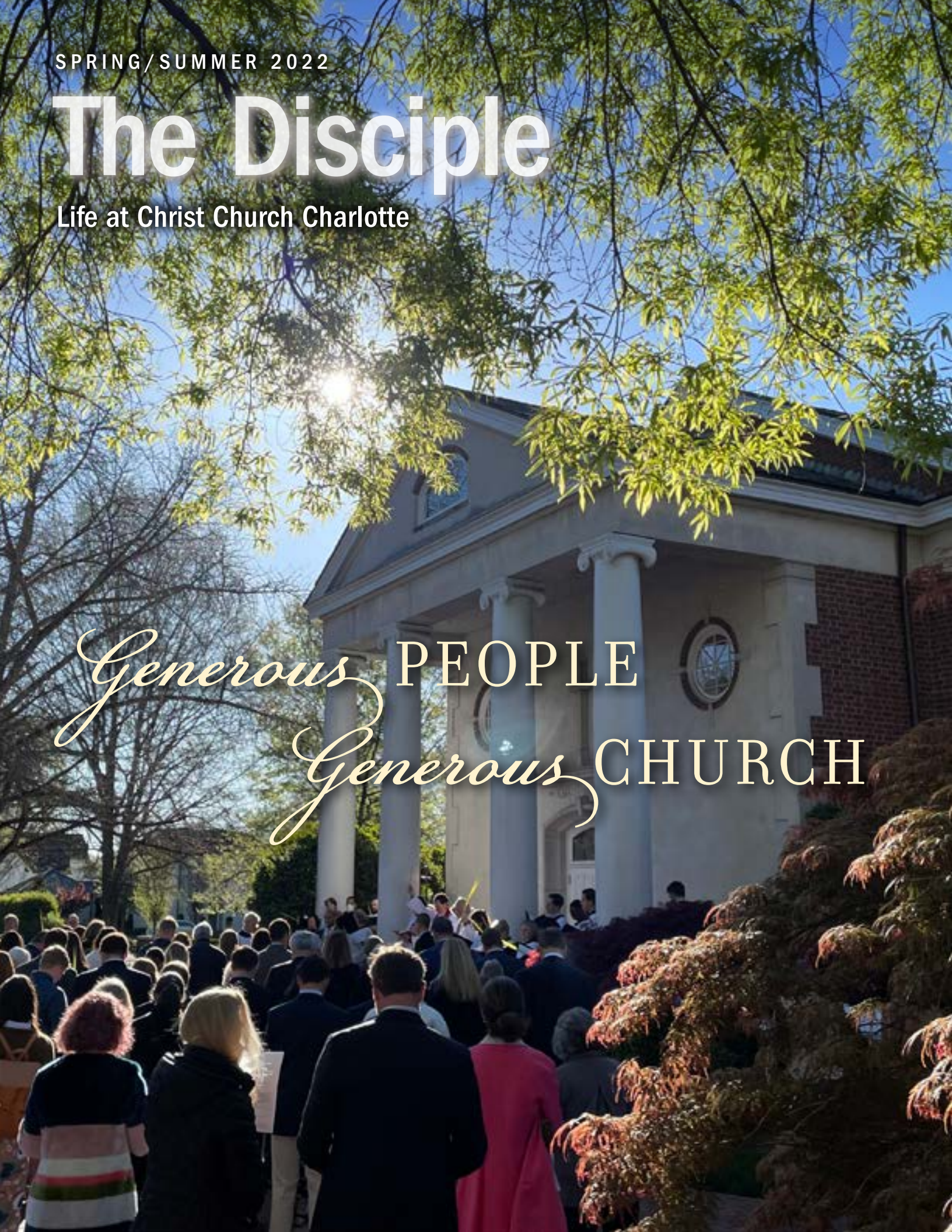


SPRING/SUMMER 2022

# The Disciple

Life at Christ Church Charlotte

*Generous* PEOPLE  
*Generous* CHURCH



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Transformative gift honors Claude Plumlee's huge heart

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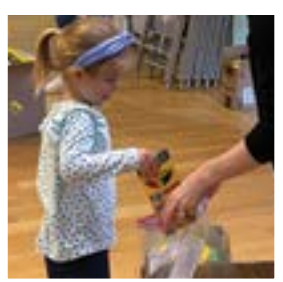
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Look for interesting numbers and fun facts reflecting the generosity of our parish throughout this issue.

# Generosity

Dear Friends,

In this issue of *The Disciple*, we lift up the amazing generosity of our parish during a remarkable time. I am filled with gratitude for the countless ways you have given your time, compassion, talent, money, hospitality, resources, and more. Each and every gift is holy.

As we move into summer and fall, you will hear us talking about generosity in a new and different way. This is intentional. One of our Vestry's 2022 goals is to cultivate generosity as a spiritual practice, as important to our spiritual wellness as prayer or communion. We are most like Jesus when we are giving of ourselves sacrificially.

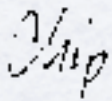
Once we begin to understand and experience the depth of God's love, generosity is a joyful and lifelong opportunity to respond in gratitude by sharing our gifts with others. Our work as a Church is to help people to experience that great love, discern their gifts, and find meaningful ways to use them. Your generosity makes this work possible.

As you read the stories on the pages ahead, I encourage you to reflect on the ways you are giving of yourself, and to claim them as "holy gifts." I hope you will be able to see the ways God is uniquely and specifically being reflected through your generosity.

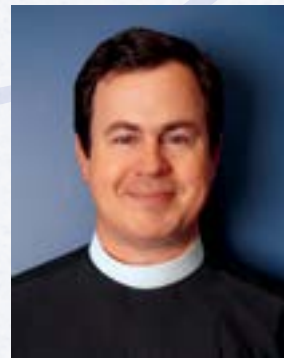
We also invite you to share the stories of generosity which you have witnessed in and through our parish. We want to celebrate these holy gifts throughout the year. Who is the most generous person you know? Send us their name and a sentence or two about how they are offering their gifts (see page 17).

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also (Matthew 6:21). May your heart be grounded in the spirit of generosity.

With gratitude,



The Reverend Chip Edens



And God is able to provide  
you with every blessing in  
abundance, so that by always  
having enough of everything,  
you may share abundantly  
in every good work.

**Come to me, all you  
that are weary and are  
carrying heavy burdens,  
and I will give you rest.**

– MATTHEW 11:28



# An oasis of healing in a troubled world

Transformative gift honors Claude Plumlee's huge heart.

