

Reports to the 275th Annual Parish Meeting



August 2018 Acolyte Car Wash "staff and helpers" courtesy of Susan Shackford

Our Mission Statement: To welcome all, to provide hope and express gratitude for God's love and creation, nurturing our community and celebrating our faith. *Christ Episcopal Church, a welcoming community of faith on the Guilford Green since 1744.*

February 3, 2019
4th Sunday after the Epiphany

Christ Episcopal Church
Guilford, Connecticut

AGENDA

275TH ANNUAL PARISH MEETING of CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH Guilford, Connecticut

4th Sunday after the Epiphany
3 February 2019

Invocation

Presentation and adoption of the Voting Membership List

- Quorum declaration

Approval of the Minutes of the 274th Annual Parish Meeting

Report of the Nominating Committee:

- Nominations from the floor – if any
- Appointment of Tellers – if needed

First ballot – if needed

Correspondence: *Please note the thank you letters on the bulletin board by the Guild Room.*

Recognitions:

Reception of other Committee and Officer Reports:

- Acceptance of reports contained in the printed Report to the 274th Annual Parish Meeting
- Updates from the Treasurer and Finance Committee Chair

Second Ballot -- if needed

Old Business:

- *Ad hoc Committee continues to work on State of CT: Planning & Maintenance Assessment Grant Application*
- Yes, there will be a celebration of our 275 years as a worshipping community; stay tuned.

New Business: Rhythms of Grace table activities

Set the date for the 276th Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, February 2, 2020

Adjournment

Benediction

Christ Episcopal Church
Guilford, Connecticut
274th Annual Parish Meeting Minutes
February 4, 2018

Attendance: Approximately 90 voting members were in attendance

Invocation: The meeting began with a prayer led by Rector Harrison West.

The Annual Parish Meeting was called to order at 11:45

Voting Membership List and Minutes of the 273rd Annual Parish Meeting were presented, approved, and adopted.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

- **Nominating committee was introduced:** Holley Claiborn, Jennifer Huebner, Jen McShane, Laura Raymond, Kasha Kingsbury, and *ex-officio members* Senior Warden Rose Robinson, Junior Warden Susan Shackford, and Rector Harrison West
- **No new nominees were proposed. It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed, and the Clerk be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee:**

Vestry Officers for 2018-2019: Senior Warden Rose Robinson, Junior Warden Susan Shackford, Clerk Susan Leonard, Treasurer Michael Crossley

Vestry Members for Class of 2019: Mardee Moore to fill final year of Susan Leonard's term, with Peter Marks and David Oshana as continuing members

Vestry Members for Class of 2020: Rebecca Evans, Mitra Kish, and Bob McNamara, all continuing members

Vestry Members for Class of 2021: Bill Cuddy, Sudie Danaher, and Juliana Harris
Delegate to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in CT: Jennifer Huebner
Nominating Committee for the 275th Annual Parish Meeting: Kathleen Jones, Diane Kyle, Anne Rae, Caroline Herrick, Senior Warden Rose Robinson, and Junior Warden Susan Shackford

Annual Parish Meeting Reports:

- **The printed Report to the 273rd Annual Parish Meeting was received and accepted.**
- **Updates from the Treasurer and Finance Committee:**

Ted Sands explained that the "prepaid" pledges for 2017 totaling \$17,000 were received in 2016; nonetheless, because of our "cash-based" accounting method, it appears to be a loss for 2017. There is also a current shortfall of \$8,000 of unreceived 2017 pledges.

The 2018 stewardship campaign was a success for this year, which allowed us to add two new budget lines, one for the student intern and the other for the maintenance reserve of 3% for big repairs.

Ted thanked the following volunteers: Bookkeeper Melissa Lamoreaux, Carol Iovanna and her counting team, and budget preparation assistants Dirck Goss and Ed Seibert.

Recognitions: Harrison recognized the following retiring Vestry members: Ted Sands, Katherine Frydenborg, Diane Barker, and Diane Kyle.

Old Business:

Parish Hall: Diane Kyle explained that to complete the parish hall project, we will need to raise funds for the round tables, chairs, and to complete Phase Three. (Phase Three would add a new door, deck, and stairs to the north side of the parish hall, to more readily access that portion of the backyard.) The approximate cost will be \$12,000. We will also be hosting a celebration on March 10th to thank those who have helped us thus far; all parishioners are invited.

Inreach: Susan Leonard sent around a coffee-hour sign-up sheet and announced the next parish breakfast. Susan and her team were thanked for providing us with today's soup lunch.

Outreach: Rose Robinson thanked parishioners for their generous response to the Mitten Tree and "Angels under the Balcony" during Advent and Christmastide.

Unfinished work for the Capital Campaign:

Harrison presented historic pictures of our buildings with a focus on the bell tower. He then showed photos of the current condition of the bell tower to illustrate the needed maintenance to the shutters and to the bell pivots; updating those would allow the bell to ring. Since this work would require some serious engineering design work, an ad hoc committee (the Rector, Junior Warden Sue Shackford, former Senior Warden Pat Daunic, and former Vestry Member Bobbi Stuart) are investigating a State of CT Preservation Planning Grant, and whatever else might be included in a grant's scope of work. One possibility would be providing an access ramp from the nave floor, via the children's altar area, to the parish house level and its restrooms. For a \$20,000 maintenance planning project, the grant could be \$10,000, requiring a \$10,000 match from the parish. \$5,000 of that match has been promised. Comments and concerns were heard from the floor.

Date for the 275th Annual Parish Meeting was set for Sunday, February 3, 2019.

Approved and adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane C. Kyle, Parish Clerk

Current Parish Officers and Vestry Members *With their terms during the 2018-2019 year*

Parish Officers:

Senior Warden: Rose Robinson (serving second one-year term of a possible three)

Junior Warden: Susan Shackford (serving final one-year term of a possible three)

Treasurer: Michael Crossley (serving first one-year term of a possible three)

Clerk: Susan Leonard (serving first one-year term of a possible three)

Vestry Class of 2019:

Peter Marks

Mardee Moore – *serving the final year of Susan Leonard's term*

David Oshana

Vestry Class of 2020:

Rebecca Evans

Mitra Kish

Robert McNamara

Vestry Class of 2021:

William Cuddy

Sudie Danaher

Juliana Harris

Delegates to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in CT:

At the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, we instituted rotating terms.

George Kral -- term expires in 2019

Jennifer Huebner -- term expires in 2021

Alternate Delegate to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in CT:

Susan Pogue – term expires in 2020

Susan was unable to attend the 2018 Convention; the Vestry elected Bill Cuddy to serve in her place.

