

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, February 17, 2023

A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

Many new initiatives

Ash Wednesday, February 22, marks the beginning of the Lenten Season and our common path to the Three Days of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Holy Saturday: the center of our Christian faith and life.

And there is this, too: the beginning of our active search for the next rector of Christ Church. During these days of Lent, I ask you to join me in holding the Search Team and the applicants who will be applying for this position in prayer. We pray for the Spirit's guidance and wisdom as the members of the Search review applications and make decisions about who might continue in the process.

And there is more: as we move from February to March, we enter into Spring with the vernal equinox on March 20: the tipping point between winter's end and spring's beginning - and the promise of new life emerging in the natural world. It can be a good time to ask oneself: What tired habits or outdated assumptions do I need to shed in order to live more faithfully into the life to which Christ calls me?

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Upcoming Events

- Adult Formation, **February 19**
- Monthly Book Club, **February 19**
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, **February 21**
- Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist, **February 22**
- First Sunday in Lent, Holy Eucharist, **February 26**
- Veterans Village Prep, **February 26**
- Evening Prayer and Soup Supper, **March 1**
- Lent Quiet Morning **March 4**
- Rector Search Committee **March 5**
- Garden Clean-up Party, **March 11**

Click Here to Donate
to *Deck the Halls*
(Wells Hall)



We strongly encourage masking during worship, mindful that we worship among people who need added protection. Masking not only protects us but also our neighbors.

Need Help??

To add to our prayer list, email the Parish Administrator. If submitting a name other than your own, please ask permission from that person first. Names remain on the list for **four weeks**, unless renewed by the one who submitted them.

In a **pastoral emergency**, please contact Fr. Torvend.

Parish Help Team: Errands run, groceries, meals provided, medication pickup, vaccination transportation, etc., contact Deacon Gen Grewell or call her cellphone at 360.280.5593. You may speak with a deacon on Sunday at the **10:30am Holy Eucharist**.

Christ Church Prayer List

Our baptismal commitment calls us to pray for the world and the needs of our community, including those who are experiencing any sort of trouble, illness, or grief.

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Members and Friends of our Community:

Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hinds; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Lois Garriott; Bill Garriott; Stephen Behr; Christinna Olsson; Melissa Glick, Ginny Peterson; Morrie Stafford; Teena Kidder; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Ellen Kjesbu; Debbie Oakman; and Jessie Van Vorhis.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. James, Kent • St. George, Maple Valley

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Eglise Anglicane du Rwanda

Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma *Weekly* Newsletter

The Rev. Samuel Torvend, Priest for Worship, Adult Formation, and Pastoral Care

Deborah Hope Breneman, Editor/Design and Layout

The *Weekly* is a publication of Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma.

Please visit our website at Christchurchtacoma.org to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

Christ Church Calendar

To submit an article to the *Christ Church Weekly*, contact the Parish Administrator.

Articles must be submitted by Tuesdays to be included in the Friday edition, and may be edited.

We never share your information outside the church family.

Land Acknowledgement We gather at 310 North K Street. Let us give thanks to the Creator for the Puyallup and Nisqually people on whose ancestral land this church and many of our homes stand. Their descendants live among us still. For their wise stewardship of the creation, we offer our gratitude. May we never forget that their land was taken by force and broken treaty.

Episcopal News Service • Episcopal Church on Facebook • Diocese of Olympia Bishop Rickel's Blog



Worship 101

Entering into worship

A good number of people come to church early - before the 8:30 and the 10:30 Eucharists - in order to pray or meditate in chapel or church prior to the beginning of the liturgy. And in a real way, their prayer *is* the beginning of the liturgy for them.

While it can be enjoyable to chat prior to the beginning of our common prayer, might we hold that until after the Eucharist comes to an end and we are in the courtyard or Wells Hall for refreshments?

