

Christ Episcopal Church

Reading, Pennsylvania



Ministry Booklet 2024



“For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.’ (Mark 10:45)

Where would we be without the loving and sacrificial service that Christ gives us everyday of our lives?

Where would we be without the loving and sacrificial service that so many give us here at Christ Church, Reading?

In this booklet you are going to see the many ways that we are serving God here at Christ Church. Why do we serve? Because we have been loved and served by God. We receive in order to give in return.

As you read through the description of our many ministries I would like to suggest that you both rejoice and wonder.

Rejoice that so much service is happening. We are called to share our time and talents with each other because we have been so richly blessed by our loving God. Rejoice in the gift of the time and talent that surrounds us.

But also wonder: which of these ministries could use my time and talent? There is so much to choose from and so much to do.

Lastly, thank you. Thank you for what you already do and, if I may, thank you for your prayerful discernment in what you might be able to do in the coming days and years for the ministry of Christ Church.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "B Bryce", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Fr Bryce

Adult Education

Adult Forum on Sunday mornings is our current main focus of Adult Education. In these sessions we explore relevant and timely subjects, sometimes based upon our liturgical year and seasons.

Adult Education Contact

Fr Bryce
revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Altar Guild

The work of any Altar Guild is “behind the scenes” where we prepare God’s table for joining in communion with God and each other. Our Altar Guild is divided into four teams who each serve one week each month. When we talk of Stewardship, we talk about giving of our treasure, our time, and our talent. If you have time to give to Christ Church, we would be pleased to have you join the Altar Guild. We require very little talent, just a willingness to serve.

Altar Guild Contact

Charlotte A Hoare
cahoare@verizon.net

Centering Prayer Ministry

The practice of Centering Prayer opens us to receive God’s love and to God’s presence and action in our lives. Centering Prayer group meets for 40 minutes via Zoom 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and for one hour in Christ Church’s chapel on the first Tuesday of the month at noon. We begin with a

relaxation meditation; listen to a Scriptural passage or other inspiring words; then settle into our 20/45-minute silent sit with a chant. We end the sit with the Lord’s prayer and intercessions. Please go to Christ Church’s website for a more detailed description.

Centering Prayer Contacts

Michele Uhrich 610-763-4339
Jerry Kennedy 484-797-8221

Children, Youth and Families

The children, youth, and family ministry is dedicated to providing rich spiritual formation and guidance to members of all ages. In the nursery, children develop interpersonal skills that will serve them throughout their lives. Children of all ages have an opportunity on Sunday mornings to learn more about God and deepen their faith. We host VBS every summer and are also launching an EYC program this year.

Children and Youth Contact

Milah Smith
milahallison@gmail.com

Chimers

High above the entrance to Christ Church lie some of our loudest occupants - the Christ Church chimes. They are a set of ten bells, weighing over 10,000 pounds, which were installed in our belfry in 1874. They are played from a chime stand on the floor below by two chimers. We play for Sunday services and special events, and our lowest bell can be rung by rope to signal the beginning of

the service. Chimers should be able to read music - and be okay with climbing our beautiful spiral staircase.

Chimers Contact

Carolyn Handy
610-763-0866
carolynmhandy@gmail.com

Communion Assistants

Lay men and women administer the wine to those that come to the rail to receive communion.

Communion Assistant Contact

Fr Bryce
revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Daughters of the King

Daughters of the King is a religious order for women whose purpose is to spread Christ's Kingdom through prayer, service, and evangelism. Individually and collectively, we pray for those who are recommended to us and those we as members put forward for prayer. We meet the last Sunday of each month, immediately following the 10:00 service. During our meetings, we pray, learn, and commit to service through a variety of projects and activities.

Daughters of the King Contact

Kim Alarcon
kimberlyalarcon229@gmail.com

Episcopal Church Women

The Episcopal Church Women provides an opportunity for prayer, fellowship and

service for all the women of the congregation. Our fundraising efforts allow us to support a variety of missions locally, nationally and internationally in an amount exceeding \$6,000.00 each year. Our primary fundraiser is our monthly rummage sale (open the 1st two Wednesdays of the month and the Saturday in between from 10:00 am - 1:00pm) which offers gently used items at a modest cost. Other fundraisers include our annual cookie sale, Friends Helping Friends, Redner's tapes and the Austin's/Coastal Grille event. Our annual dinner in June provides an educational/entertainment program and a delicious meal.

ECW Contact

June Tull
juneatull@icloud.com

Fall Festival of the Arts

MISSION: A tangible expression of the covenant between Christ Episcopal and Trinity Lutheran churches, the Fall Festival of the Arts presents an annual festival as a celebration of creative gifts given to all and invites both churches and the wider community to celebrate, participate in, and support excellence in the arts.

WHO: Board members are from the two churches and the community. New Board members welcome!

WHAT: Musicals; plays; art exhibits; poetry readings; children's programs; dance, choral, voice, instrumental and organ concerts; etc.

Fall Festival of the Arts Contact

Dail Richie

dail.richie@comcast.net

50 Plus Club

50+ club invites all chronologically challenged Christ Church members (and any extras such as friends of members) to share fellowship and food on a semi-regular basis at one another's homes. Membership is not limited to couples – it's a pairs and spares affair. Activities include: swimming parties; game nights; seasonal gatherings; and shared writing exercises sparked by memory-jarring prompts. 50+ club participates in covering coffee hours after church as well as Opportunity House dinners.

50+ Contact

Mary Arguelles

arguelf@comcast.net (610) 921-9321

Hospitality

The Hospitality Committee is responsible for seeing that Fellowship Hour after the 10 a.m. service is covered each week. The committee also helps to organize volunteer and provide food for various church events throughout the year. We keep our kitchens stocked/organized as well. We do not have meetings; we communicate solely through email. Come join us!

Hospitality Contact

Anita Powell

powellanita356@gmail.com

484-706-2741

Eucharistic Visitors

Lay men and women with special training take the Sacrament from the Communion rail during Sunday worship and deliver it directly to people who are unable to be in church. This is not meant to replace visits by clergy but serves as an additional way of reminding people who are shut-in that they are connected with their parish family through the Eucharistic.

Eucharistic Visitor Contact

Fr Bryce

revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Healing Team

The healing service is during the David Cullen Mass which is on Wednesday evenings at 5:30 pm once a month. There is training involved in becoming one of our healers.

Healing Team Contact

Terry Rowles

trowles@1055@gmail.com

Lectors and Intercessors

Our lectors read our Scripture lessons during our services and our Intercessors lead us in our Prayers of the People.

Lector and Intercessor Contact

Fr Bryce

revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Library Maintenance

The Christ church library has recently undergone a few upgrades with regards to the space and there has been

reorganizing and sorting of our many treasures stacked on the shelves. We are now in need of volunteers who would enjoy a quarterly visit to the library to consider our collection of books: how to add donated books or to work with Father Bryce to sort and move on non-essential books.

Library Contact

Kim Wagner
officemgr@rdgchristchurch.org

Morning Prayer

Morning Prayer meets each Thursday at 11 am—at Red Bridge Park in the warmer months, and in the Christ Church Chapel during the colder months. Most of our Morning Prayer services follow Rite II in the Book of Common Prayer. However, for an occasional change of pace, we follow Rite I or go even farther back to the 1928 BCP and to services from some of the earlier British prayer books. A special devotional tribute is paid to saints and other luminaries on their designated feast days. Our guiding principle is widespread, volunteer participation by those who attend: a psalm reader and readers of the Scriptures designated for that day. Participants are encouraged to bring inspirational poems, readings, or additional prayers and present them at a given point in the service.

Morning Prayer Contact

David Emes
dadaem930@aol.com

Music Ministry

Parishioners of all ages and musical backgrounds are invited to participate in the Parish Choir, which leads the sung portions of the Eucharistic service at 10 a.m. on Sunday mornings and other services throughout the liturgical year, including during Holy Week, at Lessons & Carols, and on Christmas Eve. Instrumentalists in our parish are also welcome to contribute their musical talents at services throughout the year.

Music Ministry Contact

John Painter
john_painter123@hotmail.com

Property Ministry

The Property Ministry acts as the stewards of the physical property God has provided for our parish since 1826. We work to ensure an environment from which the other ministries can perform their service. This requires day-to-day oversight of regular maintenance and contractor support. The Property Ministry also develops operational and strategic recommendations for the long-term stewardship of Christ Church that are shared with the Vestry. The Property Ministry will be very active in the future planning and executing the preservation of the sanctuary and the renovation of the parish building.

Property Ministry Contact

Chris Spohn
chrisspohn@rdgchristchurch.org

Service Ministers

Our vergers, Crucifers, Gospel book bearers and acolytes help to lead our processions and enhance our worship every Sunday. There is something for all ages when it comes to serving and enhancing our worship.

Service Ministers Contact

Sherry Faust (acolytes)

sfaust@schuykillvalley.org

All others

Fr Bryce

revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Stewardship

The goals of the Stewardship Committee are two-fold. The most obvious component is to ensure our ministries are fully funded. To accomplish this, we spearhead the annual stewardship campaign. This involves organizing the printing and mailing of letters and stewardship pledge cards, as well as tracking pledges as they arrive. The second component is keeping the congregation informed of how their prayerful pledges are used to further Christ Church's work at home and in the community. This committee is most active in the fall, coordinating the annual campaign's mailings, online presence, and speaker series.

Stewardship Contact

Diane Morris

diane.z.morris@gmail.com

Ushers

Ushers work with the Rector to keep services flowing smoothly and safely. We greet everyone entering the nave for services, distribute bulletins, receive the Offertory, and assist at the Eucharist. Every team has at least one member who is certified in Security, Safety and Preparedness protocols. All ages are welcome.

Ushers Contact

Larry Whalen

Aliendog100@gmail.com

Worship Committee

The Worship Committee works with the Rector to implement his ideas and proposals regarding all weekly worship activities, as well as special services, including Ash Wednesday, Holy Week services, Stations of the Cross, Kristallnacht, Thanksgiving, and Advent/Christmas activities. The Worship Committee is also responsible, alongside the Altar Guild, with decorating for Easter and Christmas.

Worship Committee Contact

Fr Bryce

revbwandrey@rdgchristchurch.org

Outreach Partners

Mary's Shelter

Mary's Shelter is a multifaceted comprehensive housing and social service agency that addresses pregnancy, parenting and youth homelessness through proactive preventative work, crisis intervention services and stabilization back into the community. Each year we hold a bookbag drive and raise money for the Shelter at Christmas Time.

Opportunity House

Opportunity House has been helping the homeless population of our area since 1984. Their emergency shelter serves homeless men, women, families, and Veterans. Every month, on a Saturday, we prepare and serve dinner at Opportunity House.

Angel Tree

Christmas is the season of giving which means every year, leading up to Christmas, a tree in our lobby has the names of children in need of presents in order to make their Christmas joyful. We collect and wrap gifts to be given to those families.

And, we make our building and site available to so many groups in our community, including:

Berks Community Health Center Mobile Unit
Berks Youth Chorus
Harwood ESL Dinner and Conversation Evenings
Literacy Council of Reading-Berks
Narcotics Anonymous
The Veterans Coalition of Pennsylvania



Christ Episcopal Church
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