

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

Rector's Report: "On Being A Bridge"

"I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth." Isaiah 49:6b

The verse above from Isaiah shows a clear understanding on the prophet's part, that God's people serve as a link between God and the world. God's people can be defined as those who are in relationship with God – who live lives that reflect God's love to the rest of creation. The world sees through us what God is like, and what relationship with God looks like. This relationship speaks to the world of the truth, beauty, and goodness that God is, and through this relationship, God draws people to Him. We are a bridge – that is our calling, our vocation.

Christ Church is, and should continue to be such a bridge. We are a growing community, and as we take steps to allow for this growth in the coming year, I believe that we need to keep before ourselves this call to be a bridge between God and the world. As we live into this calling, not only are others drawn into the divine life through us, but we ourselves continue to be pulled, both individually and as a community, into the life of the triune God.



My hope for Christ Church in the coming year (& beyond) is that we begin/continue building such bridges in our midst by our concerted efforts to reach out to, and to minister to, people not currently being reached out to and ministered to. I have some ideas about this, some of which will turn up in my annual meeting address. I know that many of you have ideas about this as well. I hope this year to put some of these ideas into conversation, and for us to move ahead together with those that we believe will help to make such connections for people.

Such a vocation then, by definition, works in two directions at once. As we strengthen our own relationship with God, we simultaneously reveal this relationship to others. In the coming year, let's be as intentional about this vocation as we can possibly be. Together, let's live into God's call for us to be a light to the nations, here in the heart of Springfield.

*Submitted by The Rev. Joe Behen,
Rector*

Senior Warden

This has been a remarkable year. In early January, we said hello to Deacon Ryan Williams who served at Christ Episcopal until early July. Reverend Ron Keel served as our Interim Rector from March 2022 through late July 2023. We welcomed Reverend Joe Behen as our Rector in mid-August. Many thanks to all of you for participating in a church-wide survey to which both the Search Committee and Vestry responded throughout the process of calling the right person for the position. Many thanks to Fr. Ron for faithfully holding us steady over the nineteen months that he led us through this Interim Season.

We have been blessed with the arrival of Emilie Bridges as our Director of Children's Ministry working with Families and elementary-aged children. And for a seven-month period, we were happy to have Caitlyn Kapple working as our Front Office Administrator after which we welcomed Raisa Hurtado.

Franz Ginsberg has remained our faithful Director of Operations and we brought Jennifer Hendrickson on board as our Director of Finance. I would be remiss if I did not offer many thanks to Tom Mangan, our longtime volunteer Treasurer. Though we said goodbye to

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Senior Warden *(continued from pg. 1)*

Tom M. with regret we gratefully received Tom Killingsworth as our new Treasurer. Thank you, Toms.

Thank you to the entire Vestry, each of whom added an additional two years of service to their terms throughout this period of change and growth. We were reminded that the Body of Christ is made up of many members.

Special thanks to Susan Smith and Mary Christiano, as I join them to say goodbye as we end our Vestry service during a most eventful season.

And as I complete my term as Senior Warden, I recall with humility and gratitude all that we have accomplished together. God is good and I am reminded of Romans 8:38-39 which reminds us that nothing can separate us from the Love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*Respectfully submitted,
Mary Chiles
Senior Warden since February 2020*

Junior Warden

During 2023, Christ Church had multiple building projects, including a variety of major building repairs as well as improvements to the property. Below is a list of some of the larger projects in 2023, some of which continue into 2024. Again, these are just a few of the bigger projects and do not include general maintenance and upkeep. I want to give a big thank you to the members of the Building & Grounds Committee who have come together to meet with contractors and plan repairs. I also want to give a big thank you to Todd Young and Jim Guldin who have helped with everything from painting, to trim, to pew repairs, and so much more.

New Boilers: Towards the end of 2022 and the beginning of 2023, Christ Church purchased two new boilers from Gold Mechanical to replace the aging boilers, minimize repair costs, and improve efficiency.

Water Treatment Plan: Along with the purchase of the new boilers, a water treatment plan was also started. This plan will prevent sludge buildup in the water lines connected to the heating and cooling system. In previous years, sludge buildup in the lines prevented proper heating and cooling.

WIFI Expansion: In the summer of 2023 the WIFI network at Christ Church was expanded. This allowed for WIFI access upstairs, better coverage in the parish hall, and expanded coverage to the Nave/Sanctuary.

Nest Thermostats: Along with the expansion of the Church WIFI network and new boilers, two new Google Nest Thermostats were added to the sanctuary and nave. These thermostats allow for better temperature management, scheduling, and allow the staff to monitor the temperatures remotely in case of a heating/cooling failure.

