

2008 Annual Report
Christ Episcopal Church
Trinity Sunday
Sunday, May 18, 2008

Agenda

Opening Prayer
Rector's Opening Remarks
Wardens' remarks
Treasurer's remarks
Recognition of parish leadership
Introduction of Vestry nominees and election
Closing prayer and Exchange the Peace

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Rector's Report

This annual report is more of a celebration than a report. I asked committee chairpeople and leaders to write their reports as if they were answering the question from a newcomer, "So what does this ministry do." As a community of faith, we do many things in service to our Lord, Jesus Christ. While this report shows many ministries, there are still some ministries that I know were missed. That only shows how important it is that we do not assume everyone knows all that goes on at Christ Church.

As I approach the end of my first year at Christ Church, I am still learning about this parish, its many gifts, and where those gifts might be calling us to serve Christ in the world. Our parish mission statement reads: "To know Christ and to make Christ known." Valuing the gift of each other is one of the first steps in making that happen. Another part is using our gifts in service to others, be it in worship, in Sunday School, in ministries beyond our walls, or in our stewardship of our time, talent and treasure.

This report includes points of contact for each area of ministry as well as basic information on the life of the parish. My hope and prayer is that you find something in this that is a new learning, and perhaps even a new challenge for how you can deepen your faith journey with Christ in one of our ministries.

The Rev. Webster Gibson, 23rd Rector of Christ Church

Wardens' Report

The Christ Church Vestry, the governing and policy making body of the church, is made up of twelve members who serve rotating terms. Each year at the Annual Meeting, four new members are elected, each to serve a three year term. Members of the Vestry are expected to attend the monthly Vestry meeting, serve as a representative to a committee of the church, attend church services and other important parish functions regularly, and work for the good of the whole parish.

This past year has been an exciting and busy one for the Vestry. In July, we, along with the entire parish, welcomed Webster Gibson and his family. Although the interim period was not one of reduced activity, the arrival of Webster triggered a renewed sense of energy and enthusiasm in the parish. In the beginning months of his time with us, the Vestry sought to help Webster learn about the parish and we now continue to support him as he works to develop and grow many facets of church life.

Additionally, with Webster's leadership, the Vestry is encouraging increased communication regarding all church activities. The Angelus is now a monthly publication which gives a useful format to convey detailed information about all parish activities. The Vestry is reporting meeting notes each month along with budget summaries in the Angelus so that parishioners can be apprised of all that is going on in the church.

The Vestry also spent a great deal of time last spring focusing on financial issues as we worked to balance our budget. As you recall, at the end of our stewardship campaign we did not have enough revenue to support our proposed budget. After careful consideration that we were proposing a trim budget, we came back to the congregation for additional pledges. The congregation responded and we were able to move forward with our programs. The Vestry remains committed to being good financial stewards of our resources and also are now implementing the equally important time and talent portion of our stewardship campaign. Hopefully, everybody is currently considering their own spiritual gifts and ways to serve our parish.

Another part of managing our resources is maintaining the properties owned by Christ Church. With the ownership of these historic properties comes a great deal of responsibility. With the guidance of the Properties Committee, the Vestry is committed to being educated on the needs of maintaining our facilities and making decisions that will allow us to preserve this beautiful home for our parish and for outreach to share with others.

Finally, as we prepare to welcome a new Vestry class in June, we also will welcome Anne Ritonia as the assistant at Christ Church. The Vestry has been preparing for this transition which will allow additional resources to be devoted to family, youth, and children's ministries.

Please remember that Vestry members are always available to answer questions or hear your thoughts. Together, we can continue to work to share God's love through Christ Church Winchester.

Wardens: Martha Roberson, Martha Griffin

Treasurer's report

We presented you with the 2008 Budget at the beginning of the year and are posting financials on a monthly basis in the Angelus. Therefore, I'm not going to go into budget details with you today, except to say "Thank You".

Our pledged income has been strong through April and we are entering the summer months with a slight surplus. However, with vacations and other summer activities attendance and pledge payments normally decline. I fully expect us to use any surplus we have now to cover our expenses during the summer.

Just like in your household, the bills at Christ Church continue to come in the mail during the Summer. The Properties and Outreach Committees both have several projects they are working on.

