

THE COMMUNICANT

Christ Church Episcopal

A ministry of the Diocese of Ohio

*Seeking to be a welcoming community of faith, grounded
in the gospel of Jesus Christ, serving Hudson and beyond.*

January



2025

OFFICIAL NOTIFICATION

ANNUAL MEETING

JANUARY 19, 2025

Following a shortened 10:30 service, we will gather as a parish to elect new vestry members, hear a few brief reports, thank out-going vestry members, and adopt the 2025 Christ Church budget. Fifty members in good standing are required for a quorum, so please plan to join us. Your presence matters! Childcare will be available during the meeting.



The Vestry Candidates are:
Cathy Agnor, Lori Metoki, Rich Wilson

The Diocesan Convention Delegates are:
RuthAnne Belton, Judy Brookhart, Jacob Phillips

Information about the vestry candidates can be found
inside this issue of The Communicant.

Diocese Canon: Title II, Canon 1, Section 3(a): In every Parish of the Diocese, there shall be held an Annual Meeting, for the election of members of the Vestry and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before such meeting.

Diocese Canon: Title II, Canon 1, Section 5(a): All members of the Parish who are communicants in good standing as defined by the Canons of the Episcopal Church and not being under sixteen years of age shall be qualified to vote in its meetings.

Message from the
Wardens
Budget Forum
Altar Flowers
Page 2

Search Committee
Update
Chalking the Door
Page 3

Adult Education Forum
Christian Unity Prayer
Service
Page 4

Children's Corner
January Schedule
Youth Group
Children's Chapel
Faith Explorers
Page 5

From the Music Director
Evensong
Page 6

Hymn of the Month
Choral Compline
Ladies' Night Out
Page 7

Vestry Candidates
Page 8 & 9

PB & J Brigade
Laundry Detergent
Collection
Page 10

January Birthdays
& Anniversaries
For the Record
Thank You Notes
Vestry Highlights
Page 11

Contact Information
Page 12

A Message from the **WARDENS**

We've come to that time of the year when the "best of" lists arrive. Best movies, best books, best Netflix series. And here at Christ Church, we have our own list. Best Party Ever – Charlotte's farewell; Best Visit from a Bishop – Bishop Anne's October visitation with 19 baptisms/confirmations/receptions/reaffirmations; and Best Christmas Pageant? Well, ours of course!

Next come the resolutions. As you are thinking about drinking more water or adding an extra mile to your daily walk, we would like you to consider signing up for a Coffee Hour or Youth Group Supper, pitching in to make 300 PB&J sandwiches on a Saturday morning, joining Altar Guild, or sending a note to someone you haven't seen in church for a while. The church needs you because, as we say so often, "We are the Church."

Now, down to business. Schedule your doctor and dentist checkups and collect your tax documents. These are the usual January at home chores. And your church home is also preparing for the year ahead. Please plan to attend the Budget Forum at 9:00 a.m. on January 12 to learn how the financial resources you have contributed will be used for the good of the church throughout the year. And then come back on January 19 following the 10:30 a.m. service to be a part of the Annual Meeting where we will approve the budget and vote for our new vestry and diocesan convention candidates for 2025.

2024 has certainly been an eventful year, but "We the Church" have risen to its challenges and are ready to work together with God as we anticipate the coming of a new rector. It is an exciting time, and we look forward to having another amazing list when we review the "best of" 2025.

*Greg Daniels, Senior Warden
Pam Zuhl, Junior Warden*



2025 Budget Forum Meeting

In preparation for the Annual Meeting on January 19, the 2025 Christ Church budget will be presented to the parish on Sunday, January 12 at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This is a chance to see what our financial resources are for the coming year, where they come from, and how they are allocated. Please bring your questions and join the Wardens for this important conversation.

Sign Up Now for 2025 Altar Flowers!

The flower guild depends solely on donations from parishioners to defray the cost of the flowers placed on the altar each Sunday. The cost of altar flowers each week is \$40 for the 8:00 Chapel service, \$75 for the 10:30 Church service, or \$115 for both. The sign-up sheet for flowers is located on the wall in the coat room, or you can call the office to sign up if you have a specific date in mind.



An Update from the Search Committee

Dear Members of Christ Church,

As we journey through this season of Advent, we hope you find it to be a time of reflection and anticipation. We are writing to update you on our progress in the search for our new rector.

