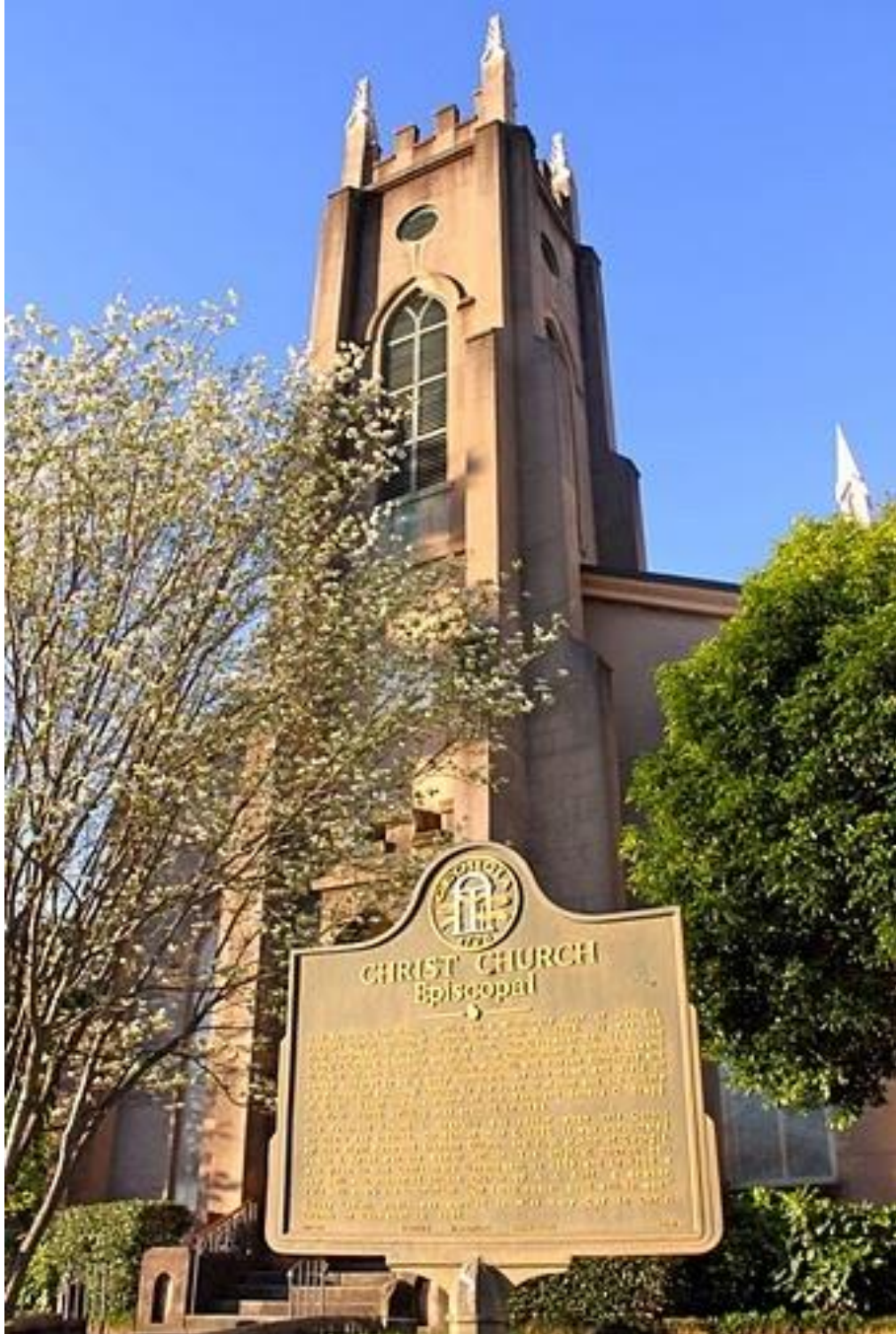


# *Christ Episcopal Church*



**2016 ANNUAL REPORT**

## **Clergy and Staff**

THE REV. CYNTHIA CLARK KNAPP, RECTOR  
THE REV. JOSEPH SHIPPEN, ASSOCIATE RECTOR  
JONATHAN POE, ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER  
JOHN MARK PARKER, YOUTH COORDINATOR  
CHRISTY McADAMS, PARISH ADMINISTRATOR  
BEVERLY MCFALL, FINANCIAL SECRETARY  
ROBERT HUBBARD, SEXTON  
CAROLYN SIMMONS, ASSISTANT SEXTON