Claude Plumlee, Jr. was an extraordinarily caring and generous man, so it is fitting that his legacy would be honored through an extraordinary gift that supports Christ Church's major commitment to spiritual wellness. Derick and Sallie Close and their family have made a generous gift to assist in funding our staff wellness counselors, who offer an array of services and programs through our wellness ministries.



Claude passed away on May 5, 2021 at age 86. He was devoted to his wife Barbara, and daughters Sallie Close, Betsy Parkhurst, and Clayton Fountain. For 63 years, Claude was an active member and loving presence in our parish who deeply cared about people. A beloved parishioner

who served in major leadership roles ranging from Senior Warden (twice) to Sunday School superintendent, and quiet acts of service too numerous to count, Claude shared his family's heart for the troubled. He was particularly passionate about UMAR, a nonprofit that promotes inclusion and independence for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Most of all, he loved our Spiritual Home.

What the Close family has offered Christ Church is truly transformative: free, often same-day contact with therapists who offer short-term counseling, assessments for adults, youth, and children, and connections to a broader network of health care providers when needed.

During the pandemic, rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide have skyrocketed. Many in our parish are still living with trauma, grief, anxiety, depression, divorce, job loss, and other major life challenges. We are grateful to be able to offer not only counseling and referrals, but also educational programs on resilience and post-traumatic growth, holistic

(continued)

health, and other resources that help us understand and integrate spiritual wellness.

In 2018, we welcomed Mollee Reitz as the first Director of Wellness. Late in 2021, thanks largely to the Close family, Assistant Wellness Director Alex Bacon joined our staff.

As Mollee explains, the ministry focuses on “all things wellness and mental health.” Confidential mental health counseling for parishioners, referrals for anyone who needs them, classes, small groups, support groups, live and Zoom yoga, mindfulness offerings, Faith Forum conversations on Sunday mornings, and even Holy Hikes (an opportunity for worship, fellowship, and prayer while walking).

All this and more comes with encouragement and an acknowledgement of the unique needs of each person. Visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/wellness](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/wellness) to learn about these programs.

Counseling sessions increased from an average of 41 per month in 2021 to 62 per month so far in 2022.



Sallie and Derick Close

Mindful Mondays started during the pandemic (Fall 2020) and continues to meet online weekly.



Alex Bacon (left) and Mollee Reitz (right).

**If you or someone you love is struggling, we urge you to reach out to Mollee and Alex.**

Mollee Reitz, MA, NCC, LCMHC, Wellness Director  
704-714-6979  
[reitzm@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:reitzm@christchurchcharlotte.org)

Alex Bacon, MSW, LCSW, Assistant Wellness Director  
704-714-6981  
[bacona@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:bacona@christchurchcharlotte.org)

You can also reach a member of our clergy by calling the Church office at 704-333-0378.

If you or someone you know is in crisis, call 911 or the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255.



# Rethinking church in a new era

A letter to the parish from the Strategic Direction Steering Committee

What a joyful Easter season this is! This year, as we celebrate Christ's resurrection, we also find ourselves in an exciting time of new life and growth for our Church.

As we rethink how we are called to 'be the Church' in a new era, our Vestry's major goals for the year include listening to the needs and desires of our parish and exploring opportunities for important new ministries. If you have not yet participated in the "Matters of the Heart" survey, we invite you to do so at [www.christchurch-charlotte.org/forward](http://www.christchurch-charlotte.org/forward).

This deep listening is the first step in an intentional process to set a long-term strategic direction for our parish. We want to explore how God is calling us to care for our parish and the broader community in new or expanded ways, including our wellness ministries, outreach initiatives, our preschool program (CCK), and worship and music ministries, just to name a few. We also need to ensure that we have the infrastructure and tools we need to do the work we are called to do.

To lead us in this discernment, the Vestry has appointed a steering committee of parish leaders (listed at right) who care deeply about our Church and its mission.

We invite you to pray for this group, who will be working all year to hear and synthesize ideas from the parish, research possibilities, and make recommendations for the future of Christ Church. Please watch for information about summer and fall listening sessions and other opportunities to be a part of this process as we move forward together.

With hope and gratitude,

Bill Lorenz and Jane Coulter  
*Co-Chairs*  
*Strategic Direction Steering Committee*

The Reverend Chip Edens  
*Rector*

**MATTERS**  
*of the* **HEART**

*Forward***Together**

STEERING COMMITTEE

Bill Lorenz and Jane Coulter,  
*Co-Chairs*

Derick Close  
Laura Copps  
Nikki DeVillers  
Arrington Mixon  
Robert Schleusner  
Ken Thompson

The Reverend Chip Edens  
The Reverend Joshua Case  
Wendy Mauney,  
*Chief Operating Officer*

WORKING GROUP CO-CHAIRS

Weston Address and  
Chris Ullrich  
*Hardware*

Carol Lorenz and Ann Tabor  
*In-Reach*

Kathleen Dean and  
Fletcher Gregory  
*Outreach*

# Giving fuels everything we do

The generosity we celebrate in this issue is made possible by the holy gifts of financial resources that fund all of our ministries. We are grateful for every gift.

## Leaving a legacy of generosity

There are infinite ways to express love. Joining the Oak Circle is one of them.

Love is what started Christ Church in 1943 and why it thrives today. The desire to ensure that Christ Church lives and loves for generations to come led to the creation of the Oak Circle.

The Oak Circle honors those who make Christ Church part of their legacy. Planned giving helps ensure that our mission to love God, care for each other, and serve the world continues. Planned giving is separate from the annual stewardship campaign, which funds the yearly operating expenses of our parish.

Ann and Wellford Tabor are members of the Oak Circle. We asked them to share why.

### Why did you decide to join the Oak Circle?

"Christ Church has been our spiritual home for more than 20 years and is incredibly important to us and to our children. Making a durable commitment to include Christ Church in our estate plans reflects our gratitude for Christ Church's faith- and community-building role in our lives and our hope for its sustained future."

### Why is being part of the Oak Circle important to you?

"When we join our Creator in Heaven, if there are any remaining assets that can be distributed, we want a portion of those to support Christ Church's life-giving operations and programming for our current church community and future generations."

