

# Christ Episcopal Church Kensington, Maryland



## 2025 Annual Report

## Love in Action Vision 2026

Christ Church will be  
a more integrated and diverse community  
that learns, serves, and gives,  
following Jesus's Way of Love,  
in our hearts, homes, communities, and in the world.



Above: Deacon Sara Thorne waiting to march in the Labor Day Parade!  
On the cover: Kensington Labor Day Parade, September 2025.

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# Annual Meeting Agenda

11:30 a.m., Meeting will be held in person and on Zoom

Opening Prayer	The Rev. Emily Guthrie
Report of the Quorum	Alex Thomas, Clerk
Approval of Agenda	The Rev. Emily Guthrie
Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes	Katie Wallace, Jr. Warden
Wardens Report	Chris Ours & Katie Wallace
Financial Report	
2025 Actuals & 2026 Budget	Peter Gergen, Treasurer
Stewardship Results	Chris Ours
Financial Vitality Committee recommendations	
Report of the Nominating Committee & Introduction of Candidates for Vestry, Diocesan Delegate and Alternate Delegate.	Chris Ours, Sr. Warden
Nominations from Floor	The Rev. Emily Guthrie
Vote	The Rev. Emily Guthrie
Conversations on Service	
<i>Leading &amp; Learning with our youngest members</i>	Bob Healy
<i>Pew talk: learning, serving, giving</i>	All
Commissioning of New Vestry and Oath of Office <i>After the meeting, the vestry will meet briefly to elect officers.</i>	The Rev. Emily Guthrie & Co.
Grace	All!
Celebratory Lunch in the Parish Hall	
Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members	Emily Guthrie & Katie Wallace
Recognition of the Staff	Emily Guthrie
Dismissal	Hope Christensen

# Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting

23 February 2025

The 2025 Christ Episcopal Church Kensington Annual Meeting was called to order at 11:39 a.m. by Rector Emily Guthrie. The meeting opened with prayer and a hymn. A quorum was present, with some attending in person, others participating on-line via Zoom. The agenda was accepted by voice vote.

**- The minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting were approved by voice vote.**

## **Senior Warden Cynthia Mitchell's Report:**

- 2024 was third year under the Love In Action strategic plan. Vision for 2026 CCPK will be a more integrated and diverse community that learns, serves, and gives, following Jesus's way of love, in our hearts, homes, communities, and in the world. We will continue to talk about how we are doing with the three pillars of Love in Action: Faith and spiritual growth, Racial and Social Justice and Reaching our Neighbors
- Faith and spiritual growth is the church bedrock: the clergy - Emily exudes joy, Hope is activist priest, Sarah embodies love of God. We are blessed to have these three women. Also Kortright Davis, a blessing to have as a member, best supply clergy priest in diocese - we learn from him always. Also our great team of lay ministers, Kurt, Lee, Eddie, Tim. We have diverse voices and diverse services at CCPK - 8 AM service is special, contemplative, traditional spoke rite - 10 AM service with choral music, children, fellowship of coffee hour - 5 PM completely different, much more intimate, interactive - three very distinct services to choose from are an asset, plus all of our online services.
- Racial and Social Justice provides book club and opportunity for community. Held a six part series on civic discipleship and how the Church needs to be involved in the civic discourse. Praying is not enough, we have to act for justice (Mercy Team, etc.)
- Reach element: CCPK represented at Kensington Juneteenth event.

## **Junior Warden Katie Wallace:**

- Huge thanks to our tech ministers and the ability to have services online.
- The return of acolytes is a great way for children to participate in Church.
- Three different classrooms for Sunday School every week
  - Special huge thanks to Miss Ann and Allie Carter Olsen
- Reach element: our partnership with San Mateo ministry monthly to help bag food to distribute to those in need.

## **Budget Report from Chris Ours:**

- Church deficit is increasing, which means reaching into savings.
- Expenses are slightly more than income again for 2025 budget - this is a multi-

year trend.

- Stewardship results from Cynthia Mitchell: goal exceeded! \$447,000, 130 total pledges.
- In light of deficit, CCPK has created ad-hoc Financial Vitality Committee: Cynthia Mitchell and Andrea McGray are leading “FiVi” in order to “hold ourselves accountable for the future financial health of the church.” FiVi will seek to identify ways to reverse trending gap between expenses & income. Initial report expected by June 30th, 2025. Parishioners invited to reach out, especially those in development or who know neighbors in Kensington, local connectors, creative thinkers.
- See Budget & Finance Report 2024 for full financial details.

**Nominating Committee Report and Election:** Cynthia Mitchell, on behalf of the nominating committee, introduced candidates for vestry and convention delegates: **Aime Keith, Vestry, Three Year Term; Jason Paige, Vestry, Three Year Term Bob Quinn, Vestry, Three Year Term; Ray Barry, Diocesan Delegate, Two Year Term** Additional nominations from the floor were invited; there were none.

- **Election: the slate was elected by show-of-hands vote.**

**Recognitions:** On behalf of the congregation, the Rector recognized and thanked:

- Bonnie Douglas, for her 16 years of service as Treasurer of Christ Church
- Liz Quinn, for her 10+ years of service as Chair of the Outreach Committee

Plaques were placed in honor of each of them: on the Accounting Office door, and next to the Outreach Board, respectively. We also placed a plaque in memory of Virginia "Boots" Sheard for her many years of Outreach leadership and service.

**Pew Talk - Conversations on Service:** Attendees were invited to divide into groups of 2 or 3 to discuss their service both to the CC community and the wider community. Each was given a card to write down those ways of serving, after which we blessed them!

**Commissioning of New Vestry and Oath of Office:**

- New vestry members Bob, Jason and Aime and delegate Ray were commissioned by the assembled on behalf of the congregation.
- Introduction of New Vestry Officers - Cynthia Mitchell introduced the officers soon to be elected by the new vestry: Peter Gergen, who will be serving as Treasurer; Alex Thomas, as Clerk; and Chris Ours, as Sr. Warden.

The Rector gave the grace and we adjourned to the Parish Hall for lunch at 12:38 PM.

*At the lunch:* The Rector recognized and thanked those completing their terms of vestry service: Pete Marks, Andrea Dorf McGray, and Cynthia Mitchell; and the staff: Jen Luna, Teddy Guerrant, Ann Enkiri, Hope Christensen and Sara Thorne. Deacon Sara dismissed us!

Submitted 7 March 2025, Alexandra Thomas, Clerk

# Report of the Rector

*When you pray, move your feet! – African Proverb*

*Pray without ceasing – St. Paul*

Dear beloved Christ Church community,

Reflecting on the past year of our life together, first and foremost I am grateful to serve a church community that loves and supports one another through the ebbs and flows of life. A community that comes together to worship, to connect, to question, to laugh, to wonder, to cry, to listen and to speak, to encourage and inspire each other to deepen our understanding and embodiment of the Way of Love. You bring me hope every day.

2025 has been challenging on so very many levels. It has put all of us in a place of discernment, asking what is the role of *the* Church in a time of crisis? What is the role of Christ Church? What is ours to do? What is mine to do? How do we heed the prophets to do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God, and follow Jesus *now*?

Bishop Mariann's call to have mercy on the vulnerable has reverberated through our lives this year. The Mercy Team came together in February at the invitation of Allie Carter Olsen, now shepherded by Thea Kayne. Special thanks to Thea for her leadership both at Christ Church and in the Diocese. Our Care Pods – circles of support accompanying a family suffering the impact of the deportation of a loved one – are a model of love in action. I urge you to join the Mercy team e-list to keep abreast of ways to lift up the Christian message of compassion, advocate and protect our neighbors who are threatened, and get involved in any way you can. As the African proverb reminds us: "*when you pray, move your feet.*"

Worship is the center of all we do: whether in the street or in the church! I am ever grateful to all those who make our worship happen at Christ Church. It's not called liturgy, the "work of the people" for nothing! Ushers, Lectors, Healing Ministers, Chalicists, and Choir members minister to us. Teddy moves our hearts as well as our vocal cords. Nora Buckley and Pam Prindle guide us with their knowledge of all things liturgical...and their verges when need be. Our children bring up (or run or skip up!) the gifts to the altar. Dedicated acolytes lead us *into* worship, assist us at the altar, and *out* into the world each Sunday. But not before Deacon Sara dismisses us, and we shout (or dance) the alleluias.

