

PARISH PROFILE



Christ Church, King and Queen Parish

Chaptico, Maryland





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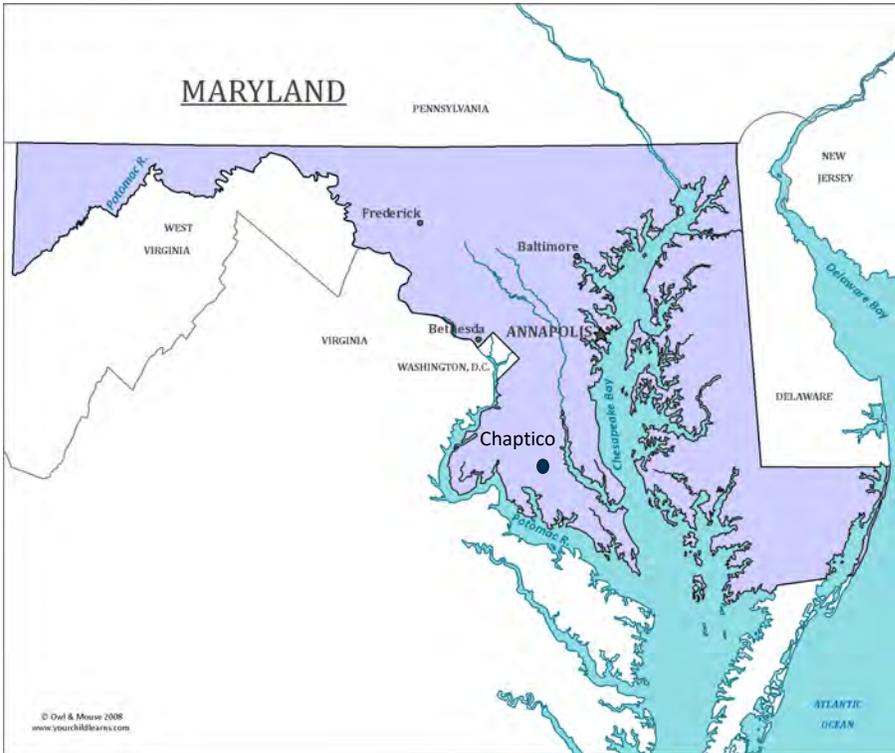
Vision of the Future

Our Ideal Rector

INTRODUCTION TO CHRIST CHURCH

Location:

Christ Church, King and Queen Parish, is part of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington and is part of one of two original colonial parishes in the area now known as St. Mary's County. The church is in the colonial village of Chaptico, about 55 miles south of Washington, DC and 70 miles south of Baltimore, MD. Urban life and attractions are only a short trip away.



Episcopal Diocese of Washington

Eighty-six Episcopal congregations make up the Episcopal Diocese of Washington. They are located in the District of Columbia and the Maryland counties of Montgomery, Prince George's, Charles, and Saint Mary's. This diocese also includes Washington National Cathedral. The current bishop of the Diocese of Washington is the Rt. Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, 9th Bishop of Washington.

Brief History of the Church

The congregation commonly known as Christ Church, Chaptico, originated around 1640 in an area near Avenue, MD, close to the original landing of British colonists on St. Clement's Island. The Act of Establishment in 1692 established the Protestant Church as the State church of England. In that year, and under that authority, Christ Church gained formal recognition as one of the two original parishes in the Maryland Colony – William and Mary Parish and King and Queen Parish. Serving for 200 years under various names, including Chaptico Church, the church was consecrated in 1840 as Christ Church, King and Queen Parish.

Evidence suggests that famous architect Sir Christopher Wren designed or influenced the design of the building. The building was standing when the British attacked Chaptico during the War of 1812. They burned the village and significantly damaged the church. In their attack and occupation, they looted the church building, opened graves and, stabled horses in the sanctuary. The repaired church has survived and prospered.



