

Christ Episcopal Church



2015 ANNUAL REPORT

Clergy and Staff

THE REV. JOSEPH SHIPPEN, ASSOCIATE RECTOR
THE REV. BRYAN HINSON, CURATE
THE REV. JULIA B. MITCHENER, PRIEST ASSOCIATE & CHILDREN'S MINISTRY COORDINATOR
THE REV. ARTHUR W. VILLARREAL, DEACON
JONATHAN POE, ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER
JOHN MARK PARKER, YOUTH COORDINATOR
CHRISTY McADAMS, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR
BEVERLY McFALL, FINANCIAL SECRETARY
ROBERT HUBBARD, SEXTON
CAROLYN SIMMONS, ASSISTANT SEXTON

2015 Vestry

LAWRENCE WILLIFORD, SENIOR WARDEN
TOM JONES, JUNIOR WARDEN
*BRIAN CAUSEY, TREASURER
SALLY HATCHER, CLERK
*SUSAN ALLEN, OUTREACH
LIZZIE CLARK, INREACH/WELCOMING & NURTURING
BONNIE DOWLING, BUILDING & GROUNDS
NAN HARPER, WORSHIP
EMORY JOHNSON, YOUTH
MOLLY MUSE, PARISH LIFE
*JEFF POWERS, YOUNG ADULTS
RUTH SOLOMON, COMMUNICATIONS
*CASON WILKIN, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

* denotes outgoing Vestry members

2015 Diocesan Council Delegates

PHIL & JULIE GROCE
CONNIE MENENDEZ
PEGGY PURYEAR
MARY ROBINSON

OUR CORE VALUES

Hospitality, Youth, Children, Music

MISSION STATEMENT

"Growing by God's Grace into a Family of Faith and Ministry."

Annual Meeting Agenda

JANUARY 24, 2015
GREAT HALL

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER	The Rev. Joseph Shippen, Associate Rector
INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR VESTRY	The Rev. Joseph Shippen, Associate Rector
FINAL CALL FOR VOTES FOR VESTRY MEMBERS	
VOICE VOTE FOR DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN COUNCIL	
INTRODUCTION/RECOGNITION	The Rev. Joseph Shippen, Associate Rector
• Committees	
• Chair People	
• Vestry	
• Outgoing Vestry Members	
• Staff	
STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT	George Greer
PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS	Brian Causey
SEARCH COMMITTEE REPORT	Bill Buzzell
REPORT ON THE PICTORIAL HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH	Julie Groce
REPORT ON ELECTIONS	
ADJOURNMENT	
DISMISSAL	The Rev. Bryan Hinson, Curate

**The newly constituted vestry will meet in the Parlor immediately following the dismissal.*

2015 Parish Report

OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms	12
Confirmations/Receptions	9
Marriages	3
Burials	11

MEMBERSHIP

2015 Year End Membership Totals

Active	689
Inactive	73
Confirmed & Received	9
Transfers In	14
Transfers Out	13
Deaths	8

NUMBER OF SERVICES IN 2015

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Eucharistic/Sunday Services	142	141	141	138	137
Weekday Eucharist/ Daily Office	343	58	133	87	120
Private	65	33	42	65	50
Total Communion	12,280	13,751	15,647	14,798	12,915
Average Sunday Attendance	234	211	226	218	221

CHURCH SCHOOL

Nursery & Kindergarten	17
Grades 1 - 5	16
Grades 6 - 12	6

Transitions

BAPTISMS

* Ella Rose Bishop
* Marshall Robert Hatcher
* Nathaniel Thomas Hatcher
Beckham Morris Parker Henderson
* Ford Hammond Brower Israel
Chloe Abigail Kaase
Katherine Jayne Maddux
* Lillian Louise Mosley
Mary Elizabeth Sanders
Amanda Rodman Smith
George Boone Smith, V
Charles Steven Stewart

CONFIRMATIONS

Madison Lyndsey Baima
Seth Bryant Gardner
Dante LeShawn Hudson
Rena Pearson-Shaver
John Burton Wilkerson, Jr.

RECEPTIONS

Harold Wayne Brickle
Sara Agnes Hattaway
John Anderson Miller
Jonathan Alan Poe

MARRIAGES

Caitlin Amanda Yarbrough & Charles Baisden Evans, III
Claire Mankin Meadors & William Pond Schorr
Robert Martin John Mathis & Matthew Jordan Linder

BURIALS

* Mary Carolyn Dunham Spanjer
Frances Mahone Gavin
* Jane Sparks Sturges
Carlo Emilio, Jr.
Frances Bush Wood
Theodore Sigmund Alexander
Joan Bailey Speidel
Sarah Elizabeth Connell
* Patricia Anne Moulton Meyer
Charles Alfred, Discher, Jr.
Hazel Crosby Emilio

** Non-member*

The Senior Warden's Report

SUBMITTED BY LAWRENCE WILLIFORD

Transitions

In 2015, as in every year in the nearly two-hundred year life of our church, we have been through a number of transitions. Every year we welcome new members through transfers and baptisms just as we say goodbye to long-standing members due to transfers and, sadly, death. (Our vital statistics for the year are contained elsewhere in this Annual Report).