We are gifted with preachers both lay and ordained, adding different voices and perspectives to our spiritual journeys. Special thanks to the Rev. Dr. Canon Kortright Davis, Lee Puricelli, Kurt Ellison, the Rev. Hope Christensen and Deacon Sara. As well as those who offer their reflections at our Wednesday Evening Prayer services including Lee, Lissa Ramsepaul, Andrea McGray, Joan Centrella, John Rowan, Dwight Allen and Eva Nye.

There are those who work behind the scenes on the Altar Guild and Flower Guild, here during the week, and of course on Sundays, adding dignity, clean vessels and beauty to our worship. You must be truly dedicated to our Lord to fill those candles with liquid oil...

Pam Prindle, Deacon Sara and John Ward lead monthly worship at Modena Senior Living – now a satellite Christ Church community! Lay Eucharistic Visitors take communion and connection to those in our community who aren't able to come to church. It is a powerful pastoral ministry. I commend and celebrate the work and ministry of our pillars: *Racial & Social Justice, Faith & Spiritual Growth*, and *(Out)Reach* (short for *Reaching our Neighbors*) with collective acts of compassion, offering members and non-members alike ways to serve the community. **Check out ALL that is happening in their reports, and the Wardens report.**

We all owe a debt of gratitude to our vestry for their thoughtful leadership, especially to our “retiring” members: Rena Godfrey, Terri Clausen, Sean Quinn, and Chris Ours, who served as Sr. Warden in 2025. Chris was our chaplain, Budget & Finance guru, gracious and wise counsel, a leader par excellence. Special thanks to Jr. Warden Katie Wallace for her unflappable consistent good cheer; to new Clerk Alex Thomas for minutes and more this year; and to Peter Gergen for stepping into the role of Treasurer with amazing ease!

Lastly, I lift up our dedicated and *gifted* staff, each of whom offers their ministry in countless ways. They offer blessing upon blessings, and I cannot thank them enough. Each of them ministers of the Gospel in their own extraordinary way: Hope Christensen, Sara Thorne, Ann Enkiri, Teddy Guerrant, and Jen Luna, whose heart *and hands* touch nearly everything we do at Christ Church.

We follow Jesus who embodied Love, and calls *us* to embody that Love in our relationships, our communities, and now more than ever in our country. I am honored and humbled to be among you as your rector as we pray and act together with God's grace and love.

With love and gratitude,  
Emily



*Many of our 2025 vestry members, very serious disciples to a person, celebrating...flat Jesus.* Left to right: Katie Wallace, Rena Godfrey, Peter Gergen, Emily, Bob Quinn, Claudia Deane, Linda Daisley, Terri Clausen, and Chris Ours. Not pictured, but ever honored: Aime Keith, Jason Paige and Sean Quinn.

# Report of the Wardens

Dear Beloved Community of Christ Church,

Five years ago, Christ Church developed and adopted a strategic plan to be *Love in Action*. The overall goal was “By 2026, Christ Church will be a more integrated and diverse community that learns, serves, and gives, following Jesus’ Way of Love in our hearts, homes, communities, and world.” This mission has been supported by three pillars: Faith & Spiritual Growth, Racial & Social Justice, and Reaching our Neighbors.

The past year has brought many challenges as well as blessings to our community and we are given the opportunity now to remember, reflect, and celebrate.



*Love in Action*  
Christ Episcopal Church Kensington

## **Faith & Spiritual Growth**

Christ Church is a place to come and be fed by the abundant opportunities to worship, pray, ask questions, and learn from each other. In worship, Christ Church offers three unique Sunday services from the contemplative Rite I liturgy of the spoken 8am service, to the 10am service with heavenly music led by Dr. Teddy Guerrant and a concurrent Children’s Chapel, to the warm and community centric 5pm service. Our tech ministry ensures the 10am is live streamed on YouTube every week and that Zoom is available at 5pm. In prayer, we are steadfast in weekly Evening Prayer (Wednesdays), Prayers for Peace (Thursdays), Lectio Divina (Thursdays), and Compline (Mondays and Thursdays).

We ask questions and have deepened our conversation of many topics including being new in the Episcopal church, praying the Labyrinth, issues of science & faith, of grief & loss, and in weekly bible study (Sundays), a Sacred Ground circle, and Education for Ministry (EfM) courses. Our youth programming continues to grow. We have been blessed with an increasing acolyte roster, youth led liturgy, active vacation bible school, and an amazing Christmas pageant. We give many thanks to Ann Enkiri and Andrea McGray who shepherd these groups. We also give thanks to Bob Healy who reminds us that children are not merely the future of the Church, they *are* an integral and vital part of the church today.

There is much more that you can read about in the Faith & Spiritual Growth team’s full report. Do email the team at [grow@ccpk.org](mailto:grow@ccpk.org) with your gratitude, suggestions, and to become more involved.

## **Racial and Social Justice**

Christ Church’s commitment to Racial & Social Justice was very much needed in the past year. In response to Bishop Budde’s call to “Have Mercy” and responding to the words of Micah requiring us to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God”, Christ Church

formed a new ministry, the Mercy Team. Through the founding leadership of Allie Carter Olson and current dedication of Thea Kayne and many others, Christ Church has become involved in public witness of injustice, community outreach, and migrant support. Find out more about their Care Pods from the committee's report.

We continued truth telling and conversation about race in our lifelong journey of reconciliation through book discussions, forums on reparations, criminal justice reform in Maryland, and migrant ministry. Please read the Racial & Social Justice Committee's full report and email them at [justice@ccpk.org](mailto:justice@ccpk.org) with your input and feedback.

### **Reaching our Neighbors**

In 2025, we increased our support of Food Justice DMV through whom we help our neighbors who are hungry. Food Justice DMV provides emergency food to over 1,100 migrant families monthly. This ministry and that of San Mateo Episcopal Church in Hyattsville has become ever more important for those affected by deportation and fear of detainment.

We continue to support families at Arcola and Rock View Elementary School by providing food and Christmas gifts and the many other activities such as Bethesda Cares and the sandwich brigade, Rebuilding Together, and many other ways to be involved that are too long to list here. Learn more about these activities in the Reach/Outreach ministry's full report and email them at [reach@ccpk.org](mailto:reach@ccpk.org).

### **Financial Vitality**

During the passing of the 2025 budget, the Vestry, in recognition of continued and growing deficits, commissioned the Financial Vitality (FiVi) committee. This team was tasked with evaluating Christ Church's assets, income, and expenses and to recommend areas in which we may ensure sustained financial security. FiVi presented their report to the Vestry in June. We thank the members of FiVi, **the Rev. Emily Guthrie, Cynthia Mitchell, Andrea McGray, Ken Amaditz, Ray Barry, Linda Daisley, and Jen Luna**, for their prayerful assessment and recommendations. Their work identified several ways to improve our financial situation; including,

- transfer of certain monies to higher yielding funds,
- increasing income through building use,
- revitalizing the Legacy Society (those who include Christ Church in their wills), and
- dedicated annual fundraising to support our music ministry.

They also recommended that we examine the relative merits of the sale of the Rectory, something that will need much analysis, careful consideration, and advance planning. In the following pages of the Annual Report, you'll find many more details, and we invite you to read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest these reports. Reach out to anyone listed to deepen or begin your involvement in these important, rewarding, and faithful ministries.

With abundant gratitude, we thank you for your contributions of time, talent, and treasure, but chiefly for the love you have for Christ Church and each other. May we continue our work in 2026 following Jesus' Way of Love in our hearts, homes, communities, and world.

