

Parish Profile --- 2024



Christ Episcopal Church

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Christ Episcopal Church St. Helens, Oregon Parish Profile 2024

YOUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY?

Imagine a community nestled in the Columbia River Basin and an Episcopal church serving this beautiful sylvan area--the only Episcopal church between Portland and Astoria. Now imagine shepherding a flock of dedicated parishioners who attend Christ Church, a mission church of the Episcopal Church of Western Oregon.

If you are a priest seeking a half-time position in a remarkable community with recreational opportunities galore (hiking, boating, fishing, hunting, camping, bicycling) then you know who you are and will receive the call to come join us as our vibrant vicar!



A view of the Columbia River and Mt. Hood from St. Helens.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Christ Church is a Christian Community of faith and love, where our relationship with God is nurtured and made visible through our worship, witness, and outreach to others both in our community and worldwide.

HISTORY

Christ Church has provided a spiritual haven in Columbia County since 1855. Originally situated in downtown St. Helens, the church relocated to its current rural setting 54 years ago, and it has continued to be a community mainstay. At Christ Church we are a stable congregation interested in growing our faith through worship, classes, and discussion groups. Our congregation is welcoming, accepting, and open to new ideas. With new leadership we are open to changes that will deepen our connection to God and the community around us.



The labyrinth at Blessing Woods Nature Park.

NEWEST DEVELOPMENT

We recently completed an innovative “re-wilding” project with our two acres of land, transforming the property from a manicured lawn to a nature park called Blessing Woods. The park features a labyrinth, pollinator garden, wetlands, thousands of native plants, shrubs and trees, paths, woods, a children’s nature play area, a peaceful patio, a little library, and a free car charging station. This ADA-accessible park is open to the community during daylight hours. It has been entirely funded by donations, and its budget is separate from the church’s.

LOCATION

St. Helens, the county seat, is the largest city in Columbia County, Oregon, (population 14,300). The city is home to passionate citizens and leadership dedicated to revitalizing this community and watching it grow. From charming shops to our beautiful riverfront, St. Helens holds something for residents and visitors alike. The city is dedicated to enhancing the lives of its citizens and working with companies that contribute to the community's growth.

Residents from nearby towns, including Scappoose, Columbia City, and Warren, attend our church also.

We are a short distance from Portland, Beaverton, and Hillsboro and all the amenities they offer. We serve as a bedroom community with many residents choosing a rural lifestyle yet working in the city.

<https://columbiaeconomicteam.com/visit/>

MISSION AND MINISTRY

Our thriving nature park has the potential to expand our outdoor ministry. This gift to our community is beginning to attract residents and visitors who walk the labyrinth or enjoy a picnic in our woods. The park was dedicated in May 2024 so we understand it will take time for word to spread. We envision inviting city parishes to use our facilities (buildings and grounds) for day retreats, taking advantage of all that we have to offer.

Our goals include growing our membership (as all churches desire to do) and inviting families and youths to join us in worship and fellowship. Possibilities, after conferring with our new vicar, include hosting meditative

events at our labyrinth, or offering programs with music, prayers, and readings. In the past we included an invitation to our church with a “welcome service” that sends packets to area newcomers in the mail. We could try revitalizing that program. We realize human connections are crucial and we could brainstorm about who might be missing from our congregation.

We at Christ Church celebrate our community, with all its diversity of social, world, and political views. We invite our new priest to embrace our example.

GIFTS AND MINISTRY OF THE FAITH COMMUNITY

We are a small, self-sufficient congregation, consisting mostly of retirees. Yet everyone who can help has a role (or several roles) to play in operating and maintaining our church. For paid staff, we have a transitional priest, a (very) part-time parish administrator, musician, and sexton.

Almost everyone actively volunteers in the organization and operation of the church. This includes the Bishop’s Advisory Committee, Altar Guild, Crucifers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Readers, Ushers, Prayer Chain, newsletter (*Cross Current*), greeting card ministry, and calling network.

Everything else is also accomplished by volunteers: weeding, flower arranging, preparing the bulletins, ordering Communion supplies, cooking, and maintaining the kitchen (just some of the volunteer tasks accomplished quietly and efficiently by our church family).

We worship on Sunday at 10 a.m., using Rite II liturgy, interspersed with prayers, songs, Holy Communion, and a homily. Average attendance is 30 to 40 parishioners, many who stay to visit during coffee hour in the Parish Hall after the service.

We have a men's breakfast one Saturday each month at a nearby restaurant and a monthly prayer shawl gathering for knitters.

Our parish nurse looks out for the health of the church members and teaches classes about caregiving and aging.



Volunteer kitchen crew in the church Parish Hall.

COMMUNITY ASSISTANCE MINISTRIES

We host an annual Arts and Crafts Faire in November that raises a substantial amount of funds which helps supplement the church budget and is disbursed to local charities by a discernment committee. This year's event is our 50th! At Christmas, parishioners pick envelopes from a giving tree and then purchase the items requested by local unaccompanied teens. We support Habitat for Humanity and local food assistance programs. Our priest's discretionary fund is used to provide immediate assistance to people in need through the Community Action Team.



Volunteer cashiers work the checkout table at the Arts & Crafts Faire.

GIFTS AND MINISTRY OF OUR NEXT VICAR

We are eager to call a half-time vicar to join us in a new season of ministry grounded in the Baptismal Covenant and Eucharist. We seek a pastoral priest with a love for thoughtful, prayerful worship. We value sermons that open the scriptures to us and encourage us to live the gospel in our daily lives. We appreciate careful administration, clear communication and empathetic listening. We find joy in our common life of faith formation, celebration, service, addressing challenges and sharing times of socializing and fun. We are an open and welcoming community proclaiming the dignity of every human being and the sacredness of all God's creation. We look forward to growing in faith with our new vicar as we seek together to follow Christ in a troubled and hurting world.

Our new vicar will be a vital communicator for our parish, providing pastoral care and encouraging Christian development. S/he will appreciate small town life and all that comes with it (peace and quiet, friendship, neighborliness, lack of city traffic, closeness to nature).

S/he will represent our church in the St. Helens Ministerial Association, a group of local churches that band together to celebrate special occasions, including Good Friday, Thanksgiving and a summer picnic. The priest will attend the association's monthly meeting in St. Helens.

LEADERSHIP EXPECTATIONS

Our priest needs to be:

A person of faith

A compassionate, caring person

A person who helps people develop their spiritual lives

An effective speaker/preacher

Willing to make pastoral visits/calls

A mature, emotionally secure person

Able to gain a sense of direction for our ministry

A person who builds a sense of fellowship

A person who works to bring new members to the church

A stellar leader

COMPENSATION and HOUSING

[Diocesan Pay Scale](#)

We do not have a rectory. The vicar will be responsible for securing housing.

OUR PEOPLE

Transition Priest

The Rev. Esme Culver

Bishop's Advisory Committee Members

Rebecca Fowler, Senior Warden

Nate McCord, Junior Warden

Cindi Caruso, Treasurer

Peggy Rolf, Clerk

Carol Craig

Theresa Muth

Jennifer Warner

Staff

Nancy Tarnai, Parish Administrator, Nature Park Coordinator

Susan Wellington, Office Volunteer

Jennifer Warner, Altar Guild Director

David Lee Bassett, Pianist & Organist

Kathy King, Choir Director

Carol Craig, PhD, FNP, Coordinator of Parish Health Ministry

Kathryn Brittain, Prayer Chain Coordinator

Judy Keck, Card Ministry

Karen Van Winkle, *Cross Current* Editor

Art Sherwood, Sexton

Website: www.sthelenschristchurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/christepiscopal>

Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/christepiscopalchurchpark/>

Blessing Woods blog:

<https://sthelenschristchurch.org/blessingwoods-nature-park>

Emails

Office@sthelenschristchurch.org

socialmedia@sthelenschristchurch.org

Quotes from church members about why they love our church:

“One thing that has been a constant in my 30 years of attendance at Christ Church is the people are so welcoming to anyone that comes to church. It isn't too long that newcomers are included in participating in the various activities or groups. It truly is a family. I like that everyone steps up to help in whatever is needed to be done as well...coffee hour, taking care of the garden, working in the office.” --Karen Van Winkle

“In a world so divided by hate and unrelenting anger and sorrow, how refreshing it is to spend one blessed hour worshipping our Savior together.”--David A. Cook

“We visited Christ Church when we were new to Oregon and were so warmly greeted, we told our realtor to find us a house in Columbia County.”--Jim Fowler

“When I came to Christ Church in 2015, I had been drifting between churches for a number of years. I felt invisible in a large church and unwelcome in another. The warm, friendly atmosphere at Christ Church felt right. My offers to help with different parish needs were accepted and valued. The nature park and labyrinth feel like a gift that I helped to give to the community. I found a church family here.”—Carol Craig

FINANCIALS: See attached budget.



