

## *Opportunities to Serve*

Putting life into Christ Church — *Your Life.*

*(If you would like to learn more or volunteer for any of these opportunities, please follow the link to the “[Lay Ministry Form](#)” and return it to: **Christ Episcopal Church, 69 Fair Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326**)*

Christian stewardship is a grateful and responsible use of our time, talents and treasure to support God’s purposes as revealed in Jesus Christ. Christian stewards, empowered by the Holy Spirit, commit themselves to conscience purposeful decision making.

At Christ Church we believe stewardship is a way of living. God has blessed each of us and in return we have a duty as Christians to share our blessings with one another. This takes the form of giving, giving of your time, your talents and your treasure. It is what you do after saying, “I believe”.

Getting involved is a great way to serve God and get to know the wonderful people of Christ Church.

Sharing your treasure through pledges and planned giving are ways to insure that our ministries will continue and grow.

At Christ Church we have a wide variety of ministries and committees which welcome new members.

**Acolytes**, sixth grade and up, are trained according to the Acolytes’ Manual written by Burr Southworth. They serve Sundays at 10:00 a.m. Acolytes light and extinguish the candles, carry the cross and torches, serve at the Lord’s table, and assist parishioners coming and going from communion. Training of acolytes occurs each year in late August and early September.

**Altar Guild:** Members of the Altar Guild are responsible for serving Fr. Sam and a supply clergy when necessary. They maintain the altar in the church and the chapel for all services, including weddings and funerals, and all other special services. The Altar Guild sets up the vestments and necessary silver and books for every service. We keep the area near the altar clean and polish the communion rail. Candles are changed when necessary.

**Buildings & Grounds:** The major focus this year is the development of a Site Improvement Master Plan for the Christ Church complex.

**Childrens' Chapel** provides an alternative worship time for children during the 10:00 service. To engage children in worship, praise, prayer and teaching in a child-friendly way so that they will enjoy church and grow in their love for the Lord.

**Choir:** The choir shares and encourages the congregation with their Ministry of Music.

**Congregational Life:** The Congregational Life committee is responsible for organizing social functions within Christ Church. We are responsible for Sunday Social Hours, potluck suppers, funeral receptions, buying supplies, Wednesday Social Hour, kitchen needs, Friends of Need Program, and other events that come up during year.

**Cursillo Community - Leatherstocking Ultreya:** Cursillo is a soul and spirit lifting program designed to raise up leaders in the church and make them even better leaders. We help each other by encouragement, accountability, prayers and support whenever needed.

**Eucharistic Visitors** take communion to several individual shut-ins and two retirement homes in the area. Eucharistic Visitors are specifically trained and licensed to serve in this ministry, which basically serves as an extension of our Sunday worship service.

**Flower Committee** has one of the loveliest ministries; that of providing flower memorials for the altar each week. It's a multi-faceted ministry in that it adds to the service by decorating the altar with some of God's most beautiful creations and it helps to call to mind those who have entered into His heavenly kingdom.

**Global Mission:** In January 2008 a mission team of 11 people from Christ Church went to Yaguaita del Pastor, circa Santiago to work at the Iglesia Cristo Salvador

**Greeters' Committee:** The committee's purpose is to greet all attendees at the Sunday services, to identify visitors, to make everyone feel welcome, and to provide visitors with an information packet about Christ Church. Greeters also invite and accompany willing visitors to our social hour so that they have the opportunity to be introduced to other visitors and church members.

**Lay Readers / Lectors / Chancel Bearer:** Lay Readers read the second lesson at the 10 o'clock Sunday service and administer the chalice. They also hold the Gospel book in the gospel procession. If a priest or deacon were not available, they could lead Morning Prayer. Lectors read the first lesson and lead us in the Psalm. They are not vested (unless they are choir members) and come up from the congregation. Many of our best lectors are youths and we are blessed by their willingness to undertake this ministry. Chalice Bearers administer the chalice at communion but have no speaking part in the service. Intercessors lead us in the Prayers of the People. They, too, are not vested and come up from the congregation.

**Legacy Society:** The Christ Church Legacy Society was established in 2006 to provide a forum to recognize those individuals who have made provisions for the church after their death, and to encourage, by example, other parishioners to do the same.

**Outreach Ministries** try to meet the many people in need around our community and around our world through sharing their time and talents.

**Prayer Chain:** The Christ Episcopal Church Prayer Chain has 26 participants who, upon request, regularly pray for the concerns of our parish. Any one can initiate a prayer request at any time and for any reason by calling any person who is on the prayer chain. No concern is too big or too small.

**St. Margaret's Guild:** members continue to knit and do other needlework as needed, the group has not produced "heart" pillows for cardiac patients at Bassets Healthcare as the need has been filled, at least for the time being, by other groups in the area. However, St. Margaret's Guild continues to monitor the Bassett Healthcare heart pillow needs and will resume making the pillows when necessary.

**Stephen Ministry:** The Stephen Ministry is a program whereby specially trained lay persons provide confidential, individual Christian care to persons who are struggling with life's stresses. Every one of us faces them throughout our lives. But the struggle can be made a little easier when you have someone to walk with you.

**Stewardship:** The Stewardship Committee's mission is to encourage parishioners to live as faithful stewards of the many gifts God has given us. Stewardship is a way for you to share God's blessings by the giving of your time, talent and treasure as a natural part of your daily life. We encourage participation and involvement in the life of our church.

## **Sunday School**

**Ushers:** The wonderful and dedicated people who usher every Sunday faithfully commit their efforts towards the smooth and efficient conduct of the given service.

If you would like to learn more about Christ Church and our parish activities, please call or contact the church office or fill out a Lay Ministry Form (available on our web site) and return it to the church office at 69 Fair Street, Cooperstown, NY 13326

Regular office hours: Mon/Fri, 9:00 a.m.--1:00 p.m. Telephone: (607) 547-9555