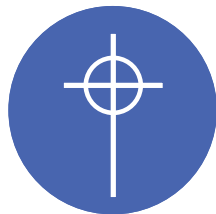
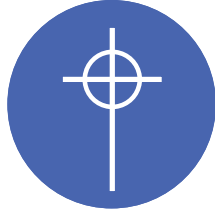




2021 Annual Reports



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)

2021 VESTRY

Doug Ey, *Senior Warden*
Randall Mountcastle, *Junior Warden*
Dick Parkhurst, *Treasurer*

Louise Bonner
Laura Copps
Cindy Costa
Jane Coulter
Fletcher Gregory
Alison Gugenheim
Susan Hamilton
Bill Lorenz
Julie Marr
Geoff Peters
Ken Thompson
Chris Ullrich
Betsy Zarzour

RECTOR'S REPORT

By The Reverend Chip Edens

This has been a remarkable year of being in mission in the midst of lots of turbulence and change, both in the life of our members and the work of our church. We have learned over the history of Christ Church that ministries have changed as the church has faced new challenges and adapted new approaches to caring for its members and the community.

Our primary commitment this year has been to the wellbeing of our members as they have endured the challenges of Covid. The clergy have been hard at work with listening to and connecting with people addressing pastoral issues. With the help of our Wellness team, we have been able to address mental health needs and connect people to resources for longer term care. Years ago, when we first envisioned a Wellness Ministry, we could never have predicted the Covid crisis and the challenge to mental health the crisis has created. We are thankful to the generosity of the Close family and the Springsteen Foundation, who have underwritten this ministry, and we look forward to developing this resource so that more parishes can take advantage of the opportunities to learn about mental health and spiritual wellness and find pathways toward healing.

I'm very proud of all our ministries, which have continued to adapt to the circumstances we have faced. With the changes of mask mandates throughout the year, we have had to adapt to changes with very little notice. Our staff has demonstrated the depth of their commitment, as well as their creativity, and I am deeply grateful and proud of their work.

I want to express my deep thanks not only to our staff, but to our parish as a whole, beginning with our Vestry. Our Vestry has been a source of inspiration to me as they have come together to address unprecedented challenges in a very complex church. They have done so with wisdom, grace and courage. Leadership lies at the heart of any healthy organization, and we are blessed at every level with Vestry, staff and countless parishioners who have stepped in and lead us countless times. We are blessed with a deep well of talented people in the congregation and we look forward to inviting them into our shared work in years to come.

As we look to the future, we look forward to in-person gatherings, while also improving our online opportunities by making them more accessible and easier to use, so people may participate during these Covid times. We know going forward our work is not an "either/or" but will be a "both/and" with opportunities to grow in faith—to learn, build community and grow online.

This year I am immensely proud that the mission that started over 75 years ago at Christ Church has remained strong and that we stand ready to face the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead in the years to come.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

– Ephesians 3:20-21

Thank you for your extra generosity and commitment to our Spiritual Home.

Faithfully yours,



Chip

ASSOCIATE RECTORS

The Reverend Lisa Saunders

Another year of unprecedented ministry, yet so much more connection was possible, even if masked.

- I was able to enjoy a sabbatical for 9 weeks in the spring, and additional three weeks over the summer. This was a wonderful gift of refreshment and discernment for me. In the summer I also participated in The Space Between Us class.
- Care for those dealing with loss continued through the Bereavement Committee whose work is unhindered by the pandemic. I led the Living with Grief and Hope series in the winter and fall of 2021. The winter series was held via Zoom, and the fall series was held in person. A new support group for youngish widows was begun, meeting monthly. Support groups for Widowers and Breast Cancer Survivors also continued.
- I served on the Vestry's task force for Spiritual Wellness to consider how to expand resources for spiritual development which resulted in a report at the November vestry meeting calling for greater awareness of the need and purpose of spiritual wellness.
- This year I completed work on a book, curating sermons and eDevotions I have written, and am glad to have it published and available.
- I organized programming for the Sages. In the spring, gatherings were held via Zoom, introducing new staff members to the participants. In the fall, the Sages met in person and learned about hallmark programs at Christ Church such as The Space Between Us and Sacred Ground.
- A small group class I have led weekly for several years called Bodybuilders (we build up the body of Christ), met via Zoom in the winter and spring, and in person (outdoors) in the fall.
- This year I announced my decision to step back from full time work and to work 1/4 time. I moved out of my office and ended supervisory work and program leadership. I am grateful to continue my involvement to a lesser degree and begin to practice retirement without actually retiring!
- Highlights for the year include the staff additions of Charles Milling and Alex Bacon. I love to see new team members with great talent who continue to make Christ Church an even stronger community of worship and support. My clergy colleagues are very special to me, and our retreat together drew us closer. Jennifer Hamm remains an anchor and beacon for me – steady and shining bright.

The Reverend Joan Kilian

As the Associate Rector for Outreach & Mission (O & M), I have the pleasure and privilege of working with Laura Konitzer, our Director of O & M, Lesley Peace, our Administrative Assistant for O & M, and The Reverend Deacon Emily Parker who came to Christ Church about two weeks before the lockdown in March of 2020. On top of her full-time job, Emily serves God and Christ Church on a weekly basis. Like the rest of the clergy, she serves liturgically and does pastoral work, but she has also joined the O & M team. While we each bring different gifts to our work together, Emily brings questions and ideas that both deepen and broaden our perspective on ministry possibilities.

A year ago, we were anticipating 2021 with such hope as a change from the 'year of the pandemic,' 2020. Who could have guessed that this year would also be such an aberration? And yet, we continued to find new ways to serve our neighbors in need and we are slowly beginning to step back into familiar ways of doing ministry. For example, this year – unlike 2020 – we were able to stay with our Habitat build until our part was finished, and we

were then able to bless and celebrate the new home and homeowner, complete with a door wreath and welcome mat made by Christ Church children in VBS this summer. And we will resume hosting some of our neighbors experiencing homelessness through Room in the Inn on Sunday nights beginning in December.

Despite the continuing pandemic, a lot has been going on. Since the beginning of the pandemic, Laura and I have been a regular part of the weekly Zoom meetings for Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network (MeckMIN). In these meetings, the wider faith community learns of the needs of many community agencies and non-profits and how we can help meet those needs. It has been an invaluable way to connect with people we might not have otherwise. For a closer view of what Outreach & Mission has been doing in 2021, please check the report from our Commission Chair, Kathleen Dean.

For me personally, 2021 has been a year of participating in a variety of programs, gatherings and trainings on a wide variety of topics, some on Zoom and some in-person. They have been with the Episcopal Church, the diocese and the convocation, and other faith communities and various organizations across our city. One of the most significant for me was to complete the training to become a tutor with Augustine Literacy Project. I tutored a Rama Road Elementary first grader virtually in the spring, and this fall, I've been able to transition to in-person with another first grader at Rama.

