

# **CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

4030 Manatee Avenue, West

Bradenton, FL 34205

Rector, Fr. Robert O. Baker

## **ANNUAL REPORT for 2020**

February 7, 2021

# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH VESTRY

## Class of 2020 – Outgoing

Chuck (CJ) Howard  
Sandra Kopp  
Hope Stephenson, Senior Warden  
Janet Welch, Junior Warden

## Class of 2021

Blake Hadley  
Lee Hooie, Treasurer  
Jane Reed  
Chuck Whitaker

## Class of 2022

Barbara Boyce  
Jennifer Miller  
Bob Rupe

## Chancellor

Alan Prather

## Nominees for Class of 2023

(4 Elected 3 yr. terms, 1 elected 2yr. term, 1 alternate)

Chuck Angulo  
Linda Baril  
Chuck Crossan  
Susan Knowles  
Kadeen Sewell  
Paul Sharff

## **Christ Episcopal Church, Bradenton, FL Annual Report for 2021**

Christ Church is blessed with organizations and committees that encourage us to learn the Word of God and to share the gospel and God's love with those within the Church and the community. The following are a few of these organizations.

### **The Lord's Pantry**

by Claudette Belnavis

Moving into our new building in February 2020 allowed us to quickly transition to a drive up delivery system to serve our clients. The pantry remained open through out the year, serving over 6000 of our neighbors in Manatee. During the early and most challenging months of the pandemic there was great need for food. We saw many new families come to the pantry, some coming from as far as Myakka.

We continue to partner with Feeding Tampa Bay who deliver USDA and CARES Act products to us weekly. The CARES delivery consists of a pallet of shelf stable food items, which is expected to continue June, 2021. Manatee Food Bank also supply us weekly with fresh produce, baked goods and frozen meat. We also pick up weekly donations of baked goods and fresh produce from Costco.

With the tremendous support of Christ Church members, St. Stephen's School, friends and neighbors, we continue to fulfill the mission and ministry of The Lord's Pantry. Thank you for all your giving during the year of funds, and food items, which ended with a very bountiful Reverse Advent Calendar.

Thank you so very much to our tremendously dedicated volunteers who committed to making sure that our doors remained open. You met the challenges of the past year with great courage and love.

With Gratitude,  
Claudette Belnavis

THE LORD'S PANTRY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER

### **The Thrift Shop**

by Anne Castellina

It was an exciting and yet challenging year for the Christ Church Thrift Shop. Operations moved into the new building the end of January and celebrated a grand re-opening February 10<sup>th</sup>. In mid-March everything shut down due to the Covid 19 virus. The shop remained shuttered until September 10 when staff decided it would be safe to re-open 2 days a week. Masks and use of sanitizer were required of all staff and customers and there were no complaints! October and November saw the shop opening for 3 days each week as snowbird volunteers returned from up North. By December the shop was able to open 5 days each week.

Despite the move into a smaller facility, and the months long closures and limited weekly schedules, sales topped over \$18,000 in 2020.

As always the success of the shop was due to the dedication of a remarkable group of volunteers. Volunteers Norm and Kathy Hinton worked tirelessly with Kathy successfully pursuing sales of large items through postings on the Bradenton Marketplace website. Several volunteers worked more than one day a week sorting, pricing and placing donations throughout the shop. Volunteers also helped pick up large donations of furniture.

As usual, Thrift Shop proceeds were used to support the Church's Outreach Programs.

Thrift Shop work is ever-changing as volunteers never know what donations will appear. This makes the work fun and interesting. Most volunteers serve four hours a week and many keep their names on the substitute list to fill in when scheduled volunteers are absent and need a sub. New volunteers are always welcome. We invite you to come and join us in this important ministry!

### **The Music Department**

by Dr. Richard Benedum

The Music Department, including the Christ Church Chorale, continued to enrich worship services each week until approximately mid-March. In addition, the Music Department provided significant community outreach through special services attracting many non-members and special concerts, open to the general public as well as members of Christ Church, again through March. At full strength the Christ Church Chorale has grown to approximately 35 members; the choir loft is literally filled to overflowing. Several Chorale members are not members of the parish, but attend and sing regularly because they want to participate in a high-quality church music program.

In a normal year, Christ Church's Music Department also presented more than 20 concerts and services with special music, open to parish members and the general public, including Advent and Lenten noon organ recitals, and other services and concerts. In a normal year more than 2,500 people typically attend these events, with the majority being non-parish members.

