

Christ Church and San Marcos

43 S. Broadway, Tarrytown, NY 10591

# 2021 Parish Profile and Rector Search



## **Christ Church San Marcos**

# **Parish Profile**

## **Content**

<b>3 All are Welcome</b>	<b>27 Our Facilities</b>
<b>4 Our Vision</b>	<b>29 Our Finances</b>
<b>6 Outreach</b>	<b>30 Our History</b>
<b>10 Parish Life</b>	<b>32 Our Community</b>
<b>14 Worship &amp; Liturgy</b>	<b>35 The Search Committee</b>
<b>17 Music</b>	<b>37 Highlights from the Parish Survey</b>
<b>19 Christian Formation</b>	<b>44 What We Seek in a Rector</b>
<b>24 Our Stewardship</b>	<b>45 How to Apply</b>
<b>26 Organization &amp; Leadership</b>	

# All Are Welcome

Christ Church San Marcos is a church full of welcome, love and laughter. We warmly embrace all who walk through our doors and seek to bring that welcome to our diverse river town community. Ask almost any member and they will tell you the story of how they were captivated by to the church from the first day they stepped tentatively through the doors.

We spread the message that God loves you madly and know that in turn, we too are loved, with no exceptions. We are God’s hands and feet in the world and seek to be a light in our community and to anyone in need. Pre-pandemic our doors were wide open, inviting the community in to worship, pray or have a brief respite from the burdens of life. Our church is now digitally open, inviting all to daily services of worship, prayer and discussion. “I live alone, but I’m not alone,” remarked one of our parishioners. The zoom squares all nodded in assent.

We have a 180-year-old building with a fascinating collection of windows and a pew in which our famous one-time warden, Washington Irving, worshipped. We are situated in a bustling commuter town along the Hudson River 25 miles north of New York City. We are older and younger, English and Spanish speaking, gay and straight, open and creative. The heart of CCSM is its people who care for each other and for our neighbors. Of course, we are inclusive, we couldn’t be any other way.



Christ Church San Marcos Mission Statement

To realize Christ alive in us through faith and action,  
welcoming all who seek fellowship in God.

# Our Vision

We are an active and inclusive parish who likes to do things to enrich our community and world. It is our intent not only to continue our outreach ministries but to expand on them. It is our hope and prayer that new leadership will help us revitalize these endeavors as we prepare to resume in-person worship following the pandemic.

With our church doors open and front yard signs that speak of inclusivity, we communicate our core value that, “all are welcome” in our church home. We yearn to continue our welcoming, caring presence in the community and trust our new rector will embrace our rainbow banner and *immigrants are welcome* sign as passionately as we do. We also anticipate that new leadership will bring fresh ideas to assist us in becoming an even greater visible presence and reliable place of respite in our community.



We seek to grow together in love and faith. We want to meet the challenge to increase the number of parishioners who will commit to fulfilling our ministries. Too many of us have recently moved away, and the pandemic has impacted attendance further. We envision full pews once again with joyful and vibrant worship and inspired preaching. We will be able once again to bring the church outside of our walls. We hope that our new rector will guide us in attracting more parishioners and bring back those who are fearful to worship in person. We want to learn and grow together spiritually and share that with our wider community.

We want to understand the concerns of our world. We believe it is our responsibility to make our community and world a better place by sharing God’s love in whatever way it is needed. From the warmth of human connection, to providing food and clothing, to bringing healing and justice to our society. It is of utmost importance for us to be God’s hands and feet in the world.

We dream of a church building filled with people listening to concerts in our lovely sanctuary. We dream of hosting dinners and events and movie crews in our parish hall with its soon to be renovated kitchen and restroom. We dream of hosting the Alcoholics Anonymous group and the arts cooperative once again, and providing for others who need a space where they feel nourished. We dream of fellowship that is at times deep and at others bursting with fun and laughter.

We dream of a church full of children and youth. We envision the babies born during the pandemic returning and crawling around in our chapel space with their young parents at their side. We dream of full Godly Play classes with many in the congregation clambering to tell bible stories to our children. We dream of the youth group having discussions and fun in a newly re-imagined space that meets their needs. We envision continued learning opportunities for adults, from the seeker walking through our doors to the EFM graduate.

We dream of continued communication lines with our Diocese and stronger ones with our community. Through connections with others, we can find out where our energies are most needed and participate with them. We want to host marchers that pass through our town advocating for inmate rights and watch films that inform us of environmental issues. We want to continue reading and talking with those who will inspire us to involvement.

We are English and Spanish speaking and dream of learning more of each other and each other's language. We dream of a leader fluent or competent in Spanish to assist us in furthering our mission in the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow community. We want to continue our bilingual services and activities and wonder how these experiences might grow and further bring us together.

We dream of more involvement from parishioners. Our survey showed us there were fewer people involved in our ministries than we thought. These ministries are wide in scope, serving asylum-seeking children as well as frail elderly. We need depth in our activities, positions and ministries so when transitions occur, we have people to step in. Leaning too heavily on individuals can be the cause of burn out and can leave the parish with a hole not easy to fill.

We look forward to embracing a new rector who will partner with us as we accept and welcome all, carrying the love of God to our world.



# Outreach

## *Walking in Love*

It is our belief that outreach is the heart and soul of this church, both locally and globally. It reflects the weave of concerns of individual parishioners and the congregation as a whole and is the fabric that supports what we strive to be within our community and beyond.

The core values – human rights and individual dignity – are our primary focus and are reflected through the eyes of the parishioners who initiate and lead the ministries of Christ Church San Marcos. We raise funds and, when fund raising isn't realistic, we engage in acts of caring and kindness. The following examples of outreach demonstrate the ways in which our congregation walks in love.



## **Cristosal**



The stories and concerns of our Spanish speaking parishioners brought us knowledge of the work of Cristosal, an internationally respected human rights organization operating in Central America. We have

since supported Cristosal for many years through funding, traveling to El Salvador to attend their human rights workshops, and sponsoring local awareness raising events.

An artist in our congregation created an outdoor mural project depicting a rainbow bridge from our church to Cristosal's location. A joint presentation of a theatrical event, with our neighbor Temple Beth Abraham, told the stories of asylum seekers. A large container was prominently placed in our church to invite everyone's change and thus to 'Be the Change.' We are continuing this work with the creation of a puppet theater for awareness raising events and to help with our efforts in support of asylum seeking children.

This ministry is a major representation of our commitment to involve more of the Latinx community in our human rights advocacy. It also reflects the fact that our Spanish speaking parishioners are an integral part of our church.



## Asylum-Seeking Children

Abbott House is a local non-profit serving children, families and the developmentally disabled. Several years ago, the facility obtained a government contract to temporarily house asylum-seeking children, ages 5 to 17. A parishioner with contacts there realized that the children's plight is the result of conditions Cristosal is trying to change.

The children now come to our Spanish language mass and special events such as our annual worship in the park and Lenten observances. They participate in coffee hour, play games, have snacks or meals, make art, enact dramas, and hopefully gain a little of the 'family' warmth that a residential facility cannot provide. The members of this ministry, and all who work with youngsters, take and complete the Diocese Safe Church training sessions.



Being of service to these children allows parishioners a collision with the fierce reality of what some children and families are attempting in order to pursue a chance at gaining a life of respect and safety.

## The Susan Fund

This brand new ministry is in celebration of the legacy of our retired rector and will provide scholarships for summer enrichment programs to children in grades 6 to 11 at the Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow school district.



The Fund has raised money to award annual grants for students in need of financial support so that they can pursue their dreams. Both current and former members of the congregation have donated generously to the Susan Fund.

The enrichment programs and selection criteria are being developed in conjunction with school administrators, with the first grants planned for this summer.



## Essential Needs

### The Community Food Pantry of Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow

The pantry has been located in the lower level of our parish hall for over 10 years. It began when a group of concerned village residents and community leaders realized that their neighbors were in need of supplemental food. In a recent past year it provided food for 11,602 individuals. It is normally staffed by over 50 volunteers and is dependent on many community organizations, businesses, schools and individuals to make this a successful effort.

### The Clothing Closet/San Marcos Venta de Ropa

The primary mission is to provide clothing, footwear and cold weather accessories at prices people in our neighboring area can afford – and to do this in a cheerful, welcoming atmosphere. The service, which includes a Boutique with designer labels, is open two days each month. Several customers buy large amounts to send to their loved ones in Latin America. We have been blessed to help new immigrants acquire complete cold weather wardrobes.

An added mission incentive is the ability to assist other parish ministries with needed clothing: Midnight Run receives cold weather clothes for those in need in New York City; Abbott House asylum seeking children get to select clothing they need; and members of Young Adults Institute take pride in the responsibility they have to fold and stack donated clothing. We are also able to send needed clothing to St. Christopher's Inn in Garrison, N.Y., and Love in Action in Yorktown Heights.





