

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the interior of Christ Church Detroit, looking up at a series of tall, narrow stained glass windows. The windows are filled with colorful depictions of biblical scenes and figures. At the top, there are smaller, circular stained glass windows. The overall atmosphere is one of a grand, historic church interior.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

CHRIST CHURCH  
DETROIT



# RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

*The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey*

It has been a year full of change: some expected, some unexpected, all blessed.

At the beginning of 2019, I was invited to deliver the invocation at a meeting of the Detroit City Council. Quoting and riffing on the Book of Common Prayer, I prayed:

*Almighty God, you have so linked our lives with one another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide the members of this council, their staff, and all with whom they serve in the work they do here in our beloved city of Detroit, that they may work not for the self alone, but for the common good. In their deliberations and decisions, grant them wisdom and courage, that they always may keep in mind the suffering, the unemployed and underemployed, the cold, the hungry, the helpless, and the homeless. May they know that whenever they reach out in love to those who are in pain, you, O Lord, are there; whenever they seek to rectify systems of injustice and inequity, you are there. Grant them grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, echoing the prophets Amos and Martin Luther King, Junior, through their thoughts and actions may justice come to roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever flowing stream. Amen.*

I'll tell you a secret: While praying for and with our elected officials, I also prayed for us here at Christ Church and for all whom God is leading to our doors.

Perhaps those prayers were heard, for this year, we strengthened our outreach and expanded our community engagement, and welcomed many wonderful new members. This year, ministries grew in numbers, capacity, and creativity, and new ministries were (re)born, including Green Team and Video Ministry.





In the summer we grieved the departure of our talented, long-time, and dearly beloved parish administrator Dawn Gordon (Esse), who moved to Florida, and facilities manager Richard "Dick" Rubens, who stepped down to focus on other projects around the city.

And then God blessed us with the arrivals of two gracious and uber-talented women: Beth Ann Tesluk, Associate for Communications, and Sarah Tribelhorn, Associate for Operations. We welcomed long-time groundskeeper and KaClarence Haynes into the role of facilities manager.

In the fall, with the vestry's support, we created and supported a new position, Associate for Education & Community Engagement, and welcomed the vibrant and gifted Calebria Webb into that role.

When the multi-talented and ever-witty Jan Weir mentioned that she'd like to "retire" from her long-time role as volunteer bookkeeper, we welcomed, with the guidance of senior warden and financial whiz Christine Galli, the bright and capable Lurdes Arambula into that role.

As 2019 comes to a close, we as a staff, a vestry, and a congregation are still getting to know one another, even as we're already enjoying the energy, hope, and gifts that everyone brings, and we--I, for sure--thank God mightily for bringing us all together.

As we set foot into 2020, our 175th anniversary year and the second year that I am privileged to be your priest, let us pause together to reflect upon the challenges, changes, joys, and abundant blessings that 2019 has brought.



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In 2019 we celebrated the **baptisms** of Emma Kaye Howard, Alfonso William Gutierrez Basse, Emil Sinclair Landsberg, Sabine Frances Landsberg, Abigail Elena Opalewski, and Ava White.

We celebrated the **confirmations or receptions** of Kevin Maher, Kate Keenan, and Jenn Collard.

We celebrated the **wedding** of Stephen Wilbert & Chelsea Tracy.

We mourned the **deaths** of beloved friends and relatives Johanna Abdullah-Finn, Rollie Norris, Sally Moore, Katherine Albert, Betty Jean Higman, Madge McCaughan, Dorothy Howett, Douglas Esse Sr., Barry Meda, Tish Brown, Nancy vom Steeg, and Marjorie Keils.



# VESTRY

*Christine Galli, Senior Warden*

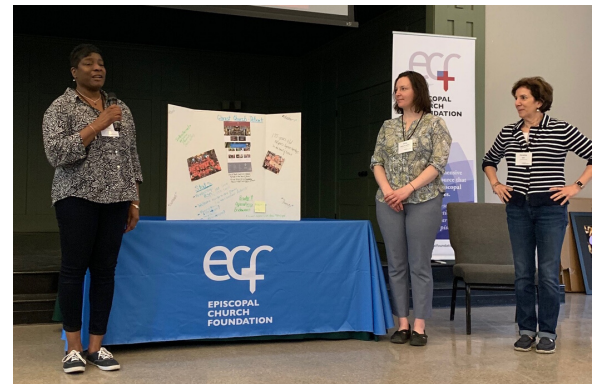
The Vestry meets monthly in Cary Lounge, typically on the fourth Thursday evening of month. All are welcome and invited to the meetings.

Early in 2019, Bishop Gibbs nominated Rev. Emily and CCD for a national program designed to support first-time rectors and lay leaders in their first couple of years together. Applications were accepted selectively based on the potential of the leadership and congregation grow together creatively and strengthen their surrounding communities. We were honored to be awarded a spot! It feels great to be recognized and supported on a national level.

The program began in June with a gathering at Kanuga Retreat Center in North Carolina, and has continued with coaching and webinars. Christine Galli, Lisa Jones, and Rev. Emily are the primary participants in the program, and resources are used by the full Vestry.

When the Vestry gathered in August for a daylong retreat, we shared our stories of how we came to CCD and what keeps us here. We were delighted (although not surprised) that it often is music, hospitality, outreach, education, family, and diversity (to name a few) that brings us and keeps us here. Ours is such a special community. We also took a tour of our facilities, and learned so much about our buildings' needs!

In October 2019 the Vestry coordinated the Ministry Fair, and also provided hospitality for Bishop Wendell Gibbs, Karlah Gibbs, and Bishop-Elect Bonnie Perry when they visited on All Saints' Day (observed), November 3, 2019.





# FINANCE

*Jane Forbes, Chair*

The Finance Committee assists the Vestry in managing the business operations and investments of the parish. Each year, members of the committee review monthly and quarterly financial reports, oversee the investment of the endowment and other funds managed through the Diocese, prepare the annual budget for adoption by the Vestry and assist in the negotiation of leases and contracts. Unlike in recent years, a separate Stewardship Committee conducted the annual pledge drive for 2020, but members of the Finance Committee also served in that group.

The committee also conducts special projects as needed. In 2019, these included:

- Conferring with the Rector regarding the duties and compensation of new staff members (and adapting financial reports to reflect the staff changes);
- Working with members of the Buildings and Grounds Committee to recommend funding for work completed in 2019 and for projects being planned for 2020, including repairs to the tower, installation of a groundwater management system, and repairs to the east and west walls and floors in the sanctuary;
- Preliminary planning for the celebration of the 175th Anniversary of the Church and for the development of a capital campaign;
- Providing input on behalf of the parish in Michigan Department of Transportation planning for rebuilding I-375 and communicating with parishioners about those plans.

As in recent years, Glen Olivache prepared a formal written review of the church's 2018 financial statements. This not only enables us to comply with canonical requirements, but saves the parish several thousand dollars each year. Thank you!

