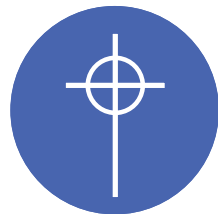
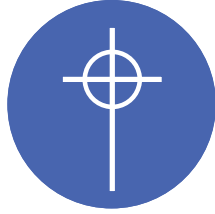




2020 Annual Reports



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)

2020 VESTRY

Jane Showalter, *Senior Warden*

Sally Mitchener, *Junior Warden*

Dick Parkhurst, *Treasurer*

Louise Bonner

Jane Coulter

Nikki DeVillers

Doug Ey

Susan Hamilton

Alex Kelly

David Kern

Julie Marr

Randall Mountcastle

Geoff Peters

Ken Thompson

Chris Ullrich

Betsy Zarzour

RECTOR'S REPORT

By The Reverend Chip Edens

It is certainly an understatement to say this was an extraordinary year. It has been a year of profound loss at every level – the loss of the things that we hold dear, our time with family and friends, the order that comes with work and routines and seasonal celebrations... and most especially the loss of lives. The greatest challenge has been that we could not gather together as we usually do during the most difficult times in life, for worship, prayer, celebration, conversation and encouragement. One of the things I grieve the most is we haven't been able to do these kinds of things in person.

And yet what we have seen is that in these most challenging of times, God's creative spirit has enabled us to do some of the most extraordinary things that have ever been done in the life of our congregation. We've seen our congregation gather across digital platforms for worship, for education, for small groups, and support groups. This technology has enabled people who would ordinarily not be able to participate in the life of our church to do so.

With the launch of School of Faith, we've been able to bring in acclaimed thinkers from all over our country and Europe to help us think about the challenges we're facing. Our online platforms have been a sustaining force, bringing a tremendous amount of stability to our lives and allowing many of our parishioners to grow even closer. I've been deeply moved by the care we've been able to offer one another during this difficult time. Our clergy and staff have reached across the digital divide to support people in some of the most difficult moments of their lives. We've also seen parishioners supporting parishioners in countless ways. While we are a spiritual home in place and location, we are foremost a spiritual family.

As we look to the future, we all will be searching for what the new normal is. No doubt that normal will include in-person gatherings as we experienced prior to the COVID-19 crisis; but we will also see a permanent change toward online opportunities that will supplement these gatherings – connecting parishioners wherever they are.

The thing that I will remember the most about this year is the extraordinary generosity and faithfulness of our congregation. I am so proud of the ways that people have shown up and given of their time, talent, and treasure as we have dealt with crisis, racial reconciliation, economic inequality, and political upheaval. We have stuck together during these times of crisis and we have grown stronger because of these experiences. The love we have shared has been healing and sustaining – a bright light in a time of great darkness and uncertainty.

As we learned this year from the writer of Ephesians, "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us...." And for this great lesson, may we all give thanks.

God bless you for your faithfulness during this extraordinary year.

Your friend and Rector,

Chip

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

ASSOCIATE RECTORS

The Reverend Joshua Case

FORMATION

2020 has brought many changes, including my stepping into the role of Vicar for Formation and Worship – a role dedicated to nurturing and convening the worship and formation ministries of the parish. I am so thankful for the chance to serve Christ Church in this way and to continue to support and minister alongside our committed staff and volunteers.

As you will read from the various reports from all areas of ministry and program, we have remained committed to maintaining connection with the people of Christ Church and to discovering new ways that we can meet people where they are in their spiritual journeys during these difficult and challenging times. From converting our ministries to fully digital, to being creative about developing new forms of “drive-through” pilgrimage, to hosting Zoom small groups for people to simply connect, read scripture, and pray. The staff and volunteers of Christ Church have risen to the occasion to make sure that our faith connections and parish community continue to have a spiritual home within which to grow.

In 2020 there have been many moments of crisis and challenge. Time and again, the ministry teams of Christ Church have chosen to lean in and to continue to ask the faith-filled, “how can we make this happen?” question time and time again. As a result of this prayerful and often difficult work, the staff has quickly converted our in-person ministry to a model that at times has been “fully-digital.” In these movements, we have seen some ministry programs take a “break” while others at Christ Church not only expanded, but flourished in new ways.

In my October Vestry report we celebrated and highlighted the following numbers related to our digital campus, as we have started to sift and sort our Digital Touch-points through these new ways of gathering. It was with some excitement that we discovered that since the beginning of the pandemic we’ve had over 440,000 digital engagements with the people of Christ Church and beyond. These touch points include participation in online worship and formation; inspiration and engagement through our Good Book Daily and eDevotions; Christ Church Zoom-hosted ministry collaboration meetings and planning; and ongoing Wellness support for individuals and groups. These touch points say nothing of the thousands of phone call and print connections that ministries, volunteers, and staff have done in order to bind our parish community together even though apart.

While as an organization we are still very much on the learning edge about how our touch points both reach and engage people from within our parish (and around the world) digitally, I am so thankful for the ways in which our Communications department has jumped in and empowered all our ministry areas for ministry.

In closing, I would like to highlight that in addition to the numerous all-hands-on-deck drive-through events that we have hosted, I believe one of the great symbols of the ministry collaboration between all ministry areas during this season has been the launch of the Christ Church app and the School of Faith.

In the early days of the pandemic, it became apparent that we needed to shift our attention towards connecting with our parish *wherever* they were. In times of isolation and self-quarantine, through the use of technology, we recommitted ourselves to continuing to inspire people *and* with providing the spiritual growth resources needed make sense of the world. Over the course of several weeks, the whole of the Christ Church staff worked together to come up with Season One of The School of Faith. In addition to the weekly pre-recording for worship, these daily, noonday, conversations that went “live” provided parishioners and those from around the world the opportunity to engage with their faith on topics that mattered. As we move into 2021 – still in digital mode – we have already planned Season Two of the School of Faith and look forward to applying the lessons we’ve learned into our existing and newly growing ways of being the church.

WORSHIP & LITURGY

During 2020, the Church has been faced with many different challenges with regards to gathering for worship. The season of pandemic has led us to innovate, experiment, and prayerfully consider new ways to gather as the church. During these last number of months, no matter what we have faced, we have continued to gather for worship as Christ Church. In fact, before the pandemic even began, we were already experimenting with new ways of gathering through our “Experi-Lent” offerings. Little did we know that these practices in enriching worship would prove so instructional for the months to come.

In the early days of the pandemic, when we were not allowed to gather in-person, we figured out new ways to worship online. Creating both live and pre-recorded worship has become new normal for our teams. Musicians, cantors, preachers, and lay readers, have all gotten into a rhythm of creating and curating worship for the whole church to join in every single week. And what beautiful worship it is.

In addition to our pre-recorded worship, we were able to gather for a season outdoors for worship masked and socially distanced. These outdoor worship services have included groups of 50 or less and allowed our Discovery service and all of our liturgy’s to continue to be places of good connection and contagion. Over these last months, adhering new guidelines for safety, we have also been able to continue with baptisms – baptizing over 50 children and toddlers in the midst of this pandemic. While numbers were limited in-person, many more joined in live through Zoom calls to witness and join in to these special events. Likewise, we have continued to have weddings and funerals. Each of these events, following important protocol, have been able to mark the season of life pastorally with families during these strange times.

With a little creativity, and a whole lot of prayer, our Children, Youth and Family ministry team, led by Lindsay Masi, Maggie Baker, and Alice deVries, has also figured out ways to continue to gather our teens for worship. New worship services were convened and youth have come out *en masse* when we have been able to convene in person or digitally. Working alongside our Diocesan Bishops Sam and Anne, we have also been able to celebrate the confirmation of our Confirmation class of 2020. It may have taken a little work, but it sure felt a lot like revival as we hosted three distinct liturgies during the course of a whole day. From morning to later afternoon, we confirmed our youth and adults.