A small but mighty choir.



The church is beautifully decorated at Christmas.

Christ Episcopal Church
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Detail Portrait - jansuk
January to June 2024

Accounts	Beginning Year Balance	Annual Budget (This Year)	MTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	% of Annual Budget Used (This Year)
Income/Revenues					
1751000 - Plate offerings	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$207.00	\$861.00	86.10 %
1752000 - Pledge payments	\$0.00	\$74,680.00	\$16,300.00	\$52,700.00	70.57 %
1753010 - Arts and Crafts Faire	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1753040 - Musician Pledges	\$0.00	\$13,400.00	\$130.00	\$11,903.00	88.83 %
1756000 - Undesignated contributi	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$580.00	116.00 %
1756010 - Misc income	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$184.00	\$184.00	0.00 %
1756020 - Building Use reimburser	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1756030 - Fund Raising Income	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$262.00	26.20 %
Total Income/Revenues	\$0.00	\$92,080.00	\$16,821.00	\$66,490.00	72.21 %
Expenses					
Vicar expenses					
1867010 - Clergy parish portion	\$0.00	\$40,834.00	\$3,402.87	\$17,014.35	41.67 %
1867060 - WC premiums	\$0.00	\$11.00	\$0.80	\$4.06	36.91 %
1867070 - Clergy Pension premiun	\$0.00	\$7,350.00	\$612.52	\$3,528.69	48.01 %
1867080 - Clergy Life Insurance	\$0.00	\$322.00	\$0.00	\$26.80	8.32 %
1867110 - Clergy Health Insurance	\$0.00	\$11,505.00	\$930.80	\$5,558.00	48.31 %
1867130 - Clergy Cont. Education	\$0.00	\$200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1867150 - Employer Payroll tax	\$0.00	\$151.00	\$30.26	\$80.62	53.39 %
Total Vicar expenses	\$0.00	\$60,373.00	\$4,977.25	\$26,212.52	43.42 %
Other Staff expenses					
1867020 - Custodian	\$0.00	\$6,240.00	\$600.00	\$2,640.00	42.31 %
1867030 - Organist	\$0.00	\$7,020.00	\$540.00	\$3,710.00	52.85 %
1867050 - Supply clergy	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$300.00	15.00 %
Total Other Staff expenses	\$0.00	\$15,260.00	\$1,140.00	\$6,650.00	43.58 %
Program operation expense					
1864000 - Diocesan Assessments	\$0.00	\$13,356.00	\$1,113.00	\$6,678.00	50.00 %
1866000 - Vicar discretionary fund	\$0.00	\$1,000.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	50.00 %
1867170 - Altar and worship	\$0.00	\$600.00	\$102.37	\$368.24	61.37 %
1867180 - Music and Organ	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$627.95	156.99 %
1867200 - Office adminstration	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$609.08	\$1,565.63	78.28 %
186720A - Advertising	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$189.00	37.80 %
186720B - Printing and paper	\$0.00	\$2,500.00	\$444.30	\$1,298.82	51.95 %
1867210 - Postage	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$68.00	\$176.80	35.36 %
1867215 - Website Management	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$191.88	0.00 %
1867310 - Other operation expens	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$25.00	50.00 %
1867700 - Christian Education	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$30.00	30.00 %
1867750 - Lay training and Educat	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	30.00 %
1867810 - Kitchen supplies	\$0.00	\$100.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1867900 - Convention/Retreat	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
Total Program operation expense	\$0.00	\$21,606.00	\$2,366.75	\$11,681.32	54.07 %
Building operation expense					
1867090 - Electricity	\$0.00	\$1,100.00	\$106.34	\$543.76	49.43 %
1867091 - Heat	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	\$45.26	\$1,199.14	66.62 %
1867092 - Other utilities	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$74.40	\$446.40	49.60 %
1867160 - Telephone& Internet	\$0.00	\$1,700.00	\$171.88	\$851.42	50.08 %
1867240 - Bldg repair supplies	\$0.00	\$300.00	\$65.98	\$233.91	77.97 %
1867241 - Bldg cleaning supplies	\$0.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1867242 - Bldg paper products	\$0.00	\$70.00	\$0.00	\$60.56	86.51 %
1867243 - Bldg repairs	\$0.00	\$2,000.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	0.00 %
1867600 - Building Insurance	\$0.00	\$3,200.00	\$0.00	\$1,827.00	57.09 %
Total Building operation expense	\$0.00	\$11,090.00	\$463.86	\$5,162.19	46.55 %
Total Expenses	\$0.00	\$108,329.00	\$8,947.86	\$49,706.03	45.88 %
Net Total	\$0.00	(\$16,249.00)	\$7,873.14	\$16,783.97	0.00 %

