

Christ Church Annual Report



2021–2022



Leadership Team Annual Report

Please be watching for what's next and

how you can become involved as we move forward. We appreciate your patience in this matter as we understand the importance of building a new foundation that works in today's world and impacts our youth.

The Finance Team has grown in numbers with the addition of talented new members. The team adopted a system of shared responsibility in order to accomplish the work. Our Vice-Chair, Ryan Lospaluto, has joined the team as a liaison from the Leadership Team in a supporting capacity. The team has added Stewardship as a component of their work. We are grateful for the important work this team does on our behalf. Thank you to Paul Conforti, who will be stepping down after this year, for his years of service in many capacities, including Treasurer and chairing this team. At the time of the completion of work by the Nominations Team, we did not have a candidate for Treasurer to offer to the congregation for approval. We will continue to look for a suitable candidate.

We are thankful for the work of our **HR Team**, Cathi Sloan (chair), Lew Hassell, Don Yeoman & Pastor Cheryl Lavernia (pastoral liaison).

We are also grateful to see the **Elder Council and Deacon Council** make great strides in their formation and establishing their priorities. The list of Deacons and Elders can be found at the end of this report.

The Welcome Team continues to prosper and grow under the leadership of Michelle Bruning. As the first group new people encounter, they are making folks feel like our church is a place where they are loved and valued. Many of our new friends have encountered us online first, like what they see and in some cases come through our doors ready to join us and serve!

We are looking for additional help & a leader for **our Facilities Team** to help with managing the property. While many 'small' projects continue behind the scenes, I hope you can appreciate the improvements that are more visible such as the painting of the main building in May 2022 and parking lot/driveway repair and resealing in June 2022. Many tasks are required to keep our buildings in good working order and are vital to the ministries. Thank you to Nikki Marchesseault who served as chair of this team along with those who assisted her with various projects; Art Torres, Dennis Fontenault, Eric Croft, Michelle Bruning & Jon Riley. Please consider joining this team!

I would be remiss if I didn't acknowledge the valuable outreach work of **our Mission Team, Care Center and Furniture Connection**. These ministries are outward facing and a key component of the compassion piece of our identity. Many thanks to the numerous volunteers who make this work possible! They bring to life the worship song that states, "they will know us by our love"! They are the hands and feet of Christ reaching out to a world that needs Him now more than ever. We are blessed by their service always and we could always use additional help!

We would like to acknowledge all those on our Christ Church **Staff** who dedicate themselves behind the scenes to make what happens at Christ Church possible. Also, we are blessed by the many volunteers here at the church. The more you get involved here, the more you realize what it takes to get the work accomplished. And the work is not just about producing a weekly worship service, which is certainly first rate! The work of the body of Christ is to share the Gospel with our neighbors, leading people to faith and maturity in Christ and serving all of God's people! The work is being a Compassionate Christian Community. Sunday mornings provide an opportunity to thank God for all His blessings, to celebrate & worship Him and to hear from His word! And while we are blessed with outstanding preaching, the sermon is not the reason we

come or the focal point. God is the focal point! Our worship in prayer and song, our reading and understanding of the Word, our participation with fellow believers and the fellowship we enjoy together are all part of the worship experience. We come to God the Father not to be fed, but to worship. The result of our coming to worship at the foot of the cross is that we are fed and empowered to be representatives of Jesus Christ in our daily lives!

This past year the Leadership Team met twice monthly along with special meetings including our annual retreat, October 22-23, at which we envisioned the next year's projects and priorities. We also read and discussed the book Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger, that highlighted the many changes in our world and how to be adaptive as leaders.

Thank you to the fantastic group of people I was privileged to work with: **Ryan Lospaluto, Vice Chairperson, Michele Humbyrd, Secretary, Paul Conforti, Treasurer, Serena Livingston, Paul Lenz, Pastor Vann Trapp, and Pastor Cheryl Lavernia**.

Please feel free to contact us with your questions or concerns. We are servant leaders who are committed to our church family and can only be successful with your help and support. Please feel free to contact us with your questions or concerns at leadershipteam@cccov.org. We sincerely appreciate your valued input, continued support and prayers.

As we press forward this coming year, we strive to discover what God has in store for each of us and how we fit into the family at Christ Church. We are doers of the Word, not just hearers. If you call Christ Church your home, then you are part of a family dedicated to being a light in the West Bay as we fulfill our mission of being a Compassionate Christian Community.

On behalf of the team,
Michael Poole, LT Chairperson

The church year began at our Annual Meeting in June with the election of new Leadership Team members, Elders, and Deacons and the affirmation of those continuing to serve in a variety of roles on teams leading the body at Christ Church. We thank **the Nominations Team** for their diligent work on behalf of the church family (Robert Messoré, chairman, Jim Cooney, Sandy Fontenault, Kelly Mahnensmith, Stephanie Plain, Judy Robinson & Karen Swiatocha).

Invite, Involve, Invest! This effort began as a battle cry for the 'summer of return' here at Christ Church. We wanted a way of rallying our people as we returned to in-person worship while still maintaining an online presence. As a church family, you responded! We continue to see new people coming to our fellowship as well as the return of our dear 'old friends'. God is at work in the body here and the fruit of our labor in service to Him is evident. If you haven't yet joined us back at church, we welcome your presence in worship on Sundays. If you can't make it in person for health reasons, we understand and are overjoyed that we can include you via our live streaming. But nothing beats the loving fellowship we enjoy when you are with us!