In May we said goodbye to Harriette and celebrated her tenure at Christ Church and her many gifts and talents that endeared her to us all. We are all fortunate to have had the opportunity to know Harriette and Jim.

In June, we welcomed Bryan Hinson to his official role as Curate at Christ Church and celebrated his Ordination. Joseph Shippen, Bryan, Julia Mitchener and Arthur Villereal have made this transitional period as seamless as it could possibly be. They have done a wonderful job in continuing to meet the spiritual needs of our parishioners as well as handling the day to day requirements of administering the business aspects of Christ Church.

This fall, Joseph let us know that he would be transitioning out of his full-time role as our Associate Rector as he has been called in a different direction. We are certainly grateful for his ministry and that he will continue in his role as Associate Rector until such time as our new Rector is with us.

Julia Mitchener agreed to officially join us in a part-time role and increase her activities as a member of our clergy. We are delighted that she is with us.

Jack Mitchener- due to the many demands on his time because of his increased responsibilities as Director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Church Music at Mercer, his extensive travel schedule and the need and desire to spend more time with his family- relinquished his position as Organist/Choirmaster at Christ Church. We welcome Jack to his new position as Artist-in-Residence and are grateful to him for the wonderful strides our music program has made under his leadership.

Jonathan Poe, our Assistant Organist/Choirmaster agreed to assume the role of Organist/Choirmaster beginning January 2016. Jonathan has demonstrated, over the last few years, his wonderful skills and we look forward to continuing to enjoy the choral programs at Christ Church under his leadership and the talents and gifts of the members of our choir.

I would like to thank Bill Buzzell and the members of the Nominating Committee for their work, largely behind the scenes, in doing all that is necessary to prepare us to be able to call our new Rector in 2016.

Christ Church is nothing more than a campus of beautiful empty buildings with a long history. It is you, our parishioners- who give of your time, talent and treasure; who worship at our services; who serve on our many committees and guilds; who participate in our many events throughout the year- that make us a Church and a *Community of Faith*.

Lawrence Williford

Senior Warden

The Presbyterian's Report

SUBMITTED BY THE CLERGY

After the retirement of our Rector, Harriet Simmons, at the end of May, several transformations have occurred regarding the priests serving Christ Church. All changes have been addressed with smooth and thoughtful discernment. The clergy and pastoral staff held a retreat in the summer and considered the transitional season of the parish, and identified challenges ahead. Information from the parish survey was considered, as well as the traditions of the church and preparation for a new Rector. Primary values driving action included development of parish-wide personal relationships, purposeful invitation to ministry and opportunities to connect, and laity empowerment. It was also determined to do a review of parish organization, systems and procedures, and documentation in preparation for life with a new Rector.

In late summer and fall, many ministry teams were interviewed, leadership confirmed or recruited, and team gatherings and trainings occurred. Wonderful Wednesdays were resurrected. A group of laity established Daily Offices. Vestry formation was strengthened and a retreat was held. Administrative processes improved in areas of communications (new website, improved parish emails), nursery organization, and pastoral care. Work toward these values continues as we all prepare for the next season of the parish with a new Rector.

The Rev. Joseph Shippen continues oversight as ranking clergy. After discerning a call to an additional vocation in engineering, Joseph acts as a bi-vocational priest, present on Sundays, at Wonderful Wednesdays, and one other day each week performing various functions. Joseph also oversees Pastoral Care, coordinating clergy and laity to care for the needs of our parishioners. Connections with shut-ins and those experiencing various crises has improved and continues to involve more people caring for people.

The Rev. Julia Mitchener joined the staff part-time after Joseph's move to part-time. Julia adds her gift of preaching and celebrating on the Sunday rotation. Julia also has assumed oversight of Children's Ministry with help from our many generous, talented volunteers. Additionally, Julia has taken on Adult Christian Formation on Sundays and Wednesdays, organizing clergy, laity, and guest speakers for rich, informative programs.

The Rev. Bryan Hinson remains full-time as Curate, present during the week handling administrative duties, teaching, worship, and pastoral care, along with a place in Sunday rotation preaching and celebrating. Bryan continues to review and hone parish administrative and financial systems, practices, and procedures.

During this season of transition, your priests seek to continue serving the parish's needs for both the present and the future. May Christ Church continue its rich history of worship, ministry, and community toward a new Rector, our 200 year anniversary, and beyond. We will, with God's help.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Joseph Shippen

The Rev. Julia Mitchener

The Rev. Bryan Hinson

The Deacon's Report

THE REV. ARTHUR W. VILLARREAL

As I look back over the year 2015 here at Christ Church, I believe we have lived through a huge amount of change and transition. And, while the search committee is still diligently moving along, we can look forward to even more transitions in the coming year. But, we can write about that this time in 2017.

