

ANNUAL REPORT



2021

Senior Warden

Last year's message from then Senior Warden, Henry Foster, began by saying what a year it had been. The same can be said for this one—vaccinations, surges, virtual and in-person school and church, and retirement and other vacancies.

We thank God that on February 27, we will welcome the Revd. Ron Keel as our Interim Rector. He comes with experience and strong references from the Diocese and those who have worked with him in the past. He has been described as a warm priestly presence and a leader who is a highly organized team player.

Thanks for your patience and prayers as we've walked this road together. Transition is hard.

Recently, we heard a sermon on the book of Nehemiah by the Revd. Heather McCain. The people of Jerusalem were surprised when they returned to their home. The walls of their city were open and they no longer felt safe. The familiar safety had crumbled. They were unsettled by change. Unable to be confident going forward because they literally did not know what to expect might come their way.



Some of the experiences that we've had this year both personally and collectively may have chipped away at our resolve.

And yet Nehemiah led the people to rebuild the wall. Most interesting to me was the fact that Nehemiah didn't do it alone. The people did it together. Brick by brick. Each doing what he or she could do.

We are reminded by the apostle Paul that the church is like a body made up of many different parts that work together. We aren't just volunteers in the church, we are the church. And what parts are we of the church body? We are musicians, teachers, prayers, builders, organizers, givers of hospitality and comfort. Preachers. We give of our time and money. We encourage one another. We are young and old and in-between as we bring our gifts "To Know Christ and to Make Christ Known." We are Christ's Church.

Respectfully submitted
Mary Chiles
Senior Warden

Junior Warden

In 2021 repairs were made to the church building and grounds including the organ (repair and tuning), boiler repairs, indoor fire sprinkler system, fire alarm repairs, exterior doors painted, repairs to leaks in the ceilings and roof, repairs to the ceilings and walls from the leaks, gutters cleaned caulked, and gutter guards installed. The water pump broke in one of the boilers and had to be replaced. Plumbing issues in the parish hall bathrooms were fixed, the fence was repaired along the play area, weeds were killed and interior spraying was done for spiders, ants and roaches.

Camp Shawio was mowed, sprayed, the roofs were cleaned and toilets repaired.

Many actions were taken in response to the pandemic. Items were purchased for the church such as signs, masks, sanitizers, and cleaning supplies, etc. Extra cleaning schedules and procedures were put in place to keep our building safe and sanitized.

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 the palm crosses for Palm Sunday.

With the onset of COVID-19 and the ensuing restrictions, the Altar Guild was reduced to limited service for the in-person services. The Guild is again starting to attend to the needs of both in-person services and preparing for the recording of the web-based services.

There are new Covid precaution instructions for those that are returning to service. If you are returning to active service, we will have meetings please talk with me so we can review training and covid procedures to prepare for Lent and the Easter services. Please let me know when you are comfortable to begin attending church in person, and I will schedule the training with you.

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

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*

Bissett Elementary School

Thank you, again, Christ Church! We continue to serve the children at Bissett Elementary School in a variety of ways, despite COVID. We were not able to provide shoes from OneSolePurpose because shoes weren't available in the fall, but we were able to give shoes to all in May! Our volunteers measured and passed out shoes all in one day, with our masks. We always find a way to make situations work for these kids.

We happily welcomed two additional churches that have been helping with volunteers and monetary donations. Real Life Church and Passion Assembly have been helping with the Cents of Pride Store. Christ Church stocked the store for December and children were able to shop for their families and have presents wrapped to take home. There are seven stores a year and we are working together to make the Cents of Pride a success.

We planned to give a new book to each child at

Christmas, but again there were complications. So we will be giving books to the kids in March during a Reading Celebration! Thank you to all who donated to Bissett this year, in the past and in the future. Special thanks to Next To New for a generous donation to pay for the new books. We supplied pumpkins for a teacher carving activity. We also gave 10 tickets to the annual Teacher Appreciation lunch this year and will look forward to continue serving the kids at Bissett and adding a few more events that have been postponed because of Covid. We are making a difference in the lives of many children at Bissett. Thank you!