### What inspires you to be generous?

"Faith, family, and friends. Jesus' generosity and God's Word have called us to love God and our neighbor and to spread the Gospel. Generosity is part of that call. We agree with



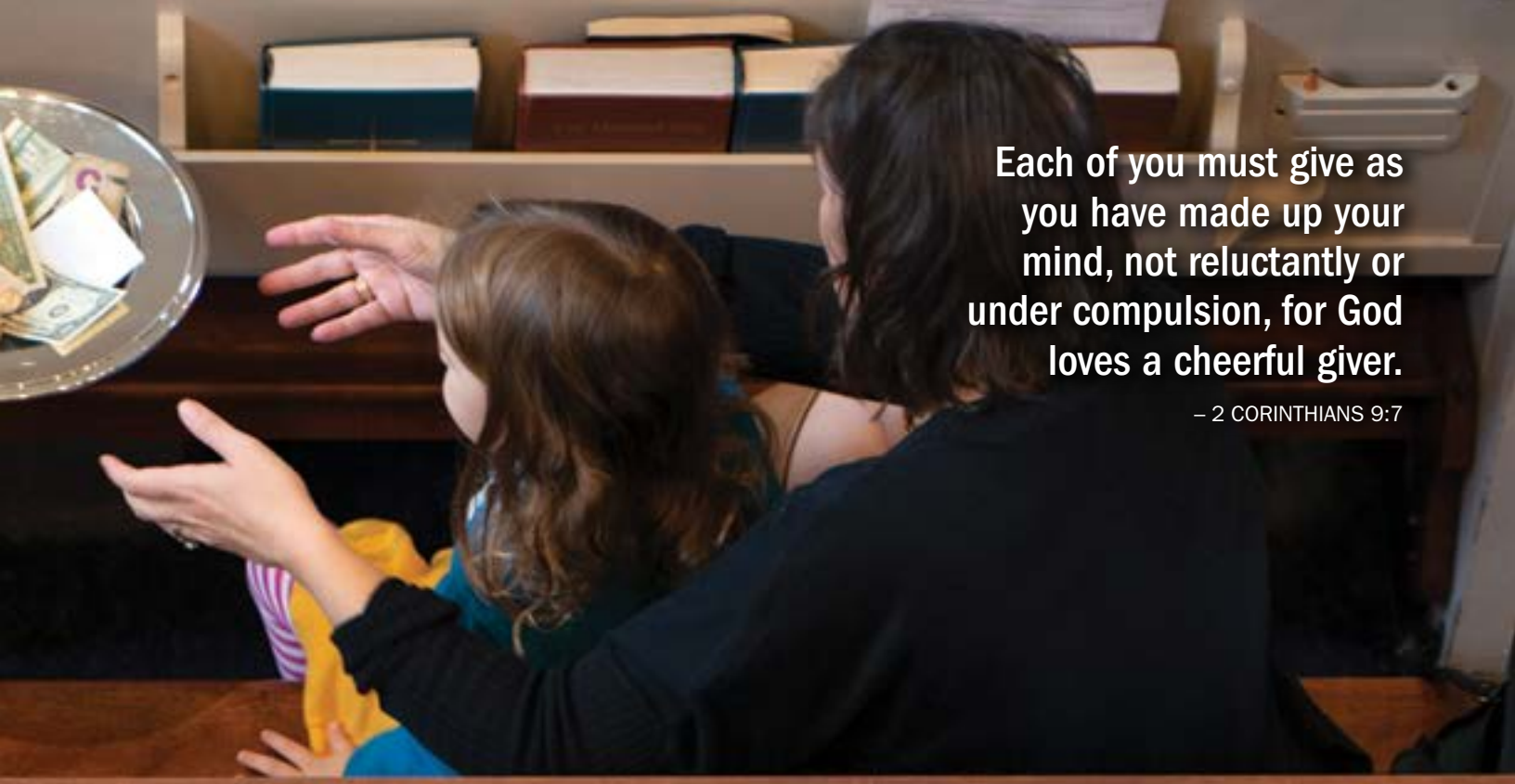
Paul and Jesus that 'it is more blessed to give than to receive.' Our parents have been role models for us in sharing their time, talent, and treasure with others. Generous families at Christ Church and in Charlotte have also inspired us. We have benefited from the generosity of others and appreciate the opportunity to pay it forward."

### What ripple effects of your generosity have you seen?

"We see the incredible effects of collective generosity at Christ Church in the growth of our talented clergy, staff, and lay leaders, incredible programming, amazing guest speakers, increased outreach efforts, and physical changes to our campus. Any amount of generosity, like God's Word, has powerful life-giving force and never returns empty."


We offer our deep gratitude to the Tabors and all who have made it possible for Christ Church to continue nurturing and serving the generations to come. For more information about Oak Circle, visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/oak-circle](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/oak-circle).





Each of you must give as  
you have made up your  
mind, not reluctantly or  
under compulsion, for God  
loves a cheerful giver.

– 2 CORINTHIANS 9:7



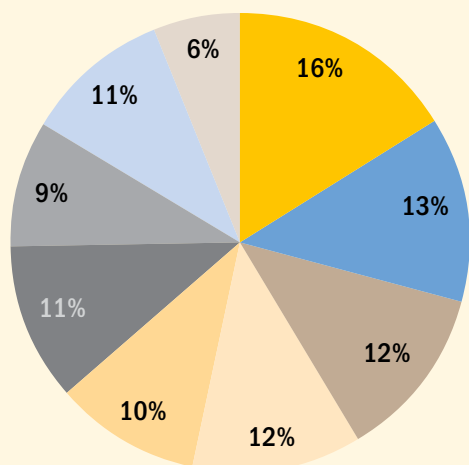


## Annual Stewardship is our bread and butter

Regular, committed giving funds all of our ministries.

95% of our annual operating income comes from pledges to the Annual Stewardship Campaign. We are grateful for your faithful, ongoing generosity.

### EXPENDITURES



Worship	\$990,276
Maintenance & Food Service	736,237
Mission and Outreach	716,410
Administration	809,072
Adult Spiritual Formation	651,431
Diocese	606,705
Pastoral Care	546,234
Children, Youth and Family	629,659
Parish Life	341,531

## Do you know about the Christ Church Foundation?

Since 1962, the Christ Episcopal Church Foundation has enhanced the good works of Christ Church by managing and directing private funding for religious and charitable purposes. All gifts to the Foundation will be endowed in perpetuity, with investment proceeds used to fund a variety of important projects.

The Foundation is comprised of six funds:

**The Outreach Fund** helps support the outreach ministries of Christ Episcopal Church. The generosity of many longtime parishioners and donors has enabled us to make a significant impact in a variety of areas of need.

**The Scholarship Fund** makes annual scholarship grants for undergraduate college and seminary students. Awards are based on financial need, good citizenship, academic record, and involvement in extracurricular activities.

**The Habitat for Humanity Fund** supports Christ Church's commitment to contribute funds and labor to the construction of a Habitat home each year.

**The Property Plant and Equipment Fund** manages and directs funds given for the capital needs of the buildings and grounds of Christ Episcopal Church. These funds provide for the repair, replacement, improvement, and refurbishment of the property, plant, and equipment of the Church.

**The Clergy Housing Fund** helps Christ Church attract and keep outstanding clergy, and enables them to live in and become immersed in our parish neighborhoods. As one of the largest and most active Episcopal parishes in the country, Christ Church is known for the caliber of its clergy.

**The Unrestricted Fund** is used to fund extraordinary opportunities or unforeseen needs of the congregation or the larger community served by Christ Church.

### How to Give

Gifts to the Foundation may be made in the form of cash, stocks and bonds, real estate, life insurance bequests payable upon the death of the donor, or other income, including property. A gift may be made in the name of the donor or as an honorarium or memorial for someone the donor wants to recognize. Forms for directing a gift to the Foundation are available at the Christ Church office.

**About the Foundation**

The Foundation is managed by a Board of Trustees consisting of twelve members of the parish, nine of whom are elected by the Vestry, and three of whom are the presiding Senior Warden, Junior Warden, and Chairperson of the Outreach Commission. The nine elected trustees serve three-year terms, and may serve up to two consecutive terms. The Rector serves as an ex-officio member of the Board.

Questions concerning the Foundation should be directed to any member of the Board of Trustees.

Visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/foundation](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/foundation) for more information.



**2022 Board of Trustees**

- Suzanne Bledsoe, President
- Carrington Coulter, Treasurer
- Hooper Hardison
- David Kern
- Mary Kluttz
- Mark Mealy
- Paul Tolmie

**Vestry/Outreach Representatives**

- Ken Thompson, Senior Warden
- Chris Ullrich, Junior Warden
- Ned Waller, Outreach Commission Chair
- Frank Horne, Planned Giving Chair

**Non-Voting Representatives**

- The Reverend Chip Edens, Rector
- The Reverend Joan Kilian, Associate Rector, Outreach
- Wendy Mauney, Chief Operating Officer
- Laura Konitzer, Director of Outreach and Mission

In the past year, in person and online Sunday worship attendance averaged 764 people per Sunday.

**Youth Sunday sermons inspire generosity**

**High school seniors tackle a challenging Gospel reading.**

The reading on Youth Sunday (April 3) was from the Gospel of John, when Mary anointed Jesus’ feet with costly perfume and Judas Iscariot questioned her motive. Why is she wasting expensive perfume when it could have been sold for a lot of money? This was a challenging text for our young preachers to connect to something within themselves to share. All did a great job, and Liza Wolcott and Colin Crowley chose to tackle this passage from the perspective of generosity.

Liza talked about the danger of putting our own wants over others’ needs and reminded us that God intends for us to show generosity every day, in all that we do. She went on to explain how generosity can be shown in many ways, not just by giving money, like being generous in how we spend time with others. She left us with this wise saying: “Take what you need; give what you can.”

Colin shared how he used to feel like Judas, who had a limiting view of economy, counting the cost of everything in comparison with Mary’s abundant generosity. As his friend group changed, he found himself surrounded by people like Mary, open and generous, not counting the costs of everything. Their influence on him was profound, and he felt like he understood more what it meant to live in “God’s economy” versus “man’s economy.” He encouraged all of us to surround ourselves with people like Mary so we can step into the abundance of God’s limitless economy.

All we can say to that is “AMEN.”

# The ripple effect of quiet generosity

Countless members of our parish generously give their time and share their talents inside our parish and out in the world. We celebrate just a few in this issue who make our Spiritual Home a place of welcome, caring, and joy.

## The quiet work behind the music

**“When it’s easier for the musicians to do their jobs, there is a domino effect.”**

The well-known phrase, “it takes a village,” plays out weekly in the music ministry at Christ Church. In worship you see volunteers offering their musical gifts singing in the choir or playing in the band. But did you know there are also behind-the-scenes volunteers?

Kate McLoughlin has been a Christ Church Choir member for 26 years. She not only sings, but also works in our extensive music library. Recently she has been re-cataloging, labeling, and organizing multiple copies of thousands of titles. Kate also manages the vestments for all of our choirs.

Dottie Chambers, another longtime member of Christ Church, volunteers weekly with the children’s choir. She attends rehearsals to welcome families and helps staff maintain a safe space, asking parents to sign choristers in and out. She is also the friendly face when choristers may “need a moment” outside of rehearsal. As a musician herself, she is a cheerleader for the benefits of musical education and involvement in a musical group.

Kate and Dottie were both looking for ways to serve at Christ Church. Kate’s experience as a corporate project manager led her to offer up her gifts when she saw a need. “I get a pleasure from giving of

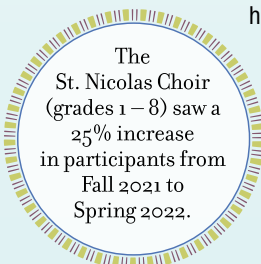
my talents and knowing that my talents are useful. Because I’m retired, I’m no longer giving as much at work. I get the benefit of seeing the fruits of my labors. Choir members have recognized my work, but it doesn’t really matter if anyone else knows what I’ve done. I was raised to believe that you give of time and talent, as well as treasure, and this is an area where I felt my time and talent fit a need.”

Dottie responded to an advertisement for volunteers to help with children’s music. She said, “I was looking for something that connected me to an interest I already had. This is a place to plug in that I enjoy and approach with some sense of knowledge.”

Dottie and Kate have a vision for their contributions to our parish family. “For children,” Dottie said, “when you start very young with music, it lasts longer and can lead to greater things, especially when they are young enough that they are not inhibited. It gives them a start in something that can be with them the rest of their lives, and their presence adds a beautiful dimension to worship.”

Kate adds, “Anyone who enjoys music at Christ Church benefits... anyone who is uplifted by the music that we make. When it’s easier for the musicians to do their jobs there is a domino effect.”

Indeed, ease of participation and a calm environment provide space for art, music, and worship to happen, for people to be inspired, and for potential to be realized. These weekly moments can and have inspired lifetimes of service and generosity. Thank you, Kate, Dottie, and everyone else whose efforts make Christ Church sing!





**Just as ripples spread out  
when a single pebble is  
dropped into water, the  
actions of individuals can  
have far-reaching effects.**

– DALAI LAMA

## Sequins, pearls, and ... a hamster?

**Christ Church wedding directors have seen a lot.**

Sis Cranz has been sending brides down the aisle at Christ Church for nearly forty years.

“It puts you with the happiest times,” Sis says about serving as a volunteer wedding director. It’s a big job and big time commitment, but with big benefits, according to Sis. Those benefits kept her spending Saturdays fluffing dresses, calming nerves, pinning boutonnieres, and playing an integral, behind-the-scenes role in hundreds of weddings at Christ Church.

Since March 2020,  
we have celebrated  
33 weddings and  
94 baptisms!

Sis remembers the first wedding she served – in May 1982. Mike and Betsy Blair were married, and at that time, brides at Christ Church were required to wear ballet slippers. Sis says she sewed pearls and sequins on Betsy’s slippers to make them look more elegant. “Can you believe we did that then?” Sis laughs now.

Wedding directors at Christ Church are present for the wedding rehearsal on Friday afternoons and typically spend two to three hours at the Church on Saturday for the wedding. They are quiet quarterbacks, creating a place of welcome and warmth for the wedding party and guests, as well as managing multiple logistics.

They instruct ushers on the proper way to escort guests down the aisle. They help sometimes resistant photographers abide by church guidelines. They relieve the clergy of tending to all the pre-ceremony details. They coordinate with the organist and send the parents and grandparents of the couple down the aisle, and then the wedding party in the proper order, and finally the bride. After the wedding, they reset the altar for Sunday’s service.

Sometimes the bride and groom don’t want to see each other before the start of the ceremony, so brides are tucked in the closet to the left of the front doors of the church until the groom is down the aisle. Sis coordinates this dance of moving parts and people with a smile, a good sense of humor, and a firm but kind hand. “Folks are tense and nervous, but for the most part on their best behavior and kind, good and appreciative,” Sis says. “The daddies are just as nervous as the brides!”



When the bride finally goes down the aisle, Sis breathes a sigh of relief. “Law, yes, after the bride goes down the aisle, we relax and say ‘Well, we made it!’”

Sis remembers one wedding when she was babysitting her granddaughter and took her along. Her granddaughter insisted on taking her hamster with her to the wedding. She sat on a back pew for the wedding with her pet in a cage.

At another wedding, a family member of the bridal couple was unhappy that no babysitting was available for his children during the ceremony. He let his children stack hymn-books in the pew and crash them.

Sis keeps an emergency kit for brides, which includes needle and thread, deodorant, dress tape, mints, hair spray, and spot remover. In years past it also included a spare pair of pantyhose. Sis recalls one mother of the bride who arrived with several bridesmaid dresses and asked if Sis could iron them before the wedding. While an iron and ironing board can be made available, Sis doesn’t iron!

After the wedding ceremony is over, couples are given thirty minutes for photographs in the Church. When some photo sessions go on too long, Sis finds that families don't pay attention to her subtle reminders that they need to move on. So she texts Nikki Rushing, one of the sextons at Christ Church.

"I never do a wedding without Nikki," Sis says. "When families linger too long for after-wedding photos, I text Nikki and she comes into the Church pulling a large trash can on wheels, and pronounces that time is up! They get the message then!" Nikki and Sis often go to the Providence Road Sundries after a wedding to share a meal and a drink.

Sis says the "cutest" wedding she ever directed was the 2001 wedding of Mary Redding, 81, and Flay Dellinger, 88. The couple met at Sharon Towers. They didn't walk down the aisle, but took the shorter route coming in the side door. The Reverend Fred Paschall was the celebrant, and he didn't have them go up the stairs to the altar, either. "Mary wore a white suit and carried her pocketbook with her. Her shoes were Aerosole flats with rubber soles. They went on a cruise for their honeymoon." Mary and Flay were married six years before Mary passed away. Flay lived three more years and died at 97.

Sis has seen a lot of beautiful wedding dresses through the years. One of the most memorable ones was a dress that had a heart cut out in the back. Most brides hardly notice or remember Sis being at their wedding, and that is how it is supposed to be. Wedding directors smooth the waters and the dresses, and fade into the background.

Sis has given 40 years to this ministry, and reports she has "loved every minute of it. It has been wonderful."

Christ Church has been fortunate to have Sis so dedicated to her ministry as a wedding director. She has given countless couples a beautiful start to their marriage.

**Do you love weddings? We would be delighted to welcome new wedding directors into this joyful role. Contact Emily Skinner at [skinnere@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:skinnere@christchurchcharlotte.org) or 704-714-6978 to learn more.**

## Seizing the opportunity to serve

"What else should I be doing?"



Ned Waller found his way to Christ Church in the summer of 2017, after stops in New Haven, Mexico City, and Durham, among other places. It didn't take long for Ned to begin sharing his time and talents with our community, and what a gift he has been!

A lifelong Episcopalian hailing from Trinity Church in New Orleans, Ned

is now actively involved in our Young Adults ministry. In addition, Ned ushers at the 11:15 am worship service in the Church and serves as a Youth Confirmation leader.

Most of all, Ned is passionate about outreach. In addition to chairing the Outreach and Mission Commission, he serves as liaison to the Christ Church Foundation and on the Strategic Direction Steering Committee Outreach Group. Outside the walls of Christ Church, Ned gives his time as a tutor at our community outreach partner, The ROC (Rebuilding Opportunities in Construction), where he helps high school students with Algebra 2.



Ned gives generously of his time because, in his words, "We are all God's children, and we are put on this earth to love one another and to be useful serving the world. Generosity is being a good steward of all the gifts God has given us." Where does he find the time? Ned simply responds, "What else should I be doing?"

We are grateful for Ned and so many others like him who share their gifts with our parish and the world.

## Blessed by saying 'yes'

**“Serving in these roles allowed me to feel known and find a community.”**

Back in the spring of 2021, when our Children, Youth, and Family ministry team began to plan for a return to in-person programming in September, we were faced with the challenge of how to involve new volunteers into these programs. Ministry directors Sarah Ford and Maggie Baker worked with Kathryn Saunders, Director of Newcomers and Parish Life, to reach out to newcomers with an invitation to participate.

One of those newcomers was Laura Spivey, who had googled Episcopal churches near her on Ash Wednesday 2019 and found Christ Church after just moving to Charlotte. Laura said “Yes!” and enthusiastically jumped in as a kindergarten Sunday School leader, a middle/high school Sunday Night Live leader, and a confirmation mentor.

We wanted to know what’s behind Laura’s amazing generosity with her time and energy, so we asked her:

### Why Christ Church?

Laura grew up Baptist but didn’t love it and sometimes went to church with friends in high school (mainly Episcopal). She occasionally attended an Episcopal Church in college.

### What led you to say yes to all of these volunteer positions?

Laura works in finance. She likes it and she is good at it, but it isn’t meaningful for her. She looks for more meaningful outlets and ways to help others. She also noted that the staff make it easy to volunteer.

### What is the best part of volunteering?

With a niece and nephew in Boston, Laura loves spending time with kindergarteners. It is a way to enrich her own spiritual life and deepen her faith that is special to her on a personal level. One little girl told Laura she was her favorite teacher one Sunday morning!

Laura highlighted that “serving in these roles has allowed me to feel known and find a community at Christ Church in ways that just attending worship or an occasional event do not.” We couldn’t agree more!

To all the Sunday School teachers, youth leaders, and many others like Laura who generously give their time, talent and love to nurture Christ Church’s young people, we say a huge THANK YOU.



## Vacation Bible School (VBS)

VBS is one of the greatest weeks of the year at Christ Church! It is four days full of fun, energy, excitement, and most importantly, God’s love! Our theme this year is “Making Waves.” It will be a week full of learning about the ripple effect – how what we do impacts the world around us. Our time together will be filled with music, crafts, science, stories, outreach, fun, and love!

We are grateful for our amazing 2022 VBS Steering Committee members, who are working so hard to make this the best week ever for children, youth, and adults!

- Anna Portal - Crafts and Science
- Sarah Hawkins - Bible Story
- Brooke Meyer - Junior Bible Story
- Katherine Vest - Service Learning
- Cindy Costa - Music
- Emma Gwin - Junior Music
- Blair Scheuer and Stephanie Fontaine - Decorations and Set-up
- Jarrell Seagraves and Marie Palasciano - Navigators/ 4th - 5th Grade Program





## Knit one, pray too

**Prayer Shawl Ministry offers loving care and comfort wrapped up in a blanket.**

Grace McGoogan and Deborah Gardner are two of the dedicated knitters behind our Knit One, Pray Too prayer shawl ministry. If you or a loved one has received one of these beautiful expressions of caring, you know what a special ministry this is.

Grace, who leads this group, began participating in 2005. Asked why it is important to her, she said, “The shawl recipients benefit from a handmade gift that wraps and comforts them. I love meeting with the knitters, and learning more about patterns and ideas, so I benefit, too.

It’s an opportunity for fellowship, fun, learning, sharing, and building my faith.”

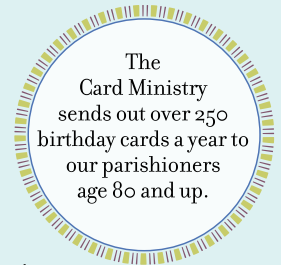
Deborah has been involved for the past six years. She shares, “Participating in the knitting ministry gives me a time of fellowship with other knitters and a chance to cultivate new friendships -- a sense of belonging and happiness. Our love of knitting and each other provides a ministry which offers comfort and solace for the givers, receivers, and makers of prayer shawls. We are always learning from each other and hopefully expanding our fellowship to others. It would be great if we could grow our group to include new members of the Church.”

From the time spent together to the joy of helping others, both Grace and Deborah have experienced the “holy” in an otherwise ordinary task.

Grace shares: “Handmade works are tangible expressions of our faith, and when others see these shawls and receive them as gifts, it’s meaningful to them and to their families. It’s so gratifying to receive notes from a family member or friend who writes to tell me a shawl made their loved one feel better.”

Deborah echoes these sentiments:

“Parishioners who receive prayer shawls during challenging times hopefully feel the blessings, reassurance, and strength knitted into each one. Throughout the process of creating a prayer shawl – selecting the pattern, selecting the yarn, knitting the shawl at home and with others in the ministry, and then delivering it to the Church – I am always thinking how this gift will be received. The handwritten notes, telephone calls, emails, and photographs I have received from those in need and their families is highly gratifying and meaningful, knowing that I have touched someone so deeply through the unconditional love and embrace of God.”



These are holy gifts, friends. Thanks be to God.



Do you know someone whose gifts of time and talent should be celebrated? Please share their story with us at [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/generous-people](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/generous-people).

# Our individual gifts are multiplied when we serve the world

We are planting seeds of generosity every day.

## A generous life starts early

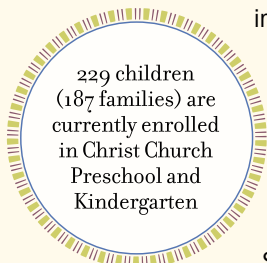
**Serving others is an important part of the CCK program**

A special part of our Christ Church Preschool & Kindergarten (CCK) curriculum is service. Every fall and spring we plan a school-wide service project to support an organization that serves children, with opportunities for our CCK children and families to be actively involved.

This year, our spring service project benefitted Freedom School Partners. CCK families generously donated enough school supplies to make 220 art supply bags for children participating in Freedom School's summer programs, as well as boxes of extra art supplies and cleaning supplies. Parent volunteers coordinated times for each age group to assemble bags during school so our students could have a hands-on experience helping others in our community.

Summer can make or break the education of lower-income kids. Freedom School Partners changes the future for under-resourced students by giving them three life-changing tools: literacy skills, character strengths, and a community that believes in them.

Christ Church supports Freedom School through its partnership with Rama Road Elementary, and CCK was proud to be a part of it.



## GoodNews is good news!

**Generous volunteers, donors, and shoppers enable us to share our resources with the world.**

The GoodNews Shop is grateful to our loyal customers and dedicated volunteers who helped us through the challenging years of the pandemic. Everyone continued to shop and support the Shop through telephone orders, curbside pickups, appointments, locked doors, and masks.

Because of this, in 2021, GoodNews was able to donate \$58,000 to organizations that support women and children. This was made possible because of YOU!

Our Food To Go is back up and running due to the efforts of our amazing Maggie Loselle. Maggie not only plans the recipes each week, but shops for the ingredients and cooks the delicious soups and casseroles that have saved us all a time or two. In addition to her generosity donating her time and cooking skills, did you know that she accepts "love notes" for any favorites or special requests?

We are also beyond thankful for a most generous gift we recently received - a brand new freezer for the Shop! Thank you to the kindest soul who supports our mission, loves GoodNews, Maggie's Food To Go, and came to our rescue when she learned our previous freezer had been laid to rest.

