



# ANNUAL REPORT

2024

## Rector's Report: "Faithful Ministry as 'Showing Up'"

Building for the future looks like showing up now. In his book *The Confessions*, St Augustine talked about our understandings of time in a way that I'll never forget. He said that our natural understanding of time is of its passing. There is a past, a present, and a future. The problem, he said, is that it's a faulty understanding. The past, he said, is a memory of time that is no more. The future is a guess about time that may be. The only time that truly exists, he said, is the present. This is the only time in which we can choose to be faithful to God. The past has hopefully taught us much. And, certainly, we have to give thought to - and prepare for - the future. But the only time in which we can act, is now.

Many of you have asked me over the last year, "How can I best help?" I'll be honest - that is my favorite question to be asked. The person who asks that question has the interest of this community in mind. They are in touch with the part that they can play in the corporate life of CEC. And they "get" that, for us to move intentionally toward some hoped for future, requires for us generally to be moving in sync with each other.

The answer to this question - what can I do? - at least generally speaking, is this: show up. Be here on Sundays for worship. Stay after the service for coffee hour (it's about building relationships, not coffee). Be here for formation opportunities (such as the Lent program on Wednesday evenings in Lent). Sign up for outreach opportunities. Show up for social events. Be part of a team that organizes these moments. I promise you that, if you make yourself a person who shows up, you'll be changed.

Showing up is not only the best way to be a healthy parish, but it's also the best way I can think of to grow as a parish. There are many things that clergy and staff can do to help bring people in the doors. But always - without fail - it's faithful people who show up, that keep people here.

Imagine being a potential new parishioner who shows up some Sunday. Generally speaking, let's say that they like what they've seen and what they heard in the service. So they take a chance and stay for coffee hour. When they arrive, they see 20 or so of the 120 people that were at worship. And maybe only one of the 20 speaks to them. That experience communicated something to them. Either this church isn't really a "community" in the way they think they are. Or maybe they don't want to be a community. Or maybe I just don't fit in here. Maybe the same person comes to a formation opportunity, and there are five faithful people who showed up. That communicates something to them.

Either no one thinks this is worth their time, or this parish isn't really about forming themselves in the faith, etc.

Now, imagine those same settings, but the new person finding instead, 100 people crowded in the hallway and spilling into the library and down adjacent hallways for coffee hour, or a parish hall nearly filled for Christian formation. That communicates something very different to this person. It suggests that God is doing something in these people that I want to be part of. It's energizing, and it's contagious. That is who we're called to be. And it starts with all of us showing up.

My own goal for Christ Church is to do what I can do to help build a strong, healthy community of Christians here for many decades to come. What I ask you all to do, is to show up, and to be part of what God is doing here.

Blessings to you all.

*Submitted by The Rev. Joe Behen,  
Rector*



## Curate's Report

Since starting as the curate at Christ Episcopal Church in July, I've had numerous opportunities to learn and grow in my role as your priest. It has been a joy to join you in our shared mission: *"To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known."*

### Personal Growth in Ministry

Fr. Joe has been incredibly supportive, allowing me to tackle many "firsts" in my ministry. Since July, I've officiated my first wedding, participated in several funerals, and had the privilege of preaching, celebrating, and offering pastoral care, including home communion for homebound parishioners. Additionally, I've gained valuable experience learning parish financials, leading unique services like the Blessing of the Animals and Blue Christmas, and collaborating with our church's various ministries. These experiences have deepened my understanding of priestly service, and I'm profoundly thankful for this season of learning and growth.

### New Ministries and Community Engagement

#### 1. 30 Plus or Minus Fellowship Group

In August, we launched the 30 Plus or Minus group (formerly Young Adults), providing a space for fellowship and community among the "younger" members of the parish. Highlights from this ministry include Friendsgiving, Secret Santa, and brewery meet-ups. These events have fostered meaningful relationships, and I look forward to exploring new ways to engage this age group in the life of the church.

