



2025 Annual Reports



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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Our Mission

To engage, equip, and empower people to love God, care for each other
and serve the world in the name of Christ.

Our Vision

We aspire to be Christ's Church in the world.

Our Core Values

We are a Christ-centered Episcopal Church rooted in scripture, tradition and reason;
respectful of and strengthened by our differences. We are committed to being a
loving community of support and spiritual growth; being faithful stewards of God's
many blessings; and using God's gifts to serve the needs of our community and world.
We are inspired by the belief that with God's help we will accomplish whatever God calls us to do.

(Adopted by the Vestry, 2007)

2025 VESTRY

Carl Showalter, *Senior Warden*
Ginny Cobb, *Junior Warden*
Dick Parkhurst, *Treasurer*

Amanda Anders
Jose Costa
Charlie Deacon
JD Ey
Lise Hinton
Laurie Howell
Arrington Mixon
Randall Mountcastle
Allison Popp
Margaret Siegel
Beeland Voellinger
Ned Waller
John Wickham

RECTOR'S REPORT

The Reverend Chip Edens

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a remarkable one in the life of Christ Church— a year marked by deepening faith, widening connection, and a growing commitment to wellbeing for all. In a time when many congregations are experiencing decline, disengagement, and fragmentation, we give thanks to God for the vitality, trust, and shared purpose that continue to shape our life together.

Faith

Across the country, participation in organized religion continues to decline, particularly among young adults and families. Yet at Christ Church, we witnessed renewed spiritual momentum. Average weekly attendance increased, reflecting not only growth, but deeper engagement.

Our worship life was lifted by soaring music and exceptional leadership across traditions. More than 100 children participated in our children's music programs— an extraordinary sign of hope and formation in an era when fewer children are connected to congregational life. We also celebrated the launch of a new handbell choir, expanding intergenerational participation and musical excellence.

Contemporary music flourished as well, grounding both the Contemporary and Discovery services with theological depth, accessibility, and energy — and children everywhere! Formation also deepened across the parish through growing participation in small groups and strong attendance at Faith Forums featuring wise and challenging speakers. Topics ranged from Scripture and theology to marriage, parenting, and the challenges facing our city — demonstrating a hunger for faith that speaks thoughtfully to real life.

Connection

At a time when loneliness and social isolation are widely recognized as a public health crisis, connection has become one of Christ Church's defining strengths.

This year we hosted a significantly increased number of fellowship and community-building events designed to foster belonging across generations and life stages. From newcomer gatherings to seasonal celebrations like Trunk or Treat, from young adult events to opportunities for seniors, participation and energy rose across the board.

Nationally, fewer than one-third of churchgoers report having a close friend in their congregation. Christ Church continues to defy that trend, functioning not simply as a place people attend, but as a community where relationships are formed, deepened, and sustained. Newcomers are welcomed intentionally and invited into meaningful pathways of connection, service, and leadership— strengthening the relational fabric that makes faith durable.

Wellbeing for All

As wellbeing challenges rise nationwide, Christ Church has become a trusted and visible source of care. This year we saw a significant increase in counseling sessions, referrals, and participation in wellbeing classes and workshops. This growth reflects not only increased need, but increased trust—people know they can turn to Christ Church for compassionate, confidential, and faith-grounded support.

Participation spanned ages and life stages, affirming wellbeing as a shared priority rather than a niche offering. Beyond individual care, we deepened our commitment to wellbeing for all, especially for the most vulnerable in our

city. We focused time and resources on housing and education initiatives, provided basic needs such as dignity products, and strengthened partnerships addressing systemic gaps in care.

Parishioners contributed countless volunteer hours, and new intergenerational service days created opportunities to serve together – linking formation, connection, and outward impact in powerful ways.

We give thanks to God for the grace that has guided us through this year and for the Spirit's work among us. None of this would have been possible without the vision and leadership of our parish leaders, the dedication of our immensely gifted staff, and the extraordinary generosity of this church. Through your prayers, service, and faithful giving, Christ Church continues to be a spiritual home – deeply rooted, outward-looking, and radiant with hope.

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chip". The script is cursive and fluid, with the "C" being particularly large and stylized.

Chip Edens
Rector

VICAR'S REPORT

The Reverend Joshua Case

As I reflect on 2025, I am deeply grateful for the steady, faithful life of this parish and for the many ways we continue to grow in faith, connection, and shared purpose. This year has been marked less by urgency and more by attentiveness – listening carefully for where God is leading us and trusting the work of the Spirit unfolding in our midst.

Worship remains the heart of our common life. Throughout the year, our services have continued to hold together reverence and welcome, tradition and accessibility. Seasonal liturgies and special services offered meaningful moments of gathering, grounding, and renewal, drawing together both longtime members and those newer to the community. We continue to approach worship as formation rather than performance – an invitation to be shaped by prayer, scripture, sacrament, silence, and song.

Spiritual formation at Christ Church in 2025 emphasized depth, small groups, and trust, helping people cultivate practices that sustain faith in a complex and demanding world. Across adult, youth, and children's ministries, the focus remained on belonging, curiosity, and spiritual grounding rather than simply formation or activity.

Congregational & Pastoral Care remained central to our shared ministry. Together, we accompanied one another through seasons of joy, grief, illness, transition, and hope. The faithful work of presence – offered by clergy, staff, and lay leaders/chaplains – continues to be one of this parish's great strengths and a quiet testimony to the love of Christ lived out in community.

Our outreach ministries reflected a deep commitment to loving our neighbors with intention, humility, and faithfulness. A significant portion of this year's work involved prayerful discernment and reframing through the Transforming Hearts efforts. This process helped clarify how we understand and organize our outreach, strengthening alignment between our values and our actions and ensuring that our commitments are rooted in purpose rather than urgency.

As part of this work, we clarified our outreach pillars as shared expressions of our call toward the becoming beloved community. They include: A Place to Call Home, supporting access to safe, stable, and affordable housing; A Chance to Learn & Grow, investing in education and lifelong formation; Support When Life Gets Hard, offering help, hope, and healing in times of crisis or transition; and Faith, Connection, & Wellbeing for All, nurturing wholeness, dignity, and belonging in body, mind, and spirit. These pillars now serve as a common framework for discernment, partnership, and future action.

Internally, 2025 was a year of increased clarity and organizational health. Staff and lay leadership worked collaboratively with attention to shared priorities, healthy rhythms, and sustainable ministry, allowing us to be more intentional and less reactive as we look toward the future.

On a more personal note, this year also marked the launch of my book, *The Golfer's Rule of Life: A Yardage Book for Soul & Play*. This project has been shaped deeply by themes of faith, presence, and integration – many of which are lived and practiced so beautifully within this parish. I am profoundly thankful for the encouragement, prayers, and support offered by this community throughout that journey.

As we look ahead, we do so with gratitude for what has been and hope for what is still unfolding. It is an honor to serve among you and to share in the life God is shaping here.

ASSOCIATE RECTORS

The Reverend Connor Gwin

This past year has been one of deepening roots and widening reach for the ministries of Spiritual Wellbeing and Care. As both Associate Rector and Director of the Center for Wellbeing and Care, it has been a privilege to walk with our parish through seasons of healing, formation, and connection.

The Center for Wellbeing and Care

Now in its second full year, the Center has moved from launch to lively growth. Our team – Therapists Amy Styers-Bisette and Alex Bacon, along with Program Coordinator Elizabeth Angerson – has served a rising number of parishioners seeking support, wisdom, and practical tools for wellbeing. Amy and Alex experienced a significant uptick in counseling bookings throughout the fall, a clear sign of both growing trust and growing need.

Programs such as Soul Care 101 continued to draw strong participation, including three offerings this year with meaningful engagement across the parish. A particularly joyful highlight was our Kintsugi experience, coordinated beautifully by Elizabeth and led by local artist Eva Crawford, which invited participants to explore healing and resilience through this ancient art form.

Soul Care 201 and 301 will launch in 2026.

Cultivating Lay Leadership

We continued to strengthen our lay chaplaincy and congregational care networks. Our thirteen trained and commissioned lay chaplains remain at the heart of our desire to ensure that every member feels known, connected, and gently held by their church community. Their ministry of presence has become a vital extension of pastoral care.

Congregational Care

The daily rhythm of pastoral presence remains central to my vocation. This year included the quiet and sacred work of:

- Preparing families for baptism and welcoming new life into the household of God
- Walking with couples in marriage preparation and officiating their weddings
- Offering prayer and companionship through hospitalizations and health challenges
- Bearing witness to the hope of the resurrection in funerals and services of remembrance

These moments – sometimes joyful, sometimes tender, always holy – continue to knit our parish together in love.

Spiritual Formation and Wellbeing

Alongside individual care, I continued to teach, lead conversations, and guide practices that help parishioners cultivate resilient, faithful lives. Classes blending Christian spirituality with research on habits, mental health, and formation have become a distinctive part of the Center's voice and mission.

Looking Ahead

As we look toward 2026, we will focus on deepening our core offerings while expanding opportunities for spiritual formation, mental health support, and embodied practices of wellbeing. The Center aims to continue nurturing a culture where seeking help is normal, spiritual growth is accessible, and every person knows they belong. Thank you for the blessing of serving this extraordinary community. It is a joy to walk with you in the holy work of loving God, caring for one another, and tending our community's wellbeing.

The Reverend Allen Pruitt

2025 was a year of big impact in Adult Spiritual Formation. That impact is not just about large numbers of people, but also the small groups that wrestle with big questions and support each other through the ups and downs of life.

Yes, we welcomed 1,100 people to hear Brené Brown over the course of two days in September. And we welcomed Bishop Curry “home” just a few days later, as more than 200 of us enjoyed a meal together and even more joined us online for a chance to hear his stories of grace. We deal in BIG numbers a lot of the time at Christ Church. The Faith Forum consistently sees 200 in person and many more watching online – a place to connect God’s love for us with the latest research in wellbeing, care for neighbor, and biblical scholarship.

Two recent Faith Forums come to mind, representing the diversity of experiences we are able to offer. A few days before Thanksgiving, we welcomed Dr. Michael Rich, a “media-trician,” exploring ways to support parents and children in a world where digital connection is both essential and can be harmful. In October, Christ Church was able to partner with other local churches to host John Philip Newell for a time of retreat, exploring the riches of Celtic Spirituality before welcoming him to preach at our Contemporary Service and to join a conversation in our Faith Forum. Our faith has ancient roots, and those roots give us strength to meet the challenges of today secure in the light of God’s love.

Big experiences are everywhere you look at Christ Church. But big impact doesn’t always come from having a large number of people in the room. Did you know that in any given week, Christ Church has about 150 people engaged in small group bible studies? God shows up with us in rooms with three or seven or fifteen, studying scripture and learning to secure ourselves in the hope of our faith. Our Women’s Evening Bible Study (WEBS) is home to conversations across ages, a place of support for faith and for our real lives. Our Men’s Stronger Together Bible studies have taken off and offer five different groups for men to find a place of friendship and laughter.

Sunday mornings are a place of persistent opportunity: large classes in All Saints’ Hall, small group Bible Study in our Weekly Word, classes on the Eucharist, and prayer and pilgrimage and so much more. Wednesday nights offer monthly opportunities like the Poetry Circle and a weekly time for women who work, like WEBS. There are also occasional series and groups like Education for Ministry along with all the other ministry areas that offer programming and groups.

