

2019 Annual Report



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



Annual Meeting Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- Wardens' Remarks
- Recognition of Parish Leadership
- Vestry elections
- Treasurer's Remarks
- Rector's Remarks
- Closing Prayer



From the Senior Warden

Dear Parishioners,

We have a lot to recognize and celebrate this year! The Vestry has worked diligently in addressing the needs and concerns of the congregation. Let me recap the year:

- We welcomed Assistant Rector Martin Geiger. He is actively learning all aspects of Christ Church under Webster's mentorship.
- Dr. James Kriewald retired after 49 years of service. We were blessed to have his talent and expertise. This forced us to evaluate our music program. During the summer, the choir helped the search committee with valuable feedback on each candidate and we successfully hired Ted Dix. Ted is enthusiastically embracing all aspects of our music program!
- Life at Christ Church continues to be growing, changing, and engaging. Many programs are growing, ministries continue to be meaningful, and new ideas abound.

The Vestry continues to provide leadership on changing finances. We are doing our due diligence in balancing the needs of Christ Church to the reality of what's pledged and given. Christ Church does not have an endowment to provide financial support; we operate entirely on pledges and offerings.

The current budget forecast, based on current pledges, is short of our anticipated expenses. This is the third year of this trend. We have been able to meet our expenses in previous years because of staffing vacancies. However, now we are fully staffed and now we need to ask everyone to revisit their pledge.

The Vestry and I work hard on your behalf and welcome your support and guidance.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bruce Trant'.

Bruce Trant, Senior Warden

From the Rector

Dear People of Christ Church,

This annual report is one I have been looking forward to for over two years now. At this moment, we have a full staff which has not been the case since the fall of 2017. So my highlight for 2019 is that we have staff on hand to help us, the family of Christ Church, seek to serve our Lord through the ministries of our parish. As we head into 2020, with The Rev. Martin Geiger and Ted Dix as music director, my hope and prayer is that we are able to keep our ministries strong and perhaps even look to some new ministries which new talents bring to our community.

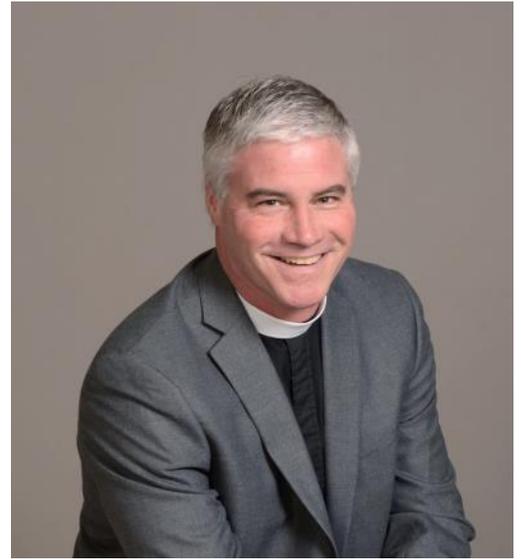
As is often the case when dealing with transitions, our moving from 2019 to 2020 also presents our parish with a challenge. During the 2017 through 2019 years of staff shortage, we found ourselves with remaining revenue because we did not have to pay for staff. Moving ahead, that is no longer the case. This does not mean that our budget has increased in terms of expenses, but rather we now have to work on growing our opportunities to give to Christ Church in support of what we do to the glory of God in service to our Lord.

We have had challenges in the past, and we have done well to face those challenges. We have worked hard to get a full staff and to continue our ministries. New staff, active parishioners, new or changing ways to serve in the parish and community offer us new ways to grow in our discipleship. Be it in worship, parish life, outreach, Christian formation and other areas of ministry, it is an exciting time. I thank you for joining in with the life of the parish so we can continue our growth as disciples of our Lord in whose name we serve.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster S. Gibson, Rector



From the Assistant Rector

Dear People of Christ Church,

It has been such a joy to be welcomed by you, and to begin the work of doing ministry alongside you! My time with you may have only been for the second half of 2019, but it has been full of opportunities for me to get to know all of you better. I have been so grateful for your openness and generosity as a community of faith, and for your skill in living through a year of many transitions. So much of my work this year has been about learning more about the incredible amount of work all of you do to spread the life and witness of this church in Winchester and beyond.