Nominating Committee for the 2019 Annual Meeting:

four 1-year terms, not eligible for re-election

Caroline Herrick, Kathleen Jones, Diane Kyle, Ann Rae

The Wardens and Rector are members *ex-officio*.

N.B.: Diane Kyle is part of the leadership team of our **South Central Region**, and therefore represents Christ Church on it. Participation in Convocations of the Region is open to all; the next one is Saturday, June 1. Time and place to be announced.

Report of the Nominating Committee to the 275th Annual Parish Meeting

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees to the Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church, Guilford, to be held on February 3, 2019. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the nominees for their willingness to stand for election and to serve the parish in these roles.

N.B.: Terms expire upon the election of successors, typically at the Annual Parish Meeting on the first Sunday in February of the year given.

Parish Officers:

Senior Warden – Rose Robinson (for a second one-year term, of a possible three)

Junior Warden – Alicia Bacon (for a first one-year term, of a possible three)

Clerk – Susan Leonard (for a second one-year term, of a possible three)

Treasurer – Ed Seibert *pro tem* (returning for at most a one-year term)

Vestry Class of 2021: Gabriela LaTorre Cabrejo, Mardee Moore

Vestry Class of 2020: Susan Shackford (to serve the balance of her Vestry eligibility.)

Delegate to Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT):

William Cuddy – three-year term expires 2018

Nominating Committee for the 276th Annual Parish Meeting: TBA

(The Rector and Wardens are members *ex-officio*.)

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee for the 275th Annual Parish Meeting

Elected Members: Caroline Herrick, Kathleen Jones, Diane Kyle, Ann Rae

Ex-officio Members: Rose Robinson, Senior Warden; Susan Shackford, Junior Warden; and the Rev. Harrison West, Rector

January 2019

Report from the Rector to the 2019 Annual Parish Meeting

In my report this year, I would like to begin where I usually conclude these reports -- with my profound gratitude for those with whom I am privileged to serve you, the people of God who are Christ Episcopal Church of Guilford. I am grateful for **Pat Wakefield's** calm, thoughtful, and tireless service as our Parish Administrator; she expertly looks after both the essentials and the details that enable me, and all of us, to focus on our ministries together. I am grateful for **Mark Sullivan's** talented, encouraging, and resourceful leadership as our Music Director. I think we are all more appreciative listeners, thanks to Mark's witty Music Notes, and how his compositions, written specifically for our Sunday School children and our Choir, have let them shine and inspired us all. I am grateful for **Laurie Varley's** loving, steady, and engaging ministry with our children and the teachers who serve with her. As our Sunday School Director, Laurie makes our Sunday School a place of welcome and encourages our children -- and all of us -- to grow in the knowledge and love of the Lord every Sunday morning and every day of Vacation Bible School, and she makes it fun! I am grateful for **Sheward Hagerty's** dependable and faithful service as our Sexton, diligently looking after our buildings and grounds, setting-up, cleaning-up, and watching over the well-being of our spaces. Having him look after our grounds and doing our snow removal is one of the best deals in town! Sheward has been with us ten years; so we are now budgeting for three weeks of vacation for him.

Melissa Lamoreaux gets a paragraph of her own, because she is in her own category: an accounting professional who fulfills her role as a volunteer! I am also grateful to Melissa for the good humor and perseverance that she brings with her.

This has been a challenging year for our finance team in general: On top of the dramas of life, our Treasurer **Michael Crossley** and members of our Finance Committee carried no small amount of anxiety about our cash flow. Would our reserve funds -- called "deferred income" -- be sufficient to cover the months when income was tight but expenses continued? As it happened, the "well" did not run dry, and we thank you for that. Michael, and our finance team, were the designated "worriers" for a parish that operates on as narrow a margin as we do.

Speaking of finances, a round of applause please for **Carol Iovanna!** Carol has stepped down from leading and training our offering counters after 15 years of service. Being sure that we have two people, who are unrelated by blood or marriage, trained to count and prepare the weekly deposit is no small task. **Bob Cairns** stepped down as a counter, concluding years of service dating back to early days in the Rev. Brad Locke's tenure as your Rector.

Parishioner **Donna LaFata** is a new member of our staff, serving four hours a week (on average) as our Communications Director. The initial focus of her work is with our Faith Formation program for children and youth, communicating within the parish via a monthly e-newsletter, and to the larger community through flyers and social media. She will soon be collecting information for a general parish e-newsletter to debut in March. Donna's position is funded by

a one-year grant from an anonymous source, inspired by an idea from our Faith Formation meetings. Many thanks to our benefactor! Faith Formation typically meets first Sundays during coffee hour. As with all meetings at Christ Church, all are welcome to participate.

The sell-out crowd for our 2018 Chili Supper and the ECW's Cookie Sale was certainly due to our reputation for wonderful chili – thanks to chefs **Peter Johnson and David Jones** and chief honcho **Jennifer Huebner**, but also to all those who got the word out: **Laura Raymond** with local print media, **Donna LaFata and Mark Sullivan** with social media, **Dirck Goss's** posters, **Bob Donahue** with his own amazing mailing list and that of the Guilford Interfaith Volunteers, and everyone who put up one of Donna's flyers!

Our Outreach efforts have taken on greater focus under the leadership of our Senior Warden **Rose Robinson**. A major new initiative this year has been "Rhythms of Grace," a monthly Sunday evening service designed for those with special needs -- particularly those on the autism spectrum. Rhythms of Grace is also a playful option for those who need to worship at a time other than Sunday morning. Indeed, one observer has noted that it's the adults who are still deeply engaged with the project activities when the children are ready to move on. After experiencing a couple of these activities at the Annual Parish Meeting, I hope you will join us for Rhythms of Grace at 4 p.m. on a second Sunday in the parish hall.

Many of you, adults and youth, participated in preparing for and hosting Chapel-on-the-Green in New Haven; you completely covered the Mitten Tree during Advent and then again during the season after the Epiphany; members of the Confirmation Group slept one night on the Green as part of the "Big Sleep Out" homeless-awareness event; many of you were generous Angels-Under-the-Balcony for the Town's Heating Assistance Program; and many were riveted by the recent presentation on the immigration crisis by parishioner **Glenn Formica** and the Rev. Gini King. Outreach had a hand in organizing all these undertakings; perhaps you'd like to help with organizing, next steps, and other initiatives at Outreach meetings on first Mondays in the Guild Room at 6:30 p.m.

