



THE CROWN

September 2025

| Issue 49 |

Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern

**REMINDER: WE RETURN
TO 8:30 AND 11 AM
SERVICE TIMES TODAY.
SUNDAY SCHOOL IS AT
9:45 AM**

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THE GOODS**

BRUNCH & BACKPACKS

On Sunday, August 24, we had our annual Blessing of the Backpacks at the 10 am service. Attendees received a blessed back-to-school pin in hopes for a healthy and successful school year. Extras are available in the Reception Area for anyone who wants one. In between services, the Young Adults / Young Families group held a back-to-school brunch. Thanks to all who submitted photos!



ABOUT CHRIST CHURCH



CHRIST CHURCH
AN EPISCOPAL CHURCH
IN THE DIOCESE OF EAST CAROLINA
FOUNDED 1715, NEW BERN, NORTH CAROLINA
Our Vision: To be a church that loves the way God Loves

MISSION

The mission of Christ Episcopal Church is to welcome and inspire all people to faith, hope and spiritual growth through worship, Christian fellowship, and service to one another and to the community beyond.

CHRIST CHURCH CLERGY

Rector: The Rev. H. Paul Canady, III
Associate Rector: The Rev. Suzanne Hood
Deacon: The Rev. Deacon Lisa Kirby

CHRIST CHURCH STAFF

Director of Church Life: Jimi Paderick
Director of Music: Jacqueline Nappi
Director of Christian Formation: Hannah Hutchens
Director of Growing in Grace: Debbie Fodrie
Finance Coordinator: Cindy Tripp
Communications Coordinator: Betsy Downard
Volunteer Coordinator: Sarah Risty-Davis
Facilities Coordinator: John Peterson
Nursery Staff: Heidi Powell, Allison Robinett
Custodial Services: Terry Pitner

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursdays: 9am - 3pm
Fridays: 9 am - 12pm
Click [here](#) to download the "Who to Call" directory. Click [here](#) to schedule a meeting with Paul and [here](#) to schedule a meeting time with Suzanne. Please indicate if you're requesting to meet face-to-face, via phone or via video conference.

GIVING OPTIONS

- Make an online payment [here](#).
- Mail checks to PO Box 1246 New Bern NC 28563
- Contact [Cindy Tripp](#) for more information.

CHRIST CHURCH VESTRY

Term through 2025:
Randy Bogle (*Junior Warden*), Stephanie Bratton, Kim Huddle (*Senior Warden*), Holly Lippitt
Term through 2026:
Heather McCloud-Huff, Laura Overman, Elmer Praul, Graham Underhill
Term through 2027:
Vins Bowers, Liz Coble, Patty Conard, Susan Husson (*Clerk*)

FIND US ONLINE

If you're viewing this newsletter online, click the links below to see our social media sites. You can also find the links on our website: www.christchurchnewbern.com.
[Main Facebook Page for Christ Church](#)
[Christ Church Children and Youth Facebook Page](#)
[Instagram](#)
[Youtube](#)

CONTACT US

Physical Address:
Christ Church
320 Pollock Street
New Bern, NC 28560
Mailing Address:
PO Box 1246
New Bern, NC 28563
Phone Number:
252.633.2109

The Crown is regularly distributed on the first Sunday of the month. In order to ensure our deadlines, our office needs all articles and photos by the 15th of the previous month. All copy and photos needing to run in the October 2025 edition of *The Crown* should be sent to communications@christchurchnewbern.com by September 15. Please make sure to plan ahead for your events so we don't miss the printing deadline! If you have any questions, please contact our communications coordinator, Betsy Downard, at betsydownard@christchurchnewbern.com.

- Deadlines to get articles, prayer requests/calendar submissions into *The Messenger* (weekly): Wednesday by noon
- Deadline for submitting weekly information and pictures running in the Midweek Messenger Email: Wednesday by noon

PRAYER REQUESTS

In peace we pray to you, Lord God

For parishioners who have requested prayers: Mike Pridgen, Mary Hasell, Betty Jane Bonapartian, Janet Anderson, Bob Kohn, Susan Rivenbark, Warren Meadows, Hal Cameron, Joe Mansfield, Barbara Odderstol*, Jim Keeter, Evelyn Hunter, Kathy Blanchard, Pat McCotter, Ralph Cowan, Vicky Allen, Lindy Emory, Carol Kross, Rena Knott, Mike McCulley, Robert Lane, Vickie Evans*, Joan Kunkel, Margaret Scott*, Jim Gruenebaum, Myra Lewis, Sandy Valentine*, Geoff Wood, Charlie Henke, Ken McCotter, Bob Nelson, Liz Praul, Cathy Monid, Betsy Phillips, Nicholas Pridgen, Pat Robinson, Pat Holmes, Cathy O'Brien, Charles Peterson, Helen Shine, Palmer Noonan, Steve Phillips, Linda Bullock, Ann Bustard, Nancy Mansfield, Pat Polk, DJ Besack, Rebecca Liberty, Betty Simon, Alan Rogers, and John Phaup.

For our friends and families: Liesel, Niels, Trinity, Danny, Phyllis, Mary, Otto, Howard, Jahna, Debbie, Will, Lucy, Kelsey, Kenny, Yuri, Julia, Valeria, Valentina, Carly, Richard, Bob, Peggy, Gene, Dolores, Beth, Nolan, Denise, David, Sam, Larry, Bobby, Joan, Corey, Denni, Elizabeth, Jenna, Peter, Bob, Janis, Karen, Tory, Jill, Don, Marty, Kevin, Phil, and Warren.

For our deployed military: Charles Lewis, Jr.

For refugee families and those seeking asylum.

Diocesan Cycle of Prayer: St. Peter's, Washington

**These parishioners live out of the area but have requested to remain on the Christ Church prayer list.*

In an effort to keep our prayer lists current and accurate, names of friends and family members will normally remain on the list for six months. If you would like to add or remove someone from the list, please contact [Betsy Downard](#).

WEEKLY CALENDAR HIGHLIGHTS

PLEASE NOTE:

We have updated the way the calendar appears in our publications. If there are no changes to your regularly scheduled event, it might not appear below. The entire calendar can be viewed online at christchurchnewbern.com/calendar and in the Sunday morning *Messenger* email.

Signs with the complete calendar are posted on the kiosk in the Reception Area and the bulletin board across from the Library. Daily calendar signs are posted on the church's exterior doors.

SUNDAY SEPT. 7	MONDAY SEPT. 8	TUESDAY SEPT. 9	WEDNESDAY SEPT. 10	THURSDAY SEPT. 11	FRIDAY SEPT. 12	SATURDAY SEPT. 13	SUNDAY SEPT. 14
BIRTHDAY AND ANNIVERSARY SUNDAY RETURN TO FALL / WINTER / SPRING SCHEDULE 8:30am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave) 9:45am: Sunday School and Coffee Hour 11am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / online) 5 pm: POD (Purple Pineapples Room) 6 pm: EYC (Youth Room)	8:30am: Morning Prayer (Chapel) 11am: Contemplative Prayer (Pelletier Room) - First meeting back from summer break 1pm: Staff Meeting (2nd Floor Conference Room)	7am: Al Anon Meeting - (2nd Floor Living Room) 8:30am: Eucharist (Chapel) 5pm: GIG Families Orientation Meeting (GIG Room) 6:30pm: Small Wonders NA Meeting (Pelletier Room)	11am: Rector's Bible Study (Pelletier Room) - First meeting back since summer break 6:15pm: AA Meeting (Harri-son Center)	11am: Graveside Burial Service for Charles Winfree, Jr. 5pm: GIG Volunteers Meeting (GIG Room)	11am: Funeral Service for Bill Hambidge (Nave) with reception at 10 am		8:30am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave) 9:45am: Sunday School and Coffee Hour 11am: Eucharist Rite II (Nave / online) 6 pm: EYC (Youth Room)

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

Step Into Service this Fall at Christ Church

Summer was full of beach days, cookouts, and vacations, but now it's time to settle back into the rhythm of a new season. As school starts and routines return, it's also the perfect time to think about where God might be calling you to serve on Sunday mornings at Christ Church.

