the Christ Church Vestry, your Vestry, continued to meet online. Tim Beaty and Sara Kirkpatrick attended a virtual Diocesan Convention and will do so again next month. We also ensured that the parish managed COVID protocols in accordance with Diocesan regulations.

As many of you know, the Vestry approved a very conservative budget for 2021, which adversely impacted staffing. Thanks to savings in late 2020 and early 2021, we have been able to ease some of the restrictions. This has allowed Fr. Manny to hire new staff members. The Vestry also approved the ministry of associate priest Marcia Davenport and voted to support Rebecca Warlow as she continues her journey towards the diaconate.

Junior Warden Jan Deboissiere was integral in orchestrating the renovations of New Brick after a sprinkler flood on Dec 6, 2020. Special thanks to “first responders” that day: Ron Couch, who got the fire department call, to George Toth who took charge with a wet-vac, Shahra Toth, who also worked on damage control, Denise Schiavone, who quickly adapted to leading a service in Old Brick, to Yetti Lipede, who got the streaming feed up and running, to Phil Bray, who later monitored the flooring installation, and to the many others who lent a hand in that massive undertaking over the ensuing months. One of the bonuses was that we were able to upgrade our IT wiring to better support streaming services. We were also able to add storage under the main staircase.

We are working to ensure that parishioners stay connected, that we support our community, that we are continuing to answer God's call to us. Recently, the Vestry and other parishioners participated in a Strategic Vision survey and will be exploring ways we can improve parish health and vitality. It is no surprise that our top score was in Outreach; but even there, we have room to grow.

So how can we continue to support each other and our parish? What skills and gifts can you bring? Perhaps call fellow parishioners just to catch up; serve on a Commission (most are meeting via Zoom); stop by and lend a hand on the grounds or in a building—there are always little projects that can be done by one or two people, no need to wait for a workday. If you are attending services in person and are fully vaccinated, consider serving on the Altar Guild, as an Usher, or a Lector.

It is time to begin planning for our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Parish in 1727, including recognition of the enslaved persons who helped build Old Brick and attended services here. We will need a sizeable group to lead this effort. Watch for a call for volunteers.

Christ Episcopal Church is a special place full of diversity by race, economics, gender, age, political leanings and backgrounds. Our uniqueness brings special challenges that we must navigate while always being a haven of comfort, sharing the spirit and message of Christ. It has been our honor to serve and care for her.

*Sara Kirkpatrick, Senior Warden*

*Jan DeBoissiere, Junior Warden*

[wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:wardens@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

*Don't dwell on or stress over what we cannot get done. Celebrate what we do get done.*

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

We currently meet monthly via zoom on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm to help organize our work. This year's goals include plans to form 3 or 4 teams who can respond to problems quickly or who can take on 2 or 3 special projects in the year. These teams would be ideal for friends who already know each other or for pairs of families. We hope to form one team of only single members so that our single parishioners can work together outside of church services. If you're interested in being on a team or if you've formed a team, let George or Jan know.

B&G has been doing various jobs this year including: recovery from a sprinkler failure/flood (more below), weeding and mulching the playground, cleaning the equipment, painting, fixing pot holes, cleaning, clearing debris, shoveling snow and laying salt (most snow removal is done by Tony's Lawn Service), landscaping (we have several members who care for particular beds), spreading mulch, beautifying the cemetery, replacing light bulbs, etc.

We had a devastating sprinkler system failure in New Brick on December 6, 2020 at about 5 a.m. A pipe burst causing gushes of water to fall on both levels of the church. Ron Couch was the first Parishioner to get the call from the Fire Department and he coordinated the first responders. Work immediately began to get the system repaired and to begin the recovery and repairs. All carpet has been replaced, the Sanctuary floor is new and many walls and ceilings in Narthex, stairwell, restrooms and part of the Great Hall were replaced and painted. The final insurance claim has been paid totaling about \$170,000. While the ceilings were down in the Great Hall, we arranged for new cables to be installed to enhance our online presentations. We also installed touchless lighting in the restrooms, which come on when you enter. And we built a new storeroom under the stairs.

The work of this Commission is very satisfying and often lots of fun. Our Mantra is: *Don't dwell on or stress over what we cannot get done. Celebrate what we do get done.* We take time to pray together and eat together often. We truly enjoy getting to know new volunteers. Hope you can join us. Jan DeBoissiere ([jdeboissiere@gmail.com](mailto:jdeboissiere@gmail.com)) or cell: 410-440-0363 and George Toth [getoth@verizon.net](mailto:getoth@verizon.net); cell: 256-505-7750; home: 410-995-0451

*By Jan DeBoissiere and George Toth, Co-Chairs of Buildings & Grounds Commission (B&G)*



## ADULT FORMATION

Christian formation is the lifelong process of growing in our relationship with God, self, others, and all creation. Every experience in our lives can provide us with the opportunity to express our faith; the challenge we face is recognizing these opportunities and learning ways to live a sometimes countercultural life in a secular world.

Formation at Christ Church hopes to provide a variety of open-hearted, creative and functional educational approaches that connect us through our stories and experiences to each other and to the people who came before us, with the understanding that we (people of all ages and stages) are involved at many levels in a search for meaning, relevance and community.

Christ Church's objective for our Adult Formation series is to offer numerous opportunities for adults to strengthen their spiritual journey, as well as their place in the family, the community, and the world.

<https://www.christchurchcolumbia.org/formation>

Christ Episcopal Church has experience yet another unprecedented year with the Covid 19 Pandemic. Through Adult Formation, opportunities to stay connected and grow have continued by various alternative ways of happening. Since things went to quarantine in March of 2020 thus began the opening up technological communications. CEC has committed and continued to offer some Zoom/video conference events, both live and recorded. We meet virtually at various times during the pandemic and offer a variety of virtual classes and discussions on scripture, theology, social issues, and other concerns that impact our communal life. Each week these events are updated on our weekly *Christ Church Gatherings* via email subscription, Facebook page or website links. The online offerings for the adult formation vs. the in- person classes are very different experiences, but of both offer ways for membership to continue to connect and grow in our adapting times during the age of technology amidst a pandemic.

