



# CHRIST CHURCH

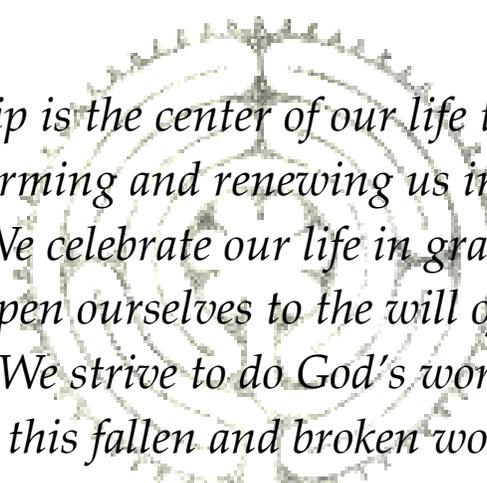
Montgomery Parish, Founded A.D. 1858

*Serving Christ and the Community for over 150 years.*

## **2016 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

*With  
Election of:  
Vestry Members  
2018 Council Delegates & Alternates*

**December 4, 2016  
The Second Sunday of Advent**



*Worship is the center of our life together,  
transforming and renewing us in Christ.  
We celebrate our life in grace.  
We open ourselves to the will of God.  
We strive to do God's work  
in this fallen and broken world.*



**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**P.O. Box 164, Blacksburg, Virginia 24063**

**Parish Office: (540) 552-2411      Facsimile: (540) 552-2534**

**Web site: [www.christchurchblacksburg.org](http://www.christchurchblacksburg.org)**

**The Right Reverend Mark A. Boursakos, Bishop**

**The Very Reverend Scott A. West, Rector**

**The Reverend Emily A. Lukanich, Curate**

**Ann Stith, Director of Christian Formation**

**Pamela Trent, Organist & Choirmaster**

**Debbie Burchard, Volunteer Parish Nurse**

**Susan Donckers, Volunteer Parish Nurse**

**Wardie J. Lovern, Sexton**

**Paula Williams, Office Manager**

**CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**The Second Sunday of Advent**  
**December 4, 2016**

- I. Opening Prayers
- II. Necrology: Randal D. Boone, Joseph Logan “Bud” Booze, Axtell Wilson Carder, The Rev. John Fowler Eberman
- III. Minutes of December 6, 2015 Annual Meeting
- IV. Thanksgiving for those retiring from the Vestry: Chris Bartlett, Beth Kelsey, Christian Miller, and Rosemarie Payne
- V. Nominees for Vestry election: John Homer, Mike Marcolini, Ellie Sturgis, and Laura Weaver
- VI. Nominees for delegates election: Kathye Johnston, Bob Miller, Christine Parker, & Mark Wiley (alternate)
- VII. A Year in Review: Saints Among Us
- VIII. Special Thanks to the Rev. Emily Lukanich
- IX. Comments from Bishop Bourlakas
- X. Benediction and Adjournment

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
**ANNUAL REPORTS 2016**

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## Rector's Report

As November 2016 draws further to closing and I write this report after having had the amazing gift of a four week sabbatical, I've reflected on my time among you as rector of Christ Church, Montgomery Parish. We have been through some exciting and invigorating times in our faith journey together; we have also experienced great loss and sorrow. Most days our relationships as a congregation go well, but sometimes we have our moments of disagreement and hurtfulness. Church life is not immune to the varied facets of human life; after all the Church is a human institution, filled with sinners who are also saints at the same time. Yet we keep striving to usher in a bit of the Kingdom of God as we worship, serve others, study, and pray.

In reviewing what I have done over the past year, and as in years past, I will enumerate the various tasks that I completed. I hope it gives to anyone interested a small sense of the poignant, holy things I am privileged to do in ministry. Of course, sometimes what I do is not particularly holy or poignant: straighten the toys on the children's table in the commons; pick up litter in the church parking lot; shovel snow from the sidewalk; fill out diocesan paperwork. (Though admittedly the most ordinary of tasks can be holy work too.) I will say, however, that I feel a privilege and an honor in serving you as rector of this fine congregation. I have no doubts there have been times I have disappointed you, but I do hope you sense the love and dedication I have for each of you and this incredible work to which you have called me.

So, to the details of a year in the life of the rector of Christ Church. Since December 2015 through November 2016 I have done the following:

Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Sundays: 49

Sunday sermons: 24

Holy Day celebrations of the Holy Eucharist: 8

Holy Day sermons: 8

Other Celebrations of Holy Eucharist (for DOK and at Showalter) 17

Evensongs: 3

Pastoral Visits: 75, 14 of which included private Holy Communion; 3 Ministrations at the Time of Death, and 1 pre-marital counseling session.

