



**Christ Church Charlotte**  
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH



# 2016 Annual Reports



## **Our Mission**

To 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)

## **VESTRY**

Amelia Abbott	Stewardship, Spiritual Growth
Kaky Cassada	Secretary, ECW Board
Carrington Coulter	Junior Warden, Leap of Faith
Bill DeLoache	Technology, Liturgical
Tere Ey	Senior Warden
Mary Gregory	Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten
Scott Griffin	Parish Life
Gigi Harris	Adult Spiritual Formation
Warren Holland	Youth
Frank Home, Jr.	Christian Formation
Jeanne Kutrow	Congregational Care, 75th Anniversary
Burch Mixon	Outreach and Missions
Norfleet Pruden	Stewardship
Bo Thomas	Children and Family Ministries
Jim Thorp	Leap of Faith
Dick Parkhurst	Treasurer

# RECTOR'S REPORT

By The Reverend Chip Edens

It has been remarkable year for Christ Church. We have a strong leadership team, we are financially sound, and we have a clear vision for our future. We are grateful to God for His blessings, and for the extraordinary generosity of our congregation.

This year our focus has been on living a generous life. We have explored the meaning of generosity and considered many ways God calls us to be generous. We have also explored the challenges generosity poses for each of us. This ministry will continue for years to come as we try and help every member of Christ Church go deeper in their generosity, finding what is “generative” for them as they come alive more fully to their gifts and passions and engage in ministry that is both impactful and fulfilling.

This year one of the ways we have learned of our need to be more generous is in our ministry of reconciliation. The protests this summer following a tragic shooting have brought to the surface the deep divisions and distrust that exist in our city. While we have long been engaged in ministry to address the economic inequality that exists - Charlotte ranking last in economic mobility in the US - much of our ministry has been doing things for people rather than alongside people as brothers, sisters, and friends. We must take greater steps to build relationships among differences to promote understanding, collaboration, and friendship in order to more fully realize the beloved community of which Dr. King spoke and to which the Gospel points.

As we look ahead, we are excited to have a team in place to celebrate our 75th anniversary. The plan is to have a yearlong celebration in which we will remember our past, celebrate our present, and expand our vision to have an even greater impact in the parish, Charlotte, and throughout the world. One of the outcomes of this effort will be a three- to five-year strategic plan for ministry.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention our gratitude and grief for the loss of many members of community, including members of our staff - Van Hill, LaQuanta Young, and Sedrick Roberson. While we remember them each All Saints Day, their witness continues to animate us as we seek to take the gifts they gave us and press into our call to serve Christ.

Thank you for your commitment to Christ Church. I look forward to 2017 and all that is to come.

With love and prayers,



# ASSOCIATE RECTORS

## **By The Reverend Canon Martha Hedgpeth**

Some of the highlights for me in 2016 were our Mission Weekend when we hosted the Bishop of Cuba and the Bishop of Costa Rica. On that Sunday we had bilingual services in the Church and in All Saints' Hall. In the spring we built a Habitat house in honor of Van Hill, which increased the participation as well as the spirit of the builders. In the summer we took our first Young Adult Mission Group to Costa Rica. In the fall, the concerned and committed-to-action response to the Keith Scott shooting led to the beginning of finding ways to bring about healing, justice, and reconciliation in the midst of diversity and inequality. That work will be central in 2017.

When Alice Marleaux left in late February to have her baby we had a plan to manage without her until June. I owe tremendous gratitude to Deborah Shoemake, a key part of our outreach and mission staff, and Ainslie Wall, chair of outreach and mission, who kept the program and me running while Alice remained out with sweet baby Ollie getting used to his new heart. What a joy to see him thriving and to have Alice back in September.

In March 2016 I marked 20 years of serving here at Christ Church. The celebration of my ministry here on Parish Day in May was a total, joyful, and humbling surprise. And to have been made an Honorary Canon of the Diocese of Costa Rica is an honor I treasure not least because of my love of and respect for Bishop Monterroso and his ongoing vision for that diocese. I never imagined I'd be anywhere for ten years, much less 20! But I never imagined I'd be in a place where I would feel challenged and renewed so fully week by week, month by month, and year by year. I never imagined I would be surrounded by a cloud of witnesses so faithful and caring. Thank you for the past 20 years. Here's to many more.

## **By The Reverend Matt Holcombe**

As my second year at Christ Church comes to an end, I continue to be inspired and motivated by the gifts, talents, and generosity of the people, staff and clergy of Christ Church. It has been a rewarding year on many levels. In addition to being the clergy support for Adult Spiritual Formation and Spiritual Growth, I also have had the privilege of supporting our youth, children, and CCK preschool ministries. The creation of a new formation team has allowed increased collaboration and improved communication among many areas of ministry. It has been wonderful to work with the existing staff and in particular with Jenny Beaumont, Director of Adult Formation. We also welcomed Debbie Pollack to our team as administrative assistant for Adult Spiritual Formation.

I have enjoyed the numerous opportunities to teach a variety of topics that include world religion, spiritual practices, relationshipbuilding, vulnerability, courage, leadership development and many other topics that support an individual's walk with Christ. In 2016, we welcomed 19 fantastic speakers to the Faith Forum stage and hosted numerous small group conversations that allowed us to go deeper into specific topics. We also offered two Virtual Pilgrimages and took our first adult pilgrimage to the Holy Land in November. Our weekly Bible studies continue to draw hundreds of parishioners closer to Christ, and our Wednesday evening classes continue to gain momentum.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege of serving God alongside each of you over the past year. It has been a full year and I eagerly await what God has in store for all of us who call Christ Church their spiritual home.

### **By The Reverend Lisa Saunders**

Personally this year included an array of highs and lows. Our daughter's wedding at Christ Church was chief among the highs, and I was so appreciative of the beauty of our Church, the genius of our music director, Rob Ridgell, the care and competence of our wedding directors like Betsy Westerberg, Ginger Kurtz, Constance Mehta and Sis Craz, and the brilliant leadership and preaching offered by Marty Hedgpeth. I experienced in a wonderful new way what it feels like to have a spiritual home here.

This year included continued ongoing parishioner-to-parishioner pastoral care. I think of Beverly Klein who takes communion every Sunday afternoon to one of our homebound parishioners. The members of a care team who were the only ones to join the family graveside at a service for a woman in her 90's. The thousands attending funeral receptions who received hospitality and homemade cookies provided by parishioners, and the hundreds of letters written each year to those grieving next of kin. I am grateful to those who knit prayer shawls and arrange and deliver flowers from our altar to hospital rooms and homes.

Twenty-five people participated in our Living with Grief and Hope series. I enjoyed teaching a Sunday School class on Building Communities of Compassion and Support. The Aging Matters class had excellent attendance for programs on Funeral Planning and Downsizing, but the class's highlight was when Camille and Andy Salisbury shared their story of living with Parkinson's for twenty years.

