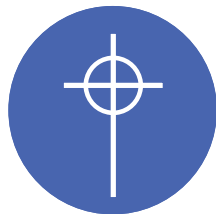




2022 Annual Reports



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Our Mission

To engage, equip, and empower people to love God, care for each other
and serve the world in the name of Christ.

Our Vision

We aspire to be Christ's Church in the world.

Our Core Values

We are a Christ-centered Episcopal Church rooted in scripture, tradition and reason; respectful of and strengthened by our differences. We are committed to being a loving community of support and spiritual growth; being faithful stewards of God's many blessings; and using God's gifts to serve the needs of our community and world. We are inspired by the belief that with God's help we will accomplish whatever God calls us to do.

(Adopted by the Vestry, 2007)

2022 VESTRY

Ken Thompson *Senior Warden*

Chris Ullrich, *Junior Warden*

Dick Parkhurst, *Treasurer*

Virginia Anderson

Marks Arnold

Louise Bonner

Laura Copps

Cindy Costa

Jane Coulter

Kathleen Dean

Fletcher Gregory

Alison Gugenheim

Sarah Kain

Bill Lorenz

Geoff Peters

Wellford Tabor

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Reverend Chip Edens

Dear Friends,

What a year we have had in 2022! When the year began we were still under COVID restrictions. As we close the year we have seen the church open wide and are really back to full. It's hard to believe that this church began as a Sunday School at what we now know as Providence Road Sundries. Throughout the church's history, it has done a lot of really important things and one of those things is that the ongoing discernment of the church has been a consistent one.

To put it in a 50-year context –

- The Matthew 25 initiative launched in 1974, when the church raised \$273,000 for anti-hunger and poverty programs.
- In 1980, there was the Jeremiah 29 initiative in which the churches in the Myers Park area pulled together to establish Habitat for Humanity Charlotte to continue strength in Crisis Assistance Ministry and the Winter Shelter in our city.
- In 1982, the church created the St. Francis Fund, in which it raised a million dollars for 50 plus causes, including the Chapel of Christ the King.
- In 1993, through the Seeds of Hope campaign, the church raised two million for the Hope Triangle and new outreach initiatives in Charlotte. The 1993 funds helped establish Thompson Child Development, now just simply known as Thompson, another major ministry in the life of this city.
- In 2003, the church began the One in the Spirit Campaign. It raised \$10.5 million, including \$1.5 million for a partnership with Eastway Middle School, a literacy program through the Johnson YMCA, and other programs.
- In 2007, we launched Expanding Our Vision, with 70 initiatives to strengthen the life of our church.
- In 2008, we had the Micah initiative, supported through volunteerism, in which we drove volunteers into Rama Road Elementary School, started the Padlock Prevention Program at Crisis Assistance Ministry and engaged in mission work.
- The Leap of Faith campaign began in 2011 in which \$2 million was raised for housing, education, poverty prevention and funds that helped support the establishment of Hope Way.
- In 2018 we celebrated our 75th anniversary with the Faith and Courage initiative.

Along the way, the church had to think about its buildings. On December 1, 1951, the cornerstone for the present church and parish hall was laid. Since its completion in 1952, several additions have been made to the parish hall. Additional Sunday School classrooms were built in 1963, and in 1978 All Saints' Hall was added to the existing structure. In 1991, the Jubilee Fund was established to assist in the building of additional space for educational classes, clergy and staff offices, and rooms for our choir and youth programs. And in 2004, as a result of the One in the Spirit campaign, there were additional renovations of classrooms, office space and All Saints' Hall.

All throughout our history, we've had to look at the deep needs of our congregation and we've had to look at the deep needs of our city. And what's next is being shaped now through the incredible work of the Strategic Direction Committee led by Jane Coulter and Bill Lorenz and I want to say how grateful I am to this group for engaging in this work. Several strategic priorities evolved out of many listening sessions within the parish. These priorities are not necessarily specific initiatives, but they represent a direction that we need to head—that invite us to think about each of these priorities and to consider what that means for all of us as we work to know what Christ's will is in our lives.

Many thanks to our amazing Clergy, Vestry and staff and their adaptability, creativity and grace during the pandemic and the transition to not only pre-pandemic levels but to worship services, classes, education opportunities and gatherings that are flourishing.

This is not a time to draw back. This is not a time to push off from the side and to think that other people will do this work. And what I pray is that the Holy Spirit will move you to think and to act in new ways as we work together to be Christ Church in the world.

Inspire us Lord when we're too pleased with ourselves, when our dreams have come true, because we've dreamed too little, when we've arrived safely because we sailed too close to the shore. Inspire us Lord, when with the abundance things that we possess, we've lost our thirsts for the waters of life. Having fallen in love with life, we have caught, we have ceased a dream for eternity. And in our efforts to build a new earth, we have allowed our vision of the new heaven to dim. Inspire us Lord to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas where storms will show your mastery. We're losing sight of the land; we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future. And strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.

– Sir Francis Drake

Faithfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Chip".

Chip

VICAR'S REPORT

The Reverend Joshua Case

It's hard to believe that through the course of 2022 we moved from a time where masks were required, communion was only offered in one-kind, and program capacities were limited to a full-fledged fall programming without any encumbrances. Indeed, after two years of living into the ups and downs of pandemic-tide, the fall of 2022 began to feel more like a sacred new normal. Indeed, 2022 was a year of reconnection, re-norming, and spiritual growth.

Over the course of the last year, the staff and commissions of Christ Church were creative, pastoral, and deeply committed to offering the parish opportunities to reconnect with one another and with God. A core part of this work was the Matters of the Heart survey conducted in the early part of 2022. The responses to this survey were instrumental in helping ministry teams and church leadership to understand how to best meet the needs of our congregation and to be creative in our planning and preparation for ministry. It was a joy to work with my colleague, Wendy Mauney (COO), on developing and implementing this survey parish-wide. Responses to the survey numbered in the hundreds.

As you can see in each of the various ministry reports, the work of listening and implementation took discernment and careful planning as we sought to make room for people to re-norm gathering at 1412 Providence Road once again. Small group conversations and guest speakers were dynamic, Bible studies were both intimate and inspirational, and staff planning-cycles were full of prayer, laughter, learning, and experimentation — all in hopes of fostering deeper spiritual growth for all.

Thanks to the generosity and care of the vestry and church leadership, this summer I took my first sabbatical. I cannot express to the people of Christ Church how thankful I am for the opportunity to have rested, reconnected with my soul, and spend meaningful time with my family after 20+ years of ministry. After the last three years of intense ministry, life in the pandemic, and personal and familial losses, it could not have come at a better time. It was truly a gift and grace and was soul-restoring. After the sabbatical, I feel even more grounded in my vocation and ministry at Christ Church and appreciate the way our community offers care and support of me and my family in so many ways.

As I begin to look ahead to 2023, I am hopeful about the ways that our community will continue to reconnect in person and online. Increasingly we continue to see people return for the first time to worship and community. We are seeing a new people connecting and joining us both online and utilizing our Christ Church app for spiritual inspiration/growth wherever they are. This both/and intersection of people connecting to one another and to God through prayerful and intentional community offerings is the on-the-go good news we need for life in a busy world.

ASSOCIATE RECTORS

The Reverend Joan Kilian

It's been another year of innovation, creativity, and service as we have begun to move out of a pandemic mode and into a 'new normal,' though I'm not quite sure we know what that really looks like yet. As we began to gather in person once again, I suspect each of us was trying to negotiate internally what the new balance of engagement and separation looked like. And the year has continued to be one of selective participation and restraint. Each of us has our own comfort levels for this. For some of us, two plus years of pent-up isolation and curtailed travel, dining out, and social contact has led us to focus deeply on these aspects of life. For some of us, we have gotten rather attached to the coziness of being at home, either here in Charlotte or somewhere else. For some of us, life has resumed much as it was pre-pandemic. I hope for all of us, these last nearly three years have helped us recognize what is truly of value in our lives, find a healthier work-life balance, and realize how much disparity there is in everyone's well-being. And by 'everyone,' I really mean everyone, not just our immediate family or circles of friends or geographic neighbors.

From my perspective, it has been a joy to reconnect with folks as you have come back to worship services or participated in various ministries and programs. Like all our ministry areas at Christ Church, our Outreach & Mission team has continued to flex as the various phases of the pandemic have waxed and waned. The pandemic actually brought us a gift in helping many more of us be comfortable with participating remotely via the internet. That has made hybrid life a more regular possibility so that those who are less able to participate otherwise – regardless of pandemic conditions – can be included. And it has made conversations across distances a very real way to deepen relationships, such as our Becoming Beloved Community conversations during Lent this year, with people from at least five congregations.

But the pandemic also brought to us (hopefully) a heightened awareness of how huge the disparities are in our community and beyond, from internet access that most of us take for granted to greatly varying healthcare outcomes, to food insecurity for so many people who were deemed 'essential' during the pandemic but who work in the lowest paying jobs. While we have worked hard to help address many of these issues (I encourage you to read the Outreach & Mission annual report for more detail), there remains so much to be done.

In working with our community partners and continually learning about new efforts in our city, I believe that more and more of the non-profits, agencies and foundations in our area are networking more effectively. With better communication among agencies, more awareness of what resources each can bring to the table, and a spirit of complementarity, there is less redundancy of service and a better safety net for our most vulnerable neighbors.

As we look to the future, we eagerly anticipate new partnerships and collaborations. They will be within Christ Church, with our fellow Episcopalians in this convocation, the wider diocese and our companion dioceses, and with others in our community who are working hard to meet the needs of our vulnerable neighbors. I encourage you to sign up for the monthly Outreach & Mission newsletter (christchurchcharlotte.org/outreach/ – scroll down) and keep up with all of the amazing possibilities that we have.

The Reverend Connor Gwin

For the majority of the year I worked in my former role with our Children, Youth, and Family teams. At the risk of sounding like a broken record, I have to mention the talent, passion, and love that exists in these teams. Our two directors (Sarah Ford and Maggie Baker) pour their hearts into their work to connect our young people with the life-giving message of God's grace and love. It is a wonder to behold!

2022 is a bittersweet year for the Children's ministry team as we say goodbye to Emily Kalmbach. Before her

retirement at the end of the year, we welcomed Fay Palmer as our new Administrative Assistant, and she has hit the ground running.

We also hired a new Administrative Assistant for our Youth team. Katherine Vest has served as the Interim in that role for the past year and we are very grateful for her commitment to Christ Church. In the last quarter of the year, we hired Lexie Trader who has already been a great addition to our ministry.

In the late fall I transitioned to my new role as the Associate Rector for Spiritual Well-being and Care. I look forward to working with Mollee, Alex, and Jennifer to grow our well-being ministries and the ways we provide care to the parish. This is an exciting time of new growth and holy possibility at Christ Church!

