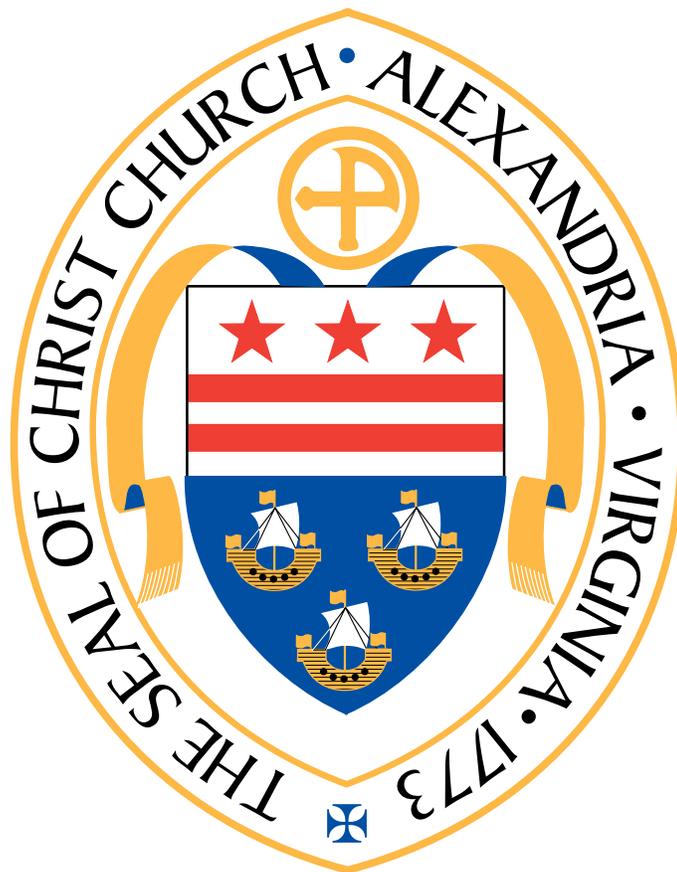


# CHRIST CHURCH

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA



## Parish Report

### Program Year 2017–2018

Presented February 4, 2018

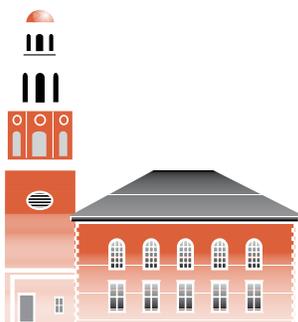
# CHRIST CHURCH ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday, February 4, 2018

## AGENDA

- 10:15 Call to Order..... Noelle York-Simmons
- Opening Prayer
- Declaration of a Quorum
- Appointment of a Secretary of the Meeting ..... Susan Hahn
- Appointment of Parliamentarian ..... Russ Randle
- 10:20 Rector's Address..... Noelle York-Simmons
- 10:30 Warden's Address..... Emily Bryan
- 10:35 Treasurer's Report .....Ken Knapp
- 10:40 Stewardship Report..... Tom Hahn
- 10:45 Christ Church Foundation Report .....John Weaver
- 10:50 Property Report.....Jim Lafley
- 10:55 Introduction of the Vestry slate.....Nancy Knapp
- 11:00 Presentation of Rector and Wardens' Award .Noelle and Emily
- 11:05 Vestry Resolution..... Emily Bryan
- 11:10 Question and Answer
- 11:15 Motion for Adjournment..... Noelle York-Simmons
- Closing Prayer..... Noelle York-Simmons

*Please join us for Coffee Hour in the Meade Room*



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## Senior Warden

**T**hroughout 2017, I often found the phrase “may you live in interesting times” running through my head. This year has been one of change, growth, and opportunity for Christ Church—most certainly interesting times. Some of the highlights that come to my mind are:

**Largest Covenant Class in the last 12+ years.** Christ Church welcomed the largest Covenant Class in recent memory this fall. We welcomed new parishioners of all ages, backgrounds, and traditions who found a spiritual home at Christ Church and are eager to become active in our parish family. In addition to a willingness to learn about our church, our denomination and our faith, the people in this class were also among the first to step up in our pledge campaign.

**Reinvigorated stewardship campaign.** The generosity of Christ Church parishioners is not surprising to anyone who worships here regularly. What was most remarkable to me was the willingness of so many to roll their sleeves up and help with the final push to close out the campaign. In addition to the outstanding Stewardship Committee, members of the Vestry, Foundation, Finance and many others stepped in to do the work that needed to be done to continue the work of our church. This kind of “all-in” work is a Spirit infused example of how we best get things done at Christ Church.

