

**AGENDA FOR 2021 ANNUAL MEETING OF CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
JANUARY 16, 2022**

Opening Prayer

Determine quorum

Reading of last year's minutes

Approval of minutes

Introduction of candidate for Trustee (to replace Rick Carter who has moved) - Keven Lindemann.

Introduction of the candidates for the 2022-2025 Vestry term (Maitland Holbrook and Megan Holden)

Nominations from the floor

Vote for Trustee and Vote for new Vestry members

Verbal and Written Reports:

John Desmond  
Lizzy Girvan  
Ethan Richardson  
Marilyn Thomas

Keven Lindemann  
Dave Zahl  
Josh Bascom  
Paul Walker

Written Reports: Ann Willms, Courtenay Evans, Brian Tuskey

Closing Prayer

**Trustees of the Church**

Rick Carter      Proal Heartwell      Consi Palmer

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**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
MINUTES FROM THE 2020 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

Because we were not allowed to gather in church during the last part of 2020, the Annual Report was sent to the parish electronically. Copies of that Annual Report are available from the Church Office.

|                                   |    |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| Christ Church Statistics for 2021 |    |
| Baptisms                          | 26 |
| Marriages                         | 10 |
| Burials                           | 13 |

## Rector's Annual Report

The Rev. Paul N. Walker

Marilu said this to me recently: *"I wonder if our goal at Christ Church should just be to survive the pandemic."* This struck me as real wisdom. None of us knows the toll this ordeal has exacted, is exacting, will exact from us as individuals and as a society. This is true for church, too. What we do know about church, however, is that, as Jesus says, *"the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."*

As I write, Omicron is still wreaking havoc on our normal operations, but at least we are still meeting in person – with masks and without the common cup. Our attendance is less than half of our pre-pandemic average. We have installed high quality live stream equipment with several hundred views for each service either in real time or throughout the next week or two.

Bible studies and Adult Ed continue to meet in person with zoom options. Our Youth Group soldiers on, as do the myriad of our Outreach efforts. Despite the reduced attendance, we have welcomed many new members and our finances are strong. The reports below give specific details for each area.

We still have weddings, funerals, and baptisms, with some modifications. Our music programs continue to thrive under challenging circumstances. We happily welcomed Alex Johnson as our new Music Director in April. He has done an outstanding job and I'm so grateful for him and Shannon, his wife. As I am for each one of our extraordinary staff and vestry members.

God will see us through. We continue to put our trust entirely in Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church. We are all in this together! I continue to feel both humbled and honored to serve as your Rector. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all.

## Associate Rector's Report

The Rev. Marilu Thomas



The highlights of 2021 for me were, bar none, the worship services held on our farm in Fluvanna County. The ground feels saturated with blessings from the gatherings of members, travelers, newcomers, and dragged-along-friends who sat on lawn chairs or blankets, listening to the sermon, while children ran in the short, green grass. I have an indelible memory of mothers and fathers walking new babies under the shade trees, while the congregation sang along with Paul Zach's guitar. These outdoor services culminated in a sun-kissed Easter morning with over 700 attendees—four times what was expected—which was so great that the communion had to be split into quarters to accommodate everyone. This is an Ebenezer, or marker of 'God has been here,' of worshipful moments of graceful joy amid the hardships of 2021.

It was difficult to keep up with the 'pivoting' we felt was necessary to keep in communication with our beloved people. You can tell by the names of the Bible studies—and we offered them—what the mood of the congregation continued to be: the Psalms, Prayer in the Night: for Those Who Work, or Watch or Weep. (both day and evening studies). We also had a Lenten Devo for Moms with elementary school children to help with the load mothers were carrying of working, home schooling and worrying about the pandemic's effect on their children. All of this on Zoom. The two words to describe 2021: "You're muted."

This is the year I finally was able to take my Sabbatical from 2020, from Easter to August. My heart is filled with gratitude for the healthy and generous way the congregation supports our clergy with recharging time every 5-6 years of service. In this way, we can keep our clergy team fully functioning and responsive to the needs of Christ Church parishioners.

The Wednesday evening Advent Contemplative service, featuring music by Alex Johnson and Paul Zach combined with deeply moving liturgy and prayers by Rev. Dr. Ann Willms, was a much needed and welcomed healing service.

It is true that absence makes the heart grow fonder and the absence of people in the pews is a special and deep heartache for priests. In the same way, the return of the congregation to the pews was heavenly, and Christmas Eve was a choir-filled, candlelit dream, made more precious by the lack of services last year. Yes, the pandemic has worn all of us down to a nub, but we will continue to preach the gospel of grace and trust in Jesus Christ's love for us. (1 Corinthians 10:4) On Christ the Solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand.

2021 has certainly been a year full of challenges, but it's also been a year full of God's grace freely given to us all. It can feel like so much has changed in our world and in our homes, but the mercy and promises of God have not changed. God is present and so are His gifts, even in the midst of the exhaustion and uncertainties we've all faced. The clergy and staff at Christ Church have been blessed with the privilege of ministering to this parish during this time, and these are just few of the highlights that I'd like to share with you.

Pastoral care continues to be a primary focus of ours, and while social distancing has certainly been a challenge to this ministry of presence and intimacy, we have found creative ways to connect with parishioners through phone calls, letter writing campaigns, zoom meetings and front porch cups of coffee. As the year progressed we also returned to seeing folks face to face in our offices who felt comfortable doing so. This, perhaps more than anything else, has put some wind in our sails as we hope and pray to be returning to "normal life"...whatever that means.

One of the great joys for me has been the return of that direct connection between liturgical worship and pastoral care. What I'm referring to here is the privilege of being able to perform baptisms, weddings and funerals. In 2020, these were rare occasions, but over the past 12 months, we've been able to meet with dozens of families to perform private baptisms in their homes and in the sanctuary. We've slowly seen more weddings return to our sanctuary as well, and given the natural beauty of this region, offsite outdoor weddings have been booming once again. A devastating side effect of the pandemic has been the inability for many families to bury their loved ones soon after their deaths and to receive and to be reminded of the grace and consolation extended to us all through the funeral liturgies of the church. Thankfully, we have been able to resume some of these services and families are beginning to reach out to plan services for their loved ones who died during the early stages of the pandemic. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you find yourself in a similar situation and would like to discuss having a funeral service at Christ Church, or if you're interested in learning more about an outdoor service of interment in our beautiful Memorial Garden.

The Fellows Program has once again been a highlight for me, personally. This past year we wrapped up the year with our wonderful 2020 class, and this past Fall we welcomed Brady Doyle, Cali Yee and Colin Craig into our current class of Fellows. As the director of this program I've been blessed with the opportunity to walk alongside these incredible men and women as they discern what's next for them, and we do our best to ground our lives and conversations on the unconditional grace of God. They have been heavily involved in many of the ministries at Christ Church, such as our Men's and Women's Bible studies, college ministry, Sunday services and 5:00 dinners, Abundant Life and youth ministry, just to name a few. I'm looking forward to the rest of our time with these three fantastic Fellows.

The Men's Bible Study continues to be a wonderful time of fellowship and engagement with scripture every week at Christ Church. We have been fortunate to transition into a hybrid in-person and zoom format that has honestly worked better than any of us expected. This has not only allowed for our parishioners who feel more comfortable staying at home to participate in our time together, but it's also made it possible for some of our men who travel for work or spend long periods of time away from Charlottesville to stay connected to the group.

Over the past year, our 20's and 30's ministry has continued to grow and to be a great landing spot for our many newcomers coming from all sorts of backgrounds and experiences. The leadership team of this group has also grown this past year, which has been a real gift to us all. In addition to Jen Sapunarich and her husband, Robbie, helping me to lead this ministry, Ashley Gitchell and Lizzy Girvan have also been a tremendous help with the organization of our events and leading some of our weekly Bible Studies. We continue to meet on Tuesday nights in the Magruder House, and while we've long outgrown the space, the Magruder House still feels like a real home and house of grace for so many of us.

Thank you for being a part of this community, and for supporting and being an integral part of our ministry at Christ Church!