In February 2021 Christ Church's magnificent Létourneau organ will be 14 years old. A few special concerts have been cautiously and tentatively planned for the rest of 2021 to feature the instrument, widely regarded as the most outstanding organ in the region and one of the most outstanding organs in the Southeast. The aspirational goal of the Music Department—we hope to be back to a more normal "musical life" beginning with Fall 2021.

Dr. Richard Benedum  
Organist-choirmaster

## Christ Church Praise Band

by Bill Holt

While 2020 has been a challenging year for many, we continue to forge ahead with our ministries here at Christ Church undaunted by this pesky virus which plagues our world! . The Praise Team is no exception to that and has risen to the challenge!

We have taken a new team format this past year which has successfully resulted in new members being called to serve in this music ministry. Each Sunday a different team leader is responsible for leading the congregation in worship and this has brought a variety of contemporary music and different flavors to service each week. Team leaders include Rachel Kendzior-guitar/vocals, Preston Boyd-guitar, banjo, vocals, Roger Hudson-classical and electric guitar, and yours truly-piano, bass guitar.

This format has opened the door to several new musicians who are bringing their unique gifts of music to us; we are so very pleased to report that the following individuals have stepped up as part of our groups: Caden Kendzior on piano, Macy Kendzior on guitar and vocals, Jeani and Annika Elisha on vocals; they join our core group of musicians Sarah Stephenson-vocals, Thane Reed vocals, Tom Johnson congas, and Bob Rupe mandolin.

It is our goal and prayer that the congregation hears the word of the Lord through our music and that it experiences a more meaningful worship experience as a result. As always, if any of you have latent musical talents which have been dormant for too long and you would like to offer your gifts, please do not hesitate to contact me or any one of the team leaders to have a discussion of how your gifts may be used!

Peace be with you all-

Bill Holt

## The Men's Ministry

by Dave Leslie

This group of men meets on Thursday mornings at 7:00 AM to enhance their faith through Christian fellowship and Bible study. This past year has limited the number of attendees as a reaction to the China Virus. Usually, there are 4 to 6 men present. This past year we studied the Scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday service. This gives an opportunity to clarify, digest and understand the Scripture. These readings open up discussion on topics that are relevant in our lives today and how we lead our lives as Christians.

The group helped with the Shrove Pancake Dinner last year and we will be active in it this year. The virus canceled our annual dinner meeting that normally draws 35+ men. Hopefully, this year, we will be able to support more events.

We are a small island of Christian support in a sea of sectarian culture.

## Sunday School (Christian Formation)

by Pat Fraser

In January of 2020 as the new year began, Winter Jam was one of the first events that I tried to get the youth involved with. Jan 15<sup>th</sup> I was off on my very first missions' trip to Africa.

February, I would begin a series in the Chi Rho that would document my time and new friends from Africa. I also initiated Acolyte and Verger training as part of our Christian Formation curriculum. We were able to fit in two training sessions. Shrove Tuesday on the 25<sup>th</sup> would be the last large event that we would hold in the parish hall in 2020.

March, I started an intergenerational Sunday School class, "Journey to the Cross," preparatory lessons that would lead us up to Easter. We were able to complete three weeks out of five prior to Covid-19.

April, with an Easter egg hunt out of the picture, I decided to instead give families bags of eggs filled with candy. I also held a virtual "Bunny Hunt." Every day for a week our bunny would find its way in some mysterious place on our church campus. It was the job of the children to decide where the bunny was and report back to me with their findings. This was a great success. Secretly, I think the moms were into it more than the children! Prizes were rewarded.

April and May, I began running a series of interviews of our Sunday School Children, along with pictures in our weekly Chi Rho. This turned out to be a great way to introduce our youth to our greater community at church. Many of our members commented on this very positively.

June and July, as summer began to approach, I wanted to engage our children and youth. My Theme for the summer would be, Take Home Jesus! I did this in the form of Pizza take out boxes! These were full of all kinds of activities for the children to do during the summer months. Even a "Flat Jesus." He could go with them everywhere! I also had a "stuffed Jesus doll." We took pictures of him traveling with us in various locations. Just to reinforce my message! While the children received these wonderful boxes the youth 12yrs and above receive daily devotional books. July 4<sup>th</sup> I handed out patriotic kites that the children could color and have ready for the celebration. I also began giving away book bags and school supplies to our children. First those that needed them here and then to our larger community. This turned into an outreach as we were able to help a very poor school with school supplies to start the new year.

August, all thoughts were turning towards school. / wanted to give one last surprise for the children. A beach ball to color and take to the beach for some last summer fun! September through December. Along with the help of some of my Sunday School teachers we started teaching Sunday school lessons that would later be uploaded to u-tube videos so that our children could still have a sense of Sunday School.

November, I began wondering what we would do instead of the "Children's Christmas pageant. Fr. Baker came up with the idea of a "Living Liturgical Nativity." December took on a life of its own as we started to prepare to implement and create this Living Nativity. For the first time ever doing anything like it, / was very pleased. Lessons were all done outside in the different parts of our courtyard and the communion service was completed in the Nave.

The first two weekends in December / sold poinsettias for the youth. Although we are at 50% capacity out sales were comparable to any other year in recent history.

### **Office Angels**

by Debbie Holt

We were blessed to have a few Office Angels volunteer the first three months of the Covid19 outbreak, while the church was running but carefully following all precautions. The rest of the Office Angels, with the exception of those who still need to wait, came back to the office again June 2020 with some new volunteers added to our roster. The shifts are morning and afternoon, Monday through Friday, and the front desk is where you will be greeted by these "Angels" who will "buzz" you into the office with the new security lock on the front door. The Office Angel presence is an important aide in helping staff with the daily office activities. Thank you to all you special ladies! We appreciate you so much!

Debbie Holt

### **Altar Guild**

by Debbie Holt

We want to thank Gene & Laurie Zeiner for their faithful service as the Altar Guild directors these past years. We are looking for someone to step up and assume their spot, but in the meantime, Father Robert, Kim Kalaman, and Debbie Holt are sending out the monthly Team Weekly Schedules for Saturday Set Up and Sunday Clearing plus any special services as they arise for funerals, weddings, baptisms, and Saint Stephens school events., and order supplies as

needed. We continue to actively recruit new members and hope that more parishioners will receive a calling to serve God in the special way. Training will be provided. We want to thank each Altar Guild member and Chair Persons for their loyal and continued support in setting the Lord's Table for our church family.

### **The Order of the Daughters of the King**

by PK Isiminger

The Order of the Daughters of the King is a National order of women who desire a closer walk with the Lord. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, our vision as Daughters of the King is to know Jesus Christ, to make Him known to others, and to become reflections of God's love throughout the world. We pledge ourselves to Prayer, Service, and Evangelism, and are dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of our parish.

Unfortunately, this year due to COVID we were unable to meet in person. However, thanks to ZOOM We were able to have ZOOM meetings and pray for the prayer requests that came in. There has been LOTS to pray about.

We are looking forward to start meeting in person and continue also having it on ZOOM for those unable to come.

### **The Motto of The Order**

For His Sake...

I am but one, but I am one.

I cannot do everything, but I can do something.

What I can do, I ought to do.

What I ought to do, by the grace of God I will do.

Lord, what will you have me do?

### **Vergers and Lay Reader/Chalice Bearer**

by Alan Prather

This ministry addresses placement/scheduling of Vergers and Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers (CB's) for the 7:30 a.m. Rite 1 services and the 11:00 a.m. Rite II services. The Sunday services require a Verger and 2 CB's at 7:30 a.m. and a Verger and 3 CB's at 11:00 a.m. There are a total of 25 volunteers available (at least in the winter since we lose some going north in summer) to serve as Vergers and Lay Readers/Chalice Bearers. There are approximately 60 days in the year that some form of service requiring Vergers/CB's occurs excluding funerals or weddings. Each Sunday at least 7 volunteers are used for Verger/CB to cover the 7:30 and 11:00 a.m. services. This approximates 400 service hours a year to Christ Church.

Vergers represent the "Lay Leader" of the altar party responsible for addressing issues that might arise as necessary or as directed by the clergy. The Verger precedes the procession entering and exiting. The CB's are responsible for the reading of the 1st and 2nd Lessons and for Chalice Bearing at the Eucharist. The 11:00 a.m. Sunday service also has a 3rd CB who does not read a Lesson but does hold the



Gospel Book for the clergy reader in addition to serving at the Eucharist. The 2nd CB at both services usually serves as Crucifer also. Vergers and CB's must take the appropriate training before serving. Please contact the Church office if you would like to volunteer to serve.  
Thank you.

### **St. Anne's Guild**

by Linda Baril

St Anne's Guild is a women's organization at Christ Church that meets once a month on the second Wednesday from October to May.  
Unfortunately, this year we were unable to meet, but are looking forward to the day to meet again.