New Security Cameras: Two new Google Nest wireless security cameras were installed on the west side of the building, replacing the closed-circuit system. These cameras allow for motion detection, better resolution, and are far more reliable and easier to manage. More will be added in 2024.

Choir Roof Replaced: The flat roof located just east of the choir room and above the offices was replaced in the spring of 2023. This roof had multiple issues with leaks and was overdue for replacement. Additionally, multiple downspouts and liter heads were replaced to allow for proper drainage on the north side of the building.

Copula Repaired: The Copula tower above the nave is prone to leaks that drip down into the pews. In the summer of 2023, Springfield Roofing was called and repaired a leak on the west side of the Copula.

Camp Shawio: Several large tree branches that had fallen and came close to damaging the well house. The branches were removed, and the tree was trimmed back. It was also discovered that rodents had chewed through some wiring and damaged the water pump. A new water pump was installed.

New Cloister Grate: A new cloister grate was installed in the fall of 2023 and replaced the old cloister grate, which was beginning to deteriorate and was a tripping hazard. A big thank you to Kenny Ross for helping us find a new grate.

Light and Ballast Replacements: Multiple lights, ballasts, and other electrical issues were addressed in 2023. New and brighter security lights were added by the children's playground and kitchen door. More light replacements and fixes are scheduled for 2024.

MTS Mortar, Stone, and Stairs: By far the largest project in 2023 was the mortar and stone project. It was discovered that much of the mortar around the building had deteriorated. MTS was contracted to repair and replace the mortar all around the building. They are also cleaning much of the stone and are making repairs to the cloister. The last phase of the project will include new stairs in front of the red doors that will be safer and up to code.

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Junior Warden *(continued from pg. 2)*

Worship and other spaces

Todd Young installed a new base shoe west of the altar, and a base was made for the wooden cross that is carried in on Good Friday. Todd also worked on cleaning up some of the cable and wiring that was present in the choir loft section of the nave, and he installed a new door stop on the kitchen

door. Jim Guldin has been working to repair some of the kneelers in the nave. Multiple rooms and closet spaces were reorganized and cleaned out by a variety of volunteers.

*Submitted by Nancy Hopkins
Jr. Warden*

Altar Guild

The Christ Church Altar Guild provides service for every Holy Eucharist, wedding, funeral, chapel service, and baptism. Members deliver the altar flowers to the ill and homebound after the Sunday services whenever possible. They also care for the linens, the silver and brass appointments, and the vestments. Two meetings are held each year to plan for the Easter and Christmas services and to do a thorough cleaning of the brass and silver appointments. Members also make palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

The Guild is open to all members of the church. If you are interested in joining this quiet ministry, please contact Mary Christiano.

A sincere thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild for their hours of dedicated service to the church this past year.

*Submitted by Mary Christiano,
Altar Guild Director*

Book Club

Christ Church has a book club! As another opportunity for fellowship, members select books and read them throughout the year. Members take turns leading the group through their book choice. We have read a variety of fiction, historical fiction, and true stories. A lively discussion follows each presentation.

The Book Club is open to all and meets on the second Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. in the church library. Consider joining anytime and we can hook you up with coffee and the current book!

*Submitted by Sally Scheid
Book Club Coordinator*

Columbarium

The Columbarium at Christ Church is a facility that gives members of this church the choice of being inurned and memorialized in a Christian and historic setting in church. Members' names are engraved in marble, and their biographies are recorded in the Book of Memories, which resides in the Columbarium. Visitation is both convenient and inspiring, and the life story of each is available for future generations. For many good reasons, church inurnment is increasingly popular, and the facility at Christ Church is one of the finest!

For members interested in learning more, there are pamphlets available on the console in the Columbarium, or you can contact the church office. Board members will be happy to give you a tour and answer your questions. The cost of a niche is \$960.00, which includes the cost of engraving the marble cover, as well as the urn. Niches can be purchased in one lump sum or can be reserved by a deposit and payment schedule. The price of \$960.00 can be broken down into an initial deposit of \$240.00 (25%) + \$20/month for three years, or four annual payments of \$240.00 each.

All monies received for the niches go to the Columbarium Endowment Fund, which becomes a perpetual endowment to our church, and is used to perpetuate the care and enhancement of the Columbarium at Christ Church.

In 2023 approximately 75 percent of the niches have been purchased by our members, leaving 61 left available. The total Columbarium fund account balance as of January 1, 2023, was \$151,067.31 and our ending account balance for December 31, 2023, was \$156,969.31. If you are interested in purchasing a niche for you or a loved one, please contact Franz Ginsberg at franz@christepiscopalchurch.com or call the church office at 417-866-5133.

