



You are the Light  
*of the World.*



2025  
Annual Meeting  
Report



# Our Vision

Our vision is to empower people of peace to reconcile, liberate, heal, and serve the world by living out the way of love.

As a beloved community, in covenant with God and each other, our mission at Christ Church Cathedral is to be Christ's prophetic presence in the city, offer sanctuary to all people, awaken them to their belovedness in God, and lead the way in making Cincinnati a more just and equitable place – one neighborhood, one person, one moment at a time.

# Our Mission

Our mission at Christ Church Cathedral is to be Christ's prophetic presence in the city, offer sanctuary to all people, awaken them to their belovedness in God, and lead the way in making Cincinnati a more just and equitable place – one neighborhood, one person, one moment at a time.

- We care about *all* people.
- We care about *spiritual vitality*.
- We care about *the arts*.
- We care about *our city*
- We care about *doing justice*.
- We care about *our diocese*.



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## **Thank You**

A grateful acknowledgment of the volunteers, donors, and leaders whose generosity makes all of this possible.

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# A Message from Bishop White

Dear People of God at Christ Church Cathedral,

Blessings as you gather today for your annual meeting. As you consider the work and ministry of the past year and turn your gaze to the future, I pray that you will continue to be strengthened as a house of prayer for all people who seek to reconcile and liberate, to heal and to serve.

This past year in our common life has strengthened my resolve that the church—as the risen Body of Christ in the world—is indeed the hope of the world. I have watched you feed people who are hungry and shelter people who have no place to call home. I have seen you care for those who the world would seek to forget. It has been my joy to recognize your commitment to the people Jesus calls us to serve. Thank you for your ministry and example.

It has been my joy, as well, to share with you in that ministry – in teaching and serving, in worshiping together in the beauty of holiness. Together, with God and one another and the people of the many churches that compose the Diocese of Southern Ohio, what a blessing it is to live more and more into our common mission to embody the Gospel of Jesus, to share in God’s transformation of our communities, to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

I continue to be grateful to serve with Dean Owen Thompson, with ongoing prayer and fellowship between the cathedral and diocesan staff. Thank you for your generosity in ministry as the cathedral for our diocese.

May Jesus be abundantly present to you in your annual meeting today and throughout the year ahead.

In Christ,



The Right Reverend Kristin Uffelman White

X Bishop of Southern Ohio

## The Rt. Rev. Kristin White, Bishop

Bishop Kristin Uffelman White was elected 10th Bishop of Southern Ohio on September 20, 2023 and ordained as bishop on February 17, 2024 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus. Bishop White served as canon to the ordinary for congregational development and leadership in the neighboring Diocese of Indianapolis from 2018 until her election as bishop diocesan in 2023. She is a lifelong Episcopalian who was born in Anchorage, Alaska and raised in Prineville, Oregon. Before earning a master of divinity degree at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary, Bishop White was a high school English teacher in Oregon. She also holds an associate's degree from Cottey College, a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University and a master of arts in teaching from Willamette University. She and her husband, John, are parents of an adult daughter, Katherine Grace, who lives in Germany.



# A Message from Dean Owen

*"Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine."*  
— Ephesians 3:20

Grace and peace to you. As we reflect upon the life of Christ Church Cathedral over the past year, I do so with deep gratitude to God for our common life, ministry, and witness. This has been a year marked by spiritual deepening, cultural transformation, faithful service, and renewed clarity about who we are and what God is calling us to be—as a Cathedral for the Diocese and for the City.

Across worship, formation, outreach, governance, and pastoral care, we have continued to emerge from the long shadow of the pandemic into a season of purpose, stability, and possibility. Christ Church Cathedral is not merely active, but alive—alive with faith, courage, generosity, and hope.

## **WORSHIP & LITURGY**

Worship remains the beating heart of our Cathedral life. Throughout the year, clergy, musicians, staff, and volunteers collaborated to offer worship that was reverent, vibrant, and deeply rooted in prayer. From Advent and Christmas through Holy Week, Eastertide, and the great feasts of the Church year, God was glorified and God's people were fed.

## **SPIRITUAL FORMATION & DISCIPLESHIP**

A defining theme of this year has been intentional spiritual growth. Through Living and Loving Generously and The Climb, we have focused on equipping the saints for deeper discipleship.

## **COMMUNITY LIFE & PASTORAL CARE**

Throughout the year, we have continued to grow as a beloved community marked by deeper relationships, mutual care, and shared responsibility. Parish gatherings, retreats, fellowship groups, and informal moments of connection strengthened bonds of trust and belonging.

At the same time, moments of loss and vulnerability within our community brought into sharper focus the importance of intentional pastoral care. The deaths of members who lived alone served as a sobering reminder of our call to ensure that no one in this Cathedral community feels unseen or forgotten.

## **The Very Rev. Owen C. Thompson**

**The Very Rev. Owen C. Thompson grew up in the Episcopal Church. He was ordained to the priesthood in 2003 at Christ Church Cathedral and has spent the last 22 years in parish ministry in the Diocese of Long Island, New York, and Southern Ohio where he currently serves as the Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Downtown Cincinnati.**



# The Dean's Report

From the Very Rev. Owen C. Thompson



In response, we have begun strengthening our pastoral care networks by exploring improved systems of communication, wellness check-ins, and follow-up. Clergy, staff, and lay leaders are discerning ways to use tools such as Realm to better track care needs, identify members at risk of isolation, and respond with compassion, presence, and prayer.

Our hope is to cultivate a culture where care is not reactive but relational—where members know they are held in prayer, supported in times of transition, and accompanied through life's joys and sorrows.

## **OUTREACH, JUSTICE & SERVICE**

Christ Church Cathedral continues to live into its vocation as a Cathedral for the City. Our outreach ministries remain central to our identity and witness, calling us to stand alongside those who are most vulnerable and marginalized.

Through ministries such as the 5000 Club, we continue to offer hospitality, nourishment, and dignity to our neighbors experiencing homelessness. As the realities of mental illness, poverty, and housing insecurity have become more visible, we have engaged in thoughtful conversations about safety, training, and best practices—seeking to balance radical hospitality with responsible care for guests, volunteers, and staff.

This year also saw the strengthening of partnerships with organizations such as Scholar House and ProKids, as well as early conversations around affordable housing initiatives in collaboration with community partners. These efforts reflect our commitment to addressing not only immediate needs, but also the systemic conditions that impact human dignity and flourishing.

In addition, we have begun exploring expanded training for volunteers and staff in mental health awareness and trauma-informed ministry, recognizing that the Church increasingly finds itself on the front lines of social need. Our aim is to respond faithfully, wisely, and sustainably—grounded in the Gospel call to love, justice, and mercy.

## **STAFF, LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE**

I offer deep thanks for the remarkable staff, clergy, and vestry who serve this Cathedral with faithfulness and joy. Even amid transitions and periods of vacancy, our ministry has continued with strength, collaboration, and creativity. We have built an exceptional and dedicated team, one that supports one another and cares deeply for those whom we are called to serve. Day after day, our people show up to serve, to give, and to participate in this kingdom-building work.

Looking ahead, I am hopeful and excited to welcome an Associate Dean in the coming months to succeed Fr. Paul. We have already begun interviewing several outstanding candidates, each of whom brings gifts that could enrich our common life and strengthen our shared ministry. More to come as the process continues—stay tuned.



### LOOKING AHEAD

As we look toward the coming year, we do so grounded in hope and confident in God's abiding presence. The opportunities before us are significant, and so are the responsibilities entrusted to us as the Body of Christ in this place and time.

In the year ahead, we will continue to focus intentionally on the formation of disciples—equipping and empowering our members to live into and live out the Gospel in their daily lives. This call invites us to deepen not only our personal faith, but also our shared commitment to relational outreach. While financial assistance remains an important and necessary expression of generosity, we are being called to go further: to forge transformative relationships with our community partners and neighbors.

Our hope is to move increasingly toward ministries of presence—volunteering, showing up, and participating directly in the work already being done throughout our city. This includes sustained engagement in efforts to address the affordable housing crisis, combat gun violence, respond to food insecurity, and confront the many forms of poverty that impact our neighbors. These are not abstract issues, but lived realities for those whom we encounter every day.

We are called to be Christ's incarnate presence wherever we go—bearing witness to God's love not only through words, but through faithful, embodied action. To help guide this work, I have asked Fr. Brian, in his capacity, to strengthen connections with our community partners and to assist in aligning the talents, gifts, and passions of Cathedral members with the organizations and ministries we support. In doing so, we hope to cultivate partnerships marked by mutuality, trust, and shared commitment to justice, dignity, and hope.

It is my prayer that, as we step forward together, Christ Church Cathedral will continue to be known as a community that not only believes the Gospel, but lives it—faithfully, courageously, generously, and incarnationally.

Additionally, we will be focusing intently on *evangelism*. Within the Episcopal Church, we have, at times, grown uncomfortable not only with the word itself, but with the practice it represents. Too often, evangelism has been narrowly defined or misunderstood—associated with coercion, judgment, or transactional faith—rather than recognized as an invitation rooted in love, relationship, and hope. As a result, many of us have hesitated to speak openly about our faith or to share the story of how God is at work in our lives.

Yet, when Jesus entrusted his disciples with the Great Commission, he did not offer it as a suggestion, but as a calling: “*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations...*” Evangelism, at its heart, is not about winning arguments or filling pews; it is about bearing faithful witness to the transforming love of God in Christ. It is about sharing through words and deeds, the good news that we ourselves have received.



For us, evangelism must be relational, authentic, and incarnational. It begins with listening, with presence, and with genuine curiosity about the lives and stories of others. It takes shape when we live our faith with integrity, humility, and joy—when our lives reflect the grace, mercy, and compassion we proclaim. Evangelism happens when we extend invitations into community, when we share why this Cathedral matters to us, and when we create spaces where questions are welcomed and faith can be explored without fear.

As a Cathedral in the heart of the city, we are uniquely positioned to model an Episcopal approach to evangelism that is rooted in hospitality, justice, and relationships. Our hope is to reclaim evangelism not as something to be avoided, but as a natural outgrowth of a life transformed by Christ, a faithful response to the call to love God, love our neighbors, and share the hope that is within us.

As such, we will be focusing intently on overhauling and improving our newcomer and welcome ministries, ensuring that visitors and seekers have clarity and access, and ways to connect and stay connected. More specifically, we are looking to recruit, train, and equip welcome ministers, who will greet and shepherd visitors and newcomers as they enter our spaces, providing them with information, a guided tour, and an invitation to join us for fellowship and formational opportunities. Moreover, we will be reaching out to the surrounding residential areas that are ripe for extending an invitation and informing people about all that Christ Church Cathedral has to offer. In fact, if we do this correctly and consistently, we may very well be a “neighborhood parish” again!

### **THANKSGIVING**

I wish to conclude this report with heartfelt thanksgiving to all who make the life, ministry, and witness of Christ Church Cathedral possible. To my colleagues in the clergy team, to our devoted lay support staff, and to the countless volunteers who give so generously of their time, gifts, and energy: thank you.

Your steadfast commitment, faithfulness, and care for one another—and for all those whom we are called to serve—are a profound expression of the Gospel in action. Whether visible or unseen, your work sustains the daily rhythm of prayer, worship, hospitality, formation, and service that defines this Cathedral.

In times of joy and in moments of challenge, you continue to show up with compassion, professionalism, humility, and love. You embody what it means to be the Body of Christ, serving not for recognition, but out of deep devotion to God and neighbor.

It is a privilege to serve alongside such gifted and faithful people. I give thanks to God for each of you, and I pray that you may know how deeply your ministry matters—not only to this Cathedral, but to the Diocese, the City, and all whose lives are touched through your witness.

# The Dean's Report

Continued



As I reflect on this year, I am struck by the quiet yet profound ways the Holy Spirit has been moving among us—drawing us into deeper relationship with God and with one another. We are learning, sometimes slowly and imperfectly, what it means to be an intentional Christian community in this time and place.

The work before us is both challenging and holy. The world is aching for meaning, healing, and hope, and the Church is being called not to retreat, but to respond with courage, humility, and love. My prayer is that Christ Church Cathedral will continue to be a place where hearts are softened, faith is deepened, questions are welcomed, and lives are transformed.

I am grateful beyond words for your trust, your generosity, your service, and your willingness to journey together in faith, hope, and love. It is a profound privilege and honor to serve as your Dean, and I look forward with hope to what God has yet to unfold among us.

*Glory to God from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever and ever. Amen.*

# Senior Wardens' Report

Don Lane, Senior Warden



On behalf of the Vestry, I am pleased to present this annual report to the valued members of the Cathedral Community. The Vestry has experienced a year of discovery in which we have taken a close look at not only our “business” responsibilities but also our role as servant leaders and those who help spiritually nurture the community.

In May, the Vestry began a journey with the Cathedral's consultant, Renni Jessup. This work continued in several group sessions in which we distilled the following mission, vision and purpose of the Vestry:

**Mission:** To be a fully faithful, engaged and in-touch vestry committed to our Christian values – serving God's people with intention and care.

**Vision:** We will nurture a thriving, integrated and Christ-centered community, changing lives through love, service and spiritual growth.

**Purpose:** We are called as servant leaders to activate Christ's love in our congregation, community and the world.

From this mission/vision/purpose, we have developed the following strategic focuses and related imperatives:

## 1. Members

- a. We must know our members at all services.
- b. We must know what brings our members here – what matters to them?
- c. We must know where our members are in their journey with Christ and meet them there.
- d. We must provide opportunities for our members to grow.

## 2. Outreach

- a. We must have financial support.
- b. We must have volunteers and leaders.
- c. We must have comprehensive data for the people we serve.
- d. We must have needed programming.
- e. We must maintain and build community partnerships.

