Christ Episcopal Church

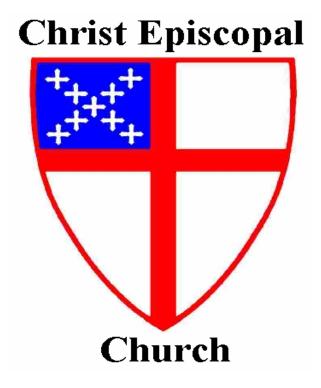


Bay Saint Louis, Mississippi 2005

Live oaks shade this little slice of heaven

Mission Statement

To proclaim the good news by living as the family of God providing an inviting community of faith to all people and praying and serving as responsible stewards.



Our Vision

As seekers of the peace of Christ, we desire to live in a serene, simple manner where we can be ourselves in the presence of God.



Christ Episcopal Church









The Rev. Kyle Dice Seage

Memorial window

Christ Episcopal church grounds





Memorial garden

Beachfront view

Christ Episcopal Church



Church altar







Exterior view of Memorial window



The Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi

Christ Church is one of 84 congregations which comprise the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi. The diocese, which includes the entire state, is headquartered in the capital city of Jackson and is led by the Right Reverend Duncan M. Gray, III, IX Bishop of Mississippi. The diocese is part of Province IV of the Episcopal Church and is one of the owning dioceses of the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee.

The Diocese of Mississippi and its rich mixture of urban, suburban, town and rural congregations embraces all styles of worship and churchmanship, from Anglo-Catholic to Evangelical. It has a history of being a moderate but progressive voice in the life of the Episcopal Church. Many people describe the heart of the diocese as being the Duncan M. Gray Camp and Conference Center, 30 miles north of Jackson and named for the fifth Bishop of Mississippi. Central to the center's ministry is Camp Bratton-Green, which each summer hosts hundreds of young people to six sessions of camp, and scores of special-needs adults for two sessions of their own unique camps. Generations of Episcopalians have enjoyed Camp Bratton-Green, and many clergy have emerged from its ranks.

A Brief History of

Christ Episcopal Church

Christ Episcopal Church, situated among live oak trees overlooking the Gulf of Mexico in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, is the physical manifestation of the untiring efforts and devotion of Episcopalians over the past 167 years.

Through the efforts of a very determined woman, Hettie Crowell, and the help of a few other Episcopalians, Christ Church was established in 1889. The first services were held in the Crowell home on North Beach Boulevard. In 1890, the cornerstone for a new building was laid at the corner of North Beach Boulevard and Boardman Avenue. In 1901, Christ Church was admitted to the diocese as a mission. The church building was moved in 1904 to the corner of North Beach Boulevard and Carroll Avenue; there it was consecrated on July 8, 1913.

A new era began in 1948 with the arrival of the Rev. Charles R. Johnson as the priest-in-charge of the mission. Two years later, in 1950, with 134 registered communicants, Christ Church was granted parish status.

That same year, the rector established Christ Episcopal Day School. The next year the church purchased a seven-and-a-half acre property at 912 South Beach Boulevard for a church-school complex. Today the school continues to offer academic excellence as Coast Episcopal High School and is now located in nearby Pass Christian.

At last the church was well established and thriving. Then came Hurricane Camille. On the night of August 17, 1969, Camille and its accompanying tornadoes demolished much of the entire Gulf Coast, including Christ Church and the new Coast Episcopal High School in Pass Christian.

Fortunately, a few items were salvaged from the debris at the church, including the cornerstone, the bronze bell, the brass altar rails, the hymn number boards, the baptismal font, the bishop's chair, countless small pieces of stained glass, the wooden reredos. Also recovered was the processional cross, broken from its

staff and twisted into a circular shape by the forces of the storm. The small parish hall extending from the church was not severely damaged, and within it were found intact other treasures: the great cabinet still holding all the communion silver, brass vases, altar hangings, and the mother-of- pearl shell used at baptisms.

The buildings at the day school survived unharmed, and for the next 20 months the congregation met there for services, using a portable altar and organ.