*Submitted by Kathy Sheppard
Bissett Coordinator for Christ Church*

Christian Formation For Children, Youth, and Families

2021 was a year of challenges and opportunities. In August, I was given the wonderful opportunity to begin working with the youth of Christ Church. I was challenged to continue to find innovative ways to manage programs in the continuing presence of COVID through the Delta and Omicron surges in our community.

Spring seemed to be a return to traditions that we had missed or had to adapt to in 2020. We were able to have a program for children on Ash Wednesday, led by Father Bob Seney. We also had a successful Lenten program on service for our church, our community, and the world. Families worked together to make blankets for donation and care packages for the homeless, among other activities. Different members of our church family led the sessions with conver-

sations about the specific acts of service. We were also able to flower the cross on Easter Sunday and have children and youth Easter egg hunts.

And then came summer, which disrupted Vacation Bible School plans. As the Delta wave of COVID reached our community, we decided to postpone VBS. I was very reluctant to cancel it outright and we made several attempts to hold VBS at some point prior to the start of the school year. Unfortunately, this did not occur. However, it led to a fun tradition, one that I may continue in 2022 in addition to traditional VBS—Christmas Vacation Bible School. In the week between Christmas and New Year's, we had a one-day, all day, Christmas VBS. The program was The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe. Themes included sacrifice, love,

(continued on pg. 3)

Christian Formation For Children, Youth, and Families (*continued from pg. 2*)

and forgiveness. This curriculum was an Episcopal program developed several years ago and related directly to fundamental teachings of our faith.

In August, we had a retirement party for Father Ken in Phelps Grove Park. Many families were able to attend and spend some time with Father Ken and Penny. It was a warm evening, but I think everyone had a great time being able to be outside and celebrate the Chumbley family.

While I had hoped we would be able to return upstairs this year to individual classrooms, we decided to continue Sunday school in the parish hall, as it is larger and is easier to socially distance. Additionally, we began the year with three Sunday school teachers. These teachers are dedicated, loving, and nurturing volunteers, who are dedicated to giving the children of Christ Church a meaningful Sunday school experience. The number of volunteers dictated that we continue with the “one-room” schoolhouse approach this year, though efforts were made to have crafts for specific age groups. Our Sunday school numbers were down somewhat in 2021, although the vast majority of families attended Sunday school at least once a month. I provided lessons to families not attending church in person until May, but did not continue in September when we resumed (as I had hoped that COVID would no longer be a factor). I have resumed sending materials to families in 2022. We are continuing to use Weaving God’s Promises, an Episcopal Sunday school

curriculum. In September, we also resumed having a separate, in-person, youth Sunday school. I have been leading this group and am using the youth version of Weaving God’s Promises.

We also resumed in-person youth group in September 2021. This has been very successful and we’ve had the opportunity to engage in service, educational, and fun activities. The youth made sack lunches, played a life-sized game of Clue, and is beginning a unit on comparative religion, adapted from the curriculum provided by Kim Snodgrass from the Diocese of West Missouri.

Many of our “extra” fellowship activities were canceled in 2021, but we did resume a few favorites, as well as add a new one. I was glad to assist Kenny Kabak in the trivia night fundraiser for the St. Cecilia choir. It was very successful and serves as a model of how we might structure similar events in the future. This was a wonderful opportunity for families to participate in a fun, fellowship event. Additionally, we were able to have our Advent craft event, the St. Nicholas party (many thanks to Frank Miller for being our St. Nicholas in 2021), and the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

I offer thanks to the families, volunteers, and the vestry, particularly Mary Chiles and Nancy Hopkins, for their support of this ministry.

*Submitted by Mary Bohlen
Director of Christian Formation*

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!

Christ Church’s Columbarium continues to be well used and appreciated by church members. In 2021 donations were made to the Columbarium Endowment Fund, and eight niches were purchased by members. To date, 71 niches are available for purchase. For members interested in learning more, there are pamphlets available on the console in the Columbarium, or contact our Parish Administrator, Sheila McGinn, in 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.