Last, but not least, fifteen people read the entire Bible from cover to cover in our Good Book: Beginning to End groups on Monday afternoons and Tuesday mornings. If you missed your chance, both groups will start back with Genesis in Lent after tackling the Apocrypha at the start of the new year. You are welcome to join anytime.

What’s next? We will keep showing up because we know that God shows up for us. In the Faith Forum, we will be curious what the latest science says about the mysteries of God’s Creation. In our small groups, we will find friendship and build our trust in God’s presence in our lives.

The Reverend Elizabeth Walker

2025 was a year of vibrant ministry with young adults, youth, children, families, and CCK. Each season brought renewed energy, deeper connection, and meaningful growth. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve in this role and to partner with dedicated leaders, staff, and volunteers who make these ministries flourish. Here are some 2025 ministry highlights:

Children & Families

- Weekly Sunday School and seasonal programs across preschool and elementary ages continued to thrive.
- Vacation Bible School – created entirely in-house for a second year – engaged more than 200 children, youth, and adults through Episcopal-rooted storytelling, music, and formation.
- Over 20 families returned to Kanuga for the second annual Family Wellbeing Camp, launching ongoing small-group gatherings throughout the school year.

Youth Ministry

- Middle school and high school programs grew significantly, with strong participation in middle school EYC, and high school Life Group, Youth Council, and Sunday formation.
- Youth served actively in worship as acolytes, lectors, and ushers, and older youth mentored younger groups throughout the year.
- Retreats, Confirmation preparation, and a Camino de Santiago pilgrimage nurtured community, leadership, and faith formation.

CCK Chaplaincy

- Chapel services, parent gatherings, staff prayers, board meetings, and community offerings such as Room in the Inn strengthened relationships with families and teachers, supported by the full clergy and staff team.

Young Adults

- Young Adult Ministry continued its strong growth through fellowship, formation, and service opportunities.
- New in 2025: Young Adults Unplugged, a quarterly dinner-and-conversation series offering space for reflection and spiritual grounding.

Looking Ahead

These ministries – and the relationships at their heart – continue to shape my days and my prayers. I look forward to all that God will continue to grow in us and through us in the year to come.

The Reverend Emily Parker

As we move into 2026, I look forward to serving in the Christ Church family, in the city of Charlotte, the region, and Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina. Reflecting on this year, I am grateful to have been able to:

- On March 1, I celebrated five years as Deacon at Christ Church and two years as Executive Director of Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte.
- Offer eDevotions on April 9, June 18, July 9, September 3, and October 29.
- Host part of Episcopal Outreach Camp at Galilee on July 30, which included members of the Christ Church youth group and staff.
- Help staff the Christ Church Pride Festival booth on August 17.
- Co-lead a youth Confirmation class on October 5.
- Host a Christ Church Core session at Galilee on October 21.
- Speak at a Youth Adults Unplugged session on November 16.
- Have regular participation in Sunday services.
- Help with several acolyte training sessions.
- Continue to build relationships with staff and parishioners.
- At the Diocesan level:
 - Attend the 210th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina (November 2025)
 - Serve on the Social Concerns Committee for the 210th Convention
 - Serve on the Committee on Ministry for the Diaconate

SENIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Carl Showalter

I am honored to share my Senior Warden's report with you and to reflect on a year marked by faithful service, visionary leadership from our Rector, and joyful anticipation for what lies ahead for our Church. I'm reminded of something Chip shared with us after a Vestry meeting – a message that continues to resonate: We are growing as a congregation. We are focused on engagement, excitement, and gratitude. The Church has a long runway as we plan for the future. The world around us changes, but the mission of Christ Church remains the same: Maintain Hope.

He was absolutely right.

During our Vestry retreat, we committed ourselves to three central goals:

1. Strengthening communication between the Vestry and the Parish – ensuring transparency, clarity, and regular updates. Under the leadership of Ned Waller and Charlie Deason, we held two interactive Vestry panel discussions during the October Faith Forums in All Saints' Hall.
2. Developing and engaging lay leadership to build a strong, sustainable pipeline for the future. Led by Arrington Mixon and Randall Mountcastle, this initiative is helping cultivate leaders who feel equipped, supported, and called to serve.
3. Fostering generosity. Guided by Allison Popp and Margaret Siegal, we hosted targeted social events throughout the year with the goal of deepening our shared understanding of the importance of timely annual pledges. These commitments allow the Vestry to plan responsibly, steward our resources, and carry out the ministries God has placed before us.

I am pleased to report meaningful progress in each of these areas. Increased Vestry visibility and listening sessions have opened new pathways of communication. Opportunities for parishioners to grow as leaders have expanded, and our focus on generosity has helped underscore both the spiritual and practical impact of pledging to support Christ Church's mission.

One of the most exciting moments of the year was the groundbreaking of our new Parish Building on January 6. This milestone reflects years of planning, countless meetings, and the remarkable generosity of our congregation. We anticipate completion in the first quarter of 2026. I would be remiss not to express heartfelt gratitude to Fletcher Gregory and Ginny Cobb – our gifted Junior Warden – and to the Sacred Spaces Team and its subcommittees for their extraordinary dedication.

Our Center for Wellbeing & Care also celebrated its one-year anniversary. Now fully staffed and operational, it continues to expand access to support for members of our congregation. And, as a reminder, thanks to the overwhelming success of the Transforming Hearts Campaign, 10% of the funds raised have been allocated and paid to outreach. This year we contributed over \$500k to the following organizations: King's on Lamar/Roof Above, Shamrock Gardens Community Health, Freedom School, Hurricane Helene Relief, Braveworks, Crisis Assistance Ministry, St. Michael's and All Angels Charlotte, and SNAP Benefits Relief Fund.

As we approach the end of the year, I want to extend my deep gratitude to our Rector, Clergy, and entire staff for their faithful leadership, dedication, and care. Your ministry enriches the life of this Church in countless ways – from the worship you plan and lead, to the pastoral support you provide, to managing the moving parts behind the scenes that keep our parish thriving. Please know how truly appreciated your efforts are.

I also want to thank Ginny Cobb for her outstanding service as Junior Warden, she earns five gold stars for her tireless work and steady oversight of our construction project. My thanks as well to Ned Waller for his excellent service as Vestry Secretary. And finally, I offer my sincere appreciation to the members of the Vestry – especially Ginny Cobb, Allison Popp, John Wickham, and Lise Hinton – who conclude their terms this year. Thank you for your time, prayers, and thoughtful stewardship. Your commitment, wisdom, and support have been a gift to us all.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your Senior Warden.

JUNIOR WARDEN

Submitted by Ginny Cobb

2025 has been a year of unprecedented growth for our church campus. We have been immersed in the implementation of the Transforming Hearts capital campaign and continued maintenance of our current facilities.

We finally and officially broke ground on our new Parish Building in January. The Sacred Spaces Implementation Team with the help of Tim Garrison, our owner's representative, continues to support the tremendous ongoing work by our contractor, Barringer Construction, and architects, Jenkins Peer Architects.

Dedicated parish professionals continue to persevere and lend their time and expertise to help the construction proceed smoothly and to curate beautiful, usable indoor and outdoor spaces.

The creation of this building would not be possible without the tireless work of our incredible Facilities and Operations Team and support staff. In addition to their typical responsibilities, Jason Scofield (Director of Facilities) and Wendy Mauney (COO) have spent countless hours on this project. Their tenacity is remarkable. Facilities Technician, DuWayne Lee, as well as sextons, Clayton Pride and Nikki Rushing, continue to help maintain the campus, filling work orders and assisting with innumerable events.

In addition to the new construction, below is a listing of some of the maintenance and facilities improvements ongoing and/or completed this year:

- Ongoing Chapel and Sanctuary repair work
- Security camera system upgrade
- Multiple AV project updates, including Sanctuary assistive hearing loop
- HVAC overhaul
- Office upfit and relocations for staff due to construction
- GoodNews Shop spruce-up
- Continued facility-wide LED lighting upgrade
- Multiple electrical, plumbing, irrigation repairs

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND MEMORIALS

Submitted by David M. Kern

This group provides general oversight and assistance to the Junior Warden and the Director of Facilities concerning matters involving the church buildings and campus. In addition, the Committee directs the use of undesigned gifts and memorials made to Christ Church. In this regard, the group attempts to match specific Church needs with the personality and particular interests/activities of the person in whose name a gift or memorial is given.

This year saw the completion of numerous much-needed repairs and improvements throughout the campus. A special thanks goes to Wendy Mauney (Chief Operating Officer), Jason Scofield (Director of Facilities), and Ginny Cobb (Junior Warden) for their tireless dedication and extraordinary work. The work of the Committee during 2025 has included the following:

- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally with various issues related to the construction of the new building and the installation of plantings and landscaping for the new space
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with the removal of the deteriorated wooden cross on the exterior of All Saints' Hall and designing and installing a new bronze plaque
- Installing additional memorial plaques in the Memorial Garden
- Assisting the Director of Facilities generally concerning renovations to the CCK classrooms and nursery
- Assisting the Director of Facilities and the Junior Warden generally with developing and enhancing best practices for security throughout the campus
- Installing new water fountains for the classroom building behind the Sanctuary
- Assisting generally with replacing existing fluorescent lights with LED bulbs throughout all buildings and installing new, more energy efficient windows in the St. Francis/Rotunda building
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with significant plaster repairs to the Nave, Chapel, and Blue Room
- Installing new speakers and audio equipment in All Saints' Hall
- Installing a new hearing loop system in the Sanctuary
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with renovations to the Sacristy
- Purchasing a new piano and dolly for the Blue Room
- Providing worship enhancements, including new chalice bearer robes, altar hangings repairs, and additional stoles and chasubles
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with major repairs to the chiller in the kitchen
- Assisting the Director of Facilities with a refresh of the Good News Shop
- Reworking, reconfiguring, and installing new plantings in the garden above the Memorial Garden
- Coordinating with the Director of Facilities and Junior Warden in reviewing, assessing and prioritizing present and future needs concerning all buildings and facilities throughout the Campus and communicating with the Transforming Hearts Campaign Sacred Spaces implementation committee
- Overseeing and funding numerous plantings and landscaping throughout the Campus, including trees and shrubbery beside the Sanctuary, removal of dead and storm-damaged trees, multiple plantings and improvements to the Memorial Garden, and the completion of a variety of specialized pruning and landscape improvements throughout the Campus

Commission members: David Kern (Chair), Rev. Fred Paschall, Jr., Carrington Coulter, Laurie Durden, Bill Lowry, Lulie Mallard, William Nichols, Jr., Randall Mountcastle, Betsy Parkhurst, Ex officio: Wendy Mauney (COO), Jason Scofield (Director of Facilities), Ginny Cobb (Junior Warden).