The Reverend Allen Pruitt

Christ Church is a generous place. I have known that ever since my interviews here, a little over a year ago. The warmth and hospitality you showed me then has only grown and become more apparent over this year of getting to know and love this place and all of you.

Preaching and teaching here is a joy as we walk alongside each other to discover God's call in our lives. I'm grateful for the opportunities to discover that call through our newly redesigned School of Faith. We all need ways to come out of the isolation of the past few years and offering small group classes on Sunday morning has been a wonderful way to learn and grow together.

I am thankful for all my colleagues on staff and the volunteers who contributed to the School of Faith. This program is truly a team effort and displays blessing of talent and gifts we have here at Christ Church. 2023 will bring even more opportunities our way – from the Poetry Circle to Bible Study on Sunday morning, and everything in between!

Christ Church is a place where I can go deep in education, and a place where I still get to be a parish priest. I give thanks for all the small communities which make up this big place. The Thursday morning group and the folks at Southminster and the faithful attendees of the Wednesday noon service, and so many other groups I've had a chance to meet: God meets us in all these places, and we take the love we find there out into the world. Thank you for welcoming me and for showing me the love of God!

The Reverend Emily Parker

As we move into 2023, I look forward to serving in the Christ Church family, in the city of Charlotte, the region, and Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Reflecting on this year, I am grateful to have been able to:

- Have regular participation in Sunday services.
- Be part of the Outreach and Mission Team.
- Take part in The Space Between Us class in April.
- Participate in the August MVP at Barbee Farms in Concord to glean corn with the Society of Saint Andrew.
- Preach on two Sundays – January 23 and November 20.
- Offer e-devotions on January 12, June 15, July 13, August 24, November 2, and December 14.
- Continue to get to know staff and parishioners and build relationships.
- Make pastoral phone calls and take Communion to parishioners in need.
- Serve at a diocesan level:
 - At the 207th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina (November 2022)
 - Social Concerns Committee
 - Credentials Committee
 - Currently serve as co-leader of Co-Curricular, a program designed to support postulants in the second year of the diocesan diaconal discernment process.

SENIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Ken Thompson

Members of the 2022 Vestry entered the new year believing that Christ Church would be open for “in person” worship with few limitations. We quickly learned that life would not be that simple when a January surge in COVID cases required the reinstitution of many pandemic protocols. The traditional vestry annual retreat became another zoom meeting held January 21 – 23, 2022.

Our retreat theme was “Regaining our Mission in Difficult Times” and it will be remembered by the participants for two reasons. First was the adoption of five goals to guide our work for the year. The second reason was the worship service that launched our first evening together. Called “The Well”, the service was deeply spiritual including music, prayers for healing and time for contemplation. The Well has since become so in demand that it is now a regular worship offering on many Wednesday evenings in the Church.

The five goals for 2022 are summarized below:

Renewing our mission across all areas of ministry. We will—

- Listen to needs and desires through heartfelt conversations
- Discern areas of strength and opportunities for growth and development
- Work with commissions and staff to refine ministries with in-person, hybrid and online programs and events

Engaging the parish in a comprehensive strategic direction for our growing congregation. We will—

- Explore opportunities for major in-reach and outreach ministries
- Develop a plan for our campus, including building maintenance, improvements, and technology
- Assess the potential need for a capital campaign

Nurturing the next generation. We will—

- Consult with young adults to learn what draws them to our parish and the nature of their diverse spiritual needs/desires
- Engage and equip our growing population of Young Adults for deeper faith and wellness through small group discipleship
- Foster the growth of spiritual leadership among our young adults

Inviting parishioners into a vision of spiritual wellness. We will—

- Assess wellness needs across all ages and stages of life, with particular attention to the need for healing and post-traumatic growth among teenagers in our parish
- Tailor wellness efforts and resources, identifying areas of strength and opportunities for development
- Communicate a vision of spiritual wellness and make available resources known throughout the parish

Cultivating generosity as a spiritual practice. We will—

- Recognize and celebrate all gifts of time, talent, energy and resources as ‘Holy’
- Assess the abundant gifts within our parish (time, talent, energy and resources) to best connect gifts to opportunities within our church and beyond
- Work with a new Generosity and Stewardship Commission to develop a clear communications strategy of storytelling; and create a transformative educational “experience” to encourage reflection, connection, renewal, and growth in generosity

These goals were guideposts for the Vestry. At each monthly meeting we focused deeply on a single goal. Our September meeting was devoted to a review of all five goals. We were able to see where we stood, what we had accomplished and where we might be falling short. That meeting helped the planning for a busy October, November and December for the vestry, clergy, and staff.

Our second goal, Engaging the Parish in a Comprehensive Strategic Direction, deserves extra discussion. In 2019, a strategic plan exercise was started under the leadership of Arrington and Burch Mixon. In early 2020 the planning was halted due to the COVID pandemic. In November of 2021 last year's Vestry restarted the planning process under the guidance of Jane Coulter and Bill Lorenz. Jane and Bill have guided a team of 60 parishioners over the last twelve months and they are nearing completion of the plan. The plan will guide Christ Church over the next decade as we continue to grow. It will shape our ministries, focus our Outreach toward our East Charlotte neighbors, and expand and refurbish our campus (facilities, grounds, and technology). The final plan will be submitted to the Vestry in January.

Our fourth goal, a Vision of Spiritual Wellness, was not new. A wellness task force headed by Julie Marr in 2021 called for an expansion of wellness efforts and resources at Christ Church, particularly spiritual wellness. The topic surfaced repeatedly in the "Matters of the Heart" discernment exercise. Christ Church had hired a mental health counselor in 2019 and added another in 2021. These two counselors conducted 494 private sessions in 2021 and another 675 sessions through the first nine months of 2022. In September, Connor Gwin accepted the role of Associate Rector for Wellness and Care. Christ Church is indeed on the cutting edge of the wellness ministry. It can be life changing for many individuals and families in our parish and our community.

Christ Church Kindergarten (CCK) is one of our most vibrant and growing ministries. It currently serves 185 families and 244 children. It is fertile ground for attracting young families to our church. In 2021 we encountered a problem and an opportunity for CCK. The problem was having more applications than spaces. The solution was two-fold. The CCK board and the Vestry worked diligently to make short-term changes in spaces to mitigate the issue. The long-term solution is addressed in our strategic plan. Stay tuned!

Our annual stewardship campaign is well underway. Each year the Church's operating budget is funded by pledges from parishioners. For decades, the generosity of our parishioners has allowed us to expand our reach. This year's campaign, led by John Wickham and Al Lindemann and supported by Natalie Akins, our Director of Generosity and Stewardship, will produce roughly \$6 million for our 2023 budget. That will be the largest stewardship campaign in our history.

One of the most important responsibilities of the Vestry is to protect the financial position of our Church. Rest assured that the combination of generous giving and disciplined spending produces a solid financial foundation. Wendy Mauney, our Chief Operating Officer, and Dick Parkhurst, our Treasurer, remain ever vigilant on that balance.

Christ Church was started over 75 years ago. This parish has flourished through wars, recessions, inflations and now pandemics. Today, we are one of the largest and fastest growing Episcopal churches in the country. We have many advantages. Perhaps our biggest advantage is the leadership provided by our clergy and staff, under the guidance of Chip Edens. They all make our mission clear: Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World. We are Christ's Church. The fifteen members of the 2022 Vestry feel privileged to add our efforts to those of all the vestries preceding us. It has been an honor.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Chris Ullrich

During 2022 Christ Church completed a number of projects around our campus that had been initiated by the prior Junior Warden and Vestry but that had been delayed due to COVID and supply chain delays. Of these two projects of significance deserve special mention. The first was the installation of sixteen new windows in the Sanctuary that are energy efficient, provide UV protection and neutralize the traffic noise coming from busy Providence Road which provides superior acoustics for our music program. The second was the installation in June of new double doors at each end of St Francis, each of which is wired into our security system.

We also completed a long list of repairs and upfits to our facilities, including the following:

- The Blue Room roof leak and related water damage was repaired
- New carpeting was installed on the Main Floors of All Saints' Hall and St Francis
- The plaster damage in the penalty box and the Chapel was repaired
- A new, larger, stage was installed in All Saints' Hall
- The Rotunda restrooms were renovated in November
- Several small office upfits in St Francis were completed
- Repairs were made to the St. Francis soffit and back-alley gutters
- New LED lighting was installed in All Saints' Hall
- The Electrical Room roof was replaced
- A new soundboard and booth were installed in All Saints' Hall

Sadly, the Ginkgo tree adjacent to the Sanctuary died during the Spring and was removed in November. It is the present intention to cure the wood in anticipation of a future use for it. Options are being evaluated for a replacement tree.

The work performed in 2019 to anticipate future replacement and maintenance needs was refreshed by a third-party consultant.

A Task Force was formed to evaluate the safety and security of our Campus.

Heartfelt thanks to Wendy Mauney, Jason Scofield and our sextons for their ceaseless care of our facilities, as well as the hours of dedication from members of our Buildings and Grounds Committee.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND MEMORIALS

Submitted by David Kern

This group provides general oversight and assistance to the Junior Warden and the Director of Facilities concerning matters involving the church buildings and campus. In addition, the Committee directs the use of undesigned gifts and memorials made to Christ Church. In this regard, the group attempts to match specific Church needs with the personality and particular interests/activities of the person in whose name a gift or memorial is given.

This year saw the completion of numerous much-needed repairs and improvements throughout the campus. A special thanks goes to Wendy Mauney (Chief Operating Officer), Jason Scofield (Director of Facilities) and Chris Ullrich (Junior Warden) for their tireless dedication and extraordinary work. The work of the Committee during 2022 has included the following:

- Purchasing new altar hangings and a new Altar Book for the Sanctuary
- Purchasing a new sound board and stage equipment for All Saints' Hall
- Providing funds and assisting generally with the beautification of the Rotunda area, including carpeting, painting, lighting, and remodeling of the bathrooms
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally concerning the installation of energy efficient lighting upgrades in All Saints' Hall and classrooms
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally concerning the replacement of the roof above the Blue Room
- Assisting with the removal of the large Ginkgo tree at the front corner of the Sanctuary, finding uses for the removed wood, and making plans for the replacement of the tree
- Assisting the Director of Facilities and the Junior Warden generally with developing and enhancing best practices for security throughout the campus
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally concerning the replacement of all windows in the Nave
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally with the installation of new doors with security codes in the Rotunda
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with significant plaster repairs to the Nave and chapel.
- Assisting generally with repair, maintenance, and improvement needs concerning the duplexes on the Church property
- Overseeing the ongoing maintenance of the Rose Garden
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with significant groundskeeping, clearing, mulching, and the installation of new trees and plantings in the Upper Parking Lot.
- Coordinating with the Director of Facilities and Junior Warden in reviewing, assessing and prioritizing present and future needs concerning all of the buildings and facilities throughout the Campus
- Overseeing and funding numerous plantings and landscaping throughout the Campus, including trees and shrubbery beside the Sanctuary, removal of dead trees, multiple planting and improvements to the Memorial Garden, and the completion of a variety of specialized pruning and landscape improvements throughout the campus

Commission members: David Kern (Chair), Rev. Fred Paschall, Jr., Wendy Mauney (COO), Jason Scofield (Director of Facilities), Chris Ullrich (Junior Warden – ex officio), Catherine Browning, Eric Locher, Bill Lowry, Lulie Mallard, Burch Mixon, William Nichols, Jr. and Barbara Plumlee.

