

A vibrant stained glass window featuring a large, stylized flower in shades of green, blue, and pink. Sunlight filters through the glass, casting colorful patterns of red, orange, and green onto a dark wooden surface in the foreground.

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CHRIST CHURCH
DETROIT

VESTRY REFLECTIONS

Ruth Boeder and Mary Brown, Wardens

The Body of Christ in Movement

The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

Psalm 121:8

Like any other body, the body of Christ is dynamic. It lives, breathes, and moves. We have come to appreciate that in a new way as wardens this year, as there have been a number of comings and goings.



Among the goings, the Vestry (governing council) went on retreat twice this year. In April, we visited Emrich Retreat Center in Brighton for an overnight stay; in October, we held a one-day retreat on site at Christ Church Detroit. During both events, we were able to connect with each other, forming and strengthening our relationships. In our sessions, we discussed the spiritual gifts we hold as individuals and a group and how to honor those gifts by using them in the work we are called to. We also explored the history of our parish and its physical structures and pondered the future of Christ Church and how our work gives life to our faith. This time together was a great blessing for us!

We also had several staff departures during the second half of the year. Christ Church has been greatly blessed by the work and care given by KaClarence Haynes, Danielle Wright, Dahlia Medvinsky, and Beth Ann Tesluk. During this transitional period, various members of the vestry and the wider parish stepped into new or additional service to assist with the day-to-day work of running the church. We are grateful to everyone for sharing the gifts of your time and talents in this hour of need!

New things are coming to life among us, too. Our new Sunday School curriculum, Godly Play, will be a blessing to our youngest members--and it's also been lots of fun for us "older" folks to experience it in Rev. Emily's sermons occasionally! The Outreach Committee has ideas for new ministries to meet needs in our community. Our new Bag Lunch Program is already having an impact on food insecurity, and we anticipate it growing in 2024. Of course, in the near future we'll also start to see long-held dreams come to fruition as Ledyard Hall receives long-deferred maintenance and updates. And in the meanwhile, a newly-formed Safety Committee has been working to improve our structures and systems, to better preserve life and health in both small and big emergencies. Another new group is the Beacon Legacy Circle, which recognizes those who have planned a gift to Christ Church Detroit in their estate--contact the office if you've planned such a gift and would like to join! From the beginning to the end, from the foundation to the roof, the life-giving Spirit moves among us.

Of course, that Spirit has been moving here for nearly two centuries. Christ Church's history tells a story of expansion, acceptance, and welcome, celebrating the uniqueness of God's creation in each of us. As an affirming parish, we've been seeking ways to better engage the LGBTQIA+ community. In June 2023, we were on Hart Plaza for Motor City Pride, a unique opportunity to share a story of love that overcomes hate. We were also proud that the vestry passed a resolution in October declaring that we would fly the Progress Pride flag along with the American and Episcopal Church flags, marking our public support of the queer community in Detroit in a new way for the traffic coming and going along Jefferson Avenue.

An old hymn prays: "God be in my head, and in my understanding; God be in mine eyes, and in my looking; God be in my mouth, and in my speaking; God be in my heart, and in my thinking; God be at mine end, and at my departing." As one vestry year ends and another begins, may the body of Christ in this place continue to walk the path laid before it with understanding heads, observant eyes, truthful mouths, and hearts filled with God's love.

Abundant thanks to the 2023 Vestry for your faithful and joyful service:

- *Class of 2024:* Ruth Boeder (*Senior Warden*), John Leney, Anthony Mitchell, Josephine Powell
- *Class of 2025:* Claire Brown, David Jackson, Caroline Widak, Stephanie Wren
- *Class of 2026:* Paul Abdullah (*Assistant Treasurer*), Mary Brown (*Junior Warden*), Mary Herring (*Secretary*), Hope Hoffman



RECTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

2023 has been hard and hopeful. It has been marked by loss and also by growth. It has, as the beloved prayer puts it, set “us at tasks that demand our best efforts,” and has led us indeed to some “accomplishments which satisfy and delight us,” many of which you’ll read in these pages. We have rejoiced in the blessing of dear family and friends - of one another - and the “loving care which surrounds us on every side.” We have persevered in the purpose to which God calls us every day: to love and serve our neighbor, to seek justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly. We have also felt “disappointments and failures that,” we pray, “lead us to acknowledge our dependence upon God alone.”

I am inspired daily by the faith of this church, for the forbearance so consistently afforded, for the wonder and joy in true beauty, for the pursuit of the kingdom ever near, for the trust in the communion of saints; for the offering of myriad skills and interests, for the emergence of new ministries, for the renewal of relationships, for the practice and art of leadership.

Thank you, simply, for the opportunity to be among you.



No Christian is solitary; no follower of Christ could ever be or work alone. I wish to recognize some of our faithful members with whom I have the honor of working most closely.

I am filled with gratitude for each of our Vestry and committee members, many of whom are included in these pages. Your faith, fortitude, and good cheer are truly exceptional.

A few who are not otherwise named as such are our 2023 diocesan delegates--Ruth Boeder, Anthony Mitchell, and Jim Treece-- who collaborated among our diocesan neighbors, initiated the formation of a diocesan climate change task force, and participated actively in the 189th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan in October.

Sandy Zull continued as our Seminarian through Spring 2023, when her faithful discernment led her to desire to stay at Christ Church Detroit as a lay pastoral assistant! I am inspired by Sandy’s faithfulness, wisdom, and dedication, which we witness in her beautiful preaching, pastoral care, and teaching.

I am grateful for the Rev. Dr. David D. Dieter, for his pastoral brilliance and dear friendship, and for the Rev. Aaron Zull for assisting beautifully on occasion. Special thanks also to Jon Miller and Anthony Mitchell for officiating Morning Prayer from time to time.

Ed Maki-Schramm, Director of Music; Katrina Van Maanen, Youth Choir Director; Beth Ann Tesluk, Associate for Communications; Randy Gilchrist, Associate for Operations; Ashley Poulin, Event Host, offer their incredible gifts and strengths. I am so grateful for the skill, dedication, and camaraderie of each member of the staff, and for the honor to work alongside them.

Three members of the staff left over the summer: KaClarence Haynes, Facilities Manager; Danielle Wright, Associate for Education & Development; and Dahlia Medvinsky, Children's Assistant. We are so grateful for their many contributions to Christ Church and miss them!

As the prayer names so aptly, let us pray in reflection of the year past and the year ahead:

*Grant us the gift of your Spirit,
that we may know him and make him known;
and through him,
at all times and in all places,
may give thanks to you in all things.
Amen.*

The General Thanksgiving,
Book of Common Prayer, p. 836



WORSHIP

The Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

2023 saw continued growth in our liturgical practices, as we find “normal” rhythms post-pandemic.

We continue to offer communion expansively, providing consecrated wine by both chalice and a separate intinction chalice, and at the 10:30 a.m. service, consecrated grape juice (in individual cups) as well. Through our Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) and assisting clergy, we host communion stations both at the high altar and at the floor level, so that steps are not required. I am very grateful to our LEMs and sacristans, many of whom serve very regularly--monthly if not weekly--for making God's table physically accessible in these important ways.

I am also very grateful for our Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEVs) who bring communion and encouragement to members and friends who are unable to attend church in-person. On hiatus since the onset of the pandemic, the LEV ministry resumed in 2023, welcoming into its fold those who simply wish to visit and connect, not necessarily provide communion. Special thanks to Mary Brown, junior warden for pastoral care; Sandy Zull, pastoral assistant; and Kathryn Treece, long-time LEV coordinator, for their collaboration and perseverance to rejuvenate this critical ministry.



I am in awe of and incredibly honored to serve alongside each of our marvelous liturgical ministers--our Lectors, LEMs, LEVs, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Live Stream Team, ushers, acolytes, musicians, Vestry representatives, administrative staff, communications members, facilities staff--and so many more, who inspire me daily with your creativity and faith. Liturgy is the work of the Body of Christ, by the Body of Christ: the gifts, actions, and memories of God, for the People of God.