This year also meant saying goodbye in March to our parish nurse, Lynne LeBlanc, who moved out of town. Because her salary was funded by a private donation and not extended further, we have been unable to add to our pastoral care team. The year ends with another sad goodbye as my colleague and friend, John Porter-Acee accepts a call as Rector to St. Timothy's in Greenville, NC. John and I have had adjoining offices for eleven years. His good instincts for caring for people and leadership, and his strong, self-aware and humble approach to problem solving as well as biblical interpretation have been instructive for me. I will miss him and his family dearly.

I continue to be grateful for the collaboration in ministry with all my clergy colleagues and our administrative associate, Haley Moore, who calmly shepherds me through each day. I am lucky to call Christ Church home.

### **By The Reverend Patty Willett**

Together with the Parish Life Commission, the Hospitality Committee, Kathryn Saunders and Ainslie Wall, I am privileged to labor in this part of God's kingdom to create an intentionally welcoming and warm environment for all who come to our Church.

Our Connect Classes continue to be successful. This class is held twice a year on designated Sundays from 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM and is intentionally more relational than informational. The class has received very positive feedback from those who attend and we have seen a dramatic increase in Newcomer activity and engagement.

We have continued our Newcomer Dinners. They are held on the first Wednesday of the month in room M207. There is time to gather and eat dinner while a staff member shares his/her faith journey, information about their area of ministry and answers questions. We have had a consistent turnout at these dinners with very positive feedback.

We also continue to recruit new greeters for all Sunday worship services and our Welcome Center. A consistent comment we get from newcomers is how warm and welcoming Christ Church is. Our Welcome Center provides a place of hospitality to people who are visiting and a process and place for getting contact information which is so vital to our ability to reach out and welcome newcomers.

We expanded the Parish Life Commission under the leadership of the chairs, Emilie Heffeman and Alicia Wardlaw. We continued with the traditional Parish Life events and, for the third time, hosted our

Halloween event called Trunk or Treat on October 26. It was a huge success with over 300 children in attendance.

Our Hospitality Committee hosted a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper which was very successful. It was a Mardi Gras themed event for all ages with special food, music and activities for all ages. We hope that this will become an annual celebration.

The Young Adult group has grown steadily this year. We currently have over 240 young adults on our email list. We have continued our Young Adult Sunday School class and Young Adult Women's Bible Study along with our quarterly social events and outreach opportunities. Our young adults continue to inspire me.

The Sages enjoyed another year of educational and fellowship opportunities. We added a monthly Coffee and Conversation offering which meets the second Wednesday of each month at 10:00 AM. Karen and Donal Simpson also graciously volunteered to lead a book study during the winter and spring months. The ECW hosted a tea for the Sages women that was a very successful event.

Christ Church is an outstanding place to do ministry. I am beyond blessed to be in this part of God's vineyard and to work with a gifted and caring staff. Thank you for the privilege to serve in this place!

## SENIOR WARDEN

*Submitted by Tere Ey*

"Living a Generous Life" was the focus for Christ Church in 2016. Generosity is at the heart of Christ Church's mission to love God, care for each other, and serve the world in the name of Christ. It is the foundation for a generative life, a living out of each individual's "soul purpose." At our retreat in February, the Vestry and Clergy set four goals for 2016 with this guiding principle in mind.

**Stewardship:** The Vestry engaged a consultant to evaluate our existing processes and make recommendations to develop stewardship into a year-round ministry. We introduced Celebration Sunday, which was a measurable success. Revitalized stewardship education focused on the spirituality of giving and introduced multiple videos of parishioners, who shared stories about generosity and its impact on their lives. Several small groups gathered to hear the generosity message. Under the leadership of Stewardship Director Kimberly Mize and 2016 ASC Chairs Melissa and Paul Tolmie we made great strides in implementing our new strategy in this important ministry.

**Christian Formation:** A re-structuring of all of our Christian Education programs – Children and Family, Youth, and Adults – took place last spring. All of these ministries were brought under the leadership of The Reverend Matt Holcombe. Matt and his amazing team introduced us to "The Journey," a new comprehensive approach to Christian Formation. For children and youth, they built on the best of the existing program, adding a curriculum complete with lesson plans and experiences outside the classroom. The adult program continues with regular Bible study and classes through the week. New Sunday morning classes include "The Good Book" and other small group gatherings to supplement the Faith Forum, which brings in remarkable speakers to teach and inspire us.

**Technology:** Leap of Faith invested in our technology infrastructure to improve our streaming capabilities and the sound system in All Saints Hall. The Vestry supervised an audit of our existing technology and is assessing the next steps to take in improving and upgrading those systems.

**75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** In 2018, Christ Church will celebrate 75 years of ministry and mission. Under the leadership of Arrington Mixon and Vestry liaison Jeanne Kutrow, a great team has been assembled to help us look at the past, present and future of our parish. Stay tuned!

Governance matters were addressed by the Vestry this year. We have proposed to the parish updated by-laws, which will be voted on at the Annual Meeting, and also implemented improvements in the Vestry nomination process. Both will serve the parish well into the future.

In addition, we continued to follow the progress of Leap of Faith, Christ Church CORE, and the Christ Church Ministry Council. We also continue to evaluate how we can support our clergy and staff in meaningful ways.

It has been an honor to serve as Senior Warden this year. I am deeply grateful to your Vestry. Each member has worked diligently and faithfully with the staff and clergy to guide Christ Church to achieve our vision "to become Christ's Church."

## JUNIOR WARDEN

*Submitted by Carrington Coulter*

Keeping up the various buildings that total our 100,000 square foot campus is a big task every year. However, this year we had to do it without the guidance and service of Van Hill, our late Director of Facilities. The good news is that we are still here, and are narrowing the list of candidates in the interview process with hopes of hiring a Facilities Director in the near future. The other good news is that many staff members (Wendy Mauney, Emily Kalmbach) have learned new skills they never knew they desired! We have also managed to make several repairs and upgrades listed :

- Painting and repair of the windows and trim surrounding the Memorial Garden, including extensive rot
- Painting of all of the wooden windows in the Christ Church Kindergarten classrooms
- Painting the Christ Church Kindergarten hallways and several of the classrooms
- Extension baseboards installed in the hallways of Christ Church Kindergarten to defend against unwieldy strollers
- Replacement of the software for our complex HVAC system
- Restoration of the choir "penalty" box and bell tower/chapel vestibule, requiring the creation of molds to match our failing plaster trim
- Replacement of the flat roof of the choir "penalty" box and improvement of its drainage design
- Creation of hatch coverings in the bell tower and other waterproofing measure to protect from future leaking
- Creation of a toddler playground between the two existing playground areas using Low Country Boil funds
- We are in the final stages of upgrading and expanding our security cameras

Thanks to our hardworking and committed staff of Sextons (Nikki Rushing, Clayton Pride, Sedrick Roberson, Greg Young) we continue the unending work of caring for our aging plant and hosting the countless ministries of any given week. We are blessed with a large and beautiful campus that serves so many functions, but we do struggle to stay on top of its maintenance. The challenge of finding the subcontractors for the various repairs that emerge as necessary are only outmatched by the puzzle work of finding funding for these projects. I am sad to report that this is a problem reported on in Junior Warden reports going back two decades, and I would imagine before that if I had read those before 1996. We are very fortunate to be able to pay for repairs and upgrades with funds from the maintenance reserve, Buildings Grounds and Memorials and the Foundation, but we need to fund regular maintenance

in the annual budget so that we can routinely accomplish the less glorious tasks such as painting that help prevent greater repair costs down the road and allow us to care for our spiritual home. This is a struggle every homeowner can understand, our work is never finished!