## **2016 Vestry**

LAWRENCE WILLIFORD, SENIOR WARDEN  
EMORY JOHNSON, JUNIOR WARDEN  
\*TOM JONES, TREASURER/ OUTREACH  
\*SALLY HATCHER, CLERK/ YOUTH  
  
ELLEN BUNKER, FINANCIAL  
\*BONNIE DOWLING, BUILDING & GROUNDS  
LIZZIE CLARK, STEWARDSHIP  
LAURA EVANS, CHRISTIAN EDUCATION/ CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES  
NAN HARPER, WORSHIP  
MOLLY MUSE, PARISH LIFE/PASTORAL CARE  
TED ROBINSON, INREACH/WELCOMING & NURTURING  
\*RUTH SOLOMON, COMMUNICATIONS  
WALKER STEWART, YOUNG ADULTS  
  
*\* denotes outgoing Vestry members*

## **2016 Diocesan Council Delegates**

LISA MAYFIELD  
BILL AND SUSAN ALLEN  
CONNIE MENENDEZ  
MARY ROBINSON  
PEGGY PURYEAR

### **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 22, 2017  
GREAT HALL

CALL TO ORDER AND PRAYER

The Reverend Cynthia Clark Knapp, Rector

INTRODUCTION OF VESTRY NOMINEES

Bill Buzzell, Nominating Committee Chair

FINAL CALL FOR VOTES

Bill Buzzell

DIOCESAN COUNCIL DELEGATES

Lawrence Williford, Senior Warden

- Call for Nominations
- Voice Vote

INTRODUCTION/RECOGNITION

- Committees
- Chair People
- Vestry
- Outgoing Vestry Members
- Staff

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

George Greer

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

Ellen Bunker

REPORT ON ELECTIONS ADJOURNMENT

DISMISSAL

The Reverend Cynthia Clark Knapp, Rector

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

# 2016 Parish Report

## OFFICIAL ACTS

Baptisms	5
Marriages	3
Burials	14

## MEMBERSHIP

### 2016 Year End Membership Totals

Active	678
Inactive	73
Transfers In	1
Transfers Out	6
Deaths	11

## NUMBER OF SERVICES IN 2016

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2012</u>
Eucharistic/Sunday Services	140	142	141	141	138
Weekday Eucharist/ Daily Office	277	343	58	133	87
Private	34	65	33	42	65
Total Communions	11,813	12,280	13,751	15,647	14,798
Average Sunday Attendance	209	234	211	226	218

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Ages 2 & 3	11
Ages 4 & 5	10
Grades 1-3	18
Grades 4-5	10
Grades 6-8	19
Grades 9-12	6

# Transitions

## BAPTISMS

CAROLINE GRACE COTTER  
ELIZABETH LEIGH HORKAN  
GEORGIA LOVE ODEM  
KIRA LOUISE ROBINSON  
CAYDEN GRACE YAUGHN

## MARRIAGES

ALLISON TAYLOR DeHART & WILLIAM CHASE HENDERSON  
INDIA LEE HIGHTOWER & SAMUEL MIXON WADDELL  
PAMELA RYLES DUNCAN & DANIEL LEE WHITE

## BURIALS

DR. ELIZABETH N. BARNES  
ANGUS BELL "BLUE" BIRDSEY  
JAMES MICHAEL CRAWFORD  
DARYL STEVEN EMILIO  
CLOYD KNOLTON HALL, SR.  
EDWARD JERRY HARRELL  
PATRICIA MONNET MADDUX  
GILES HARDEMAN O'NEAL  
ETTA REESE TINKER SHEFFIELD  
BETTY FERGUSON SMITH  
MARY ELIZABETH SMITH TAYLOR  
RUSSELL STUART TEMPLE  
JULIA VANCE WALKER  
MARIE MATTHEY WILSON

# The Senior Warden's Report

SUBMITTED BY LAWRENCE WILLIFORD

The year 2016 was an important one in the long history of Christ Church, as for only the 28<sup>th</sup> time we welcomed a new Rector, Reverend Cynthia C. Knapp. In the short time she has been here, she has become ingrained in our parish through her preaching, Bible studies, Sunday school classes and pastoral activities. She has worked hard to get to know us and to ascertain what we want and need from our Rector. We welcome Cynthia and Chet to Macon and Christ Church.

