


ADVENT 2020

The Disciple

News & Events at Christ Church Charlotte



Love God
Care for Each Other
Serve the World



*“For nothing
will be impossible
with God.”*

– LUKE 1:37

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Lean On

In This Issue

As we enter the season of Advent and ponder Mary's response to the impossible, we celebrate the many ways you have responded to this year's extraordinary challenges with courage, generosity, creativity, and love.

Then Mary said, 'Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.'

– LUKE 1:38

Worship With Us This Advent

Sundays, 8:45 am, Online

We will continue to plan Advent worship experiences with the ongoing guidance of the Diocese and healthcare professionals in our parish and community. For the most up-to-date information about worship and other gatherings in December, visit

www.christchurchcharlotte.org/advent

Advent Sunday Mornings at 10 am

November 29

**Embracing Advent:
An Introduction to
the Season**

The Reverend Joshua Case invites us to reflect on the meaning of Advent.

December 6

**Through the Years:
Advent Lessons and
Carols at Christ Church**

Ben Outen and former choir members discuss and share past Lessons and Carols videos.

December 13

**A Mid-Advent
Meditation**

Take a breath and pause from the busyness of the holiday season.

December 20

Christmas Pageant

Christ Church children will retell the story of Christ's birth in videos recorded at home.



Advent: A Little Lent in an Already Busy Season

In the Episcopal tradition the season of “advent” has often been understood to be a little lenten season. Much like the official season of “lent” leading up to the celebration of Easter, Christians are meant to prepare themselves for Christmas through prayer, reflection, quietness, repentance and waiting.

Advent embodies this notion of Lent through the use of prophetic words and stories in scripture, through the lighting of candles to mark time, and through the use of the color blue with hints of purple. In this way, the otherwise busyness of the Christmas season, though necessary to create an environment within which to experience the joy of Christ’s coming, can be reframed and reordered through our own self preparation so that when Christmas morning comes, we may recognize anew God dwelling among us.

This Advent, we invite you to mark the season with us through the marking of time with your own Advent candles and wreath at home, and by joining us in worship every Sunday online. While we would love to be gathered as a full community in person, the season that we find ourselves in requires, much like those in every generation who yearn for the coming of Christ a new, that we wait but a little longer.

May your marking of time and making room for Christ this season make the joy of Christmas morning new all over again!

CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES

Digital Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 20, 10:00 am
Online via Zoom and Facebook

Join us as we share the Christmas story as told by our third graders and their families, and members of our children’s choirs. Centered on the narratives surrounding Jesus’ birth from the gospels of Matthew and Luke, this will be like a traditional Christmas pageant...a wonderful way to remember what Christmas is really about.

Drive-Thru Nativity Experience

Monday, December 21

Save the date for a drive-thru nativity experience. We are still finalizing details, but hope you will join us as we prepare for Christmas Eve. All participating cars will receive a box of goodies and supplies to help celebrate and worship with us on Christmas Eve. Watch for additional details coming soon! Contact Lindsay Masi at masil@christchurchcharlotte.org with questions.

#FeedingHope

A Food Drive Challenge for our Youth!

We are inviting all middle and high school students to join our #FeedingHope Food Drive Challenge. We will be collecting nonperishable items for Loaves and Fishes from November 29 – December 20. An email will be sent the week of November 22 with details about how to sign up for teams. The team that collects the most nonperishable items will win a prize! Contact Lindsay Masi at masil@christchurchcharlotte.org for more details.

MISSION & OUTREACH

School of Faith

Our Tuesdays with Outreach (TWO) series will continue December 1 – 15 at noon at www.schooloffaith.church, the Christ Church Charlotte app or Facebook.

Tuesday, December 1
Sheltering the Homeless During COVID-19

With staff from Roof Above (formerly Urban Ministries Center/Men’s Shelter of Charlotte), we will look at how COVID-19 has affected plans for Room in the Inn and also hear about the new housing initiative, Kings on Lamar.

Tuesday, December 8
A New Idea: Westside Community Land Trust

We explore a new organization that is assisting in affordable home ownership on the West side of Charlotte using a novel approach of land-lease.

Tuesday, December 15
Growing with the YWCA

Catch up with our longtime partners at the YWCA as they share updates on their Women in Transition program and new initiative to expand affordable housing opportunities right in their own front yard.

Stay tuned for information about the 2021 School of Faith schedule.