I would also like to say that serving this year has been immensely fulfilling. Christ Church is a wonderful place filled with incredibly skilled clergy, laity and staff. Working alongside such dedicated people creates a restorative sense of purpose.

**Building, Grounds, and Memorials Commission Members:** David Kern (Chair), Carrington Coulter (Vestry Liaison), Catherine Browning, Eric Locher, Bill Lowry, Lulie Mallard, Wendy Mauney, Burch Mixon, William Nichols, Jr., The Reverend Fred Paschall, Jr., Barbara Plumlee.

## TREASURER

*Submitted by Dick Parkhurst*

Summarized below are the financial results for the past three years along with the budget for 2016. Annual pledge receipts increased approximately \$100,000 in 2015 continuing a trend of modest growth in annual giving over the past few years. However, when Leap of Faith receipts are considered, overall giving has been up nearly 50% over pre Leap of Faith levels. For 2016, the budget reflects a 2% decline in total operating receipts reflecting a similar reduction in pledges received for the year. Despite the reduction in pledges, the Vestry approved a balanced budget for the year through various expense improvements and positive variances related to transitions in our staff.

	2013 Actual	2014 Actual	2015 Actual	2016 Budget
Operating Receipts	4,340,773	4,397,700	4,499,328	4,403,447
Personnel & Admin	2,839,150 67.7%	2,871,242 67.7%	3,057,469 68.3%	2,996,702 68.1%
Diocese of NC	464,299 11.1%	496,787 11.7%	490,553 11.0%	486,282 11.0%
Buildings and Grounds	277,940 6.6%	275,991 6.5%	318,973 7.1%	291,631 6.6%
Outreach	339,115 8.1%	345,480 8.1%	346,032 7.7%	346,025 7.9%
Programs	272,175 6.5%	251,413 5.9%	263,063 5.9%	282,807 6.4%
Operating Expenses	4,192,679	4,240,913	4,476,090	4,403,447
Annual Surplus	148,094	156,787	23,238	-
Use of Surplus	(104,392)	(129,828)	(74,011)	(51,954)
Accumulated Surplus	310,489	337,448	286,675	234,721

2015 results tracked very close to budget with receipts exceeding plan by about \$33,000 and expenses above plan by just \$10,000 yielding a surplus of \$23,000 for the year. Although a good bit smaller than surpluses in 2013 and 2014, we ended 2015 with a very healthy accumulated surplus of \$287,000. As in prior years, the Vestry approved the use of approximately \$52,000 of this surplus to support certain areas of need outside of the operating budget. Additionally, \$100,000 of the surplus has been reserved to support a commitment to Leap of Faith leaving an unrestricted balance of \$135,000 for future needs. Based on our results through October, I expect expenses will finish 2016 in line with our budget while overall results will depend on December receipts that typically account for approximately 25% of full year revenues. If pledges are fulfilled by year-end, I anticipate we will meet our balanced budget objective with the possibility of another surplus.



With an ongoing commitment to stewardship and the dedication of our staff and volunteers, Christ Church remains in solid financial shape. Our continuing challenge is the growth in our parish and the demand it places on our staff and facilities. With a continued and growing commitment to stewardship, I remain confident that our parish will meet the call as we live into our mission to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World.

It is an honor to serve as your treasurer. Special thanks go to Wendy Mauney, Jo Ann Linker and Jennifer Stewart for their daily efforts in tending to the financial matters of our parish.

## ADULT SPIRITUAL FORMATION

*Submitted by The Reverend Matt Holcombe and Jenny Beaumont*

2016 was another transformational year for Adult Spiritual Formation at Christ Church. In addition to welcoming speakers to the Faith Forum stage on Sunday mornings, there was an intentional focus to offer more specialized formation classes and series during the weekdays. Jenny Beaumont, Director of Adult Formation, and The Reverend Matt Holcombe welcomed Debbie Pollack, Administrative Assistant, to the Adult Spiritual Formation staff team.

Collaboration between Adult Formation, Youth Ministries, Children's Ministries, and Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten has increased significantly, with biweekly meetings resulting in increased communication and the rollout of "The Journey: Formation for All," a comprehensive journey for parishioners of all ages to grow in their relationship with God, neighbor, world, and self.

Small groups have continued to develop and grow numerically, with over 40 small groups and class offerings and over 500 parishioners participating throughout the year on a regular basis. These small groups and classes seek to meet the needs of a diverse group of parishioners in topics ranging from spiritual disciplines to Bible study to parenting to stewardship. The Christ Church Women's Bible Study morning and evening program has grown to over 125 weekly participants and we have welcomed four new leaders, led by Alice deVries.

Video recording capabilities in All Saints' Hall continue to afford Christ Church the opportunity to exponentially increase our audience for Sunday morning Faith Forum and Clergy Classes to a national and global level. With a shift towards theme-based offerings, parishioners can go deeper and grow in their relationship with God, neighbors, the world, and themselves. In 2016 we had numerous classes on Cultivating Spiritual Practices, Brené Brown's Rising Strong, World Religions, Virtual Pilgrimages, and Parenting.

Communications Skills Training continues to be a draw. We held five classes in 2016 and to date have helped over 350 parishioners and community members through this wonderful program. Over 22 adults participated in the Adult Confirmation and Inquirers Class and were received into the Episcopal Church.

Education for Ministry (EfM), a four-year course in Old Testament, New Testament, Christian History and Theology, continues to deepen the spiritual lives of participants in all four EfM classes. We also introduced "Reading Between the Lines" for EfM graduates and Christians seeking to go deeper. In November The Reverend Matt Holcombe and Reverend Lisa Saunders led a group of 30 parishioners on a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land. And lastly, in the Spring and Fall we partnered with CCK to offer multiple "Love and Logic" parenting classes, with over 100 families participating.

As we look towards 2017 we are excited to see how the Spirit will guide us in equipping and empowering people in their walk with Christ.

**Adult Spiritual Formation Commission Members:** Jenny Beaumont, Linda Bomar, Joyce Cmiel, Gigi Harris, The Reverend Matt Holcombe, Kathy Izard, Shawn King, Doug Mays, and Angus McBryde.

# YOUTH

*Submitted by Lindsay Masi*

This year has been a whirlwind in Youth Ministry at Christ Church. We are fortunate to have a solid volunteer leadership team and stellar middle and high school students who make ministry fun. And, though we have been living in transition as we search for a new fulltime youth minister, we are optimistic to fill the position before the end of the year.