TREASURER

Submitted by Dick Parkhurst

Summarized below are the financial results for the past three years along with the budget for 2022. For 2022, our budget calls for 6% growth in receipts reflecting similar growth in pledges. The expense budget for 2022 is up nearly 15% driven largely by additions to both clergy and lay staff and a near 20% increase in support for programming.

Annual receipts for 2021 remained essentially flat compared to 2020 but exceeded budget by more than \$200,000 as unpledged gifts continued in response to the challenges of the pandemic. At the same time, total expenses were held under budget by nearly \$200,000 as planned additions to staff were delayed and programming remained limited for much of the year. As a result, we recorded an operating surplus of more than \$400,000. Given the substantial surplus, the Vestry approved the use of approximately \$343,000 of reserve in 2022 to support areas of need outside of the operating budget, including new windows and other needed repairs in the sanctuary. The remaining surplus of \$1.1 million is available to meet unbudgeted funding requirements as approved by the Vestry.

	2019 Actual		2020 Actual		2021 Actual		2022 Budget	
Operating Receipts	5,427,685		5,654,233		5,663,612		6,027,555	
Personnel & Admin	3,404,942	65%	3,635,187	66%	3,643,411	69%	4,340,000	72%
Diocese of NC	518,021	12%	536,282	11%	581,372	11%	606,705	10%
Buildings and Grounds	375,490	8%	328,931	8%	324,172	6%	325,000	5%
Outreach	437,913	10%	449,064	9%	450,000	9%	450,000	7%
Programs	304,600	5%	269,072	5%	257,770	5%	305,850	5%
Operating Expenses	5,040,966		5,218,536		5,256,725		6,027,555	
Annual Surplus	386,719		435,697		406,887		-	
Reserve Usage	-		(168,953)		(170,210)		(343,000)	
Accumulated Reserve	914,438		1,181,182		1,417,859		1,074,859	

Through November 2022, both receipts and expenses are in line with expectations. As December always accounts for a significant portion of full year receipts our final results will continue to depend on fulfillment of pledges. Given the consistent support throughout the past two years, I am confident in our budget and look forward to a strong finish to the year. However, with the addition to staff and the return to full programming in 2022, we do not expect a repeat of the significant surpluses of the past few years.

While the pandemic presented great uncertainty in its early stages, Christ Church thrived as it found new ways to meet its calling. With steadfast leadership, a dedicated staff and passionate volunteers, Christ Church remained vibrant and impactful to our congregation and our community. With your tremendous generosity, we have emerged ever stronger and well positioned to continue our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World.

STRATEGIC DIRECTION 2022

Submitted by Steering Committee Co-Chairs Bill Lorenz and Jane Coulter

Purpose of Strategic Direction Work

To develop a bold spiritual and strategic direction for Christ Church with ultimate recommendations that are Grounded in God, Engaging with Hope, and Growing in Faith.

Our Process: January 2022 to Present

- In January we appointed a steering committee and three working groups (In-reach, Outreach, and Hardware), involving approximately 56 parishioners, clergy, and staff.
- We revisited the 75th Anniversary priorities, which provided a foundation on which to build.
- We conducted a “Matters of the Heart” survey of the whole parish, which invited everyone to share what matters most to them, either online or in person through various group sessions. We received 600+ responses.
- Jane Coulter and Bill Lorenz hosted eight listening sessions about the Christ Church Strategic Direction work. We were grateful for the willingness of so many people to share their hopes and ideas for our Spiritual Home as we discern what the future holds for Christ Church.
- In October, Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles was our Faith Forum guest, who helped deepen our understanding of the state of our community and its most pressing needs.
- The Steering Committee visited other churches, programs, and facilities in Charlotte, Dallas, and Houston to get ideas about what might be possible.
- We conducted a facilities and grounds maintenance study.
- We consulted with experts and partners, including Bishop Rodman and Bishop Curry.
- The three working groups met throughout this time and ultimately submitted 54 proposals.
- With the help of a generosity consultant, we conducted a feasibility study of 90 households for a potential investment campaign.
- We worked with the staff communications team to provide regular updates to the Vestry and parish, including a dedicated webpage, several letters and emails, a presentation at the Senior Vestry Dinner, and a special Faith Forum in November.

Strategic Priorities

In December, the Vestry approved these eight Strategic Priorities for 2023 and beyond:

Spiritual Growth: Nurture each person’s loving and life-giving relationships with God, self, and neighbors through Christian worship and education, in order to...

- Enrich worship experiences
- Cultivate Christian formation for all ages and stages
- Engage spiritual wellness growth
- Promote well-being and purpose

Center for Well-Being: Promote health of the whole person that will enable wellness of the mind, body, and spirit, in order to...

- Meet growing and evolving well-being needs of the parish
- Support the delivery of well-being services to the community
- Prepare parishioners for all stages of life, including care for others
- Evolve well-being and wellness programs and ministries into a center

Engagement and Hospitality: Welcome and foster a connected, engaged parish family where diverse relationships are encouraged, sustained, and support well-being, in order to...

- Nurture a connected parish family
- Connect the parish and build community
- Engage, equip and empower parishioners for service
- Prepare future lay leaders for service

Sacred Spaces: Create and preserve sacred spaces that meet the current and anticipated needs of the church and the well-being of our spiritual home, in order to...

- Provide enhanced sacred facilities and grounds to serve the parish and community
- Foster connections

Digital Ministries: Develop and use digital (online and virtual) programming to meet the needs of the parish, in order to...

- Make Christ Church accessible
- Engage parishioners
- Enrich teaching, spiritual growth, Christian life, connection, and engagement
- Have an integrative approach for expanding our reach beyond Charlotte

East Charlotte Community Well-Being: Embody a vision for Christ Church to deepen relationships with our neighbors by stepping into place-based philanthropy on Charlotte's East Side, in order to...

- Work for a just community
- Help address economic mobility
- Enable employability
- Provide East Charlotte affordable housing opportunities

Creation Care: Honor and care for our local environment through stewardship, action, and advocacy, in order to...

- Find God in nature
- Honor God's creation
- Protect the environment

Faith Community Partnerships: Build capacity within the local faith community of the Episcopal Church as well as among our partner organizations, in order to...

- Build diverse relationships
- Strengthen the Episcopal Church
- Strengthen NC Diocesan Ministries
- Expand our reach

We are grateful for the amazing work of the steering committee and excited about what the future holds as we pursue these priorities in the years ahead.

Strategic Direction Steering Committee

Bill Lorenz and Jane Coulter (Co-Chairs), Derick Close, Laura Copps, Nikki DeVillers, Arrington Mixon, Robert Schleusner, Ken Thompson, The Reverend Chip Edens (Rector), The Reverend Joshua Case (Vicar), and Wendy Mauney (Chief Operating Officer)

Working Group Co-Chairs

- Weston Andress and Chris Ullrich (Hardware)
- Carol Lorenz and Ann Tabor (In-Reach)
- Kathleen Dean and Fletcher Gregory (Outreach)

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Submitted by Scottie Stamper

"We are looking forward to adding more in-person meetings and gatherings in 2022 and exploring the many gifts and talents of our lay leaders within the parish!" Lindsay Masi's final sentence of the 2021 Annual Report for Adult Spiritual Formation might as well have been tagged as a prediction, prophecy, or at the very least, a wish. 2022 was, indeed, the year of bringing back some favorites, modifying other events, and introducing new opportunities for personal spiritual development.

In addition to the ongoing formation classes and learning opportunities associated with our ministry area, Adult Spiritual Formation brought the Sages and the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) into our ministry area. It is a natural fit for both groups—a place in which development, fellowship, and learning are continual.

A spike in Covid cases in the area led us to start the beginning of the year in virtual gatherings, but we were able to quickly transition to in-person gatherings in February. The Adult Confirmation and Inquirers Class, as well as a Wednesday evening Frederick Buechner book study both started out as virtual classes, but seamlessly moved to in-person gatherings after a couple of weeks. February brought back a variation of the beloved Thursday morning Christ Church Women's Bible Study (CCWBS). A four-week study focusing on Christianity in the Arts saw the return of many on Thursday mornings for fellowship and delightful learning. Celia Sinclair, Charles Milling, and Jerrick Cavnaro were instrumental in designing the series.

The Reverend Allen Pruitt joined the Adult Spiritual Formations team in March as the Associate Rector for Adult Spiritual Formation. He hit the ground running. During the season of Lent there were three options for weekly Wednesday night studies: The Episcopal Heritage of Music, led by Ben Outen, Making a Way in the Wilderness, led by the Reverend Joshua Case, and I led a book study featuring Henri Nouwen's Return of the Prodigal Son.

In the fall, the Adult Spiritual Formation team, in collaboration with Mission and Outreach, Children, Youth, and Family ministries, and the Wellness team, introduced a new iteration of The School of Faith. Sunday morning offerings included classes related to four categories: Basics of Faith, Soul Care, Faith in Action, and Family Matters. A Wednesday night hybrid course called Listening for the Sermon in Your Life was offered in collaboration with Dr. David Stark, Assistant Professor of Homiletics at Sewanee's School of Theology.

Additional highlights of 2022 in the Adult Spiritual Formation Ministry Area include:

The Sages met monthly for light refreshments and a program. Guest speakers have included Mary Ann Archer, a Charlotte resident who wrote a lovely children's book called Zeesha's Tale: A Story for Christmas and Easter, our own clergy for an "Ask the Clergy Anything" session, Officer Jim Gilliland, from the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department, and Brad Panovich, Chief Meteorologist for WCNC, an NBC affiliate in Charlotte.

Joana Wardell was inspired to create a new study group focusing on the works of "wisdom writers" (i.e., Cynthia Bourgeault, Richard Rohr). The Wisdom Circle meets virtually every other week.

Eight adult confirmands were confirmed as members of Christ Church on June 5, all of whom completed the Adult Confirmation and Inquirers series.