In 2021, we gave \$5,000.00 to the general operating fund, and plan to do so again in 2022.

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.

Submitted by Tracy Hall

Christ Episcopal Church Columbarium Fund Cash Account For the period January 1–December 31, 2021	
1/1/21 Beginning Cash Balance	\$23,748.98
Total Cash Receipts	\$1,1080.00
Total Cash Disbursements	\$795.00
12/31/20 Ending Cash Balance	\$24,033.98

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

The ad hoc Communications Committee continues to provide support, often working one-on-one with Franz and the Wardens to ensure accurate and timely church communications. In previous years, this committee has worked on large projects, improving the church's logo and branding, website, service bulletins, social media, advertising, signage, and calendars. Due to the successful completion of these

projects, and COVID prevention, the Communications Committee is not currently holding formal meetings. The group stays in touch via email and is ready to assist with any upcoming assignments.

*Submitted by Jenny Fillmer Edwards
Communications Committee Chair*

CROSSLINES

Crosslines was founded on March 24, 1969. This coming year will be its 53rd year in operation. Crosslines provides emergency food for three days to our clients based on family size and income guidelines. In 2021 more than 50,000 community members were assisted. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets are also distributed, as well as toys from the Crosslines Toy Store.

In 2021, we continued with the online filling of orders. Our volunteers filled the orders, sacked grocery orders, and the clients then drove up for curbside delivery. Many of our procedures are still modified because of the coronavirus. Toy Store operated in much the same way with clients filling toy requests online and volunteers gathering up, sacking, alphabetizing, and then finally drive-thru pick up to lessen contact.

Christ Church budgets money every month to cover milk and food purchased from Highland Dairy and Ozark Food Harvest. We also collect food and personal care items for

delivery from our own church pantry. Our pantry items help so very much to add to the shelves. Church members may bring food items to church and deposit them in the large baskets near the back of the church. Our volunteer day is the first Wednesday of every month from noon to 2 p.m. This year our faithful volunteers went above and beyond during the ongoing pandemic! I wish to thank Elaine Martin, Jan King, Henry Foster, Charlie Bare, Nancy Hopkins, Melissa Hall, Barb Towery, and Jane & Ed Mellers. A huge thank you to all church members for the continued support of this local outreach project. We are making a difference in our own area.

*Submitted by Pam Tynes
Crosslines*

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a lay religious order for women founded in New York in the 19th century which continues today. Nationally, our membership currently includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA), and Roman Catholic Churches. The Mission of The Order is the extension of Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Our vision is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. Anyone on our prayer list is prayed for daily and confidentially. Our chapter here at Christ Church meets monthly for business and to pray the prayer

list together. Like many groups, we have struggled during the pandemic to meet in person, and have learned to meet virtually as needed. Our current officers are: Ann Valentine president, Mary Luke vice president, Marsha Patterson treasurer, and Cynthia Magruder secretary. We encourage the growth of our chapter and are open to new members. Please contact me at 379-8744 or valentineann@yahoo.com for information.

*Submitted by Ann Valentine
President of St. Macarena Chapter, Christ Church*

Foundation

Christ Episcopal Church Foundation (CECF) is a nonprofit charitable organization that exists solely for the benefit of Christ Episcopal Church and its ministries. At present, the Foundation manages over 30 different funds representing the life work and generosity of the church's laity, both past, and present. As of December 31, 2021, the Foundation's assets were \$1,440,416. Total assets for all Church Funds, including Guilds, Proctor, and Columbarium were \$2,074,780.

The mission of Christ Episcopal Church Foundation is to

provide financial support for Christ Episcopal Church in the pursuit of its many ministries.

The vision for Christ Episcopal Church Foundation is to be a resource that inspires the congregation to respond to the changing needs of Christ Episcopal Church for generations to come.

