



Christ  
Church  
Cathedral

# Annual Report

[www.christcathedral.org](http://www.christcathedral.org)

# Mission and Values

*Christ Church Cathedral lives God's love in downtown Nashville through our worship and welcome, curiosity and community, and care of all people.*



## **We are called to be...**

- Disciples who find the love of God in prayer and in the celebration of Holy Communion
- Evangelists who share God's plan to renew and restore all creation to wholeness in Christ
- Friends who welcome the stranger, bear each other's burdens, and share God's healing power in Christ's name
- Stewards who honor and safeguard God's abundance in our lives and acknowledge the Holy Trinity as the source of all
- Servants who seek the face of Christ in every human being and strive for the justice and peace of God



# Our Leadership

## CLERGY

The Very Reverend Serena Sides

*Dean and Rector*

The Reverend Canon Anna Russell Friedman

*Canon and Associate Rector for Family Ministries*

The Reverend Deacon Mary McCarthy

*Deacon and Pastoral Care Coordinator*

The Reverend Canon Madeleine Rebouché

*Canon and Associate Rector for Outreach and Christian Formation*

The Reverend Richard Wineland

*Associate Rector for Evangelism and Parish Life*

## STAFF

Emily Joy Allison

*Director of Communications from July 2025*

Emily Berry

*Director of Youth Ministries from August 2025*

Elmarie Brice

*Receptionist*

Will Fulcher

*Senior Sexton through May 2025*

Mark Goodrum

*Property Coordinator through December 2025*

## VESTRY

### 2026

Billy Ballard

Christina Isbell

Donald McKenzie

David Morton

Sarah Tally

### 2027

Susan Barge

Sam Bessey

Ellie Teal Gardner

Anna Grimes Noser

David Paine

### 2028

Maura Black Sullivan

Lawrence Blank-Cook

Deaver Collins

Gina Lodge

Keith Simmons

Amy Greenman

*Events Coordinator through March 2025*

Leslie McGilberry

*Director of Finance and Administration from August 2025*

Mark McQueen

*Business and Facilities Manager through July 2025*

Melanie Percival

*Parish Coordinator from March 2025*

Madelynn Claire Roche

*Youth Coordinator through August 2025*

Dr. Peter Rogahn

*Associate Organist and Choirmaster*

Dr. Michael Velting

*Canon for Music*

## CONTRACTED STAFF

Catherine Clark

*Database Coordinator*

Roger Rhoads and Sean Phelan

*Video and Sound Technicians*

Anzora Lee-Starks

*Publication Coordinator*

Mary Grace Thoni

*Accountant*

Kristin Wrather

*Communications Assistant*



# Membership & Worship

## Worship Statistics

Sunday Average Worship (In Person):	385
Sunday Average Worship (In Person), September-December 2025:	414
Weekday Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist:	234
Morning Prayer:	237



## Membership Statistics

Baptized Membership:*	1,673
Enrolled Adult Confirmed Communicants:*	1,246
Adults Confirmed/Received:	15
Adults Reaffirmed:	7
Youth Confirmed:	14
Episcopalians Transferred In: (and Christians from other traditions in full communion with the Episcopal Church)	21
Members Transferred Out:	39
Member Deaths:	9
Baptisms:	10
Weddings:	10
Burial Offices:	14

*\*These numbers are down from 2024 due to  
database cleanup work that is ongoing.*



# Letter from the Dean and Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

2025 was a wonderful year in the life of the Cathedral. Our shared ministry is just over a year old and I am grateful for all that we experienced together. God is truly working in and through us. Our worship and Christian education attendance were both up, as was our giving. We launched Supper Groups, a Hospitality Committee, and name tags. The Isaac Project became the Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith, bringing together disparate elements of our work on racial justice into one group. We celebrated the opening of our fabulous new building wing. And there is so much more, as you will see in the pages of this Annual Report.

There are a few special notes to share. I am grateful to our Vestry for the intentional and positive way that we developed a new mission statement and an updated description of our values. The mission statement builds on the language of the Parish Profile for the Dean and Rector Search in 2024. You can read it on the first page. Your response to these mission and

values statements—and to our short-hand, “Live God’s Love”—has been warm and enthusiastic. These guiding statements will serve us well for years to come.

Second, I give thanks for the Cathedral staff. We said fond farewells to three long-time staff members: Will Fulcher, our Senior Sexton; Amy Greenman, our part-time Events Coordinator; and Mark





McQueen, our Business Manager. In March, we welcomed Melanie Percival into the new full-time position of Parish Coordinator, where she oversees event scheduling and management, coordination of member status and donor lists, and related responsibilities. We also integrated several new staff into leadership roles this past summer: Emily Joy Allison as Director of Communications; Emily Berry as Director of Youth Ministries; and Leslie McGilberry as Director of Finance and Administration. Finally, Mark Goodrum, who was our part-time Property Coordinator for much of the year, recently departed to care for his ailing wife. We are blessed by the presence of these dedicated new staff members and I am grateful for the energy, skills, and good cheer that they bring to our shared endeavor.

Third, it is a joy to work with the clergy team. From preaching to pastoral care to volunteer engagement, they are insightful, thoughtful, and fun. The roles and titles of two clergy took on a new luster in 2025. The Reverend Canon Madeleine Rebouché was appointed Canon for Outreach and Formation and the Reverend Deacon Mary McCarthy was officially brought on staff as our Pastoral Care Coordinator.

Finally, I celebrate you—the congregation—and the ways in which you were understanding and flexible during construction; engaged and interested in my vision and ministry; and patient with me and other new staff as we settled into our roles. Above all, you welcomed my husband John, our two high-schoolers Ethan and Hannah, and me to the Cathedral with joy. Thank you.

I look forward to a wonderful, Spirit-filled 2026.

Warmly,

The Very Rev. Serena Sides  
Dean and Rector





# Wardens' Letter

What a year! 2025 was a year of newness at Christ Church Cathedral – the first year for our new Dean and Rector and our first new construction in more than 60 years. It is hard to believe that Dean Serena has been at the Cathedral just thirteen months. Her calm, steady presence coupled with her energy have been a gift to us! As wardens, we have felt fortunate to work with her in this first year.

After several years of important work, the Vestry approved an end to the Isaac Project and the creation of the Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith, essentially broadening the Project into a formal ministry. This new ministry will weave issues of race and faith into many facets of our life together, focusing on three areas: 1) relationship building, 2) education, and 3) advocacy.

In August, the Vestry approved new Mission and Values statements. The goal of these statements is to state our beliefs in a way that is clear and accessible, particularly to those who are new to the Episcopal Church. This work was timed to coincide with our new website, which launched in the fall, thanks to work from Emily Joy, Dean Serena, and our communications contractor. With a simpler, more user-friendly interface, the website is easier for all of us to navigate. More importantly, it is easier for visitors to use, helping newcomers find the information they need about the Cathedral.

In its new space with a new leader, the youth program is on a path for growth. For those who have not been down there, the space below Lancaster Hall is joyfully LOUD on Sunday mornings! Many thanks to the Youth Advisory Council who did so much work in the transition time between leaders for the youth program.

Finally, after years of planning and work, we opened our new wing! On October 5, we celebrated with one service, a blessing for the new space, and a big party. We dedicated Lancaster Hall and the Schillig Library in honor of Larry Lancaster and Mary Schillig, whose gifts have been meaningful to the progress of the Cathedral. We are so thankful to everyone who made this new space possible, of whom there are too many to name in this brief report! (Photos are after the Parish Life Report.)

A focus for the vestry this year has been how to best live into the newness. What can we do and what should we do? That focus continues into next year, as we prepare to host the electing convention for our new Bishop.

Sarah Tally, Senior Warden  
Sam Bessey, Junior Warden  
Christ Church Cathedral



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# Administrative Commission

The Administrative Commission coordinates the physical and financial care of the Cathedral parish through various committees that work closely with the Dean and Rector and staff to steward our resources and safeguard our building and our community.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Finance Committee *Year in Review*

*512 households made pledge payments or offerings in 2025*

*\$571k cash generated from the Endowment in 2025*

*\$360k income generated from parking fees in 2025*

*\$22k given to the Music Ministry and Cathedral Arts in 2025*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Leslie McGilberry*

Through God's faithfulness and your generous giving, the parish ended the year with a favorable budget surplus and a balanced budget for 2026!

2025 was a year of significant staffing changes in the finance department: we said goodbye to Mark McQueen, who faithfully served the Cathedral for 17 years, and hired Leslie McGilberry as interim Director of Finance and Administration. We also hired a new accountant, Mary Grace Thoni. Both new hires were able to make a significant impact right away.

We started the year with a drop in pledges and giving households versus 2024 (from 420 to 378) but by the end of the year had exceeded our goal for pledges and offerings! We also benefited from higher-than-expected parking income and lower-than-budgeted expenses due to staffing vacancies, so that we ended the year with a \$179,000 surplus, which allowed us to prepay expenses for next year so that we have a balanced budget in 2026!

While some capital campaign pledges continue to be fulfilled, we have collected \$12,245,000 in pledges and bequests. These funds plus earnings on investments and ground lease payments received during construction have covered more than 70% of the cost of the building project.

2026 will be a year of discovery, as we learn the true operating costs of the new addition. It will also be the first year that we have a mortgage, so budgeted expenses are rising almost \$670K. Thankfully, we have almost \$320K in ground lease payments from the Tempo Hotel to help cover these expenses. And with pledges increasing \$270K (15%) as of early December, the Vestry felt comfortable passing a balanced budget for 2026 at their December 2025 meeting. See the 2026 budget in the appendix.

Projects for 2026 include the implementation of a new accounting system, a move toward paperless record-keeping, and an update to our financial policies and procedures.

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CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Stewardship Committee *Year in Review*

*\$2,083,000 pledged*

*\$5,569 average pledge*

*523 pledge letters and cards mailed*

*374 pledging units*

*213 pledges increased*

*150+ personal emails sent*

*68 new pledgors*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Mary Miller, Joseph Watson*

The Stewardship Committee is in charge of the annual Pledge Drive. This year's committee was made up of Mary Miller and Joseph Watson (Co-Chairs), Anna Grimes Noser (Chair Emerita), and the Rev. Madeleine Rebouché, with oversight from the Dean and Rector and support from the Cathedral's administrative staff. The committee began meeting bi-weekly in the late summer to understand budget projections for the coming year and to establish a theme and timeline for the campaign. We quickly settled on a theme—"Live God's Love"—rooted in the Cathedral's new mission statement. As we began planning this year's campaign, members of the committee and the Vestry mailed handwritten notes to everyone who pledged for 2025.

In the lead up to the public launch of the campaign on October 26, we established a framework for communications strategies and worked with staff to ensure that the scheduling and delivery of mailings and announcements in Happenings, social media, and other forms of communication were on track and aligned with the overall theme of the campaign. We also worked with the Dean and Rector to curate and schedule a group of speakers who would deliver meaningful, impactful, and heartfelt personal faith stories rooted in the campaign's theme during the announcements on Sunday mornings between October 26 and November 23. These speakers drew from their own experiences of pastoral care, children's formation, outreach, and liturgy to share moments when God's love has shown forth for them at the Cathedral.

During the five-week campaign in October and November, the Dean and Rector regularly shared information with the committee about incoming pledges, which helped the committee coordinate the roll-out and timing of thank you notes, the curation of a collection of targeted messages to groups within the Cathedral, and, as we neared the close of the campaign, the sending of individualized emails to those who had pledged previously but not yet this year.

By the publication of this Annual Report, the committee can report just under **\$2,083,000 pledged, which exceeded our goal of \$2,000,000**. This came from a total of 374 pledging units, on par with last year, of which 68 were new pledgors (double the number of new pledgors from last year). As the overall success of this year's campaign came into focus, the committee continued to meet. After the public-facing portion of the campaign concluded, we worked to tie up loose ends, to debrief on successes and shortcomings, and to lay the groundwork for next year's Pledge Drive.

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## Security Committee *Year in Review*

*2 de-escalation trainings facilitated*

*54 staff and volunteers trained*

*6 new walkie-talkies*

*1 new lock system implemented*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Trone Sawyer*

A main focus of the Security Committee in 2025 was strengthening coordination between Christ Church Cathedral and the security agency led by Michael Mann. A primary goal of this effort was to provide structured training for those on the front lines of welcoming and engagement within our community—specifically Greeters, Ushers, Cathedral staff, RITI, and Wayfarers.

Working with Mann’s agency, we arranged for the delivery of two instructional sessions centered on de-escalation techniques, situational awareness, and clear, compassionate communication. These classes were designed to support our ministries in maintaining a welcoming environment while also responding appropriately to challenging or escalating situations. The intent throughout was to align strong pastoral hospitality with prudent, well-coordinated security practices.

This fall, the Cathedral also significantly expanded its physical footprint with the addition of Lancaster Hall and the Youth Space, increasing both the area under our care and the complexity of access management. In November, Mr. Mann toured the facilities and several observations emerged clearly. Chief among these was the understanding that the new space—particularly the Youth Space and the 9th Avenue entrance—introduces new access points and supervision needs that are not fully addressed under our current model. Mr. Mann indicated that, absent the addition of dedicated security personnel, a greater responsibility would necessarily fall to church volunteers. This would include more active roles in monitoring doors, managing access, and ensuring appropriate control of entry into the Youth Space.

These observations raise important questions for the committee’s prayerful discernment and planning: whether our current volunteer structure and training are sufficient; how best to clearly define and communicate volunteer roles, particularly where youth are concerned; and whether additional professional security support should be considered as our campus usage and public presence continue to grow.

Throughout these discussions, it remains essential that our approach balances pastoral openness, the safety of vulnerable populations, and responsible stewardship of our people and facilities. Clear expectations, adequate training, and thoughtful coordination will be key to sustaining that balance.



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CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Building Committee *Year in Review*

*1 new building space completed and opened*  
*5 office spaces renovated*  
*7 children's spaces renovated*  
*4 youth rooms opened*  
*1 new library opened*  
*1 Room in the Inn space renovated*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Charlie Cook*

The Building Committee (Steve Lasley, Art Stinson, Martha Stinson, Kristen Simmons, and Charlie Cook, Chair) was formed in 2019 to negotiate a contract with EOA architecture firm and proceed towards implementing the strategic vision of the parish to build new space for fellowship, youth and outreach. By early 2020, the Building Committee and EOA presented concept drawings for the new space which met with approval from the parish and Vestry. We then refined the project plans to meet our projected budget and, with Vestry approval, retained R.C. Mathews as our general contractor to renovate some of the existing space to improve the existing restrooms, second floor office space and nursery and children's education space, as well as build the new space within a budget of \$18,500,000 funded from the Capital Campaign and funds borrowed against the lease income from the hotel project across 9th Avenue.

As is evident to anyone who has visited our campus, the project is complete—and stayed within budget. Christ Church Cathedral now has a new fellowship hall, Lancaster Hall, and new space below for youth and Room in the Inn, in addition to renovated office space on the second floor of the existing building and renovated space for nursery and elementary school age children in the Cheek Hall area.



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CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Property Committee *Year in Review*

*75 new pew cushions installed*

*2 accessibility upgrades (Broadway stairs and lectern handrail)*

*47 volunteers at 100 Hands Workday*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Gibson Pritchard*

The Property Committee's charge is to work with the Dean and Rector and the Cathedral's Director of Finance and Administration to maintain and support the buildings and land that we own, and to work alongside the Building Committee, who are responsible for the construction of the new building. With the opening of our beautiful new building in the fall of 2025, the Property Committee now has oversight over all of the spaces on our campus.



Under the leadership of Gibson Prichard, the property committee consists of Cindy Anderson, Susan Barge, Burgin Dossett, Hal Johnson, Donald McKenzie, David Morton, Trone Sawyer, and Walker Willse. Dean Serena and Leslie McGillberry attend the monthly meetings as staff representatives. Our year was very busy and successful, as we saw the arrival of new pew cushions following an enthusiastic 100 Hands Workday in August. All exterior windows were painted and the limestone surfaces were pressure washed as well. We worked to trim foliage around the exterior and are actively pursuing a refresh of the Cathedral's exterior lighting. Our partnership with the security committee allows us to consider how best to address building needs with an eye on maintaining security of our downtown buildings. An example of this can be found along 9th Avenue, where we are looking to improve our fencing around the exterior exits to minimize the spaces that tend to be damaged or pose a security risk.