#### 2. Chat with a Priest

This ministry began in August as an outreach effort to connect with parishioners and college students in a casual, welcoming environment. By working from a local coffee shop most Thursday afternoons, I've had the privilege of engaging in fruitful and heartfelt conversations. I'm excited to continue this ministry and extend Christ's presence beyond our church walls.

#### 3. Morning Prayer on Facebook Live

In September, I began hosting Morning Prayer online Monday through Thursday. This practice has been personally enriching for my prayer life and has provided a new avenue for communal worship. I'm encouraged by the positive feedback and look forward to continuing this offering.

### Looking Ahead

As I reflect on my first six months, I am filled with gratitude for this community and for the many ways God is working through us. In the coming year, I hope to deepen connections within our congregation, grow existing ministries, and explore new opportunities to serve our church and the wider community.

Thank you for your prayers, encouragement, and partnership in ministry. I am truly blessed to serve alongside you.

*Submitted by The Rev. Katherine Mansfield  
Curate*

## Senior Warden

When you log into our website, one of the first things you will see is "You Are Welcome Here." I have always loved that. Every Sunday, when you walk into the sanctuary, it is filled with love, kindness, beautiful liturgy, and the sweet sounds of our incredibly talented choirs. It is also good to see so many people coming to church every Sunday. I think we have a vibrant community here at Christ Church.

This year, we have welcomed the Rev. Katherine Mansfield as our new Curate, our diocese elected a new bishop, Amy Meaux, and, with mixed emotions (happy for her, but sad she is leaving), said goodbye to Emilie Bridges as the Children's Formation Director.

This community of Christ Church has certainly lived the second part of our motto, "To Make Christ Known," through the many ministries that our church provides and participates in. From the sack lunch program that handed out over 5,000 lunches this year to the Red Bag Brigade,

Light from Light, Bissett, Safe To Sleep, and many, many more, so many people here at Christ Church are active in making our community a better place to live.

I want to end with a word of thanks to all of you. We have a vibrant, active church filled with beautiful liturgy and music every week. We have so many ministries and volunteers who selflessly give their time, treasure, and talents to each of these causes. Also, a big thank you to the staff and Vestry at Christ Church, who take on the difficult task of making sure everything runs smoothly so we can have this wonderful space to worship, grow, and serve. My dear mother always ended her notes with a phrase that I think represents the way it feels here at Christ Church.

Know You Are Loved.

*Submitted by Kris Wolford  
Senior Warden*

## Junior Warden

Similar to the previous year in 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 the larger projects in 2024. Thank you to the members of the Building & Grounds Committee for their expertise and advice when it comes to repairs and maintenance, and a special thank you to Todd Young and Jim Guldin who have volunteered their time and talent to fixing a multitude of items both large and small at Christ Church.

### **Mortar, Stone, Cloister, Capstones, and Painting:**

In 2023, MTS was contracted to begin major repairs to the mortar all around the church, along with many other fixes to the stone, cloister, and capstones. Part of this project extended into 2024 and was completed.

### **Hot Water Valves & Actuators:**

New hot water valves and actuators were installed under the Sanctuary/Nave in February. These valves and actuators helped improve the temperature regulation throughout the worship space along with improving efficiency.

### **Hot water pump and motor replacement:**

In March, one of the four hot water pumps/motors was replaced in the boiler room. These pumps are separate from the new boilers that were installed in 2023, and several of them have undergone replacement or repair in previous years. These pumps now undergo a yearly inspection and have their bearings maintained to extend the life of the motors and prevent failures.

### **Chapel Plaster and Window Repair:**

In March, significant plaster repairs were conducted in the chapel. Smaller repairs were also made in a few other areas in the church that were damaged by moisture. With the new

mortar and sealing around the building, along with a new window in the chapel, we expect to have significantly fewer issues with plaster repairs for years to come.

### **Pew Removal:**

In the Spring of 2024, the front pews were removed to allow for more space in the Sanctuary/Nave. We are grateful for the feedback and overwhelming support of our congregation in the decision. The removal of the front two pews has allowed for more space for our disabled members and visitors, and the added space has allowed for more worship and music opportunities.

### **Front Stairs:**

The front stairs were removed shortly after Easter and were replaced with a new set of stairs. The previous stairs were awkward, and created a tripping hazard, on top of many years of wear and tear. Additionally, a new center railing was added, and the side railings were refabricated to fit with the new stair dimensions. Please give a big thank you to the Baird family at Christ Church who donated and fabricated the beautiful stone steps.

### **Chiller/AC Fan Motor Replacement:**

In September our chiller unit had several fan motors that reached the end of their lifespan. These fans and motors were integral in providing air conditioning to the entire building (with the exception of the Nave/Sanctuary). Additional preventative measures and inspections have been put in place to keep the system running and to extend the life of the fans and motors.

*Submitted by Nancy Hopkins  
Jr. Warden*

## Altar Guild

Christ Church Altar Guild provides service for every Holy Eucharist, wedding, funeral, and baptism. They also care for the linens, the silver and brass appointments, and the vestments of the priests. Members deliver the Altar flowers to the ill and homebound after the Sunday services.

Two meetings (the Big Clean) are held each year to plan for the Easter and Christmas services and to do the polishing of the brass and silver appointments. Thanks to Phillip Boepple, Kathy Alexander, and Kris Wolford for joining us this past December. Guild members also make the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

The Altar Guild is open to all members of the church. Trainings are available to any who would like a refresher class or to learn the workings of the Guild. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please contact Father Joe, or Mary Christiano.

A sincere thank you to all the members of the Altar Guild for their many hours of dedicated service to the church. Many hands make light work.

*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*

## Children's Worship

In 2024, we were grateful to have Emilie Bridges as our Children's Ministry Coordinator. Emilie worked on introducing new Sunday School curriculums while also continuing many of our traditions such as the St. Nicholas Party, Christmas Pageant, and many others. Towards the end of the year, we said farewell to Emilie as she was offered a graduate assistance program at MSU, which is an offer you just can't refuse. Emilie, thank you so much for your time with us and helping to build our program.

and her husband Jeff, and son Will, have all be apart of Christ Church for many years. Valerie has a master's degree in administration, and taught 6th grade for ten years in Branson, MO. Val also works part time for Parents as Teachers in Springfield Public Schools, and as substitute teacher at Roundtree Elementary. Valerie and Jeff have also volunteered for many children's events at Christ Church over the years. We are looking forward to an exciting new year with new opportunities for Children's Ministry and Worship.

Looking ahead to 2025, we are excited to welcome Valerie Paulette as our new Children's Ministry Coordinator! Valerie

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg,  
Director of Operations*

## 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!

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.

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

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 2024 approximately 75 percent of the niches have been purchased by our members, leaving 59 left available. The total Columbarium fund account balance as of January 1, 2024, was \$181,368.51 and our ending account balance for December 31, 2024, was \$188,346.90. If you are interested in purchasing a niche for you or a loved one, please contact Franz Ginsberg at [franz@christepiscopalchurch.com](mailto:franz@christepiscopalchurch.com) or call the church office at 417-866-5133.

*Submitted by Tracy Hall  
Columbarium Chair*

## 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". Over the summer, Patricia Cox led study and discernment sessions for a potential member. Julia Taylor was admitted to the order in October. Currently, our DOK Chapter's project is the Christ Church Library. Several DOK members, and other volunteers, led by Patricia Cox, have been busy at sort-

ing and cataloging the books in the Christ Church Library. The plans for the church library include producing a digital list to view online and also developing an up-to-date method for checking out books. If you would like more information about Daughters of the King, please email Marsha Patterson at [marsha.s.patterson@gmail.com](mailto:marsha.s.patterson@gmail.com) or call at 417-860-5702. We are always open to new members.

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

## Dinner for Eight

The Dinner for Eight program had two sessions in 2024 with 77 participants in the Spring/Summer and 68 in the Fall/Winter. 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 2025. 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](mailto:mhall5_kpf@sbcglobal.net). There is always room for one more at our table.