There's a reason that the pledge envelopes are designed to be mailed. Please take advantage of that feature if you are going to be away from Christ Church this summer.

Treasurer: Tuck White

Finance Chairman and Vestry Representative: Bruce Trant

Committee Reports

Parish Life

Parish Life focuses on actively caring for and nurturing all of our Christ Church parish family. Many parishioners contribute to this goal by hosting weekly coffee hours after our Sunday Services, planning special functions such as receptions and dinners, as well as organizing the annual Pancake Supper, Lenten Dinners, Coventry Groups and parish picnic. Parish Life will coordinate receptions after funerals held at Christ Church as a means of offering comfort to the family. We have been planning to enlarge this part of our ministry to include more members of the parish in this activity.

Other parts of Parish Life are the Newcomers that strives to welcome and incorporate all newcomers into the church. This committee attempts to achieve this goal by providing weekly greeters to meet visitors after our Sunday services as well as hosting coffee hours and dinners to offer newcomers more information about our church and activities. The OWLS or Older, Wiser, Laity seek to nurture the more senior members of the congregation with activities here and at Westminster-Canterbury.

For the Newcomers Committee and OWLS please see their table for additional information in the life of the parish.

Point of contact: Nancy Mitchell, Parish Life Committee chairperson

Point of contact: Pam McKinley, Newcomers chairperson

Greeters

This committee is a sub committee of the Newcomer Committee whose chairperson is Pam McKinley. The greeters arrive fifteen minutes before the 8:00 and 10:30 church service to welcome everyone with salutations in front of the church steps. The greeter is also there at the end of the 10:30 service to invite any newcomer to share in fellowship with the congregation during coffee hour. The main purpose of the greeter is to be friendly and to provide information about Christ Church. The greeter welcomes each newcomer with a bag of goodies containing a jar of apple butter and pamphlets about Parish Life at Christ Church. The greeter encourages the newcomer to complete the information card in the pew so that they may be contacted for our annual Newcomer Dinner held each year in the spring. We also invite newcomers to share their address so that they may receive the Angelus and other communications from Christ Church.

The members of the greeter committee are currently working on increasing our membership, especially to include some members from our youth group. Our membership has increased by six people this year, including one youth member and six men. There is also an emphasis now on inviting church members to consistently wear their name tags during the Adult Forum, church service and coffee hour in an effort to improve our relationships. Planning an effective way to have the congregation wear name tags is a challenge for us.

Point of contact: Judy Whiting, chairperson

Senior Ministries

Senior Ministries offer programs and fellowship to the over 200 senior members of Christ Church.

During this past year we have sponsored an "OWLS" (older wiser laity) gathering in May for Older Americans month and in December for Christmas. At these gathering we enjoyed good company, good food and drink and good entertainment as offered by our own Nick Nerangis and Mimi Curtis respectively.

In June we sponsored an AARP safe driving course. Twenty one members of Christ Church participated. The course focused on safe driving techniques, rules of the road, local driving problems and license renewal requirements. We received certificates which made us eligible for a discount on our auto insurance for the next three years.

In November we participated in an ecumenical conference sponsored by a number of local churches and community organizations. The conference was titled "Good News in the Gospels for Senior Adults" led by Jean Marie Thibault, Clinical Gerontologist and Professor from the University of Louisville School of Medicine.

Over 200 people attended including 15 from Christ Church. The working committee on planning the conference met every other week for over a year organizing the conference. There were two Christ Church members on the working committee and we received a generous contribution from the Marie Cooper fund.

Senior Ministries is part of the Parish Ministry Group. We always welcome additional members and ideas on how to better serve Our Lord and the senior members of Christ Church.

Point of contact: Janet Waller, Farley Massey

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care ministries exist to care for the body and spirit of our parishioners. Through a variety of programs, we offer a cheerful face, card, or song, along with prayers, to touch lives and share burdens. From being a member of the prayer chain, to visiting newcomers, shut-ins or the ill, or helping with hospitality, Christ Church offers many opportunities to care for one another. The Pastoral Care ministry depends on participants "like each one of us" who give a few minutes of their week for their brothers and sisters in Christ in need. You can participate from your own home through the Prayer Chain, or get out and about through the Newcomer, Bread & Soup, or other ministry.

