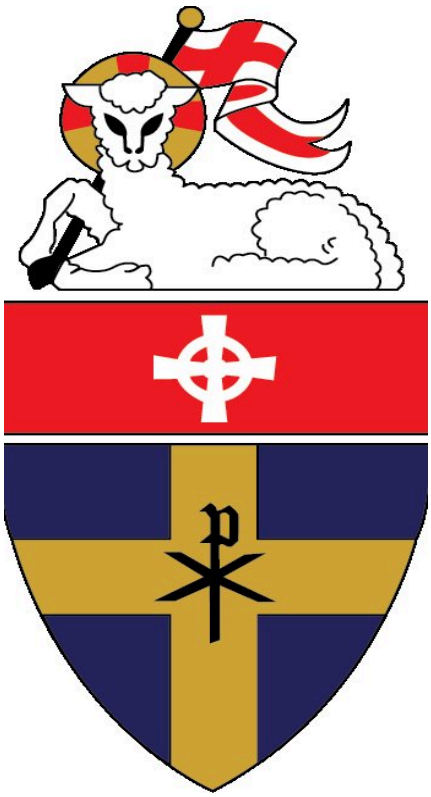
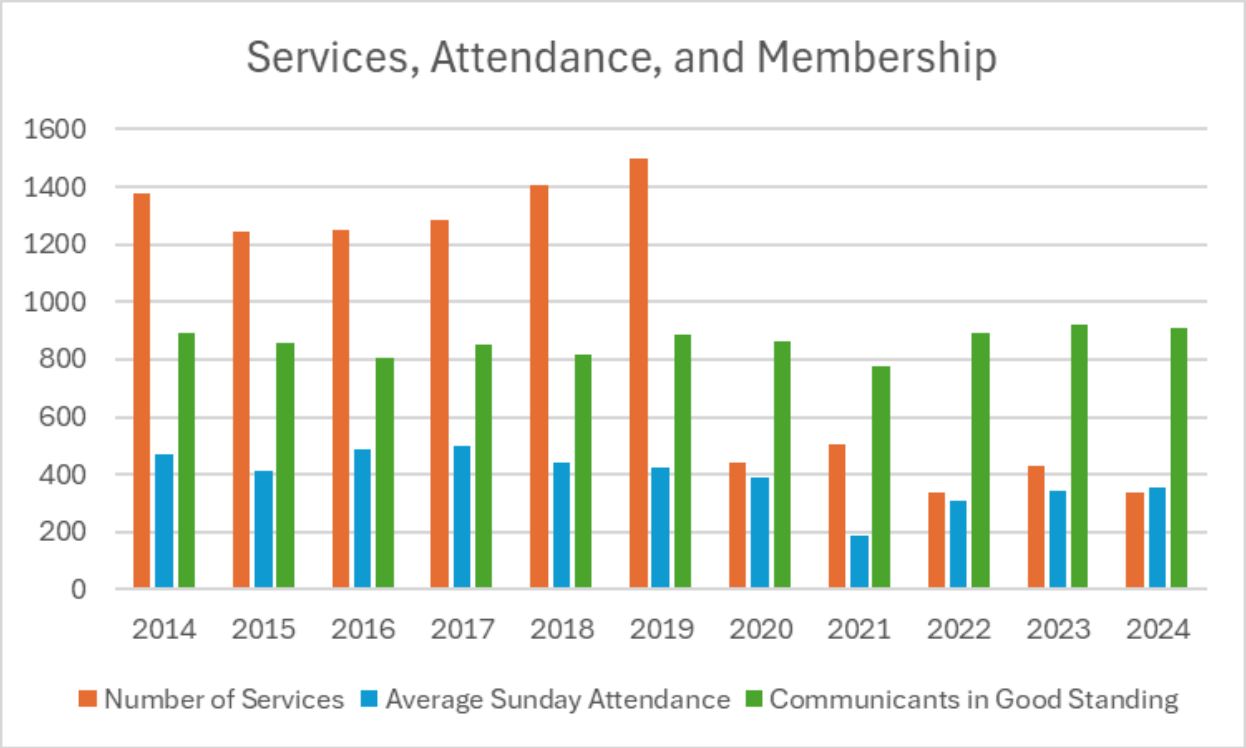
Annual Report for 2024



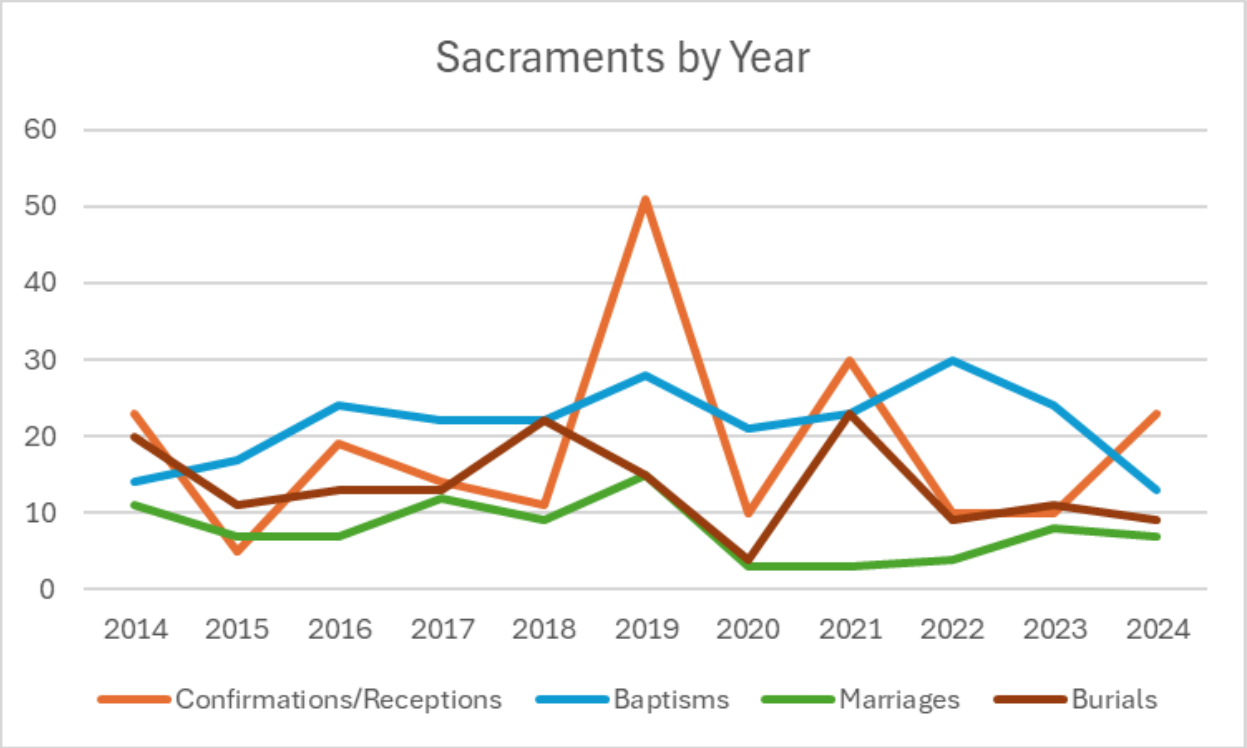
Christ Church, Georgetown

208th Annual Parish Meeting

February 2, 2025



Total Membership for December 31, 2024: 1,699



Agenda

I. Opening Prayer

II. Appointments

III. Approval of Minutes from the 207th Annual Meeting, February 4, 2024

IV. Report of the Nominating Committee

    Vestry Nominees

V. Rector's Report

VI. Senior Warden's Report

VII. Financial Reports

VIII. Proposed Changes to the Bylaws

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CHRIST CHURCH, GEORGETOWN

207th Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

4th February 2024

The 207th Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 4th, 2024, with parishioners having assembled in the church, the Rector, Timothy A.R. Cole called the meeting to order at 10:12 a.m. and commenced with prayers, including prayers for the faithful departed of the parish, who had died since the 206th Annual Meeting.

Appointments

The Rector appointed Miss Babs L. Hough to serve as Secretary, Mrs. Molly Peacock to serve as Parliamentarian, and Mr. Brent T. Minor and Mr. Dick Thompson to serve as Tellers.

Presence of a Quorum

The Rector directed the Congregation to review the requirements to qualify as a voter and raise their hands if they qualified. The presence of a quorum was established.

Minutes

The Rector asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 206th Annual Meeting and approve them as distributed. Mr. Neal B. Herman motioned to approve the minutes. Mr. Thomas D. Casey seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Retiring Vestry Members

The Rector thanked the retiring members of the Vestry, Mr. Ferdinand H. (Tripp) Onnen, Ms. Sally Squires Wilhelm, Mrs. Shelley Rodgers, and Mr. J.D. Lytle; and, Mrs. Molly Peacock, retiring Junior Warden, for their faithful and dedicated service and said that it had been a pleasure to serve with all of them.

Report of the Nominating Committee

Mr. Chad Thorley, Chair of the Nominating Committee, delivered his report on behalf of the Committee. Mr. Thorley said that it had been a privilege chairing the nominating committee, thanked all who submitted names, and said it was a great group who came up with great recommendations for

Vestry members. Mr. Thorley announced the nominations of: Mr. Newman Ainsley, Mr. Rupert Hammond-Chambers, Mr. Charles Ingersoll, and Ms. Marcia Mayo, as Vestry Members; and Ms. Isabel Kunsman, as Junior Warden.

After asking the nominees to stand, the Rector opened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, the Rector called for a motion to close the nominations. Mrs. Michelle Korsma motioned to close the nominations. Mrs. Rodgers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. The Rector then called for a motion to instruct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for the nominees to serve a three-year term as Vestry members. Mr. John Korsma motioned to instruct the Secretary. Mrs. Rodgers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

The Rector asked for those elected to the Vestry to stand to be recognized. The Rector noted that Mr. Ainsley could not be present due to urgent family business, but could still be elected in absentia.

Reports on Finance, Budget, and Stewardship

The Rector introduced Mr. Thorley, Treasurer, to give a report on the budget, stewardship, and investments for 2023.

Mr. Thorley said it was his pleasure to talk through the financial details of the parish for 2023. He said that the parish remains in good financial condition. The Vestry and the Stewardship Committee believe that transparency is key. As the Rector mentioned, the financial reports are included in the packet that had been distributed. The Church completed the year with a surplus again, despite a deficit in the operating budget which was purposefully left in place to allow us to defer taking the remaining endowment draw for the year. There are sufficient levels of cash moving forward to end the year with a healthy surplus. There is also $16 million in the endowment, allowing us to take a $800,000 draw, though we try to avoid taking the full draw each year to allow for paying loans, such as for the HVAC system. It also allows us to do various capital projects, such as the bell tower.

Mr. Thorley asked for any questions. No questions were asked. The Rector thanked Mr. Thorley.

The Rector said that the Church had come through well last year and was able to raise so much for the capital campaign, without which we would be unable to do a great many things. He thanked all those who have so generously provided that substance as well as Mr. Thorley, Mr. Roth, Mr. Casey, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mr. Collins who chaired the Investment Committee.

Report of the Senior Warden

Mr. Scott Campbell greeted the Congregation and said it was an honor to give a report and remark on an extraordinary year.

Thanks to much generosity and hard work, we raised over $9.5 million from 180 families for the campaign, which will transform the Hall into a wonderful place for great events. The capital campaign received commitments of all sizes, ranging from $100 to $1 million. The project will preserve the façade of the hall while totally transforming the interior—the renovation is already underway and will transform our Church life. The organ, which received funding from an estate, is also being replaced but there is still room to give if people are interested. Stewardship keeps our doors literally open and makes all of the activities possible. Mr. Campbell thanked Mr. Casey and Mrs. Rodgers for leading the Committee.

