

OUTREACH MINISTRIES

In 2013, Christ Church was designated a “Jubilee Center” by the wider Episcopal Church for our Outreach and Advocacy Ministries!!

Christ Episcopal Church Community Center (CECCC pronounced “seek”)

- Independent 501(c)3 non-profit organization of Christ Church. Formed in 2006.
- Serves the needs of the our community, Ocean County and beyond.
- “Spiritual Support in Disaster Recovery” (Ssidr) is a program of CECCC; a coalition of three Episcopal church communities responding to disaster needs in Ocean and Monmouth Counties (St Mary’s Pt Pleasant Beach, St Thomas Red Bank, Christ Church Toms River)
- Through funding from the Episcopal Diocese of NJ, the Crisis Ministry of Mercer County, and partner churches, Ssidr has met the basic needs of over 5,000 Sandy-affected survivors while offering counseling, prayer and spiritual guidance.
- Monetary assistance to qualified Sandy survivors totaled approximately \$45,000.
- See a new, developing CECCC ministry at end of this list.

Christ Church Cafe

- Established in 2011 to provide a free hot meal and foster fellowship; first Sunday of each month.
- Serves approximately 80-100 guests per month.
- On average, 35 individuals volunteer each month for this ministry.

Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) of Ocean County

- Christ Church is one of the founding parishes of IHN of Ocean County (about 1990).
- IHN is a non-profit interfaith ministry providing shelter, meals & assistance to homeless families.
- In 2013, Christ Church hosted 35 children and adults.

Your Grandmother's Cupboard (YGC) Satellite

- Christ Church is a satellite operation of YGC, a non-profit ministry providing used clothing, personal & household needs for those in need in Ocean County and throughout NJ.
- We have 25 trained volunteers.
- Satellite compliments other ministries such as Café, allowing individuals to shop after the meal.

Women of Christ Church (WCC)

- Women contribute of their time, talent and financial help by hosting dinners and luncheons for numerous church functions. Fundraising supports Outreach of the Parish.
- Members chair and coordinate the annual Christmas Fair, semi-annual rummage sales, the Bishop's reception at Confirmation, organize the United Thank Offering and scholarships.
- WCC Morning Group meets each week to knit and sew items for distribution to those in need.

Jolin Foods – a non-profit affordable Food Program

- Christ Church is a distribution site for monthly program for families and individuals to purchase quality food at discounted prices.
- Parish members place orders, pick up and distribute food.

Diocese of NJ Missionary to the Dominican Republic (DR)

- Charlie Nakash, a member of Christ Church is the Diocese of NJ Missionary to the DR since 2012; the only missionary (ever that we know of) in the Diocese of New Jersey.
- Serves the people of the DR, addressing their building needs and training them in building skills.

Emergency Food Pantry

- Non-perishable groceries donated by parishioners are stored in a pantry at church.
- Food is distributed to families/individuals with an immediate need (approx 10 visits per week)

Community Garden

- The Christ Church Community Garden was established in 2011 in conjunction with Ocean County Youth Partnership. The garden was planted and maintained by mentally challenged young people and their advisors. They passed on this ministry to Christ Church members in 2013.
- The Garden's harvest is used by our Café, Emergency Food Pantry, or donated to local food banks.

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) of Northern Ocean County

- Christ Church members assist with building & rehabilitating houses with help of the homeowners, students from Ocean County Vocational and Technical school and other community members.
- Since Sandy, HFH has repaired 20 Ocean County homes for the safety & comfort of families.

Ocean County Crop Walk

- Once a year parishioners donate to/and or join others in the community in walking together to raise funds for international & local relief of hunger & to demonstrate opposition to hunger in the world.

Shore Community Land Trust

- Clergy and Christ Church parishioners in conjunction with other community members work to address the workforce housing shortage in Toms River; Rector serves as VP on the Board of Directors.
- Goals are to facilitate new construction, rehabilitation, purchase and rental of homes and apartments for moderate to low income people.

Homelessness Ended With Local Partners (HELP)

- Christ Church parishioners serve on this non-profit to solve the issue of homelessness in Ocean County.
- Work as advocates for change to Tent City in Lakewood; homeless living in cars and temporary motels; and the lack of a homeless shelter in the County.

Racial Justice Commission

- Formed in the parish in 2012 to address issues of systemic racism in the church and our society.
- Members attend diocesan anti-racism training and bring programs to parishioners to increase awareness and to be advocates for change.

Oasis Ministry

- Christ Church is an Oasis Parish; an advocate for justice for LGBT persons (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered) for civil rights and marriage.
- Inclusion in all membership and leadership functions of the parish.
- Meetings and referrals for at-risk persons

The Pipes and Drums of Barnegat Bay

- Christ Church sponsors a bagpipe & drum band, and offers free lessons to all in the community.
- Play for parades across the State and at church services.

Caregiver Volunteers of Central New Jersey

- Christ Church members volunteer to assist the frail elderly in the community with daily tasks such as food shopping to enable them to continue to live at home.

Seeing Eye and Therapy Dogs

- Parishioners are involved in the Seeing Eye Puppy Program, raising dogs for this purpose.
- Other parishioners are Therapy Dog Handlers, sharing their trained pets at hospitals and nursing homes.
- Dogs in training are occasionally brought to church to acclimate them to groups and situations.

Twelve (12) Step Groups

- Christ Church hosts eight weekly support groups (some meeting every day of the week) for people with addictions.
- Counseling and support is available to individuals as needed.

Giving Tree

- For Easter, Christmas and Thanksgiving, parishioners purchase gift cards from local stores and supermarkets. These are distributed to those in need including IHN families.

Diocesan Community Day

- Parishioners participate in the annual golf outing sponsored by the Diocese to raise funds for our Cathedral. Day of fellowship with dinner and prizes.
- Parishioner Lois Schmeding won 2 awards in 2013: lowest score for women and straightest drive.

A New, Developing CECCC Ministry – Diocesan Regional Hispanic Missioner

- The 3 “Ssidr” churches (see CECCC above) observed a language barrier in the outreach efforts for spiritual support to Sandy disaster families.
- The 3 churches are forming a ministry cluster pilot project.
- Culturally diverse Spanish-speaking and English-speaking communities now meeting independently will grow to share other programs such as After-School programs, Church school, fellowship, outreach, stewardship, membership on Vestry and Parish commissions, and other talents and resources. The activities are shared, and also the power is shared! We strive to create a community whereby we will rejoice and celebrate together both the Spanish and English languages and cultures.
- Since 2010, Christ Church has held Our Lady of Guadalupe Feast Day celebrations in Spanish.
- We now have a weekly service in Spanish on Saturday evenings.