Finally, our year ended on a beautiful note even though shaped by pandemic. With a deep desire make sure we could still gather people for worship at Christmas, we followed a model that looked much like our Easter celebration and pre-recorded a Christmas Eve, Day, and Lessons and Carols liturgies. In addition to these worship services online, we held our first-ever Christmas Eve pilgrimage to Christ Church with over 80 families registering (our capacity). Families signed up for five minute increments to make a pilgrimage to the Nave that was beautifully greened and lit with an abundance of candles. With the addition of a manger, Christmas trees, new votives, and music filling the air, it was a festive and deeply moving occasion for all who participated.

As we turn to 2021, we know that we will continue to be called to bring people together for worship. We have learned much in 2020, not the least of which is that no matter what, God is with us and will connect us no matter what comes our way. All we have to do is show up and join in the praise.

The Reverend Lisa Saunders

A year like none other. 2020 included many deep disappointments but also new challenges and opportunities:

- Our plans for “ExperiLent” got sidelined, yet the rest of the year was series of experimental ministry. Learning to be a tele-evangelist and preach to an empty church, and eventually from home, required training new muscles. Preparing short videos for Holy Week and other times during the year proved to be a fun trick for this old dog to learn.

- Pastoral care ministries, which thrive on presence and touch and human connection, also required new ways of thinking and doing. With the help of parishioners Louise Bonner, Peggy Curlin and Page James and others, Christ Church gave away hundreds of handmade face masks, and from the generosity of the Bosongs, thousands of industrial-made masks, to parishioners, every resident at Southminster and clients at HopeWay.
- Pen Pals and telephone ministries were developed to continue to keep parishioners connected, especially those living alone. Prayer shawl and food deliveries continued.
- One Living with Grief and Hope course was completed in-person before the pandemic, and another happened on zoom. The bereavement team was able to continue their work. Classes, Bible studies and support groups for widows and survivors of suicide continued with zoom.
- Weddings during the pandemic became intimate, informal events but a privilege to officiate. Funerals were hard when hugging isn't allowed and friends and family can't gather. Our livestream funerals were a compassionate alternative. Yet the year included some heartbreaking losses that, in other times, would have filled the church with family and friends.
- The School of Faith weekly broadcast was a creative venture that also called on acquiring new skills, wonderful staff collaboration and resulted in some fabulous offerings. I especially enjoyed interviewing parishioners about their journeys of faith and wellness. The addition of Hunter Ives to the staff, our video producer, gave confidence to us all.
- Serving at Christ Church continues to be a blessing for me. I am delighted to have Connor Gwin join our clergy team. I am twice his age, but he is twice as smart as I am. Jennifer Hamm continues to keep me organized as well as share with me in the ministry of pastoral care to the members of our spiritual home, and our Wellness Director, Mollee Reitz, has proven to be indispensable in the pandemic, providing counsel and encouraging courses in faith and wellness.

The Reverend Joan Kilian

What a year this has been! As I near the two-year mark for being at Christ Church, I am abundantly aware that almost half of that has been in the time of our COVID-19 pandemic. Just when I felt like I was beginning to know a fair number of people in the congregation, suddenly we were all in lockdown.

As the Associate Rector for Outreach and Mission (Team OM, for short), I have the pleasure and privilege of working with Laura Konitzer, our Director of Outreach and Mission, and Lesley Peace, the Administrative Assistant for Outreach and Mission (who began in December 2019, right before all this hit!). As we moved into the early days of the pandemic and lockdown, Team OM had to rethink how we do what we do, as all of our community partners were also on lockdown and not inviting in-person participation. At first, in this strange new world, it seemed as though we would not be able to do much of our work of engaging our parishioners in the community around us. For example, we had to leave this year's Habitat Build about halfway through construction. But as we began to live into this year, more and more opportunities became apparent – and Christ Church has shown up and met the new challenges! Following are just a few snapshots of our Outreach into the community during this time – there are many other things that have happened through your time, your efforts and your generosity.

As the school year was beginning to wind down in the spring, it became apparent that many of the families at Rama Road Elementary (including not only student families but some of the staff, such as cafeteria workers, custodians and bus drivers) were in serious jeopardy of going without food. Christ Church responded with massive contributions of food and household supplies to enable us to help not only Rama Road but also some of the families at Charlotte Bilingual Preschool. The parish responded in a huge way again with our back-to-school supply drive, which included headphones for the all-at-home start to the school year. We've also been able to share the love with the teachers at Rama with snacks, gift cards and lunches that express our appreciation for their frontline

work. Needless to say, Freedom School also looked very different this summer, but Christ Church volunteers helped in every way possible.

We've physically fed others as well. Bulk food items (from donations and from initially cleaning out the church kitchen) were shared with our neighbors at Loaves and Fishes, Charlotte Family Housing, Galilee Ministries and The Relatives. The Matthew 25 ministry has not only continued, but we were able to continue through the summer (which is normally a break time) to help meet the increased needs of our neighbors experiencing homelessness. Additionally, we delivered pizzas to the Church Without Walls Homeless Ministry for about 80 recipients.

We fed people financially to help their ministries with our record-breaking Easter Offering! Thankful for such incredible generosity, the \$78,000+ we raised was distributed evenly to Crisis Assistance (to their fund to help people being displaced by eviction due to the pandemic), Loaves and Fishes, and Roof Above.

Along with Pastoral Care, we have provided thousands of masks (some hand sewn, some donated) for parishioners and our neighbors in need. In addition to the drives for masks, groceries and school supplies, we have had drives for books, healthy snacks for The ROC and the Learning Vine, and egg cartons for Galilee (we're good on the egg cartons for a while!).

As we moved deeper into this pandemic time, we also moved deeper into technology as a way of getting together as well as doing ministry. From March through August, we went to a twice-a-month Outreach newsletter to enable us to stay in touch better. We also had weekly check-ins with our Commission to help support one another. In May, we began an online book club, Good Reads, to learn more about and discuss Outreach-related issues. To date, we've done 5 books, with Kathy IZard's *The Hundred Story Home* slated for December (Kathy will join us). Over the summer, we increased our focus on Creation Care, including creating six Creation Care Bingo cards (available on the Outreach webpages). Team OM then planned 15 weeks of School of Faith programming which began on September 8 and will continue each Tuesday through December 15. We designed it to have three weeks focusing on each of our Outreach pillars (reconciliation and social justice, housing and homelessness, education and children, and poverty alleviation) as well as on Creation Care. The recordings of those programs are available on the church's website or mobile app. In January, we had done a 3-week series, #knowCLT on Poverty Alleviation. In October, we continued that idea with a 4-week virtual series, #knowCLT on Systemic Racism. Those recordings are on the website as well. Most recently, Serv-a-bration went virtual. During that week, we had a snack drive for the Learning Vine, and each day, via Instagram, featured a different community partner, most of the posts including videos from CEC volunteers or the organization.

It's been a really different year for everyone, including Team OM. But it's also been a good year in many ways, enabling us to find new and different ways to meet the needs of our neighbors, many of whom are struggling more than ever because of the disparities shown up by the pandemic. Thank *you* for showing up in such magnificent ways to be the heart and hands and feet of Christ. We look forward to continuing our call to look for the face of Christ in the stranger as we seek to heal some of the world's ills and meet the needs of those who are hurting.

The Reverend Connor Gwin

It is my deep joy to be a part of Christ Church, Charlotte. While the summer of 2020 may go down in history as the oddest time to move and start a new job, the parishioners and staff of Christ Church have rolled out the (socially distant and sanitized) red carpet to me and my family.

The Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) Ministries of Christ Church are strong! While the limits on in-person gathering have forced a shift in programming, the agility and creativity of the CYF staff has been amazing! Lindsay, Betsy, Emily, Sarah, Maggie, and Alice work tirelessly for the good of the children and youth in our parish, even and especially now. I spend most weeks in awe of the ways our team connects with the children, youth, and families of Christ Church through Zoom, letter writing, and myriad other means.