Again this year, **Jennifer Huebner** and I met with a great group of our young folk to ready them for confirming the promises made for them when they were baptized. This preparation included prayer and discussion two Monday evenings a month. Although I hope we covered some material that they will remember, the activities more likely to be remembered, in addition to the Big Sleep Out mentioned above, included their participation in Nightwatch at St. John the Divine in NYC (with the confirmation group from First Church, as it happened) and the experience of the 9-11 Museum & Memorial; they helped prepare and serve at Chapel-on-the-Green in New Haven; and met with a whole bunch of other confirmands and Bishops Douglas and Ahrens over a pizza dinner at The Commons. On Saturday, May 19th, Jennifer and I were privileged to present **Alex Mayo, Hannah Tillier, Keelyn Ervin, Lauren Walczyk, Matthew Cabrejo, Megan McNamara, Michael Clarke, Olivia Ste. Marie, and Sabrina Doria** for Confirmation by Bishop Ahrens. The confirmands and their families were rewarded for making

the trek to Camp Washington for the service by the truly excellent treats served at the reception. (Camp Washington has the most amazing chef!) The newly confirmed helped lead our worship on a subsequent Sunday.

Mark McNamara, a member of the 2017 Confirmation Group, led one of the other great initiatives in the parish during 2018. For his Eagle Scout project, Mark organized and led the fund-raising and the construction of four new picnic tables for the parish's backyard. Along the way, Mark consulted with the Vestry on design, materials, costs, and the changes that happened along the way. One of the great innovations in the project was the preparing of the bed of cedar chips on which the tables sit. Thanks to Mark, his troop, other helpers, and the whole McNamara family, who pitched in to bring this project to a happy conclusion. Thanks also to all who contributed toward the construction costs.

These are but a few of the high points of *YFNR's* journey with you in 2018. 2019 has begun with bone-chilling cold, and our first wintertime hosting of Chapel-on-the Green. Please review the pages that follow for the rest of our 2018 story. Every page was edited and proofread by **Diane Barker** (thanks, Diane!) and deserves your attention. I look forward to where the Spirit leads us in our witness to Jesus Christ in the year to come.

Blessings,
Harrison West+
Your Friendly Neighborhood Rector

Report on the 2018 Diocesan Convention

The 2018 Convention was held on a rainy Saturday, October 27, in Mystic, Connecticut. The business of the Convention was routine and without controversy. A powerful service and Eucharist was held, conducted by Bishop Laura Ahrens. The music and the sermon were very moving.

The most important part of the Convention experience for me was the theme of racial healing, justice, and reconciliation. Breakout workshops on various aspects of this subject were held. The session that I attended was very well attended with spirited conversation and exchange of feelings and ideas. I came away very proud that our Diocese was confronting this important topic.

Submitted by George Kral

Episcopal Church in Connecticut Annual Convention

October 26, 27, 2018

Mystic Marriott, Groton, Connecticut

Friday, October 26: The first business session began with a welcome and blessing from the elegant leader of the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe, who welcomed us to the land of his indigenous people and blessed us with his beautiful flute.

Two resolutions passed that evening had a profound effect on me. One was "Affirmation of the Recognition and the Inherent Dignity and Worth of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People as Beloved of God." "Resolved, that the Episcopal Church in CT support educational, pastoral, liturgical, and legislative efforts that seek to end systemic violence and discrimination against transgender and gender non-conforming people, calling special attention to violence against transgender women of color; and be it further Resolved, that the Secretary of Convention convey this resolution to appropriate state and federal legislative bodies." I was proud that my church made a stand to further God's mission of restoration and reconciliation with all creation. The other resolution that left an impression on me was the Status of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Darien, which lost its standing as a parish and became governed by the bishop due to its lack of cohesiveness. I could only feel gratitude that Christ Church, Guilford, is such a cohesive community under the steady, compassionate warmth of our Friendly Neighborhood Rector, Harrison West, and our steady, compassionate, warm congregation.

Saturday, October 27: The second business session began with Bishop Ian Douglas's illumination of the New Missional Age as the church mission-centric, transformational, relational, and connected. Spiritual practices include new ways of understanding through listening to God and our neighbor, discerning what God might be calling us to do, trying things on, reflecting, praying together, and deciding what God wants us to do.

Convention question breakouts in the afternoon offered opportunities to practice the spiritual practices. Our delegation chose to pursue the question: How do we meaningfully engage ECCT in the existing work of serving God's mission among the poor and marginalized? We cycled through tables with changing groups from other churches to share our ideas, concerns, and proposals to address the question. I had become recently aware of the efforts in my community to support undocumented immigrants as they deal with ICE appointments, court dates, and deportation threats.

We brainstormed on ways the Church could help meet challenges faced by our neighbors. The third business session concluded with breakout session reports from the various inputs from the delegates. I was impressed with the inclusive model we experienced throughout the convention. We are blessed with able trusting leadership and faithful participation.

--Jennifer Huebner

Sr. Warden's Report

As Year 2 of serving as your Sr. Warden comes to an end, I can only reflect on how much closer it has brought me to Christ Church and its members. When I was asked to fill this position 2 years ago, I thought long and hard before I decided to accept. I thought about the time it would require and all that I had going on in my life already. I had served on the Vestry and been a member of Christ Church for many years, yet I still wondered if I could do the job. Was I qualified for the position? Could I keep up with my predecessors -- we've had some incredible Sr. Wardens in the history of our parish!

In the end, I felt that it was my time to step up and jump in. God was calling me (along with Harrison) to take this leap of faith and share my time and talent with all of you. We will always question whether we are doing enough or if we are doing it the way it should be done. What I've come to realize is that we probably all have these same thoughts. Don't let that stop us from jumping in and serving in any way that we can!! Your successes and your sense of accomplishment will surprise you. It's not about how much time you can give, it's about contributing to the life of the parish by doing whatever it is that you can do.

Christ Church is our "other family," and the more we do and the more we are present in the life of the church, the more fulfilled we become. It's amazing what you will learn about fellow members while chopping onions for a pot of soup! You will share laughs and hugs (and know that you've made a difference) as you hand out gloves to those showing up for Chapel on the Green. Taking time to enjoy that cup of coffee at coffee hour will prove much more enjoyable than the cup you grab at the Dunkin Donuts drive thru!! And no, you don't have to have teaching or craft skills to join us for Rhythms of Grace; just show up and you'll be amazed at how much fun you have! We are a welcoming and inclusive church. Let this be our strong point and let us grow and expand by reaching out to our own family and to those outside of our doors.