## Midnight Run

This is another interfaith collaboration serving essential needs. Parishioners of Christ Church San Marcos, St. Barnabas Episcopal Church and Irvington Presbyterian Church pack and take food, clothing, backpacks, carrying cases and blankets to New York City's homeless. Youth and adult members make sandwiches and assemble bags of travel-size toiletries. Some of the supplies taken to the homeless are donated by parishioners. About nine runs per year are made into the city.

## Young Adults Institute (YAI)



YAI provides day programs at their center and operates group homes for cognitively and physically challenged adults throughout Westchester County. Christ Church San Marcos parishioners have been welcoming the friendly adults from YAI and their staff for more than two decades.

A new direction for this ministry was established five years ago. Three teams of adult volunteers from YAI now come to our church on three different days to: clean the sanctuary and chapel; fold and stack clothing in the Clothing Closet; and clean the library. We recognize the volunteers with a festive holiday luncheon, complete with gifts, warm hats and scarves, dancing and singing.

We are blessed to have a ministry that provides meaningful jobs and responsibilities to help the adults from YAI fulfill their need to be valued.



## Parish Life

### *Inviting the Community to Join us for Fun and Fellowship*

Our parishioners enjoy working together on fundraising events that open our doors to the community. We make these activities fun and rewarding and even boast (quietly) that the people of Christ Church San Marcos know how to put the FUN in fundraising. Our annual events and other activities are listed here.

While there is a lot of laughter in this Parish Family, we quickly take needed action to help each other during difficult times. Individuals volunteer to take home-cooked meals to a congregant in need, they raise money for a family that has suffered a hardship, and they pray for personal needs that arise.



It was 11 years ago that a Bereavement Ministry was formed to respond to the grief of congregants who had lost spouses and parents. Individuals from the community who had suffered loss became part of the group that now hosts gatherings to extend support for those who are newly grieving.

A Welcome Committee ensures that all newcomers are greeted with a friendly face and information as they begin their journey with Christ Church San Marcos. Sunday Coffee Hour, with its light brunch and spirited conversation, also provides an opportunity to welcome newcomers.

Newer initiatives that bring congregants together are the Knitting and Beyond the Fun Ministries. During the pandemic, we adapted these ministries for online events to nurture unity and foster fellowship in a time requiring social distancing.



## Fall Fair

Our Fall Fair mobilizes the entire parish and attracts hundreds of people to our church grounds to shop for bargains and treasures, enjoy a home-cooked meal, and find toys and holiday decorations. There are activities for children and musical entertainment for all ages. Held in October for many decades, the popular event is known to have something for everyone. Even parishioners, who have moved away, come back from as far away as Texas, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

San Marcos parishioners take the lead in the International Café, and parish bakers provide irresistible treats. Merchandise, donated and collected for months in advance, is unpacked and arranged in the weeks before the Friday-Saturday event. Tents and tables are set up to get shopping areas organized – a stylish boutique, white elephant flea market, toys and games, clothing, household goods. Shoppers line up early each year to find bargains as well as to show support for our church.

## Spring Fling

The Spring Fling is a silent auction of artwork, collectibles and other must-haves, along with the smooth sounds of a jazz combo and wonderful food, the latter always a mainstay at our events. Along with the high-end items, there are many services (donated by local business) put up for bidding. The talented vocalist at the last event kept the audience engaged in bidding, buying the gourmet finger food, and enjoying the elegant setting.

## Chili Cook Off

This tasty event, to benefit Cristosal or other worthy organizations, offers all the chili you can eat and dancing to the music of Steel Passion Band. Parishioners make and bring their favorite chili, attracting many guests to sample the food. A small entrance fee and ‘dollars for your favorites’ are used as a voting measure to win the coveted “Best of the Night” award.



## Fish Fry and Chilean Hot Dogs

The Fish Fry and Chilean Hot Dog event raises funds to help expand outreach in the community. And no one leaves hungry! San Marcos parishioners host the afternoon of delicious food and friendship in our church hall, and are gladdened by many visitors, including our Spanish speaking neighbors.

## Steel Passion

For nearly 30 years, the all-volunteer Steel Passion, the steel band of Christ Church has represented us in the community and is a tithing member of the church. As a joyful music ministry, the band plays for church services and other Christ Church San Marcos events. Steel Passion performs for the Tarrytown/ Sleepy Hollow Halloween Parade and for libraries, boat clubs, fundraisers, schools, camps, group homes and private parties. We have even played at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine.



## Knitting and Beyond

Staying connected has become a goal for many of us during a year of social distancing. This is clearly demonstrated by our Thursday afternoon Knitters and Beyond Club on Zoom.



During the one-hour session, club members engage in 'making of any kind': mending, knitting, crocheting, paper crafting, book construction and/or conversation.

The previous work of the Knitting Ministry has been to create prayer shawls and lap blankets, all of which were blessed and then donated to the hospice at Phelps Hospital. The hospital informed us in 2019 that it had expanded distribution to its main hospital patients, emergency room, and new cancer center. Because the hospital is not accepting donations at this time, the blankets are being taken by Midnight Run for distribution to the homeless in New York City.

## The Fun Ministry

Just three years old, this ministry, drawing on the talents and interests of parishioners, hosts gatherings such as dinner and a movie; music in the park; a night out to hear the Steel Passion Band at a riverfront restaurant; and talent performances.

During the pandemic when in-gatherings were not possible, Friday Fun and Creativity Nights were hosted on Zoom. A jazz pianist in our parish has given enchanting performances of songs, including her own works. An artist inspired parishioners to read their poetry and to share their artwork and other creative endeavors during “Arts Nights.” There were game nights and a virtual talent & variety show. Events continue to be planned to enjoy time together and HAVE FUN!



# Worship & Liturgy

Worship at Christ Church San Marcos isn't limited to Sundays. It is not limited to our church space or the Book of Common Prayer. We love the traditional liturgy as well as using informal and creative resources provided by the Episcopal Church.

A typical Sunday is a full day of prayer, beginning with an 8 AM service (sans music/choir). Our 10 AM service includes music, choir, Sunday School and childcare. Our San Marcos service is in Spanish, with music, at 12:30 PM. Both the 8 AM and 10 AM services primarily use Rite II liturgy and all services offer the Holy Eucharist. Our Prayers of the People are often changed to reflect current times or challenging circumstances. Our Sunday bulletins are seasonal, with special bulletins printed for holiday worship. Parents with babies and small children can worship in a dedicated space with rocking chairs, books and toys. We do welcome all!

Each Sunday we have many parishioners participating in our services. Ushers' welcome everyone at the front door, acolytes serve on the altar, lectors from the congregation read the scripture and lead prayers, and lay eucharistic ministers and chalice bearers assist the priest at the altar. Once -a- month healing prayers are offered for those who desire this ministry, in St. Mark's chapel during the service.

Sprinkled in the yearly mix are special seasonal holiday services. For example, during our celebration of Holy Week we offer reflective Labyrinth walks, an Agape Meal of Mediterranean finger foods, foot washing, personal testimonies on the Last Words of Christ, Good Friday walks with Jesus, and Palm Sunday processions into our community - delivering palm branches to passersby. We begin Lent with both traditional Imposition of ashes services along with the more non-traditional, 'Ashes To Go' offering at the Tarrytown train station.



Twelve times a year, the Christ Church and San Marcos congregations worship together at 10 AM, melding English and Spanish liturgy, music and sermon. We think of ourselves as one congregation with two languages. Members of San Marcos traditionally lead us in an Epiphany Pageant during our first joint service each year and they join with other Latino congregations for Stations of the Cross during Lent, inviting us along with them.



A uniquely creative service is our Chancel Drama Ministry led by Howard Lipson. For the past 25 years, a scripture-based play is performed monthly by parishioners. The play is the sermon. This endeavor contemporizes scripture, increases congregational participation on the altar and enjoys strong support from parishioners. Over the years, more than half of the congregation has performed in chancel dramas.

We pray every weekday morning at 9 AM using mostly *Daily Prayer for All Seasons* by Church Publishing. These Morning Prayer services include a reading of the daily Gospel followed by reflection. Whether in person or on zoom this is an intimate service that many parishioners begin their day with. Since the pandemic has prevented in person worship, we have sought additional ways to support one another. We now offer a lay led Compline service in both English and Spanish each week. Monthly, we offer a lay led service of Evensong from the 16<sup>th</sup> century Book of Common Prayer.

We extend our worship to outside communities at Kendal-on-Hudson (their ‘memory unit’), Tarry Hall (nursing home), and Crestview (mental health facility). We meet with these communities twice each month. The Tarry Hall and Kendal-on-Hudson services include guitar music and singing while The Crestview service additionally offers Holy Communion.