A new Christ Church rose on the grounds at 912 South Beach, and was dedicated on April 18, 1971 to the glory of God by Bishop John Allin. It stands as a symbol of the indestructible spirit of God's people. The 1890 cornerstone is cemented into the pavement under the new bell tower, where the old bell now hangs. The twisted cross,



mounted on a base, is installed atop the baptismal font. A section of the reredos stands against the wall behind the piano and is used for bronze memorial plaques. The stained glass fragments from the old church windows are incorporated into the framework of the interior doors, and the bishop's chair is in place in the sanctuary. The massive cabinet in the sacristy still stores the communion silver, the vases, and the altar hangings. The mother-of-pearl shell has been used at every baptism since 1910.

In its 116 year history, Christ church has had but two full-time rectors, both named Johnson, but unrelated. Known to all as "Father J", the Reverend Charles R. Johnson, retired in 1984 after 35 years of service. The following year, the Right Reverend Duncan M. Gray, JR. inducted the Reverend Dr. Authur E. Johnson as the new rector. "Father Nick" Johnson served until 2003. The Reverend Kyle Dice Seage, was appointed interim priest-in-charge by the Right Reverend Duncan M. Gray III.

Parish Life

Parishioners at Christ Episcopal Church are involved in multiple and varied parish activities in addition to the regular Sunday morning worship service and the mid-week healing service. Continuing outreach activities include the Hancock County Food Pantry, Hope Haven (a coastal social services agency), and the Hancock County Alliance for Health. This past year Christ Church contributed a large parcel of soaps, shampoos and other personal items to the Whitfield Mental Health Hospital in addition to providing financial assistance to victims of Hurricane Ivan. Service within the parish includes the altar guild, pastoral care committee, lay Eucharistic ministers, lectors, youth ministry volunteers, acolytes, and Christian education teachers for children and adults. The Christ Church choir provides a beautiful and vibrant music program.

Christian education remains a priority. Last year brought an expanded and well-attended children's Sunday School program that included bringing the children into church after Sunday School to receive communion

with the parish. Adult education offered Bible study in the spring and a series of varied and contemporary lectures and study sessions in the fall.

The ECW completed another banner year having hosted the annual "Silver Tee" golf tournament and the annual Harvest Dinner, both favorite community traditions and great fund raisers. More than half of the proceeds from these two events go to outreach within the local community. Each spring the ECW hosts a reception for all parish octogenarians and nonagenarians, many of them lifelong members of the parish. The Brotherhood of Christ Church continues its tradition of preparing monthly "gourmet" parish breakfasts



Traditional Christ Church activities included the annual crawfish boil on Pentecost Sunday, the annual parish Christmas party as well as the weekly Lenten soup suppers followed by varied and unique programs. New this past year was the end-of-summer Picnic Under the Oaks where parishioners brought food and drink to share on our beautiful oak-filled lawn

with record attendance all year.

overlooking the Gulf of Mexico.

Christ Church EYC

The Christ Episcopal Church EYC program is quickly becoming one of the most active and fastest growing Episcopal youth programs on the Gulf Coast, with an increasing number of participants coming from outside the parish. An energetic and creative youth director has helped build this strong program that includes separate Sunday evening meetings for junior and senior high youth, with a recently added Wednesday night meeting for the senior high youth. A full year of activities included sending representatives to virtually all the Diocesan youth events. A highlight of the year was the parish hosting of Happening # 59 where, among other things, parishioners provided meals and lodging for high school students from all over the Diocese of Mississippi. Christ Episcopal Church remains committed to maintaining its position as a dynamic place to participate in youth ministry.



Bay Saint Louis Area

Bay St. Louis is a charming city situated where the waters of the Bay of St. Louis meet the Gulf of Mexico. It was here that the new world explorer Pierre LeMoyne Sieur d'Iberville in 1699 named it for King Louis IX. In 1789 the town's name was changed to Shieldsboro when Spain granted the land to Thomas Shields. It was renamed Bay St. Louis in 1875.

Downtown Bay St. Louis, known as "Old Town", is lined with small shops, boutiques, antique stores, art galleries, restaurants and cafes. Other recreational opportunities include youth sports, sailing, canoeing, camping, and both fresh and salt-water fishing.