Adult Formation started out the year of 2021 with several Zoom gathering opportunities. We were able to connect online, through Facebook live streams, website shared recording links, Zoom links for group video meetings, and our CEC YouTube channel. Weekly Happenings included these groups:

Tuesdays at 7:30pm - Racially Aware Group of Episcopalians

Wednesdays at 10:30am - Bible Study with Father Manny

Daily Prayer groups for mornings and evenings, and special events

Book Club - Friday Evening group meeting to study and discuss a book together

Virtual Coffee Hour - Sunday Mornings after service as place to gather and socialize virtually

During the summer months, Father Manny gathered a few church members to form an Adult Formation Committee and figure out a way to bring back a more traditional Adult Formation/Sunday school type of class. It was decided that we would start to meet in person in September. The group is called *Sunday Circle*, an in-person gathering arranged as a community-circle class. This gathering meets between worship services from 9:30-10:15 a.m. each Sunday during the school year and is located outside when the weather permits, or in Old Brick when it doesn't. Every month, there is a new theme of lessons with opportunities for discussion, sharing, fellowship, and prayers. The Adult Forum committee comes up with the monthly theme, assists in lesson plans, and has a few volunteers to assist in facilitating the lessons. The lessons consist of an opening prayer, a group icebreaker, lesson reading with Bible verses, questions and discussions, and a closing prayer. So far, the attendance average is about 10 adults each week. A blend of early and later service attendees are enjoying making connections, and having a chance to share their experiences and wisdom. Having a strong Communications plan my and being consistent in getting information out to the membership and community has been the key element in making these connections possible. It is with the great support of CEC staff and Vestry that make this all possible for members and guests to join in fellowship and strengthen our spiritual journeys.

*Report by Jenn Todd Lavanish*

## FINANCIAL HEALTH OF THE PARISH

We closed out 2020 with all our bills paid and sufficient funds remaining to continue funding our reserves. This achievement was the result of our parish members continuing to provide us with their financial support (despite a difficult year), an effort by many in our church, to find ways to reduce our spending and, a Federal Paycheck Protection Program loan that has since been forgiven.

We began 2021 with a smaller budget than we had in 2020. This came as a result of a number of committees finding savings in their budgets, some simply because our in-person activities are limited. We also had to make a few painful staffing changes. As the year has unfolded, we have been able to make significant progress rebuilding our staff and investing in new ministry opportunities.

The Budget Committee started working on the 2022 budget in August, 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*

## IN-REACH

For over 15 years, Christ Church's InReach teams have offered meals to people coming home from the hospital and to parents who are bringing home a new baby. There are three InReach teams: Team 1, led by Emily Aubin; Team 2, led by Priscilla Pitts; and Team 3, led by Tanis Hadley. This past year, InReach has not been active with the COVID-19 virus rapidly spreading. It is our hope to once again to begin to fix meals for people in our congregation, but we will need to evaluate when this will be possible with the spread of the delta variant.

*Priscilla Pitts*

## SUNDAY SCHOOL - Elementary School

The Sunday School program provides Christian Education to children in preschool through high school. Students in the preschool–5th grade class are using *Weaving God's Promise* as the curriculum. It is a multi-age curriculum that works on a 3-year cycle and is based on Episcopal faith and traditions. This program year, we are in Year 1, which focuses on Weaving God's Faith. Attendance is about 14 students each week for our Zoom class, and runs from 9:15 – 9:45 a.m. and includes singing, a story, and a craft idea. Each week, the story and a home connection paper are emailed to students. Volunteers are utilized to lead the classes.

Sunday School also sponsors the Christmas Pageant, Vacation Bible School, and Mite Boxes. We were able to make a donation of Mite Box money to purchase chickens for the Sabina School in Uganda.

More participation in Sunday School is always our goal. We encourage regular attendance in class. We are in need of more teachers and assistants to join our small but mighty ministry!

*Jennifer Atkins*

## YOUTH MINISTRY

The youth are off to a great start for the year. We have enjoyed two youth lunches and have some events coming up. We have a lock-in coming up and a trip to Hersheypark. We have started to work on Youth Sunday and the students are very much looking forward to it. We have started Sunday School and the response has been very positive. Even though we have to meet on Zoom we are having 10 students or more each Sunday. Everyone is very excited and looking forward to what God has in store for this year.

*Todd Domer*

## VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

*The most effective way to do it, is to do it. Amelia Earhart*

This year, the theme for VBS was “Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power” Ephesians 6:10. All I can say is VBS was a blast. Forty-three children registered – all 43 showed up, 14 youth volunteers, 7 teachers, 2 music teachers (volunteers), one coordinator, and a bright mascot - Sparky. It was a packed house.

We all learned new breathing techniques – the only one that stuck in my mind was Ms. Piggy – from the music class. The music classes were new this year and additions to the general assembly.

The week was a learning process for all involved because it was a team of experienced and new teachers. The open forum format used by the teachers helped in making the week a huge success. Most importantly, the kids who attended the program left with knowledge about the Bible. My favorite part of the day was when we asked the kids to summarize or tell us what they learned that day – it could be at lunchtime, or right before pickup. One lesson was about Jesus’ walking on water, and one kid proudly stated Jesus had webbed feet – this was just in the general assembly. I can’t imagine what they did in Science.

The parents of our VBS students were very grateful for the week of fellowship and learning what their children experienced. The kids let us know how much fun they had and were very proud of their arts and crafts.

We closed VBS with an ice cream celebration for the kids, their families, youth volunteers, and teachers.

A huge thanks to the youth volunteers who stepped up big time and set an excellent example for the younger kids with their patience and caring attitude. They took their responsibilities very seriously but with humor, too. I hope we see them again next year. And to my teachers, I love you all, and I’d have been lost without you this year.

Thank you:

Dione Mahoney  
Ivy Amponsah  
Diane LaGuerre  
Shahra Toth  
Katie Adams-Marvel  
Lynn Foor  
Beth Johnson  
VBS Teachers

Adam Detzner  
Madeline Miskie-Jaeger  
Music Teachers

*Yetti Lipede*  
*Vacation Bible School Coordinator*  
[ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH GROUP

*The willingness to show up changes us. It makes us braver each time. Brené Brown*

The above statement sums up our past year in Sunday school 2020-2021. The fact that our young men and women showed up on Zoom every week and did not suffer from online fatigue was indeed a blessing, and their presence each Sunday was truly appreciated.

Youth School Sunday School class was a combination of middle and high school-aged young men and women for the second year in a row. The curriculum aligned with each Sunday's readings, music that resonated with those readings, and the youth's interpretations of both readings and music. There was no formal curriculum such as *Journey to Adulthood, J2A* because we wanted a class where there were more open discussions with open-ended questions. Our sessions typically lasted one hour. We used Google Slides to share materials with the students. Our usual pattern for a session was the following:

- 1: A warm-up question (youth would answer aloud or in the chat)
- 2: Listening to a song with a video and responding to prompts about the song
- 3: Readings: Every Sunday, we followed the pattern of the church service by reading the Psalm and the Gospel and incorporating other readings on occasion. We asked for volunteers to unmute their mics and read aloud. When volunteers were not forthcoming, we called on individuals.
- 4: Discussion about the Scriptures: Again, some youth shared their thoughts by typing, and others shared verbally
- 5: Prayers: We asked for youth to type prayer requests in the chat and then had one member read the prayers
- 6: We usually ended with a "Kahoot" (quiz game) that youth participated in through their devices. The topics of the quizzes ranged from Bible stories to Disney movies.