TREASURER

Submitted by Dick Parkhurst

Summarized below are the financial results for the past three years along with the budget for 2025. For 2025, our budget calls for minimal change in receipts based on pledges which were slightly above 2024 levels offset by lower interest income expected in 2025. The expense budget for 2025 is up roughly 3% driven primarily by cost of living increases for our clergy and lay staff and modest inflationary impacts to our operating costs. Budgets in other areas remain relatively flat. With the expectation of flat receipts in 2025, the growth in the expense budget results in a budget deficit. While we normally seek a balanced budget, we remain in a unique period with the Transforming Hearts capital campaign. We are blessed to have received more than \$33 million in pledges to the Transforming Hearts Campaign which, along with accumulated reserves, allows us to fully support our ongoing operations and the Transforming Hearts initiatives. Our operating reserves and an allocation within the Transforming Hearts campaign for operating needs provide ample support to meet near-term operating deficits as we continue to build stewardship within a growing parish.

Annual receipts for 2024 increased 4% over 2023 bringing total receipts to \$6.5 million, exceeding the 2024 budget by \$200,000. Consistent with past years, expenses were well managed finishing the year inside of the budget. Expenses grew by approximately 3% driven primarily by cost of living increases for our staff and higher costs associated with maintaining our facilities. As a result, we recorded an operating surplus of approximately \$66,000 versus a budgeted deficit of \$211,000. With the reserve built over the past few years, the Vestry approved the use of approximately \$140,000 of reserve in 2024 to support areas of need outside of the operating budget. The remaining surplus of \$778,480 is available to meet both the budgeted deficit in 2025 and other unbudgeted requirements as approved by the Vestry.

	2022 Actual		2023 Actual		2024 Actual		2025 Budget	
Operating Receipts	5,954,716		6,272,980		6,500,984		6,457,714	
Personnel & Admin	4,213,550	71%	4,545,461	73%	4,664,494	72%	4,839,857	73%
Diocese of NC	606,705	10%	607,031	10%	638,000	10%	671,735	10%
Buildings and Grounds	346,293	6%	358,643	6%	399,417	6%	360,000	5%
Outreach	449,047	8%	450,366	7%	449,796	7%	450,000	7%
Programs	308,981	5%	303,101	5%	283,662	4%	311,000	5%
Operating Expenses	5,924,576		6,264,603		6,435,369		6,632,592	
Annual Surplus	30,140		8,378		65,615		(174,878)	
Reserve Usage	(404,105)		(198,510)		(140,894)		(171,163)	
Accumulated Reserve	1,043,892		853,760		778,480		432,439	

Despite a budgeted deficit for 2025, the generosity and commitment to stewardship at Christ Church is at an all-time high as evidenced by the Transforming Hearts Campaign which has afforded us the resources and time for growth in annual stewardship to support our continued growth and success. I remain ever confident in our financial health and look forward to our continued growth and the impact Christ Church has with our parish and the broader community.

ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

Submitted by Scottie Stamper, Ed.D., MDiv/CE, BCC, Director of Adult Spiritual Formation

In 2025, Adult Spiritual Formation at Christ Church continued to center the power of connection – connection to God, to one another, and to the deep work of becoming more fully ourselves. We believe that true spiritual formation happens in the spaces where people feel seen, welcomed, and invited into community. This year, those involved in the Adult Spiritual Formation ministries sought to create those spaces with intention and care, offering pathways for belonging, learning, and spiritual growth. Whether through shared conversations, communal practices, or opportunities to explore faith together, we remained committed to the simple truth that transformation often begins with a personal invitation and grows through meaningful relationships.

Connecting through Learning

Learning together is at heart of Adult Spiritual Formation, offering opportunities in which curiosity, faith, and reflection meet. Throughout the year, adults of all ages gathered to explore scripture, theology, and spiritual practice in ways that invite both depth and discovery. These learning environments foster not only intellectual formation, but also meaningful relationships formed through conversation. In every class and study, we saw how learning becomes a pathway to connection and spiritual growth.

- School of Faith offerings (clergy classes, topic-specific or seasonal classes)
- Weekly Word aligning with our children's Sunday School curriculum
- Adult Confirmation class
- Advent and Lenten series
- Education for Ministry (EfM)
- Reading Between the Lines
- Wisdom Circle
- Christ Church Readers Book Study

Connecting through Community

Community continues to be one of the greatest gifts of Adult Spiritual Formation, providing opportunities for people to gather, share life experiences, and establish a sense of belonging. These gatherings knit us closer to one another through shared meals, moments of fellowship, and vulnerability. We witnessed over and over how simple invitations open doors to friendship and support. In each connection, our spiritual home grows stronger and more deeply rooted in love.

- Epiphany Coffee, Conversation, and King Cake
- Friendship Feast – nearly 200 women gathered for dinner, fellowship, and Blake Blankenbecker's reflections on the experience of women's friendships.
- Tuesday morning mahjong – 20 to 30 Christ Church women gather for weekly mahjong games and monthly lessons. Most of all, though, they attend because of the relationships.
- Sages programming
- Men's Ministry kick-off

Connecting through Scripture & Spiritual Practice

Engaging scripture together is an important thread in the life of our parish, offering grounding and companionship on the pathway to faith development. Through small groups, Bible studies, and ongoing spiritual practices, adults found space to reflect, question, and grow. These study groups become communities in their own right – places where trust deepens, and faith is shaped in conversation with others.

- Christ Church Women's Bible Study (CCWBS)
- Women's Evening Bible Study (WEBS)
- Lifeline Bible Study
- The Good Book: Beginning to End
- Men's Big Breakfast
- Stronger Together small groups
- Men's Bible studies throughout the week

Connecting through Exploration

Exploration invites us to step beyond our routines and encounter God in new places and experiences. Pilgrimages, outings, and shared adventures opened opportunities for reflection, friendship, and wonder. Traveling and learning together strengthen bonds in unique and lasting ways. These experiences remind us that faith is not only studied but lived— and often discovered in the beauty of the world around us.

- Men's Retreat to Valle Crucis
- Women's Retreat (Lake Junaluska in 2025)
- Mt. LeConte hike
- Day Trips to West Jefferson to visit the Fresco churches and to Old Salem

Connecting through Service and Shared Ministry

Adult Spiritual Formation thrives through the generous leadership and partnership of so many who give their time, gifts, and love. Teachers, facilitators, volunteers, and staff work side by side to create places where others can learn, rest, question, and grow. Collaboration across ministry areas strengthens our parish, reminding us that formation is a shared calling. In serving together, we witness the deep connection that arises from offering ourselves for the good of the community.

- Intergenerational Christmas Movie Night
- Contributions of teachers, facilitators, clergy, staff, and the Adult Spiritual Formation and ECW Commission members

Looking Ahead: Deepening Connection

In looking toward 2026, the Adult Spiritual Formation team and commission remain committed to creating ways in which people can find belonging, purpose, and growth – keys to their spiritual home. Our focus will continue to be on meaningful connection. We hope to offer new opportunities that invite curiosity, deepen faith, and strengthen community bonds. With gratitude for the year behind us, we step into what opportunities lie ahead with openness, hope, and faithfulness.

Adult Spiritual Formation Commission: Allen Pruitt (Leader), Scottie Stamper (Leader), Amanda Anders, Wayne Ballard, Jennifer Bennett, Neil Blackmon, Linda Bomar, Stuart Bonner, Stuart Garner, and Nicole Grenier.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY

Submitted by Sarah Ford, Director of Children and Family Ministry

Children's and Family Ministry has had a vibrant year!

Our team remained committed to the faith, connection, and wellbeing of children and families, ages birth to fifth grade. The highlights below reflect the many ways our team advanced faith formation, community connection, and wellbeing for our children, their families, and their spiritual home.

- In January, February, and March, 4th- and 5th-grade Navigators gathered for monthly programming including a game afternoon, hosting Room in the Inn, and going bowling.
- In early April, we held the Southern Soirée offsite at The Casey. This shared event between CCK and Children's Ministry was organized by chair, Grier Thomson and the Southern Soiree Committee and raised enough funds to continue supporting shared spaces between Children's Ministry and CCK and provide a donation to Charlotte Bilingual Preschool.
- From June 23 to 26, 200 children, youth, and adults gathered for our Vacation Bible School: Emotion Lab. Foster Village was our Service-Learning partner for the week. Registered families supplied hygiene items and gift cards to honor Foster Village's mission of creating connection with dignity for children and families experiencing foster care. This was our second VBS written in-house by staff and included original characters, songs composed by Charles Milling and Kate Lehman, graphics, and decorations. An enormous thank you to LaQuita and Ashley who led this year's VBS while I was on maternity leave, with the support of co-chairs Grace Moyd and Darcie Howard, as well as the Steering Committee.
- Post-VBS allowed for a slower month in July for our ministry, though Children's Chapel and Nursery Care were still part of Summer Sunday worship experiences for families.
- With invaluable support from the Children's and Family Commission, its subcommittees, and the leadership of Ryan Rominiecki as Chair, we welcomed more than 90 leaders into roles across Children's Chapel and Sunday School. Remarkably, about 30 were new volunteers who felt called to share their gifts with the children of Christ Church.
- Children's Sunday School continues to thrive, with strong attendance across all ages. Our devoted Sunday School leaders make this ministry possible and are a key reason children return week after week. We even have included monthly themes of kindness, wellbeing, gratitude, and generosity, and outreach projects each month.
- For the third year in a row, Children's Ministry invited other ministries to join in our annual Advent Festival to help make Jesse Tree ornaments. This year's Advent Festival Outreach initiative was Angel Tree, devoted to the needs of our neighbors right here in Charlotte.
- We're ending our year in Children's and Family Ministry with a joyful Christmas Pageant that includes 34 cast members, newly added roles, and over 110 families participating in the ensemble. With these registrations, we are expecting our largest audience yet.

Our team is strengthened by the gifts and talents of LaQuita Lindsay and Ashley Robinson, and I am truly grateful to be fully staffed. I also want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Elizabeth Walker for her steady guidance and leadership across so many ministries, including Children and Family Ministry. My gratitude extends as well to our Clergy, Staff, Vestry, parishioners, and especially to the Children's and Family Commission, faithfully led this past year by Chair Ryan Rominiecki. I share words of thanks each year, but they remain deeply true: I am profoundly grateful to call Christ Church not only my place of work, but also my family's spiritual home – made even more meaningful as we welcomed our first child in June.

Children and Family Commission: Christina Russ (Leader), Betsy Boone, Sarah Ford, Alison Gallagher, Charlotte Jacobs, LaQuita Lindsay, Ashley Robinson, Brandon Taylor, and Elizabeth Walker.

CHRIST CHURCH KINDERGARTEN

Submitted by Meredith Sorrell, CCK Head of School

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten (CCK) is the largest daily mission of Christ Church. The school is the largest capacity, currently serving 278 students, 208 families (76% church members), and employing 65 staff members (30% church members). Our mission is to cultivate our children's unique gifts and talents to inspire lives of learning, serving others and loving God. We seek to inspire the children of CCK to become life-long learners in a faith-based environment.

The staff of CCK takes tremendous pride in preparing children for their elementary education. The journey starts in our Toddler classrooms with children learning to separate from parents and moves through our Four-year-old and Kindergarten hallways, where our children are learning pre-reading, writing, and math skills to prepare them for their educational journey beyond preschool. Our dedicated teachers and support staff are at the core of what we do each day. These amazing, experienced teachers give countless hours towards planning, implementing curriculum, and nurturing the children and families of CCK.