Christ Church's cup runneth over with Young Adults. It has been wonderful to continue the great work of The Reverend Patty Rhyne and to partner with Kathryn Saunders to increase connection and formation for the parishioners in their 20s and 30s. My focus in my first season has been getting to know the young adults that consider this their Spiritual Home. Through Zoom meetings, worship, individual meals and coffee appointments, and a Young Adult Trivia Night (via Zoom), I have been able to connect with this energetic cohort of young adults. The future is bright as we provide more opportunities for fellowship and formation in 2021.

I am overwhelmed with gratitude for the clergy, staff, vestry, and parishioners of Christ Church. They have made my family feel so welcome at a new parish in a new city in the midst of a global pandemic. We are truly blessed to be in this place where God is doing so much good through the work of so many wonderful people!

The Reverend Emily Parker

I was ordained as a Deacon in our diocese on January 4, 2020 and I joined the Christ Church family on March 1, 2020 – right before the pandemic became a hard reality in our community and country. I must say, it is quite an interesting time to start a new chapter of ministry as a member of the clergy! Despite the disappointments and uncertainties that have pervaded this year, I am beyond thankful to be in the same boat as the clergy team, amazing staff and parishioners of Christ Church. We have learned – and continue to learn – how the unfailing light and presence of God in our lives binds us together as we navigate uncharted territory.

The ministry of a Deacon is positioned at the intersection of the church and the world. While the pandemic has challenged how I initially envisioned serving the congregation, the circumstances of 2020 have provided meaningful opportunities to serve. This year, I am grateful to have been able to:

- Take part in the April 19 Faith Forum with Chip and Lisa on Keeping Faith in Times of Uncertainty: Grief and Doubt.
- Co-lead the Waking Up White (by Debby Irving) book study for Young Adult Women on Wednesdays in July.
- Be part of the School of Faith by arranging outside speakers and/or participating in the following sessions: Meet the Clergy (week 3), Difficult Conversations – Hearing Something, Say Something: Responding to Racism in Real Time, Engaging the Community (parts 1 & 2), and co-lead a Living the Word session using lectio divina.
- Work with Lisa and make pastoral phone calls to parishioners that live at the Cypress and to others in need.
- Participate in online worship services and a handful of in-person services.
- Preach on four occasions (May 13, August 2, November 1, and November 15).
- Offer e-devotions on July 22 and August 26.
- For the diocese, I convene a Chaplain/Clergy support group on a regular basis, participate in a group focused on coordinating a series of webinars on end of life matters, and wrote the September 2020 Deacon Reflection that can be found on the diocesan website.

As we move towards 2021, I look forward to engaging with and faithfully serving the Christ Church family, Charlotte, and the region!

SENIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Jane Showalter

Technically the Vestry are trustees of the parish and over the years the Christ Church Vestry has provided feedback and direction for many aspects of church ministry and parish life. At the beginning of 2020, I believed as Sr. Warden it would be the year of clear vision, but I think it is safe to say that 2020 has been a year of a blur of surprises.

Each year your Vestry constructs goals that support our six priorities and seek to further Christ Church's mission: to engage, equip, and empower people to love God, care for each other, and serve the world in the name of Christ. This year was no different and goals were established in January and our staff, clergy, vestry and various lay leaders were proceeding full speed ahead and then the pandemic struck and our goals while detoured were not ignored. The following are the goals that were established in early 2020:

Goal 1: Champion Strategic Planning.

Goal 2: Cultivate a Culture of Generosity.

Goal 3: Be a Wellspring of Wellness.

Goal 4: Fortify Our Future.

Goal 5: Get Digitally Connected

This particular year we have had to make some twists and turns to "pivot" to meet the needs of our parish which has caused us to adjust or pause parts of our goals. A Task Force to Reopen the Church was created, and its members have learned not only to pivot once but numerous times and have leaned on our clergy and staff to be creative and flexible. This Task Force has been meeting weekly since the first week in May continuing to examine and evaluate ways to keep our church community safely connected. Many thanks to the members: Nikki DeVillers, Doug Ey, Alex Kelly, David Kern, Jane Showalter (chair), Sally Mitchener, Joshua Case, Chip Edens and Wendy Mauney.

During this stressful time of coronavirus and social unrest our clergy and staff under Chip Edens' wise leadership has continued to produce opportunities for parishioners to worship, grow spiritually, and deepen their relationship with God, while at the same time helping us spread the Good News of the Gospel outside of the doors of the Church. The Clergy, Staff and Vestry realize it is our responsibility to continue the Lord's work in this place now and in the future.

A snapshot of goal progress to date:

Digitally we have taken off with all our online worship services including wonderful music provided by our choir and organists and the creation of The School of Faith. Regular worship services have continued to happen albeit most of the time not in person but there is constant push to bring us together in some way. The School of Faith (the Christ Church digital platform/app) has been a resource which individuals can turn to daily. It offers something for everyone from live services to videos, previous sermons, articles and so much more including The Bible and The Book of Common Prayer. It has provided unique ways to meet our clergy and staff and has allowed us the opportunity to enhance and expand our relationship with God in new ways. Our Communications Staff is to be commended for everything they have brought to fruition.

Our Strategic Planning Steering Committee has summarized work to date and is ready to proceed when the time is right.

Our outstanding Stewardship Commission lead by Carol and Bill Lorenz and our Director of Development Sarah Eys-

sen has showed us that financial stewardship calls for us be “Brave Together” and has worked on ways to connect and educate our parish on generosity. Their work prayerfully helps us realized that by giving we receive so much in return.

Our Wellness Commission has been educating us on ways to cope during this strange time, among other lessons. One of our Director of Wellness’ chief priorities continues to be to meet with numerous parishioners virtually and provide counseling and referral services.

Connor Gwin, our newest priest, has jumped in and is working with the next generation of parishioners on “Fortifying our Future.” He is working to identify the needs of our young adults in order to enhance their Church life by creating opportunities for deeper relationships, increased involvement, and opportunities for leadership.

I have been humbled and honored to have served as your Sr. Warden. There is no other place, nor group of people, with whom I would rather spend my time and energy. I am so proud of our spiritual home. We are a people of hope whose trust in God gives us the resilience to rise to the occasion and forge ahead in this difficult time.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Sally Mitchener

While our parishioners have spent little time inside our facilities, *Our Spiritual Home* has received much attention this year. Wendy Mauney and Jason Scofield have led a tremendous effort this year tackling many projects, planned and unplanned. Creativity, generosity, much planning and re-planning, as well as many long hours describe how the Christ Church team tackled our projects this year. We started the year with many slated larger projects and a renewed focus on cleaning and repairing our facilities to provide a refreshed appearance.

The tides turned with the pandemic closing our facilities to only essential staff, and then we experienced some significant flood damage due to a large storm on April 30. It took much more than following the plan according to budget to get everything prepared for the situation of the day and repair the areas that had suffered in the storm. Jason and Wendy had support from our sextons, Clayton Pride, Nikki Rushing and Greg Young, and also many of you.

The Christ Church Foundation allocated funds; the Buildings, Grounds, and Memorials Commission got involved, and quite a few generous parishioners stepped up to get our facilities repaired, renewed and outfitted for a new way of worship as well as prepared for the re-entry for Christ Church Kindergarten, the gradual return of staff and eventually for the safe homecoming of our congregation.