YOUNG ADULTS

Young Adult Trivia Night

Sunday, December 6 at 8 pm, Zoom

Young adults (20s & 30s) are invited to join us for this first-ever evening of classic bar trivia – from the comfort of your own home. Have fun and visit with friends and get to know a few others! Encourage your friends to join us! To register, visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/youngadults. Space is limited and registration required. Contact Kathryn Saunders at saundersk@christchurchcharlotte.org with questions.

EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)

The Living Advent Wreath

Due to the rising Covid positivity rates, we are unable to host the ECW Living Advent Wreath event originally scheduled for Tuesday, December 1. While we are disappointed not to offer this event as originally planned, we are looking into ways to reschedule on a different date and possibly a different format. Please stay tuned!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Ginger Seabrook at ggseabrook@carolina.rr.com.

WELLNESS

Mindful Mondays

Mondays, 9 - 9:30 am, Zoom

Start your week with mindfulness practices and fellowship. ALL are welcome to this brief gathering with guided practices and a quick hello. Contact Mollee Reitz at reitzm@christchurchcharlotte.org to receive the Zoom link.

Virtual and Phone Counseling Services

Weekdays, 10 am – 5 pm

Your mental health is very important. Although in-person meetings are not available, we are still offering counseling services by phone and by video call.

To schedule an appointment, contact Mollee Reitz, Wellness Director, at reitzm@christchurchcharlotte.org or 704-575-8663.

JOIN US! NOW IS THE TIME TO MAKE YOUR 2021 ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE!



ONLINE

Visit www.christchurch-charlotte.org/pledge



TEXT2PLEDGE

Text your full name and amount of pledge to 980-221-4035



PLEDGE FORM

Mail to:
1412 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28207

Brave Together

Pandemic Spurs A Call to Action

Nudged by the Holy Spirit and moved to action by growing inequities in the education of black and brown students in Charlotte due to COVID-19, parishioner Joanne Jenkins created The Learning Vine at Galilee Ministries of East Charlotte. Here she shares her story of faith, hope and service during the pandemic.

This summer, two movements took place that spoke to my heart. First, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools made a call to the community for space to house the 16,000 students who were without Internet capacity for virtual learning, and second, was the Episcopal Church's request for applicants for Social Justice and Reconciliation grants to support COVID-impacted programs.

I heard a call to action and took the idea of opening up a remote school site to the Galilee Center of East Charlotte. Despite the odds, I was able to gather people of deep faith to join the planning team. There was hesitancy since COVID has us feeling isolated and so fragile that we think about what we *cannot* do rather than what we *can* do. There was also the issue of financing such an endeavor during uncertain times.

After much work and planning, Galilee opened the doors of the Nave to 24 children from the Merry Oaks International Academy on October 5 so that they could have a safe, clean space to join their classmates online three days a week. We rang that old church bell when the kids arrived for school and have continued to do so every day at 7:30 am and again when they leave at 4:30 pm. The parents are so very grateful, the kids are full of energy and feel safe and secure, and the MOIA teachers are marveling

at the steady progress that these students are making in such a short time. They are engaged and catching up on their studies while demonstrating solid academic performance.

As a follower of Jesus, I am called to believe that faith works, prayer works, and God shows up...every time. The grant request was denied, but God's people showed up with their two coins (or more) and we have had such abundance for these precious ones. As of November 2, our little school has expanded to four days in order to accommodate additional children and still stay within the parameters of COVID prevention and protection. Two different groups of children will participate two days a week until they can return to school safe and sound on a full time basis.

On a very personal level, I call The Learning Vine "Christ Church East," as I see our efforts – this little school – as having very high standards, lots of love, faith, support, and incredible courage and bravery during these extraordinary times. We overcame the fear of "with-out-ness" and created a new horizon of hope for these incredibly resilient children.

The Sun does rise in the East! Amen.



We Get By With a Little Help From Our Friends

The pandemic closed many doors, yet opened new ones. These parishioners have strengthened bonds and made new connections.



Ann Armstrong and Polly Pearce are a perfect match.

Some folks met through our Pen Pals program. Brittany Luther and Sally Cloyd are different ages. Brittany is married with three young children, and Sally is single, but they call each other “heart pals” now. They talk or text frequently, even since Sally moved out of town, and plan a post COVID trip to finally meet in person.

Through Christ Church Pen Pals, Debbie Stovall reconnected with Sara Lowe, whom she first knew decades ago when Sara was our receptionist and Debbie volunteered with mailings.

Debbie also made a new friend, Lynn Lau, who lived just a block away. “When COVID is conquered, I look forward to getting together in person with them,” Debbie said. “Contact with my new friends has truly been a gift to me.”