St. Clements Island and lighthouse

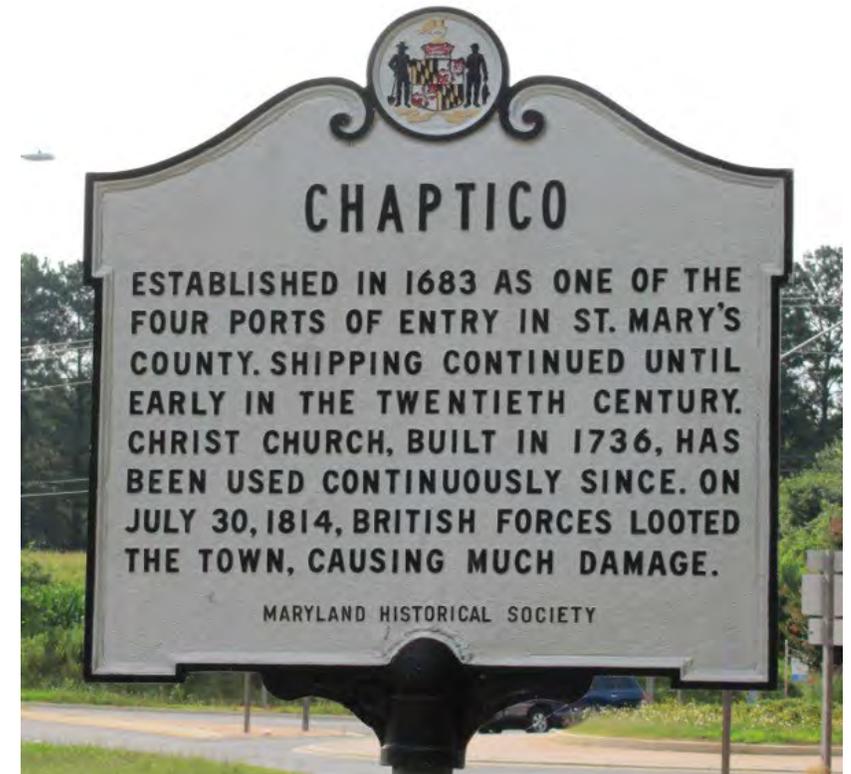
Our community

Chaptico Village

Chaptico's history is rich, boasting its landmark church as the centerpiece of the village. The village was established in 1683 as a port on the Wicomico River. Its days as a port and commercial center are over, but it remains one of the few 18th century villages to survive in St. Mary's County. Chaptico has properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places, these being, of course, our beloved church, as well as Bachelor's Hope and Deep Falls, two elegant colonial homes

St. Mary's County

St Mary's County is located on a peninsula in Southern Maryland with more than 500 miles of shoreline on the Patuxent River, Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay. Water sports and recreation activities are plentiful in the area; fishing, swimming, boating, kayaking, canoeing to name just a few. The surrounding water also provides the community with fine seafood dining as well as crab feasts and oyster scalds in many back yards.





The economic outlook is strong in the county thanks mainly to the Naval Air Station, Patuxent River. It is home to the U.S. Naval Air Systems Command, including the Naval Air Warfare Center Aircraft Division and the U.S. Navy Test Pilot School.

(<https://www.navair.navy.mil/nawcad/usntps>).

With many high-tech aerospace and defense contractors the county has emerged as a world class center for maritime aviation, research, development, testing, evaluation, and acquisition. Many other corporations and small businesses are also thriving in the community.

Educational opportunities are abundant in St. Mary's County. St Mary's College is the State of Maryland's only honors college. It consistently ranks high in the US News and World Report college rankings. The College of Southern Maryland is very much in demand with four campuses located in Charles, St. Mary's, and Calvert Counties.

University System of Maryland at Southern Maryland offers 90 Bachelors, Masters ,and Doctoral degrees as well as certificates and certifications through 10 different Universities.



Facilities

The church building was completed in 1736 and is on the National Register of Historic Places. The church and cemetery occupy several acres of land granted by Philip Key, grandfather of Francis Scott Key. The parish added a bell tower to the church in 1913 in brickwork to match the original church. The 2,400 square foot building gives a feeling of openness to worshipers with its arched ceiling, side aisles, boxed pews and curved chancel. The church has seating available for 125 people.

Parish facilities include a Parish Hall situated on 8 acres of the parish grounds within walking distance from the church. The first floor includes the main multi-purpose event hall or meeting room with a maximum seated occupancy of 160 people, a 350-square-foot commercially equipped kitchen, public restrooms and church offices. On the lower level of the Parish Hall are a large vestry room, several classrooms, and smaller meeting rooms. A children's playground with swing set is at the rear of the building.