Volunteering isn't just about filling a spot on a schedule - it's about finding a place where you can share your gifts, connect with others, and make Sunday mornings even more meaningful. Serving is a form of worship with your whole heart: greeting someone who may be walking through our doors for the first time, helping a child discover God's love in Children's Church, proclaiming scripture so that God's Word comes alive, lifting your voice in song, praying alongside someone, or serving Communion to your neighbor. When you serve, you don't just fill a role—you help create a space where people feel welcomed, loved, and drawn closer to God.

Here are some of the ways you can get involved:

- **Eucharistic Ministers** – Assist in sharing the bread and wine at Communion, reminding us all of Christ's love poured out for us.
- **Prayer Ministers** – Offer prayer and encouragement for those who need extra support and care.
- **Lectors** – Bring scripture to life by reading God's Word aloud during the service.
- **Greeters & Ushers** – Be a friendly face at the door, guide visitors, and help create a warm, welcoming atmosphere.
- **Choir** – Lift your voice in worship and help lead our congregation in song.
- **Sunday School Leaders & Helpers** – Share God's Word with our youngest disciples in a way that's fun, engaging, and memorable.
- **And don't forget—kids can serve too!** Children are invited to become Acolytes, helping lead worship by carrying the cross, lighting candles, and assisting at the altar. It's a beautiful way for them to grow in faith and experience the joy of serving.

Hannah Hutchins, our Director of Christian Formation, shared this important reminder:



“On Sundays, we need more people to help lead and walk alongside our young people in Sunday School. If you've ever felt even the tiniest nudge to give it a try—or if you can only help from time to time—I'd love to chat with you. You might be just the right fit!

We also need caring adults on Sunday evenings with our youth group. And don't worry! Helping doesn't mean you need to have all the answers or lead a big lesson. Most of the time, it's simply showing up, listening, encouraging, and being a steady presence in the lives of our kids and teens. Your presence means more than you know.”

Volunteering doesn't have to happen just on Sundays! Have you considered volunteering with our afterschool program, Growing in Grace (GIG)? It's a wonderful way to invest in the lives of children in our community. GIG provides a safe, nurturing space for kids to learn, play, and grow in faith after the school day ends. Check out page 10 for more information about GIG and their volunteer opportunities.

This fall, we invite every member of our Christ Church family to prayerfully consider finding a place to serve. Whether you've volunteered before or this would be your very first time, there's a spot just for you. From “front-of-the-church” roles to behind-the-scenes support, every act of service matters. Volunteering makes worship richer, deepens our community, and helps us live out our call to serve.

Ready to learn more or sign up? Here are the contacts you need to know:

Sunday School & Youth Group: Hannah Hutchens hannahhutchens@christchurchnewbern.com

Choir: Jacqueline Nappi jacquelinenappi@christchurchnewbern.com

Growing in Grace: Debbie Fodrie debbiefodrie@christchurchnewbern.com

Acolyting, Prayer Ministers, Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers and for general volunteering information: Sarah Risty-Davis sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com

Let's step into the fall season together, with open hands, open hearts, and joyful service.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Sunday School for Children and Youth

CHILDREN

Godly Play (children ages 3-4)

Godly Play is a class centered around storytelling and work time, which includes crafts and play. We will focus on teaching basic stories and what it's like to spend time in a Sunday School class. This class meets in the Godly Play room, next to the nursery.

Whirl (K-2nd grade)

This class follows the Whirl curriculum, which uses the Revised Common Lectionary to teach children about the Bible and Christian faith. Students will watch videos and follow up what they've learned with worksheets. This class meets in the room next to the vesting room.

Whirl (3rd-5th grade)

This class also uses the Whirl curriculum. The discussions will be different than the younger Whirl class because of the age difference, but these students will see similar videos and work on slightly different worksheets. We meet in the the Purple Pineapples room.

Pathways of Discipleship (POD, 3rd-5th grade): 5 - 6:30 pm, the first Sunday of the month

For our 3rd-5th graders, this group meets once a month to play games and share our faith. We meet on the first Sunday of the month at 5:00pm in the Purple Pineapples room.

YOUTH

Youth (6th-12th grade)

Our youth will be working through tough questions like “Who wrote the Bible?” “Why should I pray?” and “Why are there so many Christian churches?” They'll also learn more about people in the Bible and watch videos. Students will get to pick the questions they want answered, and they will build their own class based on their interests. These students meet in the Youth Room upstairs (across from the second floor living room).