Ann Armstrong recently stopped driving and was feeling very isolated at Sharon Towers. Polly Pearce had time on her hands between ending and starting a new job. Polly and Ann seemed like a perfect match. Now Polly picks Ann up once a week to shop, run errands together, and do a lot of laughing.

Sandy Akers and Joanne Jenkins met doing an online class together at Christ Church. They both live alone and have strengthened their relationship through phone calls. They began reading Morning Prayer and Compline in the Book of Common Prayer together every day over the phone, and still do so today.

Sherry Neff visited parishioners at Southminster every six weeks before the pandemic. Now she calls her friends there weekly to check in and chat. Sherry enjoys the calls as much as they enjoy hearing from her.



Betty deBrosse and her neighbor, Leesa Clardy

David Scott took communion to parishioners in their homes before the pandemic. Since then he has called and connected with them, and once clearance was given and following safe protocols, David is back taking communion to several parishioners who are happy for the spiritual food and friendship.

Betty deBrosse is widowed but kept finding new ways to stay active at Christ Church the last several years. She made good friends while taking the Christian Essentials course, and though decades apart in age, she and Alison Gugenheim keep in touch regularly.

Betty's across-the-street neighbor, Leesa Clardy, loves to stop by Betty's at 5 pm after a long day of helping her children with remote learning. The pandemic has closed many doors but opened new ones.

No doubt many of you have made new friends and tightened up relationships with some folks with whom you already share a long history. Please share your stories with us! Send them to Jennifer Hamm at hammj@christ-churchcharlotte.org.

Prayer Shawls Knit Us Together

The knitters have been busy at Christ Church, and several parishioners have been recipients of new prayer shawls.

Anna Brackett L., 4, had to have outpatient surgery and kept her prayer shawl with her in the hospital and even in the operating room. Now she sleeps with it every night at home.

Prayer shawls are knit by parishioners, and then woven with prayers and a blessing at a worship service before being given to warm, comfort and encourage folks through challenging times.

If you would like a prayer shawl or have a friend or loved one who would appreciate having one, contact The Reverend Lisa Saunders at saundersL@christ-churchcharlotte.org or Ainslie Wall at walla@christ-churchcharlotte.org.



This sweetheart is among several parishioners who have received prayer shawls in recent months.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY ELECTION

After soliciting input from the parish, the Vestry Nominating Committee (Jane Coulter, Doug Ey, Hooper Hardison (Chair), Sally Mitchener, Arrington Mixon, Jane Showalter (ex-officio) and Ken Thompson) delivered to the Rector the following five nominees for three-year terms on the Christ Church Vestry, beginning January 1, 2021:



Copps



Costa



Gregory



Gugenheim



Lorenz

Laura Copps is a lifelong Episcopalian and member of Christ Church for 15+ years. She has taught Sunday School in various classrooms for 10 years, helped with Vacation Bible School in different roles and was also a 'He, She, We & God' facilitator. She has served on the Children & Family Commission and the Outreach & Mission Commission, serving as chair for two years of her three-year term. Laura worked to help create and implement the 'Parenting with Faith & Courage' Sunday morning parenting class. She has been a member on multiple search committees and is currently serving as a 'Serve the World' co-chair on the Faith & Courage Steering Committee. She has completed the church's 'RISE' training, 'The Space Between Us' communication skills training, and is currently in 'Sacred Ground.' Laura is a semi-retired software developer specializing in Business Intelligence and volunteers with a number of our outreach partners. The Copps family has served as Chalice Bearers for many years in the contemporary service. Laura and husband, Greg, have two children: Owen is a senior at Tufts University and Kiley is a freshman at Northeastern University.

Cindy Costa joined Christ Church in 2013 when she and her family moved to Charlotte. She takes great joy in children's ministry, serving on the VBS Steering Committee for six years, teaching Sunday School both live and virtual, and serving as Chair of the Children and Families Commission. Cindy enjoys faith and discipleship at Christ Church, where she has served as a Christian Essentials facilitator for multiple small groups and also enjoys participating in Christ Church Women's Bible Study. Cindy is a graduate of the CORE 2019-20 class and served on the Stewardship Commission for two years. Most recently, Cindy is working with a talented and diverse team of Christ Church parishioners on the Faith & Courage Strategic Plan. Cindy is an active volunteer in her children's schools and serves on the planning team for Madelyn's Fund. In her spare time, she pursues her passion for photography. Cindy and her husband, Jose have three children Loren, Vera Rose, and Nico.

Fletcher Gregory and his wife Mary, and their two children, joined Christ Church in 1988. The next year he became an Usher, and has served in that capacity ever since. He has served three terms on the Outreach Commission, and has participated in several of the Church's strategic planning initiatives. Fletcher has been on the Vestry on two prior occasions, serving as Senior Warden in 2005 and 2013.