Youth Ministry continues to be of paramount importance to the Leadership Team and our church. We decided that before we could call someone to lead this ministry, we needed to define the expectations of Christ Church and build a new framework. Just calling someone as a Youth Pastor or a Ministry Director was not the right next step especially with the pool of candidates being very small. As such, we formed a task force that has been working on defining Mission, Vision, Values & a Strategy for moving forward. Thank you to Serena Livingston, chair, Harry Bonham, Paul Conforti, Pastor Cheryl Lavernia and Pastor Vann Trapp for all of their work.

Senior Pastor

Lord, You have been our shelter in every generation.
Psalm 90:1

As we made our way back into the light of “normal” life after living under the shadow of the pandemic, we found that the landscape of our world had changed significantly. We face surprising challenges in our world economy, in our kids’ mental health, in unexpected wars and natural disasters, and in people moving away from their participation in, not just our church, but in church communities throughout our nation. And yet, in spite of these things, we continue to see God’s presence, provision, and power at Christ Church. The call to be God’s Compassionate Christian Community in the Central West Bay is as strong as ever and God is still raising up the people and the resources to meet that call. He has been our Shelter. And we see that He continues to be our Guide and our Protector into the future. Thanks be to God!

All in...

We began this year with an initiative to regather our congregation and develop momentum towards the Fall. **“All In: INvite, INVolve, INvest”** involved three parking lot services (one per month, all live-streamed), three follow-up connection events, and three associated compassion initiatives. We even had “All In” wristbands. Unfortunately, although reasonably well attended, our first service on Fathers’ Day, June 20th, was brutally hot and it quickly became apparent that summer parking lot services would not work. The first connection event was successful, but locations could not be secured for the final two. Only the three compassion initiatives were executed as planned. Thanks to all those including our Leadership Team, who supported this bold plan. It was good to see our church leadership, staff, and congregation come out of such a challenging year willing to take a risk to keep us moving forward. Thanks also to Karen Clancy-Torres who organized our compassion initiatives during the summer months. The initiatives didn’t execute as planned, but the future-leaning posture of our church was firmly established as a result of the planning and the attempt. In place of some of the canceled events, we added a **church-wide cook-out and night of competitions** on July 25 which was also livestreamed. Thanks

to all those involved including our MCs, Harry Bonham and Jon Riley; our minute to win it game team, Miriam Montag and Anne Caron; and our grill masters, Greg Bruning and Ron Bruning.

As a result of these efforts, we were able to kick the Fall off well with two live and live-streamed services and in person CCKids offered during the first one.

Farewell...

With sad hearts, we said goodbye to our youth pastor, Stephen Albi, and his family in July. Lauren McDonough graciously agreed to step back into Ten25 leadership from her role as CCKids director. Pastor Cheryl shifted her efforts to building up the CCKids ministry and team on the foundation laid by Lauren and others over the years. With such limited numbers on staff, we have had to be creative with our job descriptions to cover all the needs. However, we continue to invest in continued development as we study books together like Cultural Catalyst and Canoeing the Mountains. Thank you to our Pastor of Discipleship and Strategic Development, Cheryl Lavernia, our Director of Worship and Production, B. J. Kadeg, our CCKids/Ten25/etc. Interim Director, Lauren McDonough, our Director of Communications, Pat Ritacco, the heart and glue of our office team, our Office Manager, Michelle Bruning, and our quiet but powerhouse bookkeeper, Bonnie Burchett. They have been both close friends and superheroes during these challenging times.

The Word...

We began our summer in the midst of an 11 week series from the life of Jesus called **“Everyday Stories.”** I shared this series with our 2021 Christ Church Preaching Cohort consisting of myself, Lauren McDonough, BJ Kadeg, Pastor Cheryl Lavernia, and Harry Bonham. We started preparing for our fall under threat of Hurricane Henri, which God graciously dissipated before it reached Rhode Island in late August and we launched into our 3 week mini-series called **“Pulling Together”** leading up to our Goddard Park Celebration on Labor Day weekend. Our 7 week series on trusting God in hard times from James 1:1-18 called **“Double Trouble”** was immediately followed by a 4 week series on our words and actions from James 1:19-27 called **“Listen for a Change.”** Our Advent series, **“The**

Story Became Flesh,” about how God comes near through Jesus, led us into our Christmas Eve celebrations. Ken Bell closed out 2021 with a pre-recorded sermon for the day after Christmas. We kicked off the new year with a 7 week series on our Compassionate Christian Community DNA called **“Sense of Direction.”** Thanks to pastor emeritus, Lyle Mook, for his participation in this series. Next, Pastor Cheryl brought a two week series on discipleship called **“Covenant Kingdom.”** Greg Johnson joined us for one week in our 7 week Lenten series about the Holy Spirit called **“Could it Be”** which led into Easter. And both Pastor Cheryl and Brother Philip were part of our 7 week Pentecost series, **“The Weight of the World,”** about suffering and God’s purposes. Finally, in June, we began our summer series, **“A Day at Sea,”** about how God takes us through transitions in our lives. Lauren McDonough shared as a part of this series on her last Sunday with us the final Sunday in June. Thank you to the preaching cohort participants for all the work they put into making this year’s shared series such a success. Thank you to Ken Bell for faithfully bringing the message both on the weekend following Christmas (in a completely new format!) and the Sunrise Service on Easter. Thank you to our guests, Lyle Mook, Greg Johnson, Brother Philip from Egypt, and Lauren McDonough for sharing their hearts with us this year. Thank you to Robert Messoré for planning and overseeing our special Service of Remembrance (11/16) and Ash Wednesday Service (3/2). And as always, a huge thanks to my pastoral colleague in this ministry, Pastor Cheryl Lavernia, for regularly bringing God’s Word on Sunday mornings.