As we begin to move into more in-person worship and ministry again, I welcome seeing all of your faces and experiencing the gift of your presence again! But I am also grateful for some of the unexpected gifts that the pandemic has made possible for learning, making connections and meeting the needs of our most fragile neighbors. As we look forward to a new year, may we say "thank you" for all that has been and "Yes!" to all that lies ahead.

The Reverend Connor Gwin

There is a "sweet, sweet Spirit" at Christ Church, Charlotte! Our Children, Youth, and Family ministries pivoted through 2021 while providing meaningful spiritual programming for our young people.

Sarah Ford and Emily Kalmbach navigated COVID protocols to offer Sunday School and incredible programming for our children.

Maggie Baker and Alice DeVries showed up for our middle and high school students through weekly gatherings that were both fun and deeply rooted in our Christian faith. They continually provide a "spiritual homebase" for our young people to reconnect and discover who they are in God.

We said a bittersweet goodbye to Betsy Parkhurst who left her position as our Youth Administrative Assistant. In Young Adult Ministry, I continue to be astonished at what God is doing at Christ Church! More than half of all newcomers to Christ Church are young adults who are searching for a Spiritual Home as we come out of the pandemic. Kathryn Saunders has done an incredible job welcoming all of these new members!

Our ministry focused on fellowship and worship in 2021 including a Christmas Party with over 60 young adults in attendance. The Young Adult Ministry Task Force continued its work developing ideas and events focused on belonging, formation, and service. As we head into 2022, there is a lot of energy around bringing our young adults together at their Spiritual Home.

The Reverend Emily Parker

As we move into 2022, I look forward to serving the Christ Church family, Charlotte, and the region! Reflecting on this year, I am grateful to have been able to:

- Host the January 24 online Perseverance & Possibility session on Post Traumatic Growth with Mollee Reitz and

guest presenter Dr. Sara Bailey.

- Take part in the January 28 Clergy Conversation on Reflections and Resolutions, Hopes and Dreams.
- Co-lead an online Living in the Word weekly gospel study on March 1.
- Organize and host two School of Faith Wellness Wednesday sessions in March on Courageous Conversations around dementia care and end of life planning.
- Join the Outreach and Mission Team in the spring.
- Participate in in-person services starting the weekend after Easter.
- Participate in the June 25 Movable Volunteer Possibility (MVP) at the Loaves & Fishes warehouse.
- Participate in the July 28 MVP event at Barbee Farms in Concord to glean tomatoes with the Society of Saint Andrew.
- Plan for and preside at my first funeral service on August 28.
- Take part in the September 19 Clergy Conversation on the Power of Hope.
- Organize and participate in the October 10 MVP creek clean up led by the Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation.
- Co-lead a Youth Confirmation session on the Holy Spirit on November 14.
- Preach on three Sundays: May 30, July 18, and November 17.
- Offer e-Devotions on May 5, June 23, July 28, August 18, October 13, November 17, and upcoming on December 7.
- Make pastoral phone calls and visits to parishioners that live at the Cypress and to others in need.
- For the diocese, I joined the Bishop's Committee on Affordable Housing in early 2021.

SENIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Doug Ey

Like just about everyone else in the world, the Christ Church vestry began its year meeting online because of the pandemic. The vestry and clergy held their traditional annual retreat online January 22-24, 2021, which culminated in the adoption of five vestry goals for 2021, summarized as follows:

- Our Sacred New Normal – responding to the shared experience of the pandemic and overseeing that response in the spirit that everyone would return to church as a newcomer
- The Way of Wellness – embedding wellness as a foundational ministry at Christ Church
- Cultivating Generosity – developing a new model of stewardship
- Nurturing the Next Generation – creating an environment for deeper connections with young adults and young families
- The Journey Forward – determining when to reengage with the paused strategic planning process

These goals remained front and center for the vestry throughout 2021. At the February meeting, the Vestry commissioned two task forces in response to the goals. The Wellness Task Force, led by Julie Marr, was charged with exploring expansion of wellness efforts and resources, particularly spiritual wellness. The Generosity Task Force, led by Bill and Carol Lorenz, was charged with exploring a year-round stewardship model and best practices in stewardship, leading to the implementation of a holistic generosity ministry at Christ Church. Both task forces worked diligently throughout the year, leading to presentation of their findings and recommendations at the November vestry meeting. This work will be the foundation for many critical aspects of ministry at Christ Church for years to come. Also at its November meeting, the Vestry approved the renewal of a Strategic Planning Process, to be led going forward by Jane Coulter and Bill Lorenz.

The Regathering Task Force met weekly throughout 2021, carrying on the work that began in the spring of 2020. Unsurprisingly, the pandemic presented new challenges throughout the year, requiring quick responses and decisive action. The vestry task force operated in tandem with similar groups managing the Diocese, CCK and staff responses to the pandemic, and benefitted from the medical input provided by and through Dr. Jim Horton. In-person worship resumed after Easter and the campus reopened in the spring. CCK navigated the difficulties of the pandemic with grace and compassion and provided a critical resource to families. The task force also determined COVID vaccinations were a requirement for employment by CCK/Christ Church, a decision that we hope inspired confidence in the Church's commitment to its guiding principles of safety, respect and hospitality. This work continues. The faithful members of the Regathering Task Force in 2021 have been Randall Mountcastle, Susan Hamilton, Julie Marr, Jane Coulter, Alison Gugenheim, Wendy Mauney, Chip Edens, Joshua Case and Doug Ey (chair).

The Annual Stewardship Campaign, themed "The Gift of Hope," was led by the vestry this year, instead of by a couple, with responsibility for oversight of the campaign delegated to a Steering Committee consisting of Ken Thompson, Susan Hamilton, Jane Coulter, Chris Ullrich, Bill and Carol Lorenz, Wendy Mauney, Chip Edens and Doug Ey. The vestry recruited 110 Connectors, who reached out to parishioners to welcome their return to the campus and worship, and to support the campaign. The campaign began with Gift of Hope Sunday on September 26, 2021, and has methodically gathered generous pledges from the parish through the fall. The arrival of Natalie Akin as Director of Generosity and Stewardship in late November is highly anticipated by the vestry.

Christ Church has a remarkable clergy team and devoted, creative staff across all ministries. Throughout the year, the clergy and staff faced unprecedented challenges, but did so with grace and courage. The vestry encouraged and supported the Rector with regard to his well-deserved sabbatical during the summer months. The vestry commissioned a search committee, ably chaired by Jane Showalter, to fill a clergy position that has lead responsibility

for adult spiritual formation. In November, the Rector announced the completion of that work and the hiring of Rev. Allen Pruitt as a new associate rector, starting in early 2022. A new search, to be led by Randall Mountcastle, will begin early in 2022 for a clergy position with lead responsibility for wellness ministries and pastoral care.