So far this year CCK has participated in several service projects designed to help our children begin to understand the importance of helping others in their community.

- We partnered with the greater Christ Church community to collect supplies for the International Day of Service, supporting our neighbors in Western North Carolina affected by Hurricane Helene.
- For the fifth year in a row, CCK had a Bake Sale to benefit Cookies for Kids' Cancer on November 19. This year's event has raised over \$14,000 to date, with donations still being accepted. CCK won the "Good Cookie" award at the annual Cookies for Kids' Cancer Chef Event for inspiring other schools to hold bake sales to raise money for pediatric cancer research.
- In November, the Threes classes invited the entire school to join them in the annual Canned Food Drive to support Nourish Up. As a school, we collected 883 food items (925 pounds of food) to feed those in need in our Charlotte community.

CCK is governed by a Board of Directors, which meets monthly.

2025 Board of Directors: Merrill Mills (Chair), Mariel Ellerbe (Chair-Elect), Christiane Felts (Treasurer) Joshua Case (Clergy Representative), Kelly Coley (Coordinator of Engagement and Enhancement), Lindsay Gates (Parent Representative), Jenna King, Hope Leak, Mary Caroline Lee (Assistant Head of School), Carson Pascal, Meredith Sorrell (Head of School), Allison Popp (Vestry Representative), Patti Doyle (Teacher Rep), Elizabeth Walker (Chaplain), Falconer Warren, Josh Winkle, Emily Wood, Chris Allen, Leslie Carse, Ross Howard, Matthew Karahalios, Katherine Ross, and Neely Whiteside.

MUSIC AND THE ARTS

Submitted by Ben Outen, Director of Music and Organist

The Music Department at Christ Church exists to enhance worship, provide opportunities for people to connect and serve and to provide education in Episcopal liturgy, theology and music. Specific music activities are highlighted below in five sections: Music Department Personnel, Children's Music, Contemporary Music, Christ Church Choir, and Parish and Community offerings.

Personnel within the Music Program

- Owen Peck, Assistant Music Director and Organist, continues to fulfill his job description with exceptional skill and intention. He has added to his regular duties the composition of descants and hymn accompaniments, instrumental arrangements, and newly composed anthems. This is an extraordinary benefit to the music program of Christ Church.
- Katie Lehman, Associate Music Director, has led the music team in recruiting record numbers of children and handbell ringers. In fall of 2025 we registered 99 children for choir. Those registrations made it necessary to divide the program into 2 classes of Music Club and 3 choirs for elementary and middle school children, St. Nicolas Choir, St. Cecilia Choir and Christ Church Choristers. Katie also works as a conductor with the Christ Church Choir and works closely with the Section Leaders.
- In keeping with the 2024 plan of eliminating the position of full-time Administrative Assistant and replacing it with more musical assistance, administrative duties have been divided between Ben Outen, Katie Lehman and Owen Peck.
- Lauren Tomme, Associate Music Director for Children, works with elementary and pre-school children's classes, and she also serves as a Section Leader in the Christ Church Choir. Her leadership, motivation, and teaching skills are exemplary.
- Charles Milling, Director of Contemporary and Family Worship, continues to grow the Contemporary and Discovery services with a commitment to musical excellence and liturgical sensitivity while maintaining an environment of service and heart within the band. Charles' work involves making connections with his musicians as well as the parishioners who attend the Contemporary and Discovery services. Charles is an extremely reliable church professional.
- Ben Outen, Music Director and Organist, is in his ninth year at Christ Church and continues to see avenues for growth for Christ Church's music program. With the current music team, there has been a lot of growth in events, audience attendance, and educational opportunities for children and adults. The community of professional and volunteer, traditional and contemporary musicians has become a supportive and welcoming group of people that center themselves on leading worship as a servant ministry with musical excellence as their aim. Making music at Christ Church is truly a way to engage, equip and empower people in their spiritual and everyday lives through music and liturgy.

Children's Music

The children's music program began the year with 99 registrations across the groups. This ministry continues to grow and thrive as we continue to build new ways for children to be involved in music-making at Christ Church. Due to rolling registrations, new children are able to join at any point throughout the year.

Music Club (Age 4 - Kindergarten) – Thanks to consistently high weekly attendance, Music Club is now divided into two sections: Pre-K/4's, led by Lauren Tomme, and Kindergarten led by Katie Lehman.

Our youngest singers meet for half an hour each Wednesday to sing, laugh, and play together. Singers build foundational musical skills through children's songs, rhymes, and games. Vocal exploration and experimentation with all the sounds that voices can make lay the foundation for tuneful singing and healthy vocal production, and early improvisation and music literacy skills are addressed in a playful, developmentally appropriate way.

Music Club provides an opportunity for children to sing together as a group and practice the skills of being a good community member. Children are also introduced to being musical leaders in worship through singing in the Discovery Service several times throughout the year.

St. Nicolas Choir (Grades 1 - 2) – St. Nicolas Choir is the first choral-based group our singers encounter at Christ Church. Meeting for an hour each Wednesday, this group continues to lay the groundwork for skills in music literacy, expression, and vocal production. A natural progression from Music Club, St. Nicolas Choir allows the children of our parish to take a leading role in worship by singing in the 8:45 am service once a month and leading special services like Advent Lessons & Carols, Palm Sunday, and Parish Day services. Led primarily by Lauren Tomme and Katie Lehman, this group sings both alone and in combination with older choirs.

St. Cecilia Choir (Grades 3 - 4) – Our newest children's choir at Christ Church! With the continued growth of the children's music program, we have been able to create a new choir to suit the needs of our 3rd and 4th grade singers. This group gives children the chance to operate as older mentors for the St. Nicolas singers as well as work on more difficult music alongside the Christ Church Choristers. Led primarily by Katie Lehman and Ben Outen, the St. Cecilia Choir sings in the 8:45 am service once per month and leads special services throughout the year.

The St. Cecilia Choir also participates in our yearly Three-Choir Festival, a joint effort with the children's choirs of St. John's Episcopal Cathedral (Knoxville, TN), and the Cathedral of All Souls (Asheville, NC). In the spring of 2025, we hosted the festival at Christ Church and welcomed singers for a day of combined rehearsals, games, and team building. The following day, the combined choirs led worship during the 8:45 am service and premiered a new treble anthem that Christ Church commissioned in honor of our friends at All Souls (Asheville).

Christ Church Choristers (Grades 5 - 8) – This ensemble provides opportunities for upper-elementary and middle school students to dive into some more challenging music and choral opportunities. Led primarily by Owen Peck and Katie Lehman, this group learns music to sing on its own, harmony and descants to support the other children's choirs, and select pieces with the adults of the Christ Church Choir.

The Christ Church Choristers join the other children's choirs in leading worship once per month and frequently lead worship alongside the adults of the Christ Church Choir. They participate in the Three-Choir Festival and are excited to travel to Knoxville, TN in early 2026.

Ribbon Class – Led by Ben Outen, RSCM Ribbon Class is an optional but recommended opportunity for children in Christ Church Choristers to learn and practice skills related to music theory and literacy. Lessons focus on learning to read and understand written musical notation, as well as aural skills emphasizing rhythm and melody. Instruction alternates between group activities and more self-paced written practice in RSCM workbooks. Ranging in attendance from around 8 to 12 children weekly, the smaller class size allows for more individual attention and tailoring to different experience levels. While Ribbon Class does not directly prepare music for performance, the skills children learn are readily applied to their work in Christ Church Choristers and beyond.

Handbells

This fall marked the official beginning of the Christ Church Handbell Ensemble. We began the fall semester with eleven ringers ranging in age from 5th grade to their eighties, creating a truly intergenerational venture. This group rehearsed weekly on Wednesday nights and embraced the challenge of learning some technically difficult handbell music! They rang in worship for the first time on November 16, celebrating the Intergenerational Day of Service.

This group was originally scheduled to end for the fall following the service on November 16 but elected to keep going through Christmas. They are excited to play another piece in the Advent & Christmas Carol Sing-Along on December 21 at 10 am! The same group will reconvene in the spring, and registration will open for new ringers to fill any open spots in the group. We are so excited to see how this ministry will continue to grow in 2026.

Contemporary & Family Music

At the conclusion of 2025, Charles Milling and the Christ Church Band will have led thirty-four “in-season” Sundays of Contemporary and Discovery Worship in All Saints’ Hall, along with five blended summer services, Confirmation Sunday, Church at the Farm, All Saints’ Hall Advent Lessons and Carols, the Christmas Pageant, and two Christmas Eve services. They also partnered with the traditional music program for both the Spring and Fall Parish Day worship services.

In addition, Charles and Katie Lehman, our Associate Director of Music, created the music and movements for this year’s Vacation Bible School, including two original songs – bringing the total number of in-house VBS song productions to eight since 2024.

Christ Church Choir

The Christ Church Choir has maintained a high standard of musical excellence leading two Sunday morning services and providing cantors for the 5 pm service weekly, throughout 2025. During the Fall season, the opportunity to use instrumentalists on Sunday morning to create “Big Sundays” has become a new feature of our worship offerings. Along with these Sunday experiences the Christ Church Choir and Music Team have also led these special services:

- 2 Ash Wednesday Eucharists
- Holy Week: Stations of the Cross, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve/Vigil
- All Saints’ Day Eucharist
- Fall Choir and Orchestra Concert in collaboration with our Community Partner in Music, Caritas A Capella Ensemble.
- 50th Anniversary Service honoring Theresa Gibson’s time in the Christ Church Choir
- Advent Lessons and Carols
- Sages Carol Concert for their December meeting
- Four Christmas Eve services with concert-styled preludes.
- Ben & Friends: an evening of light entertain to benefit the Youth Pilgrimage to Spain
- Various weddings and funerals

The Christ Church Choir celebrated a very unusual and wonderful occasion this fall. Theresa Gibson celebrated a 50-year anniversary for singing in the Christ Church Choir. To make this a memorable occasion, former members of the choir were invited to return, sing on Sunday morning and enjoy a luncheon in honor of volunteers over the years.

The personnel of the Christ Church Schola continues to change and evolve. We currently have eleven section leaders including Kimberly Butler, Emma Katherine Bowers, Renee Crawford, Amani Rogers, Matthew Van Dyke, Perry Mixer, Joe Few, Zach Hunter, Nyi Nyi Myin, Katie Lehman, Associate Music Director, and Lauren Tomme, Assistant for Children’s Music. Members of the Schola also serve as cantors for the 5 pm Eucharist each week. In the past year, the Schola has been booked for multiple weddings which is a new contribution to our musical offerings. There are eleven volunteers in the Christ Church Choir: Theresa Gibson, Sam Bomar, Kate McLoughlin, Sarah Tull, Janice Mueller, Bill Stokes, Lauren Cable, Lucy Weller, Stephanie Santilli, Matthew Crawford, and Will Trotter.

The Christ Church Parish Choir was active in the first half of 2025 but was not continued this fall to make room for the new Handbell Ensemble.