There were nine graduates of Education for Ministry (EfM) in May. Currently, two groups of EfM mentees and mentors continue to meet under the mentorship of Tere Ey, Virginia Anderson, Natalie Akin, and Jenny Beaumont. Former and current EfM participants were invited to gather for a reunion meal and fellowship at the home of Robert and Anne Schleusner in September.

Eighteen pilgrims went to Spain to traverse the country via the Camino de Santiago in May. Later, in October, fourteen pilgrims shared experiences in Israel, the Holy Land. The Reverends Chip Edens and Joshua Case

co-hosted the trips, along with Dr. Wayne Ballard, a Hebrew scholar and Christ Church member, who assisted with the Holy Land pilgrimage.

Christ Church's 3-day course *The Space Between Us* (a program based on the spiritual practices of St. Ignatius) was offered four times this year: in March, April, July, and November, with a total of about 40 participants, including teachers, administrators, and staff from Trinity Episcopal School.

The fall saw the return of the CCWBS, complete with clergy lectures and small group discussions. The four small groups were facilitated by an outstanding team of leaders: Lois Ann Partridge, Nancy Poe, Christy Howie, Holly Hobson, Roline McGinnis, Dawn Franchina, Kaky Cassada, and Kitty Hartung. Additionally, the Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS) returned to in-person meetings. The group meets every other week and is led by Peggy Curlin. Craig Cmiel continues to head up the Men's Ministry programs, including retreats and the monthly Men's BIG Breakfast. Three Reading Between the Lines group are meeting on a weekly basis with Amanda Anders's and Charles Connor's leadership.

The work of the Adult Spiritual Formation ministry area wouldn't be possible without the assistance of Rosalyn Lackey, our Administrative Assistant, as well as the Adult Spiritual Formation Commission, led by Tere Ey. We are already looking forward to, and are planning for 2023, which will bring further depth and breadth of learning opportunities for the parishioners of Christ Church.

Adult Spiritual Formation Commission: Natalie Akin, Virginia Anderson, Wayne Ballard, Craig Cmiel, Carrington Coulter, Vicki Durham, Tere Ey, Genie Hufham, Rosalyn Lackey, Lindsay Masi, Makeda Pennycooke, Allen Pruitt, Anne Schleusner, Scottie Stamper, Caroline Stoneman, Kent Walker, Joana Wardell

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Submitted by Sarah Ford

This year has been something special within Children's and Family Ministry. Going back to the very beginning, our Children's and Family Ministry Team started the New Year by pulling back. We weren't able to offer in-person Sunday School with the high positivity Covid rates, so we hit pause for a couple of weeks. However, it's been something so special since.

In March, our 2022 within Children's and Family Ministry really seemed to start! Lindsay Masi returned from maternity leave, Connor provided support in the most loving (and witty!) way, Stephanie continued to safely offer Nursery care to the youngest parishioners at Christ Church, while Emily Kalmbach and I planned and implemented the year. Connection remains at the heart of our ministry. Below are some highlights of the ways in which we worked create a connection between our families and their spiritual home.

- Throughout Lent, 12 fourth and fifth graders participated in a six-week long Bible Study called "No Chocolate for Lent." Our six weeks wrapped up with making edible chocolate slime. This offering was made possible thanks to two parent volunteers a week who helped.
- Our team offered Stations of the Cross for families in All Saints' Hall on Good Friday that over 100 children and their parents participated in.
- In late April, we held the Southern Soiree for the first time since 2019. This shared event between CCK and Children's Ministry was organized by co-chairs, Becca Boyd and Allison Kent.
- In early May we were able to bring back These Are Our Bodies for 10 fifth graders and their parents to learn more about the connection between Faith and Human Sexuality.
- We were able to be in person for Vacation Bible School! From June 22 – 25, almost 100 children, youth and adults participated as we made waves together and supported CaroMont Health as our Service Learning partner for the week. A big thank you to the 2022 VBS Steering Committee!
- Emily and I were both able to take a one month sabbatical thanks to this generous gift from the Christ Church Leadership.
- With the help of our Commission, we were able to successfully ask almost 90 leaders to serve as in-person Sunday School teachers or floaters. Over 30 of those leaders are new to this ministry.
- We were able to purchase and implement a new Sunday School curriculum for three-year-olds through 3rd graders called Simply Loved that helps this group of children grow closer to God and love one another more.
- We were able to purchase and implement a new Sunday School curriculum for 4th and 5th graders called Be Bold that helps this group answer big questions while referencing scripture and identifying a Biblical truth.
- After a hiatus since March 2020, we were able to offer Children's Chapel again this year, with 10 volunteers serving in rotation. This ministry has seen a steady number of children each Sunday morning coming from both 8:45 am worship services (a total of 85 services this year).
- Children's Sunday School classes continue to see excellent numbers. Our Sunday School leaders are the most passionate, caring, and loving group of leaders. They are truly what make this ministry so special.
- We offered our annual Advent Festival with the help of Lucy DesPortes and Julie Smith who helped plan and implement this intergenerational event to make ornaments for Jesse Trees and make their Advent wreath from fresh greenery.
- We welcomed Fay Palmer as our new Administrative Assistant on November 28. We are thrilled to have her on our team and so glad she was able to get started while Emily Kalmbach was still here to pass the baton.
- We wrapped up 2022 with our Christmas Pageant. It was wonderful as usual.

While this year has been the most rewarding year within my own personal ministry, its close brings so many emotions. Serving on staff at Christ Church is incredibly rewarding, and the Children and Family Ministry team is one of the greatest blessings in my life. Our team is changing with Emily Kalmbach's joyous news that she is retiring at the end of 2022 after 14 and a half years at Christ Church. Writing this with tears in my eyes, I am reminded of the sacredness of presence and connection. Emily is such a gift and is truly a Saint of God.

Thank you to the staff, Clergy, Vestry, Children's and Family Commission, and parishioners of Christ Church. There is immense gratitude in my heart when it comes to each of you for allowing me to serve in this role at my Spiritual Home.

Children and Family Commission: Rebekah Alpert, Elizabeth Baker, Cindy Costa, Sommers Errington, Sarah Ford, Stan Garnett, Rob Kerr, Kristin Kracke, Mary Caroline Lee, Mary Logan, Lindsay Masi, Sarah Ollek, Fay Palmer, Ann Stewart Pendergrass, Allison Popp, Jenny Purcell, Anna Ritchie, Ryan Rominiecki, Lauren Weeks, Kyle Woodruff

CHRIST CHURCH KINDERGARTEN

Submitted by Meredith Sorrell

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten (CCK) is the largest daily mission of Christ Church. After two years of navigating COVID protocols, this school year has brought more normalcy and the return of many CCK traditions that were paused during the pandemic. The school is the largest it has ever been serving 244 students, 185 families and employing 51 staff members. Our mission is to cultivate our children's unique gifts and talents to inspire lives of learning, serving others and loving God. We seek to inspire the children of CCK to become life-long learners in a faith-based environment.

CCK has a long and rich history of successfully preparing children for their elementary education. The journey starts in our Toddler classrooms with children learning to separate from parents, and moves through our Four year-old and Kindergarten hallways, where our children are learning pre-reading skills, writing, and math skills to prepare them for their education journey beyond preschool. Our dedicated staff of teachers are at the core of what we do each day. These amazing, experienced teachers give countless hours towards planning, implementing curriculum, and nurturing the children and families of CCK. Our Special Area teachers are on our staff to enrich the children's daily educational experience. The Learning Center, Music, Science Lab, and Godly Play classes bring numerous opportunities for learning and growth. In addition, Creative Movement and My Gym classes provide monthly gross motor play for students. Christian education is at the core of our curriculum and All School Chapel allows all ages to come together one time each month for worship. Parents and grandparents enjoy joining us for All School Chapel, making these monthly services a multi-generational experience.

CCK continues to employ the services of off-duty CMPD police officers to be on campus during the school day to support traffic in the parking lot and monitor the playgrounds while children play. These officers also help monitor the traffic in our parking lot during big events. We have enjoyed engaging families in larger all school events that were paused during the pandemic such as age-level parties, a Fall family picnic and celebrations in the classrooms during the school day.

As a school we participate in two all-school service projects each year. The projects are designed to help our children begin to understand the importance of helping others in their community. For the second year in a row, our Fall Service Project was a CCK Bake Sale to benefit Cookies for Kids' Cancer. On Thursday, November 17th, CCK held the 2nd annual CCK Bake Sale in the Good News Café. With the help of matching gifts from a local company, we have raised over \$14,000 so far! All teachers, students, staff and parents participated in some way to support the Bake Sale. In addition to these service opportunities, we are introducing service learning into our classrooms. Our Threes classes hold a canned food drive in November and our Toddler/Twos classes hold a pet supply drive in February. As part of these collections, all classes are asked to bring donations to All School Chapel during those months.

CCK is governed by a Board of Directors, which meets monthly.

Board of Directors: Marc Ozburn (Chair), Julia Duncan (Chair-Elect), Joshua Case (Clergy Representative), Sarah Kain (Vestry Representative) Stephanie Ladley (Treasurer), Allison Kent (Treasurer Elect) Marsha Thrasher (Teacher Representative), Brantley Templeton (Parent Representative), Mary Pell Teden (Parent Rep Elect), David Brady, Beth Griffin, Zach Hill, Thomas Hipp, Jenna Holmeyer, Marshall Macon, Anna Papson, John Randall, Allison Schilz, Elliott Weeks, Meredith Sorrell (Head of School), and Mary Caroline Lee (Assistant Head of School).

The support of our staff from CCK families, the greater church community, Church Leadership and our Board has been an incredible blessing over the last several years. As the church engages in a strategic planning initiative, our CCK Board and Administration have been doing so as well. The Board created the following Strategic Planning priorities as we look forward to enhancing and enriching CCK:

Programs & Services

Our focus is to be recognized as a leader providing high quality services and programs that are responsive to the existing and emerging needs of CCK children and parents.

Engagement

Our focus is to provide opportunities to strengthen engagement across CCK, Christ Church, and the broader community.

Facilities

Our focus is to create and utilize purpose-built space to meet the needs of the CCK community.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Submitted by Page Gatewood

ECW had a fantastic year! We started out slowly, continuing to meet virtually post holidays and planning events via telecommunications. Our focus this year became revamping ECW and making our women church members aware of what ECW is, what it means to the church and how they could become involved.

Mahjong May 2022

Once we were able to meet in person, we held four Mahjong sessions each Tuesday in May. We offered two morning classes and two nighttime classes. Mahj in the City came and taught our participants how to play Mahjong. It was a lot of fun and all the classes sold out. Mahj in the City also made a donation back to the church.