Peace and Blessings, Chris and Katie

# Report of the Treasurer and Budget & Finance

**Budget & Finance Committee members:** Chair - Chris Ours, Treasurer – Peter Gergen; Assistant Treasurer - Ted Seale; Rector - Emily Guthrie; Realm Financial Secretary - Cynthia Mitchell; Hill Carter; Rob Weston; and Bob Quinn, *ex officio*

## Income

Total Operating Income for 2025 was \$549,406. This is a 3.6% increase from 2024. A number of factors contributed to this increase:

- an increase in the number of pledges from 127 to 132
- an approximate \$27,000 increase in funds collected through pledges
- increased amounts contributed from use of church facilities by outside groups
- increased amount contributed for use of the rectory.

## Expenses

Total Operating Expense for 2025 was \$604,270. This is a 2.7% decrease from 2024. Most of this decrease came from reducing cost for the operation and maintenance of the Church and grounds.

## Operating Deficit

The Operational Deficit for 2025 was \$54,864. This is a significant decrease from the 2024 deficit of \$91,331.

The Operating Deficit was covered by transfers from the unrestricted funds of the Invested Reserve account and \$5,000 toward music ministry from the restricted fund of the Friends of Music within the Operating checking account.

## Additional Expenses

During 2025, a number of capital improvements were made in the Church and Rectory:

- replacement of the sound system in the Church
- waterproofing the Rectory basement
- replacement of the Rectory fence
- HVAC repair of the lower level of the Church

The total amount of capital improvements was \$50,258. These costs were paid out of the Capital Reserve and Memorial Funds.

## Accounts

Despite the current Operating Deficit, Christ Church remains in a relatively strong position with regard to cash on hand.

At the close of 2025:

- Operating Funds (both check and invested) totaled \$852,486
- Capital Reserve Fund contained \$51,482.

## Endowment Fund

At the close of 2025, the Endowment Fund contained \$1,066,676 and the Endowment checking account contained \$16,892. During 2025, \$1,624 was dispersed from the checking account for previous grants.

Submitted by: Peter Gergen, Treasurer

## Report of the Planned Giving & Endowment Committee

### Committee members:

Chair (member of the Parish)	Chair	Tim McLellan
Two members by position:	Rector –	Emily Guthrie
	Treasurer-	Peter Gergen
Committee Members:		Rusty Cleland
		Pam Prindle
		Bob Quinn
		Rob Weston

The Planned Giving and Endowment Committee is responsible for the maintenance and judicious use of Christ Church’s endowment. This is a unique financial resource available to the church due to the generosity of prior parishioners. Your endowment committee oversees the investments of the endowment fund and approves and administers grants for church ministries and projects outside of the annual operating funds of Christ Church. Also part of our remit is to promote planned giving by those interested in including Christ Church in their estate plans.

Annually, the committee may make a proposal for vestry approval for a distribution from the endowment fund. This request may not exceed 5% of the fund’s immediate past 3-year rolling average balance. If approved by the Vestry, funds are made available for grants.

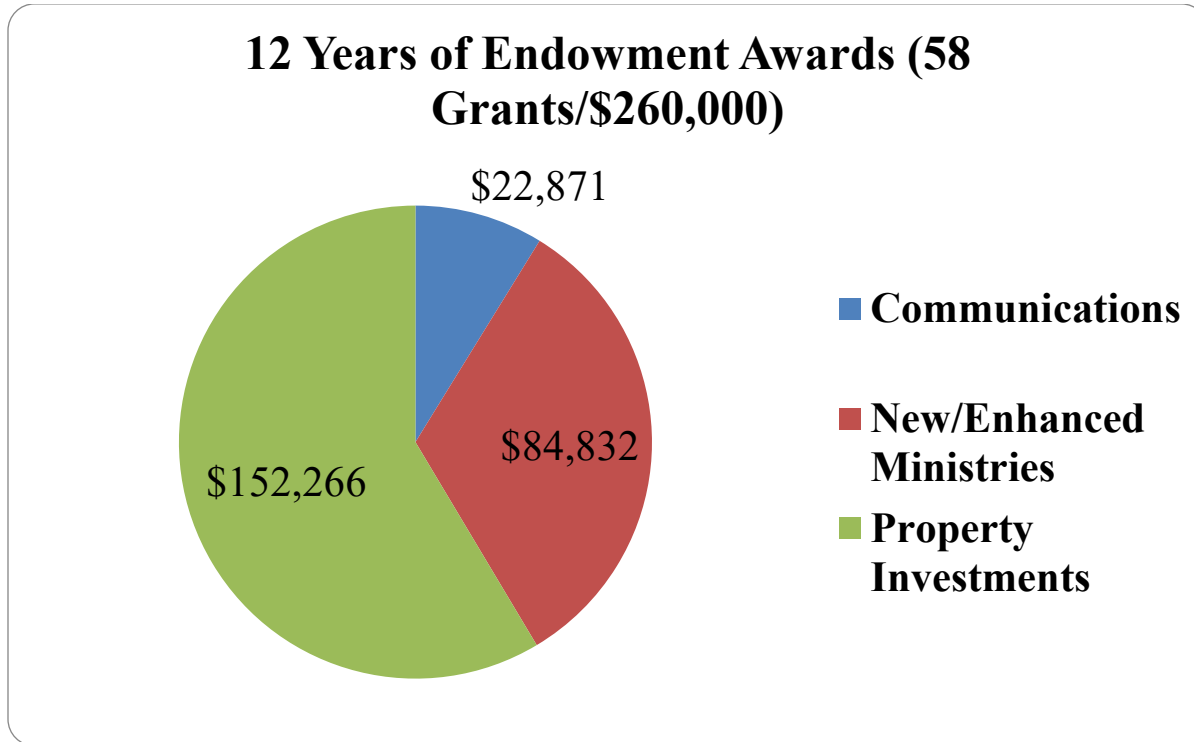
### Endowment funds can only be used for one of three purposes:

1. Capital needs of the Parish that are beyond the reasonable scope of the annual operating budget of the Parish;
2. Outreach ministries and grants of a scope and nature beyond the ordinary scope of the operating budget of the Parish; and,
3. Seed money for new ministries and special one-time projects.

### **2025 Activity**

The endowment did not make new awards during 2025 but undertook a process review and reconciliation of all activity from its commencement in advance of re-opening grant applications in 2026.

The endowment has been providing grants since 2013 as summarized in the following chart.



### Endowment Fund Management

Funds are invested through the offices of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington under custody of M&T Bank. Our endowment now exceeds \$1 million.

### Investment Summary 2025

Opening Balance	\$ 916,307
Income	\$ 26,176
Expenses	\$ (1,355)
Investment Gain	\$ 125,548
<b>Ending Balance</b>	<b>\$ 1,066,676</b>

### 2026 Plans

- Investment Strategy Review
- 1 or more grant rounds
- The Vestry has approved a 5% distribution for 2026 (\$44,000 with expenses)
- Estate Planning Event

Submitted by Tim McLellan, March 1, 2026

# Report of the Stewardship Committee

**Committee members:** The Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church

Our stewardship campaign theme, *Christ Before Us*, reminds us that we are in the presence of and held in the hand of God. Our protector and companion in the face of challenges and in joyful celebration. We are not separated from the love of God. In proclaiming Christ Before Us and as an act of faith we give to sustain our sacred space, support our clergy and staff, and enable our mission in the world.



The campaign began on Sunday, October 19, and continued through Sunday, November 23. This year, as is often the case, the highlight of the campaign came not from the committee but from individuals who shared a *“Ministry Moment”*. During each Sunday service of the campaign a parishioner gave a brief personal reflection on the impact of participating in the mission and ministry of Christ Church. Our sincere gratitude goes to those who shared this year: Meg Mosier, Ken Amaditz, Thea Kayne and Tim McClellan, John Britton, and Lance Kilpatrick.

Our campaign goal was for 135 members to collectively pledge \$450,000. I’m happy to report that as of March 4, 2026, 130 members pledged a total of \$ 452,872!

	2026	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
<b>Total Pledged Amount</b>	<b>\$452,872</b>	<b>\$445,685</b>	<b>\$435,397</b>	<b>\$409,057</b>	<b>\$390,684</b>	<b>\$382,059</b>	<b>\$395,948</b>
<b>Total # of Pledges</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>114</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>125</b>
NEW	13	16	20	15	8	8	14
DECREASED	12	27	21	17	14	14	15
INCREASED	47	52	44	42	49	49	12
NO CHANGE	58	37	42	40	49	0	49
Average Pledge	\$3,509	\$3,398	\$3,428	\$3,601	\$3,229	\$3,184	\$3,224

Thank you, Christ Church family, for supporting this campaign!

Submitted by: Chris Ours, Senior Warden

# Report of the Faith & Spiritual Growth Ministry

**Ministry Team members:** Rev. Hope Christensen, Ann Enkiri, Andrea McGray, Lee Puricelli, & John Ward

Our ministry team's goals for 2025 were to create a deeper bench of leaders for Adult formation activities, to solidify the Youth faith formation program, and to recruit a greater number of consistent volunteers for the Children's Ministry. For helping us to achieve these goals, we shout out **SO MUCH LOVE & GRATITUDE** to our Adult Formation leaders in 2025:

Sharon Bartram, Donna Berkowitz, Rev. Hope Christensen, Amri Joyner, Rika Oster, Lee Puricelli, Lissa Ramsepaul, & John Ward; our Junior Youth Group (JYG) leader & helpers: Andrea McGray & all the parent volunteers; and our Children's Ministry Program Coordinator, Ann Enkiri, and children's faith formation leaders & helpers: Allie Carter, Bob Healy, Cindy Winder, and all the parent volunteers.

For adults, we provided a variety of courses, small group gatherings, and one-time offerings over the course of the year, including weekly formation opportunities like *Bible Study*, *Education for Ministry*, and *Lectio Divina*; seasonal series like Epiphany's *Life in the Psalms*, Lent's *Labyrinth Series*, Eastertide's "Things Above" Podcast & Supper series, and Advent's *Insisting on Hope: An Advent Reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe*; and the bi-annual *Embrace* course to prepare parishioners for Confirmation/Reception into the Episcopal Church.

The Youth program, renamed JYG (Junior Youth Group, as it is meant for 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> graders) was busy throughout the fall, meeting on Sundays mornings at 9:30-10am for faith formation, helping with service projects like Rice & Beans and the Thanksgiving bags, leading an October 10am worship service in which Youth were the greeters, ushers, readers, musicians, and homilist, and preparing the script for and performing in the annual Christmas Pageant. The F&SG ministry team worked diligently throughout 2025 on hiring a Youth Minister; while the process yielded a couple of in-person interviews, we were not able to hire anyone. We are committed to continuing the work of finding a suitable candidate to head our Youth formation program.

The Children's Ministry adopted "*We Are the Church!*" as our 2025 anthem, inviting all of us to view our children through a zoomed-in lens as *current* members of the church, rather than through a long-range lens as the future of the church. Accordingly, we remain committed to including our children in all-ages worship services, engaging faith formation, parish community events, parish outreach initiatives, and racial and social justice education.

The liturgical year frames our work as we help families connect with the sacred in the midst of daily life. *Christ Church Kids Connection*, a weekly email, keeps parents informed of Sunday lessons' content and promotes parent participation in Sunday adult forums and classes by advertising the availability of extended childcare. Having an adequate number of volunteers is crucial to keeping our *Safe Church, Safe Communities* requirement; to that end, in January, we hosted a workshop during which a Godly Play trainer worked with 8 parishioners on skills and strategies for volunteering with children's faith formation, and in September, we implemented a formalized scheduling of parents as our second adult volunteers. We hope to continue to grow the participation of our adult parishioners in the Children's Ministry, even if just on an

occasional basis. Please reach out to Miss Ann at [sundayschool@ccpk.org](mailto:sundayschool@ccpk.org) if you are willing to be a Sunday morning “second adult,” a singer/ musician for Children’s Chapel, or a morning helper during summer’s Vacation Bible School.

Whether by participating in a faith formation course or gathering, or by volunteering as a formation leader or helper, the F&SG ministry team invites you to help us, as the children’s song says, *Be the Church Together* in 2026!

Respectfully submitted by Andrea McGray



THINGS ABOVE PODCAST



HEAVENLY THINKING FOR EARTHLY ENGAGEMENT

# Report of the Racial & Social Justice Committee

**Committee Members:** Tim McLellan and Cynthia Mitchell, Co-Chairs, and Dwight Allen, Emily Barry, Ray Barry, Margaret Fitzpatrick, Doug Leavens, Eva Nye, and the Mercy Team.

This year, the Racial & Social Justice (R&SJ) Ministry has grown from its core of eight dedicated parishioners, to include the Mercy Team, and a cadre of thirty plus parishioners who show up regularly to Learn, Pray and Act for justice. Indeed, I would characterize 2025 as the year of *putting our faith in action* in the public square.



## *2025 From the Pew to the Public Square*

On January 21, 2025, Bishop Mariann Budde spurred us to action. Preaching at the National Cathedral inaugural interfaith prayer service she delivered a message of unity, honoring the dignity of all human beings and urging the President to “have mercy ... on those in our communities whose children fear that their parents will be taken away. Help those who are fleeing war zones and persecution in their own lands to find compassion and welcome here.”

We were inspired by Bishop Mariann’s brave sermon to make her book “**How We Learn to Be Brave**” our first book club selection in 2025. On March 9<sup>th</sup>, twenty-three parishioners came together to discuss the book and share their personal moments of bravery. Our second book club selection was “**James**”, a retelling of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn from the point of view of the enslaved Jim. While fictional it was replete with acts of bravery.

Bishop Mariann’s message of unity and justice was a consistent theme throughout the year and continues to resonate today. The following are examples of our collective acts of courage in 2025:

- creating the **Mercy Team**, a group of thirty-two parishioners envisioned by Allie Carter Olsen, now led by Thea Kayne; with the mission to “*to embody God’s mercy and love by promoting democracy and human rights, defending voting rights and the rule of law, and confronting racism and white supremacy.*” And to “*stand with migrants, workers, LGBTQIA+ individuals and all marginalized communities*”.
- marching in the “Hands Off Rally” on the National Mall on April 5 in support of Christian values and to protest cuts to the federal workforce, immigration raids, and the rollbacks on DEI and LGBTQ+ rights.
- hoisting our voices and signs along the streets of Kensington & North Bethesda to demonstrate opposition to the administration’s authoritative actions on “No Kings” Day.
- joining the "Pentecost Witness for a Moral Budget" interfaith vigil on June 10, at the Capitol along with hundreds of faith leaders to implore Congress against balancing the budget on the backs of the most vulnerable with cuts to Medicaid and SNAP.
- creating a **Care Pod** (one of the first in EDOW) to support a family whose primary bread winner had been detained & deported by ICE. We surrounded this family of four with love, provided them with food for the spirit and the body while respecting their dignity in their time of need.
- donating food and diapers to Food Justice DMV and packing food monthly at San Mateo Episcopal Church in Hyattsville for families in need.

- advocating through phone calls, post cards, and letter writing for public policies that protect and advance justice and equality.

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM:**

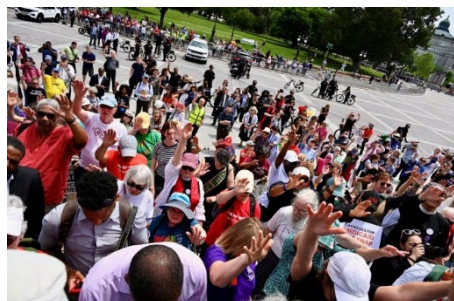
In addition, we continued our focus on justice in the state. In January, we participated in Maryland Alliance for Justice Reform Lobby Day in Annapolis to advocate for policies that address the racial disparities in the system and prioritize rehabilitation over punishment. In October, we hosted a Panel Discussion, *The State of Criminal Justice in our State*, featuring Public Defender, Natasha Dartigue, State Senator, Jeff Waldstrieher, and Kirsten Downs, director of Systemic reform in the Office of the Public Defender. The panelists were well versed on the issues in Maryland’s criminal legal system and passionate about the need for change.