When the pandemic necessitated the cancellation of in-person worship, we quickly migrated to zoom. We met from our homes or offices and created a surprisingly intimate and satisfying worship experience. We started with Sunday Morning Prayer but have experimented with adding in Eucharistic prayers and yes, even chancel dramas. We share in reading the lessons and prayers and check in with each other before and after the service.

## THE ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild prepares all items necessary for the celebration of The Eucharist and any other special services held. They also coordinate the flower memorial ministry for those who would like flowers placed on the altar in memory of, or in thanksgiving for, a loved one. The Altar Guild cares for many invaluable artifacts-like silver pieces dedicated to the Vanderbilt family and Horace Greeley, along with glazed pottery dishes for humbler worship. A number of the altar cloths, robes and stoles are handmade. The Altar Guild bedecks both altars weekly, adding special adornments for holidays. Palms for Palm Sunday and lilies for Easter; poinsettias, pine garlands, a creche and candles throughout the church at Christmas; and for Pentecost, hand held instruments, flame spears and streamers - even a flying dove! For All Saints' Day we have a Table of Remembrance for those we've loved and lost.





# Music

Music is an integral part of the liturgical life of our congregation. The *Hymnal 82* is in our pews, while additional hymns are often chosen from *Wonder, Love, and Praise; Lift Every Voice and Sing II*; and *Flora y Canto* and other sources. As ‘one congregation worshipping in two languages,’ our musical vocabulary is a broad one with musical preferences across the spectrum.

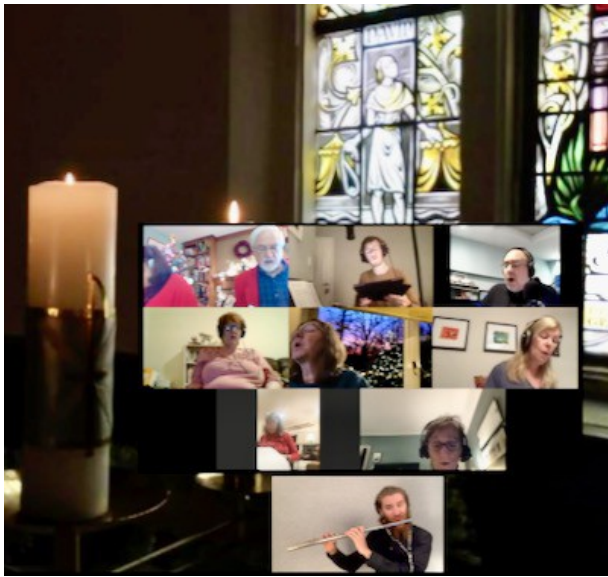


In the ‘Before Times,’ the choir led congregational singing and offered an anthem each Sunday of the program year. On the twelve Sundays each year when we worship as a unified congregation, the choir joins with the musicians from San Marcos on Spanish-language service music and hymns. Our musician for the San Marcos community is Jhonny Garcia. Additionally, the Christ Church choir sings Christmas Eve and during Holy Week.



Music director Wilden (Wil) Dannenberg joined the staff in 2019; through his many contacts, he has engaged a range of talented young musicians who participated in worship with us (prior to March 2020). Strings, woodwinds, brass players across many musical genres played for worship in our nave; some have continued to join us virtually. A talented musician, Wil plays organ, piano, and French horn as part of our life together. With a master’s degree from SUNY Stony Brook in French horn performance and a Carnegie-Julliard Fellowship, his musical abilities are matched by a gentle, loving spirit.





During the months that the pandemic required online worship, Wil gathered the choir virtually. Patiently walking members through a process involving ethernet cords and new software, Wil continued a weekly rehearsal schedule, recording hymns, anthems, and psalm settings for Sunday mornings. The choir has found this time together to be pastorally and musically significant; when singing in person is again safe, we will come back together a more closely-knit and musically skilled group.

Music at Christ Church is not limited to Sunday mornings and social events: a service of Evensong is offered once a month and led by members of the parish. Musician Ana Hernandez spent a weekend with us in 2017. The Taiko Drums of Japan were a significant part of the parish's spring fund-raiser for many years along with a jazz combo featuring a member of the parish. That same parishioner offers regular opportunities for parishioners to play and sing together at a local park and provided 'background music' for our online Shrove Tuesday pancake dinner.



When we are once again able to make music face-to-face and in-person, we plan for a series of concerts creating a musical space that recognizes the creative and cultural vibrancy of the area. As the parish serves as a center for a variety of community activities, music can be another means for drawing people together.



# Christian Formation

## *Youth Christian Formation*

Christ Church San Marcos offers opportunities for children to engage in classes that establish a deeper understanding of the bible and the church. We are happy to provide three different classes (based on age) during our 10 AM service. We are extremely flexible at CCSM so the age groups between classes may fluctuate if, for example, a sibling wants to stay with his/her older brother or sister.

**Nursery** - Our “little ones” (ages one-1st grade) have a classroom in the undercroft (ground floor of the church). Nursery Care/Stories/Crafts are provided by our loving teachers during the service. There are two paid staff for this group. Children may remain in this class for the full duration of the service, but parents are welcome to bring their children upstairs for the Eucharist or a blessing. The children in this class (typical attendance is 4-5) enjoy learning about Jesus through storytelling, crafts and play time. It is here that the children develop their first friendships with their church family.

**Godly Play** - Our children in 2nd-5th grade have a separate classroom in the undercroft for our Godly Play curriculum. Before the service begins, we meet in the first two pews in the front of the church. The volunteer teachers lead the children downstairs to their class after the first hymn. This class then comes upstairs for the Eucharist or blessing each Sunday. This class typically averages about 4-8 children.

The unique way that Godly Play stories are told, allows children to enter into and experience the stories of the Bible. We have been using this curriculum for several years and it has been a huge hit with the kids and parents. We never cease to be amazed at the questions the kids come up with. It makes us realize that they are truly “connecting the dots” between the story and the actual lesson. We have heard questions like “I wonder if a child can be a Good Samaritan?” or “I wonder if the Good Shepherd gave names to his lambs?”





## Youth Group -

This program is for 6th graders & older and we meet during the service in the “teen room” in the basement of Ackerman Hall. We have tried different alternating schedules over the years so that the older children would have the

opportunity to participate in the service, as well as attending youth group meetings. Our schedule for Sunday Youth Group meetings “Pre-Covid,” may need to be discussed and adjusted in the future, and we look forward to that discussion with our new priest and families in this age group.



The Youth Group works on special projects for Church as well as community projects. They also perform as the “First Generation, Christian Formation Players” at church services a few times each year. Currently there is a small but “lively” Youth Group (about 4-6) who are VERY interested in renovating the teen room and adding equipment such as a ping pong table, games and a green screen for their video productions etc. Bowling and Pizza nights are YG favorites!



In addition, San Marcos Pastoral Assistant, Mario Salinas runs a children’s Spanish language program on a convenient weekday for children between 5-13. This program evolves according to the needs and ages of the available children.



The challenge for Christ Church San Marcos continues to be finding a way to reach out to busy young families to come to church, bring their children and hopefully volunteer.

Click the image below to see our younger kids putting on a Zoom puppet show for our retiring rector. We are very proud of the coordination of efforts between the Teachers, Youth Group and younger children who put together a Zoom Christmas Pageant which can be seen in the video below. We think this is a wonderful indicator of how CCSM continues to prevail even under the hardest of times.



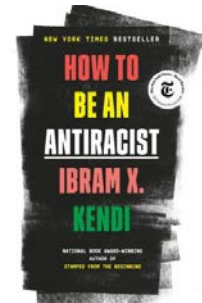
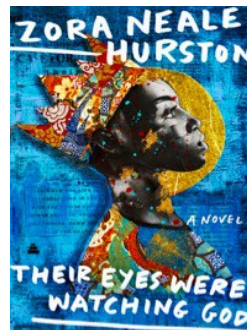
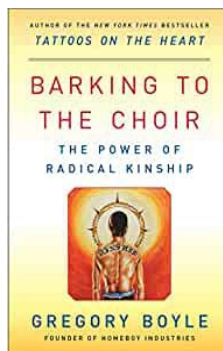
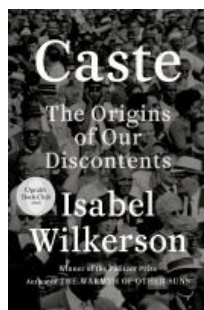
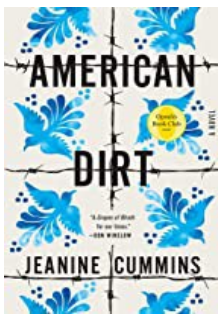
Just like many other churches, our services and youth meetings during Covid are on “Zoom” but we are hopeful that most of our families will be back after Covid. However, we know that it may be a while before everyone feels comfortable enough to return to “normal” church activities, including Sunday School. We are, however, committed to do whatever is possible (and sometimes attempting the impossible), to keep our kids coming back to their Christ Church home.



## Adult Christian Formation

**Advent retreats** – We gather for a Saturday experience of quiet, reflection and study and a shared luncheon. This practice centers those who attend, for the season ahead.

**Book group** – This group meets frequently during the year and reads titles that examine the human and spiritual experience. Each selection is followed by a lively discussion and is lay led. The titles that are chosen are mostly non-fiction, but some fictional titles have been included as well. Examples from the recent past include, *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson, *Beyond a Binary God – A Theology for Trans-Allies* by Tara K. Soughers, *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston and *Barking to the Choir* by Fr. Gregory Boyle.



**Conversations** – One of our parishioners organizes a joint event with Grace Church, Nyack by hosting an author for a weekend learning experience. We hear them speak, have time for discussion and Q and A along with a lovely reception. There is often background reading available prior to this mini retreat or suggestions for further study following it. Recent Conversations have been with the late Bishop Barbara Harris, Louie and Ernest Clay and Peter and Rhondesia Jarrett.



**Confirmation** – Each year confirmation classes are held for those wishing to take that step, often coordinating with a visitation from the Bishop.

**Inter-Faith experiences** – We have a strong desire to partner with others in our community and seek to learn more about them. When Old Testament questions arise in our morning prayer group, we invite the local rabbi in for some dialogue. When we wonder what followers of Islam do, we invite them to share with us. When faith communities are attacked, we join together to support them.

**REPAIR** – (Rivertowns Episcopal Parishes Action on Inclusion and Race) Our parish, along with other local parishes along the Hudson River formed REPAIR to discuss, study and learn about topics related to racial justice. Following a joint Lenten study many years ago, the parishes decided to continue this work and invite others to join us. We meet monthly in the founding churches to continue this dialogue and self-evaluation of ourselves and our churches, study our local communities and support groups working for racial justice.

**San Marcos Prayer Group** – This group meets each week to pray for their own needs and those of others. All are welcome to attend, but it is particularly important to those unable to attend Sunday services.

**San Marcos retreats** – Our Lay Pastoral Assistant, Mario Salinas, leads a day long retreat to a beautiful place in the Hudson Valley. Respite, learning and fellowship – what could be better?

**Soup supper** – We meet weekly during Lent to share a supper of soup and bread and participate in conversation and learning with each other over a chosen topic. We’ve heard testimonies of each other’s faith and stories of fellow parishioners’ immigrations to our country from Africa and Central America. We are grateful for these experiences which allow us to know each other more deeply.



# Our Stewardship

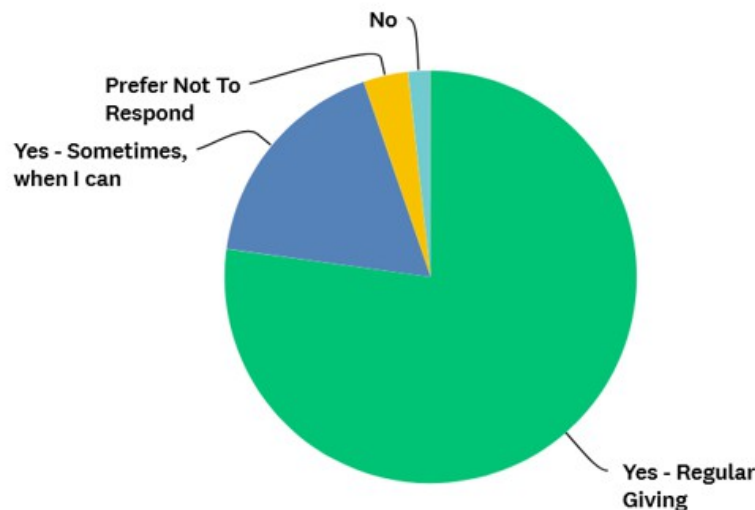
Christ Church San Marcos parishioners give their talents and gifts to the church. The operation of the church is driven by many volunteers, from the choir to the coffee hour to the property committee. Whenever there is a task that needs completing, whether it's mowing the lawn when our Sexton was in the hospital for months, or providing legal advice, we can usually find members from the congregation to provide the skill or muscle needed.

There were 74 giving units in 2020. The church depends upon a relatively small number of parishioners and in 2020 we saw 22 families give above \$4,000 while 20 families gave less than \$1,000. The church is highly dependent on the top 10 donors who provide for 50% of pledges. 2021 has proven a difficult year to retain the same number of pledging units, but we are grateful for the 57 pledges received.

Christ Church San Marcos has a dedicated community, but stewardship remains an area for growth. We can and should do more to bring in new families and highlight the importance to existing members of pledging generously to the church. Before the pandemic, we relied heavily on in-service testimonials from members of the stewardship committee during our pledge drive, and during the pandemic we did more direct outreach and traditional fundraising methods. We lost several of our major pledge units due to retirement and relocations during the pandemic and had to begin a process to consider what different elements we can bring to our stewardship ministries. We hope that our new rector will support the vestry and take an active lead in increasing engagement and stewardship.

## Do you pledge to the church?

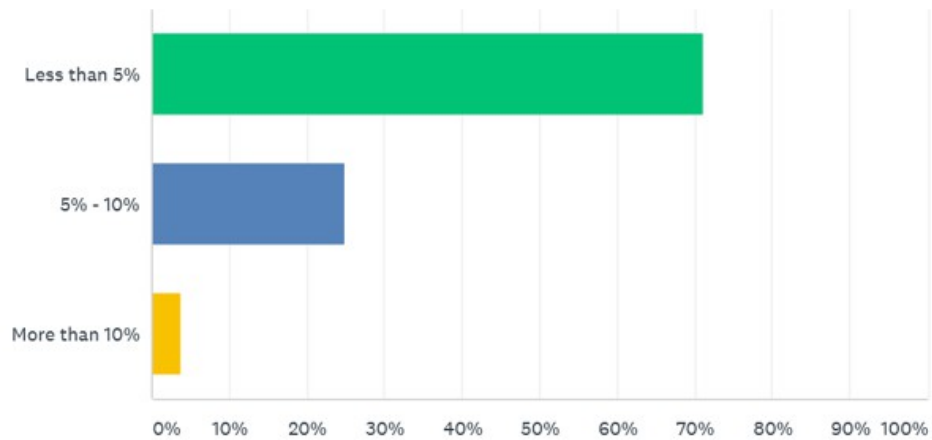
Answered: 57 Skipped: 0





## What percentage of your annual income do you give to the church?

Answered: 52 Skipped: 5



In addition to our pledge drives, we also host two fundraising events (in non-pandemic times): Our Fall Fair, which takes in donations from the community for re-sale; and our Spring Fling, which is a silent auction with “big ticket” items. These typically bring in approximately \$20,000 together and help to support the operations of the church. We rent our weekday space to Christ Church Nursery School and our parish hall to AA, an art group and many others over the years, such as the film crew for the popular TV series, The Blacklist.

Time, talent and treasure – a common stewardship drive phrase in all of our churches. As the pandemic recedes and the vaccinations increase, we hope to come back in person to give more time, use our talents and increase our treasure for the good of God’s kingdom in Tarrytown and around the world.



## Organization & Leadership

Christ Church San Marcos is led by a team of passionate, energized and committed paid staff and volunteers. Formal leadership includes the Rector, a lay Hispanic minister and two wardens, who are part of a nine-person Vestry. The Rector is a full-time staff position, with a part-time interim Rector currently filling that role. Our staff includes: a full time Parish Administrator, part-time lay Hispanic minister, part-time music director, part-time sexton and a musician for Spanish services. We have volunteer Sunday School teachers, and two paid Sunday child-care supervisors. Volunteers also serve as greeters, acolytes, altar guild, lay readers, and our choir, along with many committees involving outreach, fundraising, social issues and welcoming others.

The pandemic brought the need for a caring structure. The Vestry divided our church directory into equal parts and initiated regular contact with our church members to keep in contact during the long months of isolation, build relationships and assess if there were any needs. After many months the vestry pivoted to a new structure at the suggestion of our wise interim rector. Each Vestry member was assigned a committee or area to check in with regularly. They will become more aware of ministry needs and successes and then regularly report on that information during Vestry meetings. This structure will help in re-opening as well as be a support to the new Rector we call.

Christ Church San Marcos is a member in good standing in the Diocese of New York. We are regularly visited by a Bishop and participate in congregation-wide Diocesan programs and trainings. Several years ago, we partnered with an urban and rural congregation in a program called Indaba, whose focus was to build relationships across the Diocese of New York. We regularly send congregants to mission conferences, have attended choir festivals and inform our congregation of opportunities the Diocese provides.