The vestry attended to several governance matters, including updating the policy on bequests and creation of a vestry Finance Committee. The vestry appointed Mary Davis Smart and Mary Kluttz to serve 3 year terms as new delegates to the Diocesan Convention, and thanked Zach Smith for more than 40 years of distinguished service in that important role.

As reported elsewhere in detail, the finances of Christ Church, a principal responsibility of the vestry, remain strong by any measure. We are richly blessed with solid financial position, but it remains hard work to maintain that balance. Chief Operating Officer Wendy Mauney and Treasurer Dick Parkhurst provide invaluable leadership in this regard

Each vestry meeting begins with a devotion led by a vestry member. This year, the devotions have been remarkable – heartfelt, vulnerable, stirring and joyful. Your vestry are devoted servants of Christ who have gone above and beyond the call of duty this year in the face of challenges that no one ever began to contemplate. It has been a joy, honor and privilege to serve with my 14 sisters and brothers this year.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Randall Mountcastle

While our church facilities were not entirely in “full” use this year, we took the opportunity to make many improvements to our spiritual home and initiate significant ones that will soon be completed *and* provide extended new life in the years to come. At the beginning of the year, the Vestry approved a budget for a significant re-fresh of our main worship sanctuary with the replacement of sixteen (16) windows, plaster repairs and repainting. This replacement/restoration process will begin January/February 2022 and will return this worship space to its full glory. Additionally, the church will benefit from more energy efficiency, protection from sun/UV and better acoustics for our choir and music programming.

Also, we planned and secured funding for door and camera security improvements for our parish offices to provide greater safety for our clergy and staff during working and non-working hours of the church. Due to material shortages and supply chain bottlenecks, we expect the completion of these security enhancements during January/February 2022.

The following is a list of major projects completed during 2021:

- Sanctuary Window Replacement initiated (1st window installed in June)
- Replacement of roofing in sanctuary penalty box
- Significant pruning and care for our trees across campus
- Green/Diocese Grant - Applied for Green Grant/Diocese Grant to allow for the upgrade of lighting fixtures in All Saints’ Hall and surrounding hallways to LED.
- Upgrades and updates to internet network and phone system
- Additional exterior security cameras added to existing system to provide better coverage
- Repairs to CCK/Sunday School facilities during summer to prepare for back-to-school
- Natural area adjacent to upper parking lot cleared and re-landscaped
- Band Room Renovation / Sound proofing.

It has been a blessing for me to work with Wendy Mauney and Jason Scofield this year. The thoughtfulness with which they care for our spiritual home is so appreciated; we are very fortunate to have them both at Christ Episcopal Church. As well, much of what we do would not be possible without the hard work and dedication of our Sexton staff: Clayton Pride, Nikki Rushing, and Greg Young. It is a team effort with this group working diligently alongside so many parishioners who are generous with their time and talents to care for our church campus, all of which I am immensely grateful.

TREASURER

Submitted by Dick Parkhurst

Summarized below are the financial results for the past three years along with the budget for 2021. For 2021, our budget calls for a decline in receipts reflecting flat pledges and a reduction in unpledged gifts which were abnormally high in 2020 in response to the pandemic. The expenses budget for 2021 is up approximately 4% with this increase focused on support for our staff and programming.

Annual receipts increased 4% in 2020 and exceed budget by \$178,000 driven largely by generous, unpledged gifts received in response to the pandemic. While total expenses were up by a similar amount, they were held 5% 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 \$435,000. Given the substantial surplus, the Vestry approved the use of approximately \$170,000 of reserve in 2021 to support areas of need outside of the operating budget. The remaining surplus of \$1.0 million is available to meet unbudgeted funding requirements as approved by the Vestry.

	2018 Actual		2019 Actual		2020 Actual		2021 Budget	
Operating Receipts	4,956,368		5,427,685		5,654,233		5,449,222	
Personnel & Admin	3,177,912	64.0%	3,404,942	65.0%	3,635,187	66.0%	3,800,000	69.7%
Diocese of NC	490,251	13.0%	518,021	12.0%	536,282	11.0%	581,372	10.7%
Buildings and Grounds	344,083	8.0%	375,490	8.0%	328,931	8.0%	325,000	6.0%
Outreach	397,090	9.0%	437,913	10.0%	449,064	9.0%	450,000	8.3%
<u>Programs</u>	<u>281,097</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>304,600</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>269,072</u>	<u>5.0%</u>	<u>292,850</u>	<u>5.4%</u>
Operating Expenses	4,690,433		5,040,966		5,218,536		5,449,222	
Annual Surplus	265,935		386,719		435,697		-	
<u>Reserve Usage</u>	<u>(84,292)</u>		<u>-</u>		<u>(168,953)</u>		<u>(170,000)</u>	
Accumulated Reserve	527,719		914,438		1,181,182		1,011,182	

Through November 2021, receipts are in line with expectations while expenses are below budget reflecting positive variances in personnel and administrative costs. 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.

While the past two years have been challenging, the financial position of Christ Church has never been stronger. This is the result of the tremendous generosity of our parish and the tireless efforts of our clergy, lay staff and countless volunteers who found new ways to live into our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World.

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 Lindsay Masi

This year saw some big transitions within Adult Spiritual Formation. In January, our longtime Director of Adult Spiritual Formation, Jenny Beaumont, announced that she would be leaving Christ Church to take a new role with the Diocese of North Carolina. From that moment, we saw firsthand how our lay volunteers have been equipped to lead the programs they love so dearly.

Rosalyn Lackey, our Administrative Assistant for Adult Spiritual Formation, along with Joshua Case, Vicar for Formation and Worship, stepped into the space to help our leaders draw on their gifts and talents as bible study leaders, mentors, and facilitators.

We had three Education for Ministry (EfM) groups led by mentors Natalie Akin, Virginia Anderson, Jennifer Bennett, Jenny Beaumont, Tere Ey, and Shawn King. 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. Our groups were so thrilled to begin to meet in person again when the option became available.

Sacred Ground, the Church's series on race grounded in faith, continued to serve and educate parishioners this year. Between February and December, we had 30 participants learning about America's history of race and racism, while weaving in threads of family story, economic class, and political and regional identity. Virtual and in-person groups were led by Makeda Pennycooke, Caroline Saunders, Virginia Anderson, and Caroline Stoneman.

