



ANNUAL PARISH MEETING
JANUARY 29, 2023
MINISTRY REPORTS

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild had a wonderful but challenging year. Patty McDanel, a new member of our parish, has joined us. If you are curious about this very important ministry please ask any one of our members:

Linda Dozier
Jobie Guzman
Patty McDanel
Barbara Strauss
Lea Melvin
Cynthia Mudd
Delinda Woltring

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY Annual Report 2022

In regards to the Children's Ministry, the primary focus has centered around our goal of rebuilding our Children's Chapel. As a result of the pandemic's isolating effects over the last few years, our Children's Ministry naturally became depleted. The congregation faced the challenge of finding a new coordinator to take on the continuation and revitalization of our Children's Ministry offerings. As the newly hired Children's Ministry Coordinator (since August 2022), many of these growth challenges have started to succeed. We have received our return students, in addition to approximately two new registrants. Opportunities to meet our challenges included in person church service announcements and community outreach for our Fall Festival Trunk or Treat. This event offered productive opportunities to meet and greet potential new parishioners with Children.

Looking to the future, we hope to see many new faith building and socially enriching offerings for our congregation's children. Some examples of desired outcomes include the return of Vacation Bible School in the summer of 2023, a Kid's Mini Retreat, and development of beginning service activities to benefit our community. Our faith community here at Christ Episcopal Church should seek to

increase its volunteer capacity and rotation. This proves a bit of a challenge in a smaller sized congregation, but not insurmountable when working together as a church family. Building relationships with parents, grandparents and other family members who are willing to complete Safeguarding Training is also an eventual and achievable goal.

During the past several months, our Children's Chapel has taken shape through an engaging, fun-filled curriculum. We enjoy learning about the gospel readings in story form for age appropriate comprehension, making sure all children, regardless of individual personal challenges, whether behavioral or emotional, enjoy the opportunity to express themselves in their beautifully unique ways. We follow with much loved arts and crafts. Our children have made great strides socially, while becoming lovers of intentional prayer with the new Prayer Wall group sharing activity. Our Bible stories always include a real life application. These topics center around their timely experiences in school, sports and other activities that pertain to our moral and character enhancing discussions every Sunday. The children are surprisingly self-aware of injustices in their age groups, as well as in our current day social structure. It has been quite impressive and humbling to witness these childrens' innocence intertwined with a profound sense of human compassion.

Children's Chapel celebrated the season with a fun Christmas Party in December. Each child received a little gift from Miss Meghan, bouncy funny Christmas headbands were worn and sprinkle cookies were had by all. We all laughed and shared our family plans for the holidays, and became excited about the upcoming Christmas Pageant for the Christmas Eve service.

ROOTS YOUTH GROUP

CEC Roots (Youth Group for Grades 6-12) has continued to be active throughout the year with a full slate of opportunities for Christian formation and social and service projects. After several years of virtual Roots, we have really enjoyed meeting in person in our beautiful space in the Family Life Center. Last fall, the group supported church-wide service opportunities, including leading the very successful Fall Festival and Trunk or Treat event in October. Coming up this spring, we plan to continue our service by hosting the Shrove Tuesday Pancake

Supper and Easter Egg Hunt, as we have done in the past. After serving as youth leaders for many years at CEC, Sherrie Hill and Sarah Martinez will be stepping down this summer. We are searching for our next youth leaders and ask that you pray for the continuation of this fantastic ministry with new leadership.

ACOLYTES

The resumption last year of acolyte participation in our Sunday worship was a comforting step towards returning to normalcy following the pandemic. Our acolytes bring a sense of formality and tradition to our worship, in addition to assisting Fr. Richard and Deacon Jan with the Eucharist and Gospel Reading.

With our current roster of seven participants in the Acolyte Ministry is lower than past years, it is strong in dedication and execution, however, there needs to be a strong focus on growth not only to expand the roster, but to fill the anticipated vacancies that will occur due to high school graduation.

For the ministry to grow, it will be necessary to recruit new acolytes and I am hopeful that as church attendance increases, there will be opportunities to bring in new participants.

In the meantime, if you are aware of a potential recruit (4-12 grade) please let me know, or have them contact me at johndwillbanks@gmail.com.

SENIOR SHEPHERDS

The Senior Shepherds of Christ Episcopal Church is a Service/Social group. Anyone over the age of 50 is welcome to participate. We gather at 11:45 AM on the third Wednesday of the month in the church library for a potluck and some good conversation around an announced topic.

We also participate in regular annual events, which included this year:

In February we prepared our annual Valentines Surprise bags for the children of the church containing treats, valentine cards with messages, and other items of interest and delight for the children. Valentines Day cards were also made by Grandparents

and Children and together with the Children's Ministry donated to two of the nursing homes in the community.