Baptisms: 2

Marriages: 2

Funerals: 4

House Blessing: 1

Canterbury Fellowship meetings: 17

Campus Ministry Committee meetings: 2

Helping Canterbury with Home Game Parking Lot duty: 2

Virginia Tech Interfaith Council meetings: 9 + 2 sessions of orientation at VT

Stewardship Committee meetings: 5 + 1 event

Education for Ministry: 29

Bible Study: 39

Staff Meetings: 27

I also led or co-led 9 adult forums, 5 Wednesday Lenten programs, taught 2 Sunday school classes, and attended 3 Men's Group meetings. Of course there were also special programs, help with yard sales, wardens' meetings, and other things.

In terms of diocesan involvement, I did the following: Dispatch of Business meetings (to plan Annual Council): 4 Commission on Ministry: 7 Phoebe Needles Camp Board meeting: 3 New River Convocation: 2 New River Clerics: 1 Clergy Quiet Day: 1 Fall Clergy Gathering

Also during the year, one of our Sunday's services was cancelled due to snow. Morning Prayer was read at both liturgies on the Sunday of Annual Diocesan Council. We worshipped at one service at 9:30 a.m. during the month of July. We hosted the British youth from the Bradford Youth Exchange in August. Becky McDaniel was ordained a deacon in May, and in June we hosted Dr. Amy Dyer from Virginia Theological Seminary for a Christian Education weekend. I hosted the Rev. Peter and Eileen Mayo-Smith from Harworth, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom for 10 days in September. I was blessed by the gift of a four-Sunday/five-week sabbatical (though 5 days of that sabbatical were committed and used for diocesan work) from October 18 through November 19. During that time I also attended the funeral of the Rev. Bob Thomas', one of the former rectors of Christ Church. Also I drove 2,181 miles for ministry purposes.

Our common life is rich, and many, many people make this common life possible. I want to thank especially the Rev. Emily Lukanich, our Curate. She has been my colleague in ministry, and I am most grateful to God, the Bishop, and this parish saw fit to call her here.

I am also very grateful for our staff: for Wardie, who does more around here than any of us know (except perhaps for Rosemarie); for Paula, who keeps many of those proverbial "balls in the air" and produces a considerable amount of verbiage per month; for Pam, who works diligently to keep our hearts, minds, and ears focused on God as the choirs sing and ring praises; for Susan and Debby, who work tirelessly in providing pastoral care to so many in our parish; to Ann, who keeps our Christian education program vibrant as well as our gardens; and to Jody, who works behind the scenes, keeping our website and publications, up-to-date, and particularly helps me to be part of 21st century technology. Without all of these fine folks, our parish and common life would be diminished.

Furthermore, thanks go to those retiring from the vestry: Chris Bartlett, Beth Kelsey, Christian Miller, and Rosemarie Payne. All of these folks have worked and served in a variety of ways: Chris led the effort to establish the Christ Church endowment and planned giving program; Beth worked faithfully; Christian worked behind the scenes along with his dad, Bob, in the nave and sanctuary restoration/renovation, and Rosemarie has served as Junior Warden accomplishing an incredible number of improvements to our church structures and parking lot. Certainly thanks too to Andrew Walker as Senior Warden; Jim & Kathye Johnston as treasurers, to Karen Iannaccone and Mike Sporakowski as receipts treasurers; to Holly Taylor Mitchell as clerk of the vestry, and to the other vestry members: Dick Dunford, Debby Hix, Kat Mills Polys, Ed Champion, Kitty Sims, Linwood Hudson, and Margaret Sharp, all of whom have taken on Ministries of their own, adding richness to our parish. Truly thanks can go to everyone at Christ Church, because each one of you adds a dimension to our journey in faith and this parish church that only each of you can. Thank you for the privilege and honor of serving as your rector.

Faithfully,  
The Rev. Scott A. West

## Curate

It has been a busy and exciting year for us here at Christ Church. We have examined our shared stories and continued to bless one another in service and worship. Liturgically, I have celebrated Eucharist 76 times and preached 77 times in the past year. I have not only celebrated Eucharist and preached here but also in Christiansburg, Wytheville, and Galax. I baptized two babies, officiated at 2 weddings and assisted Scott with 4 funerals. I have also assisted at 3 Evensongs, one Ecumenical Eucharist and participated in one Ordination. I had 72 pastoral visits over the course of the past year. We began the 2nd Sunday Suppers, which meet once monthly, for our young adults and their families. We have also begun to organize a Member Care Committee to help more people get involved in supporting other members of the parish. In Campus Ministry, we have been using a curriculum called Living Compass to help

focus our meetings. We have used this curriculum along with pop culture to examine where our faith intersects with our daily lives. During Lent, we organized a curriculum that focused us on “Being Part of the Story.” I helped our youth to interview and record parish members about their experiences of Christ Church. The group did over 30 interview and we have saved these for our own history as well as posting some of them on social media for the entire church to enjoy. I assisted Ann and Scott with the new Sunday School curriculum, Episcopal Children’s Curriculum. We invited Dr. Amy Dyer down to do a training during the summer.