Many thanks to David Faust, Rev. Emily, Christine Galli, Megan Norris, George Port, and Jan Weir for their service on the committee last year.

The committee has an ongoing need for new members, so if you are interested in joining, please notify me or one of the wardens.





# STEWARDSHIP

*Jim Treece, Chair*

The members and friends of Christ Church Detroit amply demonstrated their spirit of generosity during this past year's annual pledge drive. As of January 22, we have received 112 pledges, of which 69 percent were from members who were new pledgers (20) or who increased their pledge over the prior year (56). Another 8 folks who pledged in past years had not yet done so this time, but that software-generated figure includes individuals who have passed on to their reward and need to be removed from our rolls; others of the eight may yet reply, or may just continue giving without a formal pledge.

The total amount pledged rose 24 percent vs. the previous year, to \$373,528. This was a wonderful showing which made it much easier for the Finance Committee and Vestry to prepare a budget for 2020. We had wondered if we were asking too much when we set an ambitious goal of a 25% increase in pledged giving. We should have had faith: "Ask and it shall be given."

There were several reasons for this success. First and foremost, of course, are the new ministries, vitality, and growth that Rev. Emily has brought to the church. Our members clearly feel the Spirit on the move and want to support God's work at Christ Church Detroit.

I want to thank the individuals who spoke about giving, gratitude, and the new ministries that Christ Church Detroit is pursuing: Seth Lloyd, George Port, Betty Warner, Desmond Jones, and of course Rev. Emily. Christine Galli's strong promotion of Ministry Fair helped to start the conversation of "How can I contribute?" I also thank Megan Norris, Jane Forbes, and Jan Weir for their advice and encouragement.

In addition, the congregation appeared to respond to some of the changes this year, including the cadence of the Stewardship drive with an opening letter, spoken remarks by those individuals, Rev. Emily's sermon, the ingathering of pledges on Christ the King Sunday, and the end-of-drive thank you. I was especially grateful to see that there were very few if any objections to our talking explicitly about the need for funds to support the church's ministries. This is a church that has not traditionally spoken openly about money – certainly not to the extent that Jesus did – and so breaking through that reluctance is critical if in the future we are going to explore Stewardship not just as a pledge drive, but as a way of living out our response to God's grace.



Finally, I want to offer a huge THANK YOU to Beth Ann Tesluk. I benefited enormously from her advice and support, drawing on her experience running the Stewardship Committee at her own church for several years to supplement what she and I learned at the diocesan Stewardship Day program in August. Based on my experience, I urge all committee chairs to tap into the incredible resources that our staff can provide.

Heading into 2020, the Stewardship Committee hopes to launch a series devoted to planned giving, particularly as it relates to wills and bequests. If you want to help with that, please contact Beth Ann, Rev. Emily, or me.



# MEMBERSHIP

*Roger Basse, Junior Warden*

I would like to thank the members of our Membership Committee who contributed their efforts to the accomplishments we shared: Genet Barthwell, Mary Basse, Donna Gloff, Josephine Mashour, Margo Norris. Jose Rodriguez, Marilyn Shahly.

**Directory:** The Membership Committee initiated the process of creating a new directory for Christ Church. Special thanks to David Faust and Betty Warner for their efforts in putting it together.

**Church Tours:** The Membership committee saw a need to provide our members and guests with an opportunity to learn more about our beautiful church. On the last Sunday of each calendar quarter a tour of Christ Church was offered. They provided a learning experience to approximately 50 parishioners this past year. We plan to continue to grow our program in the coming year.

**Pentecost Sunday:** On the day of Pentecost this year, the Membership Committee recognized 43 new members to our church. All new members were welcomed by name by the senior warden and presented with a gift bag of Christ Church 'goodies'. Then a special coffee hour was held in honor of them.

**Attendance:** In 2019, average attendance on Sundays was 117, up from 106 in 2018.

**Shepherds Program:** The Membership Committee is bringing new life to the Shepherds program. The purpose of the Shepherd group is to build community and improve communication at Christ Church. The model for this is as follows:

- 15 Shepherds
- 10-12 parishioners will be assigned to each flock.
- Shepherds will reach out to their flock about church events about once per month.
- The current Shepherds are Mary & Roger Basse, Jim Fleming, Deborah Gillespie, Mary Herring, Lauren Leney, Roger Maki-Schramm Josephine Mashour, Jose Rodriguez, Marilyn Shahly, and Betty Warner.
- Not sure who your Shepherd is? Contact Roger Basse.





# OUTREACH

*Seth Lloyd*

The Outreach Committee had another active year in 2019. While the Committee has a significant number of long-time members, we always welcome new members. In fact, 2019 saw the addition of many new, active members, for which we are very grateful.

The principal work of the Committee is to find, adopt, and help staff opportunities to serve our brothers and sisters in the Detroit community. We accomplish these goals through a number of long-term projects:

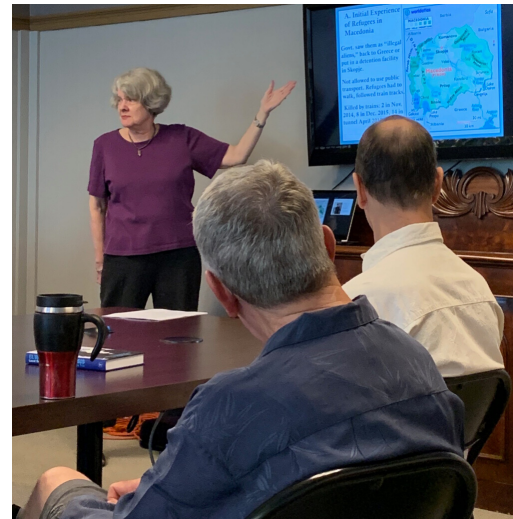
- **Shelter Week**, which has been a wonderful, rewarding project for over 30 years. Through the efforts of over 60 dedicated volunteers, both from the parish and from others who also wish to serve, we house, feed and entertain between 30 and 40 homeless men and women.
- **Gleaners Community Food Bank**, where twice in 2019 a group of between 15 and 20 parishioners worked on Saturday mornings to pack food that is distributed to food pantries and kitchens throughout the metro area.
- The **Soup Kitchen** at Trinity Church (formerly known as Spirit of Hope). For over 40 years we have helped prepare and serve soup to hungry families and individuals. We do this work on the fifth Saturday of months that have five Saturdays.
- **Crossroads**, where we assist in filling its food pantry with food and other important materials brought to church by our parishioners. In addition, we have for several years sponsored our Advent Diaper Drive for Crossroads. This year, we set a goal of contributing 15,000 diapers, a goal that seemed impossible to attain. Not only did we meet the goal, but also, through the generosity of parishioners and friends, we exceeded it by 40%!!
- **Meals on Wheels** is a program in which hot meals are delivered to the elderly and shut-ins on a daily basis. We participate by acting as a depot and providing volunteers on Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. We have served this program for well over 30 years.
- The resettlement of the **Wahoud family** continued through 2019, but our monetary assistance to the family ended in the last quarter of the year. The family is doing well and is adjusting wonderfully to their new home. Through the generosity of parishioners, we sent one of the Wahoud sons to soccer camp at MSU in July.
- **Reading Camp** continued for a week in mid-July. Denise Crenshaw, one of our new members, wonderfully organized the Camp this year. For five days, we hosted between 30 and 40 children from the Franklin Wright Settlements. Well over 50 volunteers staffed the Camp, serving the children by registering them, teaching them, feeding them, reading to them, and singing with them. At week's end, the children were sent home with new books!