*Submitted by Tracy Hall
Columbarium Board*

Children's Worship

This is a season of rebuilding the Children's Ministries program. I was so excited and honored to begin my journey in the role of Director of Children's Ministry in September and start working with our children and their families.

We started utilizing a new Sunday School curriculum during Advent this year, which seems to be going well, combining a foundation of the liturgy, lectionary, and fun for the kids.

In early December, we hosted our annual Saint Nicholas party. We started off the evening with dinner shared with about 12 of our CEC kids, several youth, and their families. The young ones then moved into the parish hall to visit with Saint Nicholas himself and found special gifts of chocolate coins and oranges in their shoes once his story was over.

We also put on our Christmas Eve Pageant, with about 20 of our children playing many roles from Mary and Joseph to the angels, shepherds, and narrators.

I am so looking forward to finishing out this school year strong and transitioning my focus to Vacation Bible School over the summer and plans for the next school year.

There are too many people to thank for all the help in assuming this role at CEC — I would truly be thanking the entire church for all of the support and encouragement you've offered, including the wonderful group of parents I get to work with. I am excited to continue working with each one of you to build a program with the spiritual formation of our youngest members in mind.

I would be remiss, though, if I didn't specifically thank Kathy Shepherd for sharing so much of her knowledge, experience, and resources with me as I have navigated many "firsts" this year.

*Submitted by Emilie Bridges,
Director of Children's Ministries*

Dinner for Eight

The Dinner for Eight program had two sessions in the Spring/Summer and Fall/Winter of 2023. A total of 75 parishioners gathered in small groups in parishioners' homes to enjoy dinner, laughter, conversation and deepen connections.

We invite members of the parish to join us in 2024. Eight people will be assigned a group, with each group meeting

two times in the spring/summer and fall/winter. Dinners are potluck style with the host providing the entrée. If you are interested in joining Dinner for Eight or would like to learn more, please contact me at mhall5_kpf@sbcglobal.net.

*Melissa Hall
Dinner for Eight Coordinator*

Foundation

The Christ Episcopal Church Foundation (CECF) is a non-profit charitable organization that exists solely to provide financial support for Christ Church in the pursuit of its many ministries. Its vision is to be a resource that inspires the congregation to respond to the changing needs of the church for generations to come. In this role, it functions as a separate entity, with its own board and bylaws, which works with the Vestry to achieve mutual goals.

A goal for 2023 was to categorize each of the numerous funds (over 40) regarding purpose, restrictions, and endowed or not endowed. After a detailed review of the original donation documents, small funds with a common purpose were grouped together. The remaining funds were classified in a workable format for efficient investment purposes to better coordinate the release of funds to the church.

Another goal was to look for a new organization for fund investment; one that was better suited to meet our needs regarding investment choices, accounting, and communication. We sought proposals from four firms. The board unanimously selected the Episcopal Church Foundation (ecf.org).

It is a non-profit sanctioned but separate from the Episcopal Church. It is specifically structured to meet the needs of church foundations. Funds are invested through State Street Global Advisors, an international investment agency with an excellent reputation. As an added benefit, management fees are less than with the previous agency.

The total market value of the foundation as of 12/31/2023 is \$2,316,948. This is a significant increase due in part to a large donation, approaching \$400,000, from the estate of a generous, longtime parishioner.

Other Actions in 2023

- The board met in person in May and October. Votes for several decisions were tabulated electronically. The annual audit was completed as well as Secretary of State registration. The federal tax return was submitted. All of these documents are available for review upon request.
- The board voted that the minimum donation for a new named fund is \$100,000.

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Foundation *(continued from pg. 4)*

- The board distributed five percent of eligible fund profits, averaged over the last three years, to the operational budget for 2023. This is standard operating procedure.
- The board authorized the transfer of \$75,092 to the church. This includes \$42,327 for the new boiler and \$32,765 for partial payment of the much-needed external building repair.

Proposed actions for 2023

The CECF is an important asset of the church yet is not visible to many members. The board desires to increase the foundation's visibility and to share with the congregation its growth potential.

Preliminary discussions have centered around the development of a planned giving program. Amy Amason has presented to the Vestry such a program which seeks to encourage planned giving and to increase our visibility and transparency. Execution of such a program will be a challenge and the input of new board members will be very helpful.

Election of Board Members for 2024

(Board members serve a 3 year term and are then eligible to serve a second 3 year term.) We request that this slate of board members and officers be approved at the annual meeting.