**Balancing the budget.** The Vestry committed to adjusting the budget so that Christ Church lives within its means. That has made for some painful cuts and difficult choices, even after we reached our pledge campaign goal. It also has created an opportunity for us to explore what our priorities

are moving into the future. These conversations will challenge and engage us in the year ahead.

**Plaque discussion.** The decision to discuss the appropriateness of the marble memorial plaques in our worship space opened a conversation and process that was painful for many in our family. Members of the Vestry noted time and again that the prevailing emotion expressed in our listening sessions is a deep love for the parish community. We have opportunities for reconciliation and healing within the parish in the year ahead, and I am excited to see those unfold.

**Preparing to say farewell to Ann Gillespie.** Staff transitions are a difficult part of church life, and clergy transitions are even more so. Ann has touched the lives, hearts, and spirits of everyone who has worshipped at Christ Church in the last decade. The outpouring of love, support, and encouragement for Ann & Jeff has been a beautiful reminder of our community’s strength.

Looking to the future, the plaque Relocation Committee is moving forward, and the History and Campus Museum Committees are about to launch; a broker is assisting us with envisioning new uses for the Fowler House building; first Wednesday dinners and third Sunday fellowship breakfasts will be joined by Lenten Book Groups and other fellowship opportunities; and our incredible staff continues to work hard every day as the backbone of this parish.

May these interesting times bring us joy, peace, and growth in 2018.

*Emily R. Bryan, Senior Warden  
emilyrbryan@gmail.com*

## Associate Rector's Report

It has been an honor and a gift to work, plan, serve, minister, cook, eat, laugh, sing, and pray with the people of Christ Church across 2017. My time has been spent supporting the ministry areas of faith formation for our children, youth, and families; hospitality; membership, newcomers, and evangelism; pastoral care; and stewardship. All of that work goes hand in hand with the daily work of being part of the administrative team and preparing for worship and preaching.

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young. Instead, set an example for the believers through your speech, behavior, love, and faith.*

1 Timothy 4:12 (Common English Bible)

One of my top 2017 highlights in children, youth, and families (CYF) ministries was preparing and then presenting 11 youth to make a public affirmation of their maturing faith and be confirmed at the Bishop's visit in June 2017. The class of a dozen youth asked good questions across our months together, read the Bible, studied the Book of Common Prayer, and discussed theology and how to live their faith in daily life. They created true-to-themselves statements of belief and shared these with their classmates. Best of all, most of them have continued to live out their faith and attend worship regularly at Christ Church.

In the fall of 2017, we created the CYF committee, including having a Vestry liaison, currently Kelley Brooke Hostetler. This committee seeks to understand the needs of parishioners under age 18 and their families, support staff and volunteers in developing ministry opportunities in the Fowler House and throughout the church, and to continue to build greater sustainability for our children and youth ministries. Please take time to ask questions of and to thank those serving on the CYF committee: Jack Hutcheson, Brett Levanto, Lisa Tenore, Elizabeth Trigg, Martha Wilcox, Brendan Wommack (youth member), and Brian Wommack. Matt Welsch and Santiago Rodriguez also serve on this committee as CYF staff.

*Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.*

Hebrews 13: 1-2 (NRSV)

The Hospitality Committee, and its many subcommittees, continues to provide a warm welcome to Christ Church and share something delicious and beautiful at a wide variety of occasions throughout the year. Betsy Hahn and Fran Usher continue to serve as co-chairs of the Hospitality Committee as well as participate in subcommittee work. The subcommittees support these ministries and functions: Fellowship Coffee Hours following the 10:00 a.m. services weekly, Adult Forum hospitality, Fellowship Breakfasts September through April, quarterly Gathering luncheons, funeral receptions, and major receptions. In 2017, we hosted the Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship service, now at its new day and time of the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. There was a lovely reception of hors d'oeuvres and desserts and all were happy to be able to spend Thanksgiving Day at home with family; special thanks to Stephanie Roberts for her leadership. People involved in the Hospitality Committee also help with other fellowship opportunities such as Dinner Church, the Shrine Mont Parish Weekend, and fall and spring potluck picnics. Sometimes Christ Church can feel like a big place where it is hard to get to know other people beyond a Sunday smile. If you feel that way, volunteer for a hospitality event and you will get to know a crew of women and men from their 20's to their 80's who offer a warm welcome with laughter and a smile.

*Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it.* 1 Corinthians 12:27 (NRSV)

Much of the work of the membership, newcomer, and evangelism ministries is database work that happens behind the scenes. Alesha Jordan did wonderful work as the Parish Membership Coordinator in 2017 and her work and warm welcome to new and long-term parishioners will be missed. The biggest change this year was the rollout of a new church management software for church staff and parishioner use. ShelbyNEXT is a combination

of membership database (names, addresses, phone numbers, emails, birth dates, baptism dates, and the like), parish and events calendar, affinity and ministry groups tracker, stewardship and development database, and accounting software. Each parishioner was invited to login to ShelbyNEXT, to download the smart phone app, and to keep the church up to date with their information, as well as to upload a fresh photo. If you completed the login process, you can look up the email and phone numbers for other parishioners, so that ShelbyNEXT functions as a parish directory. For the church staff, the membership portions of the system are much easier to use and more intuitive. (The accounting office has struggled with losing functionality that they had in the old system, so it is not all roses.) As we continue to get used to working in ShelbyNEXT, more of the work of supporting ministry areas with attendance and other data (from kid allergies to Lenten small group participation) will move out of Excel spreadsheets and into ShelbyNEXT. By the way, if you never logged into ShelbyNEXT, you can still do that!

There were two strongly attended Covenant Class series in 2017, with a total of 43 adults. Of these, 12 adults were confirmed, received, or formally reaffirmed their baptismal vows at the Bishop's Visit in June 2017. The fall 2017 class included three adults seeking baptism (one who has been baptized elsewhere and two who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil), as well as some long-time members of Christ Church. Linda Fischer leads the small group team, along with Xavier Bignon, Mike Collins, Gary Norek, and Dave Riggs, and presentations are made by various clergy and lay staff members, as well as Liz Ward, parishioner and spiritual director. There is room in the spring 2018 class for you this March!

There are many ways to practice evangelism, which I understand as having an encounter with God at work in the world. At Christ Church, we speak of evangelism as opportunities outside of our regular Sunday and mid-week worship, small groups, and outreach experiences. We offer different opportunities to connect with the wider community including the Day of Readings from the Works of Dr. King, Ashes to Go at the King Street Metro station on Ash Wednesday, marching in the George Washington Birthday Parade, Blessing of the Animals in October, and by hosting First Night.

*The Rev. Heather VanDeventer, Associate Rector  
hvandeventer@historicchristchurch.org*

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## Adult Faith Formation

**I**nspired by Vestry leadership and the national church, the Practicing Truth Committee designed a year-long 2017 program of education and faith formation called

*Practicing Truth: Race, Our Church, and the Community.*

In January and February, we offered a series called *Voices of Hope*.

**Voices of Hope in Music**—Our Director of Music, Jason Abel, presented a forum on works by Beethoven, Chopin, Elgar in which the composer created a work to provide the listener with hope.

**Voices of Hope in History**—Historian and parishioner, Julia Randle, offered another lecture on the history of Christ Church: “Worshipping in a National Shrine.”

**Voices of Hope in Maryland**—Jazz musician and

activist Daryl Davis told the story of his friendship with leaders of the Ku Klux Klan.

**Voices of Hope in Richmond**—Our former seminarian and former Urban Missioner at St. Pauls’ in Richmond, the Rev. Melanie Mullen, offered a forum on the process St. Paul’s Richmond went through about claiming their Confederate history and transforming the parish.

This was followed by a summer book study of *America’s Original Sin* by Jim Wallis. Led by different members of the Practicing Truth committee, we had standing room only crowds over six weeks of intense and intimate discussions.

During Lent over 200 people in Small Groups and many others outside read the historical novel, *The Invention of Wings* by Sue Monk Kidd.

As the program year started, the committee hoped to dig a little deeper with some thought provoking questions.

“Why is this hard?” In the first of our Sunday Forums on race and reconciliation, the Rector led a guided discussion on what makes conversations about race and racism so hard.

“What do we do?” In the second of our Sunday forums on race and reconciliation, the Rector helped us move through an exploration of how we respond to the difficulty of conversations about race.

“What’s next?” Lastly, we brainstormed some ideas about we might engage with our community

The series continued with two additional forums. **Alexandria is My Home:** A marvelous presentation by Dr. Alton Wallace, on the history of the black church in Alexandria.

**Heaven is my Home:** Singing the Songs of the Black Experience, a music forum with the Rev. Dr. Bill Roberts, Church Music Professor at Virginia Theological Seminary.

We also marched in September—March for Racial Justice on September 30.

We played a game in October sponsored by Bread for the World and learned how racism influences the Racial Wealth Gap.

We watched a film in November– Screening of the documentary, “13th”

#### **Other Forums:**

During Lent we offered three tracks of programming in every forum slot that wasn’t a fellowship

breakfast. We will attempt to do that again this year.

