

Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, June 23, 2023

An Important Message from Christl McCarren, Senior Warden

For the past several years, we have been transparent and open in discussing the financial needs of the parish as we move forward. Over the past few months, members of the vestry have done a careful and detailed study of our expenses and revenue sources. Our study leads us to conclude that we will be faced with a situation in which our operating expenses will soon increase beyond our current ability to bring in offsetting revenue. This reality will create a grave **budgetary crisis** in 2025 when our supporting fund balances from endowments will be depleted.

The Vestry believes our best strategy in confronting this difficult situation is to use **Wells Hall** to its fullest potential; to turn what has been a financial drain into a financial asset. Our recent Wells Hall capital campaign turned the ship for us and allowed us to see our future differently. We could not have done this without your support and commitment. For this, we are profoundly grateful.

What is our current situation?

- ♦ While we have welcomed over 20 new members to the parish in the past year, our pledging units have remained stable, between 78-80. New pledges have offset those we have lost through moves, transfers, or death; we have not gained new income.
- ♦ The loss of MultiCare tenancy in Trinity House (as of May 2023) has created a loss of \$30,000 income annually.
- ♦ We had a highly successful capital campaign to refurbish

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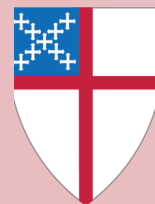
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Upcoming Events

- Sanctuary Tour, **June 25**
- CSLT Meeting, **June 27 (zoom)**
- **Town Hall, June 28 (zoom)**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **July 1**
- **RSCM** at Christ Church, **July 2**
- Evening Prayer and Supper, **July 5**
- Tacoma Pride Festival, **July 8**
- Earth Ministry, **July 9**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **July 15**



SCAN ME



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:

King Schoenfeld; Barbara Pasi; Steve Oakman; Dylan Hays; Greta Johnson; Tammy Hess and Family, Tim Williams; Patty Botkin; Liz Heath; Robert Reeves; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Stephen Behr; Danielle Olsson; and Jim Pierson.

Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them: Ann Young Simon; Natasha Oakman; Betty Sporrer; Dori Conklin, and Ann Combe.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Andrews, Tacoma • St. Luke's Memorial, Tacoma • Holy Spirit, Vashon

Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

The Church of Bangladesh

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.

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Worship

Continued from page 1.

Wells Hall to support increased space rentals. We will continue to need repairs and maintenance of our aging facilities.

- ♦ We are glad to report that we have experienced a significant *increase in rental income* in late 2022 and throughout 2023.

The Vestry has concluded that we will need \$150,000/year in rental income by 2025 to offset our increasing expenses. A bolder, multi-pronged strategy is essential to optimize the use of Wells Hall and render it a financial asset.

How do we increase our rental income to \$150,000 annually?

- ♦ We continue to develop our relationship with the Arts Community: Tacoma Opera, Tacoma City Ballet, local and regional choral groups, organ societies. We are currently in negotiations with Tacoma City Ballet and the Opera to rent a substantial portion of Wells Hall including the gym and many smaller rooms.
- ♦ Continue the use of Wells

Hall for large group events: meetings, retreats, receptions.

- ♦ Begin offering weddings and wedding receptions in Wells Hall.

What will the impact be to our community?

Simply put, Wells Hall will be less available to us on a daily basis. However, there are a few non-negotiables with our potential renters. Wells Hall will be reserved for Christ Church use on Sunday mornings for coffee hour and all Parish Life events. The kitchen remains Christ Church space. We have already scheduled our Parish Life calendar through 2024 so we are guaranteed the space. We will continue this practice moving forward. Adult and children's formation programs will be cared for in Trinity House, the chapel, and/or on Zoom. But, a bolder strategy does mean that the *flexibility of last-minute events may be compromised*.

How will we mitigate the decreased availability of Wells Hall?

We have the opportunity to

“rethink” the use of other existing space in **Trinity House**. For example: if several of the rooms on the second floor of Wells Hall are rented, we would move Godly Play to the second floor of Trinity House (in the previously occupied MultiCare space). If we lost meeting room space, we would use our Parish Office and Library spaces to greater effect. We could also consider reconfiguring the Chapel to become a multipurpose space – for worship, meetings, and Adult Formation. The point is, we have options. Our large campus footprint can actually be used to support us differently and more effectively.

Many of us do not like to see changes to what we take for granted. But our future sustainability requires us to “give a little” to “gain a lot.”