We could not have gotten to this point if not for the efforts of many. Our clergy- Joseph Shippen, Bryan Hinson, Julia Mitchener and Arthur Villarreal- did a wonderful job guiding us through our transition from Harriette to Cynthia. Jonathan Poe has done an outstanding job in his first year as our Organist and Choirmaster, continuing and expanding the music ministry that is such an important part of our church. If not for the dedication of our longest tenured employees, Robert Hubbard and Carolyn Simmons, who work largely behind the scenes, our daily lives at Christ Church would be much different. I would like to give a special thanks to Beverly McFall, our long-time Financial Administrator. She let us know a year ago that she would be retiring at the end of the year. She has done yeoman's work in helping us keep our financial house in order.

In the last couple of years we have taken steps to insure that we follow "best practices" in the management of the business of the church. We have formed or expanded the responsibilities of several committees: finance, insurance and fine arts. This year we engaged the services of a consultant with extensive experience working with Episcopal parishes. He worked with the vestry to review and implement changes and improve procedures in the business and financial management of the church.

As we begin a new year, we can all look forward to being active participants in the ever-changing life of our church. With our new Rector, our future is bright and full of promise.

# The Rector's Report

SUBMITTED BY THE REV. CYNTHIA CLARK KNAPP

Rector's Report for end of September through the end of 2016

Much of my time this fall was spent getting to know all of you and learning how things work at Christ Church. This is such a wonderful parish with so many talented people who have a heart to serve the Lord in the Church and in the Community. Truly we are abundantly blessed to have such a vibrant parish family! It is a privilege to have the opportunity to partner with you in ministry.

I have been working with various committees/ministries to develop leadership, help to discern vision and direction, and encourage increased participation by other parishioners where any of those things were needed. Together we have worked to reenergize several important ministries. Ted Robinson has taken charge of developing and organizing the Welcoming and Newcomer Ministry who will be hosting their next Welcome party at the beginning of 2017 and have put in place systems to better track newcomers. The Healing Ministry, under the leadership of Trisha Barfield and Virginia Green is starting their training program in January of 2017 for those interested in doing prayer ministry for healing. They just had a wonderful healing service at the beginning of December that was a blessing to all those who attended. They have a team of at least 14 people involved in the development of that ministry and we are hoping to be offering prayer for healing during worship on a regular basis. The Outreach Ministry is now being co-chaired by Shannon Davis and Susan Allen with Irene Marxsen serving as clerk and they are moving forward with new energy and enthusiasm. The Pastoral Visitor Ministry has been handed off to Elizabeth Jones with new members joining to participate as Eucharistic Visitors and an effort is being made to reach more of the membership unable to get to church. All are moving into 2017 with enthusiasm for the work the Lord is calling them to do. We have started an usher and greeter program for the 8:00 service under the leadership of Sandy Kendall to make that a more welcoming service for newcomers, and Duncan Walker will be taking on the leadership of the 11:00 usher ministry in 2017. We are seeing a broadening in participation in ministries and a widening of the circle of leadership as people step up to share their gifts and join together in the ministry of Christ Church. Another place this has made a big difference is in the ministry of Office Volunteers headed by Jane Willingham. I brought a prayer request to the DOK Quiet Day in Advent as we were feeling overwhelmed in the office. The prayer was answered immediately in a powerful and tangible way with many hands joining in to assist in this ongoing ministry. You will now find a smiling face and cheerful voice greeting you in the church office every morning during the week and in the afternoons Monday- Thursday.

We have also been working to improve administrative systems in the office for more effective management of the parish and to better utilize resources that are available to us. We have responded to changes in staff that were anticipated in advance of my arrival as well as to the unanticipated change in parish administrator. Your patience and assistance in this difficult time has been much appreciated. We are happy to have Jonathan on board with us effectively full time (beginning the end of January 2017) through two half time positions. This is helpful for him on many levels and for us as well. We look forward to going forward in strength in the new year. The vestry has also approved the hiring of a full time assistant priest and a full time youth minister and we will begin that process in 2017 hoping to make those hires sometime midyear.

I have loved engaging in study of the Word with you through Sunday morning programs on Prayer and The Journey to Bethlehem, a monthly Bible study with the High School students, and several Women's Bible studies including the new Gift of Gab evening Bible study designed to fit the schedule of working women. These have been wonderful opportunities to get to know you better as we study and fellowship together.