The aforementioned are the programs that we have sponsored for years and plan to continue. We have not, however, rested on our laurels. New this year were the following:

- We began to work with the **Pope Francis Center**, located across Jefferson behind Sts. Peter & Paul (SPP) Jesuit Church. This well-run organization feeds and otherwise assists between 100 and 150 homeless men and women six days a week. On six occasions, eight or nine parishioners worked from 6:45 to 11 a.m. assisting these tasks. This is an exceedingly rewarding effort. Currently posted in the Atrium are sign-up sheets for upcoming dates.
- We have begun to meet regularly with the priest and lay leaders of SPP to determine if there are ways in which our two neighboring parishes can work together. Some SPP parishioners assisted with Reading Camp, and we look forward to expanding this relationship.
- The Pope Francis Center hosts **Holy Spokes**, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that provides and refurbishes bicycles to those in need right here in our neighborhood. During cold weather, when it is impossible to do this work at their usual spot on the sidewalk outside of the Pope Francis Center, we have made available Ledyard Hall for this wonderful project.
- We were a sponsor of the Freedom Tour, in which a local organization took a busload of teenagers around the metro area to learn about Detroit's contributions to the civil rights movement.
- Our committee member Frances Trix authored a book that studied several German communities and the approach of each to the task of resettling refugees. Frances gave a great presentation about the results of her study, which has clear lessons for our own country.



We regularly search for new opportunities to demonstrate that our parish is, every day, a "beacon of hope."

**A NOTE OF CAUTION:** We face a major issue as we continue our existing programs and take on new ventures--how do we fund these projects? In the past, we have funded our outreach budget from bequests that were not designated by the donor for particular purposes. The Vestry decided many years ago that 10% of such bequests would go to the Outreach Fund. There have been fewer and fewer bequests in recent years, resulting in the depletion of the fund. While a few years ago the fund totaled \$120,000, its current total is about \$30,000. We will need to wrestle with the question of how we replenish this fund in the absence of sufficient undesignated bequests. One solution, of course, is to focus our attention on planned giving, encouraging parishioners to remember the parish in their wills. There are undoubtedly other solutions as well.

Thanks to all who serve on the Committee and all who volunteer for the various programs!



# READING CAMP

*Denise B. Crenshaw, D. Min.*

The 6th Annual Christ Church Reading Camp took place the week of July 15, 2019, for five days. Some 28-40 campers, ages 5-10, from the Franklin-Wright Settlements attended, with the attendance diminishing by Friday. The goal of the Camp was to excite and encourage the children to enjoy and have fun reading and interacting with their peers.



A total of 49 volunteers, seven of whom were from Sts. Peter & Paul, donated their time as teachers, assistant teachers, music and craft aides, lunch personnel, readers, registration persons, hall monitors, and clean-up crew. Additional CCD persons who led some of the alternative programming were Mary Brown along with Mary Vitolins as Orff music and movement leaders; Lamar Richardson, storyteller; and Katrina Van Maanen, opera music leader. Others who added to the success of the program were guitarist Julie Beutel, art and music instructor Carol Nini, and a musical instrument ensemble. In addition to the classroom reading times every day, of which there were six groups and seventeen teacher and teacher assistants, we went on a field trip to the Outdoor Adventure Center.

Planning started five months before the Camp started. A fundraising effort garnered over \$5,000 towards the Camp expenses. There were also many in-kind donations such as snacks, craft supplies, tickets to the Outdoor Adventure Center, and books that children could choose to take home and keep. Lesson plans and schedules were created and teachers met several times before Camp began. In accordance with diocesan requirements, all volunteers having direct contact with the campers attended a half-day workshop and got certified in Safe Church.

It is recommended that we review our relationship with the Franklin Wright Settlements. Communication was very poor and attendance was erratic and unexplained, perhaps due to another project they were simultaneously executing. While the campers undoubtedly were in need of reading assistance and benefited from the Camp, the association with Franklin Wright provided no benefit to the growth mission of CCD.



It is also recommended that we explore the surrounding area of the Church for Reading Camp attendees next year. There was no participation by the Reading Camp parents, and we believe that parent participation should be a goal of the Camp. The amount of volunteer time and resources was not in proportion to the number of students served. A continued commitment from Sts. Peter & Paul was beneficial and should be continued. The Camp was a success due to the commitment of the 49 volunteers, over 60 donors, and the delightful children who came and participated.





# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Calebria Webb*

We continually seek ways to explore, serve, and strengthen our neighborhood.

Christ Church representatives, including Dick Rubens, Rev. Emily, Loretta Ryder, and Calebria Webb, have attended monthly meetings of the Rivertown Detroit

Association, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization for all who live, work, and play in "The Sliver on the River." Rivertown is bounded roughly by St. Antoine to the west, E Grand Blvd to the east, Larned to the north, and the river to the south.

In December 2019, CCD and Trinity Episcopal Church co-hosted Advent Vespers on three Tuesday evenings during the season. The services were held at Trinity, and not only encouraged but awakened the partnership held historically between CCD and Trinity. Parishioners from both churches were present.

In December 2019, we met with four gentlemen representing the Blessing Box, a box of nonperishable items designed for those in need. This box is similar to the Little Free Libraries, but hosts hygiene products and nonperishable foods instead. Blessing Box has noticed through CCD's social media our commitment to outreach, and seeks to place a box on our campus. This initiative would further strengthen our community outreach as well as interfaith outreach, as the Blessing Box coordinators are all Muslim men. Initial information was obtained and was distributed to the entire Outreach Committee for future discussion.

We regularly make our facilities available to nonprofit organizations. In addition to those mentioned previously, in 2019 CCD hosted:

- Kansas University Alternative Winter Break
- Cass Community Social Services (Shelter Week)
- Girls Rock Detroit
- Mission Possible (Episcopal Diocese of Michigan youth)



Our most regular partner is Opera MODO, a 501(c)c nonprofit organization designed to create performance opportunities for young artists and to set standard repertoire in new and imaginative ways. Opera MODO meets and rehearses at CCD, and its collective includes several of our regular singers. In 2019, Opera MODO presented *The Consul*, *Orpheus in the Underworld*, and *La Gioconda*. Their next production, *Dialogues of the Carmelites*, will take place right here at CCD on February 21 and 22, 2020.