Prayer Chain

A group of parishioners pray on a daily basis for specific needs of church members. This prayer chain is initiated by the Rector through Sue Jones. All prayer needs are kept confidential by the member of the prayer chain.

Bread & Soup

Eleanor Monahan coordinates the Bread & Soup Committee. This committee meets in the church kitchen as needed to make soup. The soup is then frozen. The soup along with some fresh bread is delivered to parishioners who have been ill or hospitalized.

Food Bank

Members of the congregation bring non-perishable food to church each week. Volunteers regularly deliver it to the Salvation Army or CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project). Contact Lucia Thomas to volunteer for deliveries.

Guild of the Christ Child

Families with new babies are ministered to by this caring group. The group will follow the parents through the pregnancy and provide literature and support to the family. They make visits and take much needed items and food to the new parents.

Care Cards

When a word of encouragement or condolence is needed, Cal Royall sends a card to let our members know they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Tea Time Stitchers/Evening Stitchers

This group meets once a month to sip tea, and enjoy fellowship while they lovingly and prayerfully knit or crochet. They make lap throws, scarves, hats and baby caps to surround members of our parish family with our love. Contact Lucia Thomas

for information about the Tea Time Stitchers and Pam Lamborne for the Evening Stitchers

Parish Nurse

A Parish Nurse in the congregation is an opportunity to avail oneself of health services to remain healthy physically, mentally, as well as spiritually. The parish nurse is a good resource for health care needs, medical directives, health screenings, and lists of physicians, clinics, etc in this area. She visits parishioners in their homes or at the hospital.

A health fair is held each year in October with the opportunity to visit about 40 health sites in our Tilford Room. Flu shots are given at that time. Weekly blood pressure screening is available after each service on Sunday.

Each semester the parish nurse, Helen Zebarth, teaches a community health class through Shenandoah University and has each of her students visit a parish family all semester. If you would like to be included for next year please see her.

On the Web site the parish nurse office has several listings of resource folders, books, etc that can be borrowed for two weeks at a time. She also has equipment that can be borrowed such as walkers, wheel chairs, bedside commodes, etc.

She can be accessed by calling the church office and asking for her extension, 207. If it is an emergency ask the receptionist to contact her and she will call you back immediately.

Parish Nurse: Helen Zebarth

Christian Education

Adult Christian Formation Programs

Sunday Morning Adult Forum: This past year's forums covered a variety of topics, from parish community history to spiritual gifts. We had long time members and guest speakers talk about the history of the communities of Winchester and Christ Church and some of the changes over the years. We also explored aspects of our Anglican heritage, the Scriptures and a theology of spiritual gifts. We also hosted two book sales with Oscar Welles to provide reading materials and gifts around the community.

Other Adult Programs: Diedra Kriewald led several book studies throughout the year. Michael Mohn continues to lead the Wednesday evening Men's Bible Study. Our season events included an Advent program on hymns of the Advent Season led by Jim Kriewald, and an intergenerational Lenten Program showing "children's movies" with adult themes running through them.

The Christian Education Committee seeks to continue to provide programs to help people learn more about their faith and their community.

Pre-K-5th Grade Programs

In the last year, our programs for children and youth have continued in some successful paths and gone in exciting new directions in others. Our Sunday morning Church School classes for ages 2½ through grade 5 use the All Things New curriculum which is Episcopal, Bible-grounded and can be easily used by the teacher to adapt to the needs and learning styles of each class. It is divided into four age-appropriate levels. Accordingly, our classes this year have been organized into two-year age increments with teams of two teachers in most levels.

6th -12th Grade Programs

The big change has come for our youth grades 6 through 12 with the beginning implementation of the Journey to Adulthood curriculum. This exciting curriculum has three two-year levels designated Rite 13, Journey to Adulthood (J2A) and Young Adults in the Church (YAC). In brief it acknowledges that moving from childhood to adulthood is a God-given process that we can celebrate in every aspect of a young person's development, not just a stage to get through. As the child grows into adulthood and becomes more aware of his/her uniqueness as an individual, the emphasis is on learning to use the creative power God gives to each of us in a way that recognizes that each is on a journey to find his/her own role in the body of Christ.