I will continue to make every effort to listen to you as we seek to find our way forward in a way that serves the family of Christ Church in worship and in every aspect of ministry and our life together. It is truly a joy to be with you.

In Christ,  
The Rev. Cynthia Knapp

# The Associate Rector's Report

THE REV. JOSEPH SHIPPEN

Associate Rector's Annual Report for 2016  
Joseph Shippen

As I write this annual report, we have just installed The Rev. Cynthia Knapp as our new Rector. The service was an incredible display of a community united by the love of Christ and full of renewed energy for ministry. It is clear that our parish is thriving and excited about where God will take us next as we begin a new chapter with our new Rector.

It has been a special privilege to serve as the Associate Rector of Christ Church. Throughout 2016, Christ Church continued to live out the gospel even as we prepared to call and welcome our new Rector. That would not have happened without the extraordinary leadership of the other clergy, the staff, the Vestry, the Nominating Committee, and the other parishioners. I am so grateful to all of our leaders for their faithful service, which made 2016 such a successful year. I want to especially thank our Sr. Warden, Lawrence Williford, for his inspired leadership of the parish throughout the transition.

Throughout 2016, we continued to live out our mission: "Growing by God's grace into a family of faith and ministry." Our parish is healthy. New people are welcomed, children are nurtured, and the community is served through meaningful outreach ministries.

"Transition" is an appropriate word for 2016, not only because we welcomed our new Rector. We also welcomed other clergy and staff, and said goodbye to others. At the beginning of 2016, Dr. Jack Mitchener stepped down as our Organist and Choirmaster, and Jonathan Poe began serving in that role. Jack, who did so much to build up our music program, had very big shoes to fill. Through Jonathan's many gifts, the music program continues to be a foundational ministry at Christ Church, providing such beauty to our Sunday liturgies.

I could not have asked for a better clergy team to help me lead the pastoral ministry of the parish. Our Curate, The Rev. Bryan Hinson, was ordained at Christ Church just as we were beginning the transition period. Although, like all newly ordained clergy, he was learning many aspects of the priesthood, he did an exceptional job of helping me with all of the day-to-day affairs of the parish. The Rev. Julia Mitchener did fantastic work in leading children's ministries, adult Christian formation, and Wonderful Wednesdays. The Godly Play program for our children continues to be one of the many bright spots in our life at Christ Church. The Rev. Arthur Villarreal provided excellent clergy support throughout the transition period for the Outreach Committee.

It continues to be a great joy to help lead our services on Sunday mornings, at special Wednesday events, and at Carlyle place. I have also greatly enjoyed helping with our pastoral care ministry, especially in visiting our members who are unable, for health or other reasons, to attend church.

Our rich common life continues to be enlivened by fellowship times and Christian education offerings. I would like to thank all of our teachers, who have given so much of their time and gifts to teaching our all of our Christian education classes for adults and children. Our classes have been interesting, moving, and well attended. I would also like each of our amazing parishioners who give time and talent to our many ministries.

I am so blessed to serve with all of you as we continue to grow "by God's grace into a family of faith and ministry."

Grace and Peace,  
Joseph+



# Financial Statements

YEAR END DECEMBER 31, 2016

ELLEN BUNKER, FINANCIAL SHEPHERD

## Highlights of Financial Statements

### General Fund Income

Though pledged income fell short of budgeting amounts by \$94,234 in 2016, unpledged income and other sources resulted in actual receipts exceeding the budget by \$35,362 for the year.

### General Fund Expenses & Net Income

Total expenses were \$106,363 below budget, primarily due to a significant reduction in personnel expense, which resulted in General Fund net income of \$56,259 for the year.

### FINANCE SHEPHERD'S COMMENTS

The major source of revenue for the General Fund is pledged income from our parishioners. Many thanks to all who fulfilled their pledge commitments in 2016 and to all who otherwise donated their time, talent and treasure to Christ Church during the past year!

While our major source of revenue is pledged income, our major expense is our personnel expense. We experienced a significant reduction in budgeted personnel expense from 2015 to 2016 as we searched for our new rector and experienced other transition with our clergy. We are grateful for our clergy and staff who saw us through this period of transition as we called Cynthia to join us as the 28<sup>th</sup> Rector of Christ Church this past fall. Our other primary General Fund expense is the operating, building and grounds expenses that are required to upkeep our historic facilities.