# Our Facilities

## Nave and Chapel

Our 1837 early Gothic revival brick church situated in one of America's prettiest towns was designated a Tarrytown Village historic landmark in 1978. Worship in our historic church is beauty blessed and is graced with a wealth of magnificence. Our stained-glass windows are not just spectacularly colorful, but each tells a story. They are beautiful examples of American religious art of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The windows and the tribute plaques on the walls beneath them date to the mid-19th century. Our lovely marble Baptismal Font is the center of its own platformed space with a stained-glass array of children from the bible and the preserved pew of Washington Irving, the renowned author, once a vestry member at our church.

We have two worship areas side by side - the Nave and St. Mark's Chapel, a smaller area with moveable, flexible seating for all 8 AM worship and most San Marcos worship. Our pipe organ is on the main altar with the impressive brass pipes situated between the two altars along with a piano used for both worship areas. Parents with babies and small children who wish to remain for worship can enjoy a dedicated space in the rear of St. Mark's Chapel with rocking chairs and toys.



## Undercroft

Tarrytown Nursery School has been located in the undercroft of Christ Church since 1971 and continues to provide pre-school education/daycare in addition to rental income for our church. There are additional rooms in the undercroft used by our Sunday School for a Godly Play class a nursery, and a choir room. There is an outdoor playground enjoyed by both Schools' children.

## Parish Hall

The Christ Church Parish Hall, built in 1898 is named Ackerman Hall, in honor of a previous long serving Rector. It is the home of many a coffee hour, youth group meeting, Steel Band rehearsal, air- conditioned summer service, and host of church events. The Ackerman Hall basement has been the distribution point since the 2009 founding of the Community Food Pantry of Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown. Outside Ackerman Hall in the courtyard is our brick labyrinth across from the Cristosal “Bridge of Hope” mural. Ackerman Hall’s WIFI was updated, and a kitchen renovation is planned along with a handicapped accessible bathroom.

## Rectory

The Church Rectory was built in 1875. Now connected to the Church and the Rector’s office and modernized throughout, the Rectory is 5,460 sq. feet with 6-bedrooms (2nd floor master bedroom + sitting room/bedroom and 3rd floor 5-bedrooms/storage), and 2-1/2 bathrooms. Off the living room is a beautiful sun deck porch with delightful views of the Hudson River and the labyrinth in the courtyard. The Rectory porch deck was recently renovated and the Rectory has a new fire sprinkler system, dishwasher and refrigerator. A single car garage is located beneath the porch.

Our historic Church’s buildings need to be maintained, repaired and preserved. The most recent work has been: the 2007 major work on the Church’s roof, sanctuary trusses and bell tower, the ADA ramp into the Church, the 2012 new handicapped accessible Narthex bathroom and the late 2016 fire alarm system upgrades. To preserve the safety and stability of exterior brick work, all our Church’s buildings were addressed in 2018 with necessary bricks replaced and re-pointed. We look forward to continue upgrading our facilities in order to be an even more involved community presence.

## Church Tour

Join our kids on a tour of the church buildings.



# Our Finances

Christ Church San Marcos operates on a balanced annual budget targeting breakeven expenses against receipts. Thankfully we have continued to sustain our ministries primarily through pledge and plate contributions, supplemented by various other sources. We have not needed to tap our endowment to fund the operating budget for the past ten years, allowing it to almost triple in value. We believe it is best to preserve the endowment fund for the future security of the church.

To manage pandemic related financial challenges, we have received PPP loans as well as emergency grants and assessment relief from the Diocese of NY. Due to these loans and grants we were able to meet our 2020 budget and are securely positioned for 2021. The PPP loans to date have been forgiven and will not need to be repaid. Further, while we benefitted from the Diocese' generous support recently, we also continue to be a net contributor through our apportioned share of trailing net operating income.

Our Hispanic ministries through the San Marcos congregation offer a unique mission in our community, as the diocese has recognized for many years with a \$14,000 annual grant. We hold two main fundraisers to supplement the monies that come in through pledges and plate offerings. This past year, due to the pandemic, we were unable to host these fun and lucrative events which typically net over \$20,000.00.

We have a joyful meeting called Invest -a-month each year, often held after the annual meeting. This adds additional funds to our coffers. Months are auctioned off and parishioners commit to giving the whole month (\$1,000), half a month (\$500) or a quarter of the month (\$250). Parishioners often honor a birthday or anniversary by committing to certain months. This was begun in order to pay off a diocesan loan for roof replacement, the trusses in the sanctuary and the bell tower. Invest-a month continued after that goal was met out of parish interest. Invest -a-month monies are held in the capital account unless a need arises for use in current operations. The traditional program has been paused due to the pandemic, though parishioners may still select "invest-a-month" as an option in our online giving platform.

We have a dedicated group of counters that pre-pandemic met weekly to count and record the gifts given each week and then make bank deposits. This confidential ministry is performed in two person teams. In July 2020 we began using the Vanco platform for online giving, which most pledging contributors have now adopted. There is an annual and tri-annual audit.

We maintain savings accounts for capital projects and memorial donations, which include a mix of designated and general funds. These combined with our endowment total over \$500,000. Please refer to the financial reports on our website for further information: <https://christchurchtny.org/CC/img/2020-CCSM-Financials.pdf>

# Our History

Tarrytown was growing and changing quickly in 1835. It was then that Nathaniel Holmes, an Episcopalian and New York City bookseller, came north when he retired and sought to start a new church. He organized the building of Christ Church along with Dr. William Creighton, the former rector of St Mark's Church-in-the-Bowery in lower Manhattan and the new Christ Church's first rector. Vestry minutes from August 1836 include a resolution to build a brick church in a "Gothic style." Christ Church became one of the first American churches with the Gothic Revival interpretation, several years before noted architect Richard Upjohn's landmark Gothic Revival Trinity Church, Wall Street. The church doors opened in 1837.

Washington Irving's Sunnyside home was located nearby and he started attending Christ Church in 1848. He was an active communicant in the church, serving as a Sunday school teacher, on the vestry and as senior warden. The Irving family's original Pew 26 is now positioned below the Washington Irving Memorial next to the baptismal font. Washington Irving's 1854 signed prayer book is displayed in the church library along with other Irving and Church historical items. A generous patron, Irving gave the Church items such as the altar carved in Spain of marble quarried in Normandy, a Sheffield silver plate communion service, and a heating system. Melrose Abbey ivy on the front of the Church was given by Irving, who received the cuttings from his friend Sir Walter Scott on a visit to his Scotland estate, Abbotsford. The December 17, 1859 issue of *Harper's Weekly* cover featured a picture of the Washington Irving funeral service inside Christ Church and the *Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper* had a picture of the scene outside of the Church in its article. In 1983, Rev. William D. Eddy, rector at Christ Church, was instrumental in founding the Poet's Corner at The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine. Washington Irving, America's First Man of Letters, was fittingly the first author to be inducted into the Poet's Corner.



The rectory was built in 1875 and is a two and a half story brick building which links to the church. The Parish Hall was originally built in 1898 with renovations since, and is now named Ackerman Hall, honoring its 30-year rector Rev. Dr. Kenneth Ackerman. Ackerman Hall serves the parish and community in many capacities, from being the home to Tarrytown's food pantry, the Youth Group's "Jeopardy Show," Chili Cook Off Dinners and Fall Fairs as well as A.A. meetings. Tarrytown Nursery School has been located in the undercroft of Christ Church since 1971 and continues to provide pre-school education during the week while the Sunday school meets in that space on the weekend.



An array of stained-glass windows throughout Christ Church offers beautiful examples of American religious art of the 19th and 20th centuries. The earliest is the 1850s large rose painted glass designed to stream morning light through the tower to the back of the church. Windows from the 1880s of St. Catherine and an angel are above the choir, and an angel carrying an infant above the organ. The altar stained-glass windows date from around the 1890s and are of Jesus teaching and welcoming, and angels holding symbols of the Lord's Supper. Window highlights in St Mark's Chapel include the "Bethany Window," late 19th century, with Jesus visiting Mary and Martha, along with the window from the 1960s of the Madonna and Child Nativity scene.



Christ Church started the San Marcos Mission in 1993 for the growing Hispanic immigrant community in the Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow area. We now have weekly Spanish language Sunday services and combine our dual congregation into 12 -bilingual Sunday services throughout the year. We think of ourselves as a Church seeking to be one congregation that speaks two languages. Asylum seeking refugee children from Central America at the Abbott House join San Marcos and our bilingual worship frequently.