## 3. Welcome Visitors

- a. We must share how we can add value.
- b. We must follow up with visitors.
- c. We must engage with community leaders, influencers and developers.
- d. We must partner with the Welcoming Committee.
- e. We must fine tune our message.

# Senior Wardens' Report

Don Lane, Senior Warden



## 4. Vestry Engagement

- a. We must listen to parishioners and get to know them.
- b. We must be visible and support programming with full engagement.
- c. We must support the clergy.
- d. We must be a strong team.
- e. We must honor our commitments.

As of this writing, the members of the Vestry are hard at work finishing this discernment process by creating concrete strategic initiatives to implement the focuses/imperatives. Our framework will be in place just in time for the new Vestry in March. We are excited for this new direction and hope that it puts the Vestry closer to the beating heart of our church.

During this program year, the Vestry has formed a task force to organize and contract for a "reserve study" of the Cathedral's physical plant and equipment.

The purpose of the reserve study is to catalogue the expected life and future maintenance costs for things like windows, roofs, HVAC systems and kitchen equipment so that we know how much to set aside in reserve to address future needs. This reserving process will cut down on the surprises and budget spikes that occur as Cathedral leadership addresses maintenance issues.

The study will be completed in time for the 2027 budget. The Vestry would like to thank the Trustees, and Matthew Smith in particular, for giving us this idea. Thanks also goes to Vestry Member John Deatrick and Trustee Chair Steve Gerdzen for lending their expertise to this process. In connection with the reserve study, the task force, and especially Junior Warden Olden Warren, have been working in support of Mike Muse, our Director of Facilities, to update the facilities recordkeeping processes.

This year, the Vestry has worked with leadership of the 5000 Club to address security at our feeding ministries. We have been careful to balance the dignity of our guests with the safety of guests and volunteers. At the beginning of January, the 5000 Club will roll out some new security measures, including a "bag check" and metal detector to be used during the Tuesday night dinners. Our thanks to Prince Brown for his never-ending commitment to the 5000 Club and for his willingness to engage church leadership in addressing these issues.

In a broader sense, the Vestry and clergy staff have had the chance to work with our Security Ambassadors to refine security procedures during worship services and special events. Our offerings and outreach are flourishing, and, with that, we all feel the need to make sure that these missions are carried out safely.

# Senior Wardens' Report

Don Lane, Senior Warden



On behalf of the Vestry, we want to recognize the wonderful work and results of the budgeting process for 2026. All involved with the Budget and Finance Committee and budget stakeholders did a fantastic job of listening, working and balancing to create a budget that accomplishes the following:

- 1.allows the Cathedral mission to continue flourishing
- 2.allocates Cathedral resources in a fair and responsible manner
- 3.preserves the Cathedral endowment for future generations

I would like to close my report with a few personal observations. I want to thank the members of the Vestry for the chance to work together. During the "mission/vision/purpose" process, I had the opportunity to reflect in amazement at the talent we have on the Vestry and the precious nature of the differing viewpoints that our members bring to the table. I also want to thank Chief of Staff/Executive Assistant to the Dean, Ann Sabo, for always being there when it seems everyone needs her and for her senses of promptness, common sense and purpose. I also want to acknowledge the deep connection I have formed with Dean Owen+ and my "brother in arms" Olden as we work together to continue the tasks that God has chosen for us. I feel truly blessed.

Yours to the finish,

Don Lane  
Senior Warden

# Junior Wardens' Report

Olden Warren, Junior Warden



As 2025 draws to a close, I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Junior Warden during a year of transition, growth, and deepened commitment to our Cathedral community. Beginning my tenure in March, I leaned on the guidance of experienced leaders while quickly engaging in responsibilities that ranged from supporting facilities management to shaping our Vestry's strategic direction.

## **Leadership and Transition**

I began my service as Junior Warden following my retirement from Procter & Gamble after nearly 39 years, bringing renewed energy and focus to Cathedral leadership. Both Don Lane (Senior Warden) and I were taking over from incumbent Wardens; while Don had previous experience as Senior Warden, I was a first time Junior Warden. I partnered closely with immediate past Junior Warden Drew Abbott to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of responsibilities. I am grateful to Drew for the time and effort he afforded me during the transition.

After convening the Vestry, one of our first efforts was to shape a shared mission, vision, and purpose for the Vestry's work over the coming years. The outcome of this work is detailed in the Senior Warden's report, and I am pleased that we have established focus areas that will guide our long-term direction.

## **Buildings and Grounds**

I was excited to lend my corporate experience in manufacturing plant operations to support Mike Muse as he onboarded into his facilities leadership role and to Matt Shad as leader of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. Notable accomplishments include:

- The committee digested and prioritized the outages and improvement recommendations contained in the Smart Church facilities assessment we received in August 2024. This allowed us to not only address key outages; it also raised the priority of facility management in the consciousness of the Vestry.
- In conjunction with the Capital Reserve study currently underway (detailed in the Senior Warden report), work has been initiated with Mike Muse to systematize and automate our building maintenance processes.

## **Education and Spiritual Growth**

In August I represented the Cathedral at the College for Congregational Development, where I joined fellow participants Canon Liesebet Gravley and Rob DiMartino in learning techniques designed to strengthen congregational transformation. This led to an initiative in October – the “Sources of Transformation” workshops – where we engaged 35 congregants in reflecting on their spiritual practices and growth opportunities. The “Sources” (Prayer and Worship, Study and Learning, Life in Community, Action) provide a practical model for identifying where we encounter God and practice our Christian discipleship. We plan to expand the use of the “Sources” model in Cathedral activities in 2026.

# Junior Wardens' Report

Olden Warren, Junior Warden



This work dovetailed perfectly with my leadership of the Faith and Life Committee. As you may recall, the committee was birthed in late 2024 as we looked for more holistic ways to broaden our community's faith journey; out of this work we developed the "Living and Loving Generously: Give, Grow, and Serve" mantra. Following the Committee's exposure to the "Sources", we adopted them as the framework for the initiatives we lead. I provide more details on the Fatih and Life Committee's accomplishments in a separate report.

## **Service, Community Engagement, and Celebration**

One of the strengths of our congregation is its commitment to service, exemplified by the numerous ministries that provide life-changing and life-giving assistance within and outside of the walls of the Cathedral. Like many humble servants, we often allow our service to be our reward. However, it is important that we acknowledge those who are answering the call, to thank them for their efforts as well as to encourage others to follow their examples. In the last year, we took opportunities to say, "Well done, good and faithful servant":

- Volunteer of the Month – Starting in April, we recognized individuals who are giving of their time and talents to make a difference in our ministries.
- 5000 Club and Outreach ministries celebrations – In April, the 5000 Club honored those who faithfully attend to this weekly ministry and, in October, all of the Outreach ministries were treated to an evening of food and fellowship for their service.
- Fall Festival – In September we celebrated our entire Cathedral community and invited our downtown neighbors to share in the festivities.
- Diocese's 150th anniversary – We shared the proud past and present heritage of our congregation with the Diocese during September's 150th anniversary celebration at Procter Center.

Although not always a part of my official capacity as Junior Warden, my participation in activities outside of the Cathedral that further the beliefs of our congregation bonds us with our external community. For example, I joined the Immigrant Dignity Coalition, a group of 50+ organizations and individuals who are advocating for dignity and due process for immigrants impacted by the Federal government's deportation policies.

I also maintain a close relationship with Peaslee Neighborhood Center, a community center in OvertheRhine that provides services and advocacy for the poor and underserved residents of the neighborhood. I was privileged to help Peaslee complete a major upgrade to their wireless Internet infrastructure, allowing them to become a free Wifi hotspot for OTR residents and visitors to the center.

# Junior Wardens' Report

Olden Warren, Junior Warden



## **Stewardship and Budget**

In addition to my inherent overall financial stewardship responsibilities as a member of Vestry, as a Warden I also have a role on the Budget and Finance Committee. Making the difficult choices on how to best use the Cathedral's limited resources is a tough job, and I thank the members of the committee for their work in this important ministry.

One of our community's shared stewardship responsibilities is to support the Cathedral's mission via the Annual Campaign. Canon Brian Blayer and the Cathedral staff led this year's campaign, with pledges surpassing last year's pace and moving toward the \$400,000 goal for 2026. In support, Vestry members followed up with congregants, encouraging pledging and offering help where needed. Thanks to each of you who are making this commitment to our shared life.

## **Closing Reflection**

2025 has been a year of transition, growth, and deepened commitment to service. From strengthening facilities management to broadening discipleship through Faith and Life, from engaging in congregational development training to advancing stewardship and strategic planning, the Vestry has made significant strides toward becoming a spirit-led team.

As we move into 2026, the foundation laid this year positions us to continue building a sustainable, vibrant, and spiritually transformative Cathedral community.

Peace,

Olden

# Special Gifts and Bequests Received 2025



## Calendar Year 2025

F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation ----- General Endowment  
Harriet W. Collins Trust ----- General Endowment

## Calendar Year 2024

Sammie Bubel Estate ----- General Endowment

## Calendar Year 2023

F.R. Luther Charitable Foundation ----- Jubilee Debt Forgiveness  
Episcopal Communities Ministries ----- 5000 Club and Queen City Street Choir  
Diocese of Southern Ohio, Church Foundation ----- Energy Efficiency Grant

## Calendar Year 2022

None

## Calendar Year 2021

The Estate of James Melton ----- General Endowment

## Calendar Year 2020

None

## Calendar Year 2019

None

## Calendar Year 2018

The Estate of Alfred Lippert ----- General Endowment

## Calendar Year 2017

The Estate of Phyllis Hopple ----- Cincinnati Scholar House  
The Estate of Betty Johnson ----- Cincinnati Scholar House  
The Estate of Robert LaShelle ----- Music  
The Estate of Philip Osborn ----- General Endowment  
Luther Charitable Foundation ----- Third Century Vision Capital Campaign

## Calendar Year 2016

Doris M. Smith ----- General Endowment

## Calendar Year 2014

Virginia Bohn Trust ----- General Endowment  
The Estate of Compton Allyn ----- General Endowment  
Wodecroft Foundation ----- Cathedral Organ Fund  
Allyn Family Foundation ----- Cathedral Organ Fund

## Calendar Year 2013

Wodecroft Foundation ----- Organ Development Fund  
Anonymous ----- Organ Development Fund  
Luther Charitable Foundation ----- Boar's Head

# Report of the Trustees

For the Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Funds  
Year Ending December 31, 2025



During calendar year 2025, we maintained our policy of being invested approximately 85% in equities and alternative investments, resulting in a 14% return for the year. This was lower than our Custom Benchmark Index of 16.4% which is comprised of US & International equities, alternative investments, and a fixed income component.

In 2025, the Cathedral withdrew \$4,650,000 from the General Endowment Fund to support the Cathedral budget: \$3,621,552 for operating purposes, \$704,448 for debt service, \$74,000 for capital projects, and \$250,000 for Scholar House. (In 2024, the Cathedral withdrew a total of \$4,950,000 from the Endowment for these purposes.) After 2025 withdrawals, the market value of the General Endowment Fund at year-end 2025 stood at \$102.1 million vs. \$94.1 million at the yearend 2024.

## General Endowment Fund:

	2025	2024	2023
Principal Market Value	\$102,134,674	\$94,068,747	\$89,681,043
Gross Income Before Charges	\$1,182,378	\$1,027,813	\$835,555
Net Total Return	14.0%	9.5%	14.6%

## Insign Harry James Coombe Fund:

	2025	2024	2023
Principal Market Value	\$46,965,679	\$44,814,093	\$40,409,076
Gross Income Before Charges	\$612,328	\$577,598	\$533,437
Net Total Return	8.1%	15.1%	29.5%

During calendar year 2025 the Trustees continued with their investment advisor, Cambridge Associates, as an “OCIO”, with discretionary investment authority. Cambridge invests the endowment funds based upon the Cathedral’s “Investment Policy Statement” (IPS) as set by the Trustees, which incorporates “Socially Responsible Investing” to guide the Investment Managers on SRI/ESG issues.

# Report of the Trustees

For the Christ Church Cathedral Endowment Funds  
Year Ending December 31, 2025



The Trustees continue to recommend to the Cathedral Clergy & Vestry that the annual draw from the endowment fund not exceed 4% of the rolling three-year average value. A 4% level of endowment funding should be considered a prudent benchmark to support the total amount of both operational and capital needs on an annual basis.

The Cathedral's endowment consultants and money managers advise that a 4% draw rate is prudent, not only for the Cathedral, but for other endowed non-profit organizations, to ensure the long-term sustainability of endowments. By limiting endowment sourced spending to a 4% draw rate, vestries and clergy can ensure that the endowment's value is preserved for future vestries, clergy, and the Cathedral community as a whole, so that the Cathedral's mission is sustained in perpetuity.

**Endowment Trustees:**

Stephen F. Gerdzen, Chair  
Janna U. McWilliams, Vice Chair  
Tonya C. Warren, Treasurer  
Joseph J. Dehner, Secretary  
Matthew J. Smith

## TRUSTEE RECOMMENDATION DRAW RATE FOR ENDOWMENT FUNDS

**November 29, 2022**

In carrying out their fiduciary duties, the Trustees of the Endowment Funds of the Episcopal Society of Christ Church ("the Cathedral") recommend to the Cathedral's vestry and clergy that the annual draw from endowment funds not exceed 4% of the rolling three-year average value. A 4% level of endowment funding should be considered a prudent benchmark to support the total amount of both operational and capital needs on an annual basis. The Cathedral's endowment consultants and money managers advise that a 4% draw rate is prudent, not only for the Cathedral but for other endowed non-profit organizations, to ensure the long-term sustainability of endowments. By limiting endowment sourced spending to a 4% draw rate, vestries and clergy can ensure that the endowment's value is preserved for future vestries, clergy, and the Cathedral community as a whole, so that the Cathedral's mission is sustained in perpetuity.