For 2017, our Stewardship Committee, headed by George Greer, once again did a wonderful job securing pledged income for the upcoming year and this effort continues to be ongoing. While all donations are appreciated and vitally important, Pledged income allows Christ Church to be able to plan for the ongoing operations, as well as new and continued programs, for the coming year. We are fortunate to have both a generous congregation and good stewards of the funds entrusted to Christ Church.

Ellen Bunker

Finance Shepherd

**CHRIST CHURCH- GENERAL FUND**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENSES- BUDGET AND ACTUAL**  
(in. 2017 Budget)  
**DECEMBER 31, 2015 AND 2016**

	2015 Actual	2016 Actual	2016 Budget	2017 Budget
REVENUES				
General Fund Receipts	\$ 929,939	\$ 873,783	\$ 838,421	\$ 803,442
EXPENSES				
Personnel Expenses	\$ 546,861	\$ 479,156	\$ 564,914	\$ 495,163
Search/Nominating Committee	\$ 2,832	\$ 14,286	\$ 23,000	\$ 8,000
Operating Expenses	\$ 138,170	\$ 146,541	\$ 146,394	\$ 146,979
Buildings & Grounds Committee	\$ 33,212	\$ 26,230	\$ 24,852	\$ 27,996
Finance Committee	\$ 2,075	\$ 8,045	\$ 11,000	\$ 11,000
Vestry Expenses	\$ 2,584	\$ -	\$ 1,200	\$ 700
Stewardship Committee	\$ 345	\$ 24	\$ 1,100	\$ 1,100
Diocesan Pledge	\$ 85,905	\$ 84,127	\$ 84,127	\$ 84,090
Outreach/Discretionary Funds	\$ 39,860	\$ 10,896	\$ -	\$ 6,000
Worship & Music Committee	\$ 9,363	\$ 28,261	\$ 30,300	\$ 21,800
Pastoral Care Committee	\$ 238	\$ 387	\$ 400	\$ 400
Parish Life Committee	\$ 887	\$ 884	\$ 1,700	\$ 1,700
Christian Education Committee	\$ 8,808	\$ 4,754	\$ 10,700	\$ 10,700
Welcoming & Nurturing	\$ 634	\$ -	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,000
Communications Committee	\$ 7,469	\$ 5,802	\$ 6,000	\$ 6,000
Miscellaneous Ministries	\$ 1,671	\$ 2,676	\$ 2,500	\$ 2,700
Youth Committee	\$ 12,891	\$ 5,455	\$ 14,200	\$ 7,000
Young Adults	\$ 530	\$ -	\$ 500	\$ 500
TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENSES	\$ 894,335	\$ 817,524	\$ 923,887	\$ 832,828
GENERAL FUND NET	\$ 35,604	\$ 56,259	\$ (85,466)	\$ (29,386)

# 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

TOM JONES, CHAPTER DIRECTOR

The Brotherhood of St. Andrew began in 1883 in Chicago as a men's Episcopal organization. Christ Church had an early chapter but became inactive until 6 years ago when Jeff White restarted the chapter. The chapter has 22 members. The goal is to bring men and youth to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There are four cornerstones of the ministry, which are daily prayer, study of scripture, service to others, and fellowship. Our major service is Shrove Tuesday, where we enjoy Christ Church fellowship helping to raise money for children with Diabetes. We meet monthly to worship, enjoy fellowship, and share experiences living with Jesus. We welcome all men of Christ Church.

# Building Committee

JOHN WILLINGHAM, CHAIR

The Building Committee is charged with maintaining the physical plant of the church.

- Routine plumbing, painting, and HVAC service were accomplished.
- A hand painted window in Jones Chapel was restored.
- Bat preventive work was completed in the bell tower.
- Tower chimes in the bell tower were serviced.
- The choir rehearsal room in the Parish House was remodeled.
- Adjustments and repairs were made to the lighting in the church.

I want to express my appreciation to all church members who helped with many of these projects, especially Phil Groce and crew, Bonnie Dowling, and Molly Muse.

