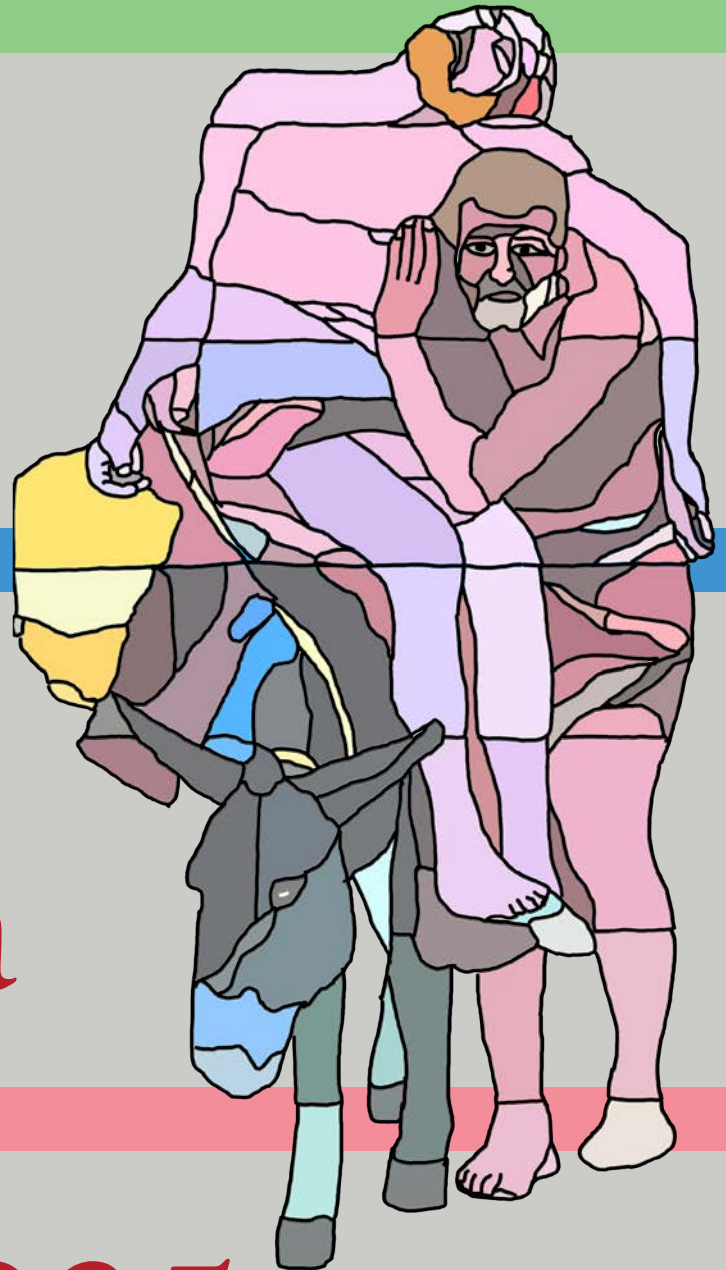


Christ
Church

Macon,
Georgia



2025
Annual Report

Meeting Agenda

Call to Order & Opening Prayer

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members & Recognition of Committees & Ministries

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

Introduction of Vestry Candidates & Vote

Steve Solomon

Senior Warden's Report

Steve Solomon

Junior Warden's Report

Rob Wilkin

Retreat Presentation

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp & Hope Westervoelt

Rector's Report

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

Stewardship Report

Andy Jones

Financial Report & Budget Presentation

Steve Welsh

Questions

From the Congregations

Closing Prayer

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp



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Rector's Report

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

In the Bishop Rob Wright's Sermon for our Bicentennial Celebration service on February 27, 2025, he spoke about the faithfulness of Christ Church parishioners throughout our history and how that has made Christ Church the vibrant parish it is today. That Thursday night service was attended by clergy from other churches and synagogues in Macon and the diocese at large, as well as various local VIPs, including our Mayor Lester Miller. With an elevated team of acolytes, LEMs, and Vergers, and careful planning and preparation by our Worship Committee, it was a wonderful celebration! This bicentennial year has truly been a testimony to your faithfulness and the goodness, faithfulness, and abundance of God. With the leadership of our Bicentennial Committee, headed up by Kay Greer and Jane Willingham, it has been a banner year with many opportunities to learn about our history, celebrate and commemorate our life together as the body of Christ, and go deeper in our faith together. You have all pulled together to make it happen. Russ Henry revealed talents as an author, historian, and speaker as he researched and authored our commemorative coffee table book, *Sacred Reflections* with Walter Elliot providing professional photography illustrations, and the help of the committee managing that project. They also produced a guide book, a stained glass window brochure and map, and a booklet of the compilation of the "Did you know?" pages where Russ featured something about our history in our weekly bulletin throughout the bicentennial program year. These publications and the lectures Russ has given in special forums, and in the Cherry Blossom tours, have enriched and strengthened our identity as the parish of Christ Church, and served to enrich the experience of those who visit our church. During Cherry Blossom we also hosted the Old City Flower Show, the Sacred Reflections Art Show, and stained glass window tours given by Susan Welsh. During that time we had about 1,000 visitors come through Christ Church. The celebration of our Bicentennial was capped off by a wonderful Gala in May held in the Memorial Garden, Cloister room and garden, and Chapel creating a magical experience with dancing under a tent, delicious food and a cake that was a perfect replica of Christ Church right down to the edible photo rendering of the stained glassed windows. This very special event was planned and executed by the committee headed by Brenda

Mallary, Sheila Feagin, Cindy Harris, and Claire Smith, with the support of our dynamic duo, Robert Hubbard and Markisha Carter, who manage and keep our facility so beautifully.

I thank Steve Solomon for his leadership as senior warden this year and throughout the last three years. He has served in a particularly challenging time for the church, as we have worked to get back to a place of strength after the very difficult pandemic period, and for his family as his (and our) beloved Kelly was fighting cancer and went home to be with the Lord. Throughout it all, he remained our faithful leader. We are grateful to you Steve, and we share with you in the grief of your loss. We also said goodbye this year to our beloved parishioner Malcom Burgess, who passed away this spring after a long battle with cancer. He is sorely missed.

I would also like to thank Rob Wilkin our Junior Warden who has done a yeoman's job of maintaining and updating our buildings in a year that involved an extraordinary number of planned and unplanned projects including having to reroute the 100-year-old plumbing from the Parish House to the street due to a collapsed terra cotta pipe (more in his report). The year started off with a bang—literally—when the nearby Marriott hotel was imploded on New Year's Day. We had carefully prepared for this and Christ Church was unharmed (and well publicized) in the process. In honor of the bicentennial year, we renovated the sacristy headed up by Mary Allison Buzzell, renovated the parlor/bride's room and put in a new men's bathroom, both headed up by Anna Greer. The Chimes restoration project, long hoped for by John Willingham and completed in his memory, was finished just in time for the Bicentennial Celebration Service. A new cross, made by David Lanier and finished and installed by Tony Long, was put in just in time to be draped in purple for Lent.

Steve Welsh has gone above and beyond the call of duty (and expectations of the parish treasurer) in his work to oversee the finances of the parish and create and maintain a budget. We changed accounting firms to ACS which is giving us the service we had hoped for at the same cost. Laurel Eady has also done a terrific job working with Steve and Vicki at ACS to keep up with our expenses in an expensive year and to get our financial statements to the level of transparency we were striving for. This was truly a year of trusting in

the Lord every month to meet the needs of the parish! After much deliberation, we have also made the major change of moving our endowments to The Community Foundation. Robbo Hatcher, with the support of the endowment committee, has managed our endowments for many years with excellent results and volunteering his time and talent. We are grateful for this incredible blessing. At Robbo's recommendation for the future security of these endowments, the vestry voted to move them to the Community Foundation. Steve Welsh and Jed Hill (parish clerk) worked carefully and extensively with Boone Smith III to make the language of the agreement reflect the intention of the parish. Jed has provided wise counsel and steady leadership through any challenges we have faced this year and will be following Steve as our next Senior Warden.

In preparation for 2026, Andy Jones led a strong Stewardship campaign to encourage people to step out in faith as they made their commitment to giving to the church. His clear and optimistic message inspired us all, and we head into 2026 with a strong commitment of support from our people.

Our parish is growing! We had roughly 50 new people who joined our parish family in the last year. We had two Alpha classes (one in the spring and one in the fall) to strengthen people in their faith, and an Inquirer's Class which is now offered every year for those wanting to learn more about the Episcopal Church and potentially be Confirmed or Received into the church. I try to meet with all those who are interested in joining us to get to know them and help them learn more about our church. We have many opportunities for them to get to know parishioners through the various classes, fellowship events, and ministries of the church and we held a welcome party at the home and beautiful gardens of Peter and Karen Holliday this fall that was well attended. At this party we learned that many of our newcomers find us first through our online presence. It was affirmation of our decision to hire a full-time Director of Communications, and we are so grateful for the terrific job Tim Hoskins is doing in that position.