Bay St. Louis shares its western boundary with the city of Waveland and together account for a large percentage of Hancock County's population. The cities and county have fine public and private school systems teaching a wide variety of academic and industrial skills. Higher educational opportunities are available through universities and community colleges in nearby communities.

The economy of the area is steadily growing and is recognized as one of the highest per capita income areas of the State. Many new industries locate at and near John C. Stennis Space Center, the NASA rocket testing facility, and also at the county's port and harbor facility and Stennis International airport. A business technology park is under construction adjacent to Stennis airport. Infinity, a nationally recognized education and science center will open in 2007at I10 exit 2, featuring science exhibits from many Stennis agencies and contractors.





Christ Episcopal Church Event Photos







Octo-Nona Celebration

Silver Tee Golf Tournament





Silver Tee Golf Tournament

Mrs. Fly at the Octo-Nona Celebration





Annual Harvest Dinner





Baptismal service

Bishop Gray's Confirmation Sunday





Choir practice

Lenten soup supper



Children's table at Brotherhood Breakfast

Bay Saint Louis Area Photos

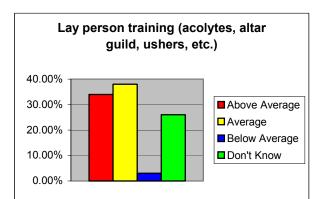


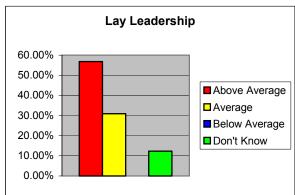


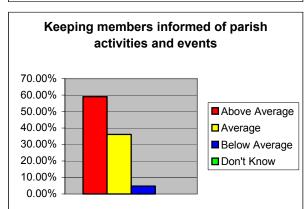


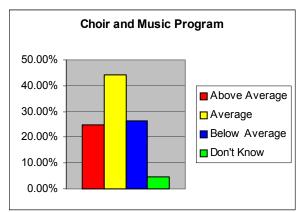


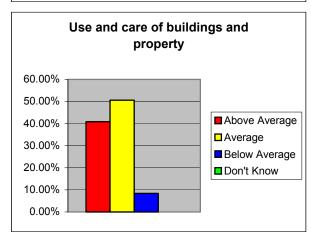
What Are Christ Episcopal's Present Strengths and Weaknesses?