We oversaw the rework of the steps leading into our Broadway parking lot, which were completed in less than two weeks. We facilitated the replacement of uprights around the transepts, commissioned the installation of a handrail up to the lectern, and trimmed the magnolia tree along Broadway, allowing our "Episcopal Church Welcomes You" sign to be more visible. We are working on the design for an expansion of the columbarium and are always interested in input from the parish.

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CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Communications *Year in Review*

1,319 *Instagram followers (+137)*  
3,345 *Facebook followers (+45)*  
1,690 *YouTube subscribers (+97)*  
1,584 *Happenings subscribers*  
2 *bulletin boards installed*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Emily Joy Allison*

This year, the Communications Department experienced unprecedented growth and expansion into new ways of sharing the Cathedral's mission and vision with Nashville and beyond. Under the guidance of our new Director of Communications Emily Joy Allison, we rebranded our online and print presence with a brand-new website, an updated version of Happenings, new brand fonts and colors, updated communications policy guidelines, new physical bulletin boards around the church space, and streamlined promotional processes.

Prior to Emily joining us in July, we relied heavily on the work and wisdom of our contracted Communications Assistant Kristin Wrather, who stewarded the inception and development of the new website and has been an invaluable asset since its launch. We experienced some bumps along the way with our web developers and some unforeseen issues with getting the website live, but we are thankful for everyone's patience and hope this new website will serve the Cathedral and the broader community well for years to come.

Beyond the website, our social media engagement, newsletter open rates, and livestream views continue to meet and exceed goals. Our weekly Happenings newsletter consistently maintains an open rate of over 50% (the average for non-profit organizations using Mailchimp is between 20-40%). Our audience is growing—we have over 1,300 followers on Instagram, over 3,300 followers on Facebook, and nearly 1,700 subscribers on YouTube, as well as 1,500 weekly Happenings subscribers and many hundreds more connected to our Cathedral Arts communications.

The Cathedral continued to play a meaningful part in the conversation about faith in Nashville. We were featured in an article in *The Tennessean* highlighting the Vanderbilt Commodores football greats Clark Lea and Barton Simmons, who first met right here in our Sunday school. As we look towards 2026, we are continuing to strategize more new and creative ways we can make connections with our neighbors. With the lessons learned from 2025, we are excited to expand our digital and communications footprint in 2026!



# Worship Ministries

## *Year in Review*

**44** volunteer Ushers (**41** adults, **3** youth)

**22** Flower Guild volunteers

**24** Altar Guild volunteers

**10** lay Healing Ministers

**44** lay readers

**25** acolytes (**22** youth, **3** adult, **5** new)

**40** lay Eucharistic Ministers (**+5** vergers and **2**thurifers)

**LEADERSHIP:** *The Very Rev. Serena Sides*

# Liturgical Commission

The Liturgical Commission consists of the various Worship Ministries that work closely with our Dean and Rector to plan and implement Sunday and special worship services and recruit and train new volunteers. The Commission also includes our Music Ministries.

During 2025, the lay volunteers for our Worship Ministries continued to step into our holy spaces with dedication and reverence. The volunteers were supported by our Dean and Rector, who leads our Principal Liturgies Committee.

With 44 volunteers (3 of whom were youth), our Ushers were led by Robert Rich, Donald McKenzie, and John Bridges and welcomed attendees to the three morning services. We could use a few more 8:45 AM volunteers for 2026.

The Altar Guild of 24 dedicated volunteers was ably led by Greer Broemel, Sandra Merritt, Kathy Morton, and Susan Standbrook, and prepared the chapel and the nave for our weekday, Sunday, and special worship services. They hope to update the Altar Guild manual in 2026. Meanwhile, our Wedding Guild, led by Elise Dugger, supported several weddings in the nave in 2025. Kathy Killman and Elaine Smyth continued to lead our Flower Guild and organized the dedicated volunteers on the Flower Guild who make our space so beautiful on Sundays and feast days. Anyone is welcome to join this ministry.

Our lectors continued to be organized by Richard Daniel, who prepared and assigned readers for 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM Sunday services, as well as our special services. We could use a few additional 11:15 AM readers. We have moved from reading from the Schillig Bible to reading from a lectionary book, which has made our job easier. We are grateful for the new lectern railing to assist our lectors.

The leadership of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM) was shared by Andrew Reducha (through the summer) and Karmine Quiggle (in the fall). Over 40 chalice bearers and sacristans plus 5 vergers and 2 thurifers serve Eucharist and add to the beauty and tradition of worship. We added five new or returning chalice bearers to our ranks in 2025. Jonathan Sprinkle organized our acolytes and we trained several new youth acolytes. We're hoping for more youth to participate in 2026!

Across all of these ministries, the goals in 2026 are to continue to serve the church and God by making the worship services as special as they can be. Anyone who wishes to volunteer for any of these ministries should reach out to the ministry or our Dean and Rector.

# Music Ministries

## *Year in Review*

*29 Cathedral Choir members*

*11 Cathedral Choristers*

*2 Cathedral Arts organ concerts*

*17 new compositions presented*

*5 special Choir services in addition to Sundays*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Dr. Michael Velting, Dr. Peter Rogahn*

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Canon Dr. Michael Velting and Dr. Peter Rogahn once again led a robust year of worship and music offerings at the Cathedral through the Cathedral Choir, the Cathedral Choristers, and many special events.

**The Cathedral Choir:** Throughout 2025 the Cathedral Choir numbered 29 singers, 11 of whom are paid section leaders and 18 of whom are volunteers.

In addition to their normal schedule of Sunday morning liturgies, they also sang:

*The installation of the Very Reverend Serena Sides (joined by Senior Choristers)*

*Solemn Choral Evensong in Lent*

*Festal Choral Evensong in Eastertide*

*Solemn Choral Evensong for All Saints*

*The Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols (joined by Senior Choristers)*

The Music Department continues to expand the Cathedral's music library to incorporate new compositions which freshen and enliven our weekly offerings of music. These additions expand our already broad repertoire, which ranges from earliest plainsong and polyphony to newly published 21st-century works. For the last several years, we have been making a conscious effort to increase the number of compositions in our choral and organ repertoire by historically overlooked composers, women, and musicians of color.

During the 2025 calendar year, the Cathedral Choir presented 17 new compositions (eight by women composers, and one by a Black British composer). These pieces joined 18 others by women composers and three others by Black composers, all of which were already in our active repertoire.





## Music Ministries *continued*

**The Cathedral Choristers:** The Cathedral Choristers continue to rebuild our numbers. This year we have nine Senior Choristers (fourth grade and above), and two Junior Choristers (2nd and 3rd graders). Dr. Rogahn trains the Junior Choristers while Dr. Velting and Dr. Rogahn together train the Senior Choristers. In March, the Senior Choristers hosted the 26th Annual Cathedral Chorister Festival, under the direction of Dr. Maxine Thévenot, Canon Precentor of the Cathedral of St. John, Albuquerque, New Mexico.



Guest choristers and their directors from Chicago, Birmingham, Lookout Mountain, Chattanooga, Evansville, and St. George's Nashville joined us for the weekend, which comprised rehearsals, social time, meals, and singing the Sunday morning 11:15 AM liturgy and Solemn Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoon. We had a total of 36 choristers who sang both liturgies with a small group of altos, tenors, and basses, producing a beautiful sound. It was a great weekend!



**Cathedral Arts Organ Concerts:** We hosted two organ concerts in 2025, one by Katelyn Emerson and the second by young Black organist Dr. Alcée Chriss III. For Bachanalia, we once again had six area organists on the program and the Cathedral Choir sang a Bach motet.