Connecting...

As we eased back into our live gatherings, Carrie and I again hosted **C-3 Groups** in the Fall and Winter in our home. I continued our Saturday morning **C-2 Men’s Study** of the book of Mark, “The Forge,” till we finished the book just in the Spring 2022. In the Fall 2021, I also offered a Sunday afternoon study in the book of James from September through December as a complement to the Sunday morning series. I co-led a leaders’ pilot of the Rooted program in the Spring with pastor Cheryl to prepare for a church-wide launch in Fall of 2022. And Sunday evening’s **C-4 prayer gathering** has continued with a faithful crew through the year.

It was good to be back together with ministry colleagues at our **East Coast Conference Ashram** in New Hampshire 11/7-10, and then at the **ECC Midwinter Conference** 1/24-28 in Chicago. I was also able to attend as a delegate to our conference **Ministerium and Annual Meeting** 4/29-30 in Connecticut, and our **ECC Ministerium and Annual Meeting** 6/20-25 in Kansas City.

I have continued providing pre-marital, marital, personal, and family **counseling** to those who have needed it, and while we saw no weddings or funerals in this year, we did celebrate nine **baptisms** at our Goddard Celebration (Matthew & Danielle Liebermann, Anne Caron, Alyssa Caron, Michelle and Joseph Mangino, and Lauren, Aaliya and Anthony Martino), three at our Easter Celebration (Parker Ahlborg, Evelyn Marchesseault, and Precious Tuason), and one infant (Maddox Lello).

Thanks...

Thank you to my fellow Leadership Team members Mike Poole (chair), Ryan Lospaluto (vice-chair), Paul Conforti (treasurer), Michele Humbyrd (secretary), Serena Livingston, Lew Hassell, and Harry Bonham (who resigned early to help with Youth Ministry in light of pastor Stephen’s departure), along with Pastor Cheryl Lavernia whose leadership insights have been invaluable to this team.

Looking ahead...

As we look ahead to 2022-23, we see unfamiliar territory, but we know God is with us and goes ahead. And He has given us some glimpses of where He is leading. Our Leadership Team is excited about developing a clear and compelling **Vision** of these things to share with our congregation. We are excited to see what other **Missional Initiative opportunities** God will raise up to develop alongside the Care Center. We also continue to pray expectantly for the people God is preparing even now to bring to Christ Church or raise up from within to fill some of the ministry holes we have on staff and in some of our ministry areas. God, You have been and we know You will continue to be our Shelter, our Hope, our Strength, and our Life in every generation!

Blessings,

Vann Trapp, Senior Pastor

Pastor of Discipleship & Strategic Ministry Development

Matching people to their passions and encouraging them to follow God in service and growing in faith is one of the main focuses of my job, and it's exciting to see!

We continue to grow the discipleship culture here at Christ Church. This has included growing our **C-groups**. As new leaders and groups are added to our C-3 rotation, we continually hear testimonies on how people were able to make connections, learn more about how to follow Jesus, and engage in deeper prayer.

I want to thank all our C-group leaders who continue to disciple and care for our church. Again, a big thank you for their investment: Pru & Harry Bonham, Don & Judy Zeyl, Tonia & Lew Hassell, Ken Bell, Robert Messorre, Carrie & Vann Trapp, Sonja Ward, Pat Ritacco, Don Yeoman, Janice Yeoman, Scott Thurber, Deryck Livingston, Serena Livingston, Jeff Allain, Don Svenson, Anne Caron, Chris Mohn, and many more who help and facilitate our groups.

There are also groups that come alongside others in need: **GriefShare**, **DivorceCare** – I want to thank Don & Judy Zeyl and Ken Bell for leading in this compassion outreach.

One of our main objectives that continues this year is to guide each of our ministries to organize themselves in such a way as to align them with our mission and vision. This new structure is called **PARC**. We establish a **p**lanning team that oversees the ministry including sub teams who **a**ssess (figure out what needs to be done), **r**esource (gather the resources to do the ministry), and **c**oaches (who are people who want to be involved in the ministry and actually do). This has already been implemented in a few of our ministries.

This year I launched two different pilot groups for **Rooted**. The first was a small

group of people who were new or re-engaging with the church through Rooted. When they completed the pilot program they desired to continue. So, special thanks to Serena Livingston and Anne Caron who led Rooted part 2 “Lifestyle” for those who completed a Rooted group. These participants went on to serve in one ministry or another and have more actively engaged in giving and church life overall. The second pilot served to prepare 15 leaders to facilitate “Rooted” for a Fall All-Church initiative as part of our Discipleship Pathway.

We held a membership class and eight new people became **Covenant Partners**.

We initiated **Team Nights** and held three events for the purpose of providing training, the sharing of stories, equipping and developing leaders and volunteers, and sharing mission and vision with those leading and serving at Christ Church. We've had great participation and have eaten lots of great food from tacos (October 3) to tailgating treats (January 30) to potluck (May 1) These were a great opportunity to get together and see what each ministry is doing and how we continue to live out our mission.



I have participated as a pastoral liaison to the **HR team**. This past year we tackled our staff handbook, policies on discipline and work ethics, and ways to help the staff set goals and get feedback on the jobs we are all doing. This year saw the completion of a full year of goal setting and yearly reviews as well as quarterly reviews. This has helped us stay on task and “all row in the same direction.” We also wrote policies for funerals, weddings, confidentiality agreements, and safety guidelines and procedures. We also made sure all the staff's job descriptions were accurate and current. Thank you to Cathi Sloan, Lew Hassell, and Don Yeoman for serving on this team.