There are so many opportunities to take part in the life of Christ Church, from serving on the Altar Guild to hosting a "getting to know you dinner." Christ Church continues to grow within our church as well as in our outreach to the community. Our Chili Supper this year had the highest attendance ever! The community has come to depend on us to feed them before they attend the annual Tree Lighting. The Annual Tag Sale draws folks from near and far and the community now looks forward to this event. I am hoping that we find a way to continue this much anticipated yearly tag sale (hint, hint). Our newest Sunday service, Rhythms of Grace, is a fun and interactive worship service geared towards those with special needs and also welcomes those whose schedules prohibit them from getting to the traditional 10 a.m. service. Contact someone on the Outreach committee to find out more about what this fabulous service has to offer.

I welcome all of you to get involved. Help decorate the backyard for a picnic, welcome someone new on Sunday morning, host a coffee hour, sing in the choir. The possibilities are endless.

Today we will be introducing our newest Vestry members. I hope that we will all welcome them as well as touching base with current members that remain on the board. Remember that the Vestry is here to listen to and address the needs of our church and its members. We are open to hearing your suggestions and ideas. They may not get addressed or solved right away, but know that they are heard and taken into consideration. We can't function at our best if we are not aware of your concerns and successes.

As we celebrate 275 years as a place of worship, let us think about what we can offer of ourselves to Christ Church to help it grow and prosper and to help us as individuals to become more whole. Challenge yourselves to try something new within the Church, share your ideas, and get to better know each and every member of the Christ Church family.

Rose Robinson,
Sr. Warden

Jr. Warden's Annual Report for 2018

In my third and final year as your Jr. Warden, there is still no lack of projects that need attention. The challenge is to prioritize the jobs to match the limited funds. We often create a plan, and then an emergency pops up that makes it necessary to change and reallocate funds in order to stay on budget.

The following is an overview of projects completed, large or small, in 2018:

The driveway side of the chancel roof was replaced (\$3,460). A new refrigerator was purchased for the parish hall kitchen (\$999). (Thank you to the morning 12-Step group for helping to pay for this.) The septic system for the church and rectory was pumped out (\$560); windows in the parish hall had new ropes installed (\$800); we had fall/winter and spring cleaning of gutters done (\$300), along with black mold remediation or pretreatment in several areas of the Sunday School rooms (\$1,200). Following the remediation, repairs were done on the wallboard, taping the same. We repaired ceiling panels (\$600), made repairs to the parish hall roof due to leaks (\$215), elevated the safe (\$200), deep cleaned in the church and both floors of the parish hall, and the vendor covered for the sexton while on vacation (\$1,400). The vendor shampooed all rugs in the church and two floors of the parish hall (\$221), and while the sexton was away, we hired a vendor to plow the sidewalks (\$450). The left and right side of the chancel walls were repaired due to peeling paint (\$380), and a number of areas of the fence were repaired or replaced (\$550). Due to a revisit from squirrels (\$500), a carpenter repaired the hole entrance used by squirrels in the back corner of the church (\$200). Following a Fire Marshal inspection, a number of issues required attention (\$1,787). The side door to the vesting room was repaired (\$40), the bell tower railing repaired (\$60), quarter-round edging was installed on the chancel rug (\$155), and the slate was fixed on the church front porch entry (at no cost, thanks to Torrison Stone). All lights in the kitchen ceiling were replaced and all panels cleaned (funds donated by a parish member). A new fan/light

assembly was installed in the main bathroom, a new photocell light over the parish hall door, and new lights were installed in back of the rectory (\$417). In the rectory, all first floor wooden floors were refinished, with the dining room being both sanded and refinished (\$1,239); Fr. Harrison paid for the floor work, rectory rug cleaning, and other related expenses.

The following is the list of contractors who performed the above tasks: Air Dynamics Heating, Bio-Clean Remediation, Gregg Gilbert Painting, Peter Johnson -- our carpenter handyman, National Roofing, Neal's Flooring, Rowell Cleaning Services, Torrison Stone, Wayne Waters large carpentry work, Vause Electric, and Zelek Electric alarm systems.

Ongoing and new projects:

1. Finalizing of the paperwork for the bell tower grant is in progress.
2. There was one major grounds cleanup this year. At other times, Sr. Warden Rose Robinson and husband Chris cleared the front and side of the church, including trimming all the bushes in the front. Annie Rae also lent a hand. A handful of parish members took part in the spring clean-up. Thank you to Pat Daunic, Chris Robinson, Richard Formica, Fr. Harrison, and Sheward Hagerty.
3. A number of members of the parish have requested that we post a list of projects that need to be done in and around the church. The thought is that parish members might have the skill set or would like to help by funding a project.
4. Thank you, Gene and Jane Bishop, for keeping the Christ Episcopal sign at the left front of the church looking wonderful with seasonal flowers and plants, and Alicia Bacon, who takes care of the plants at the entrance to the parish hall. Thanks to the other members who have taken on other sections of the grounds -- David Oshana, Diana Stovall, Annie Rae, Peter Marks, and Katherine Frydenborg. Please consider joining them and taking on a section of the gardens around the grounds. No big requirements -- just weeding and sprucing up!
5. Develop a list of items requiring painting.
6. The parish hall roof is in need of replacing, and new gutters need to be installed, approximately \$22,000 (\$3,000 for gutters).

As much as we accomplished this year, there are still quite a few open and not-funded projects. That being said, the following is a limited list of open projects that members of the parish have requested that we post. You might want to consider taking on a project, or even a group of you funding a project. All items will need approval by the Vestry.

1. The outside storage shed is in very poor condition and will need to be replaced.
2. Kitchen needs painting. Cost \$972. Includes cupboards.
3. Kitchen floor needs replacing. Cost \$1,649.
4. Bulletin boards needed, like the ones currently in the parish hall. Approx. \$100 each. Need at least 4 more.
5. Recoat side entryway and old nursery room floor. Cost \$250.
6. Recoat Guild Room and hallway floors. Cost \$300.
7. Sand/finish the polyurethane parish hall floor. Cost \$3,100.
8. Back entrance to the Sunday School is in need of masonry work. Cost approx. \$500.

This year we lost a valuable member of contractor's team, Peter Johnson. Pete was the go-to man who handled numerous projects of varying degrees of difficulty in and around our church and rectory, and did so in an extremely timely manner. His skills and pleasant personality will be missed, as we search for a much-needed replacement.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan C. Shackford,
Jr. Warden, CEC

Stewardship

2018 yielded yet another successful "Consecration Sunday" Stewardship Campaign. This year we were guided and inspired by our guest, Pastor Scott Lee from Tennessee. He was present with us as we worked through the organized steps leading up to Consecration Sunday.

Consecration Sunday is based on the philosophy of the need of the giver "to give for his or her own spiritual development." We encourage people to give based on their relationship with God, not on the needs of the church. Several of our parishioners spoke about how their own spirituality influenced what they were being called to give as their yearly pledge amount. We heard moving testimonies from Susan Leonard, Peter Marks, and Chris Robinson.

