



Christ Episcopal Church

# Parish Profile

Bay St. Louis, Mississippi • November 2021



## Christ Episcopal Church

912 South Beach Blvd.  
 Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
 Telephone: (228) 467-7757  
 Email: christchurchbsl@outlook.com



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Who We Are	3
Our Sunday Routine	4
Our Ministries	6
Children's Ministries	10
Our History	11
Our Facilities	14
Community	16
Diocese of Mississippi	19
Stewardship	20
Our New Rector	22
Contact Us	23

# Who We Are

---

Christ Church is a welcoming community of faith that is nestled by the Mississippi Sound. We are a loving, resilient, welcoming, and devoted group of God's children. We are a family of diverse backgrounds and ideals who come together to love, be loved, and grow spiritually.

Our parishioners include a mix of life-long members, long-time Episcopalians, and newcomers to Christ Church and the Episcopal Church. We range in age from 0 to 90+. Our members include local residents but also many who call Christ Church their Sunday second-home, as many in our area are weekend-only residents. Our parishioners travel from as far west as New Orleans, Louisiana, and the Louisiana North Shore area and as far east as Gulfport, MS. A little over half of our parishioners are retired, and half are still working with a few stay-at-home parents.

Our 156-member parish had an average Sunday attendance of 69 people before the COVID-19 Pandemic. Our membership has hovered between 150 and 160 for the last ten years, with a ten-year maximum of 170 in 2018. We agree that lay ministries and Christian Formation for all ages are essential worship-related ministries.

We lovingly support our outreach ministries, which we see as a strength of our parish, and value fellowship opportunities with hopes for more fellowship opportunities in the future. We truly see ourselves as a family and love breaking bread together, both at the altar and through fellowship as often as possible. As with any family, if a family member is absent from a celebration, we strive to support and care for one another.

Christ Church was established in 1889 and joined the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi in 1901. In 1950, Christ Church was granted parish status under the leadership of the Rev. Charles R. Johnson. Two years later, under Rev. Johnson's leadership, Christ Episcopal School was started on the grounds of Christ Church. The school (now Coast Episcopal School) was relocated to Long Beach, MS, after damage sustained from Hurricane Camille in 1969. The foundations of education and a connection to the school remain at the forefront of our long-time members' hearts and minds. We have a relatively long history of strength in the face of adversity and disaster.

As the southernmost church in the diocese of Mississippi with only a less-traveled two-lane road between our facilities and the beach, we see our church as a unique place to worship and grow.

---

## *Parish Mission Statement*

Christ Church is an inviting and transforming community of faith that celebrates Christ's presence and grace.

# Our Sunday Routine



Christ Church gathers on Sunday for a mid-morning service at 10 a.m. With one service, all parishioners experience Sunday Worship together. The style of worship is best described as “broad church,” with Rite II liturgies used most often. The music selections draw from the *1982 Hymnal* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing*.

With a parish that includes individuals, families, and retirees, the overall feel is somewhat laid back with a “come as you are” approach. Some parishioners may wear more formal Sunday dress, while others may wear flip flops and shorts. Depending on the season, one may even find a Saints jersey or two.

The parish survey revealed a wide array of worship preferences, from

those who prefer the vestments of High Church to those who desire a more contemporary experience. Yet, we celebrate together in this space from week to week. Even with the various preferences expressed, 67% of parish survey respondents cited the liturgy/style of worship as a strength of Christ Church.

The Sunday routine involves lay parishioners in many ways. The women of the Altar Guild prepare for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist while the Flower Guild creates beautiful natural adornments to the altar and the church. The adult choir provides lovely music every Sunday. Adults also participate in the service as ushers, lectors, and Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Before the pandemic, youth participated as acolytes. There is a willingness to bring back ac-

olyte training and explore the creation of a children’s choir, as demonstrated by survey respondents.



Children are an undeniable presence on Sundays, with many young families who regularly attend and those who attend when they are able. Children are encouraged to be present in the church. In the past, the church has provided a nursery staffed by a regular attendant.

Before the pandemic, the children also sang during the worship service on occasion, led by a talented parishioner with experience working with youth and music. There are many more ways in which Christ Church could involve children in the service to enhance their interest in the service and encourage families to continue coming.