# Children's Ministry

LAURA EVANS, VESTRY SHEPHERD

The children's ministry at Christ Church provides many different programs and services in which our children can learn and worship. Four classrooms available for the ten o'clock Sunday school hour and include:

- 2K/3K- Children's Chapel with Bible story and craft
- Godly Play I- PreK / K
- Godly Play II- 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> grades
- Godly Play II- 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades

Worship services provided for children and their families throughout the year include:

- All Hallow's Eve
- St. Nicholas Celebration
- Cookies and Carols
- Christmas Pageant and Eucharist
- Three Kings Celebration
- Ash Wednesday
- Easter service followed by Easter egg hunt at the church

Christ Church will host Vacation Bible School this summer 2017.

# Communications Committee

ELIZABETH SCHORR, CHAIR

The Christ Church Communications Committee is looking forward to working with Cynthia 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 but prayers are not limited to Christ Church 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. In addition to the banner a Daughter will knit or crochet a baby blanket. During the making of the banner and blanket prayers are said for the person to receive it.

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. We meet monthly in homes of for a members light supper with members sharing responsibility for providing the food.

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

ELIZABETH MCCAIN, PRESIDENT

The women of ECW kicked off the year with our annual fall kick-off party, hosted by Helen Stewart in her lovely home. The kick-off party was well attended by so many women of Christ Church! It was a great success and a wonderful way to start off the year! The new officers were announced, including Elizabeth McCain as 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!

The Christmas party was well attended this year and was so much fun! The party was held at Mary Marbot's lovely home this year and was filled with great cheer. Mary'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 AND 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 24 members in this committee and anyone interested is WELCOME to join! Please contact Nancy Rehberg or Ginny Rozier for information.

## Grounds Committee

BONNIE DOWLING, CHAIR

This past year, a substantial amount of pruning was done on the oak trees in front of the church. There were some broken limbs in danger of falling and at the same time, additional maintenance was performed as would be recommend by an arborist.

The hedge along the driveway between the church and Harold House was removed and replaced with a lower, more maintenance friendly plant material. The existing shrubbery was overgrown and bare in places. It had become a hazard to a clear view of traffic and pedestrians as one exits the driveway.

The right side of the walkway to the church was planted with new sod as the area had become nothing but weeds.

The area where the lemonade table is set up on the left side of the walkway has been built up and planted with strips of sod to try to level out that space. Hopefully by Spring, the low spot there will be gone.

Irrigation system maintenance was performed a couple of time but this is an ongoing expense to keep it running properly.

## Memorial Committee

JOAN HATCHER AND BETTY TALBOT, Co-CHAIRS

The Memorial Committee receives and distributes funds that are given as memorials. This money is a source for all unbudgeted or extra items that come up within the Church. We always welcome new members.

# Music Ministry

JONATHAN POE, ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER

Music at Christ Church is alive and thriving! We are a blessed people to have such a vibrant and highly respected Music Ministry throughout Macon and Central Georgia. January 4th, 2017 marked my third year here at Christ Church, and I am grateful and thankful to be a part of this wonderful parish.

Since becoming your Organist/Choirmaster in January of last year, I have endeavored to maintain the quality and level of music that Christ Church has come to expect. With the help of many dedicated people, I have continued to build on the foundation of excellence in music which Jack Mitchener, Bob Parris, Fletcher Anderson, Rick Nelson, John Osteen, and Doris Jelks set before me. All the while, remembering “Let everything that hath breath, praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.” (Psalm 150:6)

Our Adult choir, currently consisting of approximately 25 individuals, actively participates in weekly rehearsals and services. The continued relationship with Mercer University, and other surrounding colleges, has afforded us the opportunity to provide experience for young musicians, while also greatly enhancing our worship. In addition to our regular duties for Eucharist, we sing Evensongs two to three times a year and a Service of Lessons and Carols during the season of Advent. In 2016 we changed our Advent Lessons and Carols service to 5 o'clock in the evening beginning with the Advent Lucernarium (candle lighting). Even though this service was held on the weekend following Thanksgiving, and in the midst of the Georgia/Georgia Tech game, our service of Lessons and Carols drew about 80 people from our church and surrounding community. I was especially proud of the choir in accomplishing all they did, considering our service of Choral Evensong was just three-weeks prior on November 6, also drawing a large attendance of around 118 people.

If you've been to an eleven o'clock service when the Christ Church Choristers have assisted in worship, you have truly experienced the greatness and love of God's creation. Our current Royal School of Church Music Choristers consists of 11 singers primarily in the second grade. They are all extremely talented, hardworking and well-behaved musicians. It gives me great pleasure to be their Choirmaster. Their abilities to sight sing, memorize, and maintain a superior level of musicianship is unsurpassed. With continued nurturing and encouragement, the Christ Church Choristers will continue to assist in worship and hopefully become the core of the treble section in the Adult choir.

