

Christ Episcopal Church

Warden's Corner | August 2026

Greetings, my fellow Episcopal family. I hope everyone has been trying to stay cool this summer. It's been a hot one and we are just now getting into August. Wow, I can't believe I just wrote August. This year has been moving quickly and your Vestry has been right there every step of the way.

As I write this, we have concluded our HEP party celebration honoring Molly heading off to Seminary school. Thank you all for being a part of the celebration, caritas, and financial gifts. We presented Molly with a check for \$6,000 from her church family, along with numerous letters of encouragement and support.

We continue the search for an administrative assistant when Molly officially heads to school. Her last day at Christ Church will be August 9. Currently, Patricia Gatchel will serve in an interim capacity until a permanent individual can be hired.

You may have noticed the bright white sidewalk close to the kitchen and in front of Grace Café. Those have been recently replaced and partially paid for by a grant we received in the amount of \$1,950 from the Episcopal Diocese of Georgia. Total cost of the project was \$3,950.

The start of school is right around the corner. We have purchased a program called Kid Safe that we will begin using this year both at the pre-school and on Sundays in the nursery. Basically, it is a check in/out system that allows us to monitor the number of children in our care.

Several weeks ago, Father Kelly met with the heads of each ministry group. We met for about 4 hours. We planned out services and other events that we wanted to offer throughout the year. The one take away that I think we all had was, "Wow, we do a lot here at Christ Church".

This school year, we welcome 3 new interns to Grace Café: Ellie Muller from north Georgia; Samuel Perez from Adel, Georgia; and Dee Dee Mitchell from Jacksonville, Florida,

VBS was a big success this year with 22 children attending. The week was ended by celebrating with a water party. Thank you Kylee and all the volunteers that made that week a success.

As August gets underway you may notice some activity throughout the months on Saturday. Running with Christ, a local running club, will be using our parking lot 2-3 Saturdays a month. They gather at 8:30am, cook breakfast occasionally, pray, and then take off running. Don't be shy -- you are more than welcome to join them. Their club is open to all. They usually finish up by 11am. We have actually had a few of them come in and help with Lunch Bunch in the past.

One of the questions I get most often is what are we doing with the rectory? That's a difficult answer. We don't want to sell it because we will never regain that land again and we will have no control of what happens to it once sold. We can't rent the house because we then lose our non-profit status and are subject to paying property taxes. So, the question remains what are we doing with the Rectory? We continue to brainstorm on a solution.

Here is a fun fact. Did you know that Lunch Bunch was started in 2013 by Elise Sandbach and at that time Lauren Sandbach (now Lauren Darby). I can't forget to mention David Sandbach who currently runs the program. That's 13 years of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. By my calculations that's roughly 31,200 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches distributed in the past 13 years. Wow!!!! Thank you to all the volunteers that make this outreach program a success.

I will end this month's report the same way I ended last month's report because my sentiment stands. I can't end this letter without expressing my sincere thanks and gratitude to each and every one of you at Christ Church. You should all be proud. You are what makes this Church my family and my home and so welcoming to all those who walk through our front door.

Peace and Grace to All,

Bobby Yarbrough
Senior Warden