Following the worship service, most parishioners gather in the parish hall for coffee and snacks. As the parish survey recently revealed, coffee hour is a beloved part of the Sunday routine, with 80% of respondents identifying it as a “Very Important” part of parish life. Parishioners of all ages enjoy this time, and the children love the additional time to play together on the new playground.



# Our Ministries

---

Christ Church has a variety of spaces for our parishioners of different ages to grow in faith and learn more about ourselves and our light. The pandemic has paused most of our education and Christian Formation, but our parish looks forward to returning to our previously established Christian Formation. As we reflect on who we are as a parish during this search process, we also look forward to starting new ministries as we return to a new normal post-pandemic.

## *Lay Ministry*

A substantial cadre of parishioners supports our Sunday worship service. We have a well-organized and multi-generational Altar Guild. Our Rector is supported by an adequate number of Lay Eucharistic Ministers and several trained and Licensed Eucharistic Visitors.



Our choir is small but faithful. Ushers greet our parishioners and facilitate the presentation of the gifts. We are in the process of reviving the Acolyte Program with roles and responsibilities depending on the capabilities of the children involved. We have a “Vestry Person of the Day” who is responsible for opening the parish hall, setting up refreshments, watching over the congregation, and standing with the Rector at the end of Sunday Worship to help identify and welcome newcomers and visitors.

Lay ministry to help meet the needs of the Bay-Waveland community at large remains an opportunity for improvement.

## *Pastoral Care*

Parishioners and newcomers agree that we are a caring, warm, and welcoming church. We have licensed Lay Eucharistic Ministers that visit the sick and shut-ins.



Each year we host a reception for all parish octogenarians and nonagenarians, many of them lifelong parish members.

Pastoral care has been identified as an area for growth and improvement. We have handled pastoral care needs within the congregation informally, but as we grow and welcome new members, we are recognizing the need to organize these efforts and communication. We had recently established neighborhood forums for the purpose of exploring the capital campaign, and they proved to be a successful and enjoyable way to organize. Perhaps the forums could be utilized more in the future and intentionally include new members and families.

### ***Christian Education***

Christ Church has a devoted group of parishioners who join together Sunday morning for an Adult Forum. Adult Forum is our primary adult formation opportunity. The adult forum is led by our priest. We have read books together, written faith stories, discussed political turmoil and social injustice, discussed racial reconciliation, worked our way through the Nicene Creed, and described our understanding of God. Parishioners of various ages and genders attend the Adult Forum. It has become, for most attendees, a safe space to talk about difficult topics without judgment or ridicule from others who have varying viewpoints. This sacred space has provided the space for our parishioners to dig deep and brought us closer to understanding the Holy Trinity.

A weekly class is held on Tuesday afternoons to study the readings for the upcoming Sunday. This group is led by a layperson and has proven to be an additional safe space to study the Bible.

Before the pandemic, we had a Centering Prayer group that met weekly. The church has also held Centering Prayer workshops that community members of other denominations attended. Our parish profile showed strong support for a return to Centering Prayer as soon as possible.

## **Outreach**

Christ Church gives to the community in many tangible ways: providing food, medicine, Christmas presents, and hand-knitted warmth through our outreach ministries.

**The Hancock County Food Pantry** provides food and personal hygiene products for people living in Hancock County who have an immediate crisis or emergency need for assistance. Parishioners support the Food Pantry by volunteering, serving on the board of directors, and donating food and hygiene items. The church also supports the nonprofit financially through some of the proceeds raised by our annual Harvest Dinner.

**The Alliance for Health** serves those in the community who cannot afford their medications or medical supplies. This ministry works to support the quality of life for community members by facilitating access to life-sustaining medications. Our annual Harvest Dinner provides funding for this ministry, and the Alliance for Health receives generous matching funds from the Captain Madison Fund. Captain Harold Madison, a former Hancock County resident, bequeathed money through a trust fund to enhance the health of Hancock County's residents.

Christ Church is helping address food insecurity for local children through the **Backpack Buddies** program. This program was started with the help of The First Baptist Church of Bay St. Louis. We provide food to children who do not have adequate, consistent access to food outside the school setting. Each week the children in the program receive a bag of non-perishable food items that require little or no preparation, such as peanut packs, fruit cups, granola bars, and instant oatmeal.