We had marvelous forums put on by our Outreach and Mission committees and the Christ Church Foundation.

In June, the Rev. Ann Gillespie presented an essay from her MFA manuscript called “Letting Myself Go.”

At the end of August, the Rev. Noelle York-Simmons presented a special Rector’s report one year into her time with us.

#### **Small Groups**

Christ Church continues to have a number of groups, both small and not so small, that foster fellowship, the exchange of ideas and support. All of them are open to anyone!

For seekers of any length of time at Christ Church we offer Covenant Class.

Our Daughters of the King prayer and study and fellowship group for women.

Trivia Night with the 20s/30s Vision group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at O’Connell’s.

Movie Club meets on the second Tuesday of the month. We see the film on our own time and then we meet for pizza and stimulating conversation about a recent film.

There are men’s groups, women’s groups and more.

*The Rev. Ann Gillespie*  
*agillespie@historicchristchurch.org*

2017 saw an increase in the numbers of children involved in both the Canterbury and Cherub Choirs. Combined with the adults, we now have an average of 70 members of this parish rehearsing each week in one of our three choirs.

Particular highlights of the past year include our Choral Evensongs, which continue to see strong attendance as well as our Lessons & Carols service in December. At this service, the adult choir premiered a new anthem by noted British composer, Philip Moore. Commissioned by Christ Church, Moore's new setting of *In the bleak midwinter-midwinter* has already been published and will be available for use now in churches all around the world. And, at the top of each score is the notice that it was commissioned by Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia!

We hosted the choir of Episcopal High School in May. It was the first time, in what we hope will become an annual tradition, of combining the school choir with our own choir on Mother's Day.

Our July 4 service continues to grow in popularity. I received requests from colleagues in different parts of the country asking for a copy of our bulletin as they had heard about the service and

are considering offering the service in their own parishes.

Under guest conductor Anthony Blake Clark, the choir offered Gabriel Faure's *Requiem* in November on All Saints' Sunday. The opportunity to sing this work in its liturgical context rather than in a concert was a tremendous gift by the singers to the parish and community.

Members of the Organ Committee met regularly in the spring and early summer to decide on plans for the future of the organ in Christ Church.

Special thanks is extended to Barbara Robson who devotedly maintains the Choral Library of the church, and also to Cap Bromley and Christianne Whitten who so generously offer their talents to help provide music for the 5:00 p.m. service. Last, but certainly not least, appreciation is extended to all the members of the parish who week in and week out join in making music at Christ Church, whether from the choir gallery or from a pew in the congregation – God's name is praised by your singing!

*Jason Abel, Director of Music*  
*jabel@historicchristchurch.org*

## Children

Children's Ministry is our opportunity to live into our Baptismal vows to support each member of our community as they grow in Discipleship.

In 2017, we had 120 children register for Sunday School. That's 20% more than 2016 and 40% more than 2015.

Sunday School attendance averages around 80 children a week, up 10% from 2016.

Each Sunday, a team of 21 dedicated adult volunteers show up to support the Sunday School as teachers, storytellers, and shepherds.

With the help of 20 adult volunteers and 20 youth volunteers, we hosted 75 campers from Christ Church, Grace Episcopal Church and Immanuel Church on the Hill for our annual Vacation Bible School in June.

Parents engaged in two book studies, one in the spring and one in the fall, to think about their own faith in relation to the faith development of their children.



One Sock On continues to grow and provide a vibrant community for parents with young children.

Children's Chapel meets during the 10:00 a.m. service every Sunday, averaging around 11 children each week.

Children and their families participated in inter-generational worship designed with them in mind for Ash Wednesday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, and Christmas Eve.

*Matt Welsch, Director of Children's Ministry  
mwelsch@historicchristchurch.org*

## Youth

Purpose of youth ministry: Walking faithfully with our youth, attracting teens to a life of commitment to Christ, involving our youth in the life of the parish and the parish community in the life of our youth.

In 2017, 87 youth are members of the parish  
63 youth participate in church life (acolytes, attend worship, chalice bearers, choir, participate in Sunday School / Confirmation Class, readers, volunteer for an outreach ministry)

Winter / Spring 2017, 35 active in Youth Group activities (attended 5 or more) + 13 semi-active (attended fewer than 5) = 48. Fall 2017, 33 active + 17 semi-active = 51

5 youth graduated from high school in June  
6 rising 6th graders joined Youth Group and Sunday School in September

11 youth were confirmed in June

7 youth moved away (with their families) last summer

3 youth participated in the Our Little Roses mission trip

4 Sunday School teachers 1 priest leading Confirmation class

5 youth leaders

6 parents actively volunteering time and talents to youth ministry

*Santiago Rodriguez, Youth Minister  
youth@historicchristchurch.org*



## Missions

Christ Church parishioners have a long tradition of mission work, answering God's call to serve with love and humility around the world and to spread the Gospel.

