



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023

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## ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

## 2023 Vestry Members & Terms

Class of 2024: Judy Warnock / Mike Goupil / Jeremy Bell

Class of 2025: Travis Moser / Martha Weissert / Steve Lawson / Darry Weaver

Class of 2026: Benjamin Fox, Tom Laskey, Cortney Ogrzewalla

Brad Grabow, Treasurer / Barbara Needleman, Clerk (elected by Vestry)

## 2023 Diocesan Delegates

Martha Weissert/ Rob Weissert / Don Apgar / Steve Lawson / Dick Frey

## Nominees for Vestry Class of 2027

Alison Tierney, Chris Jacobs, Elizabeth “Liz” McKechnie



Photo credits: Margaret Baranowski,  
Kate Bender, Beth Clark, Jeremy Bell,  
Cooper Grabow, John Holcombe,  
Barbara Needleman, Carolyn Parrott,  
Robert Richter, The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli,  
The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff, and others

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**Minutes of the Parish Annual Meeting**  
**St. Christopher' Episcopal Church**  
**Carmel, Indiana**  
**February 5, 2023, 11:15 AM**  
**(Meeting Held In-Person and Virtually via Zoom)**

**Call to Order: Terry Suttner**

Terry called the meeting to order at 11:12 AM.

**Invocation: Terry Suttner**

**Quorum Verification: Robert Richter and Barbara Needleman**

**Election of the Clerk of the Annual Meeting: Terry Suttner**

**Motion: Mike Goupil moved to elect Barbara Needleman as the Clerk of the Annual Meeting, seconded by Martha Weissert. No further discussion; motion unanimously approved.**

**Approval of the 2022 Annual Meeting Minutes: Terry**

**Motion: Jane Dunnivant moved to approve the Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting, seconded by Rob Weissert. No further discussion; motion unanimously approved.**

**Door prizes for the Annual Meeting: Rev. Cara**

Three parishioners were awarded door prizes (based on the random number generator) in thanks for attending the annual meeting: Nolan & Diana Schmidt, Travis & Annette Moser, Mike Goupil.

**Housekeeping Notes: Rev. Cara**

Rev. Cara reminded the congregation that her days off are Monday and Saturday, and Rev. Chana is off Thursday and Friday. Given the ubiquitous use of texting, please refrain from texting them on their days off unless it is an emergency.

Rev. Cara also pointed out the emergency exits on either side of the sanctuary. In the event of a severe storm, places of shelter are the men's, women's and family bathrooms and the two enclosed staircases near the Parish Hall.

**Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members: Rev. Cara**

Rev. Cara recognized and thanked the following Vestry members for their service:

- Gina Frey for her work on the Outreach and Compassion committees
- John Holcombe for his work as Junior Warden over the past two years and for caring for the building.
- Terry Suttner for his work as Senior Warden. Rev. Cara pointed out that this is the third time Terry has served on the Vestry, and he has attended 100 Vestry meetings.

**Election of Vestry Members: Terry**

Nominations for Vestry members are solicited in the announcements three months ahead of time and from other Vestry members. The nominating committee discerns a slate of Vestry members from those nominations. This year's slate of candidates is: Tom Laskey, Ben Fox, Cortney Ogrzewalla, and for the one-year position, Jeremy Bell. Terry called for nominations from the floor. There being no nominations from the floor, Terry called for the nominations to be closed.

With no nominations from the floor, Gina Frey moved the nomination of Tom Laskey, Ben Fox, Cortney Ogrzewalla and Jeremy Bell to be elected by acclamation, seconded by Carolyn Parrott. The motion passed.

**Those willing to serve as officers pending election by the Vestry at the next Vestry Meeting:**

- Steve Lawson – Senior Warden
- Darry Weaver – Junior Warden
- Brad Grabow – Treasurer
- Barbara Needleman – Clerk

**Treasurer's Report and Budget: Brad Grabow**

Brad highlighted the following:

- 2022 was a strong year: Total revenue of \$776,000 exceeded budgeted income by \$96,000 or 14%.
- Pledge revenue was \$44,000 better than budget with 98.7% of total pledges for 2022 fulfilled.
- Open Plate (any giving not associated with a pledge) was \$93,000, \$38,000 better than budget.
- Rental income was \$51,000 which helped to offset maintenance costs.
- Total expenses were \$11,000 over budget due to higher utility costs and major repairs to the sump pumps.
- We approached the end of 2022 with a \$24,000 surplus of revenue over expenses. This was allocated by the Vestry to the Sabbatical Fund (\$5,000), Repair and Replacement Fund (\$9,600) and to general reserves (\$9,600).
- The endowment fund which was established at the end of 2021 had a balance of \$314,000 at the end of 2022.
- Temporary Restricted Funds, which were established for specific purposes or projects, such as the sound panels in the Sanctuary and a new Memorial Giving Wall, finished 2022 with \$52,000.
- Donors added \$150,000 to the Debt Elimination Fund in 2022. More information will be coming on how these funds will be repurposed, since the mortgage was paid in full in late 2021.
- For 2023, we have adopted a balanced budget with \$821,800 in total revenue and total expenses.
- The balanced budget, cash on hand and the endowment funds give St. Christopher's financial stability. Brad thanked the congregation for their generosity.

**Jr. Warden's Report: John Holcombe**

John has been honored to serve as Junior Warden. He thanked the members of the Campus Committee: Norm Callahan, Jane Dunnivant, Don Apgar, Corey Jacobs, Fred Winters, Steve Barnum and Terry Suttner. John highlighted the following projects over the past year:

- Beams were painted in the Sanctuary and sound panels were added.
- Panic bars were installed on doors for safety.
- The Parish Hall was painted.
- Two sump pumps failed leading to a basement flood and a \$13,000 unbudgeted repair to replace the sump pumps.
- Plumbers installed two access ports to facilitate drain pipe cleaning.
- Three minor but persistent roof leaks were repaired.

**Sr. Warden's Report: Terry**

Terry said that it has been a productive year. He explained that every member of the Vestry took on various items on our To Do list. Terry reiterated that the church is a great place financially, the building is in good hands with the Campus Committee, the new ministry structure is working well, and we have a very talented staff that keeps getting better. Terry thanked the congregation for their part in St. Christopher's continued growth and development and for their participation in parish life at St. Christopher's.

**Rector's Report: Rev. Cara**

Rev. Cara thanked the lay leaders, staff and the many other leaders who make our worship, our service and our life a blessing to one another and this community. In thinking about the future, the Vestry has been looking at the vision and reflection work that has been done in the last ten years, and although they are in the middle of this work, there are some notable findings.

- Many of the identified goals of 5-10 years ago have been moved forward, including; the organizational structure, regular parish service activities, leadership rotation, integrating newcomers.
- And, there are some areas that we continue to struggle in. Some are common areas of struggle for churches, like children's ministry, but the uniquely persistent one for St. Christopher's is the desire to be more active in and have a presence in the wider community.
- We need to ask what does it mean to be more active in the community? For what purpose? What are ways to be active in the community that grow our gifts and serve the community? And, when we invite people from the community to Christopher's, what are we inviting them to? We are a welcoming church, but what are we welcoming people to?
- The Vestry is going to continue to consider what we are called to do and what's possible so that we can serve and lead with intention that is shaped by what we believe God is calling us to do and be in this time and place.

### **Coming up in 2023:**

On May 6th, we will celebrate the faithful work and ministry of the last 20 years that built and paid for our church building, and most of all, gave us a model for faithful leadership and vision. Leading up to May 6th, we have planned the following:

- In Lent, we'll have a collaborative art project after the 10 AM service in the Sanctuary.
- After Easter and Holy Humor Sunday, we will have three Sundays of sermons talking about the spiritual lessons learned in the last 20 years.
- We will have a service project and have commissioned a historical tour about black history in Carmel.
- We'll end with a big party on May 6th with activities for all, giving this chapter in St. Christopher's history the closing it deserves.

The Vestry will work on our purpose/mission/vision statement to guide the next chapter of our ministry, and we will make plans for implementation over the course of the year. We have written a grant for assistance this summer into fall to extend that vision over our brand and messaging, so it shapes and connects all of us. Rev. Cara expects this work to support us in:

- Deepening our identity and actions as disciples of Jesus
- Committing to an area of justice work to be engaged in for 3-5 years
- Addressing the persistent desire to be active, to be a presence in the community
- Investing our shared gifts for impact. Our gifts of time, talent and treasure.
- \$30,000 has been set aside for strategic work, and this is enough to make a meaningful impact. This year we will identify what this work can be.
- Knowing our congregation and where God is calling us in such a way that our active members can articulate what they are a part of and what we are inviting others to be part of by connecting with us.

**Adjournment: Terry Suttner**

**Closing Prayer: Rev. Chana**

The Annual Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Needleman  
Vestry Clerk

# Parish Statistics 2023



Parish Member Statistics	
Members Adults Added	44
Members Adults Moved/Transferred Out	4
Members Adults Lost by Death	4
Members Adults Declared Inactive**	21
Children of New/Reactivated Members	16
Children of Outgoing Members	7
Net number of Member Adults	19
Net number of Children of Members	9

Worship Statistics for 2021	
Sunday Communion Services	106
Weekday Communion Services	33
Private Communion (Home Visits)	90
Funerals	6
Marriages	1
Baptisms	8
Confirmations/Receptions	16
Average In-person Sunday Attendance	233
Average Virtual Sunday Attendance	40
Easter In-person Attendance	608
Christmas In-person Attendance	822



\*\* Members are declared inactive after several years of very minimal activity and contact with the church. If an inactive member returns to participation in church life, they are simply reactivated.

# People In and Out

## New Members-40

- Kurt and Jenna Arbuckle
- Carolyn Brown and Carole Schulte
- Rob and Stephanie Cadle
- Deb Carpenter
- Kevin and Monique Charlebois
- Kristian and Sarah Doty
- Anne Earley
- Leesa Engelmann
- Tim and Diana Frederick
- Nancy Goldfarb
- Jason and Emily Gropp
- Matt and Barbara Hilton
- Joe and Lisa Januskiewicz
- Jen Lawrence and Jama Pryor
- Glenn Lawyer
- Cindy McConnell
- Zach and Megan Miller
- Jim Morse
- Jerrod and Diana Nolting
- Lisa Powell
- Curt and Carly Streicher
- Phil and Katie Ward
- Natalie Weir
- Katelyn and Ethan Worrall
- Mary Young

## Reactivated – 4

- Bill Barger
- Krista Cameron
- Mary Rosebrough
- Jean Anne Smith

## Children of New Members -16

- Miles Arbuckle
- Grant Arbuckle
- Siena Cadle
- Aaron Doty
- Eliana Doty
- Olivia Earley
- Ele Engelmann
- Maggie Gropp
- Oliver Gropp
- Phoebe Januskiewicz
- Henry Miller
- Jack Miller

- Celia Nolting
- Eden Streicher
- Emilia Streicher
- Maeve Ward

## Baptisms-8

- Miles Arbuckle
- Stephanie Cadle
- Celine Carter
- Aaron Doty
- Eliana Doty
- Clara Hinson
- Ava Twer
- Maeve Ward

## Confirmations/Receptions-16

- Jeremy Bell
- Angie Bethel
- Samantha Blume
- Stephanie Cadle
- Rob Cadle
- Pete Girbert
- Diane Girbert
- Kay Girbert
- Dionne Habegger
- Kirk King
- Kate King
- Sara McSpadden
- Beth Rich
- Rihanna Van Houtte-Read
- Katelynn Worrall
- Ethan Worrall

## Marriages-1

- Faith Anne Welch and Katrina Ann Curtis

## Transferred Out/Moved out of State – 4

- Jennifer Belton
- Harlan and Shanna Mason
- Maddie McLaughlin

## Deaths-4

- Beth Debard
- Helen Deliyenne
- Schuyler Hales
- Carole Smalley

# Rector's Report

## The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli

There's a liturgical call and response that is used in another Christian denomination that goes like this:

Leader: God is good.

People: All the time.

Leader: All the time.

People: God is good.

While I can think of specific times that I wasn't really feeling God's goodness, when I take a step back and think over the big picture of the last year, this is what keeps coming to mind. There is so much good and so many signs of God at work, that I'm just filled with gratitude for each one of you. It is a privilege to minister alongside you.

Last annual meeting in my address, I shared this goal for 2023.

*The Vestry will be working on our purpose/mission/vision statement to guide our ministry in the next chapter. We have received a grant to assist us in this work and in extending that vision over our brand and messaging. It is my hope that this work will:*

- *Deepen our identity and actions as disciples of Jesus*
- *Include commitment to an area of justice work to be engaged in for three to five years*
- *Address the persistent desire to be an active presence in the community*
- *Help us articulate how God is calling us forward*
- *Invest our shared gifts for impact, including \$30,000 set aside for strategic initiatives.*

I am thrilled with our new mission statement:

**St. Christopher's is a reverently prayerful  
and playful community inviting all  
to embrace God's expansive love.**

I believe it both expresses who we are and who we are called to be, including the ways we are called to be disciples of Jesus and to be an active presence in the community. You can see its expression all over this annual report in our life as followers of Jesus together.

It is also evident in the ways we have sought to be an active presence in the community. In June of this year, the congregation in a survey expressed their support for efforts of three to five years in two areas: 1) being in-

tentionally good neighbors to the adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities living independently at North End and 2) moving towards an intentional relationship-based ministry with the LGBTQ+ community. Both efforts are currently moving forward.

While we did not use the strategic initiative funds for a grand effort in 2023, it did give us the financial confidence to make some hiring decisions for 2024. With the stepping down of Carolyn Parrott as communications contractor at the end of 2023 and the still unfilled children's minister role left 18 months ago by Cathy Scott, the need for investment in additional staffing was clear. In 2024, we are expanding the staff communications position (filled by Robert Richter) and adding a new half-time position of Director of Children and Youth Ministries. We have a small but mighty staff here and hope that these changes will better support them and their ministries.

At this annual meeting, we will be launching our new website — the fruit of almost a year of work on our mission statement and then building on it into new branding and messaging. This work was mostly funded by a grant from the Center for Congregations and the diocese and supported by the input of Kelly Vrtis, Katrina Lewis, Robert Richter, Steve Lawson, and myself. Our new website is geared more towards the visitor who is wondering if St. Christopher's is a good fit for them. This anticipated audience means there is more of an effort to provide the information most frequently sought and to give people a picture of life here. I hope you enjoy the results.

Ending here provides a good opportunity to thank Carolyn Parrott whom we also will recognize at the annual meeting. Carolyn has served in the communications role as a volunteer then contractor for more than twelve years. She has supported countless lay leaders and staff in communicating about ministries and events, troubleshoot too many email problems, taught herself website design and maintenance . . . the list goes on and on. It has been a labor of love as well as talent. Thank you, Carolyn, for everything.



# Senior Warden's Report

Steve Lawson

As I said in my Stewardship talk a few months ago, we have an incredible team here at St. Christopher's. I am privileged every month to collaborate with our Vestry to make decisions that enable the mission of our church and support the long-term health of the church. In addition, we have a fantastic leadership team with Cara and Chana, a wonderful music director in Robert, and our supporting staff of Allie, Cindy, and Julie.

I'd like to recognize one unofficial member of the staff who stepped down this past year after many years of handling our communications. Carolyn Parrott managed our communications for almost 12 years, ensuring that *The Weekly News*, social media, and website were updated and reflected the spirit of the church. Our social and website were our representatives to those interested in St. Christopher's as their new church and the information there was vital to introducing them to our church. We owe her a huge thanks for all her efforts on behalf of St. Christopher's. Thanks, Carolyn, for all your work.

The year 2023 was a fantastic one filled with celebrations, lots of packing, lots of fellowship, and increased growth.

We celebrated with a congregational gathering to commemorate the official "Burning of the Mortgage" in May. It was an opportunity to come together as a parish to celebrate the success of four capital campaigns. Thanks to all who worked so hard on the design and building

of our church, led campaigns and supported those campaigns financially. And a special thanks to Marty Torrance and Brenda Iacocca for their leadership and for all who helped make this event a success.

The celebration also served as a fund raiser for the Roberts Settlement Legacy Walk with St. Christopher's donating \$5000 to help with the construction of that project.

You'll see reports elsewhere on our packing ministry, our increased growth and more. But suffice it to say, it was a great year and our new mission statement easily reflects who we are.

I would be remiss in not mentioning that there were challenges over this past year, mainly around our "aging" building. None of what has been happening is too much of a surprise, and it is our hope that the work and money we spent in 2023 helps mitigate issues in the future. You can read more about that in Darry's Junior Warden report.

It is my honor to serve as your Senior Warden for 2023 and 2024. I am honored to work, as I mentioned above, with our most amazing staff. As we move into 2024, please feel free to reach out via email ([stelaw2011@yahoo.com](mailto:stelaw2011@yahoo.com)), phone (317-590-0025) or catch me in person with any concerns you may have.



## Junior Warden's Report: Campus

Darry Weaver

The year 2023 was a challenging one for the Campus Committee, with numerous issues developing throughout the year, many related to our building as it continues to age.

Members of the Campus Committee are John Holcombe, Norm Callahan, Fred Winters, Steve Barnum and Don Apgar. Our new member is Tom Laskey, who was added to the Vestry this year.

The Campus Committee continued to use the services of CityWide for a variety of general issues when needs arose, along with our maintenance contractors Irish Mechanical (for HVAC needs), and Koorsen Fire and Security (for our fire alert and suppression system).

- General upkeep: replaced light bulbs and ballasts, repaired pews, touched up paint, sprayed for weeds in parking lots, flower beds, and Natural Playground
- Two HVAC units were ordered to replace the ones servicing Phase Two (Parish Hall Building). While they do not have significant issues at this time, the Vestry voted to move forward with their replacement because they are at the end of their lifespan. By the time you read this installation should be completed (scheduled for January 25).
- Commercial refrigerator and freezer (both 15 years old) in the kitchen was replaced
- Legacy plaque was installed in the Narthex
- New Parish Hall flooring installed, made possible by a special donation
- Resealing and re-lining of the parking lot, made possible by an insurance payment
- The cattails near the Natural Playground were treated by Aquatic Control Systems
- The Natural Playground was weeded, new pine bark nuggets were installed, the sandbox was removed, all with help from members of St. Christopher's Crops and the Boy Scout Troop

- Copier (11 years old) replaced in the Administrative office
- Entry doors and frames leading into the Foyer and Parish Hall were painted
- Gutters buried on sidewalks of both side exits from the Sanctuary

## Worship

The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli, Rector

Worship is an integral part of our life together as we gather each week as a community in prayer. It may appear like it all just runs itself, but a lot of effort goes into making worship happen on a weekly basis. In addition to staff time, over 125 congregants take part in some worship ministry: ushers, acolytes, greeters, altar guild, flower guild, lectors, and choir. It is a gift to have so many people take part in forming our worship life together.

A special thank you to all our leaders who shepherd these different ministries: Jenell Weaver, Margo Suttner, John Bergin, Ken Crandall, Marty Torrance, Jenni Alexander, Rev. Cara Spaccarelli, and Robert Richter. The only leader transition this year was Jason Melnick stepping down as acolyte co-leader after more than five years in the role; Gina Frey stepped into the role, joining Jenni Alexander in shepherding the youth acolytes.

Highlights of the past year include:

- New Baptismal Font commissioned with the estate gift from Tom Litkowski. John Holcombe made the font, and GRT Glass Design created the bowl.
- Upgrade of the sound system hardware that gives us more control over the microphones sound and increased sensitivity of the lectern microphone. This completes all planned sound system upgrades in the sanctuary that have happened over last few years.
- Easter and Christmas worship services have fully returned to pre-pandemic numbers.





## Faith Formation

### The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff, Associate Rector

Because the major construction project on 1-465 began near my home in 2023, I've been finding new routes for my morning commute. Sometimes I sail through, sometimes a route I'm familiar with is unexpectedly blocked by construction shifts or an accident and there's more wait time than usual. If I'm not paying close attention, I go into auto-pilot mode and forget the construction shifts, ending up on the wrong on-ramp and needing to re-route, which may require more than one workaround!

The spiritual journey is often like the daily commute. Most of the time, things go along fine, but frequently enough, there is something that shakes us out of routine, or we might just want to try a new route for the fun of it! We continue to learn and grow in our faith by learning more about God individually and together—what we call formation—so that we continue to easily access the life-giving spirit of God within us. Bible study, learning the pathways walked by other people of faith, and trying out new ideas about God or faith can help us pay better attention to the ways God speaks within our unique souls. And with this awareness, it becomes easier to find the avenues that connect us quickly and smoothly to God or take a new route or workaround when a surprise sends us into unfamiliar territory.

Continued formation is crucial for your spiritual health, vitality, and well-being. I hope our formation programs provide accessible on- and off-ramps that help you find your way, always, to familiar surroundings and your essential spiritual destination—communion and contemplation, encompassed in the heart of God. As you read about the past year's activities, I hope they will lead you to discover a wonderful opportunity—and travel companions—to deepen your spiritual life at St. Christopher's:

### Adult Formation

New and/or newcomer-inclusive offerings for the year to facilitate deeper learning and connection included:

- **Spiritual Reset: Labyrinth-Making** retreat day led by Rev. Cara for over 40 participants.
- About 40 people participated in **Adult Small Groups**, meeting weekly to reflect on sermon content during January, February, and March.

- Several **Episcopal Quick Dips** were taught by Rev. Chana to introduce newcomers to the Episcopal tradition, liturgy, and framework for spirituality in addition to a combined youth/adult Confirmation Class in Lent. 14 adults and 2 youth were confirmed, either at the St. Paul's regional confirmation service or the Bishop's annual Visitation.
- **"Walk to Jerusalem"** was incorporated into Holy Week, with education on different forms of walking prayers that included walking the labyrinth, individual and group meditative walking, and stations of the cross.
- **10-Min Summer Education** delved into the Skipped Stories, backstories, and deeper context of lectionary readings from Genesis, with short presentations from Revs. Cara and Chana, and our seminarian, now the Rev. Cory Irwin.
- **Men's Bible Study** (Thursdays at 7:00 AM on Zoom): was started in the fall by Don Apgar, geared toward those working and/or parenting young children, started out with Barclay's commentary on Thessalonians and Marcus Borg's *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time*.
- **Armchair Theologians** (Tuesdays at 6:30-8:00 PM): a weekly class with 16 regular participants explore faith through listening, deep reflection, wrestling with challenges to our preconceptions, and conversation around thought-provoking theological content. Fall book was Miroslav Volf's *Exclusion and Embrace: A Theological Exploration of Identity, Otherness, and Reconciliation*.
- **Discipleship Formation Grant**. This year we received a grant from the diocese to strengthen our work in faith formation using the materials from Gravity Leadership. Both clergy and a congregant have previously been through the Gravity Leadership program and we believed it could be helpful in shaping conversations and promoting growth. In August, 50 congregants participated in a day-long workshop on the 8 axioms (key assumptions) of faithful living. Participants were invited to join a small group to explore the full program more deeply over the course of the year, and 15 congregants are currently part of these discipleship groups.

- **Reflection Day on Gender, Identity and Expression** was offered by Dr. Gina Forrest and Mr. Marcos Garcia from Aspire, Indiana to develop a shared understanding of the language and definitions used among LGBTQ+ people to enhance our ability for relationship-based ministry with that community in Hamilton County. As one of our two initiatives recommended by the God's Justice discernment group and voted on in support by the congregation, the church has made a commitment to providing educational opportunities that will help our congregation and others better engage this ministry as it develops.

Ongoing weekly/monthly formation opportunities continued with:

- **Common Grounds** (2nd and 4th Sundays, 11:00 AM) led by Jason Mutzfeld and Beth Jeglum completed two video curricula: *God Calls Leaders* Kerygma study and *Creed: What Christians Believe and Why: Exploring the Apostles' Creed* by Adam Hamilton. 10-16 participants.
- **Friendship Bible Study** (Tuesdays, 3:30 PM): Led by Nancy Barney, a group of 15 parishioners engaged six 12-week Lifeguide Bible studies on Angels, The Apostles, and the Holy Spirit. The group has been active for over 25 years and includes both women and men.
- **Contemplative Prayer Group** (Tuesdays at 11:00 AM on Zoom): Led by Rich Gibson, a small group meets each week for discussion and group silent prayer
- **Women's Book Study** (Wednesdays, 10:00 AM): saw a change in leadership as Dionne Habegger took over for Julie O'Connor, with Deb Vine continuing. The group of about 25 women read *Falling Upward* by Richard Rohr and *On the Brink of Everything* by Parker Palmer.
- The **Becoming Beloved Community** (Dismantling Racism, monthly on a Tuesday at 7:00 PM) group supports Episcopalians to address racial injustice and grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers who share a passion for the dream of God. After finishing Layla Saad's book, *White Supremacy and Me*, the group took a pause for the latter half of the year.

- **The Order of the Daughters of the King:** Mary and Martha Chapter (monthly on a Saturday at 10:00 AM): transitioned leadership, with Barb Lyter to serve as president, and continued hosting monthly gatherings and service opportunities, including Young at Heart luncheons to facilitate connections among seniors, making beaded key chains to welcome newcomers, and making Christmas cookies for those homebound. Carolyn Parrott presented "The Early History of St. Christopher's," which will be presented for the congregation in April 2024.





## Children's Formation

Rev. Chana and Rev. Cara currently coordinate the various tasks of this position between them, until a long-term staffing plan is determined.

- **Nursery:** is fully staffed by Ms. Doria Lewis and Ms. Trinity Phillips. 32 children used the nursery this past year, an increase of 10 from 2022.
- **Children's Chapel** (PK – 2nd grade) takes place during the 10:00 AM service and the focus is on learning Bible stories, prayer/flow of worship, and building connections. Our participation numbers have doubled this year and we regularly have 8-9 children in a gathering. Half the year is led by our Senior High Intern team, and half the year is led by our adult team, currently supported by Jen Wiley. In the past year, the children have explored The Good Samaritan, Prayer, Holy Week/Easter, Moses, the Parables, the Christmas Story.
- **3rd/4th Grade Peacemakers** remain in church with their families for the entire service. Children's bulletins, pew activities, and books are available just outside the sanctuary doors, related to themes from worship. Children can fill bags of themed worship activities, which include coloring, puzzles, and other related activities. On the second Sunday of the month, this cohort meets with their teachers Missy Eltz, Rob Weissert, and Aaron Seitz for fellowship and learning following the service. The first half of the year finished out the Storymakers cycle on Abraham's family. This year's curriculum explores finding peace with God, self, others, and creation. Jesus

shows us the way to peace with God through prayer, praise, forgiving, believing, and following in God's ways. 5-8 regularly participated on Second Sundays.

- **Sr. High Children's Chapel Intern Team** – Started in the Fall of 2022, this team of older youth (10th-12th graders) commit to share in leading Children's Chapel for six months of the year. They plan, test the lessons, shape the program, and lead the sessions. If they complete their commitment, they receive a stipend. We had six interns for the 2022-2023 year, and seven interns for the 2023-2024 year. Interns in 2023 included: Margy Seitz, Hannah Oyer, Becca Wacker, Christian Wiegmann, Becca Howard, Katelynn Alexander, Ollie Monger, Rihanna Van Houtte, Danny Mayberry, Samantha Blume, Adult mentors included: Aaron Seitz, Heather Monger, Chris Jacobs, and Rev. Cara.

In addition to these regular offerings, additional formation opportunities this year included:

- **Pray and Play** event for PK-2nd grade children and parents to learn hands-on ways to pray with scripture, objects, song, and body movement
- **Children's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner** with palm-burning (to create ashes), decorating and burying the Alleluia, and service with imposition of ashes was attended by 80+ people
- **Bell Choir** with Mr. Richter brought 2nd-12th grades together during Lent to play handbells and offer a song for worship

- **Celebration art project** to create a labyrinth with mirror stickers during the worship service as part of our Building Celebration
- **Backpack Blessing** where we blessed students and educator’s backpacks, tote or favorite coffee mug or whatever they travel with to school each day, and 45 backpack tags were handed out.
- **Young Family Gatherings** began this year. August BBQ hosted by Rev. Chana and Cortney Ogreszewalla with about 50 people attending. October Food Truck Friday, s’mores, bonfire, and bounce house hosted by Amanda Livarchik and Colleen Largent for several young families and other parishioners.
- **Advent Event and Crafty Coffee Hours** allowed young families to make cards for North End Neighbors, meet and connect with one another over fun crafts and hangout time
- **Christmas Eve Young Families Services:** Over 100 people attended our 11:00 AM “Story and Song” service where younger children can choose their roles to tell the story, and many more families were present for our 4:00 PM “Pageant from the Pews.”

### Youth Formation / Youth Group

- **Formation:** Most Sundays we had an average of 8-12 Youth with 1-2 Volunteers. In January, we covered the Beatitudes. During Lent we participated in the Lent Madness contest to learn about influential figures in the Episcopal Church. We studied Pentecost and ended the year with seven graduating seniors. Fall of 2023 we studied the New Testament including the Gospels and Epistolary Texts. We ended first semester with a Lenten Study focusing on *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* as a reminder that Christmas does not come from a store.
- **Youth Group:** We met once a month during the programming year. We participated in a combination of social and service activities like baking and decorating Valentine’s cookies for several area retirement homes, a Pentecost Pictionary Potluck, Laser Tag/Bowling outing, and a Friendsgiving Murder Mystery Dinner. We typically had 10-15 attendees for these activities with one to two adult volunteers.

- **Intergenerational Events:** Youth provided games and/or snacks for the Easter Egg Hunt, Homecoming Potluck, and Advent crafts during the Bishop’s visit. We also started Formation twenty minutes late on packing Sundays to ensure everyone could participate in congregational service projects.





## Compassion / Outreach

### Brad Lewis, Convenor

*“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you.”*  
(John 3:16)

St. Christopher’s response to this commandment has been to roll up our sleeves and serve our brothers and sisters both locally and worldwide. The Church’s outreach includes both one time outreach projects and up to ten different on-going ministries. These ministries fall under the umbrella of the Compassion Committee who oversees, supports, and encourages these ministries. This work is only possible thanks to the generosity, commitment, support, and involvement of all congregants of St. Christopher’s.

In 2003, our total budget for Outreach was just over \$17,000. We estimate that the congregation donated an additional \$20,000 in in-kind or monetary donations across the various ministries. This means that St. Christopher’s provided nearly \$40,000 to serving our community this year.



### New for 2023

When St. Christopher’s celebrated the retirement of our mortgage with the “Burning of the Mortgage Celebration” in May, we used this celebration of our blessings as an opportunity to give back. We distributed over 250 blessing bags with hygiene products provided by our congregants to local organizations. Through discernment, we were called into a new ministry with our North End Neighbors (Led by Rob Wiley and Julie O’Connor). The church has made a commitment to be intentionally good neighbors to the 40 new residents with intellectual and developmental disabilities living at the North End residential development. We have 7 drivers providing weekly rides to residents to work, school, and volunteer gigs. Additional one-time events on site at North End and at the church are also in the planning stage. Over 50 members of St. Christopher’s are involved in this ministry.



### On-going Ministries

These ministries continue to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ through both the dedicated group of people who run them along with the support and involvement



of the whole congregation. The work that is being done is truly amazing!

### **Angel Tree**

Led by Cynthia McCabe and Barbara Litkowski

The congregation gave 116 gift cards totaling \$2,730 that were divided equally among Prevail, Inc., Third Phase Christian Center, Good Samaritan and the Shepherd Community Center. Representatives of these organizations expressed their gratitude for helping to make the holidays brighter for those they support.

### **Meating the Need**

Led by Deborah Foley, Chair with support of the 4Cs St. Christopher's Church provided \$2,500 to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank. This, along with other donations, allowed the food bank to purchase 4,749 lbs. of beef and pork from the Hamilton County Fair 4H auction. On August 12, St. Christopher's 4Cs service group took delivery of the meat and provided sorting and distribution of the meat to county food pantries.

### **Blessing Box**

Led by Sue Blase, Lori Price, Teresa Walters

The biggest and most visible change in our Blessing Box program is the new, larger, sturdier box. Thank you to Cooper Grabow and his parents for the completion of his Eagle Scout Project. Our Blessing Box is used daily and helps to support families in our community.

### **St. Christopher's Crops**

Led by Jeremy Bell, Barbara Needleman, Co-Chairs

St Christopher's Crops had another successful season providing fresh produce for local food pantries and also fellowship for congregants. Donated 300 lbs. of produce and 150 bunches of flowers to local food pantries and Blessing Box.

- Volunteers: Typically, there have been 7-8 volunteers each Saturday morning and 3-4 each Wednesday.
- Elevated beds. We acquired, constructed and installed three elevated raised beds this year. A number of people helped to construct these: the 4Cs men's group, some local neighbors, and three high school students.
- Flowers. We grew flowers this year. One benefit of this has been interaction with clients at the food pantries. Giving flowers always brings a smile!

- Dorinda. Financial gifts from friends and relatives in memory of Dorinda funded the purchase of two new flower planters and one of the elevated beds, and we installed a beautiful stone plaque in her memory.

- Wider social issues. We have supported a couple of minority groups this year: purchasing many seedlings from Indianapolis School for the Blind and flower seeds from Truelove Seeds.

### **Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center Christmas Totes**

Led by Diane Girbert

We helped make the holidays brighter for our friends at the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center. Continuing our long tradition our tradition,, we provided 100 totes of food and presents that were much appreciated by the recipients.

### **Waycross Campers**

Led by Jacquie Winters

Every summer St. Christopher's provides funds to send four youth to summer camp at Waycross. Summer camp can be a life-changing experience.

### **MRNC Spring Break Snack Bags**

Sixty overflowing spring break snack bags were donated by our parish family for 40 children in the Mary Rigg Neighborhood Center's after-school program who need food assistance during the school break.