There is a lot of work and preparation that leads up to the final Sunday. We had a great team of people stuffing and mailing letters and invitations. A big thank you to Carol Iovanna for leading this team. As the big day grew closer, a Vestry dinner was hosted at the home of Chris and Rose Robinson, where we enjoyed food, fellowship, and more inspiring words from Pastor Scott Lee. Vestry members were then called upon to contact those who had not yet responded to the catered lunch invitation.

On Consecration Sunday, parishioners were asked to drop their pledge cards in a basket as they headed to lunch in the parish hall. Diana Stovall and her helpers, Kay Claiborn and Elena Phillips, had a beautifully catered lunch awaiting us all. While we lunched, more busy beavers (Pat Wakefield and Scott Lee) counted pledges and pledge amounts. It does take a village!! After lunch, we were able to proudly announce that our pledges had increased over the previous year. Christ Church members thought about their commitments and gave based on their own personal relationships with God. I am currently able to report that, as of this writing, our pledge amounts total \$ 219,529.

If you have not yet made a pledge for the year 2019, please contact Pat Wakefield or Harrison and they will be happy to provide you with a pledge card.

A huge, heartfelt thank-you to all who helped with our Consecration Sunday Program and to all who pledged!

--Rose Robinson

2018 Parish Parochial Report

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>
Baptisms	2	2
Confirmations/Receptions	10	9
Marriages	3	2
Renewal of Vows	0	0
Burials	10	8
Communicants received by letter of transfer	4	1
Communicants who became active again	1	0
Communicants received by record of Baptism	1	2
Communicants who became active by Motion of Courtesy	4	8
Communicants reaching the age of 16	5	6
Communicants lost by letter of transfer	0	0
Names removed by request	0	0
Communicants moved to inactive status	1	0
Communicants lost by death	1	7
Total active communicant strength	375	381
Average Sunday attendance	107	111
Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist	117	122

Sunday School Annual Report

Each Sunday, Laurie Varley leads chapel time with the children grades Pre-K through 6th grade. The Bible story is introduced, and we then have prayer and craft time together.

A special thank-you to the following teachers who are involved with our Sunday School program. Nursery: Keelyn Erwin, Ella Hopner, and Katie Spinnato. Pre-K-1st grade: Becky Patino, 2nd-4th grades: Melissa Perez and GlenDale Bass, 5th-6th grades: Laurie Varley, and Middle School: Page Pelphey, with Donna LaFata assisting.

Our "Helping Hands for Haiti" pancake dinner was held in March, and \$1,663 was raised. Thank you to all who supported this very important mission project to support St. Luke's Episcopal School & Church in the Haitian town of Matel. Please mark your calendars for our 2019 event on Sunday, March 24.

The children presented a Pentecost Sunday service under the direction of Mark Sullivan. The children wore red, sang several songs, told the story of the Spirit's wind and flames, and made Pentecost crafts, which were displayed in the church.

July 9-13 Vacation Bible School was held for grades Kindergarten-6th in the parish hall. The theme this past summer was "Shipwrecked -- Rescued by Jesus." Each day we enjoyed Bible stories, crafts, games, music, and snacks together. 17 children attended with 2 youth helpers. The following adults also helped with Vacation Bible School: Father Harrison, Gabriela La Torre, Mark Sullivan (leading music), Carolyn Holiday (scripture activities), and Laurie Varley (VBS director). Youth helpers included R.T. Trotter, Ella Hopner, Isabelle Matthews, and Stevie Varley. Thank you to all who donated snack/ juice items for our VBS. Our VBS mission project included collecting numerous snack items for children that filled the south-side window sills; the parish responded to the VBS challenge and filled the north-side window sills! These donations were taken to the Guilford Food Bank.

Our fall 2018 Sunday School Mission Project also included food donations for the Guilford Food Bank for Thanksgiving. The window sills and the Children's Altar were totally covered! Thank you to the entire parish for contributing donation items.

Thank you to all who participated in our annual Christmas Eve pageant. We had several first-time participants. Thank you also to Donna LaFata (directing) and Mark Sullivan (leading music).

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Varley
Sunday School Director

Middle School Report

The middle school program is open to 5th-9th graders this year. The 9th graders will begin their confirmation session as sophomores, so they are welcome to come to the middle school class. We are using the Spark program, where they answer questions that a lot of young people are curious about:

“Do we have to go to church to be Christian?”

“Who wrote the Bible, God or humans?”

“Why are there so many different religions?”

As this is the age where many of them have friends being Bar- or Bat- Mitzvahed, students have expressed interest in visiting other denominations and religious services and possibly having a discussion about what is different.

This spring they will have their Incarnation Camp experience and participate in the spaghetti supper.

Page Pelphrey will once again chaperone the Diocesan mission trip to Santo Domingo, and students going into 9th grade through college freshman are welcome to attend.

Submitted by Page Pelphrey

Inreach Committee

Members: Cindy Smith, Diane Kyle, Annie Rae, Diana Stovall, Diane Link, Katherine Frydenborg, Laura Raymond, Lois Sawtell, Jean Valentine, and Tony Leonard.

Purpose: To build community within Christ Church for the ongoing work of the church in Guilford and the world.

Meetings: Five regular meetings held on 2nd Sundays, plus special events planning as needed.

Tasks:

- Ongoing -- encouraging coffee hour providers.
- Ongoing -- providing name tags as needed for new members, new confirmands, and those who need replacement name tags. (Thank you to those who consistently wear their name tags. Reports from visitors are positive!)
- Quarterly between-service breakfasts/round-table discussions on Feb. 18, May 13 (men for Mother's Day), July 1, Sept. 16 Ministry Fair, Nov. 11. Average attendance was 30 people

from both 8 and 10 o'clock services. Round tables and a common topic create a good environment for discussion.

- Church Picnic June 10: Provided set up, clean up, croquet, cornhole bag toss, and more. This was the best-attended church picnic in recent memory. Suggestion for next year: add music.
- Special event in August: Helping with Jeanette Koncz's 100th birthday party as well as Fiona Jones's baptism.
- Ministry Fair September 16: Tables for interest groups, snacks provided by groups, signup sheets, advance publicity. New groups formed: Men's Group, Book Group, Disciples Dinners, and Travelers Together, in addition to ongoing groups.
- Men's Group: Tony Leonard, Peter Marks, and David Oshana have formed a men's group. Contact them for further information.
- Book Group: Lynda Tyson+ has started a book discussion group, starting with Anne Lamott's *Hallelujah Anyway*. They meet Wednesdays on the late afternoon at the church. Contact Lynda for more information.
- Disciples Dinners (held in the Rae, Leonard, and Seibert homes so far) monthly with good attendance and enjoyable times. These are planned as open to all social gatherings with the intention of building up relationships within the church community. Others are planned for spring months. Anyone can sign up to host or attend these dinners. Contact Annie Rae or Susan Leonard for more information. The next dinner is scheduled for February at the Robinson's.
- Funeral reception on December 29 for church member Peter Johnson was facilitated by Inreach and Hospitality group members, among others.