The ministry of pastoral care is an expression of the living Body of Christ – a Body composed of many members, all of whom are connected through God's love. Whereas the teaching and preaching ministries build up the Body through education, encouragement and exhortation, pastoral care consists in coming alongside to listen, to pray, to "be with" another in their time of need. Pastoral care is also an ethos: in times of joy as well as times of suffering, it is about being present to each other, just as we are, reflecting the unconditional love of God.

Pastoral care offered by the clergy includes visits with parishioners who are home-bound or otherwise cannot attend church; pastoral support and prayer in times of crisis, end-of-life, death and bereavement; and keeping in touch with those who may be navigating long-term challenges. In addition to in-person visits, we utilize email, text, phone calls, written notes, and even zoom. We bring Holy Communion to many who cannot receive it any other way at this time. In the last quarter of 2021 alone, we provided direct pastoral care to at least 60 parishioners and, often, their families.

The ongoing pandemic has brought an added layer of stress, loneliness and grief to many of us. As part of our pastoral care response, we offered three midweek evening services in Advent 2021. These contemplative liturgies (attended by 40-60 people) included meditative music, quiet reflection and healing prayer to allow for sacred space and the ministry of the Holy Spirit with us. We hope to offer similar services in 2022.

## **Outreach Minister Report**

**The Rev. Deacon Courtenay Evans**

2021 has been a busy year for Outreach as we meet the various needs of our community. Our Daily Bread has continued every Tuesday from 12pm-1pm, as we serve between 70-80 meals per week to our community. Early 2021 brought incredible sponsorship by parishioners as we ordered hot soup and bread from Panera. We served grab-and-go style from the front doors of Christ Church until April, when we returned to cooking meals in our own kitchen. Since May, we have been serving hot grab-and-go meals from the Gibson Room. We have returned to our team system led by a head chef (thank you Tee and Christina Teague and Jeff and Cyndi Smith!) as well as prep and serving volunteers. Other volunteer opportunities associated with our soup kitchen have been: Delivering lunch meals to the most vulnerable homeless community members staying at La Quinta hotel (January-April 2021) and baking individually bagged homemade desserts each week for lunches (and the Village School families are now an integral part of our baking ministry!).

From January-May 2021 we cooked the Tuesday dinner meal for the most vulnerable homeless community members staying at La Quinta hotel and Red Roof Inn. Led by our Hospitality Minister, Elizabeth Butler, we cooked, individually boxed, and delivered between 60-72 meals every week. Once a month during this time we also prepared and delivered "Thank You" treats to organizations with front line workers. These organizations included: Abundant Life, The Haven, PACEM and a nursing home in Crozet.

Our partnership with Abundant Life continued to be an integral part of life at Christ Church through the end of the school year as students from the Prospect Neighborhood attended "Virtual School" in our building. This organization is one of the few working on economic equity issues with youth and families, and we offered the church space for 30 + students (5 pods). Thank you to the many volunteers from Christ Church who assisted!

Due to the Pandemic, Habitat has had to re-shift their volunteer model. In response, instead of participating in "build days," we reoriented our focus to educate our parish about this incredible organization. In Fall of 2021, we held a 6 week "Myth Busting Series" where Habitat provided stories and videos to clarify any misconceptions around Habitat's work. On January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, we went on a "Habitour," to Southwood, a 125-acre, 1,500 resident park. Southwood Park will eventually contain 900-1000 residential units of which 450-500 will be affordable homes.

With the influx of Afghan refugees in our area, we have had an extraordinarily successful drive to collect gift cards for the IRC (Thank you ALL who donated!). So many refugees left with absolutely nothing and the IRC continues to reiterate how invaluable these gift cards are to purchase groceries, clothing, and supplies. Christ Church has also begun hosting English classes in the old preschool space for Afghan families. The class is taught by an ESOL Instructor who works through the IRC.

We continue our partnership with The Haven, and we also had an extremely successful drive to collect sleeping bags for all those sleeping this winter outdoors. Thank you ALL who have donated!

We all need each other, and everyone's extraordinary dedication to help us with all our outreach efforts has been incredible. It takes a village, and this village is the heart of relationship, the heart of love and the heart of what God calls us in to. Thank you ALL again!