Knowing you might have questions and concerns about this strategy, **we have scheduled a Zoom Town Hall on Wednesday, June 28th at 7:00 pm.** [Click Here for Zoom link.](#)

Formation and Service

A Note from Fr. Samuel Torvend

I was sorry to miss being with you on Sunday, June 18. I am glad to report that I have received **two negative tests** for the covid virus. I am eager to return to church. I am most grateful for modern pharmacology and attentive healthcare providers.

But I also know that there are members of our parish who face ongoing challenges in finding adequate healthcare. Our means of assisting parishioners with unexpected healthcare needs is through the **Rector's Discretionary Fund**. Our donations to that Fund enable our leadership to make a real difference in the lives of those who find themselves slipping through the cracks in the healthcare systems of the region.

According to the Tacoma Pierce County Health Department, one of the most pressing needs is for therapists and counselors. The percentage of persons who are struggling with **anxiety, loneliness, and depression** is quite high. If you find yourself in such a situation, please let your parish priest or senior warden know. We maintain absolute confidence. We can help direct you toward professional counselors.

Guided tour of Christ Church

On **Sunday, June 25, at 12 Noon**, Ron Fields, Professor of Art History Emeritus at UPS, Christ Church member, and a leader in our Liturgical Arts Team will give a **guided tour** of the space. If you have time, join Ron for this walk through our amazing *beton brut* space.

Sunday, July 9

11:45 am in the Parish Library

Earth Ministry

Join Keah Callucie who will discuss the benefits of Christ Church becoming a partner parish with Earth Ministry in our ongoing work to become Green Parish.

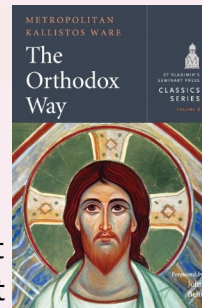


Sunday, July 23

6:30 pm

Monthly Reading Group

The Monthly Reading Group will meet next at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 23**, at the home of Sandy and Ronn Johanson to discuss *The Orthodox Way* by Kallistos Ware. (There will be no meeting in the month of June.) Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).



Summer Choir

If you'd like to participate in the pick-up choir, there is a sign-up [here](#) where you can put your name for the Sunday(s) that you can participate. The sign-up is also available in hard-copy in the narthex. There is a separate sign-up for each Sunday. Contact me with any questions! Thank you, [~Paul Tegels](#), **Interim Director of Music**

Save the Dates

Sunday, October 8: the annual **Blessing of Animals** in the afternoon in the courtyard. On Sunday, October 15, Christ Church will host **choral Evening Prayer** with music and readings focused on the creation. This will be the first choral Evensong we've sponsored in a long, long time. Other Episcopal and local parishes will be invited to join us.

Call for Volunteers!

Are you looking for a once-every-five-weeks job with big impact? Coffee hour teams would benefit from a few extra people! These teams set up for coffee hour, bring goodies to share, and help clean up afterwards. If you would like to join a team, please contact Sandy Johanson by text 252-905-1051 or by [email](#).

Flower Donations

We have some spots available for altar flower donations in the upcoming weeks. The sign-up list is located in the Narthex. Once you sign up, you will be contacted by the Parish Office for your flower acknowledgement, which will be printed in our weekly bulletin. *Thanks so much!*

Service and Community

Wells Hall Clean Up Day

We need you!! We are looking for a few strong people on June 24 from 9:00 am-noon.

Simply show up in Wells Hall this Saturday!

Community Service Leadership Team (CSLT) needs new members

The CSLT, which provides stewardship of Christ Church's "Community Service Ministry" is looking to add a couple new members. This ministry focuses primarily on hunger and shelter issues of our neighbors,, mostly in the community nearby but also farther away when our support can be useful. Two current Examples of CSLT lead projects are the Little Free Pantry (along K Street) and the monthly meals served at the Veterans Village.

If you are interested in being involved in leading our parish's efforts in these areas, please email [Len Johnson](#) or in person following a Sunday service to learn more. Thanks. ~ *Len Johnson*

About Sacred Ground

During the luncheon last Sunday honoring Gen Grewell's retirement as Archdeacon of the Diocese, mention was made of Sacred Ground: A Film based Dialogue Series on Race and Faith that Archdeacon Gen and Deacon Donna

offered during the Pandemic. This is a rich curriculum covering the experiences of Blacks, Latinxs, Asians, LGBTQ+, and Jews, among others.