# ALTAR GUILD

*Liza Parkinson and Josephine Powell*

*Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Book of Common Prayer, p. 832

Faithfully, the Altar Guild continues to carry on its ministry of preparing and maintaining the altar, sacred vessels, and vestments for our worship services. Members of the Altar Guild perform a vital and visible ministry for our parish so that we may worship and glorify Christ in our Anglican tradition. We strive to make sure that all our services--whether sacramental for funerals (11 in 2019), interments (7), baptisms (9), and weddings (1), or for the seasons of the church calendar such as Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter--are reverently celebrated in our Anglican tradition.

The Altar Guild works under the leadership and guidance of our wonderful rector, Emily Williams Guffey. This work is far more than a series of tasks; it is a true ministry. We are told that all things must be done "properly and in good order." It is the work of the Altar Guild that makes it possible for our parish to do so.

However, the ministry of the Altar Guild is one done collaboratively within our church. As such we give special thanks to the acolytes, Eucharistic Ministers, our floral iconographer, and the many parish volunteers, new and old, who have assisted us in the preparations for the Sunday, special, and seasonal liturgical worship events.

Serving on the Altar Guild is a spiritual exercise. Caring for the altar is a way to act out our relationship with God. It is quiet, prayerful work. We continue to look for and offer welcome and fellowship to new members. Please consider sharing your talents to the glory of God by working with the Altar Guild.

We give thanks to all of the Altar Guild members for their devoted service: Gwen Ald, Jane Forbes, Terry Lloyd, Roger Maki-Schramm, Carolyn Maher, Josephine Mashour, Lydia Richardson, Alma Simmons, Mary Lou Solomon, Letha Ann Steward, Richard Thomas, and our newest members Roberta Gaspar and Sally Wheeler; a special thanks to Sarah Tribelhorn for her support to the Guild, and to Reid Benbow, who at the encouragement of Richard Thomas, designed this year's Paschal candle.





# FLORAL ICONOGRAPHY

*Richard Thomas*

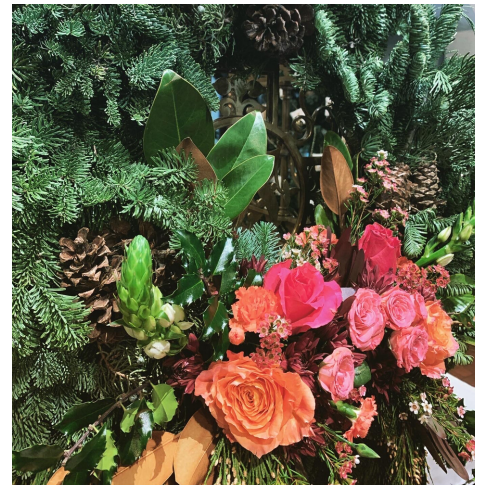


Floral iconography seeks to provide floral art to enhance prayer and worship, and to illuminate understanding of scripture and liturgy with floral material. Just as worship takes place from altar to pew, so has the floral art moved from its traditional places at the High Altar to surprise us overhead, to serve as altar frontal, and to free-standing pieces in the crossing at the foot of the chancel stairs.

This mission ministers in tandem with the Altar Guild and relies heavily on their leadership and support. Our goal in 2020 is to train and establish a schedule of flower arrangers for special occasions and more of the regular worship. We will also look at places to store supplies and equipment as the facility will allow. We have the team spirit already in the tradition of greening for Christmas, where a large ad hoc group comes together to tie up evergreen garlands and set out poinsettias. Last year also saw several people come to put together ferns and leafy green arrangements, flowers in water tubes, and other flowers for Easter.

Now we want to work on training and continuity. We are looking for a minimum of six people to enroll in our fledgling team. Experience and schedules are understandably flexible. Team work will coordinate with the liturgical calendar. Details will be presented in training.

Thank you for the opportunity to enliven the life of the community with this unique form of liturgical art.





# YOUTH ACOLYTE PROGRAM

Cathy Berlage

Christ Church is truly blessed to have so many dedicated young people taking part in our Acolyte Program. They serve our church in several capacities. Crucifer, Gospel Server, Torch Bearer, and Ribbon Bearer are their official titles. Many of them also have served as teacher and/or mentor to our newcomers over the past few years. Acolytes range in age from college students down through our youngest lower elementary school members. Children who fall within this age group are always welcome to participate in this ministry.

The following children are currently participating:

**Crucifer, Gospel Server, and Ribbon Bearer:**

Olivia Benbow, Reid Benbow, Charlie Brandon, Andrew Fleming, Mira Hughes, Elizabeth Maher

**Gospel Server:**

Brenna Ald, Stella Hughes, Mary Wilbert, Ava White

**Torch Bearer:**

Brenna Ald, Stella Hughes, Ava White

**Junior Torch Bearers:**

Owen Guffey, Nico Rodriguez, Liam TenBrink

*These boys are currently participating in Torch Bearer Training.*

*We look forward to their participation in future Family Service Sundays.*



Please join me in thanking these wonderful children for their dedicated service to Christ Church!



# LECTORS & EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

*Jim Fleming*

We urge everyone to consider being a part of this meaningful ministry. It is particularly rewarding to participate directly in our worship services, it places minimal demands on your time (you're here anyway!), and is a great confidence builder as it is an excellent way to get over your fear of public speaking!

We can always use new members as Chip Dischinger was ordained as a deacon in December 2019, and a few members are temporarily sidelined due to health issues.

**Lectors:** Chris Beck, Jocelyn Burrell, Miriam Costandi, Allan Dib, Susan Diehl, David Faust, Tony Franklin, Donna Gloff, Susan Larsen, Seth Lloyd, Clarke Mason, Jon Miller, Pat O'Brien, Sonia Olsen, Bill Peck, David Perez, George Port, Letha Ann Steward, Jim Treece, Kathryn Treece, Frances Trix, Jan Weir, Michelle Wilbert

**Eucharistic Ministers:** Charles Atwater, Chris Beck, Bob Brown, David Coleman, Chip Dischinger, Jim Fleming, Donna Gloff, Guy Jackson, Mary Keatts, Kate Keenan, Lucinda Keils, Susan Larsen, Clarke Mason, Jon Miller, Josephine Powell, Lamar Richardson, Edwina Simpson, Letha Ann Steward, Jim Treece, Kathryn Treece, Michelle Wilbert

## USHERS

*Chris Beck*



The Usher Corps of Christ Church has always consisted of a talented and devoted cross-section of the congregation, and 2019 proved to be no exception. At the 8:15am service where we require only one usher, we had seven ushers who signed up for either one or two months, and all went smoothly.

At the 10:30am service, we use two ushers instead, so that means twenty-four slots to fill. Drawing from a crew of nineteen, a couple of ushers have had to do double-duty, taking two months. Our recruiter extraordinaire, Allan Dib, was able to add some members to our ranks, so that helped. Our goal at the 10:30am service is to have twenty-four ushers, so that all can sign up for a single month of service.

