

# the COURIER

Established  
1866

The Newsletter of Christ Episcopal Church  
Dearborn, Michigan

DECEMBER 2020  
VOLUME 54.10

## Taking the Long View

As a congregation we have a one hundred and fifty-four-year-old history in Dearborn. We formed at the very end of the Civil War, and many of our early members were veterans of that war. We lived through the Spanish Flu pandemic and the Great Depression. Economic booms and declines have rocked this community. Shifting demographics have perpetuated a chronic fear of survivability. And now we are facing into the great challenge of the Covid-19 pandemic and the consequences of living with physical distancing.

We are a community of people who are accustomed to adapting and pivoting in response to crisis and challenge. This is a strength of ours. We center ourselves in our faith, we center our values and beliefs on the teachings of Jesus and adapt accordingly to the shifting tides of the world around us.

I became your Rector in 2011 when we were just beginning to imagine a recovery from the economic collapse of 2008. Even in the ten years I have been here we have done amazing work. Together we helped build a school in Liberia. We increased building usage. We created the Holiday Market which we ran for seven years as an effort to support local artists and crafters. We started the food pantry which now feeds over a 100 people a month. We have a long history and relationship with the interfaith community in Dearborn, for which we have been active leaders. Now, we are blessed to have the opportunity to share the building with Mother of the Savior and to continue to support Halim in his ministry. This partnership in faith may prove to be our boldest initiative, defining our purpose now, and affirming our capacity to adapt and remain relevant in our community.

Data on the latest trends in church giving tell us that churches can no longer thrive from parishioner income alone. But neither can we thrive without it. We are building three vital revenues streams: proceeds from the land sale; building use funds which will return when the virus has been contained; and individual parishioner support.

There are also three important goals for our future:

1. Once we have this virus under control we will return to groups using our building, with increased capacity and vitality. Before Covid, building usage brought in about \$20,000 of revenue a year. We will explore how to bring in more revenue. But doing this requires staff to clean the building, organize the meeting spaces, and build meaningful relationships with the building users. Your financial support will enable this to once again become a significant revenue stream.

2. We imagine a vibrant center for education with opportunities to learn about cultures and languages and people, art and customs, food and traditions - expanding our justice work in the world - while building on the strengths we have been honing for decades. Henry Ford first imagined that Christ Church could be a community church, and for quite some time we have been a community centered church. Now we are imagining an intercultural community center. This is how we are adapting to the shifting demographics in our context and once again remaining relevant and vital to this neighborhood. This too will bring in revenue and require financial support.
3. And third, we need to rebuild our music ministry, figuring out how to have quality music even in these times of online worship. The Vestry and I will be looking at this and exploring how to do this well. If quality music is something we desire, we also need to be prepared to pay for it.

All of our goals are two-way revenue streams - they will bring in money and they will require financial support - your support. We are a truly blessed congregation that has learned to adapt and pivot through the decades.

Some of you may remember 1977 when NASA launched Voyager 1, a deep space probe? Then, in 1990, when it was about 4 billion miles away from earth, Carl Sagan asked NASA to have it take one last photo of earth. We might call this the "long-view". The photo reveals a streak of red, and one tiny spot, earth. Sagan reportedly said, "That's our home. That's us...On it everyone you love, everyone you know, everyone you ever heard of, lived out their lives. The aggregate of our suffering and joy on mote of dust suspended in a sunbeam."

Taking a long- view of this congregation gives perspective. Our lives are no longer measured in days and years, but across a much longer trajectory of time and space. From this long-view we can ask ourselves this question: How might our actions today impact the future, a future we may never see, but one that is there on the horizon, in the vision of God? As a congregation that is 154 years old, we are old by comparison to most churches in the USA today. And, we are young by comparison to the history of Christianity and the future potential for how we engage in God's work in the world.

*In Peace,  
Pastor Terri*

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## FINANCIAL UPDATE

*By Kevin Green, Treasurer*

October was approximately \$2,200 better than budgeted, leaving us approximately \$7,400 ahead of budget through the end of October as shown in the accompanying table. While beating the budget is always a good thing, in large part this is due to our significantly lower expenses resulting from the building not being open for many activities much of the year. I am also pleased to note that income continues to track pretty closely with the budget, which is quite an accomplishment under the circumstances of 2020.

