

Christ Church Episcopal

PARISH PROFILE, 2011, SOUTH PITTSBURG, TENNESSEE

MISSION STATEMENT:

*To Know Christ and to
make Christ known*



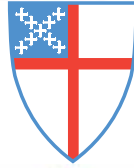
VISION STATEMENT:

We come to know Christ through prayer, study, worship and fellowship.

We make Christ known by active, spirit-filled ministry
in our community and in the wider world.

We welcome all who would join us in our mission.

CHRIST CHURCH



EPISCOPAL

Greetings

from the Search Committee and Vestry of Christ Church Episcopal!

As the people of Christ Church undertake this prayerful and intentional process of self-examination in hopes of calling a rector, we are reminded that our parish is truly a family: We laugh together, we cry together, we rejoice and we anguish in our life together, we agree and we disagree – and week by week, we come together in the unity of the Spirit to celebrate together the love that fills our hearts as the family of God in this place. In the pages of this profile, we hope to accurately depict Christ Church – our strengths, our weaknesses, our hopes and our dreams for the future. The people of Christ Church prayerfully and faithfully offer this profile in hopes that anyone discerning a call or considering a name to submit will learn who we are and what we seek in a rector based on these hopes and dreams. We hope to identify individuals who have the skills, gifts, and qualities needed by this historic parish. A good fit is vitally important to us.

The Search Committee will begin receiving names in May of 2011. Names can be submitted to The Rev. Canon Stephen Askew, Diocesan Transition Minister and Canon to the Ordinary at askew@etdiocese.net. For more information please contact Carey Garland at careypatr77@yahoo.com or Marcia Ivey at professor.ivey@gmail.com. Please visit our website for an online version of our profile at www.christchurchsp.org.

Thank you for your interest in Christ Church and its members, and for your prayers as we seek a new rector.

We welcome you to Christ Church.

In Christ's peace,

Steve Strain,
Senior Warden

Carey Garland,
Search Committee Co-Chair

Marcia Ivey,
Search Committee Co-Chair

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Who Are We?

The people of Christ Church are committed to a Christian relationship with each other and with our community. Approximately 120 parishioners, half of whom have been active members for over twenty years, come from around the region to worship and do ministry together in our pastoral size parish. Christ Church sits in the heart of South Pittsburg, Tennessee, a small community located between Chattanooga and Sewanee, Tennessee. The congregation draws from a 20 mile radius of the town in a place where Tennessee, Alabama and Georgia join.

We are blessed with strong roots, a picturesque nave and warm, inviting people that make our parish a wonderful place to worship and serve.

THE CHURCH TODAY

Christ Church has a long history of strong ties to the community and the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee – blessings which have made us such a resilient church over the past years when other churches struggled to stay together. We are warm, open and a positive parish with confident and steadfast lay leaders.

The challenge of not having consistent pastoral leadership in the past few years has not kept us from remaining positive, hopeful, and ready for future growth. In fact, growth in membership and activities is one of our primary ministry goals as reflected in our recent parish survey. This goal is recognized by members from all age groups as a high priority.

MORALE, ENERGY & SATISFACTION

According to the survey responses, forty-eight percent of our members are satisfied with the state of the church. Ours is a kind of satisfaction that comes from fruitful ministry and strong connections. Because we are a small parish, we benefit from these connections as we share our hopes as well as responsibilities. Morale in the parish is not as high as we want it to be, and we attribute some of this to a protracted period of transition. There is a definite desire for both spiritual and numerical growth in our parish and we are committed to mutual ministry with our rector, knowing that our small size means that we must all take responsibility for ministry and service. Specific hopes for the future include the development of quality education for all ages, growth in membership and revitalization of the community surrounding the church.



OUR FUTURE – WHAT WE LEARNED

We are a church that understands the ministry of hospitality and we have a strong reputation for inviting others to join our parish. The parish survey indicates that our members are ready for changes that make our parish a place that attracts families with children and youth. This goal is considered the number one priority for all age groups over 35. Other important insights from the survey include:

Christian Education and Formation: As a whole, our members are highly educated with ninety percent ranging from having taken some college classes to those with post graduate education. Many members have complicated schedules creating a need for both traditional and non-traditional educational opportunities.