The following is a list of the major projects of 2020:

- Re-surfacing and re-stripping of our parking lot
- Installation of a new Needlepoint Bipolar Ionization System throughout our facility to clean the air and eliminate germs
- New audio installations in the sanctuary
- Equipment for development of a new production studio to support recorded programming and worship
- Installation of equipment, signage, etc. to conform to a safer environment
- New cameras in the sanctuary
- Painting throughout the building, interior and exterior
- Extensive work on our irrigation system
- New cleaning equipment to provide deeper and faster cleaning between events
- Extensive roof and gutter repairs
- New hardwood floor in the Blue Room
- Improved playground drainage
- Repairs to CCK/Sunday School facilities due to flooding which included flooring and furniture repair and replacement, drywall, ceiling, plumbing and roof work.
- Repairs to upstairs offices and halls due to flooding
- Repairs to the Youth Room due to flooding
- Repaving of the duplex driveways

We are very blessed with our leadership and the generosity of our congregation, and I have enjoyed the privilege of working beside and watching our team and you love and care for *Our Spiritual Home*. Thank you for the honor to serve.

TREASURER

Submitted by Dick Parkhurst

Summarized below are the financial results for the past three years along with the budget for 2020. For 2020, our budget calls for a small, 1% increase in receipts reflecting a 10% increase in annual pledges and a slightly more conservative expectation for non-pledged gifts. The budgeted increase in receipts will support normal inflation, an increased allocation to outreach, growth in program funding, as well as continued transition among our staff.

	2017 Actual		2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Budget	
Operating Receipts	4,725,890		4,956,368		5,427,685		5,475,871	
Personnel & Admin	3,006,107	66.5%	3,177,912	66.5%	3,404,942	67.5%	3,676,589	67.1%
Diocese of NC	497,402	11.0%	490,251	11.0%	518,021	10.3%	536,282	9.8%
Buildings and Grounds	316,247	7.0%	344,083	7.0%	375,490	7.4%	325,000	5.9%
Outreach	370,000	8.2%	397,090	8.2%	437,913	8.7%	450,000	8.2%
Programs	332,416	7.4%	281,097	7.4%	304,600	6.0%	488,000	7.4%
Operating Expenses	4,522,172		4,690,433		5,040,966		5,475,871	
Annual Surplus	203,717		265,935		386,719		-	
Use of Surplus	(106,227)		(84,292)		-		(168,953)	
Accumulated Surplus	346,076		527,719		914,438		745,484	

Annual receipts increased nearly 10% in 2019 and exceed budget by \$55,000. While total expenses were up approximately 7%, they were held 6% below budget due primarily to positive variances in personnel expenses and solid expense management throughout all program activities. As a result, we recorded an operating surplus of more than \$385,000. Given the substantial surplus, the Vestry approved the use of approximately \$170,000 of surplus in 2020 to support areas of need outside of the operating budget. The remaining surplus of \$745,000 is available to meet unbudgeted funding requirements as approved by the vestry.

Through November, operating results are well ahead 2019 as gifts increased in response to the pandemic while expenses remained consistent with budget and prior years. Although we realized COVID related reductions in certain expense categories, they were offset by increased expenses in our response to the pandemic, especially with respect to ensuring the health and safety of our staff and the shift to remote and virtual worship and programming. The increase in giving reflects both an acceleration of pledge payments as well as tremendous generosity from the parish in the form of unpledged gifts. As December always accounts for a significant portion of full year receipts our final results will continue to depend on fulfillment of pledges. However, based on the generosity we have seen during this most challenging year, I am optimistic on meeting our balanced budget with potential for yet another surplus.

As we approach the end of a very stressful and difficult year, I am proud to report that Christ Church remains in excellent financial health. Following many years of steady growth in stewardship and prudent management of expenses, Christ Church was well positioned to weather the COVID storm. This was clearly demonstrated throughout the year as our clergy, staff and volunteers, along with tremendous generosity and support from the parish, marshalled the effort to thrive in new ways as we continue to live into our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Submitted by Jenny Beaumont

Throughout 2020, Adult Spiritual Formation provided opportunities for people to explore, grow and deepen their faith and their spiritual life in midst of a changing landscape. The leaders of Bible Studies and classes shifted and adapted to bring opportunities to learn, transform and deepen faith. Adult Formation leaders sought to meet people where they are in their life and offer a variety of transformational learning opportunities-even in the world of Zoom. Sacred Ground, Reading Between the Lines, Men's Bible Studies, EfM, CCWBS (Christ Church Women's Bible Study), WEBS (Women's Evening Bible Study) and Christian Essentials offered small group experiences online. Even though the classes were not exactly like the in-person versions, we heard from parishioners how meaningful it was to connect and grow in our faith together.

Sacred Ground – Sacred Ground is a film- and readings-based dialogue series on race, grounded in faith. Small groups are invited to walk through chapters of America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. Groups for the staff and young adults and a lunch time group brought the number of graduates to over 75 people. Makeda Pennycooke, Virginia Anderson, Laura Konitzer and Caroline Stoneman were small group facilitators for the program.

The Space Between Us – A program based on the spiritual practices of Ignatius, produced by the Adult Formation team at Christ Church, after two classes in January and March, went online in November with more classes planned in 2021. Facilitators Makeda Pennycooke, Mary Davis Smart, Alice deVries and Jenny Beaumont continue to lead and refine the program.

Christian Essentials – The Christian Essentials program, designed and written by Christ Church parishioners continued into the spring and fall with a total of 20 groups that met at various times, including several online groups over the spring and summer under the leadership of Grace Fogg, Kaky Cassada, Tere Ey, Chris Martin, Derek Luther and Shawn King. In the summer, with the leadership of Christ Church parishioners, Amanda Anders, Shawn King, and Alison Gugenheim, Christian Essentials was launched for the Diocese with pilot groups and facilitator training. The Christian Essential editing team made updates and edits to the curriculum. Alison Gugenheim and Amanda Anders also created a new companion prayers and reflections book for graduates due to be published in the Spring of 2021.

Education for Ministry – As we grow in our spiritual formation, questions about meaning, purpose and how to integrate faith into our lives arise. EfM is a four-year course that gives participants a framework to see their lives through the lens of faith and offers a community of people with whom to learn and grow. At Christ Church, we offer three EfM groups, with over 40 people, who are mentored by Natalie Akin, Tere Ey, Jenny Beaumont and Jennifer Bennett.

Adult Confirmation and Inquirer's Class – Whether to learn more about our faith, to prepare for the sacrament of Confirmation or to recommit to the spiritual life, Adult Confirmation and Inquirers class gives participants the opportunity to learn about the major aspects of our faith tradition. In 2020, 5 adults were confirmed, reaffirmed or received during the confirmation service on November 14, 2020.

Christ Church Women's Bible Study – Each Thursday morning, over 100 women of all ages gathered to learn about the Bible and to grow closer to God and each other. The group studied the letter to the Ephesians in the winter and spring and the books of Joshua and Judges in the fall. Grace Fogg, the leader of CCWBS, along with fourteen small group leaders, provided leadership, direction and inspiration to the group each week. In the fall, CCWBS successfully went online with a study on Ruth.

Spiritual Growth and the Enneagram – The Enneagram helps people develop more authentic relationships with themselves and others and discover a deeper relationship with God. Classes were taught by Jenny Beaumont in the spring and fall.

Men's Ministries – Led by a team of parishioners, Men's Ministry launched several new initiatives aimed to help men engage more deeply in their Christian faith through fellowship, spiritual learning, and community outreach.

Reading Between the Lines – The Reading Between the Lines curriculum adds to our understanding of scripture and allows us to reflect theologically on topics that arise from cultural and literary inspirations. In 2020 Christ Church groups continue to meet under the leadership of Amanda Anders, Charles Connor, Chris Martin and Caroline Stoneman.

Adult Formation Leadership Team – Jennifer Bennet, Chris Martin, Tere Ey, Natalie Akin, Virginia Anderson, Caroline Stoneman, Alice deVries, Alison Gugenheim, Makeda Pennycooke, Amanda Anders, Derek Luther, Craig Cmiel, Grace Fogg, Nikki de Villers – Vestry, The Reverend Joshua Case – clergy, Jenny Beaumont – staff.