Dinner Dance, 2019

It is a popular location for meetings of community service organizations such as Narcotics Anonymous, Yoga Classes, Girl Scouts, and Southern Maryland Traditional Music and Dance.

Most church social activities and events are held in or around the Parish Hall building. The Parish Hall is available for weddings, birthdays and other family gatherings as well as community events.



Parish facilities include the rectory which is conveniently located next to the Parish Hall and Rectors' office, a short walk from the church. The rectory is a brick family home, built in 1960, which has been consistently maintained and remodeled to current standards. It includes a large living room with working fireplace , a family room, formal dining room, 4 bedrooms, 3 full bathrooms, 2 half baths and a large bright basement with laundry room. A generous screened porch offers attractive views of the parish grounds and church



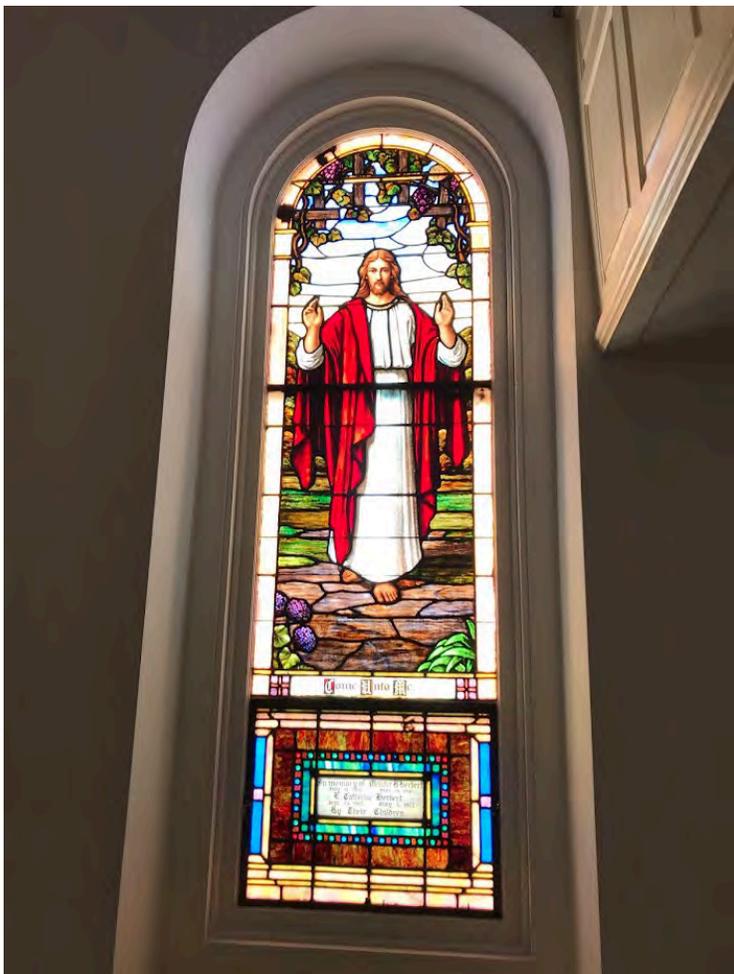
Sledding behind the rectory, 2013.

DISCIPLESHIP AND PARISH LIFE MINISTRIES

Christ Church is a family warmly welcoming all who come, newcomers and longtime parishioners alike. No one goes unnoticed here.

The welcome begins with greeters on the front steps and continues after each service, especially at the 8 o'clock Breakfast Club and the post 10 o'clock service Coffee Hour. We offer a genuine welcome without any expectations or strategic goals beyond simply making everyone feel included and welcome.

Christ Church has had priests who organized and participated in gatherings specifically designed to give formal recognition to those who are new to the church and to invite their participation in our parish life. We want to resume this practice to intentionally engage membership in this vital outreach.





The pandemic, when paper cutouts represented the congregation.

Before the Covid-19 pandemic, we supplemented our Rite I and Rite II Sunday services with Thursday evening Eucharist, weekday Bible or book studies, and an all-ages Friday Night Sunday School that became a model for the diocese. We expanded the opportunity to serve as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, or Acolytes. The Altar Guild grew, and the Choir flourished. There were Youth Group fundraisers, parish workdays and yard sales, and many festivals, all of which proclaimed the image of Christ Church in the community. These activities are resuming as the pandemic wanes.