We continued to offer our invaluable ministry of The Space Between Us – a program based on the spiritual practices of Ignatius. Facilitators Makeda Pennycooke, Mary Davis Smart, Alice deVries, and Jenny Beaumont led groups at Christ Church in March, July, and October, as well as partnered with Trinity Episcopal School in August to lead a group of staff and faculty. We are looking forward to more opportunities to connect with community partners for this vital ministry.

We were happy to host an outdoor Confirmation service in May where eight adults were confirmed, reaffirmed, or received during the confirmation service.

Other ministries and groups have continued to meet both digitally and in person. Grace Fogg led our CCWBS group in a beautiful outdoor autumn brunch where 30+ women enjoyed the fellowship of being back together in person sharing a meal. Craig Cmiel continues to steer the ship of Men's Ministry at Christ Church, holding meetings and reinvigorating the Wednesday morning Big Breakfasts. Amanda Anders and Charles Conner have continued to host groups for Reading Between the Lines via Zoom.

This fall, the Adult Spiritual Formation Commission spent time refocusing the group's purpose to better equip and empower leaders within the church. We were so thrilled to welcome Scottie Stamper as our new Director of Adult Spiritual Formation in October. 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!

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Submitted by Sarah Ford

If you would have told our team in January that the pandemic would still be going on, we may have said we were prepared and ready to get through it... but we definitely would have told you we weren't able to do it without each other. This year we had to think creatively about how to be in community and build relationships while remaining socially distant and masked. Let's begin at the very beginning!

Our Children's and Family Ministry Team started the New Year by introducing Sunday School at Home. With the help of Sunday School leaders, we were able to provide leader-submitted weekly videos and activities for children to grow in their Christian Formation, with supplies included. Families were able to register each month for at-home supplies and were encouraged to watch the video and complete the craft or activity at their own pace during the week.

In early March, our team shifted slightly with staff changes. Lindsay Masi moved from Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministry to a new role as Director of Spiritual Formation. At the same time, I shifted from Assistant Director to Director of Children and Family Ministry. While these changes were taking place, Emily Kalmbach, Administrative Assistant to Children and Family Ministry, remained our anchor and kept our vessel in place.

Since January, our team has been working diligently to provide children's formation opportunities and relationship building via Zoom meetings and in-person meetings. It has been a huge joy for me to get to work not just with the Children's Ministry team but to collaborate with the Youth Ministry team, Parish Life, Adult Formation, and Outreach and Mission team to think about new and innovative ways to help our parishioners feel connected to Christ Church. Below are some highlights of the ways in which we attempted to create a connection between our families and their spiritual home.

- Throughout the winter and spring, fourth and fifth grade Sunday School leaders provided a meeting space via Zoom each week for Navigators. We shared Bible stories, played games, and lived in community behind a screen.
- The Children, Youth and Family Team produced a recorded Stations of the Cross for families to listen to from a phone as they walked the stations on Good Friday outdoors at Christ Church.
- In late April, 17 fourth graders were celebrated for their hard work to learn the books of the Bible. We gathered outdoors for a blessing lead by Father Connor, where each child was presented with their own Bible and shared a boxed meal prepared by Chef Mary.
- While we had huge hopes of offering a Vacation Bible School as normal in June, we decided to pivot from a normal four day VBS to a weekend VBS the last weekend in July. This in-person weekend of fellowship allowed 45 rising Kindergarten through 3rd graders to be on the Christ Church campus. We focused on God and each other and for a few children, it was the first time they had been on the grounds of Christ Church since March 2020! This weekend was made possible because of parent volunteers and our VBS Chair, Jannell Dunaway. The group learned about Habitat for Humanity here in Charlotte and were able to meet a family who had just received their Habitat Home.
- We offered a Navigators VBS Day of Service the following Friday in which Navigators completed a service project benefitting Habitat for Humanity to wrap up VBS 2021.
- Stephanie Brimigion carefully reviewed and edited Nursery protocols and hired three new caregivers and three returning caregivers. Our Nursery staff safely provided childcare to registered children six weeks through four years old from September through December.

- 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 after not being in a Sunday School classroom in over a year.
- Thanks to a group of volunteers, we formed a Sunday School Regathering Committee that met in August and helped us think through all the options to safely offer in-person Sunday School. This group was comprised of current Sunday School leaders, school teachers, and medical professionals. It was determined that due to the Delta variant, the best way to regather was to provide Sunday School outside.
- After presenting our plan to the Children's and Family Commission, and the Christ Church Task Force, Lindsay, Emily and I spent time coming up with all the spaces on the church's campus that could be used and then tasked ourselves with figuring out what supplies were needed for this – rolling carts to move supplies in and out, chairs for leaders to sit in, and towels for children to sit on.
- We offered our annual Advent Festival and allowed adequate space for anyone who wanted to participate in this intergenerational event to make ornaments for their Jesse Trees and make their Advent wreath from fresh greenery.
- Our plan is to wrap up 2021 with our Christmas Pageant in which third graders will be cast as the Holy Family to help share the Christmas story. Younger children are able to participate from their seats dressed as shepherds and angels and even sing our grand finale song, "Go Tell it on the Mountain!"

The Children and Family Ministry team is a blessing and works well together to be flexible and creative. Each of us is well aware of how powerful physical connection is and we hope that in the upcoming season of Advent, events such as Hush in the Rush and the Christmas Pageant create that powerful connection for our families.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Submitted by Maggie Baker

Pivot: that's been the buzzword these past 20 months. Throughout 2021, we have definitely continued our season of adaptability and innovation. Innovation is nothing new to Christ Church, which I feel has made this a little bit easier on us. We have definitely been shifting and adapting and learning this year!

One big shift is that I have taken over as Director for Youth and Family Ministry. With Lindsay Masi's shift to Director of Spiritual Formation, Sarah Ford and I have shifted into our roles, with Lindsay graciously supporting us through the transition. It's been a wonderful opportunity that I'm thankful to have received. My role is not our only staffing change this year. We will also be saying "see you later!" to our wonderful Administrative Assistant, Betsy Parkhurst. While she might be stepping away from her job at Christ Church, this will always be her spiritual home.

Within our programming, we began the year continuing virtual programming, but we were able to move to in-person after Easter. During Lent, we offered a virtual Dismantling Racism for Youth class, which provided a great opportunity for students to come and learn about the history of racism in our country and how our Baptismal Covenant calls us to respect the dignity of all of our neighbors. Our Youth Council members offered Daily Devotions on our Instagram page, and they led us through the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

Middle School EYC and Life Group continue going strong on Wednesday nights. Our Youth Council continues to grow, with us having (74) 9th – 12th grade members. We are so excited for the ways they continue to show up as leaders here at Christ Church.

