

# Christ Church Weekly

A newsletter for members and friends

Christ Church Parish • Friday, August 4, 2023

## A Message from Fr. Samuel Torvend

*What kind of rector do you seek?*

The parish Search Committee is now in the process of reviewing applications from priests applying for the position of parish rector. It goes without saying that the search for a spiritual leader can be both exciting and nerve-wracking. While we trust the Search Committee to select a leader who matches well the rector profile presented in the Parish Profile, a new rector will inevitably mark a change: in personality and leadership skills, in preaching and working with vestry, committees, and teams, in pastoral care and administration.

A new rector will signal a transition and transitions can hold out the promise for new and needed initiatives as well as a measure of anxiety should new initiatives alter what might feel quite comfortable. The arrival of a new rector can also lead to a measure of projection on the part of some parish members and friends: “We want you to be the messiah.” Or, “We want you to lead us into the promised land of financial stability and membership growth.”

continued on page 3

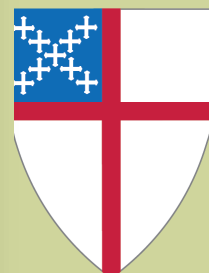


## Upcoming Events

- Secular Book Club, NA Meeting **August 10**
- Funeral Service, Ann Simon, **August 12**
- Adult Formation: A Greening Church, OPOP Meeting, **August 13**
- Vestry Meeting, **August 15**
- NA Meeting, **August 17**
- Third Friday Concert, **August 18**
- Tacoma Contra Dance, **August 19**
- Wellspring Ensemble Concert, **August 20**
- CSLT Meeting, **August 22**
- NA Meeting, **August 24**
- Hilltop Street Fair, **August 26**



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.

# Christ Church Prayer List

## 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**.

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:

Cameron Frisch; Al Buck; Robyn Potter; Leslie Brooks; Barbara Pasi; Tammy Hess and Family, Patty Botkin; Miri Hindes; Christina Amos; Dick Gregory; Stephen Behr; and Danielle Olsson.

**Those who have died in Christ, who holds us in life and death, and all who grieve for them:** Ann Young Simon.

### Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:

St. Andrew's, Aberdeen • St. Hugh of Lincoln, Allyn

### Anglican Cycle of Prayer:

Province de L'Eglise Anglicane Du Congo

## 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.

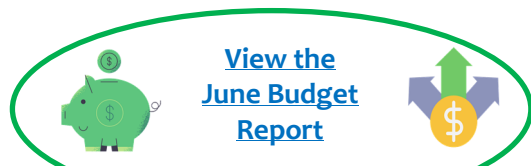
Please visit our website at [Christchurchtacoma.org](http://Christchurchtacoma.org) to connect to newsletter links and previous editions.

### 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. and Formation

from page 1

Oh the poor head that has to bear such a crown! Think of it: the fate of the parish placed on one person's head. Please, God, no.

Leadership does matter as we know well in the political dimension of life. Lack of accountability or breach of trust can lead to serious allegations: consider the indictments of a former president just handed down by a grand jury. But here's the point: the function of leadership in an Episcopal parish is to *serve the people*, to support and challenge the people in Christian faith and life. It is less about the leader and more about what the leader offers *the people of God* gathered into this parish by the Spirit.

The radical vision of *The Book of Common Prayer* 1979 claims that all the baptized share in the work, the ministries, of the Body of Christ. It does not claim that spiritual leaders have the corner or monopoly on this work. This runs against a common perception in

American religious life: that as an organization of volunteers, it's up to the leadership to do the work while the people of God simply receive it passively. No and no again. No parish will survive let alone flourish with such an attitude.

Christ Church is blessed with members and friends who actively participate in the work of the parish, the ministries of the Body of Christ. This is an incredible blessing. While priests and deacons come and go, the people invested in the parish remain to carry on the holy work to which they have been consecrated in Holy Baptism and in which they are nourished in the Holy Eucharist. It is *this holy work* that asks for our attention: now, in six months, and into the future.

## **The Funeral Service for Ann Young Simón, Saturday, August 12**

The funeral Eucharist with reception to follow will be on **Saturday, August 12**. The Eucharist will begin at 10:30 in the morning.

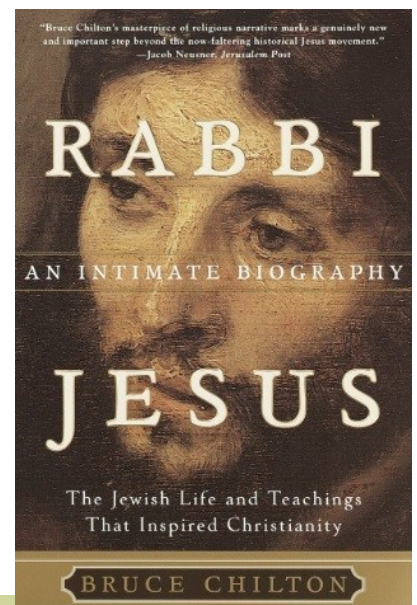
## **Sunday, August 13 12 Noon in the Parish Library Growing a Greening Parish**

In light of our July meeting with Keah Callucie from Earth Ministry, we will begin to organize our greening energies in light of our parish model: worship, formation, and service. Join Fr. Torvend as we consider the various ways in which we can actually make a difference in this time of climate change.

## **Sunday, September 3 6:30 pm Monthly Reading Group**

The Monthly Reading Group will meet at **6:30 p.m. on Sunday, September 3**, at the home of King and Dee Schoenfeld to discuss *Rabbi Jesus* by Bruce Chilton, New Testament scholar and Episcopal priest. Note that there will be no meeting in August.

Questions? Contact [Don Johnson](#).





# Service and Community



The Bishop's Search Committee is hosting [Listening Sessions](#) around the diocese this month. The closest event to us is at **St. Andrew's**, this **Sunday, August 6, at 1:00pm**. St. Andrew's is located at 7410 S. 12th St. in Tacoma. [Register here](#) for this event.

All members of the Diocese of Olympia are invited to share in a conversation about our hopes for the next bishop.



## Can you help a neighbor?

Our Christ Church member, Leslie Brooks, is eager to come to church, at least once a month, for the Sunday 10:30 Holy Eucharist. Leslie uses a collapsible walker and does not drive. Would you be able to give her a ride from her Fircrest home once a month? If so, please contact [Deborah](#) as soon as possible at the church office. Thank you.

## Summer Choir

If you'd like to participate in the pick-up choir, sign-up [here](#) or in the Narthex for the Sunday(s) that you can participate. There is a separate sign-up for each Sunday. Contact me with any questions! Thank you, ~[Paul Tegels](#), Interim Director of Music

## Help with Poster Delivery

Are you available to take event posters to area businesses and churches? Please contact the [office](#). Thank you!



# Community

## The Lord's Prayer and The Creation

When we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray for creation care. "Your will be done on earth" echoes the ancient prayer in the Psalms: "Arise, O God, and secure justice on the earth" (Psalm 82:8).

Powerful people have brought imbalance to God's natural order on earth: flooding, excessive heat, drought, pollution, extinctions. As a consequence, the powerless – whether in the US or in the third world – suffer the most for this disordering of God's intentions for nature.

God's will, God's justice, God's rule addresses the needs of the powerless poor as God's central concern in this ancient Psalm (Psalm 82, verses 3-4), just as it does in Psalm 72, the prayer of blessing on godly rule, when the godly ruler delivers, shows compassion, rescues, and redeems the powerless and the poor (verses 4, 12-14).

So, when we pray the Lord's Prayer, we pray for God's justice to return and restore the balance of God's creation order for the sake of all of humanity: "Your will be done on earth."

## Food Packs Live Again

--- A reminder today that the food packs in those quart-sized plastic bag will be found on the stage every week during coffee hour. Feel free to take a couple to have handy when you see someone in need.

## The Little Pantry

That little structure on K Street is a sign of love and *actual caring* about those in need if food. We rarely see anyone taking the food, but what does that matter? It's so easy to help. Will you bring something this week?

**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!





“It’s so peaceful here! Just lovely,” says Miss Erin, the Tacoma City Ballet Mistress of All, as she prepares for another day of *pirouettes* and *jetés* in Wells Hall. More than 50 ballet students of various ages began classes this past Monday morning at the start of their three-week Summer Session here at Christ Church, and Miss Erin oversees everything from the teaching of their classes to programming and advertising, and, managing their practice spaces.