### **St. Christopher Blood Drives**

Led by Kate Bender, Chair

We partnered with Versiti Indiana Blood Center to provide the gift of life. Over 124 people are in our donor pool, and we have provided 60 Whole Blood Units and 10 Double Red Cell Units. We look forward to hosting blood drives in 2024.

### **Packing Team Ministry**

Co-Led by Lori Price, Sloan Whelan, Anne-Marie Monty, Tricia Seitz, Sue Blase, Kate Bender, Teresa Walters, Laura Miller, Cindy McCabe .

### **Shepherd Community Center**

We enjoy partnering with Shepherd Community Center where they "see and serve each person-from newborn babies to students, working families to lonely shut ins-with wrap-around programs, one-on-one mentoring, and community outreach with a long-term focus." St. Christopher's donated \$1,000 along with the physical help of the packing events.

## Carmel Backpack

The backpack ministry packed twice in 2023. We packed approximately 600 weekend bags for 150 school children in the Carmel/Clay school district. Packing took place on Sunday where an estimated 30-40 parishioners and committee members helped with packing and boxing of bags.

## Sunflower Pantry

We have a special partnership with Sunflower pantry in Sheridan. It provides personal care and cleaning supplies to those over 50 who are on very limited incomes. In 2023 we donated: 50 cleaning buckets, 50 Christmas boxes and \$400 worth of cleaning supplies were donated to the Sheridan Sunflower pantry to finish up our budget for 2023.

## Wheeler Mission Bags

In May we packed 100 small toiletry bags with small containers of soap, shampoo, shaving cream, a washcloth and other small necessities.

## Advent Calendars:

The packing team helped with some of the Advent preparation and had parishioners make cards to go along with the advent calendars that were donated to Sheridan Sunflower Pantry and to our Neighbors at North End.

## Feminine Hygiene Bags

Each year the packing team designates part of the budget to pack feminine hygiene bags both for Hamilton County Harvest Food bank and our St. Christopher's Blessing Boxes to distribute. This year we packed over 50 bags.

Serving on the Compassion Committee: The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff, Brad Lewis, Alex Esche, Teresa Walters, Eden Bruce, Jason Melnick, Ben Fox, Sue Blase, Diane Girbert



## Connection

Michelle Merritt, Convenor

The Connection Committee is comprised of teams whose mission is to build and strengthen community at St. Christopher's. Our programs provide multiple ways for visitors and members to engage in the life and ministries of the parish. We strive to create a welcoming environment that fosters relationships, encourages, involvement, and enriches the life of the community. The Connections Committee had a successful year.

## Welcome Treat Bags/Nametags

Treat deliveries are going well each month with deliveries to over 20 households. We have thankfully added two more volunteers to our roster. Nametags for new members were ordered and presented.

## Men's 4Cs Group

Led by Kevin Price

This group meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at Upland Brewing with 20+ attendees. The 4Cs coordinated **The Great Pumpkin Patch**, held October 14-31 and donated proceeds of \$1413 to the Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.

## Women's LIFT Group

Led by Carolyn Bickel, LIFT is a monthly women's social gathering at Bru Burger with 20+ attendees on the 3rd Monday of the month.

## Young at Heart /Daughters of the King

Led by Peggy Driehorst, DOK hosts a monthly lunch and fellowship time for seniors with up to 50 attendees present. The youth supported the July luncheon.



## Special Events and Enhanced Coffee Hour

- **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper**, coordinated by Stephanie Grabow, served 100 people, followed by an Ash Wednesday service for families.
- **Faith Works Celebration** in May was a great success with 200+ in attendance as we burned the mortgage together! Thanks to Brenda Iacocca and Marty Torrance for their leadership.
- **Carmel Pride** booth with photo backdrop, and rainbow-themed prizes, staffed by 20 congregants sharing the gospel of God's love and inclusion.
- **Young Family Gathering** in August hosted by Cortney Ogrzewalla and Rev. Chana with participation by 29 adults and 20 children, 2nd grade and younger.
- The **Grill Out**, coordinated by Carolyn Bickel, and held in conjunction with the Great Pumpkin Patch was attended by 150.
- **Funeral Receptions** (Carole Notaras) are supported as a ministry of Daughters of the King. They hosted four funeral receptions this year.
- **Coffee Hour Team** hosted in the Parish Hall monthly through the fall and weekly in December.
- A **Survey** in the narthex about food-based fellowship events revealed plenty of volunteer support for all areas and a slight preference for potlucks and externally catered meals.





This year saw gatherings to celebrate and give thanks. Here are three: the inaugural gathering with the North End Neighbors, the FaithWorksCelebration where we retired mortgage, and the Great Pumpkin Patch where we met new friends and raised funds for friends at Hamilton County Harvest Food Bank.



## Report on Finances

### 2023 Financial Activity Overview<sup>1</sup>

“Better late than never.” As those of you who sit in church near the left aisle know, this often describes my attendance on Sundays. This also describes the 2023 financial year for St. Christopher’s!

In mid-December, your Vestry and I were deliberating a few trends in church finances: pledge income that was \$40,000 below budget...six consecutive months where expenses exceeded income...what year-end spending could be reduced to bring expenses closer to income for the full year.

And then December happened! Pledges received in the last month of the year were the most since April, and \$35,000 better than the average of the previous four months. Plate income in December was double the monthly expectation. And operating expenses for the month were again well below budget, as they were throughout 2023. When it comes to this kind of good news, “late” is better than not only “never” but also “predictable” in this case!

Total revenue of \$837,000 for 2023 exceeded budgeted income by \$15,000 or 2%:

- Pledges received were \$15,000 below the budgeted amount, which had been set at 100% of actual pledges made (but the gap had been \$33,000 through November). Pledges received in 2023 fulfilled 96.8% of pledge commitments for 2023, supplemented by \$7,200 of gifts made in 2023 toward 2022 commitments.
- Open plate (any giving not associated with a pledge) exceeded \$82,000, topping the budget by \$22,000.
- Building Use income (rents we receive) added \$62,000 to income while we provide a valuable service to many community families via our tenants, Highlands Latin School and Carmel Montessori.
- Included in Other Income are the Easter and Christmas offerings, and higher interest income on our cash, which together raised over \$8,000 for unrestricted use by the Parish, more than double the amount budgeted.

Total expenditures, before year-end cash allocations, were \$785,000, besting the budget by \$37,000:

- Only two budget categories had expenses materially above budget, while nine were under budget and four in line with the budget.
- Our Rector’s relentless pursuit of grant funds in 2023 added great new programming and helped significantly in managing their costs to levels below the budget.
- Two planned expenses—wages of a part-time Formation Assistant and an allowance for strategic initiatives—went unused in 2023, helping manage operating expenses down by \$34,000.
- Administration expenses exceeded budget by \$7,000, due only to a \$10,000 unbudgeted replacement of the copy machine.
- Facilities expenditures were \$2,000 greater than budgeted, but included three larger unplanned costs and numerous other repairs described in the Junior Warden’s report.

<sup>1</sup> For simplicity, all figures in this narrative are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars.

Completing the year with a \$51,000 surplus of revenue over expenses, your Vestry has approved four uses of these funds. The Repairs and Replacement fund has been boosted by \$15,000; the Sabbatical Fund (Rev. Cara takes her leave of us this summer and Rev. Chana will follow in 2025) was supplemented by \$3,000; \$27,000 was deposited into our long-term general reserves/emergency fund. That leaves a \$6,000 net surplus, to be carried over to 2024 so that the new year's budget will be balanced.

### **Financial Positioning for Strength**

- The Endowment Fund was established at the end of 2021, to be grown to at least one million dollars before any spending may be drawn from it. During 2023, it grew by \$106,000, or 34%, to \$420,000 from a 55/45 combination of investment gains and generous gifts (before including some \$50,000 of investment gains in the fourth quarter which have not yet been officially reported to us). Beginning early in 2023, recognition of estate gifts to the St. Christopher's endowment past, present and future have been commemorated on a donor Legacy Wall located just off the Narthex.
- Though our mortgage debt was retired in 2021, St. Christopher's continued to receive giving from pledges made by several dedicated parishioners prior to the debt's payoff. These totaled \$65,000 during the year, increasing the Debt Elimination Fund to \$305,000. All pledge commitments for debt reduction now have been received; during 2024 this fund will be closed and its balance combined with the Repairs and Replacements Fund to defray the large and growing costs of maintaining our beautiful campus.

### **2024 Budget**

Driven by generous pledging for 2023 and a motivation to "do more", the Vestry has approved a 2024 budget that continues to manage spending of \$844,000 to within \$6,000 of planned revenue of \$838,000. The difference will be made up from a small portion of the 2023 surplus, so that all spending has an identified funding source. This budget represents an increase of 5.6% over 2023. It includes new planned spending for a part-time formation assistant, a part-time communications director and more resources and programming for young families and children, all important to the continued growth of St. Christopher's.

- Pledge revenue for 2024 is based on 95% of pledge commitments that have been made by the congregation. With the significant staffing additions in 2024—an expense that represents a commitment—we felt it prudent to budget revenue conservatively. Plate income is budgeted below the 2023 actual level but 17% higher than budgeted in 2023, as some previous plate giving is expected to arrive as pledge giving this year.
- The Administration budget is \$10,000 lower than was spent in 2023, but 2023 expenses included the \$10,000 copier replacement that will not occur again this year.
- The Facilities budget is \$6,000 above actual spending in 2023, when several large but unplanned expenditures occurred.
- The Finance budget of \$7,800 represents the cost of our mandatory biennial audit during 2024.
- Formation is budgeted higher in 2024 with the inclusion in 2024 of the Youth Internship program.
- Ministry budgets for Invite, Welcome, Connect and for Formation are lower in 2024. Not only are these shown net of planned grant income or other revenue streams that offset spending amounts, but they also had significant activities in 2023 that enlarged their budgets. Their 2024 budgets represent a return to "normal" levels.
- Personnel expenses will be greater in 2024 with the additions of a part-time communications director and a part-time Formation Assistant later in the year. Additionally, a 4% wage increase was granted across all positions for 2024.

Brad Grabow  
Treasurer

## 2023 Operating Budget and 2024 Budget

	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
<b>Revenue</b>			
Annual Pledges	\$693,000	\$678,371	\$685,043
Open Plate	\$60,000	\$82,430	\$70,000
Building Use	\$63,800	\$62,415	\$63,800
Other Income	\$5,000	\$13,354	\$19,038
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$821,800</b>	<b>\$836,570</b>	<b>\$837,881</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Administration	\$22,400	\$29,505	\$20,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$90,564	\$90,564	\$92,314
Facilities	\$108,600	\$111,162	\$113,650
Fellowship	\$5,900	\$2,884	\$2,000
Finance	\$0	\$0	\$7,800
Formation	\$5,750	\$5,799	\$9,250
Insurance	\$41,281	\$40,262	\$45,925
Invite Welcome Connect	\$8,800	\$8,694	\$3,850
Music	\$9,947	\$8,296	\$9,869
Outreach	\$17,615	\$15,709	\$19,320
Personnel	\$415,085	\$407,871	\$458,026
Strategic Initiative(s)	\$30,832	\$4,456	\$0
Utilities	\$63,026	\$58,234	\$60,500
Worship	\$2,000	\$1,656	\$1,500
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$821,800</b>	<b>\$785,094</b>	<b>\$844,004</b>
<b>Net Revenue after Expenses</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$51,476</b>	<b>-\$6,123</b>
Cash Allocations/Transfers	\$0	-\$45,353	+\$6,123
<b>Net Revenue after Expenses &amp; Transfers</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$6,123</b>	<b>\$0</b>

# Report of Accounts

December 31, 2023

<u>Account</u>	<u>Held at:</u>	
Operating Account (Note 1)	First Internet Bank (interest bearing)	\$89,647
Restricted Funds:		
Altar Guild		\$14,877
Building Repair and Replacement (Notes 1, 2)		\$141,892
Clergy Discretionary		\$10,252
Columbarium		\$17,712
Daughters of the King		\$1,008
Kitchen & Décor		\$7,074
Library		\$3,793
Music		\$2,340
Sabbatical Leave (Notes 1, 3)		\$47,483
Temporary Restricted Funds (Note 4)		\$12,793
Youth Programs		\$6,634
Youth Scholarships		\$16,635
Unallocated Interest		<u>\$3,436</u>
Total Restricted Funds	First Internet Bank (interest bearing)	\$285,929
Debt Elimination Fund	First Internet Bank (interest bearing)	\$304,901
Long-Term Savings Fund (Notes 1, 5)	Diocese-sponsored Fund that is professionally managed	\$253,989
Endowment Fund (Note 5)	Diocese-sponsored Fund that is professionally managed	<u>\$419,543</u>
		<u>\$1,354,009</u>

Note 1: Balance shown is after giving effect to year-end transfers to the Building Repair and Replacements Fund (+\$15,000), Sabbatical Fund (+\$2,700) and Long-Term Savings (\$27,653).

Note 2: Outstanding invoices for a major HVAC replacement and a larger plumbing repair soon will use \$90,000 of this fund's balance.

Note 3: This fund includes \$37,000 from a grant restricted to costs of Rev. Cara's sabbatical.

Note 4: This account comprises funds reserved for projects whose purchase or funding is to be completed in the next 24 (+/-) months, currently including the parish hall flooring upgrade, God's Justice initiative, branding/identity refresh, Discipleship programming, hallway artwork, and the arts community outreach program. The Vestry reviews detailed accounting each month.

Note 5: Market values are reported by the Diocese 6-8 weeks following each quarter-end. These balances are shown at their 9/30/23 investment market values, plus all contributions made through 12/31/23.

## Stewardship

We know that we will have all that we need to do what God is calling us to do. That being said, we had two numerical goals for our stewardship season this year—to break 200 for number of pledges and to sustain our pledges at \$700,000 so that we could expand our staff. As of mid-January, we met both of those goals! 203 pledges for 2024 have been made in the amount of \$724,998. In 2023, we had 194 pledges for \$698,975, and 38 households pledged for 2024 who did not pledge in 2023. The range for pledges is \$99 to \$25,000, and the average pledge is \$3,698.



## (Most) Ministries of St. Christopher's 2024

In 2021, we reconfigured our ministry committee structure to four standing committees. Not every ministry fits in a committee, but most do. The staff contacts are resources to the ministry leaders in those areas. Ministries that are currently inactive are not listed. There are ministries of a few people that are active but not listed here.

### Standing Committees

#### Campus Committee

Lead: Darry Weaver, Jr. Warden

Staff Contacts: Julie Maus (minor issues) and The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (major)

Committee: Norm Callahan, Fred Winters, Corey Jacobs, Steve Barnum, John Holcombe, Don Apgar, Tom Laskey

#### Compassion

Lead: Alex Esche

Convener: Vacant

Staff Contact: The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff

Angel Tree .....	Barbara Litkowski, Cindy McCabe
Blessing Box .....	Lori Price, Sue Blase
Blood Drives .....	Kate Bender
Packing Teams.....	Various
Lay Eucharistic Visitors.....	Sue Blase
Mary Rigg Center.....	Diane Girbert (Christmas); Jacquie Winters (Spring Break)
Meating the Need .....	Deborah Foley
North End Neighbors.....	Rob Wiley, Julie O'Connor
St. Christopher's Crops .....	Barbara Needleman, Jeremy Bell

#### Connection

Lead: Carolyn Bickel

Convener: Dana Patterson

Staff Contact: The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli

4Cs Group.....	Kevin Price
Carmel Pride.....	Vacant
Coffee Hour .....	Stephanie Grabow, Leigh Omer
Funeral Receptions .....	Carole Notaras (with Daughters of the King)
Greeters.....	Marty Torrance
Hospitality.....	Cindy Anderson-Clark
Kitchen .....	Brenda Iacocca
LIFT .....	Carolyn Bickel
New Members.....	Deb Callahan
Pumpkin Patch .....	Kevin Price, Rob Weissert

## Connection (continued)

Young at Heart .....Peggy Driehorst (with Daughters of the King)  
Young Families ..... Amanda Litkowski, Colleen Largent

## Faith

Lead: Stephen McEwan

Convener: Vacant

Staff Contact: The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff

Armchair Theologians ..... The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff (staff)  
Discipleship Groups ..... The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (staff)  
Children’s Chapel Adults ..... Jen Wiley  
Children’s Chapel Youth Interns ..... The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (staff)  
Common Grounds ..... Jason Mutzfeld and Beth Jeglum  
Contemplative Prayer ..... Rich Gibson  
Daughters of the King ..... Barb Lyter, Kate Bender  
Becoming Beloved Community ..... Various  
Friendship Bible Study ..... Nancy Barney  
Library ..... Nancy Dimond  
Men’s Bible Study ..... Don Apgar, Kirk King  
Men’s Prayer Group ..... Dick Carter  
Wednesday Book Study ..... Deb Vine, Dionne Habegger  
Youth ..... Allie Wacker (staff)

## Additional Ministries

### Worship

Staff Contacts: Julie Maus (Bulletins) and The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli

Altar Guild ..... Jenell Weaver  
Acolytes ..... Jenni Alexander, Gina Frey  
Choir ..... Robert Richter (staff)  
Lay Preachers ..... The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (staff)  
Lectors ..... The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (staff)  
Ushers (8 AM) ..... Ken Crandall  
Ushers (10 AM) ..... John Bergin  
Altar Flowers ..... Margo Suttner

### Finance

Staff Contacts: Cindy Short (minor); The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli (major)

The Treasurer, Executive Committee, and Vestry handle most financial issues. At times, they appoint ad hoc committees of congregants to deal with particular issues. Cindy Short coordinates the weekly Sunday counters of the offering.

# Communications

## Carolyn Parrott and Robert Richter

Communications are essential to keep everyone in the parish informed and engaged. Our digital presence is increasingly important in reaching visitors and potential members. We continue to use all of the tools below as each of them provides an excellent media for communication. We expect to deploy the digital tools in a more strategic way in 2024 as we roll out a new website and fully implement our new branding.



### Website – [stchriscarmel.org](http://stchriscarmel.org)

- Unique Visits: 9,249 (up from 1,478 in 2022)
- Unique Page Views: 22,948 (down from 25,772 in 2022)
- Average Pages /per Unique Visit: 2.54 (up from 2.47 in 2022)
- Highest Number of Views: Ash Wednesday, Easter, Great Pumpkin Patch, Christmas
- Most viewed pages: Worship, Clergy and Staff, Photo Gallery



### Constant Contact – Delivered to your email address

Our online tool for sending written communications and announcements

- Subscribers: 555 (up from 538 in 2022)
- Total Emails: 73 (down from 112 in 2022)
- Number of individual emails sent: 40,537 (down from 59,686 in 2022)
- Open rate: 75% (increase from 71% in 2022), above faith-based organization average of 38.2%



### Livestreaming

- Views: 4,105 (52 Sunday worship services livestreamed)
- Subscribers: 194 (up by 26 subscribers in 2023)
- Hours of watch time: 758 (new metric)
- 4 special video releases: New Mission Statement, Pumpkin Patch Sales Instructions, Blood Drive Promo, Christmas Eve Promo/Staff Greetings, two funerals



### YouTube – [youtube.com/c/StChristophersEpiscopalChurch](https://youtube.com/c/StChristophersEpiscopalChurch)

The online platform for curating our videos and livestream of services and sermons

- 3,570 total views (down from 6.1K views in 2022)
- Watch time: 44,000 minutes, 733.3 hours (down from 916.1 hours in 2022)
- Subscribers: 36 new subscribers



### Facebook – [facebook.com/StChristophersEpiscopalChurch](https://facebook.com/StChristophersEpiscopalChurch)

- Posts: 138 (down from 143 in 2021)
- Content Interactions: 33.5K (up 37% from previous year)
- Page likes: 664
- Reach: 24.5K (down 6.2%; no ads placed)
- Note: Meta changed its metrics in 2023, so we cannot compare directly to 2022.



### Instagram – [instagram.com/stchriscarmel](https://instagram.com/stchriscarmel)

- 22 posts (up from 9 in 2022 when Robert was on sabbatical)
- 1 video post had 73 views
- 388 Followers (up 320 from 2022)
- 572 likes (up 240% from 2021)



### Quarterly Newsletter

- Produced 4 print newsletters in 2023 covering upcoming 3 months and recent past activities
- Produced in Canva, a collaborative online tool that allows several persons to input articles
- Delivered in person at Sunday services and mailed to those not attending in-person services
- Distributed electronically in Q4 via *The Weekly News* email.



Embracing the expansive love of God  
[stchrisccarmel.org](http://stchrisccarmel.org)