

**Christ Church Parish**  
**12 Prospect Street**  
**Babylon, New York 11702**

**MISSION**

We, the Congregation of Christ Church, are held in the hands of God and extend our hands to others. We are a diverse group of people, welcoming any individual into our church community. At Christ Church, we find peace, fellowship and a sense of family and togetherness.

**WHERE WE COME FROM**

**HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH**

Christ Church Parish was organized on August 28, 1869, in the neighboring Town of Islip. A church building was erected on a site in West Islip and opened for services on Easter Day, April 9, 1871. It was consecrated on July 3, 1871, by Bishop Littlejohn. Services were also conducted here in nearby Babylon Village, beginning in 1885. A chapel was built in 1889 on George Street and then, in 1912, was moved to a new site on North Carll Avenue, across from the present day St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church and the Babylon Junior/Senior High School.

In 1930, the Vestry took title to a plot of land on the corner of South Carll Avenue and Prospect Street. The North Carll site was sold, and the intent was to move the chapel to the new site. However, the proposal was met by much opposition from neighbors concerned about the destruction of shade trees along the route. Instead, a new chapel was constructed at the vacant location. From that point on, the Babylon property became the parish church and was known as Christ Church.

During 1954 and 1955, a building program saw the completion of the additions to the building, providing an enlarged nave, a sacristy, a chapel, offices, a dining hall and a kitchen. In addition, there is a library/conference room and six other rooms/classrooms. The Church has a seating capacity of 240 and the Chapel can seat 36. The Babylon church was consecrated in September, 1960, by Bishop Jonathan Sherman.

A Millennium Campaign was held, and improvements at that time included refurbishing the floors, re-carpeting the church, and updating the classrooms. In 2004/2005, an Elevator was installed for those in need of such assistance. In October 2005, two new bathrooms were installed.

## **WHO WE ARE TODAY**

Cognizant of our mission statement, we are held in the hands of God. We are a congregation that spans the generations. We realize the importance of the youth to our future. The Sunday School children's exuberance at returning to the service after finishing their classes, fills the church with hope and promise. We strive to instill core values in our youth as they learn the teachings of God. Our grey-haired population and our younger members share in coffee hour, intertwining the thoughts and ideas of the old and new. Together we may "ooh" and "aah" at new babies or comment on upcoming events. We are a hard working, well meaning group of people who stay true to our values while our search for a full time priest continues. We are mindful that God requires two things of us: "Thou shall love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind and Thou shall love thy neighbor as thyself." With these responsibilities in mind, Christ Church gives us a place of respite from the demands of daily living, a place to reflect upon our thoughts and actions, and a place to find peace in the hands of God where we celebrate the Holy Eucharist. We extend our hands to our fellow congregants, further encouraging and strengthening our bond of fellowship. Our hands extend beyond our immediate church fellows, reaching out to our neighbors and our communities. Christ Church exemplifies this commitment with our parish programs, especially our Outreach program. For a small church we have a big heart.

## **PARISH PROGRAMS**

Our mission of extending our hands to others is exemplified with our parish programs.

### **VOLUNTEER MINISTRIES**

The members of Christ Church Parish are involved in many volunteer ministries. Among them are the Acolytes, Adult Education, Altar Guild, Adult Choir, Building and Grounds Committee, Children's Sunday School, Eucharistic Ministers, Eucharistic Visitors, Finance Committee, Lay Readers, Monthly Parish Newsletter, Stewardship Committee, Sunday Coffee Hour, Ushers, Vestry, Worship Committee, and Youth Group. In addition, Christ Church hosts AA meetings from the community.

## **OUTREACH**

Our Outreach program reaches far and wide with many opportunities for giving throughout the year. The Samaritan's Purse project is first up. Our members fill shoeboxes with a variety of necessities and goodies to be sent to children all over the world. Christmas time sprouts our Giving Tree. The ornaments are decorated with designated items or wishes of those in need in our own community. Our members take an ornament and play Santa. After the holidays, we have our SouperBowl soup drive. Cans of soup are collected to fill our local food pantries. Gently used sporting equipment is also collected. We celebrate Valentine's Day by providing puzzle books for young children. Easter is time for making baskets to give to needy families and children. During the summer, our congregants are encouraged to bring in non-perishable food items that are donated to local churches for their food pantries. With the arrival of September, we provide backpacks and lunch box items for some of the local children. In honor of Veteran's Day, we collect items such as toiletries, underwear, or tee shirts to be given to a local veteran's home. For Thanksgiving our parish provides turkeys for a core group of families in the community, makes food donations and donates gift certificates. The year of giving concludes knowing that our small church has given from our hearts to reach out to help our neighbors.

## **PARISH LIFE**

Our parish life is rich with a variety of activities, welcoming opportunities, and spiritual inspiration.

The Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is hosted by members of our Youth Group. There are Expanded Spring and Fall Clean Up Days which help accomplish tasks on our parish's "to do" list and foster a sense of community. We sell tickets for our Ladies High Tea in the fall and sponsor a Chinese Auction that is always highly anticipated. We hold an Annual Parish Fair for the community in which all generations from both services participate. There is a coffee hour after both services, hosted by a crew of faithful volunteers. In 2009 a Parish Softball Team, "Christ's Crew", was formed. This program has expanded to other churches in the Babylon community as well as other Episcopal churches. It has become a wonderful source of fellowship and fun for all who participate. Fair play is at its heart with even a shared picnic beforehand among the "rival" teams.

We have welcomed several new families into the parish and honor them with a loaf of bread at a Welcoming Reception. We plan to hold a brunch in the fall for the parents of all the children who have been baptized during the course of the last year or so. We have welcomed new faces to the vestry and will be sending a "freshman" delegate to the Diocesan Convention in November.

We have witnessed the growth of some of our members in respect to taking on larger roles as leaders of worship and education. We have raised up several clergy to the Priesthood and to the Diaconate. We currently have a member of the congregation in the Discernment Process for ordination to holy orders. Those who have served on her Discernment Committee have experienced spiritual growth along with her. We had two adults received into the Episcopal Church from other denominations on June 19th of this year.

### **BUILDING AND GROUNDS**

Our youth take pride in their church community, and we encourage their involvement in all aspects of our parish life. The Church grounds are enhanced by Boy Scout Eagle projects completed by three of our parishioners: a shed and meditation garden; newly planted gardens; and a labyrinth, our newest addition. Currently, one of our Girl Scouts is working on a Silver Award Project, including the church community in her sewing project.

Murals on the walls throughout the building were painted by our creative and skilled Youth Group members and their friends for our Vacation Bible School programs. We keep these murals up year-round to continue the teachings they show us.

### **RECTORY**

Currently, we do not own a Rectory. We have funds from the sale of a previously owned Rectory, safely invested with the Diocese. Agreement with the new Rector can include either the purchase or rental of a mutually agreeable Rectory, or the provision of an appropriate housing allowance.

### **WORSHIP SERVICES**

Traditionally, and currently through the use of supply clergy, services are held at Christ Church Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The 8 o'clock service uses Rite I and the 10 o'clock service, essentially considered the family service as it coincides with Sunday School, utilizes Rite II.

Our parishioners are ready and wanting to grow spiritually and, to nurture that, we have several other services throughout the year. A Healing Service is held in the Chapel every 1st and 3rd Sunday after each service. This service has helped encourage us to pray for one another and led to spiritual growth for several members of the congregation. We say Compline at our Wednesday Night programs during Lent and Advent. Each season seems to have its own special service as well. In November 2008, the lay led "Service of Light" for All Souls' Day was introduced as a worship

opportunity. A similar service with some additional refinements was held on All Souls' Day evening in 2009. December sees the Christmas Eve Pageant and child-friendly Eucharist celebrated. In the spring, a part of leading up to Easter is the Stations of the Cross led each Good Friday evening by lay people. Readings/meditations are done at each station by participants at the service. Our members also sign up for The Watch as we stay with the reserved sacraments from the service on Maundy Thursday through daybreak on Good Friday. There are services on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday with foot washing, and Good Friday. This summer saw the introduction of the "Prayer Books and Hiking Boots" series meeting every Wednesday night during July. Participants met at Robert Moses Beach for a hike and meditation as we continued to look for God in the "Ordinary."

## **CHRISTIAN EDUCATION**

We strongly encourage and stress lay involvement in all aspects of ministry, and nowhere is this more evident than in our education programs. Our children have the opportunity to attend K-6 Sunday School during the 10 o'clock service mentored by dedicated teachers from the congregation. For the past several summers, we have hosted a VBS ( Vacation Bible School ), the most recent partnering with St. Peter's By the Sea. The program is always well attended and both young and old pitch in to help with the success of the program. Besides helping with the VBS program, the Youth Group participates in age appropriate activities such as a "lock-in" during the Watch preceding Good Friday. Adults attend the AIM (A dult Inquiry and More) Group between the two services, using the Synthesis CE: A Lectionary Study Guide following the Revised Common Lectionary. Here they can discuss the day's scripture or anything else that the group wants to pursue. ( This is the "more". ) A Book Discussion has emerged as an offshoot of the AIM Group. Book titles of interest are chosen by the group, read, and then discussed over cake and coffee. This often encourages participation by those who don't or can't always attend the regular AIM Group meetings. In 2009 there was a lay led Advent Program each Wednesday during Advent, preceded by a Pot Luck Supper, and in 2010 we had a Wednesday Night Lenten program led by lay people and held each week during Lent proceeded by a bread and soup supper. (We like to eat!)

## **LOCAL COMMUNITY**

Christ Church is located in the Village of Babylon on the south shore of Long Island in Suffolk County, just north of the Great South Bay. Babylon Village is roughly halfway

between New York City and the area on the south fork of Long Island commonly referred to as "The Hamptons." Since the electric railroad arrived in Babylon in 1925, the community moved inexorably towards being a commuter area to New York City. In fact, the Long Island Rail Road Station in Babylon, within an easy walk of the church, provides some of the most convenient direct access into NYC in all of Suffolk County. At the same time, the strength of the boating, fishing and ( formerly the) clamming industry on the Bay has forestalled the Village from becoming a total bedroom community.

