



The

Clarion

Volume 30, Issue 10, October 2026

A Monthly Publication



Welcome to our Plenty Good Room season of stewardship! Over these next 4 weeks, we'll reflect on God's abundance and our call to make space for all. There is room for EVERYONE at God's table.

Each Sunday you will hear speakers connecting your pledge support to our four cornerstones: Worship, Outreach, Education, and Hospitality. Adult Forums will focus on the stewardship theme.

Pledge packets will be mailed to you. We ask that you return your pledge cards by Sunday October 25th. This can be done by bringing them with you to church on Sundays and placing them in the offering plate or by mailing them to the church office. A blessing and celebration of all our gifts will take place on Christ the King Sunday, November 22nd.

Our parish is a place of belonging - a community where each person matters, and each gift is needed. Together we are the body of Christ.

Thank you to Liz Wheeler for her hard work on the Stewardship Appeal!

Pledges

If you would like an update of what you have given thus far in fulfillment of your pledge for 2026, please email Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com for a statement.

OCTOBER

Happenings

Thurs. 10/1 Noonday Prayer

Sun. 10/4 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Children's Chapel @ 10 AM;
Blessing of the Pets @ 1 PM

Tues. 10/6 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Wed. 10/7 Pantry Food Delivery
@ 8:15 AM

Thurs. 10/8 Noonday Prayer;
Vestry @ 6 PM

Sun. 10/11 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Children's Chapel @ 10 AM

Mon. 10/12 Office Closed for
Indigenous People's Day

Tues. 10/13 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Thurs. 10/15 Pantry bagging @ 9
AM; Noonday Prayer

Sun. 10/18 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM;
Oakwood Service @ 1 PM

Tues. 10/20 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Wed. 10/21 Pantry Day @ 8:30 AM

Thurs. 10/22 Noonday Prayer

Sat. 10/24 Dinner Church @ 6 PM

Sun. 10/25 Worship @ 8 & 10 AM

Tues. 10/27 Lectio Divina @ 1 PM

Thurs. 10/29 Noonday Prayer

**Looking ahead to Sunday,
November 1**

Day of Change (don't forget to "fall
back"!)

All Saint's Day with Baptisms

The Clarion

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Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



Christ Episcopal Church
in the Diocese of Southern Ohio



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Rector:

The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard

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Junior Warden:

Steve Sharp

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Parish Administrator:**

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Music Director:

Dr. Christopher Durrenberger

Facility Manager:

Paul McAfee

Bookkeeper:

Tina Knox

Nursery Attendant:

Madison Smith



On Stewardship and Downton Abbey

Don't skip this article!

Many people, I know, avoid church during the annual stewardship campaign. And, I suspect, many might be inclined to bypass this article. They don't want to talk about money. Good news! I'm not going to talk about money, either. I'm going to talk about Downton Abbey.

Most of us have seen some version of Downton Abbey, whether it was the television series on PBS, or one of the follow-up movies. But, if you think about it, the entire series, especially the television serial, concerned stewardship. The question arose in the very first episode – as Lord and Lady Grantham pondered how they could keep their grand estate within their family, since they had no male heir. Each successive season brought new challenges and questions, often centered around stewardship: how to adapt to modern innovations, including hairstyles, telephones and motorcars; how to acknowledge the loyal contributions of staff in a world that increasingly sought legal protections instead of Lord Crawley's noblesse oblige; and, yes, how to adapt the financial model of the estate to the modern economy. (Sorry – there was a little money talk there!)

Throughout the entire series, what came through was the way that Lord and Lady Crawley, and the senior staff of Carson, Mrs. Hughes, and Mrs. Pattmore loved the life they had at Downton Abbey. They wanted to preserve it for generations to come. Not just for the benefit of the heirs of the Crawleys, but they see the way of life itself as noble and worthwhile. That underlies their stewardship of the entire place.

That kind of love usually underlies any kind of stewardship. For example, when we talk about the stewardship of creation (which we did a lot in September), we're talking about the ways in which we love our environment, which leads us to want to preserve it – including native species, clean air, and breathtaking natural areas – so future generations can experience it, too. And, when we do stewardship well at Christ Church, we begin by sharing the love we have for this place, and the way this place makes God's love known throughout the county. We think about the ways in which – like Downton Abbey – the life we have through this place offers worthwhile benefits. And, when we are good stewards, we also reflect the ways in which we must change with the times, adapt to new realities and new needs, just as they did on that fictional television program.

(continued on p. 3)



The Church Office will be closed on October 12th for Indigenous People's Day. Please plan accordingly!

(Michelle's Musings, continued)

Throughout this newsletter, there are notes of stewardship. Not just in the actual article by our stewardship chair. But, look for reflections from members of Christ Church on how their lives have been transformed (and the value of that); and ways in which parishioners share of their time, talent, and treasure (and vacuum cleaners!) to benefit others.

We may not live on a glorious estate in England (with lovely golden retrievers as companions), but we are incredibly blessed to be part of Christ Church. As you read through this newsletter, I hope you'll agree.

In Your Own Words: Transformation

"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God" – Romans 12:2

We read this passage in church on Sunday, August 23. As part of our worship, I asked those in the congregation to reflect on the ways that experiencing the love of God, particularly through the Church, has transformed their lives for the better. I invited people to try to summarize that transformation into a few words, almost like an advertising slogan. For example, I noted that when I was looking for a job right out of college (with no marketable experience), the world told me I was worthless. But, God and church told me I was precious!

A number of people shared their responses quite enthusiastically, so I thought you might all like to see what people wrote:

- *The world can make you feel less than you are. Church makes me feel more than I thought.*
- *Before, I was unsure. Now, I am contemplative.*
- *Before, I felt untethered. Now, I feel welcomed.*
- *I was new to town and seeking connection; now I am in community.*
- *Before, I felt shy. Now, I feel braver.*
- *I was deeply shy, but here I feel included, especially with music.*

- *Before, I felt out of place, and never good enough. Now, I feel unconditional loving acceptance.*
- *I had seen church as religious and legalistic; now I see a place that is aggressively welcoming.*
- *Before, I was uncertain. Now, I am willing to take risks.*
- *I was lost, but now I am at home.*
- *As a military brat, I was rootless; but now I am rooted in a caring Christian community.*

There were a number of others who wrote about what Christ Church meant to them. We'll include those in a later issue.

These glimpses of transformation remind us that Christ Church has a lot to offer. We can keep it going, not just through our gifts to this parish, but by sharing our stories of transformation with others.



Please join us on October 25th as we welcome Sarah and Abhinav Jones's new daughter, Madeleine!

To celebrate the new arrival, after the 10:00 service we'll have cake in the Guild Room and then gather in the Parish Hall for a low-key shower. (None of that "guess what this baby food is" kind of stuff!). Sarah has shared that Madeleine wears size 0-3 months (long sleeve bodysuits would be great with approaching colder weather) and size 1 diapers. They also would appreciate books or small toys.

No matter whether you bring a gift, please come and help us celebrate our newest parish member!



Birthdays

Juanita Artis	Oct 6
Lexie Boblitt	Oct 6
Anne Strothman	Oct 18
Diane Rode	Oct 18
Judy Roby	Oct 26
Gloria Heine	Oct 29

Anniversaries

Jamie & Cameron McGregor	Oct 6
Dan & Judy McGregor	Oct 12
Don & Liz Wheeler	Oct 18



Join us in the Guild Room at 6 PM on Saturday **October 24th**. We'll start the evening with prayers and song, have a conversation about Scripture, and finish with Evening Prayer or Compline. Afterward, everyone shares in the work of cleaning up. Want to know more? Contact Rev. Michelle at mboomgaard@christspringfield.org

Future Dates: Saturday, Nov. 21 @ 6 PM
Dinner Church will take a break in December.

ONLINE GIVING

Christ Church has an option for online giving through the church's website.

- Go to christspringfield.org or use the QR code
- 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 wish to give
- Next, choose either **Pledged Giving** for a Pledge or **Miscellaneous Giving** for other giving
- Complete the rest of the form
- Press **Continue**
- Enter your billing information



Thank you! If you have questions or concerns, contact Kelly Zeller at zellerk0612@gmail.com.



SAVE THE DATE

Concerts at Christ Church Series 2 starts on Sunday November 22, 2026 at 3:00 PM. Callisto Quartet from Columbus collaborates with our own Christopher Durrenberger on a pair of Piano Quartets by Brahms and Mozart. For more information about Callisto Quartet, visit www.callistoquartet.com





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



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



Please remember to make a name tag in the East Entrance prior to each Sunday service. As the number of guests increases in the summer months, we would like church members to wear nametags to make our guests feel welcome and show our approachability!



Here's how to watch our services on YouTube: First, open the YouTube app on your smart TV.

- Go to "Search." Enter *Christ Church Springfield*. As you enter *Christ Church Spr*, a list will appear on the left side of the screen. Do **NOT** type *Christ Episcopal*. If you do, our church will not appear on the list.
- Select *Christ Church Springfield*, about the third one down. That's it!



Revised Common LECTIONARY



October

Date	First Lesson	Psalm	Second Lesson	Gospel
Oct. 4	Isaiah 5:1-7	80:7-14	Philippians 3:4b-14	Matthew 21:33-46
Oct. 11	Isaiah 25:1-9	23	Philippians 4:1-9	Matthew 22:1-14
Oct. 18	Isaiah 45:1-7	96:1-13	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10	Matthew 22:15-22
Oct. 25	Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18	1	1 Thessalonians 2:1-8	Matthew 22:34-46



Calling all Christ Episcopal Church singers!

Come one come all
for good fellowship
and music making
with the Christ

Church adult choir commencing **Sunday, September 13th at 9 AM.** No tryouts are required. All are welcome to join! Contact Chris Durrenberger at cdurrenberger@wittenberg.edu for more information.

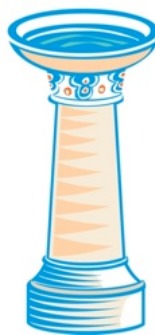
Lectio Divina ~ a new day!

Lectio Divina, AKA African Bible study meets **Tuesdays at 1 PM.** Each week, we select the Lectionary reading for the forthcoming Sunday in preparation for Sunday's worship. We adapt a meditative, structured approach, taking turns to listen and to speak. The discipline encourages listening and self-reflection and discourages cross talk. We meet online and can send you the link before the gathering. If you have questions, contact Keith at keithdoubt@123mail.org or talk with him at church. We hope you consider joining us.



Bring your human
and non-human
family members for
this simple service of
thanks and blessing
for the beautiful
diversity of God's
creatures on

Sunday, October 4th, at 1 PM, in the Parking lot!



Baptisms Scheduled for November 1st

The next opportunity for children and/or adults to be baptized at Christ Church will be Sunday, November 1st, which is the Sunday after All Saints' Day. This is one of four specific days set aside for baptisms according to

the *Book of Common Prayer*. Holy Baptism is one of the two great sacraments of the Gospel, given by Christ to his Church (along with the Holy Eucharist).

A pre-baptismal counseling session with the priest is required; so if you, or a member of your family, are considering baptism, contact Rev. Michelle in a timely fashion at mboomgaard@christsspringfield.org. And if you are unsure about baptism but would like to know more, just let her know!



Children's Chapel Services for ages 2 through 6 will take place on October 4th and 11th! We meet in the Chapel on the church's lower level at the start of the 10 AM service, down the aisle from the nursery. Each Sunday that we meet in the Chapel, when the sermon upstairs has concluded, an usher will get the children and me, and they will have the wonderful opportunity to take the gifts up to the Altar.



Vestry Highlights from the September 10th, 2026 meeting. Vestry Highlights are published after the minutes have been approved at the following month's Vestry meeting. A copy of the Vestry minutes is posted on the bulletin board in the entryway of the Guild Room.

The Vestry meeting began with Rev. Michelle reading the Collect for Labor Day.

August Email Voting

- **Tuesday August 4th, 2026 - email vote/parking lot study.** Steve Sharp moved to hire Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. to conduct a pavement study, with costs not to exceed \$1,500. This was to assess what may be under the areas of the parking lot showing some settling to ensure that there are no old basements or settling foundations and that we have a solid foundation underneath the parking lot prior to repaving next year. Joyce Spangler seconded it. Motion carried.
- **August 17th, 2026 – email vote/audit report.** Ken Bladh emailed the parish audit completed by Clark, Shaffer, and Hackett on August 14th, 2026. After a 3-day period to allow for questions, Joyce Spangler moved that the Vestry approve the Audit Report via electronic vote, as agreed by the Vestry at the July meeting. Diane Rode seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Rector's Report.

- Rev. Michelle reported on her trips to the Immigration Office in Cleveland with Haitian immigrant parishioners, clarifying that they are members of the church and primarily attend the 10 am service.
- She mentioned that her exploration of Wi-Fi phones proved more complicated than anticipated and plans to revisit the issue next year after Lent.

- The Financial Vision Task Force concluded that hiring external help for any campaign is not a viable option for CEC at this time and will present a report to the Vestry soon.
- Rev. Michelle also informed the Vestry about a Flock Camera installed on church property without permission. A motion was made and carried to send a letter to the City Manager requesting its removal.

Jr. Warden's Report by Steve Sharp.

- Steve reported that tuck pointing is nearly complete, and they have replaced a dozen of the louvers. He also reported that the doorknockers from the East Entrance and hardware from the Chapel exterior door were stolen in mid-August. He will look into replacing the hardware. Additionally, Geotechnical Consultants, Inc. conducted a core drill in the driveway and parking lot, and it will be appropriate to repave in 2027.
- We received two quotes for replacing vandalized air conditioning units: Hauck Bros. for \$10,014 (including security cages) and Delong Air for \$9,250. Vestry voted to go with Hauck Bros. and cover the expense from category 4.

Ken Bladh's Presentation on 2027 Budget Assumptions for Vestry Consideration.

"The 2027 Christ Church operational budget will be aspirational in scope and designed to focus primarily on our attainment of the parish cornerstones (*Worship, Hospitality, Education, and Outreach*).

The structure of the 2027 budget follows the pattern of allocations of recent previous years with adjustments informed by actual spending in 2026 and estimates of likely inflation-related increases in 2027 (notably in employee benefits, property insurance, utilities, Supply Priests, contract workers). The parish food pantry operates under a separate budget. An accompanying graphic analysis shows how this budget is divided among the parish cornerstones.

The revenue to pay for budget expenses comes from (1) annual pledged contributions, (2) unpledged undesignated gifts, (3) free-will offerings at worship services and some parish events, (4) fees from the use of parish facilities by outside groups, and (5) revenue and realized capital gains from the parish endowment. Although a past parish financial practice, loans from the endowment or other lending institutions have not been used in recent years. Recent parish practice, also assumed for the 2027 budget, is to increase the use of endowment resources (item 5) when other expected sources fall short of budget expectations."

Ken provided a draft of a 2027 budget for discussion and adoption based on the above assumptions. The budget was in the form of the monthly P&L with changes from 2026 highlighted in green and costs as yet unknown in yellow. He underscored that a goal for the Pledge Appeal is listed in row 4000 on the bottom half of page 2. Ken shared a few graphs with Vestry that could be used for the Stewardship appeal. Joyce Spangler moved that we endorse the budget assumption narrative to be used as we move through the campaign. David Bingman

seconded. Motion carried. Diane Rode expressed her gratitude for all the effort Ken Bladh put into the budget. Thank you, Ken!

Rev. Michelle distributed a letter to the Vestry that she and Liz Wheeler wrote to send to the congregation for the Stewardship appeal. She would like to add a sentence underscoring that all Vestry members are fully committed to the pledge campaign. Rev. Michelle asked all Vestry members to email her their pledge intentions for 2027.

Other Business

- Rev. Michelle reported that average attendance in August was 36, including Dinner Church, the Oakwood Service, and Springfield Towers. Average attendance in 2025 was very close to that of 2026.
- Ken answered Diane and Fred's questions about his handout of the auditor's clarification of the two qualifications on the audit report for 2025.

Rev. Michelle closed the Vestry meeting a prayer. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 pm.



Church Staff

- **Rector:** The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard
- **Senior Warden:** Joyce Spangler
- **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

David Bingman, Beth Deger, Fred Bartenstein, Kay Koeninger, Diane Rode, and John Richardson



Laugh and Craft Group is on hiatus at the present time.

September Photo Gallery



Induction of Dan McGregor into the Society of Simeon and St. Anna- September 9th, 2026

You’rx nxxdxd!

Evxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works quitx wxll— xxcxpt for onx kxy. I havx many timxs wishxd it workxd pxrfectly. It’s trux that thx othxr kxys work grxat, but just onx kxy not working makxs a hugx diffxrxncx.

Somxtimxs our church sxxms likx my typxwritxr — not all thx kxy pxoplx work. You may say to yoursxlf, “Wxll, I’m just onx pxrson. I don’t makx or brxak thx church.” But it doxs makx a big diffxrxncx bxcausx a church, to bx xffxctivx, nxxds thx activx participation of xvxry pxrson.

So, thx nxxt timx you think your xfforts arxn’t nxcxssary, rxmxxbxx my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf, “I’m a kxy pxrson in thx congrxgation, and I’m nxxdxd vxry much.”



The Proctor Center donated fresh produce to the Food Pantry!



Adult Forum in October

As part of our stewardship theme of “Plenty Good Room,” our adult forum in October will offer brief intergenerational Bible studies on gratitude and God’s abundance.