Members with Special Needs: Improvements are needed to our physical plant to make our facilities more accessible to folks with special needs. Some parishioners have transportation needs and others require home visitation.

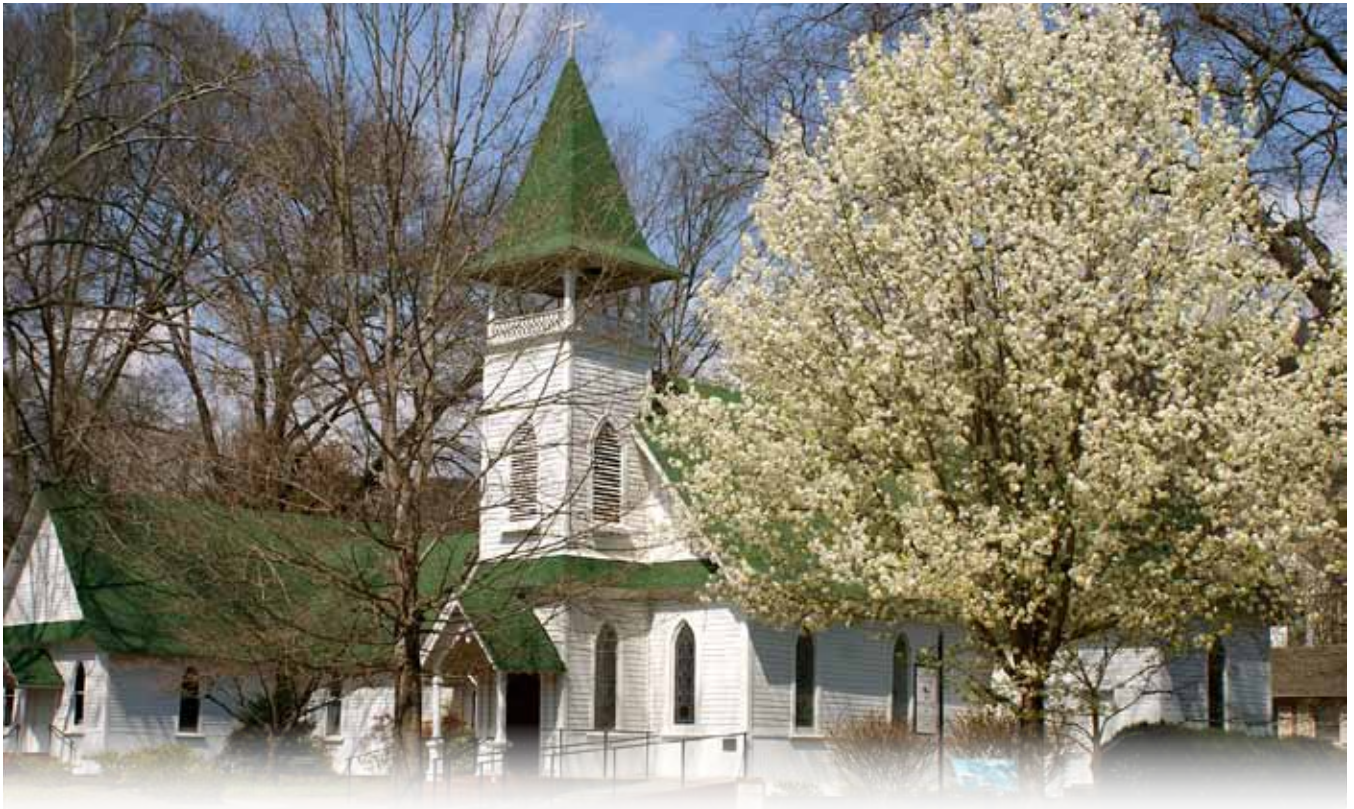
Theological Perspective: Theologically our parish takes a moderate perspective. Our members come from all walks of life and religious backgrounds and we appreciate and respect the diversity that this brings to our conversations and relationships.

Slow to Change: Nearly fifty percent of the congregation has been part of the parish family for over 20 years. This translates to the reality that we prefer change that is gradual and intentional but we also recognize that growth is essential and growth means change.

Discerning Gifts: The fruitfulness of ministry at Christ Church depends on an understanding of our individual and corporate spiritual gifts. The survey indicates this as an area for improvement.

Financial Growth: While our giving has been affected by the recent economic down turn, our attendance is steady and current giving trends demand that we seek a rector who can help us understand stewardship as a Christian responsibility.





How Did We Get Here?

ORIGINS- OUR CHURCH HISTORY

Christ Church had its beginning in 1876 when a group of English foundry men met in a pattern room of the Southern States Coal, Iron and Land Company's shop for religious services in the fledgling town of South Pittsburg, Tennessee. Located on the banks of the Tennessee River, the town is at the southern end of the picturesque Sequatchie Valley, nestled at the foot of the Cumberlands. Construction of Christ Church began in 1882 upon land donated by Southern States Coal, Iron and Land Co. The first services took place in the unfinished building sometime in 1883, and construction of the church was completed – debt-free – in 1884. Under the sponsorship of St. Paul's Church in Chattanooga and with the guidance of Tennessee Bishop Charles Todd Quintard, Christ Church became a parish in May of 1887. In those early years, the people of Christ Church were led by a group of hard-working, committed young men. Joseph Lodge, founder of Lodge Manufacturing, was among them. In the subsequent one hundred twenty-seven years, the descendants of Joseph Lodge with other dedicated East Tennesseans continue to build up God's kingdom and celebrate our Episcopal heritage.

Bishop Quintard asked the building committee to "put up a graceful and churchly building," and the people in South Pittsburg certainly complied with his request. In 1888, construction of the narthex and bell tower was completed, and the building was consecrated by Bishop Quintard on October 14, 1888.



The parish hall was built immediately after completion of the rectory and bell tower. An annex to the rear of the parish house, enclosing a kitchen and small classroom, was added in 1933. In 1982, those two rooms were converted into a large kitchen/nursery complex, complete with cabinets to house choir robes and built in cribs for babies.

In 1953, an additional annex was added to the parish house, the area now used as the church parlor, lounge, and overflow dining area. In 1957, the sacristy/vestry room was renovated and remodeled to provide for the storage of vestments, altar linens, and as a place to prepare the elements for Holy Communion. In 1960, the parish house and nave were completely attached by the addition of two classrooms, an office, and a rest room.

The gracious white frame building has wood paneled ceiling and walls, lovely stained glass windows and handsome furnishings. The original pews have been refinished and now gleam with a luster and patina that had been lost to a hundred plus years of coal and oil-burning furnace residues. Improved lighting, new carpeting and pew and kneeling-rail cushions enhance the beauty of the graceful building constructed by the loving hands of the forefathers of Christ Church.

The church founders were among the founders of the town of South Pittsburg, and members of their families are still active in the community and the parish. The 125th anniversary of the

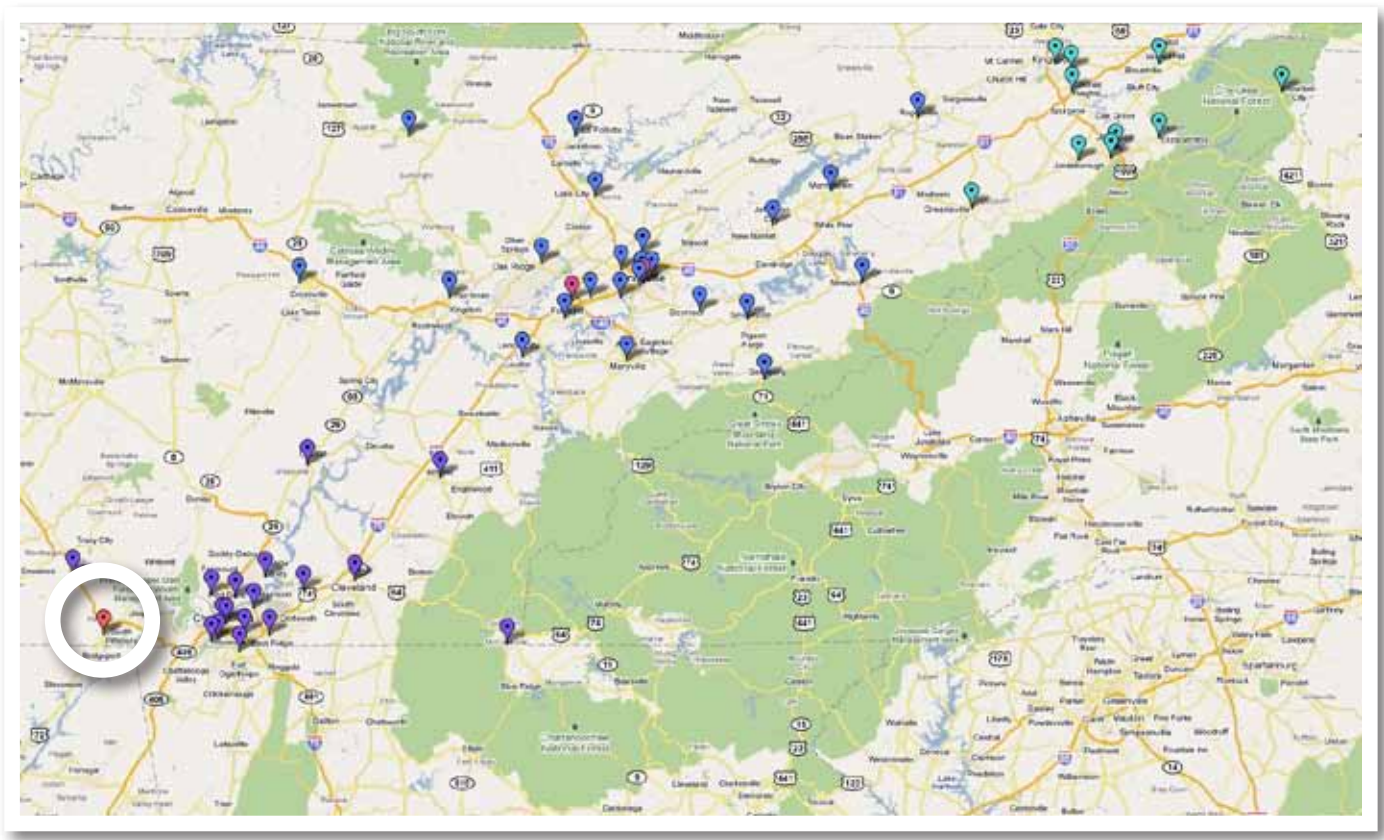
parish was celebrated in 2001, and a church history book was published in conjunction with that event.

Christ Church has enjoyed a long and beneficial association with the School of Theology at The University of the South. The parish has also served as a field education site for seminarians for more than thirty years, a blessing that brings many rewards to both the parish and the seminarians and their families.

Nine men and one woman have been ordained deacon and/or priest at Christ Church. Three of those also served as our rector. A total of twenty two resident clergy have served at Christ Church. The Reverend Henry C. Salmond and the Reverend John H. Bonner, III each served for fifteen years – the longest tenures in parish history.

Our Present Facilities: Today, the church facilities include the nave, parish hall, parlor, classrooms, offices, choir room, counting room, and nursery.

We anticipate that our next rector will live in the rectory, which is a historic two story, 3,600 square foot (approximate), home built in the late 1800's. There are five bedrooms including a master on the main floor and two and a half baths. There are beautiful hardwood floors, a spacious living room and den. The rectory includes a detached two-car garage and a large yard. Numerous renovations have been made to the home through the years.



[\[Click to enlarge and interact.\]](#)

DIOCESE OF EAST TENNESSEE

The Diocese of East Tennessee comprises 34 counties in East Tennessee and three counties in North Georgia, with the Cumberland Plateau as the western border. This area is approximately 14,350 square miles.

Within the diocese are 45 congregations and five worshipping communities serving nearly 16,000 active members or 12,600 confirmed communicants in good standing. Average Sunday attendance is 5,800. Congregations range in attendance from 15 to more than 450 faithful worshippers. The diocesan budget is \$1.72 million.

The Right Reverend Charles G. vonRosenberg is the third bishop of the diocese and was ordained in February, 1999. The Rev. George D. Young, III is the bishop-elect

of the Diocese of East Tennessee. Rev. Young, who was the rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Fernandina Beach, Florida, was elected on Saturday, Feb. 12 as fourth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of East Tennessee and will be ordained on June 25, 2011.

Clergy of the Diocese of East Tennessee number more than 150, which includes 75 priests serving congregations, 25 deacons and more than 50 non-parochial and retired priests and deacons.

The population of the diocese is concentrated in the major metro areas: Chattanooga, Knoxville and the Tri-Cities area, which includes Kingsport, Bristol and Johnson City. Total population is 2.4 million, according to a U.S. Census estimate.

Ministries in the diocese are numerous and diverse. Examples include:

A shared ministry approach in many of our parishes highlights the ministry of all the baptized.

We are linked in a “companion diocese” partnership with the Diocese of South Dakota for the mutual exchange of resources and support.

The entire diocese is in the area known as Appalachia, and our Appalachian Ministries Resource Team spearheads assistance and interaction activities.

The diocese has more than 10 Jubilee Centers, which focus on outreach.

In addition, eight parish day schools have nearly 100 teachers and an enrollment totaling nearly 700 students; campus ministries at the University of Tennessee campuses in Knoxville and Chattanooga and at East Tennessee State University in Johnson City; and a 269-acre camp and retreat center, Grace Point, on Watts Bar Lake near Kingston. Ministries with youth in the diocese are focused through its youth coordinator and Diocesan Council on Youth Ministry.









Christ Church has actively participated at the Diocesan/ State level in the Episcopal Church Women, Episcopal Laymen of Tennessee and various boards, commissions and committees. For more information on the Diocese of East Tennessee, you may visit www.etchediocese.net.






Who Are We Looking For?

ABILITIES

-  **Focus on Relationships and Community:** Our future rector must be community-focused in his/her ministry, understanding both the regional aspects of our membership and its small town setting. We are a pastoral-sized church that requires our rector to wear many hats. Some of those hats include day to day administrator, liturgical planner with editorial oversight of service bulletins, community service organization involvement and local ministerial participation.
-  **Create Family Life Ministry:** To meet our goal of increasing the number of young families, our rector must help us create a family life ministry that is attractive to the complex lifestyles and diverse configurations of today's families.
-  **Help Those in Need:** Development of pastoral ministries that serve those in times of need is critical. We seek a rector who can effectively help those who have been broken by life's circumstances.
-  **Educate:** The development of educational programs for all ages, while keeping flexibility of schedules in mind, is a key goal for many of our members.
-  **Preach Meaningful Sermons:** Thoughtful and motivational messages given through the sermon must provide needed spiritual leadership sustenance for the parish.
-  **Increase Giving:** The rector must help us better understand and live out what it means to be good financial stewards through increased giving.

PERSONAL QUALITIES

-  **Delegating and Encouraging Leadership Style:** Due to the small size of our parish, delegating authority and assigning responsibility to volunteers is required to properly manage all aspects of the church. Helping members discern their gifts and using them to develop programs and ministries in the church is critically important.
-  **Understanding Need for Change:** The parish desires growth and positive change and our rector must understand our need for change to happen slowly and intentionally to insure that members have ownership of such changes.
-  **Energized Leader:** We are ready for a rector who will bring energy to our eager parish. We have a strong desire to move in positive directions. Our rector must have stamina and the will to help us direct our efforts in positive, life-giving and hopeful directions.



Worship

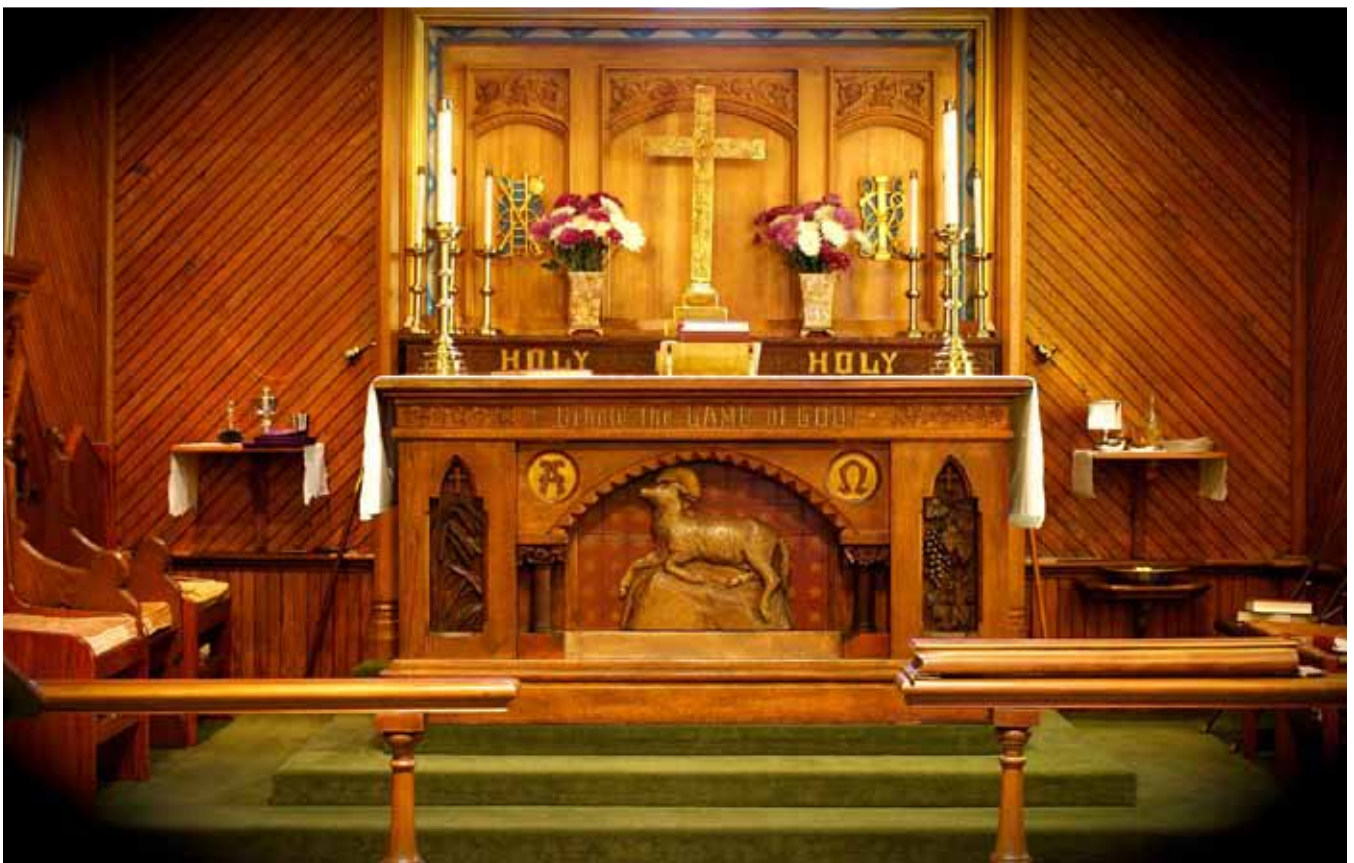
Christ Church has two services of Holy Communion on Sundays with the average total attendance of 73. The members of our parish see worship services at our church as exceptional in both quality and spiritual content. About 13% of the members attend at 8:00 a.m. and 87% attend at 10:30 a.m., but in the summer months, they are evenly populated. There is a 7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist on Wednesdays followed by breakfast. Six to eight normally attend this service. The Holy Eucharist is the principal service for all Sundays, Wednesdays, and Holy Days. The parish enjoys worship with Holy Eucharist Rites I and II. It is our custom to use them on a monthly or seasonal rotation. The 10:30 a.m. service includes music and a choir. Special liturgies include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Holy Week observances. Members participate in a community-wide stations of the cross.

There is a reverence in our worship, but there is also a conspicuous sense of joy, and the liturgical practices of the congregation reflect a comfortable blending of “high church” and “low church” traditions. Members of the parish serve as lay readers and chalice bearers for all services. The children of the parish serve as torch bearers and crucifers. The parish encourages the customary participation of children and youth in the service. One Sunday in May is observed as Youth Sunday, with the graduating high school seniors presenting a homily and the other youth and children assuming roles as lectors and in the choir.



While receiving the sacrament of Holy Eucharist is most important to us, we also believe that preaching is a primary element of our worship. An inspiring sermon is very important to worship for most parishioners. The members of Christ Church enjoy a variety of liturgical styles according to seasons and occasions and we have an appreciation for the use of traditional language and music and occasional exposure to less often used rites and liturgies.

Music is an important part of our liturgy and fits the style and culture of our congregation. The music program is directed by Sheryl Horton who has an extensive music education and varied experience in teaching and curriculum development. Our organ, replaced in 1928, is an eight rank pipe organ that has undergone several extensive renovations. A new organ console was installed in 1975.





