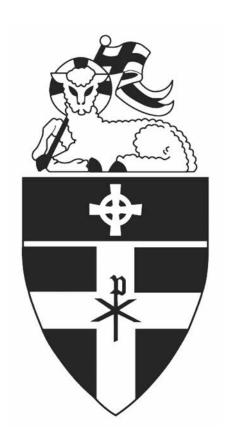
# **Annual Report for 2021**



# Christ Church, Georgetown 205th Annual Parish Meeting

February 6, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

# STATISTICS FROM THE PARISH REGISTER 2010 - 2021

# **Table of Contents**

Statistics from the Parish RegisterInside Front Cov	rer
Agenda	.3
Minutes, 204th Annual Meeting, February 7, 2021	.4
Reports on Parish Committees and Organizations	10
Worship	10
Adult Acolytes	10
Altar Guild	
Flower Committee	
Flower Visitors Guild	
Lectors Guild	
Livestreaming "Gethsemane" Guild  Music	
Ushers Guild	
Parish Life	
Hospitality Ministry Committee	
Men's Group	
Young Adults Ministry	
Education and Formation	
Contemplative Life Ministry	14
Parish Bible Study	14
Women's Bible Study	
Seminarian Lay Committee	
Youth and Family Ministries	15
Youth and Family Ministries Committee	
Babywise	
Nursery Care	
Sunday School and Youth Education Worship Ministries	
Youth Confirmation	
Outreach	
Mission Committee	
Saint Francis Guild	
Feeding Ministries	19
Thrift Shop Guild	19
Finance Reports	20
Stewardship Committee Report	20
Investment Committee Report	
Treasurer's Report	
List of Pledgers for 2022	22



# **Agenda**

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Appointments
- III. Approval of Minutes from the 204th Annual Meeting, February 7, 2021
- IV. Report of the Nominating Committee

  Vestry Member (4 to be elected for 3-year terms)
- V. Financial Reports
  Treasurer
  Stewardship Chair
- VI. Senior Warden's Report
- VII. Rector's Report
- VIII. Proposed Changes to the Bylaws
  - IX. Other Business
  - X. Installation of Newly Elected Vestry Members
- XI. Adjournment

# **204th Annual Meeting Minutes**

The 204th Annual Parish Meeting was held on Sunday, February 7, 2021. Parishioners having assembled in the church, the Rector, Timothy A. R. Cole, called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. and commenced with prayers, including prayers for the faithful departed of the parish, 16 (later amended to 18) in total, who had died since the 203rd Annual Meeting.

#### **Appointments**

The Rector appointed Mr. Ferdinand H. Onnen III to serve as Secretary and Ms. Susan Davies (via Zoom) to serve as Parliamentarian. Mr. Alan Coker was appointed Head Teller, with Mr. Charles A. Thorley, Ms. Evie Norwinski, and Mr. Brent Minor appointed as Tellers for the election.

#### Presence of a Quorum

Before establishing the existence of a quorum, the Rector asked for a motion to approve the virtual attendance of those attending the Parish Meeting via Zoom, which was moved, seconded, and approved. The Rector then called attention to the qualifications for voting printed in the Candidates' Brochure. He asked for a show of hands of qualified voters in person and virtually. Without objection, he declared the presence of a quorum.

#### **Minutes**

The Rector asked for a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes of the 203rd Annual Meeting and approve them as distributed, which was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

#### **Retiring Vestry Members**

The Rector thanked the retiring members of the Vestry, namely outgoing Junior Warden Russell Lindner, Scott Campbell, Morgan Hodgson, Isabel Santos Kunsman, and Scott Plumridge, for their faithful and dedicated service.

#### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

Ms. Evie Norwinski, Chair of the Nominating Committee, delivered her report on behalf of the Committee during which she first announced the nomination of Mrs. Molly Peacock for the position of Junior Warden. After asking Mrs. Peacock to stand, the Rector opened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, the Rector called for a motion to close the nominations, which was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote. The

Rector then called for a motion to instruct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Mrs. Peacock to serve a two-year term as Junior Warden, which was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

Ms. Norwinski then placed in nomination Mr. John D. Lytle, Mr. Ferdinand H. Onnen III, Mrs. Shelley Rodgers, and Mrs. Sally Squires Wilhelm to be members of the Vestry. The Rector then opened the floor for additional nominations. There being none, the Rector asked for a motion to close the nominations, which was moved, seconded, and unanimously approved by a vote. The Rector then asked for a motion to instruct the Secretary to cast a unanimous ballot for Mr. Lytle, Mr. Onnen, Mrs. Rodgers, and Mrs. Wilhelm, which was moved, seconded, and approved by a unanimous vote.

#### Reports on Finance, Budget, and Stewardship

The Rector introduced the speakers to address financial topics.

The Treasurer, Mr. Foster, began his report by noting that 2020 was a year of exceptional challenges to every church's finances, but that at Christ Church, however, through the extraordinary faithfulness and generosity of the congregation, the parish weathered the COVID-19 storm and emerged in sound financial condition, ending the year with a small surplus. Mr. Foster offered his thanks to all the parishioners who headed the call and made donations online and elsewhere that helped the church end the year on a positive note.

Mr. Foster continued by stating that the budgeted pledge revenue was reduced to \$1,385,000 due to the results of the stewardship campaign, and budgeted expenses were reduced accordingly, largely by postponing clergy replacement. Ultimately, actual pledge revenues missed the reduced target by less than \$8,000. In all, total revenues fell short of final budgeted total revenues by approximately \$58,000.

Offsetting these reduced total revenues, however, the unfortunate curtailment of church activities caused by the pandemic resulted in significant savings, most notably in music, education, parish life, and general operations. The expense savings were partially offset, for example, by increased communication expense associated with virtual worship. Fortunately, important priorities, such as Outreach, were not significantly affected.



In conclusion, Mr. Foster remarked that on balance, the parish's operating financial statements show a small surplus for the year, not considering the Vestry's decision to defer the remaining portion of the endowment draw in light of the savings in expenses, projected deficit in 2021, and substantial deferred maintenance in the Church and Parish Hall. He again thanked the everyone in the parish for their generosity and urged those who had not yet pledged to the 2021 campaign to give pledging strong consideration.

Mrs. Onnen, Co-Chair of the Stewardship Committee, began her report by thanking the entire committee and the wardens for their ongoing efforts during what has been a difficult time for fundraising resulting from the COVID pandemic. She went on to report the following numbers as of February 5, 2021: 320 pledges totaling just over \$1.2MM, which closed the campaign roughly \$165,000 short of the \$1.4MM goal.

In terms of the reasons behind the missed goal, beyond the fact that some parishioners found themselves in reduced financial circumstances due to the pandemic, Mrs. Onnen also stated that while the letter writing campaign and subsequent email and phone follow-ups proceeded as typical, the in-person connections at Sunday services,

fellowship opportunities, and Evensong were lost due to gathering restrictions. Another major issue that plagued the campaign was the lack of accurate contact information on the parish rolls that made it difficult to connect with those who had not yet made their pledges.

All of this said, Mrs. Onnen identified three goals that the Stewardship Committee thought crucial to vibrancy of stewardship at Christ Church going forward:

- 1. Keep parish rolls as up-to-date and accurate as possible.
- 2. Get every "active" parishioner to pledge to the stewardship campaign.
- 3. Encourage every giver to each previous year's campaign to increase their giving in the current year's campaign.

Mrs. Onnen asked that in the coming months, every parishioner think about what the church provides to them in spiritual nourishment, fellowship, community, and music, and to let those thoughts guide them as they consider their pledge for the coming year. She concluded by stating that just a \$10 monthly gift from each parishioner would help the church meet its stewardship goal of full participation.



#### **Report of the Senior Warden**

Mr. Thorley began his report by thanking all of those in attendance in person, and those joining the meeting by Zoom. He then went on to note what an honor it had been for him to serve as Senior Warden over the past year. Mr. Thorley then provided general commentary about what an amazing year the parish had just been through, noting that a year ago the Annual Parish Meeting was fully attended in person; all our Sunday services were being held and were well attended; our groups, guilds, and Sunday school were all growing; and the church was humming. From there, the church got to March and the world, including our parish life, seemed to stop.

On March 13, Mr. Thorley and the staff made the difficult decision to close the church to further worship and to cancel all pending activities and meetings. By that time, the Rector was already identified as "Patient Zero" in Washington and the COVID pandemic was quickly gaining steam and changing the world as we all knew it. As the late winter and spring wore on, the clergy and staff were quickly able to transition our Sunday worship into a completely virtual format, the quality of which has been second to none thanks to the hard work of Crystal Hardin, Tom Smith, Paul Barkett, Anne Stone, and Lain Wilson.