Babylon Village is a small but diverse community, about 2.4 square miles, which evokes feelings of old-time Main Street in America. Its traditional wooden street signs, several white church steeples, and the Victorian lampposts with hanging flower baskets that line the main streets evoke memories of days gone by. With a population of only 12,615 per the 2000 Census, the Village of Babylon offers a relatively tranquil respite from the crowded and hectic conditions of modern Long Island. Still, with the easy accessibility of the LIRR, the attractions and bustle of New York City are only about an hour away.

Even though Babylon Village is small, it offers a wealth of opportunities and services for its residents. The students in the public schools consistently perform very well on state tests. Over the past 5 years or so, extensive renovation and expansion of the elementary school and grade school have taken place. There are parks and playgrounds throughout the Village - Argyle Lake with its picturesque waterfalls is a wonderful example. The Babylon Public Library, located diagonally across from Christ Church, has also seen significant expansion and renovation in the past few years and is first rate. The Olympic size Village Pool is a hotbed of summer activity. Surrounded on three sides by water and jutting out into the Great South Bay, the pool complex provides inexpensive family recreational activities in the summer. The Village 9 hole, par 3 golf course is a popular feature, and Robert Moses State Park on Fire Island is only about 10 minutes away by car.

More to the point, however, is that the welcoming community that comprises Christ Church Parish is not limited by the physical location of the church. We have all heard the phrase "It takes a village to raise a child." In the case of Christ Church, it takes a Village ( Babylon ), and its environs, a West Babylon, a North Babylon, a Bay Shore, a West Islip, a Lindenhurst, a Central Islip, an Amityville, an Amity Harbor, a Deer Park, a Copiague, a Brentwood, and any other caring community to raise, and support, a parish. In fact, our current Vestry is a prime example of this more expansive congregation. As currently comprised, (2 Wardens and 9 Vestry), there are 7 different communities from that list that are represented. This, despite the fact that there is no shortage of other Episcopal churches within those locales. We believe this diversity is reflective of an inclusive, non-judgmental, caring body of parishioners, and hope to be led by someone of like qualities and temperament.

## **RECTOR WE SEEK**

We are looking for a Christ-centered Rector who is Pastoral, who can nurture and guide this diverse flock for spiritual growth within the community of faith and service and mission beyond our walls; who provides a pastoral response at significant life stages of the members of the congregation. The Rector we seek should have strong preaching skills; have a passion for the Gospel and the ability to make it relevant to our lives today. The Rector should be a Youth Worker, able to inspire the youth and incorporate them into the full life and ministry of the church; and will have Administrative, Teaching and Counseling skills.

We are ready! Are you the priest who also is ready to lead us spiritually, worshipfully, pastorally, and to partner with us in our ministries and hopes for the future?

## **FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

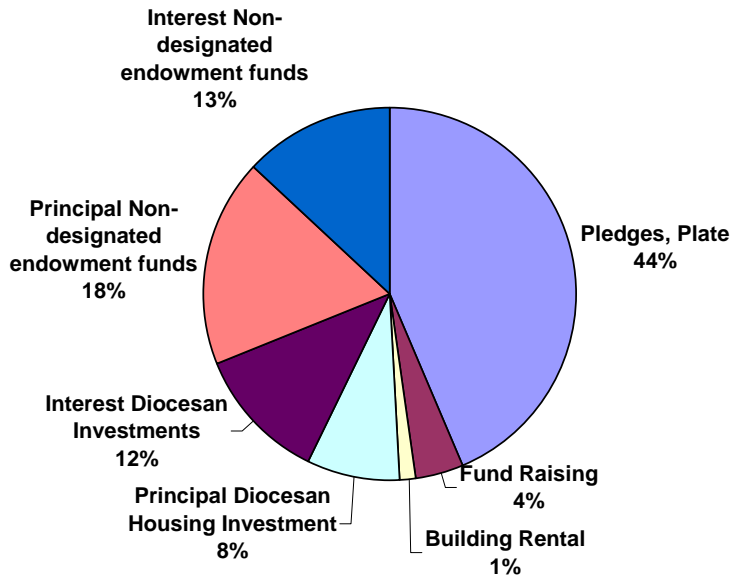
Christ Church has a current staff which includes a church secretary, a Minister of Music, and a weekly Supply Priest. The congregation has been without full time clergy since August 2008. With the calling of a full time clergy, we face a financial challenge which we will initially meet by using income and principal from various endowment investments.

Separate from the endowment funds is the monies from the sale of the former rectory, which have been invested with the Diocese. Principal from this investment will pay for Rector housing. Interest from this investment will be used for operating expenses.

We are hopeful that with a permanent Rector, the pledging income will increase, and we will not have to take money from the principal of our endowment funds. This could also lessen the need to draw from the interest for operating expenses, and make that money available for mission.

The graphs below represent our projected sources of Revenue and Expenses with a three-fifths Rector, with our current pledging income.

### Income Christ Church Babylon



### Expenses Christ Church Babylon