Episcopal Youth Community (EYC): 6 pm, Second floor Sunday School wing in the Youth Room

EYC welcomes all middle school and high school youth. EYC gathers every Sunday from 6 to 7:30 p.m. (unless otherwise noted) in the second Floor Sunday School wing / Youth Room. Any young person in grades 6-12 is encouraged to be a part of this vibrant and energetic group.



CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Contemplative Prayer

“What Makes You Come Alive:

A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman”

When: 11:30 AM – 12:45 PM on Mondays, 9/08/25 – 11/24/25 (no meeting 9/29)

Sign Up: Email pastor.bornemann@gmail.com

Meets In Person & On Zoom: In person: Pelletier Room, upstairs at Christ Church

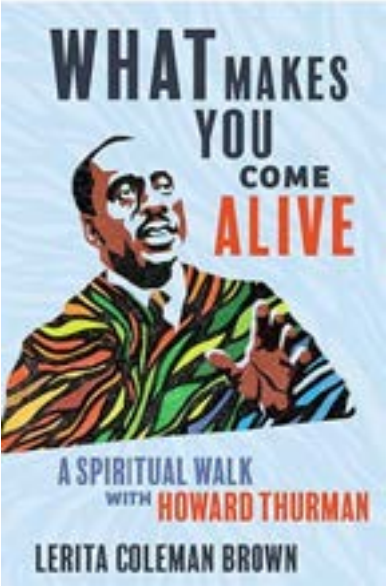
Leader: Rev. Barbara Bornemann

Study Book: *What Makes You Come Alive: A Spiritual Walk with Howard Thurman*

Author: Lerita Coleman Brown

Purchase Book: Books Available Online

Starting this Monday, September 8, the Contemplative Prayer Group will be exploring the spirituality of Howard Thurman, a Christian mystic, pastor, philosopher, author, educator, and civil rights leader. During the 1960’s, Thurman served as a mentor and spiritual advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was greatly influenced by Thurman’s contemplative spiritual writings and his teachings on non-violent change.



Author Lerita Coleman Brown states, “One of Thurman’s lifelong quests was to inspire hope. . . His quest for a profound experience of the presence of God, of connection to all living things, serves as a model for any spiritual seeker.”

Once when Thurman was asked by another theologian what needed to be done in the world, Thurman replied, “Don’t ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive and go do that, because what the world needs is more people who have come alive.” As the Contemplative Prayer Group meets this fall, we will take a spiritual walk with Howard Thurman. As we go on this walk together, we’ll help one another discover, “What makes us come alive.”

Rector's Bible Study

When: 11 AM, Wednesdays (starting September 10)

Meets: Pelletier Room, upstairs at Christ Church

Leaders: Rev. Paul Canady and Rev. Suzanne Hood

The Rector’s Bible Study gathers at 11:00am on Wednesdays in the Pelletier Room. This Fall, we will be exploring the book of Deuteronomy. When Jesus says he has come to fulfill the Law and Prophets, this book is foundational to understanding the Law as Jesus may have understood it. It can also be dense and heavy, so we will take it in bit-size chunks and look at themes that appear throughout the book.

We’d love to have you with us! No prior Bible knowledge needed. And if you don’t have a Bible, we have plenty we can loan or give you!

Questions? Reach out to the Rev. Paul Canady (paul.canady@christchurchnewbern.com / 252.361.5223 – office) for more information. You can also join the Realm group to receive communications about the weekly gatherings.

Women’s Book Study

The Women’s Book Study is reading *Acedia & Me* by Kathleen Norris. Copies of the book are available for purchase at the Reception Desk (\$10.00).

Norris is a poet and essayist whose work focuses on the intersection of religious practices and the spiritual journey. In *Acedia & Me*, Norris explores all aspects of acedia, with the particular purpose of drawing a distinction between it and depression. As Norris continually illuminates, acedia possesses spiritual roots, and, thus, can ultimately only be treated with spiritual attention and resolve.

Join us Tuesdays from 10:00-11:00 in the Second Floor Living Room. Women of all ages are invited to attend. We open our time together with prayer, followed by reading the book aloud, and discussing. No preparation is necessary. You can join the group at any time.

Lectionary Class Returns

In this class participants discuss readings from each Sunday’s services. The class meets Sunday mornings at 9:45 am in the Pelletier Room.

Key questions from a study guide kick off the discussions. Typically, discussions focus on what the readings may have meant to listeners in ancient times and what they mean to us today, as well as how the readings are connected and the meaning of unusual names, places, and events.

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

Camp Hope End-of-Summer Update

BY THE NUMBERS

- 31 campers attended Camp Trinity, with 32 registered.(17 boys and 14 girls)
- 25 of our campers live in the greater New Bern area.
- 24 returning campers and 7 new campers.
- Campers attended 7 different camp sessions.
- 4 campers are current GIG students, and 4 campers have a connection to our GIG program – as a former GIG student, sibling of a GIG student, or a future GIG student.
- Campers were from 17 families. Several of our campers live with foster families.
- 16 of our 17 families requested help with purchasing camp supplies. We gave the families Walmart or Visa gift cards.
- 7 church volunteers transported Camp Hope campers to and from Camp Trinity.
- Christ Church parishioners wrote over 100 cards to Camp Hope campers. Our campers received mail every full day while at camp.

Last year, Angel Tree Camping covered the tuition for 7 of our 26 campers. We are still awaiting confirmation from Angel Tree regarding this year’s tuition payments. However, thanks to very generous parishioners and a recent donation from Deion King, whose company, King & Lasso, recently purchased the Elks building, our Camp Hope fund is healthy. The fund can cover all tuition costs not covered by Angel Tree Camping.

A Camp Hope mom sent her thanks saying, “My boys miss you, and they miss their camp friends. You have made a big difference in their life.” A huge thank you to our Christ Church family for faithfully supporting this ministry. In 2026, we will be celebrating Camp Hope’s 20th year!



Memorial Service

Buddy Payne served as Assistant Camp Director at Trinity Center for 7 years before moving in March 2025 to be the Camp Director at DaySpring, the Episcopal Camp in the Diocese of Southwest Florida. He died unexpectedly on August 21 at the age of 35.

All are invited to gather and remember Buddy with stories, laughter, and just the right amount of irreverence. The Rev.’d Michelle Bullock and The Rev.’d Nathan Finnin will lead the service, after which we’ll do exactly what Buddy would have hated — make a big ol’ fuss about how much we loved him.

Then, we’ll do what he actually would’ve wanted: throw a party. Food will be provided by his friends at The Shark’s Den, and you can bet it’ll be good.

In true Buddy fashion, formalwear is strictly forbidden. No blazers, no neckties, no exceptions. Hawaiian shirts, t-shirts, and flip flops are the uniform of the day. And while no one could rock a coconut bra quite like Buddy, if you feel inspired, we won’t stop you.

Come ready to laugh, cry, eat, and share the kind of stories that would’ve made Buddy roll his eyes — and then grin when he thought no one was looking.

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

From the Docent Diaries

Docent Ministry is very important to Christ Church, one of the most sought-after places to visit in Historic New Bern. There are currently 21 parishioners serving six days a week to offer tours to visitors not only from New Bern but from across the NC State, the USA, and foreign countries. As they greet visitors, they are the first “face” of our Church. Here are some of their stories.

ELMER PRAUL

As you know I certainly enjoy being a docent at Christ Church. I think my second time, a couple of years ago now, a young man came in to do some repair work on the computers in the office. He stepped in the front door of the narthex, stopped dead, looked around and said "is this a church?" When I said yes he asked "what do you do here?". I really didn't know what to say so I said "churchy stuff like singing hymns, pray and read the Bible." He just said "Oh", asked how to get to the office and went on his way. Since then I have thought of many answers I could have given him but probably best I stopped when I did.

DIANE SANWICK

I think the funniest story I ever heard was from a woman who asked if communion was about turning water into wine. It surprised me that she would think that. I asked her if she knew what the last supper was quiet and didn't respond. She left, however, knowing that Episcopalians don't turn water into wine.

CAROLYN STEVENS

Last week as I was finishing a tour, the sanctuary windows grew totally dark, indicating a storm was imminent. As we looked out the front door, we saw a great storm with rain coming sideways and great gusts of wind. The couple and their adult daughter ventured out anyway. After a few minutes I heard them talking on the front porch. I insisted they come back inside to wait out the storm. I told them

they'd be very comfortable in the parish house. When we got there, the wife said "Is this where they used to keep the horses?" I said "Horses? Yes" she replied "Did they keep horses here in the carriage house?" Obviously she misunderstood parish for carriage, and was disappointed when I told her, no, no horses in the parish house!

RODNEY HAYES

On my usual first Tuesday of the month (August) we had quite a few visitors. One couple, Mark and Joanne Spencer from Ohio, were visiting friends here in New Bern and stopped in to see our beautiful, historic church. We got to talking and he mentioned that his sister had died and she lived a bit north of us in Edenton. He started to mention that an Episcopal priest up there did her service and how wonderful he was. I was stunned. I said, "Hank Burdick?" and he said yes! Hank retired from our church up in Branford, Connecticut many years ago and he and his wife moved to Edenton. We chatted some more and he took the picture of us and sent it along to Hank. Hank texted back "Holy Toledo! Hot Rod (what he used to call me) teams up with Mark Spencer. How cool is that!?"

It just amazes me that I happened to be the Docent that afternoon; they happened to be visiting and had come in that afternoon; we happened to chat a bit; and he happened to mention Edenton and his sister's passing.

What are the odds of that! You meet some pretty great and interesting people (from all over the world!) being a Docent and it just goes to prove the Lord truly works in mysterious and wonderful ways!

Racial Reconciliation Group Meeting

As we begin a new program year, the Racial Reconciliation Project, which is a pairing of Christ Church with Word of God Christian Center, will meet today, Sunday, September 7, from 4-5:30 pm at Word of God Christian Center, 3650 Neuse Blvd.

Our goal - a project of Faith Connection - is to foster friendship between members of a historically White Church and a historically Black Church. In the year we have been together we have developed a loving community focused on worship and learning which leads to action, which leads to true community, which eventually, leads to reconciliation of separateness and misunderstanding.

If you would like to join us, but are unable to this week, please contact Edna Marie Thomas at ednamariethomas@gmail.com to be added to our mailing list.

AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

August Vestry Meeting Recap

- Opening Prayer led by Vins Bowers
- Financial Report – Treasurer John Haroldson reported the Church is in good financial shape and well within budget
- Auditor's Report for 2024 – "Financial systems and controls are in very good order and transactions are very well documented."
- Approved action to move \$37,898.97 from Churchyard Burial Fund in the Special Funds to Churchyard Burial fund in the Endowment
- Approved the appointment of Tom Smith to serve the remainder of Kathy Evans' term on the Endowment Board
- The Rev. Skip Walker joined the meeting remotely to discuss next steps with St. Cyprian's and specifically what role, if any, Christ Church will play in those next steps. Further discussions to follow.
- Vestry and Staff Retreat 25, 26 Aug at the Trinity Center
- Return to regular schedule & Sunday School 7 Sep
- Stewardship Committee Meeting 23 Sep at 5pm in the Pelletier Room
- Pumpkin delivery for Pumpkin Patch 27 Sep
- Christ Church Annual Meeting 23 Nov

Call for Eucharistic Receivers

At this time the Pastoral Care Commission of Christ Church is blessed to have a wonderful, loving group of Eucharistic Visitors ready and willing to visit their fellow parishioners. Eucharistic Visitors take the consecrated Eucharist to fellow parishioners who cannot join us at church, including members in the hospital, nursing homes, and individual homes.

We are now in need of parishioners who would accept the visits from these care giving folks. If you are unable to attend church services, even on a short-term basis, for any issue in your life, the Eucharist is available for you to receive for any reason. Please contact Suzanne Hood, (suzanne-hood@christchurchnewbern.com) and make her aware of your need, and she will arrange to have a Eucharistic Visitor meet with you.

Lighting Refresh in the Chapel and Nave

Recently the lighting in the Chapel and Nave was refreshed with new bulbs. Many thanks to John Peterson for leading the completion of this long-awaited project!



AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

2025 CROP Hunger Walk

The 45th Annual New Bern Area CROP Hunger Walk will happen on Sunday, September 28th at Union Point Park. Christ Church will host a water station, and we encourage members to sign up to walk or donate to

support the event. CROP Walk raises funds to address nutritional and developmental needs of those in our community and around the globe. Locally, Religious Community Services (RCS) will receive 25% of the proceeds.

This year Christ Church is encouraging those who would like to participate in CROP Walk as part of a team to join up with Interfaith Refugee Ministry. IRM has joyfully invited all Christ Church members to join their CROP Walk team. Help raise money for those who are food insecure in our community and raise awareness for IRM at the same time. Please go to this link for more information: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/crophungerwalks/team/interfaith-refugee-ministry>.

New Organ Series at Christ Church

Announcing the Jane K. Millns Organ Recital Series! Christ Episcopal Church is welcoming three artists for the 2025-2026 season. All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, please visit: <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/music>.

- **Sunday, November 9, 2025 @ 4:00 pm: James O'Donnell**, Professor of Organ at Yale School of Music and the former Organist and Choirmaster at Westminster Abbey in London, UK.
- **Sunday, March 1, 2026 @ 4:00 pm: David Baskeyfield**, Organist and Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Greenville, North Carolina.
- **Friday, May 15, 2026 @ 7:00 pm: Nathaniel Gumbs**, Director of Music at The Riverside Church in New York City, and the Dedication Recitalist for our Opus 85 pipe organ. meet with you.



Growing in Grace Looking Forward to New School Year

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela

Christ Church's Growing In Grace after school program is excited to begin a new school year on September 22, 2025. This will be our 9th year working with children of lower income families to enhance their educational success, encourage spiritual growth, and help them develop good behavior and work habits.

The time commitment is simple—just one afternoon a week for 45 minutes—though you're always welcome to volunteer more often if your schedule allows! GIG runs Monday through Thursday during the school year, giving you flexibility to choose a day that works best for you. Whether you're helping with homework, leading an activity, or simply being a caring presence, your time makes a lasting difference in the lives of these children as they discover God's love and grace in everyday moments.

We are always looking for new volunteers to join us. All volunteers must have a background check through the Episcopal church and complete an online program on safeguarding God's children. These will be offered once you have signed up to join us this school year. We will also have a volunteer orientation that is required for new and returning volunteers on September 11, 2025 at 5:00 pm. If anyone is considering joining us for this school year, this would be a great time to hear more about our program. We are looking for:

- Weekly mentors to work with the children. Each volunteer is assigned a day(s) and a child/children. The amount of days put in is up to the volunteer.
- Substitutes to fill in when weekly mentors cannot be there
- Van drivers and driver substitutes
- Van monitors and substitutes (van monitors ride with the driver to pick up the children and help where needed)

Please contact the director of GIG - Debbie Fodrie (debbiefodrie@christchurchnewbern.com / 252.675.8358) if you would like to join us this school year.



AROUND CHRIST CHURCH

It's Almost Pumpkin Season

We are getting close to another season of Pumpkins at Christ Church. **The pumpkins will be arriving Saturday, September 27, so PLEASE put this date on your calendar.** Specific time is yet to be determined, and we'll all pray for good weather.

To help us get into the pumpkin mood....

- We all think of pumpkins as a vegetable. They are actually fruits just like tomatoes and cucumbers. What is it that makes a pumpkin a fruit? Ask a pumpkin expert or a Biologist!!
- The pumpkin shown below grew in Half Moon Bay, California. It weighed in at over 2,700 pounds and gained about 50 pounds every day as it matured.



Pumpkin Jokes...

- What do you get if you divide a pumpkin's circumference by its diameter? *Pumpkin π! Get it?*
- How do you fix a broken pumpkin? *With a pumpkin patch.*

MORE DETAILS IN UPCOMING ISSUES OF THE MESSENGER



The Order of The Daughters of the King

Within the ministries of Christ Church is a group of women called The Daughters of the King that has worked within the Episcopal Church for 140 years and has chapters all over the world. Did you ever wonder what the purpose is of such a group? I did and learned they are women who create a personal "Rule of Life" which includes Prayer, Service and Evangelism.

This year Christ Church's Epiphany Chapter has held an Outreach Project (collecting socks), a Quiet Day (held during Lent) plus other tasks requested by the clergy. We also maintain a prayer list, praying daily for those listed. We consider ourselves sisters and are empowered by the Holy Spirit with our vision to know Jesus Christ and to make him known to others.

I love Christ Church but going to church on Sunday was not enough for me. I wanted to feel a closer presence with God. The Daughters have brought that to me. The Daughters have definitely been a gift in my life and I continue to grow in my faith. Please check us out!!!

In the coming months there will be several opportunities to learn more about our group. Watch the *Messenger* and *Crown* for more information. Feel free to ask questions, and hear how becoming a Daughter of the King can enrich your life. If you would like to contact us, we can be reached at nancy4cpa@gmail.com.

-- Nancy Przybylko, President Epiphany Chapter



Pictured are this year's DOK officers, President Nancy Przybylko, Vice President Barbara Rice, Treasurer Phyllis Fox, and Secretary Kathy Dodge.

THE GOODS

2025 Holiday Arts and Crafts Market

Christ Church is pleased to announce its Third Annual Holiday Arts and Crafts Market in Downtown New Bern, NC (320 Pollock Street, New Bern, NC). The event will be held outside on the church grounds and feature many local artists and craft persons. The Holiday Market will provide locals and visitors an excellent opportunity to meet local artisans and purchase their creations for home and holiday gift giving. All mediums are welcome, so start spreading the word now.

The Holiday Arts and Crafts Market is on Saturday, December 13, 2025, from 9 AM until 3 PM. Vendors will have their booths set up in individual covered canopy tents, and the event will be held rain or shine. The event will be on the grounds bordering Middle and Pollock Streets in Downtown New Bern. The proceeds from the space rentals will support the ministries of Christ Episcopal Church, New Bern, NC. The vendor application can be found online at: <https://www.christchurchnewbern.com/quick-links>. For more information, please email artmarket@christchurchnewbern.com.

AND THERE'S MORE!

We are excited to announce that our beloved Christ Church Cookie Walk will also be held on Saturday, December 13, in the Harrison Center. We will announce more details soon, including the announcement of our new "Head Elves." Stay tuned!

Cursillo Weekend

Pilgrim applications are currently being accepted on a first come - first served basis for the East Carolina #106 Weekend, which will take place November 6-9, at Trinity Center in Pine Knoll Shores. Cursillo Ministry is a spiritual formational retreat for piety, study, and the practice of leadership and service.

Weekend fee is \$300 and includes room and meals. Scholarships are available. The weekend daily talks and meditations, a healing service, daily Eucharists, and an on-site Spiritual Advisor.

If you're interested or would like more information, please contact a member of the Christ Church Vestry or Mary Lynn Guidage or visit <https://www.cursillodec.org>.

Where Can You Plug In?

- **Worship:** To volunteer in September services click [here](#). For more information contact Sarah Risty-Davis at sarahristydavis@christchurchnewbern.com.
- **Volunteer Receptionists:** Come join us at the Reception Desk. September shifts can be found [here](#).
- **Receive emails and texts from Christ Church:** Click [here](#) to receive text messages and/or emails from Christ Church. *Standard text messaging rates apply.*
- **Coffee Hour:** Sunday Coffee Hour is back for fall, winter, and spring. We appreciate our weekly hosts. To sign up to host, click [here](#). Coffee Hour takes place between services at 9:45 am. Snacks and coffee will also be available after the 11 am service.
- **Community Bulletin Board:** Check out our online [Community Bulletin Board](#), where you'll find information about upcoming events, local resources, and service opportunities in New Bern.

Tried by Fire Fundraiser

An Italian dinner fundraiser to benefit Tried by Fire, Inc., My Sister's House will be held from 5 - 7 pm, Thursday, September 18 in the Harrison Center. The event is being catered by The Flame, and tickets are \$25 per person. For more information call 252-637-2339 or visit www.triedbyfireinc.org.

Seniors Who Lunch -

Come Join Us

Our senior luncheon returns this month after taking a break over the summer. Join us from 11:30 am - 1 pm, **Thursday, September 18**, for lunch and a brief program. RSVP online at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094DAEA928ABFF2-58155890-seniors>.

Foyers Returns

On Saturday, September 20, from 5-7pm, we will resume our Foyers gatherings by coming together at the home of Pam and Rick Miller: (1025 Bracken Fern Drive New Bern in Fairfield Harbor).

Please bring your beverage of choice, your drink container and an appetizer to share. RSVP to eparlett4@gmail.com. Please do respond so the hosts can plan.