50.0%

Christ Episcopal Church
Summary of Restricted Accounts - MTD - jansuk
June 2024

Accounts	Beginning Balance	Restricted Revenue	Restricted Expenses	Credit Adjustments	Debit Adjustments	Ending Balance
Temporary Restricted						
2756020 - Restricted interest	\$42.36	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.36
2756050 - Designated Bell Cleaning/Painting	\$106.33	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$106.33
2756060 - Undesignated memorial	\$261.61	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$311.61
2756111 - Outreach fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2756131 - Youth fund	\$160.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$160.00
2756183 - EBOF GRANT	\$3,666.96	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,666.96
2756184 - Cursillo fund	\$69.30	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$69.30
2756188 - Habitat for Humanity	\$1,069.81	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,069.81
2756191 - Campership	\$177.55	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$177.55
2756192 - Bench Advertising Fund	\$213.60	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$213.60
2756194 - Jennings memorial fund	\$180.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$180.00
2756195 - Hospitality fund	\$179.69	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$179.69
2756197 - Coffee Hour fund	\$30.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30.00
2756199 - Garden Project	\$85.22	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$85.22
2756202 - Prepaid Pledges	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00	\$0.00	\$60,000.00
2756203 - Christian Education	\$672.12	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$672.12
2756204 - Arts and Crafts Fair	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2756205 - Permaculture Project	\$7,741.26	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$24,000.00	\$1,750.00	\$29,991.26
2756206 - Musician Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
2756207 - EBOF Administrator	\$19,988.65	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,077.93	\$18,910.72
Total Temporary Restricted	\$34,644.46	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,050.00	\$2,827.93	\$115,866.53

Accounts

Assets		
Assets - cash		
1002000 - SHCFCU Checking Account	\$33,397.97	
1052000 - SHCFCU Savings Account	\$773.07	
Total Assets - cash		\$34,171.04
Assets - Investments		
3102100 - Pooled Investment fund	\$112,410.19	
3102400 - Christ Church Building Fund	\$82,416.68	
3102600 - Reserve Fund	\$30,985.37	
Total Assets - Investments		\$225,812.24
Assets - Property		
4401000 - Land	\$36,000.00	
4405000 - Churches, chapels	\$587,076.77	
4415000 - Furnishings	\$102,129.52	
Total Assets - Property		\$725,206.29
Total Assets		\$985,189.57
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Liabilities		
Parish Use liabilities		
2756110 - Altar liability	\$130.00	
2756140 - Other liability	(\$199.00)	
Total Parish Use liabilities		(\$69.00)
Total Liabilities		(\$69.00)
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
0100100 - Equity Fund	\$30,954.73	
3000000 - Endowment Fund	\$111,491.70	
4000000 - Property fund	\$706,879.00	
Excess Cash Received	\$20,066.61	
Total Unrestricted	\$869,392.04	
Temporarily Restricted	\$115,866.53	
Permanently Restricted	\$0.00	
Total Net Assets		\$985,258.57
Total Liabilities & Net Assets		\$985,189.57