Many thanks to Kim Chaffin, Michael Bridges, and Dwight

Name	Title	Election Term
Robert Carolla	President	2021-2026
Jim Towery	Vice President	2021-2026
Amy Amason	Treasurer	2022-2027
Susan Smith	Secretary	2024-2029
Henry Foster		2023-2028
Sally Scheid		2019-2024
Susan Kirby		2019-2024
Mike Brothers		2024-2029
Mary Ellison		2024-2029

Rahmeyer who have completed their terms of service and served an extra year because of the pandemic. We will be seeking at least two new board members for election in 2025. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the board.

Lastly, in the spirit of increased transparency, all documents and financial reports are available upon request.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Robert Carolla, President*

Funeral Ministry

The Funeral Ministry consists of a small but mighty group of dedicated members, who give gifts of their time, baking talents & hospitality to support bereaved families at Christ Church. Our primary focus is to help the bereaved coordinate and then host funeral receptions and visitations held at Christ Church.

We are always looking for additional volunteers to join us in this ministry of compassion and caring. If you'd like to help us host funeral receptions or if you just like to bake, please feel free to reach out to me about how you can help at susanolive85@gmail.com.

Submitted by Susan Cardwell

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a lay religious order for women founded with the mission to extend Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Our chapter here at Christ Church meets monthly for business and to pray the current prayer list. We are currently studying the book "Bible Women – All Their Words and Why They Matter." In April 2023, our chapter hosted the DOK Diocesan Spring Assembly with over fifty attending and enjoying box lunches. The Rev. Dr. Joanna Siebert, an Episcopal Deacon, presented the program. Over the summer, Patricia Cox and Marsha Patterson led study and discernment sessions for potential members. Anne Egbert, Susie Stovall, and Ann Von Geldern were admitted to the order in September. Election of Officers was

held in August with the following members elected: President – Marsha Patterson, Mary Luke – Vice President, and Kathy Alexander – Secretary/Treasurer. Several St. Macrina members attended the DOK Diocesan Fall Assembly in Independence, MO where Kathy Alexander was elected Secretary of the Diocese of West Missouri DOK. If you would like more information about Daughters of the King, please email Marsha Patterson at marsha.s.patterson@gmail.com or call at 417-866-5133. We are always open to new members.

*Submitted by Marsha Patterson
President of St. Macrena Chapter, Christ Church*

Garden Guild

Every day is a good day when you can dig in the dirt and share it with friends! The Garden Guild continues to beautify the church grounds and especially the church garden. We will be updating around the St. Francis statue and adding some new flowers in the spring. We would love to see “new sprouts” be a part of this very fulfilling and happy group. We

meet during the spring and fall. In 2023, Susan Cardwell organized a fundraiser for Garden Guild, selling greenery during the holidays. It was a huge success and we plan to do it again next year. As always, we look forward to spring!

Submitted by Kathy Sheppard

Giving Campaign

The Stewardship/Giving Campaign for 2024 consisted of four members this year, including The Rev. Joe Behen, Mike Brothers, Tom Killingsworth, and Franz Ginsberg. In October of 2023, Fr. Joe sent a letter to members of the congregation asking for their support and pledge for the 2024 year. Our ingathering of pledge cards was held on Sunday, November 19th, followed by an excellent choir concert and reception at 4 p.m. A special thank you to all our staff and choir members who helped coordinate the concert, and to the hospitality committee who helped decorate and organize the reception.

Our pledge goal for 2024 was \$522,000 and was consistent with our goal from 2023. In 2023, Christ Church received a total of \$536,164 in pledges. As of January 5, 2024, Christ

Church has received \$501,850 in pledges which is 93.6% compared to the pledges from 2023. If you have yet to pledge for 2024, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available at Christ Church, you may contact the church office at 417-866-5133 if you would like to pledge.

The committee would like to thank all our members who pledge their time, talent, and treasure to Christ Church. Our Church would not be the same without you and your support. Thank you cards will soon be mailed to all who pledged for 2024.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg,
Giving Campaign 2024*

Grief Support

The Grief Support group provides a safe space for those dealing with the loss of a spouse or loved one. For some, these may be recent losses. Or for others, who feel they may not have fully grieved their loss in the past.

The Grief Support group was founded before the pandemic with a class of eight. We had our second class in 2023 with eight people involved. Melissa Dallas and I lead the mutual support group using a variety of materials to help members acquire tools to understand and deal with grief. New classes are always forming.

Recently, those who have participated in previous classes have started a monthly lunch group to continue the camaradery and find new places to go out! If you are interested in Grief Support, please contact me at sallyscheid@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Sally Scheid,
Grief Support Coordinator*

Hospitality Committee

Our amazing Hospitality Committee really stepped it up in 2023! Not only did we coordinate the Second Sunday Brunches (thank you, Kathy Sheppard) and Lenten Soup Suppers, but we also reestablished Dinner for 8 (thank you, Melissa Hall) and Women's Fellowship (thank you, Mary Ellison) offering additional fellowship opportunities to the members of Christ Church. We have also brought back Helping Hands, which offers a homemade, frozen casserole to those who might be ill, new parents, or following a surgery. Please let us know if you know someone who might need or enjoy this.