I serve as pastoral liaison to the **Deacon Council** and I am always impressed with their compassionate hearts. This year we ran a retreat and set goals to clarify how they serve. Each of the deacons serves on one or more ministry areas but they are working on developing Visitation Team that provides care and compassion to those sick, lonely, in need, or have a certain area of need. Thanks to Deryck Livingston, Linda Poole, Anne Caron, Ken Bell, Michelle Bruning, Sonja Ward, and Judy Robinson. More deacons are currently being trained and will join the council this coming year.

I also serve as pastoral liaison to the **Finance Team**. While I am not a numbers person, I so enjoy working with numbers people! They accomplished some really hefty tasks this year while also trusting that God is bring people and finances to the church. My part is to oversee the staff in expenditures, balancing their budget, and setting a budget that will help enhance and grow their ministry area. I want to thank Paul Conforti, Matt Coletta, Ryan Lospaluto, Linda Poole, Jeff Allain, and John Ayotte for all their hard work and dedication.

Another area of focus for me is to develop people for ministry. This year I challenged 5 people in my **ID group**

to step into leadership, ministry, or a deeper commitment to discipleship and personal growth. Many of our leaders have participated in ID groups. This helps them discover how to invite others into ministry or discipleship and to challenge people to take a step. It also helps them learn how to lead, rest and restore, and to live out the gospel in word and deed.

I have had the opportunity to step into **CCKids** (see the report) to give leadership and develop this ministry. This has included training many individuals to serve at a high level of involvement and investment in our kids, encouraging them to see each child as an image-bearer of God and to participate in each child's journey of faith. We now have a fully functioning team of leaders who have owned this ministry and continue to love our children. The ministry has grown exponentially, and we are grateful for what God is doing. This has resulted in 5 baptisms of children.

For me, this year has been one of stepping out in faith as I walked the **Camino Frances** from Astorga to Santiago de Compostela, Spain in August. It was a spiritual pilgrimage where I had time to listen and respond to what God was saying to me and what I could do about it. I also participated in our regional **East Coast Pastor's Retreat** and the **ECC's virtual Annual Meeting**. This gives me opportunity to connect with our denomination and fellow colleagues as well as to continually be equipped.

I also continue to disciple other pastors and teams across the East Coast. This is equipping pastors and leaders to disciple.

Cheryl Lavernia

Pastor of Discipleship & Strategic Ministry Development

Director of Worship & Production

Much of this past year has been about investing in the “invisible” pieces - things that aren’t directly apparent on the surface but that make a difference to what we’re able to do as we gather together each weekend. Many of these changes have simplified what we do, made training easier, and given us a strong foundation to continue to grow on in the future.

In the past year, we switched to a new livestreaming provider, and have seen a great improvement in the stability of our online services. We updated the backbone of our lighting system to control our stage lights from one single system and to help with the visual quality of our livestream. We also finished installing our audio equipment into traveling cases that allow us to more quickly pack, set up, and restore the equipment that we use each weekend and for our offsite events.

These **offsite events** are a major undertaking, and with COVID-19 forcing us to adapt over the past two years, this was the first year that I was able to be part of our annual celebration service at Goddard Park and our Easter service at Cole. Many people helped with the transport and setup of equipment for these, but a few key people need a special thanks from me: Dean Lavernia coordinated many logistics for the service at Goddard. Greg Bruning, Ron Bruning, and Deryck Livingston carried a significant portion of the burden to make our Easter services happen. And while we worked with Bill Murray and ATR Treehouse to run our first offsite livestream at Goddard, it is also notable that our own volunteer team managed the Easter service from beginning to end on their own with the lessons we have learned over the past two years.

Our livestream continues each weekend, and consistently serves as a “front door” for people connecting with the church as the online hosting team welcomes people and provides opportunities through online chat for prayer and next steps. We also continue to hear stories about how people remain connected with what’s happening at the church while they are unable to attend in person because of illness or travel. And, we had one weekend this past winter where we were able to meet together online even though most of us were still buried under more than a foot of snow.

Central to all of this is **our corporate worship**. Through song, sermons, testimonies, updates on what’s happening in the life of our church, along with other creative expressions of the gospel story, we come together each week as the body of Christ to meet with God, to let His presence and His word form us, and to encourage each other through the witness of His work in our lives. From our weekly gatherings to our special events and special services (like our Good Friday and Christmas Eve services) my prayer is always that God would deepen our love for Him each week, and that we would leave empowered anew for the work that He has called each one of us to do in the places where He has planted us. May we continue to grow into everything that He wants us to be - as a church, and as the individuals that make it up.

In this past year, many people stepped up to serve to make everything happen. To each one of you who served on a worship, production, online or event team, thank you. In particular, 8 people served on one of these teams for the first time this year. And, to each one of you who participated in our weekend services and events, thank you as well.

Ministry happened this year because the following people served: Jake Allain, Max Allain, Jeff Allain, Barb Anderson, Al Ashworth, John Ayotte, Ken Bell, Harry Bonham, Sten Bruce, Lars Bruce, Greg Bruning, Ron Bruning, Cole Campbell, Sean Campbell, Anne Caron, Matt Coletta, Lance Comeau, Ryan Comeau, Curtis Cook, Robyn Cook, Rory Cook, John Cox, Hannah Dogon, Ava Fernandez, Ray Ferreira, Dennis Fontenault, Dennis Geoffroy, Karen Gennari, Dylan George, Lew Hassell, Michele Humbyrd, BJ Kadege, Jeff Kawa, Kristen Kilduff, Scott Lamendola, Cheryl Lavernia, Dean Lavernia, Deryck Livingston, Andrew Marchesseault, Lauren McDonough, Charlie Michael, Miriam Montag, Phil Pennine, Steph Plain, Mike Poole, Jon Riley, Jen Riley, Pat Ritacco, Jan Rouillard, TJ Sherman, Randy Sherwood, Venessa Sherwood, Michael Smith, Jeff Sullivan, Bonnie Sullivan, Scott Thurber, Terry Thurber, Art Torres, Vann Trapp, Sonja Ward, Don Yeoman and Janice Yeoman.

BJ Kadege, Director of Worship & Production

CCKids

I want to first start out by thanking our faithful volunteers who lead as coaches in this incredible ministry: Tonia Hassell, Kim Lamendola, Kim Bissell, Sonja Ward, Laura Mills Webb, Liz Nowak, Stephanie Kawa, Pru Bonham, Pat Ritacco, Sarah Bruning, and Carrie Trapp. As well as Miriam Montag and Shelly Smith who helped organize and plan crafts. You all have been an invaluable asset and the children have so benefited from your presence and love!

This year’s CCKids saw a change as I began leading a new team into a new way of doing children’s ministry. In other words, we went back to basics. I ordered new **Action Bibles** and put them into the hands of the kids to read and act out. We focus on the story each week and then ask the big question: “What is God saying to you today?” We spend time hearing the children say great things like: “He’s saying that I should be nicer to my brother.” “He’s telling me He loves me.” “He likes it when I listen to Him.”

CCKids exists to develop in each child, each year these objectives:

- **Sense of self:** understanding your uniqueness and gifting (I like this, not this / I’m good at this, not this – and it’s okay because God loves me) in relationship to God (*Upward Relationship*)
- **Sense of belonging:** understanding your place in the community (I’m invited in; I’m important to God; my voice matters – everyone is made in the image of God) (*Belonging or Inward Relationships with faith community*)
- **Sense of community:** understanding your place in the world and how your actions impact your family and community (*Outward relationship to neighborhood, school friends*)

We focus on Biblical stories as our foundation to hear God; interact with Him

through a variety of prayer and silence exercises; play together to develop community and friendship; and see how being with the bigger church helps nurture our rhythms for worship and for sacraments.

For the sacramental part of ministry, I led a class experience on the Lord’s Supper and chef Dean Lavernia showed everyone how to make the cracker bread they would be using to celebrate communion the next week. We baptized 6 children this year as well.

It is an overwhelming joy to serve this team of volunteers and to experience how children experience and understand and get to know God.

Cheryl Lavernia



Youth Ministry – Ten25 and Planet 56

We thank our God for our students, families, and volunteers. Most especially, we are thankful for the way He helped us work together to face the challenges and interruptions of youth ministry in this church year. We have seen good growth in the core group of students as we transitioned through new approaches to our weekly meetings and activities. It has not been easy. Thank you to Lauren McDonough for her leadership in this critical ministry area.

Students stayed connected throughout the summer through a Bible study led by Harry Bonham and hosted at the Bonham's home.

The fall semester began with COVID meeting restrictions, masks, and intermittent interruptions in attendance or cancellations which then necessitated sometimes awkward or last minute adjustments to how we connected on Wednesday nights. It was a challenge to keep everyone together, both volunteers and students, but Lauren did an exceptional job with communicating and rearranging.

For September through December, Junior High (seventh and eighth graders) and Planet56 (fifth and sixth graders) met at the ministry center for games and snacks with Deryck Livingston and Lindsay Allain followed by small group discussions using the Orange video curriculum. Nathan Plympton, from our senior high group, student interned for Lauren with the junior high boys for a school project; they really enjoyed his participation, and we enjoyed his volunteering. The Senior High met later at The Barn led by Harry Bonham and hosted by Suzanne and Peter Briggs. Lauren would lead and oversee the Junior High (incorporating Planet 56) at the ministry center, then transfer over to The Barn (with Nathan), and join Suzanne Duni-Briggs with the High School girls while Harry and Peter met with the Senior High boys. Lauren was hard pressed to keep both groups going on the same night, even though The Barn was close by, but the volunteers helped keep it consistent for the students. However, it was also a challenge to maintain volunteer coverage for both junior high and senior high, and both male and female.

After Christmas break, Pastor Cheryl and Lauren worked hard to re-imagine how we approach

youth ministry on Wednesday nights. We launched a revised Spring semester (January through May) with a new meeting arrangement. Lauren took a more formal role as interim, and Junior High and Senior High met during the same time slot so we could combine for large group activities and split up for small group discussions. Lauren and Pastor Cheryl devised a new meeting format rotating Connection/social activities, interactive Teaching/Studies of Scripture, and Worship Nights to ensure a well rounded interaction in each area of growth. Volunteers Randy Sherwood and Jeff Allain helped expand our team, and the students loved Randy's enthusiasm as game coordinator and Jeff's thoughtful interactions in small group. An Interactive Study of the Gospel of Mark was led by Lauren & Harry. Harry also led a High School boys small group.

April brought volunteer Michael Smith, a Ten25 graduate, on board. The students were glad to see him, especially because they had him as their summer camp counselor at Pilgrim Pines.

Some highlights:

- **Worship Night God Encounter** with extended band worship, and self-guided prayer stations
- **Quiet night** of reflection and writing out personal prayers to God
- **Connection Night** going bowling and bringing a friend
- **Ash Wednesday Experience** with prayer stations and imposition of ashes
- March brought **Open Mic Night** at The Barn (thank you, once again, for the hospitality of the Briggs!)
- **Photo Scavenger Hunt**
- **Senior High Winterfest** at Pilgrim Pines
- **Holy Week Good Friday Experience** with church and youth group gathering afterwards
- **Easter Meet Ups** at Bonham's home for Senior High, and Livingston's home for Junior High
- **Teaching Nights** in the Gospel of Mark with Harry leading, and small group discussion
- **Connect Night** Glow Capture the Flag
- **Connect Night** walk to Hilltop Creamery for an ice cream social

- **The end of semester/Summer Kick-Off** at Goddard Park

At the end of May, Lauren announced her departure to take on a new role within Greek InterVarsity in Indiana & Illinois. The Leadership Team formed a task force to envision what Youth Ministry will look like at Christ Church in the future, develop a strategy to care for our current students, and find leadership for this ministry.

We look forward to a re-envisioned Ten25, strengthening our students through our use of the Rooted curriculum in our church-wide initiative, and seeing this ministry continue to grow and thrive.

Deryck Livingston
Youth Ministry Volunteer



Outreach Ministries at Christ Church

The Care Center

The Care Center has been open and serving the community during the past year. We now have designated space in the old office area, which provides us with a smaller reception area, private rooms to meet with guests, as well as space for a small “shop” stocked with emergency food supplies, some clothing and household goods, as well as a small supply of personal hygiene items for our guests. Ken Bell is running a Bible study during Care Center hours for our guests to share the Gospel and build community.

We were able to assist close to **91 families** with Thanksgiving dinners in a collaborative effort with the schools. A food drive was organized by the schools, and we were able to provide turkeys and gift cards and distributed them through the Care Center. We were able to bless **70 families** with gift cards in December to help them to provide Christmas gifts to their children.

We have had multiple new families as well as returning families visit the Care Center. These families collaborate with their coaches, who walk with them in restoration, renewal, and redemption in all needed areas. Several of these families have been brought to Jesus or had their walks with Jesus strengthened and hope renewed. We have assisted families with a variety of financial needs such as car repairs to continue to work, temporary shelter during the continuing housing crisis, referrals to other state organizations for rental, heating, and other assistance.



We look forward to continuing to serve our community and to increase the offerings we have for our guests through partnerships with other community organizations such as United Way, LIHEAP, and the local Community Action agencies.

We have helped people over the past year in the following ways:

- Rent \$5,681
- Utilities \$1,528
- Car Repairs \$1,514
- Lodging \$1,773
- Medical \$1,141
- Gift cards & other miscellaneous expenses \$27,291

In total we gave out \$38,928 to those in need.

Thank you to the Planning Team: **Lisa Pomeroy, Cheryl Lavernia, Linda Poole, & Sonja Ward**
Thank you to all the volunteers: everyone who has served this year including, **Karen Clancy-Torres, Lois Guertin, Ken Bell, Judy Robinson, Brenda Sawyer, David Sawyer, Janice Healey, Pat Drumm, Gloria Bergeron, Kathy Blackburn, Marion Greene, Colleen Wood & Nikki Marchesseault.**

Nikki Marchesseault, Care Center Director

Furniture Connection

Mission Statement: *To live out our desire to be a Compassionate Christian Community*

Our focus is to provide furniture without cost to those in need.

At our core, the work we do with the Furniture Connection is to help demonstrate God's love and care for all people. We believe all are created in God's image and have great value and worth in His world. This ministry is a wonderful way to show God's care for those in need. When appropriate, we can offer resources for encouragement such as information about GriefShare, DivorceCare, and the Care Center.

The Christ Church Furniture Connection is thankful to be celebrating twenty years of service to the community. A group of volunteers from Christ Church, St. Luke's Episcopal, and the United Methodist Church in East Greenwich generously give their time to pick up and deliver donated furniture. These volunteers use of their own trucks to make this ministry happen.

The Furniture Connection serves an average of 100 families each year. Trudy Ringette does a wonderful job following up on calls from those in need and those willing to donate.

Many thanks to John Pierson (United Methodist Church), Eric Holmsted (St. Luke's), and Christ Church members Frank Lospaluto, Harry Bonham, Dave Sawyer, and Ken Bell for volunteering to pick up and deliver furniture. Special thanks to Sonja Ward (record keeper), Lindy Buonomano (purchase of linens), West Bay Community Action and East Greenwich and North Kingstown Senior Centers for their efforts in supporting the CCFC.

Beds are the biggest blessing. Volunteers find many families sleeping on air mattresses or on the floor. These families are overjoyed to receive a mattress. While some mattresses are donated, the Furniture Connection is also able to purchase reconditioned mattresses at great value from a company in Fall River. This is possible through grants and special giving.

The Christ Church Furniture Connection is well known in the community, receiving calls for family help from Better Lives, RI, FCCP, Veterans

Organizations, House of Hope, social workers, and the Mae Organization of RI (serving the homeless).

As we look to the future, we are asking God to provide more volunteers and more trucks to increase furniture pickup and delivery. We are also praying for a new trailer to haul and transport furniture.

Blessings,
Ken Bell, Deacon



Outreach Ministries at Christ Church (continued)

Refugee Ministry

Last fall we gathered a team and began the work of getting the necessary background checks and training to work with refugees under the direction of Dorcas International Institute.

In March of 2022 we were assigned the **Omari family from Afghanistan**. We met with them, with an interpreter initially, to get to know one another and establish how we could help them. Thus began a burgeoning friendship with this family.

Our team began meeting with them at least once a week. We have taken them shopping, eaten with them, taken them to various parks, including the zoo, helped Raziah (the mother) begin a sewing business, met many of their family via facetime, helped them get into summer school, ESL classes, helped with doctors, dentists, and physical therapy appointments, and in general have just tried to be American friends, helping them maneuver through our culture.