I was the acting Rector during the month that Scott took his mini-sabbatical. During this time, I worked closely with the Wardens and the rest of the staff to ensure that things ran smoothly.

Finally, Chris, the boys and I want to thank you all for the love and support you have shown us over the past 2 ½ years. You have helped us learn how to be a family involved parish ministry. You will continue to be in our and thoughts and prayers.

Many Blessings,  
The Rev. Emily A. Lukanich

## **Christian Formation**

I am so happy to tell you that Christian Education is alive and well at Christ Church, Blacksburg. Children’s Chapel and Sunday School have committed and joyful teachers and helpers. Each week energetic kids stomp up the stairs or rush down the hallway to meet their friends and learn about God.

At the end of the hallway, Chapel welcomes children 3yrs- 2nd grade. Singing, movement and stories help these young ones build community and grow their faith. Each Sunday our Chapel Kids join all of us for Holy Communion in “big church”. We are so thankful for the dedicated adults who lead and corral.

Upstairs our Sunday school has classes for 3-5 year olds, 1st-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade and middle/high school. All are enthusiastic about our new curriculum developed by the Virginia Theological Seminary, “Episcopal Children’s Curriculum” and “Episcopal Youth Curriculum.” These curriculums follow our church year and offer a variety of ideas to serve many types of learners and leaders. Our adult leaders work tirelessly to build faith and friendship.

Attendance in Children’s Chapel and in Sunday School is steady and maybe even growing. Kids and youth are always welcome to bring friends.

This fall we offered a required training to help prevent child abuse. We are committed to keeping our kids safe. This training will be offered again soon at no charge to all interested adults. Interested? Keep an eye open for an announcement. Thinking about becoming involved in some way in Christian Education? Just ask Ann Stith, Margaret Sharp, or Scott.

Nursery Update: Christ Church offers nursery care for children ( infants to 4 yr. old) on Sundays from 9:15-11:45a.m. The Nursery workers are paid and are also required to attend an anti-child abuse training. Two adults are always on duty. Parents are asked to complete a nursery registration form and to update this information as needed. We love our babies!

Ann Stith, Director of Christian Formation

## Music Ministry

2016 has been a very eventful and music-filled year in the ministry of Christ Church. Our Adult Choir, Choristers Choir and Handbell Choirs continue to thrive, providing music for Sunday morning services, quarterly Evensong services, and other special services. If you are secretly thinking about how to ring a handbell or sing Anglican chant come and give choir a try!

Some highlights from 2016 include:

The year began with the pipe organ in it's last stage of completion. The soft opening, the Lenten side of the organ, happened mid-way through Lent. The piano moved back to the choir room just before Palm Sunday.

February 7th marked the dedication of the 5th octave of Malmark handbells given in celebration of the Hudson family and Kristin Keyer.

May 1st marked the dedication of the organ during Easter Evensong. All of the choirs participated.

Each of the Evensongs of this program year will feature an extended prelude in celebration of the organ. Marilyn Payne joined us on September 11th as a soloist and collaborator with the choir. We also celebrated Bert Kinsey's 95th birthday at the reception! It was fun for the choir to reminisce and catch up with Mayo-Smiths who were here visiting from Haworth.

Kelly Tennille Grooms joined us on October 30 for the inaugural organ recital. She offered a varied program of organ solos, psalms, hymns, chorale preludes and a very entertaining piece for organ and narrator entitled "A Pipe Organ Primer". Bob Miller served as narrator. Very informative and great fun!

On November 12 members of the Handbell choir once again went to Charlotte, NC for the Mid-Carolinas Handbell festival.