Talking loudly in our small church entry way easily slips into the nave and can be heard quite clearly while people are trying to pray or meditate as the organist plays a prelude. We might think of the outer doors of the church as that portal through which we enter into a different space: one in which we try to honor the desire of those who wish to sit in silence and collect themselves or pray before the Holy Eucharist begins. This is not to say that we can't greet each other. It is nothing more than the suggestion to speak a little more softly so that others can focus their attention on the One who draws us into the wondrous space for common prayer.

Tuesday, February 21

Shrove Tuesday

Let us gather in Wells Hall at 5:30 for a sumptuous pancake supper. And then for those with an artistic flair, spend some time coloring our large Alleluia Banner that will be buried until Holy Saturday's Easter Vigil. In the courtyard we will be burning palm branches until they turn to ash for use the next day, Ash Wednesday.

Wednesday, February 22

Ash Wednesday

This is a stark and strikingly beautiful liturgy supported musically by our remarkable choral scholars and organist, Dr. Tegels. We begin in silence at 7:30 PM in the church. In this liturgy we tell the truth that is so rarely heard in the American media: we are mortal and will return to dust - and yet God is with us. The imposition of ashes will precede the celebration of the Holy Communion. Join us as we enter into a space marked by a variety of changes that herald the beginning of Lent.

Sunday, February 26

The First Sunday in Lent

The Holy Eucharist will be celebrated at 8:30 in Trinity Chapel and at 10:30 in the church. At the 10:30 Eucharist, look for a new (but well-known) setting of the liturgy - and singing the Lord's Prayer. Throughout this period of transition, we are exploring the many options in the Book of Common Prayer: during the Sundays of Lent, we'll sing a different setting of the Prayers.

Weekly Altar Flower Donations

There are still a few Sundays available for flower donations; please sign up in the Narthex. ***Please note that due to our arrangement with our florist, we are unable to accept specific floral requests.***

February is Black History Month

In honor of this month devoted to Black History in the United States, we are presenting Black Episcopalians who are commemorated in our church's calendar.

The commemoration of **Frederick Douglass** is **February 20**. Born as a slave in February

1818, Douglass was separated from his mother at the age of eight and given by his new owner, Thomas Auld, to his brother and sister-in-law, Hugh and Sophia Auld. Frederick learned to read in secret, earning small amounts of money when he could and paying neighbors to teach him. At the age of 14, he experienced a conversion to Christ in the African American Episcopal Church. His recollection of that tradition's spiritual music sustained him in his struggle for freedom: "Those songs still follow me, to deepen my hatred of slavery, and quicken my sympathies for my brethren in bonds."

ed him as a kindred spirit without one trace of condescension. Douglass died in 1895.



Frederick Douglass, American orator, abolitionist, writer, and statesman.

In 1838, he escaped slavery.

He gained the reputation for excellence in oratory and was soon sent on speaking tours in the Northern States sponsored by the American Anti-Slavery Society. But, then, his friends raised enough money to buy out his master's legal claim to him, so that he could live in safety.

Douglass was highly critical of churches that did not disassociate themselves from slavery. Challenging those churches, he quoted Jesus' denunciation of the Pharisees: "They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" (Matthew 23:4). A strong advocate of racial integration, Douglass disavowed black separatism and wanted to be counted as equal among his white peers. When he met Abraham Lincoln in the White House, he not-

Almighty God, we bless your Name for the witness of Frederick, whose impassioned and reasonable speech moved the hearts of people to a deeper obedience to Christ: Strengthen us also to speak on behalf of those in captivity and tribulation, continuing in the way of Jesus Christ our Liberator; who with you and the Holy Spirit dwells in glory everlasting. Amen.

Sunday, February 19

A New Look at the Spiritual Practices of Lent

11:45 am in the Parish Library

Since 1970, major changes have taken place in the practice of Lent: changes that accord with our emphasis on a baptismal and eucharistic spirituality. This is a change from the late medieval view of Lent that survived into the 20th century! Join us as we consider a fresh emphasis that departs from a long period of focusing on one's personal sin.