Over time they have learned to trust us, letting us pick the kids up at school for various medical appointments, and we in turn have learned to graciously accept their hospitality, which puts our American hospitality to shame! This is a long-term commitment, as it will probably take years for this family to be able to function in our society without help. But it is a growing and enriching experience for all of those involved. The Team includes Pat Ritacco, Robert Messor, Cathi Sloan, Hollie Lospaluto, Mary Mook, and Lois Gendreau.

Pat Ritacco, Team Leader



At the Zoo

World Mission Team

We have been privileged to work with various mission partners including **Streams of Living Water** (Brother Philip, Tyrannus Missionary Schools & House of Hope), **Ann & Todd Ziems with SON International** (clean water), **Dan & Julie Kim with Team HealthCare** (pediatric medicine), **Lauren McDonough, Adam Croft & Ryan Lospaluto** (IVCF, college ministry), **Heather & Esau Caraway-Vega with Serve Globally** (MERGE - short term mission trips), **Gary & Pauline Carlson, Serve Globally** (church planting Japan, soon to retire) and **UCare4Congo with the Paul Carlson Partnership**, which is also part of Serve Globally. We provide monthly mission videos to highlight these missionary partners.

Using funds from the Mission Project fund, we were able to purchase bicycles for some of the church planters in Sudan and help purchase a van and help with the educational costs for the girls at the House of Hope, both with Streams of Living Water. We also helped provide scholarships for college students to attend a Greek conference sponsored by InterVarsity.

We had a **virtual mission trip** in August of 2021 to India. A dozen of us spent 3 consecutive Saturday mornings learning about their culture, and they learned about ours. They showed us how to make some simple Indian dishes and we, in turn, showed them how to make an apple pie and pizza. It was a fun and informative way to visit another culture.

We offered a virtual C4 group, **Praying for the World**, in the spring of 2022. We also developed **Compassion Initiatives** for the 2021-2022 year. These included canned food for a local food pantry, household goods for refugees, school supplies for a local school, used eyeglasses to be distributed around the world, gift cards for under resourced families during Thanksgiving and Christmas, winter clothing for refugees, underwear and socks for the homeless, funds to help the girls at the

House of Hope attend boarding school, funds for Ukraine and the CareNet baby bottle collection. Thank you to Karen Clancy-Torres for her help with the summer 2021 initiatives, Beth Dorich for helping with the underwear project and the Deacon Council for organizing the holiday gift card distributions.

Pat R. & Pat D. attended a seminar on **“Sending Them Well”** at Faith Baptist Church, to help us learn how to improve the way we support our missionaries. And Pat R. attended the **Streams Mobilization Conference** in Cairo, Egypt.

Our second annual **Pentecost Party** took place on June 5 and focused on Missions. Flags were hung around the lobby with a list of short-term mission trips that had been taken to each country. We also provided a video from all our missionaries and handed out cards with information on unreached people groups from the countries our missionaries are serving in: Sudan, South Sudan, Mali, Tanzania & Japan, with the intent that each person would pray for God to send someone to each of these groups with the Gospel message.

Dan & Julie Kim and children visited during a week in May. They met with some members of our congregation involved in the medical profession at Pat's home. Brother Philip and his wife Vicky also visited at the end of May. Philip spoke at church as well as meeting in the home of the Sloans with many interested individuals from our church as well as some other churches.

We also began working on raising interest in working with refugees through Dorcas International. A group has now been formed and is mentoring an Afghan refugee family (see the report under “Local Outreach”).

All for expanding God's Kingdom,
Pat Ritacco (leader), *Kerin Dickey*, *Pat Drumm*, *Lois Guertin*, *Deryck Livingston*

Welcome Team

The Welcome Team has been working this past year towards helping our church community get reconnected, and also welcome **over 60 new visitors**. We are excited to share how the Welcome and Hospitality teams have been combined and restructured to simplify and work together for the good of all.

Some of the exciting changes we have made include a new iPad check in/name tag system, greeting procedures, new visitor and connect cards, new t-shirts, and opening/closing processes. These simple steps have allowed us all to connect by name, as well as take service attendance in our new church directory called Breeze, and be more intentional in how we care for our community.

We have also made some changes to how we care for our new visitors. The team has been working hard to implement our **“First Friends” concept** that encourages our team to walk alongside a new visitor to be their first friendly face of Christ Church. They also receive a nice gift bag with a CC coffee mug, an introduction to the “Discipleship Pathway”, and more information about our church. If they decide to connect with us, they are followed up with during the week by the church office to help them connect on a deeper level. This process has brought several new visitors to become regular attenders and grow in the fullness of God.

From Parking Lot Services, Easter at Cole, and our annual Goddard Park events, these changes have helped us with the re-entry process, and allowed us to coordinate having Rugelach at Easter, and a great muffin contest at Goddard Park!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who helped and supported this effort along the way. Our volunteer base has now grown to 24 dedicated team members over the past year, and we hope to

add more going forward! Thank you all for your diligent efforts and flexibility to work through this process as we work together to be the caring and compassionate church we all know and love: Craig Anderson, Barbara Anderson, Al Ashworth, Ken Bell, Gloria Bergeron, Harry Bonham, Pru Bonham, Ron Bruning, Chris Campbell, Anne Caron, John Cox, Ava Fernandez, Viviana Fernandez, Sandy Fontenault, Chris Giblin, Tonia Hassell, Samantha Jones, Scott Lamendola, Deryck Livingston, Serena Livingston, Miriam Montag, Marcia Morin, Linda Poole, Mike Poole, Bethany Richards, Pat Ritacco, Judy Robinson, Jan Rouillard, David Sawyer, Christina Segama, Sue Sherman, Bonnie Sullivan, Karen Clancy-Torres, Carrie Trapp, Precious Tuason, Colleen Wood, Sonja Ward, Don Yeoman, and Janice Yeoman.