Christ Church was designated a Tarrytown Village historic landmark in 1978 and was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1987, as a result of our association with Washington Irving and our early Gothic Revival architecture. Christ Church will continue to build on its 184-year history to welcome and serve its congregations and local communities into the future. In years past people came to see our history. Now we are known for banners and signs along our fence, such as rainbow flags and "Immigrants and Refugees are Welcome." Today, inclusion is our ministry.

# Our Community



The Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow area is home to a vibrant and diverse community. Within a 5-mile, walkable radius, the towns offer entertainment, dining, sweeping river vistas, outdoor recreation, historical sites, parks, shopping, and necessities such as quality schools, access to healthcare providers, and convenient public transportation to all New York City has to offer. It is only a short drive to countless other activities and services. There is no way to list all of the many great cultural, open space, historic and commercial features of the area.

[Top 5 things to do in Tarrytown/Sleepy Hollow](#)

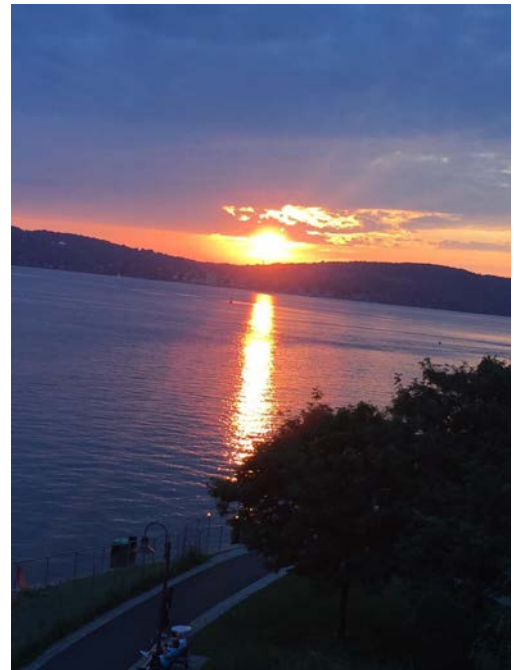
<https://visitsleepyhollow.com/halloween-in-sleepy-hollow/>

**Outdoor Recreation:** The natural beauty of the Lower Hudson valley is not only stunning to behold, but a year round source of outdoor activities. The Scenic Hudson RiverWalk Park is a paved, level path right on the water for a relaxed stroll complete with views of the new Mario M. Cuomo bridge, the Palisades, the Sleepy Hollow Lighthouse, and on a clear day, Manhattan. Be a part of the scenery by kayaking or sailing under the bridge yourself. A little bit inland, the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historical Trail passes right through town and links several sites of interest. Also nearby is the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, where one can ride a horse, walk, jog, and go bird watching, fishing, or snowshoeing. The North and South County Trailways are 50 miles of paved, multi-use trail that spans Putnam County to the border of NYC. The Atlantic Ocean and Long Island sound are an easy trip for a day at the beach and many hiking opportunities abound in the hills and mountains to our north, east and west.

[Scenic Hudson Riverwalk Park](#)

[North and South County Trailways](#)

[Gov. Mario Cuomo Bridge](#)





**Dining:** Throughout the villages are unique restaurants offering everything from quick take-out to fine dining. In the vicinity of Main Street in Tarrytown, the choices include a wine bar, a gourmet grocery store, a pizzeria, a diner, a gastropub, a barbeque joint, an ice cream parlor, and a restaurant dedicated to serving seasonal and local food. The variety of cuisines spans the globe: Italian, Portuguese, African, Korean, American, Greek, Tex-Mex, Mexican, Cuban, Spanish.

[Explore Hudson Valley - Sleepy Hollow/Tarrytown Restaurants](#)

**Arts, Entertainment, Shopping:** There is plenty of fun to be had right in the neighborhood. Tarrytown Music Hall, a gorgeous, 19th century structure in the Queen Anne style, offers live theater and music in an 843 seat auditorium. For a very different experience, the Jazz Forum hosts world-class musicians in an intimate, 85 seat listening room. Antique shops dot the area, along with consignment shops and stores featuring vintage clothing, accessories, and oddities. Main Street is home to fine art galleries alongside sports and music specialty shops. The Hudson Valley Writers Center provides a supportive and constructive environment for a diverse community of readers and writers, and brings language to life through workshops, readings, publications and outreach. The Warner Library is a cultural hub that hosts countless programs for all ages.



[Tarrytown Music Hall](#)  
[Warner Library](#)  
[Where to Shop](#)



**History:** Our villages overflow with sites and landmarks to visit to explore the history of the area from the time Dutch settlers first made contact with the Weckquaesgeeks Indians in the 1600's. Fans of The Legend of Sleepy Hollow flock to see the Old Dutch Church and burying ground, along with the adjacent Sleepy Hollow cemetery. Philipsburg Manor takes you back to 1750 as a living history museum. Patriots Park memorializes the capture of John Andre in 1780.

Grand estates were built in the area that survive today, such as Kykuit (The Rockefeller estate) and Lyndhurst, a Gothic Revival mansion that was home to many influential people. Tours are given at Sunnyside, the home of Washington Irving. Our very own church possesses a treasure trove of historical documents and records, and beautiful stained glass windows dating from the 1850's.

[Old Dutch Church](#)

[Historic Hudson Valley](#)



**Education:** The Public Schools of the Tarrytowns serves approximately 2,900 students of diverse ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds. The District offers an English-Spanish dual language program in grades K-5, a rigorous and comprehensive curriculum, robust music, visual arts, and athletic programs, and an award-winning performing arts department.

[Public Schools of the Tarrytowns](#)

**Convenience:** In spite of the quaint, small-town atmosphere, residents of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow enjoy access to a plethora of urban-center conveniences. Metro-North Railroad will zip you to Manhattan in 40 minutes. Bee-Line Bus runs frequent local buses. Hospitals, hotels, and conference centers are all nearby.

[Metro-North Railroad](#)

[Phelps Hospital](#)

# The Search Committee

Our Search Committee is made up of playwrights, former social workers, artists, hikers, business executives, those committed to social justice, former teachers and teacher assistants, sales professionals, HR professionals and community board members. We volunteer at Christ Church San Marcos by writing Chancel dramas, singing in the choir, participating in book groups and fundraisers, working with undocumented immigrant children and serving on the Cristosal committee. We shepherd little boys to Sunday School and the communion rail, run the clothing closet and attend Soup suppers and fun committee events. We are honest, industrious and love our inclusive and welcoming church above all. We are also the Vestry.

The Diocese of NY through the Canon for Transitional Ministry proposed we keep our momentum as a church going, keep safe during Covid, and therefore asked the Vestry to become the Search committee. After much prayer and thought we agreed to this task. We work well together, enjoy each other’s company, are honest with one another and have a sincere desire to match a new priest to our congregation who would be open, inclusive, welcoming and bring new ideas and fresh perspectives to us.

Members of the Vestry and Search Committee are:

2019	2020	2021
Jonathan Marshall	Margarita Cantillana	Joanne Coffman
Jeff Raderstrong	Yvonne Davies *	Janice Munson – Jr. warden
Phil Viola	Howard Lipson -Sr. warden	Judi Knispel

\* Search Committee chair



## Volunteers

The search committee would like to thank the following volunteers who helped us write different sections of the parish profile. We appreciate them more than words can say. Thank you, Daniel Anderson, Lora Anderson, Nancy Bryan, David Dunn, Michael Dunn, Annadel Dyott, Theo Dyott, Jay Gallwitz, Kathy Hamilton, Mary Milan, Cindy Barr Pfeffer, Suzan Ryan, Ed Stallworth and Lynn Viggiano.

## Special Thanks

To Ken Davies - web master, parish profile compiler, photographer, designer and all-around technical guru. None of this document would be possible without you.

To Dorothee Caulfield – for looking up numbers whenever they were needed.

To The Rev. Matt Engleby, interim priest - for your advice, guidance and leadership during this transition. We appreciate you more than words can say.



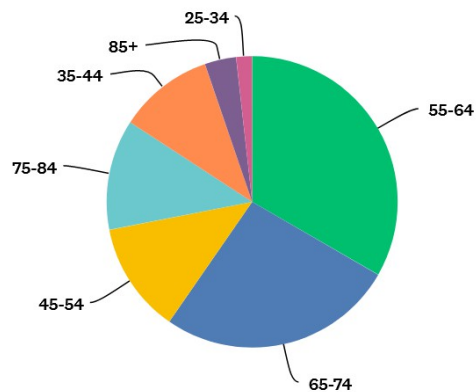
# Highlights from the Parish Survey

Christ Church & San Marcos (CCSM) distributed the Parish Survey online and on paper to those requesting it, in March 2021. We wanted to receive feedback on Parish values, needs and aspirations. An English and Spanish version was provided. We received 57 survey responses from the online survey and an additional 7 surveys in paper form.