As we look forward to 2026, the Cathedral Choir and the Senior Choristers will travel to Chicago over Memorial Day weekend, which coincides with Pentecost, to sing the liturgies of Holy Eucharist and Solemn Choral Evensong at St. James' Cathedral.



# Christian Formation Commission

The Christian Formation Commission encourages the curiosity of all our parishioners and fosters the love of God in Christ through our spiritual, educational, and moral formation.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Children's Ministries *Year in Review*

*2 paid Nursery and Toddler Atrium Staff*

*29 children on Nursery and Toddler roster*

*65 children on Catechesis of the Good Shepherd roster*

*7 catechists*

*8 rotating regular assistants*

*7 children's baptisms*

**LEADERSHIP:** *The Rev. Canon Anna Russell Friedman*

**Catechesis of the Good Shepherd:** The philosophy of the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd program is that even very young children have a religious life, that God is present to them in their deepest being, and they are capable of developing both a conscious and intimate relationship with God. We provide guidance and vocabulary to enable them to become aware of their relationship with God and to express it. Our formation hour is structured to offer a time of prayer and song, a time for the "presentation," and a time for individual work by the child.

The work of the child is their prayer and is the most important part of the class. CGS is divided into three levels that correspond to the Montessori planes of development: Children from ages 3-6 are in Level I. Level II covers grades 1-3, and 4th and 5th graders are in Level III. As the child matures, the essentials of our religious faith are presented in increasing detail and sophistication. At each level, presentations focus on the life and teachings of Jesus and the liturgy of the church. Catechesis of the Good Shepherd continued to be offered from 10:00-11:00 AM on Sunday mornings. We have four atria (classrooms) designed for the children of each Level: Level I (3 years – Kindergarten), Level II (1st grade), Level II (2nd + 3rd grade), and Level III (4th + 5th grade). In addition to catechists and assistants, we have multiple parent volunteers each week and an average attendance of 32 children per Sunday. We also have a Friends of Catechesis group for support with materials and atria spaces (this year they moved and sorted much of our materials in storage in the old 810 building).



**Nursery and Toddler Atrium:** We continued to offer the Nursery and Toddler atrium this year from 8:15 AM-12:45 PM on Sunday mornings, year round. We began our first full year in our two newly renovated spaces on the basement level! The Nursery and Toddler Atrium program is for children ages 6 weeks – 3 years (3-year-olds who are not potty trained yet). We provide a safe, caring environment for children to play interactively, read stories, and work with developmentally appropriate activities.

# Children's Ministries

## *continued*



### Seasonal Liturgies and Celebrations:

- **First annual PJs and Movie Morning**, January 26 (during the Annual Meeting) at 10:00 AM in one of our Nursery rooms, featuring popcorn and the movie *Inside Out*
- **Palm Sunday Treat + Palm Cross making** in Gathering Hall, April 13
- **Liturgy of the Light** service May 11, led by 15 4th + 5th graders
- **Parish Picnic**, June 9, with games and activities in the grass
- **VBS June 1-4 "Road Trip: On the Go with God"**—32 children registered + 15 friends, parents, youth and parishioner volunteers
- **Back to School Blessing**, August 3, 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM services
- **Commissioning of Teachers, Youth, and CGS leaders**, September 14, 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM services
- **Nursery and Toddler Atrium + CGS Welcome Back Open House**, September 7
- **Advent Festival**, November 30, featuring Advent Wreath making, decorating Jesse Flower bags, Ms. Cheap's Penny Drive—150 attendees
- **Christmas Pageant**, December 7 with 45 children participants and many parent and friend volunteers

### Other Notes:

- We continue to have Toddler and Children's coloring pages (on boards with colored pencils or crayons) available in the Nave for children to work on during services
- We also have copies of *Let Us Pray* books available in baskets for children and families





# Christian Formation Commission

The Christian Formation Commission encourages the curiosity of all our parishioners and fosters the love of God in Christ through our spiritual, educational, and moral formation.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Youth Ministries *Year in Review*

*13 confirmands*

*4 high school graduates*

*87 participants*

*17 special events and service opportunities*

*\$5,000+ raised at Pub Trivia Night*

*13 care packages mailed to college students*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Emily Berry*

This year the Cathedral youth ministry supported 13 confirmands, eight graduates, and dozens of participants as they engaged in Sunday morning liturgies and formation, Discovery Weekend, Starbucks trips, and more under the leadership of Madelynn Roche and her crew of devoted Sunday school teachers and parent volunteers in the winter and spring of 2025. The Cathedral youth community is especially grateful to Madelynn for leading as she finished out her own studies at Vanderbilt Divinity School; we are so thankful for how well she cared for our youth. Following Madelynn's departure, we were thrilled to welcome our new Director of Youth Ministries Emily Berry. Before coming to the Cathedral, Emily spent three years as the Director of Youth Ministry at St. Augustine's Episcopal Chapel at Vanderbilt, and we are so honored to have her now leading our youth ministries.





# Youth Ministries *continued*



In the fall, we celebrated the grand opening of our new building space, including new youth classrooms and gathering spaces that will expand the way we are able to serve the youth of the Cathedral and the broader Nashville community for years to come. The youth kicked off another school year with energy and enthusiasm, and have spent time together studying some of the parables of Jesus during formation, packing comfort bags for Wayfarers and Urban Bicycle Food Ministry to share with our neighbors on the street, serving meals to guests with Church in the Yard and Room in the Inn, and building community while rafting, ziplining, pumpkin-carving, gingerbread-house-decorating, and eating hundreds (yes, hundreds) of before-school donuts and bagels together. Youth parent volunteers also hosted a Youth Parent Social in early fall and welcomed old and new faces alike, and assisted with November's Pub Trivia Night, which raised a little over \$5,000 for our youth ministry. Finally, the youth ministry mailed 13 care packages to Cathedral college students for a dose of encouragement and love during exam season, and invited all college and graduate students who are in town for the holidays to join us for a Christmas Brunch in the beautiful new youth space. Thanks be to God for all the Cathedral youth and their families; we are so excited to see what 2026 holds for this community.

# Christian Formation Commission

The Christian Formation Commission encourages the curiosity of all our parishioners and fosters the love of God in Christ through our spiritual, educational, and moral formation.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Adults & Young Adults Ministries *Year in Review*

*75-80 average adult formation attendees*

*30 Journey in Faith participants*

*1 JIF participant baptized, 10 confirmed, 5 received, and 9 reaffirmed faith*

*30 new Theology on Tap attendees*

**LEADERSHIP:** *The Rev. Canon Madeleine Rebouché*

Adult Formation has been reenergized over this past year with new spaces and offerings, strong educational content, and consistent leadership from parishioners. The Sunday Adult Formation Hour has been thriving with a new model that embraces class series taught by both clergy and laity. Dean Serena, alongside other leaders in the parish, have held classes on Prepositions for God, Simon Peter, Psalms of Ascent, Revolution of the Heart, and The Acts of the Apostles. The Rev. Kelli Joyce joined us this Fall for a four-part class on the sacrament of baptism. In October, we celebrated the opening of the new building which holds a brand new Adult Formation classroom downstairs and, of course, the beautiful Lancaster Hall, which enables us to host larger classes and events. Attendance for the Sunday Adult Formation Hour has grown over the past year, with regular numbers around 75-80 each week.

In 2025, Journey in Faith (JIF) welcomed its largest class in years, with 25-30 regularly attending the Wednesday evening gathering. JIF is the Cathedral's inquirer's class in which adults seeking Baptism, Confirmation, Reception, or Reaffirmation in The Episcopal Church receive instruction in the Christian Faith and prepare to formally join the Church. These faith pilgrims came to class with curiosity and open-mindedness, and at the Easter Vigil, knelt before the Bishop to receive the rite they were seeking. The Bishop baptized one, confirmed 10, and received five, and nine others reaffirmed their faith.





