

PARISH PROFILE

Christ the King Episcopal Church

Stone Ridge, New York



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Welcome to Christ the King Episcopal Church

AS WE WRITE this in the Fall of 2020, our church community remains firmly engaged, even with the restrictions brought on by COVID-19. We had begun writing this profile with much enthusiasm about our rich traditions and strong community connections and, most importantly, about the very special times we spend together. But as life took a sudden turn in March, our parish has adjusted in amazing and spirited ways.

This profile is a look back at our rich history and traditions; a look at our present realities of worship, fellowship and community outreach; and a look into the future as we seek a rector who will work with us to fulfill our vision of a loving and supporting church that has deep roots in the community it serves. As you read through this profile you will see many descriptions of our pre COVID-19 pandemic traditions when we met in person, and you will read much about our current response to maintaining Christ the King Episcopal Church (CTK) as a house of worship in a video world.

CTK is blessed with an active, welcoming congregation that seeks to embody God's love in Jesus Christ through our worship, fellowship and outreach. The church is located in Stone Ridge, New York, in the Mid-Hudson Valley, about a two-hour drive from New York City. All are welcome in the Episcopal Church and at CTK and we really do mean all. Our membership and leadership is comprised of young and old; long-time member and newcomer; married, partnered and single; gay, straight and transgender; rich and poor; those who have lived here for generations and those who have recently moved here. We represent and celebrate the wonderful diversity that makes the Mid-Hudson Valley what it is, and we seek to do that in faithfulness to the baptismal promise to

respect the dignity of every human being. No matter who you are, or where you are on your spiritual journey, there is a place for you at God's table, and at CTK.

We find meaning and purpose in the teachings and example of Jesus. We also know that Christianity is more than a series of teachings. It's a way of life. We seek to be a Christian community that is recognized more for our deeds than our words; a community that wishes to serve each other and God's world. Prior to the pandemic, our worship services on Sunday were at 8 and 10 a.m. (with one 9 a.m. service during July and August). We also held a healing Eucharist at noon on Wednesdays. During this service special prayers for healing were offered. After many months of video worship services beautifully created by a creative team of parishioners, our Interim Priest-in-Charge and our choir, we began a 9 a.m. in-person Eucharist in August with a maximum of 25 parishioners. The video service continues to be offered for those at home.

To be a Christian is also to be in relationship with the Trinity. We affirm our belief in God, the creator of all. We seek a personal as well as corporate experience of Jesus whom we know to be the human face of God. We also trust that we are upheld by the Holy Spirit who is active in guiding us in the ways of peace, justice and reconciliation. The relationship of love shared by the Trinity is our model for relationships that cherish and build up. At CTK we offer classes and events during the year that are designed to deepen our faith and witness. No matter who you are, or what you do or don't believe, there is a place for you at God's table and at CTK. We are a community that seeks to affirm and serve.

Our History

THE MINISTRY of the Episcopal Church in New York's Rondout Valley began in the mid-19th century. During that time, three Episcopal missions were established in neighboring hamlets: St Peter's in Stone Ridge (now the Town of Marbletown's Community Center); St. John's in High Falls (now the D&H Canal Museum); and All Saints in Rosendale (now the Rosendale Library). One traveling clergyman conducted worship services for these separate congregations for many years. The last person to minister to these mission churches was the Rev. David W. Arnold.

There comes a time in every generation when opportunities to build and grow in faith and service present themselves. Such was the case in the late 1950s for these three small Episcopal congregations. Fr. Arnold had the difficult task of telling his parishioners it was time to build a new church and combine the three congregations into one.

With much prayerfulness, an abounding faith in God and an optimistic look to the future, the small mission parishes of St. Peter's, St. John's and All Saints were merged by the Diocese of New York into one congregation, formally known as the Episcopal Church of Christ the King in the Rondout Valley, Stone Ridge, New York. With help from the Diocese, land was purchased and construction began on a new church, parish hall and rectory. The buildings were dedicated in 1960 and Fr. Arnold became the first Priest-in-Charge of Christ the King Episcopal Church.

For six decades, CTK has been a place for people to meet God, find love and acceptance, grow in faith and serve the community. Over

Our Mission: Growing in Love, Striving for Justice

At Christ the King, God has reached out to all of us through Jesus Christ. We are building a community of faith based on the love of Christ. We ask others to join us and help us reach out to those in need, grow in love and service and work for peace and justice, as we follow Christ.



For six decades, CTK has been a place for people to meet God, find love and acceptance.

that period of time, eight priests have brought their unique spiritual gifts and styles of pastoral guidance to our parish family. As a result, significant milestones in growth, both spiritual and physical, have been experienced.

Following Fr. Arnold, the Reverends Edmund, Anderson and Rogers served as spiritual mentors. Fifteen years after its dedication, Christ the King called the Rev. John A. Osgood as its first rector, reflecting the ability of the now larger congregation to meet its financial obligations. Following Fr. Osgood, the Rev. Paul Parker spent the last nine years of his priesthood loving us and encouraging an appreciation of traditional religious music and a fondness for singing hymns. From 1989 to June 2006, the Rev. Robert Magliula served with caring and distinction.

In 2002 the parish conducted a successful capital campaign, which led to extensive renovations to beautify the interior of the church and the construction of a building to house the Rondout Valley Food Pantry (RVFP). Fr. Magliula introduced our first deacon, the Rev. Deacon Judith Borzumato, whose outreach mission resulted in the start of the Rondout Valley Food Pantry. Since 1991, we have been blessed to have a number of deacons

serve on our clergy staff. They have brought an awareness of the importance of outreach. In addition to the food pantry, such efforts include the migrant farm workers' ministry, prison ministry, adult literacy and the Seamen's Church Institute. The congregation also helps support Holy Cross School in South Africa.