In my preparation for sharing this year in review, I thought to look back over some of the Chimes articles I have written over the past year. Since our Chimes news letter is published and distributed around the first of the month, I have a habit of writing short reflections from the Lectionary of that particular month. I may choose to write from the first Sunday of the month. Or, it looks like I have written at some point from the first Lectionary reading of that particular Liturgical season that may start close to the first of that given month. At either rate, I look forward to starting out my month with you all by sharing just a little bit of the Gospel that comes my way.

I noticed that my January 2015 article had something to say about a planned outreach program at St. James with Path to Shine. I am afraid that particular ministry did not get off the ground this year. More than that, we lived through a pastoral time as a lot of us were present during the final and closing worship service at St. James. I personally believe we haven't heard the last of St. James! Or, what ministry that can be done there. The Diocesan office is looking towards our Convocation (newly named the Middle Georgia Convocation) to provide some prayerful and discerning efforts in discovering new ways the property at St. James can serve to host a new ministry. Keep a watch out for opportunities to join in this effort. We will be looking for folks like you with ideas and visions to help guide a group or committee toward that endeavor. I wrote in April about a funny painting by Matisse, the "Dance". The article was a reflection of an art class on Picasso's religious art. A group of folks worked through their own interpretation and created personal pieces of art while we transformed the parish hall into an art studio. I still have the piece of art I created displayed in my office. I was especially touch by some folks who created their own piece of art that reflected their current and ongoing struggles. This is a real testament to the pastoral care we can offer to one another as we live out our call to serve as a parish family. I was deeply touched by how people shared. In November, I wrote about an outreach experience I had while living in Berkeley California and in seminary. The reflection had more to do about finding our way to serve together. It was about transitions and all that can change right before our wide open blind eyes. The last part of the article can sum up my report for this year while we move forward into another year of transition, with all the excitement around discerning who will be our next Rector.

The article finished up something like this: While we find ourselves living into the transition of ministry here at Christ Church, it can be difficult to keep up with all the changes taking place. The good news is that we can also be mindful of who we are in community and how we lead each other into our journey in faith with one another as we at Christ Church become who God see us to be.

Grace and peace

The Rev. Arthur W. Villarreal

Deacon

Financial Statements

YEAR END DECEMBER 31, 2015

BRIAN CAUSEY TREASURER

Highlights of Financial Statements

INCOME

- . Pledge income fell short of budgeted amounts by \$41,672
- . Total actual receipts exceeded budgeted receipts by \$37,707

EXPENSES

- . Total actual expenses were under budgeted expenses by \$6,866 for 2015

TREASURER'S COMMENTS

The Stewardship Committee, headed by George Greer, again did an outstanding job of securing pledges to fund the ongoing operations of the Church in 2016.

Pledges are the main source of revenue for the General Fund. Thank you to all who fulfilled their 2015 pledge commitment.

The major expenses of The Jones Chapel are complete and paid for, with the exception of any future seating cost.

Most if not all of the HVAC systems have been replaced and most of the costs have been reimbursed by Endowment funds given for major capital expenses.

Christ Church is very fortunate to have a generous congregation in respect to their pledges. We are fortunate to have good stewards of the funds in the form of our clergy, vestry, and staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Causey

Treasurer

**CHRIST CHURCH- GENERAL FUND
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSE- BUDGET AND ACTUAL
(inc. 2016 Budget)
DECEMBER 31, 2014 AND 2015**

	Actual		Budget	
	2014	2015	2015	2016
REVENUES				
Total General Fund Receipts	818,815	869,535	831,828	994,250
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	562,502	555,455	557,154	506,259
Operating Expenses	137,740	138,898	130,642	151,542
Diocesan Pledge	84,539	85,905	85,905	84,127
Outreach Committee	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Building & Grounds Committee	28,077	33,213	17,807	24,607
Worship Committee	5,597	9,363	8,400	30,200
Pastoral Care Committee	310	239	200	400
Parish Life Committee	795	888	1,200	1,700
Christian Education Committee	11,133	8,808	10,200	10,700
Welcoming and Nurturing	678	634	500	1,000
Communications Committee	3,951	7,469	4,700	6,000
Stewardship Committee	55	345	900	1,100
Miscellaneous Ministries	2,901	1,787	2,500	2,700
Youth Committee	11,814	12,891	14,200	14,200
Young Adults	36	530	500	500
Finance Committee	0	2,075	11,000	11,000
Vestry Expenses	127	2,584	1,200	1,200
Search/Nominating Committee		2,832	25,000	23,000
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	860,256	873,916	882,008	880,235
GENERAL FUND NET	-41,441	-4,381		

Adult Christian Formation

THE REV. JULIA B. MITCHENER, PRIEST ASSOCIATE

Christ Church offers many opportunities for adults to learn and grow in their faith. Sunday morning classes include a Bible study led by Jeff White and a forum in the Cloister Room facilitated by clergy and lay leaders. Weekday classes consist of several Bible studies as well as Wonderful Wednesday programs such as “Families and Faith,” “The Bible and the New York Times,” “The Theology of Downton Abbey,” and “The Art of the Passion.” Of special interest this past fall was a small group offering, “Race and the Christian Faith.” This group met two Wednesdays per month to discuss Christian responses to racial tensions in our country. Parish groups such as the Daughters of the King and the Brotherhood of St. Andrew also organize periodic educational opportunities such as Quiet Days and “Pancakes and Prayer.” Finally, a lectionary based discussion group meets on Sunday mornings throughout the summer.