General Board Meeting September 14, 2022

We held a General ECW Board Meeting in the Blue Room and invited all women of Christ Church to come and join us. We talked about ECW and what it means to the church and how parishioners could volunteer and be a part of this amazing group. We had about 40 people come, and it was a great kick off to the fall.

Staff Appreciation Breakfast October 11, 2022

PerMar Olin served a fantastic breakfast to the staff of Christ Church. She had individual meals prepared and some donuts and other treats for all the staff. It was a wonderful morning.

Friendship Feast October 18, 2022

Friendship Feast dinner was held in All Saints' Hall. We enjoyed a delicious dinner made by Chef Mary. Molly Grantham was our speaker and she talked with us about how to reconnect with friends, family, and co-workers post Covid. She did an amazing job and I think everyone enjoyed it! About 165 people attended.

Christmas Pop Up December 3, 2022

The Christmas Pop Up was held on Saturday this year, from 9 am - 1 pm. The Greenery Sale was back thanks to Laura Copps and Gigi Harris. We had about 11 vendors in All Saints' Hall selling many different crafts, books and food. We also had a BBQ vendor out front and that was a huge hit! The GoodNews Shop was open and Gail had three vendors in the Cafe. It was a successful day and everyone seemed to be so happy to just be able to be together and shop in person.

The Living Advent Wreath December 8, 2022

The Living Advent Wreath was held in All Saints' Hall from 4:30 - 7:30 pm. It is such a wonderful event and really helps with the spirit of Christmas. The Good News Shop was open and participants were able to have snacks in the cafe. It was a great success and such a wonderful night.

Mission Funding

Kalie Koivisto and Lydia Hanna are working tirelessly to review applications and make sure past recipients are applying. We can't wait to hear how mission funding will be able to help these wonderful charities. Laura Copps and some other wonderful ECW women are already planning the 2023 Women's Retreat. It's been a great and exciting year! Looking forward to 2023 and what ECW has in store!

ECW Board: Juliann Bannon, Syble Carson, Laura Copps, Page Gatewood, Lydia Hanna, Kalie Koivisto, Gail Landers, PerMar Olin, Allen Pruitt, Liz Ritchie, Ginger Seabrook, Scottie Stamper

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Submitted by Ben Outen

The Music Ministry of Christ Church is a vibrant ministry that has seen growth and enthusiasm during the year of 2022. Our music offerings for children, adults, and the community at large have expanded and continued to flourish as all of Christ Church navigates our new normal and continued Covid landscape. Music Ministry offerings are highlighted below in four sections: Children's Music, Contemporary Music, Christ Church Choir, and Parish and Community Offerings.

Children's Music

This past year has seen incredible growth in the realm of children's music:

- Membership in Music Club (4 years old - Kindergarten) has increased by 80% from the Fall of 2021 to the Fall of 2022.
- Membership in St. Nicolas choir (1st – 3rd grades) has increased by 40% from Fall of 2021 to the Fall of 2022.
- Christ Church Choristers (4th – 8th grades) has been reinstated as interest has grown for upper elementary and middle school students during the Fall of 2022.
- RSCM (Royal School of Church Music) Ribbon Classes (music reading classes) are now offered along with the choir rehearsals on Wednesday evenings.
- St. Nicolas Choir and the Christ Church Choristers sung once monthly for worship in the Church equating to 9 full worship services.
- Music Club sung once per semester in the Discovery Eucharist Service.

Children's Music was led by the Assistant Director of Music and Organist, Jerrick Cavagnaro and the Associate Musician for Children, Katie Lehman. Additionally, Katie Lehman, is away on maternity leave until January 2023 and Lauren Tomme, who previously held this position, graciously stepped back in to fill this position from October 2022 – January 2023.

Contemporary Music

We are grateful for the thriving village of 29 musicians and singers who came through our Contemporary and Family Worship program in 2022! At a minimum commitment of seven hours per Sunday, and an early arrival time of 7:30 am, these giving hearts are the heroes of our mission down in All Saints' Hall. Along with the leadership of our Director of Contemporary and Family Worship, Charles Milling, we would like to especially acknowledge our most devoted players and singers, who tallied hundreds of hours of work for this ministry this year: Emma Gwin, Pete Landry, David Milling, Anna Stadlman, Curtis Wingfield and Nadia Shutkifski – with a special nod to our very own Maggie Baker and Natalie Akin for their fabulous pinch hitting.

During the Summer months we attended to some areas of need in All Saints' Hall:

- Added 10', 2" thick, fabric covered panels to the wall behind the altar and behind the sound booth, eliminating the worst of the acoustic "slapback."
- Increased the width of the stage from 24' to 48', while both keeping the doorway accesses open and avoiding compromising our seating capacity. This allowed for the band, clergy, chairs, reed table and altar to all have a place without being jammed together. Breathing room! Plus, breathing room for more clergy, lay leaders, players and singers in the future. The stage was finished by adding new blue skirting and carpet tile.
- Brought in XLMediaworks to redistribute the lighting, and to add six more lights over the congregation for better "house lighting."
- Replaced failing sound board and stage box with a Behringer WING, and three Behringer stage boxes.
- Welcomed a new Sound Engineer, Kevin Sharpe, who has been integral in dialing everything in. We are now off to the races.

- Added elements that we did not have the technical room for before. Exciting!
- A seamstress is currently working on replacing the blue curtains with custom curtains made from the same fabric you now see covering the wall panels behind the stage. It will look nice.

Each of the Contemporary and Family Worship experiences, over 80 in a calendar year, curates its own arrangements of songs, and includes a unique theme and selection of songs. The projected liturgies on screen in All Saints' Hall are also curated individually "in house", with our ever-growing bank of curated images now at 775. At the end of November, Contemporary Music will play its last of six "The Well" services for the year. We also led one unique outdoor service "unplugged" style, with cajon, acoustic guitar and vocals. And our ever-amazing Emma Gwin and Cindy Costa teamed up with Charles to lead music at a super-fun week of VBS in All Saints' Hall.

Christ Church Choir

The Christ Church Choir has maintained a high standard of musical excellence leading two Sunday services weekly throughout 2022. Beyond the Sunday offerings they have offered these special services:

- Hymn Festival during the Faith Forum in January
- 2 Ash Wednesday Eucharists, February
- Holy Week: Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter Eve/Vigil
- Three Evensongs on third Sundays at 3 pm, September, October, November and will continue in January, February, and March in 2023. These services are also in preparation for a Cathedral residency at Lincoln Cathedral, England in 2024.
- Memorial Evensong on the death of Queen Elizabeth II
- All Saints Day Eucharist
- Advent Lessons and Carols
- Sages Carol Concert for their December meeting
- Christmas Eve
- Various weddings and funerals

The personnel of the Christ Church Schola continues to change and evolve. We currently have 10 section leaders including Katie Lehman, Associate Musician for Children. Members of the Schola also serve as cantors for the 5 pm Eucharist each week. There are nine volunteers in the Christ Church Choir: Theresa Gibson, Sam Bomar, Kate McLoughlin, Sarah Tull, Janice Mueller, Bill Stokes, Lauren Cable, John Craver and Emma Gwin.

The Christ Church Parish Choir has been reinstated. The volunteers include: John Crehore, Ann Crehore, Susan Tompkins, Haines Barksdale, Will Trotter, Amy Klett, Margaret Bauer and Maggie Loselle. They will have sung four Sunday services by the end of 2022.

Parish and Community Offerings

As Charlotte continues to grow and Christ Church continues to expand its reach, the community that surrounds the campus increasingly notices and seeks the spaces and location provided within Christ Church. In 2022, the Music Ministry welcomed almost a dozen community arts organizations and instructors that utilized our spaces for private lessons, presented concerts and recitals, and hosted large scale events during each month of 2022. Organizations included:

- Arts+
- Bach Akademie Charlotte
- Charlotte Master Chorale
- St. Thomas Gospel Choir, Philadelphia, PA
- Caritas
- Dahlia Grove
- Charlotte Chamber Choir
- Charlotte Harps

Each organization, recitalist, and instructor were welcomed by all the Music staff including Director of Music, Ben Outen, Director of Contemporary and Family Worship Charles Milling, Assistant Director of Music and Organist, Jerrick Cavagnaro, and Administrative Assistant for Music, Olivia Beaver. In addition, the facilities staff and the entire staff and clergy of Christ Church welcomed each organization onto the campus with joy and enthusiasm. The Music Ministry is excited to welcome the Choir of New College, Oxford in March of 2023 as we continue to expand the reach of Christ Church Charlotte.

The midweek service, The Well, has been a source of new activity during 2022. Charles Milling provided musical leadership for six of The Well services this year and Ben Outen accompanied various guest musicians for the rest: Peter de Vries, violinist (4 services), Anne O'Byrne, soprano (1 service), Amy Blumenthal, flute (1 service), Jennifer Dior, flutist (2 services), Alex Wilborn, trumpet (1 service), Dan Hively, French Horn (1 service) and Christine Van Arsdale, Harp (1 service).

Other occasions for which guest instrumentalists were used include:

- Hymn Festival, Strings and Brass, January
- Easter, Brass and Percussion, April
- Memorial Evensong on the death of Queen Elizabeth II, String Quartet, September
- All Saints Day, Bagpiper, November
- Christmas, Brass Quintet, Harp and Percussion, December

In addition to the weekly worship services in the Church, Ben Outen and Jerrick Cavagnaro played for most of the 13 weddings and 43 funerals during 2022. Several of those required finding and hiring guest instrumentalists, soloists and ensembles. Jerrick Cavagnaro played an organ recital for the Charlotte Chapter of The American Guild of Organists in August. Ben Outen taught a series of five Lenten classes on the Episcopal heritage of church music. During the Fall of 2022, Ben also began writing weekly Music Notes for the bulletin to provide educational information about worship music choices. Ben and Jerrick have served as resources helping the Organ Committee and Strategic Planning Committee understand the dramatic need for a new organ, how it would enhance worship and contribute to the worship life of the entire parish.

The Music Ministry of Christ Church Charlotte is one of the many ministries that continue to invite and engage the diverse landscape of churchgoers in 2022. Each piece of music played and sung, relationship cultivated, worship experience executed, and faith journey explored is affected by those who are a part of the Music Ministry of Christ Church. This ministry will continue to grow and thrive in Christ Church's mission to engage, equip and empower people in the love and faithfulness of Jesus Christ.

NEWCOMERS AND PARISH LIFE

Submitted by The Reverend Chip Edens, Kathryn Saunders, Ainslie Wall, Molly Nielsen, and Mary Catherine Zito

Newcomers

We continue to welcome each visitor that we are made aware of with a personal welcome email, entry into our database so that they receive communications, a tour (if desired), invitations to newcomer activities; and follow-up email(s) – all with the focus and hope that they feel connected and become engaged members of Christ Church. We continue with a one-month follow-up email, as well as compile a periodic list of newcomer families for the Children and Youth Commission members to reach out to separately.

