



# Annual Reports of 2016

Annual Meeting Part II  
February 5, 2017

*We worship together and we joyfully welcome all people  
We embody Christ's love in service*

*We nurture children in the knowledge and love of God  
We address today's concerns in the rich body of Christian tradition*

**Whitefish Bay, Wisconsin**

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## Rector's Report

Over the course of 2016, the vestry read a book by Dwight Zscheile called *People of the Way*. Fr. Dwight is an Episcopal priest and professor of theology and the book speaks to the need for a local church to engage the larger community. The world needs what the Episcopal Church, acting with a renewed sense of mission, has to offer. Below is an outline of ministries and events of special note in 2016. Many of these grow directly out of this sense of mission to those outside our walls.

### New or Re-vamped ministries in 2016

- *Building Project Committee*. This group started its diligent work, sifting through the options for making our space fully-hospitable and highly functional.
- *Newcomer Group*. Our newcomer group added members and changed tactics for 2016. Rather than waiting for people to come to them, they are now meeting me for a huddle in the back of church where I quickly point out people who I know to be new.
- *Green Team*. We revived the Green Team in 2016 (see their report).
- *Pastoral Care Team*. This group continues to meet regularly to pray for those on the prayer list, and to share ways that they might come alongside those who are in the midst of some kind of transition. The group hopes to expand its reach in 2017 and begin a ministry of sending hand-written cards.
- *Our 15-minute Feasts* continued throughout 2016. That time for coffee and fellowship after church has uncovered a real desire for post-church fellowship and seems to point to the need for more space for that fellowship.

### Special Events of Note:

- In February we laid Bob Staech to rest in our columbarium after a packed church mourned his loss and celebrated his life.
- In March, we participated in our first All People's Church Good Friday retreat.
- In June, two trips traveled to Haiti to build relationships the group of people we have been giving to and praying for for many years.
- In September, we commemorated 9/11 by inviting local firefighters and police officers to our church picnic that we re-configured to be more like a block party.
- In November, we survived the election together as one people. We celebrated our living legends with an 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner. And we introduced a new format for our Edible Auction.
- In December, we said goodbye to Fr. Seth Allen Raymond, along with Elizabeth, Hannah and Miriam.

### Staffing Transition

In the middle of 2016, Anne Eversfield became the communications leader. In November we welcomed our new Business Administrator, Patrice Hansen. And then just a week later, Fr. Seth Allen Raymond announced his departure. With his departure, Anna Harmon became the Children and Youth Leader. I am grateful for the work of my whole staff. They consistently make me look better than I am.

### Looking Ahead: Capital Campaign and Building Project

This is the moment for us to make God's embrace of all people concrete. We are poised to boldly proclaim with wood, glass and stone that no matter who you are, we will celebrate your worth. We will do all we can to help you move with freedom and dignity. Together we can take

the incredible space that we have been given and make it even more beautiful and useful. We will need everyone to participate at the very best level they can so that children generations from now will learn through song, story and prayer that they carry the light of Christ within them and how that Light can change the world. A fully –accessible building can also position us to be a resource center for emotional, physical and spiritual wellness for all people in the community.

#### Looking Ahead: Hiring an Associate Priest

Here at the end of January, I have the job posting ready to go. Once the funding is approved at the annual meeting, and once I am certain that we can commit to funding the position, I will send out the posting to a variety of seminaries as well as post it where people who are currently in ministry can see it. My hope is to have someone here by July 1, 2017. Thank you for your prayers in this process.

I am incredibly grateful for the love and support of my wife, Maggie. In a thousand small acts that go unseen, she makes small sacrifices for my ministry. As a parent, worker, leader, Christian, she inspires me, and her love continues to change me for the better.

Every year I am humbled by the ways that so many people work so tirelessly, so that we might open our doors and open our hands to share the deepest kind of nourishment with the world. It is a privilege to serve with you. By God's grace, we move forward into another year together.

*We are all living stones, members of a community that builds this church. What holds the whole edifice together, however, is mortar. And the mortar of a living church is the people who serve. Stones become mortar as they serve others.*

The Rev. Seth Dietrich

## Senior Warden's Report

In the past year, we've seen images of a new addition that reflects the beautiful architecture of our church and aligns with who we are as a congregation: welcoming, joyful, serving and nurturing. The proposed addition, which you may have seen presented by the Building Projects Committee last fall, will provide a bright space for welcoming and gathering and make our church more accessible for all. You'll learn more in mid-February as the campaign kicks off.

Much thanks to Tom Scrivner, chairman of the Building Projects Committee, and all 17 members of the committee, and to Meredie Scrivner, who keeps the parish informed of the important work done by the committee. For more details of their work, please read the committee's report in this publication.

Special thanks goes to Mary Jones, who was our Junior Warden this year. She will be an excellent Senior Warden working with Rick Donner, who will be Junior Warden. It has been my great privilege working with Mary this year. She is tireless, insightful and knowledgeable of Christ Church and its members. Among many other projects, she contributed outstanding leadership for the success of our parish 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration last November. Thanks also goes to Chris Bender, Cathy Martin Braun, Andrea Frankenberry, Mary Kay Anderson, Barbara Larkin, Penny Ziegler, Andy Stillman, and many others who planned and hosted the event. Thanks also to Denny Jones for producing the commemorative video for the 85<sup>th</sup>. It was a great pleasure working with him. He shares many unsung media talents and skills for our church.

Much thanks goes to our staff whose leadership capabilities and special skills make Christ Church a wonderful place to worship and gather. Thanks to Pam Eversfield, Office Administrator, Anne Eversfield, Communications Leader, and Patrice Hansen, our new

Business Administrator, who joined the staff in December. We said goodbye to Fr. Seth Raymond, who now leads the Hospitality Center of Racine, and Elizabeth and their children Miriam and Hannah. He was a thoughtful Associate Rector, who offered insights beyond his years and was always relevant with young people. We said hello to The Rev. Deacon Nancy Hills, who has returned to Christ Church as our new Deacon. We're delighted for her return and leadership.

Also, much thanks to Chris Manger, Sexton, who daily fights the good fight to keep our building running smoothly. Thanks to Anna Harmon, Children's Ministry Leader, who works so well with young folks and has filled in for Fr. Seth's departure. Thanks to Scott Riedel, Organist and Choirmaster, and Karol Rehm, Director of our beautiful handbell choir. Scott's musical talent and deft direction of our choir and musicians brings powerful and prayerful liturgical music weekly. He has also brought his considerable experience in architecture and acoustics to the work of the Building Projects Committee. Also thanks to the many talented musicians who lead our songs during the summer in worship in the garden.

I give thanks to all the members of the Vestry, especially Scott Sevenich, Cathy Martin Braun, and Mary Kay Anderson, who are moving on after their years of service, and Rick Donner, who finished his term but will serve as Junior Warden for the coming year. In the time I've served as a Warden, I've greatly enjoyed working with our Vestry. Their leadership is seen in their hard work, thoughtful decisions and shared faith. We are indeed fortunate to have such excellent leaders at Christ Church.

I offer a very special thanks to Fr. Seth Dietrich. It has been an honor to serve our congregation with him. I will miss our monthly Warden / Rector meetings. Fr. Seth, week after week, gives me joy in the Lord and restores my faith in the goodness of people.

I have definitely failed to mention the many, many other people who serve Christ Church and the greater community with such grace and love. Forgive me. But let me say that I am eternally grateful to Christ Jesus and all of you for giving me the opportunity to serve you as a Warden over these past three years. God our Father be with you and bless you always.

In special memory of Bob Staeck, who passed away early in 2016.

Greg Bell

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## Adult Forum Report

As always, it was good in 2016 to have speakers from Christ Church giving presentations on topics of interest to us in their field of expertise. Early in the year our organist, **Scott Riedel**, presented "The History of the Hymnal with Singing" and **Bp. Ed** chaired a panel discussing whether Religion and Science are at war with each other. We thank them and all our presenters.

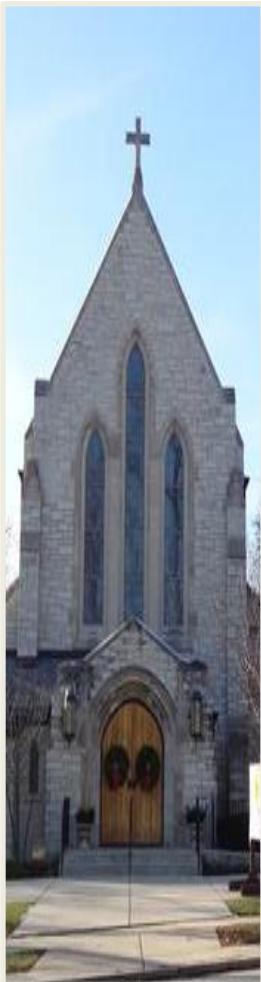
Also in the early part of the year, we watched and discussed a video by **N.T. Wright**, "Rethinking Life after Death." In preparation for the mission trips to Haiti there was a forum on different aspects of life in Haiti, organized by **Ira Leidel**. In March, **Philip Chard**, psychotherapist and writer, gave a presentation on "Healing: Pathways to Emotional Wellbeing and Spiritual Renewal."

Looking at different faith traditions, we heard **Janan Najeeb** speak about “What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam,” and **George Owen**, from the Society of Friends, spoke about “The Quaker Tradition of Non-Violence and Peace-Making as a Way of Life.” These were followed by **Fr. Seth Dietrich’s** Instructed Eucharist.

In May, we heard about initiatives in the community. **Gretchen Mead** talked about “The Victory Garden Initiative,” of which she is the Executive Director. The following **Sunday, LaToya Sykes** spoke about “Our Next Generation.”

There was a Haiti sharing by **participants in the Haiti Mission trips** in the fall. **Amber Wichaowsky** gave a timely presentation on the upcoming Presidential Election. **Jackie Glover** spoke on “The Spectrum of Decisions about the Use of Technology at the End of Life,” and **Mike Pratscher** gave a PowerPoint presentation on “Christianity in the Workplace.” The last adult forum of 2016 was “The Challenge of Policing in 2016 America,” a panel discussion with Metro Milwaukee Officers, facilitated by **Kent Lovern**.

Helen Benton



Outside of Christ Church Episcopal - Whitefish Bay

## Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild activities continued to include the care of Eucharistic linens, silver and brass communion pieces, altar and acolyte candles; as well as the preparation for each Eucharistic service. This year provided an opportunity for several additions to enhance worship: 1) the Pentecostal ceiling banners, 2) the cleaning and re-filling of all kneeling cushions for the altar rail, and 3) the purchase of new linens.

Altar Guild members welcomed new members, enjoyed fellowship in and out of church, and several members attended the Diocesan Altar Guild tour of churches in Northern Illinois and Chicago.

Sandy Johansen and Carol Crowley

## Building and Grounds, Rectory Report

If there was a theme to 2016, it was “Repair and Replace.” The building and grounds are definitely showing their age!

Kneelers, locks, light fixtures, gutters, toilets, plumbing, book holders, screens, downspouts, sinks, and the boiler all needed major repairs. The kitchen freezer was beyond repair; so, it was replaced. Dead trees and bushes were also removed from the garden this year.

All new projects for the building and grounds were put on hold until future building plans are sorted out.

Next year, budget permitting, I would like to seal the exterior of the East Wall, plaster and repaint the interior of the East Wall, add more exterior outlets, and start replacing many of the two-prong outlets in the building with three-prong (for safety). The hallway near the office could use new paint and carpeting also.

Rectory:

The rectory is also showing its age. A new tub surround (Bath Fitters) was installed last year and a new dishwasher, as well. The tenants had water in the basement but that was remedied by re-attaching the sump discharge hose and downspout extension.

The rectory's furnace, water heater and garbage disposal are all beyond life expectancy. The exterior trim needs painting and it is still running on 60 amp circuit breakers (not 100 or 150 amp). Budget permitting, we will tackle some of these issues next year.

Chris Manger, Sexton

## Building Project Report

Appointed by the Vestry in April, the 15 member Building Project Committee and its architect/contractor sub-committee met approximately 20 times in 2016.

The Committee worked through the ideas and priorities identified by parishioners during early 2016 focus groups. The priorities were identified as **accessibility, hospitality and functionality**. The most highly identified needs include an elevator, improved bathrooms, improved sound, large gathering space and larger space for the music program and for meetings. Preservation of the garden as worship space and preservation of the beauty of the building were also identified as top priority.

The Architectural firm of Groth Design was retained in August. JE Findorff was hired as a construction manager in October, in order to provide accurate pricing and to assure buildability of any design.

By early 2017, the Committee and the Vestry agreed on the conceptual plan. A beautiful addition, housing an elevator, will be built in the current garden space. The addition will connect to the nave, through the current door opposite the choir pews. It will connect to the garden vestibule and the Great Hall. It will provide gathering space for coffee hour, meetings, and other parish or community events.

The Beaumont hall will be reconfigured to include 2 ADA bathrooms, a relocated flower room, and additional storage. The Great Hall stage will remain in place, but for fire reasons, it will be considered a "platform," not a stage. The stage curtain will be removed. The Great Hall will come into the 21st century with a facelift.

The music program will move upstairs, as will the music office. Again, a facelift will give us what we need, without major construction and cost. ADA seating will be added to the nave. The sound system will be improved. Nave lighting may be addressed, depending on the cost of higher priority projects.

The fund raising campaign started early in 2017. Key dates for 2017 include the February 19 kickoff for the entire parish and the May 7 conclusion of the campaign.

The Committee is excited about the progress so far, and thanks the parish for its support of the proposed plan.

Meredie Scrivner

## Children's Ministries Report

Children's Ministries continues to be a vibrant part of Christ Church. We rejoice in the continued influx of new babies, children, and families! From the nursery to Godly Play and Chapel, to Sunday school and Community Formation, Gathering Bags and Family nights, there is always something happening with our little ones. This is not to mention our beloved Christmas Eve pageant – a highlight for so many families each year! (Thank you Chris Binder for your amazing work and all of the many parent volunteers).

The nursery is a vital ministry of welcome for families, and our nursery workers Margaret Mueller (continuing from last year), Chelsea Abanathie, and Emily Dettinger (new this Fall) are a huge part of making this a safe and welcoming environment. We regularly have 5-8 children from 0-3 years old in the nursery. So having two paid staff each week continues to provide stability in the nursery for both parents and kids.

Godly Play and Chapel offer formation for children 3.5 years - 3rd grade during the first part of the Sunday service. In Godly Play, Barbara Larkin and a team of trained parent volunteers (Sarah Pitsoulakis, Jean Bieszk, Jen Willems, and Amber Wichowsky) engage in biblical story telling, encouraging children to wonder and use their imagination. There are often 10 or more participants in Godly Play.

This is the second year we have relied on a Chapel team of volunteers. This year, we have 8 committed chapel volunteers who rotate through a few times each semester, and nearly every parent helps at one time or another. Chapel is a chance for 1<sup>st</sup> -3<sup>rd</sup> graders to gain familiarity with Anglican liturgy. We light candles, sing, pray the collect and prayers of the people, and read and discuss one of the scripture passages for the day.

Sunday school continues to be offered twice monthly, alongside one coffee hour and one "Community Formation" Sunday. We have a solid group of volunteer Sunday school teachers including Barbara Larkin, Anneliese Morrell, Anna Harmon, Susan Cushman, Sandy Johansen, and Pamela Eversfield. We also rely on parent assistants, whose continued presence is much appreciated.

"Community Formation" Sundays (formerly "Intergenerational" formation) have continued to encourage multi-age learning and outreach. In 2016, we offered an interactive Haiti outreach event, an environmental workshop, our annual Parish picnic and Pancake breakfast, Stations of the Cross, History and Stories of Christ Church, an Advent Jesse Tree workshop, and Christmas gift-wrapping for the Journey House.

Anna Harmon worked with Fr. Seth Raymond in 2016 as the Children's Ministries Coordinator. She organizes and facilitates volunteers for the several programs in Children's formation and oversees the children's programs (Chapel/Godly Play, Sunday School, Community Formation) and special events (like the Christmas Eve pageant). Anna also works to connect with new families, encouraging relationships and deeper participation in parish life.