## **College Ministry and Adult Education Report**

**David Zahl**

I'll be blunt: work with undergraduates proved challenging this past year. The students were locked down most of the spring, making group gatherings almost impossible. Jen and I did what we could by hosting Bible studies off grounds and outside. Our primary objective was to stay in touch; secondarily, to offer them whatever support we could, both relationally and spiritually. They ate up the attention.

We started the fall semester with a stronger showing at the 5pm than anticipated, which was heartening. A couple of Sundays with 50-60 undergrads in tow and well over 100 at dinner. Meanwhile, attendance at our six undergraduate Bible studies remained steady. Unfortunately, that momentum dwindled as we got closer to the end of the year. Jen and I have our theories about why this is the case, but we doubt there is any single reason. More troubling would be the lethargy I've encountered among male students, which I hope abates as masks come off. This lethargy has been confirmed by numerous professors at the university, as well as campus ministers at other colleges.

My chief concern, however, is that the pandemic severely hampered our ability to attract new students, especially first-years. It feels like we've "missed" a whole year of potential newcomers. No doubt the Lord can reverse this trend just as swiftly as it came to pass, but that's a matter for prayer, certainly. It would be great to see more kids on Sunday evenings.

While we're cautiously optimistic about the new year and are planning to offer our Wintergreen retreat in February, we plan to continue our "we-come-to-you-not-you-to-us" approach of coffees and lunches for the foreseeable future. It should be noted that Jen S remains a precious gift to CEC, continually pursuing creative avenues to minister to students during this catch-as-catch-can time.

Thankfully, Adult Education has been a bit easier to manage in our new context. The year began with a series of Zoom classes on Mental Health in light of COVID, taught by Ethan Richardson and Marilu. During Lent, Paul W hosted an online version of his annual confirmation class, entitled "Christ Church: One Conversation at a Time", positioning it more as a way to keep in touch with the congregation than an actual instruction time. Engagement was strong but all agreed that teaching over Zoom is a mixed bag.

This Fall, we offered our first ever "hybrid" course, this time on The Apostles Creed. By "hybrid" I mean that it was taught in person but also filmed for virtual engagement. 12 weeks was perhaps over-ambitious, but the content was superb, and drew about 60-80 participants through both channels. We closed out the year with a one-off on the stained-glass in the sanctuary, taught by parishioner Lauren Maupin, and a one-off from Paul Zach on the hymns of Advent.

Mockingbird has continued to promote Christ Church sermons and devotions through its various (increasingly popular) channels, so the "content" we're putting out has a much larger and longer shelf-life than it might appear. I've been particularly cheered to hear from many of our "alums" during this time about how much they've been edified by CEC's content. Oh, and from all reports, The Brothers Zahl podcast that came out in Feb 2021 seems to have served our congregation well.

It remains my immense pleasure to serve Christ Church, overseeing College Ministry and Adult Education. Our wise and grace-filled leadership has steered us (and is steering us) brilliantly through a bizarre period, and I could not be more grateful. Our mission and message has never been more urgent, and I take comfort in the reality that God's power so often begins where ours ends.

## **Youth Ministry Update**

**Lizzy Girvan**

Despite the challenges of the pandemic, our middle and high schoolers have shared joyful and meaningful times together over the past year. Our youth group continues to enjoy a weekly Sunday supper and Bible study, tap into our childlike inclinations with games and outings, and volunteer together.

We look forward to the return of Youth Confirmation for our 8th graders, as well as our summer mission trip to Savannah, GA. It is no secret that the mental health of our young people is especially fragile right now. It is a pleasure and privilege to serve the teenagers in our church community during this time in their lives (and this memorable time in all of our lives) of such severe emotion.

Our youth and I are majorly fortunate to have Ashley Gitchell (Ministry Intern) and Colin Craig (2021-2022 Fellow) serving as youth co-leaders-- they are an immeasurable gift to this ministry. My hope is that we continue to be blessed with the same levity and genuine camaraderie in our coming year together as a youth group, and bask in the unchanging grace and goodness of Jesus.