Formation and Community



Wednesday, March 1

Evening Prayer at Table

6:00 PM in Wells Hall

Join us for evening prayer and a simple soup supper: a time for common prayer, good conversation, and delicious soup. If you plan to come, please *sign up* on the sheet at the glass table in the church entry-way on *Sunday, February 26*. Evening prayer with soup supper will continue each Wednesday in Lent.

Sunday, February 19

at 6:30 pm

Monthly Reading Group

Meet at the home of Don and Wanda Johnson to discuss *In the Upper Country: A Novel* by Kai Thomas. Newcomers are welcome! Questions?

[Contact Don Johnson.](#)

Saturday, March 4

Lent Quiet Morning

10:00am to 12:00 noon In the church

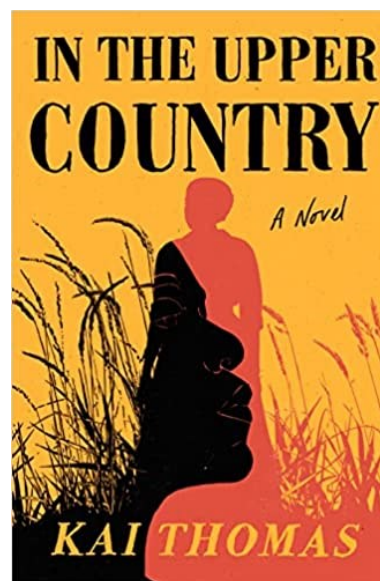
The Daily Office Team invites you to Morning Prayer in the church at 9 AM, followed by refreshments in the entry way. The Quiet Morning will then begin at 10 AM in the church (and will be live-streamed as well). We will reflect on how ancient monastic wisdom can lead us to keep a fruitful and life-giving Lent. While this is a free event and open to all, your donations are always welcomed.

We Need Your Palm Branches

It is our Christ Church practice to bring last year's palms from our homes to church prior to Shrove Tuesday. Kindly bring your palm branches to church and place them in the basket on the glass table in the entry-way. They will be burned on Shrove Tuesday, February 21, with their ashes used on Ash Wednesday, February 22.

Godly Play, our Children's Formation,

is now every Sunday through mid-June. Meet in the Narthex at 10:30 am to travel to Wells Hall together on Sundays.



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Tuesday, February 21

5:30pm - 7:30pm

Wells Hall

with the creation of our amazing
Alleluia banner,
the burning of palms,
and a map to lead us to the three days!

Community

Dear Christ Church family,

This morning in the 10:30 service, we were treated to three lovely, moving, organ variations of the hymn tune, Old 124th, as composed by our own David Dahl. The melody is most familiar to us in the hymn, “Turn back O Man, forswear thy foolish ways”. The third of the variations, as the postlude, moved the gathered parishioners to an emotional “Amen!!”, a prayer, a coda for the service.

During communion, the choir sang another arrangement of the same tune and lyrics (by Gustav Holst, the composer of “The Planets”) that made heads turn with its martial beat. “Would Man but wake from out his haunted sleep, Earth might be fair...”

In addition to integrating the service music and bringing the best out of our volunteer choir, Paul also makes the most of our choral scholars, Larissa, Rae, TJ, and Jack, who as paid singers, still provide important support for our sections. This morning there were nine altos (!) but only three sopranos. Will you believe how dire things have gotten when even the tenors outnumber the sopranos?

The vestry recognizes that the music program will be a central element in our ability to bounce back from pandemic-related budget issues. When we interviewed Paul a year ago, we noted his strong presence in the music community of South Puget Sound area schools and organizations. The pandemic's future was unknowable then, but we still knew that music would be critical, and that in partnership with outside organizations, our facility would be one of our strengths moving forward.

God willing (and there is much prayer and optimism in that regard), life will return to normal. In the interim, our

choral scholars are needed in supplementing the joyful singing of us amateurs. Please join me (again) in donating to the Dahl Music Fund at Christ Church, with a memo line designation for the Choral Scholars.

“Now, even now... peals forth in joy (our) old undaunted cry, Earth shall be fair, and all her folk be one!”