The Hospitality Committee meets on a monthly basis and has coordinated an Easter Breakfast for the St. Gregory

choir, a reception following the Community Hymn Sing, helped with the St. Cecelia Bingo Night, arranged the Recognition Sunday reception, a potluck for the Bishop's Visitation, receptions for Father Ryan Williams' first service, Father Ron Keel's farewell service, Father Joe's welcome, following the MSU Chorale concert, and a Juneteenth luncheon for guests from the Diocese. We've really gotten good at planning adult Wine and Cheese gatherings where all attendees bring appetizers! We've hosted these events for Father Ron's farewell, Father Joe's welcome and Celebration of New Ministry, and most recently, to celebrate Epiphany. The Funeral Ministry also falls under our umbrella. Thanks to Susan Cardwell, many families this year were

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Hospitality Committee *(continued from pg. 6)*

treated with kindness and compassion at a most sad time. Tracy Hall and Kris Wolford provide the planning for Men's Fellowship evenings which always have a good turnout. Thank you to the fun and faithful women who show up and serve time after time after time. You know who you are. They are the backbone of this church. If you would like to

join us or have questions, please contact me at (417) 866-5133 or come to a meeting on the second Thursday of the month at 1pm in Room 102.

*Submitted by Mary Kay Ross
Hospitality Committee Chair*

Music

Music, and its role in our worship, continues to flourish here at Christ Church. We learned so much from the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT), distributed in 2022, which noted that "Music & Worship" ranked in the 87th percentile of all churches surveyed. Certainly, our role in the worship space matters and I am exceedingly grateful to exist in a space that says so. I hope you are, too. Now onto the people who are more important than me: the musicians.

St. Gregory Choir

The St. Gregory Choir maintained a full calendar through 2023, including in the summer months. We hosted two Evensong Services (Epiphany in February and Pentecost in July), as well as an inter-congregational Hymn Festival (Lent in March) alongside St. James and St. John's. We also provided music for special services including Bishop Diane's visit in July and Fr. Joe's Installation in October. We celebrated this year's Giving Campaign with a Choir Concert featuring Adolphus Hailstork's cantata *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes*, and additional works by Handel, Faure, and others. Our adult singers continue to amaze and exceed expectations.

St. Cecilia Choir

Our young choristers are bursting with talent and an eagerness to grow. We started off the school year with our annual Yard Sale Fundraiser (shoutout to Jo Ellen Feugate for leading the charge on this) raising around \$2,000! Other fall events included outreach at Council of Churches and caroling at The Fremont Senior Living Center and Mercy Chapel. The choir was well represented at this year's Christmas Eve service with many of them performing Prelude solos or duets for a warm audience.

Other

It was my privilege to attend the Sewanee Church Music Conference this past summer on a full-tuition scholarship. This week-long retreat truly helped me "learn the ropes" of the Anglican Choral tradition. We got to experience sung Compline and Evensong services as well as learn the intricacies of skills such as organ registrations and singing Anglican chant. I was able to take these new skills back to Springfield and even got to play organ for a couple of our services!

I truly appreciate everyone's unwavering support and advocacy for worship through music and the role it plays in the

life of our special church.

Similar to years past, my goals for the choir program are as follows:

- Continue working to instill a love of music and its role in worship.
- Empower singers through musical excellence and leadership.
- Continue introducing a variety of repertoire that is engaging, educational, and spiritually enriching.
- Incorporate general music fundamentals into rehearsals.
- Continue building the skills of resilience, flexibility, and a can-do attitude amongst the singers.

Lastly, I want to thank Catherine Wong and Mary Christiano for their service and leadership. They are outstanding and dedicated humans, and we are blessed to have them with us.

Here's to a new year with new possibilities!

*Submitted by Kenny Kabak,
Director of Music*

Macioce Handbell Choir

In honor of the late Jean Macioce, we have renamed ourselves the Macioce Handbell Choir. I continue to work with the ringers and prepare music for performances and to enhance the worship experience. We were able to play preludes for Pentecost, Thanksgiving, and Advent. We plan on the Gospel responses during Lent. Thanks to all the dedicated ringers in the Macioce Handbell Choir and those who stepped in at the last minute to perform with us. We will continue to perform at each season and add music to the worship service when appropriate. We rehearse at 9am on Sundays - if you can read music and would like to try out the Handbell Choir, please contact Mary Christiano. We are always happy to have others join us.