# Adults & Young Adults Ministries *continued*



The young adult ministry at Christ Church Cathedral (20s–30s) has continued meeting for Theology on Tap twice a month. This is an opportunity for the Cathedral’s young adults to gather at Tailgate Brewery Headquarters, share a meal, have a beer or a soda, and build relationships and casually discuss a theological topic. The average attendance was 8–15, with our largest night in May where we hosted 25! Over the year, we regularly welcomed new faces to the table, seeing about 30 join us for the first time. This year, more of the young adults from within the community stepped up to bring a topic of their own and lead the discussions. The young adults also engaged in more service opportunities, taking leadership roles and serving with Church in the Yard at Holy Trinity. Fifteen of us gathered to end the year with our regular celebratory Thanksgiving potluck, graciously hosted by newlyweds Jackson Hasty and Isabel Draper.

Formation at the Cathedral is fortified by the regular gatherings of parishioners who consistently meet, week after week, to educate and encourage each other in the faith. The parishioner-led Bible Buddies group met every Wednesday morning to walk through a book of the Bible together. Education for Ministry (EfM), an educational program hosted in partnership with The University of the South’s School of Theology, continued their regular morning group and also called and trained a new lay leader this year, restarting a group that meets in the evenings. The Women’s Bible Study continued to meet on Saturday mornings. The Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith partnered with the Community for the Cross of Nails to hold a Lenten book study on *The Kingdom of the Poor* by Charles Strobel and the Covenant book study read *The Tears of Things* by Richard Rohr together. The Centering Prayer group continued to meet and pray together weekly.





# Parish Life

## *Year in Review*

*6 new committees*

*18 supper groups with 200 participants*

*8 LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance events*

*356 attendees at new building celebration*

*207 attendees at annual parish picnic*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Rebecca Collins*

# Parish Life

## Commission

The Parish Life Commission nurtures relationships among our parishioners by planning fellowship events and fostering groups in which parishioners come together for fun and to support one another.

Under the new leadership of Rebecca Collins and with the help of many volunteers, the Parish Life Commission thrived in 2025.

### **Hospitality Committee (two co-chairs and 12 volunteers):**

The newly formed Hospitality Committee created inviting spaces at the Cathedral to welcome parishioners and took the lead in organizing and managing parish occasions. In 2025, they assisted with the celebration and opening of the new building, the annual parish picnic, the newcomer luncheon, and the receptions following Evensong for All Saints and Lessons and Carols.



### **Supper Groups (18 groups and 200 participants):**

Our new Supper Groups gatherings were developed and designed to foster a strong sense of community and connection among our parishioners as they get to know each other over a shared meal. We will be hosting more groups in 2026!

### **Celebration of Opening of New Building and Dedication of Lancaster Hall (356 attendees):**

In October, we celebrated the opening of our new building and the dedication of Lancaster Hall. This began with the commissioning of the new space by the Dean and Rector followed by a blessing by the Cathedral Choir and a seated luncheon for everyone under a tent with music, a scavenger hunt, photo booth, and activities for the children.





## Parish Life Commission *continued*

### **Men's and Women's Ministries:**

The Men's Fellowship Breakfast (approx. 30 members) met monthly at the Cathedral. They share fellowship, a meal, and Morning Prayer on the third Tuesday of each month.

The Women's Bible Study (approx. 11 members) met monthly for the second year. The group mainly focuses on Scripture that features women. They meet at the church on the second Saturday of each month. The women of the Cathedral also gathered for their annual retreat in February at Montgomery Bell State Park, with 50 attendees.



### **LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance (8 special events hosted):**

The LGBTQ+ Faith Alliance is a community embracing all genders and sexualities, living into our Baptismal Covenant to respect the dignity of every human being. The Alliance strives to inspire greater inclusivity in Cathedral life through education, Christian formation, and outreach. We celebrate God's invitation to all people to gather safely at the table. This year we met monthly and hosted quarterly brunches. In 2025, we also hosted the Pride Parade, a storytelling workshop, an organ recital, a pronoun usage formation lesson, a period poverty project, and the Epiphany chalk blessings bags.

### **Cathedral Book Club (56 members):**

The Cathedral Book Club has been in existence for over 40 years. It has met once a month in the evening on the third Thursday of the month at the Diocesan House. This year, it has expanded to include a day group that meets at the church in the afternoon on the third Thursday as well. Their selections comprise both fiction and non-fiction books alike.













# Pastoral Care Commission

The Pastoral Care Commission supports our parishioners through life's challenges and joys, no matter their stage in life.

## Pastoral Care *Year in Review*

*560 birthday, bereavement, and new baby cards sent*

*239 individuals on the prayer list*

*349 individuals received communion from Eucharistic Visitors*

*85 amaryllis bulbs delivered through Jesse Tree Ministry*

*600+ books available to borrow*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Deacon Mary McCarthy*

In 2025, Deacon Mary McCarthy formally became our Pastoral Care Coordinator and worked tirelessly to lead many volunteers in caring for our people.

The Bereavement Committee has moved much more firmly under the Pastoral Care Commission. This year we had three larger funerals (Cato, Donner and Barrick). We were able to use the entry hall in the new building for two of the receptions, and they both went very well. Melanie Percival (who will take over much of the non-liturgical responsibility for funerals) learned a great deal from both of those funerals and has developed a very detailed checklist as we go forward. With some feedback from the committee we are moving to a hospitality model as the volunteers are responsible now for more than they have been in the past. Our goal in 2026 will be to expand the volunteer pool that can help at funerals.

The process for sending notes for birthdays, bereavement, and new babies has undergone some improvements with the retirement of several volunteers. Ben Turnage has taken over all the birthday card duties, and he sent out 560 cards in 2025. Instead of sending a note at the time of bereavement, Deacon McCarthy (who usually has spent time with the mourners during the funeral) is sending notes to families on the anniversaries of deaths. The Notebird system is being used to track when those notes need to be sent. New baby care has been turned over to the Rev. Anna Russell Friedman.

The Prayer List Ministry has continued to improve as we rely even more on the Notebird program. We currently are tracking 239 parishioners and parishioner family members and friends. An additional 100 folks were archived in 2025. Notebird allows us to keep in regular contact with those on the prayer list or those who asked for people to be added. The lists are not only more current, but more meaningful as we are able to keep in better contact with those we are praying for.

Eucharistic Visitor Ministry remains our most populous ministry: 349 people received communion in 2025 as part of our EV visits. We have added a very appreciated monthly service at The Blakeford (in addition to regular visits to Abe's Garden, Richland Place, and Somerby). The Dean and Rector also added the sending forth prayer to the bulletin for the entire congregation to join in saying. This has raised the profile of this ministry.

# Pastoral Care Commission *continued*



Ash Wednesday/Jesse Tree Visits continue to improve as we better match the volunteer visitor to those being visited. On Ash Wednesday we visited 25 parishioners with ashes. There was a service at The Blakeford that was attended by 40 people and our service at Somerby had 22 attendees. By year's end 85 amaryllis and a note of encouragement were delivered. For the first time, most folks had a note that was specifically to them and referred to why they were receiving the flower.

Healing Ministry is back after several years of post-COVID struggles. We always have a healing minister at both the 8:45 AM and 11:15 AM services. Announcements at the Sunday services and in the bulletins have done a great job raising awareness. There have been several times that a clergy member has stepped in to help as we have had too many folks waiting to pray with the Healing Minister.

The Prayer Library has evolved from a rolling cart to a more general library in the new building, constituting two separate libraries. Popular reading (C.S. Lewis, Anne Lamott, Richard Rohr, and so many more) is in the Shillig Library that, through cash and book donations, now has over 500 volumes; the more academic collection in the Adult Education room has more than 100 books. In 2026 we will work on growing the children's book section (and round out other areas), make it easier to check books out (the entire collection is computerized), and raise awareness of the library.





# Outreach Ministries

## *Year in Review*

30-40 individuals served by Wayfarers every Sunday  
120 meals served at Church in the Yard every month  
264 Room in the Inn guests over 22 weeks  
10 years in Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH)  
16,500 burritos delivered through Urban Bicycle Food Ministry

**LEADERSHIP:** Sheri Sellmeyer

# Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission extends God's love beyond the Cathedral walls by sending out volunteers, financing non-profits, and building relationships in Nashville and overseas.

In 2025, after many years of leadership, David Morton stepped aside as Chair of the Outreach Commission and we welcomed Sheri Sellmeyer to the role, overseeing a diversity of our outreach ministries.