## **Senior Warden Report**

**Keven Lindemann**

Dear Christ Church Family,

We recently asked the Vestry members to send out notes to the entire parish. It was not a small undertaking – there are a lot of people at Christ Church! The purpose of these notes was to just say “Thank you”. Christ Church is not a building, it is a group of individuals that come together to form a community, that come together to hear the Truth of the Gospel, that come together to share in the Joy and the Forgiveness, the Grace and the Mercy, and the Peace that comes with the good news of the Cross. So whether you are joining us for one of the four (4!) very different Sunday services, or for the midweek service at noon on Wednesdays, or if you’re joining us via our new Virtual Service, Thank You! We are grateful for your support, which enables Christ Church to pursue its many important and impactful ministries. We are grateful for your presence because it wouldn’t be Christ Church without you.

## **Junior Warden Report**

**Brian Tuskey**

As the church’s Junior Warden, my duty is the care and maintenance of the Church and its other buildings, but I must stress that the majority of my role is simply communicating to the Vestry and church membership Marcy’s tireless effort to coordinate the work necessary for the upkeep of our buildings.

The pandemic has loomed over the church and our lives so completely, and like last year, the physical spaces where we worship, pray, meet, and work have seen far fewer of us. During this time, necessary maintenance and repair work was steadily completed. Some exciting projects included planting the two Dogwoods in the front of the church, remodeling the children’s chapel room into the clergy’s new vesting room and the old vesting room into the counseling center’s meeting space, exposing the interior stone wall at the west transept, replacing light bulbs in the church with LEDs, and acquiring equipment and planning for streaming Sunday services.

A special thank you to the clergy and staff for their flexibility and perseverance throughout the constantly changing dynamics of this pandemic.

## **Counseling at Christ Church**

**Ethan Richardson, Therapist –in-Residence**

While the shortage of mental health support for people in our community certainly predates COVID, it is difficult to overstate the psychological and spiritual toll of the last two years. In January 2021, 9 months into the pandemic, Christ Church made mental health services available to the parish, and I started seeing individuals, couples, and families (parishioners and non-) for hour-long therapy sessions. First, via Zoom, and now, in both Zoom and masked in-person formats, I have been working from the old vesting room in the church building. People have reached out because they heard about these services at church, through a Psychology Today referral, or through word of mouth, and they’ve come with a variety of concerns, including but not limited to anxiety, depression, loneliness, grief, relationship distress, and traumatic experiences.

Within months of opening our doors we have been at full capacity, with a wait list to boot. On top of these services, we have also been involved in adult education—over the last year, we had classes on grief in the pandemic, the bridging of psychology and theology, and a Saturday event for new/young parents. Needless to say, this ministry is taking shape precisely as the need for it grows. As we move into 2022, we’re excited to keep growing. We will be adding Marilu Thomas as a clinician, as well as providing more opportunities, programs, and classes for the parish to engage with content relevant to grace and mental health. Grateful to be a part of this with you!

**Christ Episcopal Church**  
**Financial Report for the January 16, 2022 Annual Meeting**

*Income*

|                         | <b>Description</b>  | <b>2021 Budget</b> | <b>2021 Actual</b> | <b>2022 Budget</b> |  |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--|
| <b>Pledge Income</b>    | Actual pledges made   | 1,349,730          | 1,369,590          | \$1,415,000        |  |
| <b>All Other Income</b> | Loose plate, non-pledged income, trust income, endowment income, rental income, ACM support and Altar Guild income. | \$757,247          | \$1,045,925        | \$821,087          |  |
|                         | <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$2,206,977</b> | <b>2,414,991</b>   | <b>\$2,236,087</b> |  |