*Melissa Hall  
Dinner for Eight Coordinator*

## Foundation

The Christ Episcopal Church Foundation (CECF) is a non-profit charitable organization which exists solely for the benefit of the church and its many ministries. It is a separate entity with its own board and bylaws and works closely with the Vestry in support of the financial needs of the church. The CECF vision is to inspire the congregation to respond to the changing needs of the church for generations to come.

At the present time, the foundation manages separate funds composed of legacy/memorial donations of deceased members as well as generous donations from current members. It also monitors the investments of three separate entities which operate independently. All financial investments are handled by the Episcopal Church Foundation in conjunction with State Street Global Advisors. Local board members make no financial investment decisions which eliminates any conflict-of-interest concerns.

Twenty-twenty three (2023) was an important year for the foundation with the review of all accounts for accuracy of classification—endowed or not endowed—as well as confirmation of restrictions for use of each fund. In addition, after a thorough review of investment options, the board elected to affiliate with the Episcopal Church Foundation (ECF). This relationship has proved to be very fruitful regarding the growth of the fund as well as solid, dependable administrative support.

The foundation has contributed to the recent repairs of the external church structure and also for a new boiler. Amy Amason has placed records of the foundation activities online to provide an accurate record and to help new leadership to better understand the function of the foundation. The board met in July and November. Minutes and financial records are always available for review upon request.

A declared goal last year was to take the mystery out of the foundation to make it more transparent to the congregation with an ultimate goal of increasing the value of the principal. To this end, the ECF advised that a Planned Giving Program would be very helpful. The first step is the creation of a Legacy Society to recognize those individuals who have already made a commitment to the foundation and in this way encourage others to participate. This effort will begin in the spring of 2025 and will be headed by Tracy Hall and Robert Carolla. Stay tuned.

### Required Action—Election of New Board Members

Susan Kirby and Sally Scheid will be leaving after serving for six years, per bylaws.

Robert Carolla is resigning to work on planned giving.

Amy Amason is resigning as treasurer after three years of dedicated service.

### Proposed Slate of Officers and Board Members:

Name	Title	Election Term
Jim Towery	President	2024-2027
Mike Brothers	Vice President	2024-2027
Henry Foster	Treasurer	2023-2026
Susan Smith	Secretary	2024-2027
Mary Ellison		2024-2027
Melissa Guldin		2025-2028
Bruce Nasby		2025-2028
Mary Chiles		2025-2028
Scott Carter		2025-2028

### Personal Closing Thoughts:

I have enjoyed my tenure on the board. My ignorance of the board's functioning forced me and the board to analyze operations, identify stumbling blocks, come up with a plan of action and then execute it. All of us have grown in this effort. Jim Towery is a very capable leader and will move the foundation forward.

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Robert Carolla, President*

## Fellowship Groups

In 2024, Christ Church has seen great success with several new and old fellowship opportunities. Earlier in the year, coffee hour was moved to the gathering and garden area adjacent to the Nave and Sanctuary. In doing so we have had more people engaging with one another all while enjoying some coffee and donuts. A big thank you to the hospitality committee members for helping to organize and rearrange the space for fellowship.

The Women's Fellowship Evening group also continued to meet throughout 2024 and has found great success. The group often met at a restaurant, at a parishioner's home, or sometimes in the parish hall for food, drinks, and other planned events. All women of the parish are welcome to attend, and the group will continue to meet throughout 2025.

The Men's Fellowship Evening and breakfast groups also continued to meet throughout 2024 and has been a big hit. The evening group often met at a variety of local breweries,

and even at parishioners' home on occasion, and all men of the parish are welcome to join. A big thank you to Kris Wolford and Tracy Hall for organizing the evening events. The men's breakfast group also continued to meet once per month at Scramblers for fellowship and breakfast. Thank you to Charlie Bare for organizing this long-running fellowship opportunity.

As mentioned earlier in The Rev. Katherine Mansfield's report, she has introduced a young adult ministry that has since been renamed to Plus or Minus 30. This group has also been met with success and excitement among many of our parishioners.