**The Wayfarers** served 30 to 40 homeless and food-insecure visitors to the church each Sunday this year. Each guest is welcomed with a warm greeting and a hot cup of coffee, and the first 25 receive a McDonald's coupon. We are thankful to Elmarie Brice and Bella Stringer, who continued to provide a light breakfast for them and for others who do not arrive in time to get a coupon. When needed, volunteers also provide clothing, toiletries, and advice on social services available elsewhere in Nashville. Forty Cathedral members volunteered in this ministry over the course of 2025. (Leaders: Jon Stanley, Walker Wilse)

We continued our longstanding partnership with **Room in the Inn**, where volunteers offer meals, fellowship, and a safe place to stay for individuals experiencing homelessness from November to March. Two innkeepers typically stay overnight with the guests, preparing breakfast in the morning and providing transportation. Room in the Inn served 12 men each week for 22 weeks for a total of 264 guests. We also added emergency weeks when the weather was dangerous. About 200 volunteers staff RITI over 22 weeks (anywhere from six to 20 per week). The opening of our new building space in October allowed us to improve and expand what we can offer each guest. (Leader: David Morton)





## Outreach Ministries *continued*

**The Visitation on Death Row (VODR)** program matches Cathedral members with individuals on death row in the Tennessee prison system to make regular visits. This year approximately 15 visitors went once a week and provided a connection to the outside world for these prisoners. (Leader: Joe Ingle)

**Church in the Yard** served 120 meals to the hungry and those experiencing homelessness at the Church of the Holy Trinity every first Sunday of the month. This is up from 100 meals a week last year. Volunteers join their guests in the Eucharist before serving lunch. (Leaders: Jackson Hasty, Gina Williams)

**The Giving Hope Gift Market** seeks to reduce the commercialism of Christmas and recapture the joy of giving by helping those in need. The market showcases agencies supported by Christ Church Cathedral and provides an alternative for gift giving in the form of donations. This year the market was held in our new gathering space, with each nonprofit handling their own donations. Participation was up from 2024, when we did an online version of the market due to space limits and staff transition. (Leader: Karmine Quiggle)

**The Urban Bicycle Food Ministry** serves those living on the streets of downtown Nashville. UBFM typically serves 150 people per week. Five to 10 volunteers from the Cathedral help cook meals and deliver food/supplies via bicycle and on foot. In 2025 UBFM delivered over 16,500 burritos, 4,800 hotdogs, 10,000 bottles of water, and 10,000 cookies. UBFM continued its collaboration with Wayfarers and Room in the Inn, sharing supplies and volunteers for serving our friends on the streets. (Leader: Chris Isbell)



## Grants Committee

### *Year in Review*

*\$186,584 allocated for local and global ministries*

*4 grant recipient site visits*

*3 special offerings totaling \$35,029*

*4 new committee members*

**LEADERSHIP:** *David Morton*

## Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission extends God's love beyond the Cathedral walls by sending out volunteers, financing non-profits, and building relationships in Nashville and overseas.

The Grants Committee helps allocate 10% of all budgeted pledged and offering-plate funds to bolster Christ Church Cathedral's local and global ministries to needy and vulnerable people. In 2025, Grants recommended to the Vestry the distribution of \$186,584 in ministry support, as well as three special offerings at Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas totaling \$35,029.

For Easter, the Grants Committee designated NICE, the Nashville International Center for Empowerment, as the offering recipient. NICE, which provides refugee resettlement assistance, recently lost federal funding. The school at Boc Banique, Haiti, received additional backing of \$5,500 from the Thanksgiving offering and Grants discretionary funds for an indoor kitchen, a grant that secured \$50,000 in NGO money for five hot meals a week for the students. The \$5,500 was on top of our yearly \$10,000 grant. And in a special designation, the 2025 Christmas offering was shared equally among the local outreach ministries of Church in the Yard, Room in the Inn, Urban Bicycle Ministries, and Wayfarers. This offering will provide meals, gift cards, and other essentials.

Site visits were a hallmark of 2025 Grants Committee meetings. Members toured the Nashville Food Project, Room in the Inn, St. Luke's Community House, and Siloam Health. Tours of recipient and prospective agencies are extremely helpful in making funding decisions. Committee members also helped serve lunch at Room in the Inn's Fall Fest in October. Further, the committee heard presentations by two prospective grantee organizations Siloam Health and Visitation on Death Row.

Sheri Sellmeyer, Jere Lane, Jon Stanley, and Susan Barge joined the committee in 2025. The Rev. Canon Madeleine Rebouché is clergy liaison.

A full list of the of the individual agencies supported by Christ Church Cathedral and the funds distributed to them is in the appendix.



# Creation Care Committee

## *Year in Review*

6 committee volunteers

2 compost bins at Cathedral events

1 presentation to young adults at Theology on Tap

**LEADERSHIP:** *Amanda Reynolds, Elijah Reynolds*

# Outreach Commission

The Outreach Commission extends God's love beyond the Cathedral walls by sending out volunteers, financing non-profits, and building relationships in Nashville and overseas.

### **Mission and Purpose**

The Creation Care Committee's mandate is to listen, lead, and equip the Christ Church Cathedral community to safeguard the integrity of God's Creation while sustaining and renewing the life of the Earth. Through recent operational changes and community engagement, we are integrating this mission into the rhythm of parish life.

### **Operational Improvements and Sustainability**

A significant portion of our recent efforts has focused on tangible waste reduction. We have begun composting at events where food is offered, including staffing specific bins at major all-parish gatherings such as the parish picnic and the new building celebration. We should soon have a regular compost bin for Sunday Coffee Minute gatherings. To further reduce our footprint, we will improve recycling logistics and signage throughout the building and begin replacing disposable cups with reusable coffee mugs.

### **Community Engagement and Formation**

Because the Ministry Fair yielded only a small number of new people interested in Creation Care, we began an effort to reach the church community in other ways. For example, we hope to build interest through active listening sessions with the young adults and youth. Our first efforts in this regard have proven successful.

At a recent Theology on Tap meeting, Rev. Madeleine delivered a focused message on creation that sparked significant engagement. She asked everyone to think about the connection between creation and their faith. The group then shared their own spiritual encounters with nature—ranging from the spectacle of a solar eclipse to stark desert sands to soaring herons. The session then generated immediate, actionable ideas, including proposals for nature hikes, retreats, and partnerships with organizations like Cumberland River Compact for river cleanup and tree planting.

In 2026, the committee will focus on the Cathedral's youth, at the time of this report we have already made a presentation at the annual youth Discovery Weekend. Our goal is to replicate the success we saw with the young adults by gathering the energy and input of our youth to help shape the future of this ministry.

# Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith

Through the Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith, we seek to educate our Cathedral community about racism and racial justice; build meaningful relationships with traditionally Black churches, with a focus on our partner St. Anselm's Episcopal Church; advocate for racial and economic justice in Nashville; and further the historical research begun under the original Isaac Project.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL ANNUAL REPORT 2025

## Isaac Ministry *Year in Review*

*3 Cathedral readers at St. Anselm's Lessons & Jazz*

*39 pilgrims to Montgomery, Alabama*

*26 Monthly Mobile Meals (4M) volunteers*

*700 4M meals served*

*25 Cathedral members at St. Anselm's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary*

*15+ NOAH meetings and events*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Megan Gwaltney Manrique,  
the Rev. Canon Anna Russell Friedman*

This past year was a year of tremendous growth for the Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith. Building on several years of informative, foundational work from the Isaac Project, this year brought a name change to show a new emphasis on integrating the work of race and faith into the life of the Cathedral.

The four action areas of the Isaac Ministry are: Education, Partnerships, Advocacy, and History. Each area is led by a group of dedicated parishioners who bring their work to the Cathedral congregation. Under the leadership of Monica Urness, the Education piece of the Isaac Ministry brings robust programming about racism and racial justice through book studies, evening presentations, and tours. In the fall of 2025, Monica led a group of 39 individuals on a pilgrimage to Montgomery, Alabama. The group visited three sites developed by the Equal Justice Initiative: the Legacy Museum, National Memorial for Peace and Justice, and the Freedom Monument Sculpture Park.