During the Covid lockdown, we were fortunate that our 10 a.m. service had already been streaming online and attracted an audience well beyond our parish walls. Following the online service, via Zoom, parishioners gathered for our popular after-church Coffee Hour, glad to see one another, if only through a video screen. Similarly, through Zoom, we seamlessly continued Bible and book studies, and additionally, we instituted noon-time morning prayer.

There are many opportunities for everyone to participate in the life and ministry of Christ Church as they feel called. And, as we earnestly strive to emerge from the pandemic, we also find our parishioners eager to resume their participation in our many church activities.

Family Ministry:

Family ministry, including children's ministry, is an area of growth that we hope to expand moving forward. Prior to the pandemic and corresponding required social distancing, Christ Church maintained a Friday Night Sunday School youth program (FNSS), led by parents and the Rector. We intend to resume our youth activities in the coming year. Each session includes a group potluck meal, prayer, inspired lessons and crafts. We are reaching out to the greater community to offer those who don't attend Christ Church services an opportunity to move more deeply into their faith and make a difference in our world.



A meeting of FNSS ca. 2014



Vestry installation, 2019

Christ Church is a healthy congregation well positioned and ready to embrace the future and overcome any challenges that may come our way. We have a strong lay leadership team eager to form a collaborative relationship with the next Rector and assist in the development of our mission and outreach to our church family and the larger community.



Not the current vestry

Sunday Morning Ministries:

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild consists of a small group of people who prepare the altar and the church for regular and special services and care for the altar linens and vestments. Their quiet and behind-the-scenes ministry enhances the worship experience in our beautiful 18th-century church.



Greeters

The greeters welcome parishioners at the church door, offer bulletins, bring the wine and bread to the altar, and collect the offerings.

Acolyte Program

Christ Church has a small group of young acolytes who assist with liturgical functions at the 10:00 am service. It is a joy to watch them grow in Christ through their service on the altar.





Hospitality

A loosely organized group of parishioners makes sure that there is post-service hospitality. For the 8:00 a.m. service, hospitality takes the form of the Breakfast Club, which meets at Wicomico Shores Golf Club, four miles away. For the 10:00 a.m. service it takes the form of the Coffee Hour just outside the front door (or in cold or wet weather, at the back of the church). Parishioners serve coffee, juices, sweets and friendship at this gathering.

Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministry

We have a large dedicated group of lay leaders who serve as Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs). Lectors read the First Lesson; Lay Eucharistic Ministers read the Second Lesson, guide parishioners in reading the Prayers of the People and assist the celebrating priest on the altar throughout the service. In the absence of a priest, our LEMs lead parishioners in Morning Prayer services.

Indoor Coffee Hour, October 2021



Outreach Ministries:

Christ Church has a long history of outreach to our community, as well as the occasional foray in international aid. Parish members regularly contribute to local food banks; revenues from Parish events often benefit local non-profits. Throughout each church year, we also provide contributions and aid to individuals, families, and groups when misfortune suddenly strikes. Our congregation is active and generous with their time, talent, and treasure.

In an area lacking meeting places, our Parish Hall provides an affordable, safe, local venue for community events, civic functions, funerals, and family gatherings. The Parish Hall is fully handicap accessible. The community's demand for hall use is such that Christ Church often must schedule parish events well in advance or lose the date.

Strawberry Festival

The Strawberry Festival is a fundraising event hosted by Christ Church each May. It is the most visible expression of the sense of outreach that permeates all phases of parish life at Christ Church. The proceeds help support local charities in St. Mary's County.



A recent Strawberry Festival



Imagine these covered in chocolate at the Strawberry Festival



Final preparation of the Parish Hall for a Fall Festival

Fall Festival

For many years the church held an annual dinner and festival to kick off the fall season. Covid prevented it for the past two years, but there is sentiment to resume it in 2022. In years when the church had a Fall Festival, we served a Southern Maryland menu (usually oysters and country ham) as either dine-in or carryout. Crafters sold their goods throughout the church hall. A large bake sale tempted the shoppers with various confections. Dinner, fellowship and shopping bring us all together for a lively community centered day.