A few of my favorite parts of ministry so far:

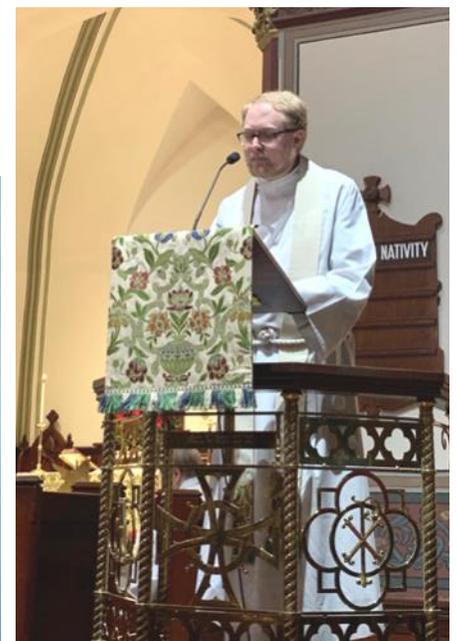
- Being thrown into VBS almost as soon as I arrived, including my star turn as Pharaoh (as seen below)
- The chance to work with a faithful, curious youth group, alongside other skilled leaders
- Learning some of the intricacies of worship planning through our interim period, and welcoming Ted as Director of Music
- Working with the many dedicated people who make our Outreach ministries happen
- And celebrating the joy of Christmas with all of you

As I look ahead to 2020, I will continue the work I've been given - preaching, leading adult formation, working with youth programs, seeking out new outreach opportunities, and many more things I won't know about until Webster tells me. My hope is that my ministry, and all of our ministry together, will be an opportunity for us to come to know God and one another more deeply. And my prayer is that we may bring others with us as we continue to follow wherever God calls us in the year ahead.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger,
Assistant Rector



Worship at Christ Church

We have two services each Sunday morning—our Rite I service at 8:00 am and our Rite II service with the choir at 10:30 am. Approximately 50 attend the early service each week and 160 attend the later service. We have a Noonday service on Wednesdays and celebrate the Holy Eucharist at Westminster-Canterbury on the first and third Thursdays each month. Our monthly All Abilities Worship welcomes around 30 people, giving them a safe place to sing, pray, and play instruments to the glory of God. We participate in community worship such as the Palm Sunday celebration on the downtown mall, the Easter Vigil at Mt. Hebron Cemetery, and the Ecumenical Good Friday liturgy. The Worship Committee meets regularly with the clergy and director of music.

We have 40 people serving as lay Eucharistic ministers and readers, a corps of ushers for both services, and a dedicated group of about ten young people serving as acolytes.

The Altar Guild is responsible for setting the altar table for all services in the main sanctuary each Sunday, on feast days, for special services such as funerals and weddings, and for Wednesday services in the Pilgrim's Chapel. Responsibilities are shared among about 50 members who serve on one of six teams. Each team of six is responsible for one month every six months, thereby serving twice a year. Each team has a captain who coordinates scheduling their team members to suit their availability. **The Altar Guild always welcomes new members.** Please contact Lucia Thomas at 540-662-0278 (H), 540-533-6486 (text or cell). Or email thomaslf@comcast.net.

2019

- ◇ 9 baptisms
- ◇ 2 confirmations
- ◇ 3 weddings
- ◇ 3 funerals
- ◇ 4 transfers out
- ◇ 15 new members



The Flower Guild delivers the altar flowers to shut-ins, orders the Easter and Christmas flowers, decorates the church at Easter and Christmas, and provides an arrangement for Wednesday services in the Pilgrim's Chapel and flowers for events at the church. It is a fun and creative ministry and always welcomes those who would like to be involved. Please email Katie Harvard(klhwsh@yahoo.com) for more information.

Music at Christ Church



Ted Dix, Director of Music

Dr. James Kriewald, our organist and Director of Music, retired from his 49-year tenure at Christ Church, playing his last service here on Easter 2019. On the first Sunday of Advent, we welcomed our new Director of Music, Ted Dix. Thank you to the search committee and the choir for all of their efforts during this transition.

There are three choirs at Christ Church, two for children and one for high school students and adults.

The **Cherub Choir** is for our youngest singers. The cherubs rehearse on Sunday mornings before Sunday School and are directed by Marsha Baden. They sing occasionally at the 10:30 Holy Eucharist, at the Christmas Pageant, and on Palm Sunday and Easter.

The **Alleluia Singers & Ringers** are directed by DeLyn Celec and welcome children in grades 2-8 for rehearsals on Sunday mornings before Sunday School. They also sing occasionally at the 10:30 Holy Eucharist, on Christmas Eve, Palm Sunday and Easter. Their repertoire has included simple songwriting, global music, and basic music reading skills. The Alleluia Singers also have been learning about and have begun using hand bells!

The **Adult Choir** is open to high school and college students and adults. Under the direction of Ted Dix, the choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. The choir sings weekly from September through April at the 10:30 am service and all other major worship services.

Anyone with an interest in singing in the choir is always invited to talk with Ted or email him at: tandyedwardd@gmail.com

Further information about our organ and choirs can be found on the Music page of the church website: www.ChristChurchWinchester.org.