In March we celebrated St. Patrick's Day at our monthly potluck and in April members joined in CEC Easter activities focused on the Children.

In May, we had our annual plant exchange among members.

Our summer programs, June through August, consisted of focused discussions at the monthly potlucks.

In September, representatives of the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) attended our meeting and made a very nice presentation on the History and Practice of their Church.

In October, we had a table at the Fall Festival where we gave out balloons and treats to the children and gave our updated brochure on "Community Important Numbers and Activities" to the parents. Several members of the Senior Shepherds participated in the "Trunk or Treat".

In November, we prepared our annual full Thanksgiving Dinner for the Sheriffs who meet in our Church for each of the 12 shifts over the Thanksgiving weekend. Food that was in excess was repackaged and given to a church family in need.

In December we had our annual Christmas Party with organized games, token gift exchange and Christmas Carols.

For more information contact: Betty Prince bettyprince25@gmail.com.

CONGREGATIONAL CARE COMMITTEE

The Congregational Care Ministry (CCM) is a program provided by the laity of Christ Episcopal Church to serve the needs of our parish family. We are available to pray with you, provide meals, visit you at home or in hospital, and celebrate the Holy Eucharist with you during our visit. The component ministries in this

program include the Pastoral Care Ministry, The Prayer Ministry, The Feed My Sheep Ministry, the Eucharistic and Visitor Ministry, the Neighborhood Group Ministry, and the Bereavement and Encouragement Ministry.

During the year 2022 our Feed My Sheep Ministry prepared 26 meals for our parish families recovering from illness or surgeries. Our prayer Shawl Ministry made 21 prayer shawls of which 12 shawls were distributed. Our Prayer Ministry composed of 14 “prayer warriors” is dedicated to praying for the needs of our parish family. There were 113 new prayer requests made this year along with 13 continuing prayer requests. Each request has several updates and many of those result in Thanksgiving for prayers answered.

For additional information please see our brochure on the desk in the Narthex or contact Bobbie Wallstrom at 714-264-8728 or bobbiewallstrom@yahoo.com.

WELLNESS COMMISSION

In March we presented the Living Compass Lenten Retreat. We co-sponsored the Watermelon and Water Balloons activity on the front lawn. We also had a booth and gave out fidgets and squishies and new Living Compass Advent Devotional booklets during the Fall Festival. In December we presented the Advent retreat.

LAY READERS AND CHALICE BEARERS **Report for 2023 Annual Meeting**

I’m new to this ministry. I started contacting folks about lay reading and chalice bearing in January of 2022. By February, I was scheduling them for the 10:30 service and for occasional extra services. (The 8 o’clock service schedules its own lay readers.)

The limited in-person services during the height of the COVID pandemic had changed who was available to read. While services were only on-line, some persons who had been unavailable because of other Sunday morning duties before COVID began to act as lay readers, and others who had been lay readers before stopped being lay readers. And, of course, while we were only worshipping on-line,

there was no need for chalice bearers. Although regular in-person services had begun before the end of 2021, at the beginning of 2022, we still needed to rebuild our list of lay readers and chalice bearers.

In February we had five chalice bearers and eight lay readers. Most of our volunteers act both as a lay reader and a chalice bearer, but others prefer only to read or only to serve the chalice. As 2022 began, we also had one volunteer who did not want to be scheduled, but was available to fill in when others could not make it. One of our original lay readers and chalice bearers, Jan Buntebart, died early in 2022. During 2022, we added four more lay readers, five more chalice bearers, and one more person available to read or be a chalice bearer when someone else was out. The additions include one chalice-bearer volunteer, one lay reader-volunteer, and one volunteer doing both—all of whom volunteered as a result of confirmation classes in 2022. Thus, by the end of 2022, we had 11 lay readers, nine chalice bearers, and one more volunteer who would fill in when Needed.

We welcome new volunteers and are happy to provide training to anyone who wants it.

Beth Sterling

USHER MINISTRY

Our ushers help to support a worship service that we hope fuels your soul. Much of our work is in the background, but please know that we believe it is an important ministry and gladly serve to help make the church service run smoothly and to help people feel comfortable in attending our CEC services.

For those of you who have attended a service at Christ Episcopal Church, you probably have a good idea of what the ushers do.

- Greet and welcome parishioners
- Count and record attendees
- Remind Children's church leaders that it's time to bring kids back to the sanctuary

- Deliver the communion elements to the altar
- Pass out the collection plates
- Help with the flow of parishioners as they received communion
- Open doors at the conclusion of the service
- And once everyone has left, straighten up the pew contents by picking up leftover bulletins or replacing prayer books

If you are looking for a way to serve, please consider volunteering to serve as an usher, please feel free to contact the church office or contact me directly at tqmartinez15@hotmail.com.