All that being said, the key months for giving are traditionally November and December and that will also be the case this year. Please do what you can to fulfill your pledges and make any other gifts (such as the Christmas offering) that you usually make at this time of the year.

Speaking of pledges, the Finance Commission is beginning to prepare a draft of the 2021 budget for submission to the Vestry, much of which is dependent upon the forecasted income as reflected on the Estimate of

Giving Cards. To date, the number of cards received is quite low, which will make our job even harder than usual unless this pattern is reversed. Therefore, I implore you to please turn in your Estimate of Giving Cards as soon as possible, whether online, in the mail or by calling Erin in the office (please see the separate article on this topic for more details). Thank you.

Last but not least, we are again looking for people to join the Finance Commission, which is now down to four people. Remember, "many hands make light work."

Merry Christmas, Best Wishes and Many Thanks to all of you!

10/31/2020	YTD ACTUAL	YTD BUDGET	2020 BUDGET
<b>INCOME</b>	\$177,749.93	\$181,762.81	\$240,983.00
<b>EXPENSE</b>	\$243,841.78	\$255,275.96	\$305,072.96
<b>NET</b>	(\$66,091.85)	(\$73,513.15)	(\$64,089.96)

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## HOLIDAY MEALS FOR THE FOOD PANTRY FAMILIES

*By Erin Biggs*

Thanksgiving this year may have been a little different than normal, but that didn't stop the food pantry from providing Thanksgiving meals to families in need. Due to a huge donation of food from the Boy Scouts, a \$1,000 grant from Gleaners and the generosity of parishioners we were able to provide meals for 26 families.

We are also receiving on-going donations of food from AAUW-Dearborn. They are currently doing a Reverse Advent Calendar outreach initiative. Members of AAUW are collecting non-perishable items and adding them into a box. On or before December 15th they will be donating those boxes to food pantries, including the pantry here at Christ Church. We have already received at least 5 boxes from them.

Once again our plan is to offer the families using our food pantry extra food for the Christmas holidays as well. We would like to offer both turkeys and hams. As with Thanksgiving, we want to provide all the side dishes for the meals and so we would appreciate donations from the congregation. Please see the "shopping list" for the items that we need. You can drop off the food items at the office or in the first floor kitchen until December 14. Monetary donations are also helpful;

checks should be made out to Christ Church with Christmas Pantry in the memo line. Kroger cards in \$10 increments are also much appreciated by food pantry users.



### Christmas Food Pantry Shopping List

**Hams**  
**Instant Mashed Potatoes (box)**  
**Cookie Mix**  
**Kroger cards in \$10 increments**

# PATHWAYS TO GENEROSITY – ESTIMATE OF GIVING CARDS

By Karen Beck

Our Pathways to Generosity journey is near its end for this year. We hope you have found the various reflections on gratitude and generosity helpful on your spiritual journey. On November 22 we celebrated the many ways that Christ Church displays generosity. Pastor Terri has spoken of our congregation's challenges in the past and the anticipation we have for a vibrant future as an intercultural community centered church.

Thank you to everyone who has responded by returning their Estimate of Giving Card. As of the beginning of this month, we have received Estimate of Giving Cards from 18 households totaling \$46,822.00.

If you haven't yet responded, there is still time to return your Estimate of Giving Card:

- A fillable PDF document of the Estimate of Giving Card was sent in an email from Christ Episcopal Church on November 23. Fill out the form and email a copy back to the office at [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org)
- The card is available online through our church's website at <https://www.christchurchdearborn.org/> (Scroll

down the page to see the link)

- It is also included on this page as well.

Also note that we now have the ability to process giving to Christ Church through Automatic Bank Withdrawals, much like many of us do with monthly bills. If this is an option for you, please fill in the appropriate information on the back of the Estimate of Giving Card and the office will be in touch with you for the additional information needed to complete the authorization. Once set up, an automatic bank withdrawal is less work for parishioners and for the office staff. We invite you to consider this option if you have not tried it before.

Please respond by choosing the manner most convenient for you. Know that every response counts – regardless of amount – and every person makes a difference.

Thanks to everyone for participating in *Pathways to Generosity*. We hope that this journey has helped us to deepen our awareness of God's generosity in our lives and consider how we might give generously in response to God's gifts.



Please return this card  
with your name printed,  
even if you do not provide  
a designated amount



## 2021 ESTIMATE OF GIVING

☐ Yes, I will pray for the mission and ministry of Christ Episcopal Church

My estimate is \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per ☐ week ☐ month ☐ year

For an annual total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I/We would like to set up Automatic Giving (please complete back of card).