**REPARATIONS:**

We hosted two forums on Reparations. The first celebrated our Dioceses’ progress in atoning for sins of anti-black racism. Erika Gilmore, EDOW Reparations Committee Policy Co-Chair, explained the process the Diocese undertook to arrive at the resolution to allocate \$5 million over 10 years for Reparations. In the fall, we had a second forum to go deeper in our understanding of the need for reparations. Seventeen congregants read three papers on the topic and discussed the ongoing need for repentance and reparations.

In 2026, the important work of the Mercy Team will continue as we create additional Care Pods, continue to support Food Justice DMV with donations, and go deeper in supporting the migrants in our community. In the criminal justice area, we will focus on Juvenile Justice reform to understand the issues and lobby for much needed improvements. Lastly, we will continue to focus on reparations to understand how Christ Church has benefitted from the systems that privilege some at the expense of others. In short, we will be like the persistent widow in Luke 18 continuing to cry out for justice day and night until "*Justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream*" (Amos 5:24)

Submitted by Cynthia Mitchell



# Report of the Fellowship Ministry

**Committee Members:** Terri Clausen, Rena Godfrey, Aime Keith, Katie Wallace

The Hospitality Ministry has been active throughout the year, providing opportunities for parishioners to gather for fellowship. Parish-wide events have included:

- Twelfth Night Party after the Feast of Lights Epiphany Service
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Annual Meeting Potluck Lunch
- Easter Egg Hunt and Reception Coffee Hour.
- Pentecost Party Potluck Coffee Hour
- End of School Year Celebration
- Annual Parish Picnic & Celebration of 10 Years of Mutual Ministry with Emily
- Harvest Festival Potluck
- Winter Wonderland Christmas Pageant Coffee Hour

Special thanks to Amri Joyner for her help with the Pentecost Party Potluck, to Meg Mosier for her help with the Christmas Pageant Coffee Hour, and to Liz Quinn for her guidance and helping hand throughout the year.

In addition, weekly Coffee Hour after the 10:00am service has provided many opportunities for parishioners to connect personally. During the summer months, we have transitioned to the very popular Popsicles on the Lawn. Special thanks to all those who have volunteered to host weekly coffee hour. And a special thanks to Terri Clausen who single handedly spearheaded Popsicles on the Lawn for the entire summer.

These events strengthen our parish in innumerable ways, and would not have happened without the presence and contribution of our many wonderful parishioners. Thank you to all who have been a part of these gatherings. We look forward to more during this year, and welcome all who would like to volunteer.

Submitted by Rena Godfrey



## Report of the Pastoral Care Ministry

**Committee members:** Pamela Prindle (Chair), Nora Buckley, John Ward, Chris Ours, Sarah Pozniak, Leslie Everheart, Liz Quinn, Judy Kilpatrick, Mark Kelly, Rika Oster, Deacon Sara Thorne, Rev. Hope Christensen, and Rev. Emily Guthrie.

The Pastoral Care Ministry committee has seen joyful growth in 2025. Our pastoral care planning committee meets every few months to review those members whom we continue to visit and all new pastoral care needs within our congregation. We have continued to visit Modena Senior Living the second Sunday of every month and we are grateful to visit those members of CCPK who cannot visit church in person. The LEV team members, and our pastoral care planning committee attempt to reach out to those in need every month by phone and in person visits.

Our goal for 2026 will continue to seek more growth in the LEV membership and to expand our pastoral care for the parish. We have developed a greeting card committee headed by Betsy Robbins and Katie Wallace, which we hope to keep in motion in 2026.

Our visitation group not only provides a reverent celebration of communion, but friendship and comradery. It is a deeply spiritual and peaceful practice that we would love to see expanded within the congregation. We welcome any new members to the team that would find this kind of ministry rewarding. God Bless.

Submitted by Pamela Prindle, Chair

## Report of the Outreach Committee: *Reaching Our Neighbors*

Christ Church continued its commitment of sharing talent and treasure with our broader community throughout 2025. We remain active across a wide range of ministries, deepening existing partnerships and launching new initiatives to serve vulnerable neighbors near and far. Below are summaries of the ministries the Parish supported in 2025.

### **ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS**

#### *Arcola Elementary School*

Our ministry partnership with Arcola Elementary School continued in 2025. Claudia Deane maintained contact with school staff throughout the year to identify and respond to emerging needs. Arcola remains a Title I school, with the majority of students receiving FARMS (Free and Reduced-Price Meals).

#### *Rock View Elementary*

Aime Keith and Liz Quinn continued their relationship with Rock View Elementary, working with the Principal and school counselors to identify needs. Rock View is a Focus School with a significant number of students on FARMS. Our ties to Rock View remain strong, as several parish children attend there.

## **THANKSGIVING FOOD MINISTRY**

Our congregation was generous this Thanksgiving, providing 100 bags of holiday food

- 45 bags delivered to Arcola Elementary
- 25 bags delivered to Rock View Elementary
- 30 bags delivered to Food Justice DMV

The packing party at the Parish Hall was a wonderful success, with parishioners rallying together despite some last-minute changes. Many thanks to all who contributed their time, labor, and financial support. Special thanks to Mary Renderos for helping coordinate packing day.

## **ANGEL TREE: CHRISTMAS MINISTRY**

In 2025, Christ Church members once again stepped up to sponsor 60 children for Angel Gifts. The team – led by Mary Hanlon with backing from Claudia Deane, Liz Quinn, Terri Clausen, Hope Christensen and Aime Keith, and with vital support from Jen Luna, our Parish Administrator – launched the gift drive early to give parishioners the opportunity to shop Black Friday sales. The goal was to cover 35 children at Arcola Elementary and 25 at Rock View Elementary. Bags of gifts for 60 children were delivered to the schools on December 17th. It was a major lift and a joyful success.

## **BETHESDA CARES: SANDWICH BRIGADE**

The mighty Bethesda Cares Sandwich Brigade continued making sandwiches on the first and second Fridays of each month – a ministry Christ Church has sustained for more than 20 years. The luncheon program feeds the many homeless individuals and families in Montgomery County

## **FOOD JUSTICE DMV**

Our year-round collection of diapers, wipes, and baby formula continued in 2025. Sara Thorne, Ed Burck, and Thea Kayne have been actively involved in this effort, with help from Dwight Allen. Ed Burck serves as our primary contact with Food Justice DMV organizers and personally delivers contributions. The recipients of these donations are in an extremely vulnerable situation, and our parish's generosity in providing these essential items makes a meaningful difference for thousands of refugee and migrant families.

## **PARTNERSHIP WITH SAN MATEO EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

A faithful group of volunteers has continued carpooling to San Mateo Episcopal Church in Hyattsville each month to help pack grocery bags with staples – beans, rice, onions, plantains, and other essentials – for distribution to over 250 families. Many thanks to Deacon Sara, Bonnie Marien, Annie Seale, John Britton, Peter Gergen, Margaret Broe Fitzpatrick, Susan Patch, Calvin Smith, Bob Healy, Anne Chase, Sharon Bartram, Peter Bartram and Cynthia Mitchell for volunteering last year!

In September 2025, Christ Church hosted a special “Project Rice & Beans” packing event in the Parish Hall after the 10am service, **packing 500 pounds of rice and beans** in 3 lb bags for distribution to the San Mateo food ministry and Food Justice DMV. Lead volunteers Sara Reise, Laura Kallen, and Olivia Deenan organized the event. All, of course, wore hairnets.

## STEPPING STONES SHELTER

We continued to respond to requests from Stepping Stones Shelter in Rockville, which serves women and children in crisis. In August 2025, a request for back-to-school supplies for shelter families was posted to the parish. The Committee is seeking a parish champion to help lead and coordinate our ongoing relationship with Stepping Stones.

## HEIFER INTERNATIONAL

The parish family continued to support Heifer International. During the 2025 Easter season in 2025, the congregation gave \$1,163 to Heifer, which was matched for an impact of \$2,326.

## LOOKING AHEAD

The Outreach Committee remains deeply committed to serving our neighbors and continues to explore ways to broaden parish participation in these vital ministries. Plans are evolving to better communicate our outreach portfolio to the whole congregation – so that every parishioner knows what we are doing together and how they can join in.

Thanks be to God for the generosity and faithfulness of the Christ Church community.

Submitted by Claudia Deane



## Report of the Property Committee

**Committee members:** Bob Quinn, chair; Pete Marks, Ted Seale and Ray Barry

The beginning of 2025 brought up issues with the Rectory that were largely due to the aging of this property, built in the 1950's. The major expenses and repairs were due to water coming into the basement due in part to water coming down from the gutters. This was resolved with a sump pump and repairing the drywall and concrete floor. In addition, rear deck needed new boarding as it was installed about 20 years ago. This was the largest repair we have had in over 20 years.

This was followed later in the summer, by replacement of an old fence that was installed over 20 years ago and was falling down. At the same time we completed trimming of the trees and

bushes, and the front fence was given an update of power washing and staining that made it look almost new.

Considering age/wear/tear of the property, all of these Rectory repairs were timely. We have invested in preservation of this important property, should we need to make it available for a future rector (no time soon!) or should we choose to sell it in the future. In the meantime, we continue our mutual ministry agreement of the last ten years with All Saints Chevy Chase. Their Vicar, The Rev. BJ Buracker and his family live at the rectory; and their contributions serve as a steady stream of financial support for the church and more than cover the cost of upkeep!

In 2025, the main church building had its own water issues. We began to address them in several ways:

- Putting in new downspouts that ushered water away from the building
- Repairing water damage inside a couple of closets and areas impacted.
- Residual issues from water coming into the Parish Hall will be investigated in 2026

The grounds continued to need ongoing TLC, and the work of the Green Team around the church grounds and columbarium were particularly appreciated. In 2025, in addition to the annual Green Team Day before Easter, we also held our inaugural Weeding Happy Hour, offering wine/cheese and crackers (we received vestry approval) to those who came to pull weeds and enjoy some fellowship on a Spring evening. The event was a success and we look forward to offering it again.

Finally, a huge shout out to **Sharon Bartram, Phyllis Knight and Linda Daisley** for their leadership in the upkeep of the columbarium area, making it a source of comfort for the families that have their loved ones there. Interested in a Columbarium niche for yourself or a loved one? Contact the Rector.

Submitted by Bob Quinn, Chair



*Newly planted memorial garden*

# Report of the Worship Committee

**Worship Leaders:** Nora Buckley (Head Verger, Flower Guild Directress), Pam Prindle (Verger, Acolyte Master/Herder), Emily Barry and Annie Seale (Altar Guild Co-Chairs), Amri Joyner (Lector Coordinator), Brad Christmas (Ushers), Teddy Guerrant (Organist/Choirmaster), the CC Choir, Ann Enkiri (Children's Minister/children's worship), Tom Tatem & Lissa Ramsepaul (Technology), Sharon Bartram (Compline), Lee Puricelli (Wed Eve Prayer Co-Leader) Eva Nye (5 pm Service Coordinator), Justin Fitch, Roma Hart (5pm Musicians), The Revs. Hope Christensen (Assisting Priest & Wed Eve Prayer Co-Leader), Sara Thorne (Deacon), and Emily Guthrie (Rector).

## **We're not really a *Committee* - we're a living breathing spiritual and liturgical team!**

Liturgy means "work of the people" and is first and foremost created by *all* who participate whether in person or online. The array of worship leaders plan and support that essential part of our life together. Individual worship ministry reports follow this report. Please refer to them for additional information!



**Sunday Morning 8 am Services** provide a traditional Rite I spoken service of Holy Eucharist and a warm and welcoming community. A dozen or more parishioners regularly attend. For the Liturgy of the Word the congregation is in the pews, then we all move to the chancel at the Peace for the Eucharist. It is a beautiful addition to the flow of the service. (Thank you Hope!) We are so grateful for lectors Ted Seale, Anne Meyers, Carol Jones and Jeff Taylor. And we are *enormously* grateful to Jeff Taylor who serves as our primary 8am Usher/Church Opener and to Deacon Sara for her welcoming presence *each* Sunday in 2025.



**Sunday Morning 10 am Services** reverberated with young voices and energy in 2025! Average has grown slightly over the months, with large attendance at our 10 am Easter and 5pm Christmas Eve services. We've had a noticeable increase in new families attending throughout the year. Please see the reports of the Organist Choirmaster, Vergers, Acolytes, Ushers who are essential to our 10 am service liturgy. A wonderful addition to our worship leaders in 2025, **Amri Joyner** took on the scheduling and support of the lectors for the 8am and 10am services!

**Sunday Evening 5 pm Services.** Christ Church's Sunday evening Eucharist welcomes parishioners and visitors in person and on Zoom. With the help of a NEW bigger monitor and tech ministers Bill Davies, Lissa Ramsepaul, Hope Christensen, Dwight Allen, Eva Nye, and occasionally Tom Tatem, we ensure those worshipping on Zoom can participate fully in all aspects of the liturgy.

If you don't know, the music is just fabulous. We are blessed with the ministry of beloved pianist and Worship Leader Justin Fitch, and the regular musical leadership of Christ Church parishioner and pianist Roma Hart!

Sunday evening altar guild appreciates the support of parishioners who pitch in and help with the cleanup and invite anyone who would like to participate more fully in a service by lighting/extinguishing candles, reading or tidying up to let Eva Nye know. Whether you worship in the candlelit sanctuary or join online, Sunday evening Eucharist is a wonderful way to center yourself, and prepare for the week to come.

**Second Sunday Eucharist, 1:00 pm at Modena Senior Living in Kensington.** Pastoral Care team members join in worship with residents of Modena, and together have created a satellite community of worship! Thank you to Pam Prindle, John Ward and Deacon Sara for leading this amazing ministry.

**Monday and Thursday 8:30 pm Compline** relies on volunteers from the gathered congregation. In 2025, this beautiful gathering has more than 10 total participants, with an average of 8 worshippers attending each service.

**Wednesday Evening Prayer.** With an average attendance of 18, the Wednesday Evening Prayer Service on Zoom continues to be a source of midweek connection and grounding prayer. Our faithful readers participate in leading the service, coordinated by Lee Puricelli. The Rev. Hope Christensen faithfully creates the liturgy week by week.

**Thursday Prayers for Peace at 12:15 pm.** Each week members of the congregation pray for an end to violence and war and for all who need our prayers. Many thanks to Dwight Allen, John Rowan and the Bartrams for keeping this exceptional ministry going. We miss the participation and leadership of Kitty Shuler who served as Prayer leader for several years.

*All of the ministries would love more volunteers of all ages. If you are interested, please contact the team leader for more information. Come experience the joy of helping to lead worship.*



*The newly baptized Jack Jones helps head acolyte Aiden Beatty hold the worship binder.*

# Report of the Acolytes

**Vergers:** Pamela Prindle and Nora Buckley

**Acolytes:** Aiden Beatty, Chase Beatty, Lincoln McGray, Simon McGray, Ceci MacDonald, and Hazel Marie Wang

Our Acolyte membership continues to flourish in 2025. We currently have 6 participating acolytes. We are thrilled that the young members of Christ Church have taken an enthusiastic interest in serving at the altar. Due to ongoing school activities, we have been unable to maintain an exact schedule but continue to have participation each Sunday. We continue to welcome new acolytes to our team. In order to participate students must be 8 years old or in 3rd grade.

We were so excited this year to attend the National Cathedral's annual "Acolyte Festival" held in October. This year we had a lovely turnout of 5 acolytes, 2 Vergers and our lovely Deacon, Sara Thorne. We were delighted to watch Sara take on a more involved role in the service. We were grateful to the parents who attended with us this year; thank you Andrea McGray and Nikki Beatty for your support. All members of CCPK are always welcome to attend as well. The acolytes were thrilled to process into the cathedral with our CCPK banner and flag along with 500 other acolytes and worship teams throughout the country. It was a beautiful sight to see and a beautiful day to celebrate. The lunch and the activities provided for the acolytes were spectacular! They even had a stone mason table for the acolytes to try their hand at masonry art. Please stop by the Acolyte bulletin board outside the sacristy to see our pictures.

We look forward to the 2026 "Acolyte Festival" held in October at the National Cathedral. We are grateful that our acolytes are interested in expanding their roles at the altar. This past year Aiden Beatty was added to our worship chalice team. In 2026 we look forward to the addition of more acolytes to this faithful group.

Please contact the Vergers if you have a child that is interested in this ministry. God Bless.

Respectfully submitted by: Pamela Prindle, Verger



## Report of the Flower Guild

Members: Nora Buckley (Directress), Frances Brown, Linda Daisley, Kate Duchelle, Bob Healy, Gail Marks, Anne Meyers, Linda Wilson

The Flower Guild continued to provide flowers for the 3 altars, the 3 offices (1 of which requires artificial flowers) and the choir room. We also care for the potted plants you may see around the church. During my illness of almost 3 months, they covered all my duties as well as providing all the arrangements listed above. In May we were again asked to provide floral arrangements for the reception at the Flower Mart at Washington National Cathedral.

Submitted by: Nora Buckley, Directress, February 28, 2026

## Report of the Vergers

Members: Nora Buckley-Head Verger, Pam Prindle-Verger

As Vergers we assist the priest in welcoming parishioners and guests to our church and ministries. Pam has been double (triple) time this year, encouraging more Chalicists and acolytes to join in the liturgy. During my illness she also covered my duties as well as hers. You may see one or both of us at every 10:00 service on Sunday as well as any other main service as requested. We were able to take the acolytes to the National Acolyte Festival at the cathedral and Nora served there at the Blessing of Oils and Renewal of Vows during Holy Week.

Submitted by: Nora Buckley, Head Verger, February 28, 2026

## Report of the Ushers

**Members:** Brad Christmas, Charlie Flynn, Bob Quinn, Rob Weston, Rena Godfrey, Lance Kilpatrick, Hill Carter, John Frohman, Peter Cozzens, Jeff Taylor

**We welcomed two new ushers in 2025: Peter Cozzens and John Frohman!**

There are a total of 10 regular ushers with two serving at each 10:00 am Sunday service, and one serving at 8:00 am. We expect to continue with the same number of ushers per service, with additional help for holidays and special circumstances. Additional team members would be very much welcome.

Submitted by: Brad Christmas

# Report of the Organist/Choirmaster

**Organist/Choirmaster:** Dr. Theodore M. Guerrant  
**Choir Members:** Ann Brickman, Nora Buckley, Laura Kallen, Ellie Keller, Diane Mand, Erika Northcutt, Paul Robbins, Suzanne Shaw, and Patrice Upshaw-Whiting  
**Section Leaders:** Annabelle Welford Small (soprano), Sarah Borrusso (alto), Jason Saffell (tenor), and Jason "Jake" New (baritone)

In some ways this year has been, at least for me personally, like the one the late Queen described as "Annus Horribilis" when Windsor Castle was damaged by fire and scandal surrounded the royal family (1992). I, like many, have been terrified and deeply shaken by what is happening in our country.

Yet in contrast there have also been many blessings. I am fortunate to have power and heat, plenty of food (some to share with my two feline fur babies), warm clothes and bedding, lovely neighbors and friends, a nice house with fine instruments for practice (and to share with the church when it needs to worship on Zoom!), meaningful work, even a lovely week at Rehoboth Beach this past summer, and a host of other blessings that, when listed at the end of each day before dropping off to sleep with a cuddly cat or two, make me realize that, as The Rev. Dr. Kortright Davis always reminds us, "God is good -- all the time!" And so I take heart that we will somehow get through these challenging times, as our ancestors did before us, and that life will go on. The several antique clocks in my house tick slowly and quietly reminding me that they have done this for well over a century and though they too witnessed hard times, they are still ticking and chiming out the hours. Time marches on and we with it.

One of my blessings is Christ Church -- the people, the clergy and staff, the lay leadership, the choir, and even the beautiful building we call home. This is a safe space and I know when I come here that I will be loved and accepted for whoever I am no matter what I think, believe, or do. Some churches might not welcome Jesus if He showed up at their door today. But this one would. Fact.

Our volunteer choir has been blessed this year by its ongoing members:  
Ann Brickman, Nora Buckley, Ellie Keller, Diane Mand,  
Paul Robbins, Suzanne Shaw, and Patrice Upshaw-Whiting  
and the arrival of two more sopranos with beautiful voices who, though having young children to care for, sing when they can:  
Laura Kallen and Erika Northcutt.  
Roma Hart kindly assisted us on Christmas Eve when our numbers were down.  
These faithful souls are supported and strengthened by our section leaders:  
Annabelle Welford Small (soprano), Sarah Borrusso (alto),  
Jason Saffell (tenor), and Jason "Jake" New (baritone).

On Friday, September 5, I played an organ recital featuring quiet pieces using the organ chimes and our beautiful carillon by Scott R. Hummel, Charles Callahan, Anton Rubinstein, Jules

Massenet, Sigfrid Karg-Elert, Charles Hubert Hastings Parry, Alfred Hollins, Leo Sowerby, Edwin H. Lemare, Hugh McAmis, Seth Bingham, and Bruce Simonds. This was intended to calm not only my own frazzled nerves but hopefully others also seeking a quiet place in the noise and chaos of so much national discord. It is still available for you on my YouTube channel thanks to Tom Tatem and his faithful expertise.

I spend much of the summer planning the music for the church year ahead and usually have sent it all into the church office by the time my fall semester begins at the University of Maryland (where I am vocal coach for 24 voice majors and minors, accompany two voice studio classes, accompany the Treble Choir, play up to three Bach cantatas per semester, and teach a few organ students, all of whom have thankfully gotten church jobs!). For each week the music selections are placed in one of 60 drawers I have in 6 sheet music cabinets at my house. This is possible because our church follows a Revised Common Lectionary Cycle (A, B, or C) and our Rector graciously permits it. I find myself smiling from time to time as some selection ends up fitting something that just happened in the preceding week as the year goes along, meaning that the Holy Spirit has suggested something that She knows will occur later even though of course I have no way of knowing this ahead of time. We indeed serve a Living God who is always way ahead of us!

I am thankful for each and every one of you. Thank you for continuing to be my loving church family.

Submitted by Theodore Guerrant, Organist-Choirmaster



Photo: Teddy with our largest handbell “Big Ben”, preparing to do a demonstration for the kids at Vacation Bible school in July 2025.

# Report of the Altar Guild

**Committee Members:** Emily Barry and Annie Seale (co-chairs)

**First Sunday:** Katie Wallace (Chair), Pam Prindle, Kurt Ellison

**Second Sunday:** Annie Seale (Chair), Ted Seale, Katherine Chatt

**Third Sunday:** Emily Barry (Chair), Sara Pozniak

**Fourth Sunday:** Anne Meyers (Chair), Sheila Gart, Nora Buckley

**Goals for 2025:** This year, in-person 8am, 10am and 5pm Sunday services were held in the sanctuary. The 10am and 5pm services continue to be offered as hybrid on Zoom. Altar Guild members prepared the altars for regular weekly Sunday services held in the sanctuary and additional services including holy week and memorial services.

**Accomplishments of 2025:** In addition to setting up for all services, the Altar Guild cared for the church silver, brass, vestments, altar hangings and linens. The Guild also maintained the supplies of communion wafers, wine, communion cups, liquid wax, candles, communion linens and other items necessary for our services. The Guild consists of four teams with each team responsible for services one week per month, plus one of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays that occur each year. Eva Nye and Lee Puricelli serve as Altar Guild for the 5pm Sunday service.

Kurt Ellison has served on Altar Guild for many years. This past June he started his career as a Deacon at Durham Parish in Nanjemoy, MD (Charles County).

**Recommendation for 2026:** The Altar Guild encourages anyone who is interested in this ministry to join us. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve behind-the-scenes in the worship ministry of the church and to connect in a small group environment with your fellow parishioners. It's a predictable, once-a-month commitment. Individuals interested in joining our ministry or may be able to support our ministry on a rotating basis are also welcome. If you are interested or have questions, please feel free to contact Annie Seale ([annieseale1@gmail.com](mailto:annieseale1@gmail.com)) or Emily Barry ([emilybarry@me.com](mailto:emilybarry@me.com)).