In January, we will meet in person with our finalists and their families. These meetings are a crucial step in discerning whether any of them are the right fit for Christ Church. Simultaneously, the diocese is conducting thorough background checks on each finalist to ensure due diligence.

Remaining Steps in the Search Process:

- **Recommendation to the Vestry:** After prayerful deliberation, if we believe one of our finalists is the right choice for us, the search committee will present a final candidate to the vestry for consideration and approval.

Thank you for your continued prayers during this important time for Christ Church. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to James Boazzo, Chair of the Search Committee, at jamesboazzo@yahoo.com or 216-440-3278.

Blessings,

The Search Committee

James Boazzo
Janet Daniels
Theresa Edwards

Marcie Harvey
Emily Longenecker
Dave McCallops

Jenny Walvoord
Guy Wylie

Chalking the Door at Epiphany!

January 5 at the 10:30 Service

(We will celebrate both Christmas 2 & Epiphany)



"Chalking the door at Epiphany" refers to a Christian tradition where people mark their front door with chalk on the Feast of Epiphany (January 6th), writing a specific inscription that includes the numbers and letters 20+C+M+B+25, which stand for the year 2025, plus the names of the three wise men, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar, signifying a blessing of the home and welcoming Christ into the dwelling; essentially, it's a symbolic way to mark the house as a place where Christ is welcomed.

The letters CMB also represent the Latin phrase *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, which means "May Christ bless this house."

Christ Church Episcopal will be chalking the lintel of our sanctuary door with the Three Magi from our Christmas pageant doing the honors. Join us for this festive way to wind up the Christmas season!

Sunday Morning January and February Adult Forums

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall

The Rev. Peter Faass, facilitator

Sunday, January 5th

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Everything You Wanted to Know About the Episcopal Church but Were Afraid to Ask!

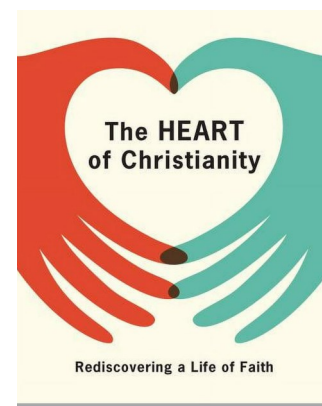
We had so much fun and lots of great questions when we did this style of forum back in November, we're offering it again! Come and field questions about liturgy, the Bible, the BCP, Church history, or whatever ecclesial curiosities are on your heart. Rev. Peter will do his best to answer your questions. If he can't he'll research the answer.

Sunday, January 19th - Sunday, February 9th

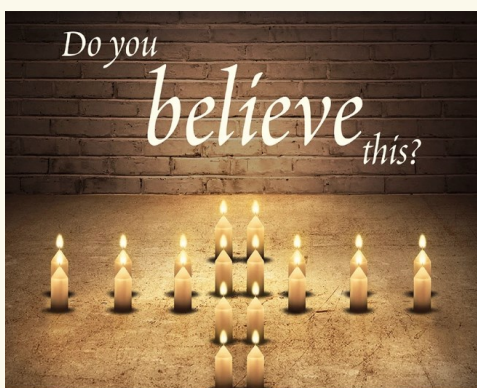
The Heart of Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith by Marcus Borg

Join us for four Sundays of discussions on re-discovering a life of faith as a Christian. Books are available at online booksellers like Amazon and Barnes & Noble, or at your local bookseller. Please contact the Rev. Peter Faass to let him know of your participation at revfaass@aol.com.

“World-renowned Jesus scholar and author of the bestseller *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* argues that the essential ingredients of a Christian life—faith, being born again, the kingdom of God, the gospel of love—are as vitally important today as they have always been, even during this time of conflict and change in the church. Borg wants to show us, as today's thinking Christians, how to discover a life of faith by reconceptualizing familiar beliefs. Being born again, for example, has nothing to do with fundamentalism, but is a call to radical personal transformation. Talking about the kingdom of God does not mean that you are fighting against secularism, but that you have committed your life to the divine values of justice and love. And living the true Christian way is essentially about opening one's heart—to God, and to others. Above all else, Borg believes with passion and conviction that living the Christian life still makes sense.”



-Amazon



Christian Unity Prayer Service and Luncheon Thursday, January 23rd

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated each January. A worldwide observance, this week is also an important expression of ecumenical events at the local level. Hudson churches will gather for the 2025 Christian Unity Prayer service on January 23 at 10:00 AM with a prayer service open to all at St. Mary Parish in Hudson. Each year, a Scripture verse is selected to set the theme for the week. This year's verse is, "Do you believe this?" (*John 11:26*). The resources for this year's

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the community of Bose, an ecumenical monastery of brothers and sisters in northern Italy. After the prayer service, ticket holders will enjoy a box lunch catered by Nosh and Our featured speaker Rev. Joy Fenton-Jones. She will share her faith journey. Ticket price is \$20.00 per person and may be obtained from Gretchen Green 330 -655-4013. Make checks for tickets payable to Christ Church Episcopal with CUPS luncheon on memo line. **The Reservation deadline for the luncheon is January 12.**

Children's Corner

FAITH FORMATION OFFERINGS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH



Faith Formation at CCE JANUARY

January 5th

Children's Chapel during the 10:30 Service

January 12th

Sunday School at 10:15am for PreK-5th Grade

January 19th

Sunday School at 10:15am for PreK-5th Grade
Youth Group at 4:30 pm in the Youth Room

January 26th

Sunday School at 10:15am for PreK-5th Grade



January Youth Group January 19th at 4:30 p.m.

Youth Group meets on the 1st and 3rd Sundays for fellowship, faith formation, and food! It is an opportunity for students in grades 6-12 to explore faith formation topics, build close relationships with their peers, and discover how to navigate their world in the light and love of Christ. Keep an eye out for outreach and service events throughout the year as well.



Children's Chapel

For children 3-years old through 2nd grade
THE FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
DURING THE 10:30 SERVICE.

Children's Chapel

1st Sunday of the Month

During the 10:30 service, our 3-year-olds through 2nd Graders will join Sarah Bhatia or a volunteer during the Gloria at the front of the church and return to their families at the Peace. We use the Godly Play curriculum, which is a Montessori-based program, to explore Bible stories and wonder together as we explore and build our faith.

Faith Explorers

2nd-5th Sundays of the Month

Faith Explorers Sunday School meets at 10:15 on the Lower Level. We have two age groups: PreK-2nd and 3rd-5th. This year, we will be using Illustrated Ministry's *Mini Revolutions* curriculum. This lectionary-based curriculum uses scripture, activities, micropractices, and prayer to help each person embrace their own mini revolutions.



**FAITH EXPLORERS SUNDAY SCHOOL
ON THE 2ND-5TH SUNDAYS EACH MONTH**



Photo credit: Andrew Le



Mario Buchanan
Director of Music and Organist
mario.buchanan@christchurchudson.org

Greetings!

I want to take a moment to wholeheartedly thank everyone involved in the music program at Christ Church. The Young Choristers have continued to reach higher and higher in their musicianship, maturity, and singing. They have tackled some difficult pieces and their presence is a great joy to see week after week. One rehearsal when the choristers and I were talking about the joy of tackling difficult music, one said "What would we learn if we did easy music?" I have continued to be proud of the work these kids accomplish from when we started the program six years ago.

The Adult Choir is hard at work preparing for every Sunday and special services. Every Sunday they come prepared, ready to enliven our worship. This isn't just magic, it takes many hours of individual practice and rehearsals on Thursday nights. This was seen at our splendid Advent Lessons and Carols Service. The choir did a spectacular job with what was a very demanding but very rewarding service. For that one hour service, there were countless hours of practicing. I am so proud of their hard work and dedication.

As your Director of Music, being at Christ Church is a blessing every day. Christ Church can be proud of their music program. If you are looking for a New Years resolution, thank a choir member. Their hard work enlivens our worship every week and that is something we can beam with pride!

All my best,

Mario

EVENSONG AT THE CATHEDRAL!


**Wednesday, February 12th
at 6:00 pm**

The Young Choristers will sing a service of Choral Evensong at Trinity Cathedral in Cleveland! Please come and support them!



Choral Compline

Sunday, January 19 at 6:30pm



Join us for a time to unwind after a long week. This brief, candle filled, and fully chanted service is led by the Adult Choir. Compline allows us to tune out the busy world and sit quietly in a holy space, surrounded by candlelight.

LADIES NIGHT

JANUARY 21ST AT 5:30 P.M.

Please join us for another evening of good food, sparkling conversation, and lots of laughter! We will gather at Hudson's Restaurant on Tuesday, January 21 at 5:30. Please sign up through the office at 330-650-4359 or at <https://tinyurl.com/CCEHLadiesnight> by January 17. Contact Pam Zuhl at Zuhlfamily@aol.com with questions.

FEATURED HYMN OF THE MONTH

Every month, we will have a featured hymn text. These hymns might be ones we don't sing regularly but still stand as great texts of the church. I hope you enjoy reading them.

A stable lamp is lighted

Text by Ricahrd Wilbur

1. A stable lamp is lighted
whose glow shall wake the sky;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
and straw like gold shall shine;
a barn shall harbour heaven,
a stall become a shrine.
2. This child through David's city
shall ride in triumph by;
the palm shall strew its branches,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry,
though heavy, dull and dumb,
and lie within the roadway
to pave his kingdom come.
3. Yet he shall be forsaken,
and yielded up to die;
the sky shall groan and darken,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
for gifts of love abused;
God's blood upon the spearhead,
God's blood again refused.
4. But now, as at the ending,
the low is lifted high;
the stars shall bend their voices,
and every stone shall cry.
And every stone shall cry
in praises of the child
by whose descent among us
the worlds are reconciled.



NO HEALING SERVICE IN JANUARY

There will be no healing service this month, but we will be back February 6 at 9:30 a.m. in the Chapel for anyone who would like to ask prayers for themselves or others. The service last about 30 minutes and includes Holy Eucharist. Please join us for this quiet, yet powerful service.

Christ Church 2025 Vestry Candidates

This year's Vestry Candidates are:

Cathy Agnor, Lori Metoki, Rich Wilson

Each candidate was asked to answer the following questions. Their responses are below.

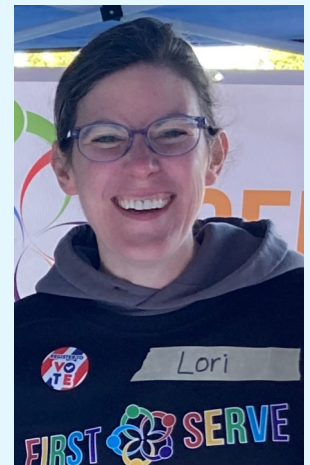
- * **What excites you about our life together at Christ Church?**
- * **What are your current ministries at Christ Church?**
- * **What gifts do you bring to the leadership of Christ Church?**
- * **What do you believe are the challenges Christ Church faces and how can you help us meet those.**

What excites you about our life together at Christ Church?

Christ Church is such a lovely, inclusive community. It is wonderful to be part of an encouraging community! I love that we are able to work through life and faith challenges and feel supported at Christ Church. There are different opportunities to participate and to serve that help us to grow in love and to share our gifts and talents.

What are your current ministries or involvements?

I help with outreach by coordinating volunteers from Christ Church to work with immigrant and refugee students who attend English and high school equivalency classes at Project Learn of Summit County. I have been in the season of devoting a lot of support to the growth of my own family, and now I am looking forward to starting to serve more actively through being a member of vestry.



Lori Metoki

What gifts do you bring to the leadership of Christ Church?

I was told I will bring energy and ideas to the vestry! I want to help our church continue to intentionally offer a feeling of love, welcome, and inclusion to everyone. I think deeply, work to incorporate diverse perspectives and ideas, and hope to help provide more opportunities for relationship and connection. Service, worship and prayer also make my soul happy!

What do you believe are the challenges Christ Church faces and how can you help meet those challenges?

One challenge is to find ways to help our lovely church feel more approachable to people who are not part of our church family yet. Many people have been hurt by church, and it seems that many people (including many young families) find church to be out of touch with their needs. I think we have an opportunity to share the hope that we have and that church can be different. We have room for more youth, more young adults, more young couples, more single people, more families, and more older adults at Christ Church! I feel that collaborating with other organizations and faith communities (like First Serve) is important work where I can contribute. Another challenge continues to be to encourage connections and relationships between members. We have different backgrounds, different ages, and different stages of life. We are also in a time of transition which can be a challenge. I have been a member of Christ Church for quite a few years now, and I hope to be approachable and to represent our community's values as we hire and welcome a new rector.

What excites you about our life together at Christ Church?