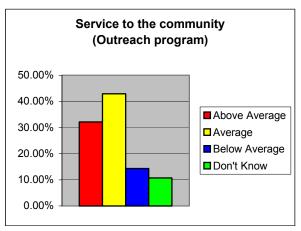


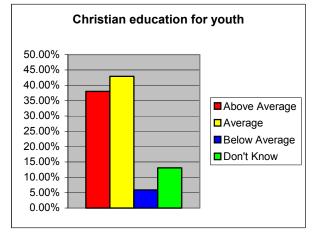


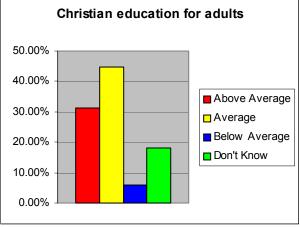


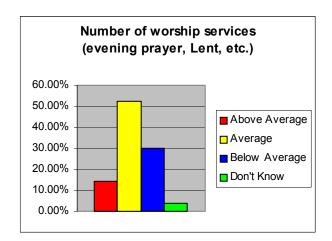


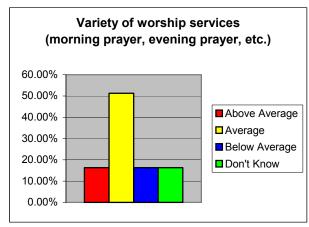


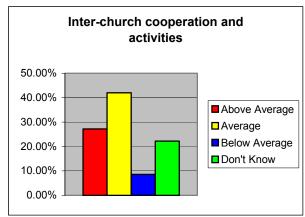


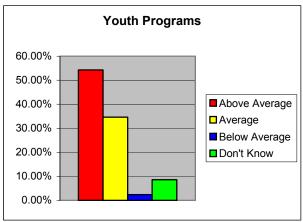


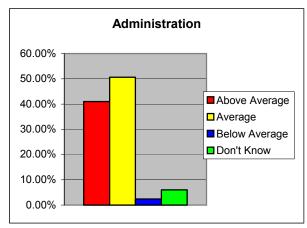


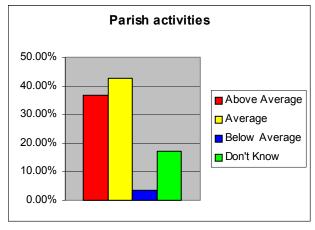


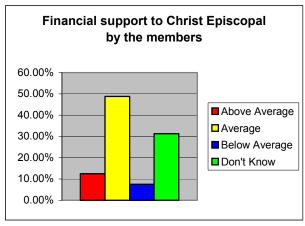


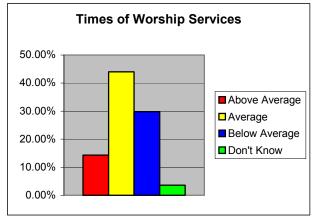








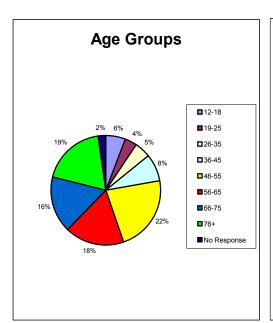


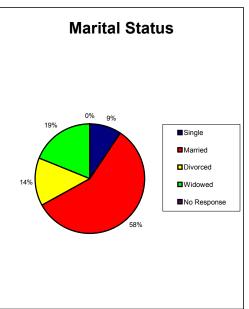


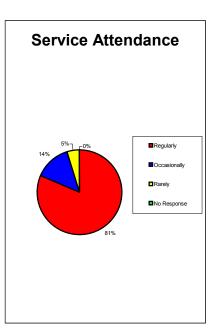
Christ Episcopal Survey Results

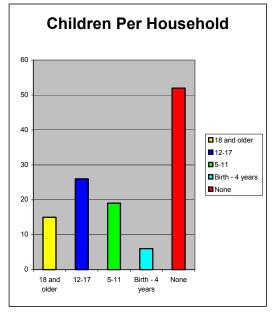
During January 2005, parishioners were asked to complete a survey to help the Search Committee gauge the opinions of the parish on issues germane to the search for a new rector. Eighty five communicants completed the survey. The results are reflected in the graphics on these pages.

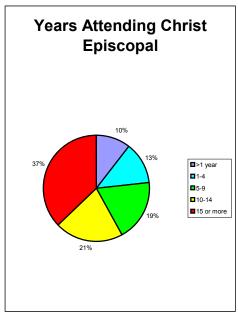
Note: The numbers reflect percentages of those parishioners that responded