Mr. Thorley stated that the word "resilient" best epitomized the spirit of the congregation after all that the community had been through over the last year. Throughout the pandemic, through the unrest and deep reflection that has taken place after the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May, and in the days before, during, and now after what was certainly the most polarizing election season any of us have ever experienced, this community of faith has remained "resilient." Despite headwinds and challenges, Mr. Thorley noted that he had great confidence that the church had been and would remain strong as time goes on, as there is a vibrancy at Christ Church that has continued to attract new faces, a community that continues to welcome and embrace both long-time members and those who have just come through the doors, and that will surely continue.

In terms of successes and accomplishments, Mr. Thorley first noted the positive aspects of Mr. Foster's report and went on to mention that for the first time in the last five years, the parish was completely debt free, having paid off the loans both to our endowment and to a bank that provided financing for some past projects. This is welcome news as it allows the church to spend its resources on our yearly budget and all that it supports rather than on servicing debt. Earlier, Mr. Thorley mentioned the new virtual services that many have been enjoying for months and underscored the fact that as part of the 2021 budget recently adopted by the Vestry, several important projects were approved to continue these virtual programs. Soon,

a high-quality camera system will be installed in the Church, the chapel, and in Keith Hall to allow for livestreaming of all worship services and other offerings. This addition will clearly augment all that has already been done to keep our community together—both in-person and virtually.

In addition, many have noticed some of the deferred maintenance issues requiring attention throughout our campus. These include necessary repairs to the wall in the auditorium, several places here in the sanctuary, and others at the Rectory. Again, the Vestry authorized roof work, brick repointing, and plaster work to fix and repair these critical issues. This, too, is good news and will ensure that our facilities are well maintained for years to come. Lastly, Mr. Thorley mentioned that in 2019, the Vestry approved the formation of the Forward Planning Committee to focus on studying and planning for a possible renovation of the Parish Hall, noting that significant progress had been made in this effort and that the Vestry looked forward to sharing some of these findings and potential options with the congregation soon.

Mr. Thorley concluded his report with thanks, first to each member of the parish for their support over the last year and in the weeks and months ahead. To the clergy, including our new Associate, Andrew Kryzak, to Tom Smith, Paul Barkett, Tonika Hilliard, and Tyrone Moore and his team, Mr. Thorley gave thanks as well for their steadfast and faithful service throughout a difficult time. To the outgoing Junior Warden, Mr. Lindner, Mr. Thorley was not sure he would be able to adequately express his appreciation but underscored his gratitude for Mr. Lindner's friendship and unwavering support over the last months, and thanked Mrs. Lindner for supporting her husband in his duty. Mr. Thorley stated that he could not have done his job without Mr. Lindner's assistance, and that the parish would not be in the strong position it is today, but for his leadership and dedication. Mr. Thorley concluded his thanks to Mr. Lindner by mentioning that he was a man of thoughtfulness, principal, and commitment to doing the right thing in the right way at the right time—always without any desire for the spotlight but always with a desire to serve.

Finally, Mr. Thorley thanked the retiring members of the Vestry—Mr. Campbell, Mr. Plumridge, Mrs. Kunsman, and Ms. Morgan Hodgson for their leadership, noting that though they would be missed on the Vestry, he looked forward to seeing all of them in the pews in the months ahead. To the rest of the Vestry and the newly elected Junior Warden and Vestry members, Mr. Thorley stated he was looking forward to working with each of them.

In conclusion, Mr. Thorley said that he remained confident that resiliency will continue to propel the Christ Church community of faith in the months ahead as it continued to climb out from the depths of the pandemic stating that he had little doubt that when those that come after us look back on what the church had recently been through and what we have accomplished during the past year, they are likely to conclude that this truly had been "our finest hour."

#### Report of the Rector

The Rector began his report with comments relating to the challenges of the COVID pandemic, stating that for the first time in the church's 203-year history no celebration of Easter took place in the Church and the Holy Eucharist was not celebrated in person for six months. Indeed, the sanctuary was silent and empty for the entire summer of 2020; not even the tumult of the Civil War and two world wars precipitated anything similar. However, the Rector went on to underscore that despite all this difficulty, the church triumphed.

First, the Reverend Crystal Hardin did a tremendous job as the only full-time priest standing, and with her, and all the staff, Mr. Thorley provided outstanding leadership throughout the period that the Rector was ill with COVID and recovering. Mr. Thorley's calm sure-footed presence, unbelievable capacity for work and constant support of the Reverend Mother Crystal and the staff was remarkable, not least as he somehow continued his day job in a key leadership role in the FBI. The Rector thanked Mr. Thorley, the Reverend Mother Crystal, and all the staff for stepping up and holding the parish steady, not just in his absence, but in the face of the huge adaptations the church was forced to make because of COVID.

Like Mr. Thorley, the Rector touted the success of the virtual services, which have had parishioners reading and contributing from their own homes, and went on to express his gratitude to Tom Smith, Lain Wilson, and Anne Stone, who gave unstintingly of themselves to produce these offerings at the very high standard that people have come to expect of worship at Christ Church. The Rector also mentioned the emergence of a Lay Pastoral Committee, chaired by Andy Sigler and Mary McCarthy, that began as a response to the concerns about people in the parish, but that will remain as an invaluable new dimension to pastoral care in the congregation going forward.

The Rector also thanked Rob Volmer, who played an important role in the interface between Christ Church and the media who, understandably, were very focused for a time on events at the corner of 31st and O, and went

on to mention that Mr. Volmer also helped the Rector enormously as he worked through his dubious 15 minutes of fame as "Patient Zero." Being briefly famous for being sick is not quite the kind of fame one would ever seek, but Mr. Volmer was excellent at persuading the Rector of the opportunity it represented to speak for the Church and to the faith of the wider community.

The Rector stated that if COVID had not been enough, the church then faced a summer of protest and civil unrest in the city and the country, including some looting even in Georgetown, as deep anger around race and racial tension flared up following the death of George Floyd. In addition, the country also faced a viciously polarized political atmosphere in the run-up to and through the last election. As a church that traditionally leaves politics at the door, all this was a particular challenge to our community.

To remain nonpartisan as a community under these circumstances was hard, particularly so, for some, and the Rector underscored the fact that the church retained as much balance as it could in a most unbalanced time, and while no doubt too little was done for some, and too much for others, the church's series of Conversations on Race and Culture has been and continues to be, a thoughtful Christ Church response and a valuable and high-level contribution to the national reflection on both the issue of race and the wider issue of culture.

From the standpoint of mission, the Rector reported that our Mission Committee, under the excellent leadership of Martha van Dale, had also continued to ensure that our mission and social justice work went on regardless, supporting mission partners like the Bishop Walker School and the Washington School for Girls, both in under-served communities in South East Washington. Alongside those, the Rector stated his gratitude to all those who supported the one-month campaign to help those most affected by COVID in those communities stating that the \$46,000 raised was a tremendous response in such a short period of time for these communities in need.

Providing broader commentary, the Rector called attention to the fact that Christ Church is a very distinctive parish and that he was proud of the way the congregation had navigated the stormy waters of the last year, where all our vocations and outlooks had been called into question to one extent or another. Those waters are not yet calm by any means, but the Rector sensed that the church was emerging stronger in some very important ways, and with a clearer sense of its identity.

From a financial standpoint, the Rector stated that despite everything, the church had come through the last year remarkably well, remarking that a small surplus was a great achievement under the circumstances, but what really was a milestone for the congregation was that the church was finally debt free for the first time since before the Rector had arrived. In all, the church repaid over \$800,000 in debt to the bank and to our own endowment over the last four years. Part of the first fruits of this going forward will be the ability to begin addressing the large amount of deferred maintenance that has accumulated as the church has had to use capital project money to repay that debt.

The Rector also stated his delight that, despite always knowing that 2021 would be a difficult because of COVID, thanks to Harry Volz, Catherine Onnen, and the Stewardship Committee, the church had been able to set a positive budget that would allow it to recruit staff back up to the level it was used to in preparation for the time when the congregation can return to full activity post COVID.

From the standpoint of staffing, the Rector noted his sadness in the departure of the Reverend Crystal Hardin who moved on to take up a post in her sending parish, St. George's, in Arlington. Also, John McDuffie's time as temporary assistant, came to an end, though the Rector was happy to say that the Reverend McDuffie would be preaching at Christ Church the following Sunday. He was also delighted that Melissa Hollerith had taken over the Reverend McDuffie's role in leading two Bible studies and a youth confirmation course, as well as being a growing pastoral presence in the parish. He also stated how fortunate the church was to have Tish Mills join the staff as Parish Coordinator, as Tish's wide experience at the National Cathedral and on the Hill was already making a tremendous difference. Finally, the Rector was pleased to note the presence, starting in August of 2020, of the new Associate Rector, Andrew Kryzak, whose preaching and dynamic personality had already done so much to lift the parish during a time of adjustment and change.