I truly can't help but quote Richard Thomas, liturgical and floral genius extraordinaire, who wrote in January 2024 about our worship life together:

*To create beauty in a perfect chord,
a note sung purely and strong,
a well placed bloom,
a purse of sacrifice given gladly,
a penitent truth,
an ancient reading,
an edifying insight,
a burnished rail,
an untarnished chalice,
a welcoming smile,
sounds of children,
a focused lens,
and so much more
all together become
a gift and prayer
which make an organic tapestry
of worship worth offering.*

*When those moments of service synchronize
into a weekly pulse, it creates something rare
and elevated and magnetic.
There are golden years and we are fortunate
when we see them.
Strengthen us for service
and let this joyful light keep shining.*



In 2023, we celebrated the **baptisms** of Rowan Collard (April 23), Clement Andreovich (April 30), and Jennifer, Keira, Olive, Cedric, and Juniper Inchiostro (May 21).

We celebrated the **wedding** of Jim O'Brien & Carole Backman on May 13th.

We mourned the **deaths** of beloved friends and relatives, including Salma Dib (January 28), Art Shahly (February 2), George Pamerleau (May 13), Marie Abdalla (July 27), Gayle Ash (October 30), Yvonne Rodgers (November 21), Christine Rogers (November 28), Elsie Peck (December 12), and we remembered and celebrated their beautiful lives at funerals and memorial services.



PRAYER

And now, in the words our Savior Christ has taught us, we are

أبانا الذي في السماوات ليتقدس اسمك
ليأتي ملكوتك كما في السماء
الأرض
اعطنا خبزنا كفاف يومنا، وأغفر لنا خطايانا
نغفر لكل من أخطأ إلينا،
ولا تدخلنا في التجارب لكن نجنا من الشرير
لأن لك الملك والقوة والمجد إلى الأبد. آمين.
Padre nuestro que es
santificado sea tu No
hágase tu voluntad, t
cielo. Danos hoy nue
Perdona nuestras ofe
nosotros perdonamo
ofenden. No nos dej
libranos del mal. Por
tuyo es el poder, y tu
por siempre. Amén.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever

BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The priest breaks the consecrated bread. A period of silence is kept.

Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

MUSIC MINISTRY

Dr. Edward Maki-Schramm, Director of Music

2023 was a year of some great celebrations. This year marked my seventh year as your music director. I feel very blessed to be at Christ Church and my goal is always to make everyone feel that same way.



We celebrated Richard Householder, Sally LePla, and James Moore on the occasion of their 50 years singing in the choir. Hearty congratulations to these faithful singers! We celebrated this achievement in September with a choir reunion and organ concert, where I presented repertoire rarely heard in service, with the help of Mary Brown as narrator on one of the pieces.

I also want to highlight and celebrate the Bell Choir. The Bell Choir is a strong and welcomed ensemble in any worship service. It's always a delight to have our players in worship, and I acknowledge their dedication to rehearsals every week on Wednesday evenings and their voracious appetite for new repertoire to play.

We are blessed to continue to host Opera MODO in our building and have several of their singers on staff in our choir. The choir and organ are, as always, the core (pun intended) of our music ministry. We have a great choir because we have talented and committed singers.

Other reasons to celebrate: In Lent, we hosted our fifth season of *Deep River: An Exploration of Spirituals*. On March 3rd, British vocal ensemble Apollo5 arrived in Detroit in a snowstorm but sang an incredible concert the next day to a good crowd.



On October 14th, we presented our classic Evensong on Detroit Marathon Weekend. In a November 1st observance of All Saints' and All Souls' Days, the choir sang the Durufle *Requiem*, with me directing and playing a complicated score at the organ console. I cannot congratulate the choir enough on this rendering of this choral masterwork. That evening will live in my memory for a very long time.

On December 13th, we presented Advent Lessons & Carols, and on Christmas Eve, the choir sang the Gloria by John Rutter as a prelude to the late service. In the fall and winter, we also were honored to host to local classical musicians for beautiful, well-attended concerts: organist S. Andrew Lloyd, the Madrigal Chorale, the Detroit Concert Choir's new Connoisseur Series, and Candlelight Concerts.



These are just the highlights over the past year of so much work by individuals and the collective groups to provide a reflection of our parish, a vibrant and living beacon of hope in the city of Detroit.

Thank you, choirs!

Parish Choir

Paul Abdullah, Katie Akers, Anna Baseley, Alice Bell, Ruth Boeder, Mary Brown, Jocelyn Burrell, Megan Carnevale, Joy Crawford, Jenny Cresswell, Dorian Dillard II, X. Alexander Durden, David Faust, Wendy Ford, B. G. Hodge, Richard Householder, Sally LePla, Eileen MacDonald, Roger Maki-Schramm, Howard Matthew, Elizabeth Medvinsky, James Moore, Jr., Megan Norris, William Peck, Michael Rowan, Loretta Ryder, Corinthia Sims, Dylan Slamka, Mariyon Turner, Katrina Van Maanen, Calebria Webb, Greg Williams



Bell Choir: Anna Baseley, Mary Brown, Jocelyn Burrell, Joy Crawford, Dennis Parker, Vickie Rice-Parker, Betty Warner, Sue Webb-Dickson, Greg Williams, Mary Ann Williams

YOUTH CHOIR

Katrina Van Maanen, Director

Christ Church Detroit continues to shine through our commitment to youth formation through music. Spring of 2023 brought the joyful graduation of many of our older participants, so in response, Youth Choir condensed our offerings from two separate “rehearsals” (K-5 and 6-12 grades) to one combined rehearsal every Sunday morning of the academic year from 9:30-9:45 a.m., led by Katrina Van Maanen. The idea behind combining rehearsals was to create more opportunities for our older J2A/Acolytes to interface with our younger participants.



While we said goodbye to many of our older singers, we welcomed our joyful and energetic youngsters each Sunday, including Alex and Isadora Arambula-Harnois, Owen and Ezra Guffey, Kailynn Haynes, Nico Rodriguez, Alexander Simmer, Emil and Sabine Landsberg, Garrett and Liam TenBrink, as well as newbies: Ellie Collard (and Rowan Collard!), and Juniper, Keira, and Olive Inchiostro. We are glad to bear witness to the excitement our youth find each Sunday morning as we gather to sing together!

In addition to the opportunities for learning and spiritual development we experience during rehearsals, our Youth Choir participated in the 10:30 a.m. services throughout the year, including on Palm Sunday, Mothers’ Day, and Christ the King Sunday.

In addition to the opportunities for learning and spiritual development we experience during rehearsals, our Youth Choir participated in the 10:30 a.m. services throughout the year, including on Palm Sunday, Mothers’ Day, and Christ the King Sunday. The Youth sang three new songs, including: “Sing Hosanna” by Jacob Tilton, “Al partir el pan” by Mariano Fuentes, and “His Banner Over Me Is Love” arr. by Hal Wright. The last of these pieces inspired the creation of a beautiful new banner, which continues to be displayed in the Atrium, designed and led by the ever-creative Inchiostro family.



The last of these pieces inspired the creation of a beautiful new banner, which continues to be displayed in the Atrium, designed and led by the ever-creative Inchiostro family.

The youth also debuted a new Christmas pageant script, written and directed by Katrina Van Maanen, called “Spreading the True Light of Christmas”. The script is based off of the pageant script traditionally performed at Christ Church Detroit, but included many fun updated lines, and an opportunity for our youth to become familiar with traditional Christmas carols. Cathy Berlage kindly volunteered to rehearse with our youth after our musical rehearsals during Sunday School, and provided wonderful assistance during the pageant! Our participants were: Alex and Isadora Arambula-Harnois, Owen and Ezra Guffey, Nico Rodriguez, Alexander Simmer, and Ellie Collard, joined by Dahlia Medvinsky, who returned from college and jumped in to assist with Sunday School!