Altar Guild

NAN HARPER, CHAIR

The Altar Guild of Christ Church is a vital, energetic, and wonderful group of women who lovingly and carefully prepare our Altar for all the worship services at our church. There are about 45 of us comprising 4 teams with each team taking one week of services a month. We carefully set up for, cleanup after, and reset for all Sunday and week day services, funerals and weddings. It is important work that is made so enjoyable by the special comradery that exists between all of our members. One of my favorite times is when we gather to polish the church's lovely silver and brass before Christmas and Easter. Our guild always welcomes new members if anyone is interested in joining us. One of my goals as Altar Guild Chair has been to keep our instructions updated and easy to understand for both newcomers and experienced workers. Christ Church is truly blessed to have this dedicated team of women.

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew

GEORGE MATTHEWS, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew is an international ministry of men within the Anglican Communion with corporate offices in Ambridge, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. The Brotherhood was incorporated by an Act of the U. S. Congress signed May 30, 1908 by President Theodore Roosevelt. That Act states, "the sole object of said corporation shall be the spread of Christ's Kingdom among men." In the late 19th century, the Brotherhood of St. Andrew implemented a program of daily devotions and Bible study for Brotherhood Chapters. This program became so successful it was adopted by many parishes and people outside the Brotherhood. Today this program is carried on by an independent corporation known as the Forward Movement Publications in Cincinnati, Ohio.

The Brotherhood of St Andrew Chapter at Christ Church was re-formed a few years back behind the impetus of the Associate Rector Fr. David Probst, and Jeff White. Today, the Chapter continues its tradition of proclaiming the Gospel among men and youth, and our membership encourages each other in the daily disciplines of Prayer, Study, and Service. The Chapter meets regularly on the second Thursday evening of the month (typically at a members home) to share fellowship, study, prayer, and a meal together. The Chapter has begun a Second Sunday morning tradition of gathering for “Prayers & Pancakes”, and presently are engaged in a study and conversation series about - with the help of Charlie Cork's scholarship- “How did Christianity Survive, and Thrive?” All men of the parish, are welcome at all the Chapter's gatherings.

To fulfill our devotion to service, The Brotherhood at Christ Church will again host a “fun”-raising event on Shrove Tuesday- our “Evening on Bourbon Street” Mardi Gras Party on February 9, from 6-8pm in the Great Hall. Our Cajun cuisine will again feature a Low-Country Boil, King's Cake, the “World Famous Walnut Street Dixie, Racing and Marching Society Jazz Band, Live & Silent Auctions, Door Prizes galore, and fun for all ages, in support of the wonderful program for in-need, diabetic children at Camp Little Shot. Thanks to the generous support of the congregation at Christ Church, last year's donation to Camp Little Shot was \$5,600. Please see a member of the Brotherhood and get your tickets today for this year's event!

In our January meeting, the Chapter installed its new Officers for the next two years: Chapter Director, Chance Reynolds; Assistant Director, Tom Jones; Treasurer, Pete Horne; Secretary, Hal Brickle. With their guidance, God's blessings, and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the Brotherhood of St. Andrews eagerly awaits the opportunities of the New Year.

Building Committee

JOHN WILLINGHAM, CHAIR

The building committee is charged with maintaining the physical plant of the church.

- Adjustments and repairs were made to the overhead lighting in the church – special thanks to Phil Groce.
- New AC was installed in the Great Hall.
- Routine plumbing, painting, and HVAC service were accomplished.
- The restoration of the stained glass windows was completed. The project, which began in 2013, included thirteen windows in the church and one in Jones Chapel. Donations to fund the work were provided by individuals, families, and church organizations. Recent research discovered that the Asher Ayers Family Window, which includes a presentation of the Good Samaritan, was made by Louis C. Tiffany & Company.

Children's Ministry

THE REV. JULIA B. MITCHENER, PRIEST ASSOCIATE

2015 was a year of continued growth for Children's Ministry at Christ Church. Classes, programs and events included the following:

- Sunday School, featuring Godly Play for grades Pre-K-5 and a Bible story based curriculum for 2 and 3-year-olds
- Christ Church Choristers, directed by our Organist and Choirmaster, Jona-than Poe
- Children's Ash Wednesday liturgy in Jones Chapel
- Our traditional Easter egg hunt on Easter morning
- Vacation Bible School, featuring music, stories, drama, crafts and games centered on an "Everest" expedition theme
- The annual All Hallows' Eve Mass and Costume Party
- "We Gather Together," an evening of community service for children and families the week before Thanksgiving
- The annual St. Nicholas Celebration in early December
- Our Parish Retreat at Kanuga on the second weekend in Advent
- "Cookies and Carols," a night of singing and other festivities in anticipation of Christmas
- Our annual Children's Christmas Pageant, held on Christmas Eve
- A "Three Kings Celebration" on the Feast of the Epiphany, featuring a worship service, diaper drive, procession of lights, dinner, and craft project

Many thanks to all the wonderfully dedicated and talented volunteers who help make these Christian formation experiences possible. We are richly blessed!

Communications Committee

ELIZABETH SCHORR, CHAIR

The Christ Church Communications Committee has accomplished several goals in 2015. We implemented a process for insuring the website is fresh and updated regularly, making the website a user friendly resource for parishioners. Our next goal is to brand Christ Church as a whole and implement a social media strategy to increase communications internally and with the community.

Daughters of the King

TRISHA S. BARFIELD, PRESIDENT

The Daughters of the King is an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, or churches in communion with it, or churches who are the Historic Episcopate. Members undertake a Rule of Life, incorporating the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service. A Daughter pledges herself to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of Christ on her parish. – NATIONAL HANDBOOK

The Holy Spirit chapter of The Daughters of the King is what I describe as a “quiet ministry”. Our profile in the work of the parish is not one with a high visibility but one which I believe is of high value. Our greatest work is that of prayer; prayer for the parish as a whole and prayer for individuals as requested. One of our most committed and devoted members maintains a prayer list that is separate from the public prayer list of the parish. She updates this list on a regular basis and sends it out to the membership. Any member may add names to this list. Prayers are not limited to members. Persons asking for prayers may share their specific need or not as they wish. This list remains confidential to the Daughters. At times these needs may be known to the parish at large because they have been shared by the person that requested our prayers. Another part of our ministry is the making of the baptismal banners. A personalized banner is created for each person receiving the sacrament. This banner is a gift to the child or adult being baptized and is an additional outward sign of being enveloped into the arms of Christ and the family of Christ Church. Twice a year we sponsor a Quiet Day. This is a morning of focused prayer and education directed toward our preparation for Advent and Lent. We invite anyone interested to join with us in the focus. Our group would not be considered social in the sense of party but in our common devotion to the service of prayer for those in need we establish a deeper relationship with one another thus enriching our individual lives as well as the life of the parish as a whole. Throughout the year we will meet and share ways to enrich our prayer life in new and fresh ways.

It is my opinion that each chapter of the Daughters develops its own personality. Our chapter has not branched out to be involved in the life of the national organization but if one was interested in this type of commitment there are many opportunities to spread ones wings in the organizational operations on a regional and national level.

Endowment Committee

ROBBO HATCHER, CHAIR

The Endowment or Funds Management Committee is responsible for overseeing four funds - the Julia Jones Fund, the Housing Fund, the Frieda May Fund, and the Christ Church Fund. The committee meets four times a year to review the funds' performances and to make suggestions when changes are deemed necessary.

The committee also is responsible for receiving monetary or real estate gifts and making sure they are assigned to the proper fund. Most of the monies given are restricted to a particular need and the committee sees to it that these restrictions are followed.

The Endowment Committee is appointed and governed by the Vestry and Rector and answers to them directly through the Vestry Shepherd assigned.

**The dollar values of these funds are available from the Treasurer.*

Episcopal Church Women

ANNA GREER, PRESIDENT

The women of ECW kicked off the year with our annual fall kick off party, hosted by Amanda Smith in her lovely home. The kick-off party was well attended by so many women of Christ Church, including lots of new members! It was a great success and a wonderful way to start off the year! The new officers were announced, including Anna Greer as President, Elizabeth McCain as Vice President, Rachel Horkan as treasurer, and Kelly Causey remaining as Secretary again this year--we are certainly grateful for Rachel and Kelly's service to this group! We know that Elizabeth McCain will do a wonderful job serving as president next year!

We held Garden Gate this year on November 5th and 6th. The preview party and luncheon were well attended and very successful. Thank you to all of the ECW members who volunteered and all church members who came out to support us!

The Christmas party was well attended this year and was so much fun! The party was held at Wendy Johnson's lovely home this year and was filled with great cheer. Wendy's house was beautifully decorated for the season making the party even more festive. Thank you to Kay Greer and Kitty Walker for organizing this event again this year!! They always do a perfect job of hosting the Christmas party.

We are planning an ECW event for the spring and look forward to getting together for some wine, food and fellowship. Details to follow soon.

Thank you, again, to all the members of ECW for a great year!

Flower Guild

GINNY ROZIER & NANCY REHBERG, CO-CHAIRS

The Flower Guild arranges flowers for all services held at Christ Church- on Sundays, for funerals, weddings, and special days of the church. This is a wonderful ministry! There are 21 members in this committee and anyone interested is WELCOME to join! Please contact Nancy Rehberg or Ginny Rozier for information.

Grounds Committee

HAMP DOWLING, CHAIR

JONES CHAPEL

Since this time last year, Jones Chapel has been used many times by our congregation, AA meetings, and the weekend lunch group. Robert stays busy setting up for the different groups. The initial star sales were brisk but appear to have slowed down dramatically. Please continue to buy stars as the chapel can use the funds for future chair or pew purchases. While there is still work to be done in a few places, the work has almost stopped, due to funding.

GROUNDS

Last year annual plantings at the street entrance to Christ Church and the courtyard outside the chapel were implemented. New sod was installed on the right side in front of the church as it had all turned into weeds. Some work was done on the irrigation system but more needs to be done in this coming year.

Music Ministry

JONATHAN POE, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

“We have seen a lot of change this year in our Music Ministry, but that is not always a bad thing. We restarted our Christ Church Chorister program which meets regularly on Wednesdays at 5:30 and currently has 8 members. Most of them are first-graders and I look forward to their continued success in the Royal School of Church music curriculum. Also, the Christ Church Choir continues to strive for excellence in music and their dedication does not go unnoticed. Rehearsals have returned to Thursday evenings at 5:30 which provides us with more time to prepare the music for worship and other special services. Finally, I want to thank Jack Mitchener for all the hard work and the many hours of planning and practicing he dedicated to building and maintaining a superb music ministry. I am fortunate to inherit such a wonderful group of musicians and I am very excited about the future of our musical offerings here at Christ Church Macon.”

Office Volunteers

JANE WILLINGHAM, VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

Office volunteers offer a valuable service in that we perform certain duties that will allow more time for the staff to work without frequent interruptions. Our duties include answering the phone and the doorbell, greeting visitors, making reminder phone calls, doing clerical work, as well as anything else that is needed.

We work at the reception desk in the Harrold House. The schedules are flexible in that we work either mornings or afternoons and usually twice a month. More volunteers are welcome!

The Order of Saint Luke

BOB HARDEMAN, CONVENER

The International Order of St. Luke the Physician is devoted to bringing the healing ministry of Jesus Christ to all who are in physical, spiritual and emotional need. For more than seven decades and at Christ Church since the middle 90's, the Order of St. Luke has sought to provide our parishioners with the scriptural foundations for belief in the healing power of Christ. Our ministry offers a prayer room which is located in the Harrold House. The prayer room offers extended prayer time with a prayer team, or clergy, for quiet, prayerful meditative time in our Lord's presence. Our lay prayer ministers anoint at the noon Wednesday healing service and on the first and third Sundays each month during the 11 o'clock service. As with all of our ministries, we welcome any who may be called by our Lord to this ministry to join us. We meet every third Tuesday of the month in the Harrold House at 5 p.m. for prayer, study and reflection.

Outreach Committee

SHANNON DAVIS, CHAIR

The Christ Church Outreach Committee consists of 17 members. This membership includes many who hold board membership or other representation on the various ministries supported by the committee, one clergy representative, one vestry shepherd, and two youth members.

Some of the ministries supported by the Outreach Committee, both financially and through volunteers, include Day-break, Loaves and Fishes, Crisis Line/Safehouse, Haitian Hope, and Path to Shine. The Outreach Committee sponsors the Weekend Lunch Program which feeds the downtown's hungry in our Jones Chapel on Saturdays and Sundays. At Christmas gifts are given to children of the residents of the Rescue Mission through our Giving Tree event. A Socks for Flocks drive is held in November and a hot meal is provided for an annual Christmas meal for the homeless. A Ministry of the Month is advertised in the church publications including a wish list for the various sponsored ministries throughout the year.

The Outreach Committee would like to broaden its scope in the coming year to include and recognize the many efforts within Christ Church that are indeed outreach projects. While the above noted endeavors and corresponding budgets are specific to the Outreach Committee, we recognize that individuals, groups, and committees do good works every day that are indeed Christ Church outreach. We appreciate your continued support of this committee and welcome your questions and ideas. Please contact Deacon Arthur Villarreal or Shannon Davis should you wish to learn more about the Outreach Committee.

Parish Life

HOLLY LEACHMAN, CHAIR

Parish Life out on 4 annual events as usual. Annual Meeting, Lemonade on the Lawn, Kick Off Sunday and Parish Picnic. We did not do Garden Gate this year due to Ms Kay Greer offering to take it over. Also there was a Bishop reception and a reception for Bryan Hinson. We had a very smooth sailing year.

Pastoral Care

VIRGINIA BUZZELL, CHAIR

The Pastoral Care Committee continues to support the church members by preparing food for them in times of need—such as illness, surgery, or birth of a new baby. Our committee is made up of twenty-four members who work in teams and rotate the responsibility of providing meals when needed. We encourage all members of Christ Church to contact the church office in times of need so that we can best minister to our church members.

Using this mantra as our guiding principle, the Pastoral Care Committee operates with this goal: "The clergy and members of Christ Church will provide pastoral care, support, and counseling to its members in time of need and joy."

Stewardship Committee

GEORGE GREER, CHAIR

The Stewardship Committee members for the 2015 Campaign were as follows: George Greer, Nan Harper, Andrea Williford, Cason Wilkin, Will Horkan, Rachel Chabot, Shannon Davis, David McCain, Ellen Murphy, and Sally Hatcher. The theme for this year's Campaign was "A House Built on Solid Rock". The Campaign began on Sunday, October 8, 2015 with the mailing of pledge packets and concluded on Sunday, November 15, 2015 with a celebration luncheon planned and served by Anna Greer and a luncheon committee.

This year's Campaign and subsequent follow up has resulted in pledges totaling \$713,521 based on 186 pledge cards. This amount is, candidly, short of its intended goal of \$790,000. The Stewardship Committee is following up with additional calls to our congregation and hopes that additional pledges coming in during January 2016 will allow us to increase this total to get closer to our goal.

The Committee utilized a number of strategies during this year's Campaign to make the membership aware of the Stewardship effort while encouraging them to participate for the benefit of Christ Church and many other deserving people in the community. Speakers at each service during the Campaign, announcements in The Chimes, and through emails and personal letters to the membership and use of a Pledge Banner in the Great Hall were each intended to heighten the awareness of the Stewardship effort during the "official" Campaign. Follow up by committee members for those pledges not yet received and a handwritten thank you note sent for each pledge by a Committee member reinforced the importance of our mission.

My sincere appreciation goes to the Stewardship Committee, the clergy and vestry and to the membership of Christ Church for their support of the campaign. Additionally, the Committee and I are greatly indebted to the professionalism and responsiveness of Beverly McFall, Financial Secretary and Christy McAdams, Parish Administrator, in assisting us with timely reporting and beneficial Campaign marketing.

It has been an honor serving as Chairman this year – may God bless Christ Church and our faithful and generous membership.

Welcoming & Nurturing Committee

CHAIR– TBD

The purpose of this committee is to welcome newcomers to Christ Church and assimilate them into the worship, fellowship and ministries of the parish. Hospitality is the primary focus of the committee and all Christ Church members are encouraged to play a role in making visitors feel welcome and a part of the parish. We hosted a newcomers' party in the fall at the home of The Rev. Joseph Shippen, which was very well attended. Thank you to all Christ Church members for making yourselves known to visitors and encouraging them to become involved in the parish. If you have names of newcomers that need a call or a visit, please send those names to the parish office.

Worship Committee

JULIE GROCE, CHAIR

The Worship Committee is composed of our priests, our minister of music, and the leaders of the Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Usher/Greeters, Choir, Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Order of St. Luke (anointers), and the Vergers. The Committee coordinates the schedules of all of the ministries that support our worship services. Each quarter, we meet to review the liturgical calendar and plan the worship services. We give special attention to the services on Epiphany, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, Easter, Pentecost, All Saints, Christmas Eve, and Christmas. We discuss when it is appropriate and desired to have incense or streamers, and we discuss the scheduling of baptisms and of Choral Evensongs. We've also discussed liturgical participants in weddings and funerals and how to formalize and streamline this process. This year, leaders have reviewed and revised instructions or customs for the various liturgical activities such as acolyting and verging, and we have held several training sessions for both new and veteran worship participants. Christ Church is very blessed to have many parishioners involved in the varied ministries of this committee. More than one bishop has remarked that our liturgies run more smoothly than nearly anywhere else in the Diocese of Atlanta.

Youth Ministry

JOHN MARK PARKER, YOUTH COORDINATOR

The Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) at Christ Church is alive and well thanks to the many wonderful young people, parents, adult mentors, clergy, vestry, staff and others who are committed to supporting and encouraging our middle school, high school and college students. As with all things in life, seasons come and go, people move in and out of our lives, and roles and relationships change.

In 2015, the Christ Church EYC experienced some significant changes in leadership. In February, John Mark Parker was invited to re-join the staff as Youth Ministry Coordinator (He previously served at Christ Church from 2008-2012) as The Reverend Bryan Hinson began to prepare for ordination to the priesthood and changes in his leadership roles at Christ Church. In May, the youth said goodbye to their beloved Rector Harriette Simmons, honoring her with a farewell dinner prepared and served in the beautifully restored Jones Chapel. In June, EYC alumnus Hope Hutchins became our Youth Ministry Intern and added her own special gifts to the EYC, with fresh, new ideas and outstanding communication skills in social media. After a wonderful summer of various activities (some of which are highlighted below), we said goodbye to Chase Henderson, another very important member of the Youth Ministry Team. Chase served for many years as a confidant, coach, leader, and constant source of enthusiasm and energy. Many tears were shed during the prayers and laying on of hands at the Farewell Party for Chase (also held in Jones Chapel) as he prepared to leave for Medical School. Just a couple weeks ago, we said farewell once again to Hope Hutchins as she left to accept a position in Youth and Childrens Ministry at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga. One of the beautiful things about youth ministry at Christ Church is that even as we say goodbye to those who move away and relationships and roles change, there are people on hand to step in and help continue the vital ministry to our young people in Macon and beyond.