At the end of the second level, Journey to Adulthood, youth plan and complete a pilgrimage and usually at that point seek confirmation.

Though already confirmed, we have begun a J2A level class this year for our 8th and 9th graders just because of the value of the approach. Eventually we hope to have all levels in place. This year's program focused on the 6th-9th grade classes. Teachers in the J2A curriculum commit to remain with a class for two years at which time another team takes the next step. Helen Zearth and Sue Jarvis continued to lead the Sunday School class for the 10th-12th graders using their Old and New Testament Curriculum. Along the way, there are many supporting roles for parents and parishioners in either curriculum from program activities, to chaperoning, to providing food, etc. More information about Journey to Adulthood can be found at www.learnerresources.org.

Lots of multi-age group programs have supplemented our Sunday morning classes. The youth gave a hugely successful Halloween party for the young children the Sunday afternoon before Halloween. At the Feast of All Saints', we held a special program for all the children grade 5 and younger using familiar Old Testament stories and learning stations to explore the concept of "I will with God's help" from the Baptismal covenant. During Advent our Sundays included visits from St. Nicholas and St. Lucy and, with the help of the Alleluia Singers, a posada experience where the children searched for lodging for Mary and Joseph, all as part of the preparation for the gift of Jesus at Christmas. As our Lenten Mite Box focus we supported the Heifer International program, raising almost \$1,500. to support projects around the world. The Rite 13 class was the winner in the team competition to gather food for CCAP the first Sunday in March. On Palm Sunday another multi-age program used a scavenger hunt to teach the events of Holy Week. The Sr. High youth led the Stations of the Cross on Good Friday. A group of our youth participated in the diocesan Senior High Weekend at Shrine Mont sponsored by Parish Youth Ministries of the diocese. Parish family covered dish dinners during Lent featured portions of Disney films with clear lessons about faith, love, trust, and lots of other ideas even a few adults hadn't realized were there all along.

Sunday mornings aren't limited to Church School classes. We welcomed a new nursery staff member at mid-year who is assisted by parent volunteers every week from 9:15-12:00. Our Children's Chapel service is offered as an alternative to the first part of the 10:30 service. Children whose parents elect to have them attend hear the same lesson as the adults during the Liturgy of the Word but at a child's level with a simple plan of worship and space for more wiggle and giggle in their worship activities. They are led by a rotating team of parent volunteers who are always in need of an extra pair of hands!

The administrative cycle of the church year ends, or begins depending on the perspective, with the exuberant Vacation Bible School we share with our brothers and sisters at Grace Lutheran Church. For almost 25 years, we have pooled children, resources, teachers, energy, and not a little bit of prayer, to offer outreach to the children of the community. With a routine attendance of approximately 300 children, we thank God that, not only our own parishioners, but children from all over the area seek out and plan for VBS to be part of their summer. Registration is already underway for this year's Power Lab VBS. Forms are in the Church School classrooms, the Tilford Room and on the church website. Come join us!!!

Along the way we have been supported by tons of parents, patient priests, helpful youth, and faithful substitute teachers. If your gift lies in working with children and youth, contact Margery Wingenbach who will be happy to help you become part of our program.

Points of contact: Margery Wingenbach, Director of Christian Education
Patty Barnes, chairperson of Christian Education Committee

Stewardship

In the past stewardship has been exclusively limited to finances/annual giving. The stewardship chair, a vestryman, has worked pretty hard in the fall to bring in pledges for the annual budget. The main help came from the vestry and that wonderful office staff (read Eugenia Bean) who did weekly update me with where we were, how we were in prior years, who had pledged and who needed encouragement.

Webster has a vision that I endorse completely to extend stewardship to a year long job. Webster's (dictionary this time) defines steward as "one who manages another's property or financial affairs; one having charge of the household of another; an employee having charge of obtaining food and drink, directing servants; one attending domestic concerns of those on board a ship; on responsible for the comfort of passengers; etc."

As I leave the vestry, the next chairman of stewardship will likely have a larger plate.