Christ Church will continue to offer new and engaging fellowship opportunities in 2025. Thank you to all our staff and volunteers who have made these engaging fellowship opportunities available.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg,  
Director of Operations*

## 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*

## Garden Guild

The Garden Guild is a small group of happy diggers that enjoy the outside, sunshine, and flowers! We keep the outside of church looking beautiful, work in the beds, have purchased matching flower pots in the front of church and the garden area, and create new landscaping where needed. We sold Christmas greenery this year, hosted two delightful Garden Guild cocktail parties with raffles and door prizes,

and always take donations. The grass in the garden received a total lawn restoration this fall, which helped to keep our grass green till Christmas. It is always greener on the other side. As always, we look forward to spring!

*Submitted by Kathy Sheppard*

## Giving/Pledge Campaign

The Giving/Pledge Committee for 2025 consisted of eight members this year, including The Rev. Joe Behen, The Rev. Katherine Mansfield, Mike Brothers, Tom Killingsworth, Jen Hendrickson, Nancy Hopkins, Kris Wolford, and Franz Ginsberg. In November of 2024, the committee sent a letter to members of the congregation asking for their support and pledge for the 2025 year. Our in-gathering of pledge cards was held on Sunday, November 24th, followed by a reception afterward. A special thank you to all our staff and the hospitality committee who helped decorate and organize the reception.

As of January 28, 2025, Christ Church has received \$486,176 in pledges for 2025 which is a 1.6% increase over 2024

pledges of \$478,410. We celebrate as we acknowledge that All Things Come of Thee, O Lord! The committee would like to thank all our congregants who pledge and give faithfully to Christ Church. Our Church would not be the same, nor would it function without your support.

If you have yet to pledge for 2025, there is still time to do so. Pledge cards are available at Christ Church or can be made through our website.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg,  
Pledge Committee 2025*

## Hospitality Committee

Our Hospitality Committee members did another fabulous job throughout 2024 in providing fellowship events that have been welcoming and fun for a variety of occasions!

We started the year with an Epiphany wine and cheese that highlighted the amazing collection of Julia Taylor's (and a few others) nativity scenes. We coordinated the Lenten Soup and Bread Suppers, as well as an Easter morning breakfast for our choir members. Another wine and cheese was held to celebrate Mother Katherine's arrival in August. We welcomed more than 50 guests for the very successful fall Women's Retreat in October. We provided, as an outreach event, a lovely reception following the MSU Concert Choral concert. Our biggest event, however, was the Southern Deanery dinner for the four bishop candidates in September! Along with these big events, we coordinated six Second Sun-

day Brunches, helped with a planned giving forum, helped with a Shawio gathering, celebrated Father Bill Myrick's 40th ordination anniversary, arranged groups for Dinner for 8 gatherings, planned monthly Men's and Women's Fellowship events, cooked to provide a frozen casserole for parishioners in need of a little TLC, offered help and compassion with several funerals, became coffee hour hosts in the garden area, and met monthly to plan these things.

We thoroughly love offering the gift of hospitality in these ways, and will always welcome anyone else to this group! We would love your helping hands and suggestions. Please join us at a meeting, the second Thursday of the month at 1 PM in Room 102.

*Submitted by Mary Kay Ross*

## Music and Youth Ministries

In 2024, our Music & Youth Ministries have thrived with energy, creativity, and growth. These ministries continue to be a cornerstone of our church, bringing together our community through faith, artistic expression, and service. We are deeply grateful for the support and commitment that make these ministries possible.

### A Season of Musical Excellence

This year, our choirs offered powerful services, including Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday and an Advent Lessons & Carols service to name just a few. The St. Cecilia Choir now sings at every Sunday service, and the St. Gregory Choir maintained an active presence throughout the summer months. We also reintroduced the Blue Christmas service and hosted special performances on Christmas Eve. Our music ministry continues to enrich worship and outreach within our community.

### Building the Future with the St. Cecilia Choir

It's important to highlight the milestone for our junior choir; the St. Cecilia Choir has made significant strides in preparation for their March 2025 trip to Washington, DC. With extended weekly rehearsals, the choir has built both musical skill and community. Thanks to the dedication of families and supporters, we raised \$14,000 in Fall 2024, making the trip a reality.

### Macioce Handbell Choir

The Jean Macioce Handbell Choir had a productive year, thanks to the dedicated ringers who practice on Sunday mornings at 9:00am before church. The group performed several preludes and incidental music to enhance worship services throughout the year. We plan to continue performing at each season and adding music to worship services, when appropriate. 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 ringing with us!

*Submitted by Mary Christiano  
Handbell Choir Director*

### Youth Ministry: Growth and Engagement

Our youth engaged in numerous community activities, including Ozarks Pridefest, volunteering at Eden Village, and hosting successful fundraisers. Spiritually, several youth participated in a confirmation series, and two others even represented our Southern Deanery at the Diocesan Convention in Kansas City. Their leadership continues to shape the future of our youth group and the broader Episcopal community.

### Acknowledging Volunteers and Support

We owe much to the tireless work of volunteers, especially Hayley Cobb, for her commitment to our teens, and to those who supported our youth meals throughout the year. We also thank our Music Ministries leadership—Catherine Thapa, Mary Christiano, our Choral Scholars, and all volunteers—for their continued dedication.

### Professional Growth and Personal Reflections

I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of Leadership Springfield, Signature Class 47, which has enriched my work at Christ Episcopal Church. I'm also thankful to Christ Church for hosting Queen City Chorale's seasonal retreat weekends, which have provided valuable lessons in administration, fundraising, and arts programming and advocacy.

### Looking Ahead: A Year of New Possibilities

As we look ahead, our Music and Youth Ministries are primed for continued growth and collaboration. With an exciting calendar of events, we are eager for what the future holds. Thank you for your continued support as we strive to glorify God through music, service, and community.

*Submitted by Kenny Kabak  
Director of Music & Youth Ministries*

## Next to New

The shop in 2024 enjoyed an increase again in customers, both repeat and brand-new. The repeaters often share happy stories of longevity in shopping at Next to New. The first-timers often express surprise at discovering this gem for high end shopping at affordable prices, amazed that the shop has been dressing savvy and stylish customers for seven decades. Those of us involved with the shop find the shared conversations with our shoppers an added pleasure to our time spent there.

The shop made a \$5000 donation to the Junior Choir trip to Washington, D.C. In the summer the shop's donation of \$1575 helped to fund the Tent Theatre student scholarship fun at MSU. The advertising space offered to us in the Tent Theatre brochure seen by those attending the summer pro-

ductions brought new customers to shop with us. We also kept an open door throughout the year for the CEC staff to send to us those in need of clothing.

We celebrate our generous donors, who keep a steady stream of both quantity and quality donations coming to the shop. Many of them were our consignors. We consider their now donated clothing proof of the value of Next to New's contribution to the community. And the shop is very fortunate to be in the hands of managers and volunteers who continue to share their time and invest their energy to keep Next to New a viable not-for-profit outreach of Christ Church.

*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 also have a new mug design! These new mugs

will be added to our Welcome & Growth Bags in 2025. 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](mailto:marsha.s.patterson@gmail.org).

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

## 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, Crosslines, Eden Village, and the local refugee programs.

Our sack lunch ministry continues to grow. This year our office staff gave out 4,240 sack lunches. We started keeping track of the numbers beginning in 2022. That year we handed out 1,144 and in 2023 we gave out 2,943 lunches. We have also made specific sack lunches for the cold weather shelter this year, with a number of 150-200 meals served in December. These lunches are distributed once per month, and we will continue this program through March of 2025. Our Outreach Committee was blessed this year with a grant of \$3000.00 from the Diocese of West Missouri for sack lunches.

The Outreach Committee supports the Well of Life Food Pantry which Christ Episcopal Church helped to start in 2000 when 6 downtown churches saw a need to help the hungry. The numbers and amounts of food that they have handed out in 2024 are as follows:

<b>Days Open</b>	96
<b>Household</b>	3559
<b>People</b>	6687
<b>In Area Household</b>	2744
<b>In Area People</b>	4576
<b>Out Area Household</b>	815
<b>Out Area People</b>	1834
<b>Sack Lunches</b>	5124
<b>OFH lbs.</b>	112686
<b>CCCO lbs.</b>	19467
<b>Donation lbs.</b>	48526
<b>Total in lbs.</b>	180679
<b>Total out lbs.</b>	171901
<b>Expenses \$</b>	\$36411

*continued on pg. 9*



## Outreach Committee *(continued from pg. 8)*

The Outreach Ministry meets on the first Tuesday of each month (unless that is an election day) at 5 p.m. in room 102. We have an Outreach Focus and a Red Bag collection each month. 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.”

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

*Submitted by Julia Taylor  
Outreach Committee Chair*

### Ambassadors for Children

Ambassadors for Children (AFC) is an outreach service of the Council of Churches of the Ozarks dedicated to restoring dignity to all local youth in foster care. For the past four years, the youth group at Christ Church has provided Christmas gifts for AFC children and youth. If you would like to support AFC, please make a check to Christ Church with “AFC Christmas” in the memo.

*Submitted by Julia Taylor*

### Bissett Elementary School

Thank you to everyone who supported Bissett Elementary School this year! Christ church has been their adopt-a-school partner for over 15 years and we have been able to provide the many “extras” that schools need each year. We also provided back-to-school breakfast for teachers in August, donuts, at 6:45 am for the Good Dads program, cookies for a school dance, tickets to SLT to see a Spring children's play, teacher appreciation week in May, and other events that pop up during the year.

A very favorite event we support is One Sole Purpose. With donations from our congregation we are able to provide new tennis shoes and socks for every child at Bissett! It takes volunteers, time, and donations. We always have enough to make this happy day successful.

Christ Church, with two other churches, stock SPS Cents of Pride Store which happens every month. We provide small toys, dolls, balls for all sports, books, and even food. Children can choose how to spend their positive points they earn each month. Christ Church is making a difference for children and teachers at Bissett.

Thank you!

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

### Crosslines

Crosslines was founded on March 24, 1969. 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. In 2023, Crosslines moved their location to 3055 E Division St. A huge thank you to our faithful workers. Thank you to all church members contributing to this local outreach project.

*Submitted by Pam Tynes  
Crosslines*

### Eden Village

Eden Village is a permanent supportive housing community for the chronically homeless. Each village of tiny houses (there are two villages now with three more in the planning stages) provides a gated community of like individuals and the support of a community center. The community center is furnished with a full kitchen, laundry room, computers, a library of books and DVDs, offices for professional service providers for support, as well as a community garden, wood-working shop, a neighborhood store, outdoor grills, and a storm shelter. Christ Church has provided financial support and some volunteer hours to this community project.

*Submitted by Julia Taylor*

### Haiti Missions

It's been another trying year for our friends in Haiti, but we must celebrate the fact that the Lespwa Timoun Clinic continues to see and serve patients regularly. Many of the hospitals around the capital have completely closed. We are one of the few clinics that has almost continually been open. Patients are seen by Haitian doctors and nurses, with extra support through zoom-like appointments with telemedicine communication. Light from Light, the stateside support organization continues to raise funds to support the clinic. Christ Church has given \$1000 a month for the clinic and we raised almost \$500 through our Quarter Tubes to provide the Plumpy Nut supplement for the nutrition program. A \$1000 grant was secured from the Diocese for the nutrition program, as well. The Brighter Haiti event in Springfield was canceled this year, but our Haiti connection was blessed with a very generous donation through the

*continued on pg. 10*

## Outreach Committee *(continued from pg. 9)*

foundation from long time Haiti volunteer and supporter Marilyn Vinson-McAfee's trust. Please continue to pray for our Haitian friends and add a quarter to the tube as you go up for communion 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 6,400 visits serving 300-400 clients per month and provided over 11,000 meals. If you would like to learn more or would like to help provide a meal, please contact me at [mhall5\\_kpf@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mhall5_kpf@sbcglobal.net). We hope you will join our Ministry in 2025

*Submitted by Melissa Hall  
Rare Breed Coordinator*

### Safe to Sleep

Safe to Sleep is an organization created for women to have a meal & safe bed each night at Pathways United Methodist Church. CEC provided meals to feed 30-35 women at Safe to Sleep 21 times in 2024. That is more than 650 meals for unhoused women in the Springfield area. Healthy meals were generously provided & delivered by concerned parishioners & members of the Outreach committee.

In 2025 we will continue to provide meals the 1st Tuesday of every month, and additional dates as we are able. Meals can be made in the church kitchen or at home. You can shop for, make, or deliver a meal as an individual or with a team. You can create a team or we can add you to a one when you are available. We can even provide healthy & simple menus for a meal. For more information email Edith Van Hoesen at [edithvanhoesen@gmail.com](mailto:edithvanhoesen@gmail.com), call or text at 417-496-2974.

*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 2024 we continued our support of Newborns in Need, Springfield Chapter, by constructing 2,857 items including burp cloths, bibs, and infant gowns, sleepers, blankets and caps. In addition to the items that were constructed, the Christmas Infant Tree was gifted 57 items that were donated to Newborns in Need. We provided 25 dresses and 450 Kotex sets to an orphanage in Kenya sponsored by Gaylon Vinson of Vinson Ministries. We hemmed table cloths for the Hospitality Committee, altered a choir robe for a St. Cecilia member and donated items to the Ozark Piecekeepers Quilting group and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church for their dress ministry.

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 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 for the Mission of Christ Church

Heavenly Father in whom we live and move and have  
our being;

*Hear our prayer.*

Lord Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate,

*Have mercy upon us.*

Gracious Holy Spirit, our guardian and guide,

*Bless our works begun, continued, and completed in you.*

O God, we pray for the gifts of ministry:

*Inspire our hearts and minds with courage and wisdom to seek  
your will in all that we undertake.*

Lord, make us instruments of your peace,

*That all may come to know the power of your forgiveness and  
redemption.*

And the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and  
Holy Spirit be upon us, now and evermore.

*Amen.*

PARISH STATISTICS		
	2024	2023
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Sundays	104	103
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Virtual	64	57
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Weekdays	54	53
Morning/Evening Prayer	64	5
Holy Baptisms	1	3
Confirmations	0	11
Reaffirmations	0	1
Receptions	0	3
Marriages	3	0
Burials	4	14
Christ Church Parishioners:	778	768
Visitors to Christ Church (visitor cards)	7	16
Ash Wednesday	105	86
Holy Week	417	385
Easter Sunday	342	320
Christmas Eve	309	256
Christmas Day	16	15
Number receiving Holy Communion	8169	7371
Pledging	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>
Number of Pledges	119	120
Total Amount Pledged	486,176	478,410

\*\*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](http://christepiscopalchurch.com/annual-report).

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**BISHOP PROVISIONAL OF WEST MISSOURI**

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce

**PARISH STAFF**

The Rev. Joe Behen, Rector

The Rev. Katherine Mansfield, Curate

Tom Killingsworth, Treasurer (voluntary)

Jennifer Hendrickson, Director of Finance

Franz Ginsberg, Director of Operations

Raisa Hurtado-Netzer, Office and Communications Coordinator

Kenny Kabak, Director of Music and Youth Ministries

Mary Christiano, Hand Bell Choir Director

Catherine Thapa, Organist

Will Rohrer, Sexton

Val Paulette, Director of Children's Ministry

Shannon Wilson, Nursery

Stephanie Stolle, Nursery

Mary Ellen Chiles, Nursery (sub)

**NEXT-TO-NEW SHOP**

Ann Compton, Manager

**THE WARDENS AND VESTRY 2024 TERM ENDS**

Kris Wolford, *Senior Warden* 2027

Nancy Hopkins, *Junior Warden* 2026

Austin Boyland 2025

Ben Fisher 2026

Jenny Fillmer-Edwards 2027

Kenny Ross, *Secretary* 2027

Evelyn Mangan 2026

Frank Miller 2026

Open Position 2025

Kathy Alexander 2027

Julia Taylor 2025

Mary Luke 2027

*Website: ChristEpiscopalChurch.com*

*Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church Springfield, MO*

*Instagram: christchurchspringfield*