Christian Formation for Children

- We continue with our curriculum– W.H.I.R.L. – a three-year program based on the Revised Common Lectionary.
- Children’s booklets of our Eucharistic prayers, which may be colored and taken home, are available for both pre-readers and readers during our sanctuary services along with coloring materials based on the lessons of the day or the Gospel reading.
- The toddler play break space for young children and the baby feeding and changing area off the Fairfax Room now have a video monitor so parents can follow the service in the sanctuary until they return to the service.
- Our preschool age group continues to increase which is exciting for future growth. This year we have begun to offer quarterly gatherings for young families. A wide range of activities and celebrations with snacks or brunch bring everyone together in the informal setting of the Commons.
- Children’s Chapel (offered during the first portion of the 10:30 service) also is based on either the lectionary or the Old Testament lesson each week, depending on which is the more appropriate for young children. It features many unique strategies which help our three-year old through second grade children hear and relate to the Gospel lesson in ways appropriate to their age group.
- Each class will select an individual project to support our annual Lenten Mite Box offering. Classes will make an offering each week to measure progress toward their goal.
- Our annual community outreach to children through Vacation Bible School, which we share with Grace Lutheran, reaches out to about 300 children each July. This ministry is the only full-morning VBS in downtown Winchester, bringing together children from a variety of denominations.



As we move into 2020, consider where you can help with formation. For example, we need parishioners willing to substitute for teachers on Sunday mornings. This is true for Children’s Chapel, too. Come help us build our community by contacting Margery Wingenbach (667-0386, Wingenbach @comcast.net) or Webster Gibson.

Youth Group

Youth Group continued as a chance for students in Grades 6-12 to engage in fellowship, formation, and service together. Leadership and assistance was provided by Webster, Martin, Rebecca Gibson, Martha Griffin, Barry Schnoor, and many, many parents and cooks. A few highlights of the year: celebrating a large class of graduating seniors this spring, a cook-out at the Gibsons’ to kick off the fall, a trip to the West Oaks corn maze, and an evening spent preparing materials for the Hygiene Kits project. We look forward to new opportunities to learn about God and each other in 2020!

Outreach at Christ Church

Outreach efforts at Christ Church in 2019 included support for both local and international projects. Funds from the parish budget support these outreach projects directly, which are under the purview of the Outreach Executive Committee. Following is a list of those who have received parish funds this past year from the Outreach General Operations Budget.

Kids Summer Food Program	\$ 242.77
ERD-Bahama Hurricane Relief	\$ 500.00
Angel Tree Program	\$ 250.00
Church World Services/Hygiene Kits	\$2500.00
Water Mission	\$2000.00
Evans Home	\$2000.00
Concern Hotline	\$1088.32
Healing Waters	\$1088.32
Laurel Center	\$1088.32
Episcopal Relief & Development	\$1088.32
Bright Futures	\$1088.32
Ninos con Valor	\$1088.32
Partners in Health	\$1088.37



If you have any questions about these organizations or outreach projects at Christ Church, please contact a member of the Outreach Executive Committee.



The Treasure Box Thrift Shop continued to open its doors on Wednesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, thanks to the help of volunteers. Generous donations from the parish and sales in 2019 raised \$13,000 in funds distributed to support more than a dozen groups and ministries in and around Winchester. Thank you for both donating to and shopping with us!

The Properties Committee

It is no small challenge to maintain our beautiful historic church and campus buildings. In addition to normal maintenance projects this past year, the Properties Committee has overseen the completion of the baby room adjacent to the Fairfax Room in the church basement. There is even a TV monitor so parents can continue to watch and hear the service upstairs. The Tilford Room has been painted and new curtains installed. But much of our time has been spent on project planning that we hope will come to fruition in 2020.

Security: You may have already noticed the additional attention the ushers have placed on locking unattended access to the church on Sunday mornings. Inspired by the proliferation of keys and copies of keys, a sub-committee to Properties has been working to design a security system that will include card access, intercoms, electronic door locks, cameras, and alarms. We have received quotations for this work and hope to issue a contract soon.

Heating and Cooling: Without getting too technical, we limped through the summer with bailing wire and band aids on one of the two air conditioning systems in the church. And, if you weren't sure about where the heat for the church comes from, there is a steam boiler in the basement of the "Old Rectory" that is the size of a Volkswagen. Its job is to heat both the rectory and the church. It too is struggling. Our HVAC contractor has enlisted the services of an HVAC engineer to study and make recommendations to upgrade both the church and the old rectory to a high-efficiency heat pump system. Not only will this system provide both heating and cooling, but should save us a considerable amount in energy costs.