We have also found that the many young families that have come to call Christ Church their home have appreciated the strong ministries we have to children, headed by Rachel Horkan, and to youth, headed by Hope Westervelt. Both of them do a terrific job of discipling our young people and supporting our young families. As a result, the average age in our parish is 55, well below the median age of the Episcopal Church as a whole. The Young Family ministry that Rachel or-

ganizes has been a wonderful way of forging strong relationships among these families as they raise their children together. Hope led us on an exciting and informative adventure as the youth made a pilgrimage to England to explore the history of the Anglican Church together. Both Rachel and Hope work together to lead our annual Vacation Bible School, and this year we held a wonderful family retreat at Kanuga Camp and Conference Center. I also led a week-long retreat for a group of 14 adults on the island of St. Barth's. Our hosts were Peter and Karen Holliday, and we worshiped at the Anglican Church on the island.

We had many receptions and opportunities for fellowship throughout the year that were graciously hosted by our parish life committee headed up by Andrea Williford. The Good Grief ministry headed by Martha Upchurch and Susan Placek stepped in to lend a hand for some of these as we had more events than usual. One of these special events was a visit from bestselling author Allen Levi who wrote *Theo of Golden*. We had almost 500 people come from the community of Macon to hear his talk and to attend the wonderful reception following. Following that event over 3,000 people have watched the recording posted on our website. We have received many verbal and written expressions of gratitude for that event. We also welcomed The Family Counseling Center of Macon, directed by Christy Henry, who hosted a luncheon in our Great Hall with Ginny Smith Younce (daughter of Claire and Boone Smith) the featured speaker about the important book *The Anxious Generation* for which she was the editor.

I want to express my appreciation for Harriette Simons and John McCard for their ministry to Christ Church and the immense support they are to me. They have made it possible for us to thrive with only one full time priest in this time of clergy shortage. This is also made possible by the support of our five lay ministers who went through the training to become licensed in the diocese of Atlanta and provide additional ministry and support to our parish as preachers, teachers, pastoral care ministers and prayer warriors: Tim Hoskins, Will McDavid, Lutricia Richardson, Katy Tosh, and Virgil Warren. They were 5 of 18 to be commissioned in the diocese on January 25th of 2025. Another Christ Church member recognized by the diocese last year was Elizabeth Benjamin, who was awarded the Bishop's Cross at Annual Council in recognition of her extensive volunteer work, particularly with Appleton Episcopal Ministries. John McCard's role as Director of the Macon Volunteer Clinic has also strengthen our ties with that ministry. With several of our parishioners on

the board and the help of the generosity of our parishioners, they were able to get a matching grant funded by members of Christ Church and the Episcopal Community Foundation for their work.

In May we hired Nidia Svare to be our new Parish Administrator. She has been a wonderful addition to our staff, bringing great organizational skills and an enthusiasm for serving in the church. We are grateful to Lynn Waggoner for her ministry as Parish Administrator and the gifts she brought to that evolving role. While she has stepped away from the staff position, she continues to head up the bus pass ministry that was a vital new outreach ministry to those in need this year.

This report would not be complete without expressing my appreciation to Jonathan Poe for all he does as

our Director of Music and Liturgy. He has been a wonderful partner in ministry and is devoted to serving at Christ Church with excellence. Our worship would not be what it is without the beautiful music we enjoy and I know you all share with me in expressing our gratitude.

In spite of this lengthy report, there are many more who deserve to be thanked. It takes all of you to make Christ Church the wonderful place that it is. In this report I have only scratched the surface. You are the hands and feet of Christ in this community, and you have a powerful impact in this place. I am grateful for the privilege of serving beside you and among you. We have so much to be thankful for! We have experienced the abundance and faithfulness of God in so many ways this past year and I am overwhelmed with gratitude.

Stewardship Campaign Report

Andy Jones

It was my pleasure to lead the Stewardship Campaign for the 2026 calendar year. I was honored to be asked by the outgoing chair, Chris Hair, to serve in this role, and it has been a privilege to support and serve this wonderful congregation in that capacity. I formed a stewardship committee consisting of the following parishioners, whose contributions were invaluable to the success of this year's campaign: Reg Buzzell, Chris Hair, William Baxley, Kitty Van De Water, and Wendy Johnson. Each member brought unique talents, perspectives, and dedication to the table throughout the fall, and their efforts greatly strengthened the campaign.

We officially kicked off this year's campaign on Sunday, September 7, when I delivered remarks at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services announcing the Campaign. Prior to the kickoff, the annual stewardship letter was mailed to church members. During the kickoff remarks, I highlighted the many ways Christ Church has blessed us over the years and emphasized the meaningful work it continues to do within the Macon community and beyond.

The theme for this year's campaign was drawn from the Book of Common Prayer: "With all that I am and all that I have, I honor you." Many may recognize these words from their wedding vows. I felt this theme was especially fitting, as it reminds us of our call to honor, love, and worship God through our daily lives and faithful stewardship.

Throughout the campaign, communication was shared through multiple channels, including the church website, Realm, *The Chimes*, and live announcements

during worship services. Special thanks are due to Russ Henry and Jed Hill, who each spoke at separate services and offered powerful testimonies about what giving to the church has meant to them over the years.

As of mid-December, I am pleased to report that this year's stewardship campaign has resulted in pledged contributions totaling \$845,000, compared to \$772,000 at the same time last year – a 9% increase year over year. This increase is a testament to the faithfulness, generosity, and commitment of this congregation, and I am deeply grateful for the support shown by our parish community. As we conclude this year's campaign, I am encouraged and inspired by the continued faithfulness of this congregation. It is truly a testament to the vision and dedication of the current members and a lasting legacy of those members who came before us. I look forward to continuing to serve as the chair of the committee in 2026, and I'm confident that Christ Church will continue to be a thriving community for many years to come!



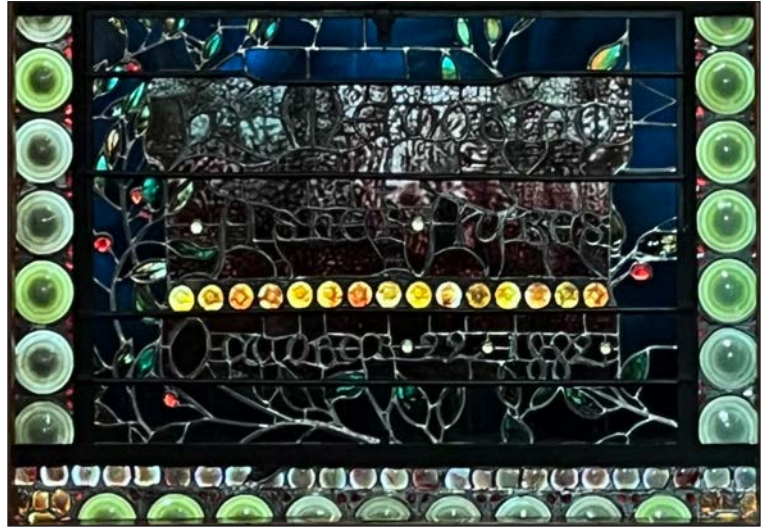
Treasurer's Report

Steve Welsh

The parishioners of Christ Church continued their faithful support in 2025, both with pledged dollars, unpledged dollars, and contributions to the General Endowment, which allowed the church to end the year in a healthy financial position. At year-end, our balance sheet showed total fixed assets of \$6,865,371.42. The stock market had another good year, which contributed to the financial success we experienced.

Andy Jones led a terrific 2026 Stewardship Campaign, so we are looking forward to another prosperous year. The Vestry voted to move our four endowments to the Community Foundation of Central Georgia, who will manage the money for the church going forward. With the continued assistance from Laurel Eady, our church bookkeeper, as well as ACS

Technologies – Bookkeeping Division, the financial future of Christ Church is bright.



Endowment Report

Robbo Hatcher

Christ Church maintains four investment funds that support various aspects of the church's ministry. These funds are managed by the Endowment Management Subcommittee according to the expenditure requirements of each fund.

The purpose of each of the major funds is as follows:

- Endowment: To provide annual support for the operating budget of Christ Church. 4.5% of the preceding year-end balance of this fund is available to be distributed to the general fund.
- Julia Jones: To provide operating support for outreach programs and ministries performed by Christ Church. The income generated by this account is distributed each year to support outreach.
- Freida May: To provide funding for capital expenditures related to building maintenance and facility improvements. Distributions are made as requested by the Vestry from time to time.
- Housing Fund: Created from the sale of the church rectory, 4.5% of the preceding year-end balance of this fund is available to be distributed for the ongoing support for housing for Christ Church clergy.

Memorial Committee Report

Joan Hatcher & Betty Talbot

The Memorial Committee receives and distributes funds that are given as memorials. This money is a source for appropriate projects to support the life and ministry of the church. In 2025, Memorial funds were used for:

- Seed money for new church history books and

new guide books.

- To purchase new instruments for the music program.
- To purchase new trees for landscaping enhancement.

We always welcome new members.