Generosity multiplied. Thanks be to God.



A single act of kindness  
throws out roots in  
all directions, and the  
roots spring up and  
make new trees.

- AMELIA EARHART

## Built with hammers, nails, and love

Our 2022 Habitat build in honor and loving memory of Reuben Hufham is complete! From mid-February through the end of April, Christ Church volunteers worked hard to provide a new home for Vi and Yih Rolan and their two children. We are grateful for the many people who hammered and sawed and painted, as well as provided snacks, lunches, and beverages.

We especially appreciate this year's co-chairs, Fred Paschall and Bernie McCabe, who led the project with skill and good humor.

Learn more about Habitat for Humanity and view photos of this year's build at [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/habitat](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/habitat).



## Want to get in on the joy of serving?

Here are a few ways you can serve this summer and beyond.

### Rama Road Girl Scout Volunteers

Our Girl Scouts at Rama Road Elementary urgently need more leaders. The Girl Scouts meet two Mondays per month, either in person (2:30 - 4:30 pm) or virtually for 30 - 45 minutes. Learn more about the program and volunteer positions at [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/rama](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/rama). Contact Julie Stedman at [julescs@aol.com](mailto:julescs@aol.com) with questions or to volunteer.

### Gearing Up for Freedom School

"I know I can be what I want to be!" Are you ready to hear this enthusiastic chant from our Rama Road Freedom School Scholars? Summer is right around the corner and Freedom School Partners runs June 20 - July 28 at McClintock Middle School. This program focused on reading skills, character enrichment, and community involvement needs you! Visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/freeschool](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/freeschool) to learn about ways you can serve.

### Moveable Volunteer Possibilities (MVPs)

Matthews Community Farmers Market  
Saturday, June 18, 7 am - 12 noon

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina  
Friday, July 29, 8:55 am - 12 noon

Society of St. Andrew Gleaning  
Wednesday, August 10, 8 am - 12 noon

Visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/act](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/act) to learn more and sign up for these and other opportunities to give your time.



# Gathering with renewed joy

The pandemic gave us a new appreciation for the simple gift of being together. As in-person activities resumed for all ages this spring, there was much to celebrate.





If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you.

- JAMES 1:5

# Hospitality is a holy gift

Beautiful stories emerge when we share our hearts with one another.

## New group forms to share wisdom

After almost six months of meeting every other week via Zoom, a newly formed Wisdom Circle recently had the opportunity to meet in person for lunch and study together at the Church, at last! This group of about 20 seekers studies Wisdom Spirituality, looking at Jesus from a new perspective, and sharing insights to support one another on our spiritual journeys.

Jesus was foremost a Wisdom Teacher. A wisdom perspective looks at the actual teachings and sayings of Jesus. This focus is more on Jesus' authentic sayings than on creeds, dogma, or "right beliefs." This approach lends a deeper mystical understanding to what Jesus actually taught. It helps Christians walk his path of inner transformation.

The Wisdom Circle is now reading *The Wisdom Jesus* by The Reverend Dr. Cynthia Bourgeault, an Episcopal priest and a major leader in the Wisdom Spirituality movement. She has held many weeklong wisdom schools all over the world, including Valle Crucis and Kanuga. Joana Wardell, who leads our Wisdom Circle, has participated in two of them and found them transformative.

A number of generous souls made this meaningful opportunity possible. The group was formed by participants of a book study on *The Universal Christ* by Father Richard Rohr, co-facilitated by The Reverend Lisa Saunders and Joana Wardell in 2021. The Reverend Joshua Case planted the seed, and Scottie Stamper, Director of Adult Spiritual Formation, helped us get connected on Zoom.

For more information about Wisdom Circles, contact Joana Wardell at [Jwardell@bellsouth.net](mailto:Jwardell@bellsouth.net) or Scottie Stamper at [stampers@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:stampers@christchurchcharlotte.org).

## Inviting strangers to become friends

### Youth Council offers hospitality with grace

Every March our Youth Council signs up to host Room in the Inn with our neighbors who are experiencing homelessness, and every year it is inspiring to witness the gentle ease and kindness with which they host. They create an inviting atmosphere where people come into the space and feel at home and relax, like the warmth of fire on a chilly night.

Seeing the lively and engaging conversations between varied ages and backgrounds is a picture into God's kingdom, here and now. They offer true hospitality - the gift of presence - through their undivided attention, listening hearts, and generous spirits. It is a beautiful sight to behold.

As Henri Nouwen so eloquently tells us, "Listening is a form of spiritual hospitality by which you invite strangers to become friends, to get to know their inner selves more fully, and even dare to be silent with you." We are blessed by the opportunity to learn from these amazing young people how to invite strangers to become friends in a few short hours.





## A new way to connect

**Want to send an encouraging note, take a casserole, or call to check in on a friend?**

These small acts of generosity are now a bit easier, thanks to our new online church directory. You can look up addresses, phone numbers, and other contact information on your phone or computer.

- Access from any web browser or the Christ Church app (password-protected, only for Christ Church members who log in)
- Update and control what contact information is shared in the directory
- Look up members in the directory
- View your pledge status and giving history

All Christ Church members should have received an email on Tuesday, May 17 with detailed instructions. If you did not receive the email or do not have online access, please contact Ainslie Wall at 704-333-0378 or [walla@christchurchcharlotte.org](mailto:walla@christchurchcharlotte.org).

Learn more and see FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) at [www.christchurchcharlotte.org/realm](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org/realm).





# Open doors at our Spiritual Home

Now more than ever, we are grateful for our community and the many opportunities to gather for worship, fellowship, learning, and service together.





# In the Parish

We all share in the joys and sorrows of our parish family.