--Susan Leonard, chair

Counting Team

Our team consists of the following people: Gene Bishop, Bill Cuddy, Caroline Herrick, Melissa Lamoreax, David Moore, Lois Sawtell, Bobbie Stuart, and Rhoda Whitman. New folks to the team are Gabielle Johnson, and Leigh and Sandy Beatty. Special thanks to all of you for your time and dedication. Bob Cairns, a long-standing member of our team, has retired from our group. He has been a steadfast member and could always be counted on to serve in a pinch. Much thanks to you, Bob, you will be missed. Thanks, too, to Pat Wakefield for her continued support.

Our folks work in groups of two, arranging the commitment to fit their individual schedules. The processing of the weekly collections was changed this year from Monday mornings to Sunday after the 10 a.m. service. This will improve flexibility of resources (you're already in church, so it saves a trip during the week and you can have coffee, too). It should also allow us the ability to attract volunteers who have work commitments during the week. The basic task of this group is to process the Sunday collection by counting, tallying, and making the deposit to the bank. Most of the special collections are also handled by this team. New members are always welcome.

--Carol Iovanna

Ushers Report

I would like to thank all ushers who assisted at the 2018 Christmas Services.

Thank you to all the ushers who have done an outstanding job in 2018. We have a very friendly group which does their best to welcome all who attend Christ Church. The ushers arrive 20 minutes early on their designated Sunday each month. They welcome guests, distribute programs, ring the bell, and assist anyone needing special assistance. During the service, a couple is invited to take the elements to the altar. The ushers are responsible for the offerings and direct the communion. After the service is over, ushers are responsible for cleaning the pews and making sure the rear of the church is left in an orderly state.

Please contact Mardee Moore at email MHMOORE1234@gmail.com if you have any interest in joining this ministry.

Prayerfully submitted,
Mardee Moore

Episcopal Church Women Report (ECW)

The ECW holds its regular (business) meetings on the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Guild Room, with a carry-in luncheon at 12 noon. A guest speaker or special program may follow lunch. All women in our parish are members and are welcome to join us. All other Thursdays we hold an informal meeting in the Guild Room at 10:30. We do not meet during July and August.

The 2018 year started with our monthly business meeting being held at the home of Sue Shackford. What a treat for all of us to enjoy her splendid Christmas Wonderland! During the remaining monthly meetings we continue with the work our group has become known for. We sponsor several fund-raising projects and programs to support our charitable outreach and in-reach commitments.

This year we were very happy to welcome several new members. They have brought many new ideas and willing hands. One of our new members, Janice Novack, brought a project that we all helped to create and sell, our gift card holders. We offered them for sale at several coffee hours and have been very pleased with the reception by our parish. This will be an ongoing project with holiday, graduation, wedding, shower, and birthday gift holders available for sale at \$1 each and special embellished holders for \$2. We will earmark this project to benefit a special program or project in the near future.

We continued our "Roses for Mom," "A Rose for Mommy," "Carnations for Heroes," "New Underwear and Sox" for homeless men, women, and children (an ongoing project), and our annual cookie sale at the Chili Supper. All these projects are very successful and provide the funds needed for our commitments.

Our generous parish has provided a vast number of new underwear and socks that have been delivered to a very grateful community. This was the fifth year we sponsored "Roses for Mom" and the fourth year for "A Rose for Mommy." We were able to purchase the new white altar hangings with the funds raised over the past four years, and have an account for the acolytes' National Cathedral trip because of the "A Rose for Mommy" program. The "Carnations for Heroes" allowed us to give the Police Department of Guilford a donation towards their "Pat Ketchel Scholarship," and a donation was made to the USO for their "Operation Phone Home" project. Our cookie sale at the Chili Supper allowed us to offer three scholarships to deserving graduating seniors.

We continue to support the Diocese of Connecticut ECW. We contribute funds to the White Envelope project and the United Thank Offering (UTO). Both of these programs support state and national project through grants. Many of our members, along with Harrison, attended the annual diocesan ECW luncheon in May. This annual event always inspires us to continue our mission.

We continue to support the National Cathedral and our Sunday School by providing the candy for Halloween and the annual Easter egg hunt. We have purchased several kitchen tools, and also bookmarks for the hymnals and prayer books. Our 2018 recipients of the “Pearl of Great Price “ award were Elliot Wilcox and Katherine Frydenborg for their many years of service and dedication to Christ Episcopal Church.

Our ECW was very honored to celebrate three wonderful women as they celebrated milestone birthdays. Jeanette Koncz celebrated her 100th birthday in August, Evelyn Linskey celebrated her 90th birthday in September, and Jean Meiselman celebrated her 90th in October.

We wish to thank everyone for their continued support and look forward to continuing our mission in 2019!

Diane W. Link,
ECW President

Episcopal Church Women (ECW) Treasurer’s Narrative Report

It was another financially successful year for the Christ Church ECW. Thank you to everyone who supported our fundraisers, including our bake sale, Roses for Mom, Carnations for Heroes, gift card holder sales, and, of course, our annual Christmas cookie sale, which brought in our highest profit in many years. Your generous donations once again made it possible for us to provide scholarships for three graduating high school seniors and to replace the worn white altar hangings. We were also able to make donations to the Guilford Police Department for a special training program and to the USO to provide pre-paid phone cards for deployed service members. Once again we provided candy for the annual Easter egg hunt and Halloween Trunk or Treat. We greatly appreciate the support and participation of all our parishioners.