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILY

Submitted by Lindsay Masi

Wow! If you would have told us in January what to prepare for this year, I do not think we would have believed you. This year, we were given the very difficult, yet not impossible, task of creating community and building relationships even when we could not meet in person. But let's start at the beginning, shall we?

Our Children, Youth and Family Ministry Team started the New Year off by celebrating our volunteers with dinner at a Volunteer Social. We committed to hosting a few of these each year so our volunteers, who give their time and energy to this ministry, have a way to build connections with each other outside of Sunday mornings.

In January, our Youth Ministry team hosted our annual Chili Challenge, an event that supports Youth Ministry and summer trips. We had 15 teams participate with chilies varying from beef, to chicken, and vegetarian. We gave away prizes for Judges' Choice, People's Choice, Showmanship, and Kid's Choice, and sold over 200 tickets! This may have been the last big event that took place before stay-at-home orders were given. We continued to offer our Sunday morning children's Sunday School, Parenting with Faith and Courage Sunday School classes, Wednesday evening EYC and Life Groups, and various other pop up events. We were focused on in-person formation and community building.

On March 8, our middle and high school students participated in Youth Sunday, where they served as lectors, ushers, acolytes, and preachers. We did not know it then, but that was the last Sunday we would all be together in person for a very long time.

Since mid-March, our team has been working tirelessly to provide children and youth formation opportunities and relationship building via Zoom meetings, letter writing, video lessons, and other forms of communication outside of in-person meetings. It has been my honor to see the creativity flowing during difficult times as our Children, Youth and Family staff members think about new and innovative ways to help our children, teens, and their parents feel connected to Christ Church. Below are some of the highlights of the ways in which we attempted connection for families to their spiritual home.

- Our Children's Ministry team produced a Digital Stations of the Cross so families could participate in Holy Week at home.
- We hand delivered t-shirts to the doorsteps of our High School seniors as a special going-away gift to remember their spiritual home. Alice deVries orchestrated a beautiful virtual celebration, complete with messages from leaders and a slideshow full of pictures of the group.
- Our team continued to host Navigators', EYC, and Life Group gatherings virtually so that students felt comfort knowing that their leaders and their church were still there for them. Maggie Baker even got our Middle School students excited about gathering via Zoom on Tuesdays with "Taco-Bout it Tuesday," and inviting students to join with whatever their taco of choice.
- Sarah Ford found the perfect at-home option for families: Compassion Camp VBS from Illustrated Ministry. Families had a month's long access to curriculum and materials to learn and grow in formation together at home.
- In July, we welcomed The Reverend Connor Gwin to our team, as the Associate Rector for Family Ministry. Connor exuded grace and patience in meeting both staff members and parishioners in a digital capacity. We are grateful for his knowledge and experience!
- With the help of 15 volunteers, we created Children's Sunday School content with crafts, video lessons and music available to children each Sunday. Additionally, thanks to our Children's Commission, we added a "Just for Kids" section on the new Christ Church app where lessons and videos are easily accessible.

- We offered families an At-Home Advent Festival, with packets of supplies and instructions to make ornaments for their Jesse Trees at home.
- When restrictions began to lift and we could meet in small groups and worship outside, our Youth Council hosted two in-person worship services for our youth where we saw over 30 teenagers each time. When we invited our middle school students to join us for small groups, we filled up past capacity.

Perhaps one of the biggest learnings of “pandemic life” was discovering a new way to confirm our students. In May, we felt the disappointment of postponing the service for Confirmation. Our hearts broke with the families of our 8th graders who had worked so hard for that moment. When we had the green light to worship in groups of 50 or less, we brainstormed how to invite the Bishops to Christ Church to confirm our people. Between the Saturdays of November 7 and November 14, we confirmed 60 of our students to be active members of the church. These intimate, outdoor services were moving and so meaningful. We are grateful to our Bishops for taking the time to help us with this task.

Our team had to cancel a lot of programs, trips, and plans this year. We learned how to be flexible and creative in other ways. We have all realized how powerful physical connection is. As we look to Advent, a season of hope and anticipation, our team continues to hope to bring our children, youth, and families together to connect in new and meaningful ways and to be a spiritual home for all—and we will continue in whatever capacity necessary.

CHRIST CHURCH KINDERGARTEN

Submitted by Meredith Sorrell

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten (CCK) is the largest daily mission of Christ Church. Through this global pandemic, the Christ Church staff, the Christ Church Regathering Task Force and the CCK Re-opening Task Force have worked together with the Diocese of North Carolina to plan and prepare for a safe school year. CCK re-opened on September 14, 2020 at a reduced capacity using guidelines set forth by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) and in compliance with the North Carolina Episcopal Diocese recommendations for re-opening schools. This school year, CCK serves 221 students and 171 families. 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 to read and write with confidence. 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. Although we have had to make adjustments to the curriculum this year to control contagion, we have been able to continue providing quality early childhood education to our students.

CCK continues to employ the services of off-duty CMPD police officers to be on campus during the school day. In addition to the police officers, our external and interior key-card accessed doors provide additional security for our students and staff.

The Christ Church clergy, teachers and children always enjoy participating in one of CCK's favorite traditions, All School Chapel. Although All School Chapel cannot be held in person this year, we have enjoyed encouraging CCK families to participate in the many opportunities Christ Church is providing digitally for parents and young families. CCK participates in two service projects each year. Although these projects have been delayed with the many changes to our school year, we will plan to hold them at some point during the year. The projects are designed to help our children begin to understand the importance of helping others in their community. The local organizations that we collect items for during the year benefit children and families in the Charlotte area.

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

Board of Directors: Campbell Walker (Chair), Brain Purcell (Chair-Elect), Joshua Case (Clergy Representative), Jane Coulter (Vestry Representative) Graham Hunt (Treasurer), Allison Neilsen (Teacher Representative), Lauren Gilbert (Parent Representative), Haley Cheek, Courtney Gentzel, Sarah Kain, Stafford Kelly, Stephanie Ladley, Marshall Macon, Marc Ozburn, Whitaker Rose, Brantley Templeton, Meredith Sorrell (Interim Head of School), Mary Caroline Lee (Interim Assistant Head of School)

CONGREGATIONAL CARE

Submitted by The Reverend Lisa Saunders

The year began with a bang seeing our new Wellness Director being utilized by individual parishioners for counseling, as well as providing teaching and leading small groups. The Reverend Emily Parker also joined the pastoral care staff, increasing our capacity for one on one connections. Support groups and grief support programs continued. “ExperiLent” programming offered a wellness related class every Sunday during Lent, UNTIL the pandemic stopped in person gatherings.

The commission and staff pivoted to new and remote ways of connecting. Commission members called on parishioners who were over 80 or living alone. A Pen Pal program was initiated. Generous parishioners began hand-sewing face masks at home, and another parishioner acquired industrial made face masks for free distribution. Face masks were delivered to parishioners who were sick or elderly. Face masks were offered to anyone in the entire parish in a drive by pick up. Cars circled the parking lot. Face masks were given to all Southminster residents and over 150 face masks were given to HopeWay. The church has provided over 1500 face masks in 2020.

Prayer shawls kept coming during the pandemic and were distributed to many grateful hearts. The congregational care staff participated in the Drive Through Parish Day and Drive Through Trunk or Treat.

Mollee Reitz began providing counseling remotely, and by the end of the year, she was offering 35-40 counseling sessions a month, free to parishioners. She continued remote programming such as the Faith and Wellness Groups and training, diocesan collaboration and staff collaboration to provide offerings for teen mental wellness. Mollee started a Mindful Monday program at the end of the year.

Support groups continued online for Survivors of Suicide, and a new support group for young widows began in the summer of 2020. The Sages were able to have one in-person outdoor lunch that was fully subscribed and enjoyed by all.