We tried to get youth input as much as possible by asking them to share their suggestions for songs and quiz topics for the following week. We also tried to foster community by starting a text group. Seven of our youth were confirmed by the Bishop this year which was a true delight.

We canceled most youth group activities due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The only event not canceled was Youth Sunday in Spring 2021, which was a success. The youth planned the service within two weeks and gave a sermon that was utterly relatable to their experiences. A big thank you to Ed Chrzanowski, who became the impromptu Music Director for Youth Sunday. Thank you, Ed.

*Amanda McKenna*

*Yetti Lipede*

*Middle/High Sunday School & Youth Group Leaders*

[ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## WOMEN OF CHRIST CHURCH (WOCC)

The WOCC provides opportunities for all women of Christ Church (ages 18 to 118) to serve God, our parish, this community, and one another. We do so through in-reach, outreach, and educational activities; designated fund raising; and fellowship. All women over the age of eighteen who attend Christ Episcopal Church are members of the WOCC and are encouraged to participate in our activities.

Information about meeting dates and other WOCC activities is dispensed through the Sunday Bulletin, weekly *Christ Church Gatherings* newsletters, and the Christ Church website: [www.ChristChurchColumbia.org](http://www.ChristChurchColumbia.org). Please keep an eye out for these announcements.

Many of our opportunities to gather had to be cancelled again this year due to the pandemic. However, the WOCC continued holding monthly meetings via Zoom. Traditionally we do not meet in July and August. The following annual events were cancelled:

- Evening meeting at Maggiano's in March;
- Tea at Sweet Simplici-tea in May;
- Springfield picnic in June;
- Toby's Dinner Theater in August;
- Annual flea market and craft fair in September;
- October evening potluck meeting.

Although we were shut down for so many things, the WOCC continued to be active to help CEC and its missions:

- Made a visit to Robinson Nature Center and hiked around the grounds. Plans were made to repeat the visit in the fall.
- Held election of officers in November: Gail Braatlien, president; Rhonda Thomlinson, vice president; Joan Harvey, secretary; Cathy Gold, financial secretary; Pamela Brown, chaplain.
- Delivered 'positive incentive' gifts of snacks, scented shower gel and hats to Springfield Hospital in the spring and fall to help volunteer services with their resident rewards program.
- Hosted the annual Christmas luncheon via Zoom. Played games and shared recollections of holidays past. Collected gifts for the residents of Springfield.
- Sent birthday cards to the women whose birthday is on record at the church office. Most of the cards sent were Ecards. Some paper cards were sent for those without internet access.
- The Don Loewecke's and Dorothy Vaughn's family donated funds to WOCC to choose a memorial in their name. It was decided to purchase combination prayer/hymnal books for Old Brick. An appropriate book cart has been purchased to store the books.
- To keep our tradition of "Hats on for Moms" the women submitted pictures of themselves wearing a hat in honor of Mother's Day. The pictures were posted on the CEC website.

The WOCC wishes to thank Fr. Manny, the members of the Vestry, Yetti, Chris, and the congregation for all your support and help with our many events.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gail Braatlien*

*President, WOCC*

[wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:wocc@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## OUTREACH COMMISSION

Your Christ Church Outreach Dollars at Work: Prayerfully distributing \$12,000 from the CEC parish budget, plus \$4,025 in contributions by parishioners. These contributions include funds donated by parishioners to honor Mary and Ed Keath at the time of their departure last Spring.

As of Sept. 30, Outreach has spent \$7,724 and allocated \$10,684 in parish funds on worthy causes and sent all designated gifts to their grateful recipients. While Outreach has transferred \$1,000 to the church's Lake Elkhorn Middle School (LEMS) effort, that initiative appears in a separate report.

Continuing Outreach's intentional giving locally, nationally and internationally, we report that 16 different organizations -- located as close as a mile away and as far as the other side of the world, and many places in between -- have received funding through Sept 2021. Some long-term regulars, such as CCD-USA that supports disabled children in Thailand, do not appear this year as a result of their own pandemic limitations.

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

- Local housing, utility and eviction needs (Bridges to Housing Stability, Community Action Council of Howard County, Salvation Army)
- Materials to support spiritual needs of incarcerated men and women at Howard County Detention Centers (Christian Jail Ministry)
- Food and essentials for our homeless and impoverished neighbors (Grassroots, Columbia Community Care, RISE, and FISH with its regular bin collections and annual Thanksgiving dinners)
- Medical supplies for homeless people locally and medical and dental care for residents of a remote area of the Dominican Republic (Grassroots' Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Leola Dorsey Center, Somos Amigos Medical Missions)
- Clothing and bedding for our impoverished neighbors (DRC and Grassroots' re-housing program)
- Support for immigrants and refugees (FIRN, now called Luminus)
- Disaster relief in the aftermath of hurricanes in the U.S. and abroad; an earthquake in Haiti, and severe winter storms in Texas (Episcopal Relief and Development)
- Promoting digital equity and literacy through Friends of Sabina (FOS) by paying for the Sabina Primary School librarian's salary, internet access, and newspaper subscriptions. This enables the school library to function as a community resource center in the remote Kyotera District of Uganda.
- Supporting youth
  - Education at home and abroad (LEMS, Friends of Sabina)
  - Summer camps for West Baltimore children and for Mid-Atlantic children whose families are harmed by the opioid crisis (St. Luke's Youth Center/Claggett Center)
  - Angel Tree Christmas gifts for pre-teens (Salvation Army)
- Facilitating direct support for individual young people by helping FOS match parishioners with Sabina Primary School students whose families lack financial means for education. Nine sponsored students are encouraged to communicate with their sponsors by interacting through an app or by writing letters.

Although the pandemic has restricted in-person involvement during 2021, Outreach adapted by scheduling a meal drop-off outdoors on third Mondays of each month for Grassroots' shelter residents. We buy the highly-anticipated fried chicken, and prepare side dishes and desserts in our own kitchens, supplemented by bags of fruits and packaged treats for the pantry. Parishioners also are urged to prepare or order additional evening meals for the Grassroots shelter.

And all of the above provided with love, respect, and prayers.

*Patricia Fanning*

[outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## SPIRITUAL LIFE COMMISSION

The Commission's theme for the 2020-2021 Ministry Year was **"Be God's Light, Shining in the Darkness"** from the Gospel of John. We truly appreciated the response of Christ Church over the last year, with the enthusiastic support and participation in our programs, retreats and publications. This is the 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Spiritual Life Commission, which was launched in October of 2003. We are so grateful for the support given by our Parish and this opportunity to serve.

**Prayers of the People** - Spiritual Life continues to coordinate the weekly Prayers of the People offered during our Sunday worship service and for the celebration of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Over 40 occasions each year, the Prayers of the People are composed by a group of dedicated individuals in our congregation, who share their joy in liturgy and worship. This has been an ongoing ministry since 2006. New writers are really needed, welcome, encouraged and are provided guidance. Email us at [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) if you are interested.

**Family Weekend Parish Retreat** - This 3-day retreat usually occurs in early October, is sponsored by the Spiritual Life Commission, and since 2008 is held at the DuPont Memorial House in Rehoboth, Delaware under the auspices of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware. In 2020, no Fall Retreat was held due to the pandemic and the closure of the facility. The 2021 Christ Church Rehoboth Retreat occurred from October 1-3 and was led by Reverend Emmanuel Mercer and Deacon Denise Schiavone and with 20 parishioners attending. [You can see photos from the retreat on our website.](#)

**Advent Quiet Day** - This Zoom retreat was held on the 5<sup>th</sup> of December in 2020 and was a morning of respite and restoration. We explored how we can nurture the light within to allow us to shine forth in the world, we shared time in active reflection, discussion and exercises. We also participated in a guided meditation session, led by guest facilitator/yoga instructor Danielle Byers who holds a Master's Degree in Social Work and Skills in Mindfulness, Wellness Coaching, Meditation, Yoga Instruction, and Stress Reduction. The retreat concluded with an online Eucharist.

**Lenten Meditation Book** - This has been an ongoing tradition since 2005. In 2020, for our theme **"Be God's Light, Shining in the Darkness"**, we had a 79-page book with over 80 meditations from 28 members of the congregation. We printed 100 copies of our booklet for our Parish. For the past 10 years, we have posted our meditations daily on the Christ Church website and Facebook which resulted in thousands of visits from individuals worldwide.

**Lenten Reflection Day** - This online Zoom reflection time was led by the Reverend Earl Mullins on February 20<sup>th</sup>. He reminded us that Lent was a time to create space in our lives for trusting on God alone rather than our own schemes. He described the Lenten days as a time of decisions and entering the uncharted territory or wilderness. It was also a time to develop interdependence, how to work together in a crisis, as sailing a ship in a storm. We should be more responsive to God and others in our midst. We had a sharing of life experiences, both from those in our community and in our Parish. We had a group of 20 participating in this retreat.

*(continued)*

**Lenten Supper Series: 5 Wednesdays in Lent** - Spiritual Life organized a series of five weekly lectures from : Reverend Kirk Kubicek (discussed from Genesis the imagery of Light in God, in His Creation, in our souls, the importance of light in supporting all life on Earth and that we are all the product of stardust) , Rt. Reverend Robert Ihloff (discussed the importance of integrity, trust, a commitment to Christ and demonstrating joy to all people whom you encounter) Reverend Richard Ginnever (reminded us that “Prayer is not a spare wheel for times of trouble but a steering wheel that directs us toward God’s path for our life” and that our Parish should be a beacon of light), Lesley DiFransico, from Loyola University Theology Faculty (stated that as we were created in God’s image, we should be Bearer’s of His Light), and our Rector, Reverend Emmanuel Mercer (told us that to be God’s Light in the world we must be authentic, humble, Grateful, Faithful, Be seeking Unity of God’s people, seeking God’s Justice and being a Blessing to others) concluding the series. Attendance was entirely online via Zoom due to the pandemic and the Diocesan prohibition of in-person church gatherings at the time.

**The Spiritual Life Commission 2021-2022 Theme** - SLC met online in June of 2021, searching for an encouraging theme for the new ministry year 2021-2022. We entertained numerous Scriptural passages from the Old and New Testaments with the themes of hope, freedom, transformation/change/renewal, justice, and developing community and fellowship before we decided on: **“Be one body in Christ, belonging to each other”** for the coming year. It was inspired by Romans 12:5. We felt that it was very fitting during this time of separation and scattering of our congregation without in person worship. 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.

### **Home Book Discussion Groups**

The Spiritual Life Commission sponsored five Book Club discussions in late 2020 and through 2021. The books were: ‘The Book of Joy’ a book of conversations between the Dalai Lama and Bishop Demond Tutu, ‘The Way of Love’ by Bishop Michael Curry, ‘The Screwtape Letters’ and ‘Mere Christianity’ by CS Lewis and ‘What Did Jesus Ask?’ edited by Elizabeth Dias all were thought-provoking. These book discussion groups were held on Friday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. via Zoom. The interest and response has been excellent and future book discussions throughout the coming year are planned.

## **TELLER MINISTRY**

The teller ministry is another of those “behind the scenes” activities that is vital to the functioning of Christ Church. Normally each week, as well as after special services such as Easter and Christmas, two tellers collect the offerings from the previous services and perform the count. We record the donations on appropriate forms, prepare deposit slips, and take the funds to the bank. Typically this takes between 1 and 2 hours.

We would normally have 16 scheduled tellers and 3 alternates, who each count once every other month. Some of our tellers have served for many years and we are very grateful for such dedication. However since the onset of the pandemic, I have been a solo act performing this ministry. New volunteers are always welcome as we have a role for “alternates” as well as occasional openings. If you would like to join this ministry, please contact the Church office.

## COMMUNICATIONS

As the disruptions of life in 2020 have continued throughout 2021, the Communications Commission has continued to find ways to provide clear, thorough, and consistent accessibility to the spiritual, outreach, and social gatherings of the parish. We are very thankful to Father Manny, the Vestry, and parishioners for continuing to prioritize and support the importance of communications both within and beyond Christ Church's campus.

Our [Christ Episcopal Church website](#) continues to connect our parish family twenty-four hours a day. It's also become a more comprehensive source of information for the world; in the last year, the number of site visitors has nearly quadrupled. We continue to provide information about our many ministries and programs and hope to give accurate details to those individuals and families who may be searching for a new spiritual home.

Weekday prayer and Sunday livestreams continue to be an integral component of our parish life. By the time you read this, Christ Church will have produced over 700 worship livestreams. These would not be possible without many members of our CEC family providing their time to assist on Sunday mornings, or leading morning and evening prayer worship services from their own homes during the week. Our viewership of these has reached well outside of our own community, consistently connecting with the far corners of the world. Viewers have tuned in – some daily – from too many countries to name here. We welcome all newcomers everywhere to worship with us six days each week and we pray that they, no matter where they're from, make Christ Church a part of their lives moving forward.

Another large number of Christ Church parishioners have hosted Zoom gatherings. In addition to the livestream numbers, we've had nearly five hundred virtual gatherings since life necessitated safe, distanced connections to one another. Be it during our *Conversations on Race* series, Wednesday Evening Lenten discussions, Virtual Coffee Hours, CEC Book Club, or any one of the many other gatherings, we hope that you all have been able to gain some comfort from the knowledge that we can still be a vibrant and connected parish – even when separated from one another. It isn't particularly easy or natural to make videoconferencing engaging, so a huge and heartfelt "thank you" to all of you who have played a part in making these online gatherings as wonderful and vital as they have been.

We've also discussed how we can become better at providing a central communications hub for the entire parish. To this end, we are discussing plans to have our staff professionally trained on the intricacies of our Realm system, and how it can best function for Christ Church, in particular. Currently, we use it mostly for online giving and basic database management but there are so many other features that we feel could be valuable for daily parish life – especially when we are "back to normal." This will include all groups and ministries within Christ Church which, in turn, will allow people to more directly communicate with one another, schedule upcoming events and gatherings, and share information, documents, and photos within their group. Realm is constantly being upgraded by its developer, so stay tuned for several new features to be released to Christ Church throughout 2022. If you have any questions about Realm, need to register yourself or your family, or would like to learn more about how to use it, please [email us](#) and we'll provide you with links and tutorials on how to make your Realm experience more productive for you.

The CEC Communications Commission regularly discusses new ways to communicate with our current parish family while considerately sharing our wonderful and vibrant Christ Church life with more and more newcomers. Realizing that there is always more that we can do in order to communicate more effectively through e-mail, website, livestreams, social media and meetings, we hope that you'll contribute any way you can so that we'll be able to spiritually feed both our Christ Church community and our many visitors. If you have input or ideas you'd like to share, please do! Email us at [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org) with your thoughts. You can easily find links to all of our social media outlets at the top of every page on [www.ChristChurchColumbia.org](http://www.ChristChurchColumbia.org) and can [sign up](#) for our weekly communications on our website, as well.

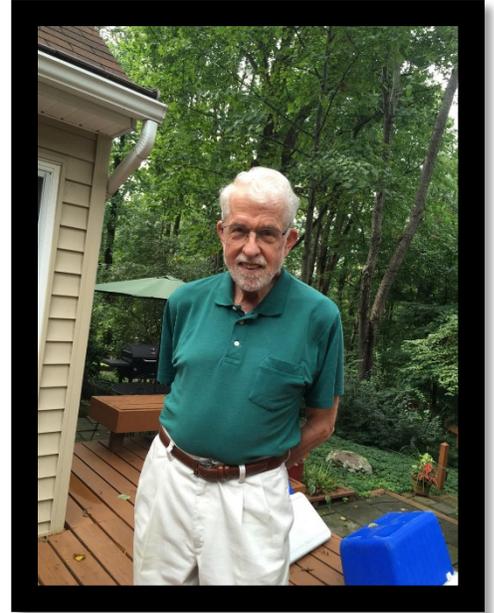
*Chris Pouch – Communications Administrator*  
[communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org)

## VESTRY CANDIDATES

### TIM BEATY

Greetings, my name is Tim Beaty; my wife Sherry and I have been members of Christ Episcopal Church since 1972. Our two grown daughters were raised in Christ Episcopal Church – from toddler, until their weddings in 1991. I have been on the Vestry and served Christ Episcopal Church in other roles in the past, and I am currently on the Vestry. In every role I have undertaken, I have been enriched by the opportunity to serve at Christ Episcopal Church.

At my age, I was honored when I was asked to run for Vestry three years ago, and I am more honored that the Vestry Selection Committee is allowing me to run for reelection this year. I have no doubt but that this is the last time I will run for Vestry (or any other active role in the life of Christ Episcopal Church), but if elected I will welcome the opportunity to serve one more term.



The Vestry Selection Committee asked that I comment on what I value most about Christ Episcopal Church; and I would have to say that it is the people who make up our congregation. Sherry and I have always savored the diversity in "our" Church, but it goes much deeper in that Christ Episcopal Church's diversity is represented in the broad spectrum of views that our members hold dear. I believe we are stronger for it.

The Committee also asked that I comment on what skills and experience I might bring to the position of Vestry Member. As we all know, the last year and a half has been trying, and with the COVID Pandemic still front and center in all our lives, I believe that with good leadership, and the good will of the congregation, that we will come back stronger in the near future.

Christ Church is a place where Sherry and I find the face of God and His love in abundance, and where the love of God's people for God and for each other is always present.

## JAN DEBOISSIERE

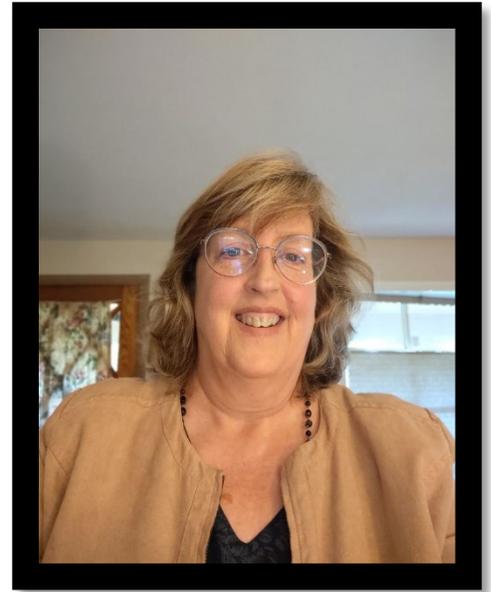
I am 62 years old, a lawyer in the Maryland Office of the Public Defender for over 30 years, married and mother to two grown sons. Tom and I have been members of Christ Episcopal Church since we became pregnant with our first son, Bill, who is now 30. We started our search for a Church home here because our best friends were members here (David & Christina Myers). What a lovely place it has been for us.

I have been a Sunday School Teacher, a Celebrations Committee member, a member of the choir and so many other ministries over the years.

Our congregation went through a difficult interim period after the retirement of James Shields and I didn't feel that I did enough to help the Church at that time. I decided I would do more in the future and have gotten a lot more involved.

I was on Vestry for one term and then became co-chair of the Buildings and Grounds Commission. For the last 18 months, I joined the Vestry again to complete the term of Rose Kirby (but I can never fill her shoes) and have been Jr. Warden.

I enjoy my work on Vestry and would like to continue for another term. Of course, if I'm not elected, I will find other ways to be active. All of the candidates are terrific.



## **SIMONE KOLNIK**

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

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

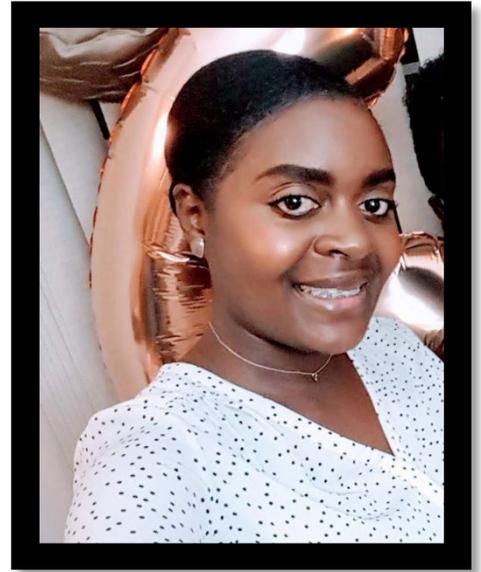
Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, I enjoyed attending in-person services and serving as an usher or delivering prayers for healing as part of the ministry. As a lover and firm believer of God, Christ Church has been a cherished home during my faith (and life) journey and I have many fond memories of holidays,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

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

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

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

Thank you and blessings.



## ISAAC GBENGA OLAJIDE

Greetings to all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. My name is Isaac Gbenga Olajide and I was born into an Anglican/Episcopalian family in the Southwest area of Nigeria. My father, Joshua Olajide, was a Patron of St. Peter's Anglican Church, a role he diligently fulfilled for over 50 years till his passing into glory in 2014. Even my late mother, Princess Emily Olajide, was not just an outstanding member of the church. My mother was active in the Women Ministry throughout her lifetime.

Having a strong foundation in Christ was important in my life. Since I only spent my elementary school years with my biological parents, the rest of my childhood life was with different family members. I am proud to say that each of these experiences has brought me even closer to God. After I graduated from the Pharmacy School, I did a lot of volunteer jobs including holding community health fair with other health care professionals. I was also the Secretary of Rotary Club of Badagry in Nigeria between 1990 and 1991. I moved to the United States in late 1991 and in 1995, I got married to my darling wife, Janet Olajide, at Saint Paul Episcopal Church in Brookline, Massachusetts. Thank God, the marriage is blessed with three beautiful children, Emily, Esther, and Emmanuel. I need to mention that my wife's parents are both Ministers of God in the Anglican Community.



I also need to say that my association with Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia was divinely orchestrated. When my wife and I were going through pre-marriage counseling sessions in Boston, the officiating Rector asked where my wife and I planned to settle down after the wedding and we mentioned Columbia. The Rector told us that he will make recommendation after all the counseling sessions were completed of a home church where we can grow, enjoy, and serve God. At the last pre-marriage counseling session, the Rector did tell us about an Episcopal Church in Columbia, the Rector went on by sharing the good news about the great people of God here at Christ Episcopal Church in Columbia. Since then, I have been an active member of this great congregation.

Professionally, I'm a registered pharmacist and licensed in both the State of Maryland and the State of Florida. For over 10 years, I worked as a staff Pharmacist with Rite-Aid Corporation and later became a Pharmacy manager. In 2002, I established my own Retail Pharmacy operation in Baltimore, Maryland. Both my wife and I serve in various volunteer capacities in the community. Currently, I am an active volunteer with the State of Maryland Dept. of Health and Mental Hygiene as a Pharmacist Volunteer for the Emergency Respond Team on bioterrorism immediately after September 11th, 2001 (now called Maryland Emergency preparedness). I am currently serving on the board of NAPPSA, a professional organization supporting pharmacist. Particularly in this church, I have had the opportunity to serve in various capacities. In 2014, I was a volunteer member of the LOC for the Tour of Light tour in Howard County by the Children of Uganda Organization. I served as a vestry member from 2012 to 2015 during the time of Father Ginnever as the Rector. I am currently an Usher and have been in this role for 12 years. I also served as a member of the discerning committee for Parish Administrator at different times.

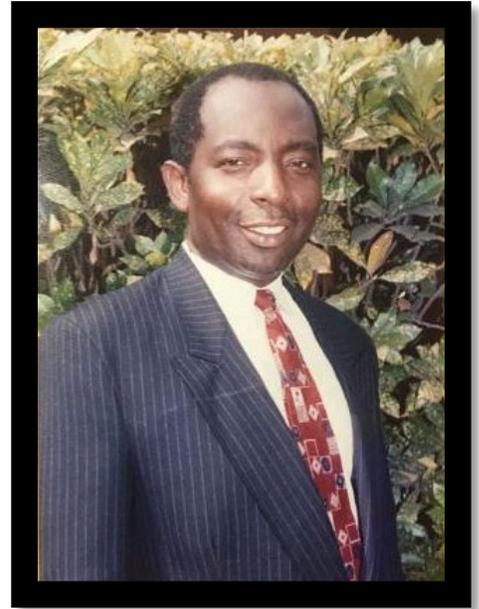
Above all, it gives me great joy and spiritual fulfillment to be of service to the Lord. Psalm 84:10 says "better is one day in your courts than a thousand elsewhere; I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God". In this church, I have served in Usher capacity and volunteer wherever I am needed. As an Usher, my spiritual eyes have been opened and my heart drawn even more closely to God. Ushering has made me to appreciate the Sacrifice that Christ made to ensure our comfort. The opportunity to render a helping hand to all people and to be of service of God is an honor. If I am given the opportunity to serve in the Vestry, I will approach the job with vigor, passion, diligence, sensitivity, and team player attitude without wavering. In conclusion, I'm honored and humbled for the nomination, and I will continue to serve our God with zeal all the days of my life. Thanks for reading and God bless you!

## **ALFRED TITUS-GLOVER**

My name is Alfred Titus-Glover and I am a current member of the Vestry finishing my first term.

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 16 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 worked in leadership roles in my former church prior to Christ Episcopal Church as a member of the Board of Trustees and Staff/Parish Relations Committee. I learned so much about church operations, outreach, engaging with parishioners and also the importance of service to God and Church. My current first term on the Vestry has been a wonderful listening and learning experience which will serve me well from this point forward. I am ready once again to assist and to contribute to a more perfect grounding for the 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 currently work in Environmental Engineering and Planning in the Washington area.

I am married and my wife Doris and I have three big boys who have all graduated college and graduate schools. 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 in my family have the same birthdate 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 there is so much I can continue to contribute 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.