Scalded oysters – a Fall Festival favorite

St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Christ Church parishioners, family, and friends gather to celebrate the Patron Saint of Ireland. A delicious meal of corned beef, cabbage, potatoes and many Irish or green desserts are on the menu. A folk band provides the entertainment for the evening. We dance Irish jigs and enjoy the company of friends. All ages have fun at this end of winter parish event.



Community Yard Sale

The parish gathers treasures and other donated items, rents tables, and the bargain shopping begins. This event, as does spring, brings new life to those items. We empty our storage areas and wait for the bargain hunters. The youth group joins in fun with a hot dog and cookie stand to raise funds for a summer fun day.

Food Pantry

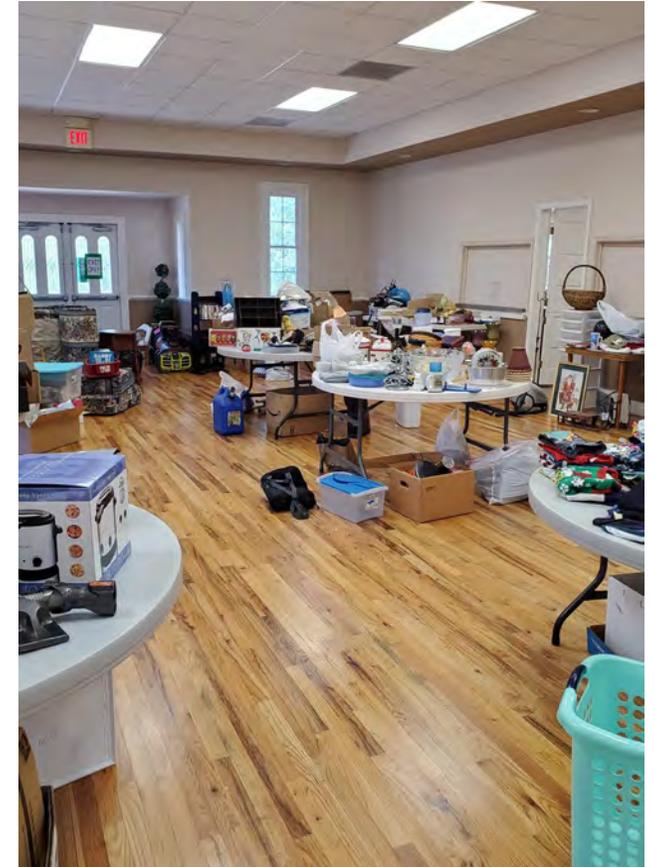
Christ Church supports the Church of the Ascension food pantry. This pantry assists nearby families with food supplies. Our contributions come from generous parishioner donations, including the hard work of children from our congregation.

Christmas Baskets

Every year the congregation donates money during Christmas time to provide food and gifts to families in need.

WARM

Christ Church participates in Wrapping Arms 'Round Many (WARM), an ecumenical venture by churches of St. Mary's County in partnership with the County Department of Social Services. Through WARM, churches provide safe shelter and meals to the homeless during the coldest months of the year.



Yard sale 2021 – some treasures included

Financial Practices and Management

Christ Church is and continues to be financially successful over its 375 years as a congregation. The church has been blessed with talented financial leaders and advisors who have been skilled stewards of the parish finances and endowment. They have been adept at budgeting so that the Church has been able to allocate its funds on a realistic basis.

While the church is experiencing some financial strain because of the Covid pandemic, the Church remains committed to maintaining its solid financial footing. Covid eliminated in-person services for over a year with a consequent decline in revenues and in the number of members making a pledge. Responding to that pressure, the membership has stepped forward with increased commitment so that income is currently running ahead of budget. Furthermore, the church has not had to use the endowment funds to support general operations.

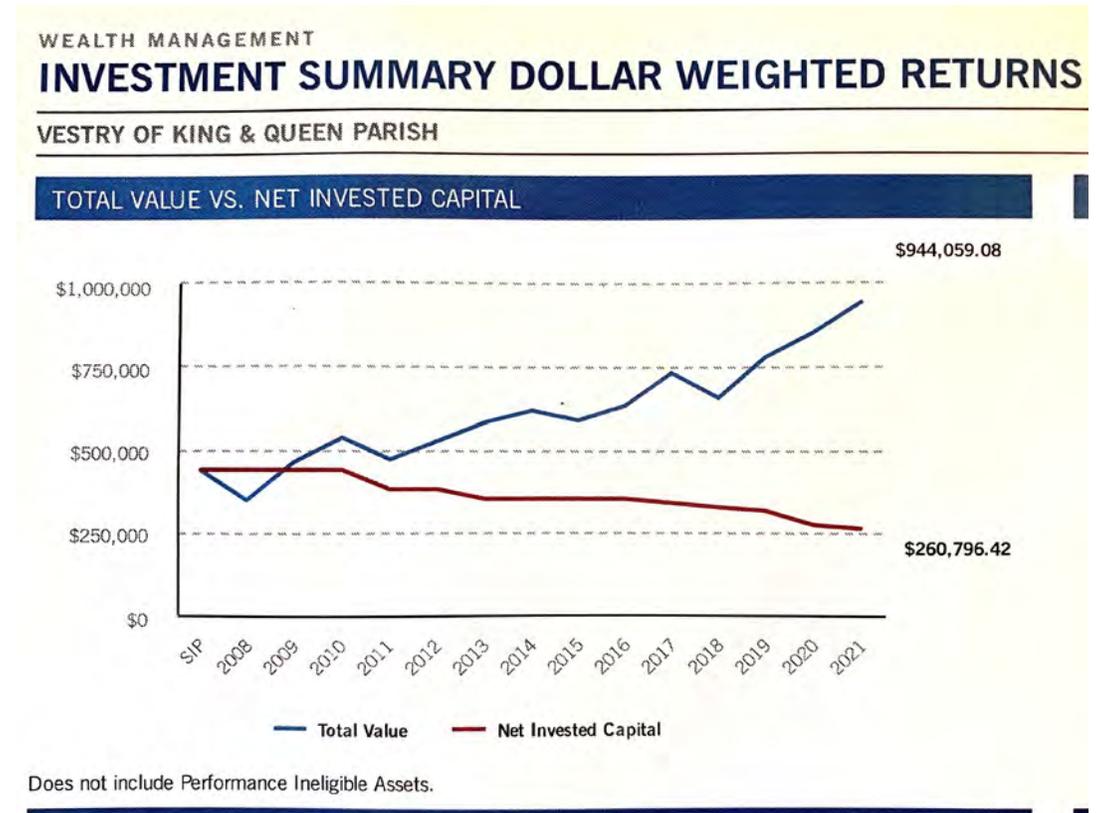


Collecting cash at the Yard Sale

Because of the efforts of the financial advisor, the Endowment Trustees, and the Finance Committee, the endowment funds have shown good growth so that the funds have grown from \$437,000 in 2008 to \$944,000 as of November 2021, even after withdrawals of \$176,000 in that period.

Christ Church's receipts usually are 5% to 25% more than the total originally pledged. This year is typical in that regard as receipts are about 10% above budget for the first 10 months of the year. While the budget has been significantly reduced as an effect of the pandemic, the endowment funds total more than 7 times the total pledged for the year.

The membership stays well informed of the Church's financial state through a full report at the annual meeting. The Vestry receives an update at each of their monthly meetings. The Church will soon resume a regular newsletter which may include a quarterly financial summary.

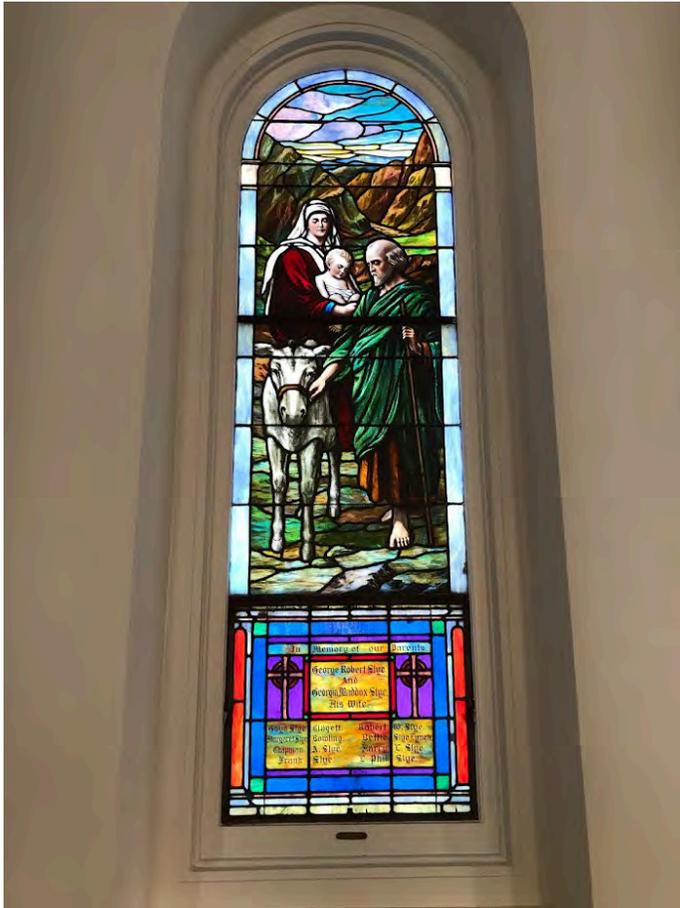


Inspiring and Capable Leadership

Christ Church has historically supported and invested in continuing education and training opportunities as those opportunities presented themselves or were requested by laity and ordained alike.

Through the challenging transition out of the pandemic, coupled with the recent departure of our Rector, Christ Church has discovered a depth of lay leadership. Parishioners have stepped forward, demonstrating previously unknown skills and talents to lead at all levels of Christ Church administration and management.

In lieu of an interim priest, lay people are regularly and capably handling worship service and administration related tasks, providing an easy adaptation for visiting supply priests and our church family. We are blessed that our Vestry and Lay leaders have been able to establish a sense of continuity and comfort in our parish life. Nevertheless, without a priest, there remains a sense that the parish is not quite balanced, not quite whole.



Uplifting and Inviting Worship

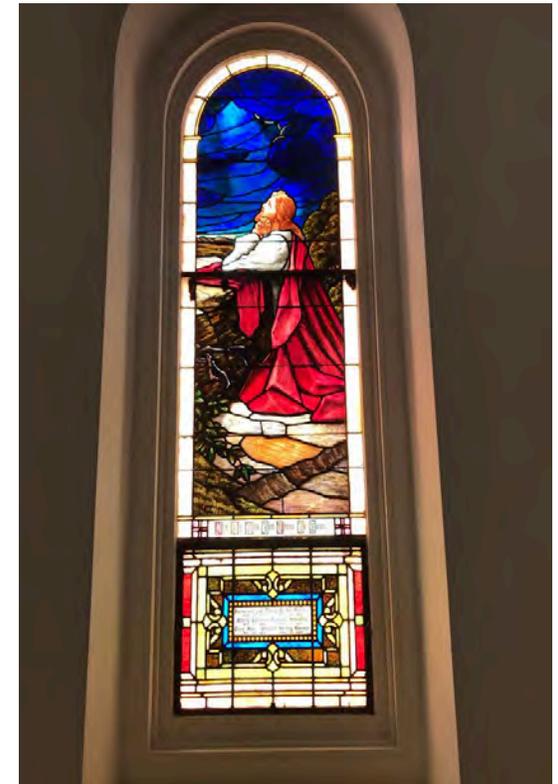
Worship and Liturgy

Providing an uplifting and inviting worship experience is important to the success of a church. It is also true that the liturgy of the service resides primarily in the control of the ordained clergy. The priest decides the form of service and sacramental rites for the various church seasons, on Sundays and Holy days.

In almost all ways, it is the priest that sets the tone for our services and who helps guide our congregation through teaching and instructional sessions. The few exceptions to this include Morning and Evening Prayer and particularly in Christ Church's very recent calendar, Sunday Morning Prayer when a supply priest is not available. On these Sundays the lay leadership of Christ Church has proven more than able and competent to provide a meaningful and joyful service.

Christ Church is very much focused on the Eucharist. Previous Rectors provided rich and varied liturgies, often taking inspiration from other Anglican communities. Our services beckon all members of the community and provide opportunities for all ages and members to participate as Lay Eucharistic Ministers, acolytes, lectors, and greeters.

We are searching for a priest with a similar liturgical and musical outlook, who will encourage and instruct us, and who embraces the eager, participatory nature of our congregation.



Music

The music at Christ Church is expansive, including gospel and jazz, and the contemplative meditation of quiet piano. Previous Rectors occasionally found ways to include songs from Christian rock sources.

The Altar Guild always 'sets the table' with floral elegance. And, when the prayers and singing conclude, the congregation gathers to bond together as families and friends in Christ.



In the Choir Loft, Christmas Eve 2019

Mission and Vision

Vision of the future

A recent survey of our Parish revealed parishioners' responses were fundamentally similar to our mission statement: "We are called to be people of prayer, dedicated to proclaiming a lively faith in God, and service to others in the name of Christ." We are actively fulfilling this mission, not because of any official mission or vision statement; but because it is the authentic expression of who we are, the people of Christ Church.

We are an affable and gregarious congregation, very much a family parish where all are welcomed. At Christ Church, the unnoticed visitor does not exist. Both the Breakfast Club after the 8 a.m. service and the Coffee Hour following the 10 a.m. service bear witness to this sense of church family where all our lives are intertwined and, although we each walk our own path to Christ, we are better doing so traveling together. We are not just friendly; we are friends. We baptize and bury, cry and mourn, love and laugh, together.



And you?

**We will joyously
welcome you to
celebrate a new
beginning with us!**



Our Ideal Rector

The Characteristics We Seek:

When surveyed on the characteristics our new Rector should have the parish provided a wide variety of distinct answers. Among those answers there were several consistent themes, though they were individually worded, which we summarize in the material that follows.



We are looking for a personable leader with a strong sense of Christian community and a good sense of humor. This leader must be a good communicator, a good listener, and a common-sense thinker. This leader must be compassionate and able to relate to a wide variety people.

We are seeking a confident Rector who is committed to doing God's work, who can inspire others and who can grow the church, especially its youth programs. This commitment should be demonstrated through meaningful church worship and preaching, providing pastoral care and, being alert to the needs of the community.



Thank you to a favorite supply priest, September 2021

We want to call an outgoing person who is adept at: cultivating a variety of relationships; developing lay leaders; maintaining a healthy association with the Diocese; making local professional connections within the region; and reaching out to local civic organizations.

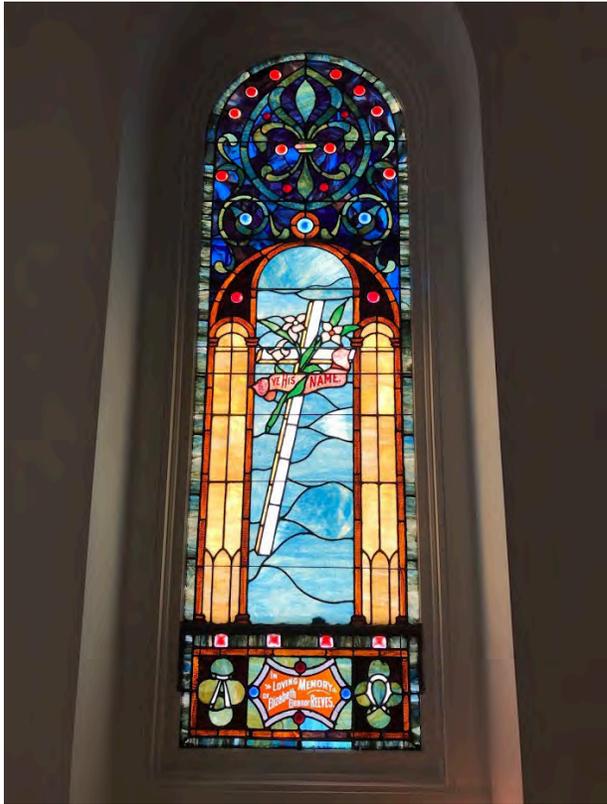


Blessing of the animals, 2021

Our Vestry, Lay Leaders,
and parishioners are ready

- to: Re-focus our efforts to enhance opportunities to participate in the life and ministries of our church;
- Grow our parish membership and in-person worship gatherings, including our all-ages Friday Night Sunday School; and
- Resume gatherings and events designed to engage those who are new to the church.





Summary:

To summarize, we seek a Rector who is:

- Personable, with a sense of humor.
- Passionate about providing pastoral care.
- Committed to growing the church, especially its youth programs.
- A relationship builder – compassionate, patient, and knows how to listen
- Engaging and down to earth.
- Creative and energetic.
- Organized, flexible, knows how to delegate, and empowers lay ministry and leadership.
- A community leader who encourages, and participates in, outreach.

