



MINISTRY GUIDE



ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
EMBRACING GOD'S EXPANSIVE LOVE

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LEADERSHIP TEAM

THE REV. CARA SPACCARELLI
Rector

cspaccarelli@stchriscarmel.org

THE REV. CHANA TETZLAFF
Associate Rector

ctetzlaff@stchriscarmel.org

ROBERT RICHTER,
Director of Music & Communications

rrichter@stchriscarmel.org

CINDY SHORT
Financial Assistant

cshort@stchriscarmel.org

ALLIE WACKER,
Youth Leader

youth@stchriscarmel.org

JULIE MAUS
Administration Assistant

office@stchriscarmel.org

WELCOME TO ST. CHRISTOPHER'S

Maybe you are receiving this guidebook on your first Sunday here.

Maybe it arrived at your home accompanied by a treat from our newcomer ministry.

Maybe a friend offered it thinking you might find what you are looking for here.

The hope is that this guidebook will give you a sense of the character of St. Christopher's and the way we walk together as followers of Christ. It offers descriptions on many of our ministries, advice on common church-related activities, annual events to anticipate, historical information on the church, and lots of photos to get a sense of what we are all about.

Our leadership team and contact information is included at the front of the document. We can help connect you to the various ministry areas that you may be interested in.

St. Christopher's is a growing church that welcomes all: young and old, lifetime Indiana residents and recent transplants, faithful doubters and skeptical believers, cradle Episcopalians and people who can't spell Episcopalian. Our congregation includes people from various ethnicities, economic classes, sexualities, political affiliations, and religious backgrounds.

All are welcome at God's table.

Blessings,



The Rev. Cara Spaccarelli, Rector

OUR MISSION

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



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation refers to an intentional focus on the development of our spiritual lives. It is our hope to form faithful disciples by helping people grow in their knowledge of the Christian faith and Scripture, deepen their prayer life and relationship with God, and reflect on the ways God is calling them to live out their faith.

Most of our formation opportunities meet from September through May, please check our website for up-to-date information: stchriscarmel.org

For more information, please contact the Rev. Chana Tetzlaff: ctetzlaff@stchriscarmel.org

ARMCHAIR THEOLOGIANS

Weekly group gathers for introspective conversation and deep reflection on a theologian's book. New participants can join in September or January.

Location: St. Christopher's | Time: Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 p.m.

BECOMING BELOVED COMMUNITY

(Dismantling Racism) A group that works to address racial injustice and grow as a community of reconcilers, justice-makers, and healers who share a passion for the dream of God.

Time: Once monthly, Tuesday evenings

COMMON GROUNDS

Offered twice a month after worship Common Grounds is an opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue across a variety of topics

Location: Upstairs Parlor | Time: 2nd & 4th Sundays

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Group meets weekly to reflect on prayer life with time for silent prayer.

Location: Virtual via Zoom | Time: Tuesdays

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Order of the Daughters of the King® (DOK) is a sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of prayer, service, and evangelism. The chapter at St. Christopher's meets monthly for education and prayer; their service is focused on the monthly Young at Heart luncheons and occasional funeral receptions.

Location: St. Christopher's | Time: Monthly | Contact: Barb Lyter

DISCIPLESHIP GROUP

Group meets weekly for guided conversation on how to follow Jesus in daily life. Group has formal beginning and end.

EPISCOPAL DIP

Offered quarterly by the clergy to introduce newcomers to aspects of the Episcopal Church. Usually offered on Saturdays, advertised in advance This is a good way to “dip” into the theology, liturgy, and spirituality of the Episcopal Church. Attending all four dips will be full preparation for Confirmation. Adult Confirmation classes are offered as a weekly series on an annual basis as well.

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Men of the parish gather weekly to study a book of the Bible over several months.

Location: Virtual via Zoom | Time: Thursdays, 7:30 a.m.