There are opportunities to share views and values, to consider related questions within the context of our faith and to reflect on the experience of those who have long known discrimination in our country. We were asked to read various articles and to watch selected films in preparation for each of ten sessions. Our group of about a dozen participants met twice a month over five months in 2021.

This is a stimulating and enlightening program developed by our National Church. In this time when living our professed belief that "All 'people' are created equal" is so critical, this course is a deep well of history, information and inclusiveness.

If Sacred Ground sounds of interest, please talk to Deacon Donna. It is a wonderful opportunity to improve your knowledge and perspective.

I used to teach history. There is a lot in Sacred Ground that was never in our text books. From my perspective, Sacred Ground is a not to be missed opportunity!

~*Anne Avery*

Search Committee Update

Christ Church Tacoma's Rector Search Committee has completed the following:

- 1) Development of the Job Description, based largely on the Profile, for posting purposes.
- 2) Posting of our opening on the Diocese of Olympia's "Office for Transition Ministries" and the "Episcopal News" websites (both closed as of June 2).
- 3) Development of the evaluation criteria and related scoring approach for the applicant written material we will receive from the diocese following their vetting process.
- 4) Draft of the Applicant Interview Questions and related Scoring approach we will use.

We are now waiting to receive the vetted applicant written information. The timing of receiving this information is dependent on the number of applicants the diocese has received overall and the number that are from outside the Diocese of Olympia (since vetting those takes more time). Once we have the written information, the Search Committee will review it to determine which applicants we will interview.

~*Shelby Clayson,*

Search Committee Reporter



Community

Saturday, July 8

12 Noon to 6 PM

Tacoma Pride

Christ Church will be present at the Tacoma Pride Festival, letting the public know that we welcome persons who identify as LGBTQ to our parish - as well as their allies. Would you be able to spend one hour greeting people and handing out our parish postcard? If so, **please sign up** at the glass table in the church entry way. This is a very **easy way** to make our presence known to hundreds of people who would not normally walk through our church doors.



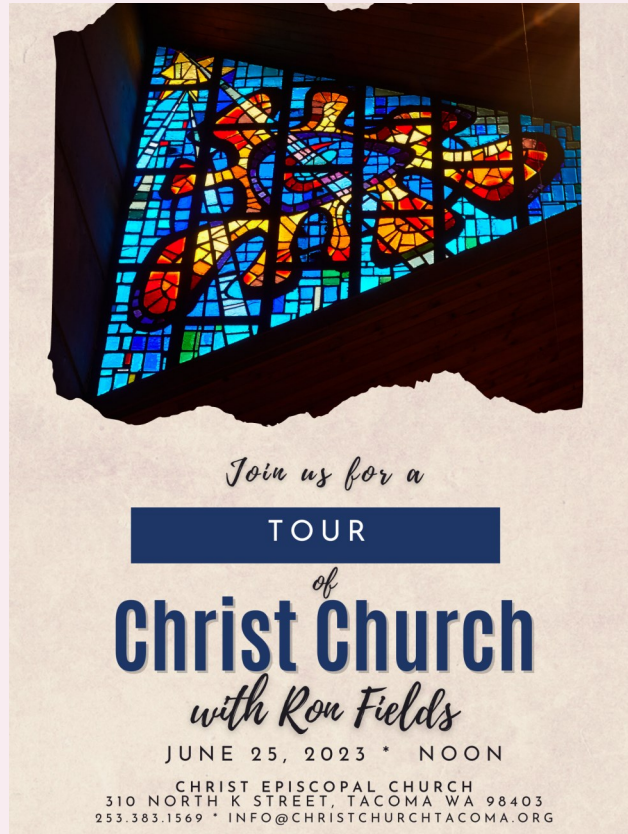
TACOMA
PRIDE

Community

Save the Date! Join Episcopalians from across the Diocese at this exciting new event open to everyone! Gain new resources and support, and spend time learning from and networking with churches from every corner of Western Washington! **Convene 2023** will feature multiple workshop sessions throughout this day-long opportunity for learning and connection, preparing us all for the future of our communities, helping us discover (and rediscover!) new ideas, and giving us the time and space to share information about programs and ministry opportunities.



September 30th, at Everett Community College. More information to come!



Worship at Christ Church

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)

Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

June 25, 2023

8:30am Holy Eucharist in Trinity Chapel

10:30am Holy Eucharist in the Church and



[Bulletin for 10:30am](#)

Christ Episcopal Church

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PLEASE
PLACE
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TO:

