

Christ Church Reminder

McCallie Ave. and Douglas Street

Rev. Dr. Will Levanway, Priest

Vol I. Chattanooga, Tennessee. Michaelmas, 2024. No. 2.

CHRISTMAS

Our Christmas celebrations will begin on Christmas Eve.

We will have a children's service at 4pm for our younger folks. The children will help lead the service and tell the Christmas story.

Christmas Eve mass will start with music at 9:30pm and the mass itself at 10pm.

Christmas Day mass will be celebrated at 10:30am.

ADVENT

Advent begins on December 1st. Our 10:30 mass will be celebrated according to Rite I for the whole season.

MIDWEEK

Mass every Wednesday at 5:45 P.M.
Bible Study every other Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. We are reading through the Gospel of Mark.

CALENDAR

November 3 - All Saints (Morning)

November 3 - All Souls (Evening)

November 24 - Christ the King

December 1 - Advent I

December 15 - Lessons and Carols
with Chorus Angelorum

December 24 - Children's Service (4pm)
Sung mass (9:30pm)

December 25 - Said Mass

January 19 - Bishop's Visit



CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

FROM OUR SEMINARIANS

Our current seminarians, Adam Ballintoy and Jordan Trendelman, offer us an introduction and reflection on serving at Christ Church.

Adam Ballintoy

My name is Adam Ballintoy. I'm in my second year of seminary at the School of Theology in Sewanee. I am a postulant from the Diocese of East Tennessee and my home parish is St. Stephen's in Oak Ridge. I am excited to spend the academic year at Christ Church getting to know each of you and to learn more about what it means to be an Anglo-Catholic parish. I look forward to getting to the college age adults who attend Project Canterbury and to explore what campus ministry looks like.



Jordan Trendelman

Through the course of time spent in residential seminary, there are those things which we learn, and those things which we unlearn. We are tested both academically and functionally through our classes and our serving roles within the seminary's chapel. We are mentored and guided by those clerics who have been charged with our formation, and the relationships we build with them set standards and examples for our vocational ministries moving forward. The hope is that our field education site will be an extension of those goals and relationships.

I knew from my first visit to Christ Church that I wanted to make this parish my field education site. The reverence and beauty of the service, Father Will's brilliance and pastoral presence, and the kind words and support of the parishioners made Christ Church the obvious choice. But what I didn't know at the time was that I had not only found my field education site, but that I had found what would become my spiritual home during my time in seminary.

CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

Jordan Trendelman cont.

Anyone who has ever moved a long distance has probably had the experience where they visit where they used to live, and that feeling of being home when they return to where they have moved lets them know that the new place has truly become their home. That feeling is what I experience each Sunday at Christ Church.

There have been so many things that I have learned in my time at Christ Church that are easily quantifiable. Far more impactful have been those things to which there are no easy words to describe, those things which have been bestowed upon me, those things which I have received, those unexplainable moments of grace that this congregation has imparted to me. Christ Church has been a pebble which has struck the water of my ministry, and the ripples which radiate off from this most sacred place will be carried forth into the fullness of the rest of my vocational life to come. The priest I will become is indebted to each and every one of you, and I feel such profound gratitude for the time we have spent together.

CHRIST CHURCH AT PRIDE

Christ Church parishioners joined members of Grace Episcopal, St. Paul's, and St. Peter's, as well as Canon to the Ordinary Joe Woodfin, in Chattanooga's annual PRIDE parade on October 6th to share in the celebration of "God's Queerly Beloved." Only a day after the third Unity Pride Flag from Christ Church's Memorial Garden was vandalized, (found cut down and thrown in the alley), it made its appearance in the parade as a sign of enduring love and support of our LGBTQ+ community, while a new flag proudly hung in the garden (thanks to the foresight and quick action of Father Will). The parade was very well attended by people of all ages, with many families proudly waving flags and celebrating the fact that - as one marcher's sign read - "Jesus had two dads, and he turned out okay!"

In addition to participating in the parade, the Episcopal Church also had a booth inviting all to celebrate the fact that "God adores you," and emphasizing that "ALL are welcome," with temporary tattoos, stickers, and blessings.

CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

COMMUNITY FRIDGE

Christ Church was able to donate a refrigerator to Hope Community Fridge to help our neighbors here in Chattanooga. The refrigerator was in good condition but sitting unused above our church office. When Hope Community Fridge let us know that one of their fridges was no longer working, we volunteered our fridge to take its place. We were able to play our part to make sure as many people as possible have access to nutritious and fresh food in our community.



Our unused refrigerator goes into the truck and is taken away to be put to good use.

CONNECTION GROUPS AT CHRIST CHURCH

With some inspiration from our Adult Education hour, we have started to gather folks together to encourage and enable connections at Christ Church. These groups will get together for a coffee, lunch, or dinner with no agenda other than getting to know each other. Please let Fr. Will know if you would like to get involved and when is most convenient for you to meet.