Submitted by Emily Barry and Annie Seale



## Report of the Tech Ministers

Members: Dwight Allen, Hope Christensen, Hill Carter, Bill Davies, Eva-Marie Nye, Lissa Ramsepaul, Thomas Tatem, and Derek White

Over the past year, Christ Church continued our efforts to be the church beyond walls with the continuation of our Tech Ministry. Christ Church's Tech Ministers make it possible for people who are unable to join in person to participate in worship, meetings, fellowship, funerals, and celebrations. Tech Ministers regularly support three weekly worship services and occasional events such as weddings and recitals. This year we continued to improve our infrastructure for enhanced experience of our viewers and participants, and to extend the longevity of our system. The following improvements were made in 2025:

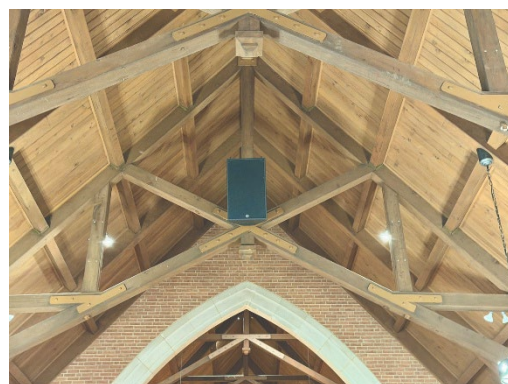
- Installed new main sanctuary speaker with comprehensive acoustic coverage (see photos below of the speaker being installed!)
- Installed an improved choir monitoring system
- Added 2 drop microphones and ambient microphones installed in the sanctuary
- Optimized computer performance
- New sanctuary display television with mobile stand for hybrid Zoom service
- Engaged a consultant to plan for upgrades to the Parish Hall sound system. The plan was approved for implementation in 2026

As a result of the Tech Ministry, Christ Church:

- Livestreamed and recorded 59 services
- Received 14,977 views on YouTube streamed content
- Added 89 new YouTube subscribers for a total of 330
- Held 100 Zoom or Zoom hybrid services

Our small team of Tech Ministers have been dutifully and generously serving Christ Church for several years, reliably making hybrid worship and other online activities available to our broader community. We currently have 2 Tech Ministers available to serve at our 10am streamed service and 4 others with variable availability for our 5pm hybrid service and Wednesday evening Zoom service. Please consider reaching out to us to learn more about this vital ministry and how you can join the Tech Team!

Submitted by Lissa Ramsepaul



# Report from Diocesan Convention

**Lay Diocesan Delegates:** Kathy McKay and Ray Barry, Amri Joyner (alternate)

The 130th Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington (EDOW) took place on Friday and Saturday, January 24 and 25, 2025 in person at Washington National Cathedral.

## **What is the Diocesan Convention?**

The Diocesan Convention is the yearly legislative meeting to consider the budget and other important matters concerning the mission and ministry of the diocese. The bishop presides over the meeting, which is attended by clergy and elected representatives from congregations.

## **What made this convention special?**

The themes of repentance and reparations were apparent throughout the convention. The convention began with *A Service Towards Repentance* on Friday night, which was notable for its messages of reckoning and repentance for harms done within the Episcopal Diocese of Washington.

Much of the work on reparations was informed by the EDOW Committee on Reparations, which has been meeting since 2019 to consider what it would mean for the Diocese of Washington to undertake reparations for Diocesan participation in, and benefit from, anti-Black racism.

## **Five resolutions were considered at Diocesan Convention on January 25, 2025.**

- **Resolution 1 Passed:** [Acknowledgement & Equity](#)  
An excerpt of the explanation of this resolution: "We seek to be a culture of Equity where no culture dominates. By starting to live in that life, we can truly grow in God's love."
- **Resolution 2 Passed as amended:** [For the Creation of a Reparations Committee for Reparations in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington](#)  
A Reparations Committee "is established to address and recommend reparative measures for historical and ongoing injustices inflicted on affected clergy, congregations and communities."
- **Resolution 3 Passed:** [Funding Reparations in the Episcopal Diocese of Washington](#)  
The resolution committed to no less than \$5 million for funding reparations.
- **Resolution 4 Passed as amended:** [Urging the Diocese and Parishes to Participate in Energy-Usage Study](#)  
"This resolution seeks to move the Diocese and its parishes to address the pressing environmental need to reduce our collective consumption of fossil fuels."
- **Resolution 5 Passed:** [Affordable Healthcare for Social Justice](#)  
This resolution builds upon resolutions from previous conventions. "This resolution urges the Diocese and its parishes to inform themselves about local healthcare needs of the underserved. . .and to support local measures to provide affordable healthcare."

Submitted by: Kathy McKay & Ray Barry

## Necrology

*Members of our community who died  
and those buried from Christ Church in 2025*

Paul Kaufman  
Kathy Gaddis  
Patricia "Pat" Cosimano  
Amy Cantwell Saylor  
Katherine "Kitty" Shuler  
Keith Staples

## Baptisms

*Those baptized at Christ Church in 2025*

Ivimey Mansfield Crowell  
Lydia Harman Crowell  
Arthur Alexander TenHoeve  
Jackson Thomas Jones

## Marriages

*Those married at Christ Church in 2025*

Alesia Andrews & Andre Lewallen

## Confirmations, Receptions, and Reaffirmations

*Those confirmed, received, or reaffirmed in 2025*

Peter Cozzens (confirmed)  
Lee Schaeffer (confirmed)  
Martha Hervey (reaffirmed)  
John Frohman (received)



## New Members

*We welcomed these members into the Christ Church family in 2025*

Jean & Justin Baer  
Matt Cornachio, Cami and James  
Dave & Veronica Gruner, Oliver and Ellie  
Henry & Tasha Hensley, Charlotte and Audrey  
Laura & Ben Kallen, Miles and Jacob  
Barry Price  
Leah Royce  
Bill & Emily Sudbrink  
Sylvia "Sibbie" O'Sullivan  
Erica & Zach Northcutt, Norah and Peggy

*If you joined in 2025 and we have not listed your name, we apologize for the omission and ask that you let one of the vestry members know so that we can correct our records!*

*If you've been visiting and would like to become a member of the church, contact the office.*

## Retiring Vestry Members

*Our deepest gratitude to the outgoing members of the Vestry for their service  
and ongoing commitment to Christ Episcopal Church*



Chris Ours  
Senior Warden



Terri Clausen  
At Large



Sean Quinn  
At Large



Rena Godfrey  
At Large

## Christ Church Staff

### Rector

The Rev. Emily Guthrie  
emily@ccpk.org

### Assisting Priest

The Rev. Hope Christensen  
hope@ccpk.org

### Children's Minister

Ann Enkiri  
sundayschool@ccpk.org

### Organist-Choirmaster

Dr. Theodore Guerrant  
guerrant@umd.edu

### Parish Administrator

Jennifer Luna  
administrator@ccpk.org

### Deacon

The Rev. Sara Thorne  
sara@ccpk.org

### Nursery Care

Mary Mutisya  
Emmy Kahi

## Office Information

Office Hours Tues-Fri, 10-6  
*Closed Mondays*  
4001 Franklin St.  
Kensington, MD 20895

**Telephone:** 301.942.4673

**E-mail:** [administrator@ccpk.org](mailto:administrator@ccpk.org)

**Church Website:**

[www.ChristChurchKensington.org](http://www.ChristChurchKensington.org)

## Christ Church Vestry 2025

### Senior Warden

Chris Ours

### Junior Warden

Katie Wallace

### Clerk

Alex Thomas

### Treasurer

Peter Gergen

### Property

Bob Quinn

### At Large Vestry Members

Terri Clausen  
Linda Daisley  
Claudia Deane  
Rena Godfrey  
Aime Keith  
Jason Paige  
Sean Quinn