A multi-generational group of parishioners executes this program at East Hancock Elementary School by purchasing, packing bags, and delivering them to the school every week. This program is supported by teachers and counselors at the school who identify the children who would benefit from this program and discreetly pass out the bags. We hope to eventually expand this support to set up a pantry-style set up at a local high school.

During Christmastime, parishioners look forward to our ministry that provides Christmas gifts for a particular group of individuals who may have a hard time providing gifts for their children--**inmates at the Hancock**

**County Jail**. Christ Church receives a list of children, whose parents are incarcerated, with their ages, needs, and wishes. Parishioners purchase and wrap gifts on behalf of the incarcerated parent. The parents are then able to give these gifts to their children during a Christmas visit. Though the child does not know, it surely means a lot to the





parent who would not otherwise have this opportunity at this time.

The **Knitters & Crocheters for Mariners** is a dedicated team of crafty individuals who makes hand-knitted items to keep mariners warm at sea, recently sending off 70 scarves and caps to the Seaman's Church Institute for their Christmas at Sea program.



Christ Church has hosted the **Harvest Dinner**, a community dinner and fundraiser, for nearly 75 years, serving as many as 600 plates in 2019. This Thanksgiving-style family dinner has provided fellowship and volunteering opportunities for our parishioners and opened our doors and table to the community. This event raises funds for our various Outreach activities listed above.

We have **Vacation Bible School (VBS)** that is open to children in the community. VBS includes a Bible school curriculum for the first half of the day with an optional camp in the afternoon. Children from our church and our community enjoy a loving, fun-filled VBS-camp experience.

### ***Parish Life***

In our parish profile survey, 75% of our respondents felt connected to Christ Church as their church home and said that our parishioners became their family. We enjoy any opportunity to be together, however simple the circumstances.

After church, we have a weekly coffee hour that was ranked as the most important existing parish life activity in the parish profile survey. Before the pandemic, a consistent group of families with children initiated pop-up pot-lucks after Sunday Services to extend fellowship time. Our other fellowship traditions are an Octo Nona Celebration, Epiphany Burning of the Greens, an Easter Egg Hunt, Pentecost Picnic, the Harvest Dinner outreach event, periodic potlucks, and post-church brunches for various special occasions. Our parish survey results also brought to light that our parishioners desire more fellowship opportunities.



# Children's Ministries

---

Our children gather together before the Sunday service for Sunday School. Younger children, ages 3-6, have Godly Play before our Sunday Service. Our younger children enjoy the wonder of the stories told. The Godly Play Sunday school class often continues their "work" and "wondering" among the property's oak trees.

Children between the ages of 7 and 11 gather for Living the Good News.

As we start gathering together again in hope that the majority of the pandemic is behind us, we look forward to restarting all of our usual children's education and fellowship.

In addition to the Sunday School classes, our children participate in an annual Christmas Pageant. This Christmas Pageant is typically beautiful chaos with younger children roaming the church building as livestock or angels.



# Our History

Christ Church Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, is the physical manifestation of Episcopalians' untiring efforts and devotion over the past 132 years.

Christ Church was established in 1889 by Hettie Crowell and a small group of other Episcopalians. The first service was held in the Crowell home

## TIMELINE OF EVENTS AT CHRIST CHURCH

1838	First recorded Episcopal Service in Hancock County as St. Luke's
1889	First Service of Christ Church
1890	Cornerstone of Original Building Laid
1901	Admitted to Diocese of Mississippi as a Mission
1913	Consecrated Church Building
1950	Christ Episcopal Day School Established & Christ Church Granted Parish Status
1969	Hurricane Camille Destroys Church Building
1971	New Church Building Dedicated
2005	Hurricane Katrina Destroys Church Buildings
2012	New Church Building Dedicated
2021	Education Building Dedicated

on North Beach Boulevard. In 1890, the construction of a sanctuary began. In 1901, Christ Church was admitted to the diocese of Mississippi as a mission. Over the next 50 years, the physical location of the service occurred in multiple locations.

A new era began in 1948 with the arrival of Rev. Charles R. Johnson as Priest-in-Charge of the mission. Two years later, Christ Church was granted parish status.



*Christ Church circa 1950*

In 1950, the church purchased a seven-and-a-half acre property at 912 S. Beach Blvd. and established Christ Episcopal Day School. Today, the

school offers academic excellence as Coast Episcopal School, now located in nearby Long Beach. While the church continues to have a supportive relationship with the school, it no longer has any management or financial responsibility.