*Submitted by Mary Christiano
Handbell Choir Director*

Next to New

The Next to New shop continues in 2024 to offer the same high-quality, next-to-new clothing, thanks to generous donors, and the same warm welcome to customers from the volunteers and manager. Those St. Mary's Guild members who conceived the idea would be amazed and thrilled by the satisfaction of the thousands of people who have enjoyed the shopping, but also by the hundreds of thousands of dollars donated to worthy causes, as those ladies mandated in 1953, when they opened the door to the first customers. Shoppers remark daily on the boutique "look" of the shop, the profes-

sional displays of clothing, and the welcoming atmosphere. Many of you reading this have never visited the shop. We encourage you to do so during business hours, Tue-Fri 11-5 and Sat 10-4. As always, we happily accept your next-to-new clothing donations during those hours and welcome you to join the dedicated group of volunteers who make those guild members' original concept thrive today.

*Submitted by Lynn Meinhardt
Next to New*

Welcome & Growth

The Welcome & Growth committee is charged with welcoming new people and families to church. We provide welcome bags to those who are visiting that are filled with church information, a Christ Church coffee mug, and an information card to fill out. We have given over 200 bags to those who have visited and continue to bring new people to

church. We will be reorganizing two or three committees into one for next year. And we welcome all to bring ideas that will attract new families and members to Christ Church.

*Submitted by Kathy Sheppard
Welcome & Growth Volunteer*

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study meets weekly for an hour on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. We study the Lectionary for the upcoming Sunday. We have some lively discussions based on the Lectionary and enjoy each other's company. All women are welcome. If you have questions or would like a copy of

the Lectionary emailed to you before the meeting, please email Marsha Patterson at marsha.s.patterson@gmail.org.

*Submitted by Marsha Patterson,
CEC Women's Bible Study Facilitator*

Youth

It's been another season of growth in our youth ministry. We have stayed extremely busy and engaged with our community this year. We continue to nurture and challenge our teens by fostering an environment of inclusivity, togetherness, and love. This summer, we were well-represented at Ozarks Pridefest with many of our students and parents marching in the Equality Parade. It was also tremendous to collaborate with local Episcopal parishes - truly refining our synergy as one church, one body.

Weekly lessons have covered a variety of topics including: Gun Violence, Love Languages, Undoing Racism, Earth Day, SMART Goals, The Book of Job, Mental Health Awareness, LGBTQ+ History Month, All Saints' Day, Homelessness Awareness Month, Advent 101, and more!

Special events have included: Spring putt-putt at Fun Acre, skating at Skateland, a lock-in, Laser Tag in the church, Southern Deanery Youth Game Night, Parking Lot Fund-raiser (raised over \$3,000!), Outreach at Council of Churches, Diocesan Convention in KC, Students at the Symphony, Shopping for Ambassadors for Kids, Caroling at The Fremont Senior Living and Mercy Chapel, our annual Christ-

mas Party, and a trip to Silver Dollar City! One of the most special events was in July where we witnessed thirteen teens go through the confirmation process.

Lastly, I want to sincerely thank our Youth Leadership Team (Hayley Cobb and Tom Killingsworth) for continuing to help provide an exceptional experience for our youth. I'd also like to thank the many who have graciously sponsored weekly meals for us this year: Kathy Sheppard, Julia Taylor, Jo Ellen Feugate, Sally Williams, Sally Baird, Nancy Hopkins, Kate Baird, Edith Van Hoesen, Cyndy Cobb, Susan Cardwell, Mary Chiles, Laura Killingsworth, Laine Scholz, Deb Myrick, and Melissa Hall. Thank you to Cindy Chiu for helping to keep our youth room stocked with delicious treats and drinks. Wow! It really takes a village. Grateful.

2024 is already looking to be another full year with lots of offerings for our teens including Episcopal Summer Mega-camp in Kansas and General Convention in Louisville, KY.

*Submitted by Kenny Kabak
Director of Youth Ministries*

Outreach Committee

The Outreach Ministry includes work supporting Bissett School, Rare Breed, the Sewing Guild, Newborns in Need, Safe to Sleep, Ambassadors for Children, the Lespwa Timoun Clinic in Haiti, the Council of Churches of the Ozarks, and Crosslines. We are also ready to support Eden Village and the local refugee programs.

This summer, at the request of the Connecting Grounds, a water station was placed in our parking lot across Walnut Street from the church. This gave our unsheltered neighbors a location to get a cool drink of water on our hot, sticky days.

Our sack lunch ministry continues to grow. This year our office staff gave out 2943 sack lunches (more than double the 1144 meals we provided in 2022). We also purchased bus passes and gave Bibles upon request. As we started our Red Bag collection, we were able to give socks, winter hats, “hot hands” and gloves to those who need them.

