



Cross Current

February 2025

From the Senior Warden...

COME TO THE ANNUAL MEETING ON SUNDAY 2 FEB!

See all of us in action, captured in Terry's famous annual slide show. Enjoy each other's cooking, and ask whatever question you've been wondering about..... 😊

As I write this, we are gearing up for the Annual Meeting after the service on 2 February. On 26 January, the ushers will distribute the Annual Report, with updates from every activity group. We've included time in the meeting Agenda for questions and comments from everyone. The Meeting will look back at 2024 but we're especially energized by the look forward to new activities and vision with Mother Esme.

The BAC thanks Jennifer Warner, Peggy Rolf (also Clerk) and Theresa Muth for volunteering to serve another three year term. We also are pleased to propose Pam Vetsch as a new member of the BAC. The congregation attending the Annual Meeting will vote on these members.

Also up for election are our delegates to the annual Diocesan Convention, scheduled for 18 October 2025 in Salem. We propose one "seasoned" delegate, Peggy Rolf, and one "newbie", Nancy Tarnai.

Most of you will remember that when we lost our parishioner Nate McCord, we lost not only a dear friend, but also our Jr. Warden. I'm grateful to Norm Keck and Theresa Muth for volunteering to serve as a Jr. Warden team. They're shifting into gear now.

Sneak Preview: Mother Esme has been testing an idea for new summertime program at Christ Church, designed for our local community. The BAC is keen to move forward, so stay tuned for more details from Mother Esme!

*Rebecca Fowler
Senior Warden*

Annual Meeting & Potluck

Sunday February 2nd

Please join us for the Annual Meeting & Potluck on Sunday February 2nd after the service. See what we have accomplished this past year and plan for the future.

If you are inclined, please bring a dish to share in any category: main dish, salad or dessert.

Join Mother Esme for Midweek Compline on Zoom

Mother Esme has started to offer Midweek Compline on Zoom on Wednesday evenings at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in attending, please email Mother Esme or the church office so you can be added to the list for the zoom link.

New Year—New Layout for the *Cross Current*!

The *Cross Current* will now be published monthly with the exception of a June/July and December/January edition. We hope this keeps everyone up-to-date with the activities going on at Christ Church.

Please Save us a Stamp!

If you have an email address, please save us a stamp and we can email you the *Cross Current*. Please email us at:
office@StHelensChristChurch.org.
We appreciate you doing this.

Reflections from the Vicar



Dear friends at Christ Church,

About twice a week, Hildie the Dog and I go out to what most people now call Vanport dog park. It used to be a wartime public housing city. Some of you may remember that it was destroyed in 1948 due to the Columbia River flood. The city, never rebuilt, sat on the site of what is now Delta Park, the Portland International Raceway and Heron Lakes Golf Course and Vanport dog park. Over the years nature has reclaimed it and it never fails to move one's soul with its wild beauty. It was during one of our walks that I came across a meeting underway on a part of the Columbia Slough.

Throughout all of nature, one is compelled to call things to order, or make order out of chaos, or create chaos, or to keep things the way they've always been, or to change them just for the heck of it. Here the

Great Blue Heron, obviously in charge, is quite possibly pontificating about correct use of the Slough flying rites or simply the rights of geese, or what to do about dogs and people and the tides. Of course, they might not be in a business meeting, they might be in church. The Great Blue looks as if he has a prayer or two tucked up in his wings. Regardless, it is clear there is much business to be discussed, whether regarding one's habitat or one's church, or both. Decision making is not just for the birds.

Now it's our turn.

On Sunday, February 2nd, following our coming together in community for Holy Eucharist, we will come together in community to discuss the business of Christ Episcopal Church at our Annual Meeting. We will look back at what has been accomplished during the last twelve months and we'll look forward, as we consider what it is we are to be about in the year to come. Many people hold some dread about annual meetings of any kind, thinking that it will be a confrontive or adversarial experience. Not so.

While the Annual Meeting offers us the opportunity to take an honest look at where we are and how we are faring, it is also our opportunity to celebrate the same. I look forward to spending this time with you, hearing your thoughts, sharing our ideas for progress, our continuing vision, hopes and dreams. We will elect our Delegates to convention; the ones we trust to assist in making decisions for us in the coming months and who will represent us amid the greater body of the Church.

Everyone needs representation. Even geese and Great Blue Herons. That's probably why everyone showed up for the bird meeting, including the fellow on the end of the log, who seems as though he might well be at the wrong meeting, or perhaps has purposely crashed the party in order to get in on all the latest information. After all, you get out of everything, whatever you put into it. It looks as though someone has taken a stand to speak, perhaps to volunteer as a delegate to the Great Goose Convention coming up at Lake Heron come Spring. Thank goodness someone has taken some leadership.

Some come to listen, come to speak, come to stand and be heard, and come to celebrate the ones who dare to take a lead. There is room for all of these and more. Whether you are simply sitting in your place on the log, or have raised yourself to speak, or even if you think you are the guy on the end of the log, you still belong!

"The question, says the Great Blue Heron, is simply this. Where do you want to fly this year?"

We journey together,

Mother Esme+



Habitat for Humanity Updates

We have a new construction coordinator at Columbia County Habitat for Humanity! We are delighted to have Anna on board to help lead our volunteer construction teams and manage the building process for our home build projects. She also has cleared our wait list of folks who were waiting to have ramps built to safely access their homes, so now is a great time to apply for one of these critical home repairs!

If you, or a neighbor you know, is a low income homeowner in need of a ramp in order to safely enter and exit their home, please let us know or direct them to the application we have online: <https://habitatcolumbiacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/Ramp-Application.pdf>

Angela Carlson
Family Services/Admin
Columbia County Habitat for Humanity



...From the Treasurer

Financial Facts—December 2024

	December Actual	2024 YTD Actual	2024 YTD Budget
Income			
Contributions*	\$8,309.00	\$97,195.00	\$89,080.00
Other Income	\$65.00	\$2,091.00	\$3,000.00
Total Income	\$8,374.00	\$99,286.00	\$92,080.00
Expenses	\$9,325.75	\$92,613.55	\$94,435.30
Net (Deficit)	(\$951.75)	\$6,672.45	(\$2,355.30))

Thank you to everyone for keeping your pledges current . You can always mail your pledge to: Christ Church, PO BOX 478, St. Helens, OR 97051

* Contributions include Regular Pledge and Musician Pledge payments and Plate offerings.

Save the Date!

Shrove Tuesday
Pancake Supper
Tuesday March 4th
Details to follow



Epiphany Party, a New Tradition at Christ Church

On January 5th after the service, we had an Epiphany party and Potluck. We started out by “Chalking the Door” which is an Epiphany house blessing, followed by a delicious Potluck.

In addition to the desserts brought for the potluck, we had a traditional “King Cake”. Rather than a figurine of a baby hidden inside, there was a puppy figurine. Tradition is that the person that gets the “baby” inside, gets a prize. The prize here at Christ Church, is that you get to provide the King Cake next year. Guess who had the puppy in their piece of cake? Karen Van Winkle! We will start looking for a “baby” to hide inside the cake for next year.

For more insight into the Epiphany tradition of Chalking the Door click here:

<https://episcopalnewsservice.org/2020/01/06/for-an-epiphany-blessing-chalk-the-door-with-holy-graffiti/>



Mother Esme “Chalking the Door”



+20+C+M+B+25+ The blessing that was chalked on the door.



Who will get the prize hidden in the King Cake?

Cursillo

**The Next Adult Co-Ed Cursillo
Weekend is March 20—23, 2025
in Turner, Oregon**

What is the Goal of Cursillo? The goal of Cursillo is the goal of the Church: to share the healing love of God in Jesus Christ, to live as recipients of Good News.

Christ Church has many members that have attended a Cursillo Weekend and would love to sponsor you. Please email office@sthelenschristchurch.org and we can put you in touch with someone who can answer any of your questions.

For more information on Cursillo, you can view the website of Oregon and SW Washington Episcopal Cursillo : www.oregon-cursillo.org

Get Involved at Christ Church

Christ Church has many ways you can get involved in the life of the church:

- Host a coffee hour
- Become a Lector
- Become an Usher or Greeter
- On outside cleanup days, come help.
- Water the garden, as needed in the summer time
- Attend learning events
- Help out on our various events
- ...and many more opportunities.

Find the various sign-up sheets in the Narthex or Parish Hall.

It is a great way to get to know the members of the congregation!



Calendar



Sunday Services - Eucharist Sundays 10 am

Men's Fellowship Breakfast—First Saturday of the month at Warren Country Inn 9 am.

Prayer Shawl Group—2nd Thursday of the month at 1:30 pm

Midweek Compline—Wednesdays at 7:30 pm on Zoom

Annual Meeting & Potluck—February 2 after the service

Lector Training—Sunday February 9th after the service

Lay Eucharistic Minister Training—Sunday February 16 after the service

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper—March 4th—details to follow

Columbia County Resources

If you are in need of help with rent, food, bills, etc. Here are some resources that you might consider:

- Community Action Team (CAT) 503-397-3511, 125 N 17th St, St. Helens OR 97051. Open M-F 8:30 am to 5 pm.
- Helping Hands: www.helpinghandsact.com
- Columbia County Resources: www.columbiacountyor.gov
- Oregon Financial Aid and Assistance Programs
- St. Vincent DePaul (888)-375-6074
- Oregon Public Utility Commission
- Columbia Humane Society—for Pet Food
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

To have food delivered (not fast food):

Both Fred Meyer and Safeway use Instacart to get and deliver the online orders. Fred Meyer has an “Express” button that will drop the cost to \$4.95 instead of the \$9.95 cost. You must push the “Express” button to get the special price.

Prayer Requests

Send requests to Kathryn Brittain by email at kathjbritt@gmail.com or phone 503-543-6870 or cell phone 503-438-5908.

Christ Church Contact Information



Our Website is: www.sthelenschristchurch.org

Email: office@StHelensChristChurch.org

Phone: (503) 397-1033

Search Facebook: Christ Episcopal Church

Mother Esme's email: MotherEsme@StHelensChristChurch.org

To receive the “Cross Current” newsletter via email rather than printed or “snail mail” email us to be put on the list.



Cross Current

February 2025

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Collect for the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany



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(503) 397-1033

find us on 



Christ Episcopal Church
PO Box 478
St. Helens, OR 97051

Home of:



THE
Episcopal
CHURCH



welcomes you