Alison Gugenheim and her family have been members of Christ Church since they moved to Charlotte five years ago. Alison presently serves as chair of the Parish Life Commission, a member of the Adult Formation Leadership Team and the Spiritual Growth Commission. She also serves on the fourth week altar guild and as a liaison and facilitator for Christian Essentials for the Diocese of North Carolina. Since joining Christ Church, she has served in numerous capacities, including volunteering in the Good News Shop, Homebound Ministry Coordinator, Christian Essentials facilitator, co-chaired the mid-year "Courage LAB" for staff/church leadership and was a member of the 2019 CORE class. Alison has volunteered at Carmel Middle School as a tutor from 2017 to present day and was chair of the School Leadership Team from 2017 - 2019. Alison and her husband, Scott, have two teenage children Sam and Eliza.

Bill Lorenz and his family have been members of Christ Church since they relocated to Charlotte in 2009. Bill currently serves as the co-chair of the 2021 Stewardship Campaign, and has chaired the clergy search committees which called Joshua, Joan, and Connor. He served on the Diocesan Committee that called Bishop Sam Rodman and continues to be a delegate to Convention. Bill is a senior executive at Bank of America and has served in global leadership roles for 40 years. He is an active community volunteer having served as the board chairman of the Salvation Army Charlotte Command, and on the boards of Freedom School Partners and Providence Day School. Bill and his wife, Carol have two grown children, Will (married to Heather) and Kate.

The individuals elected to the Vestry will replace Nikki DeVillers, Alex Kelly, David Kern, Sally Mitchener and Jane Showalter, whose terms end on December 31, 2020. Under the Church's Bylaws, additional nominations may be made in writing to the Rector no later than the close of business on December 2, 2020, at which time the nominations will be closed. As announced in the September issue of the Disciple, because of the pandemic and Diocese-wide limitations, unfortunately there will be no Annual Meeting this year, and thus no parish-wide vote on the new Vestry members. Under the Bylaws, the current Vestry will vote on the nominees at its meeting on December 14, 2020. The new Vestry members will serve with Louise Bonner, Jane Coulter, Doug Ey, Susan Hamilton, Julie Marr, Randall Mountcastle, Geoff Peters, Ken Thompson, Chris Ullrich and Betsy Zarzour.

Turning Challenges into Fun

Christ Church Preschool & Kindergarten is a daily ministry of Christ Church, serving 221 students from 171 families, 102 of which are church members. After working over the summer to come up with a plan to safely re-open the school, CCK was able to begin in-person learning on September 14. Since that time, our preschool has been extremely fortunate to be able to operate without interruption, serving children of toddler age through kindergarten. Our students age three and older, as well as our teachers and administrative staff, wear masks each day and follow safety protocols set forth by the CDC, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, and the Diocese of NC.

Our teachers and families have done an amazing job adjusting to the changes that we have implemented, and the children are thriving at school. It has been heartwarming to see the kids turn the challenges of this pandemic into something



fun. For example, our kindergarten classes were not able to wear their costumes to school and have their usual Halloween parade, so they all decorated face masks to wear to school for Halloween.

We are extremely grateful to the Clergy and the Vestry of Christ Church for giving us support and guidance during an unprecedented year.



Merry Christmas from GoodNews!

Shop in person by appointment! Come see our wonderful selection of gift ideas and seasonal items for your holiday décor. Call 704-372-5906 or email gns@christchurch-charlotte.org to schedule 45 minute appointments. Gift wrapping available!

Our December hours:

Monday – Friday, 9 am – 4 pm

Saturday, 9 am – 3 pm



Food To Go from The Kitchen at Christ Church

Order delicious prepared food to go! Convenient for you, and a great way to support the Christ Church kitchen ministry while we are unable to gather in person for meals. Stock up on entrées, soups, desserts, and more, prepared by our fabulous Chef Mary. New menu every week!

Order by Monday at 4 pm and pick up curbside on Thursday, 11 am - 1 pm in the Church Circle.

Visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/kitchen for the latest menu and online order form.





*“The one
who **sings**
prays **twice...**”*

The one who sings prays twice. Or so the quote attributed to St. Augustine goes. But in times like these, when anxiety, fear, and uncertainty seem to be tangible, perhaps we can lean into this old adage. Recently, I was having coffee with a parishioner who frequents our contemporary liturgy. When I asked her what was getting her through tumultuous times, she told me it was the gift of music. Worship music, particularly, guides her through her day. Her sense of God in the songs, both in the lyrics and the melody, is a steady, reassuring message: God is with us. Even now. Especially now.