The commission helped determine programming ideas for the School of Faith which provided ten classes under the topics: Essentials of Wellness, Coping with COVID, Difficult Conversations and Parishioner Wellness Journeys. For 2020, the inability to meet regularly required innovation and old fashioned ways of sharing care and concern.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Submitted by Leesa Clardy

Due to the pandemic, all but one of the 2020 ECW events were cancelled. We were happy to host a staff appreciation lunch in October with boxed lunches from Reid's.

Also, because of limited GoodNews Shop proceeds, we cancelled 2020 mission funding and elected to roll the 2020 funds into our 2021 budget.

We are optimistic that we can safely revive the ECW in the new year. As always, we are grateful for the support from parishioners and the Christ Church Staff.

NEWCOMERS AND PARISH LIFE

Submitted by The Reverend Patty Rhyne, The Reverend Chip Edens, Kathryn Saunders, and Alison Gugenheim

NEWCOMERS:

We continue to welcome each visitor that we are made aware of with a personal welcome email, entry into the database so that they receive communications, a tour (if desired), invitations to newcomer activities, and follow-up emails – all with the focus and hope that they feel connected and become engaged members of Christ Church. Once we entered pandemic mode, we shifted to offering virtual tours, and continued to follow up with emails and phone calls to ensure that they were as connected and engaged as they wanted to be.

Welcome Center/Greeter Program: We continue to enlist parishioners to be greeters before and after all Sunday worship services. The greeter program was suspended from mid-March through August. On August 30, we welcomed parishioners back to in-person outdoor services and the greeters and ushers have been instrumental in our being able to hold these gatherings in a safe and hospitable way.

Vespers in the Garden: Due to the pandemic, we were forced to cancel this event. We hope to either make it up or combine 2020 with Vespers 2021.

Newcomer Dinners: We hosted family-style dinners monthly through April to specifically welcome 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. We hope to resume Newcomer Dinners as soon as we are able to gather indoors safely. If this isn't an option in the spring, we will consider outdoor gatherings as we are able.

Hospitality Committee: The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Lauren McGuire, meets monthly throughout the year and plays the greatest role in the success of the Shrove Tuesday Supper and the Vespers in the Garden event. In addition, the Committee participates in welcoming newcomers as Greeters and reach out personally to all newcomers who wish to be engaged. For much of this year, we have been able to continue connecting with newcomers via email and phone. This committee has been very helpful with the care calls initiative to connect with all parishioners in the early months of the pandemic. We are grateful for their hospitality. The 2020 Hospitality Committee consisted of Lauren McGuire (Chair), Natalie Akin, Carol Andrews, Caroline Austin, Lauren Carter, John Crehore, Carr Doerre, Page Gatewood, Mary Gregory, Meg Holt, Catherine Ruth Kelly, Carol Lorenz, and Liz Willett.

PARISH LIFE:

Parish Life Commission: The commission consists primarily of event chairs, along with representatives of the Hospitality Committee. We hold monthly meetings to discuss how to best connect and engage parishioners through parish-wide events. Alison Gugenheim continued as chair of the committee and has done an outstanding job.

Shrove Tuesday Supper: The Hospitality Committee planned a fun evening with jazz music, crafts and supper on Tuesday, February 25. Approximately 300 people enjoyed jazz music and wonderful New Orleans-style food, as well as a pancake supper. We were grateful for Chef Mary, who prepared an outstanding meal. We reserved a newcomer table and volunteers were assigned to welcome them and make them feel at home. There were also crafts for the children where they decorated crowns and masks, as well as made an Alleluia Banner to be "buried" during Lent. Caroline Austin and Carr Doerre chaired the event.

Easter Egg Hunt: This annual event was cancelled, due to the pandemic. Grace Bailey has kindly agreed to stay on for Easter Egg Hunt 2021.

Hot Dog Sundays: Hot Dog Sundays were cancelled, due to the pandemic. Caroline Davis will remain as a 2021 chair and will be joined by Claire Bennett and Garland Talbott.

Fall Parish Day: We were excited to reimagine this event as a drive-through parade to welcome parishioners back on campus on September 13. Clergy and staff set up stations throughout the parking lot and greeted parishioners as they drove through in their cars. Small tokens of love were handed out – such as stress balls, bubbles, and Pandemic 2020 Edition cups – to the delight of adults and children alike! But the greatest attraction of all was our rector, Chip, in the dunking booth. Everyone was given the opportunity to watch Joshua Case spin the wheel of fortune and Chip had a 100% dunk rate. It was very uplifting for all to be in community together, even under the unusual circumstances.

Trunk or Treat: Trunk or Treat was also held drive-through style as well. Parishioners decorated trunks in fun and spooky themes, and even dressed up themselves, to welcome over 100 cars (full of costumed children) for fun! Kids were given a surprise bag of candy at the end of the parade. It was a beautiful night to be together.

Parish Life Commission members include: Alison Gugenheim (Chair), Grace Bailey (Easter Egg Hunt), Alex Mann and Sara Yorke (Spring Parish Day), Caroline Davis, Sarah Howie, and Brittany Ingersoll (Hot Dog Sundays), Eleanor Fairey and Kara Hunt (Fall Parish Day), Elizabeth Bivens and Laney Lay (Trunk or Treat), Virginia Shaw (At Large), Lauren McGuire (Hospitality Representatives), Louise Bonner and Susan Hamilton (Vestry Reps).

Care Calls and Rector Zooms: In an effort to stay connected with the parish in the early months of the pandemic, we launched a campaign to call as many parishioners as possible. Lisa Saunders oversaw calls to the Sages, Sarah Eyssen assigned Stewardship Connectors to varied calls, Children, Family and Youth Commission members reached out to their Tribe groups, and Parish Life coordinated four phases of calls to newcomers, young adults and the 40-65 age group. These calls were very well received. In addition, Chip hosted a Meet the Rector call with newcomers and three Let's Connect calls with parishioners. These calls were small and intimate and very meaningful.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Submitted by Laura Copps

The Outreach and Mission 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. In 2020 the O&M Commission was tasked with providing support and assistance to our community in new and different ways due to the global pandemic.

There are 15 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 Lesley Peace, the Administrative Assistant for Outreach and Mission. In addition, David Kern and Betsy Zarzour serve as the liaisons to the Vestry. The commission started the year with a retreat in January. We spent that time getting to know new commission members, planning, exploring new ideas, and reviewing grant applications.

The new year introduced the start of a new educational series called “#knowCLT”. For three evenings in January we invited church members to learn more about our city on the topics of: The Benefits Cliff, Poverty (through a Poverty Simulation) and Neighborhood Growth Patterns (through UNCC’s Data Visualization technology). The #knowCLT series continued for four more weeks in the fall exploring Systemic Racism in Education, Housing, Healthcare and Criminal Justice. Another initiative taking root in 2020 was a program aimed at providing “Next Steps” for those wanting to follow-up on any of the topics presented through one of our educational programs. At the close of each program, we now offer parishioners information in which they can Learn more about the issue/organization, Act by getting involved and/or volunteering with the issue/organization and Advocate for the particular issue by getting involved with organizations working for change.

February marked the kick-off of construction on our 32nd Habitat House. Also in February, a group went to Limon City in Costa Rica for labor intensive mission work as well as culture sharing and relationship development and a group went to Montgomery, Alabama on our third Legacy & Justice Pilgrimage.