Those assembled for the Annual Council in November approved a Diocesan Statement of Purpose, which reads: "We challenge ourselves and the world to love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually." Earlier this month, several of our high school students and adult leaders attended the Annual DYC (Diocesan Youth Community) Retreat at Camp Mikell, and we explored the meaning of the new purpose statement and discussed ways to apply the tenets in our individual spiritual journeys as well as the youth ministry here at Christ Church. Every way we engage youth ministry at Christ Church keeps those ideas in mind. Of course, we did not have that particular purpose statement in writing during 2015, but I believe our ministry was led by similar goals.

We continue to love like Jesus as we gather regularly for fellowship and fun, prayer and care. We welcome all youth in grades 6-12 (and beyond) to participate in any programs designed with them in mind. Our older students serve as mentors and "big siblings" to younger youth who are new to middle school and high school. We meet on Tuesday and Thursday mornings for prayer and breakfast, sharing our joys and challenges, hopes and concerns. In Sunday School, we discuss current events from a biblical perspective, explore our religious traditions, learn more about the Bible and the context in which it was written, and pray for the world, for our own needs, and for the needs of others. On Tuesday evenings, we again meet for fun and food, prayer and study, and just another chance to build community and encourage each other along our spiritual journey.

Diocesan youth events provide an excellent opportunity for building relationships with ourselves, with others and with God. We consistently participate in New Beginnings (a semi-annual retreat for middle school students), Happening (a semi-annual weekend retreat for high school students), DYC (an annual retreat for middle, high school and college students), Summer Sessions at Camp Mikell and more. With the amazing growth of social media, participants at these events are able to stay connected with new friends made at these events, and lifelong relationships strengthen. This is a beautiful thing.

We believe that youth ministry is fun, and while every event has an "official" element of prayer and worship involved, do our share of just enjoying the company of one another. St. Irenaeus is credited with saying, "The glory of God is the human person fully alive." A number of our events may seem crazy to some... like the Annual Messy Olympics, the 24-Hour road trip to Disney's Night of Joy, the Haunted Lock-In, and the Ugly-Sweater-White-Elephant-Gift-Christmas-Party, but in the midst of the laughter and screams, hugs and messes, Jesus is there, and God's presence is realized in special ways.

The Christ Church EYC is involved in community service and outreach regularly. Youth Teams participate in Weekend Lunch several times each year, preparing and serving meals for people in the Macon area. We participate in the Annual Atlanta Hunger Walk/Run as part of the Episcopal Charities Group, raising thousands of dollars to help provide groceries and meals for people living in Middle, West and North Georgia. In 2015, we joined with four other parishes for Youth Week 2015, and more than 50 participants served the Lynmore Estate Community in Macon, helping to refurbish the playground and Community Center at Southside Community Church where our Path to Shine programs tutors students each week during the school year. Several of our young people participated in mission trips during the summer and served as counselors and volunteers with organizations like Camp Little Shot and Jay's Hope. On Father's Day, the EYC sponsored the "Abby's Hope Blood Drive" for the first time. With the help of the American Red Cross and the leadership of Madison Baima (who was then a senior at Mount De Sales Academy), more than 35 potential donors offered more than 30 units of blood to help share the gift of life with others. On each Tuesday in July, members of the EYC prepared and served lunches at Loaves and Fishes Ministries in downtown Macon, taking an active role in making a positive difference in our community. Youth at Christ Church volunteer in other ways throughout the year, such as partnering with the U.S. Postal Service and Goodwill in the annual canned goods drive and ringing the bell for hours with the Salvation Army during the holidays.

We recognize that not every person can attend every event, and not every activity appeals to all individuals; however, we endeavor to offer a wide range of opportunities for participation in youth ministry where we love like Jesus as we worship joyfully, serve compassionately, and grow spiritually. "Come play with us. Come pray with us." That's our invitation, and as always, everyone is welcome!

Since last year's Annual Meeting

We have said farewell to

The Rev. Harriette J. Simmons, Rector
Dr. Jack Mitchener, Organist /Choirmaster
Laura Evans, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Chase Henderson, Assistant Youth Coordinator
Hope Hutchins, Youth Intern

We have welcomed

The Rev. Bryan Hinson, Curate
John Mark Parker, Youth Coordinator



Christ Church
582 Walnut Street . Macon, Georgia . 31201
www.ChristChurchMacon.com
478-745-0427