



The

# Clarion

Volume 29, Issue 2, February 2025

A Monthly Publication

## ANNUAL MEETING



FEBRUARY 23, 2025

The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church will be held on Sunday, February 23rd between the 8 am and 10 AM services in the Parish Hall. All members of Christ Church age 16 and older are asked to be present for this once-a-year meeting.

**Who can vote?** According to the Canons of the Episcopal Church, voting members are those who are members of Christ Church and at least 16 years old, regular in worship, faithful in giving, and active in the ministry of the Parish.

**Thank you to the Nominating Committee:** Scott Yeazell, Steve Sharp, Lori Swafford, Joy Meyers, and Bill Hicks, and ex officio member The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard. Here is the slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting:

### At-Large Vestry Members (3-year term):

1. Kay Koeninger
2. Beth Deger
3. David Bingman

**Senior Warden** - Joyce Spangler

**Jr. Warden** – TBD—See Rev. Michelle if you are interested.

### Convention Delegates

The four delegates representing Christ Church at the Diocesan Convention this fall are Kay Koeninger, Diane Rode, Brian Shelburne and Steve Sharp. The 151st annual Convention of the Diocese of Southern Ohio will be held November 14-15, at the Champion Mill Conference Center at Spooky Nook in Hamilton, Ohio.

### Annual Report Articles Reminder

If you were contacted to provide an article for the Annual Report, please submit them to Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com by **February 2nd**. Thank you!



**Sun. 2/2** Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Adult Forum

**Wed. 2/5** PANTRY: food delivery @ 8:30 AM

**Thurs. 2/6** Virtual Noonday Prayer Service

**Sun. 2/9** Bishop's Visitation @ 8 & 10:00 Services; Children's Chapel @ 10 AM; Adult Forum with the Bishop

**Thurs. 2/13** Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; PANTRY: food bagging @ 9 AM; Vestry Meeting @ 6 PM

**Sun. 2/16** Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Children's Chapel @ 10 AM; Adult Forum; Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

**Mon. 2/17** Office Closed

**Wed. 2/19** PANTRY DAY 8:15 AM

**Thurs. 2/20** Virtual Noonday Prayer Service; Game Night @ Cohatch and State Theater, 6-8 PM

**Sun. 2/23** Worship @ 8 & 10 AM; Annual Meeting @ 9:00 AM



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Office: 937/323-8651  
www.ChristSpringfield.org

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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in the Diocese of Southern Ohio

**Bishop:**

The Rt Rev. Kristin Uffelman White

**Rector:**

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

**Senior Warden:**

Scott Yeazell

**Junior Warden:**

Steve Sharp

**Treasurer:**

Ken Bladh

**Program Director and  
Parish Administrator:**

Kelly Zeller

**Music Director:**

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

**Facility Manager:**

Paul McAfee

**Bookkeeper:**

Tina Knox

**Nursery Attendant:**

Madison Smith



The Episcopal Church, as part of the Anglican Communion, sometimes likes to refer to itself as a “middle ground,” or *via media*, between extremes of religious thought. When the Church of England first broke from the Roman Catholic Church in the mid-16<sup>th</sup> Century, Anglican theologians sought a middle way between Lutheranism and Calvinism. Soon, it became viewed as a middle way between Puritanism and Catholicism. Over time, the phrase has been adapted to fit all kinds of theological controversies. But it helps to remember why this exists. In seminary, my dean quoted a respected theologian to say something like “we seek the *via media*, not as a mushy middle compromise between two extremes, but because that is where the greatest depth is to be found.” It’s like a river, the dean said, which is usually shallowest at the edges.

Full disclosure – I’ve looked for that quote, and never been able to find it. He said it during chapel one morning, so I couldn’t really take notes at the time... But I remember it, because I’ve often found it true.

Much of what we do can be explained by this *via media*, or an appreciation of both/and in daily life. Take worship, for example, most Sundays we celebrate with a combination of both Word and Sacrament – recognizing the importance of hearing Scripture and interpretation (including through music) and also celebrating God’s presence in Eucharist. Some days, I find I really need one, some days, the other. We try to offer both/and.

In the Episcopal Church, this *via media* also plays out in our leadership and governance. On the one hand, we believe that the Holy Spirit guides each of us. Any member of the Church – lay or ordained – can help discern where God may be calling us to minister. And, in fact, many of the best ministries have come about when individuals answered God’s call to love their neighbors.

At the same time, we also recognize the need to stay grounded, and not let ourselves be too swayed by personalities or whims. One of the many reasons we have bishops is to retain our connection to the rich collection of wisdom and tradition of our Church. Bishops (and their staffs) can provide resources and guidance and keep us

(continued on p. 3)



The Church Office will be closed on **2/17** for **Presidents Day**. Please plan accordingly.

*Michelle's Musings, Continued)*

from going astray. And, while they are often seen as being conservative, they can also encourage congregations to try something different. We enjoy both the ability to discern our own way, and the guidance of those with more wisdom and training.

This month, we will have the opportunity to experience the breadth of the "both/and" leadership. On February 9, Bishop White will visit our parish. Bishops are required to visit all of their parishes at least once every three years. She will spend the day with us – leading worship, preaching, and celebrating Eucharist. She will also stay for coffee hour and lead an adult forum. Among other things, she will talk about her new initiative – the College for Congregational Development – which will strengthen congregations for ministry across Southern Ohio.

Two weeks later, we will hold the annual meeting of our parish. This marks our opportunity to gather as a congregation, review the work of Christ Church, and select new leaders to guide that work for the coming years. It is our opportunity to listen to the Holy Spirit in each of us and respond to the needs of the community around us.

I've been in a fair bit of conversation with other Springfield-area clergy lately, and some of them have been confused by our ways of making decisions. The both/and nature of the Episcopal Church can make things seem complicated. But I find that they can also lead to far greater depth. I hope you will be able to experience both sides of our both/and governance this month.

See you soon!

*Michelle+*



**"Time" by Henry Van Dyke**

**Time is**

**too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who  
rejoice.**

**But for those who love,  
time is eternity.**



The Rt. Rev. Kristin Uffelman White will visit Christ Church for a special day of reflection and fellowship on February 9th at the 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Bishop White will lead a forum on the new Diocesan Mission and the College for Congregational Development following the 10 a.m. service and learn about how the Diocese will help equip our parishes. We encourage all community members to join us for this occasion to welcome and connect with our Bishop.



**Worship...** Offering meaningful, relevant, and welcoming worship in the Episcopal tradition for people of all ages.

**Watch Us on YouTube**

- 1) Open the YouTube app on your smart TV.
- 2) Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. A list will appear at the left of the screen. If you type *Christ Episcopal*, our church will not appear on the list.
- 3) Select Christ Church Springfield, about the third one down. That's all there is to it!

**February Children's Chapel Services** will be offered on **Feb. 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>**. We meet at the start of the 10 AM service in the chapel on the lower level, down the hall from the nursery. We are using the lectionary-based Spark Program that reinforces the day's lectionary lesson and includes a fun activity. The service takes 15–20 minutes. The children then go upstairs to the service or return to the nursery.

**African Bible Study**

Sacred Reading (Lectio Divina) or African Bible Study is a group meditative approach through which members gain confidence in their Christian faith from Holy Scripture. To learn more or to receive the link, please contact Pat Cary at [sisterpcocd2@hotmail.com](mailto:sisterpcocd2@hotmail.com), Keith Doubt at [kdoubt@gmail.com](mailto:kdoubt@gmail.com), or Kay Koeninger at [kaydavid7485@att.net](mailto:kaydavid7485@att.net)

**Virtual Thursday Noonday Prayer Services**

Judy Johnson offers a Noonday Prayer service on Christ Church's Facebook page each Thursday. ([facebook.com/christspringfield.org/](https://facebook.com/christspringfield.org/)) The text is located on p. 103 in the Book of Common Prayer or online at <https://www.bcponline.org>

Revised Common **LECTIONARY**

<b>February</b>				
<b>Date</b>	<b>First Lesson</b>	<b>Psalm</b>	<b>Second Lesson</b>	<b>Gospel</b>
Feb. 2	Malachi 3:1-4	84	Hebrew 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40
Feb. 9	Isaiah 6:1-8	138	1 Corinthians 15:1-11	Luke 5:1-11
Feb. 16	Jeremiah 17:5-10	1	1 Corinthians 15:12-20	Luke 6:17-26
Feb. 23	Genesis 45:3-11, 15	37:1-12,41-42	1 Corinthians 15:35-38, 42-50	Luke 6:27-38







Kathi Bladh .....Feb 3  
 Cameron McGregor .....Feb 8  
 Nancy McGregor .....Feb 23  
 Brian Drew .....Feb 23



### ONLINE GIVING

- Go to [christspringfield.org](http://christspringfield.org) or use the QR code at right.
- Go to the tab in the upper right-hand corner marked “Online Giving.”
- Click on the blue online giving link.
- Fill in the amount you want to give.
- Use the drop box **Pledged Giving** for a pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving.
- If you choose **Miscellaneous Giving**, choose giving type in the next drop box.
- Complete the rest of the form.
- Press “Continue.”
- On the next page, press “Continue.”
- Enter your **billing information**.
- Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com).



### 2025 Altar Flower Dedication Chart

If you would like to sponsor the Altar flowers for 2025 in memory of, thanksgiving for, or in celebration for someone or something, contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com). Please be specific in what or who you are dedicating the altar flowers, and if you have a particular choice of flower. Suggested donation is \$45.

June 29th  
 July 6th, 20th, and 27th  
 August 10th, 17th, and 31st  
 September 14th and 28th  
 October 5th and 26th  
 November 2nd, 9th, 16th, and 23rd

### Giving Statements

Giving statements have been mailed for tax purposes. If you didn’t receive yours, please contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com) or 937-323-8651. Thank you!

### Church Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Scott Yeazell
- **Jr. Warden:** Steve Sharp
- **Treasurer:** Ken Bladh
- **Clerk of Vestry:** Kelly Zeller
- **Program Director & Parish Administrator:** Kelly Zeller
- **Music Director:** Dr. Christopher Durrenberger
- **Facility Manager:** Paul McAfee
- **Bookkeeper:** Tina Knox
- **Nursery Attendant:** Madison Smith

### Your Vestry at Large

Rick Everingham, Bill Hicks, Joy Meyers, Anne Strothman, Lori Swafford, and Marjory Wentworth

## Vestry Highlights

### Highlights from the December 2024, meeting.

*Vestry Highlights are published after minutes are approved at the following month's meeting. Vestry minutes are posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.*

- The Nominating Committee met prior to the Vestry meeting to discuss possible candidates, which caused the Vestry meeting to start twelve minutes late. The following positions need filled: Senior Warden, Jr. Warden, and three at Large Vestry members.
- The Vestry meeting began with a reading from the Gospel of John and the Collect for The Feast of St. Lucy by Rev. Michelle.
- **Treasurer's Report**-Ken stated that a detailed Treasurer's report of
  - actual 2024 spending and revenue will be provided at the January Vestry meeting.
  - **Jr. Warden's Report**-Steve Sharp reported that the fence is at the paint shop and should be installed in the next few weeks. Also, approximately \$55,000 of masonry work is needed for the Hollenbeck House. The Vestry will need to be thinking about these repairs in the future.
  - **Senior Warden:** Scott reported that the Davis Video unit had to be returned to the manufacturer to replace the circuit board. It has been repaired and is on its way back to Springfield. The AED Defibrillator located in the church has an expired battery and pads. Scott ordered the replacements, but they are on backorder. As soon as they restock, he will replace them.
  - The 2025 budget: After a discussion the 2025 budget was approved.
  - The Rector's housing allowance was approved.



## February Adult Forum

**This month, you got questions, we got answers! A month of different opportunities.**

**Feb. 2 - informal Q&A with the rector about the Bishop's visit.** This is your chance to ask anything you ever wanted to know about the Bishop's visit, including: What does a Bishop do, anyway? Why does the Bishop do confirmations? What's new at Diocesan House and why should we care? Or anything else that's on your mind.

**Feb. 9 - Bishop White will lead a forum on the new Diocesan Mission as well as the College for Congregational Development.** Learn about how the Diocese will help equip our parishes.

**Feb. 16 - Preparing for the Annual Meeting** - here's your chance to meet some of the candidates standing for office at our annual meeting. This is also a chance to review our proposed change to the parish constitution and ask questions about our budget and other items. Don't miss your chance to learn more about the life of our parish!

**Feb. 23rd - No Adult Forum. Annual Meeting at 9 AM**



**Hospitality...welcoming, nurturing, and supporting the members of our parish and greater community.**



All are welcome to join the We Should Do Something Group! We meet at different locations once a month to play a variety of board and card games. This month we are trying something different: **Trivia Night at The State Theater on Thursday, Feb. 20.** Some may want to have dinner at COhatch (101 S Fountain Ave, Springfield, OH) at 6:00; but if you just want to join the trivia team, meet us at COhatch by 6:45 and we'll all head over together. *(Note: they do not have food at the State; but you are welcome to bring your own).* Trivia Night begins at 7:00, so don't be late! If you have questions, contact Rev. Michelle at [mboomgaard@christspringfield.org](mailto:mboomgaard@christspringfield.org)



If you like to make soup *and* nurture others, this is the ministry for you! We need homemade soup brought to the church in a disposable container with the type of soup and date written on the lid, then placed in the church refrigerator. Then, let Kelly Zeller know that you have dropped off the soup. The soup will be used for people in the parish needing a little TLC. If you have any questions, please contact Kelly Zeller at [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com). Thank you so much for considering helping with this ministry!

## Check THIS Out!

Christ Church's Judy Johnson has a website with three blogs! Find them at

<https://judyjohnsonwrites.weebly.com/>



If the Clark County Sheriff calls a Level 2 snow emergency, Christ Church is closed. If Christ Church has to close on a Sunday, we will send out an email via Newsnote, post it on Channel 7, and put it on the Church's Facebook page and Website. Whatever the snow emergency level, use your best judgement to be safe.

## Alternative Christmas Market

Thank you to those who supported the Food Pantry and to Kelly Zeller who attended and answered questions about the pantry at the Covenant Presbyterian Church's Alternative Christmas Market. We received **\$1000.00** in donations for Christ Church Food Pantry!





## Have You Us Yet???

(A Monthly Column About New and Returning Christ Church Members)

### Steve and Gloria Heine



Thank you for being a welcoming congregation and particularly thank Michelle for taking the time to visit with us, answering our many questions and making us feel very welcome.

We are both lifelong Lutherans and very much appreciate the traditions and liturgy of Christ Church and find the music in this parish to be something very special. We truly feel at home here and find your leadership and worship to be uplifting.

We chose Springfield not only because, as Wittenberg alumni, we are familiar with Springfield, but also because our grandchildren are here, along with their parents, of course!

Upon retirement, Steve as a lawyer and Gloria as an assistant professor at Ohio University, we moved here from Cambridge, Ohio. Steve was born in Indianapolis and grew up in Fort Wayne where his dad was a Lutheran pastor and vice-president of his synod. Gloria grew up in northeastern Ohio, Lyndhurst and Chagrin Falls, where her family were also active Lutherans.

We met as students at Wittenberg 60 years ago, almost to the date. Steve was a Political Science major and active in the Lambda Chi fraternity, and after a stint with the Air Force including a year in Vietnam, completed his Juris Doctor degree at Case Western Reserve in Cleveland. Gloria was a French major and a member of the Wittenberg Choir at and later completed her Masters in Computer Science at OU.

Our children also graduated from Wittenberg – 3<sup>rd</sup> generation! Our son Robert, who lives in Traverse City and San Antonio, was a Management major, and our daughter Christina, who lives here in Springfield, was a Sociology major.

Steve enjoys fishing and serving as an armchair coach to the Browns, Cavaliers, and Guardians. Gloria likes to putter in the yard in the summer and serve as a part-time chauffeur to our grandchildren during the school year as well as being on the losing end for most of the board games and card games the grands like to play!

One final note – we have a beautiful dog, Bramley, who is a Golden – Lab mix. He is rather large, but we call him a big lug, if you remember the phrase from old movies. He was trained as a 4-Paws service dog in Xenia, but he didn't quite make the cut. Bramley is our Fabulous Flunky. Gloria and Bramley visit schools and other facilities where being able to pet and hug a dog is good therapy.







**Outreach...** helping to provide the physical, material, social, and spiritual needs in Springfield and beyond

A big **THANK YOU!** to all the pantry volunteers! At the January Food Pantry, we served over a 275 clients despite the frigid weather! We adapted the distribution process to ensure that most volunteers could work indoors. Clients were offered a variety of items, including chicken, hamburger, sausage, salmon, beef, chili, tomato soup, peanut butter, jelly, cereal, canned goods, as well as extras like toilet paper, pet food, and toiletries. The clients are always grateful, and volunteers have a good time! Please contact **Brian Shelburne** [bshelburne@wittenberg.edu](mailto:bshelburne@wittenberg.edu) **Kelly Zeller** [zellerk0611@gmail.com](mailto:zellerk0611@gmail.com) or **Anne Randolph** [annejranda@aol.com](mailto:annejranda@aol.com) to volunteer.

**The February Pantry dates are listed below. Volunteers are needed to:**

- help pick up and unload food,
- help bag food, and
- help with customer service.

	Time	February
Food Delivery	8:30 AM	5
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	13
Pantry Day!	8:15 AM	19



Groceries are pre-bagged so that filled bags can be placed directly into client's cars on pantry distribution day. If you can commit a block of 3–4 hours on **Feb 13**, let **Brian**

**Shelburne** know. Most groceries should be bagged prior to Pantry day on **Feb 19**. Volunteers are needed to help unload food, pack food, and help with customer service starting at approximately 8:15 AM.



**Question:** What do the following items have in common? Toilet Paper, Pet Food, Cleaning Supplies, Laundry Detergent, and Personal Hygiene Products

**Answer:** These items are urgently needed by our Food Pantry clients, and none can be purchased with the SNAP card. We are the only Food Pantry that offers toilet paper, and arriving clients often ask if we have it that day.

The rising costs of pet food are particularly challenging for our senior clients who are on fixed incomes.

Additionally, laundry detergent, hygiene products, and cleaning supplies can be quite expensive, so clients are very grateful when we are able to distribute these items on pantry day.

Your contributions are greatly appreciated and make a significant difference in the lives of those we serve. Thank you!

## Central Christian Church Food Trailer Ministry



Central Christian  
Church  
Food Trailer Team

A little bit about Central Christian Food Truck Ministry. Our team begins early every Thursday morning in the church kitchen preparing a hot meal to be served to those in need at the vacant lot across from the Springfield Food Pantry. Well, actually, it begins before Thursday as team members plan a menu and obtain the supplies needed for it. Our meals range from hamburgers and fries, breakfast casserole, Italian dishes to beef and noodles over mashed potatoes, and there's always a dessert, cobblers and brownies being favorites. While in the kitchen volunteers are busy cooking, down the hall in the clothing room volunteers are sorting donated clothing, blankets, towels for distribution, assembling hygiene kits and making sure there are socks, underwear, hats and gloves available.

*Central Christian Church Food Trailer Ministry is just one of the organizations Christ Episcopal Church supports through our outreach funds. Our outreach budget is supported by the pledges of every member of our parish. Your pledge makes a difference, in Christ Church and Springfield!*



# SAVE THESE DATES!!



**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper with entertainment** will be held on **March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025** in the Parish Hall. Watch the weekly Newsnote for more details!



## **Ash Wednesday Services on March 5th, 2025**

Ash Wednesday is the Holy Day that begins the penitential season of Lent in preparation for Easter. Christ Church will offer an Ash Wednesday Service at 7 pm which will include the imposition of ashes and Holy Eucharist.