Parish and Community Offerings

As Charlotte continues to grow and Christ Church continues to expand its reach, the community that surrounds the campus increasingly notices and seeks the spaces and location provided within Christ Church for rehearsals and performances. Organizations included:

- Arts+
- Charlotte Master Chorale
- Caritas
- Charlotte Chamber Choir
- Charlotte Harp Society
- Private teacher recitals: Kristine Hoopes, Annette Morris, Peter deVries
- Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble in concert
- Queen's University String Quartet with Peter de Vries in concert
- The Sainted Trapp Choir in worship and Faith Forum

Each organization, recitalist, and instructor was welcomed by all the Music team. This year the most involved collaboration with a community organization was the October 17 concert, Heaven'ly Harmony, a concert of music composed and arranged by women. The Christ Church Choir and the Caritas A Capella Ensemble presented an evening of music by Roxanna Panufnik, Rosephanye Powell, Imogen Holst (Benjamin Britten) and Elaine Hagenberg.

In 2024, the December concert by The Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble was very well received. They are returning to Christ Church on December 20.

The May Concert, "Ben & Friends," was enjoyed by all and raised money for the Youth Department Pilgrimage to Spain.

The Fall concert with Peter deVries and the Queen's String Quartet concert had a remarkable attendance with minimal advertisement.

Other occasions for which guest instrumentalists were used include:

- Easter, Brass and Percussion, April
- Faith Forum, Jeremy Begbie, Duke Professor of Theology and the Arts, September 21, Worship celebrated his presentation using a String Quartet in worship
- All Saints' Day, Bagpiper, November
- All Saints Sunday, Brass Quintet
- Concert: Heav'nly Harmony, with Chamber Orchestra (21 players)
- Christmas, Brass Quintet, Harp and Percussion, December

In addition to the weekly worship services in the Church, Ben Outen and Owen Peck played for most of the twelve weddings and 27 funerals during 2025. Many of those also featured instrumentalists, soloists, and ensembles.

NEWCOMERS AND PARISH LIFE

The Reverend Chip Edens, Clergy; The Reverend Joshua Case, Clergy; Kathryn Saunders, Director of Newcomers and Parish Life; Katherine Vest, Director of Engagement; Ainslie Wall, Administrative Assistant to Newcomers and Parish Life; Lucy Butler and Annie Greene, Parish Life Commission Chairs

NEWCOMERS

We continue to welcome each visitor that we are made aware of with a personal welcome email, entry into the database so that they receive communications, a tour (if desired), invitations to newcomer activities; and follow-up email(s) – all with the focus and hope that they feel connected and become engaged members of Christ Church.

Additionally, we have a system set up in most ministry areas to identify newcomers. Children and Family Ministry forwards names of newcomers attending Sunday School or in the Nursery; Adult Formation welcomes class registrants who aren't in our system and ask if they are interested in learning more; and Worship asks all couples getting married if they plan to live in Charlotte and would like to be involved. These are great ways of making sure that visitors or others don't fall through the cracks.

Over the past 12 months, we have welcomed over 200 households, which represents over 375 adults and children, with roughly two-thirds of these being young adults. Approximately 155 adults and 137 children have become members of the parish (including baptisms of current families).

Starting Point Class: We continued the Starting Point classes, designed for those new to Christ Church or looking to restart their spiritual journey. These classes were held in the Parlor, facilitated by staff.

Membership Orientations: This year we began a new offering as part of the membership process. This membership class is a two-hour opportunity to “celebrate, educate, and inspire” new members or those who are discerning membership. Over the course of 2025, we offered this class six times and welcomed 114 newcomers. These classes were led by clergy, as well as Katherine Vest (engagement) and Kathryn Saunders and were very well received by the participants.

Greeter Ministry: We enlist parishioners to be greeters before and after our 8:45 and 11:15 am services, as well as our 5:00 pm service. The greeters are very helpful to visitors, particularly with requests to locate the nursery or Sunday school classrooms. We continue to identify newcomers this way and feel the greeter impact is significant.

Vespers in the Garden: We held our annual Vespers in the Garden on April 23. Carl and Jane Showalter hosted the event for the first time in their gardens, and it was a very special evening. Roughly 70 newcomers were welcomed by 50 members of our clergy, staff, Vestry, and hospitality committee. The choir assisted leading the beautiful candlelight Vespers service at sundown. It was a spectacular night! Lauren Parks and Katie Salmon co-chaired this event.

Newcomer Dinners and Coffees: We hosted monthly newcomer dinners from October through May. This is a very casual way to meet other newcomers. We include a personal element by having a Clergy or staff member come talk about their own spiritual journey, along with what they do at Christ Church. A great way to get to know newcomers more deeply and allow them to feel more integrated. In October, we live streamed Bishop Curry's visit to our group, for an extra special evening. We also hosted monthly newcomer coffee between services during June, July, and August. These were well attended and meaningful.

Hospitality Committee: The Hospitality Committee, chaired by Caroline Austin, meets monthly throughout the year, and plays the greatest role in the success of the Shrove Tuesday Supper and the Vespers in the Garden events. In addition, the Committee members participate in welcoming newcomers as Greeters and reach out personally to all newcomers who wish to be engaged. We are grateful for their hospitality.

The **2025 Hospitality Committee members** are Kathi Adams, Natalie Akin, Caroline Austin (Chair), Austin Carey, Lauren Carter, Toddy Collett, John Crehore, Kate Deacon, Julia Ellison, Lindsay Gates, Catherine Ruth Kelly, Carol Lorenz, Charlotte Lucas, Kimberly Mize, Colleen Murphy, Lauren Parks, Claudia Pitt, Liz Ritchie, Ann Rogers, Zoe Rogers, Katie Salmon, Virginia Shaw, Deirdre Stiles, Falconer Warren, and Sara Yorke.

PARISH LIFE

Parish Life Commission: The commission consists primarily of event chairs, along with representation by the Hospitality Committee. We hold monthly meetings to discuss how to best connect and engage parishioners through parish wide events. Lucy Butler and Annie Greene served their first year as chairs of the committee and have done an outstanding job.

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: Shrove Tuesday was a great success. This year, we continued the education element, where Joshua Case presented the burning of the palms, and we “buried” alleluias in the Memorial Garden and Charles Milling led the children with festive music as they marched into All Saints’ Hall for a wonderful pancake and jambalaya supper prepared by Chef Andrea and hosted by the Hospitality Committee.

Spring Parish Day: Spring Parish Day was well attended with a bubble magician, along with bounce houses and other activities. Following the Parish Day service, parishioners enjoyed chicken nuggets and tenders with lots of sides from Chef Andrea to the tunes of the Nite Tillers bluegrass band. Jaclyn Foster and Courtenay Saunders chaired this event. We had approximately 450 guests.

Sunday Fundays: We continued the summer tradition of hosting lunch buffets and games with live music on the second and fourth Sundays. These were such a great way to welcome newcomers and parishioners and provide fellowship during the slower days of summer. Ashley Westerberg, Patience Ergish, Grace Bailey, and Austin Ford helped organize these events.

Fall Parish Day: This annual event welcoming back the parish from summer was very well attended. Chef Andrea provided fried chicken and tenders and other delicious sides. Chairs Haley McGahey and Statia King planned a fabulous day with FaultLine performing bluegrass music, to the delight of all, while the children enjoyed a petting zoo, face painting, and the bounce houses. Along with the firetruck’s appearance, it was a great day to welcome so many and celebrate the year ahead. There were approximately 600-650 in attendance.

Trunk or Treat: The annual event was again a success, despite the rainy weather. There were around 500 people in attendance, who enjoyed a nugget supper, crafts in the Blue Room, and then paraded around the mezzanine level and then downstairs to All Saints’ Hall to trick or treat among parishioners decorated trunks (aka tables). This year we had 25 trunks, many of which were represented by children, youth, and family teams. Chairs Emily Evans, Tori Irvin, and Garland Talbott orchestrated the successful event.

Young Adult Socials: We continued to host young adult socials every four to six weeks with very good attendance. Events included a brewery meetup, Checkers game, summer kick off at a young adult home, fire pit fellowship gathering, and an end-of-year Christmas party. This year we also enjoyed a Young Adult/Renaissance Group sponsored line dancing event, which was very successful!

Parish Life Commission members include Lucy Butler and Annie Greene (chairs), Emily Evans, Tori Irvin, Garland Talbott, Lizzie Holbrook, Austin Ford, Ashley Westerberg, Grace Bailey, Patience Ergish, Caroline Austin (Hospitality Representatives), Courtenay Saunders, Jaclyn Foster, Stacey King, Haley McGahey, Mary Frances Segars, Mary Stuart Fountain, Sarah Blackwell, and Randall Mountcastle (Vestry Rep).

ENGAGEMENT

In her second year as Director of Engagement, Katherine Vest has focused on strengthening connection, deepening relationships, and fostering a sense of belonging across the parish. Her work has centered on ensuring that parishioners feel known, seen, heard, and valued, while creating meaningful, accessible pathways to involvement in parish life.

Key Accomplishments

- Conducted personal check-ins by phone, email, or handwritten note with more than 200 parishioners.
- Created a new monthly “highlights reel” publication to inspire and encourage parish involvement.
- Attended a Realm conference to strengthen staff knowledge and improve systems that support connection and communication.
- Provided over 35 individual and small group “Tech Teaching” sessions to help parishioners navigate digital tools and stay connected.
- Collaborated with ministries across the church to expand and streamline opportunities to plug in.
- Collaborates with the Generosity and Engagement Team (GAET) to identify, assess, and address key opportunities related to parish engagement and stewardship.
- Serves on the bi-monthly Generosity Commission, contributing to strategic conversations and idea development around parishioner generosity and engagement.
- Began forming a new Engagement Committee to broaden outreach and ensure more parishioners feel genuinely connected and cared for.

OUTREACH AND MISSION

Submitted by Laura Konitzer, Director of Outreach and Mission

The Outreach and Mission Commission focuses its efforts on service, building diverse relationships, and working to promote justice and peace in our community, our diocese, and beyond. Along with providing monetary support to our partner agencies through annual grants, we also offer opportunities for people of all ages to serve as the hands and feet of Christ in the Charlotte community. Additionally, we offer educational programming and growth opportunities for Christ Church members in all areas of our work.

There are 11 Christ Church members currently serving on the commission, which includes one teen representative. Leadership is provided by the Reverend Joshua Case, our Clergy member, Laura Konitzer, the Director of Outreach and Mission, Harrison Keeter, the Administrative Assistant for Outreach and Mission, and Commission Chair, Amelia Abbott. In addition, JD Ey and John Wickham serve as the liaisons to the Vestry.

2025 proved to be a year of transition for Outreach & Mission. Lesley Peace, our Administrative Assistant of five years, took a position with the Diocese of NC as the Founding Director of The New Hope Collaborative in Raleigh in January. After over five years, The Reverend Joan Kilian retired in June. During these changes to the team, the Outreach and Mission Commission was tasked with continuing to provide support and assistance to our community, while non-profit partners navigated enormous cuts to government funding and the associated increase in need of our neighbors. Harrison Keeter was a welcome addition to the team in April, bringing a new level of detail and creativity to her role as the Administrative Assistant.

The Year in Review

In January, the Outreach and Mission Commission hosted its second Nonprofit Community Partners Forum at Galilee Ministries. An even bigger effort to connect and better serve our funding partners and nonprofit agencies in the Charlotte region. Year two of the event was a huge success, deepening old relationships and forming new ones.

February marked the joyful in-person kick-off of construction on our 37th Habitat House, as Christ Church continues to empower families on the path to homeownership. This year's build took place in a newly formed cul-de-sac named after Charlotte's own civil rights hero, Julius Chambers. Throughout the build, numerous parishioners volunteered to help with construction while others kept up the remarkable builders' energy with a steady supply of lunches, snacks, and water.

In March, the commission met to vote on the recipients of the \$481,000 Outreach and Mission Budget. The organizations receiving grants from the \$450,000 allocated to Outreach are categorized into five pillars, and are as follows:

Housing Stability & Solutions to Homelessness

Charlotte Family Housing	\$ 40,000
Roof Above	\$ 25,000
Habitat for Humanity	\$ 60,000
The Relatives	\$ 12,000
YWCA (WIT/Families Together)	\$ 10,000
Samaritan House	\$ 5,000
SUBTOTAL	\$145,000

Economic Opportunity and Stabilization

Crisis Assistance	\$ 40,000
Nourish Up	\$ 23,000
BraveWorks	\$ 13,500
Common Wealth Charlotte	\$ 11,000
Furnish for Good	\$ 5,000
SUBTOTAL	\$ 92,500

Children, Youth, & Educational Equity

ourBridge for Kids	\$ 7,000
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	\$ 12,000
Freedom School Partners (at Rama Rd)	\$ 48,000
Communities in Schools - Rama Rd	\$ 65,000
Rama Road Annual Budget	\$ 9,000
Heart Math Tutoring	\$ 10,000
SUBTOTAL	\$151,500

Reconciliation & Restorative Social Justice

Galilee Ministries of East CLT	\$ 22,500
RAIN	\$ 2,500
Foster Village	\$ 8,500
MeckMIN	\$ 4,000
YWCA (Eliminating Racism)	\$ 8,000
Time Out Youth	\$ 7,500
SUBTOTAL	\$ 53,000

Care and Sustainment of God's Creation \$ 0.0

OTHER

Mecklenburg Ministry Dues	\$ 1,000
Research & Development	\$ 500
Undesignated Outreach	\$ 2,500
Administrative: Room in the Inn	\$ 1,500
Administrative: Habitat for Humanity	\$ 500
Administrative: Education & Advocacy	\$ 500
Immediate Response	\$ 2,000
TOTAL OTHER	\$ 9,000

GRAND TOTAL**\$450,000****The \$31,000 for Mission was distributed to the following partners in 2024:**

Episcopal Diocese of Costa Rica	\$14,250
Thistle Farms	\$ 2,000
Episcopal Diocese of Botswana	\$14,250
Undesignated	\$ 500
TOTAL	\$31,000

Also in March, Outreach and Mission continued to engage parishioners from around the Charlotte Convocation in the national church's Becoming Beloved Community Lenten study about Reconciliation, concluding with a labyrinth walk in All Saints' Hall. In addition to Lydia's Pantry, an outgrowth of our Beloved Community conversations, at Galilee Ministries, which provides canned foods/ dry goods for East Charlotte neighbors experiencing a food emergency, a meditation garden was built and planted.

In April, the parish donated generously to the Easter offering, which was given to our community partner, CRISIS Assistance Ministries in celebration of the organization's 50th Anniversary. Also in April, the Commission made recommendations to the Christ Church Foundation for the allocation of the Foundation's Outreach Fund. New Foundation grant recipients for 2025 were Academy of Goal Achievers, Baby Bundles, Council for Children's Rights, Dahlia Grove, Families Forward Charlotte, Harvest Center, Mind, Body, Baby, QC Family Tree, Right Moves for Youth, Safe Alliance, Southminster, Wayfinders, and Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region. Additionally, for the first time ever, the commission recommended organizations to fit in our Creation Care pillar. Funding for the following was approved: Carolina Farm Trust, Catawba Lands Conservancy/Carolina Thread Trail, Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation, and Trees Charlotte.

May was busy with end of year support to Rama Road Elementary, and preparations for Freedom School. The work with Diaper Bank of Charlotte continues as Christ Church is sponsoring a monthly Dignity Drive to provide supplies to those in need.

This summer, over 60 volunteers provided over 650 hours of support at Freedom School, with about a dozen teen board members representing youth participation. Our Girl Scouts and other Rama Road Elementary school support opportunities were also fully engaged. These opportunities at Rama Road have continued in the fall with back-to-school, Thanksgiving, and Christmas-related outreach work. Other holiday-focused outreach included the Jubilee Store for Charlotte Family Housing, a food drive benefiting both Lydia's Pantry and Nourish Up, and a Winter Essentials Clothing Drive supporting shelters in Charlotte and Western North Carolina.

As a result of a large Transforming Hearts gift to Shamrock Gardens, an affordable housing community in East Charlotte, we have found numerous ways to lean into that community this year. Volunteers have participated in Easter, Back-to-School, Halloween, and Christmas programs in the community. We were able to provide significant support when SNAP benefits were on hold during the government shutdown and most recently when ICE and BP agencies were in Charlotte.

Our relationship with Time Out Youth, a community for LGBTQ+ and allied youth ages 13 to 24, has deepened significantly over the last year. Volunteers have hosted family-style dinners at the youth center, hosting a Thanksgiving week "Friendsgiving" for the second time. Additionally, we have collected much-needed personal care items and supplies for the center. In August, Christ Church hosted its first-ever booth at the Charlotte Pride Festival. Our participation was well received by parishioners and the community.

In November, having established a relationship with the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave, NC, post-Hurricane Helene, the Outreach team, in conjunction with all other ministry areas, organized a church-wide Intergenerational Day of Service. Christ Church members of every age and stage gathered to make jars of "Friendship Bean Soup" and "Brownies in a Jar" for our neighbors in Western North Carolina. Boxes were decorated, and cards were written with loving messages.

Christ Church continued to serve and host at Room the Inn (RITI), along with providing ongoing service opportunities at the Levine Men's Shelter. We added a monthly service opportunity at CRISIS Assistance Ministries for individuals and families with children as young as five years old (with an accompanying adult).

Outreach and Mission Commission: Amelia Abbott, Patrick Bailey, Sarah Deason, Julia Duncan, Joanne Jenkins, Mark Landers, Catherine Monroe, Zach Mannis, Molly Martin, Geoff Peters, Wil Trohanis

GENEROSITY AND STEWARDSHIP

Submitted by Natalie Akin (Director of Generosity), Danielle Denise (Director of Annual Giving), and Paulette Wilkes (Administrative Assistant to Generosity & Stewardship)

Generosity

2025 brought change for the Generosity Ministry as our first Director of Annual Giving, Amy Martin, moved to Atlanta to be closer to family. While her shoes would be hard to fill, we were fortunate to have the opportunity to hire Danielle DeNise in May, and she has already made a profound impact on our shared work. She is an ordained Lutheran minister with a passion for generosity as a spiritual practice (she is even getting her Doctorate in Divinity focused on generosity). We are blessed to have her on the team and here at Christ Church.

Generosity remains a priority for the Vestry, and this year, three social events were hosted to share the church's priorities and convey the importance and value of making a timely annual pledge. These events were well-attended, parishioners engaged in meaningful conversations with each other as well as clergy and staff, and feedback after each event has been very positive.

The Generosity and Stewardship Commission (GSC) continues to meet quarterly to carry out its mission to foster "spiritual growth and belonging by nurturing the holistic expression of generosity through the prayerful stewardship of the gifts of time, talent, and treasure given to us by God." Michael Baker continued as Chair in 2025 and will be followed by Geoff Peters in 2026. Two new at-large members, William Mills and Betsy Zarzour, have joined the Commission, while Michael Baker and Corrie Manis will roll off with the close of 2025. Katherine Vest, Director of Engagement, and Natalie Akin are partnering to establish an Engagement Committee to further ensure all members of Christ Church feel seen, known, and valued, and have an opportunity to plug in to the life of the church in ways they find fulfilling. Additionally, the commission continues to support *Wonderfully Made*, helping parishioners name and meaningfully use their gifts in all areas of their lives, as well as the Annual Stewardship Campaign (more below).

We also created new opportunities to support families in exploring generosity together. *Raising Generous Kids*, offered in partnership with our Children and Family Ministry, began with a September kickoff and continued with a weekly drop-in small group for parents. We also partnered with Outreach to host *Work of Love*, inviting families to serve together and prepare for the Intergenerational Day of Service.

Generosity & Stewardship Commission: Natalie Akin (Leader), Michael Baker (Leader), Paulette Wilkes (Leader), Joshua Case, Charlie Deason, Danielle DeNise, Catherine Ruth Kelly, Corrie Manis, Merrill Mills, William Mills, Geoff Peters, Allen Pruitt, Skip Smart, Katherine Vest, and Betsy Zarzour.

2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign

Under the astute leadership of co-chairs Merrill and William Mills, the 2025 Annual Stewardship Campaign (ASC) raised a record \$6.2 million from over 1,300 parish households. This allowed the Vestry to set a budget in Spring 2025 for the year ahead and has enabled the work of the church this calendar year.

2026 Annual Stewardship Campaign

The 2026 Annual Campaign is being led by the vestry with strong support from our capable staff team. Packages were mailed to the parish on September 8, 2025, and highlighted the newly created *With Generous Hearts* podcast featuring stories from eight different parishioners and several clergy. As of November 25, the podcast had been downloaded 1,012 times.

As in years past, the vestry has provided moving testimonies in Sunday worship services about their decision to support the ASC, and all pledges were formally blessed during the worship service over a five-week period this fall.

As of December 1, 2025, we received 790 pledges for a total of \$4,764,885.40.

As is customary, the CCF Board of Trustees met three times throughout the year, in February, May, and November. Upon the recommendation of the Scholarship Committee, four applicants (three undergraduate students and one divinity student) received grants totaling \$12,000 from the Scholarship Fund. The Habitat for Humanity Fund contributed to the construction of another Habitat home. On the recommendation of the Outreach Commission, the following gifts were approved for the following community partners:

Academy of Goal Achievers	\$8,000
Baby Bundles	\$3,000
Carolina Farm Trust	\$7,500
Catawba Land Conservancy/Carolina Thread Trail	\$2,500
Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation	\$2,500
Council for Children's Rights	\$2,598
Dahlia Grove	\$5,000
Families Forward	\$3,000
Harvest Center	\$5,000
Mind, Body, Baby	\$5,000
QR Family Tree	\$2,500
Right Moves for Youth	\$5,000
Safe Alliance	\$7,500
Southminster	\$10,000
Trees Charlotte	\$2,500
Wayfinders	\$5,000
Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region	\$15,578
TOTAL	\$92,176

The Nominating Committee recommended two names to the Vestry for approval to fill soon-to-be-open positions. Robert Schleusner and Hooper Hardison are rolling off after serving two three-year terms. In addition, one existing Trustee, whose first term expires at the end of 2025, has agreed to serve a second three-year term.

Christ Church Foundation (CCF)

2025 Board of Trustees: David Kern (*President*), Hooper Hardison (*Vice-President*), Allison Popp (*Secretary*), Chris Allen (*Treasurer*), Mary Gregory (*Trustee*), Robert Schleusner (*Trustee*), Geoffrey Mize (*Trustee*), Joyce Cmiel (*Trustee*), Chandler King (*Trustee*), Carl Showalter (*Senior Warden*), Ginny Cobb (*Junior Warden*), Mark Landers (*Outreach Commission Chair*), and Skip Smart (*Planned Giving/Oak Circle Chair*).

Oak Circle

The Oak Circle Committee met in January, May, and October 2025. There are currently 119 households (178 individuals) who are confirmed Oak Circle members.

The Summer edition of *The Disciple* focused on generosity, sharing stories that highlighted Oak Circle. Solicitation for prospective Oak Circle members continues by current committee members.

The following efforts increased education surrounding planned giving:

- February: Southminster gathering to discuss funeral planning, obituaries, and planned giving
- Spring: Legacy Sunday promoted planned giving and shared the list of Oak Circle members.
- Spring: Parish-wide mailing

Planned for 2026:

- Gathering to celebrate current Oak Circle members
- Outreach to CCK (Christ Church Kindergarten) families

WELLBEING AND CARE

Submitted by Alex Bacon, Therapist and Wellbeing Educator, and Elizabeth Angerson, Program Coordinator

The Wellbeing and Care ministry is excited to share this information for the 2025 year:

438 individual counseling sessions provided

Individual counseling sessions are provided to the church members (teen-older adults) and to the CCK teachers and staff.

105 consultation appointments provided

Note: consultation appointments differ from counseling appointments because they are a one-time meeting held typically to address a specific, time sensitive matter for specific advice and guidance. Consultation appointments are available to church members as well as non-church members.

118 referrals provided

Referrals are provided by request for church members, CCK staff and teachers and are also available to non-church members.

Referrals are provided in the following instances: someone would like to work with a therapist who is not based at Christ Church, and/or there is a need for specialized care that The Center for Wellbeing and Care does not provide. Examples are substance abuse recovery, eating disorders, psychological testing, divorce attorneys, domestic violence counseling, in-patient hospitalization, etc.

2,066 group participation “touchpoints”

This number reflects the number of participants in group programming/activities provided by The Center for Wellbeing and Care. (For example: School of Faith classes, Grief and Hope support groups, Holy Hikes, Mindful Mondays, Contemplative Prayers, etc.)

Offsite retreat for The Center for Wellbeing and Care staff in November 2025

- Alice DeVries, High School Youth Minister, joined the Center for Wellbeing and Care team in September.
- Second retreat for this team since the Center opened in October 2024. Alice DeVries led us on this D.I.S.C. assessment retreat.

SPECIAL PROGRAMMING PROVIDED IN 2025

Events and Programs

- Winter Wellness: Spiritual Practice of Yarn Arts – sacramental tactile offering
- Relational Workshop with Lisa Cashion and Matthew Alexander PhD, MA – Cultivating Lasting Love: A Marriage Workshop
- Parenting with Love and Logic – Wendy Petricoff workshop series
- Open House – The Center for Wellbeing and Care-Mental health professionals in the Charlotte area
- Sacred Stitches – Lenten series and Stitching in Fellowship
- Lenten, summer and Advent Quiet Day – led by The Reverend Connor Gwin
- Living with Grief and Hope – support group

- Grief and Hope Reunion Dinner – led by Alex Bacon, Amy Styers Bissette, and The Reverend Connor Gwin
- Summer and winter blood drives – inspired by a parishioner whose friend lost their life in a car accident in 2022
- Coping in an Anxious World – workshop series led by Amy Styers Bissette
- Holy Hike in early fall
- Soul Care 101 – several offerings led by The Reverend Connor Gwin and Alice DeVries
- Befriending your Nervous System (two onsite and one offsite) – workshops led by Amy Styers Bissette
- Matthew Alexander PhD, MA – Modern Wisdom for Troubled Times
- Kintsugi Experience – artist Eva Crawford

Wellbeing-related Faith Forums

- Lisa Damour – The Emotional Life of Teenagers
- Michelle Icard – Perseverance & Parenting in the School-Aged Years
- John Philip Newell – Listening to the Heartbeat of God
- What is Wellbeing? All about the Center for Wellbeing and Care
- Introduction to Soul Care
- Michael Rich, MD – Digital Health and Wellness

Regular Offerings

- Mindful Mondays – weekly online prayer and devotional group
- Simple Presence – contemplative prayer meets weekly
- Yoga for the Spirit – continues to meet weekly in person and/or Zoom
- Sacred Stitches – knitting and/or crocheting charitable items
- AA Discussion Group
- Bereavement Team Ministry
- Birthday Card Ministry
- Caring Guild
- Funeral Team
- Sunshine Guild

Alex Bacon, MSW, LCSW

Therapist & Wellbeing Educator, The Center for Wellbeing & Care

Having just marked my four-year anniversary of working as a therapist and wellbeing educator at Christ Church, I am moved to say that I continue to thoroughly enjoy my work here. It is such an honor to support church members in their therapeutic journeys – many of whom have never sought therapy before. I have such admiration for my clients who are bravely committed to enhancing their wellbeing and taking steps to claim better emotional health for themselves. And that client might be a 15-year-old or a 75-year old! I love being affiliated with Christ Church's Center for Wellbeing & Care. The Center's very presence within Christ Church says to all, "What you are going through matters, and YOU matter!" That affirmation is so powerful, and I relish being a part of such care.

Amy Styers Bissette, MSW, LCSW

Therapist & Wellbeing Educator, The Center for Wellbeing & Care

It has been a true privilege to continue to provide therapy services to the Christ Church community in my second year here. I very much value Christ Church's commitment to all areas of wellbeing, and I am honored to be one of the two licensed therapists on staff. In the mental health educator role of my position, I also had the privilege of offering a program, *Befriending Your Nervous System*, twice this year at Christ Church and once for the Southminster Retirement Community. A total of 88 participants attended these presentations, with 56 attendees at Southminster. I appreciated the interaction of participants, including conversations and questions regarding this topic.

Elizabeth Angerson

Program Coordinator, The Center for Wellbeing and Care

I recently had the pleasure of organizing the Kintsugi Experience led by local artist Eva Crawford. This offering was created as a way to support participants from *Living with Grief and Hope* once they completed their workshop.

Kintsugi, the Japanese art of mending broken vessels, uses small pieces to repair an object – often one that carries a memory or personal significance. This mending process, done with a gold-like material, becomes a gentle metaphor for healing after grief and loss.

During the experience, participants are invited (if they feel comfortable) to share the story behind their broken object and reflect on its meaning. The practice reminds us that we all carry brokenness, and that the work of mending – though delicate – is possible. This simple yet profound act brings deep meaning to the experience and offers a hopeful path forward.

The Center for Wellbeing & Care Staff: The Reverend Connor Gwin, Associate Rector for Spiritual Wellbeing & Care; Alex Bacon, MSW, LCSW Therapist & Wellbeing Educator; Amy Styers Bissette, MSW, LCSW Therapist & Wellbeing Educator; Alice DeVries, Facilitator; Elizabeth Angerson, Program Coordinator; and Jennifer Hamm, Assistant to the Rector and Spiritual Wellbeing & Care.

Commission Members: Elizabeth Angerson (Leader), Alex Bacon (Leader), The Reverend Connor Gwin (Leader), Anne Ranson (Leader), Amy Styers Bissette (Leader), Heather Bonner, Joyce Cmiel, Sarah Eyssen, Kathy Fletcher, Kathy Giannuzzi, Jennifer Hamm, Laurie Howell, Preeti Matkins, Kim Perras, Margaret Siegel, and Kyle Woodruff.

WORSHIP AND LITURGY

Submitted by The Reverend Joshua Case and Emily Skinner

If there are three words to describe our liturgy and worship in 2025 they would be grounded, joyful, and growing. Grounded in the fullness of our Episcopal/Anglican expression, joyful in our ongoing engagement of all ages and stages in worship and growing in both numbers of people who attend and the number of people who are stepping up into leadership.

Additional signs of our vitality, growth and pastoral response to the needs of our parishioners in 2025 include:

- We have continued to offer at least five worship service options each Sunday, two weekday worship services most weeks and continue to support weekly Chapel services of Christ Church Kindergarten – including class specific chapels and All School Chapels for families and all 274 students.
- This fall had an average of 920 people engaged in worship weekly on-campus at Christ Church (Fall 2025).
- Of all our liturgies, the Discovery Service continues to be one of the largest for our congregation.
- Clergy lead regular services at multiple offsite locations including, Church at the Farm (Lancaster, SC), Southminster and The Cypress.
- We baptized 112 children and 3 adults, performed 12 weddings, and provided service for 31 families for funerals.
- Over 50 confirmands joined in worship ministries to learn about worship at Christ Church and to serve in leadership.
- We average approximately 175 online worshipers per week and, in 2025, saw 17,429 total views on all our livestream channels.

Enriching the Worship Experience

The worship experience at Christ Church continues to hit its stride with each of our liturgies living into their unique expression rooted in our Episcopal tradition. We continue to offer an intergenerational worship service on the first Sunday of the month during the 8:45 am All Saints' Hall service called "The Bridge." This service provides an opportunity for our "tween-age" parishioners and their families to worship together and share in worship leadership. The hope is that this worship service will provide a literal "bridge" for families trying to find new opportunities to worship after aging out of our very successful Discovery Service. We received a lot of positive feedback from families and plan to continue offering this service through 2025 on the first Sundays of the month.

This fall our worship liturgies also featured a new intergenerational handbell choir led by our talented Katie Lehman. The ringers performed twice this fall and are looking at other ways to engage in worship in months to come.

Worship Volunteers

Did you know?

- It takes over 45 volunteers to serve in worship every Sunday to provide the kind of hospitality, welcome and practical set-up to make our liturgies flow.
- We empower approximately ten young ministers every week in our Discovery Worship to lead the service alongside clergy.
- It takes twelve tween-age ministers for our Bridge Worship to have the kind of intergenerational expression that holds space for our pre-confirmation and confirmation aged students and their families.

- All sign up and recruitment for Sunday volunteer roles continue to be digital. This has enabled us to share more widely the available serving opportunities across the parish.

Special Liturgies

In 2025 we had multiple special liturgies including:

- In the season of Lent, we held a Contemplative Choral Compline, a contemplative service of choral music and prayer.
- This summer we hosted another Church at the Farm. We had over 150 people from Christ Church join us for worship, food and fun at North Corner Haven.
- In the early months of 2026 we look forward to hosting several special liturgies at Christ Church including but not limited to: a service of ordination for a deacon raised up from the parish; closing worship for the Episcopal Parish Network annual meeting in Charlotte; a blessing of our new building, and several others.

Liturgical Commission

The Liturgical Commission is a community grounded in prayer, dedicated to enriching worship at Christ Church. We support the clergy and music ministries in preparing seasonal and special services, empower people of all ages to participate in worship, and collaborate creatively to nurture the spiritual growth of our congregation.

In keeping with Christ Church's best practices for Commission leadership across all our commissions and ministry areas, the Liturgical Commission welcomed new members. We are excited about the gifts and passion for worship our new members share.

2025 Liturgical Commission Members: David Dean (chair), Ned Waller (vestry rep), Beeland Voellinger, Kim Perras, Michael Murphy, Joe Layman, Anne Cullen, Amie Packer, Kim Hanson, Joe Kenny, Carolyn Hogue, George Rudisill, Randall Mountcastle, Drew Russ, Scott Griffin, Mary Neal Harris, Ben Outen, Charles Milling, Owen Peck, Katie Lehman, LaQuita Lindsay, Elizabeth Ignasher, Hunter Ives, Emily Skinner, and The Reverend Joshua Case.

YOUTH AND FAMILY

Submitted by Savannah Jane Williams, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Youth Ministry takes a village, and we are grateful for ours! Here is a snapshot of some of what it took to make youth programming at Christ Church possible this year:

- 10 youth preachers on Youth Sunday
- 10 Life Group students average weekly attendance
- 10 pilgrims
- 15 pounds of candy
- 24 EYC students average twice-monthly attendance
- 35 Youth Council members average monthly attendance
- 44 pots of soup
- 47 youth confirmands
- 65 volunteers across all youth program offerings
- 95 Youth Council members
- 110 acolytes
- 132 fourth- to eighth-graders serving in liturgical roles in The Bridge service
- 140 loaves of bread
- 176 s'mores
- 300 Rice Krispie treats
- 432 donuts
- 496 prayer candles lit to close Youth Council and Life Group
- 1,650 of Alice's homemade chocolate chip cookies
- 2,400 donut holes
- A community of parents and other parishioners who volunteer to drive, bring food, spread the word about youth events and help us extend hospitality to all!

2025 has been a year marked by growth, both in the lives of students and families, and in the size of the youth program at Christ Church. We continue to be amazed by the depth of character, thought and intention that the youth of Christ Church bring to our programming. It is a privilege to be invited into the lives of our students, and we prayerfully and expectantly look forward to what comes next in 2026.

As a community, we seek to model, mentor, make memories, engage in meaningful conversations, and move towards mastery of tools for nurturing the spiritual life.

Model & Mentor

- Through a dedicated team of volunteer leaders for both middle and high school, students regularly see faith modeled through adults who show up, listen, create and hold sacred space, and walk alongside them as they grow and deepen their faith. Through their servant leadership and involvement in parish events, high school members of Youth Council model for younger students what it looks like to make their life with God a priority.

Make Memories

- With an average of 24 students at EYC's twice-monthly gatherings, middle schoolers continue to build friendships and create shared memories through service projects, games, worship, and time spent simply having fun together. High schoolers have made memories together this year through opportunities to travel to Glory Ridge for a contemplative retreat, West Virginia for a ski trip, and Spain to walk 100 km of the Camino de Santiago. Intentional time spent together continues to grow both relational and spiritual fruit!

Meaningful Conversation

- Our Sunday morning formation offerings (Sunday School, Confirmation, High School Bible Study) provide spaces for students to ask questions, reflect, and talk openly about their lives and their faith. On Wednesday nights, Life Group provides a sacred space for students to discuss the intersection of faith and life, and at monthly Youth Council meetings small groups engage in peer-led discussion to reflect on their spiritual lives. Outside of Sundays and Wednesdays, Alice and Savannah Jane hold office hours at Amelie's twice a month, and spend two days a month volunteering at the Myers Park High School Wellness Center, offering accessible connection and support for students.

Mastery

- 49 youth were confirmed in 2025: 47 eighth graders and two high schoolers. This fall we welcomed 48 new confirmands who, as part of confirmation, have already stepped into liturgical service as acolytes, ushers, lectors, chalice bearers and members of the altar guild. Throughout the year both high schoolers and middle schoolers practice the art of holding space for one another, and high schoolers have mastered spiritual practices like the Prayer of Examen, Journaling, Lectio Divina and Centering Prayer, and Theological Reflection. For the sixth year in a row, The Space Between Us was offered to high school seniors from Christ Church and the Academy of Goal Achievers to master the art of communication.

Youth Commission Members: Jenny Morton (Leader), Chip Abbott, Laura Baughan, Alice deVries, Lizzy Dillard, Kim Ellison, Kristen Garnett, Lise Hinton, Ginger McAdams, Will Meyer, Dory Rogers, Mary Frances Segars, Maggie Shamblin, Elizabeth Walker, and Savannah Jane Williams.

TRANSFORMING HEARTS CAMPAIGN

Submitted by Wendy Mauney, Chief Operating Officer

As we conclude the second full year of the Transforming Hearts Campaign, it is inspiring to see not only the physical transformation taking shape across our campus and in the wider community, but also the quieter, deeper spiritual transformation made possible through the extraordinary generosity of more than 600 households, whose gifts totaling over \$33 million have brought this vision to life.

Guided by our shared priorities of Faith, Connection, and Wellbeing for All, the Implementation Teams have worked faithfully throughout the year to turn this vision into lived reality. What follows are their reports, which reflect the care, collaboration, and commitment behind this work.

Spiritual Growth – Over the course of 2025, the Spiritual Growth Committee met several times as part of a season of prayer, discernment, and exploration. This year was intentionally less about launching new programs and more about listening – listening for where the Spirit might be leading Christ Church as the new building took shape and the Center for Wellbeing and Care was thoughtfully developed.

Co-chaired by Cindy Costa and Joshua Case, the committee focused its work on clarifying purpose and asking foundational questions about how Christ Church can best support spiritual formation across the lifespan. While no specific programming was finalized during the year, the group revisited and reaffirmed core themes from its 2024 presentation to the Transforming Hearts Oversight and Governance Committee – particularly the call to help people live in Christ and live out faith as central expressions of the parish's mission.

Now, with the building nearing completion, the committee is poised to move from discernment into action. In 2026 and beyond, the Spiritual Growth Committee anticipates a renewed season of energy and focus, drawing lessons from this past year to cultivate faith across generations on our new campus. The group also looks forward to deeper collaboration with Digital Ministries as Christ Church explores new ways of nurturing spiritual growth both in-person and online.

Digital Ministries – 2025 was a deliberately slower year for the Digital Ministries Implementation Team, marked by patience and strategic restraint. The group met only a few times and largely paused active development while attention was directed toward other key aspects of the Transforming Hearts initiative – particularly the construction of the new building and the formation of the Center for Wellbeing and Care.

In the latter part of the year, however, new and generative conversations began to emerge. These discussions centered on the possibility of developing a more intentional digital campus – a space where parishioners and those beyond Christ Church might engage in formation, worship, and meaningful connection with the life of the parish. Exploratory conversations took place with several faith-based organizations around the potential development of a web-assisted AI tool that could help visitors to the Christ Church website discern next steps in their spiritual journey and connect more easily with programs and ministries. In addition, ongoing conversations addressed future improvements to the Christ Church app and other technologies needed to support faith and formation in an increasingly digital age.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Digital Ministries team anticipates a more active season of development and implementation as these ideas take clearer shape. This next chapter holds exciting potential as Christ Church continues to explore how digital tools can faithfully support connection, formation, and well-being – both within the parish and beyond its walls.

Engagement and Hospitality – The Engagement and Hospitality Working Group continued its focus on practical ways to strengthen connection, pastoral care, and hospitality as Christ Church prepares to open the new parish life building. The group advanced ideas to improve Sunday-morning welcome, deepen intergenerational relationships, and create more intentional pathways for people to share needs, serve together, and feel known. This work will

help shape a vision for the new building as not just a space, but a hub for belonging, generosity, and community life.

Center for Wellbeing and Care – Now in its second full year, the Center for Wellbeing and Care has grown from its initial launch into a season of active, life-giving ministry, serving an increasing number of parishioners through counseling, programs, and spiritual formation. Demand for individual counseling rose significantly in the fall, reflecting both deepening trust and the real needs people are carrying. Alongside individual care, the Center offered classes and conversations that thoughtfully weave Christian spirituality with research on mental health, habits, and formation. Looking ahead to 2026, the Center will continue to deepen its core offerings, launch Soul Care 201 and 301, and expand opportunities that normalize seeking support, nurture healing, and invite accessible, meaningful spiritual growth for all.

Sacred Spaces – This year marked a significant and visible transformation of our campus with the construction of The Commons, a new 14,000-square-foot building designed to foster connection, welcome, and belonging. We began the year by laying foundations for these new gathering spaces and watched as the building steadily rose – milestones such as the setting of the steel, installation of the roof, masonry, and expansive windows offering tangible signs of progress, alongside the essential work of electrical, HVAC, flooring, and millwork taking place within. The Commons will include a 2,000-square-foot Youth Center and a café space, further expanding opportunities for fellowship and formation. We look forward to opening The Commons to the parish and wider community in the first week of March, with deep gratitude to the dedicated Sacred Spaces Implementation Team, Jenkins-Peer Architects, and Barringer Construction, Inc., whose faithful work has brought this vision to life.

Outreach and Creation Care – Our Outreach Implementation Team of Transforming Hearts had a busy 2025. In total, we have committed \$1,605,000 to community impact. Notably, BraveWorks funding was approved in early 2025 for \$250,000, as was a \$130,000 50th Anniversary gift to CRISIS Assistance Ministry, which was part of a founding partner challenge. We continued our work on Hurricane Helene relief with a gift of \$50,000 to The Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Bat Cave, to assist with the construction of their Hope Center.

We responded with a grant of \$50,000 for SNAP benefit relief in November, \$25,000 of which was disbursed to the Lydia's Pantry at the Galilee Center for Disbursements have also been given to Habitat, Freedom School, Roof Above, Shamrock Gardens, and St. Michael and All Angels for commitments made in 2024. The Outreach Implementation Team will convene in late January 2026 to review proposals from the YWCA and Charlotte Bilingual Preschool as it continues to discern the most appropriate uses for Transforming Hearts funds in the community.

Faith Community Partnerships – Throughout 2025, Chip Edens and Joshua Case were in ongoing conversation with a variety of partners as part of a season of prayerful listening, exploration, and discernment. This work unfolded alongside the development of the new building and the shaping of the Center for Wellbeing and Care, making this year less about formalizing partnerships and more about cultivating relationships and clarity of purpose.

During the year, Chip and Joshua engaged in conversations with partners across the Episcopal and Anglican landscape, including local churches such as Saint Michael and All Angels, the Diocese of Jerusalem, the Episcopal Parish Network, and several Episcopal seminaries. These dialogues helped surface shared questions, common hopes, and opportunities for mutual learning, pointing toward Christ Church's role not only as a resourcing presence but also as a thoughtful conversation partner within local faith communities and the wider global Anglican Communion.

Looking ahead to 2026 and beyond, additional strategic partnerships are expected to emerge from this groundwork. These relationships will allow Christ Church to continue deepening its engagement in the work of faith, connection, and well-being—locally and across the global Anglican community – as discernment gives way to action.

continued

As we look ahead, we are filled with hope for what lies before Christ Church and for the ways lives – within our parish and beyond – will continue to be shaped and renewed. We are deeply grateful for your steadfast generosity, encouragement, and commitment to the ongoing work of Transforming Hearts.

Members of the Oversight and Governance Committee: Virginia Anderson, The Reverend Joshua Case, Ginny Cobb, The Reverend Chip Edens, Fletcher Gregory, Bill Lorenz, Wendy Mauney, Dick Parkhurst, Arrington Mixon, Carl Showalter, Chris Ullrich.



Christ Church Charlotte

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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