**185th Annual Meeting**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**Springfield, Ohio**

**(A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio)**

**February 24th, 2019**

**9:15 a.m.**

**CEC Parish Hall**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Appointment of Secretary (Kelly Zeller)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of 2018 Annual Meeting

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR VESTRY

 Senior Warden (1-year term): Dawn Ivy

 Junior Warden (1-year term): John Richardson

 At-Large Vestry Members (3-year terms): Bonnie Bingman, Joyce Spangler, Denise Sharp

INTRODUCTION OF NOMINEES FOR 2019 DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATION

 John Richardson, Ron Dowling, Joan Hurley, Justin Lehman

ELECTION OF NOMINEES

RECOGNITION OF VESTRY & OTHER MINISTRY "RETIREES"

 Marilyn Howat, Don Wheeler, Ann Chitkara (At-Large Vestry)

 Emily Hasecke (Vestry Youth Representative)

 Dodi Holmes (Eucharistic Visitors)

 Pat Duncan (Altar Guild)

 Denise Wells (Pastoral Care Coordinator)

REPORTS & REMARKS

 Rector’s Report

 Deacon's Report

 Senior Warden’s Report

 Junior Warden’s Report

 Treasurer's Report

Closing Prayer & Necrology

Adjournment

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**MINUTES OF THE 184TH ANNUAL MEETING**

**FEBRUARY 11TH, 2018**

At 10:40, after the opening prayer led by the Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard, the 184th Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church was called to order. Rev. Leidheiser-Stoddard conducted the meeting.

Ed Hasecke was appointed to serve as secretary for the 184th Annual Meeting.

Amil Anderson moved to approve the agenda of the 184th Annual Meeting. Dar Brooks Hedstrom seconded the motion. Motion carried.

The Vestry moved to approve the minutes of the 183rd Annual Meeting. Bill Yeazell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bonnie Shelburne reported on the Vestry Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee’s candidates are:

Senior Warden: Dawn Ivy

Junior Warden: John Richardson

Bonnie Shelburne moved to confirm that Dawn Ivy be elected as Senior Warden. Brian Shelburne seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Dana Waggoner moved to confirm that John Richardson be elected as Junior Warden. Dawn Ivy seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Candidates for Vestry At Large:

Kathleen Schubert, Brian Shelburne, Chris Oldstone-Moore

Bill Yeazell moved to confirm the candidates for Vestry at Large. Fred Reed seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Candidates for delegates to the 2018 Diocesan Convention are:

Dawn Ivy, Jack Ivy, and Ann Chitkara

Bill Hicks moved to confirm the candidates as delegates to the 2018 Diocesan Convention. Bill Yeazell seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Bonnie Shelburne, Dana Waggoner and Jake Studebaker were acknowledged and thanked as retiring Vestry Members.

Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard presented the 2018 budget on behalf the Treasurer. Bill Hicks made an announcement that he will be sending a response to the tax office regarding our tax exempt request regarding the land we own next to the parking lot. The future use of the land could include green space, parking spaces, and a labyrinth.

Bonnie Shelburne gave the Senior Warden's Report, taking the time to give thanks to all the people who have worked over the last several years to keep the church going while we waited to call our new Rector.

Dana Waggoner gave the Junior Warden's Report, describing the various projects that had been completed over the previous year.

Rev. Rick Incorvati gave the Deacon’s Report, highlighting the Interfaith Youth Group.

Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard announced that the family of Rosemma Anderson has given a substantial gift to the church to enable the maintenance of the physical property. It will be known as "The Rosie Fund."

A special recognition was given to Ann Chitkara for her continued leadership of the Christ Church Food Pantry.

Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard gave a closing prayer and read the Necrology, adding Ruth Ann Karsten (died Feb. 1, 2018) to the list of names.

Bill Hicks moved to adjourn the meeting. Chris Durrenberger seconded the motion. The 184th Annual Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Ed Hasecke

**RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2018**

"*Put your trust in the Lord and do good;*

 *dwell in the land and feed on its riches*."

 {Psalm 37:3}

2018 was quite a year for Christ Episcopal Church. It was a year of surprises, a year of relief and reorientation, and a year of blessings. Together, we began something new in 2018; we planted seeds that have only just begun to bear fruit.

"*Put your trust in the Lord*"

I believe it was the Lord (through the work of the Search Committee, your Wardens and Vestry, and Diocesan staff) who brought us together. In late 2017, the Holy Spirit was moving here in Springfield, and in Columbus (where I was), and in the space between us. Through the months of mutual exploration, discernment, and seeking, God was drawing us together; guiding me to this blessed community of faith. We have put our trust in the Lord... and the Lord has been faithful.

