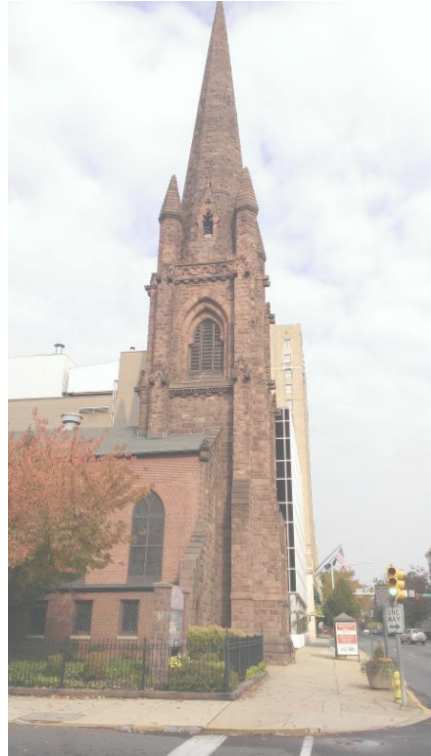


Parish Profile



Faith



Fellowship



Christ Church
Reading, Pennsylvania

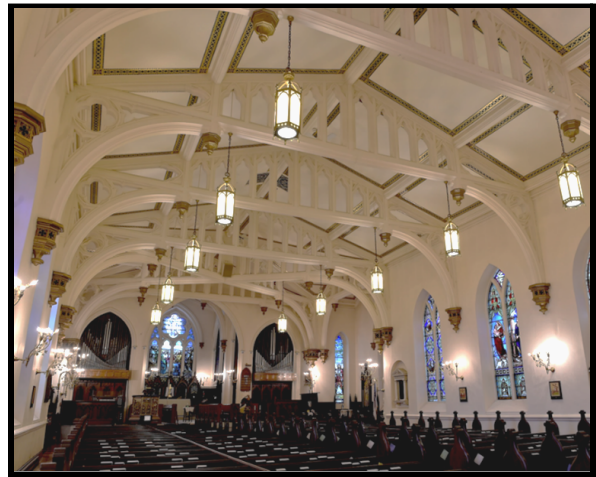
March 2022

A LETTER TO OUR NEW RECTOR

Sharing God's Love with All. These are the first words you see when looking at our mission statement. Here at Christ Church, we truly believe that all are welcome to share in God's unconditional love. We provide a safe and spiritual home for all seeking comfort, forgiveness, and belonging. We work towards being a better steward of our community as part of our mission.

Christ Church is located within Reading's Callowhill Historic District and just one block away from Penn Street, the epicenter of the City's revitalization efforts. This puts us in a strategic location where we can be a hub of change in our community! We are mere steps from art galleries, concert halls, restaurants, Reading Area Community College (RACC), and our covenant partner, Trinity Lutheran Church. Our newest downtown neighbor, Alvernia University, which is actively developing [Reading CollegeTowne](#), is a leader in current City revitalization efforts.

In addition to hosting a variety of musical events, we currently offer space to the Veterans Coalition of Pennsylvania and are honored to welcome Narcotics Anonymous, which meets in our Parish Hall. Outside of our walls, we are proud of our lengthy commitment to Opportunity House in providing dinner for their shelter one Saturday a month. We are also rebuilding a relationship with Lauer's Park Elementary School through a Christmas Angel Tree project.



Before you enter the main sanctuary, we hope you will take a look at the incredible exterior architecture of our church, dating back to 1863, though the present church was consecrated back in 1826. Stepping inside, you will be taken aback by the magnificent stained-glass windows, the most impactful of which is the Ascension window positioned above our altar. As you reach the front of the sanctuary, you will see our incredible organ used for Sunday morning service, as well as recitals and various musical offerings throughout the year.

Everything that makes us unique is an opportunity for God to reach others through us, and we pray you will want to be a part of our ministry.

CHRIST CHURCH HISTORY

Christ Church, in Reading, Pennsylvania, was consecrated by Bishop William White on May 10, 1826, but the beginnings of the parish reach back to July 13, 1760, when a small group of Anglican families from Reading and Douglassville addressed an appeal for a priest to “The Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts” in London. In 1763, the Rev. Alexander Murray, recognized as our first rector, arrived in Reading to begin his ministry with the oldest English-speaking congregation in the City.

From 1763 through 2021, seventeen clergy have served as rector of Christ Episcopal Church. The overall stability of the church is evidenced by the fact that only five rectors served the parish for a period of 110 years, from 1911 through 2021. Historically, it is also significant to note that from 1871 to 1895, the church served as the Cathedral for the newly created Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Since 1904, Christ Church has been under the auspices of the Diocese of Bethlehem.

Christ Church sits within the Schuylkill River National and State Heritage area and is immediately adjacent to the Downtown Arts District. Its location is key to Christ Church’s role in the growth and revitalization of the City as well as the County of Berks and the quality of life offered to its residents. Consistent with its mission to offer accessible, cross-cultural programs that encourage civic engagement and discourse, Christ Church

welcomes all and remains committed to serving our community and broadening opportunities for outreach and new partnerships.

A more detailed account of our history through 1999 can be found in the attached document “A History of Christ Church” by James K. Wilson, Church Organist and Choir Director. A short history of Christ Church through 1926 as well as various other historical documents can be found in our church library.



THE CITY OF READING AND SURROUNDING BERKS COUNTY

Berks County was settled soon after the beginning of the eighteenth century. The county seat, Reading, was founded in 1748 by the sons of William Penn, who named the city after Reading, England, one of the Penns’ ancestral places. Reading has a long history as a home to large industries, from hat making and ironworks to the famous Reading Railroad. In the twentieth century, the area developed a more diverse industrial and commercial base in steel, hosiery,

financial services, food production, and engineering. By the 1930s, Reading's population had reached nearly 120,000. After WWII, Reading saw an unfortunate downturn in prosperity due to loss of heavy industry and a decline in population. This population decline tapered off by the year 2000 as a result of suburban sprawl and an influx of Hispanic residents from New York City and surrounding areas. The City continued to grow from 2010 to 2020, but it has not yet returned to its pre-WWII population. Current demographic information can be found [here](#).

Reading is now the fourth most populated city in the state, after Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, and Allentown. The County's largest employers include East Penn Manufacturing, Carpenter Steel, Penske Trucking, and Tower Health Reading which recently opened a Medical School in collaboration with Drexel University, Philadelphia. Revitalization of Reading is occurring slowly but surely. The Santander Performing Arts Center [renovated in 2000], Santander Arena [built in 2001], GoggleWorks Center for the Arts [opened in re-purposed factory building in 2005], and DoubleTree Reading by Hilton [built in 2015], are all within blocks of Christ Church. These have all added significantly to Reading's cultural and entertainment offerings.

More recent revitalization efforts include the development of a Strategic Plan with input from more than 200 community members and leaders that will ultimately change the fabric of the City. In

2019, Reading retained Stantec Consulting Services to develop a Strategic Plan for the downtown. Christ Church, which sits within the Central Core of this plan, near the Penn Street corridor, plays an important role in this process. For more information on this plan [click here](#).

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY

Worship is central to everything we do at Christ Church. Three services are offered each Sunday: 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist; 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist; and 9:00 a.m. Rise and Shine Eucharist for families with young children. Rise and Shine, which is currently held in the Chapel, provides a comfortable, casual space for families, including grandparents, to participate in the Eucharist, with children providing the music.



Our Saturday evening Spanish service to welcome and connect with members of our growing Hispanic community is currently suspended, but it is our intent to bring it back in the near future.

Music has long been an integral part of our worship and ministries at Christ Church. We are blessed that our music ministry is still part of our annual budget. The church's excellent acoustics and its pipe organ, piano, chimes, and choir greatly enhance our worship services. Our sanctuary is a sought-after performance space for both church and community events, which have included organ recitals, musical concerts, plays, and poetry readings often featuring professionals as well as talented local artists and students. Originally built in 1864, the organ at Christ Church was one of the first pipe organs in Reading. This magnificent instrument, long recognized as one of the best in the area, has been restored, rebuilt, and modified over the years and is meticulously maintained. The Christ Church "chime" of bells was cast in Troy, New York, and installed in its tower in 1874. It has served as a call to noonday Eucharist as well as a call to mindfulness for the people of downtown Reading as they go about their daily business for nearly 150 years.



Likewise, the choir at Christ Church has a long history. Our earliest records of a Children's Choir and Adult Choir date back to 1865. From the 1920s to the 1970s, a renowned Men and Boys Choir provided music education to scores of young men and boys. During the 1950s, the Women's Choir supplemented the men and boys' choral ministry. When the Men and Boys Choir disbanded, an Adult Choir made up of both men and women and a Children's Choir began praising God through music. Dwindling participation ended the Children's Choir in the late 1990s, but children and youth continue to sing during Church services as part of their Sunday School activities. From the early 1980s through the late 1990s, a multi-generational Handbell Choir played during Christmas Eve, Easter, and special services throughout the year.

Today, our Adult Choir faithfully sings during the Sunday, 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist. During the summer months, musicians from the church and community share their talents during this service.

SPIRITUALITY AND MINISTRIES

Christ Church is committed to "sharing God's love with all" as we walk the way of Christ towards union with God and God's creation. We provide spiritual space, strength, and support for each other as we experience God's love through fellowship, Eucharistic worship, healing, contemplative prayer, faithful stewardship, and loving service.

We continually seek to transform ourselves, and the surrounding community, by moving ever closer to God from wherever we may be along our spiritual journey. To fulfill this mission, lay persons and clergy work together to develop programs that enhance spiritual development.

Education for Ministry (EfM): Between 1980 and 2015, Christ Church offered several EfM courses.

Center for Spirituality and Healing: In the mid-1990s, Christ Church developed the Center for Spirituality and Healing to nurture spiritual growth. Some of the programs offered by the Center have included a labyrinth walk, a series called “Unbinding the Gospel,” Stephens Ministry, and a number of Saturday afternoon spirituality workshops which were open to the community.