In 2017, more than 50 members of the parish donated countless hours to our ministries addressing a diverse range of needs in Honduras, Uganda and war-torn South Sudan while also welcoming visitors from each of these places to Christ Church.

Providing funding is only one aspect of our relationship with our mission partners. Our worship services include prayers for each mission. Through our prayer, presence and advocacy, we seek to touch the lives of many as we share the gift of God's reconciling love through Jesus Christ. In doing so, our lives are changed and our faith is deepened and enriched.

The Mission Committee and the Outreach Committee also joined in convening a meeting with David Beckmann, a parishioner and president of Bread for the World, to discuss how Christ Church and the anti-hunger advocacy organization might work more closely together to pursue areas of mutual interest. Those meetings have continued and are beginning to bear fruit.

### **Mengo Hospital, Uganda**

Our relationship with Mengo Hospital began in 1978. Over the years we have built houses for staff, provided medicine and hospital supplies and worked with partners in Canada and the United Kingdom to build a chapel, a dental clinic and an HIV/AIDS clinic. In recent years, our work has centered on expanding the HIV/AIDS clinic to provide badly needed services, and our financial support continued in 2017. The clinic's program manager, Dr. Edith Namulema, spoke about the powerful impact of the Christ Church ministry at a Sunday Forum in January. In March, parishioner Holly Hughson represented Christ Church at the 120th anniversary of the hospital's founding in Uganda. Later in the year, parishioner Raymond Gilpin made a site visit. Both trips resulted in valuable contacts and first-hand assessments of programs and needs to guide us as we continue our

process of discernment about what God is calling us to do next in this vital ministry. Also, thanks to the hard work and expert editing of Barbara Pringle, we updated the history the Mengo Ministry in print and electronic versions.

### **Our Little Roses, Honduras**

Christ Church has been a part of the lives of girls at Our Little Roses for more than two decades. OLR provides education, medical care and support for girls from birth through university graduation. Currently there are 64 girls in the residential program. Over the years, Christ Church has built strong and loving relationships with the young women at OLR who eventually become teachers, business leaders, medical providers and other professionals. OLR graduate Francis Guzman, who preached at Christ Church on Mission Sunday in 2017, received her master's degree in education last year. We are sponsoring two girls at OLR—Critzenn and Monserrat. Several hundred Christ Church members and friends have gone to OLR on mission trips, with 20 people traveling in 2017, including Youth Minister Santiago Rodriguez and three church youth. The 2018 trip will be July 14-23. In December, Christ Church collected more than 75 pairs of pajamas, which Sarah DeCamps delivered at Christmas. You can support our work by participating in fundraisers, sponsoring a girl, being a prayer partner for summer missionaries, sponsoring someone to go on the mission trip, or simply reaching out to the OLR committee to lend a hand.

### **Diocese of Renk (South Sudan)**

Bishop Joseph Garang Atem of the Diocese of Renk visited Christ Church with his wife and two daughters in October. His week-long stay included a reception on October 8 celebrating 20 years of friendship and ministry between our parish and his diocese. He and his family had dinner with our rector and her family, and the bishop met with other groups of parishioners. He also met with officials of the federal government and several non-profits, including Bread for the World, and with Bishop Shannon Johnston of the Diocese of Virginia. Currently Christ Church supports a medical

clinic in the Diocese of Renk and has contributed funds to refurbish the clinic, buy medicine and supplies and establish a communication network for the diocese. We also have continued weekly prayers for the safety and security of the clergy and people there, as well as for a ceasefire and

peace. In 2018, we hope to leverage our relationships with Bread for the World and the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations while we discern the next steps in our ministry in South Sudan.

*Tom Linthicum, Chair, Mission Committee  
tdl.consult.inc@gmail.com*

## Outreach

**T**he work of God is our vocation in our families and in the community. We look not to enlarge outreach at Christ Church but to deepen it, and to see outreach not as a project, but a calling in our community. We do not wish to improve ourselves, but to change the world on Christ's terms, to see the world with God's eyes, and to deepen our relationship to God and man. Each week, Christ Church parishioners take the time, energy and resources to go into the world to serve the Alexandria community.

### **ALIVE! Furniture Delivery**

Two Saturdays a year Christ Church is responsible for pickup and delivery of donated furniture. For many this is the only furniture they have. We also refer many Lazarus guests who need furniture and housewares to this program. In 2018, we will accept houseware donations during our monthly Fellowship Breakfasts. Thank you, Rawles Jones, for leading this ministry.