2025 Financial Report

General Fund

2025 Actual Results and 2026 Budget

	2025 Budget	2025 Actual	2026 Budget
Revenues			
GENERAL BUDGET RECEIPTS			
Gifts and Pledged Income	\$ 1,020,410.00	\$ 974,860.72	\$ 938,323.04
Endowment Transfer	\$ 107,699.00	\$ 269,550.00	\$ 405,454.00
Restricted Account Transfer	\$ 155,230.00	\$ 111,301.75	\$ -
Total Receipts	\$ 1,283,339.00	\$ 1,355,712.47	\$ 1,343,777.04
Expenses			
GENERAL BUDGET EXPENSES			
Personnel	\$ 626,458.00	\$ 700,888.12	\$ 779,884.10
Building/Grounds	\$ 48,229.00	\$ 130,560.70	\$ 47,350.00
Operating Expenses	\$ 246,556.00	\$ 284,412.84	\$ 245,943.00
Diocese Support	\$ 95,465.00	\$ 99,741.00	\$ 111,479.00
Worship	\$ 63,980.00	\$ 79,955.90	\$ 63,951.00
Committees/Ministries	\$ 66,573.00	\$ 55,260.66	\$ 57,580.00
Outreach plus Discretionary	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 36,000.00	\$ 35,736.00
Total Expenses	\$ 1,183,261.00	\$ 1,386,819.22	\$ 1,341,923.10
Net	\$ 100,078.00	\$ (31,106.75)	\$ 1,853.94

Note: All figures referenced herein are subject to final confirmation and reconciliation by ACS Technologies.

Senior Warden's Report

Steve Solomon

Needless to say, the biggest event of 2025, and for that matter, the life of Christ Episcopal Church, was the Bicentennial Celebration. And what a Celebration it was! The Bicentennial Committee worked on this Celebration for over a year and a half and did a fantastic job! Many exciting things were accomplished during this time. The Sacristy was completely remodeled, our coffee table book, *Sacred Reflections*, was planned and published, the new Men's bathroom was completed, the Parlor and bathroom were renovated, the *Christ Episcopal Church Cookbook* was updated and republished, and new visitor guides were produced. All in all, the hard work of our parish produced a marvelous year of celebration of the history and ministries of Christ Episcopal Church, which culminated in a wonderful GALA celebration in May! Thank you to everyone for all you did!



Of course, none of this would have or could have been done without the work and support of our amazing staff. Always there, finding solutions, not roadblocks. We have updated and expanded our audio/visual capacity, have a significant following of our Sunday services online, and the production quality is excellent! Our worship experience is fantastic with meaningful services and inspirational music. From our youth programs to the adult classes, all areas of the Church are seeing growing participation.

We have a new accounting partner that is helping us with budgeting, filing all reports necessary for the Diocese, and giving the Vestry accurate information to

use for planning and oversight. Another issue the Vestry has been analyzing is the management of our various endowments. Currently and for the last several years, our Endowment Committee has handled these responsibilities and not only did a fabulous job, but also with-



out any fees charged to the Church. Although this has worked well in the short term, it is not a good strategy long term. Acting on the recommendation of our Endowment Committee, the Vestry has approached the Community Foundation about taking over the management of Endowments. The Vestry, and the Executive Committee, had several meetings with the leadership at the Community Foundation. Their track record of investing is good and their fees are reasonable. The main caveat we had, due to the unique nature of an active church, was that we would have the flexibility to reclaim the Endowments under certain conditions. The Community Foundation agreed to this exception to their normal requirements and the Vestry voted unanimously to move the Endowments to the Community Foundation.

On a personal note, my service on the Vestry for the last three years has been a blessing in my life. To be able to work with all these great people on our staff and to be a part of this parish is truly a pleasure. The support all of you have shown for me and my family during this time and especially the last few months, has been a huge Blessing and greatly appreciated by all of us!

As we enter the 201st year in the life of Christ Episcopal Church, I pray we can continue the good work of the Lord through worship and ministry to this community for many, many years in the future.

Junior Warden's Report

Rob Wilkin

First, I would like to thank the vestry and the membership of Christ Church for the opportunity to serve as Junior Warden again this year. This position has given me an understanding of how important our beautiful, historic parish is to Macon and the Episcopal Diocese of Atlanta. Our church family is very lucky to be able to call this place home!

Early in 2025 we completed the remaining renovation projects undertaken as part of our bicentennial celebration. The most recent completion was the men's restroom in the Parish House, which Anna Greer helped design.

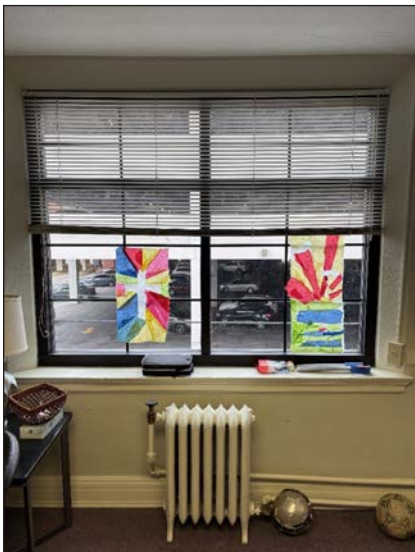


The chimes were also repaired and reinstalled in time for our bicentennial in 2025.

After a few rounds of fine tuning, they are once again chiming the hour and adding to the historic feel of downtown Macon.

Among some of the smaller projects undertaken this year, David Lanier, who crafted the crosses, pens, etc. from the wood from the oaks trees removed from the lawn, built a cypress cross to replace the one by the entry way into the church, which had fallen into disrepair. Tony Long and his crew stained, treated, and installed the new cross in February.

Along with the normal maintenance of our HVAC equipment, we replaced two window unit air conditioners in the youth room. Over the years, some of the original windows had been cut to make room for window units. This year, we began to replace some of those damaged windows. Beginning in the youth



room we replaced one large, damaged window with a new, energy-efficient window from Buzzell Glass. Reg Buzzell has graciously volunteered his time and expertise to design, build, and install the new windows. This will be an ongoing project over the next few years.

Our largest maintenance project this year was the repair of our main sewer line from the Parish House to Walnut St. The original 100-year-old terracotta pipe has collapsed in places preventing the free flow of wastewater. Pyles Plumbing was able to reroute the plumbing out of the Parish House to bypass the damaged portion of the line. Thankfully, we were not required to dig up and replaced the entire line! We also added access to the undamaged portion of the line closer to Walnut St., which should help with any future issues that may arise.



This project did cause further damage to our front lawn. To help us get through the winter, dormant phase of the growing season we overseeded the front lawn with winter fescue. Our hope is to be able to lay new sod on the front lawn this Spring.

Lastly, thanks to two generous donors, we have begun a project to update the internet infrastructure throughout the church campus, which will expand access, improve connectivity, and increase security. New internet equipment will be installed in the Parish House for Wi-Fi coverage, an internet connection will be added for Jones Chapel, which previously did not have internet access, and security firewalls will be added in the Parish House and Harrold House. Work will begin in January and should be completed by summer.

2026 Vestry Nominees



William Baxley



Jan Beeland



Margaret Boltja



Jeff Powers

William Baxley

I am truly honored to be slated to serve as a member of the Vestry at Christ Church. A graduate of Vanderbilt University, I started with SunTrust Bank in Atlanta and then joined Merrill Lynch in 1997. Karen and I joined Christ Church in 2001 and over the last 25 years, Christ Church has been a wonderful environment for our family; Will (24), Ben (22), and Annie (20) all were baptized and confirmed at Christ Church. I look forward to supporting our leadership and helping grow our ministry for our entire parish and the local community.

Jan Beeland

I am honored to be slated for the 2026-2029 Christ Church Vestry and to serve in this capacity. Currently, I am on the Flower Guild and previously served for many years on the Outreach Committee. I retired from health care administration after 25 years of service and as director of Macon Arts Alliance. My husband Robbie and I have been long time members of Christ Church

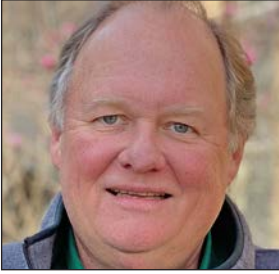
Margaret Boltja

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve on this Vestry if elected. I grew up in Columbus Georgia going to Trinity Episcopal Church. My husband Stephen, my children (Jack (22) and Peggy (20)) and I joined Christ Church in 2006. Christ Church provided an amazing community and experience for us that we will never forget. The acolyting, trip to Kanuga, the many Christmas pageants, our foyer group, teaching Sunday school, serving on the Vestry back then, and my children's confirmation are some of the many enriching experiences. We lived in Thomasville Georgia for 6 years and I was fortunate to serve on the vestry and alter guild at All Saints Episcopal Church. I have practiced neurology since 2002 and recently started a private practice focused on pain medicine. I look forward to serving Christ Church and I hope I can contribute back as much as Christ Church has given me.

Jeff Powers

I grew up in Orlando, Florida as a member of St. Michael's Episcopal Church where I was baptized. I attended law school at Mercer and graduated in 1995. Meeting Katie on a blind date in 1994 forever changed my life for the best, as we married in 1996 at Christ Church. We have two daughters, McKay (24) and Katie Beth (21). This is my second term on the vestry as I served when Harriett Simmons was our priest. I have been a lawyer in Macon for 30 years practicing at Powers Law Group. I look forward to serving on the vestry.