Our board of directors for 2022 for approval at the Annual Meeting consists of: Dr. Robert Carolla, President, Mike Bridges, Sally Scheid, Amy Amason (Treasurer), Chris Ollis,

(continued on pg. 5)

Foundation (continued from pg. 4)

Jim Towery, Susan Kirby (Secretary), Kim Chaffin, Mike Ulmer, and Dwight Rahmeyer.

The Birthday Club has always been a fun way to make an annual gift to the Christ Episcopal Church Foundation. The concept is simple; donate a dollar to the foundation for every year you have attained on your birthday. Everyone, regardless of age, is encouraged to participate. For families, it can be a fun way to engage children on the topic of philanthropy. While some people may prefer making a gift on their actual birthday, it is perfectly fine to remember birthday club anytime during the year. Alternately, many families choose to make one gift for the combined age of their entire family. Checks to birthday club can be dropped off at the office or

left in the collection plate (just include the names of the honorees).

If you have an interest in getting more involved with the Christ Episcopal Church Foundation, please reach out to any of the officers above and join us for a meeting. We meet three times per year. In addition to reviewing the foundation's assets, the board is also responsible for approving distribution requests. If you want to stay connected with us, follow us on Facebook. Search Christ Episcopal Church Foundation.

*Submitted by Chris Ollis
Foundation Board President*

Garden Guild

What an interesting year for Garden Guild. We enjoyed seeing all the fruits of the past couple of years in bloom. We even had a couple of azaleas bloom right up to Christmas. We sold our annual geraniums in the spring and plan to do

so again in 2022. Come join us to "dig in the dirt" and help plan a new space for perennials.

Submitted by Kathy Sheppard

Gift Shop

Miss Evelyn's Gift Shop has continued its hiatus during the pandemic. Post pandemic, we will return to normal. We look forward to having you shop with us once again.

For those of you who might not have seen it yet, last year we moved the gift shop from the back of the parish hall to room 101 (front of parish hall). The room was repainted and

the shop looks great! We believe you will like the changes. A special thank you to everyone who helped us paint and move the shop.

We are looking forward to a great experience, we hope, in 2022. We can't wait to see you again!

Submitted by Sally Williams

Giving Campaign

The Stewardship Committee's primary function was the creation and execution of the Giving Campaign, the annual fund-raising effort to secure the financial viability of Christ Church. This year, Father Ken appointed Amason and Robert Carolla as co-chairs. Several parishioners joined in to help plan for the campaign in a challenging time, the second year of the pandemic. In June, we met and selected a theme of "Together Again...as One". At the time, it seemed quite appropriate as the pandemic was waning, and all felt that soon personal interactions would be back to normal. Although the timeline was delayed by the COVID variants, the theme continues to represent the hope of all members of the church for 2022.

The total financial goal of \$650,000 was consistent with the total raised in 2021. A larger goal was not felt to be realistic in light of the ongoing pandemic restrictions. During the Fall, weekly reminders to pledge were communicated through email blasts, service bulletins, and special inserts. Options for donating and regular giving were again emphasized. Totals were announced weekly and in person testimonials by committee members were part of each service for six weeks. On Giving Sunday, pledge cards were

blessed, the St Cecilia choir performed, and a brunch, hosted by the committee, followed the service. This was one of the first large in person gatherings in the parish hall in many months – a positive experience for attendees.

Results as of February, 11 2022: The total amount pledged is \$523,285 (80% of goal). The number of pledges is 122, a decrease of 22% from 2021. The committee continues to reach out to those who pledged in 2021 and 2020 who have not yet made a commitment for 2022.

During her recent visit to our church, Bishop Bruce talked about how we are in this together and that while a new rector would eventually be coming, it is up to us to do the work of the church. We remain optimistic that we will indeed come Together Again...as One and meet the goal for 2022 to do the work of the church.

We are grateful for the assistance from Mary Chiles, Nancy Hopkins, Sheila McGinn, and Franz Ginsberg. Also, many thanks to the members of the Stewardship Committee who willingly responded to the committee needs and shared their expertise and advice.

*Submitted by Amy Amason and Bob Carolla
2022 Stewardship Committee Co-Chairs*

Giving Committee

*Submitted by Amy Amason
Stewardship/Giving Campaign Co-Chair 2022*

Haiti Missions

It has been a difficult year for the people of Haiti. Between COVID-19, the assassination of President Jovenel Moise, to the August 14 earthquake that killed thousands and injured thousands more, the Haitian people have suffered much.

Currently, gang violence continues to threaten Croix-des-Bouquet, where the Lespwa Timoun Clinic is stationed. However, despite all the chaos of 2021 the Lespwa Timoun Clinic remains open and staffed.

More than ever, we ask that you please visit our friends

over at Light From Light (lightfromlight.me) and see how you can help. We encourage you to read their stories and see how your support can make a lasting impression on the life of a child and family. We would also like to encourage you to listen to the “Overseas” podcast by Dr. Tram Jones. In this series, Dr. Jones gives frequent updates as to what is happening with the clinic and Haiti at large.

*Submitted by Franz Ginsberg
Office and Communications Manager, Multimedia Specialist*

Music

This has been another difficult year for music, but it was nice to begin returning to congregational singing in worship. The St. Gregory Choir, St. Cecilia Choir, and Bell Choir have participated in both virtual services, recordings, and in-person services throughout the year. The St. Cecilia Choir and St. Gregory Choir alternate services each week augmented by our dedicated paid singers Erich Eastman, Julie Holloway, Timothy Stoke, Megan Coleman, and Lindsey Ziefle. I also want to express my deepest appreciation for the dedicated volunteers in the choirs who have stepped in to sing and play instruments as needed. Finally, I want to thank Catherine Wong, Kenny Kabak, and Mary Christiano for their service and leadership. They are all outstanding, dedicated musicians and we are blessed to have them with us.

Overall Music Goals for 2022:

- To continue safely providing music for worship services both in person and virtual if needed
- Work to include more instrumental music whenever possible
- Continue exploring additional worship opportunities such as Evensong, Compline, and Taize services when safe to do so
- Continue building the choral library to provide the best musically and most theologically accurate choral music available for children and adults
- To work with the other musicians both in and outside the church to create new and enriching music opportunities

Kenny Kabak's Report on Children's Music

The 2021-2022 school year has been in full throttle. I truly appreciate everyone's unwavering support and advocacy for worship through music and the role it plays in the lives of

our children. The choir is making great strides. We released a video commemorating the significance and legacy of the tune, “Lift Every Voice and Sing”, widely considered to be the Black National Anthem. Along with their parents, the choir completed a service project at The Connecting Grounds Church. Located on the west side of town, this church, though small, has made some of the most monumental impacts throughout our community in terms of advocating for and assisting those experiencing homelessness or poverty. We were thrilled to lend a helping hand to our neighbors at TCG. We kicked off the year with two major fundraisers: a yard sale and a Trivia Night. With your help, the choir has been able to raise over \$4,000.

Over the next few months, the choir will stay busy with a few more video recordings, continued fundraising, singing at a Springfield Cardinals Game, and taking an end-of-year trip to St. Louis! We'll continue singing for upcoming services and look forward to growing and learning more together.

Mary Christiano's Report on Handbells

I continue to work with the Handbell Choir and prepare music for performances to enhance the worship experience. We were able to play for the Thanksgiving service, Advent I as we began to bring back music to the worship services, and the Christmas eve service at 10 p.m. Thanks to all the dedicated ringers in the Adult Handbell Choir and those that 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 are rehearsing after the 10 a.m. Sunday services and if you can read music and would like to join the Handbell Choir, please contact Mary Christiano. We are always happy to have others join us.

*Submitted by
Dr. Allin Sorenson, Kenny Kabak, and Mary Christiano*

Next to New

2021 was the year to remember at the shop, even as there are many memorable years in the nearly seven decades that Next to New has served the community. The shop has ridden the proverbial roller coaster since March 2020 when it ceased operation due to COVID. At the bottom of that ride, the shop was on the verge of closing due to a decrease in profits, lack of volunteers, and the death of Rose Vinson. The ride to the top began in October 2020 when the Advisory Board hired a new manager and permanently ceased clothing consignment to accept only donations, both changes knowingly risking the unknown to avoid a permanent closing. However, the manager, Ann Compton, has brought both her talents, energy, and ideas for managing and a warm, engaging personality to enliven both the shop's bottom line and to the pleasure of customers and volunteers alike. Next to New welcomed over 3,300 customers during 2021. Donations have been generous, continuous, and of excellent quality,

keeping the back room brimming with great brands of clothing in next-to-new shape. The donations and the hard work of a very few (make that 4 to cover 30 open hours every week) volunteers in the back room have made it possible in 2021 to reap a healthy profit. Next to New has always donated \$6,000 per year to the church for the use of the building, but last December Next to New made its first donation since well before Covid of \$2,000 to enhance the programs that are ongoing and planned in the future with Christ Church's support of the students at Bissett Elementary School. For 2022, the board and the manager are looking at several Springfield not-for-profits in particular that aid women and children, to receive donations from the shop's profits, a happy new vision for the future.

*Submitted by Lynn Meinhardt
Next to New*

Outreach Committee

I would like to thank all of our members who gave their support to the Outreach Committee this past year. We could not accomplish all the projects that we support without your help. The Outreach Committee supports many different projects during the year. I will touch on a few, which includes Safe to Sleep, which is opened 365 days a year and provides shelter for homeless women and gives them a safe place to sleep. It is supported and operated by the Council of Churches, with funds and volunteers coming from our church.

During the Christmas season, we support the Ambassadors for Children, which serves foster children with Christmas gifts. The senior youth group shopped for some of those gifts and also Crosslines toys for the needy.

Rare Breed is a place for homeless youth who are working on a high school diploma and trying to find a place to live on their own. Volunteers from Christ Church make meals to go once a month for 40-50 youth who would not have a meal otherwise.

This past year we have supported Community Partnership

of the Ozarks for the homeless, Light from Light Brighter Haiti, Diaper Bank of the Ozarks, Community Blood Drive and many more projects.

The Community Dinners and the Thanksgiving Dinner are the largest outreach projects supported by our parish. This past year we are still serving the dinners as a To-Go meal. We handed out more than 350 meals this past year. I want to thank all the church volunteers and the youth for helping make this a success. Our sack lunches continue to be handed out to the hungry. This past year we gave out 872 meals to those that came to our church doors that were hungry. Thanks to our office staff for distribution to those in need and to the many that helped make the meals.

The need for our ministry in this community is growing and the pandemic has only increased our ministry. If you would like to volunteer or need more information, please contact me at 573-718-9937 or hmbfoster@att.net.

*Submitted by Henry Foster
Outreach Committee Chair*

Pointer Sisters

The dynamic duo, Mary and Kathy, met weekly at church on Monday mornings (usually) around 10 a.m. Mary is needlepointing the very last kneeler for the Chapel and Kathy finally finished her daughter's Christmas stocking (30 years in the making). We would love to have more pointers join us to

stitch, of any kind, and enjoy time together. For more information, please contact Kathy Sheppard at kathysheppard1950@gmail.com or Mary Christiano at mary@christiano.us.

Submitted by Kathy Sheppard

Safe To Sleep

Christ Church has been a faithful supporter of the mission of Safe to Sleep, an outreach of the Council of Churches, for the past several years through financial donations from our Outreach Committee and parishioners, supply donations, and volunteer hours. Last year, the shelter housed 281 different guests for a total of 6,500 bed nights, and this was at reduced capacity due to COVID! Of those 281, 175 were first time visitors to the shelter. The average length of stay was 23 days, and the average age of our ladies was 46. Fourteen of them were able to be rehomed during the year in a very tight rental market.

During the day when the shelter is closed, Safe to Sleep staff and resources provide case management, assist with housing applications, secure birth certificates, identification, assist with housing and utility deposits, prescriptions, and bus passes for medical appointments and job interviews. The

shelter is open every night of the year, including holidays. Typically, one to three volunteers work each night along with a paid staff member. Of course, all of this requires financial support. The cost to operate the shelter and provide all of its services is \$625 per day.

I am thankful that Christ Church and its members have embraced the need for such an operation. I am also grateful for our group of volunteers including, Ann Egbert, Randy and Keith LaFerriere, Carol Nasby, and Julia Taylor. As you might imagine, volunteers are always needed and appreciated! I would love it if Christ Church could have enough volunteers to cover a week's worth of shifts each month. Please let me know if you are interested or would like further information.

*Submitted by Jane Mellers
Safe to Sleep*

Sewing Guild

Thank you Christ Episcopal Church members for your support of the sewing Guild and its many projects.

In 2021 we continued our support of Newborns in Need, Springfield Chapter, by constructing 3,049 items including flannel blankets, tote bags caps, stuffed animals, nursing pads, burp cloths, bibs, and infant gowns and sleepers.

We were able to continue our outreach in the community by donating tote bags to Crosslines for the clients who are on foot and need sturdier bags. We were able to distribute tote bags at the Community Dinners in August and November. We provided over 136 dresses and shorts to an orphanage in Kenya sponsored by Gaylon Vinson of Vinson Ministries. We also constructed tote bags and caps for the Least of These.

We thank all of those who supported us financially, with material goods, and your prayers. A very special thank you to Nola Shivers of the Decorating Den who provided us with miles of upholstery fabric, Larry and Judy Self for donating elastic and thread, and many of you for donating dollars and sewing items. God bless!

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, sewing supplies, and willing hands to cut and sew.

*Submitted by Nancy Hopkins
Sewing Guild*

Vinton Fellowship

The Vinton Fellowship group decided to postpone our gatherings again in 2021 due to the continuing pandemic. When it is deemed safe to return to gathering and eating as a group, Vinton will resume. We hope to see you sometime in 2022.

When we can safely resume, the Vinton Fellowship group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month at 11:30

a.m. in the parish hall. The cost of lunch is \$10, which can be paid at the door. Reservations are a must! To RSVP for Vinton, please contact the church office at (417) 866-5133 or email frontoffice@christepiscopalchurch.com.

*Submitted by The Rev. John B. Steinberg
Vinton Director*

Welcome & Growth/Charlotte's Web

The Welcome & Growth committee also consists of a relatively new group known as Charlotte's Web. While Welcome & Growth focuses on meeting and greeting new members of Christ Church, Charlotte's web focuses on sending prayer cards, birthday cards, and greeting cards to members of the parish. In 2021, we sent out a valentine's card to the parish in hopes of keeping in touch with our members since we had limited church activity around this time.

We are looking for more volunteers to continue growing our congregation and making all aware that Christ Church cares about you! If you would like to greet people on Sunday morning or would like to send cards to members, please contact me at kathysheppard1950@gmail.com.

*Submitted by Kathy Sheppard
Welcome & Growth/Charlotte's Web Volunteer*

Well of Life

The Well of Life is a food pantry that is made up of Christ Church and our partner churches which include First & Calvary Presbyterian, First Baptist, Grace United Methodist Church, St. Agnes Cathedral, Wesley United Methodist Church, South Street Christian, and Westminster Presbyterian. We primarily serve residents of the center city area and can distribute groceries to those in need every 30 days. For visitors outside the area, we provide an order twice per year.

We have a volunteer staff working two days a week due to COVID, and not having enough volunteers. The pantry is open on Tuesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The need is greater than ever, and if we can get enough volunteers we would like to be open three days a week.

In 2021 we were open for 68 days and served 2,091 households for a total of 4,866 people. We also gave lunches to those who were on the street and needed a meal for a total of 2,832 lunches. Our total amount of food given for 2021 came to 122,731 pounds and cost \$32,890.88.

As you can imagine, we could use more volunteers to keep the pantry going. If you would like more information or to volunteer, please contact me at 573-718-9937 or email hmbfoster@att.net.