### **Bag Lunch**

Rotating with other churches in Alexandria, we prepare and serve lunches at Meade Memorial Church for 45–55 hungry people each day. In addition to sandwiches, cookies, and fruit prepared daily, soup is prepared winter months. Christ Church is responsible for Bag Lunch for five days approximately every six weeks—generally nine weeks per year. Thank you, Mary Dixon Hutcheson and Jane Baird, for leading this ministry.

### **Bread for the World**

Working with members of Bread for the World across the country, people at Christ Church bring skills, advocacy and faith to end hunger and improve opportunities for poor people. This year

activities will include writing letters to members of Congress, learning more about hunger at the local, national and international level, and celebrating Bread for the World Sunday. Thanks to Ridge Multop for leading this re-energized ministry.

### **Carpenter's Shelter Meals and Desk Coverage**

Every first and third Friday of the month teams from Christ Church shop, prepare a healthy meal, serve the dinner, and clean up at Carpenter's Shelter, a place where homeless individuals and families receive help to stabilize their lives. Christ Church volunteers provide front desk coverage to the shelter weekly. Thank you, Barbara Boehm and Sam Brathwaite, for leading these ministries.

### **Christ Child Ministry**

Through donations of time, gifts, and money, we create a Christmas store full of beautiful new items where parents can buy gifts for their children at heavily discounted prices. In 2017, parents shopped for 216 children. Thank you Nancy Runtton, Nancy Carson and Caroline Carbaugh for leading this ministry. We welcome Anne Ramsey and Stephanie Roberts as the co-chairs for this ministry for 2018.

### **Gleaning Fresh Produce**

From May through November, Christ Church volunteers glean fresh produce each Saturday from the Old Town Farmer's Market. In 2017, 5,719 pounds of produce were rescued from 11 farmers. This produce goes to the Annie B. Rose Senior High-rise and the Christ Church Lazarus Food Pantry. Thank you, Stephanie Roberts, for leading this ministry.

### **Ladrey Senior Bingo**

Residents at Ladrey Hi-rise Senior Housing look forward to the third Thursday of the month, when Christ Church brings an evening of Bingo, snacks, prizes, and fellowship. In 2017, the numbers of volunteers participating in Bingo has continued to grow, including a partnership with Keller Williams for Christmas Bingo. Thank you Trish Fineran & Nick Wasilewski for leading this ministry.

### **Lazarus Ministry (Emergency Financial Counseling and Food Pantry)**

On Wednesdays, trained financial counselors work with guests seeking financial support with rent, utilities, and medical bills. We often provide funds; we always provide encouragement. Weekly we assist 15 individuals and families. Thank you, Denise Jean-Claude, for leading this ministry.

On Thursdays, 40–65 Alexandria residents come to select food from our Lazarus food pantry. Non-perishable staples are available as well as fresh produce, bread, and other short-life items donated by local merchants and parishioners. In 2017, Barbara Fallon stepped in as the coordinator of the food pantry.

### **Meals on Wheels**

Homebound Alexandrians receive a hot and cold meal each day through Meals on Wheels. Christ Church provides teams to pick up and deliver on the third Wednesday of each month. Thank you, Jane Baird, for leading this ministry.

### **New Neighbors English Language Learners (ELL)**

ELL provides English classes to immigrants and refugees. Low-cost daycare and collaboration with social services enable us to create a caring community, where newcomers thrive. Classes from January to December taught adult English learners and served children, from countries and more than different languages. Thank you, Marcia D’Arcangelo, for leading this ministry.

### **Rebuilding Together Alexandria**

Rebuilding Together Alexandria is a gift of time given to assist homeowners who are physically or financially unable to perform needed repairs. The last Saturday in April each year Christ Church

volunteers fix, clean, paint, repair, and/or make safety improvements for a neighbor. Thank you, Dave Buffaloe, for leading this ministry.

### **Refugee Ministry**

Since our Refugee work began in 2016, Christ Church has been joined by other local churches to help us provide assistance, support, and friendship to refugee families who are here seeking safety and freedom. While each family is unique, they all share the common goal of wanting physical and financial security, education for their kids, and the chance to have an American way of life. Their needs are many. Thank you, Susan Kosciuszko for leading this ministry.

### **Thanksgiving Meals**

Each year the Tuesday before Thanksgiving the ingredients for approximately 150 meals are distributed, allowing families to enjoy a healthy holiday meal in their own homes. Families receive a turkey, canned goods, and all the fixings, which are donated by parishioners and local preschools. Thank you, Andrea McNicholas, and Denise Jean-Claude, for leading this ministry.

### **West End Lazarus Emergency Financial**

On Thursdays, trained financial counselors work with guests seeking financial support with rent, utilities and medical bills at the Church of the Resurrection. Weekly we assist 15 individuals and families We often provide funds; we always provide encouragement. Thank you, Julie Duke, (Christ Church) and Lynn Rohrs (Grace Church). Counselors are members of Christ Church, Immanuel on the Hill, Goodwin House, Church of the Resurrection, St. Paul’s, and Grace Episcopal.

### **Winter Hypothermia Shelter**

St. Clements’s Episcopal Church opens its sanctuary in the coldest months of winter to shelter homeless men overnight. On every other Sunday night in those months, two Christ Church volunteers spend the night and manage the shelter to extend a greeting to men who need a warm, safe place to sleep. Thank you, Dave Buffaloe, and Steve Reed for leading this ministry.

The work of Outreach across the City of Alexandria is vast, addressing the needs of our most vulnerable neighbors. The collective effort of so many volunteers who spend countless hours helping people in need in our community makes

real Jesus' call to love our neighbor. We are deeply thankful for these volunteers, their caring hearts, and the way they embody God's love.

*Elizabeth Trigg, Chair, Outreach Committee  
emtrigg@gmail.com*

## *Pastoral Care*

*"Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you...for I was sick and you took care of me." Matthew 25: 34, 36*

**I** am thankful for the continuing ministry of the Rev. Dr. Richard J. Jones as Parish Visitor for Christ Church. Rich makes many pastoral visits to the hospital, care facilities, and homes, in addition to those visits made by the staff clergy and by lay pastoral givers. Lay Eucharistic Visitor John Ronveaux made 42 home communion visits in 2017, stretching out the Christ Church altar to those who cannot come to church on Sundays. Steve Humphrey and Tillman Finley return to the church most Sunday evenings after the 5:00 pm

service to deliver the chancel flowers or greens to those who are experiencing a recent family death or illness, as well as those that the parish wishes to thank for ministry service. Twelve other lay pastoral caregivers visit in person or via the phone those parishioners who can no longer regularly be at church. Many more parishioners participate in sharing the caring of Christ Church by delivering an Easter lily or Christmas poinsettia. Thank you for your share in the ministry of pastoral care! The ministry of lay pastoral caregiver is open to anyone in the parish after discernment conversation with the clergy.

*The Rev. Heather A. VanDeventer, Associate Rector  
hvandeventer@historicchristchurch.org*

## Properties

As in years past, the routine maintenance of the church properties was the main focus for 2017. We lost our full-time Director of Facilities, Gary Gilham, when he left to go back to his former company. Gary did a wonderful job for Christ Church and he will be missed.

In December after several months of interviews of strong potential candidates, we have hired Owen Wilson (Nick) as our new Director of Facilities. Nick is a former Senior Facilities Site Manager with excellent IT and security backgrounds. He also served in the Air Force. If you have any day-to-day building issues you may contact Nick.

The exterior painting of the church and bell tower was completed after two years of progress. The interior of the church was last painted in 1989 and is due to be repainted in 2018.

The Mead Room kitchen is now complete and in use. It is designed with catering services in mind with warming trays and a Columbus Street door entrance for caterers.

Ross Building, Parish Hall and Fowler House: The roof on the Ross Building is very old and should be replaced. Despite significant spot repairs, we continue to chase frequent leaks. The roof replacement will be a significant cost that needs to be addressed but, due to the Ross Building future considerations, we are postponing the roof replacement work until the Ross Building committee advises us on its best use.

The Parish Hall and Fowler House roofs need to be addressed this year.

An annual donation from the Christ Church Foundation funds our routine maintenance. Your generosity, foundation trustees' stewardship, and the work of volunteers and staff help us preserve and enhance the church properties entrusted to us. All of us at Christ Church thank the staff and many parishioners that have supported this work.

*James D. Lafley, Chair, Property Committee,  
Vestry Property Liaison  
jlafley03@gmail.com*

## Stewardship

Last fall there were alarming decreases, as compared to prior recent years, in the rate and amounts of pledging necessary to continue parish programming and ministries. At the same time, though, our worship attendance and parishioner participation were remaining vigorous and even trending up. Recognizing the presence of healthy positives, it was decided not to consent to the reduced submissions, but to prayerfully continue the pledge campaign through January with weekly messaging to: explain our financial situation; extend personal invitations (letters, call nights, and personal conversations) to those who had not yet pledged and also to those who might be able to increase their pledges; and, send weekly updates along with declaring our amazing stories about our doing the work to which God calls us. To effect this messaging, Noelle emailed updates with “This Old Church” ministry videos every Friday.

The response in both pledge submissions and very significantly increased pledges has been blessedly remarkable. Now, at the end of January, the total amount pledged has reached last year’s total. This response mightily demonstrates our faithful stewardship acts of support for “this old church.”

A critical metric that brings us to this place is extraordinarily generous levels of increased pledged dollars by individuals and families, which is unmatched in recent years. Our continuing challenge will be to address a more than five percent decrease in the number of those pledging. We continue to be blessed with positive worship attendance and participation, and this shortfall will certainly also be reversed through our faithful sharing of Christ’s stewardship teachings of returning a portion of received gifts for God’s work.

Thanks to God for our parishioners’ generous financial gifts to do the work to which God calls Christ Church.

*Tom Hahn, Chair, Stewardship Committee*  
*tshahn1@aol.com*

*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work.*  
2 Corinthians 9:7-8

I had the privilege of working with Tom Hahn, chair, and the Stewardship Committee during 2017. The work and ministry of stewardship is more than the annual pledge drive. As Henri Nouwen, Roman Catholic priest and theologian wrote, “The discipline of gratitude is the explicit effort to acknowledge that all I am and have is given to me as a gift of love, a gift to be celebrated with joy.” The Stewardship Committee believes the same is true about the discipline of stewardship. At the same time as we are thankful for all of God’s abundance given to us to share, we continue to discover that there is need for more education and understanding stewardship and pledging. Common questions include: How is Christ Church funded? Answer: Mostly from your pledges. What is the difference between making a pledge and just putting money into the offering plate? Answer: Pledging lets the Rector, Finance Committee, and Vestry plan the yearly budget. It is not too late to make your 2018 pledge—just click on the Give button at [www.historicchristchurch.org](http://www.historicchristchurch.org) or call the church office to speak to Stephanie Woodland Kelly, Controller.

*The Rev. Heather VanDeventer, Associate Rector*  
*hvandeventer@historicchristchurch.org*

## Foundation

**M**y fellow trustees of the Christ Church Foundation and I are deeply grateful for the sustained generosity and support of our parish family for the work of the Foundation in preserving our buildings and grounds for ministry today and for generations to come.

The Foundation funds are managed in consultation with Sullivan, Bruyette, Speros & Blayne (SBSB) investment advisors, in accordance with the policy set and regularly evaluated by the trustees. SBSB also serves as the fund manager for the Tri-Centennial Trust, a fund maturing in 2076, under the direction of the trustees.

Because the Foundation assets are intended to provide funds for the future, the investment strategy is conservative. The trustees continue to

follow the Foundation's 2016 resolution to balance distribution with earnings, based on a three-year rolling average. The Foundation distributed 4.75 percent of the assets in 2017 for support of the church's historic property. The distribution in 2018 will be 4.50 percent; in 2019, it will be 4.25 percent; and in 2020 – following the conclusion of the vestry's HVAC commitment – the distribution will be 4.00 percent, where it will remain indefinitely.

The Foundation is committed to building the body of parishioners and friends who have notified us that they intend to make a lasting gift to the church through their will, life insurance policy, retirement benefits, charitable trust, real estate or personal property. Our collective commitments will enable the Foundation to more effectively plan the use of the endowment for the support and care of our historic buildings and grounds. The Foundation welcomes parishioners and friends to contact us directly and in confidence concerning their planning by using our dedicated email address: [foundation@historicchristchurch.org](mailto:foundation@historicchristchurch.org).

The Foundation sponsored an Estate Planning 101 seminar for parishioners on April 2. Members of the Legacy Circle, including those who have notified us of their legacy gifts and/or have given \$10,000 or more, gathered for a reception on June 23. The Foundation hosted a reception following the November 5 All Saints Evensong to recognize members of the Christ Church Foundation Society, including those who have made legacy commitments and donors of \$500 or more.

*Elizabeth Rudolph, President  
Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia Foundation  
[foundation@historicchristchurch.org](mailto:foundation@historicchristchurch.org)*

Value of Christ Church, Alexandria, Virginia Foundation Assets as of December 31, 2017
Foundation funds managed by SBSB on behalf of Trustees: \$ 5,061,492
Loan to Diocesan Missionary Society \$20,000
William Smith Trust, managed by SunTrust under terms of the bequest \$438,145
<b>Total \$5,519,637</b>
Value of Tri-Centennial Trust as of December 31, 2017, managed by SBSB \$348,205