Ministries of the Church

The members of Christ Church are involved in a variety of forms of community outreach.
Below are descriptions of a few of these ministries.

MARION COUNTY COMMUNITY MINISTRIES

The Rev. E. Gary England, Vocational Deacon, and his wife, Ginger, manage the day-to-day operations of the Marion County Community Ministries food bank and Good Neighbors programs, where they also serve on the board of directors. Good Neighbors is a program that follows the same general model as Chattanooga's Metropolitan Ministries and was built on the foundations of Gary's dreams and efforts. It helps local families with utility services. Several of Christ Church's members serve as volunteers at the food bank and many members donate food on a weekly basis. This important ministry is funded with help from our annual outreach budget.

BLUE MONARCH

Blue Monarch, located in Hillsboro, TN, is a non-profit organization designed to serve the oppressed and abused women of Tennessee. They serve women, with their children, who are currently recovering from physical, emotional, and/or sexual abuse, alcohol or drug addictions, poverty, and all associated family issues. Blue Monarch offers its residents a one-year, residential program specifically designed to fit her individual needs and eliminate the abuse and oppression within her life. Not only does Christ Church support this important work by giving from its annual outreach budget but the children of Christ Church hold an annual collection drive and one of our members serves on its board of directors.

RELAY FOR LIFE

About six years ago, members of Christ Church formed a Relay for Life team for the American Cancer Society. This event, a signature fundraiser, helps to increase awareness about cancer, celebrates the lives of survivors, remembers those who lost their lives to cancer, and unites our community in the fight against cancer. Since the church's Relay team was started, three of its members have served on the Marion County Relay Event Committee. One of our members has served as the Event Chair for the past two years. Church Members are consistently generous to Relay for Life, and in 2010 we raised over \$4,000.

RECYCLING

In 2010, a number of Christ Church members helped to start a much-needed recycling program in South Pittsburg and continue to be very active in its operation. At the time of the program's inception, there was not a recycling program sponsored through city or county services. The South Pittsburg Volunteer Recycling Center gives local residents a convenient and easy way to recycle household items and contributes to our better stewardship of God's creation.



Other outreach programs supported financially by Christ Church include E.Y.E.S. (a local after-school program for at-risk kids), the UN Millennium Development Goals, and the programs and ministries of the Diocese of East Tennessee through our annual diocesan pledge.

The members of Christ Church come from many areas all over the community and are involved in many different community programs. Outreach opportunities abound and members are always ready and willing to make a difference in our community.

MINISTRIES TO THE PARISH

Christ Church's members are also committed to ministries within the parish. Liturgical ministries include torchbearers, crucifers, Lay Eucharistic Ministers, choir members, lectors, intercessors, altar guild, and flower committee. We even have a special addition to our services – our very own Verger! Members also serve as Sunday school teachers, and help with maintenance of the church buildings and grounds.



Financial Stewardship

Annual giving from contributing members generates funds for the entire operating budget. Christ Church has historically been a church that set a budget without a pledge campaign. For the last 15 years, we have normally operated slightly below our budget in both expenses and income. Our budget for 2011 is \$160,756. A summary of the last two years' income appears at the bottom of this page. For 2011, our budget allocates 52% to the rector's salary and expenses, thirty-four percent for the operation and maintenance of the church, and 14% for outreach. We meet or exceed our diocesan asking. We have an endowment fund which contributes roughly \$3,300 annually to the church operating budget.

In the past 15 years, we moved from making a plea for major maintenance expenditures to anticipating and incorporating those needs into the budget. We were able to establish reserve funds for maintenance and restoration needs. Those funds were used 16 years ago for our complete nave restoration project. Typically, we have been able to fund necessary maintenance projects, both planned and emergency, from reserve funds.

The fiscal and physical stewardship of the parish is the responsibility of the Christ Church vestry, which is composed of nine communicants in good standing with three members elected annually for three year terms. The vestry oversees all administrative functions of the parish and sets the annual budget. In 1999, the vestry created an Investment/Endowment committee to advise and recommend means of safeguarding and investing the monies and financial assets of the church. The committee established several categories of financial reserves including the maintenance and restoration funds mentioned above, a Scholarship account, a Missions account, a Memorial Garden account and several others funded from memorial contributions. Most of these monies are invested in the Episcopal Endowment Corporation.