Mr. Campbell continued by saying with confidence, thanks to many in the Congregation, that the Church remains very strong. We finished with a small surplus and did not take the entire endowment draw. As many are aware, a lot of Churches face secularization and politicization. Fortunately, we are bucking that trend. The life of the Church is growing across all spectrums. There were 26 new members in the Fall, 25 of which are under the age of 36. The young professionals group is also growing exponentially. They took their first ski trip this fall—at which, Mr. Campbell jokingly added, The Rev. Huddleston raced down the mountain yelling, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*"

Additionally, the confirmation class, women's Bible study, and the men's ministry program also grew. Homecoming Sunday increased 65% from the previous year, serving more than 450 people.

Every Sunday, guilds and committees do much to enrich and provide for the Church. With the help of the Church's financial condition, we are able to take good care of our buildings. This year, we have a new HVAC system, Realm, and refurbished the bell structure.

Mr. Campbell noted that some of the budget also goes to charitable causes and mentioned the organizations that the Church gives to. He also noted that we received a clear and clean audit from our independent auditors. Dedicated parishioners are working for the year ahead and we have planned the budget for operation. It's a collective effort, and Mr. Campbell thanked all who made it possible.

Mr. Campbell finished by saying that we are truly blessed with a sound Vestry. Mr. Thorley is a very attentive Treasurer, and Mrs. Peacock has been an outstanding Junior Warden. He thanked the Rector for taking us into the third century with grace, and for making Christ Church a house of love with exceptional music and barbecue. The Church will stay steadfast in the word of the Lord as it has for 206 years. The parishioners at this Church have not been found wanting in answering the call and serving in our Nation's capital. The first Rector Reuel Keith and Francis Scott Key would be astonished. He closed by saying that the future is bright.

The Rector thanked Mr. Campbell for his report and added lightheartedly that Christ Church's parishioners are so capable they could organize a small country—and some of them already have.

Report of the Rector

The Rector gave his report: Well, here we are at the beginning of a pivotal year in our Church's life. A few doors down from here, the Parish Hall renovation has started. This is a huge project, and one that will provide us with a great opportunity to continue and develop the growth in our church life we have seen in recent years. It will help us reach out to the wider community, enhance many of our existing ministries, and develop our community and parish life. It will be one of the finest and largest spaces in Georgetown. The Capital Campaign for this and our new organ has been an amazing success so far. We have raised over $9 million so far as well as raising nearly $1.5 million for our Annual Stewardship Campaign that has allowed us to start taking on some more staff as well as covering all our normal costs. We do have another $1.5 million to raise but I am certain we shall be able to do that during the rest of this year. We have to as the work is now under way. As the parable of the loaves and fishes shows, if all of us do what we can there will be more than enough to do God's work. We also creating two new sections of the Endowment that will set us up for future financial stability by setting aside capital maintenance dollars in one section and also set us up for greater service to those in need, and doubling the amount we donate to the poor, needy and underserved in our community every year, by setting up another section to do that.



So, my thanks to all who have worked so hard to raise this money, the Stewardship Team, especially Tom Casey and Shelley Rodgers their chairs; the Capital Campaign Team, especially Isabel Kunsman, and Allen Foster their chairs and Marshall Ginn who has carried the work over the second part of the year. My thanks also to those who invest our money so effectively, especially Terry Collins, J. D. Lytle and Ellen Martin, our investment Committee. Also, in sadness, our thanks go also to Paul Gambal who served for so long on that committee but who died in the middle of last year. Our Endowment has outperformed many many investment funds over the years and, I am glad to say, continues to do so.

My thanks to those who administer and manage our operational budget; our Vestry, and especially our Treasurer, Chad Thorley, and our Director of Administration, Duane Roth, both of

whom have worked sacrificially to manage our budget so well.

Most of all though, I want to thank each of you who have contributed to this tremendous effort. None of it would be possible without your great generosity. Not a prayer is said, not a hymn is sung, not a parish group meets but for the gifts of your hearts and lives. We are laying down deep foundations for the future, and we are making the beacon of Christ's light here at 31st and O, bigger and brighter every day, month and year that passes. So, thank you all for making this, our Church, such a wonderful and hopeful community to be part of.

While financial health is a significant indication of spiritual health, it is in the other areas of ministry that it makes possible, that we really see the inward spiritual growth that is leading to outward growth.

We now have four outstanding members of staff engaged in ministry. Tom Smith continues to lead a music ministry that is probably the best in DC. Thanks to him we have a truly outstanding choir and music program that makes our worship one of the main reasons people are drawn into the life of our Church from all around. The new Organ, when it comes, will deepen and enhance our music even more.

Chrissy Casey, our Youth and Families Minister, leads a superb team of Sunday School Teachers, and it is a delight to see the number of young families growing almost week by week. If things keep going the way they are, our Sunday school should double in size over the next two to three years, if not sooner. 2023 also saw a wonderful Youth Pilgrimage to Scotland and the North of England which made a deep impression on all of those who went. This, with Mission Trips planned and growing Youth Confirmation Classes are all signs of great health and vitality in the Church. Chrissy also supports our Feeding Ministries with Rick Schewel which now include lunches at GMC and Saturday Night Suppers at Mt Zion Church in Georgetown.

Tiffany Clark, our Assistant Lay Minister, is now a postulant, which means she is now ready to train for ordination to the priesthood. My congratulations to her on this. She will be a wonderful priest, as is shown by the outstanding work she has done here in this last year. She has led on Adult Formation including different Forums, Lay Leadership Formation, Retreats, and Parish Groups, (of which we now have 11 active Groups of various kinds with over 100 people involved in them.)

My Associate Rector, Nate Huddleston, has also done a tremendous job reaching and introducing people to the parish through New Members courses, in supporting the Men's Group, our Young Professionals, the Wine Down Wednesday Women's group as well as reaching out to our teenagers. He continues to facilitate a new parish partnership with The Church of the Atonement, an African American Episcopal Parish in Southeast Washington.

This is a truly excellent ministry team, and we are supported by an equally excellent Administrative team. As well as producing a clean audit, our new Parish Administrator, Duane Roth has got the Parish onto a new database system called Realm, and overseen the move out of the parish

hall and into temporary accommodation here in the Church. In this great endeavor I also want to thank - Thrift Shop, Kitchen & Feeding Ministry, Chapel to Nursery Conversion, children's ministry volunteers - and all clergy, staff, and sextons who worked and gave ingenuity, patience, time, good cheer, camaraderie, to this. Their work reflects their commitment to this Church and its life, worship, witness, and outreach. Together, they made a smooth, efficient, and fiscally responsible (or economical) transition possible.

In Duane, together with Tonika, our Parish Administrator, our Sextons and our brand-new Parish Engagement Coordinator, Katherine Harwell, I think we have the right people to take us forward through this year and into the next with all the opportunities the new parish hall promises.

Worship remains the heart of what we do and the single most important aspect of the life of our Church. As well as the music I mentioned, our Worship Guilds are the bedrock on which our worship rests and one of the main ways that people can serve in the life of the Church. New leaders have taken post in the Altar and Lector Guilds this year and my thanks go to those who stepped down at the end of last year. Paige Sass for the Lectors, and Sally Wilhelm and Natasha McCarthy for the Altar Guild. My thanks for their precious service. Randal Stewart now leads the Lectors and Shelley Rodgers and Alice Parish the Altar Guild. I remain grateful to Brent Minor and Alan Cocker for their continued faithful leadership of the Ushers, to Doris Dixon and Christy Thorley for their leadership of the Flower Guild, to Rebecca Houston for taking on the Chalice Bearers after Paul Gambal's sad passing, and to Andy Sigler for taking on the Gethsemane Guild, who live stream our services. My thanks to Jon Alexander who did a great job establishing this valuable aspect of our worshiping life. An extension of the worship into pastoral care is seen in the Flower Ministry, led by Anna Brooke, which also continued its truly wonderful and much appreciated ministry of delivering the altar flowers to the sick and the homebound and to those who we just felt needed a boost.

In all, I believe we have almost 200 people who support worship at different times including those who lead the Daily Offices and support Weddings and Funerals. That's a real sign of service and faith in any parish where so many are so engaged in the worship of the Church.

Mission and Outreach are also key to what we are as a parish and my thanks to Rick Schewel who leads the Feeding ministries with Chrissy Casey. Rick is also our representative on the GMC Board. My thanks also to Frances Symes who led the Mission Committee last year and to Millie Coleman who stood down this summer from leading the Thrift Shop. Lucy Cannon now leads there, though the Thrift Shop will be shut for this year during the renovation. My thanks also to Stephanie Green who has led the Creation Care group and to Sheila Ward whose passion for the godly care of animals and her leadership of the St Francis Guild has been wonderful indeed.

These efforts, together with the tithe of our income we give away each year to support our mission partners, places mission at the heart of what we do. As I mentioned earlier, if we can establish

that new section of the endowment through the capital campaign, that will double what we can do each year.

I must conclude, but I can't do so without thanking our Vestry, those whose terms are up, and those who are continuing, for their great support, cooperation, wisdom and leadership in the last year. Most of all I would reiterate my sincere thanks to Scott Campbell our Senior Warden and to Molly Peacock our Junior Warden. They have both been truly outstanding. Molly steps down this year as you saw, so I would like to say that most of you do not know just how many hours of faithful service Molly has given over these last three years. She has been dedicated, insightful, tough when she needed to be, and always kind and spiritual in all contexts. Thank you, Molly. You have been a tremendous support to me as well as to the Vestry and the parish and we cannot thank you as much as you deserve to be thanked.

Finally, I would give thanks for each one of you and for all who share in our common life here. Christ Church is a very special Church. I believe we represent a balance that is much needed in our day, a focus that is on Christ and the faith over all other issues, a deep regard for reverence and liturgy and I think we represent a desire for an affectionate, open and serving community that adds a value to our lives that no other aspect of our lives does. All that is down to each one of you and I am sincerely grateful to God to be here and to be your Rector.

Changes to Bylaws

The Rector invited Mrs. Peacock, the outgoing Junior Warden, to speak about the proposed changes to the bylaws.

Mrs. Peacock began by saying that it has been a true honor to serve and she looks forward to being a parishioner again. She said that the Vestry is proposing a few changes to the Bylaws to address conduct of the parish meeting, duties of the Vestry, and the establishment of committees. The Bylaws are a living document and have been changed from time to time.

Given the substantial fundraising for our capital campaign it is necessary that the Bylaws make clear that the money people have donated to the Church for that purpose can only be used to that end. These amendments would also align the wording of the Bylaws more closely with the existing law of the District of Columbia. The changes have been agreed to by the Vestry and the lawyers have also looked at it to ensure that they will protect the money donated and make it more clear that the Vestry is in charge.

The Rector asked if there were any questions for Mrs. Peacock. No questions were asked.

Mr. Casey voted to approve the changes to the Bylaws. Mrs. Britta Chambers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.

Other Business

The Rector asked whether there was any further business to be brought forward, and there was no other business brought forward.

Installation of Vestry members.

A service of installation was held for the newly elected Senior Warden and Vestry members, who were presented by the Senior Warden, Mr. Campbell. Mr. Campbell presented the elected members to The Rector. The Rector confirmed that they had been appointed in accordance with the Bylaws, that they were willing to serve, and that the Congregation had elected them. The Rector then commissioned the new Vestry members and prayed over them and for the Church.

Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Neal B. Herman motioned to adjourn at 11:00am. Ms. Kunsman seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Babs L. Hough, Secretary

Senior Warden Annual Parish Address

4th February 2024

Scott Campbell

Good morning, it is my honor to report to you on the administrative and financial state of our historic church.

Like a brave ship, its crew sailing through storms and high seas, Christ Church emerged from the global epidemic, domestic political upheaval, and a largely vacated federal city, to calmer waters, in fine shape, to an extraordinary year in 2023 and to a ground-breaking year ahead , literally and figuratively, in 2024.



In 2023, thanks to your generosity and the hard work of our dedicated volunteers led by Alan Foster and Isabel Kunsman, we raised over $9.5 million dollars from more than 180 parishioner families in the Third Century Capital Campaign.

These funds will transform our aging Parish House into a splendid new venue... for Sunday school, study programs, feeding ministries, events for our young people, wedding receptions, Days of Remembrance, Scottish Ceilidhs, and more.

The Capital Campaign has received commitments of all sizes, from $100 all the way up to more than $1 million.

Just last month, the Parish Hall renovation process began, which will preserve the historic façade but totally transform the interior of the building into a facility that will support our growing Parish.

We still have a way to go to reach our funding targets...

But we expect a number of Capital Campaign contributions to come in now that everyone can see the renovation underway and grasp the transformation it will make in our church life.

Part of the Third Century Campaign is a new organ, and the Parish is scheduled to receive a very significant bequest from an estate which will largely fund this important project.

Even with the request we need a bit more in contributions so please let us know if you would like to learn about the new organ and the difference it will make in our music program.

Our current organ is on its last legs, and it is amazing the music that Tom Smith coaxes out of that tottering old gentleman.

Stewardship is of course the critical activity that literally keeps our doors open, our clergy and staff working endless hours, our church buildings maintained, our community outreach sustained , and all the diverse activities of the church possible.

This last year the Stewardship Campaign has been one of the most organized and comprehensive efforts we have seen at Christ Church.

Led By Tom Casey and Shelly Rodgers, the Stewardship Campaign closed with just shy of $1.5 million, essentially funding our 2024 budget.

I can say with confidence... As a result of a lot of hard work, dedication, and generosity, church finances remain quite strong.

We finished 2023 with a small surplus in the operating budget and did not take the entire endowment draw - something we plan to do each year.

Strong pledging ensures that we can avoid tapping the endowment and it can steadily grow larger and provide greater financial security in the unpredictable and chaotic times in which we live.

As you know, many churches are facing strong headwinds, secularization and politicization are taking a heavy toll on church attendance and church finances across the nation.

Fortunately, we are counter to this trend, adding new and young families, increasing our Sunday school enrollments, and seeing greater activity and commitment across the entire spectrum of the church.

Just a few examples...we added 26 New Members in the fall of 2023. 25 out of the 26 were under the age of 36.

We have a spring New Members Course with a class of 15 ready to become full members.

The Young Professionals group is growing exponentially. Its regular monthly gatherings are attracting between 20 and 30 young people at each outing. And they are starting to bring their friends.

The Young Professionals took their first Ski Trip this January where Father Nate was seen hurling himself down the slope reciting the 22nd Psalm which begins: *My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? why art thou so far from helping me....?* I'm told it was a very moving sight.

Confirmation Class already has 15 students registered. An increase up from 2 to 15.

The Women's Bible Study Group led by Tiffany Clark is a huge success story, our largest group, growing in numbers, enthusiasm and spiritual renewal.

The Men's Ministry program remains robust. The First Men's Retreat last April was a big success with 20 men venturing to the Jefferson Island Club for a weekend together.

Homecoming Sunday saw an increase of 65% from the previous year with us serving more than 450 people.

I relate this good news to you because the growth in membership and activity bodes well for our church and its financial condition.

Thanks to our growing membership and our healthy finances, we have been able to take good care of our buildings and have added new management tools.

We mercifully replaced the HVAC system with a new one.

We introduced Realm, the high tech church management, communication, and volunteer scheduling system.

Thanks to Chad Thorley, we completed refurbishment of the church bell support structure before it collapsed sending him flying onto the adjacent rectory rooftop... and we can now confidently ring the bells to announce worship.

Of course some of our budget regularly goes to charitable causes in our community and when the capital campaign is finished, we hope to double our contribution.

And finally, and importantly, we recently received a clear, clean audit from our independent auditors.

So, look forward to an exciting, fiscally sound year... ground has broken, the renovation is underway, and dedicated parishioners are working to smooth the way, to complete the renovation with minimum disruption to the neighborhood and to plan and budget for operations.

It is truly a collective effort and quite impressive. Thanks to all of you who make this possible.

I also can tell you that we are truly blessed with an outstanding Vestry of wide experience, sound judgment, and deep personal commitment.

We sleep well at night because Chad Thorley is such an attentive and knowledgeable Treasurer.

Molly and I have been truly fortunate to work with such a fine leadership group.

And of course, our greatest appreciation is for Father Tim for his singular leadership, for taking us into our Third Century with drive, energy, commitment, sacramental beauty, and grace... always grace.

And thank you Father Tim for assembling such a wonderful team of clergy and staff that has made Christ Church a house of love, compassion, caring, exceptional music, and as a Texan I must add, superb BBQ.

And thanks to all of you, Christ Church will steadfastly carry forward the word of the Lord in the scarcements, in worship, in music and song, in teaching, in fellowship, and in service to others as it has for 247 years.

It can be fairly said that we parishioners of this Third Century of Christ Church have not been found wanting but have answered the call, serving as safe-keepers of our remarkable little church in the nation's capital since 1817.

Our first rector, Rev. Keith and our co-founder Frances Scott Key would be astonished by what has been accomplished.

Thankfully, happily, the state of Christ Church is sound, and the future is bright.

Thank you.

Ministry Updates

Worship at Christ Church

Acolyte Guild – *Marshall H. Ginn*

Acolytes are an important way through which parishioners can have a direct impact on one of Christ Church's most central elements – the liturgies. Working alongside the Altar Guild, Ushers, Lectors, Flower Committee, Chalice Bearers, and the Clergy, acolytes help to facilitate an experience for worshipers that connects them to the sustaining presence of Christ in the Eucharist.



Our Parish is blessed to have, and I am continually honored to work with, a great team of adult acolytes who appreciate their role as worship leaders and the responsibility that comes with that. I am equally honored and happy to have continued to work with a great group of young people who help to support the 9:00 a.m. service each week.

We've had several new adult acolytes join the team in the past year, and we are grateful for their eagerness to serve the Church in this way. Thanks to the incredible work of Anne Grambsch, we have been able to train and coach these new acolytes, ensuring that they feel confident in fulfilling their duties. Looking to the future, we are developing new training materials, including a complete set of annotated bulletins that will help acolytes to understand how their tasks fit into the various components of the liturgies. And we are continuing to look for new ways to engage some of our older youth in the principal services, as well as remaining open to any parishioners who wish to explore serving as an acolyte.

This past fall, Christ Church sent a small but enthusiastic contingent to the National Acolyte Festival at Washington National Cathedral. There we joined with hundreds of acolytes from parishes across the country to celebrate the role we play in the Church's worship services. For 2025, we are looking forward to sending a larger group to the Festival this coming fall, and we will begin some early planning for that this coming spring.

In addition to my gratitude for Anne's support, I also want to thank Max Wang, who has been so helpful in managing our schedule and assignments. Beginning this year, Anne and I will be working closely with Mother Karin to manage the overall acolyte schedule, in coordination with the 8:00 am

service lay participants as well as the Chalice Bearers. And with the new Lay Leadership Council, all of us who support the liturgies will remain even more connected and able to strengthen our work.

Altar Guild – *Alice C. Parrish and Shelley C. Rodgers*



In 2024, it was the Altar Guild's honor and privilege to set the Lord's Table for 208 Sunday services as well as 10 Baptisms, 7 Weddings and 7 Funerals.

The Altar Guild's ministry is to set the Altar for the Lord's supper, and to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, altar hangings and linens of the parish. The Altar Guild supports the celebration of the Liturgy, setting out the vessels for the Eucharist before services, cleansing and putting them away afterwards. We work in teams to keep Christ Church, Georgetown's historic silver bright, and the linens fresh and organized for church and chapel services, whether a Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer. When the church temporarily lost the use of our chapel for services in 2024, Guild members made adjustments to our Sunday evening practices to accommodate Evensong followed by the Holy Eucharist occurring in the same space.

There are 33 Altar Guild members, including 4 new members, Krista Anderson, Katy Handley, Brittany Kelm and Toni Verstandig, who joined in late 2024. We continue to receive support from the former chairs, Natasha McCarthy and Sally Wilhelm and reference the photo customary created by Sally.



Altar Guild meetings were held four times in 2024, twice coinciding with the silver polishing that always occurs a few weeks before Easter and Christmas. The Altar Guild is in charge of the coffee hours following the 11:15 AM service in the month of January. We enjoyed a joint social with the Flower Guild at the Rectory on May 23, 2024.

With the careful stewardship of our budget, the Altar Guild was able to contribute new procession torches and six new pew torches at the end of 2024.

All who serve on the Altar Guild must be members in

good standing of Christ Church, Georgetown. The official invitation to join the group comes from the Rector.

If you are interested in learning more about joining the Altar Guild, please contact Alice Church Parrish (alicecparrish@gmail.com) or Shelley Church Rodgers (shelleyrodgers8@gmail.com) who became the co-chairman of the Altar Guild on January 1, 2024 and will continue in this role through 2025.

Chalice Bearers – *Rebecca S. Houston*

The Chalice Bearers support our clergy as they administer the most precious gift of Holy Communion. Over the last year and a bit, we welcomed and trained three new chalice bearers and incorporated them into our rotations. I am happy to announce that starting the new year, Marshall Ginn has been formally appointed as head of the Chalice Bearers guild. It has been an honor to help serve in this role in the interim following Paul Gambal's passing. I can't thank Marshall enough for his thoughtful guidance and support during this time. I cannot think of a better person to lead this special group.

Flower Guild – *Doris L. Dixon and Christine T. Thorley*

The Flower Guild has had a wonderful year as our church embraced a full and busy schedule. We have the privilege of preparing the altar flowers for all services during the Liturgical year. We are fortunate to have a committed group who generously give of their time and talent.



Our Guild has twenty-two (22) dedicated Active Members. In addition, there are six (6) Sustaining Members; Active Members who have moved from active to sustaining status and assist as available when needed. We are delighted to announce we welcomed four (4) new active Flower Guild members this year as three (3) long-time members transitioned to sustaining status. Two (2) of our new Active Members attended the Floral Arranging Workshop at the Washington National Cathedral in February of 2024.

Each week during the year, teams of two arrange flowers for the altar (except during Advent when only greens are used and Lent when the altar is bare). In addition, we worked with eight (8) families to honor their loved ones with beautiful altar flowers for their funeral services. Our members worked in large teams to realize the vision of engaged couples to create memorable wedding floral decorations for seven (7) very special weddings, and an additional wedding for our seminarian, Alex Swain, who was married at another Episcopal church. Floral arrangements were made for the Baptismal Font for fifteen (15) baptisms to welcome the newly baptized, and these arrangements were given to the families following the service to take home.

Our Flower Guild's work for Easter and Christmas glorified these most important celebrations of our Christian faith with overflowing expressions of seasonal joy. Floral arrangements were made for celebrations in Keith Hall on several occasions throughout the year, such as Trinity Sunday, Homecoming, and stewardship receptions.

On May 23, the Altar and Flower Guilds enjoyed a festive cocktail reception in the Rectory hosted by Tim and Lorraine Cole.

The Flower Guild plans training and social gatherings throughout the year. We anticipate adding new members as openings occur.

Flower Ministry – *Christine T. Thorley and Anna M. Brooke*



After the last service each Sunday, the altar flowers are rearranged into small bouquets and delivered to parishioners selected by the clergy in the greater DC-Maryland-Virginia area. The Clergy takes the time each week to personalize each delivery with a handwritten note of well wishes to accompany the 4-7 flower vases we deliver. The church flowers bring part of the beauty of our worship services into people's homes as a tangible blessing during struggles as well as triumphs.

During the 10 weeks of Lent and Advent we take a break as there are no altar flowers. In addition to our regular Sunday work, we worked with flowers from 8 funerals and 7 weddings, giving us more offerings to share with those among our parish family. We are grateful to all of our volunteers (around 11 members), without whom we would not be as successful, particularly, our avid lead delivery assistant, Barbara Chang. Without the work of the clergy to identify recipients and send messages, our work would have less impact. Our success is also due in part from the wonderful donations of vases we regularly receive

and depend on from the Christ Church community. In 2024, we delivered a total of 280 flower vases—averaging 24 per month. Volunteers are always welcome.

Lector's Guild – *Randall Stewart*

The Lector Guild presently comprises 30 individuals, typically providing two readers for the 11:15 services of Morning Prayer and Holy Eucharist, as well as the 5pm Evensong. The Guild is also occasionally called upon to provide readers for feast days, as well as Christmas and Holy Week. The Guild transitioned to Realm as its primary communication tool this year. As we look forward to next year, we will try to incorporate further training events to bring more people into this part of our church work.

Live Streaming Guild – D. *Andrew Sigler*

The Livestreaming Guild facilitates the streaming of principal liturgies and other offerings to the church's website and its YouTube channel. On a weekly basis, this allows those who cannot attend church in person to participate live in the 11:15 services of Holy Eucharist and Morning prayer, certain Sunday Forum presentations, other lectures, and services of Choral Evensong from October to May. I anticipate that the Guild will finalize a protocol for funeral services and weddings in the months to come.

Weekly services are viewed live by a small but dedicated number, with dozens more typically following up later on YouTube. Special services, such as the Solemn Requiem Mass for All Souls' Day and the three services of Lessons and Carols offered from Advent to Epiphany, are viewed hundreds of times. Thus, in a real sense, the Livestream Ministry is Christ Church, Georgetown's portal to the wider world.

I am pleased to report that the guild has nearly doubled in size in the last year. Having recently welcomed Whit Johnson, Tristan Mentz, and Ben Duffy-Howard to our ranks, we now have eight volunteers. I invite any others to join the guild if you have time and talent to offer. And please do not let the multiple screens and illuminated buttons on the livestream panel intimidate. As I have constantly said, "If you have a smartphone, you are competent to run the livestream console."
I would like to close by expressing gratitude to all of our members, and also to Duane Roth and Katie Everette for frequent help with logistics and technical aspects of the livestream ministry. I am particularly indebted to Organist and Choirmaster Tom Smith for his frequent assistance, and to Jim Cannon for his tireless efforts to improve our work.

Music – *Thomas P. Smith, Organist and Choirmaster*



The primary focus of the music program at Christ Church, Georgetown, is, as it has been for generations, is the preparation and performance of beautiful, finely crafted music for the glory of God and the edification of the worshiping community week after week. With a strong choral tradition at its core, the music program continues to serve as a valuable tool for outreach, evangelism, education, and formation within the parish community, the diocese, and beyond.

The Choir of Christ Church

The Choir of Christ Church is composed of some of the region's finest professional singers. Drawing upon the very best the Anglican tradition has to offer, this group of 13 voices offers a broad array of choral literature spanning many centuries – from plainsong to the works of living composers. The Choir sings each Sunday at the 11:15 a.m. service – Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer – and for special liturgies throughout the year: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter, Ascension Day, Thanksgiving Day, a Solemn Requiem Eucharist for the Feast of All Souls, services of Lessons and Carols for Advent, Christmas and Epiphanytide, and the various liturgies of Christmas Eve and Day. A quartet from the Choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist each Sunday. On occasion, additional singers are added as required by the literature at hand.



The Choir also sings the distinctly Anglican service of Choral Evensong on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, October through May, at 5:00 p.m. Christ Church is one of a handful of parishes in the U.S. to offer this beautiful, contemplative liturgy with such frequency. Given the steady increase in attendance at Evensong over the course of the past few seasons, it is safe to say that Christ Church has one of the most robust and consistent Evensong congregations of any parish in the nation. The service, which is followed by an opportunity for fellowship and refreshments in Keith

Hall, draws dozens of parishioners, many visitors from other churches in the region, and even a goodly number of individuals who do not consider themselves church- goers, but who find beauty and peace within the liturgy.

A New Organ

After years of study and planning, we eagerly await the installation of a new organ during the summer of 2025. The state-of-the-art instrument, to be built by R. A. Colby, Inc. of Johnson City, Tennessee, in collaboration with the Walker Technical Company of Center Valley, Pennsylvania, will replace Christ Church's Allen Organ, which has served the parish admirably for roughly 25 years. The Colby/Walker organ will feature a custom, four manual console, carved casework, and non-speaking pipe façades in four locations throughout the Church, and an antiphonal division at the west end of the nave. I am especially excited about the new antiphonal division, which will help to bolster congregational singing, and allow for the types of fanfares and other special effects one would expect to hear in a parish church with a music program such as ours. In conjunction with the installation of the organ, we will upgrade the speech reinforcement (PA) and digital acoustical enhancements systems in the Church, both of which are, for all intents and purposes, technologically obsolete. The cumulative effect of this multi-faceted project, funded through Christ Church's ongoing Third Century Campaign, will be transformative. It will support and, indeed, greatly enhance the rich liturgical and musical life of the parish for decades to come.



Words of thanks...

I extend sincere thanks, in particular, to two groups of dedicated parishioner-volunteers: To those who participate in Christ Church's Livestream Ministry, especially Andy Sigler, chair: Thank you for helping us share the liturgical and musical offerings of the parish with a much broader audience. Your evangelism through technology is bringing new people into the life of the Church week after week. To those who participate in Christ Church's Hospitality Ministry, especially Doris Dixon and Brent Minor, co-chairs: Thank you for all you do to prepare such lovely post-service receptions. Your efforts, most of which take place behind the scenes, have furthered the parish's reputation as a place of Christian fellowship and warm hospitality. It is a great joy and privilege to serve as Organist and Choirmaster in this parish. I am deeply grateful for the support and encouragement of the clergy, my fellow members of the staff, and you, the faithful of Christ Church, Georgetown.



Usher's Guild – T. *Alan Coker and Brent T. Minor*

The Ushers Guild organizes coverage for most liturgical services including Sundays at 8, 9 and 11:15 as well as Choral Evensong and the many additional services associated with Christmas and Easter. We also represent the church at any funeral liturgy held at the church. Ushers usually serve once a month depending on the service requirements.

Ushers serve an important role as they are often the first to welcome congregants to a service. In addition to distributing service leaflets, ushers handle the plate collection and manage the communion release. The Head Usher records the attendance for each service.

Ushers also monitor activity in the pews to provide for the safety of the congregation as well as to ensure a peaceful service. The ushers work closely with the security guards to address any difficult situations that might arise.

By the end of 2024, a total of 33 people serve as members of the Ushers Guild. Because of the tremendous growth in attendance at the 9 AM service, we recruited 4 additional people to assist at those services. Families are still involved at the 9 AM service although responsibilities have been somewhat limited. We now work with staff to integrate any families that wish to assume greater responsibilities into the regular training and scheduling of the Ushers Guild.

The Usher's Guild hosts an Appreciation Dinner each Spring. In addition to reviewing updates to the Guidelines, we take time to honor the services of the ushers from all services.

Our church is blessed with a strong and reliable corps of volunteers who serve as ushers at all services. As always, we welcome those who would like the opportunity to serve Christ Church in this capacity.

Parish Life at Christ Church

Hospitality Committee – *Doris L. Dixon and Brent T. Minor*

The Hospitality Ministry Committee helps to coordinate receptions after Choral Evensong services and other special events at the church. In 2024, receptions were coordinated for 18 Evensong services as well as for a Faith and Foreign Policy discussion in November.



The committee's primary role is to organize the refreshments, welcome participants to the event, help with cleaning up, and to "pass the hat". Church staff purchase the food, set up Keith Hall for the events, and assist with cleaning up. Not only have these events raised funds to offset costs through contributions, but they have also eased the burden of organizing events on already-stressed CCG staff. Doris Dixon and Brent Minor continued as co-chairs in 2024 and were assisted by a small group of volunteers, most notably Lucy Cannon.

Those who attend the events seem to appreciate the opportunity to gather as a church family in a relaxed and casual atmosphere where they can meet new people and strengthen their bonds with fellow parishioners. Since many attendees of the Evensong services are often not members of Christ Church, these receptions offer a chance to engage visitors in a meaningful way.

Starting in July, the Committee began to coordinate the parish groups assigned to provide treats for the reception following the 11:15 service. Currently, 17 different groups and guilds provide light refreshments with each taking one month. Smaller groups are combined for their monthly assignment to ensure that they are not overburdened.

Additional volunteers are always welcome and should contact the Parish Office if interested in joining the committee.

Men's Ministry – *The Rev. Nathan G. Huddleston, Associate Rector*



This year, the Men's Ministry has been a dynamic space for fellowship, faith formation, and camaraderie, offering a variety of events that brought men of all ages together to deepen their relationships with God and one another. January kicked off with a Bourbon Tasting led by Master Distiller Reade Huddleston, exploring "The Spirituality of Bourbon" and the ways a shared table can inspire reflection and community. Throughout the year, Men's Prayer Breakfasts provided a steady rhythm of spiritual growth, with participants gathering monthly to reflect, pray, and connect.

Highlights included the highly anticipated Men's Retreat to Jefferson Island Club in April, where 21 men aged 25 to 85 shared a transformative weekend of spiritual renewal, skeet shooting, and meaningful conversations. Happy Hours, hosted monthly at Fitzgerald's, offered relaxed spaces to connect, while events like the Father-Son/Daughter Flag Football Game and Sporting Clays Outing created opportunities for fellowship and fun across generations.

The fall brought a College Football Tailgate at Fr. Nate's home, combining spirited rivalry with heartfelt connection. December's Men's Christmas Dinner at Chef Geoff's capped the year with warmth and celebration, setting the tone for the ministry's continued growth in 2025. With a robust







calendar that meets men where they are, this ministry is strengthening bonds and fostering a thriving community of faith.

New Members 2024 – *The Rev Nathan G. Huddleston, Associate Rector*

The New Members Ministry at Christ Church Georgetown has experienced transformative growth this year, welcoming individuals and families into the life of our parish with open arms and intentional engagement. With a carefully curated five-session class structure, the program is designed to connect newcomers with the heart of our church's worship, service, and community life.

In 2024, the spring session saw 25 participants, while the fall session welcomed an impressive 48 attendees, culminating in over 150 new members joining the parish over the last 18 months. This remarkable growth has been matched by an unprecedented 98% pledging rate, reflecting the program's success in fostering both spiritual and financial commitment.

The New Members Class begins with a warm welcome, where participants are introduced to the doctrine, expectations, and values of the church. Each session offers a meaningful exploration of key aspects of membership:

- Session One: Participants reflect on their journey to Christ Church and are introduced to the foundational pillars of membership: worship, service, and stewardship.
- Session Two: This session delves into the history and identity of Christ Church and the Episcopal tradition, emphasizing the significance of the Book of Common Prayer and the sacraments.
- Session Three: Stewardship takes center stage, with discussions on giving time, talent, and treasure to support the church's ministry. Participants also explore ways to get involved in worship guilds, formation, and outreach opportunities.
- Session Four: This session focuses on the liturgical life of the church, preparing newcomers for Holy Week and other significant moments in the church calendar.
- Session Five: The program concludes with a meeting with the Rector and a formal liturgical welcome at the 11:15 a.m. Sunday service, symbolizing their full integration into the parish community.



Beyond the classroom, the New Members Ministry emphasizes connection through tools like the Realm Connect app, fostering communication and engagement. Participants are encouraged to share their gifts and find their place in the vibrant tapestry of Christ Church's ministry areas. From the heartfelt prayers that open each session to the warm sense of belonging cultivated throughout, this

ministry stands as a beacon of hospitality and spiritual growth, ensuring newcomers feel seen, valued, and part of something greater.

This year's success reflects the dedication of our clergy, staff, and lay leaders, who have worked tirelessly to welcome these new threads into the fabric of our community. Together, we are building a stronger, more connected parish for generations to come.

Women's Ministry – *Christine P. Casey*

This ministry for the women of Christ Church (all ages and stages of life are welcome!) continues to flourish in every way!

Our Women's Ministry offers an experience of God's Grace and thus is a place of grace through three essential avenues: Faith formation, friendship, and service. Within and above all three, we, "... put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity."(Col. 3:14) forming a most warm and authentic sisterhood in Christ.



In April, we held our first ever retreat. Women of all ages and stages in life- 14 in all- gathered for a weekend of prayer and play, reflection and recreation, feasting and fun. Our retreat included daily Lectio Divina, spiritual talks led by Lay Minister Tiffany Clark, yoga, art, walking, horseback riding, Holy Eucharist celebrated by Fr. Tim Cole, and many more treasured moments! We left our beautiful stay in Loudoun County, VA feeling restored and strengthened in our loving bond with God, ourselves, and each other. Our inaugural retreat, centered on Resurrection Joy, has now become a hallmark of our Women's Ministry.



Another hallmark of our ministry is monthly gatherings. Throughout the program year, the second Wednesday of each month- affectionately known as *Wind Down Wednesday*- is reserved for food, fellowship, and an opportunity to create lasting bonds in a hectic schedule with so many demands on our time. Women of Christ Church are invited to join clergy and staff for this opportunity to visit and support one another in faith and friendship in a relaxed setting.



Whether we're discussing Scripture, life's joys and struggles, or personal stories, the Women of Christ Church, Georgetown value the power of authentic conversation and the wisdom that comes from listening, sharing, and praying together. Inviting family and friends is always encouraged!

Young Professionals Ministry – *The Rev. Nathan G. Huddleston, Associate Rector*

The Young Professionals Ministry has experienced remarkable growth, offering a vibrant and welcoming community for young adults to engage their faith and form meaningful connections. The year began with a Ski Trip to Snowbird, Utah, where participants marveled at God's creation and built lasting friendships on the slopes. Monthly Morning Bible Studies in Keith Hall provided grounding in scripture and faith, while Happy Hours at Surfside and other venues created spaces for connection and fellowship.



Signature events such as the Progressive Dinner and the Advent Bible Study drew record participation, offering opportunities to integrate faith with everyday life in creative and accessible ways. This year also saw the ministry expand its outreach with service events, including partnerships with The Episcopal Church of the Atonement's Food Pantry and participation in the Feeding Ministry at Keith Hall.

Seasonal highlights like the Friendsgiving at Fr. Nate's Home and the Christmas Party provided moments of joy and celebration, while the second annual ski trip to Aspen, planned for January 2025, underscores the ministry's commitment to fostering spiritual and social growth. Through creative programming and a welcoming spirit, the Young Professionals Ministry continues to be a source of energy and renewal for our parish.

Parish Groups at Christ Church

Faith 2.0 – *Adriane Connerton, Whitney Enright, and Anna Troutman*

Now in its second year, Faith 2.0 is a Parish group tailored for young professionals and newcomers to Christ Church, offering an opportunity to connect with others and get to know Church life in a contemplative, accessible way over coffee and breakfast. We meet on Sunday mornings during the inter-service hour to fellowship and work through a condensed Lectio Divina practice using the lectionary of the week, focusing on the Psalms. Faith 2.0 not only seeks to meet the spiritual needs of young professionals but also provides a place for those new to Christ Church to engage more deeply in Parish life through a casual and spiritually-rooted space. We look to make this a format that resonates with contemporary lifestyles, creating a meaningful space for faith development and fellowship.



This group began in December 2023 during Advent in the chapel, and has continued to meet at a chocolate shop around the corner while CCG undergoes renovation. We look forward to evolving this group in reflection of changing demographics and Parish life needs of Christ Church Georgetown.

Keeping Faith Group – *John Gilstad and Philip Morrison*

This is a group of parishioners "of a certain age" who meet over potluck dinner at each other's homes, with the purpose of keeping and deepening faith while navigating mid-life and later joys and challenges. In 2024, our second year, we met six times. Discussions evolved beyond the 2023 Alpha lenten series to explore themes of personal faith raised in Trevor Hudson's book Discovering our Spiritual Identity, and then literature as a medium for religious thought – and a bit of theology - in "God, Man, and Satan", a study by Roland Frye of *Paradise Lost and Pilgrim's Progress*. The group has remained small to date, reflecting the limits of home dining logistics but also benefiting from the continuity and familiarity that small group in-home dining fosters. We look forward in 2025 to

continuing the core group and also to welcoming fellow parishioners, on a path we are in the process of discerning, and for help with which we are most grateful, again, to Tiffany Clark.

Prime Timers – *Will Anderson, Frederick Baldwin, Charisse Hiigel, and Marcia Mayo*

The mission of Prime Timers is to establish a community of parishioners for fellowship and faith development. We meet the second Thursday of the month for drinks and dinner followed by a talk and Compline. Now in our third year, we started as a group intended for parishioners 50 and over, but have expanded to welcome those of different ages. In the fall of 2024, we moved from our original off-campus location to Keith Hall, which has allowed us to grow beyond our former limits while keeping the close-knit identity that we have developed. This past year we have hosted guest speakers on a variety of topics, including the Book of Common Prayer, the Daily Office, and the history of Holy Week liturgies. We also began a series with the Christ Church clergy sharing their personal journeys of faith.



Seasoned Lunch Club- *Chrissy Casey*

Our Seasoned Lunch Club happily launched in Fall 2024 and is thriving! These monthly "come as you are" luncheons are intended to provide senior (seasoned) parishioners and members of the wider community with the opportunity for fellowship, food, and fun. Led by parishioners Cathy and Mike Applin, and John Gilstad, Seasoned Lunch Club does just that! Volunteers who enjoy spending time with seniors are invited to prepare the meal, and are encouraged to serve and join the Seniors at the lunch table. We close each luncheon with a thoughtful recitation of Noonday Prayer and celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Education and Formation at Christ Church

Bite Size Bible Study – *Megan Murton*

Bite-Sized Bible Study continues to meet on Sundays 10:15-10:45 for thirty minutes of concentrated discussion about a short Scripture passage. In 2024 the group covered excerpts from Isaiah and the Gospel of John. The convenience of meeting at church immediately after the 9am service and the childcare provided by the church nursery continue to be crucial in enabling parents of young children to attend, but the group is certainly not restricted to families and welcomes all who want to engage with scripture. Ernest Clark took the lead with choosing passages and all attendees took turns leading sessions. Discussions packed a great deal of substance into a small time and struck an effective balance between examining Scripture in its historical context and applying it to everyday life. In 2025 we hope to see more people commit to regular attendance. Another practice that has strengthened the group and would be good to develop further is socializing outside of the meeting times, e.g. meeting for dinner or a hike.

Leadership Formation – The Rev. *Tiffany A.H. Clark*

Throughout the spring of 2024, the Leadership Formation Series continued its monthly dinner and discussion around what it looks like to follow Christ in all aspects of life. Christ Church parish group leaders, as well as guild and committee chairs, gathered with clergy and staff to strengthen their capacity for spiritual leadership in community with each other. Continuing with the organizing theme of questions God asks His people, the series addressed topics of building community, engaging healthily in public and private discourse, managing conflict, and speaking up about our faith in faithful ways. Table discussions and clergy presentations connected the topics for each evening to building up the leaders present and to building up the body of Christ through their areas of leadership in the parish.

Seminarian Lay Committee – *Sophie Dolamore*



This autumn we welcomed our newest seminarian to Christ Church, Eleanor Andersen! Eleanor is currently a second year student at VTS, class of 2026. The Seminarian Committee is currently made up of 4 members of Christ Church, so we are a small but mighty group, bringing a diverse range of knowledge and experience to the discussions.

Throughout the fall and winter term, we held all our meetings on

Sunday afternoons at the Committee chair's home. We hope to continue this into the spring term, meeting monthly, and make a group visit to VTS to see where Eleanor studies and resides!

Eleanor balances the majority of her time between duties at VTS and at Christ Church. She will continue to expand her involvement at Christ Church this spring and looks forward to getting to know our community better for the duration of her time with us.

Please look out for the next time Eleanor preaches in the coming months; her sermons are thoughtful, personal, and engaging.

We look forward to being an ongoing support to Eleanor in her journey as a seminarian!

Spiritual Life Group – *Molly Peacock*

This year, the Spiritual Life Ministry has delved into prayer in the context of Christ Church Georgetown's long tradition of observing the Daily Office on weekdays. Weekday Morning Prayer has served as our framework. Within that structure, we have employed lectio divina to prayers, and passages from Holy Scripture, after warming up with an apt opening prayer and poem. SLM is a contemplative practice with a healthy amount of fellowship. Those of us who come to participate in SLM collectively dedicate our hour together to listening to God. We listen for His Word during our intentional moments of silence, and in the flow of our sharing about what pulled at us from our lectio reading aloud. Many of us wind up feeling God's presence with us, encouraging us, teaching us. Added bonus: we often get to hear beautiful music coming from the choristers' nearby room, warming up for Evensong. Prayer Time doesn't get much better. See you there!

Sunday Forum– The Rev. *Tiffany A. H. Clark*

The Adult Forum managed to carry on in altered format throughout 2024 despite the space challenges due to our parish hall renovations. With the absence of Sunday School classes freeing up Keith Hall on the fourth Sunday of each month, the Fourth Sunday Discussion Series emerged as a suitable substitute to the Sunday Forum. In the spring, this series focused on Practical Elements of Church Life, drawing on the expertise of various church staff to lead creative, enlightening discussions ranging from unpacking the liturgical calendar and a step-by-step walkthrough of the eucharist, to an interactive introduction to the members of the choir and practical approaches to giving. In the fall, the series focused on Applied Christianity, looking at a number of everyday issues through the lens of *Missio Dei*. Long-time Forum favorites Frank Wade and James Farwell addressed Leadership and Power, Culture and Politics, Diversity and Justice, and Incarnation and Church from the angle of God's mission for the world, drawing real-life applications relevant to living as Christians in the world.

Thursday Morning Bible Study – *Ernest Clark, John Froemming, David Straut*

The Morning Bible Study is a thriving group of keen students who enjoy reading the scriptures carefully and openly discussing their meanings and their implications for our lives. We enjoyed the challenge of grappling with the book of Isaiah in the spring and the delight of meeting Jesus through the Gospel of John in the autumn. Virginia Mentz joins Ernest Clark and David Straut on the team of facilitators now that John Froemming is pursuing MDiv studies of his own.

Women's Bible Study – *The Rev. Karin J. Ekholm and The Rev. Tiffany A. H. Clark*

The Women's Bible Study broadened in its membership and deepened in its engagement throughout 2024. Holy women of today interacted with the lives of holy women from of old, devoting the spring semester to a chronological overview of 500 years of Old Testament history through studying the lives of significant women in Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 and 2 Samuel, 1 Kings, Proverbs, and Song of Songs. Led by Tiffany Clark, this lively group mined plenty of practical wisdom, theological insight, and scriptural knowledge, discovering areas of commonality with their ancestors in the faith along with a growing bond to each other.



During the fall semester, the Women's Bible Study gathered to read The Acts of the Apostles and reflected together on themes of Baptism, discernment, and the mission of God. Acts—written by the same author as the Gospel of Luke—continues Luke's account of how the salvation promised to Israel in the Old Testament and accomplished by Jesus is extended to the Gentiles under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We paid attention especially to the important roles women play in this magnificent narrative. Our conversations were a time of sharing, spiritual reflection, serious questions, and fellowship.

Youth and Family Ministries at Christ Church

Chrissy Casey, Youth & Family Minister

Our Youth and Family Ministry Committee is a caring and dedicated group of parent volunteers who provide essential support to the Youth and Family Minister and programs for our youth and families. Meeting monthly, co-chairs and their fellow committee members play an instrumental role in helping to make the many fabulous Youth and Family Ministry offerings and events grand successes. In Fall 2024, due to growing needs, the group was renamed Children's Ministry Council, and the exciting process of forming a Youth Ministry Council under the direction of Youth Minister, Mother Karin began. Thank you to all the volunteers who generously share their kind hearts, fine minds, and helping hands with Chrissy, Mother Karin, and our children and youth!

"Come! Follow me." Heading Christ's instruction, and with the help of God's Grace, Youth and Family Ministry had a blessed year building God's Kingdom inside and outside our church walls. We grew in depth and breadth, holding our first Holy Communion Class for parents and children, confirming 16 youth and closing 2024 with 70 children ages 3-grade 6 registered in Sunday School.

2024 got underway with our Epiphany All-in, which kicked off our Winter long collection of basic toiletries to be donated to our neighbors in need at Georgetown Ministry Center.

Lent found our children learning much about Jesus and His great teachings on love, prayer, forgiveness, and his sacrifice, death, and Resurrection. Good Friday's reenactment of the Stations of the Cross for Children and Families brought us right to the heart of Jesus and all that would soon give thanks for, celebrate, and honor Easter Sunday morning.



On Easter Sunday morning, we celebrated Christ's victory and Resurrection with a beautiful Holy Eucharist in the Church followed by a fun-filled Easter Egg Hunt at the home of nearby parishioners.

Mother's Day gave us a wonderful opportunity during the 9am Holy Eucharist Service to bless mothers, offering our prayers and presenting mothers in the congregation with mini- floral bouquets.

The Sunday School Year wrapped up in late May with Youth Sunday. Our 9am Holy Eucharist celebration featured students and teachers sharing what they enjoyed most about the year, while our 8am and 11:15am services featured Senior Sermons from two of our soon to be high school graduates. Our 11:15am Service also featured the commissioning of our teenagers and chaperones who would soon embark on a Mission Trip, and a blessing over our soon to be high school graduates. A festive picnic was held in between services in our Chapel Garden where we thanked all who helped to make a wonderful Sunday School year possible, especially our clergy, teachers, Youth and Family Ministry Committee, and volunteers!

June saw Christ Christ parishioners participating in our traditional Youth Mission Trip. Led by Assistant Rector Fr. Nate Huddleston, a number of youth along with several adult Youth Group leaders

travelled to North Carolina where they experienced a transformative week. Directly serving people in need, each participant thereby grew in their relationship with God, self, and others.



In late July, we held our third annual Children's Vacation Bible School, "Discovering Jesus." Our 8 campers (ages 3-6) had a great week discovering, learning and growing in Faith and friendship through music, movement, Bible stories, art, and play. Special thanks to the White family who graciously hosted VBS as our Parish Hall was under renovation.

Summertime brought us the wonderful and welcome arrival of our new Assistant to the Rector, Mother Karin Ekholm. Among Mother Karin's responsibilities, she was assigned to serve as the Youth Minister, organizing and directing the on-going faith formation of our tweens and teens. She jumped into this role wholeheartedly, and with great skill and care.

This 2024-25 Sunday School year kicked off in September, with Homecoming Sunday followed by the blessing of Students and Teachers, and the commissioning of the Youth & Family Ministry Committee. With the great assistance of this year's Committee, led by co-Chairs Amy White and John Korsmo, many time honored and newly minted CCG traditions are flourishing!

In Fall 2024, with encouragement from parents and under the preparation and direction of the Youth & Family Minister, we began a new Sunday School calendar and curriculum tradition: Sunday School Class All-in (children ages 3-grade 6 gather as one group) Style. Held on holiday weekends and over holiday breaks, these All-in Style classes ensure that on every Sunday throughout the Program Year our young children receive a developmentally appropriate lesson. These are also wonderful and welcome opportunities for children to receive instruction and direct support from the Youth & Family Minister and the volunteers who assist her in tending to these precious large and busy groups. Now, every Sunday morning throughout the Program Year, even on holiday weekends, our young children receive developmentally appropriate faith formation.



Our first Holy Communion class for parents and children was held in October. Led by Chrissy Casey and Mother Karin, children were given developmentally appropriate instruction on the

meaning of Holy Communion, everything from why we receive to what we actually receive, and how to receive. Parents were given resources to share at home with their children in preparation, and had ample time to ask and explore questions about the sacrament with Chrissy and Mother Karin. We are glad and grateful that this class is now an annual offering for families.

Fall brought us Pumpkins & Prayers at Butler's Orchard where we gathered for a bonfire, hayride, and fun fellowship. All enjoyed a beautiful night that concluded in the most perfect way: Mother Karin leading us in Compline. With our hearts and voices joined in prayer, we were reminded how very great God is and truly how blessed we are to have one another.

November began with our beautiful Children's Saints Procession followed by Sunday School and developmentally appropriate lessons on various saints of the Episcopal Church.

Advent began with our festive and prayerful Advent All-in. Chrissy Casey led a lesson on the meaning of Advent and the Advent Wreath, which included stories and a demonstration. With the assistance from parent volunteers and Chrissy, Advent Wreath making commenced! Decorative Advents Wreaths were made, and meaningful Advent Prayers were shared and given out to families to take home and pray. It was a wonderful way to begin our Advent journey!

Our Children's Christmas Pageant was held on Sunday December 8, and - as it does in a most special way every year- our children's retelling of the Nativity of Our Lord reflected the peace, hope, joy and love that is Christmas. That afternoon, our Church was filled with tremendous numbers of children participating, and loads of parents, relatives, friends, and guests attending! We were extremely blessed this year by the addition of our newly formed *Children's Angelic Choir*. Under the direction of parent volunteer John Murton and musical accompaniment from Choirmaster and Organist, Tom Smith and volunteer Andy Sigler, twelve CCG children prepared, rehearsed, and beautifully sang! Their young voices perfectly led the congregation in each hymn. The Pageant was immediately followed by a beautiful, 'Cocoa & Cookies' reception. We all gathered around the Christmas Tree for its lovely lighting, made meaningful and complete with prayer. A special visit from St. Nicholas rounded out a beautiful afternoon much enjoyed by all ages!



Nursery Care

Our Nursery is open year round Sundays at 8:45am-12:30pm for children 4 months and above. We are grateful to the team professional, caring team who staff our Nursery. Our dedicated Nursery staff, along with Teen and Parent Volunteers, make our Nursery a warm, safe, Faith-filled and fun space for our Littlest Parishioners!

Sunday School and Youth Education *September- May*

Our developmentally and grade appropriate curriculums foster 'heart and head' knowledge of our Faith and what it means to be a Christian. How do we walk the Way of Love today, the Way that Christ showed his first followers so long ago? In response to that very question, many of our teens volunteer assisting with Sunday School teaching and Nursery Care. Our little children and their teachers love and appreciate having the Big Kids working with them!

Godly Play (Age 3 through Grade 1)

Godly Play introduces children to the seminal stories of the Old and New Testaments and to the parables with small figures and objects that illustrate the teacher's narration.

Spark! (Grades 2 through 4)

Our Spark class is based on the lectionary for the week, with reading, discussion, and a worksheet or craft.

Connect (Grades 5 & 6)

The Connect class is a two-year course of the major arcs of the Old and New Testaments. In the first trimester our Connect students have learned through reading, discussion, and various activities about the "Beginnings" of our relationship with God in Genesis, and God's "Promises" to Abraham and his descendants.

Youth Programming (Grades 7–12)

Youth Acolyting, Lectoring, Assisting in Sunday School Teaching and Nursery Care, participation in Feeding Ministries, Confirmation preparation, annual Mission Trip/Pilgrimage and leading Youth & Families making of 'Lunches to Go' for our neighbors in need are highlights for this age group. We are grateful for our youths' participation and service in the life of the Church, and we look forward to growing faith formation and fellowship opportunities for them in the year ahead!

Worship Ministries

Beginning in Grades 5, youth are eligible and encouraged to serve as Acolytes- Crucifer, Torchbearers, and Altar Servers- Lectors, and Greeters/Assistant during our 9am Sunday services. Families serve as Gift Bearers, and they provide snacks to support the 10am Coffee Hours. We are delighted and grateful to now have so many of our youth and families serving on Sundays in so many ways!

In addition to 9am Sunday services, our youth also serve in special liturgies, including the Christmas Pageant, Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas, and during Holy Week.

My great and heartfelt thanks to our clergy, ministers, staff, Sunday School teachers, Youth Group leaders, Children's Ministry Council (formerly Youth and Family Ministry Committee), parents, and our children and youth for all they do to help to make Children's and Family Ministry at Christ Church possible. When we say, "Yes" to Christ and follow Him- with the help of our Good Lord's Grace- we build His Kingdom, indeed.

Youth Confirmation - Father Nathan G. Huddleston

The Youth Confirmation Program at Christ Church Georgetown continues to be a vibrant and transformative journey for our young parishioners. Rooted in the ancient tradition of preparing individuals for mature commitment to their faith, the program is a semester-long experience open to students in grades 7 through 12. This year, the program culminated in a profoundly moving Confirmation Service at the Washington National Cathedral, where 16 youth affirmed their faith before family, friends, and the wider community. Adding to the significance of the day, Fr. Nate Huddleston had the honor of preaching at the service, offering a powerful message of hope and renewal.



The Confirmation Program is designed to deepen students' understanding of their faith, cultivate personal spiritual practices, and integrate them more fully into the life of the church. Participants attended weekly classes exploring Anglican theology, history, and spirituality, using a curriculum that balances personal reflection with communal engagement. Through interactive discussions, guided prayer, and moments of reflection, students were encouraged to explore their relationship with God and consider how they are called to live out their faith.

Key expectations helped shape this meaningful journey:

- Regular attendance at Sunday worship services and Confirmation classes, fostering a rhythm of spiritual discipline and learning.
- Developing personal prayer habits, both within and beyond the Sunday morning context.
- Active service as acolytes and participation in the rich liturgical life of the parish, including reading the Passion Gospel on Palm Sunday.
- Attendance at all Holy Week services, connecting students with the heart of the Christian story through Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil.
- Writing a personal statement of faith, a two-page spiritual autobiography, where each confirmand articulated their beliefs and faith journey.

The program also included one-on-one meetings with Fr. Nate, offering a space for students to discuss their spiritual growth and prepare for Confirmation. This intentionality ensured that each participant felt seen, supported, and ready to take this significant step in their faith journey.

Beyond the classroom, the program fostered a sense of community and belonging, encouraging students to see their Confirmation not as a graduation but as an entry point into a deeper, lifelong engagement with their faith and the church. Parents were also involved through information sessions and opportunities to support their children's spiritual growth.

The Youth Confirmation Program stands as a testament to the vitality of our parish and the commitment of its young people to living lives of faith, service, and witness. With thoughtful preparation, heartfelt prayer, and a strong sense of community, these young confirmands have become an integral part of the life of Christ Church Georgetown, ready to embody their faith in the world.

Littles and Life – *Julia Ainsley*

Littles and Life had a wonderful year, with more new families with young children joining our nursery and young Godly Play Sunday School classes each week. Christ Church hosted music and movement hour for children on Saturdays at the church seasonally. In the summer, 10 children aged 8 participated in Vacation Bible School where they learned about "discovering" Jesus through stories, art, play and song. Parents of Littles and Life children also enjoyed spiritual formation and fellowship through Bite Sized Bible Study after the 9 a.m. service and a fall gathering for parents in October. We look forward to an exciting 2025 as more children continue to join, grow up and be born into our parish!

Outreach at Christ Church

Assisting Our Afghan Sisters and Brothers in Need - *Chrissy Casey*

In Fall 2024, Christ Church embarked on a newly-formed partnership with REACT DC. Founded in September 2021 by military spouses and veterans seeking to assist Afghan allies in the

midst of a humanitarian crisis, REACT is now at the forefront of innovative resettlement support operations, leading national and regional programs to support and improve outcomes for refugee populations. Parishioners have the opportunity to provide families with essential support through traditional reception and resettlement efforts such as meeting families at the airport, transporting them to their lodging, assisting with grocery runs, and contributing to REACT's resettlement wishlist. Co-led by parishioner Amy White and Youth & Family Minister Chrissy Casey, we are grateful for this new outreach opportunity and look forward to growing it in the year ahead

Creation Care and St. Francis Guild – *Stephanie Green and Sheila Ward*



In 2024 the St Francis Guild and the Creation Care Committee joined forces, under the singular name "St. Francis Guild", in order to focus more comprehensively on a mission of service to nature, animals, and conservation efforts.

In April, in partnership with Mission Partner Oak Hill Cemetery we hosted a table at the cemetery's spring Dog Day to encourage parishioners and their pets to enjoy the great outdoors. The table accepted pet supply donations to long-time Christ Church MIssion Partner Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA). Co-Chair Stephanie Green and Chip Oat were the proud bearers to the animal shelter of several bags of pet food, toys, and supplies for local pet owners in need.

We hosted a similar supplies drive for HRA in October, in conjunction with the annual Blessing of the Animals service, held on the Sunday closest to St Francis Day, October 4.

HRA was also the recipient in December of a $2000 gift from the church's Mission Committee.

Mission Partner Afghan Stray Animal League was once again a beneficiary of the Advent Angel program, receiving parishioner donations totaling $965 to help fund everything from staff salaries to firewood for heating their animal shelter in Kabul.

To learn more or to join the St. Francis Guild's mail list, just speak to or email Co-Chairs Stephanie (greenandglover@gmail.com) and Sheila Ward (sheilaward@fastmail.fm).

Feeding Ministry – *Rick Shewell*

The Feeding Ministry of Christ Church Georgetown continues to be a beacon of hope, love, and service in our community. With God's guidance and the unwavering commitment of our volunteers and supporters, we have expanded our efforts to feed and care for our neighbors in need. This year, we celebrate the continued growth of our ministry, including our ongoing partnerships and the tireless dedication of those who give their time, resources, and hearts to this mission. We thank each and every one of you for answering Christ's call to serve.



Soup Kitchen

On the second Sunday of every month, our dedicated volunteers prepare and deliver nearly 1,000 meals annually through our partnership with the Salvation Army Grate Patrol. These meals provide sustenance and dignity to the vulnerable women and men living on the streets of Washington, DC. Volunteers prepare hearty soup, make sandwiches, and assemble lunch bags, which are distributed by additional volunteers on the Salvation Army Grate Patrol van.

Our ability to serve is only as strong as our volunteer community. If you have a willing heart, we have a place for you—no cooking experience required. Come be part of something that truly changes lives.

GMC Lunches

Every Sunday, Christ Church volunteers prepare and distribute over 2,500 lunches annually to guests of the Georgetown Ministry Center. With four rotating teams ensuring a consistent food supply, this ministry is a testament to what we can accomplish when we work together. Keeping our pantry stocked remains a challenge, but our dedicated "shoppers" have met this need with remarkable commitment, ensuring that every meal is lovingly prepared and delivered.

GMC Extends

For more than 25 years, Christ Church opened its doors and hearts to our most vulnerable neighbors. In response to evolving needs, we have continued to provide nourishment and support

through GMC Extends. This initiative provides warm, home-cooked meals to 40 guests during the winter months.

Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of our volunteers and donors, Christ Church parishioners prepared over 400 of these meals in 2024, offering not only food but also a sense of community and care. To help sustain this vital ministry, we invite you to contribute financially or join our team of cooks. To donate, visit www.christchurchgeorgetown.org and select "Feeding Ministry" from the Fund dropdown box.

Saturday Night Suppers

Each Saturday evening, Mount Zion United Methodist Church welcomes 60–80 unhoused guests for a warm meal and a moment of fellowship. Christ Church volunteers have the privilege of serving on the first Saturday of even-numbered months, providing homemade entrees, side dishes, and desserts, as well as purchased meal staples. Whether you can cook, serve, or simply offer a kind word, your presence makes a difference. The gratitude on our guests' faces is a powerful reminder of why we do this work. We encourage more parishioners to experience this transformative ministry in the coming year.

Food Pantry

The Episcopal Church of the Atonement in Southeast Washington operates a Food Pantry and Food Hub to combat food insecurity in the community. On the second Tuesday of each month, fresh produce is provided, complete with suggested recipes. Christ Church volunteers assist by repackaging bulk shipments of vegetables into family-size portions, ensuring that nutritious food reaches those who need it most. With roles available for volunteers of all ages, from 16 to 80, this is an opportunity for all to serve.



Join Us in 2025

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for the compassion and dedication of our Christ Church community. But the need continues, and there is always more we can do. If you have not yet joined us in this mission, we invite you to become part of something greater than yourself. Let us continue to walk in Christ's footsteps, feeding the hungry, welcoming the stranger, and serving those in need.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. Together, we are making a difference—one meal, one smile, one act of kindness at a time.

Mission's Committee – *Cristina Foran (Chair) and Tom Hastings (Vice Chair)*

In the 2024 program year, the Mission Committee received a total of 20 applications for funding from parishioner sponsors on behalf of non-profit and mission-oriented organizations. The amount requested from all applications was $244,650, and the committee had a total of $150,830 available to distribute from its portion of the church's budget. The committee disbursed a total of $150,500 to applicants and decided to reserve $330 to help support former mission partners who did not receive funding as part of the Mission Committee's Advent Angel Tree effort, which will take place during the month of December.

We launched the application on Sunday, September 15 and closed it on Friday, October 18, giving applicants four business weeks to respond. The number of applications was comparable with last year and each application was sponsored by a CCG parishioner.

The committee met to consider and discuss our suggested funding levels on Sunday, November 17 after taking a few weeks to review the applications and submit initial recommendations. The recommended funding levels listed in the table below represent the unanimous opinion of the committee following these deliberations, during which we were fortunate to have the input and guidance of Father Tim and Chrissy Casey, Youth & Family Minister. The committee members include: Cristina Foran (Chair) and Tom Hastings (Vice Chair); Liz Nibley and David Shepard, as three-year members in addition to Cristina; Lucy Hollins Cannon, Barbara Chang, Stephanie Green, and Page Smith as second-year members in addition to Tom; and Catherine Ahmad, Porter Graham, and Marisa Tuell as first-year members.

The committee followed a few "guiding principles" in its review. For the second time this year, we asked each applicant to explain which of the five "Marks of Mission" of the global Anglican communion it feels it addresses with its work. We assessed the degree to which the applicant organization aligns with those five marks and with the mission of Christ Church overall. Those marks are:

1. To proclaim the good news of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptize and nurture new believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue

peace and reconciliation

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The committee prioritized alignment with the five "Marks of Mission" in its funding recommendations. Next, the committee prioritized local or grassroots organizations; the four international organizations the committee chose to fund are not part of larger national organizations that might have a steadier supply of donors. Finally, the committee preferred organizations that are ministries of the Episcopal church and/or in which more than one member of the parish is meaningfully involved.

In addition, the committee took a serious look at the operating budget of the organization and prioritized organizations where our funding is making a significant impact in terms of their ability to further their mission. For those four applicants that the committee decided to not fund, the reasons were either (1) because we did not feel our fund would make a significant impact or (2) the mission was too attenuated from the CCG's core mission as a church. The committee also prioritized organizations where we see a potential for further involvement from a volunteer and engagement perspective going forward.

Most of the individual funding recommendations are under $10,000, but two fall above this amount, owing to the unique partnership between multiple CCG parishioners and those organizations. The two organizations receiving the largest funding recommendations are the Bishop Walker School ($40,000 of $40,000 requested) and the Georgetown Ministry Center ($26,500 of $26,500 requested). This continues a trend from previous years.

As mentioned above, the Mission Committee is committed to continuing to increase our overall engagement beyond funding alone in the future. We hope to identify volunteer opportunities with our Mission Partners this coming Spring, in the Lenten season, around which we can engage the parish as well. We are considering whether we can arrange site visits for committee members at any of our local mission partner sites in the coming year. We hope to increase our year-round engagement with these partners and we are eager for any suggestions as we work toward that goal in the coming year.

Thrift Shop Guild – *Lucy Cannon*

The Thrift Shop Guild provided roughly $15,000 of financial support from the sales of donated items during its operations from September 1st to November 30th (2023) to charitable organizations defined under Section 501(c)(3) of The Internal Revenue Code.

These funds were obtained solely from the proceeds of the Thrift Shop sales to support eleven (11) local charities and also to support activities of The Episcopal Diocese of Washington DC: Diocese Memorial Scholarship Fund and The Episcopal Church Women, and for The Christ Church

Georgetown Discretionary Fund.

The Thrift Shop has been closed since December 1, 2024, due to the renovation of the Parish Hall. Once the Parish Hall is reopened, the Thrift Shop will resume operations and then will be able to continue to provide financial support to charitable organizations from the sales of donated items.

Finance Reports

Treasurer's Report – *Charles Thorley*

I would again like to thank the congregation and the Vestry for the opportunity to serve as your Treasurer over the past year. Yet again, 2024 was a strong year for our church. I am pleased to be able to report that the parish remains in excellent financial condition.

The entire leadership of the parish remains enormously grateful to each and every one of you for your ongoing support of the parish – both through your annual pledge and your continued support of the Capital Campaign. In a short time, you will be able to see the fruits of your gifts – a totally transformed parish hall and a new organ to enhance our worship and support our world-class music program.

I continue to mention, year-over-year, that we consistently rely too heavily on endowment income as pledges still do not match our operating budget. That said, we had an excellent stewardship season and have made steady improvement towards the goal of increasing pledge revenue while lessening the pressure to rely even more on our endowment income. Prudent fiscal management has again resulted in a surplus for the year since the entirety of the allowed endowment draw was not taken.

The small deficit appearing at the bottom of the second column of the above chart is a result of expected pledge income not being fully paid in 2024. As a result, we did not withdraw quite enough from the endowment to balance revenue and expenses as reflected at the bottom of that column. I have recently written a letter to the parish asking that everyone make sure that their 2024 pledges have been fulfilled, as you are able. Available cash reserves have been more than sufficient to meet expenses and we continue to have more than sufficient cash reserves in the bank. Any deficit remaining from 2024 will be paid and absorbed throughout FY 2025 and an additional endowment draw will be taken to balance the books as needed. We are not in a position to need to do so at this time.

Finally, inflation continues to impact the parish much as it does to each of us individually. Projected costs associated with price increases have been built into the FY 2025 budget and we will again work to limit expenses where possible. I am also pleased to report that we were again able to offer our staff Diocesan-recommended COLAs for FY 2025 and are thankfully able to continue to fund our worship, music, pastoral care, outreach, and mission expenses at the levels to which we have all become accustomed.

As always, I will continue to be a resource should you have any questions or concerns regarding the parish's finances. Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Operating Budget	2023 Actual		2023 Budget		2024 Actual	*	2024 Budget		2025 Budget	
Revenues										
Plate	$331,589		$233,000		$348,931		$281,000		$325,500	
Pledge	$1,380,229		$1,431,003		$1,360,770		$1,567,000		$1,645,000	
Endowment Draw	$502,572	**	$842,371		$740,000	**	$840,000		$828,787	
Other Revenue	$87,658		$63,850		$132,078		$79,151		$166,500	
Transfer to Reserves	-$254,785		-$229,000		-$240,000		-$240,000		-$240,000	
Total Revenue	$2,047,264		$2,341,224		$2,341,779		$2,527,151		$2,725,787	
Expenses										
Ministry	$1,011,506		$1,045,098		$1,214,917		$1,229,100		$1,448,768	***
Administration	$434,576		$465,781		$466,919		$501,175		$441,901	***
Property	$426,189		$527,018		$439,772		$515,450		$545,450	
Outreach	$150,731		$153,300		$162,601		$165,300		$189,300	
Diocean Pledge	$100,000		$113,275		$100,000		$113,275		$100,000	
Total Expenses	$2,123,002		$2,304,472		$2,384,209		$2,524,300		$2,725,419	
Operating Surplus/(Deficit)	-$75,738	**	$36,752		-$42,430	**	$2,851		$368	
Estate Pledges Payable					$33,100					
Net					-$9,330					
	*2024 Actuals have not yet been finalized.									
	**With sufficient cash reserves, a deficit was allowed by not taking the full endowment draw.									
	*** Along with other changes, an administrative staff position was moved to a ministry position.									

Investment Committee Report – *Terence Collins*

Members of the Investment Committee are Terence Collins, Chairman, John Lytle, Ellen Fishwick Martin, Chip Oat and Molly Peacock.

The Endowment Fund of Christ Church Georgetown is managed by the Christ Church Investment Committee. The Committee manages the portfolio through investments in low-cost index funds and actively managed mutual funds. The Fund is broadly diversified among all asset classes and investment styles.

The Endowment Fund supports the operating costs of the Church and its outreach activities. Each year, funds are transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Church's Operating Account. The amount of the transfer is determined by calculating 5% of the average

of the Endowment Fund's last three year-end total values. In 2024, $740,000 was transferred from the Endowment to the Operating Account.

In 2024, the Endowment Fund had a total return of 11.4%. While all asset classes and styles reported positive returns, large cap growth equities were the standout in the Endowment Fund as a small group of stocks, coined the "magnificent seven" by the financial press, rose dramatically. As interest rates rose at the end of the year, the returns from Fixed Income were diminished and dampened the overall return of the Fund.

All and all, 2024 was an excellent year for the Endowment Fund. The fund had a maximum allocation to stocks and a minimum allocation to fixed income and this benefited the total return of the Endowment Fund overall.

Since 1982, the Endowment Fund has grown in value from $776,753 to the present $17,689,342. Over these 42 years, the Endowment Fund has also transferred $15,3131,711 to the Church's Operating Account.

Stewardship Committee Report – *Ed Stewart & Sheila Ward*

The members of this year's Committee were as follows.

Kaleigh Ballinger, Barbara Chang-Wai-Ling, Taylor Cortright, Lincoln Foran, Andrew Franklin, Jeff Grappone, Gene Hiigel, Courtney Houston-Carter, Rachael Houston-Carter, The Rev. Nate Huddleston (clergy representative), Guy Martin IV, Colvin Matheson, Brent Minor, Brent Murphy, Chip Oat, Catherine Porter, Duane Roth (staff representative), David Roehrenbeck, David Shepard, Ed Stewart (co-chair), Dick Thompson, and Sheila Ward (co-chair)

The theme of our campaign was "Rooted in Abundance," which was based on the Scriptural reference 2 Corinthians 9:8: "And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."
Our goals were to promote and carry out Christ Church, Georgetown's (CCG's) campaign to secure parishioners' estimates of giving for 2025, a.k.a. pledges. Specifically, we aimed to...

1) Increase the number of pledging households from 376 (at the official end of the Stewardship 2024 Campaign) to 400;
2) Persuade parishioners to determine their 2025 estimates of giving both as a direct response to the grace of God in their lives and based on a proportion of their income, which they determine to be appropriate;
3) Shift parishioners' thinking from the church pledge as just another charitable organization commitment to the church pledge as a promise to give back to God some certain amount from the wealth that God has given us; and

4) Build and train an expanded group of parishioners to serve the Stewardship Committee in years to come. We especially worked to have people think of stewardship as a ministry, not simply "asking for money all the time."



As of January 30, 2025, the Committee had obtained a total of 418 pledging households for a grand total of $1,670,423. This number of pledges is higher than any in recent history, and the total pledged is believed to be the highest amount ever in CCG history. The average pledge amount comes to right at $4,000. Of those 418 pledging households, we are pleased to report that 52 are new, 10 are returning after not pledging recently, 158 increased their amount, and 12 were not even on our membership rolls, but are included in this count.

The Committee had an "internal" goal of 425 pledges for a total of $1.7 million dollars, as this amount would be a great help to balancing our church budget for the year. We are a mere $31,977 from that goal and are still taking pledges.

If yours is one of the nearly 400 remaining households that have not yet indicated even some minimum amount that you know you will be contributing to CCG this year, it would be extremely helpful to receive that information. Pledging online takes about one minute from the webpage www.christchurchgeorgetown.org/pledge-form, also reachable by scanning the QR code below.

PLEDGE for 2025

The Committee prayed regularly for guidance and success with our Campaign and for the hearts and minds of the congregation regarding stewardship. We are deeply grateful for the response we received. Our call to parishioners was favorably received and responded to by many parishioners,

and the positive comments we heard about the theme, emphasis, and tone of the Campaign were encouraging.

We offer a few observations on what we learned during the Campaign and should apply further:

- Our high number of new members for 2024, plus clergy directly discussing with them the need for a pledging, was likely a major factor in increasing the number of pledgers for the year. Emphasis on educating new members by clergy or the Committee should continue in the future.
- The Committee and clergy focused a great deal of mail/website/email communications and Sunday sermons during the month of October, leading to Stewardship Sunday on the final Sunday of October. This is the first time we have had more concentrated preaching and communication. We heard many positive remarks by parishioners on this new way, but we do not have definitive data to support the positive comments. Nevertheless, we believe we should continue the "concentrated" way to see if it has lasting results.
- Communications with parishioners remain a challenge that requires a personal solution. We believe that most parishioners do not open the parish's physical mail at home. We have ample data that confirms that many do not open emails from the parish. Text messages from Stewardship Committee members, handwritten notes, and telephone calls are the best means for the Committee to reach potential pledgers. Calls or texts from clergy receive a high response rate.



- More parishioners used the on-line portal or the QR code for pledging than paper pledge cards. While all options will continue to be offered, the increased efficiency of pledging may be a reason for the increased number of pledgers.
- The Committee remains deeply concerned that only 53.6% of our parish households pledge.
- We need to do a better job in recruiting parishioners for the Stewardship Committee. We only had twenty members compared to approximately 30 members in past campaigns. If you would like to learn more about Committee membership or more about the campaign for 2025, please be in touch with either Ed (edstewart.va@gmail.com) or Sheila (sheilaward@fastmail.fm).

- Regarding the education of our parishioners, we should—
    - Continue to emphasize that pledging is important to give our vestry the best financial estimate when setting the annual budget;
    - Develop appropriate messages about the spending of our endowment to balance our annual budget, and that increased pledging will reduce endowment draws;
    - Continue and increase the emphasis that stewardship is a ministry.

Duane Roth and Fr. Nate were invaluable to the campaign. They made imaginative suggestions on fundraising, communications, and messaging. Fr. Nate exhibits no shyness in contacting parishioners to pledge.

On a final note, the Committee would like to extend special recognition to former Stewardship Co-Chairs Tom Casey and Shelley Rodgers, whose three years of extensive work to educate the congregation about the critical importance of pledging truly made our success this year possible.

Annual Fund Pledgers for 2024

Randolph Adams
Susan Adams
Tom Adams
Tom and Susan Adams
Catherine Ahmad
Newman and Julia Ainsley
Lee Allen
Eleanor Andersen
Will Andersen
Krista Anderson
John and Cynthia Anthony
Mike and Cathy Applin
Bob Arnold
Tom and Kara Arundel
Ian Atkinson
David and Frances Augenblick
Joe and Jacqueline Baggett
Geoffrey and Kathryn Baker
Fred Baldwin
Ed and Mary Bartlett
Bryan Bashur
Kathleen Bashur
Bill and Sharon Bavin
Lesly Bell
Ned Bentley
Taisie Berkeley
Michael and Polly Best
David and Kiki Bill
Tom Birch
Sue Block
Elizabeth Bluhm
Susan Bluhm
Woody Bolton
Edwin and Hailey Borden
Josh and Blair Bourne
Matt and Eleanore Boyse
Whitcomb Johnson and Natalie Boyse
Anna Brooke
Bill Brubeck
Lucy Brumbaugh
Nancy Taylor Bubes
Janis Buchanan
Valerie Burden
Chris and Lizzie Burn
Rachael Burnett
Christopher and Courtney Burnham
Janice Butler
Tooey Cameron
Scott and Vicki Campbell
Jim and Lucy Cannon
Greg and Kerry Carlsen
Buckley and Kelsey Carlson
Kathy Carmean
Tim and Merrill Carrington
Blaine and Nancy Carter
Ronnie Carter
Tom and Chrissy Casey
Jimmy and Dede Caughman
Faya Causey
Britta Chambers
Barbara Chang-Wai-Ling
Carroll Chapin
Christopher Chapin
Laurel Lee Chatham
Jessica Chen
Matthew and Natalia Cheney
Alec and Kim Chester
Ernest and Tiffany Clark
John and Barbara Cochran
Tim and Lorraine Cole
Tim Cole
Dylan Colligan
Terry and Beth Collins
Adriane Connerton
Robert and Evonne Connolly
David and Trish Copenhaver
Deborah Cortesi
Jay and Margaret Costan
Bill and Laryssa Courtney
Henry Courtney
Claire Cox
Emory Cox
Tom and Beth Crocker
Tommy and Sara Crocker
David Cunningham
Chris Cushing and Stan Kelly
Martha Dale

Susan Davies
Sargon de Jesus
Benjamin and Kim Dean
Michael and Amy Dean
Whitney and Heidi Debevoise
Jake and Libby DePiero
Doris Dixon
Logan and Emily Dobson
Peter and Marlin Dohlman
Paul and Liz Dougherty
Clay and Lucy Doughty
Emma Downey
Samuel Downing
Ethan and Lindsey Drath
David Dunn and Amy Bondurant
Ben Duffy-Howard
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Jeremy Wintersteen
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Michael Zampella
Olivier Jeanne and Jianping Zhou
Robby and Katie Zirkelbach
Jack and Kathryn Zoeller

Third Century Campaign – *David White and Catherine Onnen*

Three years ago, we embarked on an ambitious campaign to raise $13.5 million to transform and restore our Parish Hall, replace our organ, and place our mission work and care of the Church's physical property on a more firm and lasting foundation.

As of the writing of this report, this Third Century Campaign has raised more than $8.6 million in gifts and pledges from more than 220 parishioner families. The Parish is humbled and grateful for this generous outpouring of support.

The renovation is well underway, and by this coming summer, we expect to reopen our Parish Hall – and have a new center for outreach, growth, fellowship, and community service.

Because we remain about $2.5 million short of our building and organ goal, the Vestry has agreed to take on the last phase of the Campaign, with Brent Minor and Charlie Ingersoll as the chairs. We are hopeful that every member of the Christ Church community might prayerfully consider providing additional support. Every dollar will have an impact.

Capital Campaign Pledges and Gifts up to 2024

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John & Cynthia Anthony
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Don Brown
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Rodney Hood
Laura Hornbuckle
Babs Hough
Rebecca Houston & Russell Porter
David Hudgens
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Charles & Honor Ingersoll
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Derek Leebaert
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Trudie Musson
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John Richardson
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Peter & Anne Rogers
Evie Rooney
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