

Christ Episcopal Church Annual Parish Meeting 2025



Sunday, January 25, 2026

2025 CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

AGENDA

Opening Prayer – The Rev'd R. Kevin Kelly

Call To Order – Fr. Kevin

Appointment of Clerk & Tellers – Molly Stevenson, Senior Warden

Tellers: Phyllis Holland, Steve Honeycutt and Mike Tanner

Approval of 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes

Financial Report and Budget Presentation – Stefani Carroll and Krystle Black

- A. 2025 Year End Report
- B. 2024 Audit Results and 2025 Audit Date
- C. 2026 Budget

Rules of Vestry Election – Fr. Kevin

- A. Candidate Introductions – Molly Stevenson

Bryant Alonso

Marcie Dennard

David Beers

Bonnie Hanson

Pat Denmark

Pepi Nelson

- B. Ballot Distribution – Tellers

Junior Warden Report – Mike Tanner

Senior Warden Report – Molly Stevenson

Rector Report

Leadership & Ministries Reports provided in annual report packet:

Children's Ministries

Junior Warden

College Ministry

Senior Warden

Communication and Media Ministry

Youth Ministries

Finance Committee

Old Business – None

New Business

Election Results

2026 Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 24, 2027

Closing Prayer

Adjournment

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church, January 19, 2025

Christ Episcopal Church met for its annual meeting after the 10:00 worship service on January 19, 2025, with Fr. Hal Weidman presiding.

Annual reports for the ministries of the Church were presented orally and in writing. Copies of the written report were made available to the parish. Krystle Black presented the financial report and the 2025 budget.

The nominees for Vestry were accepted by acclamation. They are Louisa Beckett, Lauren Darby, Tim Hood and Kelli Prevost.

The meeting was adjourned.

Phyllis Holland,

Secretary

2025 Treasurer's Report

I am pleased to report that we ended 2025 in the black, even considering that we were not paying a rector for six months (please see the 2025 Financial Recap). On behalf of the Finance Committee and the Vestry, I also present to the congregation a balanced budget for 2026 (see the 2026 Budget). Looking to the future of our church, the Finance Committee will create the Christ Episcopal Church Endowment Fund this year, with the purpose of generating income for special projects and ministries. In addition, as a church with no debt, we are in an excellent position to continue our long tradition of outreach and ministry.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your treasurer. You are in the best of hands with our new Treasurer, Krystle Black.