# 2026 Nominees



## **SENIOR WARDEN**

(Voting for one one-year term)

Don Lane

## **JUNIOR WARDEN**

(Voting for one one-year term)

Olden Warren

## **TRUSTEE OF THE ENDOWMENT FUND**

(Voting for one, five-year term)

Jean Lauterbach  
Matthew Smith

## **BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE**

(Voting for three, one-year terms)

Drew Abbott  
Matt Dunn  
Emily Pirrello

## **VESTRY MEMBERS**

(Voting for four positions with three-year terms)

David Kalfas  
Julie Kline  
Holly Pratt  
Tom Schuck  
Julietta Simms  
Shirley Wang

## **NOMINATION COMMITTEE**

(Voting for two, two-year terms)

Pat Haug  
Janna McWilliams  
Susan Pace  
Suzann Parker LEIST

## **DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

(Two Delegates and Two Alternates for a one-year term)

Drew Abbott  
Connor Annable  
Tom Carothers  
David Fedders

# Rotating Vestry Expiration Date Roster



## **WARDENS**

Don Lane (Senior Warden) 2026  
Olden Warren (Junior Warden) 2026

## **VESTRY**

Mary Grover (Resigned) (2026)  
Juie Kline (2026)  
Tom Schuck (2026)  
Tucker Stone (2026)  
Tom Cecil (2027)  
John Deatrict (2027)  
Quniton Jefferson (2027)  
Paula Rose (2027)  
Mary Hagner (2028)  
Laura Lamb (2028)  
Bailey Leo (2028)  
Frank McWilliams (2028)  
Michael Unger (2028)

# 2025 Statement of Operational Revenues and Expenditures



	<u>2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2026 BUDGET</u>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Pledges	\$ 400,000	\$ 368,175	\$ 400,000
Contributions - Not Pledged	46,000	64,284	50,000
Designated Contrib. & Grants	44,400	131,666	64,900
Programs/Parking/Facilities	22,800	24,956	25,600
Miscellaneous Income	16,300	171,523	20,200
	<u>\$ 529,500</u>	<u>\$ 760,604</u>	<u>\$ 560,700</u>
Charitable Trusts	75,000	84,153	80,000
Friends of Music Support	35,000	30,766	40,000
Coombe Fund Support	325,000	250,797	265,100
Endowment Draw	3,975,905	3,538,878	3,962,638
<b>Total REVENUES</b>	<u><b>\$ 4,940,405</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 4,665,198</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 4,908,438</b></u>

	<u>2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>2025 ACTUAL</u>	<u>2026 BUDGET</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>			
Administrative	\$ 213,470	\$ 213,377	\$ 249,450
Adult Formation	49,000	34,590	51,500
Altar Guild	5,500	1,397	5,500
Boar's Head	30,635	30,884	33,135
Buildings & Grounds	344,100	316,043	368,000
Children & Family Ministry	21,100	5,894	18,600
Communications (PR)	126,000	118,180	120,000
Diocesan Assessments	537,530	549,693	496,709
EPN - Episcopal Parish Network	22,400	27,310	23,600
Flower Guild	25,600	23,042	27,200
Hospitality	31,300	37,976	43,500
Libraries	1,585	1,671	1,500
Liturgical Supplies	10,350	7,580	9,900
Music	205,600	189,792	235,400
Native American Ministry	108,000	108,749	110,000
Outreach	460,500	460,613	459,000
Pastoral Care/Homebound	8,550	2,593	3,000
Salaries & Benefits	2,616,485	2,429,674	2,523,694
Stewardship	10,500	6,318	7,500
Technology	47,700	44,421	49,100
Youth Camp & Scholarships	64,500	55,400	72,150
<b>Total EXPENDITURES</b>	<u><b>\$ 4,940,405</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 4,665,198</b></u>	<u><b>\$ 4,908,438</b></u>

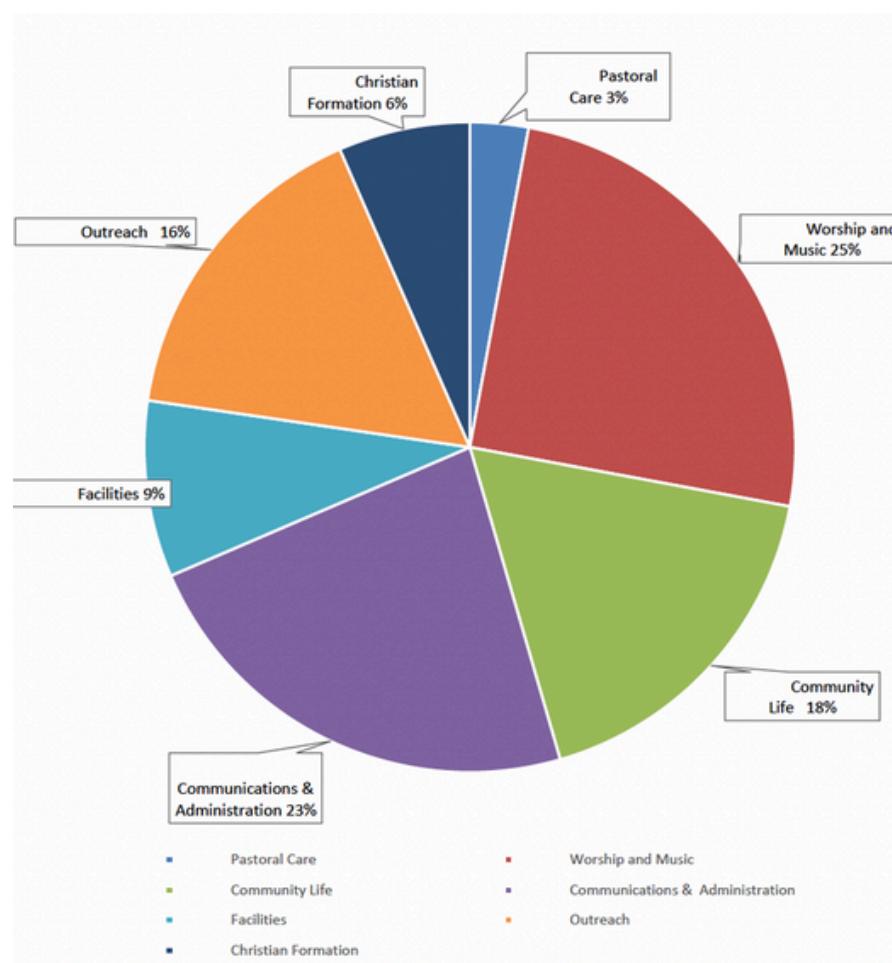
# 2025 Statement of Capital Revenues and Expenditures



## 2025 STATEMENT OF CAPITAL REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

	2025	2025
	<u>BUDGET</u>	<u>ACTUAL</u>
<b><u>ENDOWMENT DRAWS</u></b>	<b>\$ 1,001,436</b>	<b>\$ 1,058,342</b>
<b><u>CAPITAL PROJECTS</u></b>		
4th Floor Renovation	5,536	
Elevators/Fire Escape	14,167	
North Façade, Addl 2025 Cap'l Improvements	47,000	69,292
Ice Bank	14,900	
Total Capital Projects	<b>\$ 47,000</b>	<b>\$ 103,896</b>
<b><u>SCHOLAR HOUSE</u></b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>	<b>\$ 250,000</b>
<b><u>DEBT SERVICE</u></b>		
Principal	624,832	688,295
Loan Interest	79,604	16,151
Total Debt Service	<b>\$ 704,436</b>	<b>\$ 704,446</b>
<b>Loan Balance at December 31, 2025</b>		<b>\$ 176,321</b>

# 2025 Expenditures in Mission Format



<b>Pastoral Care</b>	\$	<b>135,092</b>
<b>Worship and Music</b>	\$	<b>1,167,271</b>
<b>Community Life</b>	\$	<b>821,292</b>
<b>Communications &amp; Administration</b>	\$	<b>1,073,431</b>
<b>Facilities</b>	\$	<b>409,395</b>
<b>Outreach</b>	\$	<b>753,658</b>
<b>Christian Formation</b>	\$	<b>305,058</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		<b>4,665,199</b>
	<hr/>	<hr/>

# Resource and Stewardship Committee

Julie Kline and Quinton Jefferson



Committee work totaled approximately 20 hours. In that time, we held 5 meetings with committee members and staff to craft the 2026 budget for Vestry review and approval.

The Resource Stewardship Committee endeavors to manage the talents and gifts of Cathedral membership and others to support the ministries and operations of the Cathedral. Thus, the committee functions with two sub-groups: (1) budget and finance and (2) stewardship. Under stewardship, the four areas of giving are: memorial giving, legacy giving, annual appeal, and capital campaigns.

The budget and finance committee members are Ed Burdell, Steve Gersden, Nicole Redus, Matt Dunn, Olden Warren, Don Lane, Quinton Jefferson and Julie Kline as Cathedral Treasurer. The budget timeline was determined in July. Next, the committee met several times during August through October to closely monitor the progress of budget creation and reporting progress to the Vestry. Throughout the budgeting process, priorities were set and accounts were analyzed for improved categorization. As a result, a 2026 budget was crafted that provides resources to meet the missionary needs of Christ Church Cathedral.

The 2026 budget includes increased resources for hospitality and welcome, and a decrease in diocesan mission share.

The budget and finance committee was committed to producing a budget that yielded an endowment draw rate of 5.0%. The 2026 budget drafted for Vestry presented an operating budget of \$4,908,438 and a capital budget of \$559,089. These budgeted expenditures yielded a budgeted endowment draw rate of 5.12%.

Rev. Brian Blayer led the annual appeal. He and other staff members met several times to determine an annual appeal goal and create a promotion strategy. As of this writing, the Annual Appeal for 2026 totaled approximately \$337,732, or 84% of the budgeted goal of \$400,000 with 112 total pledges.

Matt Dunn chairs the Anchor Society, representing the cathedral's effort to encourage legacy giving.

The committee would like to thank Jean Beck for her work with the budget process and wish her all the best in retirement.

*Please refer to the financial information in this annual report for the 2026 budget, the trustee's report for the endowment position and performance, and the treasurer's presentation for a full financial summary of 2025 for the cathedral and 2026 annual appeal campaign results.*

# AS OF 1/27/26, MEMBERS AND FRIENDS WHO HAVE MADE THEIR 2025 PLEDGE



Drew Abbott & Robert DiMartino	R. Stephen Eby & Teresa Getha-Eby	Patsy Leo	Vicky Schooler
Gloria Abernathy	David & Janet Fedders	Lori Luchtman-Jones & Carl Rhodes	Thomas Schuck
Susan Anuforo	Marjorie Fox	Carol Lyon	Bill Scrivener & Susan Pace
Merrilee Atkins	Steve Gerdzen	Bobbie Lyons	Bob & Brenda Shawver
Geneva Averett	John & Toni Grate	Michael Maloney	Andy & Nikki Shenk
Keith & Margaret Baldwin	Brandon Graves	Troy May & Michael Pelgen	Vestal & Julieta Simms-Howell, Sr.
Ruth Bamberger	Liesebet Gravley	Janet McDaniel	Matthew & Cyndi Smith
Marja Barrett	Joe Gray	Richard & Dorothy McDonough	Warren Solar, Jr.
Jeff & Laurel Bauer	Pat Groth	Larry McLean	Mary Ellen Steele-Pierce (M.E.)
Bob Beiring	Mary Grover	Frank & Janna McWilliams	Jerry Stein
Jon & Linda Berger	Phil & Mary Hagner	Michael Merry	Roy Steiner & Jane Page-Steiner
Brian Blayer	Dennis Harrell	Thom & Roberta Miles	Tucker & Andrea Stone
Beth Boatright	Pat Haug	Kim Montgomery	Douglas & Kay Thompson
Sue Brammer	Neil & Sue Heighberger	John & Karen Moreland	Owen Thompson & Jonna Morales-Thompson
Paula Brickler	George & Amy Hill, III	David Mukasa	David Thomson
Prince & Elizabeth Brown, Jr.	Sue Hoel	Douglas & Donna Mullins	Roger & Rita Thoney
Amy Brubaker	Joseph Hylton	Sarah-Theresa Y. Murakami	Carmen Trotta
Doug & Dawn Bruestle	Margaret Hylton	James Murray	Michael Unger
Ed Burdell	Ted & Anne Jaroszewicz	Bill Myers	Steve & Pam Van Allen
Dianne Butler	Quinton Jefferson	Thomas Noonan	Tony & Suzanne Walch
Thomas & Annette Carothers	Jack & Kathy Jose	George Patrick & Emily Boswell	C.K. & Shirley Wang
Tom & Cindy Cecil	David & Charley Kalfas	John Pepper, Jr.	Olden Warren & Sheila Hill
Chris & Nancy Christensen	Tom & Jenny Kent	Matthew & Emily Pirrello	Tonya Warren
John & Sandra Crawford, Jr.	Nicholas Kienzle	Cecilia Pratt (Ceci)	Nan Witten
Yvonne & Madison Cuffy	Julie Kline	Holly Pratt	Mary Lynn Woebkenberg & Lexie
John Deatrick	Lisa Koepke	Bertie Ray & Marcia Irving-Ray	Bopp
Holly Dehner	Barbara Koerner	Nicole Redus & Brady	Ann Works
Joseph Dehner & Noel Julnes-Dehner	Dan Lakamp & Dan Shirley	Swearingen	
Jeffrey Dey	Jeffrey & Laura Lamb	Brooke Reidy	
Gretchen Dinerman	Don Lane & Matt Dunn	Paula Rose	
Malcolm & Priscilla Dunn	Charles & Jean Lauterbach	John Rushing	
	Brian Lawson & Tamra Hitchcock	Kathy Sackett	
	Suzann Parker Leist	Connie Sanders	