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

Care Portal's Impact*

Hi! My name is Vic. Vic deVac. I'm a vacuum cleaner, and I used to have a pretty boring life with a family in your parish. My job was to be the "upstairs vacuum," to save the family the trouble of "dragging" my brother, the other vacuum cleaner, through the house. (My brother, Vince, insists that he doesn't need to be dragged anywhere!)

But, then the family decided to downsize. And so I sat, alone in storage for a while, and then got brought to Christ Church, waiting for a new home. Relaxing, sure, but I wanted to get out and clean things! I wasn't meant to just sit in a corner looking pretty!

Then, finally, the call came through CarePortal. (Or the computer message. Whatever. I don't do communications. I do cleanup.) There was a family. A mom with three kids, including a baby who was just learning to crawl. They had just gotten settled in a new place, and didn't have a lot of money for extras.

Finally, my chance to make a difference!

It seemed like forever before I finally got loaded into Michelle's car to go and meet the family. I didn't want to arrive empty-handed, so we got some diapers and wipes for the baby, too. It always pays to make a good first-impression, I say. But, the whole situation looks pretty good. The two older kids were at school when I arrived, but the baby is so cute! They were watching Bluey when I got there. I'll have to learn about

that—I think I'll be watching more of that, when I get a chance to rest. But, I don't think I'll be resting much. That little one looks fast! I'll have to stay on the move—one step ahead of her, so she doesn't grab some fluff off the carpet and stick it in her mouth.

I plan to tell my new family a little about Christ Church. They seem nice, but I think they could probably use a place where they could relax, listen to beautiful music, and hear that God loves them. They've been through a lot.

But for me, my quiet days of looking out the window are over now. I'm really looking forward to my next chapter.



*Note – Christ Episcopal Church participates in CarePortal, an online platform designed to connect families in need with churches that can help. It's a great way for us to meet some of our neighbors, and to begin a deeper relationship with them. If you'd like to participate in this ministry, talk to Rev. Michelle.



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

Pantry News

A big THANK YOU! to all the pantry volunteers! We were fortunate to have a solid group of volunteers, and the weather was perfect with no rain! The first walker arrived at 3 AM, followed by the first car that arrived at 4:30 AM. The pantry was quiet, with fewer people and less activity among our clients. In September, we provided clients with essential items including hamburgers, whole chickens, fish sticks, hot dogs and Coney sauce, peanut butter, jelly, canned meat, shelf milk, mac and cheese, pancakes and syrup, canned goods, produce, paper towels, laundry detergent, soap, diapers, feminine hygiene products, pet food, and toothpaste. We served 397 individuals.

A big thank-you to everyone who contributed toilet paper, pet food, ready-to-eat meals, and hygiene products; these items were distributed and greatly appreciated!

The September Drive-thru Food Pantry will be October 21st. Dates on which volunteers are needed are listed below.

Volunteers are needed to:

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

Event	Time	Oct.
Food Delivery	8:15 AM	7
Bagging Day	9:00 AM	15
Pantry Day!	8:30 AM	21

Please consider joining us if you have an hour or two to spare! To volunteer, contact Brian Shelburne at bshelburne@wittenberg.edu, Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, or Anne Randolph at annejrand@aol.com.

Toilet Paper, Pet Food, and Laundry Detergent!

What do these items have in common?



These are the three items most requested by clients, and none can be purchased with the SNAP card. We are

the only pantry that offers toilet paper, and the clients often ask when they first arrive if we have it that day. Pet



food, Laundry detergent and cleaning supplies are expensive items; client are very grateful when we have these items on distribution

day. Your contributions are greatly appreciated and really make a difference!! Thank you!

Socks and Underwear



Thank you for the generous donations of socks and underwear! The socks and underwear were donated to students in need at Fulton & Perrin Woods Elementary Schools, and Hayward Middle School. All schools expressed their deep gratitude.

Day of Change ~Sunday, November 1st

In the wee hours of Sunday, November 1st, the clocks “fall back” an hour. As we change our clocks, we collect our change (or dollars!) to make a change in the lives of those who are hungry. Bring your change to church that Sunday and it will be used to support the ministry of our Food Pantry, which provides food for close to 500 people each month.

All Saints’ Day November 1st, 2026

Please submit any names of family, friends, and loved ones that are deceased that you would like included in our Prayers of the People on All Saints’ Day by **October 18th**. You can submit names of your saints by emailing Kelly Zeller at zellerk0611@gmail.com, by dropping the names in the giving plate, or by mailing them to the Parish office at 409 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio 45505. Please include the information shown on the form below.

For All the Saints, November 1st, 2026

Your name: _____

Name of loved one(s): _____