## GEORGE E. TOTH

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

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

Within this community I have focused my time and energy on grounds maintenance and outreach support. As an engineer I bring pragmatic discipline to discussions and evaluation of problems with a good understanding of how proper structure, teamwork, and support are needed to execute projects. I expect to continue providing guidance in these areas. In our spiritual life I am deeply committed to emphasizing our need to always reflect our Lord for we carry a higher responsibility in His namesake of our church.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Send announcements to [communications@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:communications@christchurchcolumbia.org)

**Sunday School** | Sunday School takes place each week online but is not being held this weekend. We will resume next Sunday, October 24th. The registration form is located [here](#), and you can send them to [ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:ministry@christchurchcolumbia.org) to enroll your child(ren). Elementary school sessions begin at 9:15 a.m. and you can receive the Zoom link by emailing Jennifer Atkins at [dandjatkins@verizon.net](mailto:dandjatkins@verizon.net). The older youth session begins at 9:30 a.m. and is run by our new Youth Minister, Todd Domer. You can reach Todd at [youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:youthministry@christchurchcolumbia.org) for Zoom details.

**Adult Forum: Sunday Circle** | Sunday Circle will not be held this weekend because of the Annual Meeting, but we invite you to join us next Sunday. [Sunday Circle](#) is an in-person, community-circle gathering that meets between worship services from 9:30-10:15 a.m. each Sunday during the school year and is located outside when the weather permits, or in Old Brick when it doesn't. October's general lesson theme is about Stewardship and Gratitude. We hope that you'll join us for these gatherings. For more information, please contact Jenn Todd Lavanish at [jiltlavanish@gmail.com](mailto:jiltlavanish@gmail.com)

**Bible Study: Every Wednesday** | Bible Study is back to gathering in person each Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. and will be a discussion on the readings for that coming Sunday. [Next week's gathering focuses on these readings](#) (we are using Track 1 this season). You do not have to know much about the Bible; just join in and let's all study together. If you're interested, simply gather with us on Wednesday morning in the Great Hall.

**Christ Church Book Club: Friday** | Our Book Club is gathering virtually this Friday from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Our current read is *What Did Jesus Ask?* a collection of essays by theologians and notable people on questions asked by Jesus in the New Testament. You can find this book at the usual retailers. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. The Zoom link is [here](#), Meeting ID is 894 0227 6226 and the Password is CECbooks. After this book, we will discuss *The Dream of God* by Verna Dozier. We hope that you'll find time to join us for this engaging and enlightening group discussion. Please email Ellen Hoke at [efboudreau1@gmail.com](mailto:efboudreau1@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

**Centering Prayer is Back... but Slightly Different!** | Perhaps you're not really sure what Centering Prayer is, or whether it's something you would enjoy. Maybe you'd prefer to try it out in the comfort of your own home before joining us in Old Brick. Well, you can! Centering Prayer is now a hybrid gathering, and you're welcome to join us virtually from anywhere. Beginning October 23rd, Kathy and Adrian will be leading Centering Prayer in Old Brick on Saturday mornings at 10:00 a.m. but those joining us remotely can do so via Zoom. Whether in person or online, everyone is welcome to be a part of this contemplative prayer gathering, one which allows for shared energy and connectedness that fosters an openness to God's presence. All in-person attendees currently wear masks and sit at an appropriate distance from each other. You are welcome to participate as their schedule permits, whether it's every week or once in a while. Zoom details will be in weekly emails beginning next Monday.

**Christ Church's 32nd Annual Auction - Begins Later this Month** | A huge THANK YOU to everyone who has donated items or services to our upcoming Auction. Now, the real fun begins! Our Silent Auction is held from October 30th through November 6th and the much-anticipated Live Auction takes place the evening of Saturday, November 6th. As you know, this is THE major fundraiser for Christ Church each year, and we hope that you'll all join us in bidding... and counter-bidding... and outbidding one another to raise funds for our beloved Christ Church. [You can see many of the items that are up for auction here](#). Many more details will be on our website and in weekly emails very soon, so stay tuned!

**Adult Choir and Adult Handbells are in Session** | Choral singing and hymn leadership are returning to the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service and ringing bells to embellish hymns is also a new staple for this fall! If you've ever been interested in joining our choir, now's that time... and this invitation is open to any adult parishioner. No experience is necessary!

Socially distanced and masked rehearsals now take place on Thursday evenings. Please email Len Langrick, our Interim Director of Music, at [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org) to learn more, or to RSVP for rehearsals.

**Children's Choir Rehearsals Return** | Parents, be on the lookout for information about choir rehearsals starting up this month. New and returning children are invited. A start date is yet to be determined -- past singers, a survey is heading your way. Len Langrick, our Director of Music, has a passion for working with young people and can't wait to get started! Handbells and chimes will also be included in our rehearsals. Please email Len to learn more or to RSVP for rehearsals – [music@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:music@christchurchcolumbia.org)

We're excited to get things running for another amazing year of music-making! Whether you plan to return or not this program year, we encourage you to view our above Children's Choir promotional video, and then we invite all families to [take this brief survey](#) to help guide our planning for this program year. Again, whether you are planning to return or not, your feedback on the survey is important. The survey will help to determine which afternoon we will rehearse as well as help us to gain feedback on a few "out of the box" ideas.

**WOCC: Labyrinths and Book Trucks** | This past Monday, the Women of Christ Church took a "field trip" - a Labyrinth Walk at St. John's Episcopal Church in Ellicott City. From ancient times, labyrinths have been used for walking-meditation and prayer. Several WOCC members - [some of which are in the photos on our website](#) - took part in this unique and peaceful gathering.

Also on our website, you can learn about our new Book Truck! This addition to Christ Church is in anticipation of the purchase of new prayer/hymn combined books. The members of the WOCC are grateful to the families of Dorothy Vaughn (dec. 06/03/2018) and Don Loewecke (dec. 01/12/2019) for the bequests which provided funds for these additions, and to Ronnie Ivey, who researched and arranged the purchase of the new book truck. [A few photos are located here.](#)

**Diocese of Maryland's Delta Phase Update** | Howard County is the only Maryland county in the Yellow Phase at this time, and [you can read the latest Diocesan message about this here](#). Please note that masks are still required indoors. The entire breakdown of Yellow Phase (Delta variant) guidelines is located [here](#). We continue our dialogue with the appropriate organizations and ease restrictions with care and consideration as conditions warrant.

**Altar Flowers and Gifts** | If you would like to present Altar gifts in dedication or celebration of a loved one on an upcoming Sunday, you can find the details and sign-up sheet online at <https://tinyurl.com/CECaltargifts>.

**Christ Church Helps to End Homelessness and Wins the Golden Ladle in Bridges to Housing Stability's 2021 Chili & Challenge Competition** | Thanks to the generosity of parishioners — and to our competitive spirit — Christ Church has won The Golden Ladle in the 2021 Chili & Challenge conducted by [Bridges to Housing Stability](#). Competing against at least a dozen other Howard County congregations to raise funds for Bridges, we contributed \$2,535 toward programs to help individuals and families who are at-risk or experiencing homelessness.