*Expenses*

|                                  | <b>Description</b>   | <b>2021 Budget</b> | <b>2021 Actual</b> | <b>2022 Budget</b> |   |
|----------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Clergy &amp; Staff</b>        | Payroll, insurance, taxes  | \$1,354,791        | 1,402,511          | \$1,544,859        |   |
| <b>Administration</b>            | Telephone, supplies, postage, computer expenses                  | \$37,100           | \$34,170           | \$36,700           |   |
| <b>Property</b>                  | Gas, electric, maintenance, repairs, insurance                   | \$314,289          | \$293,653          | \$306,350          |   |
| <b>Mission &amp; Outreach</b>    | Local outreach, Diocesan Pledge, Mission Trips, College Ministry | \$290,479          | \$284,378          | \$252,250          |   |
| <b>Sunday School</b>             | Curriculum & materials   | \$2,000            | \$829              | \$5,000            |   |
| <b>Parish Life/ Hospitality</b>  | Parish dinners, coffee hour, softball, receptions                | \$10,000           | \$8,372            | \$31,000           | a |
| <b>Youth</b>                     | Curriculum, supplies, event fees                                 | \$3,000            | \$3,121            | \$11,000           |   |
| <b>Music</b>                     | Supplies for choirs, instrument maintenance                      | \$15,000           | \$12,674           | \$10,000           |   |
| <b>Worship Supplies</b>          | Wine, wafers, altar flowers, bulletin supplies                   | \$26,500           | \$32,046           | \$19,000           | b |
| <b>Adult Education</b>           | Speaker fees, curriculum   | \$1,000            | -\$832             | \$1,000            |   |
| <b>Loan Int. &amp; Bank Fees</b> | Int. payments to the End. Fund, stock brokerage and bank fees    | \$8,000            | \$9,431            | \$10,000           |   |
|                                  | <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>\$2,062,159</b> | <b>\$2,080,355</b> | <b>\$2,227,158</b> |   |

a -Our hope is to have our Annual Parish Retreat at Shrine Mont back in place in 2022.

b -2021 included fees for recording our Sunday Services for broadcast. We now have streaming capability which reduces the cost.

We netted a \$335,160 surplus in 2021. \$180,000 of that surplus will be used in the 2022 budget with the balance (\$155,160) going to support the Counseling Center.

## Additional Church Finance Information

### Parishioner Fund

At the end of 2019, a Parishioner Fund was created and funded by generous donations from several parishioners. Every year, 5% of the value of that fund is moved into a separate checking account, to be used to support fellow parishioners who need help. The year-end balance as of 12/31/21 of the Fund is \$168,209 with an additional \$5,066 available to disburse. \$7,344 will be moved into the disburseable account in 2022, making the total available to disburse in 2022 \$12,410. In 2021, \$8,585.44 was given to parishioners to support needs. If you have a need, contact the church office. All requests are strictly confidential.

### Covid-19 Fund

In March of 2020, we created a Covid-19 Fund to support community needs arising from the pandemic. In 2021, we received \$20,150 in donations into the fund and paid out \$22,409 (there was a beginning balance) with more donations arriving periodically.

### Afghan Refugee Support Fund

In October of 2021, we created an Afghan Refugee Support Fund. In 2021, we received \$5,200 in donations into the fund and paid out \$3,530 with more donations arriving periodically. Folks have also dropped off numerous gift cards, which are delivered to the International Rescue Committee and given to Refugees.

Tax deductible donations to any of these funds are gratefully accepted. Just indicate on your check where you would like your donation to go.

### Our Daily Bread Ministry

Due to Covid, we were unable to serve hot meals indoors to our area's most needy. Instead, hot meals were given out "to go"! Several donations were made to support this ministry for a total of \$9,175.

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND

|  | 12/31/2020            | 12/31/2021            |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Index Funds                                | \$961,217.99          | \$1,098,717.87        |
| Checking Account                           | \$1076.71             | \$1076.83             |
| Total                                      | <u>\$962,294.70</u>   | <u>\$1,099,794.70</u> |
| 2021 starting balance                      | \$962,294.70          |                       |
| Donations to the Fund                      | \$50,000 <sup>a</sup> |                       |
| Plus 2021 YTD Interest Income              | \$134,468.17          | 13.97%                |
| Less: Distributions to Church <sup>1</sup> | (\$48,045)            | (5.0%)                |
| 11/30/2021 ending bal.                     | <u>\$1,098,717.87</u> | 14.28%                |

<sup>a</sup> Includes \$10,000 donation to endowment and \$40,000 paid from 2020's surplus.