



Christ Church Medway

14 School Street, Medway, MA 02053

“Christ Church is a spiritual, inclusive, welcoming, multi-generational community, seeking to strengthen our connectedness to God and our neighbor. We celebrate a traditional liturgy in an informal environment. We provide generous hospitality, serving as a beacon of Christian love and witness to the Medway area community.”

Christ Church Mission Statement

Parish Profile

FALL 2019





Christ Church Medway

Christ Church is a family-friendly parish located in Medway, MA, about 25 miles west of Boston. Our members come from diverse faiths and backgrounds and we welcome that diversity.

Our parish is rich in the heritage and tradition of the Episcopal Church and also reflects today's world. We respect individual thought and reason as we meditate together upon Christian Scripture and seek to live lives full of worship and joy.

Today we boast an energetic, adaptable, and tight-knit community of members—spanning the generations—who are dedicated to growing the church's presence in our community and welcoming more people to join us in worship, service and fellowship.



Photo by Pattie Handloss

Who We Are

What Makes Us Unique



Photo by Pattie Handloss

- Children are an integral part of the service
- We strive to be inclusive of all our members & new members
- Practice a traditional liturgy in an informal environment
- Embrace questions vs. dogma
- Opportunity for individual involvement
- Very adaptable & open to new ideas
- Vestry committed to a team approach
- Organist is a long-time parishioner
- Genuinely hopeful and supportive congregation
- Welcoming to all

Our Ministries

Local Family Shelter

Christ Church is closely connected to the surrounding community of Medway. We support the Medway House Family Shelter for families seeking temporary shelter with donations of items. In particular, we offer a Giving Tree in December, a Christmas in July drive, and regular pushes for collecting personal care items, diapers and wipes for those at the shelter.



Photo by Pattie Handloss

Food Pantry Sunday

The first Sunday of each month is Food Pantry Sunday. Parishioners take home our signature blue shopping bags and return them filled with items for the Medway Food Pantry.



Photo by Pattie Handloss

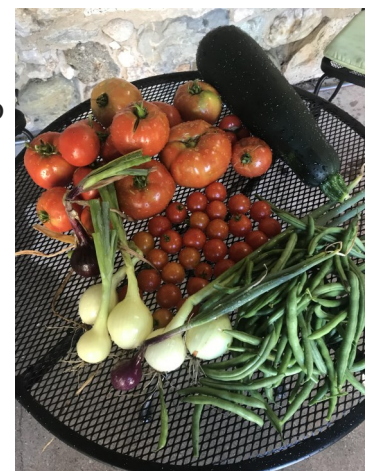
Day Care

Croswell Hall is the site of local day care, Back to Basics, during the week. This rental activity has been in place since 2005 and is an important financial resource to the Parish. The contract was recently renegotiated and resulted in an increase in the rent to cover utilities. It is effective through 2021. Back to Basics offers very affordable child care to members of the surrounding community.



Community Garden

Another area of outreach is our community garden. Overseen by members of the parish, the garden offers a wide variety of fresh vegetables offered free to parishioners, neighbors and residents at the local family shelter. In 2018, we harvested 8 lbs of lettuce, 15 lbs of onions, 20 lbs of cucumbers, 30 lbs of zucchini, 30 lbs of tomatoes and 5 lbs of banana peppers!



Our Ministries

Altar Guild

Christ church has two members who serve on the Altar Guild preparing our altar for weekly services as well as special celebrations like baptisms, weddings and Holy Week services.



Lay Eucharistic Ministers

We are fortunate to have two parishioners who commit to traveling to fellow congregants who cannot make it to services at the church due to illness or inability to travel. In addition to this, we have three lay eucharistic ministers who help prepare the table and distribute communion during our weekly services.



Christ Church is the chartering organization for the Boy Scouts of America Troop 367. The Scouts use Crowell Hall as their meeting location. As a result, the church has been the beneficiary of a number of Eagle Scout projects including the choir loft rail, cleaning and renovating the basement area, book rails in the pews and our sign (seen left) as well as spring and fall clean ups.

Boy Scouts

Fellowship



In good Episcopal tradition, we get together following our Sunday worship with a coffee hour in the parish hall. This gives us the opportunity to catch up with one another and build our community. We have a rich tradition of sharing food and fellowship in gatherings throughout the year.

Our Children

Most churches are committed to families. At Christ Church, we like to think that we have taken that focus a step further.

At a meeting of the entire congregation, a consensus was reached that we would intentionally focus on supporting the spiritual lives of children and families with children.

Every event at Christ Church incorporates children, and they are important members of the

worship life of the parish. We don't think of this as JUST being nice and welcoming (although many visitors say that we are!) but as a way of fostering and supporting young Christians.

At the bottom of it all is a commitment to *discipling* -- helping to shape and support people in their quest to follow Jesus Christ.



Our Worship Services

Sunday Worship at Christ Church is principally a celebration of the Holy Eucharist Rite II of the Book of Common Prayer.

The 9:00 AM Sunday morning liturgy includes a variety of sacred, classical and contemporary music from the Hymnal 1982 and “Lift Every Voice and Sing.”



We include both ancient and modern traditions in our worship, mixing the old and new as we affirm our faith and worship God. All ages are encouraged to take part by being an usher, or a reader, or lead prayers, or ring the Sanctus bell.

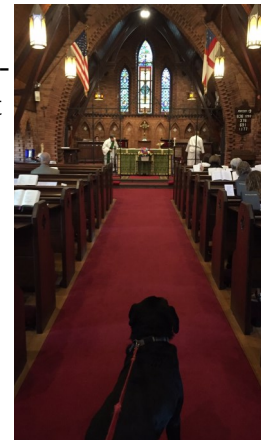
We also celebrate a nearly full schedule of Holy Week services and Christmas services.