Hurricane Camille struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast on August 19, 1969, destroying Christ Church's building. The unharmed Christ Episcopal School building provided a service space for the congregation for 20 months while we planned a new building. A new Christ Church was raised on the grounds at 912 South Beach and was dedicated to the glory of God by Bishop John Allin on April 18, 1971. A rectory and curate's house were also built. The former 1890 cornerstone was cemented into the pavement under a newly constructed bell tower, where the surviving bell hung.

On August 28, 2005, Hurricane Katrina destroyed all of the buildings on the church property, leaving only the bell tower containing the bell of the original Christ Church.



*Christ Church  
before Hurricane Katrina*

Despite the total devastation at the church and in the community, seventeen parishioners gathered for worship and communion on the church slab on the first Sunday following the storm. After several months of services on the slab and later under a tent in the parking lot, a metal Quonset hut was constructed on the original church slab through the generosity of several Episcopal Churches in the southeast. On the storm's tenth anniversary, a memorial service was held on the original church slab.

Services continued in the hut until May of 2010 when the construction of



*Tenth Anniversary Memorial Service*



*Christ Church  
after Hurricane Katrina*

the present Christ Church was completed. The new church was dedicated on May 30, 2010, to the glory of God by the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III, IX Bishop of Mississippi.

In its 132-year history, Christ Church has had four full-time rectors, three of them serving a total of 60 years. Interim and supply priests have been appointed or served as the situation required.

Christ Church is a resilient community of faith that, over the years, has weathered storms large and small (including a global pandemic) and takes adversity in stride with a strong sense of community and compassion. Despite storms, our live oaks thrive, and the Gulf view remains breathtaking, providing a perfect place for Christ Church to continue building our rich and textured history.

## RECTOR TIMELINES

1849-1855	Thomas Savage
1855-1858	Charles Whittall
1859	Benjamin R.S. Bemond
1859-1862	Thomas D. Ozanne
1871-1872	Lycurgus L. Lurton
1888-1895	Nelson Ayres
1895-1899	William Hart
1901-1902	Irenaeus Trout
1902-1909	Nowell Logan
1909-1915	Francis P. F. Duffy
1916	William Cross
1916-1919	Thomas B. Clifford
1919-1924	Harry Perry
1925	William P. Browne
1925-1934	Robert E. Grubb
1935-1936	Girault M. Jones and Charles Liles
1936-1946	Warrick Aiken
1947-1948	Hewitt B. Vinnedge
1948-1984	Charles R. "Father J" Johnson
1985-2003	Arthur E. "Father Nick" Johnson
2003-2005	Kyle Dice Seage ( <i>Interim</i> )
2006-2008	Elizabeth Wheatley-Jones
2009-2015	Patrick Skutch
2015-2016	Ted Dawson ( <i>Interim</i> )
2016-2020	Cecil B. Jones
2020-2021	Seth M. Walley
2021-Present	Marian Fortner ( <i>Interim</i> )

# Our Facilities

---



Construction of the current and third church on the property began in May of 2010. This church building was located closer to the water with clear windows to embrace the view of the bay and the live oaks. On May 30, 2010, the new church was dedicated by the Rt. Rev. Duncan M. Gray, III, IX Bishop of Mississippi.

A fellowship hall dedicated to Rev. Charles R. Johnson followed the building of the church. The fellowship hall includes a large gathering area, a kitchen, the parish office (which consists of a common space, administration office, and priest's office), a classroom with a water closet ensuite, restrooms, and storage.

Like a phoenix emerging from the ashes, Christ Church continued to regain its strength as a parish, welcoming young family parishioners. Under the loving guidance of the Rev. Cecil B. Jones, Jr., Christ Church ventured forward in the planning of an education building. In November 2021, the vision of the building came to fruition and was dedicated as the Rev. Cecil B. Jones Jr. Education Building.



The newly dedicated education building includes:

- A mini-kitchen area.
- Restroom.
- A large dividable classroom.
- A separate classroom.
- A storage closet to hold supplies for the Backpack Buddies program.

A playground was also built with the education building addition providing more space for our children.

Three buildings now grace the South Beach property providing space for worship, fellowship, education, and community outreach.

In addition to the three buildings and numerous historical live oak trees, the property includes two pavilions on the northeast side of the property. These pavilions were once used to host Camp Bratton Green's annual Coastal Pioneer Camp.