This year saw a new addition to our Music Ministry in the formation of the Novice Choir. This choir is for ages 4-6 and any child who hasn't completed the white level workbook in the RSCM curriculum. This choir boasts 10 children and soon, with continued study, will be able to join the Choristers. We are so fortunate here at Christ Church to have so many young children. If we continue to prepare musical offerings, in a meaningful way, then our Music Ministry has a bright future ahead.

As the “Mother Church” of the Diocese of Atlanta we have a special place in this region. On December 16, 2016 our choir accepted the invitation to assist in worship for the Diocesan Service of Confirmation at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta. Our responsibility was to lead all music for this two-hour long service. We sang four anthems from great British choral literature of the Renaissance to the Twentieth century. The majestic Anthem for choir and organ “Like as the hart, desireth the waterbrooks” by Herbert Howells, is about the presence of the Holy Spirit working in and around our lives. As we sang and watched those young confirmands take their place beside Bishops Rob Wright and Keith Whitmore, we became witnesses to the power of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Numbers are not what matters. It's the affect music has on us as people living the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It elevates our senses in worship. It transcends all else and helps to “give us the wings of faith to rise against the veil.” It is often said that “those who sing, pray twice.” Christ Church is a singing church, and for this I am well-pleased.

In the next few weeks we begin our journey with Christ to the top of the mountain. Perhaps we should add to the Beatitudes the quote by William Arms Fisher, American composer, music historian and writer “Blessed are the music-makers for they shall uplift and unite the Earth.” What will be your contribution? “Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God.” (Colossians 3:16) Music at Christ Church Macon is alive and thriving! Thanks be to God!

“*Soli Deo Gloria*”

Jonathan Alan Poe,  
*Organist & Choirmaster*

# 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, and doing clerical work.

We work at the reception desk in the Harrold House. The schedules are flexible in that we usually work twice a month for several hours in either mornings or afternoons. If you're looking for a meaningful ministry, more volunteers are always welcome!

# The Order of Saint Luke

CONVENER -- TBD

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

SUSAN ALLEN AND SHANNON DAVIS, CO-CHAIRS

The Christ Church Outreach Committee includes lay members (adult and youth), clergy and vestry. Many of the members represent various ministries supported by the church/committee.

In 2016 ministries supported by the Outreach Committee and Christ Church included Daybreak, Loaves and Fishes, Crisis Line/Safehouse, Path to Shine, Rescue Mission of Middle Georgia, Appleton Family Ministries, and Haitian Hope. Ministries largely focused on the downtown area as established by a vision statement several years previously. Support is provided financially, through donations of wish list items and through volunteering. The largest outreach project at Christ Church is the Weekend Lunch Program which feeds the downtown hungry on Saturdays and Sundays. The program is run from our kitchen and served in Jones Chapel. It works in partnership with other area churches and service organizations who provide teams and financial support. In 2016 the committee continued its tradition of visiting the ministries it supports with a visit and tour of the Safehouse.

Each month a different ministry is featured in our Ministry of the Month program. It is included in all Christ Church publications and includes educational information about the ministry and a current needs list.

In 2016 the Outreach Committee experienced a break in leadership and meetings although support of the ministries and programs continued uninterrupted. Meetings resumed in October. In 2017 the committee is led by co-chairs and supported by our new rector. Several new members have joined the existing members on the committee. We look forward to a year of renewed energy and focus, and would welcome anyone with interest and/or questions to contact Susan Allen or Shannon Davis or the church office.



# 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

SALLY HATCHER, CHAIR

I'm very excited about chairing the Pastoral Care Committee to support the church members by preparing food for them in times of need- such as illness, surgery, or birth of a new baby. I have had so many of members respond to be a part of this wonderful ministry, and I look forward to working with a great group.

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 2016 Campaign were as follows: George Greer, Andrea Williford, Cason Wilkin, Will Horkan, Shannon Davis, David McCain, Amanda Smith, Blair Sumrall, and Sally Hatcher. Also participating in our stewardship meetings were Lizzie Clark and Lawrence Williford as special representatives of the Vestry.