Special thank must be noted:

- Kristen Keyer for the beautiful gift of the 5th octave of Malmark handbells
- Betty Orndorff, Marilyn Payne, and Tony Ringold—the organ dream team
- Lisa Hammett and the reception team
- Marsha Hertel for publicity and for keeping our music library organized
- Harry Doss for the care of our pianos
- All of the choir members and choir parents—continued heartfelt thanks!!
- Scott, Emily, and the staff for your continued support and encouragement

Lastly, on a personal note, my Dad passed away in January. I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your kindness and support. I was once again reminded of how special a place Christ Church is and how blessed I feel to be a parishioner here. It is truly an honor to serve you.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises (Psalm 98:4)*

Pamela Trent  
Organist and Choirmaster

## **Senior Warden**

This year is my first as Senior Warden. I accepted the call knowing I would have the support and counsel of Scott, Emily, Geno, the Vestry, staff, and all members of Christ Church. I have not been disappointed. In fact, I have enjoyed the experience and once again found Christ Church full of people willing to do what's necessary to keep our Parish healthy and engaged in our community, doing good works and spreading the word of Christ. Frankly, it's difficult to get annoyed over the small things like an unanticipated maintenance need when surrounded by the positive, committed people of our Parish. I'm excited by some of our new initiatives such as improving our welcoming of new families and helping Parishioners in need. I'm grateful to both new and veteran members of the Congregation that are taking leadership roles to make things happen. I'm also pleased that we remain committed to our many continuing and vibrant programs such as the curacy, outreach, christian formation, music, stewardship, campus ministry, and the many other worthy programs supported by the people that make Christ Church what it is for all of us. With Emily's support, we were able to pry Scott away for a mini-Sabbatical, his first real opportunity to refresh since he joined us nine years ago. We will continue to work with Scott to find the opportunity to complete his Sabbatical soon. Finally, in 2017 like every other year, we will face some challenges, some familiar and some new. Costs for many things we value continue to rise. Our income through pledging and other forms of revenue must also rise to match our budget requirements. As we transition away from providing student housing, we will need to determine the future of the Canterbury House (the building). However, I remain confident that together we will find the correct path forward.

Andrew Walker  
Senior Warden

## **Junior Warden**

My tenure as Junior Warden is drawing to a close. It has been an absolute honor and pleasure to serve the church especially with the immense support from so many parishioners. Admittedly, three years ago, I was feeling somewhat helpless to execute this job successfully because there was so much to be done and so few resources available. God answers prayer abundantly. This has been, and continues, as evidenced by ongoing unsolicited offers of monetary donations along with hours of donated time completing repairs/improvements by people with specific talents. Even with the unfettered generosity of so many, our Property Repairs budget for 2016 was overspent by about 240%. I can assure you that every dollar spent from the budget was in response to essential repairs only and always made with the guidance and approval from Scott or the Vestry. I am also grateful for our Sexton, Wardie Lovern, who is extremely diligent and hard working. He knows our buildings intimately and keeps a close eye on even the smallest details.

Projects, ongoing or completed, from parishioner donations include:

- Replacing windows in the offices, Library, Commons, Great Hall, kitchen, Montessori classrooms, Martin Chapel, and bathrooms with double paned energy efficient ones including painting the interior trim.
- Installing a new Christ Church monument sign and black aluminum fencing along Church and E. Roanoke Streets in memory of Dot and Paul Torgersen.
- Installing new wall-to-wall carpeting in the Library and adding two upholstered chairs to replace older 'tired' ones.
- Replacing a broken faucet in the kitchen.
- Replacing a broken ceiling fan in the Sanctuary.

- Replacing the broken washer and dryer in Castleman House.
- Building a new fence to replace the vandalized one in front Castleman House.
- Building shelving in a closet and bathroom and replacing a bathroom door in Castleman House.

There were numerous expenses deducted from the Property Repairs budget for repairs and cyclical maintenance of the three buildings. Some included eradicating wood-eating beetles from the basement under the Sanctuary/Nave and in Canterbury House, replacing a leaking faucet and broken heaters in the Montessori rooms, replacing the broken light in the men's bathroom by the Great Hall, installing energy efficient extended life bulbs in the Library and Great Hall, fixing a major leak in Castleman House, cutting down dead trees and limbs, cleaning the gutters and replacing slate on the various roofs.

All of the above have contributed notably to the upkeep and care of our church properties, but there are several large projects that require attention:

- The roof on the Education Wing and Great Hall has reached the end of its projected lifespan. When repairs were done on the 'faux' slate, for every shingle replaced four or five around it would break because they are brittle and weak. Leaks have not been detected but can't be far off.
- Insulation needs to be installed in the entire church building. That, coupled with the new windows, would significantly reduce our second largest budget expense-utility bills.
- Upgrade the 1940's era electricity in the office wing and upstairs apartment.
- Consider renovating/repurposing the upstairs apartment.
- Paula Williams should have a dedicated office.
- Resolve the future use of Canterbury House now that it will no longer be rented.
- The boiler is old and energy inefficient, but gratefully it keeps operating!