In 2020, for the 4th year in a row, Saint Anne's sponsored a Coat/Warm clothing drive to benefit Turning Points/Our Daily Bread. Turning Points/Our Daily Bread provides a wide array of services to people in need in Manatee County including: daily hot meals, assistance in obtains housing, clothing and shoes, free medical and dental care, and many other services. Saint Anne's toured the Koski Center in February and held a quiet day at Day Spring in March.

### **Deacon Report**

by Deacon Gretchen Platt

This year's report is a far cry from previous years! For the good portion of 2020, I was either in the hospital, having a hip replacement, then missing the depth of the stair coming down from the educational floor and then breaking my leg in the Chapel. Another surgery, rehab and getting back to returning to the church and 3 months later, the plate that had been placed in my leg. Broke, and another surgery. Rehab again, and finally, here I am back doing the things I love.

So, since I've returned, I have been at all services, preaching once a month. I make at least 2 visits with shut-ins and give them communion and talking about the happenings in their lives.

I've helped out at funerals and attend at most staff meetings and paschal meetings. I try to be present at all services and to visit all shut-ins as the present pandemic allows,

I want to thank everyone for their prayers, dinners, and visits. These acts, have been very instrumental in my recovery and continue to be the motivation that moves me forward each day, week, etc.

My prayers for this year is to get a handle of this virus, and we all get the vaccine, so that we can return to our regular services, and youth Sunday School programs, with our youth back in the Sanctuary

May God Bless you, one and all!

Deacon Gretch

### **Westminster Point Pleasant Services**

by Fr. Robert Baker

Our services at Westminster Point Pleasant began the year very well. Because all the attendants have the risk factor of age and many have other risk factors that make them susceptible to the COVID-19 virus, the services were cancelled in March and have not yet resumed. This pandemic and the response to it have been difficult and damaging to residents of assisted living and long-term care facilities. Social isolation can be devastating. We have tried multiple avenues of reaching out to our shut-ins with cards, letters, altar flowers, and phone calls. We tried to send Easter Lilies and Poinsettias to as many of our parishioners in seclusion as possible. Please continue to keep our most vulnerable members in prayer and if you would like to make phone calls or write letters please contact the office and we will provide you with an opportunity for meaningful ministry.

### **Rector's Report**

by Fr, Robert Baker

My beloved family in Christ,

2020 was a challenging year. Times of difficulty and crisis force us to rouse ourselves, to examine our identity and mission, and to adapt to new situations. We have been asking the question, "how do we be the Church in this situation?" We have not simply asked the question, but we have applied ourselves individually and corporately to the challenges we face. We have dramatically improved our communications through the use of social media, the weekly Chi Rho, a weekly pastoral letter, and a new and improved format to our worship bulletin. We have made functional and aesthetic improvements to our facility. I would point specifically to the new energy efficient windows in our education building, a complete maintenance of our entire landscape with specific projects in our Columbarium, the memory garden and the front entrance. These projects were funded and completed by members who love our Church and who wanted to honor their deceased loved ones. The roof

was cleaned, and several areas of the Church have been repainted due the generosity of one of our members. We have a new and improved sound system in the Church and a new sound system was donated by a generous member in the Parish Hall. This list comprises only some of the improvements we have made this year. The improvements will continue.

Because we have had to make many changes to protect our faith family and to continue our mission of worshiping God beautifully, edifying one another and loving the world around us, your clergy, music ministry, lay ministers, volunteers, and office staff have been very busy planning and implementing new ways to minister to our flock. We have also been preparing for the day when things return to “normal,” so that we can hit the ground running and continue to build on the gains we have made in 2020.

A few of the goals I have for the upcoming year are to fully implement a commission structure for our Vestry. A commission structure will empower our vestry to more fully exercise oversight and to provide leadership to the various commission responsibilities: pastoral care, worship, facilities, finance, stewardship, outreach, youth and Christian formation. A commission structure will help to streamline vestry meetings and will make our vestry more effective. It will also make our ministries more effective and focused. I would like to see us hire a youth minister and a build a youth ministry that challenges, prepares, and engages youth. Finally, I would like to continue training and commissioning our lay ministers through Walking the Mourners Path, Order of Saint Luke, Stephen Ministry, Ambassadors and Cursillo. A New Testament church is a church where the ministry contributions of each member is valued and encouraged.