We continue to build off of the vision of the 2014 Children's Formation Strategy Team to accomplish concrete goals that will provide rich faith development in our children. The Children's Formation Team (Jean Bieszk, Cathy Martin-Braun, Jacqui Brown, Anna Harmon, Susan Lovern, Paula Stone) meets quarterly to support the current work and to offer guidance for the future.

Anna Harmon

## Columbarium Report

The Columbarium Trust assets, separated from the Church since 2011, are invested in a Certificate of Deposit and in a Checking Account with the name of "Christ Church Episcopal Columbarium Trust" at BMO Harris Bank.

Current Trustees are Father Dietrich, Rector; Greg Bell, Senior Warden; Mary Jones, Junior Warden; Sarah Gottlieb, immediate past Senior Warden; plus two parishioners: Roger Senn and Judy Moburg, appointed by the Vestry. The Trustee arrangement will rotate (add the seventh Trustee) after the 2017 Annual Meeting (January 31, 2017) when the new Junior Warden, Rick Donner, will become a Trustee. Greg Bell will remain a Trustee in his role as immediate Past Senior Warden for the year 2017 and Sarah Gottlieb will rotate off as Trustee.

Current statistics:	Number of Columbarium niches	380
	Niche purchase cost	\$1150.00
	Niches sold in 2016	1
	Niches available	to be updated

Account balances: 12/31/16

Checking account	\$ 10,583.00 on 12/31/16
CD matures 2/04/18	\$ 25,569.40 on 12/31/16
Asset total:	\$ 36,152.40 on 12/31/16

### 2016 Meeting Notes:

Trustees met May 15 to discuss the following:

- Policy Guidelines for those not able to pay full price upon initial contact were submitted to Vestry for approval.
- Columbarium Niche Record book in need of update will continue to be done by Office Administrator Pam Eversfield with assistance of Mary Jones and Sarah Gottlieb.
- Niche Release Form needs update and will be done with review by John Haydon, legal advisor for Trustees.
- Trustees also recommend seeking legal advice on clarification of eligibility for internet of ashes of persons other than the Licensee or members of the Licensee's immediate family.
- Renewal of 5th & 6th Trustees terms were discussed: the term of Roger Senn expires Jan. 2017 and that of Judy Moburg expires January, 2018.
- Cemetery burial spaces given to Christ Church by Roger and Marge Senn were discussed and clarified.
- As of May, 2016, the Vestry approved the transfer of spaces and deeds. Trustee Mary Jones facilitated this on behalf of the Trustees.

Judy Moburg

## Endowment Report

The Christ Church Endowment is an independent fund that is managed with a view toward preserving value while at the same time making reasonable distributions of its earnings to benefit Christ Church and support the parish mission. Funds distributed by the Endowment are primarily used for the dedicated purposes specified by those who have made gifts. These include outreach, capital and maintenance and music. In 2017, the Endowment will distribute \$39,094 to the parish for these purposes, with 68% of that amount dedicated to our outreach programs.

The Endowment is managed by an independent Board of Directors appointed by the Vestry to serve four-team terms. The mission of the Endowment Board is to manage gifts to the Endowment so that they retain their value over time. A gift to the Endowment is a gift that will keep on giving, and that will fund the ministries of our parish for many years into the future. The value of the Endowment as of December 31, 2015, was \$777,346.

The members of the Endowment Board for 2016 were Susan Lovern, Nick Willems, Bill Foote, Pete Tomasi and Dan Janssen (Chair).

Dan Janssen

## Eucharistic Ministers Report



Eucharistic Ministers are laypersons who are licensed by the bishop to administer the consecrated elements of the Eucharist to assist the celebrant. The EM's serve approximately every 2-3 weeks throughout the year, both indoors and at the garden service. I would like to thank those who served as Eucharistic Ministers from February 2016 – January 2017: Jacqui Brown, Tim Brown, Maggie Dietrich, Bruce Dunn, Kathy Eurich, Tim Kobussen, David Low, Eileen Manger, Hillary McCown, Mary Meyers, Mike Pratscher, & David Short.

We began our year with a training session in January of 2016. Eucharistic Ministers serve for two years. Your ministry has been deeply appreciated by the congregation.

Sarah Gottlieb

## Family Ministry Report

In 2016, Fr. Seth Raymond and Anna Harmon decided to experiment with some family ministry opportunities for the growing bunch of young families at Christ Church. The mothers' ministry (MOPS) which had met at Christ Church in the past, came to a close. This left an opening for some new, creative ways to reach out to and minister to young mothers and families. We wanted to make sure that this outreach opportunity included both parishioners from Christ Church and the broader WFB community as well. We also really wanted to strengthen the

relationships among young families at Christ Church. While we see each other many Sundays during the year, the time is not always there to sit down and talk.

Christ Church now hosts three family-friendly events each month, which include parents who work outside and inside of the home. These family gathering have also begun to include a greater number of families from Christ Church and North Shore communities. Our goal is to build a stronger sense of community among young families, to provide support and resources for family formation, and to reach out to potential church members and those in the community.

The first Thursday of every month, Christ Church now provides space for a monthly playgroup for parents/caregivers with young children. We meet in the Great Hall from 11:30-12:30 to eat, play, and talk with one another. When it's warm outside (remember when?!), we meet at a local park. Secondly, we've started a monthly small group for mothers on the third Thursday of each month. In 2016, we read through Jen Hatmaker's recent book, *For the Love*. This Spring, we are reading *Hopes and Fears: Everyday Theology for New Parents and Other Anxious People*. Again, this group pulls from the former MOPS community as well as young moms from Christ Church who may not be able to meet during the day.

Our third family-oriented program is our monthly Family Nights. Family Nights are a time for casual, potluck-style dinners for families at Christ Church and those who are interested in joining our worshipping community. In addition to delicious meals, we have a short time of prayer or reflection, and time to deepen new and established friendships. Family Nights are always encouraging, as I know that these friends are striving to raise their children in the knowledge and love of God. We support each other in this, even as we watch our children deepen friendships with their church buddies.

With so much already in place, I am excited to see how our family ministry initiatives grow and change with the coming year, as we seek to be a place of welcome in our community.

Anna Harmon

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## Finance Committee Report

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Christ Church is blessed with the resources required to meet the needs of a growing parish, care for our building and grounds, and maintain and grow our ministries, outreach, and mission.

The Finance Committee's primary duties are to advise the Vestry on proposed Parish expenditures, monitor the current budget and propose the future budget. In that regard, we anticipate closing 2016 with an operating fund balance of \$79,100, which meets the diocesan recommended target of 10% of our 2017 operating budget. While our 2016 pledges were \$13,700 below budget, this shortfall was overcome by lower personnel, office and building expenses relative to budget. Total 2016 operating expenses of \$696,000 represent a nearly 5% increase from 2015 levels. Our bottom line was a net income of \$3,585 – approximately \$8,200 lower than budget.

We have received pledges for 2017 totaling \$577,110 which is a decrease of 3.9% from 2016 pledging levels. This includes 202 pledging units, 19 of which are new pledges to Christ

Church. These results are a testament to the generosity of the Parish and to the good work of the Stewardship Committee. Many thanks to all. Total expenses are budgeted at approximately \$658,000 which represents a decrease of approximately 6% relative to 2016 actual expenses. This decrease is primarily attributable to budgeting for an associate rector salary for 6 months in 2017 vs. 12 for Seth Allen in 2016. Budgeted 2017 net income of \$9,500 will fund reductions in the outstanding Rectory loan.

Thank you to the members of this year's Finance Committee for their time, talents and service: Seth Dietrich, Sarah Gottlieb, Penny Cruse, Christine Mueller, David Short, Dan Janssen, Mary Jones and Greg Bell, as well as our accountant Bill Davies who participates in an ex officio capacity. A special thank you to Mike Giesecke for his work as church Treasurer.

Sarah Gottlieb

## Flower Guild Report

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The Flower Guild has had a year of great growth as it welcomed three new members. Alison and Ansley Laev, Kathy Stanford, and Tina Wurlitzer join our group of 24 team members who create live flower arrangements for the altar each week. Each member creates a minimum of two arrangements a year. This year we successfully implemented Sign-Up Genius to stay organized, increasing flexibility in choosing dates that work into our personal schedules. Chris Binder is responsible for weekly memorial sign-ups, and parishioners who are interested in making a donation in honor of a loved one(s) should contact her.

We always love decorating the church for Easter and Christmas. This year for Christmas we "bagged" the poinsettias and attached them to a draping garland behind the cross, following a tradition often seen at The National Cathedral. We are so grateful for the creative hearts behind every arrangement, and always welcome new members. Our Annual Brunch is held in January/February and is used for planning and fellowship. If you would like to consider joining this great ministry, please speak to Kay McCrary, Sarah Murphy, or Chris Binder.

Kay McCrary, Sarah Murphy, Chris Binder

## Green Team Report

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The Christ Church Green Team meets monthly to work towards the stewardship and care of God's creation.

Members are: Sarah Streed, Ira Leidel, Ed Leidel, Lyn Slater, Susan Campbell, Tom Content, Margaret Cooper, Sonja Pavlik, Bob Pavlik. Seth Dietrich and Anna Harmon oversee the Team.

The Mission Statement: Support and enhance God's creation by engaging Christ Church parishioners in sustainable living, so that we might be ambassadors in dialogue with the larger community.

Some of our efforts include writing and publishing pieces in the Broadcast, the Messenger and other publications. We plan Earth Day Sunday Service, Adult Forums, and Children's Projects. We also support efforts to stay connected to global and political initiatives in our country and around the globe. These include combating Global Warming, leading a community prayer vigil in conjunction with the Women's March, and furthering environmental justice.

We welcome any person from Christ Church who believes that nature is not a collection of resources to deplete for the goals of industrialization but rather that nature is a holy sacrament and reflects the beauty of God.

Sarah Streed

## **MESSENGER Report**

The Christ Church MESSENGER continues to be a quarterly printed (and online) newsletter, which informs our parishioners beyond the capability of the Weekly Broadcast email blast. The MESSENGER allows for more in-depth articles, all submitted by members of our parish. The newsletter is our story of things past and coming up, and includes our life in pictures. It is a tangible way to invite newcomers into the goings on of Christ Church.

This summer, Anne Eversfield took over editing and layouts for Anna Harmon, who received a bigger role in Children's Ministries. Also, Since Seth Raymond's departure in December, Anne Eversfield will be primarily in charge of the newsletter, while Joan King and Larry Moburg continue their typical roles.

The Messenger editors are thankful for all who submit articles and photos to the Messenger and encourage all to contribute stories and photos. The Messenger is an important way to document our church's story and inform the congregation and newcomers of the happenings at our church, therefore we need parishioners' contributions to best record the good work and happenings at Christ Church.

If you would like to submit photos or pictures to the Messenger, please e-mail them to Joan King at [joan.odonovan.king@gmail.com](mailto:joan.odonovan.king@gmail.com).

Joan King, Larry Moburg, Anne Eversfield

## Music Ministry Report

The Music Ministry at Christ Church during 2016 featured a variety of musical forces and talents. These include:

**Chancel Choir:** The multi-generational choir includes Adult and School Age Children (Grade 4 and up) singers. The Choir, sings almost every Sunday from the September Sunday after Labor Day, typically until early June (around Memorial Day/Trinity Sunday). The choir sings an Offertory Anthem each week, and leads the Anglican Chant Psalm and/or other sung Psalm forms, as well as other Liturgical music.

**Choir Section Leaders:** A Soprano section leader (paid positions) provides musical assistance and solo capability in the Choir.

**Soloists:** Choir singers (paid and volunteer) periodically provide appropriate solos during the service, particularly during the communion time.

**Bell Choir:** The 3 Octave (Adult) Bell Choir primarily provides music during communion time during the service. Occasionally the Bell Choir also provides prelude and accompaniment music. The Bell Choir typically plays approximately once every 6 weeks.

**Instrumentalists:** Members and friends of Christ Church are gifted with various musical talents. Periodically instrumentalists provide Prelude, Communion time, choir accompaniment, and hymn accompaniment solo and ensemble music. Instrumentalists include violin, horn, trumpets, cello, flute, viola, organ, piano, Jazz Ensemble, percussions, harp, and others.

**Organ:** The Christ Church organ (built by the Holtkamp Company of Cleveland, approx. 1998) is the primary instrument providing Liturgical leadership, accompaniments, and music attendant to the service.

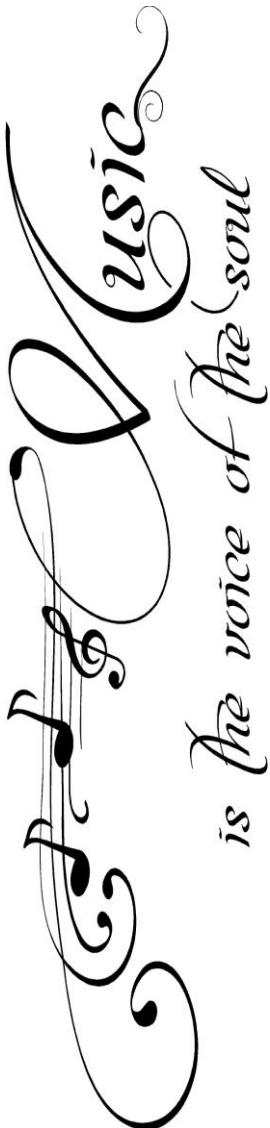
**Pianos:** The nave/church piano is a heritage Steinway Grand, graciously donated by the Roger Senn family. The choir room piano is a Howard/Baldwin grand, placed courtesy of Choir Master Scott Riedel. The Great Hall piano is a Samick Studio. There is an electronic piano for use in the outdoor summer service, and there are two home type spinet pianos in the lower level education rooms.

**Rhythm Instruments:** A variety of percussion and rhythm instruments are available for use.

**Organist/Choir Master:** During the history of Christ Church, the tasks of organist and choir master have at time been accomplished by either one or two persons. Currently, the Organist/Choir Master is a “one person” job.

### Music Ministry Expenses include:

1. Organist/Choir Master Salary
2. Bell Choir/Children's Director Salary
3. Soprano section leader
4. Christmas, Easter, Jazz Mardi Gras (Sunday before Lent), and other “special occasion” Orchestras, Instruments, Soloists, and Ensembles
5. Piano Tunings: Choir room, Nave, and Great Hall
6. Sheet music purchase (choir, bell choir and children)
7. Bell repair and maintenance



8. Organ Tuning and Maintenance
9. "Back up" Musician (organist/choir director) for emergency/illness fill-in

**Potential Music Ministry Improvement Status:**

1. Expanding the involvement of Children Singers in the choir program. A number of children and youth singers are members of the choir, and are paired with Adult Choir "Mentor" guides and helpers. Continuing plans are to invite more Children singers for involvement in the Last Sunday of Epiphany "Mardi Gras" Jazz service.
2. Funding to purchase additional choir anthem copies for the choral library, for the purpose of expanding the scope and variety of choral music presented during the liturgy, continued in the 2016 budget, and some new choral anthems and books were purchased.
3. A number of new singers in all sections have joined the choir during 2016. We are most thankful and appreciative of the new choir members. More singers are welcome. We understand that some singers may not be able to attend weekly due to various reasons. Singers are invited to participate when their schedules allow.
4. New music folders were purchased to replace the aging and wearing folders.
5. As reported in 2015, due to the greater number of singers in the choir now over past years, space is becoming tight in the choir rehearsal room and in the vestment closet. The Building and Facilities remodeling project currently on-going is including the possibility of larger rehearsal and storage spaces in their project planning.

**Music Staff**

Scott R. Riedel, Organist/Choir Master

Karol Rehm, Bell Choir Director

Hannah Esch, Soprano Section Leader

Special thanks also to all of the volunteer musicians, (choir singers, bell ringers, instrumentalists, soloists and cantors etc.) for sharing their gifts of musical talent with the congregation. All of these musicians give untold hours in group and private rehearsal, and provide music of the highest quality and inspiration to the congregation.

It is our never ending goal to continue to provide liturgical and inspirational sacred music for the congregation, and to always increase the scope, variety, and quality of the music ministry.

Scott R. Riedel, Organist/Choir Master

Please contact Music Director, Scott Riedel ([sriedel@wi.rr.com](mailto:sriedel@wi.rr.com)), if anyone has any questions, or would like to participate as a singer or instrumentalist.

## Newcomers Committee Report

The mission of the Committee is to identify the new faces in our pews, welcome them to our church and make connections for them with other church members as well as help them identify church activities and programs that may be of interest.



The members of the current newcomers committee are Lynne Schley, Sarah Murphy, Kathy Stanford, Jean Bieszk, Jane Tomasi, Joan King, Chris King and Mike Pratcher.

During the last year we had 28 families turn in an “interested” Visitor Card that is found in each pew plus 10 cards just this January which is followed up with contact from Seth and a committee member. We also reach out to new faces each week and invite them into the Great Hall for the 15 Minute Feast coffee hour. Most people are very receptive to getting to know CC better and the members who attend. We continue to have a Welcome Table in the Great Hall during after the 9:30am service that offers a friendly face to share a cup of coffee with and provide a folder describing our various ministries and contact information.

In October we hosted a Newcomers Brunch in the JT room following the 9:30am service. It was well attended with 10 people plus committee members. Seth led the discussion by summarizing the history of the Episcopal Church in general and Christ Church specifically, which included questions and fellowship time. We are having another Brunch on March 5, 2017.

We also have featured 1 or 2 new families in each *Messenger* publication by asking them to answer a few simple questions about where they came from, their journey to find CC and a little about their work and family. Included is their picture in order that the rest of the congregation can connect with them, too.

Lynne Schley

## Outreach Committee Report

In February and March of 2016, the Outreach Committee met to create a budget for 2016 and organize focus points for each month to highlight our various partner agencies. For each focus month we asked for a speaker to address the congregation about their work and we also added extra information in church communications about the agency. We created primary and secondary foci in terms of our partners so as to make our contributions and volunteer hours more impactful. In all, this helped us organize our year and focus more clearly on all the agencies we've been blessed to work with.

- We continue to make 150 dinner bags the third Saturday of each month for The Gathering. The only thing of note is that the Giesecke and Frieder families, after years of dedication to the ministry, have passed it to the King and Hermann families.
- Outreach spent their allocated funds for Haiti for relief after Hurricane Matthew.

- In March, Mike Pratscher organized a food pack for Worldwide Hunger Relief and prepped Dave Eurich in order for him to take over the project in 2017.
- The Outreach Committee awarded Mission Grants to Serve Others First, Toddlers and Kids on a Mission, and Danny Manger. Toddlers and Kids on a Mission contributed several Broadcast updates on how they have used the Mission Grant funds and Mike plans to speak briefly on his experiences in early Spring. We hope that this will raise awareness about the grants so more of Christ Church will apply!
- Christ Church continued our ministry with the Kids Working To Succeed program by providing monthly Saturday lunches throughout the spring and summer. Throughout the summer APC welcomes all of us any day of the week to work in their gardens to cultivate the fruits and vegetable that are abundant across the street from the church. We also with the help of several at home cooks provided food for 20 for the APC praise dinner on the Sunday before Thanksgiving. Throughout the school year tutoring on Wednesday evenings in the APC basement has continued and collecting items for their pantry is an ongoing ministry. Going forward we are going to get involved with the St. Vincent De Paul meal program and the Unity in Motion program both of which meet at APC.
- Christ Church hosted a school supply drive and was able to donate two carloads of supplies for students at Our Next Generation. We also asked several ONG volunteers to speak on behalf of the program in order to encourage others to volunteer their time there.
- Shoreline Interfaith hired a new ED, Theresa Clarke, and Vicki Champion is now serving as our liaison. We are excited to see where these new developments will take our relationship with them.
- We continued our strong connection to Milwaukee Rescue Mission and were happy to have representatives speak as to all the wonderful things that are happening there, including Cross Trainers Academy.
- Over the holidays, we once again collected change for Sojourner Family Center and collected gifts for three families at Journey House.

As we start 2017, the Outreach Committee consists of John Haydon, Ira Leidel, Jean Heffernan, Melissa Santa-Cruz, and Lynne Schley. In the new year, we hope to add more committee members. The way in which we focused on highlighting our partner organizations and budgeting for primary and secondary relationships helped us tremendously. As we meet to create a new budget, we will likely make slight changes. We would also like to streamline communication with the office in terms of financial updates.

Jean Heffernan and Melissa Santa-Cruz

## Pastoral Care Team Report

Our Christ Church Pastoral Care Team continues to meet each month to discuss pastoral care needs within our church family, and team members made countless visits to fellow parishioners through 2016. While some of the individuals the pastoral care team members meet with are friends, that is not always the case. All of the outreach visits, however, are viewed by the team as incredibly important for our church.

The team's monthly meetings reveal just how special this outreach is, not only for the individuals being visited, but also for our team, which includes:

Andrea Frankenberg  
 Barb Larkin  
 Bishop Ed Leidel  
 Catherine Davidson  
 Cheryl Dunn  
 Greg Bell

Judy Moburg  
 Nancy Hills  
 Sandra Johansen  
 Sonja Pavlik  
 Steve Bruemmer  
 Tim Kobussen

Tim Kobussen

## St. Hilda's / Hospitality Report



This committee has been part of Christ Church for many years. Christ Church women began a service to the church family by hosting receptions for families after funerals held in our church. We minister to many families in their grief and try to alleviate some of their social pressures during this time of sorrow. The Guild has grown to serve the Christ Church family in many different ways. In addition to funerals, we now host wedding receptions and other hospitality requests from parishioners or clergy. This is a true ministry. Please join us. We welcome all called to this ministry.

