



## News from Christ Church June 15, 2022

Dear Christ Church,

Amber and I were brainstorming recently and came to the conclusion it would be a good idea if the vestry were to provide an update to the congregation each month. We will time these updates around the monthly vestry meeting which is held the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month.

While many of you have served on a vestry, we also have many who are new to the church and may not have familiarity with the inner workings of the vestry. So I thought I might start this first update with an explanation of what is a vestry is and its function at Christ Church.

The vestry is a group of nine folks who serve 3-year terms. The vestry is purposely diverse as it is designed to mirror the congregation. Some vestry members are new to the church while some have been long-time parishioners, some have young children while some have grown or no children, some are retired and some are working, etc.

If given 20 seconds to explain the vestry, one might make an analogy to the corporate world, stating the vestry is the board and the rector the CEO. Like a corporate board, it is the vestry who monitors the fiscal and policy matters of the church. All authority for voting on these topics (including approval of the yearly budget) is vested in the vestry. The vestry also fills the role of counting the plate donations each week and selling shopping cards.

However, that explanation falls well short. The first sentence of the vestry handbook thanks new members for taking the call. It then takes the remainder of the first page to explain how and why a vestry needs to break from the institution model of a board. As quoted from the Rev. James C. Fenhagen in the vestry handbook:

*"The Vestry is not a corporate board. It is the authorized body of the baptized community called out by the congregation to share with the clergy in the spiritual nurture of the congregation and its mission to the world. The strength of the Vestry is measured, not in its management skill, as important as this is, but in the vision it articulates and in its commitment to the spiritual discipline necessary for this vision to be lived out. A Vestry is a symbol of Christian discipleship and shared ministry first, and managerial oversight second. When*

*the Vestry is seen as the spiritual center of the congregation's leadership, it is ready for mission."*

In future months I will look forward to diving in depth into topic on how we are setting ourselves up as a vestry to better listen and communicate with the congregation, will talk more vision and will take the opportunity to address individual topics of interest which we are tackling.

Faithfully yours,  
Chris Loftus  
*Sr. Warden*

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## Applefest

Applefest – traditionally Christ Church's biggest fund-raiser of the year – is returning this fall to Warwick. Here's how you can help!

**Chairperson (or co-chairs):** the chairperson of Applefest manages the details of this exciting day, like overseeing volunteers, coordinating set-up and take-down, and being on hand to answer questions that come up. If you think you can help in this way, [contact our most recent chair, Gaye Murphy](#), who is ready to walk you through the ins and outs of Applefest.

**Jar and lid donations:** In preparation for apple butter production at the end of the summer, please consider donating canning jars or lids to the cause. We'll need regular and wide-mouth canning lids, plus 4-ounce, 8-ounce, and 16-ounce jars.

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## A fond farewell

This Sunday, we will say a bitter-sweet good-bye to Ann Moore and Kathy Zelles. Faithful, fun, roll-up-your-sleeves parishioners, they have been an integral part of Christ Church. Ann served on the vestry and frequently as an usher. Kathy sang in the choir; she periodically organized music files and she and Ann restored the antique choir chairs in the loft. They were married at Christ Church on June 20, 2014. Kathy and Ann will be sorely missed, but we rejoice with them as they retire to the Delaware shore.



## Juneteenth Celebration

*Saturday, June 18 - 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Railroad Green*

Christ Church is proud to be a sponsor of the second annual Juneteenth celebration here in Warwick. This day commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African-Americans and will be an event filled with prayer, poetry, speech, and song.

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## Pride in Warwick

Thanks to everyone who showed up to represent Christ Church at the Day of Acceptance Pride



festival on Sunday afternoon. As the only church present at the event, your witness to God's boundless love made a difference to so many in attendance. Keep shining that light!

## Community Breakfast

*Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:30 a.m.*

Christ Church continues to serve breakfast to anyone who wants or needs it. Anyone interested in learning more, or helping to prepare or serve, [email Liz Houlton](#) or call her at 845-325-1276.

## Evening prayer on Zoom

*Thursdays, 7:00 - 7:30 pm*

[Click here for link.](#) If you are interested in leading the service or reading the lessons, please [email Charlotte Trott.](#)



**THRIFT  
SHOP**  
*open Saturdays  
9:30 to noon  
for shopping  
& donations*

**Vestry:** Chris Loftus, Senior Warden; Bill O'Keefe, Junior Warden

Elena Chavez Carey, Billie Gallo, Linda Garcia, Steven Greh, Sharon Kelly, Gaye Murphy, Erick Storckman, Simon Turner, Diana Van Fossen, Abbie Opper (treasurer)

[Website](#)

[About](#)

*Sundays at Christ Church*

**9:00 a.m.** - Holy Eucharist, in-person and livestreamed to Vimeo and the Parish Hall

**10:00 a.m.** - Coffee hour

**11:00 a.m.** - Holy Eucharist with choir



Check our weekly  
sermons Podcast here!