The world outside our community is filled with people who anxious, angry, fearful, and lacking in purpose. The best thing we can do for the world is to be the Church and show there is an alternative. By God’s grace we will do just that.

Grace and Peace,

Robert +



Christ Episcopal Church

Operating Fund Internal Statement  
Year Ending December 31, 2020

**Assets**

Cash	110,153
Investments	215,141
Accounts Receivable	507
Due from Other Funds	
Other Assets	20,726
Fixed Assets	10,231,476
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,578,002</b>

**Liabilities and Equity**

Accounts Payable	-1,266
Payroll Taxes Payable	
Unearned Revenue	3,010
Fund Balance and Transfers	10,516,554
2020 Net income/(Loss)	59,704
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>10,578,002</b>

	2020 Actual	2020 Budget	2021 Budget
<b><u>Revenue</u></b>			
Contributions/Bequests	689,600	775,300	752,238
Investment income	1,236	600	1,250
Unrealized Gain/(Loss)	-17,861	0	0
Sales & Miscellaneous Income **	54,873	12,250	13,250
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>727,848</b>	<b>788,150</b>	<b>766,738</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>			
Outreach Ministry	12,493	25,000	20,000
Diocesan Assessment	75,777	79,744	119,660
Clergy & Administration - Staff	367,292	393,061	408,933
Office/Computer Expenses	40,218	13,400	25,150
General Expenses	9,018	11,150	10,000
insurance Expense	119,342	121,122	121,405
Utilities	55,572	65,500	55,000
Maintenance & Repair	42,402	78,500	78,500
Programs/Christian Education/Music Dept	16,860	15,120	25,270
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>738,974</b>	<b>802,597</b>	<b>863,918</b>
<b>Net Revenue after Expenses</b>	<b>-11,126</b>	<b>-14,447</b>	<b>-97,180</b>
Transfers In/Out from other Funds	70,830	17,000	97,180
<b>Net Revenue &amp; Transfers over Expenses</b>	<b>59,704</b>	<b>2,553</b>	<b>0</b>

\*\* - Includes PPP Loan Forgiveness - \$49,460 and CARE Grant from Manatee County for PPE - \$5,000

Combined Funds Internal Statement  
Year Ending December 31, 2020

	Operating	Donor Restricted	Vestry Designated	Capital	Perm Restricted	TOTAL
<b>Assets</b>						
Cash	110,153	472,575	56,635	1,928	30,552	671,843
Investments	215,141				113,238	328,379
Trust Fund					1,118,264	1,118,264
Other Assets	21,233			3,795		25,028
Fixed Assets	10,231,476					10,231,476
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>10,578,003</b>	<b>472,575</b>	<b>56,635</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>1,262,054</b>	<b>12,374,990</b>
<b>Liabilities and Equity</b>						
A/P & Payroll Tax Payable	-1,266					-1,266
Unearned Revenue	3,010					3,010
Fund Balance & Net Income	10,576,259	472,575	56,635	5,723	1,262,054	12,373,246
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity</b>	<b>10,578,003</b>	<b>472,575</b>	<b>56,635</b>	<b>5,723</b>	<b>1,262,054</b>	<b>12,374,990</b>
<b>Revenue</b>						
Outreach Ministry Income		53,192				53,192
Contributions	689,600	20,749		62	30	710,441
Investment Income & Gain (Loss)	1,236	314	65		21,866	23,481
Unrealized Gain (Loss)	-17,861				86,389	68,528
Sales & Miscellaneous income	54,873	12,065	6,000		3,000	75,938
Thrift Shop Sales		21,048				21,048
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>727,848</b>	<b>107,368</b>	<b>6,065</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>111,285</b>	<b>952,628</b>
<b>Expenses</b>						
Outreach Ministry	12,493	32,475				44,968
Diocesan Assessment	75,777					75,777
Clergy & Staff Administration	367,292					367,292
General & operations	266,552		62,323		7,313	336,188
Programs & Music	16,860	785				17,645
Other Expenses		3,271			15,894	19,165
Thrift Shop		13,257				13,257
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>738,974</b>	<b>49,788</b>	<b>62,323</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>23,207</b>	<b>874,292</b>
<b>Transfers In/(Out)</b>	<b>70,830</b>	<b>-6,461</b>	<b>-63,916</b>		<b>-457</b>	<b>-4</b>
<b>Net income (Loss)</b>	<b>59,704</b>	<b>51,119</b>	<b>-120,174</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>87,621</b>	<b>78,332</b>