The Rector went on to give thanks to all the guilds and committees, which have stood firm through these recent times, particularly those which had been part of the small teams that had done double or triple duty to support in-person worship while many are yet unable to come back. The Rector thought it fair to say that Christ Church had led the way in the diocese in regathering in a measured and safe way.

Last year, the Rector said that 2020 would be the year we would plan, but as the Jewish Rabbi said, "Make God laugh. Tell him your plans!" The church certainly did not

plan for what happened over the last year, yet despite being set back a few steps as the parish poured ourselves into our response to this year's events, the church has been planning, with the Strategic Planning Committee looking at our buildings, with a particular focus on our most underutilized asset, the Parish Hall.

As the church steps forward in this still very uncertain time, the Rector stated it was clear to him that Christ Church would emerge from this time stronger than it was before. Whatever uncertainties may exist in the wider Church and in our society at this time, Christ Church is a traditional, affectionate, non-political community of faith that is committed to service of the poor, exemplifies the best in the Episcopal tradition in worship, education, preaching and theology, and, alongside all of these things, seeks to provide connection with God, each other, and the wider community for people at every stage of life. At Christ Church, we do not say that ours is the only way, just that this is our way, and the way our parish believes Christ is calling us to follow.

The Rector concluded by giving thanks, first to the outgoing Junior Warden, Rusty Lindner, for all his work, sage council, and outstanding support in helping both the Senior Warden and the Rector negotiate the very troubled waters of our current day. Mr. Lindner has helped guide the church through the nuances, pitfalls, mirages, and complexities of this unique city and context, and the Rector said he could not understate the fact that Mr. Lindner's role had been pivotal in enabling Christ Church to hold steady through the events of this last year.

The Rector also underlined his thanks to the Senior Warden, Mr. Thorley, who had spent himself so unstintingly in this last year. The Rector doubted if any in the parish realized just how many hours and how much care Mr. Thorley applied on behalf of the church and stated that the parish would not be where we it was without him.

The Rector also offered his thanks to the Vestry, especially those retiring, in particular Ms. Hodgson, whose long experience in the church's finances and professional expertise were simply essential.

The Rector went on to tout an outstanding staff, all of whom worked extremely hard over the past year. In particular, Paul Barkett played a huge part in reorganizing our financial affairs, achieving a clean audit, and putting the church in the excellent place administratively in which it finds itself today. He also thanked Katherine Brown, who made a significant difference in Youth and Families Ministry, as despite COVID, Mrs. Brown, by her

diligence and organization, had made the parish able to see the slight growth of the Sunday School in this year, and considering all that has happened, that is a truly remarkable achievement. Furthermore, despite the drastic reduction of our ability to make music due to COVID, Tom Smith and the choir have produced some very lovely online services and supported the in-person services as much as is allowed under the restrictions.

The Rector stated that there were too many other people to thank, but he did thank all the leaders of the many groups, organizations, committees, and guilds who have given so generously of their time, affection and thought to all the areas of the life of the church, especially Jane Matz and Anne Berry, who stood down at the end of the year as chairs of the Flower Committee, having done a magnificent job.

The Rector concluded by offering his thanks to the entire congregation and stated that it was a constant joy to him to wake up each day and realize that God had blessed as Christ Church's Rector.

#### **Other Business**

The Rector asked whether there was any further business to be brought forward, at which time the names of two additional deceased parishioners were added to the necrology. There was no other business brought forward.

#### Installation

A service of installation was held for the newly elected Junior Warden and Vestry members, who were presented by Mr. Thorley, Senior Warden.

There being no further business, the 204th Annual Parish Meeting was adjourned at 10:51 a.m. with prayers.

Respectfully submitted, Ferdinand H. Onnen III, Secretary



# Worship

# **Adult Acolytes**

The Adult Acolytes at Christ Church offer lay parishioners an opportunity to participate in an ancient tradition of assisting clergy during the liturgical services. The crucifer leads the procession at the start of each service and for the proclamation of the Gospel. Acolytes light the altar candles that illuminate the sanctuary and accept the offerings of the people. They also serve as torch bearers for some services and bring bread, wine, and water to the altar to be sanctified by the clergy for Communion. Currently, 10 parishioners serve as adult acolytes. We would love to have more parishioners join this important ministry, and we offer training for new acolytes regularly. If you would like to explore becoming an acolyte, please contact Sally Squires Wilhelm or Max Wang.

—Sally Squires Wilhelm, Coordinator

#### Altar Guild

The Altar Guild had another interesting year. We worked with the clergy to do whatever was necessary to ensure that services were held either in person or virtually. In the beginning there were Tuesday morning recordings for the upcoming Sunday, as well as one service on Sunday. As the year progressed, we added more services and returned to our regular service schedule in September after homecoming Sunday. Noon Holy Eucharists on Wednesday and Friday were also added. The clergy continued to administer communion in whatever way they felt was safe, and in accordance with District and diocesan guidelines. We are almost back to normal preparing the altar, except the celebrant is the only one receiving the wine. In addition to the regular services, there were three weddings, 23 funerals, and 21 baptisms. Four of the baptisms were siblings.

—Susan C. Foster, Chair

#### Flower Committee

The Flower Committee was busy in 2021 as Christ Church began a return to normal. With the re-opening of the church in the spring we began catching up on funerals, baptisms, and even a couple of weddings. September marked Homecoming Sunday, and the Flower Committee helped celebrate this event with our posy table for children (and even some adults). We currently have 20 active



members, and six sustaining members who help when able. We are fortunate to have such a talented group giving their time and talent to this important work. It has been a blessing to be back in the church, beautifying the altar for Sunday services and especially for Easter and Christmas this year.

This coming year we will be working under the wonderful direction of Anna Brooke and Vicki Campbell as the new chairs of our committee, and we are grateful for their leadership.

—Blair Bourne and Beth Collins, Co-Chairs

#### Flower Visitors Guild

After the last service each Sunday, two or three Flower Ministry volunteers re-purpose and deliver the altar flowers to parishioners in the greater DC-Maryland-Virginia area. The Rector selects the recipients, from three to six weekly, and writes a note which accompanies the vase of flowers. During Lent and Advent there are no altar flowers, but occasional special events do include them, which we can then share with church members. The church flowers bring beauty into people's homes and remind them of their faith. I am grateful to Barbara Chang for reliable delivery assistance and to Doris Dixon, who shared her flower and management skills, and to many other volunteers. In 2021, we made a total of 250 deliveries, including 22 Easter lilies; 120 flower vases without a note; and 108 flower vases with a personal note from Fr. Cole.

—Anna M. Brooke, Coordinator

#### **Lectors Guild**

Currently there are 25 active lectors who read scripture at the 11:15 a.m. services and at services of Choral Evensong. Additionally, the lectors read at other special services throughout the church year. Three-month schedules are prepared four times per year. At each service, two different lectors each read one reading; this is a change from previous years and appears to be working well. The 5:00 p.m. chapel service has a roster of lectors, some of whom read in the aforementioned services. At the 5:00 p.m. service, one lector reads the lesson and one is the intercessor.

This ministry also recruits and trains new lectors. A lector is expected to serve a three-year term. On September 21, a Eucharist was held in the chapel for all lectors and guilds as a thank you from CCG. A social gathering followed; both were very well attended. The Rector and I agreed that a formal training session is not necessary for new lectors; this can be done on an individual and informal basis.

After three years of service as head of the Lectors Guild, I have stepped down and turned the leadership over to James Rojek, whom I am confident will do a thorough and efficient job. I will continue to volunteer to be a lector—one of life's joys for me. I want to thank Tish Mills for her great administrative support and Tom Smith, who, in addition to his magnificent musical leadership, always communicates the readings in a timely manner week after week. And I thank our Rectors for all of their unselfish support during my tenure. Lastly, I thank the dedicated lectors of CCG, who always supported me and always offered their services above and beyond one's expectations. I love this guild.

—Debbie Nichols, Coordinator

# Livestreaming "Gethsemane" Guild

The church installed two cameras in June 2021 to use for livestreaming services, bringing us up to par with other parishes in the diocese that have the same capabilities. We are also able to record and stream concerts, weddings, and funerals on request (sometimes for a small fee) for families that want to keep a memory of the day or to be able to share it with loved ones who cannot attend such services for whatever reason. Hopefully by now you have managed to tune in to an online service to see what we are able to do with this simple and easy-to-use equipment. We have been streaming Sunday services to YouTube and the church website since August 2021 on a volunteer basis, and I must mention my great thanks to the three parishioners, Alan Coker, Andy Sigler, and Chad Thorley,

who have generously given their time to learn to use the equipment and to help keep this project going over the past six months in addition to their other commitments at the church. As the church continues to adapt to the changing COVID situation and to find new ways to reach parishioners wherever they are, we are still looking for parishioners who might have ideas on how to use the equipment in thoughtful ways and, most importantly, who can volunteer to run it from time to time. No prior video or production experience is required. As with the other worship guilds, it does take a small group of dedicated parishioners to keep something like this running, and we are always open to participation from those who would like to contribute.