"*and do good;*"

We have done so much good this year, for so many. It takes dozens of willing, dedicated servants, and plenty of time and energy, to make the Food Pantry happen each month. Feeding hungry people is truly Jesus work, and it happens because of all of you. We supported the Children's Defense Fund Freedom School with a significant gift; we fed families at the Interfaith Hospitality Network downtown; we delivered homemade cookies to police officers and firefighters. We gathered baby food for the Parent-Infant Center; we prayed and blessed folks at Springfield Pride and marched in the Interfaith Peace Walk; we celebrated our first ever Partners-In-Ministry-In-Liberia Sunday; and we began a mutually edifying partnership with Temple Sholom. In all these things and more, we have striven to do good.

"*dwell in the land*"

The verb dwell, when used in the Old Testament, means more than just living somewhere. It carries a connotation of permanence, security, and providential stability. When we welcome newcomers regardless of appearance or accent, when we celebrate and encourage one another's accomplishments and share one another's sorrows, when we come together every Sunday to worship God, we are dwelling in holiness and love. Our worship this year has been vibrant and inspired, and our times of fellowship have been joyous.

"*and feed on its riches*."

What are the riches God has given us? Yes, we have money, and a beautiful building; but Christ Church's greatest riches are its people. We have identified our priorities, built on our historic strengths, and made use of our many gifts. We have clarified and magnified our written communications, we have strengthened our presence amongst seniors and the homebound, and we have greatly expanded our Christian Formation ministries for children, youth, and adults. On any given Sunday morning, parishioners are learning and growing in faith through Forward Week-by-Week sessions, the Lego Class for youngsters, Youth Sunday School, and the Adult Forums... not to mention the "Big Read" Bible Study and the "Faces of our Faith" summer offering. We have only just begun to feed on the riches of knowledge and engagement in this community. Thanks be to God!

It has been my honor and privilege to serve as your Rector in 2018, and I look forward to the years to come. The future is bright with God's holy promises!

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

2-24-2019

**RECTOR'S ADDENDUM: METRICS**

Numbers alone cannot give us a full understanding of the dynamic life of a congregation; nor can they measure the movement of the Spirit within a community. But they can provide limited windows into certain aspects of the church. Numbers can help us to see what we're doing well and what we could do better. Numerical trends can help us understand the directions in which we've been moving, and whether or not desired redirection is happening. With that in mind, here are some of the metrics I've been tracking for 2018:

+ **Average Sunday Attendance** = 90

For both services combined; this is the same ASA as in 2017, which indicates that 2018 was a year of stability after 7 years of slowly declining ASA.

+ **Easter & Christmas Attendance**

Attendance for Easter 2018 was 159, down from the previous year. Attendance for Christmas Eve was 166, equal to that of 2017. Like ASA, this indicates that, particularly in the second half of 2018, we enjoyed a period of stability that had not been seen in the last 5 years.

+ **Results of Fall Pledge Campaign**

We received pledges totaling $197,837, exceeding our stated goal of $192,703. This included a total of 8 either new or returning (after an absence of at least one year) pledging units.

+ **Births, Deaths, and Baptisms**

In 2018 we had two births, four deaths, and one baptism.

+ **Membership Transfers**

A Letter of Transfer from one's previous congregation is the "official" way of joining any Episcopal Parish, according to the Constitution & Canons of the Church. In 2018 we had 5 transfers in, and no transfers out.

+ **Active Newcomers**

I define Active Newcomers as folks who came to Christ Church for the very first time at some point during the year, and returned on a regular or semi-regular basis (at least once a month). By this definition, we had 13 Active Newcomers in 2018.

+ **Children and Youth**

In 2018 we had 9 active children and 11 active youth. This figure does not include children and youth who were only present on Easter and/or Christmas Eve and were not otherwise involved in the life of the church.

+ **Service Engagement**

The Lewis Institute for Church Leadership suggests that a healthy congregation should have *at least* 30 percent of its ASA engaged in volunteer service ministries in any given month. When this percentage dips below 30, concerns about energy, dedication, and long-term viability arise. Our Service Engagement level for 2018 was (by my best calculation) 62 percent.

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**RECTOR'S ADDENDUM: DISCRETIONARY FUNDS**

The loose offering (that's money in the offering plates that isn't designated as part of a regular pledge) on the first Sunday of each month goes into the Rector's Discretionary Fund. I also deposit any honoraria contributions I receive for my services at funerals, weddings, etc. into this Discretionary Fund; and various parishioners will, on occasion, make a designated gift to my and/or Deacon Rick's Discretionary Fund(s). In 2018, these funds were put to good use. Your contributions made a difference in many lives, for folks within and outside our parish.

Discretionary Fund monies were used for: grocery assistance ($20-25 Kroger giftcards for families in need between Pantry days); gas assistance ($20 Speedway fuel cards and an occasional filled tank for folks in need of transportation help); partial assistance with outstanding bills ($50-150 payments toward overdue rent, medical expenses, and heat/electric bills); occasional purchases of used household appliances for persons in need; inexpensive warm clothing items for financially struggling families with children; and even a few $10 international calling cards for recent immigrants to contact family members overseas. The identities of recipients are confidential for pastoral reasons, but all expenses are documented and records maintained by the parish bookkeeper. Thank you for your contributions to the Discretionary Funds -- please know that they are always put to good use for our brothers and sisters in need!

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**DEACON'S REPORT**

I was honored to serve Christ Church in 2018 through worship leadership, preaching and teaching, and through volunteering and working closely with several community ministries, including the Freedom School and Equality Springfield. I've also served the Diocese as part of the Commission on Ministry and the Examining Chaplains (both of which assist those discerning a call to ministry), the Faith in Life Committee (oversees grants supporting spiritual formation), and the Becoming Beloved Community Task Force (addresses Presiding Bishop Curry's charge to promote healing around racial division in our church and in our communities).

Reflections on a few specific ministries:

Springfield Pride

Members of Christ Church once again showed their support of LGBTQ people in Springfield with their involvement in the fourth annual Pride Festival on June 30th at City Hall Plaza. Christ Church loaned the tables in the Parish Hall to the day-long event, and congregants staffed a booth at the event to send the message that there was a place for everyone at God's table. Christ Church also shared its message of inclusion by participating in Equality Springfield's annual faith community billboard.

Temple Sholom Partnership

Christ Church continued its relationship with Temple Sholom in 2018 by co-sponsoring two public talks (April 17th and 18th) by Rabbi Richard Address, an expert on what scripture has to say about meaningful aging. Rabbi Cary Kozberg also engaged Christ Church with two adult education forums about Moses's last years, and Rev. Maggie returned the favor in the fall as she provided a scripture study session for Temple Sholom.

The Promise Neighborhood

Christ Church continued its engagement with the Promise Neighborhood by loaning its Parish Hall tables and providing volunteers for the fall Promise Festival (Sept. 15th), by contributing candy to the trick-or-treat event at Lincoln Elementary, and by contributing new toys to the Christmas Store at Clifton Ave. Church of God (1408 Clifton Ave.).

The Freedom School

This 6-week summer reading program at Covenant United Methodist Church (529 W. Johnny Lytle Ave.) served 40 at-risk elementary and middle-school students and achieved reading gains that beat the national average for this program. Christ Church members supported this ministry by volunteering as reading tutors, assisting with fundraising, and helping out with daily food preparation (all of the students get breakfast and lunch). Deacon Rick serves on the Freedom School Board, and this ministry was also supported in 2018 by a grant from the Episcopal Community Services Foundation.

The Neighborhood Fair

After a two year hiatus, the Neighborhood Fair made its return in 2018 (Sept. 8th). For the first time in its 15-year history, the event dealt with heavy rains that brought all of the food, prizes, and games inside the Parish Hall, but the scaled-down version of the celebration of community still lifted spirits of the people who made the trip over from Springfield Towers to be with the Fair volunteers. All of the food that wasn't eaten at the Fair was taken care of the following weekend when it was dished out at the annual Promise Festival.

Taize Worship Collaboration

Named for the community in France where the practice began, Taize is a form of meditative worship involving scripture reading, prayer, periods of silence, contemplative music, and a candle-lit ambience. In 2018, a collaboration among six downtown congregations (Christ Episcopal Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, First Baptist Church, First Lutheran Church, High St. United Methodist Church, and St. Joseph/St. Raphael Catholic Church) provided Springfield with monthly worship opportunities and increased occasions to worship across denominational lines. The collaboration started at Christ Church in December of 2017, it continued through 2018 with participating congregations sharing the hosting, and services are now scheduled through 2019.

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

A decades-old Springfield tradition of gathering across faith traditions on the Tuesday of Thanksgiving week continued in 2018 as 14 Christian congregations, 2 mosques, 1 synagogue, the Masonic Community, and the Peace Center all came together to share a message of gratitude. Members of Christ Church helped organize the service and provided music for the occasion. This year, Rabbi Cary Kozberg provided memorable reflections that addressed the shooting at Tree of Life Synagogue, which took place a few weeks prior to the service.

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**SENIOR WARDEN**

Dear Christ Church family,

As Maggie said in her first sermon with us: “Following Jesus is not a part-time gig. Discipleship is not a Sunday morning commitment. We can come to church every week, we can put our money in the offering plate, we can sing hymns and share in Christ's holy communion -- but if we leave it all behind when we walk out the door, we are not his disciples.”

What a glorious year we just completed striving to live up to that noble challenge. As a vestry we became one with our new rector’s vision for our parish. We made our 2019 pledge goal, had a scaled down (yet quite successful) neighborhood fair, said goodbye to some long-time parishioners, welcomed new ones and completed the church calendar with increased membership.