For the past 12 years, Christ the King was truly blessed to have the Rev. Alison Quin as Rector. Her unfailing faith in God was infectious. The influence of her gentle love and acceptance of every person has brought our congregation to a place best described by our mission statement: Growing in Love, Striving for Justice.

During her tenure, our congregation grew in numbers, as did the Sunday School. We called the Rev. Janet Vincent as an assistant priest (and are blessed to have her as our Interim Priest-in-Charge); added a mid-week mass; ongoing Education for Ministry (EFM) classes; ecumenical interaction with our Baptist and Jewish brothers and sisters; an active racial justice committee; a men's breakfast group; and Lenten book groups, to name a few of the many new endeavors. Our parish hall is home to several vibrant 12-step meetings.

Christ the King is visible because of its

We value the richness of our Anglican tradition as we seek to open our hearts and minds to God present in us, in the Eucharist and in our world.

cohesive, friendly congregation, outreach in the community, and the frequently full parking lot. One of our long-time parishioners recently said, "There's something about this place that brings people together." We are confident there is a priest out there who will help us to continue that tradition and to further enrich our mission.

Worship

ON SUNDAYS during pre-COVID times we gathered to celebrate the Holy Eucharist at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. The 8 a.m. service is a mix of people who like to get the day started early and who appreciate this quiet liturgy without music. Most stay to have coffee and a snack in the kitchen before heading out into the new day.

At 10 a.m. the choir and congregation sing out with anthems and hymns and parts of the service are chanted as well. We value the richness of our Anglican tradition as we seek to open our hearts and minds to God present in us, in the Eucharist and in our world. We draw our worship from the Book of Common Prayer and from supplemental sources authorized by the Episcopal Church. We strive for a "relaxed" catholic worship style that offers all of us the chance to enter into worship that is deep, meaningful and focused on Christ. When our deacon dismisses us at the end of the service we

know that we are being sent into God's world as agents of reconciliation and hope.

There is Sunday School for children but all return to receive communion before being sent out into our daily lives in service and love.

Before leaving we gather in the parish hall to enjoy coffee, conversation and nibbles. More often than not the nibbles turn into a full-fledged brunch and most stay, sit at tables and enjoy visiting with one another while enjoying the artistry of our many cooks.

A well-attended healing Eucharist is offered in an adjacent building, the Beth Lewis Parlor, on Wednesdays at noon.

COVID Worship: When in-person church services ended in mid-March we quickly made the shift to online, pre-recorded video worship. You can find all of our videos at our website.



The videos have been well received and we've even added a few new members since the pandemic caused us to shift to video.

We resumed worship in person in mid-August but are limited to 25 people. We've set up a registration system to keep track of who is in attendance and to be fair about access. Our videos continue and constitute the liturgy of the Word; our Sunday service is a short celebration of Holy Communion. We stream the 15-minute service on Facebook. Our task force on re-opening decided to limit exposure during in-person worship in order to make it as safe as possible. We are following all guidelines set forth by the State of New York and our diocese.



Music

LONGTIME PARISHIONER Andy Lutz offers this reminiscence of music at Christ the King from 1972 to the present.

In the early 1970s Dr. Richard Olsen was the music director. His wife Jacqueline was the organist. Many of our anthems reflected the classical Anglican music favored by Dr. Olsen. Following his tenure, parishioner Rodney Basten gave 30 years of his love of organ playing for the parish. Fr. Paul Parker began a tradition of Choral Evensong and Christmas Lessons and Carols.

Beginning in the early 21st century tenor James Ruff was recruited by our rector, Fr. Robert Magliula, to serve as Music Director. James worked hard at making an amateur group of singers into a more adept performing choir. He instituted warmups that helped us to develop our voices and our musical reading abilities. Easter services included brass accompaniment and we sang pieces written by classical composers. James engaged us in several bonding experiences including singing at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine with mass choir, attending a Lenten evensong in New Haven and rehearsals at Sue Sheeley's Bed and Breakfast. He instituted the use of Dropbox so that singers could





Sullivan on banjo, guitar and bass as well as Margo Marusek and her harp. For two summers (2016 and 2017) Jim Sullivan and our friend Big Joe Fitz organized a regular 5 p.m. Sunday service.

Dan resigned in 2016 in order to give more attention to his work. A search for a new choir director began and the Rev. Alison Quin called Dr. Barbara Wild as our next music director.

Barbara brought years of choral teaching in private and public schools to Christ the King. She continued the rich traditions of Evensong and Lessons and Carols. Barbara also attracted former students and professional singers to the choir. She offered the parish a wide variety of sacred music from classical, gospel and contemporary artists. We have also explored some of the lesser-known and beautiful hymns in the *Hymnal 1982*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* and *Wonder, Love and Praise*.



With the onset of COVID-19, Barbara instituted Zoom singing and rehearsals. We also had a few “humming” sessions outside and masked on the parish grounds. Her husband, Michael Nelson, coordinated everyone’s video downloads to Dropbox and combined those into a virtual choir singing hymns and anthems. We are blessed with our wonderful organist, Brian Taylor, who has given us his great talents during Barbara’s tenure. At the end of July, and at her own request, Barbara started an unpaid sabbatical from her work as Music Director. Since our video worship has featured music already in the “can,” new pieces are provided by our many talented parishioners and occasionally an anthem or hymn from other choirs. During our in-person worship Brian Taylor has continued to offer music from the organ.

learn parts using the internet and websites that broke down individual parts for those of us who were not able to read music. He continued Evensong and Lessons and Carols. During his tenure, Dan Young, a parishioner, became our organist.

Following James’s more demanding schedule at Vassar College and his desire to concentrate on Celtic harp and traditional Celtic music, Dan became our Director and continued as organist. Dan carried on with the work begun by James, with warmups and instruction. He also continued the Evensong and Lessons and Carol traditions. During Dan’s tenure we expanded our repertoire and sang some gospel anthems from the *Lift Every Voice and Sing II* hymnal.

Our parish is fortunate to have other musical talents to augment the choir, including James Ruff (tenor) and Drew Minter (baritone and countertenor) with their harps, Elaine Young (formerly of the Metropolitan Opera Chorus), Ferris Cook with her cello, James Blair and Mo Mulready on flute, Benito Vargas on tuba, Jim

Christ the King’s musical tradition is rich and a blessing to us all. We pray for a return to the wonderful times of offering music and singing for the whole congregation. It greatly enhances our worship.

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Godly Play . . . helps children explore their faith through story . . . and to enhance their innate sense of God through wonder and play.

Christian Formation Sunday School

IN PRE-COVID TIMES, Christ the King offered Christian education for children and youth ages 3 and up, in addition to nursery care for children under 4. Sunday School teachers and children (preschool through 5th grade) joined the procession into church at the 10 a.m. service and heard a brief children's message. Then they went to their classes, rejoining the congregation for the Eucharist at 10:40. Youth (6th grade and up) had class at 9 a.m. and would attend either the 8 a.m. or the 10 a.m. service.

For preschoolers (ages 3 to 5) CTK uses the Godly Play curriculum, a philosophy that recognizes that young children already have a spiritual life. This approach encourages them to discover and use the language of religious narrative and symbol. This approach helps children explore their faith through story, to ask questions and to enhance their innate sense of God through wonder and play.

For elementary school children (1st through 5th grade) Christ the King uses the Episcopal Children's Curriculum, which employs storytelling, discussion, activities and art to focus on: Faith in God who made heaven and earth, in Jesus Christ the Son of God, and in the Holy Spirit who is Lord and giver of life. This curriculum focuses on the practice of worship and prayer, of repentance and obedience, of loving service to all persons, and of the active pursuit of God's justice and peace in the world. Led by a retired school music teacher, the children practice weekly and sing in church for youth Sundays and at other times.

For youth 6th grade and up Christ the King use the Youth Emmaus curriculum, which helps young people ages 11 to 16 understand the basics of the Christian faith. Our youth are encouraged to participate in all aspects of parish life. We value their leadership and gifts.

Youth sing in the choir, volunteer at the food pantry, cook, make repairs and participate in outreach. They gather for fellowship and learning, and confirmation classes are offered every other year. Youth attend Nightwatch, an annual overnight retreat at the Cathedral of



St. John the Divine, participate in the acolyte festival, also at the Cathedral, and gather with other youth for mission trips and other activities. Young people are encouraged to participate in worship as acolytes, readers, greeters or lay eucharistic ministers. CTK youth have often participated in mission trips: to Kentucky to repair homes for low-income families, and to Navajoland, to lead vacation bible school for children. Those trips were led by our former rector.

Christ the King also offers a children's service on Christmas Eve, a Christmas Pageant and a special Holy Week Walk. In the summer, children can participate in vacation bible school (VBS). CTK teams up with local churches to offer VBS. There are also many opportunities for children to serve in the various ministries of



the church, as acolytes, lectors, greeters, singers, helping with parish clean-up days, cooking and helping out at the Rondout Valley Food Pantry. Intergenerational activities include Messy Church with themes like "Growing in Love" and "Let justice roll down like water."

During the current pandemic CTK is providing remote learning and engagement options for families with children. The guiding principles for this program are simplicity, freedom and connection.

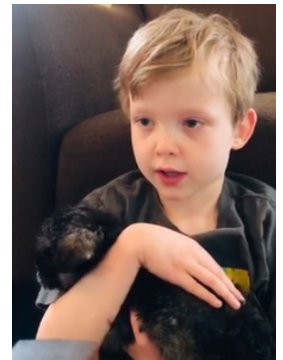
For younger children (pre-school through grade 3 or 4), the remote-learning curriculum centers around Gretchen Wolff Pritchard's Sunday Paper Junior, an informal, whimsical handout that offers big, bold artwork; a simple story line; and an activity page designed to stir up children's imaginations and spirituality. Older youth use The Sunday Paper, which also covers both tracks of the Revised Common Lectionary. Monthly packets are sent to each family so that children can work with handouts in their own time. The parish calendar lists the appropriate material for use each Sunday.

Janet Vincent, CTK's Interim Priest-in-Charge, also puts out special Children's Message videos based on the lectionary or a special theme. These videos and others where friends and parishioners read bible stories, etc. are available on our website. Families are also encouraged to schedule time for children to spend with Mother Janet individually. Finally, young people are invited to become pen pals with seniors in the congregation.

The videos, visits with Janet and The Sunday Paper have been well received. The parish also put on a Trunk or Treat Halloween event for children from the parish and the community. In addition to photos, candy and other treats all children went home with materials about All Saints' Day and an invitation to be part of our online programming.

Adult Education

FOR MANY YEARS Christ the King has offered Education for Ministry (EFM), a three-year lay-led program sponsored by Sewanee: The University of the South. Weekly seminars



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include discussion, guided reflection and prayer in a small-group setting. After the group completed the academic year in June 2020 they decided to take a break from Zoom and plan to reconvene when it is safe to do so in person.

The parish has offered books for reading in groups and, since COVID, some of these groups have been meeting via Zoom. A number of books by Rowan Williams have made for lively and worthwhile discussion. Janet also offered a Zoom class on the Eucharist that was well attended. More classes are planned for the late fall and winter.

Baptism and Confirmation

BAPTISM for adults and children is usually reserved for the five baptismal dates in the Book of Common Prayer. Preparation for parents and adults is offered before the date and the parish celebrates with special coffee hour brunches. Confirmation is scheduled during Episcopal visitations (every other year) or during times when it is offered at the Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The same is true for those asking to be reaffirmed or received into the Episcopal Church.

Newcomers' Classes are offered once or twice a year in the fall and spring.

Pastoral Care

IN ADDITION to formation in the Christian life and witness we offer home communion to those who because of illness or infirmity can't be with us on Sunday. In addition to the priest and deacon several parishioners are licensed by the bishop to be Lay Eucharistic Visitors. During times of illness and distress meals are often arranged for delivery to members and neighbors, as well as appropriate referrals for professional help as needed.





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Stewardship

CHRIST THE KING HAS been blessed with an abundance of parishioners from all walks of life. Those among us who give their time, talents and treasure are artists and musicians, health-care professionals, accountants and attorneys, chefs and cooks alike, laborers, local business owners, retirees and more. There is a culture of stewardship and spirited giving, which has sustained our church over the years.

Annual stewardship campaigns at CTK have been vibrant and fun, and a true source of community building and faithful pledging. Memorable themes have been Broadway musical numbers written and performed by our own members, and large church gatherings for dinners and brunches served and coordinated by our youth groups and leaders. In recent years, stewardship committees have conducted in-home visits as part of an all-member canvas to encourage intimate discussions about what stewardship and giving means to each of us.

Like other churches, the percentage of giving from members is varied, and the financial

health of Christ the King depends each year on a number of large gifts in the form of one-time payments and substantial pledges from a handful of committed parishioners. The pledging membership has hovered at about 75 units for many years now, without substantial growth in the number of church members. Our members are very committed to stewardship. History has proven that CTK is a parish that meets challenges, financial and otherwise, faithfully and together.

Prior to COVID-19, the vestry and church operated with a deficit budget, each year meeting balances with fundraising efforts. This year, 2020, was the first in many that the vestry approved a more discerning and balanced budget. Shortly afterwards the tables were turned by the pandemic. Once again, through the effort, love and skills of our parishioners and leaders (paid and volunteer), CTK is financially stable as we head into 2021. What's missing currently is the ability to meet and commune together for stewardship events. In faith and consideration of what the future allows socially, Christ the King looks forward to reviving this once vibrant and beloved part of our church life with creativity and Christian purpose.



Capital Campaign: *Building Community, Serving in Love*

IN 2016 we embarked on a capital campaign to possibly expand our footprint, improve the outdated kitchen and make general maintenance improvements that would help us to welcome more people to our facility and make room for outreach and mission programs. (View our campaign brochure [here](#).) We successfully raised approximately \$600,000 through direct donations, pledges and a diocesan grant. The generous response from parishioners and the surrounding community highlight the importance we place on the church's physical facilities in supporting the congregation's spiritual life and mission. The vast majority of parishioners have given to the campaign.



We successfully raised approximately \$600,000 through direct donations, pledges and a diocesan grant.

At the beginning of 2020, we were ready to put ink on a contract that included building an addition, expanding and renewing the parking lot including new lighting, upgrading the electric service and gutting and rebuilding a new kitchen.

en, coffee bar and pantry. Then COVID hit and the process ground to a halt. Later this spring we were able to re-bid the project. After learning that construction costs had sky-rocketed, we revamped our plan. In September 2020 we signed a contract for work to begin.

Here is what will be accomplished in 2020-2021:

- Expand and repave the parking lot;
- Install highly efficient and attractive exterior light poles and fixtures;
- Create a Health Department approved, fully renovated, highly functional kitchen with new and up-to-date equipment;
- Add new septic and water-treatment systems for the church complex and rectory (a new addition to the project made possible by a recent gift);
- Install live-streaming equipment to enhance our virtual services and allow many to participate in remote services;
- Upgrade and bury electric service;
- Add a new stairway for the choir loft;
- Remove asbestos in the basement and kitchen.

We are disappointed to lose out on building the addition and we are grateful to be able to include the septic and water filtering work (part of a phase II plan) that will allow us to have the kitchen certified soon after construction.

Work has begun on these projects and we expect to be finished by spring of 2021.

Outreach

SERVICE has been at the heart of Christ the King since its beginnings. For almost 60 years, CTK has been a place for people to meet God, find love and acceptance, grow in faith and serve the community. Here are some of the ways parishioners reach out to those in need, in the Mid-Hudson Valley, across the country and around the world.

Food Pantry: Begun by Christ the King in 1990 and located on church grounds for many years, the Rondout Valley Food Pantry is now housed in the former Town Hall on Main Street in Stone Ridge. It is supported by Christ the King, three other churches and additional organizations and individuals. In pre-COVID times it served approximately 125 households each month. Today that number is much higher. As of November 2020 over 160,000 meals have been provided for. The RVFP also provides breakfast and/or lunch for needy students, plus Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets. Volunteers work in myriad ways,





including loading and unloading food, shopping, packing, organizing food drives, delivering food bags and fundraising. CTK provides financial assistance as well as volunteers, and a member of the parish is a co-treasurer. During COVID the work of the RVFP has greatly expanded to include the whole county; food is delivered to all who request assistance.

Community Lunch: On the last Tuesday of the month, from September through June, we offer a free hot lunch to the community. Volunteers help set up, cook and clean for this meal.



School Supplies/Backpack Drive: We collect school supplies in July and August, in partnership with other area churches, for distribution to students in our area.

Toy Drive: For many years, the church has held a toy drive and distribution at Christmas for needy children in the area. Volunteers plan, organize and publicize the toy drive. They also help parents select toys on the day of the distribution. In 2020 we will team up with the Rondout Valley Food Pantry in this important effort.



Knitting Ministry: A group gathers on the third Sunday of the month at 9 a.m. to knit prayer shawls for those who are sick, scarves for the Christmas at Sea program of the Seamen's Church Institute and other items.

CTK Quilters: A group gathers occasionally to



make quilts for Baptisms and pastoral needs.

Vacation Bible School: Each year, we join with other area churches to offer a week of vacation bible school (VBS). It is held during the third week of August so that we can include children of area farm workers. VBS involves Bible stories, arts and crafts, enrichment activities like drumming, swimming and nature hikes, and we offer snacks and lunch. Volunteers teach, lead arts and crafts, organize games and sports, cook and offer music, among other things.

Racial Justice Committee: This group sponsors events such as films, book discussions and expert presentations on systemic racism. The group seeks to offer opportunities to reflect and to act, to bring about positive change and racial equality. The committee has also joined forces with other faith leaders, community groups and area police in an effort to effect change on a local level. Recently, 12 members of the parish joined in a book study group of Ibrahm X. Kendi's book "Being an Anti-Racist." In conjunction with the Diocese of New York we were able to join in a Zoom chat with Mr. Kendi.

Rural Migrant Ministry: This non-profit organization advocates for farmworkers who work in unsafe conditions and have no guaranteed time off. They are also underpaid and often live in inadequate housing. Parishioners raise funds for Rural Migrant Ministry, attend a walkathon to support a summer camp for migrant children and go to Farmworkers' Day in Albany each year.

Youth Mission Trips: Over many summers, the parish has sponsored youth mission trips. In recent years, we have gone to Kentucky, where we repaired homes for low-income homeowners, and to the Four Corners area of Utah, where we held vacation bible school for



Navajo children. These trips have been led by the rector.

LGBTQ Pride Committee: This group was formed in 2019 to reach out to those in the LGBTQ community who may be looking for a faith community, as well as to support and advocate for LGBTQ people. For many years, the annual Pride March in New Paltz has had friends and allies from CTK march.

Holy Cross School, Makhanda (formerly Grahamstown), South Africa: CTK has held fundraisers over the years to support this school, which is in one of the poorest regions of the Eastern Cape. The Rev. Robert Magliula, a former rector at Christ the King (and now the Superior of the Order of the Holy Cross in West Park, N.Y.), was principal of the Holy Cross School during his time in South Africa.

Missionaries Heidi Schmidt and Monica Vega: Individuals from Christ the King have consistently supported the work of these long-time Episcopal missionaries during their time in South Africa, Brazil and now in the mountains of Argentina. Monica often preaches at CTK during their annual visits to the States.

Food for the Poor: We are fortunate to have our parishioner, the Rev. Bruce Torrey, speak to us about the needs of poor communities, especially in Haiti, and to challenge us to support the efforts of Food for the Poor. Over the years CTK has helped to fund several projects.

We are also home to many community groups including 12-step meetings, Social Skills for Autistic Children, Tai Chi for seniors, Women Challenged by Illness, a flute group, a cello group and more. In addition, Christ the King supports Episcopal Relief and Development, Episcopal Charities and the Global Fund for Women.

Service has
been at the
heart of Christ
the King since
its beginnings.



Highlights From the Parish Survey

THE CTK CONGREGATION takes pride in the warm and friendly community that we have built over the years. Parish members ensure that we remain a thriving supportive church, loving our neighbors as ourselves. Parishioners attend church regularly and are very engaged with church activities. Take a look at the summary of our April 2020 Parish Survey.

OUR PARISHIONERS, BY THE NUMBERS

(Note: not all respondents answered each question)

- 56% have been coming to CTK for more than 10 years
- 70% attend services nearly every Sunday
- 97% are full-time residents
- 53% earn more than \$75,000 per year
- 52% are retired; 47% are employed
- 90% have college degrees
- 68% are married or in a committed relationship
- 67% are female, 32% are male, 1% identify as non-binary

Introduction

Christ the King's Search Committee created a survey to gain insights from parishioners about their life at CTK. The survey was released on March 31, 2020. The online version was sent to 117 e-mail addresses representing approximately 125 parishioners. A paper version was mailed to 17 parishioners. A total of 89 people responded, a 63% response rate.

Involvement in church life

Parishioners are involved with many aspects of church life including choir, lay readers, greeters, buildings and grounds, stewardship, food pantry, community lunch, weekday worship, Christian education, Sunday School and youth group. Three-quarters of respondents said that fellowship is what made them stay at CTK. This was followed closely by sermons, liturgy and the approachability of clergy.

Describe what CTK stands for.

"Christ the King stands for love and the desire to seek a deeper understanding of God." That's how one respondent remarked in one succinct statement. Others focused on CTK's presence in the community, its open, inclusive and welcoming outlook, and it being a healthy and safe place to pursue a spiritual life.

"It's the place that opened the door for me to search for the God of my understanding," said another parishioner.

Aspects of parish life

- Top areas that received satisfactory rating: Parish gatherings, choir, lay reading, parish communication, greeting, music, coffee hour
- Areas that need improvement: Welcoming newcomers, fundraising, stewardship

What do you value most about CTK?

One parishioner's answer to this question stood out for its elegance, and as a reflection of what many others said in various ways.

"What I value is the artistry in how we do things at CTK; in the way we care for one another. We are an artistic community: musically, with our food preparations, and with the graphic arts and digital realms. All talents are welcome and brought to the collective table. We are spiritual. We all seem to yearn for and respond to the fullest embrace of Jesus and expressions of the Trinity in our midst. We

worship every Sunday and offer a eucharist as an invitation to join with Jesus. We have unity; a sisterhood and brotherhood with each other that is real and can be depended upon.”

If there is anything that you would change about Christ the King what would it be?

Answers to this question ranged from the practical (fix the potholes!) to the whimsical (move it closer to my home!). Other consistent suggestions revolved around service times, growing youth involvement, more adult formation and outreach, and, as one respondent put it, “a more vibrant connection between one another and our larger community.”

Importance of Rector’s responsibilities

- Areas that were seen as “very important”: Inspiring preacher, spiritual guide, church growth, liturgy/worship, administrative leader, pastoral care.
- Areas that were seen as “somewhat important”: Music, evangelism, stewardship and ecumenism.

What are the qualities that you feel are important for our next rector to have?

Not surprisingly, parishioners had many opinions on this topic ranging from “friendly, gregarious, welcoming” to “the ability to engage with all parishioners, young and old.”

One respondent listed a combination of attributes that reflected others’ thoughts and offered an intriguing way to equip the parish to grow in love and service. “Strong preacher, brave leader. Able to confront our differences and bring our members and community together. Someone who inspires courage to grow deeper in love and service.”

What other skills or abilities are important for us to have in our new Rector?

While many parishioners cited the desire to call someone with excellent preaching skills, a passion for social justice and the ability to welcome and nurture, others recognized that one person will not be able to excel in all areas. “I want someone who can identify leaders within the congregation who can be supported and encouraged to fill in the gaps in the rector’s own skill set,” said one respondent. “I need a rector who is prepared to build a collaborative team to do the important work of the parish.”

MUSIC OPEN CHOIR

WARMTH
I
CHEERFUL
ATMOSPHERE
CHRIST THE KING
COMPASSION
CARING LOVE
STONE RIDGE NEW YORK
PASTORAL SUPPORT
SPIRITUAL WELCOMING
GOD’S LOVE
ACCEPTANCE
INCLUSIVENESS
CHILDREN
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP
LGBTQ FRIENDLY
FAITH
UNITY
GOD
SPIRITUAL
TOLERANT
JESUS
SUNDAY
SCHOOL
FAMILIES
GREAT
PREACHING
COMMUNITY
GOOD COMMUNICATION
STRONG LEADERSHIP
SOCIAL JUSTICE
OUTREACH
BLESSED
FELLOWSHIP

Is there anything else you’d like to mention about your experience with CTK?

The response to this question was overwhelmingly positive especially when it comes to feeling included and valued, the “wonderful music” and excellent preaching. One answer in particular reflects the thoughts of many: “My experience with CTK started with being accepted although I had no sense of religion. Christ the King was a comfortable place to search in my own time. I felt and feel a sense of belonging here.”

“Christ the King stands for love and the desire to seek a deeper understanding of God.”



Organization and Leadership

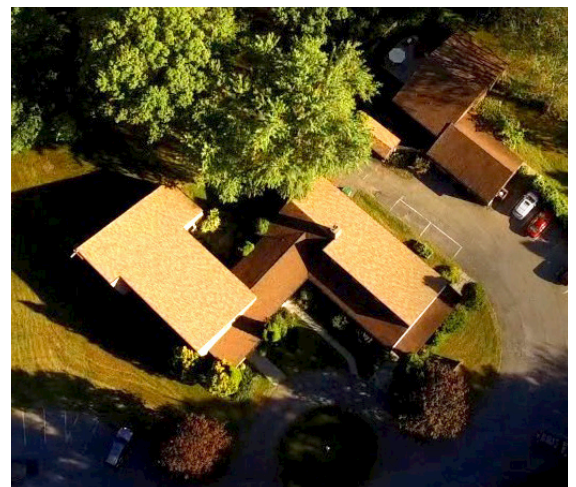
OUR CHURCH IS led by the rector, a deacon and an 11-person vestry. In addition, Christ the King has a committed and talented team of paid staff and volunteers. The Rector is currently our only full-time staff position. We also employ four part-time staff including two part-time administrators, a bookkeeper and a music director (currently on sabbatical). Volunteer positions are eagerly filled at CTK and include a Sunday School coordinator, organist, altar guild, lay readers, choir, greeters, treasurer, gardeners and more.

Christ the King has benefited from a strong deacon position for many years, starting with Deacon Judith Borzumato. In the early 1990s Deacon Judith was responsible for starting and growing the Rondout Valley Food Pantry along with a strong commitment to migrant workers and their families. Deacons take lead roles in worship and pastoral care and have initiated many programs such as the Rural and Migrant Ministry, a knitting group, work with the Seamen’s Church Institute, and a prison ministry. Our current deacon, Robin Beveridge, takes an active part in worship, outreach and pastoral care.

Facilities

BUILT IN 1959, Christ the King Church and rectory are situated on four acres in the Town of Marbletown in the beautiful Rondout Valley. Both buildings were designed by local Hudson Valley architect William Van Benschoten and have a unique mid-century style. The property is on State Route 213, which connects the two hamlets of Stone Ridge and High Falls. The grounds are mostly flat, accessible and lovely with mature trees, plantings and a stone wall garth and columbarium. The large lawns often serve as sites for Sunday School lessons and play, seasonal gatherings, meals and events.

The entire church complex is 6,700 square feet while the nave itself has 2,260 square feet and can seat 120 or more. There is a wide narthex leading to a modest chapel, administrative office, two unisex bathrooms and a parish hall, off of which are three rooms used for a nursery and Sunday School classes. The kitchen



is adjacent to the parish hall and is currently undergoing a complete renovation as part of our capital campaign. The 1,200 square-foot parish hall serves as a multi-use space for large gatherings and church meals, 12-step meetings, coffee hours and community events.

The 1,450-square-foot rectory is separate from the church complex. The home has four bedrooms and two full bathrooms. The kitchen, dining and living areas are central and open, with tall windows and a slider leading to a back deck, garden and fenced-in lawn. It features a full unheated basement and an attached one-car garage. A newly renovated 600-square-foot parlor, the former site of the Rondout Valley Food Pantry, is connected but separate from the rectory and offers extra space for meetings and weekday worship services.

The buildings and grounds are well maintained and in very good general condition thanks to the attention and caring of many. Under the direction of rector Robert Magliula, CTK completed its first capital campaign in 2002 when the interior cinder-block walls were drywalled and painted, windows and doors were replaced and much was beautified and improved. The roofs and boilers in both buildings have been replaced with varying service life remaining. New capital improvements begun in 2020 include replacing the original circa-1959 electric

service, newly designed outdoor lighting and parking lot with 83 lined spaces and drainage, and a total kitchen renovation with new appliances, safety compliance and commercial capabilities.

The wardens and vestry are working to understand the future needs of CTK as the way we all experience church has changed since COVID-19. We will be adding upgraded technology, streaming services, and other multi-media improvements as part of our current capital campaign.

Financial Overview

CHRIST THE KING HAS been a solvent and financially independent parish for over 30 years. With an approved 2020 operating budget of approximately \$244,000 and revenues of \$237,000 coupled with an endowment of \$438,000, Christ the King entered 2020 with a slight deficit budget. Although not ideal, we have experience as a Parish in navigating such budgets. Our number of pledge units has averaged 74 over the last six years and pledge income makes up roughly 75% of the operating revenue.

In the face of COVID-19, 2020 has presented

The buildings and grounds are well maintained and in very good general condition thanks to the attention and caring of many.

CHRIST THE KING SIX YEAR FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

	Total Operating Revenue	Pledge Revenue	Pledge % Of Total Operating Revenue	Total Operating Expense	Net Profit/Loss	Endowment Value	Endowment Income
2015	225,216	190,471	84.6%	251,743	-26,527	409,305	-3,865
2016	216,872	171,985	79.3%	227,787	-10,915	405,410	16,838
2017	245,234	194,446	79.3%	241,923	3,312	420,947	39,183
2018	273,186	219,809	80.5%	263,559	9,627	382,385	-380
2019	264,928	199,652	75.4%	280,017	-15,089	438,961	70,493
2020**	184,429	135,029	73.2%	139,315	45,114	414,052	1,055

*YTD 9/30/20

challenges for Christ the King. Our strong leadership has enabled us to rise and meet these challenges. We are on track to achieve our budgeted pledge income and with the help of the Payroll Protection Program we are meeting our budget obligations and have been able to retain all staff. We are a very tight knit worship community, and we anticipate continued financial stability as we move forward into 2021.

Community

CHRIST THE KING IS located in the bucolic Mid-Hudson Valley, only two hours from New York City. Noted for its rich history and agriculture, the area offers many opportunities for work and recreation. Public transportation (bus and train) makes travel to and from the metro area easy.

The Mid-Hudson Valley is adorned with beautiful vistas, from the mighty Hudson River to the Catskill Mountains and the Shawangunk Ridge offering outdoor activities such as hiking, climbing, kayaking and boating. It is home to many distinctive universities such as Vassar College, Bard College, Marist College, SUNY New Paltz, SUNY Ulster and the Culinary Institute of America.

Settled by the Dutch, the area is awash in farms

varying in size from a few acres to more than 2,000 with apple and corn production as primary crops plus a wide variety of other agricultural endeavors including fruit, vegetables and beef. The region is home to a large collective of artists and arts organizations including DIA: Beacon, Bardavon theater, Storm King Art Center, FDR Presidential Library and Museum, Ulster Performing Arts Center, Hudson River Maritime Museum and the Women's Studio Workshop.

Specifically, CTK is located in the hamlet of Stone Ridge, in the Town of Marbletown, with a population of 5,600; it is set within Ulster County, which has a population of 178,000 people. Settled in the early 1600s, Marbletown is nestled in the Rondout Valley, known for its agriculture and tourism. We also enjoy a significant second-home population from the New York City region. CTK is just 10 miles from the county seat of Kingston, which is deeply steeped in history and recently has enjoyed an influx of makers and professionals creating a vibrant colorful culture. Quality of life prevails here.

Recent COVID-19 events have led to a significant increase of metro-area residents to our area, utilizing the many short-term rental properties that are available. In addition, many of our second homeowners have opted to use



their houses as full-time residences as working from home and home schooling are now common. Real estate, always a robust business in our area, has boomed with average sale prices and sales volume increasing significantly. This has led to a possible 25% increase in population in Ulster County, which we see as a potential benefit to Christ the King as we strive to increase church attendance and membership.

Vestry Discussion of Parish Challenges

AS THE GOVERNING BOARD of the parish, Christ the King's vestry has a unique view of the challenges we face as we evolve and grow as a faith community. Because of this, vestry members were asked to share their thoughts about what should be kept at the forefront as we engage in the search process for our new Rector.

Among the most important challenges discussed is the need to continue providing support for programs to lead people through Christian education/spiritual development from childhood through adulthood. This includes ensuring opportunities for all ages with particular attention given to connecting parishioners intergenerationally. Parents in the group highlighted their desire to see the parish continue to develop a robust program for children and young people as a way to both meet the needs of their own families and to present an appealing option for other families in the larger area who may be looking for a faith community. Ways that were suggested included creating a budget line for Christian education instruction and paying Sunday School teachers to provide strength and consistency in the program.

As suggested by the desire to present CTK as an appealing faith community, it has become clear that more folks in the larger community are interested in what's happening at Christ the King. As a result of COVID-related migration, we are seeing a large number of new residents moving into the area and a dramatic population increase of 25% county-wide is anticipated. As we strive for justice, service and inclusivity, we have an opportunity to leverage

this population growth to draw people into the CTK community.

As we look to provide a stable church home for our current parishioners, some of whom have faced financial challenges, and also create space for newcomers from our growing community, we need to ensure adequate funding to allow us to continue our long history of funding a full-time Rector. There is an opportunity to grow stewardship in order to ensure that we can continue to meet this goal. But this will require ongoing attention and effort.

Another transformation brought about by COVID is that technology has become an important and probably permanent part of parish connection. We have purchased and are installing professional remote video equipment in the church. CTK will need to continue to learn how to best make use of technology and include it as a primary focus of future planning. The vestry discussion made clear that there are a number of yoked opportunities and challenges. For example, online access can make everything more inclusive. Parishioners with transportation/mobility challenges can remain involved in parish life, but we will be challenged to effectively draw together the in-person and online parts of our interactions.

A related challenge is how to get and keep connected those members of the parish who may not have the knowledge, skills, equipment or financial means to access necessary technology. The need to provide a facilitator to oversee the work of providing in-home tech support was suggested as well as the opportunity to coordinate tech-savvy young people to volunteer to work with parishioners who need support. In cases where the needs are equipment/connectivity, there was further discussion of how to collect equipment to distribute and possibly provide Wi-Fi hotspots.

Lastly, CTK is in the midst of a capital project designed to meet both present needs and future goals. The vestry and the parish at large will need to maintain momentum to finish important details of the project and manage the plan to get the project across the finish line.



What We Seek in a Rector

CHRIST THE KING EPISCOPAL CHURCH is a dynamic faith community. We seek a rector who not only can thrive in our energetic environment but also help direct and focus our efforts. Our new rector should be a good listener. She or he should not shy away from action. The wisdom to discern and then act is critical, as is a rector who has a good sense of humor. We encourage a healthy balance. A touch of humor is always welcome especially as we tackle the more serious issues confronting us today. Our new rector should love our passion and commitment to each other and to Christ the King, and to inspire us to become the people God intends us to be.

As a grounded community with a history of being a witness to Christ's presence in the Rondout Valley, we are quite active. Many of our ministries regularly reaffirm their mission; some need reaffirmation. Certainly, too, there are new ministries that we should be considering and others we should contemplate sunsetting. Candidates should bring a fresh look and not be afraid to offer creative solutions to any issues before the congregation. We are open to new ideas and the new rector's innovation. The best candidates will be able to point to examples of building consensus about changes in direction and be able to detail how they led by example.

In particular we seek a rector with the following strengths:

WORSHIP LEADER: We desire a rector who can articulate God's message in the Holy Scriptures in an accessible way that is applicable to daily life. The rector should be an effective preacher with a message that is spiritually uplifting and intellectually engaging. An active prayer life is key both for the rector and the parish community. Our new rector should, by example, be able to engage parishioners and encourage through prayer a deeper ongoing conversation with God. Our next leader should be comfortable introducing new liturgical ideas while also appreciating our rich culture and worship history. Ideally,

the candidate should be a music lover who can partner with our director of music to integrate our music program into our worship.

COMMUNITY BUILDER: Our new rector should be a strong spiritual and inspirational community leader, one who relates equally well across the many demographics that make up Christ the King and the surrounding community. Young people, senior citizens, families, single adults, LGBTQ, lifelong members of the community, weekenders and all levels of education and profession are represented in our parish. We seek a rector who can embrace each as God does, who can move effortlessly among us, and draw us together as we bring out the best in each of us.

We seek a rector who can tap into the myriad gifts of all parishioners and the surrounding community to build an even stronger parish. We also see our next rector as being willing and able to reach out to other religious groups and to help bridge interfaith differences through active dialogue while continuing to deepen the understanding of our own traditions. Christ the King already has a strong foundation, especially in its outreach programs such as the Rondout Valley Food Pantry and our racial justice committee. We know we can do more. The right candidate will guide us forward by building consensus to be a more inclusive and loving congregation, and an outward example of God's love for all His people.

PASTORAL GUIDE: We seek a rector who is an empathetic pastor and who will step in and be available in times of crisis. We seek a leader who is able, along with the deacon, to build a strong support network among parishioners. Our next rector should see the special contribution that our youth bring to the community. Youth programs and an active Sunday School are not only a priority today but critical to the future health of Christ the King. The next rector needs to recognize that importance and lead in this essential ministry.

LEADERSHIP: Christ the King has a collaborative leadership team. Our rector should be a capable and strong pastor who is both a consensus builder and a delegator. The future of this parish cannot rest on the

We desire a rector who can articulate God's message in the Holy Scriptures in an accessible way that is applicable to daily life.

leadership of a single individual. Success requires involving the combined efforts of the entire Christ the King family.

OTHER CHARACTERISTICS: The parish desires a rector who can assist the vestry in fostering increased stewardship. Ideally, the new rector will help grow the congregation to the point where it is not only sustainable well into the future but finds itself in the enviable position of needing to hire an assistant rector.

There is a sense among the congregation that we are at an important juncture. The disruption felt all around us might actually be an oppor-

tunity to grow and transition into a stronger, perhaps even larger, example of Christ's love. The right candidate will lead us in the process of discerning how best to achieve what God has in mind for us.

If you sense that God may be calling you to Christ the King please send your application documents (cover letter, résumé and OTM profile) to ctksearch2020@gmail.com, with a copy to the Canon for Transition on Ministry, Canon Nora Smith, at: nsmith@dioceseny.org by 2/15/2021 with "CTK, Stone Ridge" on the subject line.

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USEFUL LINKS

Diocese of New York, Office of Transition
Ministry:
[https://www.dioceseny.org/administration/
for-clergy/transition-ministry-office](https://www.dioceseny.org/administration/for-clergy/transition-ministry-office)

Ulster County Tourism: "Seek for Yourself"
<https://ulstercountyalive.com>

Town of Marbletown:
<https://www.marbletown.net>

Rondout Valley School District:
<https://www.rondout.k12.ny.us>

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Tim Sharpe and Janet Vincent