Additionally, we have a system set up in most ministry areas to identify newcomers. Children and Family Ministry forwards names of newcomers attending Sunday School or in the Nursery; Adult Formation welcomes class registrants who aren't in our system and ask if they are interested in learning more; and Worship asks all couples getting married if they plan to live in Charlotte and would like to be involved. These are great ways of making sure that visitors or others don't fall through the cracks.

In 2022, we welcomed over 200 households. Over half of these households became active and two-thirds are young adults (20s and 30s).

Starting Point Class: This fall, we introduced the Starting Point class, for those new to Christ Church or looking to restart their spiritual journey. This class was held weekly in the Good News Café from mid-September through October. Clergy, staff and members of the Vestry and Hospitality Committee joined to welcome newcomers, give a broad overview of what's available, and answer questions. We follow with suggestions of ways to get involved when they complete a brief survey. This class received positive feedback and we hope to offer these classes monthly next year.

Greeter Ministry: We enlist parishioners to be greeters before and after our 8:45 and 11:15 am services, as well as our 5:00 pm service. The greeters are very helpful to visitors, particularly with requests to locate the nursery or Sunday school classrooms. We continue to identify newcomers this way and feel the greeter impact is significant.

Vespers in the Garden: We held our first Vespers in the Garden in April, after two years away due to Covid. The Funderburgs hosted the event again in their gardens and it was a very special evening. Roughly 60 newcomers were welcomed by 50 members of our clergy, staff, Vestry and hospitality committee. The choir assisted leading the beautiful candlelight Vespers service at sundown. It was great to welcome everyone back!

Newcomer Dinners: We hosted monthly newcomer dinners from October through May. These are a very casual way to meet other newcomers. We include a personal element by having a Clergy or staff member come talk about their own spiritual journey, along with what they do at Christ Church. A great way to get to know newcomers more deeply.

Hospitality Committee: The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Catherine Ruth Kelly, meets monthly throughout the year and plays the greatest role in the success of the Shrove Tuesday Supper and the Vespers in the Garden events. In addition, the Committee members participate in welcoming newcomers as greeters and reach out personally to all newcomers who wish to be engaged. We are grateful for their hospitality. The 2022 Hospitality Committee members are Catherine Ruth Kelly (Chair), Kathi Adams, Natalie Akin, Caroline Austin, Austin Carey, Lauren Carter, John Crehore, Lindsay Gates, Page Gatewood, Mary Gregory, Gigi Harris, Claudia Pitt, Carol Lorenz, Ann Rogers, Julia Taylor, Liz Willett, Hillary Wyche, and Sara Yorke. Carr Doerre, Mary Stuart Fountain, Janie McCabe, and Lauren McGuire also served on this committee.

Parish Life

Parish Life Commission: The commission consists primarily of event chairs, along with representation by the Hospitality Committee. We hold monthly meetings to discuss how to best connect and engage parishioners through parish wide events. Mary Catherine Zito is serving her second year as chair of the committee and has done an outstanding job.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Shrove Tuesday returned in its full glory in March. This year, we added an education element, where Joshua Case presented the burning of the palms, and we “buried” alleluias in the Memorial Garden before heading into All Saints’ Hall for a wonderful pancake and jambalaya supper prepared by Chef Mary and hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

Easter Egg Hunt: The hunt took place on the lawn and toddler playground after the 11:15 am services. Lots of parishioners donated eggs and many volunteers helped hide them. It was a well-attended event.

Spring Parish Day: We brought back Spring Parish Day and, with the help of Molly Nielsen, the event was a huge success. We added a Bubble Show, which was a big hit, as was the dunking booth, train ride, and bounce houses. Following the Parish Day service, parishioners enjoyed a great BBQ lunch from Chef Mary to the tunes of The Trailblazers bluegrass band.

Funday Sundays: In place of Hot Dog Sundays, we planned a combination of food truck Sundays with bounce houses and hot dog buffets with live music on the 2nd and 4th Sundays. These were such a great way to welcome newcomers and parishioners and provide fellowship during the slower days of summer. Claire Devon, Emily Evans and Garland Talbott helped organize these events.

Fall Kickoff Weekend: Instead of just Fall Parish Day, we added a fun party on Saturday Night to welcome the parish back from summer, but also from the pandemic.

Fall Parish Party: Thanks to a generous anonymous donation, we were able to host a fabulous event on Saturday, September 10 to kick off the new program year. There was a beautiful tent complete with lights around the circle, tables and chairs, etc. Unfortunately, the weather turned and we were forced to host the event inside, but it was well attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. We had approximately 300 in attendance to dance to the tunes of Silverton from Atlanta and enjoy delicious hors d’oeuvres from Chef Mary. Molly Nielsen was largely responsible for the planning and execution.

Fall Parish Day: This annual event welcoming back the parish from summer was very well attended. Chef Mary provided BBQ and other delicious sides. Molly Nielsen and Grace Bailey (chair) planned a fabulous day with the Mike Strauss and Friends band performing under the tent to the delight of the children, who also enjoyed the bounce house and obstacle course. Along with the firetruck appearance, it was a great day to welcome so many and celebrate the year ahead.

Trunk or Treat: The annual event was again a success with perfect fall weather. There were over 500 people in attendance, who enjoyed a hot dog supper, crafts in the Circle, and then paraded to the upper parking deck to trick or treat among parishioners decorated trunks. This year, we had 19 trunks, about half of which were represented by children, youth, and family teams. Laura Spivey and Kate Austin, along with Mary Catherine Zito, orchestrated the successful event.

Young Adult Socials: We added two new chairs to the Parish Life Commission – Jacob Cornell and Julia Davis – in October to begin planning Young Adult social events. We hosted a Firepit Fellowship on November 13 and a Holiday Meetup on December 11. We are planning regular social gatherings for 2023.

Parish Life Commission members include: Mary Catherine Zito (Chair), Sarah Meyers, Grace Bailey, Claire Devon, Emily Evans, Tori Irvin, Garland Talbott, Kate Austin, Laura Spivey, Jacob Cornell, Julia Davis, Catherine Ruth Kelly (Hospitality Representative), and Alison Gugenheim (Vestry Rep).

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Submitted by Ned Waller with thanks for the support of Kathleen Dean and the Outreach and Mission team of The Reverend Joan Kilian, Laura Konitzer, and Lesley Peace

The Outreach and Mission (OAM) Commission focuses its efforts on service, building diverse relationships and working to promote justice and peace in our community, our diocese, and beyond. Along with providing monetary support to our partner agencies in outreach and mission, we provide opportunities for all ages to serve as the hands and feet of Christ. Additionally, we offer educational programming and growth opportunities for Christ Church members in all areas of our work.

There are 12 Christ Church members on the commission, which includes one teen representative. Leadership is provided by the Reverend Joan Kilian, our Clergy member, Laura Konitzer, the Director of Outreach and Mission, and Lesley Peace, the Administrative Assistant for Outreach and Mission. In addition, Marks Arnold serves as the liaison to the Vestry.

In 2022 the O&M Commission was tasked with continuing to provide support and assistance to our community in different ways as we all adjust to the changing patterns of life and needs stemming from the global pandemic. Led by Joan, Laura and Lesley, the commission has risen to that challenge, pivoting time and again to maintain parishioner engagement and meet the evolving needs of our partners. By no means exhaustive, this report hits the highlights of an extremely busy and impactful year in which the commission continued to find ways to serve those challenged by disruptions in their lives and encourage our parish to gather, connect and grow.

February marked the joyful in-person kick-off of construction on our 34th Habitat House, with work continuing to completion in April, all in memory of Reuben Hufham, who had been a builder and champion of Habitat for decades. Throughout the build, numerous members volunteered to help with construction while others kept up the wonderful builders' energy with a regular supply of lunches, snacks, and water.

In March, the commission met to vote on the recipients of the \$481,000 Outreach & Mission Budget. The organizations receiving grants from the \$450,000 allocated to Outreach are categorized into four pillars, and are as follows:

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS	34.56%	RECONCILIATION & RESTORATIVE	
Charlotte Family Housing	\$ 40,000	SOCIAL JUSTICE	9.78%
Roof Above	\$ 35,000	Galilee Ministries	\$ 19,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 61,000	Reimagining America Project	\$ 2,500
The Relatives	\$ 7,500	Diversity and Belonging at TES	\$ 2,500
YWCA (WIT/Families Together)***	\$ 12,000	Changed Choices	\$ 5,500
SUBTOTAL	\$155,500	Center for Community Transition	\$ 7,500
		YWCA (Eliminating Racism)	\$ 7,500
ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY & STABILIZATION	15.56%	JUSTICE SUBTOTAL	\$ 44,000
Crisis Assistance	\$ 40,000		
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 20,000	OTHER	2.00%
Common Wealth Charlotte	\$ 10,000	Mecklenburg Ministry Dues	\$ 1,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 70,000	Research & Development	\$ 1,000
		Undesignated	\$ 2,500
CHILDREN, YOUTH, & EDUCATIONAL EQUITY	38.11%	Administrative: Pilgrimage & Mission	\$ 500
Thompson Child/Family Focus & A Child's Place	\$ 15,000	Administrative: Room in the Inn	\$ 1,000
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	\$ 12,000	Administrative: Habitat for Humanity	\$ 500
Freedom School Partners (at Rama Rd)	\$ 48,000	Administrative: Education & Advocacy	\$ 500
Communities in Schools - Rama Rd	\$ 65,000	Immediate Response	\$ 2,000
Rama Road Annual Budget	\$ 6,000	TOTAL OTHER	\$ 9,000
A Better World	\$ 9,000		
ROC	\$ 10,000	GRAND TOTAL	\$450,000
Foster Village	\$ 6,500		
SUBTOTAL	\$171,500		

The \$31,000 for Mission was distributed to the following partners:

Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica	\$23,800
Thistle Farms	\$ 2,000
Episcopal Diocese of Botswana	\$ 5,000
Undesignated	\$ 200
TOTAL	\$31,000

Also in March, Outreach and Mission engaged our brethren at St. Michael's and All Angels in the national church's Becoming Beloved Community Lenten study. It culminated in a community picnic after the Zoom-based coursework was completed.

The month also saw Outreach and Mission join an Open Tables cohort with Myers Park Baptist, Temple Beth El, and Friendship Missionary Baptist Church as part of Mecklenburg Ministries. Christ Church hosted this event in June and has continued with these quarterly gatherings.

Outreach and Mission also participated in a partnership with Veterans Bridge Home to support a refugee Afghan family, beginning in the first quarter. The Church's very active team has provided them with asylum application help, along with food and settlement support.