TUESDAY 'FRIENDSHIP' BIBLE STUDY

Group meets weekly to study a book of the Bible or explore a theme over several months.
Location: Conference Room | Time: Tuesdays 3:30 p.m..

WEDNESDAY BOOK GROUP

On Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m., this group gathers for spiritual renewal through the exploration of selected books. The group takes turns presenting each chapter for discussion.
Location: Upstairs Parlor | Time: Wednesdays, 10:00 a.m.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, & FAMILY MINISTRY

ACOLYTES

Young people in 4th through 12th grades may take an active role in worship by serving as an acolyte.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

During the 10:00 a.m. service children can participate in an age-appropriate service that includes opening prayer, names and check-in, Bible story (told with props, drama, short cartoon video, or book), a time of craft or activity, and ends with a time for children to name their prayers for the week. They return to the main sanctuary before communion.

SPECIAL CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

There are several once-a-year children's programs, e.g. the Christmas Pageant, the Advent Family Event. Every other year, we offer a Communion Workshop for 2nd to 5th graders. While we offer communion to children at any age, this workshop helps maturing children and their families explore the sacrament together.

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL & NURSERY VOLUNTEERS

Adult volunteers are always needed to teach and share God's expansive love to our young people.

3RD-5TH GRADE FORMATION

Children in 3rd grade and above worship with us in the main service. We provide fidget toys and children's bulletins on the bookshelves outside the sanctuary to help children engage in worship. This age group meets on Sundays once a month from 11:00a.m. - noon. During this time they build community, engage Scripture, and reflect on faith and self.

YOUNG FAMILIES

Young families gather for connection and support periodically throughout the year. These quarterly gatherings give a chance for families with young children (2nd grade and under) to have conversations and build relationships.

YOUTH FORMATION 6TH-9TH GRADE

Most Sundays from August to May our youth gather for formation in the Youth Lounge at 11:00 a.m. for a time of connection and learning.

YOUTH GROUP

An inclusive and welcoming community for youth grades 6th-12th grade. Throughout the year several fun activities are offered such as mission trips, lock-ins, service opportunities, and social activities.

SENIOR HIGH CHILDREN'S CHAPEL INTERN TEAM

(10th-12th Graders)

This intern team runs half the Children's Chapels during the year and in the process learns about Bible stories, teaching, and relationship building. This ministry requires a commitment and youth receive a stipend at the end of the year if they fulfill this commitment.

CONFIRMATION

Every other year we offer Confirmation preparation for youth in 9th grade and up. There are several components to the multi-month program: education, mentorship, and self-reflection. The next Confirmation cohort during the 2024-2025 program year

For more information about these ministries, please contact
Allie Wacker, Youth Leader - youth@stchris Carmel.org
The Rev. Chana Tetzlaff - ctetzlaff@stchris Carmel.org



CHOIR & MUSIC

We celebrate God's expansive love on Sundays and throughout the year with a vibrant music program that provides musical leadership and liturgical enrichment.

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S CHOIR

The choir sings for the 10:00am service on Sundays September through May. Choir members rehearse on Thursday evenings, 6:00-7:30pm.

New singers high school - adult are always welcome!



CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Several opportunities for children and youth to make music in worship are offered throughout the year and for special services at Christmas and Easter. Music is also incorporated in the Children's Chapel time as well as other formation activities.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL

All musicians and artists are encouraged to share their gifts to the glory of God.

Instrumentalist, singers, visual artists, dancers... - whatever your gifts are!

SPECIAL CONCERTS

Occasional concerts and special performances are offered in our sanctuary. We are fortunate to have a acoustically resonant space perfect for a variety of musical ensembles.

Contact Robert Richter, Director of Music - rrichter@stchrisccarmel.org



COMPASSION & OUTREACH MINISTRIES

BLESSING BOX

We provide food and hygiene products year round in our Blessing Box in the parking lot. You are invited to bring items and add them on Sunday mornings. The box structure in the east parking lot hold items that those in need can access at any time. Government food assistance does not cover many hygiene products, so we make a special emphasis to collect deodorant, feminine products, diapers, toothpaste, etc. Contribute by adding to the boxes on a Sunday or during the week.

BLOOD DRIVES

Three to four times a year we host a Blood Drive to share the gift of life with those in need.

CARMEL PRIDE

Embracing God's expansive love, volunteers join together to plan and host a booth at the city's Pride event during the summer. From the first Carmel Pride, St. Christopher's has had a booth where we share our presence as an inclusive congregation. We continue to deepen our commitment to support the LGBTQ+ community by providing opportunities for education within the congregation.

LAY EUCHARISTIC VISITORS

Lay Eucharistic Visitors (LEMs) take the Eucharist to those who cannot be at church. They provide a wonderful, tangible symbol – not only of God's love, sacrifice, and presence with us – but also of the person's connection to the community.

MARY RIGGS CENTER

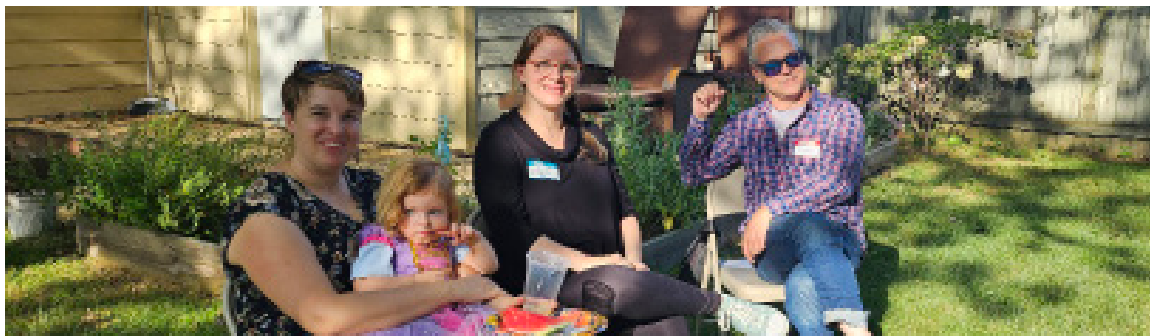
For over a decade we have supported the families served by MRNC in Indianapolis.

- Holiday Totes (November)
- Holiday Party Volunteer (December)
- Spring Break Bags (March)
- Waycross Camp Scholarships (Summer)

NORTH END NEIGHBORS

In 2023, the North End development opened near the church with 40 apartments for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). With the support of Village of Merici, we are committed to being intentionally good neighbors.

- Hosting Social Events
- Providing weekly rides to work and school (with Merici Rides)



CONNECTION, FELLOWSHIP, & SPECIAL EVENTS

4C'S MEN'S GROUP

Men of the parish gather monthly to foster connection in a casual setting. The purpose is to build fellowship among the men of the parish.

Location: Upland Brewery, Clay Terrace

Time: 2nd Monday each Month

LIFT WOMEN'S GROUP

Women of the parish gather monthly to foster connection in a casual setting. Third Mondays, 6:30pm Ladies In Fellowship Together gather on the third Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at BruBurger down the street. The purpose is to build fellowship among the women of the parish.

Location: BruBurger, Carmel

Time: 3rd Monday each month

NEWCOMER TREAT BAGS

St. Christopher's is a growing congregation. We welcome newly active congregants with a treat and note of welcome. On average, volunteers in this ministry deliver two months a year to three households.

PUMPKIN PATCH

During the month of October we sell pumpkins as an opportunity to create connection in our community. Volunteers are needed several days a week to sell pumpkins and help greet our neighbors. All sales are donated to a local charity each year.

INTERGENERATIONAL GATHERINGS

We aim to gather as a congregation for connection at least four times a year in an intergenerational way. It may be a potluck/pitch-in, a chili cook-off, trivia night or other fun activities.



WORSHIP MINISTRIES

FLOWER GUILD

The Flower Guild creates floral arrangements to grace the Altar. They talk with the person dedicating the arrangement to incorporate flowers meaningful to them.

GREETERS

These volunteers extend a friendly welcome at each service. Greeters assist newcomers and guests in finding their way around the church. Children and families are welcome to serve.

LECTORS & INTERCESSORS

Parishioners serve on a schedule for reading and leading the prayers during Sunday worship. Children and youth are welcome to serve in these roles.

NEWCOMER TREAT BAGS

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USHERS

The ushers distribute bulletins, count attendance, and direct people during communion.





ADMINISTRATION & GOVERNANCE

Administration and governance are essential areas of ministry. Our goal is to run the parish well and in a transparent manner so that all ministries of the church can flourish. The following is a summary of the ways we care for the church's infrastructure and administration.

VESTRY

The vestry is an elected committee responsible for the business affairs of the parish and for crafting the vision for the church. All committees ultimately report to the Vestry. The minutes of our monthly Vestry meetings are available in the parish office. At our annual meeting we report to the congregation on the financial health of the parish.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

This committee, composed of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Treasurer, and Rector. It is a place for discussion and discernment of small and large issues before they come to the Vestry.

COMPASSION, CONNECTION & FAITH COMMITTEES

These committees meet twice a year with all the formation ministry leaders and staff to reflect on current offerings and plan for the next year.

REALM

Realm is our database system that manages membership, donations, and communication for several of our groups. Members have a login that allows them to manage their giving and connect to a parish directory.

FAQS

HOW DO I BECOME A MEMBER?

If you are interested in membership, please contact our office for a packet of information.

HOW DO I CONTACT PRIEST WITH AN EMERGENCY?

Call the main church phone number at 317- 846-8716; there is an option to reach the on-call number.

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION?

Email the Rev. Chana Tetzlaff, Associate Rector: ctetzlaff@stchriscarmel.org.

HOW DO I MAKE A FINANCIAL GIFT?

There is “Give” tab on the top menu of website to contribute on-line. You can specify giving to a specific fund. You can check on your pledge and make payments on-line through Realm - our parish database system. For help signing in to Realm, contact email: office@stchriscarmel.org

HOW DO I MAKE A PRAYER REQUEST?

If you have a prayer request, please fill out the form on our website: stchriscarmel.org, or contact the office. There is a link on the bottom of ‘The Weekly News’ email to add someone to prayer list.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR FLOWER DONATIONS?

There is a sign-up sheet for flower donations in the hallway leading to the parish hall.

HOW DO I SIGN UP FOR THE WEEKLY NEWS EMAIL?

There is an on-line form on our website: stchriscarmel.org or you can email: office@stchriscarmel.org.

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HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church was founded as a result of a survey made by St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Indianapolis to determine where new work of the church should be directed. Guided by The Rev. John H. Vruwink, the Rector of St. Paul's, a committee began working on the Carmel Project in July 1956. The project gained momentum with the gift of ten acres of land by Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Ferger.

The organizing group began holding church services in the Carmel High School cafeteria in September 1956. St. Christopher's had the membership and financial commitments to become a parish on December 2, 1956, without ever having become a mission. It was admitted into union with the Convention of the Diocese of Indianapolis on December 4, 1956. There were 116 charter members.

St. Christopher's called its first rector in March 1958. The church continued to meet in the high school cafeteria until a church was constructed. It was dedicated on August 17, 1958. The parish saw steady growth and added an administrative and education area to the church in 1963. By the early eighties, the church had outgrown its worship space. In 1983 the church broke ground for a new sanctuary, which was dedicated in 1984. The original church became Fellowship Hall. During the mid-to late 1990s, the church began to outgrow both its 1950s and 1980s spaces, leading to a decision to build the new facilities we occupy today. This major project was completed in 2009.