—John Alexander, Chair

#### Music

The primary focus of the music program at Christ Church, Georgetown, is, as it has been for generations, the preparation and performance of beautiful, finely crafted music for the glory of God and the edification of the worshiping community week after week. With a strong choral tradition at its core, the music program continues to serve as a valuable tool for outreach, evangelism, education, and formation within the parish community, the diocese, and beyond.

#### The Choir of Christ Church

On Sunday, May 23, 2021, the Day of Pentecost, or Whitsunday, after many, many months of restrictions on both choral and congregational singing due to COVID-19, the fully vaccinated, fully masked Choir of Christ Church—all 12 members—gathered once again to sing Evensong, the first such service since March 1, 2020, less than a week before Christ Church was forced to close its doors. Since that time, members of the Choir have weathered the ups and downs of the pandemic, providing music for parish liturgies while carefully following the various safety protocols and mandates of civil and ecclesiastical authorities.

The Choir of Christ Church is comprised of some of the region's finest professional singers. Drawing upon the very best the Anglican tradition has to offer, this group of 12 voices offers a broad array of choral literature spanning many centuries—from plainsong to the works of living composers. The Choir sings each Sunday at the 11:15 a.m. service—Holy Eucharist or Morning Prayer—and for special liturgies throughout the year: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Great Vigil of Easter,

Thanksgiving Day, a Solemn Requiem Eucharist for the Feast of All Souls, services of Lessons and Carols for both Advent and Christmas, and the various liturgies of Christmas Eve and Day. A quartet from the Choir sings at the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist each Sunday. On occasion, additional singers are added as required.

The Choir also sings the distinctly Anglican service of Choral Evensong on the first, third, and fifth Sundays of the month, October through May, at 5:00 p.m. Christ Church is one of a handful of parishes in the U.S. to offer this beautiful, contemplative liturgy with such frequency. Given the steady increase in attendance at Evensong over the course of the past few seasons, it is safe to say that Christ Church has one of the most robust and consistent Evensong congregations of any parish in the nation. The service, which is followed by an opportunity for fellowship and refreshments in Keith Hall, draws dozens of parishioners, many visitors from other churches in the region, and even a goodly number of individuals who do not consider themselves churchgoers, but who find beauty and peace within the liturgy.

# Opportunities for Children, Youth, and Families

It is our hope that programming and events for children, youth, and families—Youth Choir, the Parish Potluck Supper and Hymn Sing, etc.—will resume during the 2022–2023 program year.

#### **Concerts at Christ Church**

The parish's series of special, non-liturgical musical offerings remains on hiatus due to the pandemic. It is our hope that concerts will resume in Fall 2022.

It is a great joy and privilege to serve as Organist and Choirmaster in this parish. I am deeply grateful for the support of the clergy, my fellow members of the staff, and you, the faithful of Christ Church, Georgetown.

—Thomas P. Smith, Organist and Choirmaster

#### Ushers Guild

The Ushers Guild is comprised of volunteers from the parish who help fulfill the ushering needs of the various services. Their mission is to be representatives of the church, to welcome and assist parishioners as they arrive, and to help carry out the orderly process of the service. Warmth, hospitality, and a commitment to carefully discharging the duties that relate to the service are the key components of an usher's work.

We are continually blessed to have a dedicated group of ushers who ably serve Christ Church across its broad schedule of services, including the Sunday morning services, Choral Evensong services, and special services during Christmas, Lent, Easter, and other occasions.

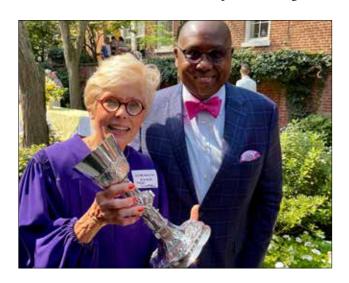
But as with any group, there is turnover, and, with the number of services we have, a need for new ushers. Ushering provides a wonderful way for new members to contribute further to the church's ministry and to get to know their fellow parishioners. Please let me (or any ushers or clergy) know if you are interested in being an usher. We would very much welcome your participation and contribution.

This past year of course has been affected (again) by the pandemic and restrictions on services, which in turn has affected ushering in terms of availability of ushers on the one hand and their added role of helping to maintain the safety practices for the congregation. The good news has been an evolving return to more normal services over the year, supported by dedicated core group of ushers.

The current chair of the Ushers Guild, Dick Thompson, announced his retirement after serving in this capacity for the past five years. Brent Minor and Alan Coker will be the new co-chairs starting this January. We very much welcome and look forward to their leadership.

In the meantime, a very special thanks to all of our ushers for their dedicated and able service over the past year, and we look forward to your support and any new volunteers this coming year as we return to a more normal schedule of services. Again, please let me or the clergy know if you would like to be an usher.

—G. Richard Thompson, Retiring Chair



# **Parish Life**

# **Hospitality Ministry Committee**

The new Hospitality Ministry Committee was created to help coordinate social gatherings after Choral Evensong and special events such as the Faith & Foreign Policy gatherings. This was an outgrowth of the Parish Life Committee, which saw the value of social gatherings as a way to connect parishioners and build a stronger church community. Since Evensong services attract a sizable number of non-parishioners, these social gatherings also help in outreach efforts.

Doris Dixon was tapped to lead the committee and asked Brent Minor to join her as co-chair. The committee's work began with Evensong services in October of 2021 and have now also included two Faith & Foreign Policy events. A small but growing group of volunteers has been recruited to help ease the workload. Church staff help set up Keith Hall for the events and clean up afterward. The committee's primary role is to organize the refreshments, welcome participants to the event, and "pass the hat" to help defray costs.

To date, we feel the initial goals for the committee are being met. Not only have these events raised funds to offset costs through contributions, but they have also lifted the burden of organizing events on already-stressed CCG staff. In addition, volunteers enjoy the camaraderie of assisting in preparing for the receptions, and those who attend the events seem to appreciate the opportunity to gather as a church family in a relaxed casual atmosphere where they can meet new people and strengthen their bonds with fellow parishioners.

If you enjoy entertaining and feel moved to contribute to the Hospitality Committee's ministry, please contact Doris, Brent, or the Parish Office.

—Doris Dixon and Brent Minor, Co-Chairs

# Men's Group

The Christ Church Men's Group values the chance for friendship, honest conversation, and service, with the understanding that all these aspects are important to an adult's formation as a Christian.

The group usually meets monthly, bringing together men of diverse ages and walks of life. When it was formed, the group organized evenings that included take-out food and discussion of a chosen text—either a passage from the Bible or some other source of spiritual insight.

The pandemic halted most of these activities, but the group maintained its connection through a series of memorable Zoom discussions. The men read and discussed *Bystanders* by Victoria Barnett, which explored the psychology and behavior of ordinary German citizens who essentially fell silent as Hitler's murderous program unfolded in Europe. The Men's Group held a subsequent meeting to explore how similar patterns were in evidence in the U.S. during the Jim Crow era of segregation and racial oppression.

Since September, the group has resumed in-person meetings, with social distancing, organizing discussions around a theme of "amendment of life," a phrase in *The Book of Common Prayer* that follows confession and absolution. Individuals and societies embark on amendment-of-life processes regularly, but only after some process of taking stock. Discussions have included viewpoints from a historian and New Testament scholar, and will continue in 2021.

The Men's Group has assisted with the Georgetown Ministry Center's Winter Shelter, preparing and serving meals and generally helping to welcome and support the overnight guests, although COVID has again halted the traveling shelter, which shifted between local churches for two-week periods. As COVID cases decline, vaccines reach more Washington residents, and restrictions ease, the Christ Church Men's Group will discern areas of community service where the group can make a contribution.

—Tim Carrington, Coordinator

# Young Adults Ministry

The young adults group at Christ Church encompasses parishioners in their 20s, 30s, or 40s who wish to form stronger connections with each other and with Christ. In 2021, the group met for monthly social functions, including happy hours at nearby restaurants and several homes of parishioners in the neighborhood. During Lent, the Rev. Andrew Kryzak led the group in a Bible study over Zoom based on the letters of Paul. Other members participated in the 10:00 a.m. Bible study held at the church beginning in the fall. Next year, as we prayerfully hope the pandemic will wane, the group plans to return to participating with its service partners, including St. Philip's Child Development Center and Georgetown Ministry Center's Winter Shelter.

—Julia Ainsley, Coordinator

# **Education and Formation**

# **Contemplative Life Ministry**

The Contemplative Life Ministry at Christ Church seeks to provide parishioners and others with the opportunity to learn about and experience various forms of contemplative practice. We work with the clergy to support individual and congregational spiritual growth, drawing on Christian writers and theologians who have focused on silent prayer, Christian meditation, and lectio divina, a centuries-old approach to praying with scripture. Participants in the Contemplative Life Ministry maintain ties with Episcopal monastic communities through time spent at their retreat houses, regular communication, and the shared life of prayer. During 2021, we offered several opportunities to the parish, including an Epiphany Quiet Afternoon (via Zoom) entitled "Making Manifest: Seeing, Saying, Showing"; a Sunday afternoon Lenten series (in person) entitled "Prayer Amidst Complexity and Confusion"; and in early autumn, a series of five conversations (in person, in the garden) called "The Sacred in the Ordinary," focused on contemporary poets and their observations about everyday graces and challenges in relation to the life of faith. For more information about the Contemplative Life Ministry, contact parishioners Merrill Carrington, Bill Burns, or Missy Daniel.

-Merrill Carrington, Chair

# **Parish Bible Study**

The Parish Bible Study met during the fall of 2021 for six sessions during which we explored parables from both the Old and New Testaments. It was a rich and informative program as we enjoyed spending time in God's Word together. Parables are meant to be pondered and puzzled over, always offering fresh insights with each new examination, and that certainly proved true for us. On February 6, 2022, we will begin a new course which will focus on the Book of James. Over the course of six sessions we will take a deep dive into the theology of James and the practical implications for our daily lives as committed Christians. Whether you're a Biblical scholar, new to the study of Scripture, or somewhere in between, you are most welcome to join us!

# Women's Bible Study

The Women's Bible Study continued its tradition of meeting for learning and fellowship throughout the program year, albeit via Zoom. In 2021, the group looked closely at two books, Thomas Moore's Care of the Soul and

Galatians by N.T. Wright. We were fortunate to have the opportunity to have Thomas Moore attend our last meeting and share his insights on the 25th anniversary of the book's publication. A former Catholic monk and a therapist for the past 35 years, as well as a regular on Oprah's Super Soul Sunday broadcast, Moore fuses faith and psychology in a way that challenges us to have empathy for all. We were equally excited to discover our own Ernest Clark quoted in N.T. Wright's new Christian formation book, Paul's letter to the Galatians. Ernest graciously agreed to join us for our book study and shared invaluable wisdom on St. Paul's seminal work. He expertly answered all our questions and gave us a fresh perspective on the struggles of the early church. The Women's Bible Study warmly welcomes all women of the parish to join in its rich discussions and lively meetings as we seek to grow and serve our Lord.

—The Reverend Melissa Hollerith

# Seminarian Lay Committee

The year 2021 was a very different year for our committee from any normal year. Firstly, our lay convener moved to a new role of committee member. Our committee is intact and all members are still fully engaged and providing their time and dedication. We got a new seminarian, who is older than our past seminarians and whose calling is a second career. In addition to being an accomplished lawyer, he is also a gifted preacher and has an excellent presence and presentation from both the pulpit and while reading. We are so very proud to have Michael Alford as our current seminarian. Michael is in his second year (Middler) at Virginia Theological Seminary (VTS) while studying for his Master's in Divinity. He is in the class of 2023. Michael comes to us from the Diocese of Southwest Florida. As we get to know Michael, and he us, we are discovering he has true passion for service and community. Michael has thrown himself into parish life, not only taking on preaching and behind-the-altar duties, but also volunteering his time to help with the Soup Kitchen and leading a Sunday morning class.

Due to the various dictates and rules around the pandemic our committee has met twice in person and twice virtually, seamlessly handled as we navigate the new rhythms of both virtual and physical meetings, co-blended to suit our new times. If you have not yet had the opportunity to meet Michael Alford, please seek him out and make yourself known to him.

# **Youth and Family Ministries**



# Youth and Family Ministries Committee

Greetings! The year 2021 was no doubt trying for all. Nonetheless, our parish each and every day continued to offer heartfelt spiritual support and community, both virtually and safely in person. The unique role Christ Church played, and continues to play, reminds me that indeed, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) Amen, friends.

In my first six months as Interim Youth and Family Minister, we continued to deal with the various difficulties, strife, and challenges of the times in which we live. But, amid and above everything, I witnessed countless moments of Christ's Light shining brightly in our children, youth, and families.

For those wondrous moments and the many precious people who made them possible, I am forever grateful: our volunteer Youth and Family Ministry Co-Chairs, Amy and Michael Dean, and the entire YFM Committee; all our Sunday School teachers; our Team Nursery Care; and all our children and youth.

—Chrissy Casey, Interim Youth and Family Minister

# **Babywise**

Families with young children are vital to the fabric of Christ Church. Babywise offers fellowship and community among new and expecting parents, who share similar joys and struggles as they introduce their little ones to what will be a lifelong relationship with the faith.

Babywise hosted its inaugural Music & Movement Class in the Parish Hall's Nursery on December 11, 2021. Nehemiah Hilliard, Nursery Care Assistant, and I welcomed six children, infants through age 3, along with their parents and one grandma, to the Nursery. Laura Petersen—professional music educator and member of our choir—led children in developmentally seasonally appropriate motions and songs. Children and parents enjoyed faith and fellowship. They also experienced first-hand our delightful Nursery, the place where our littlest parishioners are cared for each Sunday morning. We hope to host more such gatherings in 2022!

# **Nursery Care**

The Nursery happily reopened in August 2021 after a lengthy hiatus. Sadly, though, on October 16, our dear and long devoted Lead Nursery Care Teacher, Doris Gant, passed away. She is greatly missed, but her love and cheerful dedication to our littlest parishioners lives on through the service of everyone who has stepped in these past few months, providing wonderful care for all our Nursery attendees! I continue to seek the expansion of our Team Nursery Care.

# Sunday School and Youth Education

Our 2021–2022 program year began with the commissioning of Sunday School teachers and blessing of children and youth on Sunday, September 19. Classes began, meeting in person, on Sunday mornings starting September 26 and continued to Christmas Break.

As we continue to adapt to life in the time of COVID, our class sizes have been small in numbers, though registration is growing each month. Our innovative and caring teams of volunteer teachers support children's faith development and encourage health and wellness in the classroom.

Since September, masks have been and continue to be worn by all students and teachers during indoor sessions. We employ extra cleaning and abundant use of hand sanitizing and washing. We also encourage those who are feeling unwell to remain at home, assuring them that they'll be with us in spirit and in our prayers. Each class continues to have a pre-assigned Sunday once a month to hold class outdoors in the Church Garden.

Each Sunday School teacher has a binder of the lessons and supplemental teaching materials and a classroom stocked with teaching supplies, hand sanitizer, tissues, and disinfecting products. Class curricula are:

#### **Godly Play (Age 3 through Grade 1)**

Godly Play introduces children to the seminal stories of the Old and New Testaments and to the parables with small figures and objects that illustrate the teacher's narration.

#### Spark (Grades 2-4)

Our Spark class is based on the lectionary for the week, with reading, discussion, and a worksheet or craft.

#### Connect (Grades 5 & 6)

The Connect class is a two-year course of the major arcs of the Old and New Testaments. In the first trimester our Connect students have learned through reading, video, discussion, and various activities about the beginnings of our relationship with God in Genesis, and God's promises to Abraham and his descendants.

#### **Youth Programming (Grades 7-12)**

The Sticky Faith class (Grades 7 & 8) meets our middle school students where they are with hard questions about faith. The curriculum is based on a discussion of these questions in a biblical context and follows the baptismal prayer for an inquiring mind and a discerning heart, rather than providing a set answer or shying away from difficult discussions. New this year is the incorporation of the text, *The User's Guide to The Holy Eucharist: Rites I & II*, which allows teachers to guide their students to deeper understanding of the liturgy and *The Book of Common Prayer*, exploring word meaning, context, and history.

Our High School class (Grades 9–12) is a student-led and teacher-guided discussion of topics of the day and what it means to live as a Christian in our daily lives. Youth acolyting, lectoring, and participation in Soup Kitchen and Grate Patrol are highlights for this age group. High schoolers meet at 10:00 a.m. on the 1st, 2nd, and 4th Sundays. On the 3rd Sunday, they gather at 4:00 p.m. in

the Auditorium for a mini-class and prayer, followed by volunteering with Soup Kitchen and Grate Patrol.

Since November, we have been and continue to plan for a mission trip to Appalachia in June, 2022. We ran two fundraisers: Christmas greens sales and the sale of Christ Church Christmas tree ornaments. (Ornaments arrived just in time for Christmas Eve; they are available for purchase through Christmas 2022.)

This program year, we implemented a new Sunday School start time of 9:00 a.m. Classes take place during the first half of the regular 9:00 a.m. service. At 9:40 a.m., students are led by their teachers back into church to join their families for Holy Communion and the remainder of the service. All 9:00 a.m. service attendees are then invited to enjoy a 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour in the Auditorium. This format balances faith formation in the classroom with worship in the church for our children and youth, allows greater opportunity for middle schoolers and high schoolers to participate as youth acolytes and lectors, and provides welcoming fellowship during the post-service Coffee Hour for all attendees.

# **Worship Ministries**

Autumn saw the return of youth acolytes and lectors and families serving as gift bearers at the 9:00 a.m. services, and families donating snacks to support the 10:00 a.m. coffee hours. At present, our number of youth acolytes enables us to have a crucifer only during the 9:00 a.m. service. We hope to return to full accompaniment in 2022. In addition to 9:00 a.m. Sunday services, our youth also participate in special liturgies, including the Christmas Pageant, Service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas, and the Christingle service.

# **Youth Confirmation**

Our youth confirmation program invites all youth grades 7 and above to explore their faith and engage in fellowship through a series of classes in the following areas: sacraments, mission, worship, Episcopal tradition, church history, and prayer. While education is a large component of each class, great emphasis is also placed on creating sacred community and promoting healthy engagement with personal faith. To that end, each confirmand selected a mentor to walk with them through their journey; this mentor experience gave each young person the chance to hear firsthand someone's faith narrative and to ask questions. Classes were held from January through April, with confirmation occurring in May. The Reverend Melissa Hollerith led the course and classes were taught by the clergy of Christ Church.

#### **Outreach**

#### **Mission Committee**

The Mission Committee in the 2021 program year had a budget of \$140,000 which went toward 20 gifts to organizations sponsored by Christ Church Georgetown parishioners. The committee has no set criteria when making its recommendations for funding to the Vestry, but committee members typically take into account the potential impact of the funds, the level of parish interest and involvement in the organization, the parish's history of supporting the same or similar organizations, and the organization's proximity to the DC area if it is not one of the international charities. The committee also separates applications into substantive categories and looks at the amount of funding for each category in an attempt to reflect the feeling of the parish toward different aspects of mission and ministry. This year, the committee recommended that 35% of funds go to local schools, 28% to housing and homelessness programs in the DC area, 16% to job training and life skills programs in the DC area, 16% to charities working internationally (primarily in Africa and Central America), and 5% to support animal welfare. Twenty partners were selected by the committee:

Afghan Stray Animal League (Animal Welfare): \$1,500 Bishop Walker School (Local Schools): \$40,000 Breadcoin Foundation (Housing and Homelessness): \$3,000

BUILD Metro DC (Job Training and Life Skills): \$3,000

Capital Clubhouse (Job Training and Life Skills): \$3,000

Community of St. Mary (Eastern Province and Malawi, Africa) (International): \$2,500

Free Minds Book Club and Writing Workshop (Job Training and Life Skills): \$4,500

Friends of Honduras USA (International): \$8,000

Georgetown Ministry Center (Housing and

Homelessness): \$23,000

Georgetown Senior Center (Housing and Homelessness): \$3,500

Humane Rescue Alliance (Animal Welfare): \$4,500 Innocents at Risk (International): \$4,500

Joseph's House (Housing and Homelessness): \$5,000 Jubilee Jobs (Job Training and Life Skills): \$7,000 Mpambara-Cox Foundation, Inc. (International):

\$7,000

New Futures (Job Training and Life Skills): \$5,000 Pets with Disabilities (Animal Welfare): \$1,000 Seabury Resource for Aging (Housing and Homelessness): \$5,000

St. Phillip's Child Development Center (Local Schools): \$6,000

Washington School for Girls (Local Schools): \$3,000

The committee also organizes the Advent Angel Tree, which this year supported Horton's Kids, Seabury Resources for Aging, Bishop Walker School, Pets with Disabilities, and the Afghan Stray Animal League. We committed to providing 200 gifts or contributions to the organizations, and all of the wishes were fulfilled in December.

The Mission Committee is now comfortably operating with term limits for both members and chairs. Members serve for 3-year terms and chairs rotate each year. If you have any questions about the mission committee process or how to submit an application next year, please reach out to any of the committee members listed below or to John Alexander.

Committee members for 2021 included: John Alexander (Chair), Frances Symes (Co-Chair), Martha Chapman, Marlin Dohlman, Ray Harry, David McKnight, Mary Margaret Plumridge, Rick Shewell, Nancy Sidamon-Eristoff, Maureen Straut, and John Van Voorhis. Five new members will replace those who rotated off the committee in December.

—John Alexander, Chair

#### Saint Francis Guild

In 2021 the Saint Francis Guild (SFG) celebrated the tenth anniversary of its founding at Christ Church. Owing to the ongoing pandemic, with one exception, the group continued to meet virtually this year every few months and otherwise conducted business via email.

At our January Zoom meeting we were joined by Emily Moose, now the executive director of A Greener World (AGW), which operates the only certification program for humane standards in the meat/poultry/dairy industry that is recognized as reliable by the top animal welfare organizations in the United States. She spoke about the unreliability of most animal product food labeling and



why AGW's Animal Welfare Approved certification is the gold standard.

Throughout the year invitations to online webinars and interviews hosted by Mission Partner Humane Rescue Alliance (HRA, Washington, DC's animal shelter) and CreatureKind (a non-profit that encourages Christians to recognize faith-based reasons for caring about the wellbeing of animals used for food) were promoted to the group. The exceptionally animal-friendly, daily Morning Prayer services by Canterbury Cathedral's Dean Robert Willis on YouTube were also frequently brought to the members' attention. Significant news articles related to animals were shared with the group too.

As the pandemic continued and the situation in Afghanistan deteriorated this year, we corresponded frequently with HRA and the Afghan Stray Animal League (ASAL).

In June, members of the SFG provided foster homes for four ASAL shelter cats that were evacuated from Kabul. The group also helped promote the placement of about five ASAL evacuee dogs as well. As the Afghan government fell to Taliban forces later that summer, ASAL kept us apprised of their amended operations which included dispersing about 40 shelter dogs to more remote locations and suspending their sheltering project for wounded donkeys.

In September, the SFG participated in the church's Homecoming celebration by having an informational table on O Street.

The October Blessing of the Animals marked SFG's official tenth anniversary, which the Rector recognized at the beginning of the service. Representatives from ASAL and HRA attended the event. We had another informational table on that occasion and kicked off a

pet supplies drive to benefit HRA's Pet Pantry Program, which provides free pet food and accessories to needy pet owners in DC.

On November 7 the group hosted a celebratory coffee hour following the 11:15 service, at which the much-complimented refreshments were 100% plant-based, i.e., vegan. For the occasion, CCG Sunday School students made "Happy Anniversary" colorings which hung in Keith Hall, and a commemorative video, created by one of the group's newest members and still viewable at https://bit.ly/SFGanniversary, played throughout the reception. Later that month SFG members gathered in person (for the first time in about two years) for a party to celebrate our first decade.

During Advent, the SFG was honored that CCG Mission Partners ASAL and PWD were chosen to be among the beneficiaries of this year's Advent Angel Program. Parishioners donated 25 gifts to each organization, and the ASAL supplies made it to Afghanistan just prior to Christmas!

Also in December, the church's Mission Committee gifted a total of \$6,000 to Mission Partners ASAL, HRA, and PWD.

The SFG invites (via the weekly church email) the full Christ Church congregation to all of its meetings and welcomes new members. For information about the group or to join its mailing list, contact Sheila Ward.

—Sheila Ward, Chair

# **Feeding Ministries**

We get to love our neighbors because of the love you give so generously. It is because of your love and the incredibly kind, faithful, and generous hearts of each one of you, supporting us wholly and intentionally in thought, word, and deed, that we carry out the work of these vital ministries, new and old. We deeply thank you for your prayerful and steadfast support, especially in this challenging year, and as we navigate forward in the way of God's commandments. Thank you, from all of us, from the depths of our hearts.

#### Soup Kitchen

Prior to the pandemic, the Christ Church Soup Kitchen, in partnership with the Salvation Army Grate Patrol, prepared and delivered over 3,000 meals annually to

vulnerable women and men living on the streets of Washington, DC. While the pandemic halted our ability to continue this 20-year tradition, many volunteers participated in the Saturday Night Supper program until we were able to resume working together in the kitchen. In September of this year, volunteers picked up where they left off and are again preparing and distributing meals on the third Sunday of each month. As our volunteer force returns, we plan to add a second day to our schedule. We hope you will join us in 2022 to help us serve the less fortunate. No cooking skills are required, just a warm heart and a willingness to serve others.

#### **Winter Shelter**

For over 25 years, Christ Church parishioners welcomed vulnerable neighbors into our parish home where they were provided food and shelter. The safety of our guests and volunteers required the Georgetown Ministry Center (GMC) to make the difficult decision to suspend the Winter Shelter for the 2020–2021 season. In its place, GMC developed "GMC Extends," which provides food and essential items during the winter season, but without overnight accommodations. Partner churches raise money to provide the meals. Christ Church provided financial support for the meals during our normal three weeks of Winter Shelter in March of 2021. With the rise of the Omicron variant, GMC will offer GMC Extends again in 2022. Our volunteers will raise money to purchase meals from local restaurants. Those meals will be delivered directly to GMC, where trained staffers will provide meals to guests each night. We hope you will support this important mission with a donation to the Winter Shelter. To contribute, visit www.christchurchgeorgetown.org. Select Donate at the top of the screen, enter the amount, and select Soup Kitchen from the Fund dropdown box. Please include "Winter Shelter" in the memo field.

-Rick Shewell, Winter Shelter Chair

# Thrift Shop Guild

The Christ Church, Georgetown, Thrift Shop reopened on October 6, 2021, after being closed for 19 months. The shop's staff is very grateful to all the Christ Church parishioners for their many donations and we look forward to a busy and profitable 2022.

-Millie Coleman, Chair

# **Finance Reports**

# Stewardship Committee Report

First and foremost, the Stewardship Committee heartily thanks every Christ Church member who pledged for 2022. The Stewardship Committee began the fiscal year 2022 pledge campaign in late September with letters arriving in homes and the Rector delivering a homily focused on stewardship. The campaign for fiscal year 2022 pledges included two objectives: enlisting more first-time pledge-makers to help grow participation in the pledge program above 35%; and, asking that regular pledgers consider increasing their generosity as their circumstances permit. Progress toward achieving these can reduce the share of endowment earnings used to fund ordinary operations. This should make the endowment a more resilient asset during market downturns and allow a larger share of endowment earnings to be directed toward maintaining and preserving our beautiful historic buildings and to growing the congregation.

As of January 31, 2022, 361 individuals and households had made pledges for 2022 pledges, totaling \$1,371,186. This compares with 342 pledges, totaling \$1,358,610, for the 2021 pledge campaign.

To gain a better understanding of how the congregation understands and views pledging, in August and September the Stewardship Committee conducted a survey using an online platform and cards placed in pews. One hundred and twenty-two parishioners responded to the survey. A written report was presented to the Vestry and summarized for the parish in emails distributed in early October.

The overall takeaway from the survey is that parishioners are eager to support our church financially and are interested in learning more about parish finances and the pledge program. Most were not aware that in recent years, an average of approximately 35% of church members made annual pledges.

One response to survey findings was a series of weekly emails from the Stewardship Committee updating on results, recognizing and thanking pledgers by name, sharing personal perspectives about stewardship from parishioners who pledge, and providing enhanced transparency about parish finances and pledging.

As co-chairs, we want to express our deep appreciation to all members of the Stewardship Committee who worked tirelessly to contact many, many parishioners despite challenges to giving posed by inflation and the Omicron variant, and to personally thank each and every pledger.

Our thanks go out to committee members Newman Ainsley, Benjamin and Kim Dean, Rupert Hammond-Chambers, Thomas Hardy, Rodney Hood, Charlie Ingersoll, Brent Minor, Chip Oat, Catherine Onnen, Anne Randolph, James Rojek, and Sally Squires Wilhelm.

> —Thomas D. Casey and Shelley Church Rodgers, Co-Chairs

# **Investment Committee Report**

The Christ Church Georgetown Endowment Fund had a total return of 16.2% in 2021 and was valued at \$18,740,725 at year end. The year was characterized by strong U.S. equity and real estate returns and flat returns from both non-U.S. stocks and the fixed-income sector.

The Endowment Fund is managed by the Christ Church Investment Committee through investments in low-cost index funds and actively managed mutual funds. The portfolio is broadly diversified among all asset classes and investment styles.

Each year, the Endowment Fund transfers funds to the Church's Operating Account in support of all programs and building maintenance. The amount transferred is determined by calculating 5% of the average of the Endowment Fund's last three year-end values. In 2021, \$744,097 was transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Operating Account.

Since 1982, the Endowment Fund has grown in value from \$776,753 to the current \$18,740,725. Also during this time period, a total of \$13,053,112 has been transferred from the Endowment Fund to the Operating Account.

—Terrence W. Collins, Chair

# Treasurer's Report

2021 was a year of exceptional challenges to every church's finances. At Christ Church, however, through the extraordinary faithfulness and generosity of the congregation, the Parish weathered the COVID-19 storm and emerged in sound financial condition.

The budgeted pledge revenue of was reduced to \$1,245,000 due to the results of the 2020–2021

Stewardship Campaign, and budgeted expenses were reduced accordingly. Ultimately, actual pledge revenues exceeded budget by a modest amount (\$9,319). In all, total revenues fell short of final budgeted total revenues by approximately \$105,000, but this is largely due to a reduction in endowment income as we did not take the full budgeted draw.

Offsetting these reduced total revenues, however, the unfortunate curtailment of church activities caused by the pandemic resulted in significant savings, most notably in music, education, parish life and general operations. The expense savings were partially offset, for example,

by increased communication expense associated with virtual worship. Fortunately, important priorities, such as outreach, both mission and to the diocese, were not significantly affected. For 2022, the operating budget is constructed with the expectation that full parish activities will occur throughout the year.

On balance, the parish's operating financial statements for 2021 show a small surplus. The following table presents salient categories of budget and actual revenue and expense for 2021 and the comparable numbers for the 2022 budget.

—C. Allen Foster, Treasurer

	Budget	<u>Actual</u>	Budget
REVENUES	2021	2021	2022
Plate	\$122,500	\$144,853	\$126,000
Pledge Revenue	1,245,000	1,254,319	1,400,000
Other Contributions	100,000	133,380	100,000
Endowment Draw	744,097	669,278	829,966
Other Revenues	22,600	37,328	36,100
Transfer to Reserves	(237,500)	(347,500)	(232,500)
TOTAL REVENUES	1,996,697	1,891,658	2,259,566
EXPENSES			
Ministry	885,069	808,588	921,685
Administration	460,122	417,129	500,462
Property	405,831	388,263	504,438
Outreach (mission)	130,000	129,500	133,000
Diocesan Pledge	113,275	113,275	113,275
TOTAL EXPENSES	1,996,697	1,858,244	2,175,860
(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS	0	33,414	83,706

#### NOTES

- 1. Figures are not intended to add to totals but, rather, are intended to give budget and actual highlights.
- 2. 2021 Budget and Actual include \$10,000 and \$18,112, respectively, in pledge dollars paid in 2021 for 2020.
- 3. As a result of the Bishop's thoughtful direction that all Parishes put their own finances above their Diocesan pledge, Christ Church's Diocesan contribution was reduced from a budgeted \$135,000 to \$113,275 for 2020 and held at that level for 2021 and 2022.
- 4. As of December 31, pledges for 2022 had been prepaid in the amount of \$217,336. As of December 31, 2020, the comparable amount was \$198,121. The amount for December 31, 2021, is not included in 2021 revenues and will be reflected in 2022 budget and actual pledge revenue.
- 5. In 2021 the Vestry authorized the creation of a replacement reserve to fund significant deferred maintenance and future capital projects. In 2021, \$340,000 was placed in the replacement reserve. The 2022 budget provides for transfers of \$240,000. These transfers consist of \$90,000 from the endowment draw and the balance from the property depreciation account.
- 6. The approximately 15% increase in the 2022 budget was made possible by the success of the 2021–2022 Stewardship Campaign.
- 7. All figures are preliminary and subject to audit.

# **List of Pledgers for 2022**

The annual pledge campaign for 2022 succeeded in growing the number of commitments made, adding more new pledgers, securing increased generosity from regular pledgers, and raising more money for ordinary expenses than the preceding year. Work done by Stewardship Committee volunteers in 2021 and during January 2022 and the congregation's response to enhanced transparency and several innovations have laid a solid foundation for renewed growth in the Christ Church pledge program. On behalf of the congregation, the Stewardship Committee extends sincere and deep gratitude to 361 members of the church for pledging (as of 5:00 p.m. on January 31, 2022) a total of \$1,371,186 in support of the 2022 operating budget.