This past year, our spiritual ministries responded swiftly and compassionately to the extraordinary needs that arose during the Covid-19 pandemic. For example, our Daughters of the King and Healing Team answered hundreds of prayer requests which our Deacon had forwarded to them through email. The magnitude and impact of these ministries are immeasurable.

Daughters of the King (DOK): The Christus Chapter of the DOK is active at Christ Church. Its mission is Prayer, Service and Evangelism, and to provide ongoing support for the rector. DOK receives prayer requests and prays for those in need.

Healing Team: The Healing Team is composed of two separate groups: healers and pray-ers. On the third Sunday of the month, healers listen to personal requests at the Baptismal Font, while pray-ers offer comfort and support from the pews.



The Pastoral Care Task Force: Just prior to our rector’s leaving, we developed The Pastoral Care Task Force to support the Senior Warden during his expanded role until our Interim Rector arrived. Under Lay Leadership, this group was primarily composed of past senior wardens and those with experience in pastoral care. The group kept track of people who were ill, in the hospital, or needed special attention. Task Force members visited, called, prayed, and were creative and supportive in their attentiveness to requests for these prayers and visits.

No One Dies Alone program (NODA): A small group met over the course of 2021 to support the chaplains at the Reading Hospital who were dealing with a magnitude of Covid concerns. Specifically, the head chaplain requested help with the NODA program, which could no longer be in

person. Protocols eliminated or reduced visitations at the hospital, but telephone contact remained an option. Volunteers shared and grew in evaluating their own hopes, fears, and dreams at the time of death. They adapted prayers from the Book of Common Prayer to be very “open” to all; and one member beautifully re-wrote the 23rd Psalm. The fruits of these labors are now being considered in the hospital’s development of a Spiritual Companion program.

Centering Prayer: Centering Prayer is offered for embodiment and chant, scripture, poetry and other inspired words, and twenty minutes of shared silence. Currently lay-led, this ministry is offered to Christ Church parishioners and members of the community.

Bible Study: The Bible Study group meets each week, and book discussion groups meet periodically based on congregational interest.

Morning Prayer: A Lay-led, Morning Prayer service is offered each Thursday morning. In good weather, the service is held at Red Bridge Recreation Area on the Tulpehocken Creek. During inclement weather, it is held in the sanctuary.

Sacred Ground: We are currently offering the Sacred Ground dialogue series, a film and book study on race, grounded in faith.

Evensong Music Services: Now in its seventh year, these Saturday evening services feature the music

of pop artists ranging from the Beatles to Bob Marley. With music led by David Cullen, a Grammy Award Winner for Best Pop Instrumental Recording, this service provides spiritual opportunities for all.



Celtic Service: A Celtic Service, held annually near St. Patrick’s Day, offers healing prayers and features local musicians.

Kristallnacht: On November 9, Christ Church and Reform Congregation Oheb Sholom come together in remembrance of this tragic day. This profoundly moving service, which has been held annually since 1994, is well attended and holds great significance to our community.



Remembrance Service [Blue Christmas]: Held near the Winter Solstice, this annual service provides comforting worship for those experiencing loss and challenges during the holidays.



Covenant with Trinity Lutheran Church: In the 1980s, our parish accepted the national call to spiritual leadership when leaders of the Episcopal and Lutheran churches sought support for the denominations' new inter-communion status. Our parish looked immediately to its downtown Reading neighbor, historic Trinity Lutheran Church, with which it already had a long-standing relationship. On May 5, 1985, Christ Church and Trinity signed a covenant, which has brought the parishes closer together through meaningful worship, retreats, and programs. This vibrant relationship continues today.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Sunday School: The Christ Church Sunday School program takes place after the Sunday morning Rise and Shine service. It offers programs and activities for children ages 3 through teens. We

believe that God is love and this tenet is the center of our Christian Education program. Our children are provided with opportunities to deepen their understanding of God's Love and what it means to share that love with others. We use a variety of curricula including *Catechesis of the Good Shepherd*, *Building Faith Brick by Brick*, and *A Joyful Path*. The children present an annual Christmas Pageant that is well received by parishioners, families, and the community.



Youth Group: Although the Christ Church Youth Group is not currently active, we look forward to renewing this ministry as the children from our Rise and Shine service grow in the church. Previously, under the guidance of adult leaders, young adult members were encouraged to become involved in the church and the world as ambassadors for Christ.

Through pilgrimages, our young adults learned more about themselves while continuing to deepen their relationship with God. These pilgrimages included Quebec and Montreal in 2011 and Trinidad and Tobago in 2015. A mission

trip in 2004 took the youth to Charleston, West Virginia, where they helped build the first Habitat for Humanity Community in the state. In 2005, the Youth Group participated in a mission trip to the Navajo Land Reservation in Farmington, New Mexico, to help with Vacation Bible School. Families have expressed interest in both local and national mission projects, so this is a future project we would like to revive with the support of our new rector.

Adult Forum: Prior to the pandemic, Adult Forum was led by clergy and laity on Sunday mornings between the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services. It included wide-ranging topics such as current events, church missionary work, and health.

COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY

Located in the heart of the City of Reading, Christ Church is well positioned to serve the needs of those less fortunate and to partner with other local churches and community non-profit organizations to effect positive change. Indeed, Christ Church has played a seminal role in many of the City's social services and support programs.

Episcopal House: Christ Church significantly lessened the burden on Reading's aging population in the 1960s, when it assumed a 40-year mortgage which, along with federal financing, funded the construction of low-cost

housing for the City's senior citizens. Episcopal House opened in 1968 under the guidance of Bishop Lloyd Gressle. Christ Church members remained actively involved and held positions on the Board of Directors of Episcopal House until its sale in 2013.

Reading Urban Ministry (RUM): From approximately 1983 to 1988, Christ Church provided office space to RUM, a coalition of inner-city churches.

Helping Harvest: RUM, while using space at Christ Church, was instrumental in starting Helping Harvest. Today, Helping Harvest collects, purchases, stores, and distributes over seven million pounds of food annually to the more than 320 programs which feed the hungry in both Berks and Schuylkill Counties. Helpingharvest.org



Opportunity House: In 1984, historic Trinity Lutheran Church, a neighbor in downtown Reading, donated funds to construct shower and bathroom facilities in the Christ Church basement. This renovated, safe space, which became Reading Emergency Shelter, is an excellent example of our commitment and ability to partner with other churches. Today, that shelter – now known as

Opportunity House – is an independent, 24-hour multi-service facility that improves the quality of life for men, women and children who lack shelter. We continue to support Opportunity House in its current location. On the second Saturday of each month, a different church ministry or group takes responsibility for providing and delivering dinner. opphouse.org



SPARK (Supporting Parents, Activities, and Resources for Kids): SPARK provided resources for parents as they navigated solutions for family medical, educational, and social needs. SPARK provided educational activities, books, and a safe place for children (infancy through preschool) year-round, with school-aged children joining during the summer. Twenty-five to thirty families met weekly. Participants received a substantial breakfast at each session, selected food from a food pantry once per week, and, through a partnership with Alvernia University, received Thanksgiving dinners. Several SPARK families subsequently joined the church. The SPARK program continued through 2017.

Reading Choral Society (RCS): RCS is one of the oldest choral organizations in the United States. It

has an auditioned-based membership and presents concerts that are open to the public. For decades prior to Covid-19, RCS rehearsed and frequently presented concerts at Christ Church.

Coffee House: In November 2019, Christ Church piloted a free, open to the public evening coffee house where folks could either sing, play an instrument, or recite a poem. The performers were thankful for this opportunity and attendance exceeded expectations. We plan to resume this program one Saturday each month after Covid restrictions are lifted.

Narcotics Anonymous (NA): A free, open twelve-step program, NA currently operates out of Christ Church, with eight meetings per week throughout the year, including Christmas and New Year's Day.

Veterans Coalition of PA (VCOP): VCOP is a volunteer organization which serves disadvantaged veterans. Each month, two Stand Down events are held, one in Reading and one in Pottstown. During these events, non-perishable food, new clothing items, pet food, referral services, and a hot meal are offered. No one is turned away. When an area in the Parish House became vacant in 2021, Christ Church invited VCOP to store their items on the premises, at no cost. In addition to providing storage space, Christ Church continues to support VCOP through the 2021 Thanksgiving In-gathering and on-going contributions of food and clothing.

Lauer's Park Elementary School: This past December, we provided Christmas gifts for 27 students through our Angel Tree project! We also have a Joyful Noise collection once a month which will help to fund their new playground.



Fall Festival of the Arts [FFA]: Founded in 1985 as an expression of the covenant between Christ Church and Trinity Lutheran Church, the annual FFA has included art shows, theater productions, poetry readings by Reading High School students, organ concerts, music concerts, and workshops. Although FFA has been separately incorporated since 2016, each church continues to host one or more events and provide funding, technical, and volunteer support each year.



Centro Hispano of Reading and Berks county, PA:

We were given the opportunity of temporarily housing Casa de la Amistad, a community center for aging adults, while their permanent space is renovated. While this program is only temporary, we have already begun discussions of different ways we can continue to work together for the betterment of our entire community.

HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE AND PRESERVATION OF CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church is located in the heart of Reading's Callowhill Historic District which was evaluated by the Keeper of the National Register to certify that it met National Register criteria in 1979.

Founded in 1762, Christ Church was built between 1825-26 and many of its Neo-Gothic elements were added during a major renovation in 1847.

The façade, bell tower, and spire were constructed in 1863 by Edward Tuckerman Potter, an American architect also known for designing the Mark Twain House in Hartford, Connecticut, and Nott Memorial Hall at Union College, both of which are also National Historic Landmarks. Potter claimed that he modeled Christ Church after Trinity Church in New York City, which was designed by his mentor, the famous architect Richard Upjohn.

Our stone spire stands nearly 200 feet tall, and even today is a prominent feature of the Reading skyline. The masonry of the bell tower and spire

and its beautiful interior now need repair to preserve this historic treasure for many more years of useful service.

In 2021, with construction grant assistance from the Pennsylvania State Historic Preservation Office and approval of the Historic Architectural Review Board of Reading, Christ Church undertook repairs to the buttress walls on the north and south sides of the main entrance and bell tower. Deterioration of these walls had allowed storm water into the wall cavities compromising the stability of the historic steeple and damaging the interior plaster. Restoration Artisans, LLC was contracted to assess and make the necessary repairs to these walls, as well as repair or replace any visibly broken stones and repoint the brownstone. This buttress work was completed in 2021.



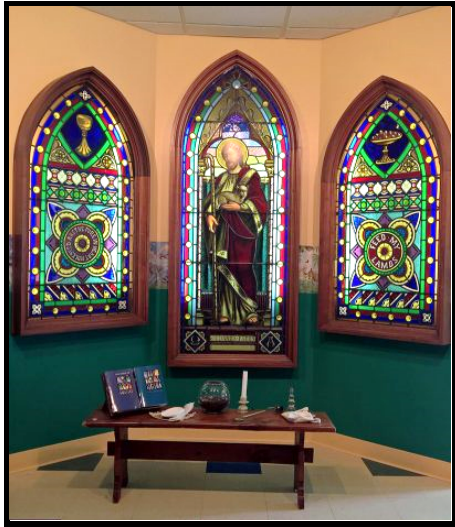
We are unwavering in our commitment to the stewardship of this historic church and to expanding its services to the community. This

requires preserving the church in all aspects: structurally, environmentally, and aesthetically for future generations to use. To do so, it is critical that we develop a reasonable and sustainable long-term preservation plan. We are, therefore, currently soliciting bids from architectural firms with experience in historic structures to assess the structural soundness, limitations, and needs of the historic structure. This assessment will help us identify the overall cost needed to preserve our historic Church.

A [Feasibility Study](#) completed in 2021 by Partners for Sacred Places (Partners) confirmed our ability and capacity to raise significant funding toward that end which may move us toward a Capital Campaign as we near our Bicentennial celebration. [Partners for Sacred Places](#)

PARISH HOUSE AND BUILDING ADDITIONS

The construction of a Parish House began in Fall 1957, and the final dedication was held on March 1, 1959. This three-storied addition houses church offices, classrooms, a 300-seat fellowship hall with stage, kitchen, nursery, restrooms, a small Chapel, and a basement with a boiler room. A later renovation of the second-floor classrooms created a stunning stained-glass atrium [below] for our children and youth.



The construction and dedication in 2003 of an addition connecting the Parish House and historic Church added an elevator and foyer, thus making the entire facility accessible. Great care was taken to integrate the gothic elements of the historic structure with the new addition as well as to enhance the predominant Victorian architecture of the surrounding City.

RECENT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

In addition to the restoration of the buttress walls, Christ Church completed two major renovation and restoration projects in 2020-21:

The first project was the replacement of the Parish House roof and flashings. Leaking and outmoded skylights were removed and covered over.

The second project was the replacement of all 55 windows in the Parish House. The original single

pane, steel frame windows installed in 1957 were not energy efficient and were becoming increasingly more difficult to maintain. A mini-split AC system was installed in previously unairconditioned rooms in the Parish House.



In addition to these projects, a new water heater and two new boilers were installed in 2018.

We continue our work in preserving our historic Church and its Bell Tower and Spire which has graced the City skyline for nearly 160 years. [See “Our Vision of the Future” below]

CHRIST CHURCH TODAY

This beautiful and historic church remains a stunning City landmark. Christ Church currently has 140 parishioners on its rolls. With Covid-19, Sunday in-person attendance has understandably declined. Today, an average in-person attendance for all three services is 75. Fortunately, our live stream service has greatly expanded with viewers reaching beyond the City and County of Berks. The three Sunday morning services along with our monthly Saturday services with David Cullen are all livestreamed on Facebook. During the week there are Centering Prayer sessions via Zoom on

Tuesdays and Thursdays at 9:00 a.m., Bible Study via Zoom on Wednesdays at 8:00 a.m., and Morning Prayer on Thursdays at 11:00 a.m.

Worship: During the pandemic, our faithful staff and volunteer members have provided the necessary components of our worship opportunities. After months of virtual worship, we moved our Sunday worship outdoors on Easter Sunday of 2021. We continued outdoor worship for three more weeks until we could return to our beautiful Sanctuary, following safety protocols.

Eucharist Ministry: Prior to Covid-19, Lay Eucharistic ministers delivered the Eucharist to homebound and hospitalized congregants.

Altar Guild: The Altar Guild sets the altar for our weekly services, as well as baptisms, funerals, and weddings. The Altar Guild has four teams, each serving one week a month. During the past two years, the Altar Guild has been especially busy following ever-changing Covid-19 protocols aimed at keeping the congregation as safe as possible.

Lectors/Ushers/Greeters: Adult volunteers for these ministries serve during the 8 a.m. Spoken Eucharist and 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist each Sunday morning.

Chalice Bearers: Prior to Covid-19, adult lay ministers served as Chalice Bearers during the 8:00 a.m. Spoken Eucharist and 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist each Sunday morning.

Acolytes: Prior to Covid-19, school age children through young adults, served during the 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist each Sunday morning.