Finally, the committee asked Andrew Boyd, the architect who designed the new entrance to the Old Rectory, to design a handicap ramp in the sanctuary to the right of the pulpit. He provided two designs pending how we proceed with heating and cooling. To add some clarity... If we were to leave the old radiators in place when we update the HVAC system in the church, there would be a 3' wide ramp satisfying all requirements. However, if that radiator is removed, a much "cleaner" looking ramp could be installed that would extend to the side wall where the radiator is currently.

If you have any questions about these projects, please feel free to approach any member of the Properties Committee.



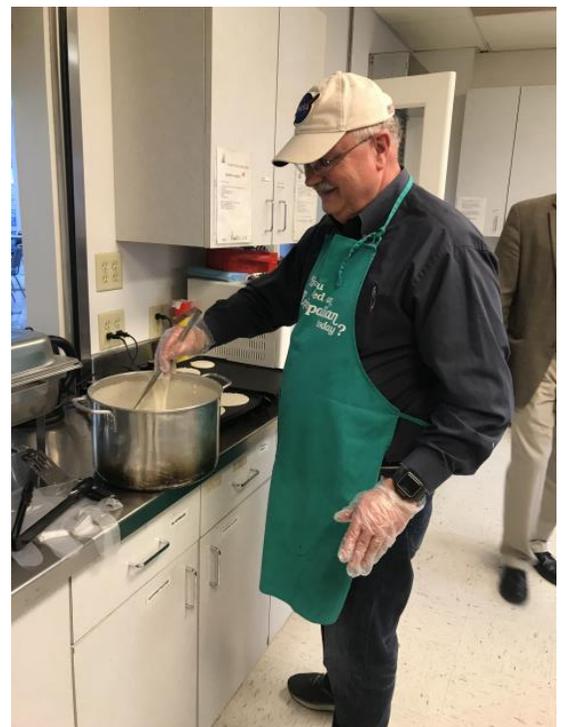
From the Parish Nurses

In 2019, our parish nurses (Helen Zearth and Rosalie Lewis) continued to assist clergy with visiting parishioners and a monthly healing noonday Eucharist. They had a very successful flu vaccine season, giving over 120 flu shots. They participated in the WATTS program; manning a health station each evening to assist our guests. The student nurses from Shenandoah University continued to visit with our parishioners. The nurses hosted the annual health fair with our partner, Grace Lutheran. And, the parish nurses contribute a wellness column in the monthly Angelus newsletter.

Pastoral Care includes many ministries in addition to parish nursing, including Shepherd's Table, Knit Unto Others (celebrated 10 years in 2019!) and the Intercessory Prayer Group. The Card Ministry, led by Joan Bronson, continues to recognize birthdays and anniversaries of participating parishioners.

The Parish Life Committee offers a variety of newcomer and event receptions to gather and care for our parish family:

- Older, Wiser Laity (OWLs) meet occasionally for fellowship and usually a speaker.
- Men's Fellowship has about a dozen participants at 7:30 am on the second Saturday of each month for discussions and breakfast. Men of all ages are invited.
- A Women's Lunch Group introduces women of the parish to other women they may not have met over lunch at a local café twice a month.
- Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont had 25 participants over Mother's Day weekend.
- As is annual Winchester tradition, we sold chairs along the Apple Blossom parade routes as a fundraiser.
- Parish Life hosts receptions for funerals, Bishop's Visitation, the parish picnic, and other events.



2020 Budget

REVENUE		
Pledged	\$	465,000
Unpledged	\$	57,000
All Other	\$	39,200
Total	\$	561,200
EXPENSES		
Personnel	\$	438,863
Utilities	\$	28,800
Property/Maintenance	\$	47,600
Office	\$	25,400
Christian Education	\$	10,000
Music	\$	8,400
Worship	\$	1,700
Stewardship	\$	1,200
Outreach	\$	63,300
Pastoral Care	\$	800
Parish Life	\$	2,400
Communications	\$	2,800
Total	\$	631,263
Net Income	\$	(70,063)
Budget Challenge	\$	70,063
Net Income Goal	\$	-



Christ Church Clergy & Staff

The Rev. Webster S. Gibson, Rector

The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector

Margery Wingenbach, Director, Christian Education

Noelle Creamer, Communications Coordinator

Theresa Seitz, Bookkeeper

Ted Dix, Director of Music

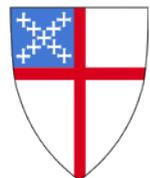
DeLyn Celec, Director, Alleluia Singers

Marsha Baden, Director, Cherub Choir

Helen Zebarth, Parish Nurse

Rosalie Lewis, Parish Nurse

Steven "Tuffy" Whitacre, Sexton



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Church Office

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Winchester, VA 22601

www.christchurchwinchester.org