Parishioners participated by donating directly and by purchasing meal tickets for chili made by the Bare Bones restaurant; each \$20 meal resulted in a \$12 donation to Bridges. The nonprofit organization surpassed its goal of \$12,000 by raising nearly twice that amount. Its leaders thanked competitors and the businesses and organizations who sponsored the event during the Chili & Challenge meal pickup and awards ceremony held on October 10th.

The Rev. Emmanuel “Manny” Mercer accepted the Golden Ladle from Bridges Executive Director Jen Broderick. Two churches who were runners-up won a Silver Ladle award (as Christ Church did in 2020). The second-place winner was First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, represented by Woody Collins, and Glen Mar United Methodist Church in Ellicott City, represented by Heerak Kim.

In thanking Bridges for its work on affordable housing, Father Manny gave a shout-out to Christ Church parishioners for supporting this vital cause. He also brought up future plans for Christ Church to co-sponsor an Afghan refugee family and said he is “deeply grateful” for the congregation’s generosity.

The ceremony was livestreamed and archived on Bridges' YouTube channel. Go to [this link](#) to watch the recording. (The awards presentation begins at 8:02 minutes in the video) In her remarks, Jen Broderick describes how Bridges - and you -- have helped a formerly homeless student who has successfully entered his senior year in Howard County schools.

[We have lots of other Golden Ladle photos on our website.](#)

Christ Church has had a warm relationship with Bridges since 2019 when we participated in its countywide chili cook-off, *Holier Than Thou*. Parishioner James Collins, a Bridges board member, was that event's master of ceremonies. The Outreach Commission keeps our parish informed about Bridges' efforts and its members organize parish-wide involvement such as these annual chili competitions.

**Save the Dates: Grassroots Meal Drop-Offs on Monday, Oct. 18; Monday, Nov. 15** | Once again, parishioners and volunteers who join their efforts are looking ahead to the monthly meal that we provide at [Grassroots Crisis Intervention Center](#). Save the dates: October 18th and November 15th, arriving between 3:15 and 3:30 p.m. at the parking lot outside Old Brick. Plan to bring a side dish, a dessert, or items for their pantry to be enjoyed round-the-clock by the 50 residents of the live-in facility on Freetown Rd.

To sign up, use our electronic registry no later than noon on the Sunday prior to the meal on Monday. Click on the [Christ Church Grassroots Meal link on SignUpGenius](#) to view requested items and to tell coordinators what you'll bring. Co-coordinator Nancy Winchester meets the other volunteers (*see photos here*). Nancy then transports the hot or cold foods to Freetown Road for handoff to the staff of Grassroots.

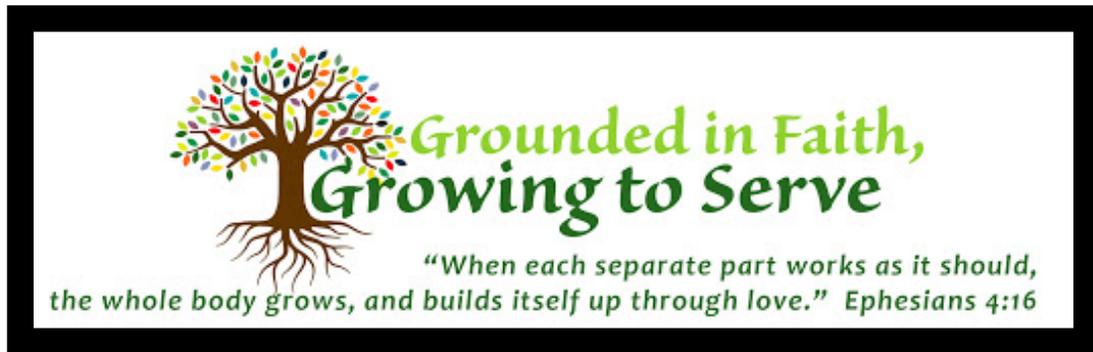
Grassroots lists some other needs for the Freetown Road pantry and for the homeless friends served by its Day Resource Center (DRC) at the Dorsey Center. Look for Grassroots' attached file at our [sign-up link](#). For any questions contact Nancy or co-coordinator Shahra Toth or email [outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org](mailto:outreach@christchurchcolumbia.org).

**Collection Drive Continues to Provide Diapers, Personal Care Items for CCC** | At Christ Church, members of R.A.G.E and the Outreach Commission ask parishioners to support [Columbia Community Care\(CCC\)](#) by collecting diapers, baby wipes, sanitary and personal care items, and adult diapers. Please put any of these items in the yellow bin, marked "CCC," inside the Parish Hall. You can drop off items on weekdays when the church office is open, but we ask that you call the office at (410) 381-9365 ahead of time.

**Donate Personal Care and Cleaning Supplies for FISH in Bin on our Breezeway** | Organizers for [FISH of Howard County](#) request household cleaning supplies such as liquid dish soap, bleach, and cleanser as well as personal items such as deodorant, shampoo, and bath soaps. The bin is on the breezeway between Old Brick and the Parish Hall.

**DreamBuilders are Planning a Trip to Puerto Rico in January!** | DreamBuilders is in the planning stages for a trip to Puerto Rico during the week of January 9-15, 2022, to repair homes damaged by hurricanes and earthquakes. We were not able to go last year due to COVID restrictions, but in 2019, we were able to help rebuild two homes, working with our St. Bernard Project (SBP) partners. They are once again allowing volunteers to come to the island and work through them, as there are many still in need of help. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact [Cathy Gold](#) or [Stacey Frith](#) to let us know.

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



## 2022 Stewardship Campaign Pledge Cards are Now Available

**Thank you for supporting our 2021 campaign!**

We are very excited about Christ Church's 2022 Stewardship Campaign. As we all know, the past couple of years have been terribly difficult for everyone, but through it all, each one of you has been very generous to your beloved Christ Church. We mailed out our Annual Stewardship Pledge Cards to you this month and we hope that you will join us on November 7th for our Pledge Sunday celebration. In addition to that, you can also pledge online at [www.christchurchcolumbia.org](http://www.christchurchcolumbia.org). We will also have pledge cards in the narthex. It is our hope that you will prayerfully consider your support to Christ Church throughout the coming year.

Our most recent Monthly Budget Report can be read [here](#).

### **Text Giving**

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

### **Online Giving**

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

**THANK YOU.**



**Christ Episcopal Church**

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The Rev'd Emmanuel Ato Mercer, *Rector*

The Rev'd Marcia Davenport, *Associate Priest*

The Rev'd Denise Schiavone, *Deacon*

Aisha White, *Parish Administrator*

Christopher Pouch, *Communications Administrator*

Yetti Lipede, *Ministry Coordinator*

Todd Domer, *Youth Minister*

**Vestry**

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