2023 brought about the opportunity for the Youth Choir to focus on where the needs of our congregation lie, which is in our enthusiastic K-5 age group! We look forward to the many ways we can continue to inspire and enrich the spiritual formation of our youth in 2024.



YOUTH ACOLYTE PROGRAM

Cathy Berlage, Acolyte Coordinator



Christ Church is truly blessed to have dedicated young people taking part in our Acolyte Program. They serve our church in several capacities, some of which include Crucifer, Gospel Server, and Torch Bearer. 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 graduates down through our youngest lower elementary school members. Children who fall within this age group are always welcome to participate in this ministry.

In 2023, the following dedicated youth participated throughout the year as Crucifer, Gospel Server, Communion Assistant to the Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs), Torch Bearer, Ribbon Bearer, Banner Bearer, and Children's Bell Ringer: Brenna Ald, Owen Guffey, Adilem Hernandez, Marleen Hernandez, Stella Hughes, Cedric Inchiostro, Olive Inchiostro, Alexander Simmer, and Ava White. In training (with great enthusiasm!) as Torch Bearers are Alex Arambula-Harnois, Isadora Arambula-Harnois, Ezra Guffey, and Nico Rodriguez. We are also blessed and grateful for the johnnie-on-the-spot acolyte assistance from our college students/graduates: Evan Benbow, Olivia Benbow, William Berlage, Mira Hughes, Elizabeth Maher, and Jacob Maher.

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



ALTAR GUILD

Liza Parkinson and Josephine Powell, Co-Chairs

*Heavenly Father, we praise you for the joy of ministering at the altars of this parish.
Grant us the grace of humility that we may honor you. Amen.*

The mission of the Altar Guild is to prepare all things necessary for the celebration of the Eucharist and any of the other sacraments and offices of the church, including flowers and decorations. The Altar Guild serves under the direction of the clergy, who have overall responsibility for determining how Altar Guild duties are performed. In 2023, the Altar Guild continued to fulfill its mission.

We have continued to assist our rector, Rev. Emily, as she has ensured that the sacrament of communion is accessible to all who desire and are prepared to receive it. We continue the inclusive practices we began in fall 2022, which involve several ways to receive wine or grape juice, and to share communion at the floor level as well as at the high altar.

Members of the Altar Guild and our congregation have shared their expertise to ensure that the church brass and silver shines. In addition, special thanks go to Richard Thomas and John Booth for their meticulous work polishing our pulpit, lectern, crosses, and various memorials around the church. Thanks also to Gwen Ald and Dave Bellile for joining the effort this year, too.



In advance of Easter, Richard designed and fashioned a custom paschal candle for 2023, which includes a rendering of the church in honor of the capital campaign. We are grateful for his artistry!

Members of the Altar Guild quietly support the sacraments of baptism, marriage, and burial for our congregation. All Saints', All Souls', Advent, Christmas, Lent, Holy Week, and Easter shone brightly with the work of the Altar Guild on display. The joint efforts of the Altar Guild and Flower Guild enhance our worship and are offered to the glory of God.

We are thankful for the work of our members: Gwen Ald, Jane Forbes, Roberta Gaspar, Hope Hoffman, Terry Lloyd, Carolyn Maher, Roger Maki-Schramm, Jo Mashour, Liza Parkinson, Josephine Powell, Alma Simmons, Mary Lou Solomon, Letha Ann Steward, Sally Wheeler, and our floral iconographer Richard Thomas, and all who helped at polishing sessions, the Hanging of the Greens, and taking the greens down. We also thank our seminarian-now-pastoral assistant Sandy Zull for her joyful participation!



LIVE STREAM TEAM

Desmond Jones

2023 marked the first full year for live streaming at Christ Church Detroit, having begun in May 2022 once sufficient internet (fiber) was installed. The original team members of Taylor Matthew, Chuck Atwater, and Desmond Jones remained the same, but we have been lucky at times to get some assistance from Jim Treece and other members of the congregation. This has been great, especially for non-standard live streaming events.

Throughout 2023, we provided live streaming service at 55 principal church services, 4 celebrations of life, 3 sessions of Deep River (Lenten series), and one rental event (a large lecture).

Technically, the most important improvement is in sound quality and control. We welcome feedback from listeners, as this improved our ability to identify, and hence correct, unwanted audio input into the live stream software. We added a remote audio control to the live streaming console, which enabled us to adjust the audio level of the various audio sources. The most consistent problem is low volume caused by incorrectly positioned microphones.

At the beginning of the year, we were having some intermittent transmission challenges with Facebook. This was not unique to our streaming, as other churches were having similar issues also. This seems to have been resolved, as we are no longer experiencing the problem. Happily, during that time there was no issue with our other viewing site--YouTube--so that became the location of choice for most of our congregation.

At the beginning of the year, we were covering our lower-thirds (descriptions at the bottom of the screen) with just over thirty slides, but as the year progressed, we have expanded the product to cover most of the content of the bulletin, to the point where we are running over seventy slides. This is to equip viewers with all of the worship information and announcements, at a glance. It was a bit challenging at first, but we have identified efficient ways to get it done in almost the same amount of time.

Our greatest wish for 2024 is to increase the number of committed members to the team. Apart from making us more flexible to do “during the week streaming”, it would enable us to better facilitate individuals’ vacation time throughout the year. So, we are again appealing to the congregation for your support with a relatively new ministry that is here to stay. There are a lot of enjoyable things to learn and do...Why not come aboard!



Sonia Charron-Jones

Ushers not only lead others to their seats, but also have the distinguished honor of warmly welcoming our visitors and regular worshippers, and ensure that congregants are comfortable, safe, and can participate in our services. They collect and present offerings, and invite congregants to assist by carrying the gifts of bread and wine. Of course, there are other behind-the-scenes duties and responsibilities that the Christ Church Usher Corps perform with the utmost diligence.

Our group of volunteers joyfully serves at our 8:15 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Sunday services, as well as weddings, funerals, picnics, and other special gatherings.

A special thanks to this diverse and committed group, namely:

- Roger and Mary Basse
- Chris Beck
- Kerry Crenshaw
- Allan and Albert Dib
- Mary Herring
- Guy Jackson
- Desmond, Sonia, and Chadille Jones
- Terry Lloyd
- Anthony Mitchell
- Jon Miller
- Jen Sainte-Laurent
- John Staif
- Jim Treece
- Patrick and Betty Warner

We look forward to continued support to this important task and welcome others who might be intrigued to join this happy bunch. Kindly speak to any of our ushers at your convenience.



FLORAL ICONOGRAPHY

Beth Ann Tesluk on behalf of the Flower Guild

Parishioner Richard Thomas practices the art of floral iconography. Inspired by Scripture, he crafts, or more properly writes, floral icons, taking flowers and plant material and transforming them into sculptural interpretations of the Word, in light of liturgical seasons or events in the life of our community.



These visually arresting arrangements very often include local or native plants, and parishioners have come to treasure Richard's descriptions of the work almost as much as the works themselves.

There have been icons to celebrate individual feast days and special occasions, and series of icons that evolve over a season.

Richard's deep love of liturgy informs and inspires his craft as does his deep knowledge of the plant world.



What began as a way to celebrate major feast days has grown, and Richard has worked to create a Flower Guild so that each week, the altar flowers can be chosen and arranged by parishioners. We give thanks for the imagination, talent, and craft of the Flower Guild: Richard Thomas, Hope Hoffman, and Barbara Perez.



Upon clergy request after services, Flower Guild members break floral icons or arrangements down into small bouquets that clergy or other visitors then deliver to parishioners at home or in the hospital.

The Flower Guild also thoughtfully places and tends fresh, potted plants such as orchids and peace lilies in the Atrium, and designs occasional small arrangements for Ledyard Hall, as gestures of hospitality.