Christ Church Vestry Members



Steve Solomon
Senior Warden
2023–2026



Rob Wilkin
Junior Warden
2024–2027



Jed Hill
Clerk
2025–2028



Steve Welsh
Treasurer
2024–2027



Chris Hair
Adult Education & John's Ushers
2025–2028



Russ Henry
Youth & Young Adults
2023–2026



Christine Hoskins
Worship & Music
2024–2027



Keri Jones
*Children's Ministry
& Young Families*
2024–2027



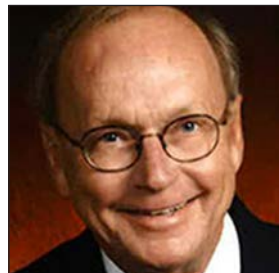
Molly Muse
Evangelism & Parish Life
2025–2028



Nancy White
Outreach & DOK
2023–2026



Nancy Wilkerson
Inreach & ECW
2025–2028



Lawrence Williford
Parish Life
2023–2026

Walnut Street Music

Jonathan Poe

A Year of Harmony and Heritage

The year 2025 was a landmark year for Walnut Street Music, the music ministry of Christ Church (Episcopal). As we celebrated the Bicentennial of Christ Church, our ministry served as a bridge between a storied past and a vibrant future. From the offerings of world-renowned performers to the steady growth of our Choir School, this year proved that Walnut Street remains a premier destination for musical excellence for our liturgies and the community.

Our Choral Communities & Leadership

*The Christ Church Choir, Walnut Street Singers
& Colton Barber*

The Christ Church Choir, joined by the Walnut Street Singers (the professional Staff Singers of the ensemble), serves as the flagship musical presence of our Parish. Together, they provide the choral foundation for our Sunday liturgies, Choral Evensongs, and major feast days. Their level of dedication and musical excellence is unsurpassed in Middle Georgia—a reputation evidenced by their frequent invitations to sing at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta on numerous occasions. Their rigorous repertoire spans from the intricate polyphony of the Renaissance and Baroque periods to the beloved British Anglican tradition and Modern American classics.

The backbone of this success lies in the strength of our artistic leadership. This year, our program was significantly bolstered by the August appointment of Colton Barber as our Assistant Organist & Baritone. Colton earned his Bachelor of Music degree from East Carolina University and is currently pursuing a Master's in Organ Performance with Dr. Jack Mitchener at Mercer University's Townsend School of Music. He has already become a vital asset to our ministry. His dual role as a graduate organist and a staff singer provides a rare and valuable level of support to our liturgical offerings. His technical proficiency at the console and his keen musicality have expanded our ability to present complex, inspiring works with confidence and grace. It is a true delight and a professional honor to conduct and lead this incredible group of people.

The Choir School of Macon (CSM) & Lacey Chaney

As a vital outreach of the music ministry of Christ Church (Episcopal), the CSM saw record engagement

in 2025, continuing its mission to provide tuition-free, high-level music education.

The St. Cecilia Choir: Under the direction of Lacey Chaney, M.M.Ed., our youngest singers (ages 4–7) have blossomed through the Kodály method, proving that even our smallest voices can make a big impact on our worship. Lacey's expertise and warmth have made the Choir School a welcoming home. Her leadership is fundamental to the growth and pedagogical success of this music ministry. Lacey is widely regarded as one of Macon-Bibb's top educators, and her profound achievements in the field of music education have been recognized many times by both her superiors and her peers.

The Choristers: Our older youth (ages 8–18) demonstrated incredible growth this year. By following the RSCM curriculum, they are building the musical literacy and vocal stamina necessary for leadership in our choral services. We look forward to the near future when these young singers will transition to singing alongside the adult choir with full professionalism and poise.

A Tribute to Our Families: The growth of our young singers is a shared achievement. We wish to extend our deepest gratitude to the parents and families of the Choir School of Macon. Their steadfast weekly commitment—managing rehearsals, ensuring attendance at services, and supporting their children's musical journey at home—is the foundation of our success. Without their dedication, we would not have these amazing children to share in the gift of sacred music.

The Choral Library: A Pillar of Stewardship

Behind every service is a meticulously managed collection of sacred music. The significance of our choral library cannot be overstated; it is the archive of our theological and musical identity. Our dedicated library team ensures this resource remains a living part of our ministry:

Elizabeth Benjamin, Steward of the Archives: Elizabeth serves as the guardian of the collection's organization and physical integrity. In this detail-oriented role, Mrs. Benjamin is responsible for the meticulous cataloging, shelving, and database management of all musical assets. She oversees the physical care and preservation of the scores, ensuring the church's valuable collection of sacred music is protected and accessible for years to come.

Carol Hawkinson, Clerk of the Choir: Carol serves

as the expert on the intrinsic musical character of the collection. Her role involves the deep analysis and documentation of each piece, focusing on its core musical attributes. Her work includes cataloging key information such as voicing, required instrumentation, composer details, and musical style. By building this rich musical metadata, she ensures the Director can quickly and efficiently search the library to find pieces that meet specific technical and artistic requirements.

Jim Hawkinson, Liturgical Specialist: Jim focuses on the theological and contextual application of the library's repertoire. He connects each anthem to its place within the life of the church, meticulously tagging pieces with their relevant scriptural references and appropriate liturgical season. By creating this theological framework, they empower the Director to search the collection for music that powerfully aligns with the themes of a specific Sunday service, sermon, or season of the church year.

Weekly Blog

"The Liturgy of Peace: Reflections on Word and Song"

A vital part of our ministry this year has been our weekly blog. Through these reflections, we explore how the beauty of our liturgy forms us for a life of peace. By connecting the Sunday lectionary (Word) with the hymns and anthems that stir our souls (Song), the blog provides the congregation with a deeper understanding of our worship experience. Many have found these insights to be a source of comfort and spiritual formation, as they tie the musical "lifeblood" of our parish to the inner transformation we seek in our daily lives. Music has the profound power to excite the soul.

Performance Highlights

(January – December 2025)

WSM Presents: Guest Artist Series

Apollo 5 (February): A true highlight of the year was the performance by the British vocal ensemble Apollo 5. Their immaculate blend and diverse repertoire provided a choral tour de force that captivated the Macon community.

Jazz on Walnut Street (May): This year, we moved this community favorite into the magnificent Great Hall. The unique acoustic space provided the perfect setting for the Matthew Miller Quintet from Atlanta, GA, featuring our historic 1899 Steinway & Sons grand piano. The blend of high-level jazz artistry with the hall's resonant character made for an unforgettable evening.

First Sundays on the Fisk

Our signature series brought a remarkable rotation of talent to the console of our Fisk organ. Each month, our

nave became a destination for those seeking the pinnacle of organ performance:

January: Davis Badaszewski and Kelsey Berg

February: Christa Rakich

March: Nathan Laube

April: Dr. Jack Mitchener & Robert McDuffie

October: Jonathan A. Poe

Choral Evensong: Our Anglican Heritage

Choral Evensong is perhaps the most beloved and distinctive service in the Anglican tradition. A fusion of the medieval monastic offices of Vespers and Compline, Evensong is a service of transitional beauty designed to mark the "close of day." It offers a rare moment of stillness where the choir offers music on behalf of the congregation, allowing the people to be "bathed in sound" as they transition from the labors of the day into the peace of the evening. In 2025, our offerings of Evensong served as an essential spiritual anchor, drawing on the timeless canticles of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis to connect our local worship with the global and historical Church.



Contemplative Offerings & Year-End Highlights

Rooted Services: In March, September, and November, we continued our "Rooted" services. These intimate, contemplative liturgies provided a unique musical and spiritual space for our community to engage with the sacred in a deeply personal way. We wish to express our sincere gratitude to Hamp Dowling, George Greer, Wil Harper, Alex Sanders, and Rob Wilkin for their dedicated participation and support in bringing these services to life.

Service of Nine Lessons and Carols (December): Our annual service featured guest organist Alvin Blount and brought together the combined voices of the St. Cecilia Choir, the Choristers, and the Christ Church Choir, supported by the hard work of Lacey Chaney and Colton Barber.

Instrument Spotlight: The C. B. Fisk Organ (Opus 115)

The presence of Opus 115 at Christ Church (Episcopal) is a point of international musical significance. The firm of C. B. Fisk, Inc. is widely considered the “gold standard” of American organ building, and their instruments are highly sought after by the world’s most elite performers.



A Silver Anniversary Milestone

This year marks a momentous milestone for our instrument. Having been installed in 2000, the Fisk organ is now 25 years old. This silver anniversary reminds us of the visionary stewardship of this parish a quarter-century ago and celebrates twenty-five years of the Fisk serving as the sonic heart of our worship and community concerts.

Why Performers Seek Out a Fisk Organ

When we announce our First Sundays on the Fisk series, we attract the “rockstars” of the organ world because of the instrument’s reputation for:

Eclecticism and Versatility: Opus 115 is designed to play the complex counterpoint of J.S. Bach with absolute clarity, while still possessing the “bloom” and power required for grand French Romantic works.

The “Vocal” Quality: The voicing of a Fisk instrument is remarkably human. The pipes are voiced to breathe, ensuring that the sound fills the nave of Christ Church with a warmth that never overwhelms the ear.