Chris Binder

## Stewardship Committee Report

*The Lord has done great things for us and we rejoice! (Psalm 126:3)*

The Stewardship Committee rejoices – and gives thanks – for all those who have pledged so generously. We celebrate God's abundance in our midst from our parishioners. It is with your financial gifts that this community continues to thrive and to be followers of Christ with worshipers from diverse backgrounds.

Our committee began the work behind-the-scenes with a task to design an electronic pledge process that was then tested for ease-of-use and process to be acknowledged by a confirmation email. After many versions, it went live and the next task was to ask the vestry –

100% – to submit their pledges early to verify their commitment to the parish. Our letters and emails invited all of you to consider a prayerful discernment process for your own commitment. We hoped to capture most pledges in the first few weeks of the campaign to minimize the number of messages. You read about the Stewardship Campaign in the Sunday bulletin, the weekly Broadcast e-newsletter, and we sent encouraging personal emails and notes. On three Sundays, parishioners shared their spiritual journey and told of the importance Christ Church is in that history. The pledges came in at a steady pace with many of you using the online portal, while others used paper forms or email.

We were encouraged by the number of new pledgers – a total of 21! It helped to offset the loss of pledges or a decrease in the amount pledged due to relocations, retirements, deaths, and financial challenges. As you can see from the pledging statistics, our overall pledges were generous and just shy of the \$600,000 goal. Thank you.

The Stewardship Committee is grateful for your financial support so that we can continue God's work in our parish and the larger community.

### 2017 Stewardship Campaign by the Numbers

Total Pledges: 204 (record number in recent history; last year was a record year at 200 pledges.)

- Pledgers who increased from 2016: 71
- Pledgers who gave the same as 2016: 70
- Pledgers who decreased from 2016: 34
- New Pledgers: 20
- Revived Pledgers (pledged before but not last year): 10

Lost Pledgers (move, left parish, death): 27

### Total Raised for 2017: \$577,410

2016: \$602,850\*  
2015: \$581,385  
2014: \$554,000  
2013: \$553,000  
2012: \$508,000  
2011: \$481,000

\*Actual money collected by the end of 2016 was \$582,000. Many did not pay full pledge (some of this was related to deaths or moves; some was due to an overly-ambitious pledge).

### New Pledges for 2017: \$25,550

### Increased Pledges for 2017:

\$34,000

### Decreased and Lost Pledges for 2017: \$81,300\* (2016 \$65K; 2015 \$55K; 2014 \$44K)

\*Moves and deaths. Some reported financial hardship/insecurity making them cautious. Some people who have not attended in 3+ years who finally stopped giving. Some smaller unexplained decreases.

Sybil Bell (Co-chair)

Jim Benton (Vestry), Jessica Dean (Member-at-large), the Rev. Seth Dietrich (Rector), and Sarah Gottlieb (Co-chair and Finance Committee Chair)

## Usher Ministry Report

Being an usher at Christ Church is a great way to get to know a lot of people because you interact with everyone coming through the front door! The Greeters and Ushers are the very important first point of contact with all Church attendees every Sunday morning. The schedule is flexible, and you are only asked to volunteer about 8-10 Sundays a year. We are a friendly group of 30 volunteers. We currently have eight dedicated ushers who volunteer at the 8:00 a.m. service and twenty-two who volunteer at the 9:30 a.m. service. Each Sunday, two ushers serve at the 8:00 a.m. service and four ushers serve at the 9:30 a.m. service. Additional ushers are added for our Christmas and Easter services. Ushers serve every four to six weeks and the schedule is varied so you have the opportunity to get to know other ushers each time. If an usher is also a Lector, you are scheduled on the same day. Ushers do many behind the scene tasks that make our worship service run smoothly. They come early and stay late, warmly greet parishioners, hand out bulletins, identify and assist newcomers, count attendance for communion and the Diocesan reports, and mark the aisles for communion. Ushers are also responsible for counting the collection, cleaning the pews, and locking the church. We are looking for additional ushers for 2017. Please let us know if you are interested.

Gigi Short

## Youth Report

Beginning in September, middle and high school youth have been meeting every Sunday night from 5-7 p.m. for dinner, fellowship, and formation. We eat together and often split up into two groups for interactive games, deeper discussion, and prayer.

Over the summer, Fr. Seth Raymond formed a youth leadership team. Tyler and Katie Kristopiet, Anna Harmon, Eric Van Oeveren, Billy Manger, Erika Olsen, and Rachel Dargle have given of their time and talent to help lead the middle and high school youth. Anna Harmon stepped into the role of Youth Coordinator when Seth's ministry came to an end in December.

After conversations with parents and teenagers over the summer, it was discerned that youth and parents longed for consistency and continued outreach pursuits, particularly with All Peoples Church. Some highlights from 2016 were the January retreat with All Peoples youth to Wild Rose, WI as well as the summer mission trip to Haiti. While two groups went to Haiti, the second trip was primarily teenagers. Those who attended have attested to the fact that it was a life-changing experience. Once a month, Christ Church youth and All Peoples Church youth meet together, alternating campuses.

Middle and High school students continue to occupy a number of leadership roles in Sunday morning services as well: as acolytes, lectors, choir members and musical guests.

Anna Harmon