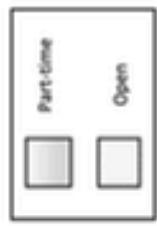
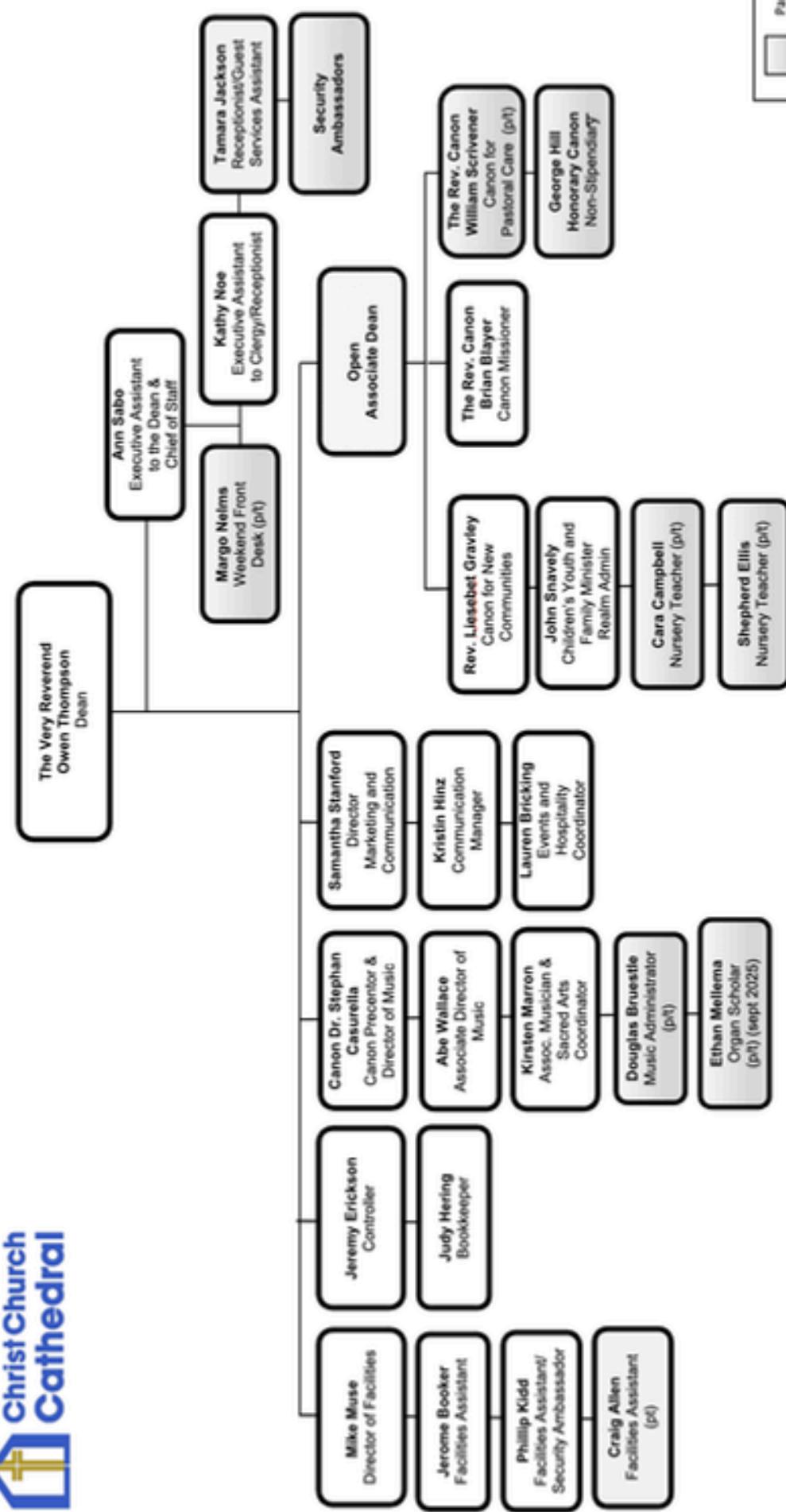
## Christ Church Cathedral Annual Pledge Campaign Results\*

Pledge Year	# of Pledges	# of New Pledges	Amount	Average Pledge
2025	123	22	\$351,577	\$2,858
2025	123	13	\$352,293	\$2,864
2024	150	21	\$394,891	\$2,633
2023	156	20	\$396,755	\$2,543
2022	181	22	\$411,985	\$2,262
2021	172	4	\$356,420	\$2,072

\* Numbers updated to include pledges received after year end

# Christ Church Cathedral

## Organizational Chart February 2026



# Communications Report

Samantha Stanford, Director, Marketing and Communications



In 2025, Communications at Christ Church Cathedral focused on a simple but essential question: *How do we help people feel connected—to worship, to one another, and to the life of this community beyond Sunday morning?*

Throughout the year, Communications worked to tell the Cathedral's story in ways that were welcoming, clear, and rooted in our shared mission. Across print, digital, video, and in-person storytelling, the goal was not just to share information, but to invite participation and deepen belonging.

A cornerstone of this work continued to be the GPS. In 2025, the GPS grew as both a communications tool and a ministry of storytelling. Each issue highlighted the life of the Cathedral—worship, outreach, formation, stewardship, and community—while offering space for reflection and connection. Through thoughtful design and accessible writing, the GPS reached members, visitors, and neighbors alike, helping people see where they fit within the larger story of the Cathedral. Communications supported nearly every ministry and program through branding, design, and messaging. From brochures and posters, to social media graphics and event programs, visual consistency and warmth remained a priority. These materials helped ensure that whether someone encountered the Cathedral online, in their mailbox, or at an event, the message felt cohesive and inviting.

Digital communication continued to play a vital role in keeping the community connected. Weekly emails, targeted event communications, and seasonal messaging provided timely information while reinforcing a sense of rhythm in Cathedral life. Particular care was given to communications with newcomers—offering clear next steps, personal invitations, and opportunities to connect with clergy and staff.

Video and storytelling expanded further in 2025, supporting worship, stewardship, and pastoral connection. Video became an increasingly important way to share voices, faces, and stories—helping bridge the gap between Sundays and allowing the Cathedral's presence to extend beyond its walls.

Communications also played a key role in major Cathedral initiatives throughout the year. The stewardship campaign, A Community of Generous Hearts, relied on coordinated print, digital, and in-service messaging to reflect shared values and invite thoughtful participation. The launch of Realm was supported through clear, patient communication and ongoing follow-up, helping both staff and parishioners navigate change with confidence.

Behind the scenes, Communications functioned as a hub ministry—collaborating closely with clergy, staff, volunteers, and ministry leaders. This work often happened quietly, but it was essential: shaping tone, clarifying messages, and ensuring that the Cathedral's many moving parts told a coherent and faithful story.

As we look ahead to 2026, Communications remains focused on deepening storytelling, strengthening pathways for connection, and continuing to reflect the life of Christ Church Cathedral with creativity, care, and clarity.



### Major Projects & Department Work

The 2025 calendar year has been one of the most productive periods for the Facilities Department in recent memory. Despite challenging weather, staffing shortages early in the year, and ongoing high demand for event support, the team completed extensive repairs, renovations, preventive maintenance, mechanical upgrades, and safety improvements across the Cathedral campus. Strategic use of in-house labor created substantial cost savings while allowing major project momentum to continue throughout the year.

#### 1. Staffing & Department Operations

- Hired Craig Allen, expanding the team's weekly capacity and keeping more projects in-house.
- Created new job descriptions for all Facilities positions and updated personnel files.
- Managed a year of extremely high event volume: camps, conferences, talks, Jazz in the Commons, Annual Meeting, funerals, weddings, parish picnic, Pride events, Cincy Co-Op Symposium, and more.

#### 2. Major Renovations & Capital Improvements

##### *Fourth-Floor Apartment Renovation*

- Installed long-delayed HVAC condenser, completing a 2024 holdover project.
- Performed a full interior renovation: removed carpet, mudded/sanded walls, painted, restored hardwood floors through outside contractor Mansion Hill.

##### *Sixth-Floor Apartment Preparation*

- Cleaned, patched, painted, and prepared for a new guest (January).
- Completed major upgrades to Apartment #6, including full bathroom renovation, painting, lighting, and new furnishings.

##### *First-Floor Interior Restoration*

- Completed full North Hallway renovation: prep, patch, prime, paint.
- Completed Swan Room renovation, including repairs for water-damaged walls.
- Began additional work in South Hallway.

##### *Office Moves & Renovations*

- Relocated multiple departments: Podcast Room, Spirituality Center, Brian's office, and other staff spaces.
- Renovated and refreshed two offices previously occupied by Paul and Carine.

#### 3. Mechanical Systems, Preventive Maintenance & Infrastructure

##### *HVAC, Air Handlers & Condensation Issues*

- Extensive multi-month clearing of condensation lines and drip pans for all 33 Air Handlers—over half completed by August.
- Trane performed PM on major systems, including chiller, boiler, and coils.
- Numerous water-damage issues addressed throughout the building (Choir Room, Sacristy, 3rd Floor, Men's RR), with root causes identified and repaired.

# Facilities

Mike Muse, Director of Facilities



## *Ice Banks & Ice Machines*

- Contracted Nalco to clean, empty, and refill the ice bank tanks; later performed chemical treatment cycles.
- Installed a new ice machine in the kitchen.

## *Building-Wide System Maintenance*

- Full filter replacement across the building (Cafco).
- Preventive maintenance was performed on all AED units.
- 911 system tested and reset.
- Lift station pumps inspected; Pump #1 repaired and restored.

## *Plumbing Repairs*

- Multiple urinal repairs, replacements of cleanout plugs, toilet repairs, and replacement of Sacristy faucet.

## **4. Electrical, Lighting & Technology**

- Major replacement of ceiling tiles building-wide (90% completed by March).
- Installed TVs at several locations including main entrance, Swan Room, and Narthex monitor.
- Multiple lighting upgrades: stage lights, halogen bulbs, stained-glass window lighting bids, and tower lighting replacement.
- Set up and mounted new kiosk for digital giving.
- Installed a microphone for the Ring system at the front desk.

## **5. Safety, Security & Inspections**

### *Fire, Health & Safety*

- Annual fire system inspections performed by IPS and Silco; new sensors and chip replacements installed.
- AED maintenance across campus.
- OSHA/BWC training completed (multiple certifications).

### *Elevator Systems*

- Tower Elevator 5-year inspection completed. Certificate renewed.
- Annual city elevator inspection completed with zero issues.

### *Security Enhancements*

- New 911 emergency panic button installed.
- Sec-Tron bids for new cameras, new key fob panel; executive security to replace Bosch module.
- Fixed or replaced loose railings throughout the building.

## **6. Exterior & Grounds**

### *North Façade & Roofing*

- Signed contract with American Façade early in the year; repairs completed by summer.
- Bernecker Bros Roofing provided multiple bids and began scheduling necessary work on roof issues.

# Facilities

Mike Muse, Director of Facilities



## *Courtyard, Landscaping & Gardens*

- Pruned and mulched all beds across the property.
- Maintained fountain systems; full cleaning, draining, and filter upgrades.
- Ordered umbrellas for Sycamore Gardens and added No Trespassing signage.

## *Living Wall & Water Intrusion*

- Urban Blooms began work on the Living Wall; vandalism repairs completed earlier in the year.
- Houston Bros performed major waterproofing projects at Swan Room, Columbarium, skylights.

## **7. Janitorial, Cleaning & Contracted Services**

- Launched expanded Cintas service (products, towels, mops, mats).
- Contracted Cleaned & Dusted for monthly deep cleaning of main floors and full kitchen sanitation.
- Elite Cleaning deep-cleaned first-floor slate and Undercroft carpeting.

## **8. Events & Community Support**

Facilities provided full logistical support for dozens of large events, including:

- Boar's Head Festival teardown, Annual Meeting, Dale Harris celebration, funerals, weddings.
- Reading Camp, Music Camp, Art Camp, AAM Conference, Backpack Drive, Jazz in the Commons.
- Greg Landsman Community Talk, Native American Council exhibit, Taft Lecture Series.
- Hosted a weekend-long youth group from Memphis.

## **9. Bids, Contracts & Vendor Coordination**

Dozens of competitive bids were obtained and evaluated for:

- Roofing, skylight, and façade repairs.
- Courtyard gate replacement.
- Sound system upgrades for the Undercroft.
- Flower Guild Room renovation.
- Safety railing installation.
- Camera and key fob security improvements.
- Grease trap and lift station servicing.

These efforts improved financial stewardship and ensured accurate scoping of upcoming capital needs.

The Facilities Department delivered an exceptional year of progress, marked by efficient in-house labor, targeted contracting, and proactive preventive maintenance. Mechanical systems are healthier, apartments and public spaces have been renewed, and campus safety has been strengthened. This year's work provides a solid foundation for long-term campus resilience and supports the mission and hospitality of Christ Church Cathedral.

# Mission and Outreach

The Rev. Canon Brian Blayer



2025 was marked by growth and expansion in ways that were quite exciting. From new ministries, to more partnerships, and achieving long-term goals, I am happy to say that our outreach programs are doing well.

Move On Up became official in August of 2023 and in September 2025 we placed our first client in our first home. The price point I hoped to achieve was \$110,000 for the whole project and we came in at \$128,000. For now, we are renting for six months, at cost, \$350 per month. This will help our client get settled financially. Then, we estimate mortgage payments and charge rent at the new rate, holding onto the extra funds as a down payment so that in the end, the home will cost closer to \$125,000. To learn more about the program, I encourage everyone to visit the web site. I like to say that legally Move On Up is a separate entity but spiritually this is our ministry!

Our healthcare ministry moved through its second year doing vaccination clinics for 5,000 Club guests and researching client needs. Neighbor Hub Health partnered with us to advertise their health care programs and bring a mobile healthcare van to the cathedral once a month. Approximately 60 patients have used their services this year.

Our partnership with IHN continued and also changed slightly. We stepped in to fill a need to house families during cold snaps. Although the assistance is provided last minute, this has run smoothly thanks to all the ministers involved and help from staff.

The Senior Stars and cathedral parishioners have stepped up to help at Thanksgiving and Christmas, collecting food, and buying presents for Christmas. The giving tree went to families at Scholar House and children at Pro-Kids, while the senior stars purchased and wrapped gifts for an ERS location downtown called Parkway Place. This is a new model for us and I am very grateful for all who participated. With such success, I hope we will make this a regular part of our life at Christ Church Cathedral.

A Public School Ministry has been organically growing. With a health fair at Reese E. Price last year, along with our traditional back pack ministry, and a new partnership with Frederick Douglas in Walnut Hills, we are becoming a partner with the public schools in our city. Thanks to ministers this year and the congregation who stepped up to fill back packs. This is a new model I hope continues. We even had the Saturday basketball crew lend a hand!

Parallel to the school ministries, we have been deepening ties with the Lord's Gym in East Price Hill and began working with Pro-Kids and the Queen City Foundation this year. All of these programs help young people in a variety of ways from youth sports, to scholarships to mentoring programs and our partnerships bring us alongside their good work.

Plumline moved into its second year with a different operating model and it has continued to be very successful. The ministry now also provides Kroger gift cards, food, and clothing when needed. Considering clients' needs, the ministers have been creative and flexible in order to be as helpful as we can.

# Mission and Outreach

The Rev. Canon Brian Blayer



And the 5,000 Club has seen innovation as well. From the walk-in freezer, to partnering with La Soupe, this tried and true ministry continues to look to the needs of our guests and be accommodating. We brought back the 4:30 PM prayer service and found a way to accommodate guests who show up with their pets. In partnering with the healthcare ministry and welcoming social workers, addiction counselors, and healthcare providers, the 5,000 has become more than a meal; it is a resource hub. Which has moved into food delivery as well. Each week the blessing bag ministry provides to-go bags on Saturdays and delivers food to two Episcopal churches so they can also have feeding programs. The 5,000 Club has grown its outreach to the community.

The Grants Committee continues to provide much needed funding to organizations which do great work in Cincinnati. 2026 will see a substantial budget cut, down to \$120,000 so it will be a year of reorganizing. I pray we can prayerfully consider the importance of this ministry and find ways to step up our giving in order to bring it back to its former funding level soon. In the meantime, the ministers stay faithful and are doing incredible work.

Our trip to Navajoland will be on hold as the Native American Council explores new options for reaching out. This summer there will be a trip to Pine Ridge. The group has done a fantastic job reorganizing and continues to provide funding for a wide variety of needs.

We continue serving meals on Sunday, as well, for the Queen City Choir. This means we provide meals on Tuesday, Saturday, and Sunday as a regular part of our ministry, as well as wrap-around services for our guests. We continue to move into more service to others as the months go by.

To help us, I am grateful to the dean and vestry for approving funds for a social worker. This will be a 10 hour per week position and responsibilities will include helping at the 5,000 Club, Queen City Choir, office hours at the cathedral one day a week, and grant writing. Some of the grants will help keep down the draw on the endowment and will essentially zero out the salary for this position and other grants will be for new initiatives.

Lastly, we can be proud of our many partnerships, new and old which are growing and deepening all the time: Changing Gears, Pro-Kids, The Homeless Coalition, Queen City Foundation, The Lord's Gym, City Link Center, Our Daily Bread, and more.

This coming year I hope to develop and implement a program which educates us around the idea of social justice. Working off Roman Catholic social doctrine made official in 1891 by Pope Leo XIII, I look forward to engaging in new social justice activities as well as continuing the wonderful charities we are so well known for. My hope is we might move more fully into our role as a plumb line for the city and help eliminate some of the hardships our citizens face.

# Music Committee

## Stephan Casurella/Drew Abbott



### Cathedral Music Staff

- Stephan Casurella, Canon Precentor & Director of Music
- Abraham Wallace, Associate Director of Music
- Kirsten Marron, Associate Musician & Sacred Arts Coordinator
- Ethan Mellema, Organ Scholar
- Doug Bruestle, Music Administrator

### Music Committee Members

- Drew Abbott, Chair
- Quinton Jefferson, Vestry liaison
- Michael Unger, Vestry liaison
- Merrilee Atkins
- Robert Beiring
- Dawn Bruestle
- Janet Fedders
- Mary Henrickson
- Anne Jaroszewicz

It is a privilege to continue sharing the gift of music with the Cathedral's worship community, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and the City of Cincinnati! We believe that music can open hearts to the presence of God and serve as an agent of healing. The stories of transformation we hear from worshipers and concertgoers reinforce the importance of music in the life of the Cathedral and its ministries to people of many different backgrounds. Below are some highlights from music ministry programming in 2025.

### Cathedral Choir

Under the direction of Director of Music Stephan Casurella, the Cathedral Choir consists of 36 singers: 12 professionals, 1 high school choral scholar, and 23 volunteers. During 2025 the choir sang for nearly 80 liturgies and concerts, including the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival, Holy Week services, Christmas services, an All Souls' liturgy, services of Choral Evensong, and diocesan liturgies. The choir collaborated with other Cincinnati parish choirs 4 times during the year.

Additionally, the choir sang for 3 liturgies during the June 2025 Association of Anglican Musicians Annual Conference.

### Christ Church Singers

Under the direction of Associate Musician and Sacred Arts Coordinator Kirsten Marron, the Christ Church Singers is an all-volunteer ensemble designed for those who love to sing but are not able to commit to the Cathedral Choir's rehearsal and performance schedule. The Singers met to rehearse and sing for Sunday morning Eucharist 4 times during 2025.

# Music Committee

Continued



## **Gospel Ensemble**

Under the direction of Jason Alexander Holmes, the Christ Church Gospel Ensemble sang during 4 liturgies in 2025.

## **Queen City Street Choir**

The Queen City Street Choir, an ensemble for persons experiencing homelessness, meets weekly to rehearse under the direction of Jason Fishburn. The ensemble joined the Young Professionals Choral Collective for a concert in March.

## **Sunday Noon Service Music**

Noon service music was led by Associate Musician and Sacred Arts Coordinator Kirsten Marron with the assistance of a Cathedral Choir member.

## **Children's Music**

Under the direction of Associate Director of Music Abe Wallace, students in grades three and above develop their musical and vocal skills while building their confidence, fostering meaningful relationships, and cultivating a love for fine arts as part of the tuition-free Cathedral Chorister program. Young singers from churches around the city rehearse weekly and sing in worship once a month during the school year. The choristers also assisted in leading worship for the Diocese of Southern Ohio's 150th anniversary worship service. Other children's music activities included an organ/harpsichord demonstration for students from the Peaslee Center.

## **Summer Music Camp**

The 12 campers played musical instruments, sang, created art, participated in faith formation activities, and took field trips to the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Bishop's office.

## **Organ Scholar**

We were pleased to welcome Ethan Mellema as organ scholar for the 2025-26 academic year. This internship allows the scholar to gain experience performing, conducting, and accompanying, as well as assisting with music-related administrative tasks.

## **Concerts**

During 2025 the Cathedral presented 58 performances that included weekly Music Live at Lunch concerts (a range of styles from New Orleans and Bluegrass to classical guitar), organ recitals, choral concerts (such as Cincinnati's Vocal Arts Ensemble, Young Professionals Choral Collective, Wilberforce University Chorus, MUSE Women's Ensemble, and Viva Voices), and instrumental concerts (such as the Queen City Freedom Band and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra). Total attendance at concerts was more than 5,800, not counting the Boar's Head and Yule Log Festival.

## **Educational Events**

During 2025 the Cathedral hosted 6 educational events sponsored by organizations such as the Cincinnati Flute Society, the School for the Creative and Performing Arts, the Cincinnati Choral Academy, and the Peaslee Center.

# New Communities, Youth, and Families

The Rev. Canon Liesebet Gravley



This past year has been a season of transformation across the ministries I oversee. As we reflect on the significant milestones achieved, it is clear that we are now entering a season of harvest, witnessing the tangible fruit of our collective prayers and hard work.

## **The Noon Service**

This year marked the conclusion of our consultative process with Troy, an experience that helped us articulate our goals as a community. It was truly a year of discernment as we sought to reclaim our unique communal identity. Our vision was clear: to foster worship that is authentic, to be a radically welcoming presence, and to live out our values as God's people. The addition of Kirsten has been a tremendous blessing. Working alongside Becca and the NS leadership, she has helped craft worship experiences that are meaningful and reflective of who we are. Beyond the sanctuary, we recommitted to our life together through the return of Moveable Feasts, enjoying fellowship in the world around us. We also look forward to our Healing Through the Arts series, an invitation to explore our faith through new creative expressions. As we grow closer to one another and see our numbers increase once more, I am filled with anticipation for where God is leading us next.

## **Youth and Family**

Our Youth and Family Ministry has experienced a season of significant transition this year, and I am profoundly grateful for this dedicated team. While we shared heartfelt goodbyes with Virginia, Emily, and Miriam, we were blessed to welcome Cara and Miriam to our children's ministry. Throughout these changes, Shepherd has been a pillar of consistency, stepping up with a servant's heart whenever called upon.

A major highlight has been welcoming John to lead the rebuilding of our youth and children's programs. As a gifted self-starter, John has already breathed new life into these ministries, launching successful initiatives like our Pumpkin Extravaganza and involving families in the lighting of the Advent wreath. His collaboration with the Native American Council—providing our older youth with a unique opportunity to learn about indigenous art and culture—is a testament to the meaningful connections he is building. Additionally, through a partnership with Stephan, we now provide childcare during Evensong and other evening services, ensuring that parents can fully engage in worship. I am eager to see how these seeds of ministry continue to grow in the coming year.

## **Formation**

Formation remains a vital part of our life together. Adult Formation has thrived this year, building upon the solid foundation laid by Paul. His work allowed us to expand our offerings and lean into a collaborative model of leadership. One of our ventures was 'The Climb.' Working with Owen and Sam's vision, Kirsten and I facilitated a Lenten journey through the core stages of our faith, which encompassed biblical, theological, spiritual, and service-oriented reflections.

# New Communities, Youth, and Families

The Rev. Canon Liesebet Gravley



My passion and goal have been to create spaces where we can share our faith authentically. This spirit of collaboration was evident throughout the year: from Stephan's insights on listening for God in music, to our 'Base Camp' series where we shared our honest experiences, our struggles, our questions, our doubts, but also what we love, what we cherish, what has been profoundly meaningful regarding Scripture. This fall, we tackled the complexities of the Book of Revelation and questions of allegiance (with God or with power?), while Dean Owen led a class on suffering.

We concluded the year with an Advent series on our baptismal promise to 'Strive for Peace and Justice.' This series truly modeled our communal values through teaching from an NS small group, a choir member, and a powerful testimony from Imam Ayman Soliman regarding his experience with ICE and the role of the faith community in his release. These moments of shared faith are what make our community so resilient.

## **Summer Camp Reading**

I am excited to announce that Summer Camp Reading, a vital literacy program founded by Joe Dehner and Noel Julnes-Dehner, is now formally housed at the Cathedral. Under the capable leadership of Co-Executive Directors Marsha Piphus and Jaumall Davis—both of whom bring years of expertise as site directors—this program continues to transform the lives of rising 2nd, 3rd, and 4th graders.

Throughout the month of July, Summer Camp Reading provides the foundational literacy skills necessary for academic success. While our reach has historically included St. Andrew, St. Simon, Grace, and Scholar House, we are looking toward an even broader horizon. Next year, we plan to return to our core sites while expanding to Calvary and potentially Church of the Advent. We are deeply grateful for the powerful ministry Joe and Noel built, and we are excited to steward its future so that children across our communities can truly thrive.



## 2025 Highlights

The pastoral needs of our congregation are much the same as they would be in any congregation. People get sick and are hospitalized. People transition into nursing homes. People have mental health crises of one sort or another. Some people die. It's all "normal" but these events take their toll on those affected and on those who care for them.

It continues to be my privilege to provide pastoral care to those in need – individuals, their families and friends. In this work I am supported by the clergy of the cathedral, and by parishioners. I am particularly grateful for the care provided by the Prayer Group and by Helping Hands. These good folks help to make sure that our folks are not forgotten.

Additionally, the clergy have undertaken to be more intentional in our pastoral ministry. To that end, we have developed a list of those with particular needs and have divided that list amongst ourselves, thereby assuring that there will be regular communication with those in need. We also know that the congregation may be aware of needs that we are not. Please let the clergy know of those in need to help make sure that we tend to all in need.



In 2025, Soul Goods continued to grow as more than a gift shop—it functioned as a place of welcome, connection, and creativity at Christ Church Cathedral. Throughout the year, Soul Goods served parishioners, visitors, and neighbors alike, offering meaningful gifts while extending the Cathedral's spirit of hospitality beyond worship services.

This year marked a season of renewed energy and visibility for the shop. Soul Goods leaned into its identity as a curated space—one that blends faith, local pride, thoughtful design, and joy. Seasonal displays, rotating inventory, and intentional merchandising helped draw in both familiar faces and first-time visitors, many of whom discovered the Cathedral through the shop. Several key moments defined the year. Special events such as Smash Burgers gatherings, Christmas in July, pop-up shops, and holiday open houses brought increased foot traffic and new energy into the space. These events not only resulted in record sales months, but also introduced Soul Goods to new audiences who might not otherwise have walked through the Cathedral doors. Eye-catching outdoor displays and creative promotions helped signal that something welcoming—and fun—was happening inside.

The holiday season was particularly strong. The Holiday Open House and seasonal shopping days saw record-setting sales and reinforced Soul Goods as a destination for meaningful, joyful gift-giving. Carefully curated Christmas merchandise, combined with warm hospitality, helped the shop feel festive, accessible, and deeply connected to the life of the Cathedral.

Throughout the year, Soul Goods also continued to emphasize relationships—between volunteers, staff, parishioners, and the wider community. The dedication of volunteer shop staff played a central role in the shop's success. Their warmth, consistency, and care created an environment where people felt welcomed, remembered, and encouraged to linger. Soul Goods became a place where conversations happened, stories were shared, and connections were formed.

Behind the scenes, intentional attention was given to inventory planning, seasonal calendars, and alignment with Cathedral events. This allowed the shop to remain responsive while also planning ahead—balancing creativity with stewardship.

Looking ahead to 2026, Soul Goods will continue building on this momentum: expanding community partnerships, refining seasonal offerings, and deepening its role as both a ministry of hospitality and a sustainable source of support for the Cathedral. In 2025, Soul Goods demonstrated that a small space, when rooted in welcome and purpose, can have an outsized impact.



The 5000 Club food ministry began in the spring of 2006 as an effort to provide the hospitality of a weekly evening meal to those who live in our neighborhood, including those without a home to call their own. It has grown into a comprehensive food insecurity outreach ministry catering to a range of issues impacting Cincinnati's marginalized communities. Our growth strategy, which we continue to hone and refine, revolves around working closely with other churches and Cathedral ministries while collaborating and creating partnerships with multiple nonprofits engaged in providing services to those in need.

In 2025 we served 9200 Tuesday evening meals. Food preparation was done by our nonprofit partner La Soupe. On Saturday mornings we distributed 5500 Blessings bags with food for the weekend. Bags were taken to two other Episcopal churches in Cincinnati and handed out at the Cathedral. Several passersby, observing the distribution, thanked the Cathedral and gave small monetary contributions to the effort. We are working to memorialize this public response in a way that will build the 5000 Club brand in the community we serve. We have a thirty-five-person volunteer group. About 25 percent of the volunteers are community members. In June the Club had a change in leadership and several volunteers stepped up to take on additional duties.

Our network of partners started a new initiative in 2025 called Nourished Neighbors. Its purpose is to reduce waste among the various food insecurity organizations by sharing and exchanging resources in partial response to recent governmental reductions supporting underserved populations. In December we made two deliveries of surplus food stock to the Esther Marie Hatton Center for Women in Cincinnati.

We serve roughly 175 meals to highly stressed individuals in one hour, presenting several challenges. Our plans address the following concerns to be phased in beginning early 2026.

1. Ministry ... Give attention to Guests interaction so that they feel appreciated and valued.
2. Health/Hygiene ... Improve public health measures to limit spread of infectious diseases.
3. Structure ... Institute a restaurant serving style to better control movement in the serving space while enhancing the dignity of guests and adding to their sense of contentment.
4. Security ... Institute plans to allay safety concerns of volunteers and guests.

Relative to other organizations the strength of the 5000 Club is its organizational and distributive approach to addressing homelessness and marginalization issues. We are experimenting with a two-person volunteer team that takes food to people with mobility issues. The Club is in dire need of a food transport utility vehicle design specifically for our purposes. To this end, language and data were provided the Controller's office for inclusion in a proposal it recently submitted to the Luther Foundation. We plan to pursue other external funding opportunities.

Our goal for 2025 is to strengthen the 5000 Club as described above to expand our outreach to people in need.



## 2025 Highlights

Our members are faithfully supporting weekend services, ordinations, weddings, and funerals. Beth Boatright and Michael Rouse continue to serve at the 8:00 am services in the Centennial Chapel. Milo Marshall and Jana McWilliams do an outstanding job maintaining our linen inventory.

As administrators, we are thankful for the service all our current members provide. We would also like to thank the clergy and staff for their steadfast support, especially Dean Owen Thompson, Stephan Casurella and Mike Muse. If anyone would like to join our merry band, please reach out to us.

## Altar Guild Members

- Susan Anuforo
- Linda Berger
- Beth Boatright
- Lexie Bopp
- Cindy Cecil
- Toni Grate
- Jenny Kent
- Danyale Marshall
- Milo Marshall
- Janna McWilliams
- Karen Moreland
- Michael Rouse
- Bob Shawver (513-235-2776)
- Brenda Shawver (513-478-5803)
- Shirley Wang
- Mary Lynn Woebkenberg

# Acolyte Guild

Jerry Stein



## About the Acolyte Guild

The Acolyte Guild plays a vital role in the worship life at Christ Church Cathedral, helping lead our congregation with reverence, confidence, and grace. Our acolytes—children, youth, and adults—assist clergy in worship by carrying the cross and torches, preparing the altar, and modeling attentive, prayerful presence.

This past year, the Guild faithfully served across Sunday services and special liturgies, offering steady leadership even as schedules shifted and worship adapted to seasonal needs. Through training, mentorship, and hands-on experience, our acolytes continue to grow in understanding of liturgy, teamwork, and service.

We are deeply grateful to our acolytes for their commitment and to the acolyte master, Jerry Stein, and to those who coordinate schedules, provide training, and support this ministry behind the scenes. The Acolyte Guild remains an important pathway for formation and leadership within our Cathedral community, and we look forward to welcoming new members in the year ahead.

Membership is open to all persons of junior high school age and up.

Comprehensive training in liturgical service is by arrangement with the acolyte master.

# Boar's Head Festival

Anne Jaroszewicz



As December weather came in with bitter temperatures and early snowstorms, The Boar's Head Committee kept our weather-monitoring on high-alert as the holidays approached. As you recall, last year, we had to cancel the Sunday performances of Boar's Head due to the major snowstorm that left Cincinnati with over 8 inches throughout the region. This year, with Bob Beiring "in charge" of weather, all was calm and all was bright!

And throughout the weekend, it felt like we all appreciated Boar's Head a little more than usual as a result! Smiles abounded as the Musicians, Choir, Cast and Crew assembled. Lots of hugs were shared as were so many catch-up conversations. This year, we had 50 Singers in our Choir, 31 in the Orchestra, 8 in our lightening Crew, and 110 in our Cast, not to mention the 22 who make up the Boar's Head Committee.

Many in the Cast and Crew noted that we seem to finally have recovered from Covid in terms of our Audience numbers, as well as our audiences' willingness to be hugged and smooched by our exuberant Waits! We welcomed over 375 guests to each of the 3 full performances as well as an equal number to the Dress Rehearsal.

I always love to listen to people's reactions to Boar's Head and this year did not disappoint. One audience member said, "Boar's Head is like doing Christmas all over again!", while another said, "Boar's Head makes Christmas, and the Christmas Spirit, last longer", and a first-timer to Boar's Head came up to me with that special look of wonder in her eyes that I have come to know so well to say, " it was magnificent, simply magnificent".

We thank God that we can bring this special ministry at the beginning of each New Year. It is a ministry that provides vital Spiritual Nourishment and Beauty to all who see it and all who participate in it. This nourishment acts as a reminder of our shared faith in Jesus Christ and fortifies us with the glow of the spirit as the year begins.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our great Committee: Bob Beiring, Michelle FosterFibbe, Bridget Shannon, Stephanie Harty, Beth Boatright, Janna McWilliams, Sue Dreibelbis, Paula Rose, Kathy Jose, Pat Haug, Stephan Casurella, Abe Wallace, Matt Shad, Mary and Phil Hagner, Suzann Parker Leist, Samantha Stanford, Kristin Hinz, Jee Bauer Trevor Shibley, Ron Thomas, and Dean Owen Thompson as well as the roughly 175 others who make this Festival come to life, year after year.

# Camping and Youth Opportunities

Kim Montgomery



The Camping and Youth Fund distributed \$61,650 in 2025, impacting hundreds of Cincinnati youth in meaningful ways. We awarded \$7,000 in college scholarships to the children of our parishioners.

We provided \$11,000 in support of the Summer Reading Program based at the Cathedral and led by Joe Dehner and Noel Jules-Dehner. This four-week program made a meaningful difference for local children, helping them build confidence and strengthen essential reading skills. Participants showed remarkable gains, including a 56% increase in oral reading fluency, 55% growth in reading comprehension, and a 78% improvement in vocabulary. When children are not reading at grade level by third grade, they are at greater risk of falling behind as academic demands increase. By supporting early literacy at this critical stage—when reading becomes the foundation for learning across all subjects—this program helps set children in our community on a path toward long-term academic success.

The Camping and Youth Committee is committed to ensuring that children in our community have opportunities to experience the outdoors, build friendships, and grow during the summer months. To support this goal, we awarded \$16,000 in camperships to Camp Ernst, enabling more than 40 underserved children from Cincinnati to enjoy a week at camp. In addition, we helped provide essential camping supplies for children who needed them, ensuring that every participant could take part fully in the experience.

We also supported Camp Joy, which offers camping programs designed to meet both the recreational and social-emotional needs of youth. Camp Joy received \$10,000 in scholarships, allowing children from the Saturday Hoops program, as well as children with special health needs, to enjoy a safe, welcoming, and enriching camp experience.

Closer to home, the Saturday Hoops “Summer Saturdays” program received \$5,000 to cover the cost of weekly lunches for campers who gather at Ziegler Park, just up the street from the Cathedral. Providing a simple but meaningful meal of pizza and juice helps ensure that every child feels welcomed and cared for.

Finally, we granted \$5,000 to Breakthrough Cincinnati, a summer-long academic enrichment program that helps students develop the skills they need to succeed in high school and beyond. Breakthrough Cincinnati operates tuition-free for students and relies on support from government funding, private foundations, and individual donors. Through this investment, we are helping expand access to educational opportunities that strengthen the future of our community.

## 2025 Committee Members

Kim Montgomery, Dianne Ebbs, Amy Brubaker, Anne Jaroszewicz

# Community Issues Forum

Bill Woods/Ed Burdell



## 2025 Highlights

The Community Issues Forum completed its 45th year of presenting forums last May, and it launched its 46th year in September. Established as a program that reflects the commitment of this downtown Cathedral to the public life of the city, the Forum features presentations on important local issues. It particularly focuses on issues of social, economic, and political justice. Scheduled every other Thursday, except from June to September, Forums begin at noon and are open to the public with no reservations required.

Currently Forums are held in the Cathedral library and are also available for Zoom attendees who constitute about half of the audience. Once again Forum successes benefited greatly from the involvement and insights of the Planning Committee. T

his group includes members of the Cathedral (Michelle, Dunn and Elizabeth and Prince Brown) and two community leaders (the Director of the Interfaith Workers Center and the President of Cincinnatus. The Committee also maintains contact with and sometimes collaborates with a large number of civic groups and organizations.

# Faith and Life Committee

Olden Warren



At Christ Church Cathedral, we believe church should be more than just a place to worship – it should be a place where you feel seen, supported, and connected. That's where the Faith and Life Committee comes in.

Our mission is to build a vibrant, Christ-centered community by creating opportunities for:

- Spiritual growth through Bible studies, prayer groups, and small group conversations
- Fellowship and connection through social events, brunches, and neighborhood gatherings
- Support and care through networks that walk with you during life's challenges

We also listen closely to the needs of the congregation and work closely with clergy and church leadership to make sure everyone's voice is heard.

One of the most significant accomplishments was the relaunch of the Foyer Groups, which provided renewed opportunities for fellowship and relationship-building. The kickoff at the Fall Festival drew strong interest, with additional members requesting to join, and leadership was established under Julie Kline, Laura Lamb, and Mary Hagner. During Advent, the Hagners hosted a combined gathering to encourage cross-group connections and community sharing. The Fall Festival itself was another highlight, where Faith & Life coordinated volunteer recruitment, hospitality support, and ministry materials. The event welcomed neighborhood visitors, strengthening ties with the wider community. The committee also coordinated volunteers and materials for the Diocese's 150th Anniversary celebration, ensuring Christ Church Cathedral was well represented.

We opened a safe space for silence and listening through a weekly women's listening group. Participants are welcomed in to share their joys, sorrows, hopes, concerns, and questions with other caring women who will celebrate with them and sit with them as needed.

For Stewardship, the committee supported the annual pledge campaign under the theme "A Community of Generous Hearts." Faith & Life assisted with the campaign's video series and progress tracking visuals while also staffing Stewardship tables weekly and coordinating Vestry phone calls to parishioners. Campaign results have exceeded 2025 benchmarks to date but remain just short of the \$400,000 target set for 2026, underscoring the importance of continued congregation engagement and follow-up.

Formation and retreat planning also advanced this year. The committee introduced the diocesan model "Sources of Transformation" to frame how we pursue Christian formation (Prayer and Worship, Study and Learning, Life in Community, Action) at the Cathedral.

Planning began for parish retreats, with listening sessions and surveys planned for early 2026 to get parishioner input on what they would like from those experiences. A women's retreat has already been scheduled for April 2026, and conversations continue about future pilgrimage opportunities.



As we look towards 2026, here are areas in which we plan to engage:

### **1. Expand Fellowship & Community Building**

- Continue to support and expand Foyer Groups to build parishioner relationships.
- Explore new initiatives: Dinner & Movie nights, quarterly newcomer gatherings, Thanksgiving lunch.

### **2. Deepen Formation & Retreats**

- Launch parish-wide survey in early 2026 to shape retreat offerings.
- Execute local retreat post-Easter, emphasizing storytelling and connection.
- Support Women's Retreat (April 2026).
- Continue exploring international pilgrimage opportunities for future years.

### **3. Volunteer Appreciation & Pastoral Care**

- Coordinate with Vestry and clergy to align pastoral care initiatives.
- Partner with Senior Stars to understand needs and develop options to support our more senior parishioners

### **4. Strengthen Stewardship & Congregation Engagement**

- Document and refine pledge campaign processes.
- Build a year-round Stewardship program, focusing on congregation education and engagement.
- Support Vestry and Stewardship team in bridging connections with disengaged members.

### **5. Welcoming & Membership Growth**

- Support revamped Welcoming Committee with training ("7 Touches") and updated visitor packets.
- Recruit 1-2 new members to Faith & Life Committee for balanced capacity.

In summary, 2025 was a year of renewed energy and foundational growth for the Faith & Life Committee. By relaunching small group opportunities, supporting major parish events, and strengthening Stewardship efforts, the committee has positioned itself as a catalyst for community transformation.



## 2025 Highlights

The Christ Church Cathedral Flower Guild currently has 20 active arrangers including 4 buyers and a buyer trainee, a wedding coordinator, co-funeral coordinators, a scheduler and donor coordinator. Throughout the year we continued to provide weekly arrangements for the Nave and prayer corner, Centennial Chapel and the entrance on Fourth Street. We provided small arrangements each week for the coffee hour and the reception desk and procured flowers for the weekly 5000 Club dinners. We also provided flower arrangements for 1 wedding, 8 funerals/memorial services, the diaconal ordinations, confirmation and the Pride service. We provided arrangements for the May Festival Opening Day banquet, paid for by the May Festival.

We are training two new recruits.

We also provided the Easter and Christmas arrays that beautify the Cathedral during these festive seasons.

We have initiated discussions with Church of the Advent in Walnut Hills about a project which would include working with Scholar House and the wider Walnut Hills community to support Church of the Advent's community garden, teaching gardening and cooking skills to children and adults. It would replace our current project that works solely with Scholar House.



## 2025 Highlights

In 2025 the Cathedral hosted 19 families through the Found House Interfaith Housing Network. Families who were homeless stayed at the Cathedral for a week in January, February, May, June and August. During the five host weeks we provided seven days of safe shelter and food for a total of 23 adults and 35 children. The children's ages ranged from infant to teenager.

The families lived in the Undercroft and Cathedral members and friends provided basic hospitality. Approximately 30 volunteer hosts provided meals, spent their evening with the guests playing with the children, and stayed overnight at the Cathedral with the guests. Other volunteers set up and took down the bedrooms and did the laundry. Several new Cathedral members joined in helping with the ministry this year and some volunteer hosts brought their families. The extra hands were appreciated and their children learned about the reality of homelessness in Cincinnati.

We had two support congregations. Church of the Advent provided volunteers and dinner on Thursdays and St. Francis Seraph, a Catholic parish in Over the Rhine, hosted at the Cathedral on Wednesdays.

In addition to the five scheduled host weeks, the Cathedral provided emergency shelter for several families during bitter cold winter weather in 2025 in partnership with Found House. The family homeless shelters are all full to capacity and families often have nowhere else to stay while waiting for a space to open up. On short notice, Cathedral volunteers set up beds in the Undercroft and sheltered families for several nights who otherwise would be outdoors in the cold or living in cars.

# Foyer Groups

Julie Kline



After a five-year hiatus, Foyer Groups are back at the Cathedral. Foyer Groups is an community-building activity that is open to members and nonmembers. We currently have over 50 people participating, with groups consisting of ten or less individuals.

The groups find their time together enlightening and enriching, as well as an opportunity to establish new friendships and deepen existing ones. The kick-off this year was at the Cathedral Fall Festival in September. Most of the groups are planned from direct inquiry. Members of each Foyer group take turns with hosting duties. A leader was assigned to each group whose duties include keeping the chair informed of when their group meets and how many people attend each meal. Meetings held in homes of the members is typical, but groups have met at parks, restaurants...even bowling alleys!

The frequency, location and menu choices are left to the consensus of the individuals within each group. Please contact Julie Kline if you are interested in joining a Foyer Group.

# Grants Committee

Kathy Jose



## 2025 Committee Members

Danyale Marshall, Sandra Crawford, Mary Grover, Mary Lynn Woebkenberg, Julieta Simms, Kathy Jose

## 2025 Highlights

The Grants Committee has been blessed with 6 active members, all of whom have been dedicated to this work for many years. We feel strongly about the ministry of supporting organizations that do meaningful work and have a positive impact on our community.

In 2025, the Grants Committee members made contact with staff from a total of 38 area organizations who had applied for funding. Using Zoom, email, phone calls, and in-person visits, committee members completed a shepherding report for each organization, detailing the pros and cons for allocation decisions. We work to understand each organization's needs.

The needs are great in our community, and this year was no exception. We saw a record request total of \$565,400 from 38 different organizations, ranging \$5000-40,000. It is typical that grant requests far outstep our available funds. And we work diligently to balance fund distribution among eligible organizations.

After our due diligence and shepherding work alongside the organization, we funded awards ranging from \$1500-6500 for 31 organizations.

Our work is often acknowledged with letters and emails of appreciation, expressing gratitude for the impact that these funds support in our community. It is rewarding work to know that we have contributed to providing safe shelter, offering mental health support, encouraging youth, comforting and educating a patient, defending the marginalized, and much, much more.

Let us know if you'd like to join us in this ministry to local organizations.



## 2025 Numbers

Our major accomplishment in 2025 was partnering with NeighborHub Health so their medical van comes to the 5000 Club the last Tuesday of every month. This is at no cost to the cathedral or guests. NeighborHub Health is a nonprofit healthcare organization providing services to unhoused persons in the Cincinnati area. A nurse practitioner can see 6-7, 5000 Club guests per monthly visit for medical or mental health concerns. Follow-up can take place with the 5000 Club guest's primary care provider or at NeighborHub Health's physical location.

The Healthcare ministry began a monthly Health Forum, taking place on the second Sunday of the month in the library, following the 10 a.m. service. Barry Brooks, MD, from Mercy Health, spoke on social determinants of health. Cathedral members David Fedders, MD and Sue Brammer, PhD, RN spoke on managing holiday stress.

Finally, Sue Brammer, facilitator, and parishioner Mary Hagner began a group for women in the congregation called the Listening Room. The group is designed to provide a confidential, caring environment for sharing concerns and celebrating God's blessings. There have been between four and seven participants that meet on Wednesdays from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. No registration is necessary to participate in the group. Attending every week is not required.

We continue collaborating with Executive Director Steve Sunderland and his staff from the Cancer Justice Network. They are instrumental in the work of the ministry.

## Committee Members

Sue Brammer, Prince Brown, David Fedders, Mary Grover, Pomona White  
Clergy Liaison: Brian Blayer



## 2025 Numbers

Created Items:

- 28 shawls,
- 22 triangle shawls
- 14 lap blanket
- 5 baby blankets
- 2 quilts
- 586 mini
- 87 scarves
- 121 hats
- 2 cowl
- 10 hat/scarf sets
- 9 bears

## Gifts Given

- 67 given or sent
- 3 CLIMB UP HOME
- 99 hats
- 71 scarves. (Hats and Scarves) WITHROW HIGH SCHOOL
- 12 Plumb Line
- 12 Transfiguration
- 8 Matthew 25 Ministries
- 253 Minis to Anglican Musicians Convention

# Hospitality Guild

Sharon Versoza



The Hospitality Hour is a welcoming social time held immediately after the 10 AM Sunday service, supported by a group of about 25 volunteers.

Each week, the volunteers prepare a spread that includes baked goods, fruit and vegetable trays, a salami-and-cheese platter with crackers, along with coffee and sometimes fruit punch. In the latter part of the year, this gathering has been hosted in the library area, which offers tables and a comfortable setting that encourages parishioners to linger and enjoy fellowship.

Volunteer coordination has been streamlined through an online sign-up list, allowing individuals to sign-up for preparation, cleanup, and providing additional food items. The Hospitality Hour Team is blessed with the support of Lauren, our Events and Hospitality Coordinator, Kaylee, our talented chef, and Philip, our dedicated Facilities Coordinator.

In addition to the weekly Hospitality Hour, volunteers contributed to major events such as the Fall Festival and provided baked goods for special occasions, including funeral service receptions.

As we plan ahead, I'd like to suggest organizing teams by week throughout the month (except the third Sunday, when brunch is covered). It's a simple way to spread out responsibilities, keep things enjoyable, and make sure everyone has an opportunity to take part.



We are delighted to present a summary of the LGBTQ+ Alliance's activity, commitment to inclusion and love for all, that demonstrates the strength of our inclusive theology, our commitment to community, and our parish.

## **Success of the Past Year**

The Alliance had an impactful year, deepening our spiritual and social connections:

**Record-Setting Pride Events:** Our celebrations were a powerful testament to love and equality. The year's Pride Eucharist was a tremendous success, drawing 178 people, including many clergy and folks from parishes across the Diocese. It was presided over by Bishop White and featured a rousing sermon by Anny Stevens-Gleason. We commissioned a New Pride Service from renowned theologian Dr. Mary Louise Bringle. This Christ-centered, affirming text will enrich our future worship and serve as a gift to other parishes for years to come.

The Pride service was followed by a Potluck Dinner, which fostered wonderful fellowship. This year also marks the first year of a highly successful Tea Dance, which we co-hosted with support from the Church of the Redeemer. Highlights also included the joyous Pride Parade Float (the beautiful marriage chapel) and the subsequent Potluck Dinner that fostered wonderful fellowship. This year also marks the first year of our highly successful Tea Dance, which we co-hosted with support from the Church of the Redeemer.

**Sustained Community-Building:** We continued our tradition of monthly Happy Hours at Queen City Exchange, creating a relaxed, social space for LGBTQ+ individuals and allies to connect. These gatherings continued, with Cathedral members and community members in attendance, and we were honored to have Bishop White join us for one of these happy hours.

Our website, social media, and reputation continue to attract LGBTQ+ folks and allies, many with church trauma, who are searching for an inclusive faith community to our parish. The need to offer support, hear the stories, and understand the trauma many LGBTQ+ individuals have experienced continues to be a focus of our work.

The LGBTQ+ Alliance remains committed to its mission of providing support, advocacy, and spiritual nourishment, serving as a beacon of hope and inclusion in the Cincinnati area and beyond. Thank you, Christ Church Cathedral, for your support and love.



## Library Volunteers

- Toni Grate
- Amy Brubaker
- Ann Works (Little Library)
- Kathy Sackett

## 2025 By the Numbers

- Ordered, processed and displayed a total of 68 new books, both fiction and non-fiction
- Processed and displayed approximately 15 donated books
- We had approximately 125 books checked out of the library this year.
- We had between 200-300 books donated to the little library.

## 2025 Highlights

- inventoried both fiction and nonfiction books from the church library, and donated approximately 200 of them to the little library. These were books that either had not been checked out for several years, or never checked out prior to 2020.
- Expanded the Theological section by adding another bookcase and more books.
- Listed periodic announcements of new arrivals in fiction and nonfiction in GPS and bulletin
- Rotated ongoing displays for various national month celebrations (ex. Black History Month, Pride Month, Native American Heritage Month ).

There has been excellent visual presence from the Soul Goods Store and increase in foot traffic. Various programs and events are hosted within the library, including coffee hour, senior stars events, enrichment and theological programs. We continue to accept suggestions for purchases and encourage all members to take advantage of our wonderful library.

A personal thank-you to all the library volunteers, and for their suggestions and input.



## 2025 Numbers

- Supported 18 organizations effecting Indigenous youth and adults in the U.S. and Canada.

## Native American Ministry Council Members

- 19 members including Amy Brubaker, Martha Camele, Tom Carothers, Cindy and Tom Cecil, Joe Dehner, Cate Donahue, Toni and John Grate, Brian Lawson, Lisa and Steve Lemen, Kathy Mank, Janna and Frank McWilliams, Tom Schuck, Bob Shawver, John Snavely and David Thomson.

## 2025 Highlights

The Native American Ministry Council continues to provide significant financial support to the Episcopal Church Navajoland (ECN). The Navajoland Episcopal Church Annual Fund and Navajoland Episcopal Church Endowment are two examples of hands-on outreach.

The Council conducted its 13th Annual Indigenous Peoples Day Weekend Services and Workshops featuring: The Reverend Dr. Bradley Hauff of the Oglala Sioux Tribe from South Dakota, Cannon to the Ordinary Navajoland, Cornelia Eaton and assisting bishop for Navajoland, The Rt. Reverend Barry L. Beisner.

The Council partners with and provides financial support to many worthy Native American ministries and organizations including:

- Urban Native Collective, Cincinnati, Ohio
- Support Native American Scholarships: U.S. and Canada
- Lilly Ann Begay's services to the poor and elderly in the back country of the Navajo Reservation.
- Anpo Wichapo, Pine Ridge Girls School: Pine Ridge, South Dakota
- Soul Shop for Indigenous Churches: National Teen suicide prevention program.
- Episcopal Church Communicators Conference, Navajoland
- Solar Drip Irrigation and Living Water Project: St. Christopher's, Bluff, Utah
- National Boarding School Healing Coalition: Minneapolis, Minnesota
- Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center: Food Pantry and Energy Assistance, Pine Ridge, S.D.
- Summer Camp Reading Program: Christ Church Cathedral, Cincinnati, Ohio

# Nominating Committee

Holly Pratt / Matthew Smith



## Nominating Committee Members

- Drew Abbott
- Dawn Bruestle
- Janna McWilliams
- Holly Pratt (co-chair)
- Tom Schuck
- Robert Shawver
- Matthew Smith (co-chair)
- Karen Taylor

The Nominating Committee first met in Spring 2025 to make initial plans for informational outreach about the nominating and elections process. We reconvened in the Fall to kick off the effort, encouraging cathedral members to learn about the work of people in elected positions and to nominate themselves or others to serve. Working with the cathedral's Communications team, the committee communicated with the congregation through the cathedral website; with printed flyers placed around the building; in service bulletin inserts; via email; and on screens in the narthex, outside of the chapel, and at brunch in the undercroft. Information included nomination forms, committee contact information so people could ask questions, and descriptions of responsibilities for each elected position.

Each year, members of the congregation are elected to serve in several important lay positions that support the cathedral's mission and ministries. We elect the Junior Warden, the Senior Warden, Vestry members, Trustees, members of the Nominating Committee, delegates to the diocesan convention, and alternate delegates. Beginning in 2026, the congregation will elect some members of the Budget and Finance Committee, so the description of responsibilities for that committee was newly included in the materials distributed.

In October and again in November, Nominating Committee members made announcements at the 8:00, 10:00, and 12:00 services. The efforts of the entire cathedral community make possible our many ministries. For this reason, the committee made a special effort to bring forth nominations of people who have been active in the congregation but who had not previously felt ready to step into an elected position. The committee was proactive in identifying potential new nominees, as the "personal ask" can be the nudge an individual needs to seriously consider saying Yes. Committee members talked with each nominee to confirm their understanding of the commitment and their willingness to serve.

Nominations could be submitted digitally through the website or on a paper form placed in a secure box at the front desk. More people chose to use the paper form than the digital form. The committee recommends that both options remain available in the future.

Your Nominating Committee encourages everyone to consider how you can use your time and talents in 2026! Please consider any of the many important volunteer roles this congregation nurtures as we live out our mission.



## Plumb Line Committee

Janna McWilliams (Chair), Toni Grate, Sue Heighberger, Kathy Sackett, Brenda Shawver, Jeff Lamb, Adair McWilliams, Holly Pratt, Karen Morelan, Crystal Jones, and Anne Jaroszewicz

## 2025 Highlights

Plumb Line continues to do vital work in our neighborhood of downtown Cincinnati, keeping families and individuals in their rental apartments through hard times by covering a portion of one month's rent per year. Clients or "neighbors" as we prefer to call them, are vetted by our partner organization, Saint Vincent de Paul (SVDP) who act as our "boots on the ground" to handle requests from people in our immediate surrounding area. SVDP does all the background work to understand each situation, ensure that clients live where they say they live, and landlords live-up to their promise not to evict the clients we are trying to help.

Each neighbor can receive up to \$1,000.00 in rent payments/individual or family/year. This year, we worked with over 198 neighbors to the tune of \$176,979.00 in rental support.

In addition to the rental assistance, we give everyone who comes in a Kroger gift card worth \$30 and invite them to "shop" in our Plumb Line closet of non-perishables. This includes items such as laundry detergent, toothpaste and toothbrushes, diapers, household cleansers, etc. These items and the gift cards are greatly appreciated by all.

Plumb Line committee members do everything face to face on Tuesday afternoons. We welcome our clients in and treat them with the respect they deserve. We tell them all about the broader offerings at Christ Church Cathedral, especially the services and our 5000 Club dinners. After their initial nervousness, it is wonderful to witness the relief and heartfelt gratitude that our clients show on their way out the door. Christ Church Cathedral is changing lives in many ways every week - and Plumb Line and its dedicated volunteers are doing our part!



## A Message About Prayer Cards for the Weekly Cycle of Prayer:

Now for almost three years I've taken primary responsibility for writing and mailing a prayer card each week to eight individuals or families affiliated with the Cathedral. The message lets them know that they will be remembered in each of the services on Sunday.

As always, I'm most grateful to Kathy Noe, who sends me the weekly cycle of prayer lists along with addresses, and to Judy Hering, who provides me with cards, envelopes, and stamps. As I have written, I enjoy writing the cards, still too often while watching sad outcomes for the Reds, Bengals, Bearcats or Musketeers (although they are each improving somewhat this year and the Bearcats will play in a bowl game soon!).

Having reviewed last year's report, I'm always astonished by the work my fellow members do. I'm happy to continue in a small way without help as long as I am able.

# Prayer Friends

Patricia A. Haug and Priscilla Dunn



## 2025 Highlights

The Prayer Chain ministry at the Cathedral currently consists of 21 dedicated volunteer parishioners who agree to pray daily for the specific needs of others. We use first names only and the information asked for and received is confidential. Information among us is carried on through e-mail.

We pray for immediate and dire healing needs; for ongoing healing and care; and for those who have died and for their families. When we learn of successful outcomes we offer prayers of Thanksgiving. Along with these prayers we provide a litany of general concerns to us, the country and the world. During 2025 we have prayed for nearly 150 people.

Anyone interested in joining this ministry can contact Priscilla Dunn or Pat Haug, co-chairs, for more information.



## 2025 Highlights

The Senior Star\*s Star Ministry had it's ministry planning meeting in February. We talked about a variety of opportunities and ideas for the group.

The first activity was reading "The Diary of Jesus Christ". The book was written by Bill Cain, SJ. In March Fr. Brian led a well-attended discussion of the book. This activity was the initial Spring Spirituality Discussion which we plan to make an annual occurrence.

We agreed on a byline for the Senior Star\*s Ministry: "Give when you can, take what you need". We also have two other identifiers for the Ministry: "For Seniors, by Seniors" and "Bringing Generations Together".

We worked with the Flower Guild to co-sponsor the Palm Crosses activity for Easter.

One highlight of the year was our "Bring Your Bishop to Lunch". Bishop Kristin White was available in July – she is one busy lady. She gave a lovely presentation on her background and how she followed her calling to become The Right Reverend Kristin Uffelman White. This was followed by a very frank question and answer session. Many of the attendees asked incisive questions which the Bishop answered openly.

Another highlight took place during Advent. The Senior Star\*s organized the collection of Christmas presents for the senior residents of Central Parkway Place. This culminated in a Wrapping Party Luncheon. Several volunteers engaged in the event that resulted in nearly 200 gifts being beautifully wrapped and delivered for grateful recipients. This will continue as a Senior Star\*s annual activity.



## 2025 Highlights

Funded by The Charles P. and Eleanor Taft Memorial Fund, the Taft Lecture Series features provocative thinkers, writers, teachers, theologians, social justice activists, and leaders in the fields of religion, social science, the arts, politics, and more.

The 2025 Taft Lecture Series successfully hosted two compelling voices from journalism and scholarship. Howard W. French provided a sweeping historical lens on global narratives, while Megan Greenwell offered frontline perspectives on the state of contemporary journalism and civic discourse. Together, they advanced the Series' mission to provoke thought, inspire reflection, and enrich Cincinnati's cultural and intellectual life.

In September, Howard W. French, a distinguished professor at the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a veteran foreign correspondent and senior writer for The New York Times, having served as bureau chief across several world regions came to speak. French drew upon his extensive journalistic experience and scholarship to explore global history, empire, and the shaping of the modern world.

The talk centered on themes from his influential works, particularly his 2025 release *The Second Emancipation: Nkrumah, Pan-Africanism, and Global Blackness at High Tide* and his 2021 book *Born in Blackness: Africa, Africans, and the Making of the Modern World, 1471 to the Second World War*. His lecture offered historical insight into how Africa and people of African descent have influenced global development, challenging dominant narratives and highlighting overlooked histories.

October brought Megan Greenwell, an acclaimed American journalist, editor, and author. She has served in top editorial roles — including as editor-in-chief of Deadspin and Wired.com — and has written for major publications such as Esquire, GQ, and ESPN The Magazine. Her 2025 book *Bad Company: Private Equity and the Death of the American Dream* has drawn attention for its incisive reporting on economic inequality and corporate power.

Greenwell spoke about journalism's role in democracy, ethics, and community accountability — reflecting on the challenges facing modern media and the importance of truth-telling in an era of misinformation and rapid platform change. As a newsroom leader and strategist, she shared stories from her own career, highlighting how editorial decisions shape public discourse, and offered insights on cultivating resilient journalism in turbulent times.

Over 500 cathedral guests were inspired, and informed as they listened to these two presentations.



## A Note from the Co-Head Ushers

As another year ends, it's time to review 2025, a year that brought both challenges and opportunities for us as Ushers at Christ Church Cathedral, helping us grow and improve together.

Tucker Stone and I, as Head Ushers, continue to work together alongside our enhanced Welcome Committee being spearheaded by Brady Swarenzen. Throughout 2025, we have remained dedicated to serving our members, guests, and visitors at Christ Church Cathedral. Our goal has always been to provide a sincere, family-friendly welcome, ensuring that everyone who enters feels valued and at home. This commitment is reflected in our careful execution of usher duties during the 10:00AM services, as well as during special occasions such as weddings, funerals, and ordinations held throughout 2024.

Stephan Casurella, our Director of Music and Liturgy, continues to keep us all on our toes with his communication with the Customaries each week and provides the tools necessary along with the support to prepare for and execute our roles each week.

We are looking to establish new emphasis on recruiting in the coming year and will work with Samantha Stanford, Communications Director, to implement a plan of action.

As with each new year, we formally welcome new ministers to the usher ranks and bid farewell to contributions of those no longer listed below; their service is sincerely valued and we thank you. Those that follow have served in some capacity in 2025 and will continue to serve in 2026 when able. They are Jon Berger, Lexie Bopp, Tom Cecil, Chris Christensen, John Grate, Mary Hagner, Sigrun Haude, Barbara Koerner, Connie Sanders, Bill Myers, Bertie Ray, Eric Kearney, Julietta Simms, Olden Warren, Ryan Dye and Jennifer Blair along with Head Ushers, Paula Rose, and Tucker Stone.

Vestry Ushers – 1st Sunday of each month and special services include, Don Lane, our Senior Warden, Olden Warren, our Junior Warden, me (Paula Rose), Tucker Stone as Head Ushers Vestry, Quinton Jefferson, Michael Unger, Mary Hagner, Tom Cecil, Laura Lamb, Frank McWilliams, Tom Schuck, and John Deatrick.

We thank everyone who plays such an important role in our Ministry. We especially appreciate the Vestry Members covering additional services beyond the first Sunday each month.

In closing, we want to thank each of you for your dedication, time and service to our Usher Ministry! Happy New Year!



## Verger Guild Members

Cheryl Eagleson, Head Verger, Vergers of the Day include: John Moreland, Quinton Jefferson, Lynn Okel, Beth Zavodny, Steve Van Allen. Having five members, each one is assured of the opportunity to serve on a Sunday of each month, as well as for the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter.

## About the Verger Guild

Our primary responsibilities for Sunday worship include leading processions for weekly services and partnering with other Lay Liturgy groups: Acolytes, Readers, Chalice Bearers, and any other responsibilities that the Clergy requests our participation. Vergers also have an active relationship with the Canon Precentor in preparing structure for and participation in service.

In reference to activities and major accomplishments in particular, Vergers provide consistent participation in the weekly service. Our activities are focused around each service. We do not host projects. We provide consistent weekly communications, with the help of MSP, for Lay Liturgists and Acolyte Master, Jerry Stein. Additionally, if a member of the Clergy requires a certain task of a Verger, they may contact me at their convenience.

The Vergers of Christ Church Cathedral view our participation in the Verger Guild as a Ministry and we enjoy our service to the Cathedral and our congregation.



## About the Welcoming Committee

This year, our ministry focused on continuing fostering a sense of belonging and inclusion for all members and visitors. Some of our key activities included:

- The Welcome Ministry: Continued to follow the structured approach designed to schedule, support, and direct volunteers started in 2024
- Welcome Bags: Distributed welcome bags to provide newcomers with information about Christ Church Cathedral and facilitate follow-up opportunities after their visit. The contents will be re-evaluated in 2026.
- Newcomer Outreach: Welcomed all visitors and members throughout 2025, successfully reaching out to 20 newcomers through this ministry.
- The Welcome Team: lost 4 members to other personal needs and some within the Cathedral, Recruitment efforts increase as we enter 2026.
- Welcome Events: Quarterly gatherings to introduce newcomers to parish life, foster connections among them, and help integrate them into the congregation. Participation was low; therefore, we will re-evaluate this in 2026.
- Welcome Table: Re-located the current table to the 4th St Entrance to receive those who enter at this location. A second welcome table is being procured for 2026.

This ministry has contributed to a stronger and more connected church community by encouraging welcome and connection. We are grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to continuing this work in the coming year. We have several exciting things to come in the near future! Blessings!

A special thanks to Kathy Noe for her work in support of the 2025 Welcoming Ministry!

# A Heartfelt Thank You



As we look back on the past year, we want to pause and simply say thank you.

Thank you for being the heart of Christ Church Cathedral. For showing up—week after week, season after season—with your faith, your generosity, your questions, your hope, and your willingness to care for one another.

This past year has been full of worship, learning, celebration, and quiet moments of grace. It has also been a year of growth and change, of trying new things, and of deepening long-standing traditions. Through it all, your commitment to this community has been a steady source of encouragement for us as staff.

We are grateful for the many ways you serve—through volunteering, giving, welcoming newcomers, supporting outreach, participating in formation, and praying for this Cathedral and one another. Some of that work is highly visible; much of it happens quietly and faithfully. All of it matters.

We are especially thankful for the spirit that defines this parish: a spirit of warmth, curiosity, generosity, and care. It is a privilege to serve a community that strives to live out its faith with both compassion and joy, and that understands the Cathedral not simply as a building, but as a living, breathing body of Christ.

As staff, we are continually inspired by your trust, your engagement, and your love for this place and its mission. Thank you for walking alongside us, for your patience and encouragement, and for reminding us—often in small but meaningful ways—why this work matters.

We look ahead with gratitude for what has been, and with hope for what is still unfolding among us.

With deep thanks and every blessing,  
The Staff of Christ Church Cathedral

# Thank You



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