Another important piece of the Isaac Ministry's work is partnerships with traditionally Black churches, specifically St. Anselm's Episcopal Church. In our Walking Together partnership with St. Anselm's, Christ Church celebrated their 65th anniversary of their founding in November and participated in a monthly meal ministry. Led by Shelley and Ward Cammack, Mobile Monthly Meals Ministry (4M) aims to prepare and deliver 50 hot meals to the unhoused community on the first Saturday of each month. In partnership with volunteers from St. Anselm's, this group of 26 Christ Church volunteers served over 700 meals in 2025.



# Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith *continued*



The third piece of the Isaac Ministry's work is Advocacy, in large part by our connection with Nashville Organized for Action and Hope (NOAH). NOAH is an anti-racist, interfaith coalition comprised of congregations, community organizations, and labor unions, and Christ Church Cathedral has been a 10-year participant in its work. Led by parishioners Susie Ries and Matthew Kenny, Christ Church members participated in NOAH's Recovenating service at Greater Bethel AME and represented the congregation on NOAH task forces. Looking ahead to 2026, Christ Church NOAH volunteers hope to increase engagement on issues related to downtown Nashville and housing-related initiatives.



The final piece of Isaac Ministry's work is History and the foundation from which this ministry has grown. Led by academic research of Dr. Dan Schafer and Dr. Joseph Watson, this work continues to inform the Isaac Ministry by exploring the Cathedral's legacy against the backdrop slavery, the Jim Crow era, the Civil Rights movement, and beyond. This important information helps to guide the continued mission of the Isaac Ministry and help inform the congregation of where we have come from and where we might go.



As we seek to Live God's Love in downtown Nashville, the Isaac Ministry embodies our congregation's call to minister to a multi-cultural city and to love our neighbors as ourselves. We hope you will join us on this journey in 2026.





# Evangelism Commission

## *Year in Review*

45 worshipers at BreakingBread@6 Jazz Mass

2 BreakingBread@6 Bluegrass Masses

1 new BreakingBread@6 format—Taizé

157 visitor cards received

2 Newcomers Brunches with 64 guests

**LEADERSHIP:** *Maura Black Sullivan,*  
*the Rev. Richard Wineland*

# Evangelism Commission

The Evangelism Commission  
guides our ministries that seek to  
invite and welcome all.

The Evangelism Commission continued its ministry of invitation, hospitality, and connection throughout 2025, strengthening the ways Christ Church Cathedral welcomes newcomers, supports inquirers, and builds bridges between our parish community and those seeking a spiritual home. This year was marked by renewed leadership, stronger committee structures, vibrant worship offerings, and intentional efforts to deepen personal connection with all who entered our doors.

A central focus of our work was the growth and refinement of the Breaking Bread@6 service. For the second year, BB@6 offered a candlelit, contemplative worship experience supported by world-class local musicians. The monthly last Sunday Jazz Mass—drawing an average of 45 worshipers—remained a reliable anchor, while a newly introduced Taizé-style liturgy developed a consistent following. In 2025, BB@6 also celebrated two Bluegrass Masses, both of which drew strong attendance and enthusiastic feedback. This ministry continues to expand its welcome, now celebrating its first full year as a pet-friendly worshipping community: the Annual Blessing of the Animals was held at BB@6 in October. To reflect the congregation that gathers on Sunday evenings, the liturgy also received thoughtful updates, including more expansive and inclusive language.

The Welcoming Committee underwent a meaningful leadership transition as longtime co-chairs stepped aside and two new leaders—Brynn Glaze and Laura Glover—began their tenure. Under their guidance, the committee has re-energized the greeter ministry, ensuring that all who arrive at our Broadway entrance experience warmth, presence, and genuine hospitality. In 2025, Christ Church hosted two Newcomers Brunches with a combined 64 guests—a joyful chance for new parishioners and inquirers to share a meal, meet clergy, and learn more about the ministries of the Cathedral.





## Evangelism Commission *continued*

Visitor engagement remained a major area of focus. In 2025, we received 157 visitor cards (both online and in the pews). Clergy followed up with each visitor within 2–3 days, with many inquiries leading to in-person conversations, deeper engagement, and next steps in faith. To support newcomers, the Commission also redesigned our welcome bags—creating a smaller, more effective offering in collaboration with our new Communications Director, Emily Joy Allison.

Several committees under the Evangelism umbrella continued their ministries in focused ways. The Paws and Claws service in October again offered a tender liturgy of remembrance for pets who died during the year. The Community of the Cross of Nails (CCN) experienced a quieter season after an active 2024 but continued to maintain our Cathedral's membership in the international CCN network. The Downtown Partnership of churches began to find its way toward the end of 2025 by focusing on the needs of our unhoused neighbors and how our collective energies can support them.

As we look toward 2026, the Evangelism Commission is poised for continued renewal and expansion. The Cathedral is now fully staffed with a full-time Communications Director and Parish Administrator, and the newly renovated building provides fresh opportunities for engagement. We hope to broaden our invitation through enhanced digital outreach, expanded newcomer pathways, and creative ministry partnerships. Areas of focus for the coming year include evaluating the frequency and sustainability of the Jazz Mass, strengthening Taizé and other contemplative offerings, reimagining downtown engagement, and growing our greeter corps so that we can staff all major worship services throughout the year.

At its heart, evangelism at Christ Church Cathedral remains an expression of love—an invitation into community, into worship, and into the life of God. In 2025, the Commission continued to live out that call with intention, gratitude, and joy.



# Cathedral Life Commission

The Cathedral Life Commission orients our common life toward greater Nashville as the Cathedral of the Diocese of Tennessee by offering access to our space for tours, concerts and the arts, and overseeing our Cathedral Chapter meeting.

## Cathedral Life *Year in Review*

*7 Cathedral Arts events*

*\$16,000 raised for Friends of the Cathedral*

*450 guests and 185 musicians at BACHanalia 2025*

*404 Cathedral tours by 13 volunteer tour guides*

**LEADERSHIP:** *Anne Louise Branstetter,  
the Very Reverend Serena Sides*



### The Cathedral Chapter

The Cathedral Chapter is a canonically-required committee and engages in initiatives throughout the year in concert with the Diocese. These include celebrating the Reverend Absalom Jones and Diocesan ordinations, with receptions for fellowship-building events. There are opportunities outside the Diocese, including our membership in the Downtown Collective of churches (currently run through the Evangelism Commission).



The Cathedral Chapter serves as a communications conduit between Cathedral and Diocese, with the Bishop's report providing updates on what's going on around the Diocese and in the Episcopal Church. The Dean and Rector offers a report about what's going on at the Cathedral, and Canon Jody Howard reports on transitions within the Diocese, both clerical and parished. It is the only group in the Diocese to which the Bishop formally reports.



### Cathedral Tours

The Tours Committee, led by Ben Turnage, continued to give tours on the history, architecture, windows, and furnishings of our space. Thirteen volunteer tour guides provided 404 tours in 2025.

# Cathedral Life Commission *continued*



## **Cathedral Arts Committee**

The committee has had broad discussions about its programs, publicity, and maintaining a strong financial footing. A decision was made to rename the program as the Cathedral Arts Series, which unifies terminology from several names for the same series. Another decision was made to charge \$20 tickets to events (rather than just donations), except liturgical events such as Evensong or Lessons and Carols, which are free. BACHanalia remained the most popular event of 2025 with over 450 people enjoying the music of Johann Sebastian Bach in the course of an evening.



## **Friends of the Cathedral**

Friends of the Cathedral raises funds to support the Cathedral Arts Series. Three times a year, a direct solicitation goes out to non-parishioners and current or former Friends. In 2025, FOC raised over \$16,000, with 40% of that from sponsorships of BACHanalia. Parishioners are free to donate, but a slight majority of the 84 donors in 2025 were non-parishioners—our target group. A direct mailing list of 2,204 people for the brochure included those who have signed up for the mailing list over the last 21 years of the Arts Series, the parish, and any other donors.





# Financials

## ENDOWMENT FUNDS

	<i>Year End 2024</i>	<i>Year End 2025</i>
EEC	\$6,497,395	\$5,809,922
Schillig Fund	\$4,770,277	\$5,041,455
McCurdy Trust	\$4,798,274	\$4,800,698
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,065,946</b>	<b>\$15,652,075</b>

## BUDGET COMPARISON

	<i>2025 Budget</i>	<i>2025 Year End</i>	<i>2026 Budget</i>
<b>INCOME</b>			
Current & Prior Year Pledge Income	\$1,779,158	\$1,822,361	\$2,050,000
Offering & Contributions	\$138,346	\$181,221	\$138,000
Interest & Other Income	\$50,000	\$85,701	\$376,885
Endowment Income	\$555,065	\$498,323	\$510,000
Christian Education	\$49,600	\$20,743	\$45,750
Lay Ministries	\$27,175	\$44,355	\$40,000
Music	\$14,250	\$15,715	\$20,800
Kitchen	\$6,550	\$2,493	\$1,700
Sacred Space	\$22,000	\$27,321	\$29,200
Vestry/Stewardship/Financial	\$302,398	\$393,146	\$400,600
<b><u>OPERATING INCOME</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,944,542</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,091,379</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,612,935</u></b>

<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Salaries & Benefits	\$1,666,374	\$1,593,627	\$1,804,030
Administrative Support	\$140,500	\$153,464	\$146,300
Property Management	\$356,858	\$360,106	\$904,217
Christian Education	\$84,150	\$27,537	\$66,200
lay Ministries	\$244,550	\$251,632	\$297,350
Music Programs	\$32,500	\$29,991	\$30,450
Diocesan Support	\$294,610	\$333,360	\$236,518
Kitchen	\$21,900	\$21,889	\$21,150
Sacred Space	\$54,750	\$59,836	\$54,700
Vestry/Stewardship/Financials	\$48,300	\$79,881	\$52,020
<b><u>OPERATING EXPENSES</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,944,542</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,911,056</u></b>	<b><u>\$3,612,935</u></b>

NET OPERATING FUND INCREASE/(DECREASE): \$180,056

# Grants Allocations

*Including special and one-time grants*

**LOCAL**

St. Luke's	\$31,000
Room In The Inn	\$26,000
Rooftop	\$10,500
Reconciliation	\$9,100
Habitat for Humanity of Greater Nashville	\$3,374
Matthew 25	\$4,300
The Nashville Food Project	\$6,750
Preston Taylor Ministries	\$6,750
Nashville CARES	\$4,800
NOAH Membership	\$2,809
East Nashville Hope Exchange	\$1,700
Nashville Rescue Mission/Traveler's Aid	\$1,000

**LOCAL, INTERNAL**

Church In the Yard	\$1,450
Urban Bicycle Food Ministry	\$3,000
Wayfarer's Fund	\$7,000
Room In The Inn (CCC)	\$3,850

**LOCAL SUBTOTAL** **\$123,383**

**GLOBAL**

Amistad	\$46,200
St John Divine Comm Ctr	\$2,000
Haiti Anchor Investment	\$10,000
Mosaic Middle East (formerly FRRME)	\$5,000

**GLOBAL SUBTOTAL** **\$63,200**

**TOTAL ALLOCATED**  
\$186,583

**ACTUAL**  
\$191,750

**DISCRETIONARY**  
\$5,167

**2025 Special Offerings**

Easter – N.I.C.E.	\$22,107
Thanksgiving – School at Boc Banique	\$780
Christmas – Internal Ministries	\$12,142



# Commissions

**1. The Commission for Administration** is charged with supporting the physical and financial infrastructure of Christ Church Cathedral. The Commission guides the development and establishment of stewardship and endowment activities. It works with the Dean and appropriate staff (accounting, facilities management, and related areas) to ensure administrative needs are met. The Commission creates committees to focus on various aspects of this work, ensuring that their actions reflect “stewards who acknowledge and honor the Holy Trinity as the source of all, in the care of creation and the right use of our gifts and offerings.”

**2. The Commission for Christian Formation** is charged with fostering the love of God in Christ through the spiritual, educational, and moral formation of all parishioners from their baptism through their burial. Christian formation through worship, prayer, service, and guided and continuous learning invites “young and old alike (to) grow into the full stature of Christ.” This Commission works to provide opportunities for instruction on the belief and practice of the Episcopal Church, nurture a thirst for the Holy Scriptures and a facility with the Book of Common Prayer, encourage spiritual practices, and cultivate a sustained theological imagination for all parishioners.

**3. The Commission for Liturgy** is charged with providing assistance to the Dean and Rector to plan, coordinate, and execute worship. This Commission convenes committees with responsibilities related to regularly scheduled worship as well as seasonal and special liturgies, schedules and organizes lay leadership in the implementation of worship, maintains and, as needed, updates customs that govern the Cathedral’s practices, manages the proper diocesan licensure for all lay liturgical leaders, and dreams with the clergy about new worshiping opportunities for the community. In addition, this Commission, through its committees, encourages, recruits, and trains members of the congregation to be lay leaders who facilitate common prayer.

**4. The Commission for Parish Life** is charged with fostering the bonds of affection among the congregation as members of Christ’s Body by considering ways for all parishioners to make connections with one another, share in the fellowship of Christ and “welcome the stranger.” To that end, the Commission creates and sustains forums for fellowship and sponsors events, retreats, and gatherings that nurture life together at Christ Church Cathedral.

**5. The Commission for Pastoral Care** is charged with ensuring that all members of the Christ Church Cathedral community have access to guidance, support, and ministry during times of need and times of life's milestones. The Commission is charged with "seeking and serving Christ in all persons" and, in regard to the Cathedral's core values, is charged with "bearing one another's burdens as we share in the ministry of the apostles' teaching and fellowship." The Commission creates appropriate committees or ministries as needed, with attention to persons in emotional and spiritual need, ministries for the homebound, healing ministries, and others as the Commission determines. The Commission manages the proper diocesan licensure for all ministries requiring a license.

**6. The Commission for Outreach** is charged with coordinating and managing servant ministries of Christ Church Cathedral that focus on the urban, regional, diocesan, and global contexts of its mission to "seek and serve Christ in all persons." This commission establishes means to connect parishioners, friends, associates, and staff to opportunities that enable them to be "servants who seek the face of Christ in every human being and strive for the justice and peace of God."

**7. The Isaac Ministry on Race and Faith** is charged with building on the work of the original Isaac Project by educating our Cathedral community about racism and racial justice; building meaningful relationships with historically Black churches, with a focus on St. Anselm's Episcopal Church under the Walking Together Partnership; advocating for racial and economic justice in Nashville; and furthering the historical research of the Isaac Project.

**8. The Commission for Evangelism** is charged with coordinating and managing Christ Church Cathedral ministries that assist parishioners, friends, associates, and staff in "proclaiming by word and example the Good News of God in Christ." This Commission creates opportunities that invite those beyond the boundaries of Christ Church membership and/or the Christian faith into the Body of Christ, working to "make known God's plan for reconciliation, that all may grow into the full stature of Christ."

**9. The Commission for Cathedral Life**, in consultation with the Vestry, designated clergy and staff, and, where appropriate, the Cathedral Chapter, is charged with oversight of ministries and events associated with our parish's role as the Cathedral for the Diocese of Tennessee. The Commission assists the Cathedral parish to "proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ" and provides opportunities for the Cathedral community to fulfill its calling to be "disciples, evangelists, servants, stewards, and friends." The Commission defines and develops ways to enable all people to encounter God in art and in worship within the Cathedral's historic space. In accordance with the diocesan canon, the Commission includes committees and activities that enable the church to be "a place of liturgical and spiritual renewal; a center for Christian education and outreach to the congregations of the Diocese, the wider Church, and the community; an ecumenical center and 'house of prayer for all people'; and a place where the Good News of God in Christ is proclaimed 'by word and example.'"





**Christ Church Cathedral**  
900 Broadway  
Nashville, TN 37203  
615-255-7729  
[info@christcathedral.org](mailto:info@christcathedral.org)