BISHOP'S VISIT

Our bishop, Brian Cole, will visit us on January 19, 2025. In addition to being a time for fellowship with the bishop, the Sunday will be an opportunity for baptism, reception, and confirmation. Please reach out to Fr. Will if you are interested in these pastoral offices performed by the bishop.



CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

GRATEFUL GOBBLER WALK

This year, The Grateful Gobbler Walk will benefit the Maclellan Shelter for Families located onsite at CHATT Foundation. Our partners at CHATT Foundation have asked us to consider forming a team to take part in the walk on Thanksgiving Day at 8am in Coolidge Park. The money raised will benefit the shelter that allows for families to be housed together as they search for permanent housing. Gender restrictions at other shelters require that fathers are separated from daughters and mothers from sons, some as young as 6 years old. At the Maclellan shelter they can remain together. Please contact the office if you would like to be part of a team from Christ Church taking part in this event.

CHILDCARE WORKERS

We recently restarted our Sunday morning childcare provision at Christ Church. Our young folks are now able to have some age appropriate teaching during the liturgy of the word before returning to mass to take part in communion. To make this ministry sustainable we are in the process of hiring some local students to serve as workers alongside our own volunteers who will continue to lead the teaching and formation of our children. Current volunteers be on the lookout for a revised rota.

MUTUAL MINISTRY REVIEW

The Vestry and Fr. Will recently held a Mutual Ministry Review with the Ven. Jerry Askew, Archdeacon of East Tennessee. The archdeacon summarized the meeting: *My overwhelming impression is that Christ Church is a parish on the rise with impressive lay and clergy leadership. The things you are celebrating are those which any parish would love to be able to be able to celebrate. The things you are concerned about are real, but you appear to have the energy to deal with them. I left the meeting filled with optimism and gratitude for your leadership.*



CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

FROM FR. WILL

One of the key markers of catholic minded Christianity is a sacramental vision of the world. To see the world as a sacrament of God's presence with us, to see it as always about to be some means of grace is a great gift we have to offer that world. The Welsh poet Gwennallt gives us a taste of this sacramental vision in his poem "Flesh and Spirit,"

God has not forbidden us to love the world

And to love man and all his works

To love them with all the naked senses,

Every shape and colour, every voice and speech;

There is a shudder in our blood when we see the trace

Of his craftsmen's fingers upon the round creation...

We may find it easy to see the trace of God's fingers in the natural world. This vision comes easy as the seasons turn, the leaves change, and the holidays begin to loom before us. A view of the mountains changed red and gold is as good an argument for God as we are likely to get these days.

At the same time we need to learn to see the *whole* world around us as a sacrament of God's love for us. The buildings of our city, the difficult people in the pew, the unhoused on the street,

and those who use our food pantry, all of these are effectual signs of God's grace. Seeing everything as a sacrament of God's presence not only opens us up to meeting God in surprising places but also frees us from our tendency to condescension. We do not and cannot condescend to those we might be helping precisely because they are a gift to us from God. How can you condescend to a gift you are receiving?

The challenge for us is to look out at the world around us, the city around us, our neighbors, our friends, and our enemies, and to see them as God's gift to us. What would it change if you viewed the city around you as a gift and not a problem? What would it mean to think of your politically opinionated neighbor as God's grace? How can we see them as signs of God's work in creation?

SUNDAY SERVICES

8AM - Rite I Said Mass in Lady Chapel

9:15AM - Adult Education in Fox Hall

10AM - Childcare Begins

10:30AM - Sung Mass at High Altar

5PM - Eucharistic Adoration

6PM - Project Canterbury

7:30PM - Compline in Lady Chapel

CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

VOLUNTEER AT CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church is YOUR church. Thankfully, Christ Church is a community that only happens when all of us pitch in as we are able. We are always looking for people to join in with the work of our groups and committees. Please let Fr. Will know if you are interested in any of the following opportunities:

Altar Servers
Altar Guild
Adult Education
Building & Grounds
Childcare
Greeters
Hospitality
Outreach
Readers
Society of Mary

ADULT EDUCATION

Adult Education meets every Sunday in person and via Zoom at 9:15 am between our services.

Please join us for discussion, coffee, and donuts between services!

PRAYER LIST

Please pray for:

Susan Miller
Bobby Eichenberger
Anne Cook
Jan Dyer
Craig Steele
David Ratchford Sr.
Mary Carter Duncan
Joel King
Greta Howard
Fr. Harry Lawrence
Ben Sanzo
Paul McDaniel
Rob Lawrence
Nancy Poston

CHRIST CHURCH REMINDER

WRITE FOR THE REMINDER

Please submit any ideas for articles or notices to Fr. Will to be included in our next edition of the Christ Church Reminder. The Reminder will be published quarterly.

CHRIST CHURCH

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Christ Church Vestry

<p>Class of 2024 Susan Brooks (Junior Warden) Karla Fowkes Jennifer McKinney (Senior Warden)</p> <p>Class of 2025 Danese Sizer (Clerk)</p>	<p>Class of 2026 Ray Padron Rebecca Smith Oren Whightsel</p> <p>Treasurer Ray McMillan</p>
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