Point of contact: John B. Willey, Stewardship Chair 2006-2008

Finance Committee

Bruce Trant, Scott Arthur, Dixon Whitworth, David Lewis and Tuck White are currently members of the Finance Committee. The Finance Committee is responsible for developing and presenting the church budget to the Vestry. The committee meets on a monthly basis from September to February and as needed the remainder of the year.

During the interim period, the pledging income had decreased, and the surplus accounts were depleted to maintain the programs and operations of Christ Church. This presented a challenge to the Finance Committee to maintain current programs with a balanced budget. Some tough choices had to be made and the Vestry and parishioners of Christ Church rose to meet the challenge. We retired some debt using a portion of the Endowment funds and saw an increase in pledges to enable us to submit a balanced budget for 2008.

For the 2009 budget, the goal of the Finance Committee is to have a discussional budget in a narrative format for the Stewardship Campaign. The purpose is to allow the congregation to have a better understanding of the program costs of Christ Church as they are discerning their annual pledge.

Point of contact: Bruce Trant, Vestry Representative and Chairperson

Properties Committee

The mission of the Properties Committee is to exercise good stewardship of our place of worship by maintaining and preserving the physical facilities for current and future generations so that they may continue to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

In 2007 we saw the completion and dedication of the Columbarium in the church yard and the installation of new gutters on the Parish Hall, to name just a few. The major projects completed this year included the repair/replacement and repainting of the exterior window sills, window frames, soffits and doors of the Old Rectory and the Parish Hall. In April the Vestry took a tour of our entire plant so that they could see first-hand the condition of our facilities and the ongoing task at hand to maintain them. Also in April a subcommittee did a walk-through of each of our buildings in order to assess what we need to do to make all of our facilities handicapped accessible. Another subcommittee is doing a study of our long-range maintenance plan.

The major project we are working toward is the restoration of the Bell Tower. An architectural historian is currently doing the discovery work on the tower, and will present his report to us sometime over the summer with his recommendations. Then we will know what we have to deal with, and we will seek bids from qualified contractors.

The members of the committee include Carolyn Lewis, Gene Babb, James Baden, Bill Jarvis, Chuck Menefee, Clyde Pressley, Wilborn Roberson, Doug Thomas, Roger Zearth and Pam McKinley. Please consider joining us if this type of ministry interests you; just call any member of the committee. We meet on the third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm in the Smith Building conference room.

Point of contact: Pam McKinley, Chairperson

Outreach

Do you feel a personal desire to reach out to others in need? If so consider being a part of Christ Church's outreach effort. Outreach is a wonderful way to have your faith takes on new meaning in your daily life. At Christ Church, Outreach tries to focus its energies on local, national and international needs. Though we do meet once a month most participating members tend to center their energies on specific projects where they feel an important commitment. We always strive to involve as many parishioners as we can in hands on ways. In the past year we have sponsored mission teams to the Lakota Sioux

Reservation in South Dakota, collected thousands of pounds of food stuffs for CCAP, give financial support to a Vietnamese Orphanage helping with education, organized the Giving Tree at Christmas for people in the Winchester community and the refurbishing of the Migrant Works Camp recreation room. Currently, people from Christ Church are volunteering to Relay for Life, the Boys and Girls Club Heritage Bike Ride and are working with our young Sunday School children to provide shoes (flip/flops) for children and adults at an orphanage in Oaxaca Mexico. If you have a desire to "make Christ know" through quiet personal efforts consider joining Outreach.

Points of contact: Bill Endorf, Outreach Committee Chairperson
Melanie Lewis, Dominican Mission organizer
Katie Steadman, Lakota Mission organizer

Mary's family

Mary's Family Respite Days: Mary's Family, a nonprofit organization that provides support and programs for people with developmental disabilities, offers much needed respite days to families who provide continuous care to their children with special needs. In December, 2007, Christ Church began hosting these respite days one Saturday per quarter. Being a host includes providing the facilities for those days as well as volunteers to participate in the day. Each volunteer partners with a child with special needs and guides them through a day of playtime, crafts, music, books, and other activities, and most importantly is a friend. Additionally, the Christ Church EFM group provides lunch for the volunteers. The volunteers have indicated that they have found their experience to be incredibly rewarding. We are always eager to sign up more volunteers, as the more people we can provide, the more lives Mary's Family can touch.