From April through October, we fed our unsheltered neighbors (and their pets) on the third Friday of the month outside at Pitts Chapel. During the winter months, the Community Partnership of the Ozarks sponsors meals at Grace Methodist Church each evening. Because of this schedule, they requested that we not have our traditional meal for the Thanksgiving season. We are continuing to look for ways to support feeding programs during the cold weather months.

The need for our Outreach ministry continues to grow. We can always use more hands and more money. Remember that Jesus said (Matthew 25:40) “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” We meet on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm in room 207.

If you have questions or know about a need we could support, please come to a meeting or contact me at juliaellentaylor@gmail.com

*Submitted by Julia Taylor
Outreach Committee Chair*

Bissett Elementary School

Hats off to Christ Church! We were able to go into the schools in 2023 and will be doing more in 2024 to serve the teachers and children at Bissett School!

In 2023 all children at Bissett received new gloves and hats for Christmas. This was appreciated more this year because they have a larger number of kids walking to school than the previous year.

We were able to do OneSolePurpose this year. CEC provided new tennis shoes and new socks for each child. The kids were able to pick their color and be measured, to be sure the shoes fit. CEC volunteers were great and all had smiles on their faces when completed.

We provided 10 tickets for the annual teacher appreciation banquet, sponsored donuts for the new Good Dads program, provided lunch in May for teacher appreciation week and are currently looking to recruit new volunteers in the classrooms.

We continue to look for ways to enhance the learning and support the teachers and children of Bissett. If you are interested in volunteering in the classroom, being a reading buddy, or have suggestions to make Bissett better, please contact kathysheppard1950@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Kathy Sheppard,
Bissett Coordinator for Christ Church*

Crosslines

Crosslines was founded on March 24, 1969. Our numbers increased this year, and we appreciate all help from the congregation with their Sunday donations. Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets were distributed as well as toys from Crosslines Toy Store. Orders are now taken online, and food orders are filled by our workers. Clients drive up to a loading area to have groceries loaded into their vehicles. Budgeted money each month helps purchase milk from Hiland Dairy and food from Ozark Food Harvest. Contributions from our congregation on a weekly basis also help to stock the pantry with non-perishable items.

Our volunteer day is the first Wednesday of the month from 12 to 2 p.m. Last March, Crosslines moved to their new location 3055 E Division St. A huge thank you to our faithful workers, Henry Foster, Charlie Bare, Elaine Martin, Jan King, Mary Kay Ross, Nancy Hopkins, Melissa Hall, Barb Towery, Chris Macioce, and Jane & Ed Mellers. Thank you to all church members contributing to this local outreach project.

*Submitted by Pam Tynes
Crosslines*

continued on pg. 10

Outreach Committee *(continued from pg. 9)*

Haiti Missions

Although we have not been able to make a trip to Haiti for quite some time, the Lespwa Timoun Clinic that we support and pray for every week in church continues to successfully do the necessary work to care for the children and families in the Croix des Bouquet/Lilavois region. Light from Light, the stateside organization that works alongside the Haitians, oversees the monies sent to the clinic for patient medicines, Plumpy Nut for malnourished children, services including mid-wives for expectant mothers, and healthcare workers for the many outlying villages. Tele-medicine opportunities are also available. Throughout the past year, we have also improved the internet connections by installing solar panels at the clinic to provide consistent electricity and began a counseling support system for the staff who deal with the dangers involved on a daily basis. The people of Haiti are living in extreme times of unrest and chaos, however the staff of the clinic continue to bravely step up to the plate each day to serve and a big part of this success is that we have partnered with them throughout the journey.

More than ever, we ask for continued prayers and support for our Haitian friends. Please check out the lightfrom-light.me website for additional information. Be watching for details, as all are welcome to attend A Brighter Haiti on April 18, 2024. Finally, keep dropping those quarters in the tubes at the steps to the altar. Last year, we sent more than \$250 from the quarter tubes to purchase the Plumpy Nut supplement

*Submitted by Mary Kay Ross,
Light from Light Secretary*

Rare Breed

Rare Breed is a local non-profit that supports youth and young adults who are homeless or who are at risk of becoming homeless. Rare Breed provides showers, clothing, food, laundry, shelter/housing (access to shelter & housing programs), rapid access to community services (medical care, dental, vision, k-12 education, job training), and life skills (healthy relationships, leases/landlords, finances, time management, skill set, etc.) to youth and young adults ages 13-24.