There are lots of reasons why members of Christ Church choose to be ushers, but if I had to boil it down to one, I would say because it is fun. Without a doubt, it's the "funnest" way to participate in the Sunday worship at Christ Church. A casual observer would probably not guess half the things that the 10:30am ushers do every Sunday (and at many special services, too). If you are intrigued, please do not hesitate to talk to one of the ushers (not during the service, though!!!).

Thanks to our 2019 Ushers: Mary Basse, Roger Basse, Chris Beck, Phil Brown, Phil Campbell, Dick Esse, Doug Esse Sr., Kate Keenan, Albert Dib, Allan Dib, Donna Gloff, Steve Hughes, Guy Jackson, Desmond Jones, Sonia Jones, Susan Larsen, Terry Lloyd, Kevin Maher, Jon Miller, George Port, Lamar Richardson, Art Shahly, Marilyn Shahly, Tom Solomon, John Staif, Liam TenBrink, Tom Vermeersch, Patrick Warner, Shirley Worthman.



# MUSIC MINISTRY

*Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm, Director of Music*

Happy anniversary! This is our dodransbicentennial year! (I looked it up!)

When we gather for worship, we are sent out at the end of the service with the dismissal: "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!" We are a sent people, who seek to love and serve God wherever we go and whatever we are doing. We are also pilgrims who go with the expectation of encountering God through music and of being renewed and transformed by that encounter.

As we step into our 175th anniversary year, we are excited to participate in music with a focus on celebrating all those who have come before us, while looking forward with anticipation to all the ways that God has called us to serve our community and future generations.



Our music ministry programs seek to be a sign of Christ's love, mercy, and justice in this world, while nurturing spiritual growth and community among those who participate in it. With the Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, we helped lead the mid-week Lenten series, *Deep River*, which focused on African American spirituals not only as a vehicle for artistic expression, but also as the giver of voice to untold stories in history and our own lives. In addition, the music ministry is committed to offering a wide diversity of music every Sunday. While having and loving our Anglican choral tradition, we are clearly an American church with a wide variety of music coming from many sources. In the sharing of our traditions and music is where we find our strength and church family.

In August, we hosted the Detroit Choral Festival again with lower attendance than in previous years. A new DCF schedule is being designed for 2020 which should help attract a larger audience. As part of the 2019 festival, we hosted the Community Chorus of Detroit in their annual Messiah Community Sing, the Detroit Vocal Ensemble singing a concert of J. S. Bach and Jonathan Dove, and we partnered with Opera MODO in their Aria Competition. Having an opera company under our roof is a major plus for our church and we are so grateful to Opera MODO for their energy and talent in our building.

Christ Church Detroit's music ministry is well known for its broad tradition of music excellence. In the Church Choir, approximately 31 adult singers (12 of whom are staff singers), 11 Handbell Choir members, and 4 choristers (children and youth), with many volunteer soloists and instrumentalists plus the Director of Music provide music for approximately 75 services in the choral year which include weddings and funerals. The Church Choir presented a major sacred choral work with orchestra on Good Friday (Mozart's *Requiem*) and Christmas Eve (Bach Cantata *Wachet Auf*).

Thank you to the members of our Music Ministry!

**Handbell Choir:** Paula Allen, Anna Baseley, Mary Brown, Sean Burpee, Lisa Jones, Roger Maki-Schramm, Dennis Parker, Vickie Rice-Parker, Betty Warner, Sue Webb-Dickson, Jan Weir

### **Parish Choir**

*Sopranos:* Anna Baseley, Ruth Boeder, Mary Brown, Megan Carnevale, Joy Crawford, Elizabeth Medvinsky, Katrina Van Maanen

*Altos:* Wendy Ford, Dana Howley, Sally LePla, Eileen MacDonald, Loretta Ryder, Corinthia Sims, Calebria Webb, Jan Weir, Rhonda Yates

*Tenors:* Jocelyn Burrell, David Faust, Richard Householder, Michael Johnston, James Moore, Jr., Parker Roberts, Jason Thomas

*Basses:* Paul Abdullah, William Hope, Benjamin King Quale, Roger Maki-Schramm, Howard Matthew, William Peck, Scott Venman, Greg Williams

In this anniversary year, may we be so emboldened by the examples of those who came before us that we strive to inspire new standards and visions for those who will come after us.

"Thanks be to God! Alleluia! Alleluia!"



## **YOUTH CHOIR**

*Katrina Van Maanen, Director*

Christ Church is blessed with dedicated youth who enhance our worship each week. Our Youth Choir is yet another way the young people of the parish can



actively participate in services. During the 2019 calendar year, the youth sang during three 10:30am services: once on Easter Sunday accompanied by the organ and handbells, once on Pentecost alongside the Parish Choir, and once during the busy Advent season,

The Youth Choir is open to all young people ages 8-18. It currently is four members strong: Olivia Benbow, Mira Hughes, Stella Hughes, and Owen Guffey. Rehearsals take place each Sunday from 9:15-9:30am in the sanctuary in coordination with the Sunday School schedule.

We are looking forward to the very special opportunity to collaborate with other youth in the area at the consecration of our next bishop, the Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, on February 8, 2020.

Not only are we enriched by listening to the Youth Choir, they are likewise inspired and encouraged by the congregation's support after each performance. Creating a love of Anglican choral traditions in the young voices of our parish is key to keeping our rich musical traditions alive.



# CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

*Anne Hughes and Calebria Webb*

Christ Church Detroit has 15 students that regularly attend the Christian Education Program on Sunday mornings from 1st grade through 12th grade. We have a staff of six dedicated volunteers that teach the children every week before church starting at 9:30am in the lower level of the church.

In October 2019, we joyously welcomed Calebria Webb as our Associate for Education and Community Engagement, a position that had been vacant for several years, was reimagined by our rector, and supported by our vestry and congregation. For Sunday School, Calebria has begun to assist with the weekly newsletter and other communications, provide lessons and materials, coordinate Family Services and other events, and manage general program operations.

Our Christian Education Team of volunteers includes Lauren Leney, who began and maintains the weekly newsletter; Anne Hughes, who manages daily operations and teacher support; and Kevin Maher, who throughout 2019 coordinated the Family Services.

We have a Worship Center that serves ages 3-6, led by Anne Hughes and assisted by Megan Fleming; a Rite 13 class, led by Lauren Leney and Kevin Maher; and a Journey to Adulthood (J2A) class, led by Matthew Moore and Megan Norris. In the fall of 2019, we were excited to add a fourth class especially for 2nd-3rd graders, led by Lamar Richardson.

The Sunday School students' classroom learning is supplemented by many additional events and gatherings. These include the Sunday School Start-Up Celebration Picnic in September, the Blessing of the Animals in October, the Halloween Celebration in October, Advent by Candlelight, the Christmas Pageant, the Winter Bowling Party, the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper hosted by the J2A, the Palm Sunday procession with palm crosses made by the Sunday School youth, and the Easter celebration with the Lily Cross and popular egg hunt. In May 2019, our J2A students hosted a *Hafli* Syrian dinner dance, and it was fabulous! All of these special traditions strengthen and enrich the lives of our members young and old.