# Our Community



Christ Church sits in the heart of Bay St. Louis (BSL), which was recently ranked as a Top 10 Beach Town in the US, and is a neighbor to the quiet and quaint city of Waveland.

The membership of Christ Church includes residents of Hancock and Harrison County as well as Slidell and New Orleans. BSL and Waveland are charming towns situated near where

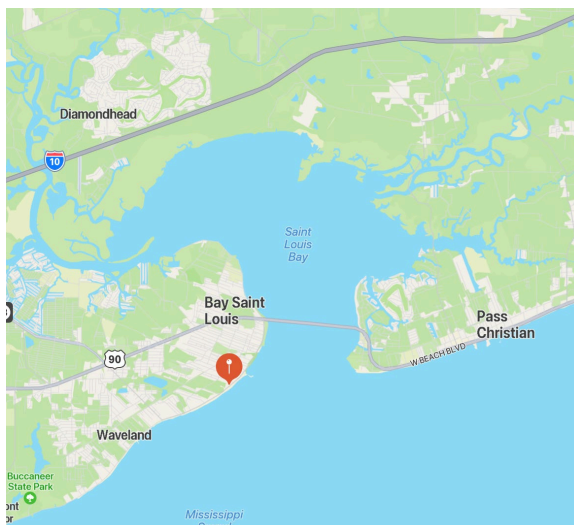
the waters of the Bay of St. Louis meet the Gulf of Mexico. Here, the new world explorer Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville, in 1699, first claimed the area for France.

## *Recreation*

BSL, known for its vibrant “Old Town” district, has gift shops, boutiques, antique stores, art galleries, restaurants, and cafes. Bay St. Louis has a picturesque harbor that is currently seeing a major expansion of short- and long-term boat slips.

Festivals and activities happen year-round within the community to celebrate many different days, including Dolly Parton’s Birthday, Cruising the Coast, and Independence Day.

Bay St. Louis is also home to the Local Train Depot undergoing a \$300k renovation to welcome Amtrak in the New Year.









*Cruising the Coast*

Waveland is the quieter of the two towns and is simply a golf cart ride away. Waveland's downtown area offers an opportunity for recreational development, and the monthly Food Truck Friday public event is giving new life to Coleman Avenue. Waveland is also home to Buccaneer State Park and Buccaneer Bay Waterpark. Other recreational opportunities include youth sports, sailing, canoeing, golf, camping, and both fresh and salt-water fishing.

Bay St. Louis and Waveland share a common boundary and together account for a large percentage of Hancock County's population. The combined population total as of 2021 was 21,346. The population of Hancock county is 46,063.

### ***Education***

Both the towns and the county have fine public and private school systems teaching a wide variety of academic and industrial skills.

The public schools are represented by two school districts:

- the Bay-Waveland District, and
- the Hancock County District.

The Bay-Waveland District is made up of two elementary schools, a middle school and a high school. The Hancock County District comprises four elementary schools, a middle school, and one high school.

Both Hancock County School District and Bay Waveland District are ranked as "A" districts according to the Mississippi Statewide Accountability System.



*Coast Episcopal School*

Private and parochial schools include:

- Coast Episcopal School, serving pre-k to sixth grade,
- Holy Trinity Catholic School, serving pre-K to sixth grade,
- Our Lady Academy, a day school for young women in grades seven to 12, and
- St. Stanislaus, a day and boarding school for young men.

Higher education opportunities are available through universities and community colleges within our community.

### ***Industry***

The area's economy is recognized as one of the highest per capita income

areas of the state, with the highest percentage of workers making up Retail, Health Care, and Manufacturing industries. Various industries locate near NASA’s John C. Stennis Space Center, the Hancock Port and Harbor Commission, and the Stennis Airport Area.



*Stennis Space Center*

The Stennis Space Center contains a vast array of jobs for more than 50 federal, state, academic, and commercial tenants and a growing workforce of approximately 5,200 people.

The Infinity Science Center, located near the Mississippi visitor’s center, is a non-profit science museum that offers



*INFINITY Science Center*

a blend of space, Earth science, engineering, and technology.

Also crucial to the area’s economy is the county’s port and harbor facility, which focuses on growing our community through Port, Air, and Space encompasses five industrial facilities and employs a multitude of residents.