While we are unsure of what the future holds, we know that God holds the future. When we can't find words to pray, we can find comfort in our songs, which put our prayers to melody. May our songs and prayers be filled with all possibility, hope, faith, and love.

A Quick and Beautiful Response

Recently I was asked to record “Praise God from whom all blessings flow” to be used as part of a thank you for pledging to our stewardship campaign. Our adult singers could do this easily, but I really wanted to include the children who participate in the St. Nicolas Choir “Zoom rehearsals.” Having taught them the hymn, I was confident they knew it. But could they record it and send it in by the deadline?

We emailed each family the printed music, a sing-along recording, and detailed instructions for file sharing, with the deadline in bold. When, surprisingly, no recordings appeared by the deadline, we called around, only to discover that no one had received the email! So, in the same phone call we asked if they could record the song and send it in by 7 pm that very evening. Everyone said “yes” and got it done! By noon the next day, we had completed our video, on time!

Our families’ willingness to move quickly and purposefully when called on was inspiring. Clearly our “Zoom rehearsals” are paying off not only musically, but also by keeping our community active and ready to respond to God’s grace at a moment’s notice. Thanks to all of the families and the adult singers who made this beautiful moment happen.

Schola Cantorum Contributes to Unique Virtual Advent Calendar

The Christ Church Schola Cantorum was invited to participate in a Virtual Advent Calendar Project featuring music composed or arranged by female composers. Organized by Carolyn Craig, Organ Scholar at Trinity on the Green in New Haven, CT, and Janet Yieh, Associate Organist at Trinity Wall Street, NYC, the mission of this project is “to encourage the performance of music by women composers in Episcopal and Anglican music programs.”

Beginning on December 1, Craig and Yieh will broadcast one recording daily for the 24 days leading up to Christmas. The Christ Church Schola is delighted to contribute a virtual recording of an arrangement by Abbie Betinis of “In the bleak midwinter” for this project. The Schola’s performance of this piece along with harpist, Andrea Mumm, was made for our Christmas Eve broadcast.

Visit www.christchurchcharlotte.org/music for a link to the broadcast and to see how the Music Ministry at Christ Church is working to support and encourage new music, new perspectives, and bold initiatives in our beloved Episcopal Church.

– Ben Outen, Director of Music

From *the* Mouths of Babes

At the beginning of the pandemic in mid-March, our children's ministry staff was thrown into the whirlwind of trying to reimagine how to connect and engage children at Christ Church while we could not be together in person.

We were shell-shocked by all of the uncertainty, lamenting the way we "used to" do things. But, after much prayer and research, our team put together multiple offerings for children 5th grade and younger and their parents. From a

pre-recorded, activity-filled Stations of the Cross for Good Friday and a virtual VBS experience, to Digital Sunday School featuring many volunteers sharing the Beatitudes and pre-recorded Digital Discovery and Outdoor Discovery services, there has been something for all children of Christ Church.

We invited a few Christ Church families to reflect on the offerings they have participated in over the past eight months. Here is what they had to say.



*'For where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there among them.'*

- MATTHEW 18:20

**What has it been like to do Sunday School at home?
What is one lesson you remember most?**

It felt funny at first because I am so used to going to Sunday School. But now it's fun to stay in my pajamas for Sunday school! – William L., age 8

Interesting and fun! I liked the Beatitudes – blessed are the poor in spirit. – Loren C., age 9

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What has been your favorite craft or activity so far and why has it been your favorite?

An Easter activity and we acted out using my baby dolls. – Vera Rose C., age 6

My family made a cross for Easter out of two pieces of plywood, wire, zip ties and nails. We always love putting flowers on the cross at Christ Church so we made our own. We put it in our yard so our friends and neighbors could put flowers on it too! – William L., age 8

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What was it like to go back to church for Outdoor Worship? What was your favorite part?

My favorite part of outdoor worship is that I like to do church outside. – Lily B., age 8

My favorite part is getting to sit outside. I feel like you get fresh air and it's a very big space. – Gavroche C., age 7

We went to Outdoor church once. I liked one part in the Homily from Reverend Gwin about praying to God. The message was that God may not respond automatically. Reverend Gwin talked about Sisyphus in Greek Mythology. – Loren C., age 9. [Loren's mom then shared that Loren had made the connection of the Greek Mythology figure to one of his Percy Jackson and the Olympians books.]

I loved getting to carry the cross up front. – Geneva C., age 5

The tent was really cool and I liked sitting in the grass. It was fun to see the playground and I can't wait for it to be open again. – Charlie L., age 6

What has it been like having church in your home instead of at Christ Church? Where is one place in your home you have felt closest to God?

I feel closest to God when I am sleeping in my Grammy's bed with her. – Lily B., age 8

I like doing church in my pajamas while enjoying breakfast. – Vera Rose C., age 6

I can play in the playroom and take care of my "babies" while I listen to church. – Anna Brackett L., age 4

I feel like I've felt closest to God in my living room, because we see a lot of things about God on the tv while doing church and I'm with my family. – Gavroche C., age 7

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As you think about Advent and getting ready for Christmas, what is one thing you hope for?

I hope that my family stays healthy: Mom, PaPa, Loren, Nico and me and MiMi! – Vera Rose C., age 6

I really hope we get to go back to church and sing on Christmas Eve because I always love that! I am excited about the pageant because I am in third grade and I get to have a special part this year! – William L., age 8

I can't wait to do my Advent calendar. – Geneva C., age 5
...for Santa to still come! – Loren C., age 9

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We will continue to experiment and try new things until we can be together in person. We offered an at-home Advent Festival experience for families to make Jesse Tree ornaments, and will broadcast a pre-recorded Christmas pageant. We also hope to plan some outdoor, small group events. We are grateful for our families who participate and for our volunteers who continue to brainstorm new program ideas with us. Contact Lindsay Masi at masiL@christchurchcharlotte.org with questions regarding these or any other program offerings.

See page 3 for our Advent program offerings for children, youth, and families.

A Community To Lean On During Tough Times



"...community is one of the most important things to be involved in through these rough times."

More than 50 high school students participate as our Youth Council, a group of student leaders who help set goals and bring together youth programs at Christ Church, led by Alice deVries. Emi Jones, one of our four high school leaders, shares her experience of trying to stay connected during the pandemic:

"This fall, the normal youth group scene has been very different than I am used to. However, this doesn't change the fact that it is necessary for me to participate in youth groups and surround myself with people who give me energy and light.

As a Youth Council chair, I have played an important role in creating a safe community in our youth groups during this pandemic. I believe that community is one of the most important things to be involved in through these rough times and I definitely have gained a new sense of hope since certain youth activities have ramped back up. Creating church communities for the youth is very important given that in-person bonding has been on a low and the connection made with other youth is like no other.

I encourage all youth to become involved, especially in the midst of hard times, because having a community to lean on makes even a pandemic more pleasurable."

We are so grateful to our Youth Council and leaders who continue to make formation and fellowship a priority for our young people. As we look to Advent, we remain hopeful that we can continue these connections and strengthen relationships even during difficult times. If your high school student is not currently involved but would like to be, contact Alice deVries at devriesa@christchurchcharlotte.org.



Sallie Hughes and Joshua Case pass the light of Christ during our recent Youth Council Gathering and Worship Service. We are joining with the great cloud of witness to share God's love in our communities and the world.



Strengthening *the* Ties *That Bind Us*

As the Director of Parish Life and Newcomers, it is my goal to welcome newcomers and help them feel at home and engaged at Christ Church. It is always a joy to connect newcomers and watch them bond, with the Church as the backdrop. We have had many newcomers find meaningful friendships by simply being open to connecting.

One group that comes to mind includes several young adults who, after being introduced, began to attend services and other events together. Claire Bennett, Mary Stuart Fountain, and Garland Talbott are these smiling faces. You'll see them on Sundays serving as greeters, participating in a Young Adult Women Zoom class on racial justice, or helping out at parish-wide events. They are a wonderful example of how Christ Church can be a spiritual home! Mary Stuart had this to say:



Christ Church has certainly filled my heart with many blessings since I moved to Charlotte in the summer of 2019! Though I had attended CCK preschool twenty years earlier before my family moved to Raleigh, I certainly was a very anxious newcomer who was warmly welcomed into the Christ Church community. Christ Church helped me dive right in and connected me with some of the other “young adults” at Christ Church.

I first met Garland and Claire when we all signed up to help serve dinner at The Relatives on East Boulevard last fall. What began as “pew buddies” during Sunday worship services has blossomed into a special friendship that extends beyond the Christ Church campus.

We have enjoyed worshipping together on Sundays and visiting the GoodNews Shop afterwards, attending the Young Adult Christmas Party, volunteering during the Room at the Inn last winter, and most recently hosting a sports-themed trunk for the 2020 Trunk or Treat Parade. I am not sure who had more fun – the cute children dressed up in the parade, or us dancing to High School Musical songs by our car!

Though it was Christ Church that initially connected us, the special thing is that our friendship has extended outside of church! We get together to walk, watch sports, and celebrate one another’s big news or special occasions — we genuinely enjoy one another’s company. I am forever grateful to Christ Church for the blessing of this church community, and for this friendship where we can worship, support, laugh, and grow with one another.

I look forward to many more memories to come with these friends, and to meeting new friends through Christ Church!

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Pandemic Parades!

Fall Parish Day... Drivin' and Dunkin'

In September we welcomed parishioners back to campus – in pandemic fashion! Christ Church clergy, staff, and Parish Life Commission members created stations throughout the parking lot to welcome and safely “visit” with our parish as they drove through in their cars. Masked up, we enjoyed seeing the smiling faces of adults and children alike, with the highlight being Chip in the dunking booth! His dunk rate was 100%! It felt great to be in person again, even in this socially-distanced, mask-wearing way. God is good.



Trunk or Treat...

A TREAT to be Together

In October we welcomed our trick-or-treaters to campus for a drive-thru parade, where little ones in costumes rode through to see the fun and spooky trunks decorated by groups of clergy, staff, and parishioners. Themes like “All Creatures Great and Small” and “Under the Sea” with Sea Sea Cay (CCK) delighted young and old. Thanks to our parishioners, staff, and chairs Elizabeth Bivens and Laney Lay.





Young adults gathered on a recent afternoon for a beautiful outdoor worship service led by The Reverend Connor Gwin.

No Matter What, Worship Goes On

Over the course of the last number of months, the Church has been faced with many different challenges with regards to gathering for worship. The season of pandemic has led us to innovate, experiment, and prayerfully consider new ways to gather as the church. Regardless of what we have faced, we have continued to gather for worship as Christ Church!

In the early days of the pandemic, when we were not permitted to gather in-person, we figured out new ways to worship online. Creating both live and pre-recorded worship has become the new normal for our teams. Musicians, cantors, preachers, and lay readers have all gotten into the rhythm of creating and curating worship for the whole church to join in every single week. And what beautiful worship it is!

In addition to our pre-recorded worship, we have been able to gather outdoors for worship. These outdoor worship services have included groups of 50 or less and have allowed our Discovery service and all of our liturgies to continue to be places of good connection. Adhering to new guidelines for safety, we have also been able to continue with baptisms – baptizing almost 50 children and toddlers

in the midst of this pandemic. While the in-person numbers were limited, many more joined and witnessed live through Zoom.

With a little creativity and a whole lot of prayer, our Children, Youth and Family ministry team, led by Lindsay Masi, Maggy Paul, and Alice DeVries, figured out a way to continue to gather our teens for worship. New worship services were convened and youth have come out *en masse* (see pages 12-15). Working alongside our Diocesan Bishops Sam and Anne, we have also been able to celebrate the confirmation of our Confirmation class of 2019. It may have taken a little work, but it sure felt a lot like revival!

Yes friends, make no mistake about it: worship continues to be at the heart of how we connect with God and one another. While it may look and feel a little different than it has in the last 30 years, nevertheless, God continues to be praised whenever, and from wherever, we join in prayer!

Please join us for worship every Sunday at 8:45 am online. Stay tuned for details about future opportunities to worship in person.



In the Parish

New Members

Emily Bates
Stuart Aurre and Bryan Boyd
Lee Copeland
Laura and Tate Davis
Mariel Ellerbe
Andrew Goodwin
Bill Groscup
Elizabeth and Duncan Ham and Family
Lacey Mitchener
Laura and Charlie Pitts
Aubree and Trevor Slaven

Births

John Grimes Beasley, grandson of Denise and Mike Beasley and Ridgely and John Phillips
Markley Slade Harte, grandson of Cynthia and Henry Gass
Alice Elizabeth Rome, daughter of Marika and Hunter Rome
Mae Jennings Williams, daughter of Lindsey and Ted Williams
James Haywood Plyler III, son of Gatesy and James Plyler
Anna Jane McGirt, daughter of Laura and Matt McGirt
Delphine Davis Smart, daughter of Alicia and Louis Smart
Winnie Jane Tomsic, daughter of Patee and Matt Tomsic
Brooks William Herbert, grandson of Joan and David Herbert
Oakley Hines Baker, daughter of Elizabeth and Michael Baker
Harper Florence Kreher and Emery Josephine Kreher, granddaughters of Anne Taylor and Bert House
Abigail Fitzpatrick Bierce, granddaughter of Andrea and Sandy Bierce
Charles Campbell Sissman, grandson of Dawn and Eric Osborn
Parker James Knowlton, grandson of Victoria and Chip Howell
Katherine Stella Niekraas, daughter of Allison and Brian Niekraas
Alexander Knox Butler, Jr, son of Lucy and Alex Butler
Elizabeth Mary Genevieve Jordan, daughter of Mary and Jim Jordan
Culley Walker Steele, son of Marianna and Eric Steele

Baptisms

Ethan David Klein, son of Lauren and Jeff Klein
James Garrison Green, son of Annie and Aaron Greene
Thomas Hodges Hipp, Jr, son of Cathleen and Thomas Hipp
Richard Henry Ridler, son of Liz and Eric Ridler
Sims Price Anderson, daughter of Anna and Andrew Anderson
Sutton Parker Finn, daughter of Alyson and Pat Finn
James Killian Gallagher, son of Alison and Ric Gallagher
Emma Phillips Pierson, daughter of Angie and Adam Pierson
Reid Joseph Piekutowski, son of Amanda and Ian Piekutowski
Lauriston Jane Woodruff, daughter of Kathryn and Kyle Woodruff
Sydney Olivia Arnett, daughter of Owen and Adam Arnett
Harper Leigh Barnhardt, daughter of Erika and Carter Barnhardt
Katherine Mae Beringer, daughter of Kristin and Taylor Beringer
Elizabeth Lane Hollmeyer, daughter of Jenna and Joe Hollmeyer
Taylor Lynn Ingersoll, daughter of Brittany and Paul Ingersoll
William Chandler King, son of Stacey and Chandler King
Kay Bryant Leonard, daughter of Abby and Daniel Leonard
Margot Lee Marcel, daughter of Tara and Joe Marcel
Lee Taylor Van Allen, daughter of Cheri and Perrin Van Allen
Henry Lee Correll, son of Emmy and Will Correll
Patricia Lawson Donovan, daughter of Katie and Bill Donovan
Alexander Fletcher Fortune III, son of Jackie and Fletcher Fortune
James Robert Head, son of Casey and David Head
Charles Michael Jenest, son of Sarah and Colin Jenest
Shores Maddox Valentine, daughter of Tayler and Greg Valentine
Jane Dixon Scarborough, daughter of Leary and Ruffin Scarborough

Marriages

Margaret McCrory Armistead and Robert Edward Shelley
Eloise DuPree Hamilton and Aiken Reeves
Caroline Ramsey Hawkins and Matthew Edward Pfister
Nora Ellen Raynor and William Scott Griffin
Eliza Ann Stedman and Walker Benjamin Prieb
Kalli Frances Havens and John Douglas Ey

Deaths

Patricia Anne Rhyne Thomas, mother of Anne Neal
William Robinson Odell, brother of Charles Odell
William R. Cooper
Mary Bess Richie Arnett, mother of Lee Olive
Eugene Early McDowell IV, nephew of Betty deBrosse
Richard Lionel Rogers, Sr, father of Mike Rogers
Joan Bebee Raynor, mother of Nora Raynor
Charles Parker Whedon, brother of Arthur Whedon
Virginia P. Sutherland
Edward Jones Wannamaker IV, son of Anett Wannamaker
Martha Brand Poisson
Carolyn Donald, grandmother of Robin Tuttle
Maxie O. Redic, Jr, father of Max Redic
Martha Speight Erbach, sister of Shep Speight
Jacqueline R. Leinbach
Martha Card Huggins, mother of Holly Wegner
Joan Bechard, mother of Greg Copps
Thomas Adrian Leonard, uncle of Joan Kilian
Betty Threlkeld Haddock, mother of Paul Haddock
Marilyn Mabe, sister-in-law of Dave Mabe
Mary Salem Gregory Paramore
Philip Thomas Satterfield, brother of Pam Berry
Philip Addison Satterfield, father of Pam Berry
May Taylor Crawford, mother of Alice Brewer
John William Adams
Jane Adams Reid, mother of Shannon Reid

Christ Church members are listed by name only. Non-members are listed with their connection to a Christ Church member.

The Disciple (USPS#679-610)
Published monthly by
Christ Episcopal Church



Christ Church Charlotte
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Periodical Class Postage
P A I D
at Charlotte NC
USPS No. 679-610

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Christ Episcopal Church
1412 Providence Road
Charlotte, NC 28207-2543

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM
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JOIN US FOR

Christmas Eve Worship

Tuesday, December 24, 6 pm, Online

Our virtual Christmas Eve service will offer the familiar liturgy and beautiful music that are hallmarks of this cherished worship experience.