*I understand this estimate of giving may be revised or canceled at any time at my request.*

### Christ Episcopal Church

120 N. Military St. | Dearborn, MI 48124 | (313) 565-8450 | [www.ChristChurchDearborn.org](http://www.ChristChurchDearborn.org)

### AUTHORIZATION FOR DIRECT PAYMENT

I authorize and direct you to transfer \$ \_\_\_\_\_ each month beginning \_\_\_\_\_  
from my account at \_\_\_\_\_ to Christ Episcopal Church.

This authorization will remain in effect until you notify us by giving 15 days written notice.

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

The church office will contact you at the phone number on the front of this card within 10 days of receiving this authorization to set up your direct payment information.



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## A WORD FROM OUR CURATE

*By Curate Halim Shukair*

The story in the book of Daniel chapter two helps us enter into the great mystery of the good news related to the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ and the mystery of Christmas season.

The second chapter of the book of the Prophet Daniel narrates the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, who sees a great, terrifying statue made of various materials. At some point in the dream, a small stone separates from the mountain and strikes the statue on its feet, crushing them.

The word indicates that this small stone separated from the mountain in a miraculous way, "not by human hands" (Daniel 2:34). Later, while the prophet Daniel interprets the dream to the king, he refers again to the same thing: the separation of the stone from the mountain "just as you saw that a stone was cut from the mountain not by hands, and that it crushed the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold." (Daniel 2:45).

Likewise, with Mary, the Theotokos (God-bearer) something new and great happens to her, and it happens precisely without human intervention.

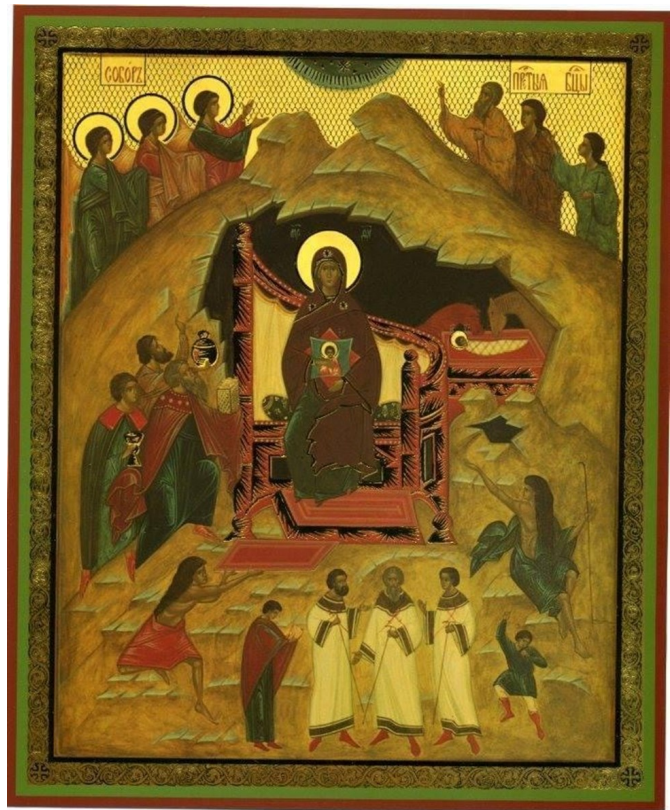
God Himself is the one who interferes in history and in the life of this humble Nasserite girl, achieving something new by that: a new era, a new miracle, and a new salvation, represented by the presence, incarnation and life of God among us.

The Hebrew Bible tells the story of humanity searching and waiting for this interference of God in the world. The Hebrews build a temple and then wait and pray so that the Lord would initiate and dwell in it.

However, God does more than that in the case of the Mary, God came to dwell in a temple that was not made by human hands. God also dwells in a temple made up of us human beings, that is, in our lives and our bodies. He did not come in a cloud as a sign of his presence among the people, but rather himself.

Mary has an important and effective role in this matter: We can say that she leaves us two signs:

The first sign is the belief that nothing fails God, "For nothing will be impossible with God." (Luke 1:37). The belief is that the invisible hand of God is still working in this world as God's hand comes to create life in the womb of barren Elizabeth, "And now, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son; and this is the sixth month for her who was said to be barren." (Luke 1:36).



The second sign that we learn from Mary is acceptance of entering into labor, a time of patience, silence, and waiting.

As humans we are rushed to accomplish our works in a short time, but the work of God needs longer time and gradually new things come after a long waiting and labor.

We can say that the period of Mary's pregnancy was accompanied by patience, faith, silence, listening, prayer and walking. This enabled Mary to see the places and events around her where the hand of God did something new: in the life of her cousin Elizabeth (Luke 1: 39-45), and in the life of her fiancé Joseph (Matthew 1: 18-25).

In this uncertain time and strange period to celebrate Christmas, let us always remember that the hand of God is still working in this world. In this time of fear, death and isolation because of Corona Virus. Let us remember that a new life emerged from Mary's womb as it emerged on the third day from the grave.

In this Christmas let us gaze to see God's power and grace working in our lives and in the life of the people around us.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.

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## NEW ADDITION TO STAFF

My name is Eric Travis and I am so excited to join the Staff at Christ Church, even if only for a short time. For the past 12 years I served as the Missioner for Youth and Young Adults for the Diocese of Michigan. During my time of discernment for my next calling, I am pleased to be here as the Technical Support for Online Worship and Consultant for Digital Communications. It is my hope to help enrich the online worship opportunities and to meet the needs of the Clergy and members of Christ Church. I would love to hear your ideas and suggestions, and can be reached at [sivartcire@gmail.com](mailto:sivartcire@gmail.com).



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## CHRISTMAS EVE 5PM

This year we are offering a Festive Lessons and Carols Service with participants from many individuals and families of the congregation where we will hear the story of God working in the world and preparing for the birth of Jesus. There will be lots of fun, creative storytelling and carols. Directed by Tess Dowgiallo, Technical Director for sound and production, Eric Travis. We will gather via zoom at 5pm. The service will be recorded and made available to view afterward. This will be our only Christmas service.



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## SUNDAY FORUM: 1619 PROJECT

Join us Sundays at 11:30am on zoom for a discussion on the 1619 Project. This series is found on podcasts by googling 1619, or going to this link:

<https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/23/podcasts/1619-podcast.html>. This is an excellent series, well produced and narrated. Listen to the podcast ahead of time, we will have a discussion about what we heard, what stood out for us, what we learned.

Sunday, December 6: Episode 1: The Fight for A True Democracy

Sunday, December 13: Episode 2: The Economy that Slavery Built

Sunday, December 20: Episode 3: The Birth of American Music

Sunday, January 10: Episode 4: How the Bad Blood Started

Sunday, January 17: Episode 5: Land of our Fathers (2 parts)

Contact the church office for the Zoom link.

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## COMING SOON!

### A PICTURE DIRECTORY

*By Erin Biggs*

Our church management software allows us to add pictures to our directory. Please take and email a picture of those in your household, to have them included in our directory. Email pictures and any updates to your contact information to the office:

[office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org)



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## CLOTHING DRIVE

By Ron Juergens

Because of the Covid 19 pandemic, having a clothing drive for warm clothes this year is impractical. However, the need is still there. This year we would like to encourage you to donate any unused warm clothing that you might have to a charity of your choosing. Donations of new underwear and socks are always appreciated also. Purple Heart is still picking up clothing donations at your residence if desired, so that is an easy option. Call for availability and to schedule a pick up date. Listed below are some other suggestions. Thanks again to all who have participated in the past. The amount of clothing donated last year was phenomenal.

Purple Heart 1-734-728-4560 Call for pick up.

Goodwill 1-313-228-5927  
22451 Michigan Ave.  
Dearborn, MI. 48124

Cross Roads 1-313-831-2787  
2424 W. Grand Blvd.  
Detroit MI. 48208



The Annual Meeting at Christ Church will be Sunday, January 31 following the 10 a.m. service. We will gather via Zoom to review reports from the previous year, review our budget for 2021 and elect new Vestry members.

The Vestry is the governing body of a church within the Episcopal Church. The Vestry and Rector are charged with developing and advancing the Mission and Ministries of Christ Church. Bio's of the slate of Vestry members will be published in the January Courier. The annual meeting is the day we gather to celebrate the year past, honor our ministries and the work we have done, and give thanks for the time and commitment of the Vestry.