Ms. Susan D. Adams Mr. & Mrs. John Cochran Mr. & Mrs. Paul Gambal Mr. Randolph Adams Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Cockburn Mrs. Francesca Gamondi Mr. Thomas L. Adams, Jr. The Reverend & Mrs. Timothy A.R. Cole Mr. Philip Gignoux & Ms. Mary Alice Keinjan Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Adams, III Miss Millie C. Coleman Mr. M. Tyson Gilpin Ms. Catherine Ahmad Mr. & Mrs. Terence Collins Mr. & Mrs. John Gilstad Mr. & Mrs. Newman Ainsley Mr. & Mrs. Robert Connolly Mr. Marshall Ginn Mr. & Mrs. William Akridge Mr. & Mrs. Edward Connor Mr. & Mrs. Ian Glenday Mr. John Alexander Mr. & Mrs. David Copenhaver Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Gossens Mrs. C. Lee Allen Mrs. Roger Cortesi Mr. William Gould & Ms. Michelle Flournoy Mr. Will Andersen Mr. & Mrs. James M. Costan Ms. Anne Grambsch Dr. & Mrs. John Duke Anthony Mrs. Temple Grassi Mr. Henry Courtney Mr. & Mrs. Michael Applin The Honorable & Mrs. William Courtney The Honorable C. Boyden Gray Mr. & Mrs. Geoffrey Baker Mr. R. Emory Cox Miss Stephanie Green Mr. & Mrs. Edmund Bartlett, III Mr. Miles Cox Mr. & Mrs. Patrick Gross Mr. & Mrs. George Bavin Mr. & Mrs. Paul Cox Ms. Ann Haas Mr. & Mrs. Tim Beall Mrs. Warren J. Cox Miss Lydia Hackert Mr. Edward Bentley Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Crocker Mr. & Mrs. Stephen Hadley Mrs. Jane Berkeley Ms. Katherine Culpin & Mr. Anil Cabraal Mr. & Mrs. Thomas W. Hague Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Best Mr. David Cunningham Mr. Newman T. Halvorson, Jr. Rear Admiral & Mrs. David Bill Mr. Christopher Cushing & Mr. Stan Kelly Mr. Rupert Hammond-Chambers Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Binder Ms. Martha Dale Mr. John Hand & Ms. Dare Hartwell Mr. & Mrs. Richard Bland Mr. & Mrs. Benjamin Dean Mrs. JoAnn Hanson Mrs. Suzanne Block Mr. & Mrs. Michael Dean Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hardy Dr. Elizabeth Bluhm Mr. & Mrs. Eli Debevoise Mr. L. Ray Harry & Mrs. Sheila Ward Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Bourne Ms. Lindsey de la Torre Mr. Michael Hart Mr. & Mrs. Matt Boyse Mr. Mark Dennis & Mrs. Katherine Bliss Mr. & Mrs. Charles Hartley Ms. Carolyn Brandt Mrs. Doris Dixon Mr. & Mrs. Russell Hensley Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Breckenridge Mr. Neal B. Herman Mr. & Mrs. Peter Dohlman Miss Anna M. Brooke Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Doughty Mr. Mark E. Hess Mr. & Mrs. F. Eugene Hiigel Mr. William Brubeck Mr. & Mrs. Ethan Drath Ms. Nancy Bubes Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. DuBois Mr. & Ms. Graham Hill Mrs. Wiley T. Buchanan, III Mrs. Robert Duemling Mr. & Mrs. John A. Hodges Mrs. I. Townsend Burden Mr. David Dunn & The Honorable Amy Bondurant Mr. & Mrs. Addison Holladay Mr. William R. Burns, Ir. & Ms. Katherine Earls Mr. Samuel C.O. Holt The Reverend Catherine Ballinger Burns Mr. & Mrs. James Earnest Mr. Rodney E. Hood Mrs. Juan Cameron Mr. George Eatman Ms. Laura Hornbuckle Mr. & Mrs. Scott Campbell Miss Elizabeth L. Elser Dr. Stephen T. Hosmer Mr. & Mrs. James Cannon, IV Dr. Christine V. Emery Mrs. Rebecca Houston Mr. & Mrs. Gregory Carlsen Miss Anna-Stina Ericson Mr. & Mrs. Chris Hull Mrs. E. A. Carmean Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Falatko Mr. Byron Hurst Ms. Mary Carrick Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Fellowes Mr. & Mrs. Charles S. Ingersoll, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Timothy T. Carrington Mr. & Mrs. Russell Firestone, III Dr. Kay R. Jamison Mr. & Mrs. Blaine Dawson Carter Mrs. Natalia Fominykh Mrs. Lois Jecklin Ms. Veronica M. Carter Mr. & Mrs. Allen Foster

Mr. & Mrs. James Caughman Ms. Faya Causey Mrs. Britta Chambers Dr. Barbara Chang-Wai-Ling Mr. & Mrs. Christopher K. Chapin

Mrs. Kevin P. Charles Dr. & Mrs. Alexander Chester

Mr. & Mrs. Thomas D. Casey

Mr. Ernest Clark

Ms. C. Terrell Fuller Mr. James Fuller, III & Ms. Catherine Porter

Mr. Eric Fraunfelter & Mrs. Harriet Sweeney

Mr. & Mrs. Robert P. Gabriel

Mr. & Mrs. John D. Fox

Mr. & Mrs. Luke Frels

Mr. John Froemming

Mr. & Mrs. John Frerotte

Mr. & Mrs. Adam Fromm

Ms. Pamela A. Jenkinson Mr. Michael Johns-Hennessy & Mr. Bowman Johns-Hennessy Admiral & Mrs. Jay Johnson Major Chase Johnson, USMC &

Ms. Giulia di Marzo Mr. & Mrs. Paul Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Robert Johnson Mr. & Mrs. Peter H. Jost

The Honorable & Mrs. Robert W. Kasten, Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Frederic R. Kellogg Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Nichols Ms. Jean Smith Mr. Floyd Norton, IV & Ms. Kathleen Patterson Mr. & Mrs. Stephen G. Smith Mr. Adam Kemerer & Mr. Josiah Osgood Ms. Evelina Norwinski Mr. Thomas P. Smith & Mr. John C. Barnes, IV Ms. Beverly Kirk Ms. Lucy Kitchin Mrs. Hubert K. O'Bannon Mr. Eric & The Reverend M. Henninger Steadman Mr. Wallace Kornack & Dr. March Enders Mrs. Farrand M. O'Donoghue Mr. & Mrs. John Stephens Mr. & Mrs. John T. Korsmo Mr. & Mrs. Charles Oat Ms. Sherry Stephenson Mr. & Mrs. Kipp Kranbuhl Mr. & Mrs. Jorge Ochoa Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stettinius Mr. & Mrs. John Kroeger Mr. & Mrs. Ferdinand Onnen Mrs. Alice Fales Stewart Mr. & Mrs. P. Welles Orr Mr. & Mrs. Matthew Kroenig Mr. & Mrs. Edward Stewart The Reverend & Mrs. Andrew A. Kryzak Ms. Terry Parmelee Ms. Margaret Stewart Mrs. Michael Parrish Mr. Randall Stewart Mrs. Nanci Kryzak Mr. & Mrs. John D. Kunsman Mr. & Mrs. David Patterson Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Stifel Ms. Eve Lake Mr. Malcolm E. 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Lonergan Mr. & Mrs. Frederick Longwood Mr. Sean Randall & Ms. Jaclyn Mason Mr. & Mrs. Jonathan Talcott Mr. Jeffrey Tarkenton Ms. Angela M. LoRe Mr. & Mrs. Joshua Randle Mrs. Celia Lovell Ms. Anne Randolph Mr. & Mrs. Bernard D. Tarr, Jr. Mr. & Mrs. Brian Lucas Mr. Robert Randolph Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Taylor Mr. & Mrs. Donald Scott Lurding Mr. & Mrs. John Range Mr. & Mrs. G. Richard Thompson Mr. & Mrs. John D. Lytle Mr. & Mrs. Firoze Rao Mr. & Mrs. Henry Thompson Mr. John D. Macomber Mr. & Mrs. Garrett G. Rasmussen Mr. & Mrs. Robert Thompson Mr. & Mrs. C. King Mallory Mr. & Mrs. James P. Rathvon Mr. & Mrs. Tyler Thompson Dr. & Mrs. Alan R. Mandel Mr. & Mrs. John Richardson Mr. & Mrs. Matt Thomson Mr. & Mrs. J. Scott Marquardt Mr. & Mrs. Charles Thorley Mr. & Mrs. Richard Riddell Mr. & Mrs. I. Guyman Martin, III Mr. & Mrs. Clifton E. Rodgers Mrs. Marion Thorley Mr. I. 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Mr. & Mrs. Howard W. Smith, III

Mrs. Lynn Nicholas

Mr. & Mrs. Jack Zoeller



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