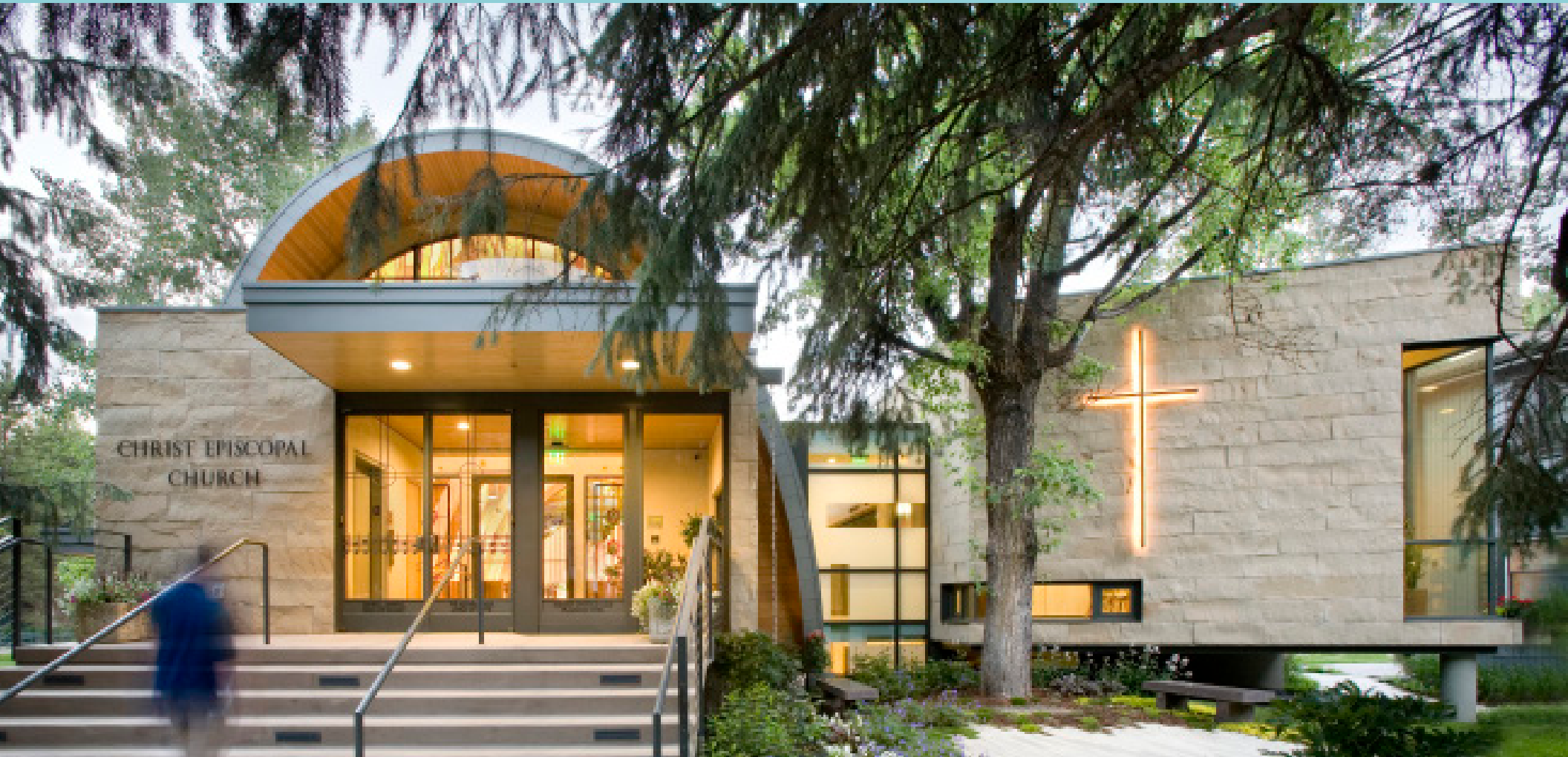


CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH ASPEN, COLORADO



Letter to our Next Rector:

Thank you for visiting our website and reading our profile. Christ Episcopal Church is situated in the historic West End of Aspen on the edge of the beautiful combined campus of the Aspen Institute and the Aspen School and Music Festival.