In addition to these traditions, we also hold Family Services, where our Sunday School students lead the worship as readers, ushers, oblation bearers, and greeters, developing their skills, confidence, and faith. A very important component of the youth experience at Christ Church is the acolyte program, directed by Cathy Berlage. Children learn by doing, and are an important part of our weekly service.

Thanks to support from our vestry and in wholehearted desire to welcome all new families, our nursery is now open every Sunday of the year, staffed by trained supervisors. The nursery provides play time, snacks, and games for infants to age 8.

A very special thank you to all of our teachers, who give of their love, effort, and time, which are the greatest gifts to our youth and to the future of our church; they make the Christ Church Christian Education Program a reality. Many thanks to all of our supportive parents, who have stepped up each year to shoulder more responsibilities to maintain our traditions. We give heartfelt thanks to CCD parishioners and their contributions to our program, and to Rev. Emily for her support of our youth and her faith in us and in our vibrant program. Finally, we are deeply thankful for the incredible financial support our congregants have given to our J2A Pilgrimage.

We invite you, dear CCD member, to visit us in the Sunday School, to volunteer in the program, and to pray for us, as we do the important work of raising our children in the Christian faith. The livelihood of Christ Church Detroit depends on the vitality of our Sunday School program.





# ADULT BIBLE STUDY

*Barbara Cushing*

Adult Bible classes have a lengthy tradition at Christ Church Detroit, having been led for many years by Erv Brown while he served as rector. Our current class formed in 2002 under then-rector Phil Jackson and Ralph Cushing. Since that time, many of the books of the Old and New Testaments have been read, and reread, aloud in class. We meet at 9:30am on Sunday mornings. With the aid of capable biblical commentators, we explore different aspects of the texts: the author's possible sources, how a book might compare to other writings, and what ideas the author attempts to develop. In recent years, under the guidance of Barbara Cushing, the books chosen for each year's study have seemed to flow logically from the prior year's readings. Last year we read the New Testament epistles of the Apostle Paul and the stories of his missionary journeys as told in the Book of Acts.

For 2019-2020 our reading centers on the Covenant between God and the people of Israel as it was understood by different authors over several hundred years. From September to the end of Pentecost season we read the stories of Moses--infancy, experience of God at the burning bush, freeing the Israelites from Egyptian slavery, wilderness wanderings, receiving the Ten Commandments, and building a tabernacle in the wilderness--as they were told in the Book of Exodus. The second of the five books of the Pentateuch, or Torah, these accounts originate mainly from old epic oral sources, most likely committed to writing in the form we know them during the 8th century BCE.

During Advent through Palm Sunday we are reading the fifth book of the Torah, the Book of Deuteronomy, or "second law." Composed most likely in the 7th century BCE, the "voice" is that of the "Deuteronomist" during King Josiah's reforms of the Jerusalem temple. In this writing, the aspects of the Covenant and the concept of God's blessings and curses are more thoroughly defined.

During the Great 50 days following Easter, until we conclude in June, we will read one of the "Second-temple writings," the Wisdom of Solomon. The work of an unknown author about the middle of the 1st century CE--therefore contemporary with the epistles of Paul--the book addresses a late Jewish understanding of "the Divine Wisdom or Justice of the Exodus." In Protestant versions, this book is found in a section called the Apocrypha; in Roman Catholic Bibles it is placed in the Old Testament.

To enjoy this class, being "knowledgeable" about the Bible is not necessary! Regular, intermittent, or seldom attendees are welcomed. Each Sunday morning we read the appointed text in class, look at modern commentary to help us get to the root of its meaning, and all learn together. Nahum Sarna, a wise Jewish biblical commentator offered this advice: "...it must always be remembered that the biblical narrative is a theological exposition -- a document of faith, not a historiographical record."



# ADULT EDUCATION

Emily Williams Guffey

In addition to Adult Bible Study, we enjoyed several short courses throughout the year. On Sunday mornings during Lent, the rector led a study of Dr. Christena Cleveland's book *Disunity in Christ: Uncovering the Hidden Forces that Keep Us Apart*, which prompted discussion of our national condition as well as relationships among denominations, faiths, races, ethnicities, and social classes. How are we to live as Christians in these days, and what is specific about Christian communication and behavior?

Also during Lent, we gathered on Wednesday evenings for a series called *Deep River*, which focused on African American spirituals. Each evening, guests from the community sang spirituals and spoke about them. Some evenings, we also broke out into small groups and shared our own stories. Our guest singers/speakers included Ms. Calebria Webb, Ms. Chantel Woodard, Mr. Stacey V. Gibbs, Mr. Greg Williams, the Rev. Anthony Estes, and Ms. Danielle Wright. Many thanks to all of our guests, and to all who came to listen, share, and pray. Attendance ranged from about 40-50 each night, and another version of the series will be presented during Lent 2020.



On Sunday mornings during September and October, the rector led "Episcopal 101", an introductory or refresher course about the Anglican tradition, for all who were curious. It also served as preparation for baptism, confirmation, or reception into The Episcopal Church at Bishop Gibbs' final visit on November 3rd. On that day, participants Jenn Collard, Kate Keenan, and Kevin Maher were confirmed/received, and Ava White was baptized.



On Sunday mornings during November, Seth Lloyd, Roger Basse, and Miriam Costandi facilitated a course about the history of Christ Church Detroit, beginning with our origins here along the Detroit riverfront, continuing through the multi-generational involvement of Syrian-Americans, and to the growth of several daughter (and now even "granddaughter") churches, including Christ Church Grosse Pointe.





# PASTORAL CARE

*Kathryn Treece*

**Lay Eucharistic Visitors:** In teams of two, Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) regularly take communion to 7-10 parishioners who are not able to attend church. In 2019, steady coordination with the Altar Guild has smoothed out our system, and support from both Rev. Emily and the office have increased the visibility of the LEVs in our parish. We met three times in 2019 to check in and discuss pastoral care issues.

Many thanks to our dedicated group of Eucharistic Visitors: Alesia Bicknell, Jocelyn Burrell, Chip Dischinger, Jim Fleming, Karen Fleming, Donna Gloff, Lisa Jones, Lucinda Keils, Teresa Lloyd, Jon Miller, Marilyn Shahly, Kathryn Treece, and Sue Webb-Dickson.

**Elder Interviews:** Previously, we had captured on video some of the stories and history that five CCD elders told us. At one of our LEV meetings this year, we enjoyed watching sections of the videos, and hope to share them with others in the future. Thank you to Dawn Gordon and Beth Ann Tesluk for their technological assistance on this project.

**Prayer Requests:** The office continues to receive, coordinate, and keep track of prayer requests, both for the Prayers of the People on Sunday, and for the Sustaining List of persons with long-term needs. In addition, the Prayer Box at the atrium entrance is available for private, written intentions which the meditation group then prays for at their Thursday gathering. Thank you to Jo Mashour, Marilyn Shahly, and Kathryn Treece, plus the office staff, for updating prayer lists, and to the congregation for praying for the needs of our members, friends, and loved ones.

**Healing Prayer:** Through the year, on the second Sunday of the month, there is an opportunity for prayer to be offered for individual concerns and circumstances after the 8:15am service and during communion at the 10:30am service. Our core group of pray-ers consists of Chip Dischinger, Karen Fleming, and Kathryn Treece, with a few others helping on occasion.

**Prayer Shawls and Lap Robes:** Thank you to Karen Fleming, Marilyn Shahly, and Lisa Staif for tending our Prayer Shawl and Lap Robe Ministry, which provides warm and tangible love to those in need of comfort. Special thanks to all those who have contributed yarn, and to those who faithfully knit and crochet squares. The group welcomes others to join so that this beautiful ministry can remain active and vibrant.



# CENTERING PRAYER

*Kathryn Treece*

The Centering Prayer group continued to meet through the year, Thursdays at 11 am, in Cary Lounge. The hour-long gathering includes 20 minutes of silence, intercessory prayer, a brief reading, and informal sharing. We pray for any special requests which are put into the prayer box at church or that the office receives. Anyone is welcome to join us at any time, and if you are new to meditation, simple instructions are provided.



In 2019, we had more visitors than usual who wanted to try out this ancient form of meditation, and some of those are now attending regularly. We may be a small group, but our soulful, communal, and church roots grow deep.

# BREAKFAST MINISTRY

*Phil Brown*

We continue to serve breakfast at Christ Church almost every Sunday from September to June. The cooks arrive around 7:30 a.m. and prepare a breakfast fare of scrambled eggs, sausage, and biscuits, in addition to each team's specialties. The breakfast ministry is a warm welcome to church members and visitors as it offers an opportunity for parish members to greet and visit with one another. The program usually breaks even financially as a result of the contribution that is requested.

We thank the volunteer members of the Cook Team Ministry as well as our "cook alums" that are no longer able to join us. We are especially appreciative of all their hard work to make our program work. A special thanks to our shopper, Letha Ann Steward.



We always welcome any and all interested parishioners to join us. Many hands make light work!

**Team 1:** Bob Brown, Susan Larsen, Greg Muliatt, Edwina Simpson, Jim Treece

**Team 2:** Phil Brown, Marie Furcron, Guy Jackson, Aretha Marshall, Lisa Staif

**Team 3:** Gary MacDonald, Lamar Richardson, Letha Ann Steward, Betty Warner, Patrick Warner

**Team 4:** Wendy Ford, Lisa Jones, Clarke Mason, Ryan Tyler, Stephanie Wren



# COFFEE HOUR

*Kathryn Treece, Coordinator*

Throughout the year, Coffee Hour (CH) after the 10:30am service is popular and attendance is high. It underscores the fact that this social time is an important part of our Sunday morning ritual, not only for regular parishioners, but also for visitors and potential members. Here are my comments and observations from 2019:



- First, and most important, a huge thank you to every one of you who signed up to host CH this past year or help in any way, from bringing delicious food to tidying the coffee table, from washing dishes to laundering tablecloths, and much more.
- Donna Gloff, Josephine Powell, and I created a new brochure to help explain the details of hosting CH. The brochure has proved very useful, especially in involving new people. Check it out: You, too, can host!
- Since late April, there's been amazing progress on our "green footprint". We use real cups for CH, paper plates (not Styrofoam), fewer plastic utensils or plastic tablecloths, and we recycle as much as possible. The Breakfast Teams are also totally on board with this initiative. Thank you, Green Team! One concern, however, is that we need more people who are willing to remove the collected recyclable items since this is not part of any janitorial duty. Your awareness of the issue, and even taking home a few things yourself to recycle in your community, would help a lot.
- Coffee Hour is not only about bringing food. We would like to build a group of people who can offer small amounts of time in a variety of ways for CH:
  - Do you enjoy "being in the know" about church events and like to schedule?
  - Do you like to create orderly spaces?
  - Do you have ideas to make CH more environmentally friendly?
  - Do you enjoy small decorating projects?
  - Would you like to have a simple task during social times?
  - Does co-hosting CH with a friend or two appeal?If any of these tug at you, let's talk!



Coffee Hour deserves our attention and nurture in order to run smoothly from week to week, plus it's a great way to get to know others and contribute to our community together. I welcome your thoughts, feedback, and participation on anything related to hospitality after worship.



# COMMUNITY BUILDING

Throughout 2019, a variety of groups, events, and programs strengthened the ties within our church and also connected us to new friends in the area. Many volunteers contributed to the following activities and initiatives, listed here with their coordinators (apologies to those we have undoubtedly missed):

- **Birthday Cards:** Josephine Mashour
- **Fishing the River:** Phil Brown
- **Father's Day Fish Fry:** Phil Brown
- **Annual Summer Picnic:** Josephine Mashour and her many helpers
- **Detroit Choral Festival:** Ed Maki-Schramm
- **Evensong Tea:** Betty Warner
- **Blessing of the Animals:** Claire Brown
- **Bishop Gibbs' Farewell Reception:** Genet Barthwell, Kevin Flood, Josephine Powell
- **Advent by Candlelight:** Cathy Berlage, Liza Parkinson, Betty Warner
- **Reception for Erv & Tish Brown's Family:** Josephine Mashour, Kevin Flood, Donna Gloff, Josephine Powell
- **Tours of CCD:** Roger Basse, Donna Gloff





# COMMUNICATIONS AND MEDIA

*Beth Ann Tesluk, Associate for Communications*

## Summary

The role of Associate for Communications was created in the summer of 2019, as part of the change in staffing model implemented with the departure of long-time Parish Administrator, Dawn Gordon (Esse). The focus these past few months has been primarily on digital communications and event support, with plans this coming year to expand overall presence as we celebrate the church's 175th Anniversary.

Accomplishments for 2019 include:

- Addition of sermons, musical highlights, and occasional forums to the existing YouTube channel. This allows parishioners to access sermons remotely, and gives inquirers a view into the life of the church.
- Introduction of mobile-friendly templates for both the general and Sunday School newsletters.
- Addition of email subscription functionality to the website.
- Promotion of online giving, including #GivingTuesday to support Music & Flowers.
- Regular updates to the website, specifically focusing on event promotion.
- Introduction of online ticket sales for Apollo5 concert slated for March 1, 2020.
- Increased use of single-topic, call-to-action emails. These "nudges" helped drive volunteer involvement in the Marathon Weekend Evensong Tea, donations to the Advent Diaper Drive, and recruitment efforts for repacking the diapers once collected.
- Introduction of Pledge Statement inserts, which can be used in a variety of ways and as an additional communication touchpoint for the Rector.
- Increased advertising to support general awareness as well as special events.

## Advertising Initiatives

**Print:** We continue to advertise in hyper-local publications, including Detroit River Living and the Detroit Monitor. These efforts are focused on increasing awareness of Christ Church, and in some cases specific occasions, e.g., Blessing of the Animals or Christmas Eve services.

**Radio:** We ran weekday spots on WRCJ (Classical 90.9) for the week leading up to Christmas Eve, with a special emphasis on the Bach cantata. Music programming provides an easy entry point for people who may be looking for a church home, and we will continue to advertise special programming through the year.





## Communications Vehicles

**Emails:** We currently support two weekly email newsletters: General (Donna Gloff, Beth Ann Tesluk, and Rev. Emily) and Sunday School (Lauren Leney and Calebria Webb). Overall subscriber database is 399, which is broken into three primary segments: General, Sunday School, and Women of the Church (to promote Advent by Candlelight and Women's Spring Brunch). Open rates remain quite high: 2019 Sunday School average was 45.47%; General was 52.38% compared to 20.9% average for non-profits as an industry and 26.51% for religious institutions.

**Website:** We continue to build upon the foundation previously established by Kathryn Treece. Google Analytics tracking was implemented in September of 2019. This will allow us to better understand how the website is used and inform decisions about future enhancements.

**Social Media:** **Instagram** is our strongest social media vehicle. Started by Carl Pfadt in 2016 and building on his and fellow contributor Ed Maki-Schramm's great skills, it is managed largely now by Rev. Emily, who loves photography and uses the account to share her unique perspective of Christ Church and communicate with our neighbors. In 2019, our number of followers grew from 80 to 380, and the Instagram feed is the most visited page on the website. **Facebook** usage has remained fairly constant, although we see spikes when the week's sermon is posted on YouTube. This is also an economical way for us to promote events. New this year was participation in the #AdventWord campaign originated by the Virginia Theological Seminary.

**YouTube:** Perhaps our most significant growth this year has been the addition of Video Ministry, which began in the summer of 2019. Initiated by David Coleman, currently he, Desmond Jones, and Karen Frade serve as videographers, capturing the sermon and anthems each week. They are then published to YouTube, making them available to those who could not join us in person. In order to begin this effort, the vestry approved the purchase of a 4K video camera and tripod. While the goal is to eventually stream entire services live, that step will require a large investment in equipment and internet service that provides faster speeds. We encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel, and share these videos to your networks!

**Microphones:** In fall 2019, we initiated research into the condition of the sanctuary microphone and sound system and presented the findings to the vestry, who enthusiastically approved both immediate steps and further research. Look forward to improvements in 2020!

Many thanks to those who contribute to our success in telling our story:

David Coleman, Karen Frade, Donna Gloff, Anne Hughes, Desmond Jones, Lauren Leney, Ed Maki-Schramm, Liza Parkinson, Richard Thomas, Calebria Webb, and of course Rev. Emily!



# GREEN TEAM

*Jim Treece and Mary Herring, Co-Chairs*

The Green Team relaunched on Sunday, April 28, 2019. Since then, it has sought to enhance our church's awareness of Creation Care. Perhaps our greatest accomplishments were increasing our recycling, and getting rid of Styrofoam cups in favor of real cups and mugs during Coffee Hour and other events.

We now recycle paper, glass, metal, egg and milk cartons, juice jugs, and cardboard. Sue Webb-Dickson takes clean plastic shopping bags to HELM in Grosse Pointe Farms, which “weaves” them into mats for the homeless. Liza Parkinson found a way for the Altar Guild to recycle candle stubs. Every Green Team meeting has included an exchange of ideas and information as to where we can recycle what. Education is a big part of what we do – hence the occasional “Tip O’ the Week” feature in CCD’s e-newsletter – and we all continue to learn more about how to be better stewards of the earth that God has given us.

Switching to real dishes instead of using disposable cups hasn’t always been easy. The nadir came when the dishwasher broke down the night of the *Hafli*, and the main sinks were plugged up and unusable. Poor Liza Parkinson was left washing dishes in the dinky sink beside the dishwasher. Never again, we pray!

Despite the problems, it’s great to not see Styrofoam cups in the trash cans. The congregation and our Hospitality Committees have been very supportive. In fact, the main objection to using real cups came from a Green Team stalwart who noted – correctly – that the dishwasher relies heavily on chemicals, and questioned how much we want to be adding those chemicals to our waste water. It’s a valid point. We look forward to redoing our kitchen and installing a more efficient dishwasher. Overall, the bumps in the road were about what we expected.

Special events:

- On May 23, we took part in the Blessing of the Fields at Jon Miller’s farm, giving thanks to God and the gift of the earth which gives us food.
- On Aug. 21, we hosted a gathering of the Houses of Worship sub-committee of Detroit 2030, which addresses buildings’ environmental impact. We heard from a representative of the National Wildlife Federation about their efforts to partner with faith-based groups in creating native habitats for birds and other creatures.
- On Sept. 8, Patrick Warner, chair of the Buildings & Grounds Committee, led us through the church’s plans to reduce storm-water runoff. We were impressed by the complexity of the task and the thoroughness with which Warner and the B&G Committee have tackled it.



Other actions: We meet with representatives of Sts. Peter and Paul and the Isaac Agree Synagogue to compare notes. We’re looking into using sustainably grown palms for Palm Sunday. And we’ve discussed championing a “Carpool to Church” Day, since our commuting to worship is the largest part of Christ Church’s carbon footprint. Stay tuned.

# BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

*Patrick Warner, Chair*

Members of the committee were as follows: Patrick Warner (Chairman), Desmond Jones (Vestry Rep.), Terry Lloyd, Ed Gaspar, Josephine Powell, Roger Maki-Schramm, David Coleman, KaClarence Haynes.

This committee meets each month (second Sunday) after the 10:30am service. At these meetings, smaller projects are reviewed and responsibilities assigned to committee members through completion of the project. The committee also plans bigger projects depending on urgency and priority. During the 2019 we performed and/or oversaw the following major actions.

## **Received the following grants:**

*Storm Water project:* \$35,000 from the City of Detroit,  
\$15,000 from the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
*Asbestos Abatement from sanctuary crawl space:*  
\$5,000 from the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan  
BDS Environmental completed this task during 3rd Quarter.

## **Identified potential grant opportunities:**

Mustard Seed Foundation, Falls Church, VA  
Episcopal Church Building Fund, Chicago, IL

## **Major Repairs**

- Numerous boiler repairs to improve heat flow efficiency in sanctuary and prevent detrimental water leaks
- New lighting fixtures and LED bulbs installed on church exterior to enhance property and promote safety
- Cary Lounge: Installed side bar to enrich room functionality
- Completed repairs to elevator by installing new motherboard
- New flooring installed in the sacristy and in the restrooms in the atrium, lower level, and in Sibley House. In addition, the Sibley House office hallway was painted.
- Negotiated with RAM Construction to start Bell Tower “Stage 1” repairs (point & tuck) in April 2020
- Began negotiating with Quinn Evans to determine repair costs for sagging floors along the east and west walls in the sanctuary. Additional floor repairs are warranted in the vesting sacristy and along sanctuary pews that have been roped off for safety.
- Camera security system: Market-tested several vendors in order to improve overall security coverage internally and externally on our campus.













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