We kicked off our new Confirmation program in January. The pandemic allowed us an opportunity to look at our Confirmation program and think through what we and our families hope these students get out of this preparation time. Our program now begins in the spring semester of 8th grade and lasts for three semesters, culminating in the Confirmation service in the spring of their 9th grade year. Students meet in small groups twice a month. Their first semester is about caring for each other and setting the foundation for which they will explore the big questions later in the process. The second semester is about loving God, through learning about the teachings of the Episcopal Church. The final semester is where they learn how to live out their faith through caring for the world.

Another new area of programming is called Sunday Night Live. In talking with families, we continued to hear that Sunday mornings, even pre-pandemic, have been taken over with tournaments, tutoring sessions, etc. We decided to explore holding our main formation time on Sunday nights. We've seen great response and attendance. For those for whom Sunday mornings still make more sense, we also have a Bible Study for 6th – 12th grade called Donuts and Devotions. This group has enjoyed sharing Krispy Kreme donuts 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 are gearing up for our 2022 Pilgrimage to Juneau, Alaska, with 13 pilgrims joining us. We look forward to exploring God's creation, learning about our Indigenous neighbors at the Indigenous Peoples' Festival, and visiting the Shrine of St. Therese, who taught that what really mattered was not what we did but how we loved.

Though the year has been filled with many pivots to help make sure our students and families are safe but connected, we have been so thankful for the many ways we have come together. Whether it was virtual, in-person, or outside, we have loved making sure our students continue feeling at home in their spiritual home. We look forward to continuing these meaningful connections in the new year.

CHRIST CHURCH KINDERGARTEN

Submitted by Meredith Sorrell

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten (CCK) is the largest daily mission of Christ Church. The Christ Church staff, the Christ Church Regathering Task Force, and the CCK Re-opening Task Force and the Diocese of North Carolina worked together during the 2020-2021 school year to provide in-person instruction for 221 students with only a two-week interruption. CCK did not have any COVID-19 outbreaks in our school, and we had a record number of applications for the 2021-2022 school year. This year, CCK is serving 229 students, 290 families, and employs 49 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 CCK. 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, we were able to bring back Creative Movement, My Gym, and weekly Chapel services to our students after having to suspend those activities last year due to the pandemic. We have also been able to safely bring back one of CCK's favorite traditions – All School Chapel – when all ages of CCK children come together once a month for worship. It has been wonderful to welcome parents back into the building to join us for All School Chapel as well. The addition of Connor Gwin as our CCK Chaplain has been an incredible resource for our CCK community and a great way to connect CCK's mission with the greater mission of Christ Church.

CCK continues to employ the services of off-duty CMPD police officers on campus during the school day to support traffic in the parking lot and to monitor the playgrounds while children play. CCK participates in two service projects each year, designed to help our children begin to understand the importance of helping others in their community. This year, our Fall Service Project was a CCK Bake Sale to benefit Cookies for Kids' Cancer, an organization founded by one of CCK's employees. With the help of matching gifts from Bank of America, we have raised over \$20,000 so far! All teachers, students, staff, and parents participated in some way to support the Bake Sale. Toddlers and Twos put Cookies for Kids' Cancer stickers on cookie bags, parents signed up to bake, each class made a sign to advertise the sale, and our Four-year-olds even practiced selling cookies in the hallways so that they would know what to do on the big day. Each Threes, Fours, and Kindergarten class was given a time to sell. Families came out in a huge show of support!

CCK is governed by a Board of Directors that meets monthly. **Board of Directors:** Brian Purcell (Chair), Marc Ozburn (Chair-Elect), Joshua Case (Clergy Representative), Connor Gwin (CCK Chaplain), Jane Coulter (Vestry Representative) Stephanie Ladley (Treasurer), Marsha Thrasher (Teacher Representative), Julia Duncan (Parent Representative), Courtney Gentzel, Lauren Gilbert, Beth Griffin, Zach Hill, Marshall Macon, John Randall, Whitaker Rose, Allison Schilz, Mary Pell Teden, Brantley Templeton, Meredith Sorrell (Head of School), Mary Caroline Lee (Assistant Head of School).

The support of our CCK staff from CCK families, the greater church community, Church Leadership, and our CCK Board has been an incredible blessing as we navigate our second year of teaching preschool during this global pandemic. Since our school year began in September of 2021, we have successfully operated without interruption to any classrooms. Our COVID protocol and the support of Dr. Jim Horton as our medical expert have created a safe and healthy environment for our CCK families.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

Submitted by Ginger Seabrook

ECW is excited to finish this year with a bang! During the past year, the Board continued to meet virtually each month through May. The ECW Board provided bag lunches for over a hundred people at Roof Above just before Summer Break. In September, the Board began meeting monthly at the church with our wonderful Syble Carson providing our devotionals.

December is a busy month for ECW with Yuletide Magic with the Good News Shop and the Living Advent Wreath Event. ECW is promoting the Good News Shop through the holiday season and looking forward to giving Mission Funding gifts to local and global organizations in January.

NEWCOMERS AND PARISH LIFE

Submitted by **The Reverend Chip Edens, Kathryn Saunders, and Mary Catherine Zito**

NEWCOMERS:

We continue to welcome each visitor that we are made aware of with a personal welcome email, entry into the ACS system 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. The addition of a one-month follow-up email has been successful, as has compiling a periodic list of newcomer families for the Children and Youth Commission members to reach out to separately. We continue to reach out to new registrants for classes, music club, etc., so that they are welcomed beyond the individual class they are signed up for. This year was a combination of helping newcomers assimilate in person and virtually.

Welcome Center/Greeter Program: We continue to 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. This year we were required to be able to contact trace, so we created sign-in stations which the greeters monitor. We continue to identify newcomers this way and feel the greeter impact is significant.

Vespers in the Garden: Unfortunately, due to Covid, we were forced to cancel Vespers in the Garden in 2021. We look forward to its return in spring 2022, as well as hopefully hosting a celebration for the “Class of 2020” when we are able.

Newcomer Dinners: We were able to resume these dinners to specifically welcome newcomers in September. 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. The first several were hosted outdoors for safety reasons, and were well attended.

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 event. 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 2021 Hospitality Committee members are Catherine Ruth Kelly (Chair), Natalie Akin, Carol Andrews, Caroline Austin, Lauren Carter, John Crehore, Carr Doerre, Mary Stuart Fountain, Page Gatewood, Mary Gregory, Gigi Harris, Emma Grace Lloyd, Carol Lorenz, Janie McCabe, Lauren McGuire, Ann Rogers, Julia Taylor, Liz Willett, and Sara Yorke.

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 parishwide events. Mary Catherine Zito began her two-year role as chair of the committee and has done an outstanding job.

Shrove Tuesday Supper: This year, due to Covid, we hosted a “take out” version of Shrove Tuesday where parishioners could pre-order and pick up the makings for a Shrove Tuesday dinner at home. We included pancake mix and other food items, along with fun crafts for families.

Easter Egg Hunt: Again, due to Covid, the decision was made to not hold the event as usual. Instead, we created celebratory Easter bags for families with children to take after the Easter pilgrimage through the Church.

Spring Parish Day: In lieu of Spring Parish Day, we opted to focus on Welcome Home Summer Sundays.

Welcome Home Summer Sundays: In place of Hot Dog Sundays, we planned Welcome Home Summer Sundays where refreshments were served after each service, and priests and greeters welcomed all to enjoy conversation post service. We began the summer with a Food Truck Sunday, then offered pre-ordered picnic box lunches after the 11:15 am services. We wrapped up the Welcome Home Summer Sundays with another Food Truck event that was very well attended and welcomed many back to campus prior to Fall Parish Day. We are grateful to Caroline Davis, Claire Devon, Garland Talbott, Alex Mann, and Sara Yorke for their support.

Fall Parish Day: This annual event welcoming the parish back from summer was very well attended. Chef Mary provided fried chicken and other delicious sides. Kara Hunt, Claire Middleton, and Grace Bailey planned a fabulous day with The Trailblazers (bluegrass band), petting zoo, bounce house, and trackless train, all supervised by parishioners and youth. The dunking booth with Chip was featured as well. Many precautions were put into place in order to host this event safely, and it was a beautiful and fun day welcoming many parishioners and newcomers.

Trunk or Treat: This annual event returned with great fanfare. There were well over 500 people in attendance who enjoyed a hot dog supper and crafts in the circle, then paraded to the upper parking deck to trick or treat among parishioners decorated trunks. This year, we had 26 trunks, half of which were represented by Children, Youth, and Family teams. With safety precautions in place, the children had lots of fun and received lots of candy. Laney Lay and Mary Catherine Zito orchestrated the successful event.

Parish Life Commission members include: Mary Catherine Zito (Chair), Sarah Meyers, Kara Hunt, Claire Middleton, Grace Bailey, Alex Mann, Sara Yorke, Laney Lay, Caroline Davis, Claire Devon, Garland Talbott, Catherine Ruth Kelly (Hospitality Representative), Louise Bonner, and Alison Gugenheim (Vestry Reps).

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Submitted by Kathleen Dean

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.

There are 13 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, Fletcher Gregory serves as the liaison to the Vestry.

In 2021 the O&M Commission was tasked with continuing to provide support and assistance to our community in new and different ways due to the ongoing 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 devastated by loss of work/support and encourage our parish to gather, connect and grow.

As 2021 got underway, the Tuesdays with Outreach (“TWO”) program continued as part of the parish-wide School of Faith that found innovative ways to bring learning, engagement and the community into our very homes. With a focus on “The Work of The People,” spring programming examined the connections between our liturgy and our lives, with lunchtime conversations exploring our mission in the world, mental health as outreach, and stewardship as creation care. Participants included leaders from Thistle Farm, the Diocese of Botswana, the Diocese of Costa Rica, Episcopal Relief and Development and partner organizations here in Charlotte. After the summer break, TWO resumed monthly with conversations exploring the work of the Episcopal Relief and Development and the housing crisis. Throughout the year, these conversations were part of the parish-wide School of Faith and an important resource that helped to connect members to larger communities and important issues of today.

January marked the virtual kick-off of construction on our 33rd Habitat House, with work beginning on February 19 and continuing to completion in April. 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 AND SOCIAL JUSTICE	9.67%
Charlotte Family Housing	\$ 40,000	Galilee Ministries	\$ 20,000
Roof Above	\$ 35,000	Equity Training	\$ 2,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 61,000	Changed Choices	\$ 6,500
The Relatives	\$ 7,500	Center For Community Transition	\$ 10,000
YWCA (WIT/Families Together)***	\$ 12,000	YWCA (Eliminating Racism)***	\$ 5,000
HOUSING SUBTOTAL	\$155,500	JUSTICE SUBTOTAL	\$ 43,500
POVERTY ALLEVIATION	15.56%	OTHER	2.11%
Crisis Assistance	\$ 40,000	Mecklenburg Ministry Dues	\$ 1,000
Loaves & Fishes	\$ 20,000	Research & Development	\$ 2,500
Commonwealth Charlotte	\$ 10,000	Undesignated	\$ 2,500
POVERTY PREVENTION SUBTOTAL	\$ 70,000	Administrative: Room in the Inn	\$ 500
CHILDREN & EDUCATION	38.11%	Administrative: Habitat for Humanity	\$ 500
Thompson Child/Family Focus & A Child's Place	\$ 15,000	Administrative: Education & Advocacy	\$ 500
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	\$ 12,000	Immediate Response	\$ 2,000
Freedom School Partners (at Rama Rd)	\$ 48,000	TOTAL OTHER	\$ 9,500
Communities in Schools - Rama Rd	\$ 65,000		
Rama Road Annual Budget*	\$ 6,000	GRAND TOTAL	\$450,000
A Better World	\$ 9,000		
ROC	\$ 10,000		
Foster Village	\$ 6,500		
CHILDREN SUBTOTAL	\$171,500		

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

Also in March, Outreach and Mission offered parishioners a 21-day Lenten Challenge for Racial Equity and Social Justice, adapted from Trinity Episcopal School's program.

In April, the parish donated generously to the Easter offering, which was divided equally between HopeVibes and Safe Alliance.

Also in April, the Good Reads monthly book club that began in 2020 morphed into a quarterly program called A Place at the Table (AP@TT), which utilizes books, videos, blogs, and in-person opportunities to explore and learn about a particular topic. To date, groups have explored and learned together about Creation as a Gift and Indigenous Peoples of Western North Carolina.

Throughout the pandemic, Joan, Laura and Lesley have been creative in developing ways for parishioners to engage safely in volunteering to support community partners. In May, they initiated Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVP), as a way of venturing into volunteerism with a small group of fellow parishioners. The MVPs have included tomato gleaning with the Society of St. Andrew, providing hospitality and direction at a Novant vaccination site, stream clean up with Catawba Riverkeepers, moving furniture for Charlotte Bilingual Preschool and more.

Also in May, the Commission made recommendations to the Christ Church Foundation for the allocation of the Foundation's Outreach Fund. New Foundation grant recipients for 2021 were Fashion and Compassion, Profound Gentlemen, OurBridge for Kids, Race Matters for Juvenile Justice, and The Academy of Goal Achievers.

The work of Outreach and Mission continued throughout summer, with Christ Church helping Dahlia Grove raise \$75,000 in a golf tournament in June, hosting a one-day food drive for Loaves and Fishes in July, and making a significant contribution for a large and much-needed expansion at The Relatives in August.

It's been a busy Fall so far, with September bringing a collaboration with Wellness and Young Adults for our first "Holy Hike," the onset of a collaboration with Adult Formation on the Deep Dive with Becca Stevens exploring Practically Divine, and the resumption of Tuesdays with Outreach (TWO). In October, the Commission provided eight opportunities to help our neighbors in need, with parishioners participating in a variety of volunteer projects, including ones supporting Rama Girl Scouts, Assist M.E., Roof Above and Crisis Assistance Ministry. October also marked the inauguration of a new formation program on eco-justice, Sacred Land: Food and Farming, which is being offered virtually to parishioners. Finally, in November, we teamed up with Wellness again to offer a blood drive.

"Necessity is the Mother of Invention." In a year where COVID and quarantine restrictions again posed challenges for reaching out to the community as the hands and feet of Christ, Joan, Laura and Lesley have consistently led the commission in finding ways to do just that. Many of the innovations spurred on by the pandemic, such as Tuesdays With Outreach (TWO), A Place at the Table and Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVP) have propelled us forward in new and exciting ways, helping us look ahead with hope and expectation for the continued easing of the pandemic and healing of our community in 2022.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Submitted by Ben Outen

In 2021, the Music Ministry at Christ Church continued providing excellent music for worship while living in ongoing protocols of COVID-19, changing personnel and venues – indoor or outdoor. We have exercised our resources for learning new skills and processes to produce music and liturgies for livestreaming and other forms of media. We have continued building the community of musicians that sing and play for worship and educating the young people whose families have been adventurous with Zoom, outdoor/masked rehearsals, and most recently, indoor/masked rehearsals. Throughout this past year, all the music staff including our section leaders has proven to be dedicated and joyful and it has been our goal to share the joy through our music.

Below you will find some statistics and details about our work that may be informative.

Music in Sunday Worship

- 18 virtual, pre-recorded Sunday morning services between January and April.
- 30 hymns recorded by Schola Cantorum and Christ Church choir volunteers using their personal equipment coupled with their dedication and attention to detail, in their own homes for use in worship services.
- 15 musical anthems recorded utilizing talents of Music Ministry leadership, Christ Church choir members, Christ Church Band members, volunteers, and local professional and community musicians. These anthems are also now on the church website for everyone to enjoy.
- 11 outdoor worship services throughout 2021 with instrumental music provided Ben Outen, Jerrick Cavagnaro, Shea Watts, Charles Milling, Christ Church Choir, and Christ Church Band.
- 47 worship services in All Saints' Hall with music led by Shea Watts, Jerrick Cavagnaro, Charles Milling, and members of Christ Church Band.
- 20 new musicians have led music in worship in All Saints' Hall with Charles Milling, between the months of September and November.
- 49 worship services in the Church with music led by Ben Outen, Jerrick Cavagnaro, and members of Schola Cantorum and Christ Church Choir.
- 5 worship services including 1st – 5th grade students in St. Nicolas Choir during the Fall.

Music Throughout the Week

- Christ Church Choir resumed weekly, in-person Thursday evening rehearsals beginning in September 2021.
- Children's Choir Camp welcomed 10 children ranging from K-5th grade in person on August 27-28, and the children sang in worship on Sunday, August 29.
- 17 children registered for St. Nicolas Choir and 18 children registered for Music Club for weekly, in-person rehearsal during the Fall after over a year of virtual Children's Choirs.
- The children's choir program is now re-branded as the Christ Church Choir Academy: a fun, faith-based choral music education program with an emphasis on development of life skills and belonging to a diverse community.
- We are in the process of developing a partnership with Rama Road Elementary where ten students would be transported to Christ Church after school for an after-school enrichment program followed by St. Nicholas Choir rehearsal and a meal.
- 13 volunteers secured to be a part of partnership with Rama Road Elementary.
- We have convened a six member "Music Advisory Committee" with Shawn King as Chairperson. Their commission is to share a perspective from the parish, share news and information throughout the parish, and to advise the music staff on ideas for new initiatives and recruitment.

Music Staff

- In May, we said goodbye to Shea Watts, Director of Contemporary Worship.
- In August, we welcomed Charles Milling as the new Director of Contemporary and Family Worship. Charles is "thrilled to be in a community that 'has it right' and yet still dreams of what could be. Although it will take some time for these ministries to find their new voice, the wee beginnings this fall have been joyous and wonderfully communal."

- In June, we said goodbye to Lauren Tomme, Associate Musician for Children, as she moved to Norway to be closer to her family.
- In August, we also welcomed, Katie Lehman, as the new Associate Musician for Children and member of Schola Cantorum. Katie comes from a background of strong music education, with experience studying at the Kodaly Institute in Kecskemet, Hungary. Katie jumped in immediately helping to lead Children's Choir Camp in August and weekly leading Music Club and working alongside Jerrick Cavagnaro with St. Nicolas Choir.
- We have received gifts of two beautiful pianos in 2021: a 1959 Bosendorfer from Mark Mealey which is being rebuilt at his expense and a 2015 Kawai Grand Piano.
- Parishioner and volunteer Kate McLoughlin has been working on a cataloguing project of the entire music library: updating and correcting some 1500 records of our extensive music library.
- The Gabriel Kney Organ has had to have an unusual amount of maintenance and repairs during the last year. There is a particular issue that has been repaired time and again that our technician says will not be fixed without a complete console rebuilding.

Music from the Community

- Welcomed the Georgia Boy Choir on Sunday, August 18, where the group participated in the 5 pm Holy Eucharist and presented their SOLACE concert live in the Church at 6 pm that same Sunday.
- We are in conversation with the Music Director of St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Philadelphia, the home of Absalom Jones and first African Episcopal Church in the US, about their Gospel Choir coming to Charlotte to give a concert in All Saints' Hall and to lead worship.
- Charles has engaged 20 past volunteers, 31 local professionals, five local contemporary music directors – a great and wide network of skilled professionals and volunteers – to create a robust contemporary music program. These priceless conversations – over email, phone, and many in-person – lent perspective on Contemporary Music at Christ Church past and present, and on Contemporary Music in the great city of Charlotte.