Hancock County has so much to offer. We are less than an hour’s drive from the historic city of New Orleans. The blending of the Gulf Coast’s rather laid-back culture with the eclectic flavor of New Orleans makes for a unique area.



# Diocese of Mississippi

Christ Church is one of 85 congregations which comprise the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. The diocese, which includes the entire state, is headquartered in the capital city of Jackson and is led by the Right Reverend Brian R. Seage, X Bishop of Mississippi.

The diocese is part of Province IV of the Episcopal Church and is one of the owning dioceses of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The Diocese of Mississippi and its rich mixture of urban, suburban, town and rural congregations embraces all styles of worship and churchmanship, from Anglo-Catholic to Evangelical. It has a history of being a moderate but progressive voice in the life of the Episcopal Church.

Many people describe the heart of the diocese as being the Duncan M. Gray Camp and Conference Center, 30 miles north of Jackson and named for the fifth Bishop of Mississippi. Central to the center's ministry is Camp Bratton-Green, which each summer hosts hundreds of young people to six sessions of camp, and scores of special-needs adults for two sessions of their own unique camps. Generations of Episcopalians have enjoyed Camp Bratton-Green, and many clergy have emerged from its ranks.

[Website for The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi](#)



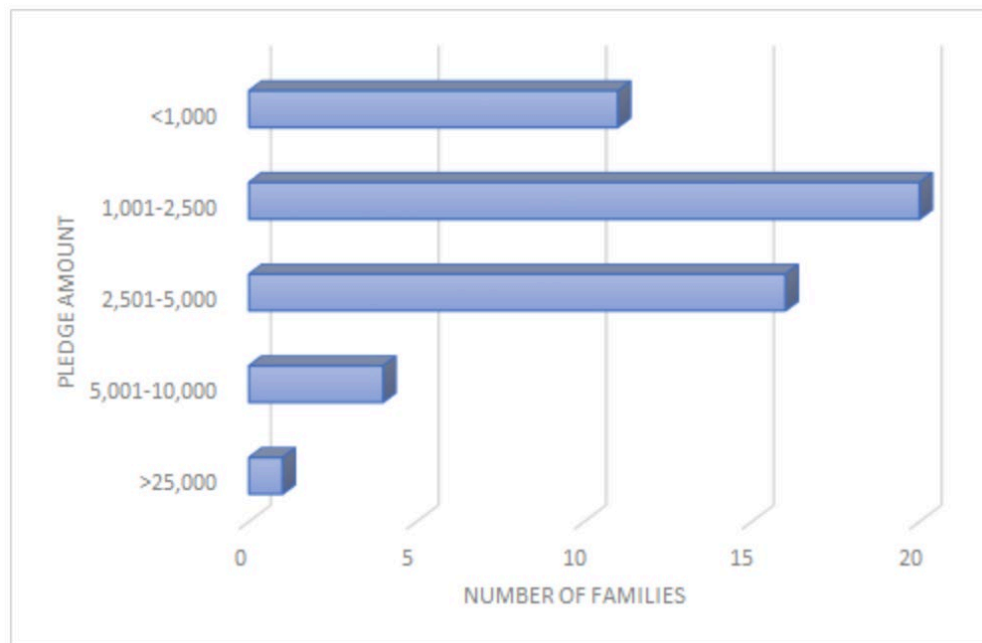
In Mississippi, the Episcopal Church has had a long history of leadership in social-justice matters which have not only torn our state apart and but now give us opportunity for transformation and redemption. From issues of anti-racism to rebuilding just communities after the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, our church has stepped out to be a living part of the body of Christ.

SOURCE: DIOCESE OF MISSISSIPPI

# Stewardship

Stewardship at Christ Church is an outgrowth of parishioners' sense of mission and belonging. Whenever and wherever there is a need, a parishioner will invariably step up to fill it. There is a sense of joy and connection available to everyone in caring for not only Christ Church's beautiful buildings and park-like campus, but also in caring for each other and those outside of the congregation through outreach ministries like Backpack Buddies and Hurricane Relief. Christ Church people often find friendship through common purpose in serving others.

Financially, Christ Church is a generous parish. Of the 53 families who pledged for 2021, the breakdown of pledges is shown in the table below:



These pledges totaled more than \$153,000. In addition, we have 20 families who regularly give, which accounts for more than \$14,000 in additional income. Looking forward, as of November 12, 2021, we have received 39 pledges totaling more than \$125,000 for 2022. During the past four years, a typical pledge has been about \$2,500.