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 (26.78%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Charlotte Family Housing- Habitat for Humanity- The Relatives- YWCA (WIT/Families Together) | Poverty Alleviation (21.56%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Crises Assistance Ministry- Loaves & Fishes- A Roof Above (newly merged Urban Ministry & Men’s Shelter) |
| Children & Education (37.78%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Thompson Child/Family Focus (which has merged with A Child’s Place)- Charlotte Bilingual Preschool- Freedom School Partners- Communities in Schools (at Rama Road)- Rama Road Elementary- A Better World- The ROC | Reconciliation & Social Justice (10%) <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Galilee Ministries- Changed Choices- Center For Community Transition- YWCA (Eliminating Racism)- Foster Village |
| | Administrative & Emergency Relief (3.89%) |

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

The Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica

The Episcopal Diocese of Botswana

Episcopal Relief & Development

Thistle Farms in Nashville, TN

Christmas Project (such as Jubilee Store)

The parish donated generously to the Easter offering. More than \$78,000 was collected via online and mail-in donations which was divided equally between Crisis Assistance Ministry, Loaves & Fishes, and Urban Ministry Center/Men's Shelter. The commission made recommendations to the Christ Church Foundation for the allocation of the Foundation's Outreach Fund. New recipients this year were Dahlia Grove and the Charlotte Community Kitchen. Heal Charlotte and Episcopal Relief & Development were selected at the November meeting to be the recipients of the 2020 Christmas offering, amount TBD.

The onset of the global pandemic changed many of the ways we typically serve our community as we were far less able to engage actively with our partners. The commission, led by Joan, Laura and Lesley worked to develop new programs and creative ways in which we could help serve those devastated by loss of work/support and new ways for our parish to gather, connect and grow. One such new initiative was a weekly lunchtime conversation, over Zoom, with our community partners. The sessions were named "TWO" for "Tuesdays with Outreach." The conversations became a valuable way for our partners to share how they were reacting to the COVID crises, to communicate their arising needs, and to connect with parishioners at home. Throughout April and May we spoke to leadership from Habitat for Humanity, Crises Assistance Ministry, The ROC, Rama Road Elementary and Freedom School Partners. The program continued in the fall as part of the parish-wide School of Faith and continues to be a resource for connecting members to the community and important issues of today.

The generosity of our church in response to the pandemic and the growing needs of our community was repeatedly demonstrated throughout the year starting with an overwhelming response to our Rama Road Elementary food drive. As children transitioned to remote learning, many of our Rama Road families struggled from the loss of free and reduced meals. The food drive was such a huge success that we were able to supply meal kits, paper products and cleaning supplies, to 115 Rama families and 30 Charlotte Bilingual Preschool families. Additional food donations collected were given to The Relatives, the Charlotte Community Kitchen and Charlotte Family Housing. Our volunteer efforts included supporting our many community partners in various ways such as: painting, cleaning, sorting food at mobile food donation sites, writing letters to teachers, making and delivering 500+ masks, delivering flowers and cupcakes to incarcerated women, making and delivering casseroles, serving meals at temporary hotel shelters, tutoring remotely via Zoom, and celebrating the first graduating class of The ROC. Although Serve-A-Bration could not be a week of hands on service as it has been in the past, we were still able to serve the community in various ways by highlighting our partners through a social media campaign and collecting snacks for the students at The Learning Vine.

Another new way the O&M commission worked to deepen our knowledge and generate conversation on important topics in 2020 was through the monthly Good Reads book club which kicked off in the spring. We also introduced programming on the topic of Environmental Justice through our Creation Care Corner section of the Outreach newsletter and through our Tuesday conversations. In a year where COVID and quarantine restrictions made it difficult to reach out to the community as the hands and feet of Christ, the Commission instead found innovative ways to bring the community into our homes and serve, as Jesus would, nonetheless.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Submitted by Ben Outen

Over the past year, our world and our community has faced a myriad of challenges. With each moment, we are presented with opportunities to adjust and expand our reach. The Music Ministry at Christ Church Charlotte embraced these moments of transition, uncertainty, and even exasperation to move beyond the standard. Through collaboration with fellow ministry areas, Parish members and the community, the Music Ministry has used liturgy and technology to ensure all those who need connection through music, can access and participate faithfully. Virtual and in-person faith and musical experiences have included:

- 37 virtual, pre-recorded Sunday morning services
- 39 scheduled outdoor worship services with instrumental music accompaniment provided by Ben Outen, Shea Watts, and Jerrick Cavagnaro
- 52 hymns recorded by Schola Cantorum and other Christ Church choir members, using their personal equipment coupled with their dedication and attention to detail, in their own homes for use in worship services.
- 27 musical anthems recorded utilizing talents of Music Ministry leadership, Christ Church choir members, Christ Church band members, volunteers, and local professional and community musicians.
- 6 Virtual Guest Choirs highlighted in worship and on the Christ Church website with choirs and individual musicians, both local and nationally recognized, to showcase those who play the imperative role of reinforcing our faith through sacred music that all can partake of and enjoy.
- Week-long Children's Virtual Choir Camp with participants ranging from pre-K-4th graders
- Weekly Virtual Children's Choir for our Music Club, St. Nicolas, and Christ Church Choristers
- Bi-weekly Christ Church choir Virtual meetings beginning in March 2020 and continuing

In addition, over the course of 2020, the Music Ministry staff expanded both in number and in duties within each position. In March of 2020, the Music Ministry welcomed a new Administrative Assistant of Music & Art, Olivia Beaver. In addition, in August of 2020, we welcomed our new Assistant Director of Music and Organist, Jerrick Cavagnaro.

Each existing and new team member has utilized a variety of technology and creative execution strategies to expand what the Music Ministry brings to the expansive table of Christ Church Charlotte. Our Associate Director of Contemporary and Family Worship, Shea Watts has been an integral part of all projects involving sound and video production including live streaming, recording and assembling virtual experiences for each Ministry area within Christ Church, each that have showcased his talent and amazing ability to reach any person who is looking to engage with Christ Church. The Director of Music, Ben Outen and Assistant Director of Music and Organist, Jerrick Cavagnaro have each expanded our Christ Church Choir and encouraged each member to be a part of each virtual experience. Ben Outen and Jerrick Cavagnaro have each worked alongside many within Christ Church to ensure music remains central in Christ Church. The Associate Musician for Children, Lauren Tomme created and implemented powerful virtual experiences for the Christ Church Music Club, St. Nicolas Choir, and Choristers. Lauren used her own expertise and exceptional creativity to ensure each child could engage successfully and flourish through music during a challenging time of pandemic. Through the use of recording, compiling, editing, and creating, Ben, Jerrick, Shea, Lauren, and all those within Christ Church and the Music Ministry have not only kept music in each Parish members faith experience, but have allowed faith journeys through music to blossom and grow through each virtual and in-person moment of sharing the teachings, joy, and love of Christ through music.

WELLNESS

Submitted by The Reverend Lisa Saunders

Mollee was excited to complete her first full calendar year at Christ Church. 2020 captured the start and continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite this, Lisa, Jennifer, and Mollee worked together to collect, create, and disseminate information on all things wellness in order to increase wellness and mental health education, navigation, and advocacy. In 2020:

- Counseling sessions held strong into the New Year. There was a brief decrease in the number of counseling sessions and mental health referrals provided in light of COVID, but these numbers quickly increased again.
- Mollee provided a total of 310 counseling sessions in 2020 and 71 mental health or substance abuse program referrals.
- The wellness committee continued to meet monthly in 2020
- The Call to Wellness podcast was created and currently has four episodes
- The wellness team participated in the School of Faith's Wellness Wednesdays, which included episodes on coping with COVID-19, difficult conversations, parishioner wellness journeys, and wellness essentials.
- The wellness team coordinated with the Children, Youth, and Family team to host a *Screenagers* panel discussion with therapists from Dilworth Center and Red Oak Recovery.
- Mollee participated as a volunteer on the Bishop's Committee for children and youth mental health. As a committee member she helped create mental health resources and webinars for families.
- We introduced Zoom-based wellness groups that are based on Living Compass curriculum. We look forward to continuing to offer the spiritual practices curriculum and faith and wellness curriculum in 2021.
- We coordinated with Scott Stoner to host a virtual living compass facilitator training.
- In February, Mollee led presentations for middle school and high school aged students on managed anxiety and depression at the Bishop's Ball.
- In March and April the wellness team created a motivational Monday Eblast to provide encouragement and support for healthcare and allied health providers at Christ Church.
- In November we launched Mindful Mondays, a weekly event where parishioners can join and engage in a mindful, meditative practice.
- We learned that telehealth opportunities for counseling and Zoom opportunities for small groups and meditation practices allows more people access. Although Mollee is eagerly awaiting the return to in-person activity, she is excited that virtual counseling and small groups will provide opportunities for more people to engage in wellness offerings and programming.

STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Sarah Eyssen

The 2020 Annual Stewardship Campaign, chaired by Margaret and Chris Ullrich, began on October 27, 2019. On February 17, 2020, the Vestry approved a \$5,475,871 budget based on pledges received by that date, representing 1,196 parish households.

The 2020 campaign was launched as a part of the Living Faith initiative and focused on the six priorities for a living church. The theme of the 2020 campaign was “Living Generosity” with materials designed in-house by Jane Siemens.

With experienced and thoughtful leadership by Senior Warden Hooper Hardison, Junior Warden Bob Dooley, and the entire Vestry, dedicated efforts were made to communicate impact and gratitude and reach parishioners through gatherings, personal conversations, letters, and reports. Since more than 98% of Christ Church’s yearly budget is funded by the ASC, the Annual Stewardship chairs, Vestry, and many others used every opportunity to promote the importance of making a yearly pledge.

A 2019 Gratitude Report was produced highlighting key efforts, numbers, and impact and the six practices established as a part of the six priorities for a living church.

The 2021 Stewardship season commenced on Brave Together Sunday, October 27, 2020. A special pilgrimage was offered to parishioners to bring their pledges to the sanctuary during a designated time with a reservation. With Ben Outen leading the music ministry team, pilgrims enjoyed the beauty of periods of piano and organ music.

As of December 4, 2020, \$3,607,212 million in pledges had been received. The Vestry will vote on the 2021 budget in February.

CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Submitted by Wendy Mauney and Arrington Mixon

The Christ Church Foundation was founded November 21, 1962, by the Vestry as a separate trust within the parish to receive, manage and distribute funds for "religious purposes," a term defined to include "education, charitable, missionary and other purposes." The trust was incorporated as a non-profit North Carolina corporation on November 14, 1969.

The trust administered by the Foundation now consists of the following distinct funds: a general "Outreach Fund," a "Property, Plant and Equipment Fund," a "Clergy Housing Fund," a "Scholarship Fund," a fund dedicated to support Habitat for Humanity, and an "Unrestricted Fund."

The management and administration of Foundation assets are directed by nine Trustees appointed by the Vestry, each eligible to serve two, three-year terms. In addition, the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and the Chair of the Outreach Commission serve as ex-officio Trustees, and the Rector, Chief Operating Officer, Director of Stewardship and the Chair of the Planned Giving Committee are welcome participants at all Trustee meetings.

To improve coordination with monies given to outreach efforts by the Church, the Trustees of the Foundation consider recommendations from the Outreach Commission for distribution from the Foundation's Outreach Fund. The Foundation encourages parties seeking grants from the Foundation's Outreach Fund to submit their requests to the Outreach Commission.

As of October 31, 2020, the Foundation's total investments with Bank of America Private Bank stand at \$3.52 million, up slightly for the year.

The CCF Board met four times in 2020:

- February 6, with elections, investment report presented by Rhondale Haywood, SVP and Portfolio Manager at Bank of America Private Bank
- March 12, for a planning meeting that included review of Funds including history, origin, purpose, funding and representatives of recipients, development of a plan for growth of CCF fund, reviewing current and future communication strategy plan and review of Oak Circle, including history, activity and relationship with CCF
- May 14 (via Zoom), with recommendations from the Outreach Commission and Scholarship Committee, and approval vote
- October 8 (via Zoom), with elections, after discussions with the family, a proposed amendment to the Master Declaration to combine the Minor Scholarship Fund established by William Minor, with the General Scholarship Fund was approved, scholarship report, Oak Circle update

In May 2020, scholarships were awarded to 11 students who are members of Christ Church or are children of Christ Church staff for a total of \$10,000.

At the recommendation of the Outreach Commission, the following gifts were approved in May 2020:

Care Ring	\$10,000
Safe Alliance	\$10,000
Supportive Housing Communities	\$10,000
Dahlia Grove	\$ 5,000
Charlotte Community Kitchen	\$ 5,000
Southminster	\$ 5,000
Society of St. Andrew	\$ 3,000
HopeWay	\$20,000*
Total	\$68,000

*Because of the increased funds from the Foundation's solid investment practices, beginning in 2018 one organization will be awarded a 3-year grant, based on a 3-year cycle. The inaugural grantee, HopeWay, was awarded a \$20,000 grant in each of 2018, 2019 and 2020 (for a total grant of \$60,000 over three years).

In 2021, a different organization will be awarded a 3-year grant.

In June, the Foundation approved a gift to Christ Church from the Property, Plant and Equipment fund of \$58,000 to cover a portion of the costs relating to flood and water damage at the church.

2020 Foundation Members: Arrington Mixon, President; Carrington Coulter, Vice President and Treasurer; Paul Tolmie, Secretary; Mark Mealy, Investment Chair; Mary Kluttz, Scholarship Chair; Marks Arnold, Suzanne Bledsoe, Ned Hardison, and Emily Smith.

In addition, the following also served the CCF in 2020: Chip Edens, Rector; Laura Copps, Outreach Liaison; Jane Showalter, Senior Warden; Sally Mitchener, Junior Warden; Wendy Mauney, Chief Operating Officer and Sarah Eysen, Director of Stewardship.

Two new members and one current member were elected and approved by the Vestry at their October 16, 2020 meeting, for a three-year term, 2021-2023.

The Foundation continues to work with the Oak Circle Committee to encourage the congregation to make gifts and take advantage of planned giving techniques, thereby becoming "Oak Circle" members and helping enlarge the corpus of the Foundation.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND MEMORIALS

Submitted by David Kern

This group provides general oversight and assistance to the Junior Warden and the Facilities Director concerning matters involving the church buildings and campus. In addition, the Committee directs the use of undesignated 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.

The absence of people from the church property for much of this year has enabled us to complete numerous needed repairs and improvements throughout the campus. A special thanks goes to Wendy Mauney (Chief Operating Officer), Jason Scofield (Facilities Director) and Sally Mitchener (Junior Warden) for their tireless dedication and extraordinary work during the pandemic. The work of the Committee during 2020 has included the following:

- Providing funds and assisting generally with significant repairs and replacement concerning flooding damage to the Blue Room and Christ Church Kindergarten classrooms.
- Assisting the Facilities Director generally in overseeing significant repairs and enhancements to the campus irrigation system.
- Overseeing and assisting generally with significant enhancements and renovations to the Christ Church Kindergarten playground
- Providing partial funding and assisting generally with the installation of a new air filtration system on all HVAC units.
- Purchasing extensive audio/video upgrades for the Nave, including new speakers and cameras, to enhance online worship offerings.
- Assisting generally with the creation of the audio/video studio in the old library.
- Assisting generally with the purchase of an electrostatic cleaning machine for use in cleaning the Nave and All Saints' Hall.
- Purchasing new benches for the Memorial Garden
- Coordinating and overseeing various new plantings in the Ruth Garden
- Assisting generally with repair, maintenance, and improvement needs concerning the duplexes on the Church property
- Overseeing the ongoing maintenance of the Rose Garden
- Overseeing the patching, sealing and restriping of the parking lot.
- Assisting the Facilities Director generally concerning the repair of multiple roof leaks.
- Coordinating with the Facilities Director in providing landscaping services for the Campus
- Purchasing acolyte and chalice bearer robes

- Coordinating with the Facilities Director 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, multiple planting and improvements to the Memorial Garden, and the completion of a variety of landscape improvements throughout the campus

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



Christ Church Charlotte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1412 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28207
704-333-0378
www.christchurchcharlotte.org