In April, the parish donated generously to the Easter offering, which was given to Episcopal Relief and Development for the people of Ukraine. Also in April, the Commission made recommendations to the Christ Church Foundation for the allocation of the Foundation's Outreach Fund. New Foundation grant recipients for 2022 were Shelter to Shutters, Baby Bundles, and Urban Promise.

As the church and the community adjust to a sacred new normal, Joan, Laura and Lesley have been creative in developing ways for parishioners to engage safely in volunteering to support community partners. Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVP) have continued as a way of venturing into volunteerism with a small group of fellow parishioners. The MVPs have included Project Outpour in January, tutoring at the Boys and Girls Club in February, Leah's Hopes and Dreams in March, work at the Freedom School warehouse in May, support for the Matthews Farmers Market in June and Second Harvest Food Bank in July, gleanings with the Society of St. Andrew in August, and engagement with the Diaper Bank of Charlotte in September. MVPs supported two organizations at once in October as items were made in Southminster for Baby Bundles. More recently, dinner was provided at the Center for Community Transitions in November. The work with the Diaper Bank of Charlotte will continue in the future as Christ Church is sponsoring a monthly Dignity Drive to provide supplies to those in need.

Part of this transition process has involved engagement with Christ Church parishioners so that the church can strive to meet their spiritual needs in a changing world. In line with that goal, the Outreach and Mission Commission participated in the Matters of the Heart survey in May to assess how our needs may be different now than they were previously.

This summer, over 50 volunteers provided over 650 hours of support at Freedom School, and 8 teen board members representing youth participation. This was the first fully functioning Freedom School since 2019. Our Girl Scouts and other Rama Road Elementary school support opportunities were also back fully in person for the first time post-covid. These opportunities at Rama Road have continued in the fall with back to school, Thanksgiving, and Christmas-focused outreach work. Other Christmas-focused outreach included the Jubilee Store for Charlotte Family Housing in November and an upcoming holiday food drive for Loaves and Fishes.

Another sign of recovery from the pandemic was that Christ Church was able to serve and host at Room at the Inn, along with providing in person service opportunities at the Levine Men's Shelter.

Outreach and Mission expanded its scope beyond Charlotte this fall as well, as Lesley and Laura went to Botswana on behalf of Diocese of North Carolina to celebrate the 50th anniversary of our companion Diocese of Botswana and to strengthen a relationship that should continue to grow in the future. Christ Church is also working alongside St. Francis, Greensboro, to plan a March 2023 mission trip to our other companion Diocese of Costa Rica.

To work to further its goal of Reconciliation and Restorative Social Justice, the Commission provided funding for a documentary on the relationship between the Kirkpatricks, two men with a shared past across generations who were a part of the Myers Park High School football team in the 1960s as it integrated. In addition to supporting the film, Outreach and Mission also hosted them for a Faith Forum in the fall. Additional Sunday fall programming included Couch Conversations on a variety of challenging topics, in an effort to bridge divides and prayerfully deepen our understanding of differences.

"Play the Hand You're Dealt." In a year where Christ Church has been figuring out how to engage with its partners in a somewhat post-pandemic world as the hands and feet of Christ, Joan, Laura and Lesley have consistently led the commission in finding ways to do just that. Innovations such as Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVP) have propelled us forward in new and exciting ways, helping us look ahead with hope and expectation for the healing of our community in a sacred new normal in 2023.

Outreach and Mission Commission: Marks Arnold, Vincent Bill, Deb Blackwood, Gilbert Browne, Kate Hill, Lise Hinton, Joanne Jenkins, Joan Kilian, Laura Konitzer, Barlow Mann, Michael Mazhari, Paula Moss, Dawn Osborn, Emily Parker, Angela Paul, Lesley Peace, Ned Waller

STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

Submitted by Natalie Akin and Paulette Wilkes

Generosity

In 2021 the Generosity Taskforce was formed to develop a year-round stewardship model that emphasizes education and awareness around the theology of stewardship, pledging, personal connection, relationships, storytelling, and multigenerational participation. It was also tasked with exploring opportunities to use technology and updated messaging to promote stewardship and enhance efficiency in the annual campaign execution. The conversation has shifted away from the transactional model of stewardship to a lifestyle saturated in generosity.

Building on this vision, the 2022 Vestry set one of its goals to cultivate generosity as a spiritual practice. This would be achieved in several ways. First, by recognizing and celebrating all gifts of time, talent, energy, and resources as “Holy”. Second, by assessing the abundant gifts within our parish (time, talent, energy, and resources) to best connect gifts to opportunities within our church and beyond. And third, by working with a new Generosity and Stewardship Commission to develop a clear communications strategy of storytelling, in addition to creating a transformative educational “experience” to encourage reflection, connection, renewal and growth in generosity.

In November 2021, Natalie Akin, an active Christ Church (CC) parishioner, was hired as the new Director of Generosity and Stewardship to collaborate with other ministries in educating our church community. She immediately set about forming the new Generosity & Stewardship Commission which held its inaugural meeting in the spring of 2022 and continues to meet quarterly. It is currently chaired by long-time parishioner, Doug Ey, and its members reflect a cross-section of various generosity topics including the Annual Stewardship Campaign, the Oak Circle, generosity education, and communications.

The Generosity Commission has also been working in partnership with the Spiritual Growth Commission (SGC) to establish a means to assess the abundant gifts within our parish. The Spiritual Growth Commission has opted for Don Evert’s “Discover Your Gifts” assessment which will enable parishioners to connect more with the church, family, community, and work. The next step is to share the assessment with staff and their respective commissions before launching to the parish in 2023.

2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign

The 2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign (ASC), led by the combined experienced leadership of The Reverend Chip Edens, Senior Warden Doug Ey, Junior Warden Randall Mountcastle and the Vestry, was launched with the mailing of pledge packages on September 15, 2021. The campaign’s theme, “Gift of Hope,” focused on Christ Church’s role in giving people hope in an uncertain world.

As people felt more comfortable returning to safe, in-person fellowship, Weekend of Hope, October 1-3, was planned with that in mind, and subject to COVID safety protocols. It highlighted how we can still share in God’s Gift of Hope during challenging times. The celebrations began with Evensong on Friday evening, led by Ben Outen, the choir and accompanied by Jerrick Cavagnaro on organ. Saturday morning provided several outreach project opportunities, while Sunday’s in-service worship allowed parishioners to present their pledges at the altar during Eucharist.

Since more than 98% of Christ Church’s yearly budget is funded by the ASC, several opportunities were used to promote the importance of making a yearly pledge, including personal conversations, phone calls, letters, email, and social media. On February 22, 2022, the Vestry approved a budget of \$6,027,555 based on pledges received by that date, representing 1,123 parish households - an increase of over 6% in the total amount pledged the previous year.

2023 Annual Stewardship Campaign

The 2023 Annual Stewardship Campaign, co-chaired by Al Lindemann and John Wickham, began in the summer of 2022 by reaching out to approximately 125 of CC's core donors. The campaign was well underway by the time the pledge packages were mailed parish-wide on September 8, 2022. The following Sunday, before and after worship on Parish Day (September 11), Hunter Ives and Charlotte McArthur facilitated brief live interviews with parishioners about their generosity stories. These are being shared on Christ Church's social media platform over the next few months.

Celebration Sunday on October 2 showcased generosity. During all services, parishioners were invited to present their pledges at the altar during Eucharist. Clergy recognized parishioners who serve the church in any capacity, and Faith Forum featured a conversation with guest speaker and generosity consultant, Allen Walworth. Conversations surrounding generosity were highlighted, including table topics at a discounted brunch, and a photo booth with generosity prompts on whiteboards. Those who were unable to attend brunch could take a to-go package which included the table topic cards and cookies. Natalie also led a brief presentation about generosity to Children's Chapel.

Further dedicated efforts to promote the importance of making a yearly pledge continue to be made through emails, phone calls, personal conversations, and social media. As of November 21, 744 pledges totaling \$4,437,336 have been received, over 77% of the previous year's campaign total. The Vestry will vote on the 2023 budget in February.

Oak Circle

There are currently over 130 parishioners who, by establishing planned gifts to Christ Church or the Christ Church Foundation (CCF), are members of Oak Circle. The Oak Circle Committee is discussing how best to share the opportunity of making a planned gift to Christ Church, which include personal contacts and targeted communications. At the end of the year, Frank Horne will be stepping down as Oak Circle Chair and Skip Smart will take up leadership for 2023.

Oak Circle Board Members: Frank Horne (Chair), Skip Smart (Vice-Chair), Bird Anderson, Jim Clardy, DeeDee Dalrymple, Kate Hill, David Kern, Graham McGoogan, Lois Ann Partridge, Anne Poole, Zach Smith, Parkie Thomas, John Tomlinson, Virginia Wynn, Suzanne Bledsoe, Joe Klutz, and Natalie Akin

Christ Church Foundation

During 2022, funds from CCF were allocated to several people and organizations. Grants from its Outreach Fund were awarded to 10 organizations recommended by the Christ Church Mission and Outreach Ministry. Two undergrad students received grants from the Scholarship Fund. The Habitat for Humanity Fund contributed to the construction of a Habitat home. Repairs to the Blue Room roof and the Rotunda bathrooms were made possible by the Property Plant & Equipment Fund. Further support to clergy was provided through the Clergy Housing Fund.

The CCF Board of Trustees established a Nominating Committee in October to set up a comprehensive framework and process for the search and nomination of future Trustees and Officers. At the end of the year, Suzanne Bledsoe will be stepping down as 2022 Chair and Marks Arnold will take up leadership for 2023.

CCF Board Members: Suzanne Bledsoe (Chair), Carrington Coulter, Marks Arnold, Hooper Hardison, David Kern, Mary Klutz, Mark Mealy, Allison Popp, Ken Thompson, Chris Ullrich, Ned Waller, Frank Horn, The Reverend Chip Edens, The Reverend Joan Kilian, Laura Konitzer, Wendy Mauney, and Natalie Akin

Generosity Commission: Doug Ey (Chair), Jennifer Bennett, Frank Horne, Charlotte McArthur, Wellford Tabor, Al Lindeman, John Wickham, The Reverend Connor Gwin, The Reverend Allen Pruitt, Natalie Akin, Wendy Mauney, and Paulette Wilkes

WELLNESS

Submitted by Mollee Reitz

Our Wellness ministry is excited to share about a vibrant collection of in-person, digital, and hybrid offerings that occurred during the year. In 2022:

- Counseling services were available in person and virtually. Mollee and Alex provided a record 720 counseling services through December 1 (this represents a 56.52% increase from the same time period in 2021).
- Mollee and Alex continued to provide community referrals to parishioners, their loved ones, and all who reached out. In 2022, 95 referrals were provided through November 30 (this represents a 5.94% decrease compared to the same time period in 2021). We believe this small decrease is indicative of parishioners' preference to work with a Christ Church counselor when one is available.
- Our wellness team started tracking group data in July. From July 1 – November 30 we had 323 contact points with parishioners. This refers to the collective number of times parishioners participated in Wellness programs.
- Alex celebrated her first full year at Christ Church and Mollee celebrated her third full year!
- Connor joined Team Wellness as the Associate Rector for Spiritual Well-being and Care.
- The Wellness Commission continued to meet monthly and welcomed new members Brent Becnel, Brittany Luther, and Amanda Anders.
- Christ Church hosted several wellness-themed Faith Forums including:
 - 1/19 on Mental Health and Covid
 - 1/30 on Teen Mental Health
 - 3/13 on God's Unconditional Love with James Alison
 - 10/30 on "What We Can do to Save Lives?" with Christine Moutier
- Mindful Mondays continued to meet on Mondays via Zoom
- Our Holy Hike program grew with offerings at Park Road Park, Crowders Mountain State Park, and Lake Norman State Park.
- EPEC Support Group resumed in March for the first time since the pandemic. We hosted 4 group meetings in 2022.
- Grief Groups also resumed in March of 2022. Our March group had record participation.
- We hosted Blood Drives on 5/8 and 8/28 to help support our community.
- We led classes on Parenting Stress & Burnout Prevention, Boundaries, and Grief during the Holidays. We also led trainings via the Bishop's Committee on Children and Youth Mental Health on Mental Health Resilience & Community Resilience.
- Our Wellness team collaborated with clergy to host the Unexpected Insiders Dinner with James Alison. This dinner focused on LGBTQ+ acceptance and inclusion.
- The Wellness team worked to address child and teen mental health by sharing wellness lessons at VBS, EYC, and by bringing speakers such as Kelly Little from Dilworth Center to lead School of Faith classes.

- Mollee and Julie Marr co-facilitated Summer Soul Camp. It was so popular that they brought it back as Advent Soul Camp in the winter!
- Alex collaborated with church member to create “Social Together” Circle to support fellowship opportunities for Christ Church widows and widowers.
- Team Wellness participated in the Fall leader training. Mollee and Tyler Larmee co-taught a class on neurodiversity and inclusion.
- Lisa, Jennifer, Alex, and Mollee had a blast at Trunk or Treat with their Bee Kind themed trunk. It was the Bees-knees!
- Parishioners Joyce Cmiel and Dina Khentigan donated their time and talents to lead yoga and pilates classes for parishioners.
- OctoberFIT was launched to encourage parishioners to be mindful of all forms of wellness in October.
- Our Wellness team collaborated with the Communications team to launch Wellness Wednesdays and weekly wellness devotions and reflections during Lent.
- Our Wellness team participated in the Strategic Direction In-Reach planning group.

Wellness Commission Members: Amanda Anders, Alex Bacon, Margaret Bauer, Brent Becnel, Heather Bonner, Sean Bonner, Craig Cmiel, Ginny Cobb, Kathleen Dean, Kathy Fletcher, Kathy Giannuzzi, Connor Gwin, Jennifer Hamm, Brittany Luther, Preeti Matkins, Mollee Reitz

WORSHIP AND LITURGY

Submitted by The Reverend Joshua Case and Emily Skinner

After several long years of gathering with people for worship online and through special and outdoor liturgies, we are finally beginning to return to a new sacred normal of in-person gathering. While early in 2022 we still had various masking provisions and health protocols, entering into the fall, we have returned to offering at least five worship service options each Sunday as well as at least two weekday worship services every week this year. Due to the pandemic, this hasn't been done for a full year since 2019!

Concerning Worship Volunteers

- As we have returned from COVID, we have given special attention to the recruitment of new volunteers to our various roles in worship. Our commission has worked hard and new parish members have been eager to find ways to serve.
- This year we saw an increase in our acolyte ministry as we lowered the age of participation to accommodate the energy from families with middle schoolers. We welcomed a young, energized class of over 30 acolytes.
- This year, all sign-up and recruitment for Sunday volunteer roles has gone digital. Emily Skinner, Assistant for Worship and Liturgy, has done an amazing job of creating new worship role templates so that all those who serve are in sync. This coordination has enabled us to more widely share the available ministry opportunities across the parish. For instance...
- o Did you know? It takes 14 adult volunteers to serve in worship every Sunday as chalice bearers and lectors, and approximately 10 young ministers to serve in the Discovery Service? In total, every Sunday requires somewhere in the neighborhood of 50+ volunteers for worship to be coordinated across the whole.

In the Church

- In 2022 we returned to worship in the Church without limitations. Our 8:45 and 11:15 liturgies have been enriched by music and choral offerings provided by Ben Outen and his teams.
- In Lent, we began a new service called The Well. Every Wednesday at 6 pm, all were invited for an evening service filled with prayer and meditation. It was so well received that we brought it back in the Fall for a two month series focused on well-being and community.
- Evensong is back! Every third Sunday at 3 pm, in addition to our regular service offerings, we've hosted a church service traditionally focused on singing psalms and biblical canticles. The Fall series of Evensong was particularly well received.

In All Saints' Hall

- Worship in All Saints' Hall has grown through the course of 2022. Under the leadership of Charles Milling, Jason Scofield and the sound team, our stage has been expanded, offering more room for our band and worship teams to embrace the room. Enrichments to space feel in sound and space have been instrumental in fostering a warm environment for people to worship God and connect to each other.
- In addition to offering a livestream of the 8:45 am Church service, we reinstated livestreaming the 8:45 am Contemporary Service in All Saints' Hall.
- Our Discovery Service is now regularly the largest gathering for worship on Sunday mornings at Christ Church. New families have been joining this Fall and we have opened up new roles for our youngest members to serve. Again, the musical approach and relatability of Charles and the band to the community has made it a soft-yet-inspirational landing place for both parents and their children.

Facilities and Enriching the Worship Experience

- Over the summer and in early fall, All Saints' Hall received a few exciting upgrades, including an expanded new stage, replaced baffle boards, and a new sound board for the booth.
- Our sanctuary windows in the Church were replaced over the summer. Installing custom-made windows to match the originals was a successful two month project that resulted in improved energy efficiency and acoustics in the space.
- The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Virginia Wolcott purchased new linens, had our candles for the Church and All Saints' Hall cleaned and have started the process of upfitting, cleaning and evaluating our vestment needs. Additionally, Virginia undertook the task of updating the Altar Guild handbooks and directions to bring them into present practice and protocols. This was a massive and very important undertaking.

Liturgical Commission

We cannot state enough how thankful we are for the leadership and collaboration with the Liturgical Commission these last few years. Their leadership has made worship possible through the course of the pandemic and their commitment and flexibility during 2022 enabled us to draw the circle of volunteers wider to meet the worship needs of the parish's worship ministries.

During 2022 Lise Hinton served as the chair of the commission. In keeping with the best practices of other commissions, the Liturgical Commission recently re-adopted a commission structure with three-year term limits. Each area of ministry is actively recruiting and identifying new leadership in order to ensure that our fresh perspectives are incorporated and new leadership is trained as we enrich the worship experience and maintain our commitment to the fullness of our Episcopal tradition and identity.

Over the course of the next three years, the number of participants on the commission will grow as the Commission lives into its mission to: support the worship experience at Christ Church through assisting the clergy and music ministries in preparation for ongoing, seasonal and special worship services, empowering the laity of all ages to serve in worship, and creatively collaborating for the spiritual nurture and growth of the congregation. Truly this work is no small task, but as a Church whose mission is centered in prayer/worship, it is some of the most essential work we do.

Liturgical Commission members in 2022 include: Lise Hinton (chair), Geoff Peters, Judd McAdams, Margareta Leary, Laurie Howell, Virginia Wolcott, Genie Hufham, John Crehore, Tom Poe, Maggie Baker, Jerrick Cavagnaro, Ben Outen, Charles Milling, Emily Skinner, and Joshua Case.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Submitted by Maggie Baker

At the beginning of 2022, we were continuing to figure out changes in protocols and how to meet safely. We were so excited to bring back the Youth Council Ski Retreat in February. We had 24 students and 4 leaders go to West Virginia. This began the feeling of re-connecting to each other and to programming we have missed.

Within our programming, we began the year continuing virtual programming, but we were able to move to in-person in February. Middle School EYC and Life Group continue going strong on Wednesday nights. Our Youth Council continues to grow, with us having 70 9th – 12th grade members. We are so excited for the ways they continue to show up as leaders here at Christ Church.

We welcomed a new cohort in our Confirmation program in January, and we confirmed our first group of Confirmands in the new program in June!

On Sunday mornings, we continued our Bible Study for 6th - 8th grade called Donuts and Devotions. This group has enjoyed sharing Krispy Kreme while exploring how we read the Bible, from a historical and literary understanding, as well as how we can still learn applicable lessons today. We have added a new opportunity for High School students to be engaged on Sunday mornings through serving in Children's Sunday School. These students are part of the Children's Sunday School Teen Board.

This year, we had our first Middle School Retreat! Students and leaders went to Kanuga to have time for fellowship, fun, and prayer. We were so excited to allow for an opportunity for our Middle School students to get away from Charlotte to bond and experience God in nature.

We are gearing up for our 2023 Pilgrimage to Scotland, with 13 pilgrims joining us. We are looking forward to diving into our Anglican roots and learning about how the Episcopal Church in America's history is tied to the area, as well as visiting Iona Abbey.

This year has seen staff changes once again. Betsy Parkhurst retired at the end of 2021. Katherine Vest stepped in very part time in May to help out while we continued to search for a new Administrative Assistant. We finally filled our Administrative Assistant for Youth, Family, and Young Adult Ministry position in November. We are excited to welcome Lexie Trader to our team! The Reverend Connor Gwin transitioned into a new role as the Associate Rector for Spiritual Care and Well-being, and we have begun the search process for a new Associate Rector for Young Adult and Family Ministry.

With the easing of restrictions, we have had the ability to get back to the connections we have been longing for. We have been able to reconnect with each other and with programming we have missed so dearly. We look forward to continuing to build relationships in 2023!

Youth Commission: Maggie Baker, Lena Bird, Sean Bird, Avery Cheatwood, Jane Coulter, Eleanor Dean, Alice deVries, Lizzy Dillard, Adam Eligator, Elizabeth Glasgow, Brindley Hale, Kris Humphreys, Cathy Lowe, Lindsay Masi, Eliza McCurdy, David McGuire, Skye McMahan, Jenny Morton, Darrell Palasciano, Melanie Piasecki, Connell Pinckney, Mike Roof, Anderson Setaro, Carter Siegel, Margaret Siegel, Katherine Slayton, Katie Zarzour



Christ Church Charlotte

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