Artistic Integrity: Every Fisk organ is a unique work of art, custom-built for the specific room it inhabits. Opus 115 is a living work of art that transforms our nave into a world-class concert hall.

Looking Ahead: 2026 and Beyond Expanding Our Reach

As we conclude our 200th-anniversary year, we look toward 2026 with a bold commitment to excellence, education, and community. Our vision includes the exciting creation of the Walnut Street Ringers, a new

chime choir that will add a beautiful new dimension to our musical offerings. We are also focused on increasing overall participation across all programs and growing the Choir School of Macon to welcome even more families from the broader community, offering more performance opportunities outside of our normal Sunday liturgies.

A Global Honor: Lichfield Cathedral Residency

Looking further into the future, we are thrilled to announce that in August of 2027, the Christ Church Choir and Choristers will be in residence at Lichfield Cathedral in the United Kingdom. Our ensembles will provide the music for all weekly liturgies and Sunday Choral Holy Eucharists at the cathedral.

It is a tremendous honor to be invited and accepted to sing in such a historic and prestigious place. This residency is a testament to the high caliber of our musicians and the hard work of our staff. We are honored to be the stewards of this musical legacy as we prepare to represent Macon and Christ Church (Episcopal) on the international stage.

A Personal Note from the Director

None of the work detailed in this report would be possible without the profound support of you, the People of Christ Church. To our parishioners: your presence in the pews, your words of encouragement, and your commitment to the arts are the fuel for our creativity. To our leadership and Vestry: thank you for your vision and for valuing the role of sacred music in our common life. You all deserve a heartfelt thank you for making this ministry a reality.

On a personal note, this January marks my twelfth year with you at Christ Church and my thirtieth year total as a church musician. Since I was seven years old, I knew that the piano, the organ, and choirs were going to be my lifeblood. What I didn’t realize then was how this place would grow into my family. The community of Christ Church and the city of Macon are my home, and I am truly blessed to be a part of this magnificent place. Thank you for your continued support of our shared mission.

O praise God in his holiness: praise him in the firmament of his power. Praise him in his noble acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness. Praise him in the sound of the trumpet: praise him upon the lute and harp. Praise him in the cymbals and dances: praise him upon the strings and pipe. Praise him upon the well-tuned cymbals: praise him upon the loud cymbals. Let everything that hath breath: praise the Lord. — Psalm 150

Bicentennial Committee

Kay Greer & Jane Willingham

Christ Church began celebrating the Bicentennial in August 2024 and continued the celebration through May 2025. During this time the committee implemented multiple activities, events and programs. Many parishioners made contributions to support the Special Music Programs throughout the year, as well as the remodeling of the Sacristy.

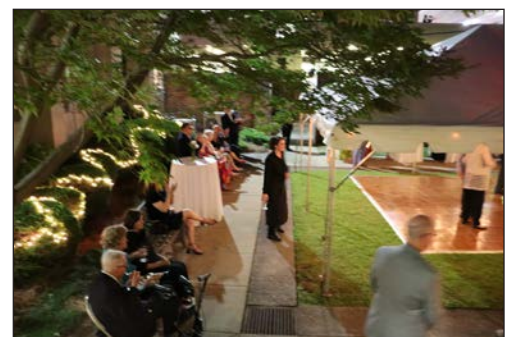
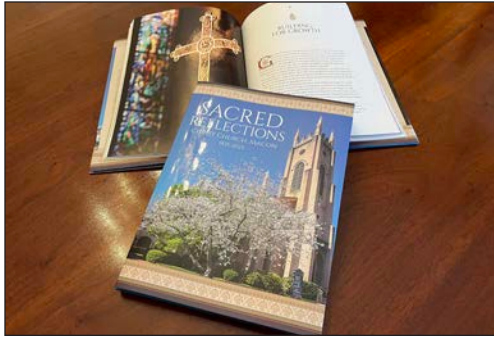
Some Highlights:

- A Welcome Home Brunch began the celebration in August 2024
- A new website was launched in celebration of the Bicentennial.
- A special Bicentennial logo was designed for promotions
- The 1992 Christ Church Cookbook was updated & reprinted with the Bicentennial logo
- A beautiful Coffee Table Book was printed
- Monthly Bicentennial Forums during Sunday

School highlighted the church history

- A “Did You Know” page was in the weekly bulletin
- Special Music programs were presented monthly
- 1/23/2025 Cocktail Party at the home of Georgia & Bob Hatcher
- 2/27/2025 Bicentennial Church Service with a Reception following in the Great Hall
- 3/22 – 3/25/2025 Old City Flower Show at Christ Church with Guided Tours & Art Show
- 5/2/2025 Gala Cocktail Party to celebrate the conclusion of our Bicentennial year

Submitted by Committee Chairs, Committee Members: Kay Greer, Jane Willingham, Reg Buzzell, Ginny Rozier Nan Harper, Elizabeth Schorr, Georgia Hatcher, Steve Solomon, Russ Henry, Hope Westervelt & Jonathan Poe



Adult Formation

The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

We seek to provide opportunities for people to go deeper in their faith and to enrich our fellowship with one another in sharing in our spiritual journey.

The Adult Sunday School meets at 9:30 on Sunday mornings in the Cloister room to study together the Scriptures that will be read in the worship service that day. Many have found that this enriches their worship experience as they go into the service with a greater understanding of the Scripture. The team of teachers that lead the discussions are: Drs. Melody and Chris Blake, Will Horkan, Tim Hoskins, Will McDavid, Charlie Weigel, and Scott Hoskins.

Inquirer's Class

This course meets beginning in January for the first part of the year to teach about the Episcopal faith and practices. We use the book, *Walk in Love*, by Scott Gunn and Melody Wilson Shobe. This course is an opportunity for those new to the parish to learn more about the church and get to know other newcomers, for preparation for Confirmation or Reception, and for those in the parish wanting to enrich their understanding of the Episcopal faith.

Women's Bible Studies

The Wednesday morning at 9:00 Bible Study group is both in person in the parlor and online for those needing to attend remotely for any reason. In 2025 we studied the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts.

The Wise Women's Bible study meets in the Cloister Room on Wednesdays at 10:45. This group studied the Gospel of Luke and the book of Isaiah.

The Men's Bible Study meets on Thursday mornings

at 7:00. For the first half of the year it was led by Will McDavid. When he left for seminary the group decided to rotate the teaching responsibility among the participants. In 2025 they studied the book of Acts.

The Alpha Course

This course on the Christian faith explores the big question, "Isn't there more to life than this?" by exploring together, everything from Who is Jesus and why did he have to die? to "How do I pray?" and "Does God Heal today?" We had groups taking this course in both the spring and fall "semesters" of 2025. It both strengthens the faith of participants and strengthens the relationships of those going through the course together.

Retreats

We held two retreats in 2025 in honor of our bicentennial year. The first was in September with a group of parishioners of all ages going to Kanuga retreat and Conference Center. This family friendly retreat was a time of fun, fellowship, worship, and exploring the great outdoors together. Our theme for this mountain retreat was Psalm 121 "I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord...."

We also took a group on retreat to the island of St. Barth's. This week long retreat was a mixture of Bible study and meditation in the mornings with the afternoons to explore the island. We worshiped on Tuesday night and Sunday morning at the Anglican church on the island. This time away together was a wonderful time of growing closer to the Lord and to one another, all while enjoying the beautiful scenery of this very special island.

Children's Formation

Rachel Horkan

As I reflect on 2025, I'm so thankful for all the people who poured into Christ Church's Children and Young Family Ministries this past year. If you have helped with a special event, hosted supper club, taught Sunday School, or prayed for us in 2025 - thank you! If you as a parent supported our programs by getting your child to Sunday School or a special event - thank you! The children and their families deepened their knowledge of God and His love and formed closer friendships this past year, and we

are so thankful for your help in giving them the opportunities to grow in these ways. Here are a few highlights from 2025:

VBS

Christ Church's Vacation Bible School, *True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World*, was a huge success with almost 80 participants, youth helpers, and adult volunteers. Throughout the week we explored how we can trust Jesus—when we feel alone, when we are afraid, when we

wonder, and when we feel powerless. Each evening, kids enjoyed a snack, sang and danced to wilderness-themed songs and old favorites, completed a craft, experienced a Bible lesson, performed science experiments, and played games to help them learn more about God's friendship. Each evening ended with fellowship and a meal in the Great Hall. Thank you, thank you to everyone who made this event such a success!

Programming & Resources

Young families continued to meet for Supper Club gatherings, summer park meet-ups, and annual traditions like the All Hallows' Eve and St. Nicholas celebrations, Christmas Pageant, Easter Egg hunt, and more! Weekly emails to the Young Family parents informed parents of upcoming events, helpful resources, and more. We continued to utilize the Young Family Library, offering books for a variety of ages. We also introduced a new digital resource page, LinkTree.com/ChristChurchKidMin, offering videos to enrich the learning happening in the Sunday School hour, read alouds from our Family Library books, seasonal resources, links to curated Spotify playlists, and more!

Nursery

Our nursery caregivers continued to provide loving care for infants and young children during Sunday School, the 10:30 church service, and special events.