Average weekly attendance is 29.

Church school, led by our deacon, has been re-branded by our children as “Prayer Munchkins” and meets once a month. Traditionally, our children participate in our Christmas Pageant—which, over the past two years has evolved into a multi-generational performance.

In addition, we host family pets during the Blessing of the Animals.

Overall, we are a family-centered parish and celebrate the presence of all who come to participate in our service – from the youngest, most energetic, enthusiastic and curious child to the faithful elders in our midst – and everyone in between.



Our Vision



Who We Hope to Be



As we look forward, we hope to expand our congregation as well as provide for new opportunities for fellowship, community, and spiritual growth. We are excited to create ways to broaden our community. We believe that strengthening our Christian education is one way this might happen.

We also look towards developing our abilities to nurture and care for our parishioners, as well as ways to invigorate involvement of the congregation in fellowship and leadership at Christ Church.

We look forward to expanding our own use of the building (especially the kitchen and hall) as well as developing it as a resource for the larger community. We want to continue to welcome and serve the needs of various community organizations including working with other churches in the area to do so.



Qualities

Our next priest will be a pastorally-centered and liturgically-skilled priest who seeks a ministry that focuses on collaboration with lay leadership, attention to the needs of the congregation, and joyful and reverent liturgical celebration.

We seek a priest who is:

- A collaborative leader who is willing to work with and empower lay leadership
- Committed to helping us grow as a parish
- Helps us celebrate the things we love
- Flexible and adaptive
- Local to the surrounding area
- Approachable, warm, welcoming and has a sense of humor
- Offers inspiring and motivational sermons that make the Word of God relevant to our daily lives
- Excited to undertake pastoral care
- Comfortable with our informality



What We Seek in our Next Priest



What We Offer



History

Christ Church began in 1865 as St. Clement's Church when several area communities worked together to build an Episcopal church. The church prospered until Sunday, February 5, 1871 when, on the coldest day of the year, an overheated furnace caused the church to burn down in a matter of minutes. Efforts began to rebuild the church and the existing structure began holding services in 1881.

The church experienced tremendous growth in the 1990's and our first female priest, the Rev. Margaret Quill, also came to be our first full-time priest. As a result of the growth and the size of our sanctuary, Christ Church needed to offer three services on Sunday morning. Ultimately this interfered with the community and unified family spirit of the Church. Since then, like many parishes in the Diocese, we have seen attendance decline.

As an adaptive and motivated community, at one point we entered into a partnership with another parish in order to better manage our finances. In this arrangement, we employed a priest who split time between the two congregations. This collaborative ministry did not allow Christ Church to receive the pastoral care we longed for. As a result, in December of 2014, we left that partnership. In the intervening years, we have been searching for our next rector.

We are a community of young and old,—those who are firm in the faith and those struggling to make sense of it all. We welcome people of all ages and stages in life and in the journey of faith. Some of us are staid and dignified. Some of us are exuberant and wiggly.



Location

Medway was first settled in 1657 and was officially incorporated in 1713. Medway is the geographical center between Boston, Worcester, and Providence, which is purported by some to explain the origin of the name.

A small community of around 13,000, Medway has both a small-town feel and excellent schools. Many of our members come from neighboring communities like Millis, Milford, Bellingham, Franklin and Norfolk.

The Building

The current stone structure offers an idyllic setting for members to worship and congregate each Sunday.

Built by a particularly talented local stone mason and veteran of the Union Army named Elmer Videtto, it is often referred to as “that beautiful church on School Street” by members of the surrounding community.

The first service was held on Christmas Eve, 1881. The Parish House adjoining the church, named after Mary Crosswell, was built from the same local stones and completed on April 25, 1899. The hall provides a large meeting space, a kitchen, a stage, offices and classrooms.

Throughout the years, the structures have undergone renovations (mostly recently new heating and cooling in 2017 and a remodeled kitchen in 2018).

The Church is warm and welcoming and can seat approximately 120 worshipers. It is in reasonably good shape having recently completed the renovation of the kitchen, the back roof, replacement of the water tank as well as the boiler with a high efficiency hot air system which provides air conditioning as well.

Masonry work was completed a couple of years ago to shore up the building, basement windows were replaced and energy efficient lighting has been installed. Externally, there will be a need to address deteriorating shingles as well as scrape and re-grout around many of the windows. The stained glass windows are in reasonably good shape, but the grout around them needs some re-painting.

The most significant renovation is the kitchen. In recent years, a “use of funds” grant was received to support this project. Obtaining a permit for the renovation took time and effort and eventually was obtained with the help of an architect from the Diocese. Delays ensued such that the demolition of the kitchen, undertaken primarily by the Senior Warden at the time, didn't start until October, 2016. The Senior Warden worked to get the kitchen to its current state – reframed with completed electrical work and plumbing. The kitchen passed inspection and is now available to be used. Recent issues with drainage have caused the parish to begin looking to connect to town sewer.

The Church, and all contiguous space, is listed on the Medway assessor's web site at \$1,169,000. There are no tax issues.



CONTACT INFO

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*“The little church
with the BIG heart”*

www.cecmedway.org

14 School Street
Medway, MA 02053



*We welcome interested candidates, who
are looking for 1/3 time with the potential
for growth.*

Priest Search Committee

Jessica McCarthy

Steve Wettengel

Kathy Anderson

Vicky Stillwell

Ken MacDonald

Marian Kennedy

Helen Durkin

Ryan Wettengel

Kathy Pressman