Point of contact: Martha Roberson

Worship

Worship is at the heart of this faith community. We are a lively Christian community, growing and changing with Winchester. The heart of our time together as a gathered community is in worship. The liturgy at Christ Church is according to the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer and can be described as full and varied. The norm of corporate worship is Holy Eucharist, with Morning Prayer offered on the fifth Sunday of the month at the 10:30AM service. This allows one of the clergy to join the children in the children's chapel for the celebration of the Eucharist, instruction, and so the children can get to know the clergy. We hear the Word of God through scripture and preaching, celebrate the sacraments, and seek to follow Jesus Christ as ministers in the world.

As we continue to glorify God in this place, we also continue to make sure people are able to offer their gifts of service in our worship. We have Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Readers, Intercessors at the Sunday and weekday services. We also have acolytes, altar guild, choirs, and other ways for people to participate in helping with services. Below are reports and points of contact for the various ministries in our worship.

Point of contact: The Rev. Webster Gibson, Worship Committee Chairperson

Acolytes

Acolyting is perhaps the largest ministry that the young people offer to help the parish in our worship. They lead the procession. They help to set the table for communion. They also respond to clergy requests for supplies and help during the services. At Christ Church, we have one acolyte at the 8AM service and 4 at the 10:30AM service. They also help with the various services during the seasons of Christmas and Holy Week. We have 19 acolytes who help with this ministry. As they go through training and gain experience, they also help to teach the next generation of acolytes. While their charge is to be invisible during worship, their ministry is essential for the life of our worship.

Points of contact: James Baden, Teresa Jacobsen

Altar Guild

There are presently 72 members of the Altar Guild, with 10 to 12 members assigned to 6 groups (Chairman and Co-chairman of each group) with a 6 month rotation for each group. (Example – January and July – group E – 2008)

The following members retired in 2008. June Davies, Mary Pyles, Marge Gibson, Mona Pressley. Length of service has not

previously been recorded. Mary Louise Dame is deceased.

A dinner was held in September 2007 and all members were invited by The Rev. Webster Gibson as a “get acquainted” evening and it was well attended. We should do this again.

An afternoon tea was held in March 2008 to welcome all new members to the Altar Guild, having received and accepted the invitation to join the group by Webster. The new members are Anne Drury, Pat Leinbach, Robin Northrup, Julie Read, Ann Throckmorton, Adelaide Turnbull, Mary Beth White, Maxine Willey and Kay Wise.

Additional members are always welcome, if interested please contact Barbara Laidlaw.

The Rev. Richard Fichter has provided a pictorial manual with detailed guidelines of the set up for all services. Each member has been given a copy. Richard has been very supportive of the Altar Guild and we are going to miss him.

We have replaced worn burse and veil altar linens in the Pilgrims Chapel with a new burse and veil that is appropriate for all services, with the exception of purple for Lent and Advent. There is a sterling silver cruet that needs repairs and will be sent, insured, for a repair estimate. Altar Guild participated in Keep Day by cleaning all the chandelier glass globes in the church. The brass communion rail was cleaned and the brass around the pulpit.

Special recognition and appreciation should be given to our flower arrangers for Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and other special events and receptions. Thank you Judy Anderson and Pam DeBergh.

Last but not least, thank you Nancy Mitchell, for the years of leadership and dedication you have given this group. You have set the bar very high – but we know where to find you – in the kitchen!

Respectfully submitted, Barbara Laidlaw, Chairman

Point of contact: Barbara Laidlaw

LEMS/Intercessors/Lectors

Lectors

The ministry of lector is a ministry of publicly reading the scripture in the church services. This includes services of Morning Prayer as well as Holy Communion. It requires training which is offered on occasion throughout the year. It is available for adults and youth.

Intercessors

The ministry of intercessor is the ministry of leading the people in the prayers. This is typically for the service of Holy Communion. It requires training which is offered on occasion throughout the year. It is available for adults and youth.