Yours faithfully,  
Rosemarie Payne

## Altar Guild

The Guild is divided into four teams which serve one week each month, except during the festival seasons of Christmas and Easter which are scheduled separately. Duties include setting for all Eucharist, baptism, wedding and funeral services, and keeping the altar hangings, linens, silverware and brass in good order. The church community is always encouraged to participate in the greening of the church for Christmas and the decorating for Easter, as well as in preparing the church for these festival occasions by helping to clean the 'standing brass' [pulpit, lectern, altar rails, etc.]. Presently the membership of the Altar Guild stands at 21 [including three helpful spouses]. As several members are out of town during the winter or tending to family members, there is always a need for several recruits.

Christine D. Parker

## **Annual Report for the Ministry of Parish Nursing**

A Parish Nurse, now more commonly called a Community Health Nurse, can act as a referral agent, volunteer trainer, educator, and advocate for people in the church. We do not take the place of a health care provider, the rector, or a home health nurse; rather, we can pay attention to spiritual and emotional needs, provide resources or advocacy for a person who is ill and provide education for health promotion.

**If you know of someone who is ill or undergoing surgery, or merely lonely, we may be able to help. We welcome any assistance in visiting or contacting parishioners who might benefit by this ministry. You can also help by responding to The Member Care committee's request for volunteers!**

During this past year, we have visited quite a number of folks in both local hospitals, nursing homes, and those who are homebound. We can accompany a person to their doctor, take notes and help interpret information. We write articles for the Constant Contact email and the monthly newsletter. We also send cards, help with medical questions, and suggest referrals when appropriate.

Dave Nickerson continues doing Tai Chi in the parish hall on Wednesday mornings. This is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to exercise and meditate each week.

Usually by this time we are on our way in Our Walk to Bethlehem; however, this year it will be in the spring and we will have a Walk to Jerusalem! This will start a few weeks before Lent, so stay tuned.

Susan Donckers and Deborah Burchard

## **Annual Report from the Lay Eucharistic Visitors**

Lay Eucharistic Visitors provide a unique ministry to parishioners at Christ Church. We represent the community of our church by taking the sacraments to those who are not able to get to church, whether they are shut-ins at home, in the hospital or nursing home. In receiving communion, people are nurtured, strengthened, and renewed. By taking the elements from the Rector's or Curate's hands to a sick or infirm member, we affirm the integral relationship of the individual Christian to the Body of Christ, thereby including them as an important member in the family of God. We take communion after either service on Sunday and sometimes during the week, if needed. Scott West does the training for this ministry and you are welcome to come with one of us anytime. Currently our Lay Eucharistic Ministers are: Debbie Burchard, Elizabeth Foster, Karen Iannaccone, Duncan Porter, Mimi Boone and Susan Donckers. We welcome additional members to this ministry! If you would like to join us, please contact me or Scott West.

Susan Donckers

## **Parish Life Report**

The Parish Life Commission is responsible for providing receptions for special events such as the Bishop's visit and the Annual Meeting, following funerals, for the coffee hour following the 8:30 service and the informal reception after the 10:30 service. We have a very dedicated group of parishioners who are involved in this ministry. Helen McCarty does a fabulous job scheduling our faithful Sunday morning coffee hour/reception volunteers, Lisa Hammett coordinates receptions following the four annual Sunday Even-song services, and Judy Kirwan keeps the kitchen supplies well stocked.

Christ Church has an amazing group of dedicated volunteers. Thanks to everyone who helps with this ministry.

Carol Fox

## Spring Fling Luncheon

The Spring Fling Luncheon is held annually on Administrative Professionals' Day. This year's luncheon took place on Wednesday, April 27. Each year parishioners are encouraged to invite friends and family to come enjoy a salad luncheon prepared by members of Christ Church.

A planning brunch was hosted by Lisa Hammett on March 17. Volunteers signed up to help with various tasks ranging from calling parishioners to arranging for salad donations; setting up the parish hall the day before; and setting up, serving, and cleaning up the day of the luncheon. Parishioners very generously provided homemade salads and desserts for the luncheon. The proceeds from this year's Spring Fling totaled \$1089. This money is used to fund Christ Church's participation in the Boys Home Christmas Sponsorship Program, purchase needed items for the church nursery, pay for repair and replacement of kitchen appliances, and purchase items for the church kitchen. In addition, a contribution was made to St. Paul's AME Church to thank them for letting us use their parking lot for special occasions.

The 2017 Spring Fling Luncheon will be Wednesday, April 26.

The Spring Fling Committee

## Outreach Ministry

The Outreach Committee would like to thank all the volunteers, donors, and contributors in any way for another successful year! Over the past two years, we have had wonderful yard sales and have made significant contributions to many groups. Those who work on the sales, can hardly believe that so much "stuff" and "fine" items keep coming through the door! Lots of hard work goes into the preparation of the yard sales and we are grateful for those special parishioners who have made this possible and for the wonderful donors who made significant contributions to our funds this year!

### *2016 Distribution*

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry	\$100	\$3,000
Boys' Home	\$50	\$500
Christ Church Indian Ministry	\$5,000	\$5,000
Guatemala Sister Parish	\$6,000	\$6,000
Intellectual Disabilities of the NRV	\$500	\$1,200
Micah's Backpack	\$800	\$1,240
Montgomery County Emergency Assistance Program	\$500	\$2,500
Montgomery County Christmas Store	\$2,000	\$1,000
Rector and Curate's Fund	\$3,000	\$3,900
To Our House	\$650	\$650
Valley Interfaith Childcare Center	\$4,500	\$5,000
Women's Resource Center	\$2,000	\$2,500
Total:	\$25,729.00	\$32,490.00

Susan Donckers

## ***Blacksburg Interfaith Food Pantry***

As one of the founding parishes of this important Blacksburg social service organization, Christ Church continues to play an important role as one of more than 30 local entities providing both volunteer and monetary support to the Food Pantry, which is housed on the property of Blacksburg United Methodist Church's auxiliary facility on Harding Avenue. The Pantry is open five days a week: Mondays from 4-6 p.m., and Tues.-Fri. from 10-12 a.m. The board and staff are all volunteers.

Christ Church staffs the Food Pantry on the first Thursday and second Tuesday of every month, during its open hours from 10-12 a.m., and approximately 12-15 parishioners are involved in this work as either regulars or substitutes. In addition, we spend approximately \$200 each month from a Christ Church fund designated to purchase cereal for the Food Pantry. Pat Marcolini bulk purchases cereal for the Pantry, and Carol Fox continues her regular purchasing of supplementary cereal to add more variety to the available stock. Contributions from Christ Church parishioners to the fund designated for the Food Pantry make this work possible. Lisa Hammett volunteers with members of other churches to provide the weekly glean- ing of bread for the Food Pantry from a wholesale bread distribution warehouse in Dublin.

All interested members of the Christ Church community are invited to be involved in this ministry, either through volunteer work, monetary contributions to the designated fund, or regular contributions of non- perishable food items to the labeled basket in the church Commons. In addition, home gardeners are in- vited to donate their extra produce in season directly to the Food Pantry.

*Lisa Hammett*

## ***Boys' Home***

Each year Christ Church participates in the Boys Home Christmas Sponsor Program. Our \$100 contribu- tion from the Spring Fling Fund buys gifts for a boy who is a resident at Boys Home. This year we are sponsoring Charles Pajibo. Charles is in 9th grade and is 15 years old. He has been a resident of Boys Home for 3 years and is a resident of Sams Cottage. His favorite sports are football and basketball. His favorite teams are the Philadelphia Eagles, the University of Oregon, the Cleveland Cavaliers, and Duke. In his spare time Charles exercises and listens to music. The Boys Home community will celebrate Christ- mas as a family on Sunday, December 18th with a party in the Dining Hall.

Boys Home is a residential facility that provides care for young men who benefit from a change in environ- ment, helping them become productive members of society by developing their spiritual, mental, physical, and social potential. Some of the boys attend the on-campus school that helps them catch up so they can attend the public schools. Their website [www.boyshomeofva.org](http://www.boyshomeofva.org) has information about Boys Home and how you can participate. Parishioners can help Boys Home by collecting Box Tops for Education and plac- ing them in the "cereal box" on the outreach bulletin board. Parishioners can also help by purchasing their Christmas trees from the Boys Home Farm and financial donations to Boys Home are always wel- come.

Carol Fox

## ***Yard Sale & Silent Auction***

Each year Christ Church has both a spring and late summer Yard Sale & Sealed Bid Silent Auction. The May sale raised \$9,945 and the August sale raised \$6,700! All of the proceeds fund the church's outreach support. A very heartfelt thank you to all who work so hard during "Yard Sale Week". Not only do these sales fund worthy causes, but they also provide a wonderful opportunity to spend time with fellow parish- ioners. The next Yard Sale & Sealed Bid Silent Auction will be Saturday, May 20, 2017.

Carol Fox and Jody Daniels

## *Christ Church American Indian Ministry—2016*

The Christ Church American Indian Ministry is part of our Mission and Outreach Committee. Although some Christ Church mission work is abroad, in CCAIM we focus on extreme needs among the Lakota Indians on Pine Ridge Reservation, SD, a very desolate, isolated, and poverty-stricken part of our own country. As we have been doing for many years, we are working with our “sister” organization at the national level, ONE Spirit (see our Web site at: <http://www.nativeprogress.org>).

At the end of October of this year, we shipped several boxes of children’s clothing to our contacts in Kyle, South Dakota, on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In early November we sent a check for \$500 to ONE Spirit to go toward their Thanksgiving food program for families. Each family served received a large box containing a 15-pound turkey, 10 pounds of potatoes, winter squash, carrots, corn, cranberries, clementines, margarine, milk, cereal, and juice.

As usual, our Christmas Gift Box Program is the largest and most visible CCAIM activity of the year. For Lakota Head Start children we provide Christmas gift packages full of good things, including a stuffed animal, educational items, crayons, pencils, coloring books, toys, candy, games, personal hygiene items, and warm hats and gloves.

Last year (2015) we all worked together to fill 300 colorful back packs with all kinds of good things. Along with 242 gift boxes from local area Lutherans (they had their Party With A Purpose on the same night we did), we shipped 542 gift packages to the Lakota Head Start children on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. That meant a lot of happy young children at Christmas-time on the reservation.

We are very grateful to Terry Ratcliffe, of Fontaine Modifications Co. in Dublin, for continuing to provide the shipping boxes, to help with the packing, and to pay the shipping costs.

This year we will continue our new tradition of packing the Lakota children’s gifts in back packs, so that the container is one of the best gifts in the package. Our goal is to fill 312 back packs. The interesting thing about the back packs is that they come from a company that serves non-profit groups, such as us, and the boxes are labeled with “BWAP”, which stands for Backpacks With A Purpose!

I have heard from the local area Lutherans, and they are participating again. They tell me they will have about 300 gift boxes so the total should be around 600, a new record for this program!

At the time of this writing, November 2016, we are poised to have our 2016 Party With A Purpose, a family activity during which our youth pack the back packs with the gift items. This will be another big year for the Party With A Purpose, again featuring a special entertainment event for our youth—drumming and singing by Red Fire, a local group of American Indians, including our own Jeff Kirwan.

Thanks to everyone in Christ Church for your continuing support and for your support of the church yard sales, the proceeds of which go exclusively to Christ Church mission and outreach work. Without this support, programs like the Christ Church American Indian Ministry would not be possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rex Hartson and Rieky Keeris, Christ Church American Indian Ministry

## *Guatemala Sister Parish*

The Christ Church Guatemala Sister Parish Committee continues to join in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Christ in San Andrés Itzapa, Guatemala as part of the international ecumenical organization Sister Parish/Iglesias Hermanas. You will recognize the name San Andrés Itzapa from our prayer list; Christ Church Blacksburg is always on the prayer list of the San Andrés Itzapa Episcopal Community as well. Sister Parish “promotes intercultural and ecumenical understanding by establishing linkages between churches in the United States and faith-based communities in Central America. The linkages are based on direct person-to-person contact, with delegates living in each other’s homes and sharing each other’s realities” (<http://sisterparish.org/>).

Following the North to South delegation in January, 2015, by five Christ Church members, we have spent much time this year planning for a South to North delegation in the early autumn of 2017. This has been approved by Sister Parish, and our brothers and sisters in San Andrés Itzapa, and they are in the process of selecting delegates. Thanks to the generosity of the Christ Church Outreach committee in 2015 and 2016, we now have the funds in hand for this delegation. As the time grows closer, we will be reaching out to other Christ Church members for help with housing, meals, transportation, and activities for our guests.

On November 13, 2016, the Sister Parish Committee set up an informative display near the Christ Labyrinth, and invited those who wished to walk the Labyrinth in solidarity with those in Guatemala who are walking for justice and peace in their country. We are happy to have many signatures and expressions of goodwill from participants to send to Guatemala.

Our ongoing project with San Andres Itzapa offers 30 scholarships to enable poorer children who have completed the second grade to continue in the third through sixth grades completing elementary school. The delegation met with some of these students and their families on our visit. We were touched by their love of learning and their desire to tell us about their lives and families. About \$135 a year can supply registration and fees, school supplies, a school uniform, and a pair of shoes to make an enormous difference in the life of a young student and his or her family. The Christ Church Outreach Committee has been supportive of this ministry for a number of years. During the “Season of Giving”, we are raising the remaining half from Christ Church families and individuals so these children can continue the schooling that we take for granted in our country. Our partners in San Andrés Itzapa, an indigenous (Maya) community, work with the bilingual (Kaqchikel/Spanish) elementary school, Chay Balam, to identify the students and work with Padre Miguel Salanic, the students and their parents throughout the year to keep things on track.