## Parish Demographics

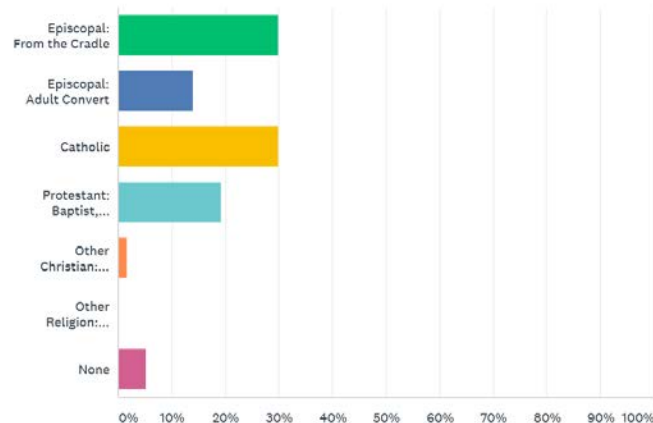
What is your age?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



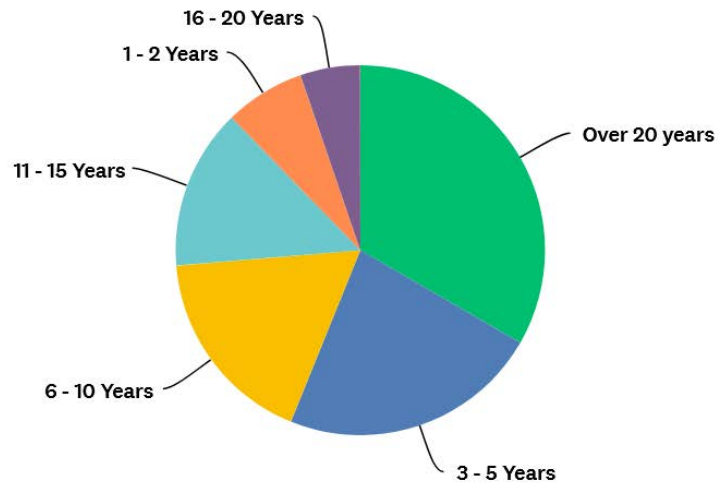
What was your church involvement prior to Christ Church San Marcos?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



# How long have you attended Christ Church San Marcos?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0

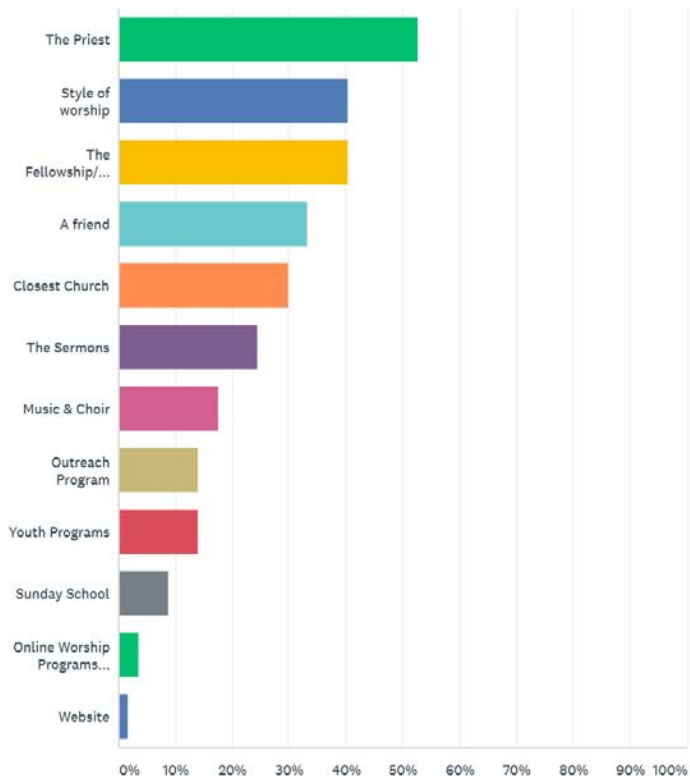


## Membership

CCSM had a long-standing Rector who served the Parish for 13 years and many respondents indicated that she was one of the key reasons they joined and attended on an ongoing basis. This feedback was noted from both the survey question data, but also the open-ended comments at the end of the questionnaire. This said, key factors for members joining and staying with the congregation were largely tied to the fellowship and style of worship.

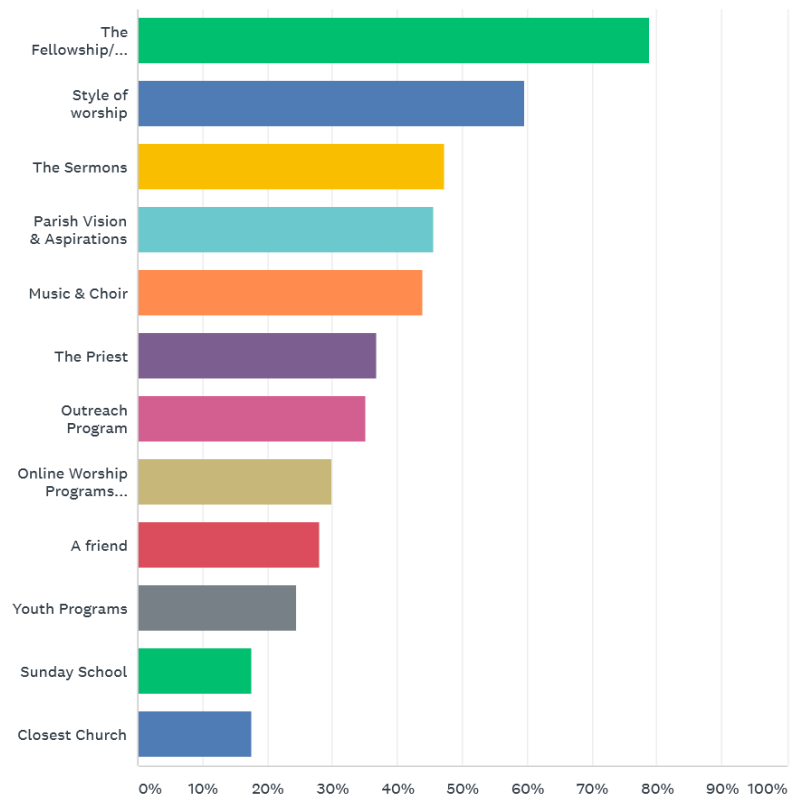
## What initially drew you to this congregation? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



## What keeps you at this congregation? (Check all that apply)

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



## Parish Activity & Liturgy

CCSM survey respondents indicated that they felt strongly that sermons should be personal and relatable to the world we currently live, while maintaining connection to the liturgy. Our parishioners value the traditional rites, but also appreciated innovative liturgies including chancel dramas which actively involve both children and adult members of the congregation. Congregants also felt strongly that the Zoom/Facebook Live feeds of services should continue to be offered.

## Videos of chancel drama

Check out the recent chancel dramas here: [https://christchurchtny.org/CC/newrecent\\_chancels.php](https://christchurchtny.org/CC/newrecent_chancels.php)

Fellowship is a key and critical factor for CCSM. Parishioners felt strongly about being inclusive to newcomers and all who wish to worship. We desire the Priest to be highly engaged in this welcome. Coffee hour following the Sunday service was important to our congregation.

## What are two things our congregation does best?

Love inclusiveness people Fellowship supporting times  
community part Welcoming church  
outreach Music everyone Creates caring family

## Is there a specific part of our parish life that you hope we will preserve?

worship love outreach preserve community social  
Welcoming hope church music



Our parishioners placed significant importance on our Christian Formation program and Kids Konnect, which began at the start of the pandemic.



The music program of CCSM has been evolving and with our new Music Director has been able to create seamless and appreciated music services before and during COVID. Of particular note are the talented musicians he brings in to assist in worship and his technical skill which allows the choir to sing in real time on Jamulus from their homes, during the pandemic.



The ongoing pastoral care needs are considered important, with ongoing availability to see parishioners in their homes or care facilities and visit those who are sick or in need. Crisis ministry and general parish counseling (marriage, baptisms, etc.) are also vital.