If you are looking for an incredible opportunity, one with bountiful blessings and meaningful challenges where you can bring your gifts to bear, keep reading!

Our church and community are one of incredible gifts and untapped potential. Aspen presents an amazing outdoor setting along with a highly ranked school district and a vibrant cultural environment. At the same time, our church offers the skills and commitment of our parishioners, untapped giving potential, and strong links to our community.

At CEC, we are at a critical juncture in our church's history. Though we have a long and rich history, we faced immense challenges in 2019 and 2020. However, over the last five years, as evidenced by a recent parish survey and through the work of a resilient congregation, dedicated parishioners, and a cherished leader, we have advanced from a recovery phase to a transformational one. Yet opportunities remain in cultivating the vibrancy and growth among our parish, and we have witnessed how quickly change can happen.

Our transformational work is just beginning, and we are looking for a leader who can knit together the gifts of our community to build on recent momentum, face our challenges head on, and make a mark on this incredible parish as well as the broader world influenced through our church.



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OUR COMMUNITY

ASPEN AND THE ROARING FORK VALLEY

Aspen, a premier ski resort in Colorado, is much more than a vacation destination. With about 6,600 permanent residents and attracting approximately 6,000 tourists per day in summer and winter peak seasons, it retains a welcoming small-town charm that makes it a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

History & Spirit

Founded in the 1880's as a silver mining town, Aspen was revitalized in the 1940's by Elizabeth and Walter Paepcke, who envisioned "The Aspen Idea" - a community that nurtures mind, body and spirit.

Today

Today Aspen continues to embody that vision, with 300 days of sunshine to boot. It offers:

- World-renowned institutions like The Aspen Institute, Aspen Music Festival and School, and Anderson Ranch Arts Center, drawing visitors and cultural leaders from around the globe.
- Excellent schools, with Aspen High School ranked in the top 5% nationwide.
- Year-round outdoor activities - skiing, hiking, biking, rafting, fishing, and more - alongside family-friendly amenities like parks, a recreation center, and summer camps.
- Convenient services, including an airport just three miles from town, Aspen Valley Health two miles from downtown, and extensive bus service through the Roaring Fork Transit Authority.
- A strong commitment to affordable housing to help offset the high cost of living.

Aspen's mix of full-time residents, seasonal neighbors, and international visitors creates a vibrant, energetic community - rooted in traditions and with endless possibilities.



In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

OUR CHURCH

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

Christ Episcopal Church was established in 1884 when Aspen was a thriving mining town. The town had seen tremendous growth due to the discovery of silver in nearby mountains. The silver crash of the 1890s caused a decline in population and economic activity. The church building was moved to Marble, a town about 60 miles away, in 1908. The building is still there, now a community congregation. The “quiet years” ensued in Aspen until the advent of skiing in the late 1940s.

In the 1950s services were held in a miner’s cabin. In 1960 land was donated by a couple active in the church. The architectural design was a gift from another parishioner -- a rather unusual one at that. The new church building opened in 1962. Shortly after, property was purchased next door, and a rectory was constructed and occupied in the late 1960s.

WHERE WE HAVE BEEN

(continued)

In the 1960s and 1970s, Aspen came alive as did the church. These were active times at Christ Episcopal and continued into the first decade of the 21st century. A major renovation of the church was undertaken in 2009. The worship space was expanded and a new fellowship hall was built adjoining the sanctuary. With large doors opening into the sanctuary, this area also serves as overflow seating as needed. A narthex now separates the entrance doors from the sanctuary and a beautiful stained-glass window was installed behind the altar. A chapel was added and the lower level now houses a large multi-function space, offices, and teaching rooms.