The theme for this year's Campaign was "A Time for Renewal". The Campaign began on Sunday, October 16, 2016 with a two week period of reflection followed by the mailing of pledge packets. Included with our pledge packets was a list of our ongoing ministries of Christ Church. These ministries allow us to impact others with the blessings we have received through the grace of God. The campaign asked that you considered donating both your treasure and your time to the ministries. The official campaign concluded on Sunday, November 20, 2016 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 \$666,216 based on 159 pledge cards. This amount is close to its intended goal of \$715,000. The Stewardship Committee is following up with additional calls to our congregation and hopes that additional pledges received in January 2017 will allow us to achieve our goal.

The Committee utilized a number of strategies during this year's Campaign to make the membership aware of the Stewardship effort and encourage them to participate for the benefit of both Christ Church and the many other deserving people in the community. Speakers at many services during the Campaign, announcements in The Chimes, and appropriate scripture and sermons increased awareness of the need to use your time, treasure and talents to thank God for the many blessings bestowed on us. We also placed a Pledge Banner by the steps leading to the Great Hall and in the Narthex to heighten the awareness of the Stewardship effort during the "official" Campaign. Follow up phone calls by committee members for those pledges not yet received and a handwritten thank you note from a Committee member for each pledge received 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 our many staff volunteers 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 members in 2017 and beyond.

# Strategic Planning Committee

EMORY JOHNSON, CHAIR

The Committee reviewed the status of our properties now occupied by Caremore and Occupational Medicine. Each of these properties has about 30 more years left in their 99 leases. It does not appear that this is renegotiable at this point.

The aging patina of our church buildings was questioned as a possible deterioration of the stucco. Historical experts from Philadelphia were in town and were able to see our property and give us their opinion. It is their opinion that the aging patina is not in itself causing deterioration. They recommended further consultation with experts from Charleston. This is ongoing.

# Welcoming & Nurturing Committee

TED ROBINSON, CHAIR

The Mission of the Welcoming & Nurturing Committee is to welcome and integrate prospective and new members into the body of Christ in a manner which glorifies God. To do this the Committee encourages all members to worship, grow their faith through participation, serve in a ministry, and go out into the world to love and serve the Lord. This past year the Committee has been developed a strategic plan to assure accomplishment of its mission by assuring all Church guests, visitors, and new members are made to feel welcome; integrating guests, visitors, and new members into the Church's congregation; involving guests, visitors, and new members in the ministries of the Church; and empowering guests, visitors, new members, and longtime members to be ambassadors for the Church.

The Committee works through five subcommittees: Foyer Groups, New Member Welcoming Receptions; Data/Tracking, Communications and Shepherding. There are eight Foyer Groups meeting; New Member/Guest Welcoming Receptions have been planned for 2017 and a CRM (new member tracking) module has been acquired for the Church's office software.

# 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 customaries 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.

The Christ Church EYC was delighted to welcome our new rector – The Reverend Cynthia Knapp – in September, and we are excited about the experience, commitment, and fresh ideas she brings to our parish. Already, she has listened to our youth, visited gatherings, taught classes, encouraged our confirmands, and led a special Morning Prayer Breakfast in her home. Rev. Cynthia is committed to nurturing our young people and youth ministry programs, and we look forward to her leadership in the months and years ahead.

In 2016, high school and college students along with adult companions travelled to England and explored our religious heritage, visiting London and Canterbury, worshipping, sightseeing, exploring, and experiencing many historic sites and a variety of events. Youth Week 2016 was well-attended, and with friends from several area churches, we ministered to residents of the Dempsey and St. Paul's Apartments, volunteered our services at Loaves & Fishes Ministries, Inc., and spent time with guests of Daybreak. We picked up trash along Walnut Street, participated in daily worship, and together contributed more than 200 hours to making a positive difference in the lives of some of Macon's residents most in need of care and attention. Trips to Wild Adventure and Universal Studios (for "Rock the Universe") were also popular events. In addition to preparing and serving meals through Weekend Lunch, we regularly participate in diocesan events like New Beginnings, Happening, DYC, and the Annual Council Lock-In.

We love like Jesus as we gather regularly for fellowship and fun, prayer and care and 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 Thursday and Friday mornings for prayer and breakfast, sharing our joys and challenges, hopes and concerns. In August, a new Youth Confirmation Class began, and with more than 20 participants, we meet on Sunday mornings to 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, building community and encouraging each other along our spiritual journeys. 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!



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
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