I am very excited at how our Church has continued to grow especially with new, younger families joining us, even during this transition period. I am also excited about the comradery I feel from fellow parishioners and friends. Always such a warm welcome, no matter what is going on at Church that day.

What are your current ministries or involvements?

I currently serve as an usher, host Coffee Hour, help with The Giving Tree, and provide meals for the Youth Group.

What gifts do you bring to the leadership of Christ Church?

My background is in nursing and now, specifically, hospice care, which has helped me to be comfortable dealing with various personalities and acceptance of others. I am also organized, hardworking and have a lot of energy!

What do you believe are the challenges Christ Church faces and how can you help meet those challenges?

The main challenge is to keep the Church growing and encourage diversity. I believe this can be achieved by educating the community about our Church and what it has to offer and trying to reach all walks of life and demonstrate acceptance.



Cathy Agnor

As members of the Christ Church family, Mary Ellen and I have enjoyed many years of the warm and caring friendship of our fellow congregants, and the caring leadership of our capable clergy. We are blessed to worship the beautiful liturgy of the Episcopal church in our exquisite space.

What excites you about our life together at Christ Church?

- The mix of ages, backgrounds and abilities represented in our membership.
- The beauty of the physical facilities where we worship and socialize blended in the perfect mix of old and new; representing the long history of the church and its future success.
- The music program is beyond compare and complements and uplifts the church and the greater community.
- The grit of Christ Church Episcopal is apparent as it survived several major disruptions, loss of members, and loss of clergy. Christ Church not only survives, but continues to grow and deliver God’s message to all.

What are your current ministries or involvements?

My participation at church include many years as an usher, volunteering in our outreach programs such as Habitat for Humanity, Open M, and Building and Grounds for two years managing the upkeep and maintenance of our of our building and grounds.

What gifts do you bring to the leadership of Christ Church?

Our major midterm challenge is selecting and bringing on a new priest. Although I will join the vestry at a midpoint in the recruitment process, I will be ready to lend any effort needed toward the search, including interviews, introductions and on-boarding as necessary.

What do you believe are the challenges Christ Church faces and how can you help meet those challenges?

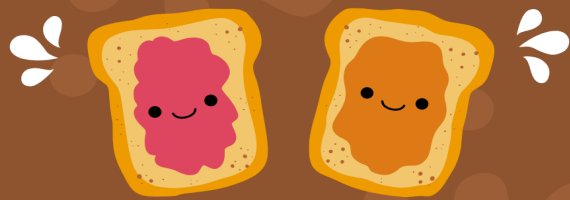
Long term I see new members, youth involvement, facilities upkeep, and outreach programs among our challenges. My prior experience with managing the maintenance and improvement of our physical plant would be valuable.

I appreciate being nominated to the vestry and look forward to serving Christ Church Episcopal.



Rich Wilson

PEANUT BUTTER & JELLY BRIGADE



PB & J DAY: JANUARY 18TH

Please join the Outreach Committee in the Parish Hall at 10:00 AM on January 18 as we come together to prepare 300 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless ministry out of St. Bernard's Church in Akron. We urge anyone and everyone to volunteer at some point, for every month we will put out the call. Get to know each other, get sticky, and do good! For more information, contact Judy Brookhart at judyots@gmail.com.

Hudson Food Pantry Laundry Detergent Collection



Christ Church continues its monthly collection of **35 jugs, packs of pods, or sheets** of laundry detergent, which cannot be purchased with government assistance (SNAP), for the Hudson Food Pantry. Detergent can be left on the bench inside the back door, or outside the door if it is locked. Thank you for helping support the Hudson Food Pantry!



Thank you to our Knitters!

Thank you to our Knitting Group who contributed items for the IIA - International Institute of Akron and to Judy Brookhart for transporting them.

With their dedication, we were able to bless and donate 29 prayer shawls, 12 baby blankets, 4 infant sweater sets, 78 hats (many from Laurel Lake), 43 headbands (from Laurel Lake), 4 hat & scarf sets, 10 washcloths, 8 scarves, and 3 stuffed toys

Lis Hugh instructs children and youth on the art of flower arranging. The flower arrangements were then placed in the Church for all to enjoy on Christmas Eve!