This year, we have had the opportunity to reach out to 635 sixth through twelfth grade students, offering a variety of ways they can Love God, Care for Each Other, and Serve the World. Below are some of the great things our youth have encountered:

**Family Faith Talks:** We continued our tradition of monthly family gatherings in All Saints' Hall with dinner and conversations about faith. These events have equipped and empowered middle and high school families to talk about real-life issues, faith, and more. These evenings have been joy-filled and heartwarming as families worked together to learn more about taking their faith home with them.

**Confirmation:** Our faith formation team met over the summer to discuss how to make the youth confirmation process more relevant for families and were thrilled to unveil the plan this fall. Families were delighted to hear about the Sunday Seminars for our 8th graders, and excited to get engaged through worship and outreach with mentors.

**Youth Pilgrimage:** In June, we traveled with 38 tenth grade and eight adult pilgrims to Banff and Calgary, Canada. We reflected on Psalm 139 as we traveled, hiked, journaled, and prayed. God's presence was felt all week, and our tenth graders came home filled with the spirit.

**Middle School EYC and High School Life Groups:** We continue to meet with our youth each week for Bible Study and fellowship. These gatherings provide a great base for relationship building and truth seeking. It is a privilege to journey with these youth.

**Faith Builders:** This summer, Betsy Zarzour and Jenny Beaumont collaborated to create our own Christ Church curriculum to be used in middle and high school Sunday school classes. This curriculum is interactive and focuses on Christ, core Bible stories, and community. We will ask our leaders for feedback as we continue to write for the winter/spring of 2017 and the following program year.

Our youth ministry team reflects weekly on our programming to ensure we are providing youth and families with relevant ministry that matters. We are grateful for all of our volunteers who pour their hearts into the lives of these students week after week. Thank you for giving us this privilege.

Thank you also to our youth commission members who are our sounding board, our innovators, and our biggest cheerleaders.

**Youth Commission Members:** Nancy Cassels, AT Castillo, Emily Cooper (Leap of Faith Liaison), Kim Gordon, Warren Holland (Vestry Liaison), Ralph Hunter, Lamar Lloyd (Chair), Mary Lunsford, Andrea Powell, Mike Rogers, Meredith Trusty, Alison Van Pelt, and Charlotte Wickham.

# CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

*Submitted by Katherine Vest and Emily Kalmbach*

**Sunday School Curriculum:** We ran a pilot last fall of writing our own Sunday School curriculum called "Faith Builders." It was very well-received by teachers, students and families, so we have launched it into a full program for the 2016 – 2017 year. The lessons are available online from the Church website, and Sunday School leaders are provided background context for each lesson to expand their own knowledge of the story and scriptures. One beautiful thing about writing the lessons in-house is that we can teach things in Sunday School that are unique to Christ Church, like Seven Days of Serve-a-bration, Celebration Sunday, or the parish-wide message of Living a Generous Life.

**Grade Shift:** Children's Sunday School now covers two-year-olds through fifth graders. Sixth grade has now officially moved to being part of "Youth" Sunday School, and is overseen by that department.

**Children's Chapel:** We designed and implemented a new Children's Chapel program, targeted for elementary-aged children attending the 8:45 AM services. We piloted this idea over the summer with the Summer J.A.M. (Jesus and Me!) during 10:30 AM worship, and the great success of that test-run led to what is now Children's Chapel for the program year. It is an interactive, discussion, and game-based Bible time rooted in the lectionary scripture that is being preached on that day to the adults. Children begin worship with their families, then exit during the Gospel Hymn, and return to their parents during the passing of The Peace, and in time for Eucharist. Children's Chapel replaces Godly Play as the worship offering for young ones at 8:45 AM.

**Fall Fest:** The Nursery Committee hosted a new event this season called Fall Fest to introduce parents to the updated Nursery Suite as well as to allow fellowship for young adults and parents of young children.

**Ongoing Ministry Programs:** We continue to provide and grow our popular offerings of Vacation Bible School; He, She, We and God; 1st Grade Communion Workshop; JYC (Junior Youth Connect) a fellowship and service group for 4th and 5th graders; the Advent Festival and the Christmas Pageant.

We extend heartfelt gratitude to Anne Cullen for the dedication, love, passion and service that she provided as Director of Children and Family Ministry for the last 11 years. Her contributions to this ministry are much appreciated and will be missed!

**Children and Family Commission Members:** Lisa Boisture, Caroline Coffron, Kim Ellsion, Stacie Fulton, Katy Harvey, Stacey Hitzemann, The Reverend Matt Holcombe, Kris Humphreys, Emily Kalmbach, Corrie Manis, Jen McAuley, Billy Morton, Ginger Seabrook, Gray Setaro, Fritz Smith, Debbie Starling, Bo Thomas (Vestry Liaison), Katherine Vest, Sally Wyche, Katie Zeck.

# CHRIST CHURCH KINDERGARTEN

*Submitted by Kelly Coley*

Christ Church Preschool and Kindergarten, CCK, has been and remains an important daily mission of Christ Church. 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 our children to become life long learners in a faith-based environment.

The 2016-2017 school year is off to a wonderful start as our teachers provide endless opportunities to nurture, love and explore with our 222 enrolled children. Our dedicated and amazingly talented staff values the importance of early childhood education and works diligently each day to create the best experience for each and every child.

CCK is proud of its long, rich history of successfully preparing children for their elementary education. The journey starts for many as young toddlers, learning to separate from their parents, and ends as Kindergartners ready to embark on their elementary school journeys. Our curriculum focuses on developmentally appropriate and enriching themes, activities and lessons. Each age-level builds on developmental milestones, focusing on the physical, emotional, social and intellectual development.

We offer special area classes including: Christian Education/Godly Play, Learning Center, Science Lab, Creative Movement and Music. The Christ Church clergy lead a Chapel service for the Four-year Old and Kindergarten classes. The clergy also lead the school in a School-Wide Chapel service several times a year.

School-wide CCK Spirit Days and Service Projects will continue this year. These projects proved to strengthen and enhance our CCK community last school year.

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

**Board of Directors:** Alex Kelly (Board Chair), Laurie Knowles (Board Chair-Elect) Matt Holcombe (Clergy Representative), Philip Porcher (Treasurer), Chris Withers (Treasure Elect), Mary Gregory (Vestry Representative), Nikki DeVillers, Anne Bowman (Parent Representative), Corey Andresen, Corrie Manis, Caroline Michaelson, John Brock, Martha Rand (Teacher Representative) Catherine Kugajevsky, Sloan Crawford, Allye Lavins, M.C. Phillips, Meredith Sorrell (Assistant Head of School), Kelly Coley (Head of School).

# EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

*Submitted by Connell Pinckney, ECW President*

The ECW mission is to provide a spiritual community through fellowship, service and outreach to the women of Christ Church. Additionally, through our mission funding, ECW funds outreach programs that support women and children who are at risk both domestic and abroad.