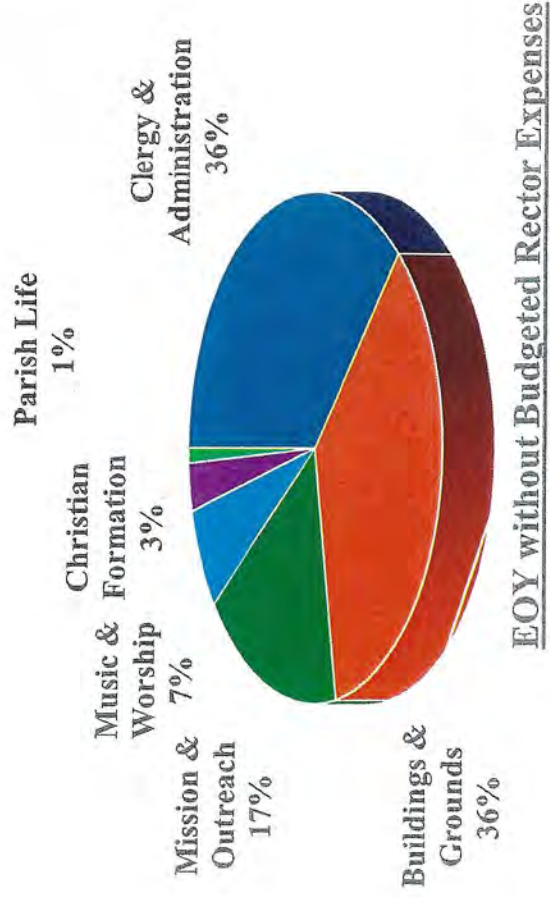
Your sister in Christ,

Stefani Carroll

2025 Financial Recap

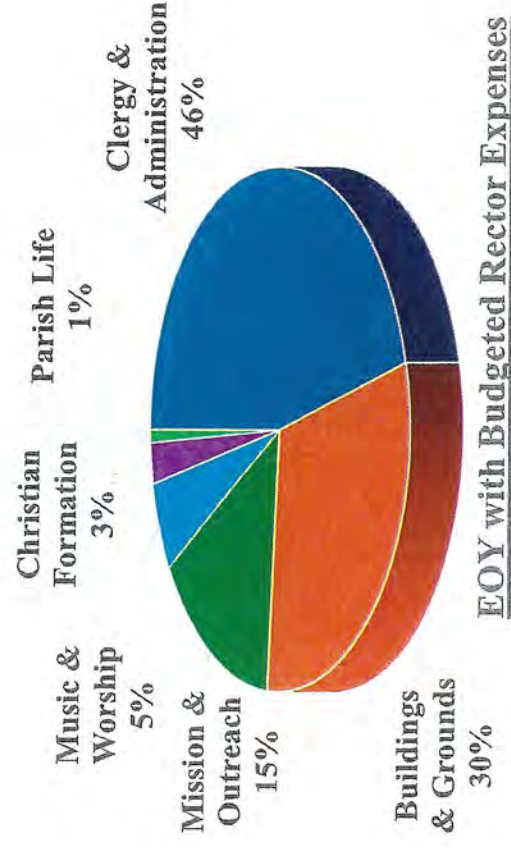
2025 Budgeted vs Actual

	Budgeted	Actual	With Rector
Pledge Income	\$ 472,466.00	\$ 476,471.07	\$ 476,471.07
Non-Pledge Income	\$ 18,040.00	\$ 65,362.73	\$ 65,362.73
Other Income	\$ 178,380.00	\$ 159,758.92	\$ 159,758.92
Total:	\$ 668,886.00	\$ 701,592.72	\$ 701,592.72
Expenses	\$ 668,886.00	\$ 609,903.86	\$ 694,876.74
Income vs Expenses	\$ -	\$ 91,688.86	\$ 6,715.98



Fund Balances as of December 30, 2025

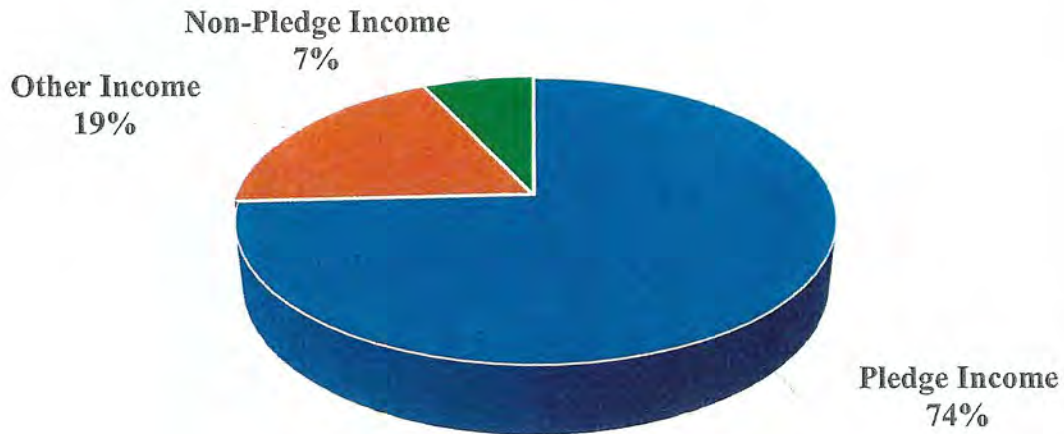
Name of Fund	Balance
General Operating Account	\$ 56,885.73
Special Funds (CCB & Stifel)	\$ 209,147.47
Gabard Trust (CCB & Stifel)	\$ 112,822.14
Savings (Stifel)	\$ 85,224.32
Bldg Repair Reserve (Stifel)	\$ 145,131.81
Monty Miller Fund (Stifel)	\$ 275,943.93
Harris/Gabard CDS	\$ 25,000.00
M. Clark Youth Fund	\$ 6,380.55
Bell Tower Fund	\$ 41,196.78
Rector's Discretionary Fund	\$ 1,349.52
Gabard Music Endowment	\$ 13,384.27



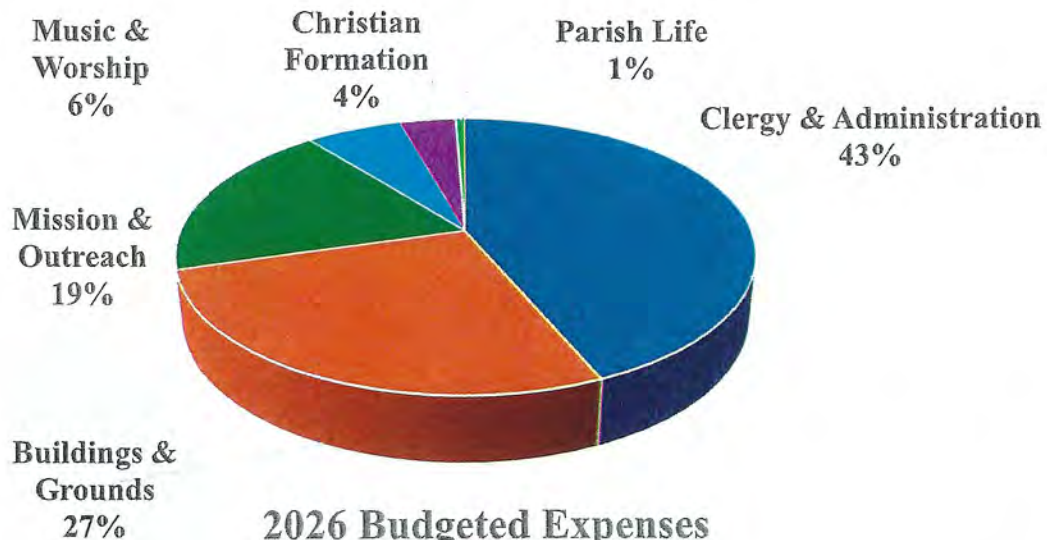
2026 Budget

Current Pledged Income: \$499,344

2026 Budget Total: \$672,154



2026 Budgeted Income



2026 Budgeted Expenses

Clergy & Administration : Salaries, Pensions, FICA, Copier/Workstations, Furniture/Equipment/Supplies, Workers Comp. Insurance, Accounting Costs/Fees

Building & Grounds : Utilities, Insurance, Grounds, Physical Plant Maintenance, Cleaning

Mission & Outreach : Diocese of Georgia Pledge, College Ministry, Pastoral Care, Additional Outreach, Conferences, Preschool/PMO

Music & Worship : Salaries, Music Supplies, Altar Guild Piano/Organ, Nursery, Audio/Livestreaming, Newcomers

Parish Life : Food & Fellowship, Kitchen Supplies

Junior Warden 2025 recap

Church and Office Buildings – church steeple sanded and painted, front doors of church painted red, new gutters installed with debris screens, rotten wood repaired on three interior sanctuary windows and repainted, three exterior windows repaired due to rotten wood, fifteen rotten fascia boards removed and replaced, office doors painted, hand rails leading into kitchen and office sanded and painted, two sections of side walk removed and replaced (next to the MIB shelter and leading to office from College St.).

Rectory – new roof and gutters, installed Generac generator.

Grace Café – downstairs tub refinished, ice machine installed.

Tomberlin House – new sign designed and erected on College St., misc repairs to bathroom ceiling.

Gabard Education Bldg – new retractable sun shade designed and installed including new support columns, two outdoor oscillating fans mounted on playground, gutters repaired and debris filters installed, gutter downspouts repaired and drain relocated, small roof leak repaired.

Other exterior maintenance and repair – parking lots repainted, new fan installed at the MIB shelter.

2025 Annual Meeting Senior Warden's Report

Molly Stevenson

What an incredible year in the life of Christ Church!

What began under a bit of a cloud blossomed into a year filled with hope, growth, and renewed spirit throughout our congregation. We faced challenges early on, but through faith, collaboration and perseverance, we were reminded who and whose we are and what matters. We discovered new strengths and opportunities to serve.

Upon Fr. Weidman's departure, we "girded our loins" and set about the task of regrouping and discerning together where and how God was calling us to serve. Your vestry prayerfully put together a Search Committee. Led by Delrick Bradley and Robin Coleman, the group jumped in full force and with great commitment took on the challenge of updating the Parish Profile, conducting interviews, and ultimately discerning and hearing unanimously that God was calling The Rev'd R. Kevin Kelly to serve alongside us as we embark on this next season in the life of Christ Church.

We are deeply grateful for the commitment, generosity and dedication of Walter Hobgood+ and Bob Carr+, whose contributions made it possible for us to continue our regular Sunday Services, celebrate the Holy Eucharist, observe High Holy Days, and even introduce additional special services throughout the year. Church attendance grew, even during the "slow summer months". This family continues to show up. Our committed acolytes, lay readers, chalice administrators and choir help maintain the continuity and beauty of our worship experience week in and week out. And I don't even have words that clearly articulate my gratitude to our Livestream and Communications Ministry team. Your ministry has probably had the farthest-reaching impact of any we do.

During Lent, each Wednesday evening after church we gathered in the Parish Hall for a delicious meal and discussion that informed the work of the search committee in updating the Parish Profile. These gatherings provided a valuable opportunity for parishioners to share their thoughts, hopes, and concerns about the future of Christ Church. Through open and honest conversations, we explored what qualities we desired in our next rector, discussed our congregation's strengths and areas for growth, and identified the needs of our wider community. The insights and feedback collected during these sessions were thoughtfully considered by the search committee, ensuring that the updated Parish Profile genuinely reflected the collective vision and aspirations of our church family.

Easter at Christ Church was a grand and glorious occasion! It was like old home week. All the senses were incorporated using smells, bells, music and laughter. Children of all ages took great delight in participating in the annual Easter Egg hunt.

In preparation for Bishop Logue's visitation in August, we used Wednesday evenings during the summer to gather for Evening Prayer, a meal and what we called "Episcopal 101" classes. While this was what was used for Confirmation Class, it also proved to be a terrific refresher course for more seasoned members, with an average attendance of approximately 20.

In addition to the special series offerings for formation, Chris Roan continued meeting weekly on Sunday mornings to discuss the Lectionary readings for the day. Cursillo Reunion Groups continued to meet faithfully, and of course our opportunities for fellowship and community building didn't miss a step.

Fall didn't slow down any as we jumped right back in to back-to-school programs for children and youth. Our college ministry through Grace Café continues to be a tremendous means of outreach, and what a blessing the interns are to us! They are a valued part of this church family.

Our community outreach opportunities grew with the addition of the Runners for Christ group utilizing our parking lot and lawn on Saturdays for their gatherings. Additionally, the VSU Chamber Singers group continued to rehearse in the church through the spring semester while repairs were completed on their building that was damaged by Hurricane Helene. We also provided meals for them when they used our space for their retreat.

Our ongoing outreach includes Lunch Bunch which provides sack lunches for our most vulnerable population of children in the community two Saturdays each month as well as Christmas gifts. The Stitchers of Love continue to create tangible expressions of love and support for those in need.

Our longest running outreach program is Christ Episcopal Preschool which has been serving our community for over 40 years. Our staff is a group of devoted ladies who consider this a vocation and ministry, not just a job.

What I am trying to say is, Christ Church is a special place, and it has been a profound blessing to serve alongside you as your Senior Warden. Your capacity for showing God's love and being the hands and feet of Christ in this part of God's kingdom is endless, and evident in your unwavering commitment to service, outreach, and fellowship. Through your generosity, dedication, and willingness to step forward—whether it's supporting worship, nurturing our children, providing meals for those in need, or welcoming new groups into our community—you continue to embody Christ's love and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

It is that love and support that has given me the courage to finally say Yes to God's call to ordained ministry. As many of you know, in addition to our discerning God's call together for Christ Church, this past year has been a time of discernment for me personally. Last January I began meeting with the Southeastern Discernment Committee in Brunswick, who affirmed my sense of call and recommended me to the Commission on Ministry and Standing Committee of the Diocese of Georgia. I met with those groups in October and was approved as a Postulant for Holy Orders. I have been accepted and will begin attending Virginia Theological Seminary in Alexandria, Virginia in August. It is both exciting and terrifying and I covet your prayers and assure you of mine in this next chapter in our lives.

I love you all.

Molly

2025 Children's Ministry Report

This year has been a season of change, organization, and growth within the Children's Ministry. Beginning in the spring, the focus centered on strengthening Sunday School instruction through Godly Play and deepening connections with families through monthly events outside of the church.

During the early months, Easter-centered lessons were implemented to guide children through the meaning of Lent and the celebration of the Resurrection. Attendance showed a gradual increase, averaging approximately ten children per Sunday during the spring. In addition to weekly instruction, the nursery and classroom spaces were cleaned, reorganized, and restructured, including the relocation of the Godly Play classroom to provide a more intentional and developmentally appropriate learning environment for our youngest learners.

Parent input was actively valued during the parish's season of discernment and search for a new priest. Childcare was provided during a spring discussion forum to ensure families could participate fully and share their hopes and ideas for the future of the church. This emphasis on communication continued with the first formal Children's Ministry Parent Meeting, which combined parent discussion with a children's art activity to encourage both collaboration and fellowship.

As the program year concluded, Sunday School ended in May with a celebratory Fish and Loaves gathering that included water activities and family fellowship. Preparation for Vacation Bible School followed immediately. Curriculum, volunteers, classroom spaces, and materials were carefully planned, resulting in a highly successful VBS program. Six learning stations—Bible Story, Music, Recreation, Science, Crafts, and Snack—provided a well-rounded experience, and the week concluded with a student music program and outdoor celebration. A total of 44 children participated, reflecting strong community engagement.

The summer months were used intentionally for planning and preparation. While Sunday School remained on break, organizational work continued in the nursery and education spaces, and the nursery was repainted, creating a refreshed and welcoming environment. Lesson plans were developed for Pre-K through fifth grade in preparation for the fall semester.

Sunday School resumed in August with a well-attended Kickoff Celebration featuring pizza and a waterslide, with approximately twenty children participating. The fall Godly Play curriculum included foundational biblical narratives such as The Great Family, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, Samuel, David, and The Good Shepherd. Children demonstrated strong engagement while growing in biblical understanding and connecting with peers.

Throughout the fall, special events strengthened relationships within the parish. Trunk or Treat in October welcomed families for a joyful celebration, and Friendsgiving in November brought families together for fellowship and community. During Advent, children participated in lessons focused on the Psalms, the Exile and Return, Jonah, and the preparation for Christ's coming.

The year concluded with rich liturgical and celebratory experiences, including the Children's Christmas Party, the Christmas Eve Bell Service, and rehearsals for the Epiphany Pageant. These moments allowed children not only to celebrate but also to actively participate in the life and worship of the church.

Overall, this year reflects a ministry that is becoming increasingly structured, engaging, and relational. Through intentional instruction, improved learning spaces, meaningful events, and growing family involvement, the Children's Ministry continues to nurture both the faith and fellowship of our youngest members.

In Christ's service,

Kylee Creasy

College Ministry Year End Report for 2025

January 19, 2026

Jeri-Lyn Flowers, Director of College Ministry

The college ministry serves college students from Valdosta State University, Wiregrass Technical College, and Georgia Military College. Grace Cafe is open Monday through Thursday from 9 AM to 10 PM and Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Students have access to free coffee and snacks, a copier and printer, free wifi, a food pantry and two of the prettiest cats you've ever seen. Students are invited to a free dinner every other Thursday night at 7 PM. The interns provide fun programming on the alternate Thursday nights as well. The college ministry is guided by a team of several parishioners who meet monthly to work with the director to interview prospective interns, provide insight, and guidance.

This year we had a total of 11 interns throughout the year. We provide housing to our interns in exchange for 20 hours of work per week at the church and/or at Grace Cafe. Three to four of our interns provided assistance in the nursery each week. One of our interns helped Peggy Baer in the church office last semester. Two interns selected and purchased food for the food pantry, college ministry and Lunch Bunch at Second Harvest. One of our interns provided technical website and internet assistance on a weekly basis to the church.

Grace Cafe served a total of 8,767 students which is a 56% increase over last year. Grace Cafe hosted 14 dinners for students. There were also 18 events held on Thursday evenings. The Cafe hosted several art nights, a watermelon social, an ice cream social, 3 game nights, a pumpkin carving night, a Valentine's card making event, 2 karaoke nights, 2 trivia nights, a dance night, and an Easter egg decorating night.

The National Center for Education Statistics reports 35% of college students nationwide experience food insecurity. Another 13% experience homelessness. The interns at Grace Cafe diligently serve students who experience significant food insecurity. The interns heavily rely on Second Harvest to provide fresh fruits and vegetables and nonperishable items to students as needed. The food pantry has been well used. We are able to purchase most of the meats for our Thursday Dinners through Second Harvest.

During the summer months, interns who resided in Louttit Hall and Tomberlin House paid a \$200 per month fee to help offset the utilities. The Yarbrough family hosted the interns for a retreat and training at Lake Blackshear. The interns enjoyed jet skis, swimming, boating and team building. During the summer months, a couple of the interns worked for several parishioners during their time off this summer.

Our parish was quite generous to Grace Cafe through their donations of furniture, food, baked goods, household items, money, opportunities, and lots of encouragement. We are grateful for the love and support that our parish provides to Grace Cafe.

1/22/26

Christ Episcopal Church

2025 Communications & Media Annual Report

The biggest communications project that the church – as a whole – undertook in 2025 was to update, expand and refresh the Parish Profile as part of our Rector Search. This beautiful 43-page document resulted from a parish-wide discernment program held on Wednesdays throughout Lent. It is packed with information about and photos of Christ Episcopal Church, our worship, outreach programs, fellowship and much more.

Upon the successful conclusion of our Rector Search, Webmaster Julius Arial updated the church website with the Rev'd Kevin Kelly's name and photo and took the opportunity to refresh the rest of the site as well.

Facebook and Instagram Administrator Elizabeth Wisenbaker posted news and engaging photos of parish activities throughout 2025, continuing to make our Facebook and Instagram pages a vibrant ministry and a true reflection of our spirit as a community in faith.

On the written communications side, in June 2025, Christ Church resumed publication of our monthly newsletter, *The Vineyard*, a rich and informative complement to the weekly *Grapevine* bulletin. *The Vineyard* is distributed to parishioners by email and posted on the website and to the Facebook page.

The Christ Church CCV/Audio Visual team, including Julius Arial, Larry Wisenbaker, Tom Carroll, and Kenneth Rumstay faithfully live-streamed the Sunday 10 am service throughout 2025, providing an invaluable ministry to parishioners and other worshippers unable to attend the services in person. They also provided livestream services for funerals held in the church. The team continued to update and enhance the streaming service and added the capability for parishioners to receive audio feed of the service in their hearing aids via Bluetooth if desired.

2025 YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT – Katie Wisenbaker

In 2025, middle and high school EYC met either once or twice a month. Typically, we share dinner and do a craft or play games! We've enjoyed pumpkin carving, ceiling tile painting, Christmas games and board games! The youth group has grown from 3-5 kids to 6-10 kids most weeks. We have enjoyed this past year! Additionally, 3 youth plus several adults participated in Happening at Honey Creek.

WAYS TO ENGAGE

ADULT FORMATION: we endeavor to make sure that strong Christian formation is a focal point in all the activities of Christ Church

Sunday School: A discussion of the Lectionary Readings of the Day - Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Parish Hall *Chris Roan (229) 460-3781*

EfM: A course offered through the University of the South where groups of 6-12 people participate in the program that focuses on theological reflection, small-group engagement, and transformation *Nancy Sartin (229) 834-0147*

Bible Studies – Advertised in weekly communications

Book studies – Advertised in weekly communications

Evening Prayer, Morning Prayer, and Vespers – Advertised in weekly communications

Cursillo: A 3-day weekend course held at Honey Creek Retreat Center that assists men and women to more faithfully follow Jesus in their daily lives. *David Sandbach (229) 630-5385*

Ultreya and Reunion Groups: Ultreya – a meeting of people who previously attended a Cursillo weekend, held twice a year.

Reunion Groups: Small groups of people who meet weekly to pray for each other and hold each other accountable

CARING MINISTRIES:

Daughters of the King: An Order of the Episcopal Church for women who pledge themselves to a life-long program of prayer, service and evangelism. *Frances Guice (229) 560-2180*

Eucharistic Visitors: Members who provide communion to shut-ins and hospital patients. *Nancy Lutsko (229) 563-4358*

Flowers: Deliver Sunday service flowers to shut-ins. *John McRae (229) 220-5619*

Garden Guild: This group focuses on the beautification of the church grounds. The Garden Guild meets each Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and each Wednesday 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. *Robin Coleman (229) 300-2905*

Stitchers of Love: This group creates needlework for individuals in need of a tangible reminder of God's love. Most items are knitted or crocheted but other types of needlework are also welcome. Time: Meets 4 – 6 p.m. on 1st & 3rd Sundays of the month. Skills: Willingness; lessons available. *Julia Ariail (229) 563-0074*

United Thank Offering: To assist with the ingathering of UTO blue boxes for loose change which provides funding for projects that meet compelling human needs and expand the mission and ministry of the church.

CHURCH SERVICES:

Acolytes: Serve at the altar at Sunday services and other services as requested. Teams are scheduled on rotation. For anyone who has completed 3rd grade and older.

Nancy Lutsko (229) 563-4358

Altar Guild: Serve on one of five teams to prepare church and altar for services; clean and maintain serving pieces; arrange flowers *Lucy Tomberlin (229) 251-3700*

Audio/Visual: To livestream worship services on Facebook and YouTube and to control the sound within the building. Approximately two hours each service. Age: Teenagers and Adults. Skills: Ability to follow written instructions, dependability.

Larry Wisenbaker (229) 560-7127 or Julius Ariail (229) 563-0209

Choir: Provides service music and a joyful noise Rehearse on Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m. Participate in 10 a.m. service on Sundays and on other occasions.

Issa Young (229) 894-4328

Lay Readers: Read scripture at services. Time: As scheduled, approximately once a month..... Age: High School and up. Skills: Clear speaking voice.

Nancy Lutsko (229) 563-4358

Licensed Eucharistic Ministers: Assist in serving communion at all services. Time: On a five-week rotation. Age: 16 years or older. Skills: Commitment.

Nancy Lutsko (229) 563-4358

Ushers: To welcome visitors, provide structure for movement of parishioners for all services; greet, distribute bulletins, and Quiet Books; and direct traffic flow for communion. Time: Once a month. Age: High school and older. Skills: Friendly, helpful.

Bobby Yarbrough (229) 560-0439

HOSPITALITY & COMMUNITY:

Foyer Groups: Small groups that generally meet monthly for food and fellowship providing opportunities to get to know the family better and encourage Christian community. *Jeani Synyard (229) 834-6004*

Happy Episcopal People (HEP) Hosts: Social gatherings to encourage Christian community.

The noon group meets bi-monthly in the church Parish Hall.

John McRae (229) 220-5619

Evening gatherings are held quarterly at a host's home.

Contact the church office if interested in hosting (229) 242-5115

Hospitality Committee/Coffee Hour Hosts: Help provide refreshments for special events in the church's life.

Pat Denmark (229) 251-4964

Manna: Provides meals for families in event of illness, birth, or death.

Pat Denmark (229) 251-4964

Men in Blue: Men's fellowship which includes grilling and preparing food for special events.

Mike Tanner (229) 560-5046

MISSIONS & OUTREACH:

Lunch Bunch: Provides sack lunches for our most vulnerable population of children in the community two Saturdays each month as well as Christmas gifts.

David Sandbach (229) 630-5385

College Ministry (Grace Cafe): Supporting our College Ministry in various ways, as needed.

Jeri Lyn Flowers (404) 771-7116

CHILDREN AND YOUTH:

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) EYC is our youth program for 6th-12th graders, and provides community and discipleship. Ministry: Volunteers may teach Sunday School; lead a small group; chaperone mission trips; provide food for events.

Katie Wisenbaker (229) 561-7309

Ellie Copeland (229) 506-3371

Nursery/Godly Play: Help in the nursery on Sunday mornings and during other times the nursery is provided.

Kylee Creasy (229) 415-1515

Vacation Bible School: Sharing God's word with children during VBS through teaching, cooking, athletics, or arts & crafts. Four days in early June plus pre-planning days and clean up.

Kylee Creasy (229) 415-1515

Parents' Morning Out: A non-profit within Christ Church to provide temporary daycare for children while parents run errands (volunteers not needed). Time: Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Age: 6-months old to 2-years old.

Madison Proctor (229) 375-7005

Preschool: A non-profit within Christ Church to provide preschool experience for children (volunteers not needed). Time: August – May, 9 a.m. – 12 noon. Ages: 2 through 4-years olds. *Elise Sandbach (229) 630-4738*

Cooperative Ministries with Other Organizations:

Habitat for Humanity: To work with other organizations and churches to eliminate substandard housing and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. This ecumenical group encourages volunteers from all walks to build houses in partnership with needy families. *(229) 245-1330*

The Haven: The shelter for abused women and children. Volunteers needed for donating time, talent and treasure *<http://www.valdostahaven.org>*

LAMP (Lowndes Associated Ministries to People Inc.): Provides comprehensive support services and innovative housing solutions that help put people on the path to a home, serving those who are experiencing homelessness. *(229) 245-7157, office@lampinc.org*

Second Harvest Food Bank of Valdosta: To combat hunger by providing food to non-profit agencies in the area. Time: Volunteers needed for various amounts of time. *(888) 453-4143*