Children's Formation

We had a wonderful Children's Sunday School ministry in 2025 with almost 20 teacher volunteers, and we're looking forward to continue to nurture children through this ministry in the coming year! Our curriculum was loosely based on the Virginia Theological Seminary's Episcopal Church Curriculum and the Godly Play Curriculum, with

lessons on Old Testament and New Testament themes, as well as opportunities to explore church history and sacraments.

2- to 4-year-olds met in the small downstairs classroom. Lessons included a simplified Children's Chapel with Bible story time or Godly Play interpretation. Their time was full of lots of crafts, dramatic play, song, and hands-on exploration.

K-2nd grades met in the large downstairs classroom, and 3rd-5th grades met in the upstairs classroom. Both of these classes used Godly Play materials, dramatic play, art, games, and additional experiences in lessons while teaching students how to use the Bible, Book of Common Prayer, and Hymnal. The teachers loved seeing the children grow in the knowledge and love of God each week while strengthening their sweet friendships with each other.

Students in all classes worked together throughout the year to memorize selected Bible verses. Each time a verse was recited, a bead was added to our Children's Ministry Memory Verse Jar. When the jar was full, the classes celebrated with an ice cream party. This incentive was a huge hit! As in years past, we presented our third graders with Bibles to use at home and in Sunday School.

At the end of the Sunday School hour, all of the children's Sunday School classes continued to come together to make a joyful noise, singing hymns and songs of praise. It was such a fun and meaningful way to end our time together each week.

We look forward to continuing to love on your kiddos in 2026. I encourage you to get involved in these ministries in the coming year, whether you're new to our program or an "old-timer," being with these children and having your children involved will make a lasting impact on your life!

Youth Formation

Hope Westervelt

This year in youth ministry has been filled with so much joy, community, and growth! We continue to meet every Sunday night for EYC, where our 6th-12th graders gather for dinner, games, an activity, community building, and prayer. We also meet every other Friday for Chik-fil-A Prayer Breakfast which provides a wonderful opportunity to get together at the end of a busy week for conversation and praying for each other before heading into the weekend. We also, of course, have Sunday Morning Sunday School where we are continuing our journey through the New Testament using fun

videos to spark deeper discussion. We also had 15 youth participate in Confirmation Class this fall in preparation for confirmation in April. A huge thank you to our volunteers who taught classes this year, our youth wouldn't be where they are on their journey without you!

This year was also full of preparation and fundraising for our Youth Pilgrimage to England this summer! Our youth pilgrims worked hard fundraising through a bean soup fundraiser, a chili fundraiser, and running the silent auction during Shrove Tuesday. This helped tremendously with alleviating the cost of the trip and

we are so thankful to all who contributed! We set off on our pilgrimage on June 9th and hit the ground running heading straight from Heathrow Airport to Winchester Cathedral. From there we traveled to Salisbury, Stonehenge, The Cliffs of Dover, Canterbury, and London before heading home on June 17th. If you want to check out our full recap blog, you can still find it on www.christchurchmacon.com/pilgrimage2025 This pilgrimage was an incredible experience for both the youth and the chaperones and we hope to continue this tradition on an every 3 year basis.

Our youth have also become more involved with Diocesan Youth Ministries. We are so proud of Addison Henry and William Martin for serving on Diocesan Youth Commission, especially Addison who was the chair of the commission. We had youth attending Happening this year at Camp Mikell and have a crew of middle schoolers set to attend New Beginnings in the spring of 2026. We also hosted the diocesan youth in December for a Christmas Lock-in where 40+ people from around our diocese came to Christ Church for a fun night of games, team building, seeing the lights downtown, and even enjoying a beautiful candle lit compline service in Jones Chapel. We were thrilled to host this group in our space and hope to be a consistent

resource in Middle Georgia for our diocesan youth.

We have rebranded the previous ski trip to be a “Mountain Retreat.” We will be taking 15 youth over Martin Luther King, Jr. Weekend to Gatlinburg, Tennessee where we will ski, enjoy winter activities, and have tons of fun with each other! Our theme for the weekend is “Newness” based on Isaiah 43:19 and this will help guide us through devotions and conversations at the end of each night. Our hope is that this trip goes beyond a “normal” ski trip and provides a deeper connection they will carry with them beyond the fun trip.

I am so excited to see what 2026 brings for our youth at Christ Church. It is an honor and a joy to walk alongside them and I truly appreciate all of our families for their commitment to this ministry and to all of our volunteers and supporters who make sure our youth are cared for many years to come.



Outreach Committee

Lynn Waggoner

The Outreach Committee of Christ Church represents this congregation’s commitment to serving others in our local community. Meeting every third Monday of the month, the committee welcomes lay volunteers to join this dynamic and challenging ministry. During meetings, ministry shepherds share organizational updates, needs, and successes with committee members, providing insight into our unique community as well as our brothers and sisters abroad.

The 2025 ministries include Book ‘Em, Crisis Line/Safe House, Daybreak, Loaves & Fishes, Weekend Lunch, Macon Volunteer Clinic, Appleton Ministries (both summer and school-year reading programs), the Angel Tree (gifts for children served by DFACS), and the newly added Bus Pass Ministry. The committee also supports two global missions: Haitian Hope, and Granita de Mostaza (Cuban Dairy Ministry).

Weekend Lunch is Christ Church’s flagship Outreach ministry, Led by Dr. Hal Brickle, and supported by serving teams from the church and the surrounding area, including churches and synagogues from numerous de-

nominations and colleges, Weekend Lunch feeds those facing food insecurity Saturday and Sunday, 52 weeks a year. Meals are served in the beautiful Julia Jones Chapel.

In 2025, Christ Church Community Service funds contributed generously to these worthy ministries. Every month, one ministry is featured as the Ministry of the Month, during which time the ministry is promoted in *The Chimes*, the weekly bulletins, and an introduction to that ministry during the announcements on the first Sunday of each month.

In addition to funds and material support distributed by the committee, the Rector’s Discretionary Fund responds to unplanned ministry needs, and individual emergencies which arise throughout the year.

This year marks my fourth year of leadership for the Outreach Committee. I have been ably assisted by Irene Marxsen as secretary. Beginning in 2026, Outreach will be headed by Peggy Woodhall as chairperson, and David Cline, secretary. I speak for them when I say: Join us! We would love to have your help in the rewarding work of the Outreach Committee.

Worship Committee

Richard Hughes

2025 has been a vibrant and fruitful year for Christ Church and for the ministries that support our worship life. Cynthia Knapp, Harriette Simmons, and John McCard have enriched our clergy team.

Hope Westervelt, Director of Youth Ministries since 2023, continues to bring energy and creativity to our youth programs as she creates opportunities to bring our youth together in a safe and loving Christian community.

Russ Henry has renewed his focus on preparing our Acolytes, ensuring they feel confident and capable each time they serve. Additionally, Russ was instrumental in coordinating one of Christ Church's most memorable services in decades in our Bicentennial service earlier in 2025. His passion and dedication to such a meaningful project was inspiring.

The Altar Guild, under the leadership of Nan Harper and Laurie Minette, have created a strong and talented team that serve a vital role in each and every worship service we have at Christ Church. If you would like to be a part of this critical team, please reach out to either Nan or Laurie.

Jonathan Poe and the music ministry continue to excel, offering exceptional musical leadership across all services—from Sunday mornings to monthly Choral Evensongs to the more informal Rooted service. Jonathan's work has strengthened not only Christ Church's

worship but also the broader Macon community.

Bonnie Collins has assembled a dedicated group of Lay Readers and Lay Eucharistic Ministers.

Duncan Walker and the Ushers remain a dependable presence at every service, large or small along with Sandy Kendall, who coordinates usher for the 8 am service.

Ginny Rozier and the Flower Guild consistently provide beautiful arrangements that enhance our worship, with their artistry shining especially on major feast days.

Virgil Warren faithfully coordinates our healing ministers each Sunday. Anyone interested in joining the Order of St. Luke is encouraged to reach out to him.

Timothy Hoskins, Director of Communications, has worked diligently to lead and maintain our AV team so that we can spread the magic of Christ Church to those unable to attend in person. His work every week to create worship bulletins for every service, Sundays, Funerals, Evensongs, etc., is truly spectacular. Please contact Tim if you want to offer your talents to his ministries.

Throughout the year, the Worship Committee has remained committed to fostering meaningful, inspiring, and safe worship experiences. Christ Church is blessed with many individuals who feel called to serve in the ministries that support our liturgy. If you have questions or feel drawn to participate in any of these ministries, please speak with a member of the Worship Committee.

Order of the Daughters of the King

Hannah Warren & Sheilah Feagin

The Order of the Daughters of the King chapter at Christ Church has 30+ members whose primary goal is to know Jesus Christ and to make Him known to others. Membership in The Order is open to women at every stage of life. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings. There is a three-month period of study and discernment. Each member takes vows to uphold the two Rules of The Order, the Rule of Prayer... we pray daily for our sisters, our church, and our clergy and the Rule of Service...a Daughter daily seeks to do the will of God where she is.