In 2016, ECW has been focused on encouraging all generations of women to participate in fellowship and grow deeper in their faith. Soul Purpose was explored and how that translates to women at various stages of their faith journey. Through marketing efforts and Sages and Young Adult liaisons, we have successfully extended across generational lines and developed meaningful relationships while serving others.

## **FUNDING OUR MISSIONS**

Profits from the Holiday Bazaar and the Good News Shop are the primary source for funding our annual grant program. In 2015, ECW funded \$108,000 in grants. Our mission funding team solicited over 44 grants and was able to award 40 grants ranging from \$1000 to \$5000 to 32 local Charlotte agencies and 8 international agencies. All grant recipients serve women and children both locally and abroad.

**Holiday Bazaar:** The 2015 Holiday Bazaar had 38 vendors, which grossed \$37,500 of which \$7500 was donated to ECW Mission Funding. With greenery and food sales, the Holiday Bazaar contributed a total of \$19,700 to ECW Mission Funding. Led by PerMar Olin, Ginger Seabrook and over 50 volunteers, the event attracted several hundred people, which included many parishioners. This event has gained a solid reputation in the community and is the only fundraiser for ECW Mission Funding.

**Good News Shop (GNS):** Last year, GNS donated \$88,300 to ECW Mission Funding from revenues generated from retail, art gallery and food-to-go sales. Lynn McAdams, manager of GNS, resigned and was replaced by Gail Landers in January. In March, Lynn Muller was hired as Assistant Manager and has recently left GNS. A search will be conducted for an Assistant Manager. As of September 2016, year to date net income is up 13%. With the leadership of Gail Landers and support of Christ Church volunteers, GNS continues to be profitable and is expected to surpass last year's ECW Mission Funding contribution.

**Art Gallery:** Year to date, the Christ Church Gallery has generated \$17,315 in revenue, a 46% decrease from last year. Margaret Salisbury and Murray Parker continue to lead the Art Gallery and are continually seeking new local artists in a variety of mediums. Thirty percent of Art Gallery sales go to GNS which flows into ECW Mission Funding.

**Food-to-Go:** GNS has been very successful at offering frozen food-to-go i.e. dinners, breads and other specialty foods. The cash and carry concept has been profitable because the profit margin is so high. All items are made by volunteers in the Christ Church kitchen resulting in low production costs. Revenue through Sept. is \$15,387 a 7% decrease from last year.

## **FELLOWSHIP AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH**

**Advent Lunch – December 2015:** The Reverend Matt Holcombe, our guest speaker, shared his journey through the Holy Land. Feedback from the event was very positive. Liz Foster and Jennifer Hughes led the 2015 event and are chairing the 2016 event. The Reverend Chip Edens will be speaking on 'Preparing for The Savior' – we expect this event to be sold out. GNS shop will provide Christmas themed centerpieces that will be for sale to attendees. Like most of the ECW events, this is not a revenue-producing event; the goal is to break even.

**Room at the Inn – January 2016:** ECW hosted RITI in 2016. Women provided food as well as hosted our guests for dinner and entertainment for 12 guests.

**Chili Cook-Off – March 2016:** ECW supported our Youth Ministry by participating in the Chili Cook-Off which raised funds for the Youth Pilgrimage.

**Friendship Feast – April 2016:** Jennifer Monroe and Ashley Wardell chaired the 2016 Friendship Feast. With over 120 multigenerational attendees, Fashion & Compassion founders, Michele Dudley and Celeste Bundy participated in a discussion with Connell Pinckney about their ministry and Soul Purpose. Fashion and Compassion set up a pop-up shop for the evening. Product sales were a great success for Fashion and Compassion. Attendees liked the conversational format of the event.

**Women’s Retreat – April 2016:** The Reverend Matt Holcombe led a weekend retreat at Debordieu, SC. focused on Brene Brown’s book, *Rising Strong*. Workbook materials from *Rising Strong* were provided to each attendee. Houses were donated by Christ Church parishioners, which provided for a unique environment for fellowship and the development of new friendships. Sixty women attended the retreat . The retreat will move to Kanuga in 2017.

**Sages Southern Spring Tea – May 2016:** This was a new event held in the blue room at Christ Church hosted by ECW. Chef Love prepared light fare and tea. Parishioners, poet Diana Pinckney and pianist Eleanor Neal, provided an entertaining program, along with vocalist and former employee Courtney Cabaniss. The event received positive feedback from the Sages and we are planning for a similar event for 2017. Sages shared the expenses with ECW.

**Serve-a-bration – November 2016:** ECW is scheduled to serve Plaza Place (Charlotte Family Housing) on Saturday, November 12. Breakfast will be provided to approximately 25 adults and children.

**Young Adult Gathering – November 2016:** Young Adult women will gather with ECW board members on November 30 at Reid’s in Southpark. Attendees will bring school supplies for Rama Road Elementary. This social event is designed to encourage cross-generational fellowship.

**Staff Appreciation – December 2016:** A surprise staff appreciation event will be held in December of 2016 hosted by ECW for all staff of Christ Church.

**Commission Members:**

Connell Pinckney	President
Elizabeth Fernandez	1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President & Marketing
Catherine Pappas	Treasurer
Mary Gregory	Secretary
Laney Lay	Mission Funding
Lynn Muller	Mission Funding
Eleanor Fairey	Young Adult Liaison
Winston Paschall	Sages Liaison
Leigh Bowles	2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President & GNS Liaison
Kaky Cassada	Vestry Liaison
Ashley Wardell	Friendship Feast Co-Chair
Jennifer Monroe	Friendship Feast Co-Chair
Lisa Parrish	Retreat Chair
Liz Foster	Advent Lunch Co- Chair
Jennifer Hughes	Advent Lunch Co-Chair
PerMar Olin	Holiday Bazaar Co-Chair
Ginger Seabrook	Holiday Bazaar Co-Chair
Gail Landers	GoodNews Shop
Jessica Fallis	United Thank Offering
Amie Packer	Nominations
Syble Carson	Devotional Leader
Murray Parker	Art Gallery
Margaret Salisbury	Art Gallery, Newcomers/Parish Life

# NEWCOMERS AND PARISH LIFE

*Submitted by Kathryn Saunders and Alicia Wardlaw*

## NEWCOMERS

We continue to welcome each visitor that we are made aware of with a personal welcome email, entry into the ACS system 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 become happy and engaged members of Christ Church.

**Welcome Center/Greeter Program:** We continue to 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 have been very helpful to visitors, particularly with requests to locate the nursery or Sunday School classrooms. We continue to identify many newcomers this way and feel the greeter impact is significant. In addition, we encourage newcomers to become greeters so they can feel connected on Sundays.

**Vespers in the Garden:** On April 21, we welcomed 40 newcomers to a Vespers service in the lovely Funderburg garden. It was a beautiful evening and the feeling of hospitality was abundant, as we were joined by members of the Clergy, Staff, Choir, Vestry and Hospitality Committee. This event always leaves a positive impression on newcomers and leaves them feeling very connected with Christ Church.