Outreach/Inreach: With a mission “to recognize all of our neighbors as children of God, and to love and serve them,” the Outreach and Inreach Committees share activities to avoid duplication of efforts and to strengthen their initiatives. The Committees coordinate the monthly delivery of a meal to Opportunity House and host a Lighting Ceremony of the Nativity Scene on the First Sunday in Advent.



Hospitality: The Hospitality Committee provides and serves food and beverages for receptions following special services such as Confirmation,

Kristallnacht, Evensong, Easter Vigil, and Covenant Sunday. The committee maintains kitchen supplies for Coffee Hour after the Sunday 10:30 a.m. Choral Eucharist service and coordinates volunteers to serve during this meaningful fellowship time.

Property Ministry [PM]: Members of the Property Ministry committee work closely with the Rector, Vestry, and Finance and Investment Committees to assess, budget and authorize remediation, repairs and/or improvements pertaining to the church buildings, mechanical systems, furnishings, and grounds. PM procures relevant vendors, suppliers, and contractors as needed to maintain the operational, environmental, and security systems of the church. PM committee members oversaw the recent Parish House improvements and the restoration to the church's brownstone buttress walls.

50+ Club: Food, fun, and fellowship for those of a "certain age" is offered through the 50+ Club. Attendees enjoy Sunday evening, covered dish meals in the home of church congregants.



Episcopal Church Women (ECW): ECW at Christ Church is an active group committed to fellowship, outreach and charitable giving. To this end, ECW conducts a variety of fundraisers including Christmas Cookie Sales, Basket Raffles, and participation in Boscov's Friends Helping Friends. The largest portion of the proceeds comes from the monthly Rummage Sales. Sales are held three times per month and offer gently used clothing and household items at a low cost.

Prior to the pandemic, ECW donated an average of eight thousand dollars each year to local, national and international groups. They are working hard to return to that level of giving. The card ministry reaches women on their birthday, parishioners who are ill or in need of encouragement, as well as those less able to attend services.

NYC Day Trips: From 2008 through 2019, Christ Church ran an annual bus trip to New York City to raise music ministry funds in memory of an active Broadway performer, a son of congregants. These trips are on hold due to Covid-19.

FINANCES

Christ Church operating accounts are set up as two separate funds: General Operating Fund and Property Maintenance Fund. This separation is an attempt to promote pledge support of the church's ongoing expenses and ministries. Property Maintenance is supported by the endowment fund. Should additional monies be needed for general operating expenses, funds are taken from the endowment fund, not to exceed 3.5-4% annually. Mitchell, Sinkler and Starr, an investment advisory firm, monitors and invests our endowment. We also employ a bookkeeper, associated with an accounting firm, who manages the church's various accounts. Our Finance Committee meets monthly and the Investment Committee meets quarterly.

As you can see on the attached GOF Income & Expense Statement (P&L) charts below, it is clear that pledge income does not fully support our budget. 2021 was unique in that we received PPP grants, leading to a small surplus. Our long-term goal would be to increase pledges, allowing us to reduce reliance on the endowment, leading to growth. This should be an attainable goal as we own the property and are without debt.

Christ Episcopal Church
GOF Income & Expense Statement (P&L)
 January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	Budget
Income		
4012 · STEWARDSHIP	263,823.77	265,000.00
INVESTMENT INCOME (OPERATING)		
4024 · Int (7) (Consol. Cemetery)	875.33	400.00
4028 · Int (3,6,9,12) (Archer)	4,950.00	1,100.00
4032 · Int (2,5,8,11) (Bollinger)	2,895.41	2,750.00
4036 · Int (12) (Cons. Charitable)	774.15	800.00
Total INVESTMENT INCOME (OPERATING)	9,494.89	5,050.00
NON-PLEDGE CASH RECEIPTS		
4010 · Plate Contributions	1,127.81	5,000.00
4050 · Holiday/Initial Offering	412.00	1,000.00
4052 · Donation Use Church Facilities	1,059.00	2,000.00
4055 · Miscellaneous Income	930.86	1,100.00
4066 · PPP Income	44,683.00	
4067 · R Maier Music Ministry	3,968.39	3,234.00
4069 · W Maier Music Ministry	2,590.59	2,540.00
4072 · Neag Children's Ministry	23,034.19	22,275.80
Total NON-PLEDGE CASH RECEIPTS	77,805.84	37,149.80
Total Income	351,124.50	307,199.80
Gross Profit	351,124.50	307,199.80
Expense		
SALARIES & BENEFITS	237,001.72	246,722.54
OFFICE EXPENSES		
5112 · Postage	597.30	1,500.00
5114 · Office Supplies	1,424.25	2,400.00
5116 · Telephone	7,437.62	8,100.00
5117 · Equipment	11,204.05	8,000.00
Total OFFICE EXPENSES	20,663.22	20,000.00
FINANCIAL AND OTHER		
5151 · Staff Year End Gifts	1,100.00	1,100.00
5140 · Conventions/Conferences/Travel	558.21	1,000.00
5141 · Online Giving Expense	888.43	725.00
5142 · Audit Expense	0.00	1,500.00
5148 · Bookkeeping Expense	16,123.83	16,000.00
5150 · Stewardship/Fundraising Expense	824.85	1,000.00
5158 · Miscellaneous Expense	300.00	300.00
5162 · Workers' Comp	681.00	650.00
Total FINANCIAL AND OTHER	20,476.32	22,275.00
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES		
5208 · Kristallnacht	0.00	200.00
5216 · Fall Festival of the Arts	0.00	1,000.00
5180 · Reading Berks Conf Chur	0.00	400.00
5183 · General Outreach	350.00	350.00
5184 · Opportunity House Emerg. Shelt.	61.00	100.00

Christ Episcopal Church
GOF Income & Expense Statement (P&L)
 January through December 2020

	Jan - Dec 20	Budget
5188 · Parish Outreach Activity Exp	26.15	150.00
Total OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	437.15	2,200.00
INREACH ACTIVITIES		
5200 · Spirituality & Healing	80.83	500.00
5110 · Hospitality/Miscellaneous	1,869.61	2,500.00
5301 · Pastoral Care	250.00	250.00
Total INREACH ACTIVITIES	2,200.44	3,250.00
COMMUNICATION		
5024 · Public Relations - Rector	4,000.00	4,000.00
5209 · Website	65.97	500.00
Total COMMUNICATION	4,065.97	4,500.00
WORSHIP EXPENSES		
5130 · Altar Supplies	200.57	700.00
5132 · Hymnals/Prayer Books	363.04	200.00
5133 · Bulletins/Certificates-sp.order	209.86	100.00
5134 · Saturday Night Services	3,400.00	5,000.00
Total WORSHIP EXPENSES	4,173.47	6,000.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
5166 · J2A	0.00	50.00
5153 · Young Adults in Church	0.00	300.00
5155 · Nursery	0.00	50.00
5157 · CGS II	0.00	50.00
5159 · CGS I	0.00	50.00
5230 · Grade 5-6 Curriculum/Material	0.00	50.00
5237 · Scholarship	100.00	100.00
5239 · Children's Library	0.00	50.00
5241 · Family Program/Diocesan Events	590.92	500.00
5243 · Acolyte Festival	125.00	125.00
5245 · Vacation Bible School	105.69	750.00
5246 · Training/Subscriptions/Mbrships	25.00	500.00
5247 · Meals & Refreshments	254.88	500.00
5248 · General Programming	462.06	500.00
5249 · Recognition	0.00	100.00
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,663.55	3,675.00
DIOCESAN SUPPORT		
5600 · Diocesan Assessment	49,931.88	49,932.00
5610 · Diocesan Acceptance	12,483.00	12,483.00
Total DIOCESAN SUPPORT	62,414.88	62,415.00
Total Expense	353,096.72	371,037.54
Net Income	-1,972.22	-63,837.74

Christ Episcopal Church
GOF Income & Expense Statement (P&L)
 January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	Budget
Income		
4012 · STEWARDSHIP	253,176.14	228,644.00
INVESTMENT INCOME (OPERATING)		
4024 · Int (7) (Consol. Cemetery)	875.33	600.00
4028 · Int (3,6,9,12) (Archer)	6,600.00	2,500.00
4032 · Int (2,5,8,11) (Bollinger)	3,108.24	2,750.00
4036 · Int (12) (Cons. Charitable)	833.96	
Total INVESTMENT INCOME (OPERATING)	11,417.53	5,850.00
NON-PLEDGE CASH RECEIPTS		
4010 · Plate Contributions	1,945.00	2,000.00
4050 · Holiday/Initial Offering	2,978.00	500.00
4052 · Donation Use Church Facilities	1,824.00	1,300.00
4055 · Miscellaneous Income	1,234.01	1,000.00
4066 · PPP Income	44,683.00	44,683.00
4067 · R Maier Music Ministry	3,778.62	3,300.00
4069 · W Maier Music Ministry	2,991.42	2,100.00
4072 · Neag Children's Ministry	21,450.77	22,000.00
Total NON-PLEDGE CASH RECEIPTS	80,884.82	76,883.00
Total Income	345,478.49	311,377.00
Gross Profit	345,478.49	311,377.00
Expense		
SALARIES & BENEFITS	224,359.32	245,081.84
OFFICE EXPENSES		
5112 · Postage	862.15	
5114 · Office Supplies	735.25	
5116 · Telephone	7,853.59	
5117 · Equipment	7,872.84	
OFFICE EXPENSES - Other	0.00	20,000.00
Total OFFICE EXPENSES	17,323.83	20,000.00
FINANCIAL AND OTHER		
5151 · Staff Year End Gifts	1,100.00	
5141 · Online Giving Expense	1,055.30	
5148 · Bookkeeping Expense	17,418.52	
5150 · Stewardship/Fundraising Expense	1,618.36	
5158 · Miscellaneous Expense	498.78	
5162 · Workers' Comp	638.00	
FINANCIAL AND OTHER - Other	0.00	20,000.00
Total FINANCIAL AND OTHER	22,328.96	20,000.00
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES		
5216 · Fall Festival of the Arts	1,000.00	
OUTREACH ACTIVITIES - Other	0.00	1,000.00
Total OUTREACH ACTIVITIES	1,000.00	1,000.00
INREACH ACTIVITIES		
5244 · Seminary Support	7,500.00	

Christ Episcopal Church
GOF Income & Expense Statement (P&L)
 January through December 2021

	Jan - Dec 21	Budget
5110 · Hospitality/Miscellaneous	1,702.28	
INREACH ACTIVITIES - Other	0.00	2,500.00
Total INREACH ACTIVITIES	9,202.28	2,500.00
COMMUNICATION		
5024 · Public Relations - Rector	3,384.64	
5209 · Website	545.09	
COMMUNICATION - Other	0.00	4,000.00
Total COMMUNICATION	3,929.73	4,000.00
WORSHIP EXPENSES		
5130 · Altar Supplies	208.90	
5132 · Hymnals/Prayer Books	281.00	
5133 · Bulletins/Certificates-sp.order	26.15	
5134 · Saturday Night Services	3,351.00	
WORSHIP EXPENSES - Other	0.00	4,500.00
Total WORSHIP EXPENSES	3,867.05	4,500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION		
5155 · Nursery	156.01	
5159 · CGS I	263.94	
5230 · Grade 5-6 Curriculum/Material	446.07	
5241 · Family Program/Diocesan Events	-25.00	
5246 · Training/Subscriptions/Mbrships	102.59	
5247 · Meals & Refreshments	57.00	
5248 · General Programming	319.23	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION - Other	0.00	3,000.00
Total CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,319.84	3,000.00
DIOCESAN SUPPORT		
5600 · Diocesan Assessment	47,961.99	
5610 · Diocesan Acceptance	12,483.00	
DIOCESAN SUPPORT - Other	0.00	62,415.00
Total DIOCESAN SUPPORT	60,444.99	62,415.00
Total Expense	343,776.00	362,496.84
Net Income	1,702.49	-51,119.84

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Given its significant role in Reading's Strategic Plan and revitalization of the City, Christ Church has the potential for a very bright future. Our aspirations for the future are high as we look to:

- Offer exhilarating evangelism and outreach to increase membership while expanding our services to our neighbors.
- Continue to grow as an accepting and affirming congregation that includes, embraces, and reflects the diversity of our community.
- Become a more vibrant congregation where all age and demographic groups actively participate to better serve the needs of the church and the community.
- Be a caring congregation that seeks to meet and exceed the needs of individuals, especially the marginalized.
- Become a more welcoming, open-door congregation for community engagement and discourse.
- Grow through partnerships and collaborations with other organizations working together on the revitalization of the City of Reading and the betterment of our community.

To meet these aspirations, we will participate in Community Asset Mapping and Strategic Visioning sessions in 2022 to address the City's revitalization of the area including and surrounding Christ Church. Led by an Advisory Board consisting of community and Christ Church leaders, this process will identify potential community synergies and aid Christ Church in developing additional programs and ministries to meet the needs of our ever-changing community. [Strategic Visioning Plan](#)

Based on the Asset Mapping results, Christ Church leadership will continue to work with Partners for Sacred Places to develop a Strategic Vision and Plan for the stewardship of our historic building. We believe that once we complete this work, the congregation of Christ Church will have a better understanding of where God wants us to go, and how to make it happen.

*Together we pray that we are
successful in this search and that
God brings a visionary, new
Rector to Christ Church who will:*

- Embrace our mission, “Sharing God’s Love with All,” as we walk the way of Christ towards union with God and His creation.
- Lead and support us in fulfilling our vision at this pivotal point in our history and in our role and responsibilities in the revitalization of the City of Reading.
- Guide us in providing spiritual space, strength, and support for each other as we experience God’s love through fellowship, Eucharistic worship, healing, contemplative prayer, faithful stewardship, and loving service, according to God’s will.
- Counsel compassionately and preach meaningfully, helping each of us develop spiritually by moving ever closer to God from wherever we may be along our spiritual journey.
- Lead the revitalization of programs affected by the pandemic and develop additional programs to encourage former parishioners to return to our fold.
- Grow our membership, with a particular emphasis on youth, at all of our services as well as in our ministries.
- Challenge us to transform ourselves and the surrounding community by securing our position as a dedicated partner and servant in our ever changing community.
- Lead assuredly and responsibly so that we remain fiscally strong and maximize our opportunities for outreach.
- Uphold our Episcopal tradition of worship and liturgy, while embracing and supporting new opportunities.
- Make Berks County their home.
- Ideally, be bilingual in English and Spanish.

OPEN INVITATION

This is an incredibly exciting time for Christ Church, the City of Reading, and Berks County. The "stars have aligned" in that the local government, investors, business leaders and the community are ready to move forward with the City's Revitalization Plan. Christ Church is not only physically poised to join, but the parishioners are ready to jump in with both feet. The Berks County Commissioners were joined by surrounding counties to move forward with a plan to develop passenger rail service to Philadelphia. CollegeTowne, an initiative spurred by Alvernia University's move to downtown Reading, was a major impetus in the Revitalization Plan. Christ Church has many ideas as to how to join with the community, and we need a rector who is willing and able to embrace the challenge - taking Reading from one of the poorest cities in the nation to a vibrant "go-to" destination in beautiful Berks County. Will you join us?