~Ronn Johanson, for the Christ Church Choir



Community

*Note from the Senior Warden: We receive many questions about our operations, finances, budget, and the rationale for vestry decisions. To keep the parish up-to-date and well informed, I will now be including a **FAQ section** in The Weekly Publication. I will address new questions as they arise with a master list of all questions and responses kept on our website. So, send me your questions, concerns...anything. I will do my best to respond in a transparent, meaningful, and understandable manner.*

~Christi McCarren, Senior Warden

* * *

February 15, 2023

Question: Why didn't we anticipate the significant financial challenges we are currently having?

Response: Having served on numerous vestries over the past 40 years, our financial challenges are not new. I attribute much of our long-term complacency to the financial safety net our restricted funds have provided (Boaler Fund, Dahl Fund). As such, we never learned how to live within our means. Another contributing factor was the intentional spending of our restricted funds between 2015 to 2019 to expand our music and faith formation programs. Unfortunately, we never fully realized the potential of this excellent strategy. And then Covid hit. We were shut down and our financial challenges became extreme.

We reached a critical juncture in late 2021 when the 2022 budget was created. At that point we had a net revenue deficit of \$250,000. This required we use almost all the remaining Boaler Fund balance to close the gap (projected Boaler draw of \$188,000). Significant increases in benefits and other required labor expenses, the rec-



tor's pension fund¹, and our Diocesan Assessment were seen. Had we continued this course, the Boaler fund would have been near depletion, and we would not be able to cover our expenses in 2023. Through aggressive expense reduction and proactively seeking new revenue sources, we reduced our draw on the Boaler fund to \$84,000 at year end 2022. We funded our music program from another restricted fund (Dahl Fund¹) and used outreach savings to cover our community service outreach program. Utilizing all three restricted funds in the 2023 budget, we have reduced the draw to \$143,482. The vestry's decision to use special funds to cover our operating budget deficit was not made in haste. But the reality of our situation was clear: If we could not keep our doors open, what good were multiple special funds? We made the difficult decision to use these funds to subsidize a three-year financial strategy that would bring us close to covering all operating expenses by 2025. We used 2022 to put tactical plans in motion to set ourselves up for financial sustainability in succeeding years. Our financial strategy was created with the understanding that we could not "turn the ship" in one year. In 2022, we needed to align the parish in support of the following tactical focus areas:

- ◆ Events for a wider audience: music, dinners, meditation in church

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Continued from page 7.

- ◆ Robust promotion of events
- ◆ Small group gatherings: food, conversation, community
- ◆ Godly Play for children
- ◆ One service commitment: feeding the hungry

We were highly successful in reaching all our 2022 financial and operational targets. But remember, this is a three-year strategy. Our continued work must be intentional and effective. I have faith in our ability to reach financial sustainability. It will be a challenging journey, but at this moment in our history, we are positioned well for success.

Question: Why is the Dahl Fund being used to pay for the Music Program? That is not how it was originally set up.

Response: The best way to answer this question and comment is to provide an historical timeline and overview of the Dahl Fund from inception to present day.

(Excerpt from Memo to Vestry by Steve Fisher (Parish Administrator) dated 1/19/2016)

“In regard to the Dahl Fund there is a timeline which goes as follows:

- January 12, 1999, the general Resolution creating the David Dahl Music Ministry Fund was approved by a special Vestry meeting.
- January 20, 1999, the general Resolution creating the David Dahl Music Ministry Fund was approved by the Vestry at their regular meeting.
- January 31, 1999, the general Resolution creating the David Dahl Music Ministry Fund was approved at the Parish Annual meeting.

The resolution in part: “The purpose of the David Dahl Music Ministry fund is to support the music program of Christ Church Parish. Such support from the fund will include the salary of the Director of Music Ministries, payments to other musicians and singers, sheet music, organ and piano tuning and repairs and other music program costs, including equipment, recording and other performance costs. Such fund distribution shall supplement the support of the music program in the annual operating budget of Christ Church Parish.”