Our wonderful volunteers at Christ Church provide dinner on the third Tuesday of each month at Rare Breed. Each meal has four volunteer slots: Entrée, side dish, grab & go items, and fruit & drinks. In 2024, Rare Breed had over 7,000 visits serving 727 youth and provided over 9,300 meals to youth with an average age of 16 -17. If you would like to learn more or would like to help provide a meal, please contact me at mhall5_kpf@sbcglobal.net. We hope you will join our Ministry in 2024.

*Submitted by Melissa Hall
Rare Breed Coordinator*

Safe to Sleep

Christ Church continues to support Safe To Sleep. Safe to Sleep is a women's only shelter that is open 365 days a year. Members of Christ Church and the Outreach Committee have been generous supporters of Safe to Sleep for many years.

In 2023, the Outreach Committee invited members of the church to help provide a meal for Safe to Sleep twice per month. We have had several members who have offered to help cook and shop for the meals for Safe to Sleep. In 2024, we would love to have more volunteers from outside the Outreach Committee sign up to prep, shop, and deliver meals to Safe to Sleep. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact me at edithvanhoesen@gmail.com, or call/text me at 417-866-5133.

*Submitted by Edith Van Hoesen
CEC Safe to Sleep Coordinator*

Sewing Guild

Thank you Christ Episcopal Church members for your support of the Sewing Guild and its many projects. In 2023 we continued our support of Newborns in Need, Springfield Chapter, by constructing 1,295 items including burp cloths, bibs, and infant gowns, and sleepers.

In addition to the items that were constructed, the Christmas Infant Tree was gifted 102 items that were donated to Newborns in Need. We provided 34 dresses, 10 pairs of shorts and 527 Kotex sets to an orphanage in Kenya sponsored by Gaylon Vinson of Vinson Ministries. We constructed tote bags and caps for the Least of These.

Thank you, thank you to all of you who assisted in our efforts. You know who you are! All of the items were greatly appreciated. We mourn the loss of faithful sewing partner, Millie Peterson.

We are always looking for donated supplies: fabric, new or gently used terry cloth towels, flannel and sewing supplies, and willing hands to cut and sew.

*Submitted by Nancy Hopkins
Sewing Guild Coordinator*

A Litany of Thanksgiving

Let us give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts
so freely bestowed upon us.

For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth
and sky and sea,

We thank you, Lord.

For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women,
revealing the image of Christ,

We thank you, Lord.

For our daily food and drink, our homes and families,
and our friends,

We thank you, Lord.

For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to
serve,

We thank you, Lord.

For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest
and play,

We thank you, Lord.

For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suf-
fering and faithful in adversity,

We thank you, Lord.

For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

We thank you, Lord.

For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

We thank you, Lord.

Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies
and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

*To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy
Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.*

PARISH STATISTICS

	2023	2022
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Sundays	53	51
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Virtual	57	47
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Weekdays	53	57
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Private	6	5
Morning/Evening Prayer	5	7
Holy Baptisms	3	6
Confirmations	11	0
Reaffirmations	1	0
Receptions	3	0
Marriages	0	2
Burials	14	16
Christ Church Parishioners:	769	765
Visitors to Christ Church (visitor cards)	16	40
Special Service Attendance:	123	106
Virtual & Special Service Attendance:	419	284
Virtual & Special Service Attendance:	331	250
Virtual & Special Service Attendance:	271	249
Special Service Attendance:	15	41
Number receiving Holy Communion	7371	6,360
Pledging	2024	2023
Number of Pledges	120	121
Total Amount Pledged	501,850	\$536,164

**Please note some of these totals are still
being updated. New totals will be updated on
the website version of the annual report at
christepiscopalchurch.com/annual-report.

BISHOP PROVISIONAL OF WEST MISSOURI

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Joe Behen, Rector

Tom Killingsworth, Treasurer (voluntary)

Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Finance

Franz Ginsberg, Director of Operations

Raisa Hurtado, Office and Communications Coordinator

Kenny Kabak, Director of Music and Youth Ministries

Mary Christiano, Hand Bell Choir Director

Catherine Wong, Organist

Will Rohrer, Sexton

Emilie Bridges, Director of Children's Ministry

Kinlee Jones, Nursery

Hailey Genge, Nursery

Mary Ellen Chiles, Nursery (sub)

NEXT-TO-NEW SHOP

Ann Compton, Manager

THE WARDENS AND VESTRY 2024 TERM ENDS

Open Position 2027

Nancy Hopkins, *Junior Warden* 2026

Austin Boyland 2025

Ben Fisher 2026

Open Position 2027

Open Position 2027

Evelyn Mangan 2026

Frank Miller 2026

Sarah Smith 2025

Open Position 2027

Julia Taylor 2025

Open Position 2025

Website: ChristEpiscopalChurch.com

Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church Springfield, MO

Instagram: christchurchspringfield