Michelle Bruning

Welcome Team Leader

Men’s Ministry

The men of Christ Church have focused this past year on transforming themselves to think, speak, and act more and more like Jesus. They have prayed together, studied together, and served together. They have thanked God for opening their hearts and their minds to His calling. They have grown in their knowledge of the Bible and have learned to apply the scriptures to their everyday lives. For this they celebrate.

Three weekly **Bible studies** have been meeting throughout the year, and one has invited women of the church to join them. The discussions have been so helpful, and they have all grown in their knowledge and appreciation of God’s Word.

A fourth group has been doing **book studies**, studying a variety of books written by Christian authors. They began the year studying 101 Answers to Questions about Satan, Demons, and Spiritual Warfare. They learned that followers of Christ need to understand what Scripture says about spiritual warfare so that they are prepared when they come under attack.

Their second book this year was about the women of the Bible. They learned that Jesus, Paul, and their disciples depended on these women throughout their ministries, not only for financial and spiritual support, but for their leadership as well.

Their third book was Mark Batterson’s Double Blessing: How to Get It. How to Give It. This book focused on watching and listening for opportunities to help others.

Their next book will be Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins we Tolerate. This book promises to bring important discussion to the group.

Many men have been helpful this year when pastors, staff, and leadership have identified a wide variety of tasks that must be addressed. The men’s quick response to volunteer, their dedication to completing the task, and their attention to detail have made all the difference.

If any of you men are interested in joining one of our Bible or book studies or one of our work teams, please call me. (978-602-6486)

We have been so blessed this year. We look forward to the future with grateful hearts and with hope as God continues to open doors showing us His will for our church.

Don Yeoman

Leader of Men’s Ministry

Finance Team

During the 2021/22 fiscal year the ministry offering was \$695,979, which was \$59,521 (or 8%) below the budgeted ministry offering of \$755,500. Despite the shortfall to budget, this was the first year we saw positive growth in giving, up \$52,029 (or 8%) over the previous year.

Care Center offering during the fiscal year was \$61,160, which was \$21,160 (or 53%) above their budget of \$40,000. Missions offering was \$15,119, which was \$6,519 (or 76%) above their budget of \$8,600.

Ministry spending for the fiscal year of \$664,939, was \$129,798 (or 16%) below budgeted expenses of \$794,737, which was largely driven by the vacant Youth & Family Pastor/Director role that was assumed in the budget. Despite the shortfall on ministry giving, the lower expenses resulted in a net surplus for the fiscal year of \$31,540.

As of June 30, 2022, Christ Church held general cash reserves of \$298,434, capital reserves (for future building repairs) of \$53,810, and Breaking New Ground cash reserves of \$285,319.

This past fiscal year had continued challenges and uncertainty, as we navigated through the repercussions of the pandemic. While general ministry giving fell below expectations, we managed our expense base well and worked through vacancy challenges. Pastor Vann and Pastor Cheryl, along with our dedicated staff and outstanding volunteers, deserve our praise and gratitude for their efforts.

The budget approved at the Annual Meeting on June 5, 2022 is based upon giving to the ministry fund of \$725,000 during the 2022/2023 fiscal year, which assumes modest growth of 4%. The budget includes full year salaries for current pastors and staff, and nine months salary for the Pastor/

Director of Youth and Family Ministries position, which is currently vacant. This budget forecasts a deficit of \$35,711 which will be funded by general reserves, as we build a foundation for the church moving forward. Budgeted amounts for the Care Center and Missions offerings are \$40,000 and \$10,000, respectively, for the 2022/2023 fiscal year.

I would also like to thank the members of the Finance Team – Paul Conforti, Jeff Allain, Linda Poole, Terry Thurber, Ryan Lospaluto, John Ayotte, and Bonnie Burchett, as well as Pastor Cheryl Lavernia and Pastor Vann Trapp. With their help we continue to manage the financial matters of the church with discernment in a prayerful and professional manner.

Thank you for your continued prayerful support to the Ministry, Care Center and Missions funds of Christ Church.

If you have any questions related to the above information or if you would like to see the current financial statements, please contact Pastor Cheryl by phone at 401.884.8632 or by email at cheryll@cccov.org or Interim Treasurer Matthew Coletta by phone at 401.440.4073 or by email at mcoletta6@gmail.com.

Matthew Coletta
Interim Treasurer

Baptisms

9-5-21
Matthew Liebermann
Danielle Liebermann
Anne Marie Caron
Alyssa Nicole Caron
Michelle Renee Mangino
Joseph Domenic Mangino
Lauren Ashley Martino
Aaliya Marie Martino
Anthony David Martino

4-17-22
Parker Ahlborg
Evelyn Marchesseault
Precious Tuason

5-22-22
Maddox Brian Lello

Elder Council Members

Scott Thurber, chair
Harry Bonham
Pru Bonham
Greg Bruning
Paul Conforti
Steve Earle
Lew Hassell
Cheryl Lavernia
Serena Livingston
Don Yeoman

New Covenant Partners

Scott Lamendola
Dorit Baxter
Bethany Richards
Ashley & Paul Lenz

Deacon Council Members

Ken Bell, co-chair
Deryck Livingston, co-chair
Linda Poole, co-chair
Michelle Bruning
Anne Caron
Judy Robinson
Sonja Ward



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