Our recent years' pledge and plate numbers are in the following table:

<u>Year</u>	2017	2018	2019	2020
<u>Pledge and Plate</u>	\$160,600	\$175,300	\$173,900	\$155,600

From January 1, 2018, through November 12, 2021, the people of Christ Church have had to navigate sickness, personal losses, shutdown, computer software change, two clergy transitions, and two hurricanes that each caused damage and service interruptions. The people of Christ Church also financed and built the newly dedicated Cecil B. Jones, Jr. Education Building, for which more than \$300,000 has been raised, with \$107,000 in building pledges yet to be received. As of November 12, 2021, Christ Church owed Hancock Whitney Bank \$79,029.14, with \$36,198.16 remaining in the restricted building fund.

Typical annual revenue since January 1, 2018, has been \$180,760.00. This revenue includes identified givers, special gifts, rummage sales, investments, rent of facilities, and miscellaneous other donations in addition to the pledge and plate.

For the same period, 2018 and 2021 finances are shown in the table below:

<u>Expense Type</u>	<u>4-Year Average Expense</u>
Parish Administration	\$34,581.49
Mission and Outreach	\$18,085.87
Worship and Formation	\$15,764.52
Fellowship	\$3,949.77
Rector's Compensation	\$48,917.19
Buildings and Grounds	\$62,443.90
<b>Total Annual Expenses</b>	<b>\$181,742.74</b>

During that typical year, Christ Church ran not quite \$1,000 in deficit.

# Our New Rector

---

## *Hopes and Expectations of a New Rector*

We are looking for a part-time rector to set our hearts on fire: a spiritual leader, listener, biblical translator, a fun-loving, challenging question-asking person who reminds us every Sunday and in every interaction of God's unconditional, unending love for us and the love that we have to share with others.

We seek a rector with strength for worship, meaningful sermons, and the ability to make scripture relevant to our everyday lives. Worship is the center of our being, and a meaningful Sunday worship service is paramount. We want an excellent liturgist who will encourage lay leadership and guide the church through controversy with warmth, love, a positive attitude, and good communication.

As identified in our parish survey, the top three strengths we want in our next rector are Worship, Parish Administration (defined as administrative ability, capital development, church growth, and stewardship), and Pastoral Care.

We want someone who can connect to us. We have families and individuals at all phases of life, and we hope for someone relatable to each of us. We're looking for a good listener and communicator. Someone who will understand, embrace, and thrive in our laid back, come as you are Gulf Coast Culture

We hope for someone who encourages us to stretch the current understanding of our faith and challenge us to grow spiritually. We're expecting our new rector to work less than 30 hours per week. This may be done in some combination of in-the-office and away-from-the-office. In addition to Sunday morning service, we'd like our rector to lead the Sunday Morning Adult forum and/or help lay volunteers to lead educational classes. We want our rector to lead the stewardship process, to help us to grow our church, and work with parishioners to utilize all of our gifts and resources to spread Christ's love in the world.

After listening to our Search Committee talk about the most influential spiritual leaders we could remember, a consulting priest aptly said, "You want someone who will set your hearts on fire." His statement hit the nail on the head and was echoed in our parish survey, in which our parishioners repeatedly said that we want "someone to love us and stick with us."

Likewise, we hope to love, support, and encourage our rector. We understand that people have different gifts and graces and hope to help our next rector grow and learn with us. Our lay leadership are willing and eager to dream and act to achieve our shared vision for the future of Christ Church.

# Contact Us

---

912 South Beach Blvd.  
Bay St. Louis, MS 39520  
Telephone: (228) 467-7757

Website:

[www.christchurchbsl.com](http://www.christchurchbsl.com)

Email:

[christchurchbsl@outlook.com](mailto:christchurchbsl@outlook.com)

---

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

8:00AM – 1:00PM

## ***Vestry***

Zac Fillhart - Sr. Warden

Michael McCauley - Jr. Warden

Brian Bosch

Merry Thomson

Nadine Holtzbauer

Kevin Reynolds

Zac Fanberg

Lindsey Richard

Leigh Ann Young

Bert Young, *Treasurer*

Katie Gift, *Clerk of the Vestry*