- And further: “The distribution from the David Dahl Music Ministry Fund shall be so much of the principle, income or capital appreciation as the Endowment Committee and Vestry shall feel is reasonable and prudent in support of the music program of Christ Church Parish. Such distributions would be based on a budget request by the parish Director of Music Ministries to the Endowment Committee and Vestry. Upon approval of the requests for distribution from the Fund, such distributions will be limited to the approved sums for the particular expense categories for the year.”
- The fund was to be managed by the Diocese of Olympia through the Diocesan Investment Fund.
- July 21, 1999, the general resolution was revised limiting the distribution of funds by eliminating the use of principal.
- May 16, 2000, The Vestry could not reach a

consensus regarding their creation of a general endowment committee

- February 20, 2001, The Vestry amended the resolution eliminating the Endow-



Community

ment Fund Committee and indicating that the Vestry of Christ Church Parish will manage the Fund.

- October 20, 2009, The Vestry made a significant amendment to the resolution: “Specifically, the Fund shall:
 - Support the music program of Christ Episcopal Church through all its events.
 - Encourage the initiation of new musical events.
 - Strengthen the ties between the congregation and the music programs.
 - Maintain and improve the quality of music presentations.
 - Nurture the music development of youth by providing them with a forum
 - Be visible in the community by offering quality music presentations.
 - Additionally, the Fund may be responsible for non-routine maintenance of all the instruments to Christ Episcopal Church and finance the programs of “Music at Christ Church,” a series valued and respected in the region.
 - The varied purposes of the Fund shall expand and improve the scope of music programs. Regular and ongoing costs associated with a church music program shall continue to be maintained by the Operating budget of Christ Episcopal Church and shall be augmented by distributions to the budget of no more than 80% of the interest income from the Fund and reinvest dividends as they might accrue. Distributions from the capital of the David Dahl Music Ministry Fund may be made by request to the Vestry from the Director of Music Ministries and shall not exceed \$3,000 in any given year. Discretion should be given to the Director in his/her judgment of how to expend funds.”
- December 21, 2021- Given the extreme finan-

cial challenges faced by Christ Church, the Vestry voted to utilize Dahl Funds to cover all expenses of the music program.

Comment: The Dahl Fund was established to support the music program at Christ Church. The fund has served this purpose admirably and continues to do so. What the founders of the fund could not foresee was a global pandemic and the financial situation in which we found ourselves coming out of the pandemic in 2022. In an emergency and with considerable deliberation by the vestry, all endowed funds needed to be used and used appropriately to support the parish as we moved into a three-year plan to recover ourselves financially. We are now moving into that good place. But it would not be possible without stretching our endowed funds, including the Dahl fund in support of musical needs not envisioned 24 years ago.

~Christi McCarren, Senior Warden

¹Paying into the Rector’s Pension Fund is required by the Diocese. It is 18% of the Rector’s salary. We did not pay into Janet’s Pension as it was frozen because of her age



**[View the
January Budget
Report](#)**

Community

What's New in Wells Hall THIS week?



The drywall process begins.



Drywall guys finishing the downstairs ladies bathroom.



Sinks and cabinets have arrived and are waiting for their chance to be installed.

Community



Top left: radiator has been removed near parking lot/kitchen double door, and drywall now covers the holes.

Bottom left: boxes of tile for all bathroom floors, plus new toilets arrive.



Above: Drywall is almost complete in upstairs bathroom.



Close-up of tile flooring for all bathrooms.

Daily Office at Christ Church

◇ Monday 9:00am*
[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Tuesday 7:30am*
[Lectio Divina](#)

◇ Thursday 7:30am*
[Morning Prayer](#)

◇ Saturday 9:00am
Morning Prayer

*zoom link available at
[christchurchtacoma.org/
calendar](http://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

Worship at Christ Church

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

February 19, 2023:

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Visit Christchurchtacoma.org/calendar for weekday Morning Prayer, Lectio Divina, and Conversation & Compline Service Schedule

Online Daily/Weekly Devotion information:

[Forward Day by Day](#) | [Episcopal Church Weekly Reflection](#)

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PLACE
STAMP
HERE

TO:

