

Christ Episcopal Church

Annual Parish Meeting



Annual meeting will be held immediately following the 10:00 worship service on **Sunday, January 23rd**.

Vestry Elections will be held during the annual meeting.

Reports that were submitted electronically to the church office can be found below.

Interim Rector Report
Annual Meeting: Christ Episcopal Church, Valdosta, GA
23 Jan 2022

“Our goal should be to live life in radical amazement...get up in the morning and look at the world in a way that takes nothing for granted. Everything is phenomenal. ...To be spiritual is to be amazed.”
(Rabbi Abraham Heschel)



If being spiritual is to be amazed, then I am quite spiritual. Christ Church amazes me. We worship and gather on a plush, lovely campus. I live in a luxuriant, expansive home. But, the people aspects of Christ Church offer more profound sources of amazement.

You have a gracious, loving spirit that generates a positive, welcoming “tone” for someone new. You have a strong base of committed people with a healthy demographic of ages. Recruiting volunteers and team leaders is proving enjoyable and positive. You just outpledged last year’s stewardship commitment, in the heart of COVID, before we’ve totally regathered and increased your average commitment by 20%. You have such amazing possibilities, possibilities that will prove quite attractive for a potential rector.

In the few months I’ve been with you, I’ve focused on staff and vestry development, recruiting team leaders to support various ministry areas, having one-on-one conversations with as many of you as possible, and preparing for our major transition event, Holy Conversations.

As soon as feasible, given the challenges of COVID, we will engage in those five Holy Conversations around a meal setting. The results of those conversations will be harvested for use in writing the parish profile and for staff, vestry, and committee and team planning.

We have two other challenges we will be addressing. First, resuming live streaming and recording of worship. We’re actually beginning this very day with what we have, while we plan to update and upgrade with the proper video and sound equipment. Second, we will need to engage in an intentional long-range repairing and upgrading of the organ.

With God’s gracious activity guiding and undergirding, I intend to do all possible to prepare you for the arrival of your next rector.

God’s peace,
Fr. David+
Interim Rector

Daughters of the King (DOK)

Coordinator – Molly Stevenson
(229) 292-8215 (call or text)
mollybs64@outlook.com

[The Order of the Daughters of the King, Inc. \(www.doknational.org\)](http://www.doknational.org)

The St. Nino Chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is an order of prayer and service at Christ Church. The DOK is a church-wide order whose mission is *“the extension of Christ’s Kingdom through Prayer, Service and Evangelism.”* It is our joy and privilege to offer prayers on behalf of anyone who desires them. Additionally, the group is committed to service, which currently mostly involves participating in MealTrains for folks.

Thanks to electronic communication, we maintained an active prayer ministry in 2021 and providing meals for folks didn’t seem to be an issue either, despite COVID.

An in-person Brunch Gathering/Meeting is being planned for early Spring 2022 where we’ll enjoy the fellowship of one another and discuss additional potential opportunities for service. Anyone who may be interested in joining us is welcome. Newcomer’s classes will be scheduled accordingly.

We remain committed to continued prayers for all who desire them. Please don’t hesitate to text or email me your prayer requests or MealTrain needs.

Molly



Reports from Jeani Synyard

(Foyer Groups & Stewardship Drive)

jeanisynyard@gmail.com

Foyer Groups



The last foyer groups were formed in 2019. We had six groups of 8-10 people. Each group had a leader, and we were off to a great start-and then COVID hit in March 2020. Most of the groups discontinued meeting at that time. However, the group that I was in took a month or so off, and then picked back up, first meeting outside. We are still meeting! The purpose of the groups is to get to know members of the church better. We take turns meeting in different homes for dinner, usually once a month. Foyer Group had about twelve successful years before COVID. I hope we can start this tradition back very soon!

Stewardship Drive

I am very happy to report another successful stewardship drive! During this difficult and challenging time we managed to surpass last year's total! The drive consisted of having lay members speak during the 10:00 service for a few weeks, and then culminated with a great meal at the Turner Center for the Arts, where we had a couple more speakers. Chairing this drive is always easy, because Christ Church always comes through! We all know how important it is to have the necessary funds - especially when we are in the search process. I want to give our bookkeeper Amy Creasy a BIG "thank you" for keeping such diligent records.



Thanks,
Jeani

Live Streaming in 2021

Larry Wisenbaker and Julius Ariail

Live streaming of worship services at Christ Church began in March, 2020, with the start of the pandemic, and continued until July 25, 2021, when the Vestry made a decision to suspend this ministry until the arrival of an interim rector. Between January and June, 2021, we streamed the services with only a small group around the altar and without the presence of the congregation. Starting on June 6, members of the congregation returned, and the service was streamed from a camera set up at the rear of the nave. Starting on June 20, we moved that camera position to the transept directly in front of the pulpit.



The livestreamed video was first available live on the church's Facebook page. After the conclusion of the service, the video file from that service was uploaded to the church's YouTube channel. As a result, the video of each week's service was available for playback on both platforms at any time. Links to all of these recorded worship services, dating back to March 2020, are available on the church's website on the Recordings page:

<<http://christchurchvaldosta.org/recordings-2/>>.

Our streaming equipment consists of an iPhone and a tripod, purchased by the church for less than \$1,000. Personnel involved in this ministry included on-site camera operators Larry Wisenbaker, Chip Whiting, and Emily Taylor. Julius Ariail and Kim Dudley worked off-site to archive the recorded videos for later use. Tom Carroll has recently joined us as we examine options for upgrades to our system. Over time, we developed a loose-leaf manual to record the steps needed to live stream a service at Christ Church. That manual remains in use today and is updated as needed.

We plan to resume live streaming on January 23, 2022, with the 10 a.m. service and the annual meeting that follows. We hope to continue this ministry throughout the year and to upgrade our equipment. These upgrades are intended to improve the quality of the live stream and to place all of the equipment in a less conspicuous location. In addition, we hope to organize a larger committee



of volunteers to carry out this ministry on an ongoing basis. When the pandemic ends, we will still have members and friends of our congregation who cannot attend services in person, and streaming is now and will continue to be an outreach ministry to them.

Report from Senior Warden

I am Nancy Lutsko, Senior Warden of Christ Church.

In addition to my Vestry duties, I coordinate the Acolyte teams and Kim and I coordinate the Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Lay Readers.

I send reminders each week to those who are scheduled to serve. If they cannot serve or switch with someone else, I step in and serve for them.

I also coordinated the Lay Eucharistic Visitors. We took communion to those who were unable to attend church. However, due to COVID concerns, this ministry had to be suspended.



As Senior Warden, I try to work closely with our Interim, Father Perkins, and support him any way I am able.

2021 was definitely a challenging year between being without a Rector for several months and the challenge of COVID. I never thought I would see churches closed in America and certainly not by me. That was truly a sad time. However, it was also a rewarding time when so many of you expressed your desire to have the church reopened. As soon as the doors were open, you were there. I love this congregation!

As for 2022, it is my prayer that we can progress to normalcy. I would like to see our attendance back to where it was before COVID. I would also like to see our preschool fully enrolled and staffed. Elise has done a wonderful job trying to keep things going. Keri is doing a great job with our children and I'm excited to see this ministry grow. Molly and Paul have kept the work going with our young people and Chip has done a good job with our Interns. Hopefully we can begin some kind of dinners for our college ministry. Livestreaming is about to restart and it will be interesting to see how that progresses. I hope we will see more young adults and parishioners attending the noon service. It is a very different experience in a very good way. I would like to see more children and adults involved in Acolyting. It would be nice to see families and/or siblings serving together. Our choir has a new director and I really look forward to the beautiful music we'll be hearing this year. Of course the most exciting thing to look forward to is the call of a new Rector. Please keep the process in prayer that we will call a person who will be a good fit for us and us for them.

Thank you to all of you who have hung in there and trusted God through this past very unusual year. I so appreciate all who have pledged, through your pledge, you are a part of each of the ministries of Christ Church.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

Respectfully,
Nancy Lutsko
luts@bellsouth.net
229-563-4358

Stitchers of Love

The Rev. Dcn. Patricia Marks and Julia Ariail, co-chairs

The Stitchers of Love is a group of members and friends of Christ Episcopal Church who like to create knitted and crocheted items for others in need. In the past the group met at the church parish hall on Sunday afternoons enjoying working together improving skills, sharing patterns, and teaching newcomers. In 2021 since the pandemic made it unwise to meet together in person, we continued to share information, project ideas, and patterns by email and telephone.



Some of this year's projects included over 200 pocket prayer shawls, pocket prayer squares, small knitted and crocheted stuffed animals, large and small baby blankets and hats, Christmas wreath ornaments, large prayer shawls, blankets, twiddlemuffs, and baby toys. We had the items blessed at the altar of Christ Church by the Rev. Galen Mirate on September 5 and by the Rev. Dr. David Perkins on December 5, 2021. All these items were given to the Rev. Dcn. Nancy Sartin, a chaplain at South Georgia Medical Center, and Molly Ferrier, at Langdale Hospice to distribute to those in need.



The group welcomes anyone who would like to join. We hope to meet in person sometime in 2022 when it is safe to do so. To be added to the email list and for more information contact Patricia at spmarks@bellsouth.net or Julia at juliacariail@gmail.com.

Treasurer's Report

Stefani Carroll

s.carroll@sunsetfarmfoods.com

Our year-end numbers are complete and you will find December 2021 totals below. We can thank an incredible staff for keeping expenses down and helping us end the year with an Income vs Expenses of only -\$6,339.02 (as opposed to -\$47,000, as originally budgeted)! You can find all the year-end totals at: <http://christchurchvaldosta.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2021-Year-End-Report.pdf>

A HUGE thank you to everyone who has pledged! I will present the 2022 Budget at the annual meeting, and then send it in the weekly bulletin for those who can't attend.

Blessings,
Stefani

DECEMBER 2021 TOTALS

Monthly Pledge Amount Budgeted:	\$39,420.00
Actual December Pledges:	<u>\$42,983.47</u>
	\$ 3,563.47
YTD Pledge income budgeted:	\$473,040.00
YTD Actual Pledge income:	<u>\$448,149.07</u>
	\$ 24,890.93
YTD Non-Pledged Budgeted:	\$ 28,500.00
YTD actual non-pledged:	<u>\$ 38,109.12</u>
	\$ 9,609.12
YTD Expenses budgeted:	\$575,579.00
YTD actual expenses:	<u>\$540,968.69</u>
	\$ 34,610.31

Monthly Income vs Monthly Expenses

Income	\$62,129.24
Expense	<u>\$52,662.19</u>
	\$ 9,467.05

YTD Income vs YTD Expenses

Income	\$534,629.67
Expense	<u>\$540,968.69</u>
	\$ 6,339.02

Ushers

Len Carter, Usher Coordinator

lencarter@bellsouth.net

229.560.0673

The Usher Committee is currently composed of 17 members who usually work one Sunday per month to provide services for the 8 and 10 AM services. Services include greeting attendees, passing out weekly bulletins, assisting with seating, collecting offerings, and taking oblations to the altar. In addition to Sunday worship, we also provide ushers for other services such as funerals and sometimes weddings.

We can always use new members. Besides providing the above, it's a good way to meet your fellow church family and, more importantly, greet newcomers, as we are their first impression of Christ Church.



If you have any interest serving or have any questions, please give me a call.

Len