Lindsay O’Sullivan ~ 1/2
 Galianna Jackson ~ 1/3
 Mae Kosanovich ~ 1/3
 Liz Guglielmi ~ 1/7
 Ashton Petro ~ 1/9
 Damon Cronkey ~ 1/10
 Jill Phipps ~ 1/10
 Nan Ryerson ~ 1/15
 Walter Edwards ~ 1/17
 Milan Kosanovich ~ 1/19
 Ted Mailey ~ 1/19
 Jenny Walvoord ~ 1/19
 Ed Gibson ~ 1/23
 Ashton Klespies ~ 1/23
 Allan Belton ~ 1/24
 Jan Hill ~ 1/26
 Kevin McKinny ~ 1/26
 Nicholas Petro ~ 1/27
 Ken Lowe ~ 1/27
 Christopher Haake ~ 1/28
 George Van Buren ~ 1/30

FOR THE RECORD...
Baptisms
 Meredith Bowen
 Marleigh Bowen



A Note of thanks to...

- ...Our wonderful December office assistants: RuthAnne Belton, Ellen Turner, Sallie Bear, Susan Arnold, Tina Monreal, Janet Daniels, & Pam Zuhl
- ...All who helped with the memorial service for Chris Van Buren
- ...Ellen Turner for providing supper for the Youth Group in December
- ...All who donated baby food for Hope and Healing
- ...All who participated in and helped with the Children’s Christmas Pageant
- ...Our talented Altar and Flower Guild members for beautifying our worship space for Christmas Eve
- ...Our amazing Choir and Young Choristers for their glorious music on Christmas Eve and every Sunday
- ...Bob Zuhl for putting up the Christmas banner
- ...Lis Hugh, Marcie Harvey for working with our children and youth to help make flower arrangements for Christmas Eve.



Dear Christ Church members,

I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to everyone for their prayers for my wife, Rhonda, and for their deep kindness. It meant so much to our family.

Malcolm Robbie

December Vestry Meeting Highlights



- The vestry met on December 17 at 6:00 p.m.
- The church has received two bequests. One will be used for capital and operating expenses. The other was undesignated, so its use will be decided by vestry.
- Treasurer, Ann Kirk, reported that 2024 pledge receipts are behind by \$50,000. It is hoped that those monies will be received by the end of the year.
- Vestry reviewed and approved the 2025 budget. The budget will be presented at the Budget Forum on January 12 at 9:00 a.m. and brought before the parish for approval at the Annual Meeting on January 19 following the 10:30 service.
- Theresa Edwards, Search Committee liaison, reported that in person interviews for the rector position are scheduled for January. The diocese is conducting background checks and Search Committee members are following up on references.
- The Vestry Nominating Committee announced the names of the three candidates for vestry: Cathy Agnor, Lori Metoki, and Rich Wilson. Candidates for Diocesan Convention are Jake Phillips, RuthAnne Belton, and Judy Brookhart. Alternates are Dave McCallops and Tina Monreal. All of these candidates will be presented for approval by the parish at the Annual Meeting.
- The next vestry meeting is Tuesday, January 28 at 6:00 p.m.



Christ Church Episcopal

21 Aurora Street
Hudson, OH 44236

Phone: 330-650-4359

On the Web:

www.christchurchhudson.com



Find us on Facebook!

<https://www.facebook.com/ChristChurchHudson>

Clergy

The Rev. Allan Belton, Priest
The Rev. Peter Faass Priest
The Rev. Dr. Daniel Grossoehme, Priest
The Rev. Gretchen Green, Deacon

Staff

Kathy Garber, Parish Administrator
Kathy.garber@christchurchhudson.org
Mario Buchanan, Director of Music/Organist
Mario.buchanan@christchurchhudson.org
Sarah Bhatia, Director of Christian Education and Youth Ministry,
Sbhatia@christchurchhudson.org
Susie Vanaman, Parish Accountant
Svanaman@christchurchhudson.org

Russ Gaippe, Sexton
Norma Harbison, Housekeeping
Marcena Brown, Housekeeping
Matt Baker, A/V Technician
Amber Lambing, Nursery Attendant
Lillian Ivey, Nursery Attendant

Vestry

Greg Daniels, Sr. Warden:
gk_daniels@hotmail.com

Pam Zuhl, Jr. Warden:
zuhlfamily@aol.com

Sallie Bear
Courtney Bixby
Theresa Edwards
Andrew Le
Tina Monreal
Jacob Phillips
Malcolm Robbie

**Christ Church Hudson
is a Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of Ohio
www.dohio.org**