## New Members

Suzy Akers  
Mackenzie and Drew Arnett  
Charlotte and Chris Atkinson and Family  
Chuck Baldecchi and Family  
Claudia Barnes  
Neil Blackmon  
Aimee and Aaron Borders  
MK and Bob Boykin  
Stephen Brady  
Kayla and Will Braude  
Martha Brown  
Kylie and Drew Cajka

Alaina Cass  
Jill Coley  
John Craver  
Bailey Death  
Patience Ergish  
Emily Evans  
Amanda and Grady Frank and Family  
Mary Stuart Fountain  
Catherine and Charlie Gates  
Sally and Mike Hogan  
Frances Hooper  
Meggie Horne  
Mary and Tyler Johnson  
Cyteria Knight and Susan Miller

Marcelline Kochan  
Brooke and Paul Koppang and Family  
Alice and Ollie Marleaux  
Jake Martin  
Wes McAdams  
Sean McClure  
Anna Beth McNabb  
Ann McNeer  
Caroline Metzger  
Julie and Charles Milling  
Krissie and Chris Nuckols and Family  
James Plyler  
Ross Pope  
Nancy Ralston  
Marguerite and Brad Robinson and Family  
Elizabeth Rodrigues  
Andy Ross  
Taylor Skelton  
Lauren and Matt Skvarla  
Alicia Smart  
Heather and Jack Sullivan  
Garland Talbott  
Siri Thomas  
Christopher Tonsing  
Stephanie Walker  
Austin White



## Births

Dorothy Evans Calder, daughter of Sallie and Stewart Calder  
Leo Glenn Little, son of Samantha and Will Little  
Heartt Elaine Lay, granddaughter of Woody and Laney Lay  
Virginia June Davis, daughter of Laura and Tate Davis  
Harvey Lanier Linde, son of Natalie and Taylor Linde  
Parker Ryan Solomon, son of Lauren and Matt Solomon  
Sophie Dowe King, daughter of Stacey and Chandler King

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

Joyner Francis Bill, son of Erin and Vincent Bill  
 Whitner Allen Stokes, grandson of Patti and Bill Stokes  
 Harry Wilder Hamilton, grandson of Susan Hamilton and Blanton Hamilton  
 Martha Bailey Hipp, daughter of Cathleen and Thomas Hipp  
 Lauren Elizabeth Grace Amon, granddaughter of Jane and Dan Jones  
 Elizabeth Hunt McWilliams, daughter of Ashley and Larry McWilliams  
 Katherine Martin Harder, granddaughter of Kaky and Garland Cassada

## **Baptisms**

Samuel William Max Gowland, son of Mary Margaret Van Pelt and Steven Gowland  
 Lillian Bryson Kennedy, daughter of Bryson and Matthew Kennedy  
 Jasmeet Anand Dillard  
 Anne Miller Daughtrey, daughter of Annie and Will Daughtrey  
 Milly Ann Pendergrass, daughter of Ann Stewart and Pearson Pendergrass  
 John Springs Petrone, son of Baxter and John Petrone  
 Jane Elizabeth Truesdale, daughter of Laura and David Truesdale  
 Wade Holt Turner, son of Suzanne and Chandler Turner  
 Emma Wallace Bates, daughter of Mary and Brent Bates  
 Hank Smith Hayden, son of Sarah and William Hayden  
 Grant Jonathon Lecznar, son of Jane and Jon Lecznar  
 William Spotswood Armfield, Jr, son of Sarah and Billy Armfield  
 Nancy Helen Lahmeyer, daughter of Haley and Scott Lahmeyer  
 Martha Jane Snell, daughter of Martha and Adam Snell

Marie Elizabeth Tomlinson, daughter of Blair and Buch Tomlinson  
 Betsy Salisbury Weadon, daughter of Nancy and Benjamin Weadon  
 Howard Hamer Driscoll, son of Margaret Cheatham and Frank Driscoll  
 Blake Nicole Hartney, daughter of Blair and Ross Hartney  
 Harvey Lanier Linde, son of Natalie and Taylor Linde  
 Michael Colehower Marr, son of Emily and Yates Marr  
 Roman James Masi, son of Lindsay and Todd Masi  
 Tillman Hughes McAdams, daughter of Elli and Wes McAdams  
 Vivienne Louise Moore, daughter of Kim and Greg Moore  
 Grace Boatwright Taylor, daughter of Emily and Brandon Taylor  
 Jane Wallace Thomson, daughter of Grier and Will Thomson  
 Sutton Hathaway Wyatt, daughter of Mary Hadley and Landon Wyatt  
 Nathaniel Scott Critcher, son of Sydney and Taylor Critcher  
 Henry Robichaud Fish, son of Margaret Black and Eric Fish  
 Martha Bailey Hipp, daughter of Cathleen and Thomas Hipp  
 Eugene Donald Johnson IV, son Ashley and Don Johnson  
 Avery Loraine McNair, daughter of Liza and Ryan McNair

## **Marriages**

Mary Lauren Bishop and David Charles Pepitone  
 Gayle Venters Gilbert and James William Broadfoot III  
 Anne Carroll Ratcliffe and Gregory Joseph Mascavage  
 Allene Helen Walker and David Nicholas Claudio  
 Bridgette Speir Ewing and Bordman Carlisle Traywick III

Lindsey Durham Parkhurst and Thomas Graves Upchurch, Jr.  
 Blair Kingsbury Oliver and Robert Craig Dixon  
 Kristen Leigh Gatter and Benjamin Josiah Howe

## **Deaths**

Rachel Ann Williams  
 Robert S. Lackey  
 Norma Lee Cook, mother of Kim Ballard  
 Anna Greene Marr, mother of Mike Marr  
 Charlotte Sofia Clark Forero, granddaughter of Ruthie and Preston Clark  
 Ellen Fleming Gibson, mother of Ellen Moseley and Melissa Estes  
 Sarah Hamlin Spears Estes, mother of Rizzie Baldwin  
 Sharon Ann Neff  
 Alice Palmer Adkins  
 George B. Adams, Jr.  
 F. Rockwell Poisson  
 Margaret Kingsland Parker Buchanan  
 Malinda Perkins Roof, mother of Michael Roof  
 William Lundy, father of Caroline Vaughn  
 Marilyn Lowry Jefferson, sister of Bill Lowry  
 Kara Humphrey, niece of Jim Bunn and Kit Markhart  
 Caroline Cobey Goodwin, mother of Lisa Saunders and Ginny Jenkins  
 Maurice H. Wilson, Jr.  
 Paige Boyln Sharpe Abeel, mother of Mary Carpenter  
 Barbara Packer, mother of Mark Packer  
 Aaron Hardwick Efird  
 Dee DeRamus Goodwin, mother of John DeRamus  
 Jean Lowder Troutman, mother of Arlene Conger  
 Ann Poe, mother of Nancy Poe

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## Mark Your Calendar

Sunday, June 5  
**Confirmation**

June 20 - 23  
**Vacation Bible School (VBS)**

June 20 - July 28  
**Freedom School**

July 19 - 21  
October 18 - 20  
November 15 - 17  
**The Space Between Us**

September 11  
**Fall Parish Day**

October 18 - 28  
**Holy Land Pilgrimage**

For more informaton, visit [www.christchurchcharlotte.org](http://www.christchurchcharlotte.org)