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEMs)

LEMs serve at the worship celebrating the Holy Communion. This ministry includes assisting the clergy with the distribution of the cup during the communion. This ministry may also include reading the lessons and leading the Prayers of the People. This ministry requires training. Prior to consideration for licensing, a person will be expected to have served for a period of time as an Intercessor and Lay Reader. It is a licensed ministry which means that, with the approval of the Rector, the LEM applies to the Bishop for permission to distribute the cup. All LEMs, usually scheduled for the 10:30 AM service, will be expected to also serve at the 8:00 AM service on a rotating basis.

Point of contact: Conrad Koneczny

Music

Adult Choir

The adult choir is a volunteer group made up of 25-30 members who love to sing and express their love of God and neighbor through music. It is not a choir by audition, but a choir comprised of parishioners and non-parishioners alike who, by desire, offer their voices in worship. There are also professional soloist/section leaders for each section.

The choir practices in the Fairfax room (beneath the sanctuary) every Wednesday evening at 7:00 pm and sings weekly for the 10:30 am service as well as for other services such as Christmas Eve, Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Ascension, and others as scheduled.

Musicians in the choir are diligent in preparation and performance in order to provide a high standard of worship in the parish. In this endeavor, the choir strives to bring the integration of worship and music to the liturgical experience at Christ Church. A variety of traditions and styles in organ and choral music is used for the services. Musical styles include early music, plainsong, music from the renaissance, baroque and classical eras, Victorian times, the 20th century and even more contemporary. New music is frequently commissioned for the Christ Church choir. Hymns and service music are most frequently taken from The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, Wonder, Love and Praise, Voices, and Gather Comprehensive.

We recognize that many in our congregation have transferred from other denominations. When possible, the musical traditions of other denominations are incorporated into our hymnody and made part of the spiritual singing life of our congregation. Many members of the choir are involved in other aspects of the church. They host coffee hours, volunteer for mission projects, visit shut-ins, and serve on the Vestry. Adult choir members typically fully participate in the parish life of the Christ Church community and the Winchester community at large.

Point of contact: Dr. Jim Kriewald

Alleluia Singers

The Alleluia Singers Choir organized for children/youth in grades 2 – 8; they began rehearsals October 2007. The rehearsal times are 8:45 – 9:25, prior to Sunday School from September to early June. Initial registration provided 7 members by the end of September 2007. Currently we have 18 members, including one high school student serving as assistant & one of two section leaders.

They sang for worship once a month from November to May except in April. This past year, they sang for special services, Christmas Eve, /Palm Sunday (special anthem with adult choir and Easter Sunday). They also participated in the downtown procession and blessing of the palms. They had two Saturday retreats, one in December 2007 and the other in March 2008. They also took to the streets caroling at Westminster Canterbury and The Willows in December 2007.

They will have a recognition dinner/talent show for choir members and families, rising second graders and families in May 2008. They will sing for the Adult Forum in June 2008 with the Cherub Choir. Recruiting for members is ongoing throughout the church year. There is also information for other sacred singing opportunities for children in the Diocese and community made available to choir members and families on a regular basis.

Some of the goals for 2008 – 2009 include:

- Maintain the active participation of children in this choir along with the wonderful support and encouragement from families, parish and other staff
- Continue active recruitment for members; September 2008 registration Sunday
- Hold a September 2008 “kick –off” Saturday for rehearsal/social
- Produce a sacred children’s musical that includes other children of all ages from our parish in May 2009 – extra rehearsals needed other than Sunday mornings
- Organize fund drive/events for the purchasing of 3 octaves of choir chimes
- Start a choir chime group for middle and high school students (could be an extension of youth activities)
- Study the possibility of having a middle/high school vocal ensemble to sing occasionally
- Continue Saturday retreats for Alleluia Singers

Point of contact: Sue Correll, Alleluia Singers Director, 540-545-4018

Cherub Choir

The youngest Sunday school students (Pre-K through 1st Grade) begin each class with piano music and song. On special Sundays, the children lift their voices in song at the 10:30 service. There is no previous knowledge of music required. The program is very child friendly. It is intended to promote a love for singing to God, be it in the group of children, or in front of the church. The director, Marsha Baden, even uses her puppeteering skills to help the children enjoy their time of singing.