It is with sadness that we report the death of Juan Iscaya on October 29, 2016. One of the original members of Episcopal Community in San Andrés Itzapa with whom we have been connected through Sister Parish for 20 years, Juan was the husband of Maria Juana, the brother of Otto Iscaya, brother-in-law of Basilia, and father and grandfather to a loving family. Juan was the guest of Elizabeth Struthers Malbon in Blacksburg twice, and her host once in San Andrés Itzapa, as well as host to Kimberly Homer on the delegation visit of January 2015. He was a gentle and generous man, beloved in his community, proud of his Cakchiquel (Kaqchikel) language and heritage, and well known for whistling as he walked the streets of his town. He is the first of the original SAI Sister Parish committee members to pass on, and he is dearly missed by all. We have sent our condolences to the community and especially to Maria Juana and Otto. Muchas gracias for your continued support of our committee. Please join us at future meeting and events to share your energy and ideas.

Contacts: Maureen Perry and Sharon Harrell

## **Daughters of the King**

The Saint Elizabeth Chapter of Daughters of the King at Christ Church was formed in 1997. DOK is an order of Episcopal, Lutheran, and Roman Catholic women devoted to prayer and service. We are an open group, and invite any woman interested in sharing the Christian bonds offered by this group to visit. We meet on the first and fourth Mondays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Christ Church. On the first Monday we share holy Eucharist in the Nave of the Church with the Rev. Scott West or the Rev. Emily Lukanich presiding. We use Compline for our service on the 4th Monday. After services, we gather in the library to discuss topics of interest to the group. Often times we share books. This past year, we have discussed Archbishop (retired) Rowan Williams book Being Christian and we will soon begin the book St George and the Dragon and the Quest for the Holy Grail by Edward Hayes. In the area of Outreach, we continue to provide meals for those who have been ill or in need of help. We also continue to provide toiletries for Women's Resource Center. For the past 5 years, we have helped with To Our House for homeless men in our area by providing a dinner during the week that the Episcopal Church is responsible for meals. This year, we have also combined a healing service with our Eucharist service that is open to all members of the church. Also, our members cross stitched crosses to be sent to DOK members in Africa. We enjoy our fellowship with our DOK members and share quarterly dinners together. We always welcome visits to all who are interested in joining. Please come!

If you are interested in more information, please contact: Laurie Shepherd at 540-951-7247 or lshep46@verizon.net.

## **Memorial Garden**

The concept of a Memorial Garden began in 1998, but the Garden was not completed until 2002. To date, the Garden has received the ashes of 28 parishioners—22 in niches and six scattered. 27 names and dates are engraved on three stones with more details in the Book of Remembrance in the church library. 17 niches remain unused. The 28th parishioner's name and dates await entry on one of the two remaining stones for which we are seeking a new engraver.

Routine operations and maintenance are overseen by the Memorial Garden Committee [Bruce Parker, chair; Duncan Porter; Rosemarie Payne], while major decisions and changes are made by the Vestry.

Members of the congregation are encouraged to contact any member of the committee for reserving a niche or ground space .

Bruce C. Parker  
November 10, 2016

## **Knitting Group**

We have recently re-started our knitting ministry. Currently, we are meeting on the second Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. in the library. Some of our projects are prayer shawls for those in our parish, baptismal blankets for infants who are baptized at Christ Church, and some Christmas Store projects. We do knit in our own homes and get together to share projects and chat. All are welcome!

Susan Donckers

## Stewardship Committee

Stewardship at Christ Church is more than careful management of our financial and physical resources. Stewardship also celebrates our intangible social resources - our loyal parishioners.

In September, we introduced pledging in the form of an "INvite" which encouraged the use of online as well as the more traditional pledge form. So far we have received over 109 pledges, which is a record for this time of the year. At the time of this report, the pledges, totaling \$341,050, are 97% of the Vestry's goal of \$350,000! We are counting on the support of those who have not yet responded to make up the other 3%. Thank you for sending in your pledge so promptly.

The Cornerstone Society was launched last year, and hopefully this will encourage sustained endowments using planned giving (legacy gift). Thank you, Debby Hix, Holly Taylor and Chris Bartlett, for making this possible. If you want to learn more, go to the Stewardship website: [www.christchurchblacksburg.org/stewardship.shtml](http://www.christchurchblacksburg.org/stewardship.shtml).

On May 29th, the Stewardship Committee sponsored a family friendly picnic lunch "Dinner on the Grounds" featuring the Blacksburg Brass Ensemble. The fun event attracted over 80 people, not including the band!

This past year's event was so successful that we will do it again! In 2017 on April 23rd the committee will provide lunch and the Old Pros, a local swing big band. So, mark your calendar and dust off your dancing shoes!

We are truly blessed to share our gifts with Christ Church as members of this committee: Chris Bartlett, Jody Daniels, Larkin Dudley, Lisa Hammett, Debby Hix, Karen Iannaccone, Jeanne Roper, Holly Taylor and Scott West. If you have questions or would like to join us, please contact Scott West.

Jody Daniels