The Flower Guild assists the Altar Guild and other volunteers with the annual palms on Palm Sunday, the Lily Cross on Easter, and the greens for Christmas.

Numerous parishioners made meaningful dedications for special flowers--and music--in honor or memory of loved ones for Easter, All Saints', and Christmas.



At any time of year, parishioners are invited to ask the Flower Guild to arrange flowers in honor or memory of loved ones, or to celebrate significant events like birthdays or anniversaries. To make a floral dedication, please contact the church office or Richard Thomas.

We are so grateful for the Flower Guild's ministry, and the congregation's generosity, as together we connect through the beauty of the natural world, our sanctuary, and our relationships, and bear one another's joys, wonders, and sorrows.



YOUTH FORMATION

Rev. Emily Williams Guffey

2023 was a year of excitement and rebuilding for our children's & youth ministries. Mostly, we were glad to be in the building rather than online or always-outdoors, in classrooms lovingly re-floored by the Buildings & Grounds Committee, a Nursery continually replenished with fresh supplies, in rhythms less affected by COVID, and with wonderful adults invested in raising our "village" in joy, creativity, and love.

In total, throughout 2023, there were 29 youth, from infants through high school seniors, who participated regularly in Sunday School.

On a Sunday morning, students gather at 9:30 a.m. to start the day in the best way possible: Music with Ms. Katrina! At 9:45 a.m., preschool through middle school students participate in stories or lessons, sometimes separated by age and sometimes combined into a boisterous "one room school"! Then at 10:15 a.m., some head to the sacristy to get ready to serve as acolytes, while others join their families in the sanctuary or make arts & crafts - or weather permitting, play outside! - until communion.



Throughout the year, we observed many beautiful Sunday School traditions. In March we were excited to resume the annual bowling party for the first time since 2019! Special thanks to Roger Basse and Anne Hughes for your leadership. On Palm Sunday, children made palm crosses, with Lauren Leney teaching and leading. On Easter Sunday, children participated in filling the lily cross, and enjoyed an outdoor Easter Egg Hunt afterwards!



On Mother's Day we enjoyed Senior Speeches from Ava and Brenna and were so proud to see them graduate from high school and begin college! In October, we celebrated the Blessing of the Animals complete with a visit from Dan the Creature Man, as well as beloved Halloween festivities later in the month. In November, we turned our focus to preparing for the Christmas pageant, with which the students had lots of fun!

We are so grateful for Dahlia Medvinsky's leadership of the Nursery throughout her high school years. Over four years, Dahlia, through her natural gifts and initiative, grew the role from a nursery caregiver to what is more properly called Children's Assistant, since she cared - and continues to care - so wonderfully for all of the children. We rejoiced with Dahlia as she graduated from high school this spring as well, and are cheering her on in college. We admit to being extra excited when she returns to visit the kids when she's home on breaks.

Danielle Wright contributed tons of energy and initiative during their time as Associate for Education & Development, jumping in wholeheartedly to help facilitate Sunday School activities and traditional events. We are very grateful for their service and wish them the best as they continue in the opera world.



Lauren Leney, Anne Hughes, and numerous Sunday School parents lovingly helped with so many things throughout the year. Lu Arambula, Mary Brown, and Sandy Zull led stories and activities with the elementary-aged children. Liza Parkinson helped to make special events and fundraisers happen with pizzazz. Cathy Berlage trains and leads our youth acolytes, constantly welcoming and guiding them into the worship practices of the church.

A children's place is always in worship. Children of all ages are joyfully welcomed in services and encouraged to make themselves at home in church. To make the sanctuary more accessible for children and their families, we continue to provide a "soft space" with a comfy floor rug and numerous quiet activity materials, including books, blocks, crayons, and coloring pages. We are also grateful to the Buildings & Grounds Committee for providing and installing a smart TV monitor in the Nursery, so that children and families can follow along with the worship service livestream and not miss a beat.



J2A (JOURNEY TO ADULTHOOD)

Megan Norris and Taylor Matthew

Our most recent J2A group, and the last one for awhile, completed its curriculum in 2022, at the beginning of the summer, and then spent a full year choosing, planning, and preparing for our pilgrimage.

As has been our tradition, we (Adilem and Marleen Hernandez, Stella Hughes, Brenna Ald, and Ava White, along with Megan Norris and Taylor Matthew) took a practice trip for a long weekend in Toronto in May 2023, where we stayed in a hostel in the Kensington area of the City, then explored by foot, bus, and subway, with the students navigating. We ate well very day, and went to church on Sunday morning at St. Andrew's By the Lake on the Toronto Islands, where we were warmly greeted by a small congregation, the rector and her daughter, and a dog.



Then in August, the hottest time of the year, we traveled to Italy, beginning in Venice, where we stayed in a fabulous old building, on a canal opening onto the sea, that had been converted into a hostel. We hiked all over the island, got lost at least once a day, visited San Marco's Piazza, took a boat to the island of San Giorgio Maggiore (which has a bell tower with an amazing view of San Marco), and ended our visit with a gondola ride. And along the way, we went to church at a small Anglican parish whose Priest in Charge is a friend of Bishop Bonnie's, and we toured the Peggy Guggenheim museum. And of course we ate very well, highlighted by a delicious dinner that took us a leisurely three hours to eat.

Our next stop was Riomaggiore, which is a small village in Cinque Terre, on the west side of the country. The maps are deceptive--they do not show elevation. So something that looked 25 yards away on the map would actually be a long, steep, uphill climb, or a mile-long winding path to the same place. We got our exercise climbing to churches and castles, and also had a chance to get out on the water in a small boat that took us past each of the five villages that make up the region.



Our final destination was Rome. What a City! We got up early in the morning to beat the rush at St. Peter's, we took a private cooking class and learned to make perfect (but not necessarily replicable) pasta, ate gelato every day, toured the Colosseum, used every kind of public transportation, and toured the Catacombs when it was too hot above ground.

We don't remember anything about the trip back-- we slept through it.

In preparation for this incredible pilgrimage, our youth hosted a couple of wonderful fundraisers to gain the parish's support: first a Shrove Tuesday Pancake-palooza and then a Hafli! We also were excited to share our photos and stories with everyone in the fall.

Thank you again to everyone who supported this J2A group in so many ways.



ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Barbara Cushing

This 2023-2024 educational year throughout the seasons of Advent and Epiphany, our class is reading I and II Chronicles, a “late” Old Testament writing that we do not hear read on Sundays during our Liturgy of the Word. These books were written in the Second Temple Period, sometime between the time when the Persian king Cyrus the great allowed the return of the Jews to Judah from Babylon (about 525 BCE) and the rise of the Macedonian/Greek Alexander the Great (333 BCE). They mainly retell the stories in the much earlier books of Kings, from King David to the Babylonian captivity, but tell them from the theological understanding of a much later Jerusalem Temple Cult.

Our pattern is to read the appointed scripture to one another in class, and then with the aid of contemporary scholars, explore together the setting of the text and its probable theological relevance. During Lent 2024, we will read the post-exilic books of Ezra and Nehemiah, when, after the return from Babylon, Jerusalem and the Temple are rebuilt. During the post-Easter season we will jump more than 500 years ahead in time to read fragments of “gospels” written later than the four New Testament gospels: the Gospels of Thomas, Mary, and Judas. Our year 2023-2024 will conclude with two lovely, small letters in the New Testament: 1 & II Peter. Thought to be written as late as the 2nd century CE by and for followers of the Apostle Peter, they offer to us profound expressions of Christian hope. All are welcome at any time to join us in this endeavor.

CENTERING PRAYER

Kathryn Treece

Centering Prayer is a form of Christian contemplation that offers an opportunity in our fast-paced lives to sit quietly in God's presence. Based on instructions from the 14th-century classic, *The Cloud of Unknowing*, this prayer was further developed for modern practice by Fr. Thomas Keating and others. It's a way to cultivate a deeper relationship with God, beyond thoughts, words, and emotions. For more information, check out Contemplative Outreach at www.contemplativeoutreach.org.



The Christ Church Detroit Centering Prayer group began over ten years ago and continues to meet weekly. In 2023, we met mostly on Zoom, and sometimes in Cary Lounge at the church. Whether online or in person, our hour-long gathering and liturgy consist of an opening, twenty minutes of silence, prayer, a brief reading, informal sharing, and closing. Participants enjoy the chance to slow down and sit quietly in God's presence. We also pray together for the world, ourselves, and any special requests from the prayer box at church or that the office receives. Anyone is welcome to join the group at any time. If you are new to the practice, we offer simple instructions.

DRAWING WITH A TEA

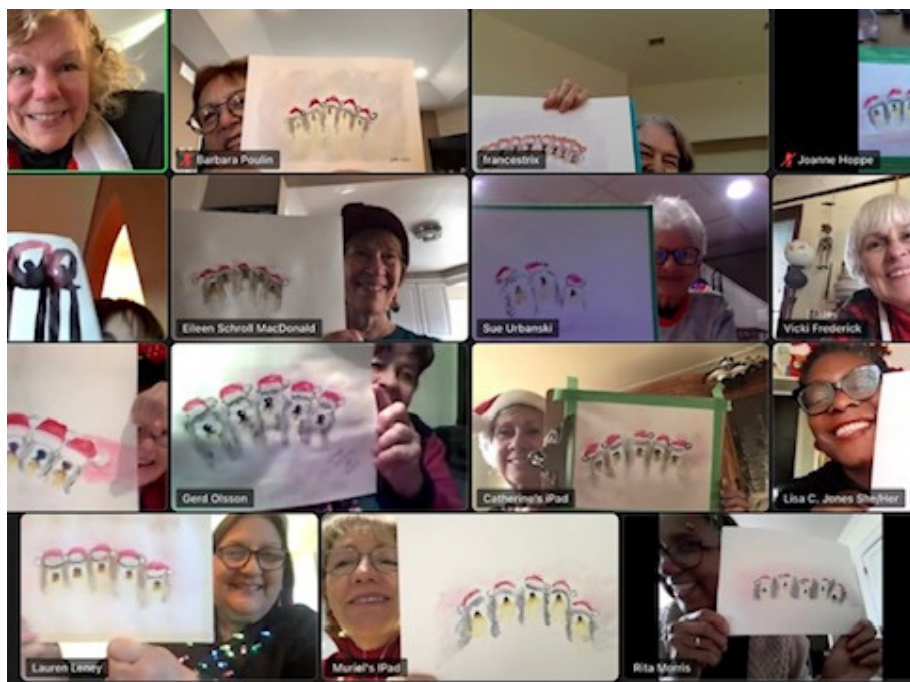
Sally LePla

Drawing with a Tea (DWAT), also known as “Art Fun”--the church’s online art ministry-- began in the early days of the pandemic as a drawing class that quickly morphed into step-by-step watercolor fun! The brainchild of Calebria Webb and Sally LePla as a way to give back the blessings they had received, these free 30-40 minute art experiences have continued to this day and are open to everyone worldwide.

The promise is that even the truly beginning artist will finish each session with a painting worthy to share with family and friends (or at least post proudly on the refrigerator!).

In 2023, as in 2022, artwork from the group was used to illustrate the annual parish Christmas card!

DWAT always welcomes new friends in a loving, nonjudgmental, fun atmosphere, where there are no mistakes - only great experiences. Please consider joining the “Art Fun” on Zoom three Tuesdays a month at 1:00 p.m. EST.



OUTREACH

Seth Lloyd, Chair

The Christ Church Detroit Outreach Committee is composed of 23 dedicated parishioners, many of whom have served for many years. We welcome additional members. If you are interested in joining, you need only email me (smllloyd4@gmail.com) expressing your interest, and *voila*, you are a member! The Committee meets, usually via Zoom, approximately six or eight times a year.

Our activities in 2023 are briefly described below:

- The work of the Committee with the Afghan family that we are sponsoring continued. The father is employed. The mother is a busy mother of seven. The children are prospering. This summary does not convey, however, the hundreds of hours spent by dedicated members of the parish tending to this family: driving family members to doctors' and dentists' appointments, arranging for interpreters when necessary (the parents speak only a little English), assisting with school matters for the children of school age, negotiating with the family's landlord, assisting with immigration matters, teaching English as a second language, and a wide variety of other matters. The family resides in Westland, and each effort described above requires a lengthy drive to their home. The members of the parish who are directly involved are attempting to help the family become independent, and the hope is that this will be accomplished in the first half of 2024. The Committee cannot thank enough those who have devoted time and energy to this project: Margo Norris, Mary Herring, Bobbi Gaspar, Eileen MacDonald, Mary Brown, Lauren Leney, and many, many others.



- The Committee has continued to sponsor work sessions at Gleaners Community Food Bank. Food insecurity among the population of Southeast Michigan is a serious problem and our work at Gleaners is an important help in addressing this issue. We meet periodically at the Gleaners warehouse to pack thousands of pounds of food for distribution to individuals and food pantries in our area.
- Eileen MacDonald and Sally LePla have continued to orchestrate the Advent Diaper Drive, supporting a local parenting program. This year, the parish (and friends outside the parish) contributed boxes of diapers, cans of formula, and baby wipes. Many contributed money, which was used to purchase these items. We provided over 18,000 diapers in December alone! 2023 was the tenth year of this project, and it has been more successful each year!



- In the summer of 2023, the Committee established two subcommittees to evaluate potential new outreach efforts. The first--the members of which are Josephine Powell, Anthony Mitchell, and Lucinda Keils--examined whether we should use our facilities to establish a food program for the homeless, such as a food pantry or a meal distribution effort. After investigating the need and logistical issues, the subcommittee recommended that we begin a Sunday bag lunch distribution program. The need for such a program was clear: there is no Sunday program in our immediate area. The program began on All Saints' Sunday, November 5th, 2023, and continues for the time being on the first Sundays of each month. In early 2024, plans are beginning to expand the distribution to weekly instead of once per month. We are investigating the availability of grant money to support the cost of the program.
- The second subcommittee is in the process of examining the possibility of creating an after-school music instruction program. Members of this group are Denise Crenshaw, Wendy Ford, Seth Lloyd, Ed Maki-Schramm, and Barbara Perez. The subcommittee is in the process of gathering information about other such programs in Detroit, in order to make sure that we are not duplicating existing programs. We are considering instrumental instruction, vocal instruction, and even a children's choir. More to come on this idea!
- Finally, Cass Community Social Services, which sponsored for decades the Rotating Shelter Program by which churches each housed and fed homeless men and women a week a year, has ended this program. We have recently been in contact with Cass to see how we might be of assistance as it looks for new ways to serve Detroit's homeless population. The Outreach Committee's first 2024 meeting will be devoted to a discussion of this topic.

HOSPITALITY

Beth Ann Tesluk

What a tremendous year 2023 was for Christ Church hospitality! Long held traditions were reinvigorated, and new opportunities to share with our community were brought to life. In addition to our own celebrations and festivities, community partners made the most of our spaces, including the Grosse Pointe Garden Center, the American Legion Honor Guard, Alcoholics Anonymous, Gamblers Anonymous, the Isaac Agree Downtown Synagogue, Opera MODO, the Reconstructionist Congregation of Detroit, Detroit Concert Choir, the Madrigal Chorale, Holy Spokes, and the Detroit Grand Prix. We also hosted several tours, including Detroit History Tours, Travel with Nance, as well as impromptu visits from historians and church families. Most exciting, through a new partnership with Fever Productions, we have begun to host their Candlelight Concerts series, with sold-out crowds for every performance. With about 500 attendees at each one, that means we've opened our doors to thousands of people in just a few months.