## December Celebrations

### BIRTHDAYS

Brady Gaines	DEC 3
Dan Pilarski	DEC 3
Bill Owens	DEC 10
Isabelle Behm	DEC 11
Lena Gray	DEC 11
Christopher Marzonic	DEC 17
Jimmy Lopez	DEC 22
Maggie Pellegrino	DEC 22
Andrea Blake	DEC 23
Kathleen McClorey	DEC 25
Joanna Connelly	DEC 31

### ANNIVERSARIES

Patrick & Stephanie Mulkern	DEC 17 (43)
Frank & Carol Kery	DEC 19 (52)
Richard & Judith Polcyn	DEC 29 (49)

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### JANUARY COURIER SUBMISSIONS

Submit news and articles for the January issue of the Courier by December 21st to [office@christchurchdearborn.org](mailto:office@christchurchdearborn.org). Please add Courier to the subject line.



## CHRISTMAS MEMORIALS & THANKSGIVINGS

Please turn in names for Christmas Memorials and Thanksgivings to the office by Sunday, December 15. These names will be included in our Christmas worship.



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# Vista Maria 2020 Holiday Wish List

## Stocking Stuffers

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Visit our Amazon Wish List for more ideas and to ship your gift directly to Vista Maria!  
[bit.ly/VistaMariaAmazon](http://bit.ly/VistaMariaAmazon)

### Bath & Body

- Chapstick or Carmex (no glass containers)
- Lip gloss (no glass containers)
- Eye liner and mascara
- Body wash and lotions (men's and women's)
- Edge control products
- Braiding hair (all colors)
- Multi-cultural hair products

### Clothing

- Women's & Men's sizes S, M, L, XL, 2X, 3X
- Women's Plus sizes 14 to 28
- Slippers: sizes 5 to 12
- Socks: adult sizes, athletic, dress, and fun prints
- Basketball shorts
- Leggings & sweat pants
- T-shirts for teen girls
- T-shirts for teen boys
- Pajamas (sets with pants & t-shirts)

### Electronics

- Mp3 players (without cameras / recording devices)
- Earbuds
- CD players with radios
- Alarm clock radios
- Cordless electric shavers (women's)

### Home Goods

- Plastic water bottles
- Duffle / overnight bags
- Kitchenware (utensils, pots, pans, etc.)
- Full / Queen bedding

### Fun & Games

- Journals or composition notebooks (no spiral bound)
- Coloring books, word search, and activity books
- Crayons, gel pens, markers, colored pencils
- Age-appropriate board & card games (UNO, etc.)
- Playing cards
- Basketballs, volleyballs, soccer balls
- Craft kits (stickers, jewelry making, etc.)
- Yarn and plastic crochet hooks



### Important Notes

- No cash (Gift cards are acceptable)
- No sharp items, metal, or glass
- No spiral bound books of any kind
- Do not put your last name or other personal information on your gift
- If you have questions about what we can and cannot accept, just give us a call!

### Ready to deliver your gift?

- ☐ Be sure your gift is **unwrapped**
- ☐ **Schedule** your drop off time with Ganelle
  - ✓ 313-271-3050 ext. 400  
[glesnew@vistamaria.org](mailto:glesnew@vistamaria.org)
  - ✓ Monday – Friday from 10am – 6pm
- ☐ **December 14** is the last day to drop off

*We will be CLOSED December 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>*

*Thank you for your generosity!*

20651 W. Warren Ave. Dearborn Heights, MI 48127

Volunteer Resources Department: 313-271-3050, ext. 118 | [volunteer@vistamaria.org](mailto:volunteer@vistamaria.org)



120 N. Military  
Dearborn, Michigan 48124  
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Website:  
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#### OFFICERS OF THE CHURCH

**The Rt. Rev. Dr. Bonnie A. Perry**, Bishop  
**The Rev. Terri Pilarski**, Rector  
**Lynn Becker**, Sr. Warden  
**Dale Taylor, Jr.**, Warden  
**Kevin Green**, Treasurer  
**Matthew Sallman**, Clerk

#### STAFF

**Erin Biggs**, Office Manager  
**Tess Dowgiallo**, Children's Choir Director  
**John Jones**, Sexton  
**The Rev. Halim Shukair**, Curate  
**Eric Travis**, Technical Support

#### VESTRY

**Jean Angel**  
**Lynn Becker**  
**Barbara Hall**  
**Stephanie Mulkern**  
**Jill Poske**  
**Holly Schanz**  
**Dale Taylor**  
**James Thornton**