Year	Budget	Actual Income	Actual Expense
2009	\$152,815	\$147,540	\$145,157
2010	\$147,540	\$153,268	\$144,758

[\[Click to enlarge and interact.\]](#)



Region And Culture

REGION

Christ Church is located in South Pittsburg, Tennessee, in Marion County, southeast Tennessee. The area is commonly referred to as the “Tri-State” area, as it borders both Alabama and Georgia. Marion County is situated approximately 20 miles west of Chattanooga, Tennessee, on Interstate 24, in the beautiful Sequatchie Valley. The Sequatchie Valley is bordered on both sides by the escarpments of the Cumberland Plateau, and is traversed by the Sequatchie River and bisected by the Tennessee River; and, South Pittsburg is located directly on the Tennessee River. Marion County’s unique geographical location also puts its residents in relative close proximity to major urban centers such as Nashville (90 miles), Atlanta (120 miles), Knoxville (100 miles), and Birmingham (150 miles), and falls just inside the Central Standard Timezone.

Marion County is a community of approximately 27,800 residents, and is made up of many small towns including Jasper, the county seat with a population of ~3,000; South Pittsburg, population of ~3,200; Whitwell, population of ~1,600; and Kimball, the county’s retail center, with a population of ~1,500.

INFLUENCES & ECONOMY

Marion County is a rural county in nature, but has increasingly become a bedroom community of Chattanooga. Employment, while historically centered on mining and agricultural ventures, is now focused on light manufacturing and services. Examples of significant employers in the area are Lodge Manufacturing, Variform, The University of the South in Sewanee, Rock-Tenn, Grandview Medical Center and Sequatchie Concrete.

EDUCATION

Primary and secondary educational opportunities abound in Marion County, both in the public and private systems. The Marion County School System presents a solid educational program, and is in “good standing” under the nation’s No Child Left Behind System. In addition, there are several private school opportunities in the area, including St. Andrews-Sewanee.

College and universities in the area include University of the South, Chattanooga State (with satellite campus in nearby Kimball), University of Tennessee in Chattanooga, Covenant College and numerous others.

RECREATION & ENTERTAINMENT

Marion County’s location in the geologically significant Sequatchie Valley offers many opportunities for outdoor activities such as hiking, biking, canoeing, caving, kayaking, trail running, ATV exploration and more. Marion County is also home to some unique

and talented individuals who have contributed their time to help create such things as the Paperclip Project (created by Whitwell Middle School students, this cultural awareness project has gained international attention, and even has its own documentary film); the Jasper Regional History Museum; and the National Cornbread Festival. The Festival is hosted by South Pittsburg, and draws 50,000 people annually over a three day period. The Ketner’s Mill autumn fair honors our community’s agrarian origins and draws people from the region for its music, artisan crafts and down home food.

In summary, the community that Christ Church serves is diverse both economically and socially. Marion County offers the beauty and scenery of a rural lifestyle, without sacrificing the amenities offered by larger urban areas. With vibrant industry, a growing retail sector, a strong devotion to faith-based organizations, great schools and a rich history, Marion County provides residents the “complete package.”



Search And Transition Process

The Search Committee used Holy Cow! Consulting to conduct our parish survey. This assessment tool allowed our committee to learn and understand the desires and needs of our members and their goals for the future and our future rector.

VESTRY MEMBERS

	Term Expiration Date
Steve Strain – Senior Warden	12/31/2012
John Latshaw – Junior Warden	12/31/2013
Mark Kelly – Clerk	12/31/2012
Libby Pilgrim – Finance Committee	12/31/2011
Tim Godwin – Finance Committee	12/31/2011
Becky Killian – Liaison with Search	12/31/2013
Elizabeth Kelly	12/31/2013
Jean Turney	12/31/2012
Lynn Durham	12/31/2011
Henry Lodge – non-vestry Treasurer	

SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Carey Garland - Co-Chair
Marcia Ivey - Co-Chair
Zach Kelly - Chaplain
Amy Rogers - Survey Chair
Becky Killian - Vestry Liaison
Kim Kirk
Julie Wehunt
Landon Hill
Shirley Thomas
Lynn V. Schmissrauter – Diocesan Search Consultant