WELLNESS

Submitted by The Reverend Lisa Saunders

Mollee was excited to complete her second full calendar year at Christ Church. 2021 captured the continuation of the COVID-19 pandemic and the start of a new, hybrid “normal” in church life. 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 November of 2021, Alex Bacon joined the wellness team as the Assistant Wellness Director. In 2021:

- Counseling services remained virtual through June of 2021. In July, in person sessions with masked and social distancing became an option to those who felt comfortable.
- Mollee provided a total of 460 counseling sessions through November 30 and 101 referrals through the same date. This represents a 148% increase in counseling sessions as compared with the same time period in 2020 (310 counseling sessions last year) and a 142% increase in referrals (as compared to 71 in 2020).
- Alex Bacon was hired as Assistant Wellness Director in November 2021
- The wellness committee continued to meet monthly in 2021
- The Wellness Task Force was formed in March of 2021
- Mindful Mondays were continued in 2021 and had consistent attendance (typically 4-10 attendees) ever since
- In January, a presentation on Post Traumatic Growth was delivered for the vestry. In March, a staff training on Post Traumatic Growth was delivered. In October, a staff training on Community Resilience was delivered.
- Additional trainings on mental health and wellness were offered via the Diocese that focused on Community Resilience and talking about mental health.
- The Wellness team continued to participate in the School of Faith (SOF) during the Spring of 2021. This included a collaboration with Outreach and Mission to discuss Mental Health Access and Advocacy in Charlotte.
- Wellness Commission Chair Ginny Cobb led a SOF episode on nutritious lifestyle, commission member Julie Marr led an episode on spiritual direction, and commission member Joyce Cmiel led an episode on mindfulness.
- Mollee Reitz participated in a Faith Forum on Post Traumatic Growth with Dr. Sara Bailey, a friend and classmate from Wake Forest.
- We coordinated with the Youth Council to host a virtual discussion on teen mental health and wellness.
- In May, commission member Julie Marr began to offer SEE: Spiritual Exploration and Encouragement. This monthly offering met online and created a new way for participants to grow their spiritual wellness.
- 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.
- In August, Midweek Mindfulness started on campus. The wellness and music ministries collaborated so that participants could experience music-themed mindfulness. Participation for this group remained low.
- In September, the first Holy Hike was held at McDowell Nature Preserve. We look forward to offering more Holy Hike opportunities in 2022.
- We continued to utilize Zoom-based wellness groups that are based on Living Compass curriculum. We look forward to continuing to offer the spiritual practices curriculum and faith & wellness curriculum in 2022.

STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Paulette Wilkes

The 2021 Annual Stewardship Campaign, chaired by Bill and Carol Lorenz, began with the mailing of pledge packages on October 13, 2020. The campaign theme was “Brave Together”, since CC found itself facing unique challenges during a global epidemic. In lieu of in-person worship on Brave Together Sunday, October 25, 2020, a special pilgrimage was offered to parishioners to bring their pledges to the sanctuary during a designated time with a reservation.

Since more than 98% of Christ Church’s yearly budget is funded by the ASC, the Annual Stewardship chairs, Senior Warden Jane Showalter, Junior Warden Sally Mitchener, CC Vestry, and many others used every safe opportunity available to promote the importance of making a yearly pledge, including virtual gatherings, personal conversations, letters, email and social media. On February 22, 2021, the Vestry approved a \$5,449,222 budget based on pledges received by that date, representing 1,098 parish households.

The 2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign is chaired by the combined experienced leadership of The Reverend Chip Edens, Senior Warden Doug Ey, Junior Warden Randall Mountcastle and the Christ Church Vestry. It began with the mailing of pledge packets on September 15, 2021. Since Parishioners frequently ask to be reminded of their recent giving history, this information was included, in addition to what a 10% increase would be.

As people felt more comfortable returning to safe, in-person fellowship, a Weekend of Hope, October 1-3, was planned, 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, with the Christ Church choir 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.

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 22, 2021, \$4,143,085.05 in pledges have been received, over 77% of the previous year’s campaign. The Vestry will vote on the 2022 budget in February.

2022 Annual Stewardship Campaign Steering Committee

Chip Edens, *Rector*

Doug Ey, *Senior Warden*

Wendy Mauney, *Chief Operating Officer*

Bill Lorenz

Carol Lorenz

Susan Hamilton

Ken Thompson

Jane Coulter

Chris Ullrich

CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION

Submitted by Suzanne Bledsoe and Wendy Mauney

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 Operations 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 September 30, 2021, the Foundation's total investments with Bank of America Private Bank stand at \$4.3 million, up 24% for the twelve months ended September 30, 2021.

The CCF Board met via Zoom three times in 2021:

- February 11 with elections, investment report presented by Rhondale Haywood, SVP and Portfolio Manager at Bank of America Private Bank
- May 13 with recommendations from the Outreach Commission and Scholarship Committee, and approval vote
- November 4 with investment update, Oak Circle update and other miscellaneous items.

In May 2021, scholarships were awarded to seven students who are members of Christ Church or are children of Christ Church staff for a total of \$13,000.

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

Southminster	\$10,000
Supportive Housing Communities	\$10,000
Fashion & Compassion	\$10,000
Race Matters for Juvenile Justice	\$ 7,500
ourBridge for Kids	\$ 7,500
Profound Gentlemen	\$ 7,500
Academy of Goal Achievers	\$ 7,500
Society of St. Andrew	\$ 3,000
Dahlia Grove	\$ 2,500
Habitat for Humanity Charlotte Region	\$ 1,500
Total	\$67,000

2021 Foundation Members: Suzanne Bledsoe, President; Carrington Coulter, Vice President and Treasurer; Emily Smith, Secretary; Mark Mealy, Investment Chair; Mary Kluttz, Scholarship Chair; Marks Arnold, Hooper Hardison, David Kern, and Paul Tolmie.

In addition, the following also served the CCF in 2020: Chip Edens, Rector; Kathleen Dean, Outreach Liaison; Frank Horne, Planned Giving/Oak Circle Chair; Doug Ey, Senior Warden; Randall Mountcastle, Junior Warden, and Wendy Mauney, Chief Operations Officer.

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 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.

The reduced number of people on 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 (Director of Facilities) and Randall Mountcastle (Junior Warden) for their tireless dedication and extraordinary work during the pandemic. The work of the Committee during 2021 has included the following:

- Providing funds and assisting generally with the purchase of a new oven, range and fryer for the kitchen
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally in overseeing significant repairs and enhancements to the campus irrigation system
- 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 security doors to the Rotunda
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with significant plaster repairs to the Nave and chapel.
- Purchasing extensive audio/video upgrades for the Nave, including new speakers and cameras, to enhance online worship offerings
- 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
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally concerning the repair of multiple roof leaks.
- Coordinating with the Director of Facilities in providing landscaping services for the Campus, including the removal of dead trees, trimming and the planting of new trees and bushes
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with significant groundskeeping and the installation of new trees and plantings in the Upper Parking Lot.
- Purchasing acolyte and chalice bearer robes
- 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, 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 (Director of Facilities), Randall Mountcastle (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

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