December 2026

Growing by God's Grace as a Family of Faith, Fellowship & Ministry

The Chimes



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About Christ Church

Christ Church is a parish of the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Atlanta. We are a vibrant parish in the heart of downtown Macon, Georgia. Founded in 1825, Christ Church is the oldest church in Macon and the Mother Church of the Diocese of Atlanta. Last year, we observed the Bicentennial of our founding in a yearlong celebration. We are grateful for all those from around Macon and Middle Georgia and the Diocese of Atlanta we joined us during our celebration. We are a loving place where all are welcome and we invite anyone interested in becoming part of our family to join us in building the next two hundred years at Christ Church.

HOW TO CONTACT US

The Reverend Cynthia C. Knapp *Rector*	cynthia@christchurchmacon.com
The Reverend Harriette Simmons *Associate Priest*	harriette@christchurchmacon.com
Hope Westervelt *Director of Youth Ministry*	hope@christchurchmacon.com
Rachel Horkan *Director of Children's Ministry*	rachel@christchurchmacon.com
Jonathan A. Poe *Director of Music & Liturgy*	jonathan@christchurchmacon.com
Laurel Eady *Parish Bookkeeper*	finance@christchurchmacon.com
Nidia Svare *Parish Administrator*	office@christchurchmacon.com
Timothy Hoskins *Director of Communications*	communications@christchurchmacon.com
Hal Brickle *Director of Weekend Lunch Ministry*	hal@weekendlunch.org
Robert Hubbard *Sexton*	hubbard@christchurchmacon.com
Markisha Carter *Assistant Sexton*	markisha@christchurchmacon.com

Christ Church

582 Walnut Street
Macon, GA 31201

(478) 745-0427
www.christchurchmacon.com

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Subscribe to our YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/@christchurchmacon

Watch services live and view past services at www.youtube.com/@christchurchmacon/streams



The Rev. Cynthia Knapp
Rector

RECTOR'S MESSAGE

Filling Jesus' manger with kindness

When our children were young, we had an Advent tradition of doing secret good deeds to "make the bed soft" for baby Jesus. We would place a doll crib without a mattress or anything sofit in it in a prominent place with a vessel of hay beside it. Then beginning with the first Sunday of Advent, at dinnertime each Sunday night we would draw names to determine who we would be doing secret good deeds for that week. (Inevitably they drew the name of the person they were upset with if there had just been a spat.) Each time they did a secret good deed, they could put a piece of straw into the crib with the goal of making it nice and soft for baby Jesus by Christmas. In treating others with love and kindness without personal reward, they were learning to make room for the love of Jesus.

With our children grown, we no longer draw names or fill a crib with straw, but the tradition of doing secret good deeds for others (think random acts of kindness)—not just our family members or even people close to us—is a worthy Advent tradition for all of us. What better way to prepare for the coming of Jesus than to find ways to seek to bless others, expressing the love of Christ by loving others in His Name? I encourage you to observe Advent this year by finding ways to do secret good deeds for others each day. Take delight in blessing others, in spreading the joy of life in the Spirit and the love of Christ in small ways and big ways to anyone the Lord leads you to bless. Think outside the box. Seek to bless those you don't normally think of or come across. Who are those you may not normally pay attention to that might really benefit from a blessing? Ask the Lord to show you who and how. Let God surprise you! And try to keep it a secret if possible. Give all credit to the Lord who is the author of love and blessings.

If you have children or grandchildren, invite them to join in the fun and perhaps even use a crib (a box would do to represent the manger) and a vessel or basket of straw to help you see how those good deeds add up and what a difference they make. Each one matters, but it takes more than one person working to bless others to make it soft. It matters both to those who receive the blessing and to those who give it. Both are transformed in the process. Both are blessed. Both the giver and receiver are experiencing more of the love of Christ. Christ who came to demonstrate to us the love of God for all people (including and especially those that the world often rejects or overlooks) longs to work through us to express his love. The Greek word for blessed means to be characterized by reflecting the character



of God. It also means to be fully satisfied. When we love others with nothing in it for ourselves other than to be the hands and feet of Jesus, we are blessed indeed. We are reflecting the loving nature of God, and we are fully satisfied by having God's love fill our hearts as only God can.

This Advent, prepare your heart for the coming of Jesus by loving in His name. Not just those easy to love but also those hard to love. Seek to bless those you have resented or those you have been angry with. As you do so Jesus will melt away any bitterness that has taken root in you and replace it with His love. Love is an action word not a feeling. It's a choice we make. It's something we practice to honor the Lord in our lives. It's the reason Jesus came, to free us from our preoccupation with self (the root of sin) and return us to living in the love of God. This Advent, let go of the judgement, the anger, the resentment, the bitterness, and focus on the Love of Christ and living it out in as many ways as you can. If it seems hard to do, ask the Lord to fill you with His Holy Spirit- the gift of Christ within. In Christ alone can we truly live as the Lord has called us to live. But when we do so, oh what a joyful Christmas it will be! A blessed Advent and Christmas to you!

With Love,
the Rev. Cynthia C. Knapp

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

We're officially in the busy fall season for children and young families! Our Sunday School program continues to thrive, and our memory jar is halfway full. Our special event calendar and our hearts are full. It is truly the most wonderful time of the year!

November marked the baptism of four children, and we enjoyed learning about baptism and welcoming our new brothers and sisters in Christ! Our fall Young Family Supper Club was full of fun for all – check out the pictures below. We can't wait for our spring one, April 17, hosted by Sydney and Peter Solomon!

We have five special upcoming opportunities for you to mark the Advent and Epiphany season:

Journey into Advent - Intergenerational Sunday School November 29 at 9:30 in the Great Hall: There will be opportunities for all ages, from DIY advent wreaths to flower guild instruction on table arrangements, plus the chance to browse and check-out Advent resources from our library. Nativity pageant participants will also be fitted for costumes during this time, and participants with speaking roles will receive their parts.

St. Nicholas Service & Celebration - December 2 at 5:30, beginning in the chapel: Children should leave their shoes on the chapel steps for a special surprise! After the service, we'll gather in the Great Hall for dinner and celebration. This year's activities will include cookie decorating, origami wrapping paper hats, polaroid pictures with St. Nicholas, and a sing-along!

Children Singing - December 13 in the 10:30 service: All children will have the opportunity to process with the choir during the first anthem, Come Thou Long Expected Jesus. We've been singing this song during Sunday School's music time, and we're looking forward to sharing it in church! All children will attend Sunday School as usual, then we'll line them up to process. See the Young Family emails for more details.

Christmas Pageant - December 24 at 4:30pm, with the rehearsal on December 23: More details are in the graphic below.

Epiphany Baby Item Drive - Sunday, January 3: Mark the wise men's arrival by bringing pull-ups, formula, and wipes to donate to Mother's Nest, a local organization that empowers young mothers to raise healthy babies through education and resources.











Rachel Horkan
Director of Children's Ministry

YOUTH MINISTRY

It's hard to believe we are wrapping up this semester and in the season of Advent! I hope everyone will join us for our EYC Advent Prayer Stations to help us prepare our hearts and minds for this season of waiting. On December 6th, we invite everyone to join us for Advent Lessons and Carols, where many of our youth will be serving during the service. And then on December 13th, we will walk down to the downtown Christmas lights to enjoy some fun Christmas spirit together before we break for the holidays!

We are also thrilled to host the diocesan youth again for a lock-in on December 19th-20th! We hope all of our Christ Church youth will join us for this fun night as we welcome youth from all over our diocese. You can register by using the QR code on the graphic below or by reaching out to Hope!

In November, we had a meaningful All Souls meditation and candle lighting, we made over 100 sock packs for Weekend Lunch, and we gave thanks for all that God has given us this year. We continued to journey through the book of Acts and we continue to build friendships and relationships with each other!

I also want to shout out Ray Ross, William Martin, and alum Addison Henry for serving during our Diocesan Annual Council! We are so proud of them for representing Christ Church so well during diocesan events!

There are still open spots to join us on our Annual Mountain Retreat! Please register by December 10th so we can finalize plans. If you have any questions, please reach out!















Hope Westervelt
Director of Youth Ministry

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Women's Bible Study Schedule for Advent through Epiphany

For Advent and Epiphany we will be going back to complete the third section of Isaiah. We will then go back to studying John (picking up at chapter 10) in Lent. The following is our schedule:

December 2:	Isaiah 51-52:12 Misplaced fear and love.
December 9:	Advent Quiet Day- "The Redeemer will come to Zion"
January 6:	Isaiah 60: The future Kingdom- "Arise shine for your light has come"
January 13:	Isaiah 61: The Anointed of the Lord
January 20:	Isaiah 62-63: You will be called by a new name.
January 27:	Isaiah 64: The potter and the clay
February 3:	Isaiah 65-66: New heavens and a new earth.
February 10:	Ash Wednesday- no Bible Studies- come to a service instead!



Women's Advent Quiet Day

This is for all the women of the church- all are invited to join us! We will be gathering at the home of Sheri Pyles on December 9 for a morning of fellowship and study, prayer and meditation on God's Word. 9:00-9:30 Gathering time for getting breakfast and coffee and sharing fellowship with one another.
9:30- 11:30 Program based on themes and excerpts from Isaiah52:13- 59.
Close with a service of Eucharist and prayer for healing. (There will also be a noon Eucharist and healing service at the church for those not at the Advent Quiet Day.)
If possible please bring a brunch item to share with the group but this is by no means a requirement to attend!

Adult Formation Groups:

Bishop's Podcast Discussion
Sundays at 9:30 am
Parlor

Sunday Scripture Discussion
Sundays at 9:30 am
Cloister Room

Alpha
Sundays at 5:30 pm
Cloister Room

Adult Bible Study
Sundays at 5:30 pm
Youth Classroom

Knitting Group
Sundays at 5:30 pm
Parlor

Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 9:00 am
Parlor

Wise Women's Bible Study
Wednesdays at 10:45 am
Cloister Room

Men's Bible Study
Thursdays at 7:10 am
Cloister Room

Do You Seek Comfort and Healing from Grief?

We invite you to join Walking the Mourners Path, a compassionate ministry being offered here at Christ Church beginning in January. Walking the Mourner's Path is a Christ based grief ministry where individuals who have experienced the death of a loved one meet weekly for 8 weeks. The workshops are a safe and sacred space to explore the pain of grief. Healing is possible by centering the discussions in the healing and restorative power of God's love.
They are carefully crafted so that participants are not overwhelmed.

Walking the Mourner's Path

To learn more about the Walking the Mourner's Path and the workshops, contact:
Sheri Pyles-sheritpyles@gmail.com or
Lutricia Richardson-luwright53@gmail.com

Advent & Christmas Events

Journey into Advent
Sunday, November 29
9:30 am in the Great Hall
Gather for an all ages Sunday school to usher in the Advent season by making Advent wreaths and table arrangements

St. Nicholas Service & Celebration
Wednesday, December 2
5:30 pm in Jones Chapel
Our annual St. Nicholas service. Meet in Jones Chapel for a children's service (children leave their shoes on the chapel steps). Then go to the Great Hall for supper, crafts, games, treats, and pictures with St. Nicholas.

Advent Lessons & Carols
Sunday, December 6
5:30 pm in the Church
A beautiful service of scripture and song as the story of the Incarnation is told through alternating lessons and hymns.

ECW Christmas Party
Monday, December 14
6:00 pm at the Dukes' Home
The ECW will be meeting for their annual Christmas party at the home of Lorraine Duke. All the women of Christ Church are welcome to attend!

Christmas Pageant
Thursday, December 24
4:30 pm in the Church
Celebrate the birth of Jesus as the children perform the story of the Nativity in costume.

Christmas Eve
Thursday, December 24
9:30 pm in the Church
A beautiful late night service to celebrate the birth of Christ. The Christmas on the Fisk organ concert begins at 9:30 and the service begins at 10:00. The service culminates the candlelit singing of Silent Night.

Christmas Day
Friday, December 25
10:30 am in the Church

The Feast of All Saints













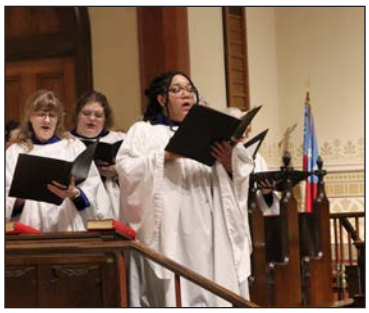




All Souls' Evensong

















Stewardship Luncheon













Young Family Supper Club











David Cline Going Away Party













MUSIC MINISTRY

Apollo5 in Concert · November 3, 2026

Thank you to Apollo5, their North American artist's representation Janet Jarriel of JEJ Artists, everyone who came out to hear the performance, and everyone who supports Walnut Street Music for making this amazing concert possible.











Advent Lessons and Carols

Walnut Street Music, the Christ Church Choristers, St. Cecilia Choir, and the Christ Church Choir will offer a service of Advent Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 6 at 5:30 pm. Lessons and Carols is a beloved service of music and scripture for the Advent season in preparation for the celebration of Christmas. Originating at King's College, Cambridge in 1880, this service tells the story of salvation and the Incarnation of Christ through scripture and song.

NOTE: The city's Christmas parade will be that afternoon at 4:00 pm, so downtown roads may still be closed. Plan an alternate route via Riverside Dr. or the Interstate.





Mr. Jonathan Alan Poe, M.Mus
Director of Music & Liturgy
http://www.walnutstreetmusic.org

WALNUT STREET Music

WEEKEND LUNCH @ CHRIST CHURCH

Christmas is a season of joy, gratitude, and giving—a time when we are reminded that the greatest blessings are often found in the simplest acts of kindness. While many families gather around tables filled with food and celebrate the warmth of home, there are members of our community who face hunger, hardship, loneliness, and uncertainty.

At Weekend Lunch at Christ Church, we believe that no one should go hungry, especially during a season centered on love, compassion, and the birth of Jesus Christ.

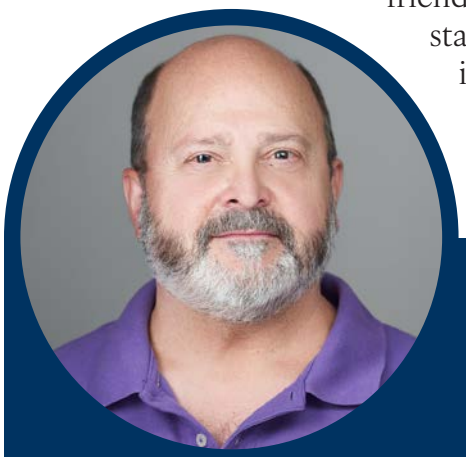
Throughout the year, our ministry opens its doors and its heart to those who are hungry and less fortunate, providing hot, nourishing meals and, just as importantly, a welcoming place where everyone is treated with dignity, kindness, and respect.

But Weekend Lunch is about more than serving food. It is about sharing fellowship, offering encouragement, listening without judgment, building friendships, and reminding our neighbors that they are not forgotten. Sometimes a warm meal feeds the body, while a kind word, a listening ear, or a caring smile nourishes the soul.

As Christmas approaches, we give special thanks to the many volunteers who make this ministry possible. To those who prepare the meals, serve our guests, wash the dishes, clean the tables, organize supplies, donate food, contribute financially, and faithfully show up week after week—we are deeply grateful.

Your dedication, generosity, compassion, and willingness to serve are Christmas blessings in action.

We also extend our heartfelt appreciation to Christ Church, our supporters, donors, friends, and everyone who stands behind this ministry. Every contribution matters. Every volunteer matters. Every meal matters. And every person who walks through our doors matters.



Jesus reminds us, "For I was hungry and you gave me



something to eat." (Matthew 25:35)

That message is at the very heart of Weekend Lunch.

May this Christmas bring hope to those who are struggling, comfort to those who are lonely, strength to those facing difficult circumstances, and blessings to everyone who gives of themselves to help another.

From all of us at Weekend Lunch at Christ Church, thank you for helping us make a difference, one meal, one friendship, and one act of kindness at a time.

Merry Christmas, and may God bless our guests, our volunteers, our supporters, and the entire community.

Weekend Lunch at Christ Church

Feeding the hungry. Sharing God's love. Building community.

UPCOMING SERVICE DATES:
NOVEMBER 28th & DECEMBER 27th

Weekend Lunch

Dr. Hal Brickle, *Executive Director*

director@weekendlunch.org (478) 200-1066

For the website, click: www.weekendlunch.org

Weekly CALENDAR *of* EVENTS *December 2026*

November 29 – December 5

Sunday, November 29: The 1st Sunday of Advent
8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
9:30am | Journey into Advent | Great Hall
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Cookies in the Cloister
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel
5:00pm | Parish Supper | Great Hall
5:30pm | EYC | Youth Suite
5:30pm | DOK Knitting Class | Parlor
5:30pm | Adult Discussion Group | Youth Classroom
5:30pm | Choir School of Macon | Parish House
6:30pm | Compline | Church

Tuesday, December 1
5:30pm | Alpha Marriage Course | Great Hall

Wednesday, December 2
9am | Women's Bible Study | Parlor
10:45am | Wise Women's Bible Study | Cloister Room
12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
5:30pm | St. Nicholas Service | Jones Chapel
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, December 3
7:10am | Men's Bible Study | Cloister Room
6pm | Christ Church Choir | Choir Room

Saturday, December 5
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

December 6 – December 12

Sunday, December 6: The 2nd Sunday in Advent
8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
9:30am | Children's Sunday School | Parish House
9:30am | Youth Sunday School | Youth Suite
9:30am | Adult Scripture Discussion |Cloister Room
9:30am | Bishop's Podcast Discussion | Parlor
9:30am | Christ Church Choir | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Cookies in the Cloister
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel
4:30pm | Alpha | Cloister Room
5:30pm | Advent Lessons and Carols | Church

Wednesday, December 9
9am | Women's Mini-Retreat | Pyles' Home
12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, December 10
7:10am | Men's Bible Study | Cloister Room
6pm | Christ Church Choir | Choir Room

Saturday, December 12
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

December 13 – December 19

Sunday, December 13: The 3rd Sunday of Advent
8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
9:30am | Children's Sunday School | Parish House
9:30am | Youth Sunday School | Youth Suite
9:30am | Adult Scripture Discussion | Cloister Room
9:30am | Bishop's Podcast Discussion | Parlor
9:30am | Christ Church Choir | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel
5:00pm | Chili & Caroling | Great Hall
5:30pm | Alpha | Cloister Room

Monday, December 14
5:30pm | Outreach Committee | Davis Room
6 pm | ECW Christmas Party | Dukes' Home

Wednesday, December 16
12pm | Holy Eucharist & Healing | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, December 17
7:10am | Men's Bible Study | Cloister Room
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Carlyle Place
6pm | Christ Church Choir | Choir Room

Saturday, December 19
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel
Diocesan Youth Lock In | Parish House

Weekly CALENDAR *of* EVENTS *December 2026*

December 20 – December 26

Sunday, December 20: The 4th Sunday of Advent
8am | Holy Eucharist | Church
9:30am | Christ Church Choir | Church
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
After 10:30 Service | Lemonade on the Lawn
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Wednesday, December 23
10:00am | Pageant Rehearsal (Speakers) | Church
11:00am | Pageant Rehearsal (All) | Church
11:45am | Pageant Parent Meeting | Church
8:45pm | Compline | Facebook

Thursday, December 24: Christmas Eve
4:30pm | Christmas Pageant | Church
9:30pm | Christmas on the Fisk | Church
10pm | Christmas Eve Service | Church

Thursday, December 25: Christmas Day
10:30am | Christmas Service | Church

Saturday, December 26
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

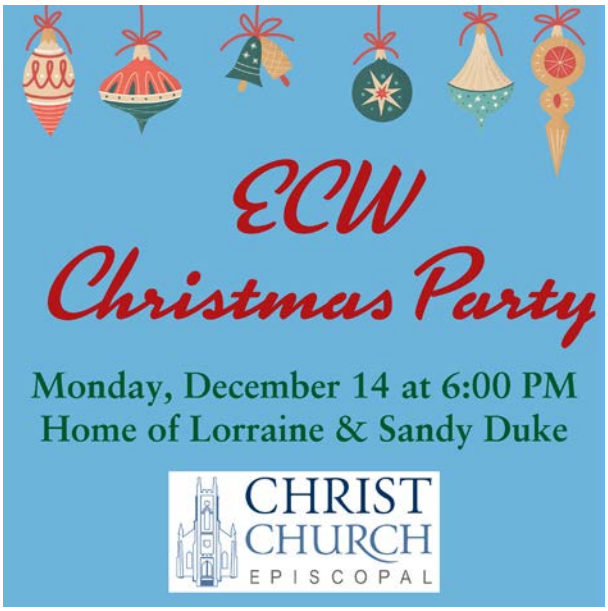
December 27 – January 2

Sunday, December 27: The 1st Sunday after Christmas
10:30am | Holy Eucharist | Church
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel

Saturday, January 2
11:30am | Weekend Lunch | Jones Chapel



Parish News



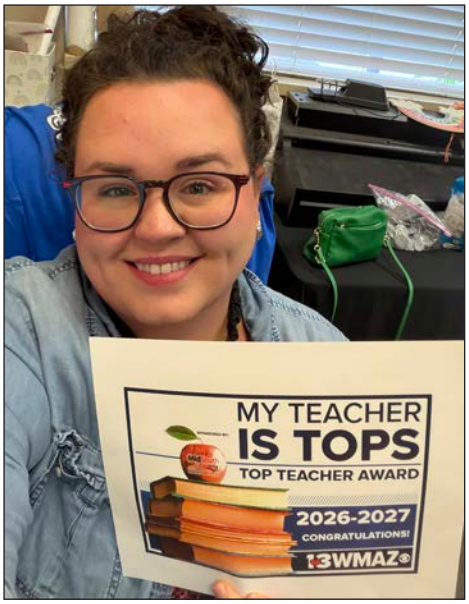
Epiphany Baby Supplies Drive

Next month, to celebrate Epiphany and the gifts of the Magi to the Christ Child, we are collecting baby supplies and presenting them during the service on Epiphany Sunday, January 3. The supplies will go to Mother's Nest, a local organization that supports mothers in need with education and supplies. Bring diapers, formula, pull-ups, and baby wipes.



Congratulations, Lacey!

Our very own Lacey Chaney has been recognized as a Top Teacher for the 2026–2027 school year. My Teacher is Tops is a program of 13 WMAZ to recognize talented teachers in Middle Georgia. Teachers are nominated for this award by their students. Lacey was nominated by a student in her chorus class. Lacey teaches music at Turner Woods Elementary School in Jones County. Lacey sings in the Christ Church Choir, does music time for children's Sunday School and teaches the children's choir.





Congratulations to Ray Ross for representing the Middle Georgia Convocation as our Youth Delegate at this year's Diocesan Annual Council at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta!



Scott & Christine Hoskins welcome a new granddaughter: Majel Katherine Hoskins!



Socks for Flocks*

Help! I'm Agnes Day, and I've lost my fleece!
You can help keep me warm during the cold winter months
By bringing new socks –
for children, men and women.
I'll be hanging out in the Parish Hall where it's warmer, waiting for you!

***December Ministry of the Month (Shared with Bus Pass Ministry)**

Ministry *of the* Month

Bus Pass Ministry



Now in its official 2nd year, the Christ Church Bus Pass Ministry continues to provide free bus passes to residents of downtown Macon. Originally started modestly as a response to the need for winter transportation to the Brookdale Warming Center, the ministry expanded to include 4 ride tickets for anyone needing bus transportation regardless of their destination.

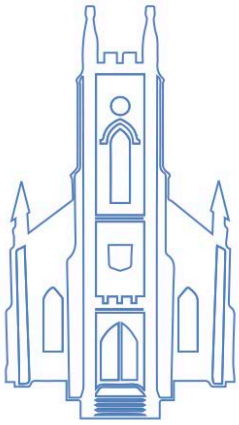
The service addresses an essential need in the 21st century, especially in American cities, for accessible, affordable transportation helping at-risk and low income residents. Macon has seen significant movement of government, social services, medical care, and pharmacies/grocery stores away from the downtown.

25 - 4 ride bus passes are handed out every Monday morning, on a first come, first served basis. The only requirement is their name, although many of them offer their ID cards as well. Keeping names is necessary for financial records for the grants, and are not used to track the recipients in any way. Beginning in 2026, we made 20 ride Senior passes available once a month. Recipients must show a valid ID, and be over 62 years of age.

Currently, funding is made possible through the Outreach Committee and grants. Parishioner donations are very much appreciated, allowing us to hand out more on weeks when the numbers exceed 25, and to keep extra in the office for emergencies.

Most importantly, this is a win/win ministry. In addition to offering another option to those needing transportation, the purchase of these discounted tickets provide continued and enthusiastic support of the Macon Bibb County Transit Authority (MBCTA). This vital community resource offers safe, clean, reliable transportation in its beautiful, well-maintained buses.

Please consider making a donation to the Bus Pass Ministry this month; your support is important. This ministry is loved by those receiving the passes, and loved by those who participate in the program! If you are interested in getting to know more about the Bus Pass Ministry, email Lynn Waggoner at outreach@christchurchmacon.com. Thanks!



CHRIST
CHURCH
EPISCOPAL