In the mid-1980s, Christ Church sponsored the establishment of a parochial mission in nearby Basalt. We assisted in purchasing a building and pursued a major fundraising campaign to renovate the space and to eventually pay off the mortgage. St. Peter's is now an active parish for the mid-valley area about 20 miles from Aspen.

Today, Christ Church is a parish with distinct seasonal attendance. We have members who live in Aspen and other parts of Roaring Fork Valley year-round. We also have many members who live here seasonally, particularly in the summer and also in winter. We have non-peak “shoulder seasons” in the spring and fall, when activity quiets and some businesses close. This makes Christ Church unique among Episcopal Churches in that we essentially have three congregations in one: a year-round congregation, a summer congregation and a winter congregation. We find that even when people are not here for months at a time, they still consider Christ Church their spiritual home.



2019-2021 Period of Transition

Christ Church experienced significant disruption in 2019-2021 resulting in a decline in membership, attendance and finances. Our previous rector left Christ Church in 2019, shortly before the pandemic. The church had been stagnant prior to this rector transition and the succession of supply and interim priests that followed, along with Covid restrictions in 2020-2021 took its toll. The church building was closed for five months in 2020 with limited attendance after that.

In addition to the challenges of the pandemic and rector transition, the parish has dealt with some other trends. The church, and Aspen generally, have seen somewhat of an exodus down valley to communities that are more affordable; this is a particular issue for younger families. Additionally, like many churches, we have a large percentage of our congregation who are older and we have experienced deaths and moves from a number of older parishioners, including a number of substantial donors.

The church began to stabilize and renew in 2021 with the hiring of Bill Lupfer, our current Rector. Worship services in church resumed spiritual vibrancy, ministries and programs were restarted. We learned to embrace technology for both live-streaming worship services and maintaining better connections with parishioners near and far. We welcomed in a number of new members (25 new pledging members since 2022) which helped offset the impact of departing parishioners.



WHERE WE ARE

Current Snapshot

Membership

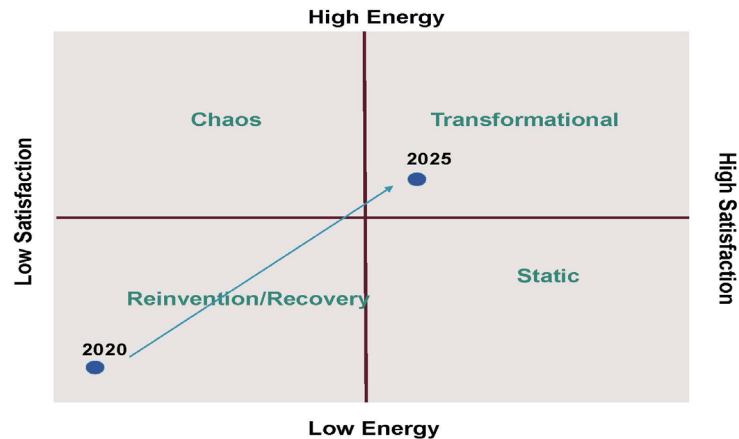
- 85 Active Members - down from ~ 180 in 2021 due to moves, deaths, departures and member list scrubbing
- 75 Average Sunday Attendance (includes 10 streaming) - varies significantly by season
- Membership breakdown:
 - 57% Primary Residents; 43% Seasonal Residents (Texas accounts for one-third)
 - 80%+ of members are over 50 years old
 - Primary Residents - two-thirds live in Aspen; one-third live down valley or Snowmass
 - New members are more transitory than typical Parish (typical of Aspen)

Scope of Current Ministries

- Worship - strong summer attendance at two services with guest musicians and a number of guest speakers; winter and especially shoulder seasons have weaker attendance
- Study - several bible and book study opportunities during the year, often with limited attendance
- Children's Ministry - we have invested in a regular Sunday School with sporadic and limited participation
- Hospitality - is strong point for Christ Church with First Sunday Breakfasts, summer picnics and other events throughout the year
- Outreach - we currently fund the Outreach budget through direct contributions only; additional programs (e.g. Locally Haiti, Feed My Sheep) are highlighted in Sunday services with good donation participation