Point of contact: Marsha Baden

Ushers

The ushers help to greet people inside the church, provide service bulletins and assist people with finding a place to sit. Two ushers are assigned for the 8AM service, and 4 at the 10:30AM service. During the service, they collect and present the offertory, set the communion rail and direct parishioners during the distribution of the communion. They also help to clean up after church and secure the building. Ushers help at funerals and the various services through the church year.

Point of contact: James Baden

Monday Evening Service

Christ Church offers a special worship service for people with developmental disabilities, their families, friends and all interested others. Open to everyone who would like to participate, this outreach ministry was created to fill a void in our community. Often times, people with developmental disabilities are not comfortable worshipping at our traditional services. What has evolved is a service that is structured to meet the needs of people with developmental disabilities. The monthly service provides a relaxed and informal atmosphere with the repetitive structure favored by the attendees. Each service includes a lesson through a story or brief narration, prayers, the celebration of birthdays, and a sharing of the peace. The highlight for many is that the service is filled with singing and music, led by guitar and includes rhythm instruments for all the participants, which results in a most joyful and expressive sound of togetherness. As the services have continued over the past four years, one rewarding result is that many of the participants have begun to take leadership roles in the service such as leading prayers and signing the service for the hearing impaired.

Following each service, everyone is invited for refreshments in the Tilford Room. This gathering offers a special time for the participants to enjoy interacting further with parishioners and amongst themselves. This time provides many of the participants a rare chance to have an evening of fellowship outside of their daily living situations. While everyone is always invited to worship at Christ Church at anytime, this combination of worship and fellowship seems to offer an opportunity to many in our community who might not otherwise find a way to express their faith.

Point of contact: Martha Roberson, Conrad Koneczny

Marie Cooper Fund

The Marie S. Cooper Trust Fund is a Perpetual, Testamentary Trust established under the will of Nancy O. Cooper, who died on March 3, 1967, as a memorial to her late mother, Marie S. Cooper. Under the terms of the will F. & M. Bank of Winchester (now B.B.&T.) was named as Administrator of the trust, and one half of the net income is "paid to the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church ---to be divided equally between home missions and foreign missions--- The fund for constructive work, not for back debts". In June 1992, a focus statement was adopted, that serves as a basis for decisions: "---to measure such requests and ultimately make recommendations to the Vestry, for disbursement, by the standard of its effectiveness in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ (the mission of the church) through positive actions, leading to improvements or advances (constructive work)---".

The committee is composed of twelve members of the congregation, appointed by the Rector, who serve for terms of three years, and are subject to reappointment. Their goal is to effectively distribute the funds for worthwhile projects, while conforming to the terms of the trust, and the wishes of the grantor. Income is received twice a year and requests for consideration are accepted from members of the congregation, members of the committee, the community at large, and from past recipients. Recommendations are submitted to the Vestry for their approval. They then authorize disbursement, and the action is recorded in their minutes and reported in The Angelus.

Point of contact: John Waller, Chairman

The Treasure Box

The Treasure Box opened on November 18, 1959 and has been in continuous operation ever since. It was moved to its current location in 2000 and continues to provide a vital service to the community by selling good quality merchandise at affordable prices. The profits are then returned to the community in the form of monetary donations to charitable organizations. Our mission is to continue to serve our community.

We accept donations on any business day but preferably in season due to limited storage space. Items we gladly accept: clothing: women's, men's, children's, shoes; household items, linens, glassware, pictures/framed art, decorative objects, "smalls," jewelry, books and magazines. Items we do not accept: large appliances, computers & accessories, furniture, firearms, underwear, prescription glasses, personal hygiene items, cosmetics/bath products (unless unopened), medications.

Join our Family of Volunteers! One of the benefits of volunteering in the Treasure Box is getting to know and working with a great group of gals. You may work as little as one shift per month or as much as once a week; it's easy and fun. Choose to be trained either as a "cashier" or a "marker." Shifts are only 3 hours each: 10-1 am or 1-4 pm every Wednesday and Friday, and 10-1 pm on Saturdays. Call Arden Scott, scheduler, at 304-274-1442 if you would like to join us.

Point of contact: Pam Deberg, Pam McKinley