**Connect Classes:** In 2016, we hosted Connect Classes on May 1 and October 2. Developed to be a precursor to the Confirmation Class, these are designed to make newcomers feel welcomed, allow them to get to know other parishioners and clergy on a more personal level, and provide information about the Church and our offerings for them to take home for reference. We continue to receive excellent feedback from attendees and notice the impact not only from their comments, but also from their future involvement in Church activities.

**Newcomer Dinners:** We continue to host dinners to specifically welcome newcomers. These dinners are paid for thanks to the Leap of Faith budget. Hosted on the first Wednesday of the month from October through April, we include a personal element by having a clergy or staff member come talk about their own journey, along with what they do at Christ Church. These are family-style events and we have experienced newcomers who come for more than one dinner to feel engaged.

**Hospitality Committee:** The Hospitality Committee, led by Carol Lorenz through the summer, meets monthly throughout the year and plays the greatest role in the success of Vespers in the Garden in April. Laura Smith assumed the role of chair in September, with Carol remaining in an advisory role. In addition, the Committee participates in welcoming newcomers as Greeters, as well as assisting with Connect Classes and Newcomer Dinners. We are grateful for their hospitality. The 2016 Hospitality Committee consisted of Carol Lorenz (Chair), Katie Charlebois, Ansley Cranz, Leslie Culbertson, Page Gatewood, Ellen Holland, Lauren McGuire, Molly Nielsen, Maude Root, Laura Smith, Lindsey Williams and Rich Walker.

## PARISH LIFE

**Parish Life Commission:** The commission consists primarily of event chairs, along with representatives of the Hospitality Committee and a few at large members. The monthly meetings are well attended and we continue to discuss how to best connect and engage parishioners through our events. Emilie Heffeman completed her duties as our multi-year chair this summer and Alicia Wardlaw assumed these responsibilities in September.

**Shrove Tuesday Supper:** In a collaborative effort with the Music Department, the Hospitality Committee planned a fun evening with a jazz band and pancake supper on Tuesday, February 9. Approximately 275-300 people enjoyed jazz music and wonderful New Orleans-style food, as well as a pancake supper. There were crafts for the children and a festive time was had by all.

**Easter Egg Hunt:** This annual event was very well attended. We hosted two hunts following the 11:15 AM service – one following the Discovery Service and the other following the Church Service. We separated each hunt based on children's ages. Cacky Higgins and Corrie Manis did a nice job of overseeing the event.

**Spring Parish Day:** The Spring Parish Day was a booming success. Second-time chairs Catherine Ruth Kelly and Alicia Wardlaw planned a stellar event and we enjoyed wonderful attendance. The fried chicken picnic and fun activities (bounce houses, balloon animals, cake walk, etc.) were all well-received. Lots of community and fellowship on the lawn!

**Hot Dog Sundays:** This tradition of hosting Hot Dog Sundays following the 10:30 AM service on the second and fourth Sundays during the summer months continued to be well received. Lauren Carter, Anna Clifford, and Eleanor Fairey again did a fabulous job organizing and making sure all were fed as they communed together after worship.

**iGroups:** This year we introduced a new way to be active at Christ Church: *iGroups: An Invitation to Fellowship!* These events are intended to be strictly social and appeal to various ages and stages throughout the year. It is another opportunity to become connected and engaged. We launched iGroups this summer with a picnic in Freedom Park in June, a Romare Bearden Park concert in July, and a Family Movie Night in All Saints' Hall in August. Since that time, we have hosted a Young Adult Gathering at OMB in September and a ballroom dancing event at Metropolitan Ballroom in October. The general idea for these events is that they are advertised through a SignUpGenius on our website (and through other internal marketing), hosted by parishioners, and are either free or very low cost. We have been very pleased with the reception and have several exciting functions lined up for the months ahead. Kate Hill and Peggy Home have joined our Parish Life Commission as the iGroup Chairs.

**Fall Parish Day:** This annual event welcoming back the parish from summer was very well attended. For the second time, Molly Nielsen and Lindsey Williams planned a fabulous day with entertainment by DJ Thomas Campbell, bounce houses, balloon animal making, face painting and a cake walk, all supervised by youth, and delicious fried chicken and fixings from Chef Eric. This year the Nursery Committee contributed a trackless train to the event, which was a huge hit! It was a beautiful and fun day and we welcomed many parishioners, as well as a number of newcomers. We even had newcomers volunteer to help with the event!

**Trunk or Treat:** This third annual event was a tremendous success – we were delighted to have perfect weather and return to hosting the event outside! Over 15 families/groups set up their "trunks" in the upper parking lot, while children enjoyed hot dogs and bag decorating. After a parade around the circle, kids were excited to trick-or-treat amongst the trunks. Carol Morano and Virginia Shaw were the chairpersons for the event. Parishioners (adults and youth) went all out on decorating their cars. We estimate there were 350+ people in attendance.

**Parish Life Commission:** Emilie Heffernan (Chair through summer); Alicia Wardlaw (Chair beginning September); Alison Gugenheim (Secretary); Cacky Higgins and Corrie Manis (Easter Egg Hunt); Catherine Ruth Kelly and Alicia Wardlaw (Spring Parish Day); Lauren Carter, Anna Clifford and Eleanor Fairey (Hot Dog Sundays); Molly Nielsen and Lindsey Williams (Fall Parish Day); Carol Morano and Virginia Shaw (Trunk or Treat); Janey DeLoache (At Large); Laura Smith, Carol Lorenz, and Natalie Akin (Hospitality Representatives); Scott Griffin (Vestry Rep). New members include Sarah Kain, Blair Oliver, Sara York, Wendelyn Kelly, Merrill Mills, Peggy Home, and Kate Hill.



# SPIRITUAL GROWTH

*Submitted by The Reverend Matt Holcombe and Alice deVries, 2016 Spiritual Growth Chair*

We are a committed group dedicated to helping create sacred space for our parishioners to explore, grow and deepen their faith, as well as continuing to be a resource Church for the greater community. The Spiritual Growth Commission has had an exciting year, with a lot to celebrate!

After laying the foundation in 2015 by looking thoroughly at how each ministry area is already encouraging spiritual growth, we accomplished the following goals in 2016 to help develop a consistent theme and language for spiritual growth.

**Invitation to Ministry Booklet** – With the help of each ministry area (i.e., Worship, Outreach, Formation, Fellowship, etc.), we developed an easy to navigate information booklet that encompasses all ministry opportunities at Christ Church. *Invitation to Ministry* books can be picked up at the front desk or found online.

**Webpage for Spiritual Growth** – We created a page on the Christ Church website that outlines our Spiritual Growth themes, which includes spiritual practices to begin cultivating your spiritual journey.

**Mid-Year Spiritual Growth Initiative** – We organized a luncheon for all the staff, heads of commissions and Spiritual Growth commission members celebrating our spiritual growth themes. Using the metaphor of bread, we thought about growing our faith as we actually made bread together from scratch. We shared a meal and answered three questions intentionally that allowed us to experience our themes of "explore, grow and deepen" through connection. By the end of our meal, our bread was baked and we were challenged to share our loaves with others. It was a fun and thought provoking event reminding us what is at the heart of spiritual growth.

**Christian Essentials** – we began the work of creating some exciting ideas for an adult curriculum based on our 15 Christian Essentials that are supported by our mission at Christ Church to Love God, Care for Each Other and Serve the World.

We look forward to continuing our important work of helping our parishioners cultivate their spiritual journey as we focus on developing a Christian Essentials curriculum and a Mobile Spiritual Growth Tool for 2017.

**Spiritual Growth Commission Members:** Amelia Abbott, Amanda Anders, Charles Conner, Nancy Downing, Tere Ey, Jenny Holofchak, the Reverend Matt Holcombe, Patty Lambert, Bill Lorenz, Julie Marr, Lois Ann Partridge, Winston Paschall, Bill Pierce, Celia Sinclair and Kyle Woodruff.

# OUTREACH & MISSION

*Submitted by Alice Marleaux*

The Outreach and Mission Commission is 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 locally and around the world. The Commission is comprised of 15 parishioners who serve a three-year term. Each year five members are added while five members roll off the Commission. Each member is assigned as a liaison to one of our partner agencies. The Commission is charged with being good stewards of the Christ Church outreach budget, which totaled \$346,025 in 2016 and supported 13 local agencies.

The Outreach and Mission Commission supports organizations that fall within the following categories: Housing and Homelessness, Poverty Prevention, Children and Education, and Mission. In addition,

- Each organization should provide an opportunity for Christ Church parishioners to volunteer.
- The Outreach gift to the organization should not exceed 10% of the organization's overall budget.
- The Outreach gift to the organization should not exceed 10% of the Christ Church total outreach budget unless it is a core Church initiative with strong parishioner involvement.
- The Outreach gift should be greater than 1% of the total Christ Church outreach budget.
- The organization should allocate at least 80% of its total budget to programming.

In 2016, the Commission delved into some tough conversations about the agencies we currently support. These are not conversations or decisions that anyone takes lightly. Due to having to move the Rama Road Programming Budget from Micah funds to operating budget, we decreased funding to Thompson Child Development and Charlotte Community Health Clinic. The Commission also took a look at our hopes and dreams going forward and chose economic mobility and racial tensions to focus on in the upcoming year.

Christ Church, through the Outreach Commission, supports:

Charlotte Family Housing	Loaves & Fishes
Men's Shelter of Charlotte	A Child's Place
Habitat for Humanity	The Learning Collaborative
YWCA	Thompson Child and Family Focus
Urban Ministry Center	Communities in Schools - Rama
Rama Road Freedom School	Charlotte Community Health Clinic
Crisis Assistance Ministry	Rama Road Programming

Throughout 2016, the Outreach Commission has been dedicated to strengthening the partnerships Christ Church has with local organizations and addressing the immediate needs in our community. We spent considerable time researching issues facing Charlotte and making sure Christ Church is a leader in affecting positive change. Major initiatives that support this goal include:

**Rama Road:** As our partnership enters its eighth year, we continue to invest our time as volunteers through tutoring, classroom assistants, Girl Scout leaders, and teacher appreciation events. Through Leap of Faith (LOF) initiatives, Christ Church has funded the Discovery Education curriculum and leveled libraries for each classroom, and Freedom School.

**Serve-a-bration:** Now in our third year, Serve-a-bration is an effort to recruit more volunteers and to show parishioners that service should occur every week and every day, not just one day a year. This year, there were 21 opportunities to serve throughout Charlotte and 468 parishioners participated. We continue to explore ways to grow participation and provide opportunities for all age groups.

Freedom School: Thanks to a three-year Leap of Faith initiative we were able to begin our own Freedom School at Rama Road in 2014. This summer 65 students spent six weeks of their summer learning and attending field trips.

**Outreach Commission:** Reuben Hufham, Pete Landry, Andrew Sowder, Ainslie Wall, Julie Stedman, Gray Dunaway, Fran Redic, Mark Landers, AT Castillo, Doug Ey, Henrietta Richardson, Harry Shaw, Ann Tabor, Josie Hicks – Youth, Burch Mixon - Vestry Liaison. Staff Members: Alice Marleaux, Deborah Shoemake, The Reverend Marty Hedgpeth

## MUSIC AND THE ARTS

*Submitted by Rob Ridgell*

At Christ Church, songs of worship arise out of a life of worship. Thus, all of our music ministers, from the singers to the instrumentalists to our littlest cherubs, are in a position to touch the souls of those who listen. This year our music ministry has helped cultivate a deeper awareness of God and others in our community and world – thus, growing our spiritual effectiveness through music in our worship services.

Our strength is in our diversity. On any given Sunday, worshippers can hear some of the high classical repertoire as well as rhythm-and-blues songs and hymns (both ancient and new), and even sometimes the simple children’s anthem, “Go now in peace.” We are blessed to have an array of instrumentalists, from guitarists and pianists to professional violinists and flutists, but our focus will always remain on helping equip and empower our entire community to glorify God, night and day.

We’ve welcomed new music staff members Liz Chapa and Brian Sullivan and have continued to benefit from the rich music education offered by Lisa Lashley. We remain proud of the accomplishments and musical growth of our organ scholar Austin Philemon and are grateful for our experts in technology arts, Rick Fitts, Tim Mapp, and Eric Nichols.

This past season, our Coffeehouse Concert Series, Parish Choir, Youth Band, Youth Choirs and Musical Outreach have been and will remain part of our goals and mission. We truly seek to build the city of God with music that allows us all to walk as a child of the light and follow Jesus.

**Liturgical Commission Members:** Judd McAdams (Chair), Ginger Garner (Acolytes), Bonnie Benedum and Peggy Home (Altar Guild), Melissa Burns (Chalice Bearers), Eric Locher (Lectors), Rob Ridgell (Choir/Music), Margaretta Leary (Contemporary Service), Lise Hinton (Discovery), Bill Lowry (Ushers), Bill Deloache (Vestry Liaison), Wendy Mauney (Facilities), The Reverend Chip Edens and The Reverend Marty Hedgpeth (Clergy), Brian Sullivan and Lisa Lashley (Music Staff).

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

*Submitted by Jane Coulter*

This year the Congregational Care Commission was reformed and began holding meetings after a several year hiatus. Our annual budget was \$3000. The group first met in late summer to identify the pending needs in congregational care. They discussed and put together information to be put in ALL bathrooms of Christ Church that could help anyone looking for help in privacy. This provides phone numbers and email for a variety of resources including mental health, substance abuse and addiction, physical and sexual abuse, and help for teens and youth. The information will be printed and displayed soon.

Commission members helped work the Blood Drive in September and the All Saints Luncheon on November 1.

Under Lisa's guidance, they are delving into marriage support for the congregation. Parishioners will be able and encouraged to sign up for an email link subscription for a specified period of time. The link will send out topics of discussion for spouses that are meant to open dialogue and encourage communication.

**Congregational Care Commission:** Lisa Saunders, Jane Coulter, Virginia Anderson, Jan Cates, Leesa Clardy, Lydia Hanna, Covey Jackson, Jeanne Kutrow, Billy Morton, Molly Nielson, Blair Tomlinson

## STEWARDSHIP

*Submitted by Kimberly Mize*

### **Annual Stewardship Campaign**

The 2016 Annual Stewardship Campaign launched on October 16, 2015, chaired by Susan and Blanton Hamilton. On February 8, 2016, the Vestry approved a \$4.4M budget based on \$4.28M in pledges received by that date, representing 1,293 households.

The campaign materials were designed by Stewart Marr, with 1,800+ stewardship packets mailed to parish members at their homes. A coordinated email effort was launched the same day. The theme of the 2016 campaign was "Give With Purpose" supporting the larger "Soul Purpose" theme of 2015. "People have purpose. So do Churches. Ours is to be Christ's Church in the world." The campaign emphasized the goal of 100% participation. Kimberly Mize served as Director of Stewardship throughout the campaign with database support from Mary Greisser. The 2015 - 2016 Vestry Stewardship Liaison was Kaky Cassada, with assistance from Senior Warden Mary Davis Smart.

The Stewardship Commission, joined by the Vestry, focused its efforts on educating the entire parish about the importance of 100% participation in the Annual Stewardship Campaign (ASC) by making targeted calls to newcomers, young adults, and young families. (This is the fifth year of targeted calling efforts.) Since more than 95% of Christ Church's yearly budget is funded by the ASC, the Commission and Vestry used every opportunity to promote the importance of making a yearly pledge. Emphasis was placed on reaching out to new members this year, and educating them about the stewardship process. Rector Chip Edens hosted a Faith Forum with Nathan Dungan on October 24, 2015. Dungan also spoke at a dinner the night before, focused on family finance. Kimberly Mize followed up Dungan's visit with two evening classes and a presentation to the 8th grade confirmands regarding Dungan work. The Hamiltons were featured in a compelling video, produced by Rick Fitts, that was shared prior to Sunday School classes and on the website.

The 2016 Stewardship Commission began its work in September 2015. Members included: Bird Anderson, Jordan Collier, Doug Ey, John Fitzhugh, Blanton and Susan Hamilton (2016 ASC Co-Chairs), Bo Hinton, Warren and Ellen Holland (2014 ASC Co-Chairs), Bill Lunsford (2013 ASC Chair), Harry Shaw, Scott Smith, Melissa and Paul Tolmie (2017 ASC Chairs), Rob Vest, and Rich Walker. Vestry advisors included Mary Davis Smart, Kaky Cassada and Carrington Coulter.

The 2017 ASC launched on October 30, 2016, chaired by Melissa and Paul Tolmie. The theme for the 2017 campaign is "Let Your Generosity Flow." The summer and fall of 2016 was a time of heavy research and retooling of the stewardship practice at Christ Church, following the April 18-19, 2016 visit from Chris Willard, who performed a generosity audit. The focus of the 2017 campaign is not about the fiscal needs of the Church, but rather about prayer and God's calling for each person to be generous. The fall of 2016 brought seven new videos, six generosity gatherings in private homes and Southminster, two Rector's classes and Celebration Sunday. The Vestry will vote on the 2017 budget in February. As of December 31, 2016, \$4.18 million in pledges had been received towards a goal of \$4.5 million.

### **Planned Giving**

The Oak Circle is pleased to report that there are currently 103 completed estate commitments recorded at Christ Church at the end of 2016. During 2016, the Planned Giving Committee, chaired by Eric Locher, was on a bit of a hiatus in terms of direct appeals, due to the Leap of Faith Capital Campaign. However, a new marketing piece that was produced in coordination with Stewart Marr, and mailed to all pledging households in September 2015 brought new planned giving prospects forward throughout 2016. The coordinated effort was funded by the Christ Church Foundation and included both printed and web materials, and the addition of a page highlighting memorial gifts.

## **CHRIST CHURCH FOUNDATION**

*Submitted by Kimberly Mize*

The Christ Church Foundation was founded November 21, 1962 by the Vestry as a separate trust within the parish to receive, manage and distribute funds for "religious purposes," a term defined to include "education, charitable, missionary and other purposes." The trust was incorporated as a non-profit North Carolina corporation on November 14, 1969. The trust administered by the Foundation now consists of the following distinct funds: a general "Outreach Fund," a "Property, Plant and Equipment Fund," a "Clergy Housing Fund," two "Scholarship Funds," a fund dedicated to support Habitat for Humanity, and an "Unrestricted Fund."

The management and administration of Foundation assets are directed by nine Trustees appointed by the Vestry, each eligible to serve two, three-year terms. In addition, the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and the Chair of the Outreach Commission serve as ex-officio Trustees, and the Rector and a representative of planned giving are welcome participants at all Trustee meetings.

To improve coordination of monies given to outreach efforts by the Church, the Trustees of the Foundation consider recommendations from the Outreach Commission for distribution from the Foundation's Outreach Fund. The Foundation encourages parties seeking grants from the Foundation's Outreach Fund to submit their requests to the Outreach Commission.

As of December 1, 2015 (the latest audited report for 2016), the Foundation's total assets were \$3,894,268.

The CCF Board met three times in 2016:

- February 17, with a presentation from US Trust
- May 24, with the Outreach Commission, and approval vote
- December 1, with elections and 2017 allocations votes

In May 2016, 12 scholarships were awarded to three new applicants and nine returning students, for a total of \$12,000. Monies from the Unrestricted Fund were used to supplement the expendable balance of the Scholarship Fund.

On December 1, 2016, the Foundation trustees allocated the following amounts from the respective funds (for expenditure in 2017):

Outreach	\$62,973
Habitat	\$12,489
Scholarships	\$ 8,657
Property, Plant & Equipment	\$54,714
Unrestricted	\$17,364

The Foundation continues to work with the Oak Circle Committee to encourage the congregation to make gifts and take advantage of planned giving techniques, thereby becoming "Oak Circle" members and helping enlarge the corpus of the Foundation. During 2016, the Foundation received gifts in memory of, and from the estate of, Jim Preston.

2016 Foundation Members: Frank Home, President; Catherine Browning, Secretary; Scott Stevens, Treasurer; Arrington Mixon, Investment Chair; Parkie Thomas, Scholarship Chair; Travis Hain; Ned Hardison; Bill Lunsford; Skip Smart.

In addition, the following also served the CCF in 2016: Ainslie Wall, Outreach Liaison; Tere Ey, Senior Warden; Carrington Coulter, Junior Warden; Kimberly Mize, Director of Stewardship.

On December 1, Catherine Browning, Travis Hain and Scott Stevens were thanked for their six years of service. Three new members were elected for 2017 - 2019: Carrington Coulter, Mary Kluttz and Paul Tolmie.





## **Christ Church Charlotte**

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1412 Providence Road  
Charlotte, NC 28207  
704-333-0378  
[www.christchurchcharlotte.org](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org)