

Christ Church: Hope and healing for God's people

October 2025

Dear friends,

All that we do at Christ Church sings to the glory of God. I constantly see that in how we provide hope and healing for God's people, both here at the church and in the wider community. The Pumpkin Patch, Cookie Walk, the Christ Church Trust, and annually budgeted funds provide much needed resources out into our community. The organ concerts later this year will welcome people to our Nave in ways we haven't been able to do before. Christ Church Cooks, EYC, and Daughters of the King create a supportive network of caring friends who reach beyond themselves. As we sing to the glory of God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ continues to be preached in both words and actions.

This is the season of the year we ask you to consider how you will support Christ Church financially in 2026. It's not merely the volunteer hours that make Christ Church thrive; we rely on financial contributions from parishioners to help make mission and ministry happen. Stewardship is not just a way to raise money. Our practice of stewardship is a faithful response to the recognition that all we have is a gift from God. And, like the story of the loaves and the fish in the Gospel, when we put what we have in the hands of Jesus, it turns into so much more! The Episcopal Church has witnessed to the tithe (10%) as the minimum standard of Christian giving. Many people, including my family, are committed to working toward the tithe until we reach or exceed it. I encourage you to take a similar step of faith. We have an ambitious goal this year to reach \$1million in pledges. We received just over \$950,000 last year and believe we can reach higher this year!

Because of the generosity of our parishioners and good fiscal management by staff and volunteers, we have been on solid financial footing for several years now. That has enabled us to care for our well-loved building and grounds and to build a staff of dedicated professionals in their field, committed to caring for the people of Christ Church and building up the Kingdom of God.

Enclosed with this letter is our 2026 pledge card. I hope you will prayerfully consider what your household can contribute to Christ Church in the year to come as a faithful response to God's presence in your life. We hope to receive all pledge cards on **Sunday, November 23**, which is the day of our Annual Parish Meeting. You are welcome to return your pledge before **November 23** by mailing it to the church or dropping it off at the front desk. You can also make your pledge online by visiting <https://onrealm.org/christchurchnewbern/AddPledge/2026>.

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We hope you will consider a financial contribution or pledge to Christ Church for 2026. It takes all of us to be the body of Christ in our community! I continue to be excited about what God has in store for Christ Church in the year to come, and I am honored to walk that path with you!

Blessings,

The Rev. H. Paul Canady III
Rector
252.631.5861
paulcanady
@christchurchnewbern.com

Kim Huddle	Randy Bogle
<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Junior Warden</i>
kimhuddle2001@yahoo.com	rbogle2014@outlook.com

PS – We also hope you will consider remembering Christ Church in your will and estate planning. If you'd like to know more about how to do that, consult your financial advisor or call the church office for opportunities!

Enclosures