WHERE WE ARE

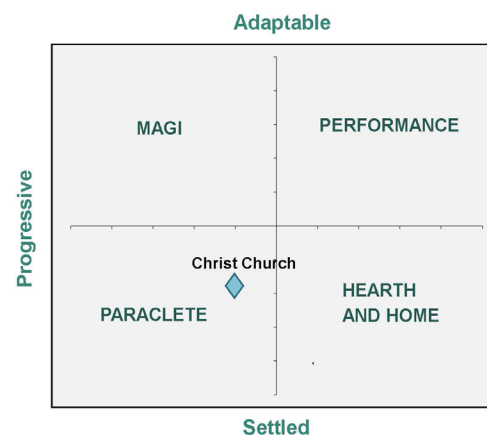
A Recent Survey of Our Parishioners Demonstrates Significant Improvement Since 2020



Large improvement across Performance Indicators:

- Hospitality
- Conflict Management
- Worship and Music
- Spiritual Vitality
- Governance
- Morale

Our Survey Described Christ Church as “Paraclete”



Paraclete Parish Attributes:

- Intellectually open and reflective
- Committed to structure and ritual
- Focused on hospitality, inclusiveness and spiritual practice
- Comfortable with the spiritual path each individual follows
- Can be a haven for those in need of healing or recovery
- If missional focus is lost can go through the motions of set routines
- Temptation to overcommit to the extent that there is burnout
- May accept people without adequate levels of accountability to help the whole
- The power of the gospel to transform must remain a focus, not just its power to comfort

WHERE WE ARE

Our Strengths:

We believe Christ Church has an abundance of strengths! Here are a few:

- Our parishioners have a spiritual curiosity and are eager to expand our understanding of and relationship with God.
- Our worship services are spiritually inspiring, with an excellent musical contribution.
- We excel at hospitality and fellowship, evidenced by monthly First Sunday Breakfasts, summer picnics and other events throughout the year.
- We are evenly split between those who are theologically liberal and those who are theologically conservative.
- Our parish has generous donors, including seasonal members, and has untapped giving potential.
- We have no debt and have been investing the past few years in building improvements.
- We have connections with the Aspen Music Festival, Aspen Institute and other cultural organizations with the opportunity for deeper collaboration.

WHERE WE ARE

Opportunities for Growth:

- Develop and implement strategies to reach, serve and incorporate new people into the life of the church.
- Build the motivation for parishioners to lead and participate in life-long learning.
- Foster a spirit in our congregation that makes people want to discern their gifts and increase personal involvement.
- Make necessary changes to meet the needs of young people and their families.
- Continue broadening our membership base and other contribution sources to counter the financial impact of losing aging large donors.

WHERE GOD IS CALLING US TO GO

Our Vision Statement:

Jesus said, “let your light shine before others so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven.” To demonstrate our faith in Jesus Christ, we will “let our light shine” by offering Christ-centered worship, reaching out to “love our neighbors as ourselves,” seeking opportunities to grow and making the practice of hospitality central to all we do.



WE SEEK A RECTOR WHO IS

- An inspiring preacher with a strong grounding in theology and the Bible and who can challenge us to think in new and deeper ways about our faith.
- Gifted at developing and fostering relationships with parishioners (seasonal and visitors, along with full-time residents) and providing pastoral care.
- Innovative and experienced in ways for the church to reach, attract and serve new parishioners and the greater community.
- A teacher with proven skills to provide more opportunities for Christian education and spiritual growth.
- Capable of working with parishioners to articulate a clear, compelling vision and lead implementation.

“So if anyone is
in Christ, there is
a new creation:
everything old has
passed away; see,
everything has
become new!”

2 Corinthians 5:17

OUR GOALS



To deepen our sense of connection to God and one another through stronger worship services.



To create more opportunities for Christian Education and spiritual formation for all ages.



To strengthen the pastoral response of the church in serving people in need, both within the parish and in the larger community.



To develop a strategy to serve the needs of and attract younger people and families.



To foster a spirit in our congregation that makes people want to get as involved as possible.

FINANCIALS

Christ Church's 2025 budget is \$690,000. We began the year with a projected \$55,000 deficit, due to pledges of \$415,000 (short of our \$500,000+ goal). In response, we launched the Restore, Replenish, Rejoice! campaign last spring, which raised more than \$90,000 - enough to cover the gap and begin rebuilding reserves. As a result, we now project 2025 will end at breakeven or with a small surplus.

This effort continues a recent pattern of closing shortfalls through special gifts. In 2024, year-end "angels" enabled us to balance the books: in 2023 and 2022, we relied on reserves, designated gifts and bequests. While these measures have sustained us, we know more lasting solutions are needed.

FINANCIALS (CONTINUED)

To build a stronger future, we are pursuing three stewardship paths:

1. Annual Pledge Campaign - to grow pledge income to \$450,000-\$500,000.
2. Major Gifts Campaign - to fund significant improvements to both the church and the rectory, and specific ministries like Outreach.
3. Legacy Society - to encourage parishioners to include Christ Church in their estates, with bequests directed to a new Endowment Fund. Early interest is strong, and we believe this will greatly strengthen long-term stability.

Importantly, the church and rectory remain debt-free.

OUR DIOCESE

The Episcopal Church in Colorado

The Episcopal Diocese of Colorado encompasses the entire state of Colorado - around 105,000 square miles - and is comprised of 95 worshiping congregations and nine Diocesan institutions. Our Bishop is The Right Reverend Kym Lucas, who was elected as the 11th Bishop of



Colorado on October 27, 2018 at the 131st Annual Convention of the Diocese. Bishop Lucas was consecrated as our bishop on May 18, 2019 at St. John's Cathedral in Denver. Bishop Kym is the first female bishop as well as the first African American bishop in the Diocese of Colorado's 132-year history.

For a more detailed history of the Episcopal Church in Colorado, please go to episcopalcolorado.org.

BISHOP KYM LUCAS



Christ Church is blessed with a comfortable Rectory adjacent to the church. The house is two stories with a full finished, large basement. The home features four bedrooms and four baths. This year we made repairs including a new boiler, kitchen renovations, painting throughout, renovation of the master bathroom, and new carpeting throughout. There is a small, useable back yard and parking spaces for two cars in addition to on-street parking. The house is in a premier, central neighborhood, and just a block from the Aspen Music Festival campus.

The city center is a short walk away and nearby bus transportation provides easy (and free) access to town. Aspen's excellent public schools are just a few miles away as is skiing at Aspen's four ski mountains.



THE RECTORY

VESTRY, SEARCH COMMITTEE, AND STAFF

Vestry

Eric Pelander, Senior Warden
Joy Stryker, Junior Warden
Lindsay Gorman, Treasurer
Margaret Shannon, Chancellor
Diana Rumsey, Clerk
Bob D'Alessio
Peter Harrigan
Janice James
Donna Rowlands
Joel Shannon
Joe Zanin

Search Committee

Lindsay Gorman, Co-chair
Eric Pelander, Co-chair
Bob Chapman
Ali Dirkes
Peter Harrigan
Elizabeth Klump
Daniel Walker

Staff

The Reverend Dr. William Lupfer, Rector
Leslie Boyer, Parish Administrator
Amanda Gessler, Director of Music
Heather Rydell, Sunday School
Martin Alvarado, Sexton

TO APPLY

Please send your resume, OTM portfolio, and letter of interest to The Rev. Canon Vanessa Stickler Glass, Canon for Transition Ministry at vanessa@episcopalcolorado.org