Rhoda Whitman, ECW Treasurer

ECW Financial Report 2018

Checking Account Beginning Balance 01/01/2018: \$2,356.93

Income

White Envelopes	\$175.00	
United Thank Offering	\$986.18	
Donations	\$88.00	
Fundraisers	\$1,644.84	
Transfer from Savings	<u>\$1,000.00</u>	
Total Income		\$3,894.02

Expenses

Supplies	\$163.87	
In Parish	\$2,494.04	
Outreach	\$2,234.18	
Transfer to Savings	\$137.00	
Bank charges	<u>\$25.00</u>	
Total Expenses		(\$5,054.09)

Checking Account Ending Balance 12/28/18: \$1,196.86

Savings Account Beginning Balance 01/01/2018: \$1,420.65

Income

Transfer from checking	\$137.00	
Fundraiser profit	\$118.00	
Interest	<u>\$0.12</u>	
Total Income		\$255.12

Expenses

Transfer to checking	\$1,000.00	
Total Expenses		(\$1,000.00)

Savings Account Ending Balance 12/28/2018: \$675.77

Total in Checking and Savings Combined 1/28/2018: \$1,872.63

Evening Episcopal Church Women (EECW)

The Evening ECW has completed our fourth year and I am pleased to announce that we are close to completing our parish hall project. We have purchased 6 round tables, and Rebecca Evans and Shrewd Hagerty have donated ivory round tablecloths. In the spring, we will be turning our full attention towards the steps that are needed to complete Phase III.

Our fundraisers included our second annual soup and bread sale in April and our fourth successful tag sale in September. As in the past, all unsold items went to Goodwill, IRIS, men's clothing to Chapel on the Green, blankets to a homeless shelter in VT, and many items went to the Dominican Republic.

At this time, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support in making our dream a reality. These projects will not only benefit us, but also our community.

--Diane C. Kyle

Evening Episcopal Church Women (EECW) Treasurer's Report 2018

Checking Account Balance 01/01/2018 \$6,009.78

Income

Tag Sale	\$2,739.25
Donations	3,227.00
Soup Luncheon	497.00
Fundraisers	<u>375.00</u>

Total Income \$6,838.60

Expenses

Parish Hall Remodel	\$4,570.00
Tables	455.00
Gifts	200.00
Operating/Bank Charges	<u>30.00</u>

Total Expenditures \$5,255.00

Checking Account Balance 12/31/2018 \$7,593.38

Melissa Lamoreaux
EECW Treasurer

Liturgical Assistants – 8 a.m.

Reading the Lessons, leading the Prayers of the People, and assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion are all important lay contributions to the worship service. We are few in number – Richard Christofferson, Katherine Kingsbury, Diane Barker, Susan Pogue, and our deacon intern Felix Rivera. All are dedicated and faithful. We serve at the 8 a.m. service on Sunday and coordinate with the 10 a.m. liturgical assistants during other services throughout the year. It was with heavy heart that we said goodbye to our dear and devoted friend, Elliot Wilcox, this past year.

While our coordinator for this ministry, Janet Moffat, is recovering from an injury, I'll be working with her and our liturgical assistants to keep this ministry flowing smoothly.

We need and welcome the participation of other parishioners. Please see our rector, Harrison West, or call the church office (203-453-2279) if you would be willing to serve.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Wakefield, Parish Administrator

Liturgical Assistants -- 10 a.m.

It is indeed a welcome opportunity to be able to thank each and every lay liturgical assistant for your enthusiastic and capable service throughout the past year at our 10 a.m. and combined services. You are the much-needed extra pieces integral to all our worship services, whether by reading, leading Prayers of the People, or serving the chalice at Holy Eucharist.

I am most grateful for the many blessings each of you bestows with your unique talents to our finely tuned services. If you would like to join our lay liturgical group to read or serve the chalice, please let Harrison, Pat Wakefield, or me know. We welcome new members (ages 14-114) throughout the year. Please consider joining our readers or chalice bearers, even if just as a tryout to see if you enjoy it. I have found that reading has added many layers of interest to my experience as a congregant.

--Laura Raymond

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team in 2018 consisted of Diane Barker, Cindy Smith, Annie Rae, Sheward Hagerty, and Tony Leonard, under the direction of our rector, Harrison West. We meet periodically to discuss who needs a call, a visit, a meal, a ride to church, or any other support during a difficult time, health-wise or any other way. Cindy sent cards to those who are ill, and all have received training in how to conduct a home Communion service for those who are homebound or in a nursing home or hospital. If you haven't been able to get to church for a while or if someone falls ill and needs a visit, please let Harrison know. We are here to help!

--Diane Barker

Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild participants for 2018 were: JoAnn Ansaldo, Anna Dwyer, Cynthia Dwyer, Katherine Frydenborg, Sarah Oshana, Hope Sperry, with the assistance of Cindy Smith, and Bill Cuddy. This quiet ministry maintains linens, altar hangings, silver, and candles, all items related to the altar in preparation of weekly services and special celebrations (weddings, funerals, et al.) throughout the year.

With our active calendar, the guild is actually operating with half the number of members required -- too few are doing too much. Borrowing another old phrase -- "many hands make light work" -- new members are very much needed. If you can provide help one Sunday each month, please contact Fr. West or Katherine Frydenborg.

Faithfully submitted,
Katherine Frydenborg

United Thank Offering

Many thanks to all who contributed to the two United Thank Offering campaigns in 2018. Parishioners donated \$554.46 in the fall collection and \$441.72 in the spring, for a total of \$996.18. This total was down \$71.82 from 2017. These funds are totaled and sent by our Evening ECW to the national Episcopal Church Women Organization, which then allocates grant funds worldwide, nationally, and locally within Connecticut. In the past, funds have gone to aid church programs in New Haven, New London, and Clinton.
--Suky Bryan

From the Parish Administrator

In March of 2018, I hit a major milestone: 20 years serving Christ Church as Parish Administrator. Perhaps it's time to write my own "report" of sorts, and thank our "office angels."

I'd like to thank the following people who faithfully put together our Sunday bulletins and other projects as needed: Alicia Bacon, Kay Claiborn, Pat Daunic, Julie Harris, Lee Hubbard (Madeline, too!), Kasha Kingsbury, Susan and Tony Leonard, Mardee Moore, Diana Stovall, Holly vanMarx. Thanks, too, for the ECW members and other parishioners who come to our aid when needed. Although she hasn't proofread my "report", many thanks and appreciation goes to Diane Barker for proofreading the annual report and other publications throughout the years.

Being a member of our parish family has been a blessing to me and my family. I'm truly grateful to you all!

--Pat Wakefield

Outreach

Defined as “the act of reaching out,” Outreach is alive and active here at Christ Church. We currently have about 12 members, who come together once a month to plan ongoing outreach and to share ideas for new outreach. Anyone is welcome to join us on the first Monday of the month here at Christ Church, where we meet in the Guild Room at 6:30 p.m.

Our newest project started this past year is “Rhythms of Grace.” A program designed to meet the needs of autistic and special needs children, the program here at Christ Church is evolving to include all children (and adults too) looking for an alternative time to worship. We understand that things can come up and obligations sometimes need to be met during regular Sunday morning worship hours. For those people, “ROG” provides an alternative time to attend a fun, casual, interactive service that ends with the Eucharist and song. Mostly, it is a really fun service to be enjoyed by those of all abilities and all ages.

Other Outreach programs include Habitat For Humanity, Angels Under the Balcony (providing heat for those in need), Guilford Food Pantry, and Chapel on the Green, for which we recently collected hats, scarves, mittens, toiletries, and candies to fill our annual Mitten Tree. We challenged ourselves this year by collecting an additional 100 pairs of gloves, which were handed out while we served soup to the homeless in New Haven.

--Rose Robinson

Youth Faith Formation Committee Report

The newly formed Youth Faith Formation Committee meets monthly to review and discuss how best to support all the CEC youth programs, which range from pre-school through high school.

Committee objectives are to:

- Support the formalization of a youth faith formation program
- Support youth formation staff with existing and new programming, house and grounds issues, and logistics
- Generate increased awareness and participation of youth programming activities to church families and the congregation
- Drive new membership and attendance of young families.

We reviewed attendance (current and projected) to make suggestions for age/grade configuration to best utilize available resources/teachers. We were instrumental in identifying the need for additional communications support for all youth programming. Thanks to an anonymous donation, we were able to create and fund a Communications Director position for

one year. We are thrilled that Donna LaFata was hired for the job in November 2018 and will help us achieve our objectives through the following activities:

- Increasing communications to CEC families and the wider congregational audiences through targeted newsletters and social media postings
- Identifying ways to reach out to community groups via a range of communication vehicles (online, print) to raise awareness of CEC youth programs
- Tracking Sunday School attendance
- Assisting youth program leadership with the creation of online sign-up forms, making it easier for attendees to sign up for programming and for staff to track it
- Supporting youth program leadership with brainstorming and ideas for new programming or expansion of existing programming.

--Lisa Ste.Marie

Choir

Our choir has continued to grow! This fall we were delighted to add Janice to our Christ Church choir family. We continue to explore the classics of the sacred music repertoire, and the choir continues to develop in sound, blend, and confidence. The choir maintains its regular weekly rehearsals Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, with additional rehearsal as needed. In November, we participated in the annual Ecumenical Thanksgiving service, and in December sang at our yearly Advent prayer service; if you missed it, check out the audio link on our website! I am deeply grateful to each and every member of our choir for their commitment to Christ Church and their willingness to work towards providing the best music we can each Sunday morning

It is always a highlight of our year when we are able to include some of our young instrumentalists in our services. The choir was joined by string players for this past Easter, the Sunday before Thanksgiving, and at our candlelight Christmas Eve service. We look forward to creating additional opportunities to include our instrumentalists in our worship. Our grateful thanks to Suky Bryan and Lisa Ste.Marie for their time and effort in this regard.

Working with Laurie Varley and Donna LaFata and the Sunday School teachers, we continue our weekly "music time" with the Sunday School students, with the goal of including them in meaningful ways in our Sunday morning liturgies. In addition to the Christmas Pageant and our Epiphany Evensong, the children helped tell the story of Pentecost with special music this past spring, and shared their service music with us before Thanksgiving.

Our organ is in good health, and continues to be a joy to play (and, I hope, to listen to)! We have continued to expand our repertoire of hymns and service music, with the aim of enriching our liturgies. I am blessed to work in a church with a congregation of such willing singers! I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ Church.

Respectfully,
Mark Sullivan

Acolytes

We continue to have a great group of acolytes here at Christ Episcopal Church. For the first time in my eight years as director, the composition of the roster is changing. We now have seven acolytes under the age of 13 and ten high school youngsters.

New in the fall of 2018 was Austin LaFata. Welcome Austin, to the Christ Episcopal Church acolyte program! Austin is the younger brother of A.J. and Avery LaFata. Like his siblings before him, Austin stepped right in and has done a great job.

Austin joins Natalie Bryan, Carter Bryan, A.J. LaFata, Avery LaFata, Sam Mayo, Kenneth Pelphrey, Keelyn Ervin, Olivia Ste.Marie, Luke Ste.Marie, Gabriela Perez, Natalia Perez, Sofia Perez, Mathew Cabrejo, and Emily Crossley. A number of acolytes have been serving for eight years, most starting in the fourth grade. Serving when needed are Megan McNamara and Mark McNamara. Joining them on Christmas Eve was Hannah Tiller. With Andre Kish off at college, Luke Ste.Marie carried the banner for the first time Christmas Eve and did a great job. It helped that he is a number of inches taller!

Three acolytes are required each week, and also for holidays and special services. Each acolyte is scheduled to serve about every 3-4 weeks. On Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and at Christmas, all acolytes who wish to serve may do so.

We need more acolytes, so please consider joining us. Last year, we had Andre Kish leave us for college, and this year we will have two more depart for college. We are very proud for them and their families.

New members of the acolyte program might be hesitant when first asked to serve, but once trained and they serve for the first time, that dissipates, and new-found confidence, along with a grin from ear to ear, takes its place. Your youngster can be an acolyte -- he or she just has to be in at least 4th grade to be a torch bearer, and to be a crucifer, you have to serve for at least six months as a torch bearer and be in the 6th grade or higher. Training is ongoing and you can contact Pat Wakefield in our church office or Fr. Harrison and myself following the 10 a.m. service.

We are grateful to Suky Bryan, Lisa Ste.Marie, Donna LaFata, and John and Holley Mayo for overseeing the acolytes on Sunday mornings in my absence. Thank you, Annie Rae, for stepping in to be a crucifer when our acolytes are on vacation.

We are once again hoping that we have enough acolytes who want to and can attend the "Annual Festival of Acolytes" at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. We will start planning meetings in February, with high hopes of attending this year.

Fr. Harrison, members of the parish, and I much appreciate all your efforts in our church services. Thank you to all the parents who get the youngsters to church early on Sunday mornings, so that they can serve.

--Susan C. Shackford,
Director of Acolytes

Newcomers Committee Report

2018 was a quiet year for Newcomers. However, we have hit the ground running in 2019.

With several new families joining Christ Church, the Newcomers Committee set January 20th as the date for a welcoming brunch at the rectory. We were expecting over 20 guests! However, to our dismay, the weather did not cooperate; rain and sleet being forecast, we decided it would be wise to reschedule. We are now planning to have the brunch on April 7th, weather permitting!

Should any of the current members of our church be aware of new faces in the congregation, please let one of us know. We try very hard to greet any new attendees, but your help would be most welcome. Thank you!

Submitted by:

Kay Claiborn
Mardee Moore
Ann Rae
Diana Stovall