



The Clarion

Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street
Springfield, Missouri 65806
(417) 866-5133

January/February 2025

The Messenger of Good News

www.christepiscopalchurch.com

A Joyful Noise: Reflections on Music Ministry

As we've entered into this new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on the incredible momentum we've built within our Music and Youth Ministries. From cherished traditions to new initiatives, our ministries have been alive with energy, joy, and purpose.

A Season of Musical Excellence

Our choirs were busier than ever! In November, they offered an array of musical offerings, from a Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday to a rousing Christ the King Sunday featuring a brass quintet. Our Advent Lessons & Carols service was another highlight, weaving together ancient chants, Renaissance jewels, Anglican staples, and contemporary masterpieces.

One of my favorite traditions, the annual caroling tour, was a resounding success. Both choirs visited The Fremont Senior Living Center, sharing the joy of the season with the wonderful residents, including our own Fr. John Biggs. They then sang at Mercy Chapel, enjoying a moment just for themselves before capping the evening off with ice cream at Andy's — well-deserved after a night of spreading cheer!

In collaboration with Mtr. Katherine, we reintroduced the Blue Christmas service this year. Designed for those who found the holiday season challenging, this reflective service offered a space for quiet contemplation and healing. It was a meaningful way to acknowledge the breadth of human experience during that busy time of year.

Christmas Eve was especially magical, with many of our singers offering prelude or solo performances during both services. Their talent and dedication brought warmth and light to one of the most important nights of the year.

Our music ministry was also a hub for community engagement. In December alone, we hosted three major events: a standing-room-only concert by the MSU Chorale, which raised over \$3,000 for our music programs; a special performance by the Children's Chorus of Springfield; and a delightful string recital in our Parish Hall. Altogether, these events welcomed over 300 guests into our space, showcasing our church as a vibrant center for the arts. A heartfelt thank you to our Hospitality Committee for creating an environment that was warm, welcoming, and inspiring.

Building the Future with the St. Cecilia Choir

Our St. Cecilia Choir has made incredible strides as they prepare for their March trip to Washington, DC. Weekly rehearsals were extended to an hour and a half, allowing us to dive deeper into our repertoire and foster a stronger sense of community among the children.

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Online Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning live at 10 a.m.
on our Facebook and YouTube Channel
(search Christ Church Springfield, MO)

In-Person Worship

Sunday Morning Holy Eucharist Rite I at
8 a.m. and Rite II at 10 a.m.

Thursday Evening Holy Eucharist Rite II
at 5:30 p.m. (with Healing Service the last
Thursday of the month)

Office Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m.
(Closed for lunch 12 p.m.-1 p.m.)



To know Christ and to make Christ known.

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Fundraising has been a major focus, and I'm thrilled to share that we raised around \$14,000 in the Fall semester alone. This achievement reflected the dedication of our families, friends, and supporters. With more fundraising opportunities this semester, we are well on our way to making this trip a reality. As the saying goes, we worked for our dinner! ;-)

Growing Together: Reflections on Youth Ministry

Youth Ministry continues to thrive, with meaningful milestones and activities that brought our group closer together and deepened our faith. Last semester, four of our youth completed a six-week confirmation series alongside myself, Hayley Cobb, and Mtr. Katherine entitled "I Will, With God's Help." We were overjoyed to celebrate their confirmation in January, marking a significant step in their spiritual journeys.

Our trip to the Diocesan Convention in Kansas City was another highlight. We took nine students, all of whom played integral roles in the convention's events. Two represented our Southern Deanery as Delegates, a testament to the leadership our youth group has cultivated within the Diocese. Their active involvement solidified our youth group's reputation as a dynamic force in WEMO youth ministry.

In December, we continued our tradition of the Ambassadors for Children Christmas shopping trip, providing gifts for 10 children in foster care. It was a joyful experience to extend love and generosity to those in need.

A few of our youth rang in the New Year at a lock-in hosted by Grace Episcopal in Carthage. It's been incredible to see our youth form meaningful friendships with peers across the Diocese, strengthening their sense of belonging in the broader Episcopal community.