The Ballet had been looking for a temporary home while their regular space is being renovated, and thanks to recommendations from our friends at the Tacoma Opera, found our beautiful wood floors and ample space perfect for dancing, at least temporarily.

During this past spring, the Merlino Building, their home for over 40 years—also known for its housing of Corina Bakery and the Grand Cinema, or, if you’ve been around for a while, the Odd Fellows Building—had pieces of its 100+-year-old ceiling fall onto the floor, barely missing students’ heads during ballet practice. After hearing about Wells Hall, it just took one visit for Miss Erin to know that our venue would be on the Ballet’s list of best rehearsal and performance places in Tacoma.

Ballet students will be here through August 18, and then take a break for a few weeks before the start of their fall season, but they’ll be back at the Merlino at that time. Miss Erin promises to return often, though, as she and the students absolutely love Wells Hall. They’ve been lunching each day in the courtyard, and enjoying the huge amount of natural light through the hall’s many windows. “I have plans for this beautiful space,” Miss Erin told me this morning. “Perhaps a couple of Black Box Theatre

presentations, or maybe a field trip to have a different rehearsal space during the season...it is just so perfect here.”

Wells Hall has only a brief respite following the Ballet: next up is the Tacoma Opera, with rehearsals for their upcoming production of “Carmen.” Opera singing will once again fill the hall each and every day from August 29th through the end of September, and although it is tempting, we’ll need to avoid popping by for a while longer—you’ll have to wait for your chance to hear the *Habanera* until they’re at the Pantages. We’ll have information on tickets for “Carmen” as we get closer to performance dates.

~Deborah Breneman



# Community

**Kickoff for** our new *One Parish, One Prisoner Team* has commenced with a Kickoff Orientation from the Underground Ministries Coordinator. We are partnered with, and praying for, a young woman named Sunni who will be released sometime next year. This ministry will not be possible without the prayers and support of our whole parish community.

**How you can help...**We are starting our relationship with her by writing letters. Our first ask: stamps & cheery (blank) greeting cards with envelopes. Drop all donations in the basket in the narthex.

Again, thanks from the whole team.

~ **Peach McDouall, OPOP Bard**

## **Request regarding upcoming Wells Hall Rentals**

The Tacoma City Ballet (TCB) will be renting Wells Hall plus several rooms on the second floor (north side) from July 31 - August 18. During that time period, it is critical that we not enter their space when it is in use. If you need access to Wells Hall (ie. Kitchen), it will need to be coordinated with [Deborah](#). We also ask that you not peer into the windows to watch the dancers practicing as this is very distracting to them. It is actually TCB policy that no one is allowed to view the dancers, including parents.

~**Christi McCarren, Sr. Warden**

## **Livestream Update**

We have been live on YouTube now since April 5, 2022. Following are a few interesting stats, with a little context.



Our YouTube "channel" currently has 80 subscribers. Just more than half are female over 65, the other half are split evenly in thirds between males over 65 and males

and females between ages 35-44.

We had 5,677 views through August 1, 2023, with over 84 separate stream events. We just hit the 1,000-hour total viewing milestone. YouTube suggested us 77,600 times, and 5.5% of the time someone clicked on the suggested video. Only 12% of the views came from searching, while around 50% came from suggested videos and people's feeds from their home screens.

Now for some context. YouTube has an auto play feature. Since this feature's inception, any time one of our streams comes up in someone's queue and starts playing, we get a view. At the high mark, YouTube heavily promoted Sunday 9/24/2022 8,600 times. (They do not say why they promoted that one in particular.) It has 499 views, but most people were no longer watching after 2 minutes in. Also the average viewing time for that video is about 2 minutes. Overall our average is 10.5 minutes.

Most of our videos have 5-6 screens tuned in the whole time while we stream, while having up to 5-10 more checking in. Funerals, musical events, and feast days have more screens viewing. We have a total of 30 to 50 views in the first week from our Sunday services, with feast days sometimes over 100 views.

~**Winfield Giddings**

## **Search Committee Update**

The Search Committee will soon receive the Rector Candidate written applications and will be proceeding with the process of discernment.

~**Shelby Clayson,**

**Search Committee Reporter**

## Worship at Christ Church

### *The 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](https://christchurchtacoma.org/calendar)

### Sunday Worship at Christ Episcopal Church, Tacoma

**August 6, 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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