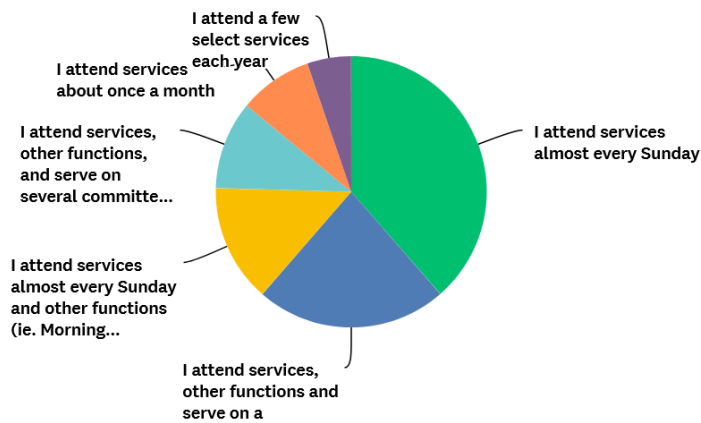
From the data, the congregation feels it is very important that our church and clergy participate and support Diocesan programs, local initiatives with other houses of worship, interfaith programs and local social initiatives.

## Stewardship & Fundraising

Parishioners felt strongly that the priest should be involved in fundraising and parish stewardship. The parish has active support from volunteer members on the Stewardship Committee under the leadership from both the vestry and the minister. Prior to the Pandemic, fundraising events were regularly held. New leadership needs to be sought due to families who have relocated.

### What is your level of involvement and stewardship at Christ Church San Marcos?

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ I attend services almost every Sunday	38.60% 22
▼ I attend services, other functions and serve on a committee (ie. Vestry, Altar Guild, Choir, Cristosal, etc)	22.81% 13
▼ I attend services almost every Sunday and other functions (ie. Morning Prayer, Book Club, Knitting, Choir)	14.04% 8
▼ I attend services, other functions, and serve on several committees (ie. Vestry, Altar Guild, Choir, Cristosal, etc)	10.53% 6
▼ I attend services about once a month	8.77% 5
▼ I attend a few select services each year	5.26% 3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57</b>

## Parish Leadership

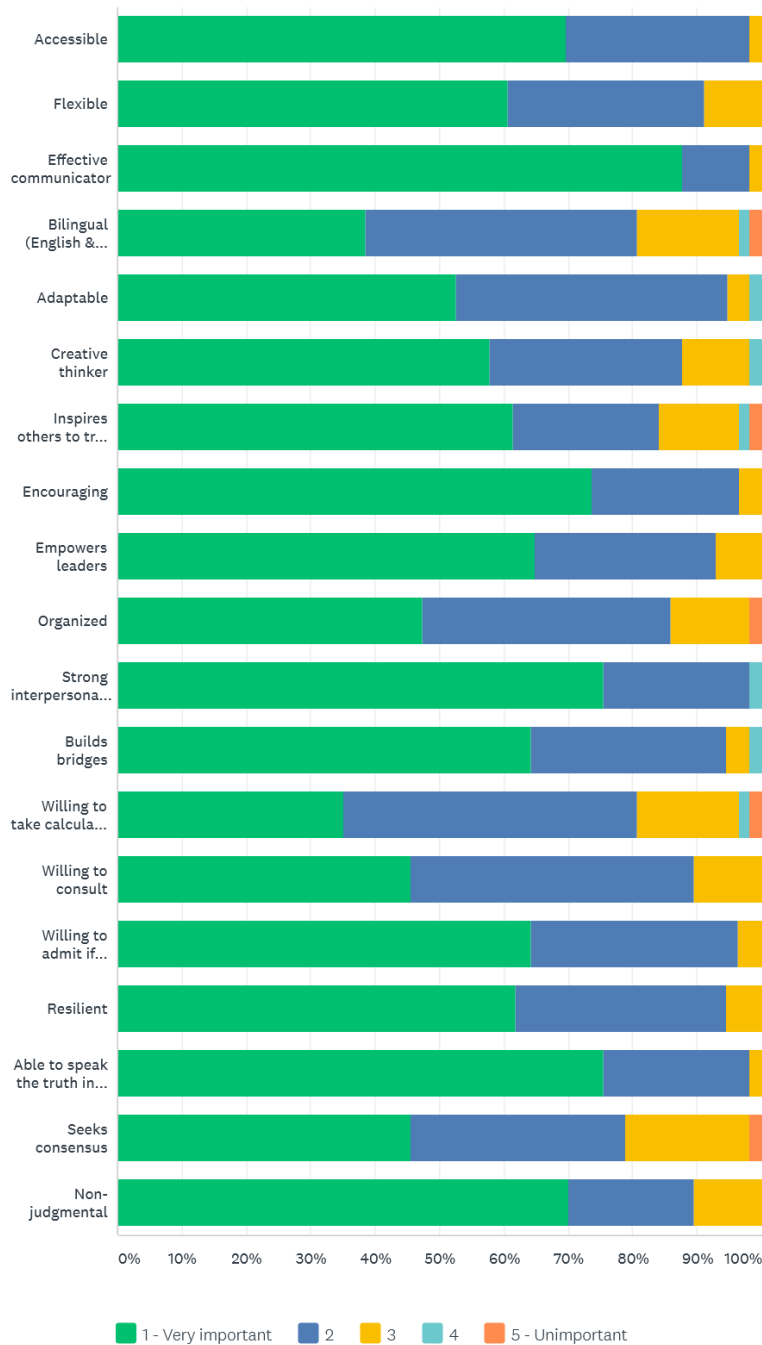
Overall, our Parish has been satisfied/very satisfied by the leadership of our interim rector, The Rev. Matt Engleby. He arrived at CCSM in the fall of 2020 in the midst of COVID on a part-time basis and has provided thoughtful and consistent leadership to the congregation. It has been extremely helpful that Father Matt is bilingual in Spanish. He has partnered with San Marcos and been able to provide Spanish services and translation.

# Incoming Rector Requirements

The parish overwhelmingly wants our new rector to have an affiliative and aspirational style. Building relationships and casting a vision while motivating others is extremely important.

Characteristics of a Good Clergy Leader Each priest is a person with unique skills, gifts and abilities. Please indicate how important the following qualities are in a rector.

Answered: 57 Skipped: 0



# What We Seek in a Rector

We are looking for a Rector to join our parish that will lead our worship in creative ways, reach out to our wider community and continue our message of inclusivity and welcome. We are open to new and creative ideas that will allow us to have an even greater impact on our community. We know we can always do more.

We seek a Rector who will reach out to the communities of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, to other area Episcopal churches and to those of other faiths. We have a strong foundation in outreach and want our new Rector to embrace our local community efforts and those throughout the world.

We would like to hear strong, inspired sermons that are personal, applicable to daily life and relate to the world we live in. We love the liturgy and traditional rites but also appreciate innovative liturgies, including our chancel dramas that actively involve both teen and adult members of the congregation.

We want our new priest to continue to provide both English and Spanish services and regularly dialogue and engage with both communities. We want our new priest to help us make more connections between the two congregations as we continue to work and grow together.

We desire our new Rector to meet the pastoral care needs of our community. We want our priest to be available in crisis, a good listener, one that comforts, listens, encourages, understands and speaks the truth in love. We want them to visit those who are sick or in need, (when it is safe to do so), and provide general parish counseling for marriage, baptisms and funerals in addition to personal issues of guidance. We want our new rector to be accessible and non-judgmental.

We seek a Rector who loves God madly and will proclaim and teach us with that passion. We need a spiritual guide and teacher for our church leadership as well as the whole congregation. They should support the doubtful and challenge outmoded thinking. Above all, they should speak of Love.

We hope our new priest will foster increased stewardship and growth in our congregation, particularly as we return to worship during a pandemic. We would like to attract more young families and neighbors to join us.

We seek a rector who is forward thinking and able to help us offer hybrid services on zoom and Facebook live. We hope they will help us continue our reopening during the pandemic with new ideas and energy.

We want a priest to engage and encourage all demographics of our church family; from children and teens to seniors. We enjoy participating in ministries and events that are inter-generational and hope to continue and expand these efforts.

We want our new rector to delegate and encourage lay leadership, such as our lay led morning prayer and compline.

Our new Rector should have skills in administrative leadership and will oversee our staff of full and part-time employees and lead monthly Vestry meetings. Our Rector should demonstrate wise financial stewardship of both the churches finances and their own resources.

We hope our new rector has a sense of humor and fun. We enjoy one another and we hope our new rector will feel the same.

We hope our next rector will choose to live in our rectory with its view of the Hudson River and seek to engage in all the activities and delights our historic location affords.

## Qualifications

BA/BS from an accredited school

M.Div from an accredited theological school

Ordination in the Episcopal Church

## How to Apply

If you sense God may be calling you to Christ Church San Marcos, please send the appropriate documents (cover letter, resume, OTM profile) to [rectorsearch@christchurchtny.org](mailto:rectorsearch@christchurchtny.org), with a copy to our diocesan director of transition ministries, Canon Nora Smith at [nsmith@diocesenyny.org](mailto:nsmith@diocesenyny.org) by June 18, 2021 with Christ Church San Marcos on the subject line.