Thank you all who serve on the vestry, altar guild, as teachers, ushers, tellers, greeters, coffee-hour hosts, readers, altar guild and choir members, acolytes, chalice bearers, lay ministers, pastoral care ministers, finance committee members, nominating committee and stewardship committee members. And a big thank you to volunteers at our Food Pantry and IHN mission and at all our outreach ministries.

I’d also like to congratulate you on some of your specific achievements during the past year. You completed all required training for our youth leaders and teachers, thereby bringing us into compliance with state law. You’re implementing a new security program that the diocese created for our own safety. You engaged with the community in many innovative programs that are leading us toward Bishop Curry’s vision of us becoming a beloved community.

This all takes us back to Maggie’s first sermon on making a difference in our church and the community: “We can hear Christ's call and turn back to our normal routines…or we can choose the path of discipleship…We can live the way he asks us to live…We can feed the hungry and heal the sick and welcome the outcasts and love one another, and we can do it all secure in the knowledge that we are known and called and claimed by God.”

Thank you for entrusting 2018 to me as your Senior Warden. It has been an honor to serve you during Maggie’s first year as our Rector. Let’s make 2019 the year we let Clark County and the City of Springfield know we’re here!

Many blessings,

Dawn Ivy

**JUNIOR WARDEN**

2018 Major Projects Completed

1. Outside Christ Church signage repaired and additional lighting added.
2. Welcome and Services information signage updated and additional lighting added.
3. Parking lot light added above Rectors parking space attached to Hollenbeck
4. Outside lighting for Stained Glass windows behind pulpit repaired.
5. Parking lot repaired, resurfaced and painted.
6. Garden and landscaping clean up team established, in conjunction with Congregational Volunteer days (aka "Play in the Dirt").
7. Facebook refresh and rebranding.
8. Basement flooding fixed. Drainage around East side of buildings cleaned and placed on an annual maintenance program.
9. Refrigerator fixed.
10. AED machine updated and restocked.
11. Long distance bills researched and placed on appropriate plan.
12. Addition of Pastoral Care Phone.
13. Roof and soffit fixed at East entrance and Sanctuary juncture.
14. Elevator repair and brought up to code.
15. Tuck pointing performed for main building and Hollenbeck.

2019 Major Projects to Consider

1. Organ repairs and addition of pipes in storage.
2. Replacement of back concrete pad to Hollenbeck.
3. Replacement of baseboard heaters. Installation of energy efficient units.
4. Installation of new air units for sacristy and choir room.

John Richardson

**TREASURER**

**{Submitted by Ken Bladh; see following page}**



**STAFF REPORTS**

**MUSIC DIRECTOR/MUSIC PROGRAM**

Having completed eighteen seasons as music director at Christ Episcopal Church, Dr. Christopher Durrenberger continues to provide musical leadership and musical offerings at regular scheduled worship services, funerals, memorials and weddings.

Special and regular worship services were enhanced with guest musicians again this year including the Wittenberg Brass Quintet for Easter. Musical offerings at the early Christmas Eve services were provided by cellist Paul Schubert. Joy and Jeff Carter with Sarah Schubert led the 4:30 pm family service and Christina Darding provided classical guitar music at the late service. Cathy Hasecke once again joined the choir in Advent freeing up our music director to collaborate with them on cello. Other special musicians during 2018 included pianist Cathy Hasecke, vocalists Joy Carter, classical guitarists Jeff Carter and Sarah Schubert, and guest organists, Tim Utterback, and Stephen Sollars.

The Christ Church Choir continues their loyal service providing music for regular and special worship services. Please contact Chris or Maggie if interested in joining this mighty ensemble!

2018 Christ Church Choir

*Sopranos Altos Tenors Bass/Baritone*

Marilyn Howat Liz Wheeler Chris Oldstone-Moore Ed Hasecke

Joy Carter Emily Hasecke Amil Anderson Fred Bartenstein

Joan Hurley Jake Studebaker

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

The “Star” I received on Epiphany Sunday had rejoicing written on it, and I believe I rejoice in my work at Christ Church every day! I enjoy the day to day at Christ Church. There is always something to do or something that needs to be done in the Parish Office, from answering the phone or door to putting the bulletins together. My 2018 highlights are working with a new wonderful Rector, holding the Secretary position on Vestry, working for Food Pantry, learning and working with the Christ Church’s website, and serving as the second adult in Children’s Chapel.

Kelly Zeller

**STAFF REPORTS, CONTINUED**

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER**

In mid-2018, after many years of dedicated service, Gayle Culler retired. Her knowledge, experience and patience were greatly appreciated in the smooth transition of Christ Episcopal Church’s bookkeeping duties.

As bookkeeper, I manage the day to day financial activities for the Church. This includes tracking income and expenses, reconciling bank statements, paying bills, processing payroll, generating financial reports for the Treasurer, assisting in the annual audit and filing required city, state, and federal payroll tax returns.

In 2018, I converted several payroll tax liability returns from manual to electronic submissions. I continue to seek ways to incorporate efficiency in our daily bookkeeping processes.

Thank you to Treasurer Ken Bladh for his continued support and guidance in the day to day bookkeeping operations.

Respectfully submitted,

Tina Knox

**FACILITY MANAGER**

A variety of projects kept me busy in 2018. I facilitated painting of the new signs for the front of the church. I worked with the electricians on adding new lights for the front signs and additional lights for the parking lot. I requested and received bids to replace concrete on the patio at Hollenbeck. I contacted the HVAC contractor for repairs to the air conditioners and heating system as needed. I had the emergency light replaced and annual fire extinguisher inspection. I had tuckpointing done on Hollenbeck and the East side of the sanctuary wall as well as repairs done to the East entry doors.

Paul McAfee

**NURSERY ATTENDANT**

Greetings from the nursery! The nursery at Christ Episcopal is fully stocked with games, toys, and crafts for any child ages infant to school age. We serve on average one to two families a month and welcome any and all young visitors with open arms. As a new employee to Christ Episcopal Church, I would like to thank all members and staff of the church for being so welcoming and kind. I look forward to the new year and maintaining the Christ Episcopal nursery as a safe, welcoming, and enriching environment for children of all ages.

Many blessings,

Jerushia Knox

**SECURITY DIRECTOR**

Dear fellow Christ Church members,

Prompted by recent events of armed violence and mass shootings in public spaces, Bishop Breidenthal required all congregations in the Diocese of Southern Ohio to develop a detailed security policy and plan for their church in the event of an active shooter or natural disaster.

Toward that goal, your vestry appointed me Security Director, initiated a security inspection by the Springfield Police Department, and directed me to draft a security plan in conjunction with making physical improvements to the church building to correct deficiencies identified in that inspection.

The plan developed with the vestry’s guidance set out emergency procedures to deal with tornado warnings, building evacuation, building lock-down, active shooter, assaults, medical emergencies and theft on property. An emergency alarm was also added, and communication protocols were established. Greeters, ushers, nursery and youth teachers are in the process of being trained on what to do in the event of one of these emergencies.

Closed-circuit TV cameras were added around the church and its parking spaces, and monitors were placed at the usher station in the sanctuary and at the Linden Avenue exit so the church can be monitored during all services.

The physical vulnerabilities to the building were corrected by hardening our entryways to prevent forced entry, and by adding locks, blinds and door privacy film to our children’s classrooms. All this was done in order to make our worship spaces and classrooms safe and worry-free.

This isn’t an easy subject to discuss or even to think about; yet thinking through a dangerous situation is one of the most important things we can do to prepare for any emergency. I’m honored to be involved in this process, and look forward to working together with you in 2019 to make Christ Church safer for worship.

Jack Ivy

Security Director

**FOOD PANTRY**

Christ Church Food Pantry had an active year in 2018. This year the pantry was open the 3rd Wednesday of every month and served 1416 (1522 in 2017) clients, representing 4914 (4997 in 2017) people. We distributed tons of food. Most of the items distributed by our pantry are obtained through Second Harvest Food Bank of Clark, Champaign and Logan County and are either free or cost very little, helping keep our total expenses down. Brown paper bags are purchased from Save-a-Lot on Main Street at cost.

Thanks to the congregation we were able to include at least 1 roll of toilet paper per household each month. Several members donate bars of soap each month. This is placed on our miscellaneous table also called “client’s choice” along with all the other miscellaneous donations - canned goods, toothpaste, toothbrushes just to name a few items. Clients really appreciate this table.

Thank you to those of you who contribute financially to the pantry. The pantry is funded solely by contributions, in 2018. The total income was ​​$4191.00 and expenses were $6237.00. Money is required for purchase of the food and bags used every month.

Each month Anne Randolph spends hours lining up volunteers to work 1 or 2 shifts in the pantry. She also has a group of volunteers who come in the day before pantry distribution to put together bags. We continue to have a partnership with Covenant Presbyterian Church and they are a Godsend. Ginnie Estrop, from Covenant, recruits’ drivers who go to Second Harvest Food Pantry on East Columbia Street to pick up and deliver the food two Wednesday mornings each month.

Members of Christ Church and Covenant gather and unload large quantities of food in amazing time. Volunteers stay and help unwrap and prepare food for distribution.

Paul McAfee deserves a thank you as he helps set up the East entrance for pantry each month by moving various chairs and tables from the lower level for our use. He also assists in putting things away and cleans up any mess we leave behind.

Finally a special thank you to Kelly Zeller and her family. In 2017 her son Colby did major construction work to improve the food pantry work space. This was part of his Eagle Scout project. Kelly fields many telephone calls regarding pantry, gives up her office space on pantry day and is always helping unload tons of bags and groceries. She is greatly appreciated.

Each month our clients express great appreciation for the items we are able to provide. We have a core of volunteers and always welcome any new helpers. Thank you to the congregation of Christ Church for supporting this project in so many ways.

Ann Chitkara

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild is made up of four (4) teams of ladies (men are welcome to participate, too) who each work one Saturday/Sunday morning each month to clean and set up the Chancel area for Sunday worship. We also work weddings, baptisms, and funerals. These ladies are very devoted to their work. New members are always welcome. If you would like to be a part of this vital ministry, please contact me at jahurley500@gmail.com. No experience is necessary.

Joan Hurley, Directress

**FINANCE COMMITTEE: ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2018**

I am honored to report to you as Chairman of our Finance Committee. The last three months of the year reduced the total 2018 earnings of the Endowment Fund. However we expect that to be temporary and expect to have good earnings in 2019.

We gratefully received a generous new bequest to the Endowment Fund in 2018 and established a new Endowment Fund Category in honor of Rosie Anderson named the “Rosie Fund”. The Rosie Fund is dedicated to the repair, maintenance and improvement of the Christ Church buildings and grounds.

It is the Finance Committee’s responsibility to safeguard the donations and contributions of parishioners and previous generations of the Christ Church family. We provide advice to the Vestry concerning the financing of capital improvement projects, and provide support for the annual operating budget. I am proud to report that we have been faithful in performing this task. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, Dan McGregor, Ted Delong, Ken Bladh, and Dawn Ivy.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Jim Kreckman and the trust department at Security Bank for their assistance in successfully navigating another good investment year.

I would like to bring your attention to the Bushnell Society of Christ Church. The Bushnell Society recognizes those of all generations who make a financial provision for Christ Church through a planned gift. We honor and thank those who have chosen to become members of the Bushnell Society. Please view the Bushnell Society plaque in the Parish Hall to honor those who have remembered & supported Christ Church's Endowment Fund with financial gifts. If you would like additional information, please contact me or any member of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully,

Scott Yeazell

**USHERS**

Once again, I want to thank the Christ Church Usher Teams for their devoted service this past year. Ushers have a variety of roles and duties during our weekly services, and for special services held sometimes on short notice. They welcome and assist everyone who attends services, run the lighting system, take up the offering and assist with communion. Also, ushers are responsible for keeping an eye on any security issues that might arise. Our main objective is to help Rev. Maggie and Deacon Rick lead a beautiful and enjoyable service each week!

Looking ahead, much thought and effort has been put into the Church’s security monitors thanks to Jack Ivy and Kelly Zeller. New monitors and cameras will allow the ushers to keep tabs on late arrivals, our parking lot and other entrances. We are grateful for their work. Anyone interested in joining an Usher Team and helping out with this important Christ Church Ministry is most welcome.

Angus Randolph (for the 10:00 am service)

The 8 am ushers give new meaning to the phrase, “go first to prepare the way.”  Often the first to arrive, they are the warm welcome to many brave faithful and begin putting the light of the heart into the church. Their bell-ringing signals the arrival of the Holy Spirit to Christ Church each Sunday, an invitation to all who would be invited.

Justin Lehman (for the 8:00 am service)

**PASTORAL CARE TEAM**

The pastoral care team provides meals for parishioners who have been ill or had surgery. Soup and bread are also delivered to parishioners who need a little TLC. The team also visits people who are about to have surgery and offers prayers for them. If you like to cook or are interested in helping to meet the needs of members of our congregation when they are most vulnerable, please consider this ministry and contact Denise Wells or Rev. Maggie.

Submitted by

Denise Wells

**PRAYER CHAIN**

Christ Church has a Prayer Chain where you can submit your prayer requests.  Your request will be forwarded to members of the congregation who have offered to pray for your concerns.  New members of the Prayer Chain are always welcome.  Please contact Anita Beardsell if you are interested.

Anita Beardsell

**LUNCH BUNCH**

This Christ Church group continues to meet on the second Tuesday of each month at a different local restaurant.  We stay close to home, or pick a restaurant a little farther away, depending on the weather.  This group has been formed for men and women available during the day for lunch.  New members are always welcome!  Please contact Anita Beardsell if interested - we will provide a driver if necessary.

Anita Beardsell

**CRAFTING GROUP**

The crafting group, formerly “The Peace and Patches Quilting Group”, meets on Wednesday mornings at 9 am. Everyone brings their own handy work. We knit, crochet, quilt and counted cross stitch. In November, we had a craft bazaar which netted $238.00. We gave $200.00 to the Christ Church Food Pantry and the rest to the Clark County Literacy Center. We enjoy ourselves, learn new things, sometimes go out to lunch and attend the 10 am healing service in the Chapel. It’s a fun group that enjoys the fellowship. All are welcome to join us; for more information, contact Charlene Schreiber.

Charlene Schreiber

**CHILDREN'S CHAPEL**

We have had an exciting year in Children’s Chapel! We not only discovered the meaning of the different Gospel lessons and made friends, but sang songs, made crafts, acted out scenes of the Gospel and played games. All of this is made possible because of the great Children’s Chapel teachers: Cathy Waggoner, Lori Swafford, Audra Trillana, Karen Carter, and Mark Brooks Hedstrom. Any children that attend the 10 am service are welcome to join us in the Chapel on the lower level of the church.

Kelly Zeller

**BABY FOOD FOR BABY JESUS**

Thanks to *everyone* who participated in the baby food collection this past Advent~Christmas~Epiphany Season -- 240 4-oz. jars, tubs & pouches were blessed and donated. This was about a 10% increase over last year. 96 were given to the Parent-Infant Center (PIC) *due to space limitation and a change in their policy with regards to the distribution of baby food to their clients.* This necessitated looking for additional recipient organizations. Therefore, another 96 items were given to Help Me Grow (HMG), which shares space in the same building as Women, Infants & Children (WIC) so that women who do not qualify for WIC but need assistance can be referred to them for help. Finally, the remaining 48 were given to the Family Youth Initiative – Parenting Network (FYI-PN) housed now in the same building as The Ark – Children’s Rescue Center. PIC and HMG are both open 4 days per week and FYI-PN is open 2 days per week. Geographically, PIC is just south of downtown, HMG is on the east side and FYI-PN is on the west side. All three organizations receive referrals from each other and other agencies and all are on or close to the bus line. Additionally, all three programs establish a relationship with their moms & babies and are proactive with them.

Therefore, our donations are benefiting little ones in more ways than one as well as in more locations than one!

Deb Southward

**CHALICE BEARERS**

The Christ Church Chalice Bearers are parishioners specially licensed by the Bishop to assist at services by offering the chalice to those receiving communion. Currently there are four chalice bearers (Ed Hasecke, Anne Strothman, Mark Brooks Hedstrom and myself) who serve with Deacon Rick Incorvati at the 10 AM service and one chalice bearer (Ann Chitkara) who serves with Deacon Rick at the 8 AM service. We can always use more volunteers. The task is simple and one gets to be "up front" during the church service.  If interested, contact Brian Shelburne or Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard.

 Brian Shelburne

**EPISCOPAL CHURCH WOMEN (ECW)**

The Episcopal Church Women met 3 times in 2018 and had several new members attend the spring and winter luncheons. All women of the church are welcome and encouraged to be a part of the ECW.

Juanita Artis

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Throughout 2018, Myra Dean Banion and I knitted a variety of colorful Prayer Shawls that have been blessed during worship and then distributed by the clergy, members of the Pastoral Care Team, and family members and neighbors of recipients. Prayer Shawls are available at the East Entrance each Sunday and can be given to anyone in need of comfort in difficult times, such as surgery, bereavement, or illness. New members are welcome. If you would like to be a part of this ministry to knit/crochet shawls or if you would like to learn how, please contact me at jahurley500@gmail.com.

Joan Hurley

**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS & HOSTESSES**

After the 8 am service, parishioners meet in the Guild Room to enjoy coffee and other delicious treats. Hosts are Joann Albright, Dodi Holmes, Ann Chitkara, Dawn and Jack Ivy, Sharon Wells and Marj Vasileff. Thanks to those who provide our lovely coffee hours. Each Coffee Hour is a special gift given to us by these wonderful members. Please come join us. If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour, please let me know.

Marj Vasileff (for the 8:00 am service)

Coffee Hour is an important part of Christ Church’s hospitality activities and we now have a 9-member team for the 10 o’clock service. New members include Susan Doubt, Ron Dowling and John Richardson. Please consider becoming a part of this ministry. You will host one coffee hour about once every 2 months. We will be glad to give you an orientation to the kitchen and the coffee urn. The choice of food is totally up to you; home-made is not required and the purpose of coffee hour is to provide a light snack, not brunch. If you would like to be involved, please contact Kay Koeninger at kaydavid7485@att.net.

Kay Koeninger (for the 10:00 am service)

**FORWARD WEEK-BY-WEEK**

Forward week by week after the 8:00 A.M. service is a chance for participants to meet and discuss the morning’s sermon, a scripture reading, Christian culture and tradition, or even an entire book in our bible. Lay-lead by volunteers, this forum gives the presenter great latitude to present and guide a discussion about a relevant Christian topic. Participants enjoy fellowship and share their knowledge and spirituality with one another.

Dawn Ivy

**WEDNESDAY EUCHARIST**

Each Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m. Rev. Maggie conducts a healing Eucharist in the Chapel of Heavenly Rest. This service includes a time of discussion on the upcoming lectionary text or any special text appointed for a feast day. Those attending are invited to comment on the text after it is read, leading to interesting explorations. Incorporated into the Eucharist is a time for worshipers to be anointed for healing for themselves or on behalf of others.

Judy Johnson

**INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK**

Christ Episcopal Church members volunteered to cook for and serve dinners to over 350 guests at the Interfaith Hospitality Network. The shelter was a blessing to many families throughout 2018. Many nights the shelter was full to capacity and IHN had to board some guests at a local hotel. This is the first year I can remember filling to-go boxes for IHN guests at the hotel.  It is a wonderful way for CEC to bond with other members of our community. There are a loyal group of volunteers who cook and serve food on a regular basis at IHN. However, it is a ministry that needs more volunteers.

Lori Swafford

**SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL**

During the program year, the members of the class looked more deeply at the texts of the lectionary offerings. Beginning in fall, Rev. Maggie sometimes combined the middle school and high school classes for conversation. We concluded 2018 with a short video by Presiding Bishop Michael Curry on the Way of Love. Members of the class each have a day of the week especially devoted to prayer for them and are encouraged to pray for one another. Judy Johnson and Deacon Rick Incorvati facilitate the class.

Judy Johnson

**SUNDAY SCHOOL NOTES**

On select Sundays in 2018, Chris Oldstone-Moore facilitated a Middle School class for 6th through 8th graders. I led combined (middle and high school together) classes on various topics, including adapted Lectio Divina/Scripture journaling on the Psalm of the Day.

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**CLARK COUNTY LITERACY COALITION**

The total contribution for 2018 was $98.50, thanks to all our "penny savers" in

the parish (also nickel, dime, and other savers!). Anytime you have a contribution, please drop it in the collection plate marked for my attention, or leave with Kelly in the office. Many thanks!

Dodi Holmes

**OUTREACH FUNDING**

Every year, a portion of the budget at Christ Church supports various ministries in our community and around the world. In 2018, $8,150 from the operational budget supported these efforts:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Children's Rescue Center/The Ark | $1,000 |
| Clark County Literacy Coalition | $1,000 |
| Episcopal Community Services Foundation | $1,000 |
| Interfaith Hospitality Network | $   250 |
| Partners in Ministry in Liberia (sponsoring 2 kids) | $   500 |
| Project Woman | $   250 |
| Rainbow Table | $   500 |
| Seminary Support (Bexley-Seabury) | $   500 |
| Springfield Farmer's Market (food subsidy program)  | $   900 |
| Springfield Peace Center | $1,000 |
| The Fuller Center for Housing | $1,000 |
| YMCA | $   250 |
| **Sub Total** | **$8,150** |

An additional $4,000 came from Outreach Discretionary Funds and supported these ministries:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Freedom School – Covenant United Methodist Church | $1,000 |
| Neighborhood Fair (without 2nd hand giveaways) | $500 |
|  Shawnee Apartments (needs assessment underway) |  $2,500   |

The Rev. Rick Incorvati

**CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL: THE LEGO CLASS**

Throughout 2018, we explored the Bible using Legos. Each class begins with the reading of a Bible story, then the class discusses the story while using Legos to explore the text. As appropriate the class either: retells the story, or part of the story, using Legos; expands on the story, offering what was “left out;” participates in the story, through creative addition. As the class attendance varies, we seek to work with the story in a way that allows for the greatest level of engagement. For instance, our nativity sets were displayed in the Guild Room through the latter part of advent (you may have noticed Chewbacca present at Christ's birth with the shepherds). We have done reenactments, especially from the stories of 1 and 2 Samuel, with beloved recreations of Goliath. We also devised a variety of alternative plagues that perhaps could have better convinced Pharaoh to let God's people go free!

Jon Leidheiser-Stoddard

**SUNDAY ADULT FORUM**

The Adult Forum meets every Sunday, September through May, after the 10:00 am worship service. Parishioners are encouraged to come downstairs, enjoy some coffee hour refreshments and conversation, and then join the Adult Forum in the Parish Hall. We covered a wide variety of topics in 2018: *Lectio Divina* sessions led by Pat Cary, guest speaker presentations including Paul Weber of the Springfield YMCA and Dottie McNeil and Eric Mata from McKinley Hall, video discussions facilitated by Fred Bartenstein, Biblical exegesis led by Judy Johnson, and many more! I led sessions on Anglican history in western Africa, Gospel texts concerning divorce, and "Bible Belt Atheism." Discussions were always lively and wide-ranging.

The Rev. Maggie Leidheiser-Stoddard

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**NECROLOGY FOR 2018**

 Ruth Ann Karsten February 1st, 2018

 Cornelia Lou "Toni" Goble February 16th, 2018

 Lisa Jenkins April 27th, 2018

 Suzanne Faris October 18th, 2018

**The Collect for All Saint's Day**

"Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one
communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son
Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints
in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those
ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love
you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy
Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen."*

(The *Book of Common Prayer*, page 245)