In 2025, in addition to our daily prayer, DOK members learned more about the ministries of Christ Church, participated in children's and youth events,

service projects and finished our meeting year with hymns and praise. Members continue our knitting ministry and serving the church in a variety of ways, such as knitting the blankets we give to each new baby and prayer shawls for those who are sick. DOK members also make felt banners for each person who is baptized.

In January 2026 DOK will begin a study and discernment class for women of Christ Church who would like to become DOK members.

Contact co chairs Hannah Warren (hnwarren3@gmail.com) or Sheilah Feagin (smf3@cox.net) for further information.



Acolytes

Hope Westervelt

Our acolyte team is made up of 36 children and youth who rotate serving each week. Our acolytes are a vital part of our worship and we are so thankful for their commitment to this ministry! We have held two acolyte trainings this year to help them hone their skills and prepare them for worship, in addition to the training videos created by Russ Henry. Special thanks to Russ Henry, Bonnie Collins, and Scott Hoskins for helping gather our acolytes each Sunday and helping to keep everything run smoothly during services!

Order of St. Luke

Virgil Warren

The OSL is an ecumenical organization dedicated to the ministry of Christian healing. As a group of volunteers, we are committed to Jesus Christ as the Son of God who still heals today! We provide healing prayer nearly every Sunday at the 10:30 service. We're the folks in the blue cinctures who pray with our fellow parishioners individually, helping lift their prayer up to the Lord. We also participate in the Wednesday lunchtime healing service, and are available to pray with people at any time, offering prayerful assistance to those in need of physical, spiritual, or emotional healing.

In 2025, we collaborated with Tim Hoskins to produce a video, which is available to view on our website, showcasing our healing ministry and the healing prayer ministers who serve here at Christ Church.

John's Ushers

Duncan Walker

It has been my pleasure to work with the ushers and greeters for another year. Our entourage is the first group of parishioners a person will see when entering our campus and we hope to set the tone for a meaningful, thoughtful, but always, welcoming service. John's Ushers, appropriately named after Hall of Famer, John Willingham, are there for you, to make your experience at Christ Church one that you look forward to experiencing Sunday after Sunday, event after event and day after day throughout your year.

Joining John's Ushers is a gift, one that you get as much out of as you put in. So come join the group. Our service is our gift.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Bonnie Collins

The Lay Eucharistic Ministers at Christ Church were privileged to serve during 2025, our Bicentennial year, sharing their love for the liturgy with the congregation. They read the appointed Lessons at regular services and on Holy Days, served as Intercessors reading the Prayers of the People and as Chalice Bearers during the Eucharist.

Over thirty members of our church serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Aaron Svare is our newest member.

Flower Guild

Ginny Rozier & Katy Tosh

The Guild arranges all flowers for Christ Church, including all worship services, weddings, funerals, and special receptions. In March, we were the host church for the Old City Flower Festival. Seventeen churches participated with their beautiful arrangements. We had approximately 1,000 visitors over the four-day event. This was a very special time for Christ Church.

We welcome new members.

Altar Guild

Nan Harper & Laurie Minette

The Altar Guild is responsible for setting up and cleaning up after all services at Christ Church. This includes all regular worship services on Wednesdays and Sundays, as well as weddings and funerals. We have thirty-two members divided into four teams. Each team is responsible for one week of services; they divide up the responsibilities among their team members. It is fun and important work and doesn't take much time at all. We are also in the progress of reorganizing how our Altar Guild is run. There are several opportunities for volunteering with the running of this guild. If you are interested in helping with this in anyway, please contact Nan Harper.



Communications Ministry

Timothy Hoskins

Not only was 2025 the Bicentennial year of our parish, an event which brought attention to Christ Church from around the city and diocese, but it was the first full year for Communications as a formal ministry with a full-time Director of Communications. This allowed us to both facilitate the year's many Bicentennial celebration events through communication within the parish and to benefit from the increased attention by communicating about Christ Church with the surrounding community.

The Communications Ministry combines Christ Church's monthly newsletter, *The Chimes*, the service bulletins and announcement inserts, the AV Ministry and YouTube channel, the weekly Happenings email and other parish-wide emails, the parish website, and the parish social media accounts. The Communications Ministry has three primary goals:

1. To keep the members of Christ Church informed, in print and online, with timely and accurate information about the events taking place at Christ Church.
2. To advertise to our downtown Macon community about Christ Church, its ministries and activities.
3. To present an attractive, accurate, and up-to-date public face for Christ Church to newcomers and prospective members.

The Chimes is a monthly newsletter which provides news about upcoming events, messages from the clergy and staff, updates from the lives of our members, reports from our ministries, and photographs from past events. This past year documents our Bicentennial celebrations and included a special program year-end photo recap issue in June. *The Chimes* was mailed to over 300 households through July, after which it returned to primarily digital distribution upon the end of the Bicentennial celebration.

The Communications Ministry produced bulletins for fifty-one 8 am Sunday Holy Eucharist services and fifty-two 10:30 am Holy Eucharist services along with three funerals and 13 special services, including the Bicentennial Celebration Service. We also created an updated booklet for the Stations of the Cross in the Great Hall and produced a tri-fold guide to the Old City Flower Festival, which Christ Church hosted during Cherry Blossom week.

The AV Ministry is the subset of the Communications Ministry responsible for recording and livestreaming our events and services and for maintaining the

parish YouTube channel. In 2025, we livestreamed 52 Sunday morning services, seven special services, two choral evensongs, four organ concerts, two funerals, three Bicentennial history forums, and a talk by author Allen Levi in October. We averaged 11 live viewers and 155 total views per video last year, an increase in total viewership of 37% over 2024. We also produced a video on our healing prayer ministry for our representatives to take to the Diocesan Annual Council. Highlights for 2025 include a video recording the demolition of the hotel across the street from the church, which occurred on January 1, 2025, which received 5,532 views and the talk by Allen Levi, which received 3,538 views.

We were blessed with few technical problems this year, although we did install a hardwired internet connection in June to bypass wireless connectivity issues which were interfering with our livestreaming. Special thanks, as always, to our AV Tech David Cline for his many hours of dedication and service and to Scott and Christine Hoskins for their assistance with the internet cable installation.

In 2025, we made a dedicated effort to better utilize social media and increase our presence on Facebook and Instagram. As a result, on Facebook, interactions with our posts were up 82.2% over 2024 and visits to our Facebook page were up 35.4%. We gained 73 followers for a total of 799 followers. On Instagram, interactions with our posts were up 100% over 2024 and visits to our page were up 81.7%. We gained 42 Instagram followers for a total of 143. At the end of November, with the help of Nidia Svare, our Parish Administrator, we created the Weekly Office, a weekly video segment on our Facebook page to provide regular announcements to people who prefer video content to print and email.

Finally, the Communications Ministry is responsible for parish-wide emails, primarily the weekly Happenings email, which provides news and announcements to 573 contacts every Friday morning, and our parish website, which is maintained in partnership with the team at Elizabeth Schorr & Co. This year we focused on greater use of the Happenings blog on the website, including monthly recap posts and a daily travel blog tracking last summer's youth pilgrimage to England. It has been a busy year and the Communications Ministry has worked to do its part to keep the parish informed and record these important events in the life of Christ Church.



Welcoming & Nurturing

Ellen Murphey & Karen Holliday

This ministry works to make newcomers to Christ Church feel welcome. It begins with being welcoming to our visitors on Sunday morning, giving them a Welcome packet explaining our liturgy, our parish and the various ministries here, and has a newcomers form to fill out so we can reach out to them with a note, phone call, and hopefully a visit. We held a Newcomers party in September at the home of Karen and Peter Holliday. There were about 50 people in attendance over 20 of



whom were newcomers. In 2025 we had about 50 new people become a part of our parish family with many more visiting us in worship. We have learned from our newcomers the importance of our online presence as the majority of them found us online first. All of you are an important part in making Christ Church such a welcoming place! In 2025 this ministry was led by Ellen Murphy and Karen Holliday.



Grief Ministry

Sheri Pyles

Throughout 2025, twenty-three families received the *Journeying through Grief* book series. This set of four short books is sent at crucial milestones during the first year following a loss, offering invaluable insight and comfort to those who are grieving.

Good Grief

Susan Placek & Martha Upchurch

The Good Grief Committee is Co-Chaired by Susan Placek and Martha Upchurch along with thirty-four volunteers. During 2025, five funerals were held with two families requesting a reception. Receptions were held in the Great Hall for Malcom Burgess and for Kelly Solomon. The Committee supported the Parish Life Committee in 2025 and provided the Maundy Thursday Lunch for the Altar and Flower Guild volunteers.

Susan and Martha would like to thank all our volunteers who prepared food in 2025. In addition, the Good Grief Committee would like to thank Robert Hubbard and Markisha Carter for their participation and support this past year.

Lay Eucharistic Visitors

Katy Tosh

The Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) are congregation members who have a desire to help our shut-ins with calls, visits and the sharing of Communion. Each LEV is assigned a specific parishioner who is unable to attend church services in person, due to an illness or other restrictions, for long periods of time or indefinitely.