Apollo5 returned to Christ Church in early March, offering a beautiful concert that was well attended. Our Lenten program, Deep River, invited us to engage with music from the African American musical traditions, and share in simple suppers beforehand. We are grateful to those who bring friends to come and see!

In May, we had our first Hafli since 2019, and invited friends from the broader Arab American community, including Father Halim Shukair, Episcopal priest at Mother of our Savior, Dearborn. We were honored by a visit from Bishop Bonnie Perry, too!

June was an adventure from start to finish. Team Trans Am made Christ Church their temporary home during the Detroit Grand Prix, which returned to Detroit and roared past Christ Church the first weekend in June. Then, we participated in the Motor City Pride Festival, staffing a booth and sharing welcome materials and handmade notes of encouragement with attendees. Parishioner Lamar Richardson decided it was high time for us to celebrate Juneteenth, and along with Alma Simmons and Lisa Jones, created a new event, complete with barbecue, classic games, and a Juneteenth reading list, curated by Alma. And there were fireworks! Thanks to Renee Rodriguez and Jennifer Inchiostro, the Christ Church party on the night of the Ford Fireworks downtown made a comeback.



We had gorgeous weather in August for the annual Worship in the Park service and Parish Picnic. Many thanks to Jon Miller for securing us a spot right on the river, and to Bill Peck for ensuring we had beautiful music, and to everyone who helped prepare delicious food, including John Leney's crew of intrepid grill masters.



Thanks to Claire Brown's enthusiasm for ALL animals, our Blessing of the Animals celebration went beyond the fluffy to embrace the scaly & exotic, with a visit from Dan the Creature Man. Party Animals, the petting zoo, lived up to its name when their rooster made his escape and was running alongside the church. The Detroit Police Mounted Division stopped by, and Goldie the goldfish made an appearance.

For October's Detroit Free Press Marathon Weekend, we brought out our finest silver and hosted our traditional tea following Saturday's evensong, complete with scones and tea sandwiches.



A service of All Saints and All Souls has become a feature of both our liturgical and hospitality calendars. This poignant service includes the opportunity for parishioners to share photos of their loved ones as part of our tables of remembrance and a light reception to follow. Many thanks to the Inchiostro family for their leadership and for providing delicious refreshments.

The year rounded out with music and lights, including Advent Lessons & Carols, several sold-out Candlelight holiday concerts, and a classic Cookies & Hot Cocoa reception after the family Christmas Eve service.

BREAKFAST MINISTRY

Betty Warner, Coordinator

The Christ Church Breakfast Cook Team Ministry thrives! Breakfast teams arrive at 7:30 a.m. to prepare scrambled eggs, sausage, and biscuits, alongside their own specialties. Breakfast is served around 8:45 a.m., and the well-attended 8:15 a.m. service breakfast shows people enjoy fellowship, even if it's just coffee and donuts!



Thanks to the Cook Team Ministry volunteers, and special thanks to shopper Letha Ann Steward, kitchen coordinators Kathryn and Jim Treece, and host Ashley Poulin.

2023 Breakfast Team members include:

Team 1: Jon Miller, Eamon Harnois, Lurdes Arambula, and family

Team 2: Lisa Jones, Clarke Mason, Wendy Ford, Guy Jackson, Anthony Mitchell, Ryan Tyler

Team 3: Edwina Simpson, Hope Hoffman, Denise Crenshaw, Mary Herring, Mary Brown

Team 4 continental breakfast volunteers:
Kitty Dade, Taylor Matthew, Linda Olivache, Joya Rush-Keli, Josephine Powell, Alma Simmons

Fall/Spring cooks:
Gary MacDonald, Lamar Richardson, Letha Ann Steward, Betty Warner, Patrick Warner, Bob Brown



COFFEE HOUR

Kathryn Treece, Coordinator

Coffee Hour after the 10:30 a.m. service is popular and well attended. This social time is an important part of our Sunday ritual, not only for regular parishioners, but also for visitors and potential members. Here are a few items to note from 2023:



- Thank you to everyone who signed up to host Coffee Hour this past year or help in any way: bringing delicious food, providing joyful flowers, laundering tablecloths, tidying up, and much more. Also, gratitude to Betty Warner for her continual support; to Beth Ann Tesluk who always provides timely updates and signups; and to our barista Ashley Poulin.
- In the fall, we began asking 2-4 volunteers a week to bring just one food item for Coffee Hour, rather than asking to host the whole event. This has worked very well, but it does require a kitchen manager each Sunday for set-up and clean-up. Jim Treece and I have been handling this responsibility, with help from Ashley Poulin and Jared Inchiostro. We would appreciate having a few more people to learn this easy drill. Our goal is to create a rotating schedule of persons so that all Sundays can be covered through the year.
- In preparation for the new Bag Lunch outreach project, we had some major clearing and cleaning work days. As a result, the kitchen is far less cluttered, and Ledyard Hall storage is easier to use. Thank you to all who helped! We're so grateful.



- Huge thanks to Jim Treece who has faithfully hauled many hundreds of pounds of paper, plastic, metal, cardboard, styrofoam, and glass to Recycle Here throughout the year. Please consider your own awareness of this issue. Since there is no city recycling pickup at our church, taking home even a few things yourself to recycle in your community is very helpful.
- Obviously, Coffee Hour is not just about bringing food. Do you have ideas on how to be more environmentally friendly? Do you like to create orderly spaces? Do you enjoy small decorating projects? Would you like to have a simple task during social times? If any speak to 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 life. I welcome your thoughts, feedback, and participation.

WELCOME COMMITTEE

Paul Abdullah, Chair

The Welcome Committee was formed at the end of 2023 and revives a committee and ministry that has been important to Christ Church in years past. In response to priorities highlighted by the vestry over the past year, the committee addresses a need for connection that feels especially acute in the wake of COVID.

The name “Welcome Committee” is intentionally broad, because we are a resource for anyone who needs a welcome at our church, whether that person is here for the first time, returning after a time away, or just looking for a closer connection than they have had in the past.

We know that we are blessed to have many welcoming individuals, families, and groups in our congregation. The committee's work is to build a structure on this foundation, so that people can discover Christ Church, have positive first encounters, and have follow-up and support in building a closer relationship with the church. By following our gospel imperative to welcome the stranger and spread the good news, we hope we also can strengthen connections across the parish and share the church we love with more people.

In our short time, the committee has worked intensively to assess our current efforts and determine top priorities for welcome ministry. Please keep an eye out for new initiatives in 2024! If you have the spiritual gift of hospitality or any other gifts you would like to bring to this ministry, we would love to have your help. Our monthly meetings are held on Zoom and are open to any church member. We are also actively recruiting Greeters for Sunday mornings. Finally, we welcome your feedback, suggestions, and introductions when you bring a friend to church!

In 2023 our members were: Paul Abdullah (chair), Mary Brown, Mary Herring, Hope Hoffman, Lauren Leney, Carolyn Maher, Kevin Maher, Jim Treece, and Sandra Zull



COMMUNICATIONS

Beth Ann Tesluk, Associate for Communications

They say a picture is worth a thousand words; how then should we calculate the value of a two-minute video? The primary accomplishment for church communications in 2023 was the production and release of a promotional video. Working with our partner Flow Video, this video was crafted to be both an introduction to Christ Church Detroit, and a way to highlight the capital campaign. It's now the primary message on the website, and we hope it serves as an easy shorthand for the mission and vision for Christ Church.

Email continues to be the primary vehicle for communication for the parish, and the number of email subscribers is 424, up 16 from the year prior. Open rates are well over industry standards, which is to be expected, as these are not transactional emails. The weekly eNews is also mailed to several parishioners who prefer to receive the hard copy. Thanks to Jim Treece for his continued administrative support in ensuring we keep folks informed in the manner they prefer!

Rev. Emily maintains the church's Instagram presence, telling the story of Christ Church with beautiful images and short videos. By mentioning friends and neighbors in our feed and commenting on theirs, Rev. Emily continues to foster and nourish community relationships. Over the past five years, our Instagram community has grown over tenfold, from about 80 followers to almost 900.

Facebook and YouTube serve as means to extend the ministry of Christ Church through the livestream of the 10:30 a.m. Eucharist and other services. Through livestream we can invite friends and loved ones into our life together, so they may share in worship, including baptisms and funerals, even though they may be far away. Throughout the year, the average Sunday online attendance during the service time was 24, which, combined with an average of 90 in-person attendees and more who watch or re-watch the videos after the service time, means that we are reaching and connecting with significantly more people than we were before the pandemic, when we did not have livestream and our in-person attendance was 118.

With so many new people coming into Christ Church through concerts and tours, it was time to develop a new print piece to introduce the history and mission of the church. A small booklet offers a brief background of the church, as well as descriptions of some of the significant windows to help ground newcomers in both the history and mission of Christ Church.

There are some elements of communications that are so vital, so intrinsic to the nature of Christ Church that they may be overlooked when gathering reports. One such piece is the birthday card ministry, currently carried out by Claire Brown. Make sure your birthday (no date required!) is up to date with the Office so that you might be included!

STEWARDSHIP

Jim Treece, Chair

Giving is part of our spiritual discipline of responding to God's gifts to us. We give out of gratitude to support the missions of the church.

The annual pledge drive asks parishioners to guesstimate how much they will be giving to the church in 2024, thus helping the Vestry to plan the coming year's activities and ministries responsibly. Like last year, this year's campaign was conducted in coordination with the capital campaign as well.



The 2024 annual pledge drive, as of January 2024, shows marked decreases compared to the previous several years, both in number of pledgers and in total dollars pledged--in part, perhaps, due to the concurrence of the capital campaign, as well as known experiences of health problems and financial strain. Several of our members in 2023 have moved, or died. We celebrate, however, that six households have made pledges for the first time, and we are so very grateful for everyone's generosity in supporting the missions of the church.

We also thank parishioner Susan Larsen, staffers Beth Ann Tesluk and Randy Gilchrist, and Rev. Emily for their encouragement and contributions to the Committee.

BEACON LEGACY CIRCLE

Jim Treece, Chair

In addition to the annual pledge drive, the Stewardship Committee took preliminary steps towards finding ways to thank current members who have remembered Christ Church Detroit in their wills and estate plans. In May 2023, the Vestry approved a motion establishing the Beacon Legacy Circle. Members of the Circle were invited to a recognition gathering at Bishop Bonnie Perry's home in the fall--an annual event to which you, too, will be invited if you add Christ Church to your plans and let the Office know.

Christ Church is one of several congregations in the diocese that started or expanded legacy ministries in 2023, and we have benefitted and grown together in shared learning. Expect further communications regarding legacy giving, and stewardship in general, in 2024.

FINANCE

Jane Forbes, Chair

Members of the Finance Committee in 2023 included Paul Abdullah, Denise Crenshaw, Rev. Emily Williams Guffey, John Leney, Seth Lloyd, Howard Matthew, Megan Norris, and Jim Treece. They were joined in many of its meetings by senior warden Ruth Boeder. During the year, the Committee provided assistance to the Vestry in managing the financial resources of the Church by reviewing statements and reports, overseeing receipts and disbursements (both for the regular parish operations and the capital campaign), preparing proposed budgets, and monitoring cash needs and investments. The Committee also takes on special projects when needed.



Thanks to each of the members of the Committee who served in 2023, but especially to Seth Lloyd for his persistence in working on contracts. Special thanks also to Glen Olivache who is continuing to review Church financial statements and is assisting in the preparation of Church records for an audit.

COUNTERS

Jim Treece



Most Mondays, a small group gathers in the Sibley parlor to count the previous Sunday's offerings. If there were J2A sales, they count those checks and cash contributions, too, along with memorial and flower donations, plus any checks from outside groups.

It's a vital task that requires at least two people and a great deal of discretion. Kerry Crenshaw, Sheila Sweeny, and Jim Treece did the counting in 2023, assisted by Randy Gilchrist or other staffers in his absence. Counter Emerita Lorraine George, who "retired" after decades of service, also graciously came in on occasion when needed. Thanks to this dedicated group.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Teresa Lloyd, Chair

Members of the Committee: Teresa Lloyd (Chair), Ruth Boeder (Vestry Representative), Jane Forbes (Finance Chair), Caroline Widak (Safety Committee Chair), Desmond Jones, Roger Maki-Schramm, Howard Matthew, Josephine Powell, Patrick Warner

Our mission is to identify and tackle repair, replacement, and improvement projects that come under the maintenance banner and are within our budget.

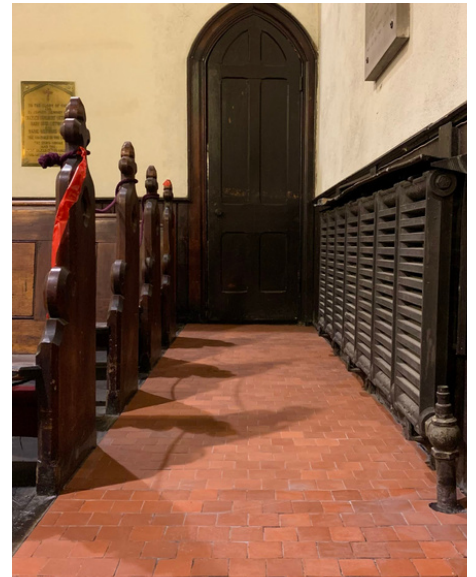
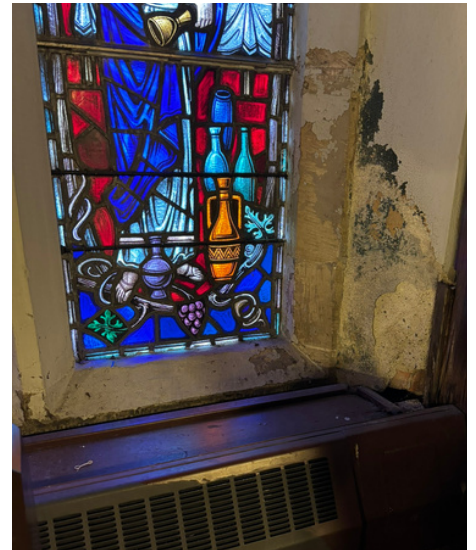


Some of the projects for 2023 were:

- *Sibley House* needs major repairs, including a new two-story back porch, a new roof, repairs to the front porch, repair of storm windows, and exterior painting. Estimates are being sought for the major tasks, but the storm window work has started thanks to Roger and Ed Maki-Schramm, who have removed three storm windows, delivered them to the repair shop, and reinstalled them. They not only provided the transportation but brought their own scaffolding to assist in the project. A new furnace/air conditioning unit for Sibley House was also installed.
- *Outdoor flags*: Our United States flag and Episcopal Church flag had become tattered in the wind and were replaced with new ones, along with a Pride flag. Chuck Atwater and the honor guard to which he belongs led a rededication of the flags in the spring.
- *Outdoor cameras*: The security cameras were not functioning well, but Desmond Jones and Barry Dickson were able to determine the fix needed and repair them.
- The *outdoor digital sign* was repaired and reinstalled, using updated technology. Barry Dickson was able to provide the finishing touches to the installation.
- Our Sunday School children *planted flowers* in the courtyard in the spring. We're grateful for their help!
- *Stained glass window evaluation*: Since many of the windows need repair, bids are being considered along with a timeline indicating urgency of the repairs.



- Various *plumbing issues* in the sacristy, Atrium, the lower level beneath, and the roof above are being addressed, as well as perhaps adding a point-of-service water heater for the sacristans' use.
- *The sanctuary roof* is leaking in several areas due to gaps and insufficient diversion of rainwater and snowmelt. The most critical repairs were made in fall 2023, and the rest, we hope, will be addressed among the capital campaign projects. Estimates are being obtained to repair the plaster on sanctuary ceilings, especially near the organ chamber, where water dangerously has seeped through.
- New *handmade tiles* were installed in the east and west aisles of the sanctuary, however the finishing touches are still in process. The Renovation Action Committee is leading a process to find new bids to complete the sanctuary floor project, which will include the removal of the first row of pews, the last row in the back, and additional cut-outs for wheelchair positioning for greater accessibility.
- *Energy audit*: Jim Treece and Desmond Jones are seeking a professional energy audit to determine cost savings. Ruth Boeder is using her analytical skills to review past DTE bills to find ways to save.
- A *Safety Committee* was formed to tackle identification of needed safety improvements. The Buildings & Grounds Committee has been working with the Safety Committee to install a crash bar in the courtyard gate to allow people immediate egress in the case of an emergency.
- *Staff*: KaClarence Haynes, our Groundskeeper of many years and Facilities Manager of several has left for a full-time position, but continues to handle small jobs for us. Until a replacement can be found, many tasks that he performed are being picked up by volunteers and/or contractors. For examples, the committee identified a list of winterization tasks to be addressed. Volunteers who stepped up to finish projects included Jon Miller, Seth Lloyd, Ruth Boeder, Patrick Warner, Howard Matthew, and Desmond Jones.



SAFETY

Caroline Widak, Chair

Members of the Committee: Caroline Widak, Ruth Boeder, Howard Matthew, David Jackson, Randy Gilchrist, Beth Ann Tesluk, Emily Williams Guffey

Honorable Mentions: Paul Abdullah, Jen Inchiostro, the Buildings & Grounds Committee

The Safety Committee had their first meeting on May 31, 2023. The meetings are held on a monthly basis via Zoom for about 30-45 minutes with the majority of them falling on Tuesdays. The focus of the committee is to identify health and safety hazards and brainstorm ways to solve them. The regulations that are often referred to are Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), and American National Standards Institute (ANSI). The main project we are focusing on is creating a formal and written Emergency Action Plan.

We applied for and received grant funding from The Episcopal Diocese of Michigan to purchase a second AED (Automated External Defibrillator) in addition to the one that is already located in the Atrium near the doors to Cary Lounge and the Nursery. The committee has been discussing where to place the second AED and how to make the existing one more visible.

The maps related to an Emergency Action Plan have been worked on by Paul Abdullah. The aim is to add to the maps so that they show exits, extinguishers, first aid kits, and AEDs. The updated maps will be placed in classrooms, offices, and other areas of high traffic.

The Safety Committee has been working with the Buildings & Grounds Committee to install a panic bar in the courtyard. This will allow the church to have easier egress in an emergency. Lastly, the committee is working on staying compliant with the fire extinguisher inspections and keeping up with first responder trainings.

Projects completed in 2023:

1. *First aid kits:* The church has one large first aid kit in the kitchen that was recently updated by Jen Inchiostro. Jen also audited all of the smaller first aid kits, and Emily has been updating them.
2. *“Not An Exit” Signs:* While the panic bar installation quote has been wrapping up, proper exit signage was put up to avoid confusion in the case of an emergency.
3. We continually refer to and confirm compliance with the church insurance company.
4. Several members of the committee have participated recently in seminars at educational institutions about how to respond and evacuate in emergencies.

RENOVATION ACTION COMMITTEE

Laura Sanom, Chair

In April 2023 the Vestry created the Renovation Action Committee (RAC) whose task is to work with the renovation professionals and to make recommendations to the Capital Campaign Committee and the Vestry on how to proceed with the renovation tasks outlined in the Capital Campaign.

Since its inception the RAC has met each month to help guide the renovation. Its first act was to work with the Capital Campaign Committee to recommend that the Vestry hire an Owner's Representative, BDC Consulting, whose job it is to represent the church's interests and bring construction expertise to help the church determine its best course of action throughout this project. With BDC Consulting's assistance, the RAC has worked with our long-term architectural firm, Quinn Evans to 1) finalize the bell tower restoration which will be completed in spring 2024 when the weather warms and the final new stones and finials can be installed; 2) replace cracked and uneven tiles and floor boards in the sanctuary; and 3) most recently, to obtain contractor bids for the exterior renovation work for the church campus.

While exterior renovation plans are progressing, a subgroup of the RAC has been starting the process of identifying community partners who might use our soon-to-be-renovated Ledyard Hall, kitchen, and lower-level classrooms. With the support of our members, architects, and construction professionals, we hope to identify community needs and potential partners to help inform the restoration and renovation. This community engagement is also done with the support and guidance of the National Fund for Sacred Places, which awarded Christ Church Detroit a \$100,000 grant toward the restoration of Ledyard Hall for increased community programs and services. We hope that renovation will take place in mid-2025.

The RAC reports its activities every month to the Vestry and each of the church committees responsible for renovation activities (Capital Campaign, Finance, and Buildings & Grounds) so that there is always transparency into its work. The committees have worked effectively together to move the renovation along efficiently so that we can assure the congregation we are being good stewards of the money generously donated for this work. The RAC also updates the congregation every couple of months or as news events warrant, through written pieces, in-church announcements, and town halls.

Members of the RAC in 2023 included: Laura Sanom (chair), Ruth Boeder, Barry Dickson, Hope Hoffman, Roger Maki-Schramm, and Howard Matthew, with collaboration from Scott Collins and Miea Loiselle, Owner's Representatives; Seth Lloyd and Lisa Jones, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs; Jane Forbes, Capital Campaign Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair; Terry Lloyd, Buildings & Grounds Chair; and Rev. Emily.

RESTORE, RENEW, REJOICE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Lisa C. Jones and Seth Lloyd, Chairs

We are so grateful to all those who pledged or made a gift towards the ongoing Restore, Renew, Rejoice campaign in 2023! Before the campaign started, Partners for Sacred Places conducted a feasibility study to help us better understand what we as a church were likely capable of raising on our own, without engaging the broader community. At that time, the analysis showed that \$1.7 million was a reasonable expectation. We are very pleased to announce that as of the beginning of 2024 we have received commitments in the amount of \$1,768,835!

The next phase of the campaign will include connecting with our extended community, what is known as the diaspora - folks who have moved away yet still feel a strong connection to Christ Church. We will also be working to establish relationships with foundations and seeking grants as we continue to develop our capacity to raise the necessary funds for the projects deemed the highest priority for completion.

If you have not yet made your pledge, we ask that you prayerfully consider making one. There are some grant opportunities that require very high percentages of participation, and every pledge counts!

Should you have any questions, or if you have ideas about ways to engage the broader community in this campaign, please let Seth Lloyd, Lisa Jones, or Rev. Emily know!



Photo credits:

Ed Maki-Schramm: p. 7 (middle)

Renee Rodriguez: p. 10 (middle)

Danielle Wright: p. 18 (lower)

J2A Group: p. 19, p. 20 (upper, middle)

Sally LePla: p. 22

Jon Miller: p. 26 (middle, right)

Beth Ann Tesluk: p. 27 (upper-left)

Meghan Mace: pp. 3, 4, 5, 6 (upper, lower-left), 7 (upper), 8 (upper-right, lower), 11 (left), 12, 16 (upper-left, lower-right), 21, 24 (right), 30 (right), 31, 37 (left)

Emily Williams Guffey: pp. 1, 2, 6 (lower-right), 7 (lower), 8 (upper-left), 9, 10 (upper), 11 (right), 13, 14, 15, 16 (upper-right, lower-left), 17, 18 (left, right), 20 (lower-left, lower-right), 23 (right), 24 (left), 26 (left), 27 (upper-right, lower), 28, 29, 30 (left), 32, 33, 34, 37 (right)



For 178 years, A Beacon of Hope in the Heart of Detroit

960 E. Jefferson, Detroit MI, 48207
313-259-6688 | www.christcd.org