*Submitted by Henry Foster
Well of Life Volunteer*

Transitions From January 2021 to December 2021

Departed

Doris Lee Baumberger

January 15, 2021

Marie C. Prater

January 24, 2021

Nancy Padgett Luckfield

February 5, 2021

William Robert Curtis

March 27, 2021

Yvonne Lynn Stanke

April 12, 2021

Alice Kneeper

May 20, 2021

Marcia Clock Biggs

June 21, 2021

Joan Metten

July 5, 2021

William Luckfield, III

October 9, 2021

Mary Guidry Williams

December 12, 2021

Baptisms

William Everett Crockett

January 10, 2021

Turner Max Crockett

January 10, 2021

Frances Catherine Johnson

January 24, 2021

Rosalie Reese Dunn

April 18, 2021

Jamie Scott Dalenberg

May 23, 2021

Chandler Scott Dalenberg

May 23, 2021

Lillian Marie Hillhouse

June 6, 2021

Nash-Lee Murray Sanders

August 8, 2021

John Norgard

November 7, 2021

PARISH STATISTICS

	2021*	2020
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Sundays	52	52
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Virtual	6	41
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Weekdays	32	20
Celebration of Holy Eucharist: Private	5	19
Morning/Evening Prayer	225	293
Holy Baptisms	9	4
Confirmations	0	1
Reaffirmations	0	0
Receptions	0	0
Marriages	0	0
Burials	13	10
Christ Church Parishioners:	758	761
Visitors to Christ Church (visitor cards)	13	2
Special Service Attendance: Ash Wednesday (+ views withing 24 hours)	30	125
Virtual & Special Service Attendance: Holy Week (+ views within 24hrs)	260	458
Virtual & Special Service Attendance: Easter Sunday (+ views within 24hrs)	88	192
Virtual & Special Service Attendance: Christmas Eve (+ views within 24hrs)	175	202
Special Service Attendance: Christmas Day	20	11
Number receiving Holy Communion (in-person)	4,682	3,151
Pledging	2022	2021
Number of Pledges	122	152
Total Amount Pledged	\$523,285	\$637,975

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 suffering 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.

Christ Episcopal Church

601 East Walnut Street
Springfield, Missouri 65806

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BISHOP PROVISIONAL OF WEST MISSOURI

The Rt. Rev. Diane M. Jardine Bruce

PARISH STAFF

The Rev. Ron D. Keel, Interim Rector

The Rev. John W. Biggs, Emeritus Priest Associate

The Rev. John Steinberg, Vinton Director (voluntary)

Tom Mangan, Treasurer (voluntary)

Sheila McGinn, Parish Administrator

Kristie Forbes, Parish Treasurer (voluntary)

Franz Ginsberg, Office & Communications Manager, Multimedia

Mary Bohlen, Director of Christian Formation for Children, Families
and Youth

Allin Sorenson, Director of Music & St. Gregory Choir Director

Kenny Kabak, St. Cecilia Choir Director

Mary Christiano, Hand Bell Choir Director

Catherine Wong, Organist

Will Rohrer, Sexton

NEXT-TO-NEW SHOP

Ann Compton, Manager

THE WARDENS AND VESTRY 2022 TERM ENDS

Mary Chiles, *Senior Warden* 2023*

Nancy Hopkins, *Junior Warden* 2025*

Austin Boyland 2024*

Ben Fisher 2025*

Mary Christiano 2023*

Jenny Fillmer Edwards 2023*

Kristie Forbes 2024*

Evelyn Mangan 2025*

Frank Miller 2025*

Sarah Smith 2024*

Susan Smith, *Secretary* 2023*

Julia Taylor 2024*

*Due to the freezing of the vestry, all members have had one year added to their term. These dates reflect the addition of one year added to each term.

Website: ChristEpiscopalChurch.com

Facebook: [Christ Episcopal Church Springfield, MO](https://www.facebook.com/ChristEpiscopalChurchSpringfieldMO)

Twitter: [@CECSpringfield](https://twitter.com/CECSpringfield)

Instagram: [christchurchspringfield](https://www.instagram.com/christchurchspringfield)