While our new equipment allows us to record and livestream services, it still misses a personal touch and the ability for a shut-in to receive Communion. While visiting, our team of trained lay people administers the Communion, reads the lessons from the Bulletin and discusses the Sunday sermon. Just visiting is such a welcomed gift! However, the small act of watching the Sunday service online together and taking Communion makes the parishioners really happy! The LEV's ministry is a vital one in helping the parishioner feel connected to their church and to also feel cared for and not alone when they can't be at church in person!

Parish Life Committee

Andrea Williford & Kay Greer

The Parish Life Committee is responsible for hosting the fellowship and social events of the church. These events are meant to bring the members of the parish together outside of regularly scheduled church activities. This past year the Parish Life Committee expanded the number of volunteers who dedicate their time and talents to create fun events for members of our parish.

In 2025, the Parish Life Committee hosted the following events:

- Annual Meeting Luncheon in the Great Hall
- Christ Church Bicentennial Reception
- Kick-Off Brunch for Sunday School and annual programming
- Parish Picnic at the Holliday's Farm in Juliette
- Reception following the Allen Levi event
- Stewardship Luncheon
- Reception following the Advent Concert



Seasoned Saints

Karen Maurizi

Seasoned Saints continues to provide fun and fellowship for all those “young at heart.” We had lunch at Oliver’s Corner Bistro as well as Zavalas at Barrington Hall. Dinner at Carrabba’s was a blast! We especially enjoyed get-togethers at members’ homes - Thank you Wendy and Emory Johnson, Eleanor Bishop, and Maryel Battin. Our Christmas party at the home of Cynthia and Chet was elegant and the food was goodness gracious good. We collected much needed donations for the Bibb County Animal shelter. Shelter staff (and grateful dogs and cats!) were delighted to receive such bounty.



Episcopal Church Women

Evan Hair & Keri Jones

The first ECW party of the year was in September at the beautiful home of Lane Sheridan. Ladies were asked to bring a dish according to their last name. We had a great turn out and fabulous food and conversations were shared. Leah McNeill graciously opened her stunning home to host our annual ECW Christmas Party. It was a festive evening full of fellowship and joy. Women brought toys to be donated to kids in need. A thank you

is extended to Corie Weiche, Lauren Marshall, Maureen Hair and Rachel Horkan for helping with appetizers and desserts for the evening. We're in the process of discussing hosting an event during the Cherry Blossom Festival in March 2026. ECW continues to offer traditions of fellowship which grow our community closer together.



Office Volunteers

David Cline

Growing up, I always thought that working in the parish office was one of those jobs which I compared to the inner workings of the old temple that we read about in scripture. As I have worked closely with the office staff here at Christ Church I recognize that it is not the case. This ministry operates closely to the scripture found in Hebrews 10:19-25, where we are called to “approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith” to “provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.” Living into this scripture, the office volunteer ministry has been revamped to help distribute bus passes to those who need them in our community when we have them on hand. The office volunteer ministry also provides auxiliary support to the parish staff when needed. Not to mention the ministry serves as an arm of outreach and inreach by providing a hospitable

presence for newcomers, seekers, and discerners when they come to the Harrold House. The hospitality, desire to help, and the presence of help for those who need it, plays a massive role to show this ministry's importance as the hands and feet of Jesus in the world.

I want to personally thank everyone who has volunteered this year for the sacrifice they have made of their time. Your pledge of time to work in the office on the important days helps the church staff to operate their ministries and calling smoothly until Christmastide. Looking forward to 2026, I would like to ask those who are reading this annual report to look into the idea of taking an afternoon or a morning to help at the office. It is a fun opportunity to serve Christ Church, the community, and the whole Body of Christ, and for those who have always been curious about the inner workings of the Church (big C intended).

Weekend Lunch

Hal Brickle

The Weekend Lunch program has served the needs of downtown Macon since the mid-1990s. What started as an opportunity to help feed the homeless, hungry, and less fortunate in a safe and enjoyable environment has since grown into a program that delivers far more than a meal to our community.

The following Churches, Synagogue, and Independent Teams were instrumental in the success of Weekend Lunch Ministry:

- Beth Yeshua International Synagogue
- Martha Bowman United Methodist Church
- St. Peter Claver Catholic Church
- St. Paul's Episcopal Church
- 1st Baptist Church of Christ
- High Street Unitarian Universalist Church
- New Haven Baptist Church
- St. Francis Episcopal Church
- St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
- St. Joseph's Catholic Church
- Christ Episcopal Church

These dedicated teams serve hot meals to homeless, financially insecure individuals and families every Saturday and Sunday, including holidays. Hot meals are prepared and served with a smile, a warm greeting, and a prayer.

A key scripture on serving others is Mark 10:45, which states: "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." This verse emphasizes that Jesus himself came to serve others, setting the example for us to do the same. We love being the hands and feet of Jesus just as he commanded us.

Deuteronomy 15:11 - As a person of faith, you have an obligation to God to help the people of your community who need a hand.

Hebrews 13:16 (NIV) - "And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices, God is pleased."

We serve with talents God gave us, loving others as God loves us. In turn, we are so blessed. The act of helping others can bring a sense of satisfaction and purpose, contributing to overall happiness and joy in our lives. We go home tired with a smile on our faces and in our hearts. God is good!

2025's Accomplishments

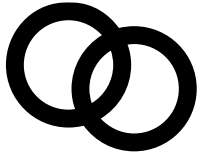
Updated the functionality of the Pantry and shifted the Weekend Office to the old storage, improved storage and work area around the dishwasher with adding a Drying / Work Table. Also we were able to deep clean the kitchen floor, tables and appliances.

Goals for 2026

- Purchase a New Freezer
- Paint the Front Door and improve the overall look of the entrance to Weekend Lunch with Planters, Greenery.
- Wood Fencing, Mural, Sponsorships
- Install a Handicap Entrance to Jones Chapel
- Plaque / Signage at Guest Entry (Wrought Iron Fencing)
- 2026 Appreciation Banquet
- Team Dinners- Fellowship /Recipes & Cooking Updates
- Spaghetti Dinner (Salad/Dessert/Drink) Eat-In / Pick-Up

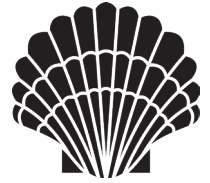
Month	Meals	Volunteers
January	490	60
February	416	77
March	598	52
1st Quarter	1504	189
April	628	47
May	554	29
June	620	65
2nd Quarter	1802	141
July	802	61
August	647	51
September	778	44
3rd Quarter	2227	156
October	695	41
November	684	57
December	798	77
4th Quarter	2177	175
Grand Total	7710	661

Sacraments & Statistics



Marriages

Jane Kauffman Hatcher & William Chambliss Dugan
 Elizabeth Cooper Maddux & Dylan Lyle Steward
 Jalyn Morgan Massey & John Lucas Todd
 Lorraine Carmelina Smith & Sanford Gordy Duke



Confirmations

Confirmed:

Natalie Mitcham Barrett
 Julian McKinley (Mac) Marshall
 Lauren Mauldin Marshall
 Jalyn Morgan Massey
 Rebecca Bacon Rosson
 John Lucas Todd

Received:

Madison Y. Harrell
 Corie Weiche
 Dustin Weiche

Reaffirmed:

Lance McDougle
 Victoria McDougle



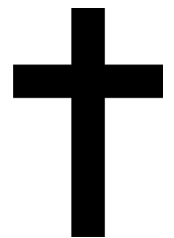
Average Sunday Attendance:	
In person:	161
Online (live):	10
Online (total):	88

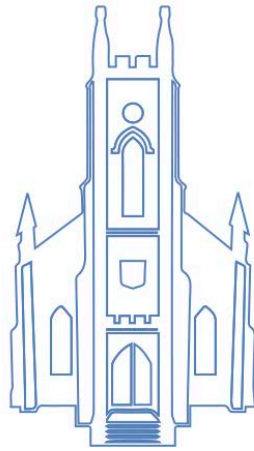
Baptisms

Charles Beauregard Barrett
 Hayes Edward Deagan
 Carlice Latrice Foreman
 Hallie Sloan Harper
 Margaret Ann Harper
 John Lucas Todd
 Smith Mark Walker

Funerals

LaBarre Wolfe Blackman
 Malcolm Stewart Burgess Jr.
 Nina Durrett Childs
 Kelly Allen Solomon
 Mary Kate Nix Vogen





CHRIST CHURCH

E P I S C O P A L

CLERGY & STAFF

The Most Rev. Sean W. Rowe, *Presiding Bishop*
The Right Rev. Robert C. Wright, *Bishop of Atlanta*
The Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp, *Rector*
The Rev. Harriette Simmons, *Assisting Priest*
The Rev. Dr. John F. McCard, *Priest Associate*
Hope Westervelt, *Director of Youth Ministries*
Rachel Horkan, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Jonathan A. Poe, *Director of Music & Liturgy*
Lacey Chaney, *Associate for Children's Music*
Colton Barber, *Assistant Organist*
Nidia Svare *Parish Administrator*
Timothy Hoskins, *Director of Communications*
Laurel Eady, *Parish Bookkeeper*
Hal Brickle, *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*
Robert Hubbard, *Sexton*
Markisha Carter, *Assistant Sexton*

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