On Wednesday evenings, we average about 15 youth per gathering, with some weeks seeing even more participants. Beyond these gatherings, spiritual formation has flourished in ways that have been deeply inspiring. Teens are seeking additional opportunities to spend time together, engage in one-on-one conversations with Hayley and myself, dive deeper into our curriculum, and foster meaningful dialogue. Witnessing their growing investment in their faith and in each other has been a blessing.

Thank you to our volunteers! From keeping the youth room stocked and serving meals on Wednesday nights to providing constant encouragement, your support is invaluable. A special thank you goes to Hayley Cobb, my partner-in-crime, whose dedication and care have been instrumental in nurturing our youth.

Professional Growth and Gratitude

On a personal note, I am incredibly grateful to be a member of Leadership Springfield, Signature Class 47. This program has opened my eyes to deeper and more meaningful ways to engage with and serve our city. The insights and connections I've gained have been truly transformative and seamlessly impact my work at CEC. I'd also like to express my gratitude for Christ Church's hospitality in hosting my choir, Queen City Chorale, for their seasonal retreat weekends. Forming and leading this nonprofit ensemble has been a journey of growth and teaches me so much about administration, development, fundraising, and arts advocacy. These experiences enrich my skills and perspective, allowing me to bring even more to my work here at the church, as well.

Grateful Hearts

Reflecting on the past months, I am deeply moved by the ways in which our church community continues to grow, thrive, and serve. Our Music Ministries have been a source of inspiration and joy, with our choirs offering their voices in worship and outreach. From Choral Evensong to Advent Lessons & Carols, and festive caroling tours, the impact of their work resonates far beyond our sanctuary walls. I am profoundly grateful for the dedication of our singers, musicians, and the support of our congregation, which makes these musical offerings possible.

In our Youth Ministries, the spirit of service, leadership, and spiritual growth has been on full display. From confirmation celebrations and diocesan representation to impactful service projects, our youth continue to inspire with their energy and commitment. Their willingness to dive deeper into their faith and community life is a blessing I do not take for granted.

None of this would be possible without the many volunteers and staff who generously share their time, talent, and resources. Thank you for walking alongside me as we seek to glorify God and serve others through our collective efforts.

*With joy and gratitude,
Kenny Kabak*

January Outreach: Cold Weather Support

It is cold weather once again. Agencies in Springfield that are coordinating support are Community Partnership of the Ozarks (for shelter) and the Connecting Grounds (for evening meals). Checks to CEC with notation for Cold Weather will be gratefully received.

In addition, Red Bags for January will continue collecting blankets, hats, gloves, socks, and underwear. Also, since evening meals are being distributed at the Veterans Coming Home Center, they could use disposable plates, silverware and 8 oz cups. Paper towels and toilet paper would also be appreciated. Thanks for helping look after our neighbors!



February Outreach: Red Bag Diapers

The Red Bag Brigade is collecting diapers this February. The Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, a program of the Council of the Churches in the Ozarks, keeps babies healthy and happy by distributing diapers to families in need throughout the Ozarks. 47% of all families that have small children in the United States struggle with diaper insecurity. Think of it this way, every other baby that you see doesn't have enough diapers to stay healthy and dry—and that's just not ok. Diaper insecurity can not only lead to health issues like rash and infections, but it can also lead to neglect and abuse. Last year Diaper Bank of the Ozarks was able to distribute 1.4 million diapers.... though they had requests for 4.2 million diapers.

Please help us provide diapers to this agency, where families report that by receiving diapers, it allows them to: feel less stress, buy food, feel like they're being a better caretaker, pay a bill or put money in a savings account. Please bring your donations to church and put in the box by office hallway. Any questions contact Outreach Committee, Henry Foster at 573-718-9937 or email hmbfoster@att.net.





JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 Natalie Ross | 23 Rick Albaugh |
| 4 Mary Ellison | 23 Fletcher Ollis |
| 5 Gregory Johnson | 24 Deborah Cox-Hulgus |
| 6 Hannah Casertano | 25 Suzie Jordan |
| 6 Jon Leamy | 26 Stephen Gintz |
| 6 Carol Chalfant | 26 Barbara Hughes |
| 7 Ronald Stith | 27 Benjamin Donnelson |
| 11 Franz Ginsberg | 27 Ken Powers |
| 11 Holly Ryan | 28 Nancy Hopkins |
| 12 Kathryn Baldi | 29 Barbara Hays |
| 12 Desi Scholz | 29 David Stovall |
| 12 Tom Killingsworth | 30 The Rev. Bob Hood |
| 12 Ann Kerr | 30 Damian Tice |
| 13 Sally Netzer | 30 Ann White |
| 13 Amy Amason | 30 Raisa Hurtado-Netzer |
| 14 Diane Leamy | 31 Glenda Barnard |
| 14 Dr. Keri Franklin | |
| 16 Mary Bohlen | |
| 20 Marcia Johnson | |
| 20 Molly Carnahan | |
| 22 Catherine Brandt | |



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 Seth Baldwin | 19 Leighton Simmons |
| 1 Lorna Hammock | 19 Sally Scheid |
| 2 Tanner Davis-Campbell | 20 Dr. Anne Egbert |
| 2 Linde Donnelson | 21 Andrew Ross |
| 2 Jim Williams | 22 Lynn Meinhardt |
| 3 Dr. Keith LaFerriere | 23 Jan Wiggins |
| 3 Dave Murray | 23 Allyson Howell |
| 3 Matthew Keeth | 24 Grant Rahmeyer |
| 3 Sophia Massey | 24 Mark Casertano |
| 3 Molly Higdon | 24 Julian Codemo |
| 6 Cindy Timson | 25 Rosemary Killingsworth |
| 7 Mark Nelson | 26 Caddie Timson |
| 8 Alex Sheppard | 26 Duncan Calver |
| 13 Dr. Patricia Cox | 26 Andrew Kraft |
| 13 Jim Owens | 27 Janice Lacroix |
| 14 Bruce Matli | 27 Brooklyn Cooper |
| 16 Davis Riedy | 27 Andy Talbot |
| 16 Sandra Brown | 28 Betsy Lambert |
| 16 Elizabeth Tynes | 28 Anthony Hammock |
| 17 Jill Simmons | 29 Sarah Johnson |
| 18 David Lowell | |



Please join us January 6th at 5:30pm for Rite II Holy Eucharist where we will celebrate the Feast of The Epiphany. Following the service, around 6pm, we'll head over to Holdfast Brewery to relax, connect, and chat about the significance of Epiphany. Epiphany, which is the last day of the Christmas season, commemorates the revelation of Christ to the world, symbolized by the visit of the Magi. It's a time to reflect on how God reveals His light to us and through us.

Women's Fellowship will gather at Nearly Famous Deli and Pasta House, 2708 S Glenstone, this Wednesday, January 8, from 5-7. Hope to see you there!



The January Men's Fellowship evening will be held on January 24th at Brown Derby International Wine Center (located 2023 S Glenstone Ave) from 5:30 to 7 p.m. We will be wine tasting from 6 bottles (3 white, 3 red). There will be meat & cheese board pairings. The cost is \$20 per person. Please contact Tracy Hall to sign up by Jan. 20th at TracyHall.BSAE@gmail.com or 417-848-2542. See you then!

Since August, a group of about 5-15 people from Christ Church have met each month as part of the Young Adult Fellowship group. We've conversed over beverages at a local brewery, watched the Chiefs play, attended a live showing of Rocky Horror, enjoyed each other's company over a Thanksgiving dinner, and participated in a Secret Santa Gift Exchange. Since we have begun meeting, this group has gotten to grow deeper in their relationships with each other and with Christ Church in general. It has been so much fun getting to grow our community and spend time with each other in fellowship. When this group began, we didn't know how it would develop or who would join us for the events. I no longer believe the name "Young Adult Fellowship" is an accurate representation of who the group is. Thus, beginning immediately, this group will now be referred to as the "30 Plus or Minus Fellowship." I am so excited to continue growing this community in the New Year, and likewise deepen our understanding and relationship with God and each other.

Mtr. Katherine



Vestry Nominations for 2025

Christ Church is accepting names for the 2025 Vestry openings. There will be three positions open at the end of January 2025.

Vestry terms are three years. According to church canon, nominees must be: at least 16 years-old and confirmed communicants in good standing; and loyal to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church. In addition, in this parish, nominees must be: financial contributors of record for at least one year, in church, and committed to tithing as the minimum standard of Christian giving or working faithfully toward the giving a tithe; regular in church attendance and committed to monthly Vestry attendance; active in the work of at least one committee or ministry of the church, in addition to Vestry; and committed to functioning according to the norms established by the Vestry.

An ideal Vestry is one that features people of diverse backgrounds who fully represent our church community. We'd like to make sure that we have representation from each Sunday service and a good mix of people. Members of the same family may not serve on Vestry at the same time. All Vestry members should be united by their commitment to Christ and service to him. If you believe God is calling you to this ministry, or if you know of someone who would be a faithful Vestry member, please get that person's permission to nominate them, and then complete the form below and submit it to the church office as soon as possible, or email the information requested below to frontoffice@christepiscopalchurch.com. All qualified nominees will appear on the slate at the church's Annual Election and Meeting on Sunday, February 2nd.

2025 VESTRY NOMINEE FORM • Deadline: January 12

Name of Nominee: _____ Phone: Home/Cell: _____ Work: _____

Member of Christ Church since: _____ Previous Vestry Service: (when and where) _____

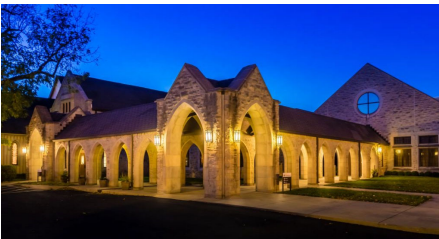
Activities (past and present) at Christ Church: _____

Occupation: _____

Your Name (who is making the nomination): _____



Have you moved recently? Changed your phone number? Have a new email address? Let us know! Please send any updates to your personal or contact info over to frontoffice-@christepiscopalchurch.com so that we can keep communication seamless among our parishioners. Thanks for your help!



Columbarium

If you're doing some year-end financial housekeeping or planning for the future, please consider our Columbarium here at Christ Church. It's one less decision for your family to make later, you get to make your choice on which niche & at the same time provide an eternal gift to give back to Christ Church. The cost is \$960, considerably less than some other options. A niche can be held for an initial 25% down (\$240) and then \$240/year, \$60/qtr or even as little as \$20/mth for the next 3 years. You can purchase it all at once if that's easier for you. Contact the church office or Tracy Hall at 417-848-2542 for more information.

Pledge Information Leading into 2025:

Pledge Campaign Totals	# of Pledges	Total Pledge
Tithes & Offerings (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2025)	109	457,528.00
Tithes & Offerings (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2024)	120	478,410.00
Tithes & Offerings (Jan 1-Dec 31, 2023)	120	536,164.00

Altar Flower Calendar

There is a new altar flower schedule for the 2025 season on the bulletin board in the hallway across from the front office. If you would like to donate altar flowers this year, fill out your information on the poster with your name and sentiment (please print). Sentiments commonly include, "in honor of" or "in loving memory of" a loved one, or "in celebration of" an anniversary or birthday. If you need more room, write your name on the poster, fill out a sentiment slip, and leave it in the front office. You may also email your sentiment and desired date to frontoffice@christepiscopalchurch.com. The cost for altar flowers is \$50. Checks may be made out to Christ Church with "altar flowers" on the subject line. All reservations are on a first-come, first-serve basis.



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Gently Loved Fashions for Ladies and Gents

SHOP. STYLE. DONATE.

Next to New is still welcoming donations of winter clothing, especially men's items. Thank you for considering this request. The shop is open from 11 to 5 Tuesday-Friday and 10 to 4 Saturday.



Daily Morning Prayer

Start your day with us in prayer! Tune into Facebook Live for Morning Prayer every Monday through Thursday at 9am. This is a great way to center yourself, connect with God, and set a positive tone for the day ahead. Even better, you can join us from wherever you are, whether it be on the go, at home, or at work. We hope to see you online!