

Report of the Junior Warden - Julie Groce

It has been an honor to serve the parish as Junior Warden in 2020. I serve as “the People’s Warden” and have communicated both specific and general ideas and concerns of parishioners to the Vestry. One of my primary duties is to oversee the care of our historic church buildings and campus.

2020 has been a very busy and challenging year for Buildings and Grounds work, even with on-site worship services and parishes activities significantly curtailed. Work took place in every structure and all around the campus. We have implemented a new Maintenance Request Form and a Vendor Scheduling and Sign-In system to better formalize work orders, to regulate access to buildings and grounds by vendors, and to improve overall security on our church campus.

Our largest Building project was replacing the aging roof on Harrold House with a new metal roof that will take us well into the 21st century. We also replaced rotted stairs at the rear entry to Harrold House with a new staircase of pressure-treated lumber.

In the main church building, we had bats removed from the bell tower and the upper roof area sealed to prevent their re-entry. We upgraded all of the air filters in the nave and organ loft mechanical systems to improve air quality and filtration in response to COVID protocols. We had upgrades made to the nave boiler system to meeting state inspection standards. Our well-trained crew of young men, supervised by Philip Groce, completed their semi-annual replacement of lights using our scaffold system, and we have added replacement of all of the smoke detectors in this building to their list of duties as well. Work has begun on installation of a new video recording system in the nave to improve our online worship service delivery. Even after COVID restrictions end and we can fully return to on-site worship activities, Christ Church will maintain a vigorous online worship presence, and this system will allow us to produce professional-grade audio and sound recordings and, eventually, to live-stream worship services and special activities as well. Great care is being taken to protect our significant historic surfaces and architectural features and to make the installation as invisible as possible.

In the Parish House, we repaired failing hard-wired smoke detectors and motion detectors with new wireless units. We also made repairs to three HVAC units. After monitoring an elusive roof leak, we are now repairing damaged plaster in the 2nd floor stair hall. As announced to the Parish in late summer, we have assigned new alarm codes to the security systems in the Parish House and the Nave to upgrade campus security.

A new awning has been approved for the alley entry to Jones Chapel, and this will be installed after repairs are completed to the building’s wood trim in this area. This awning will help to improve service delivery to our guests at Weekend Lunch but will not interfere with traffic flow in the rear alley.

We want to give special recognition to John Willingham, who has wisely and ably steered the Building Committee for the past several years. Christ Church owes a huge debt of gratitude to John for his stewardship and dedication to the care of our historic church buildings and campus. Hal Harper stepped in as Buildings Chair this past fall, and he is doing a wonderful job. Other members of the Building Committee include Philip Groce, Tony Long, and Robbie Beeland.

Oversight of our church ground and garden areas is ably led by Grounds Chairman Bonnie Dowling. She and her committee members help to keep our church campus beautiful, clean and well-maintained. Although the church retains a professional landscape service to cut, blow and trim landscaped areas, the finer and more intense work is covered by a dedicated group of parishioners known as the "Lay Weeders." The Lay Weeders had 4 workdays in February, June, July, and November. The Lay Weeders are: Mary Anne Richardson, Lawrence Williford, Ginny Rozier, Joan Hatcher, Wendy Johnson, and Hamp and Bonnie Dowling.

During 2020, the raised planter in the Memorial Garden was revitalized and funded by the Memorial Committee. Other plants were planted and pruned in the courtyard garden. A considerable amount of pruning and vine-pulling was done in the front courtyard between the sanctuary and the parish house.

The Grounds Committee members invite others who may be interested in the work we do to join us. We prune, weed, fertilize, spray for pests, and relocate certain plants that need a new home in order to thrive. Please contact any of us with your wish to join us. We never run out of things to do!