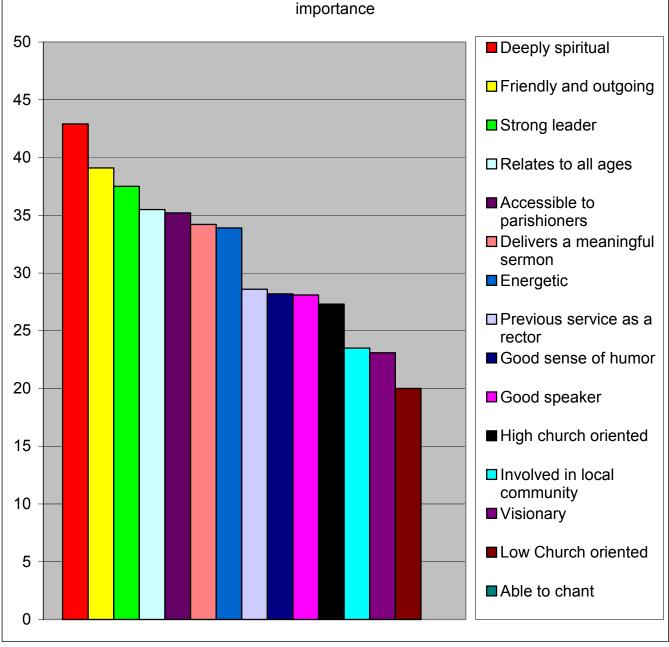


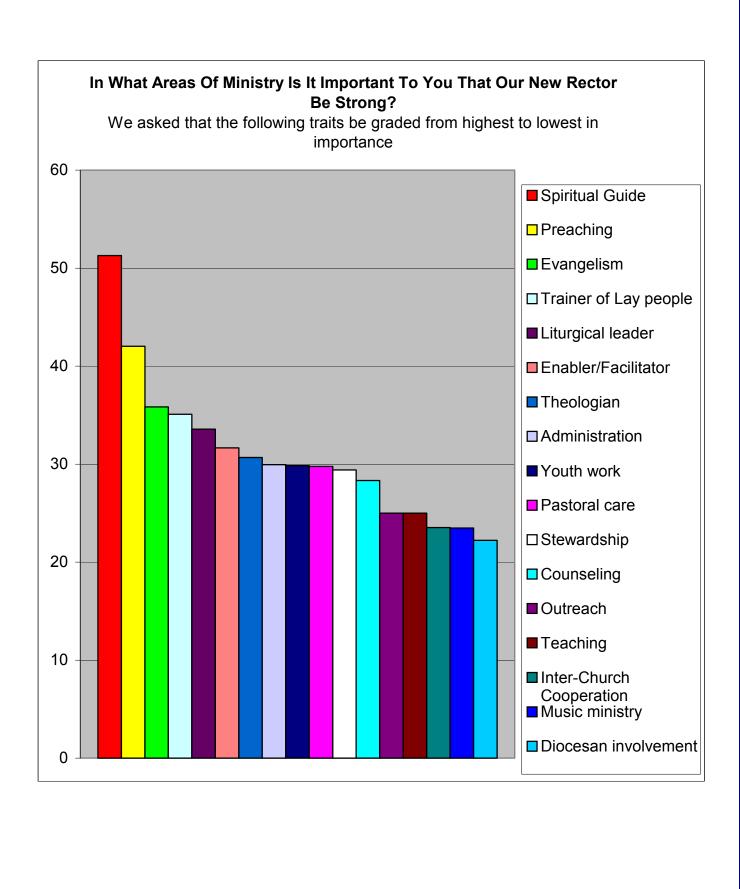


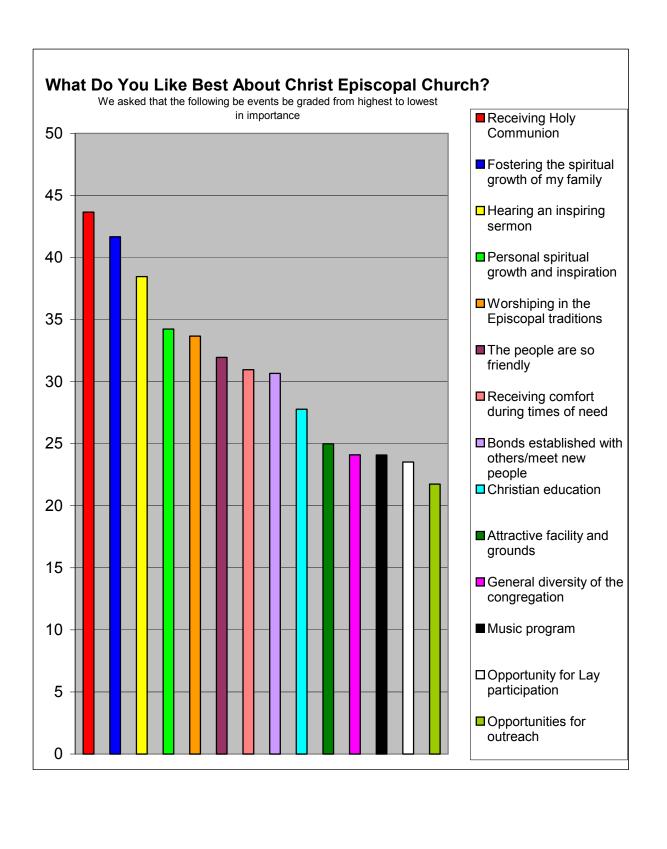


What Specific Qualities, Characteristics, or Talents Are You Hoping Our New Rector Will Possess?

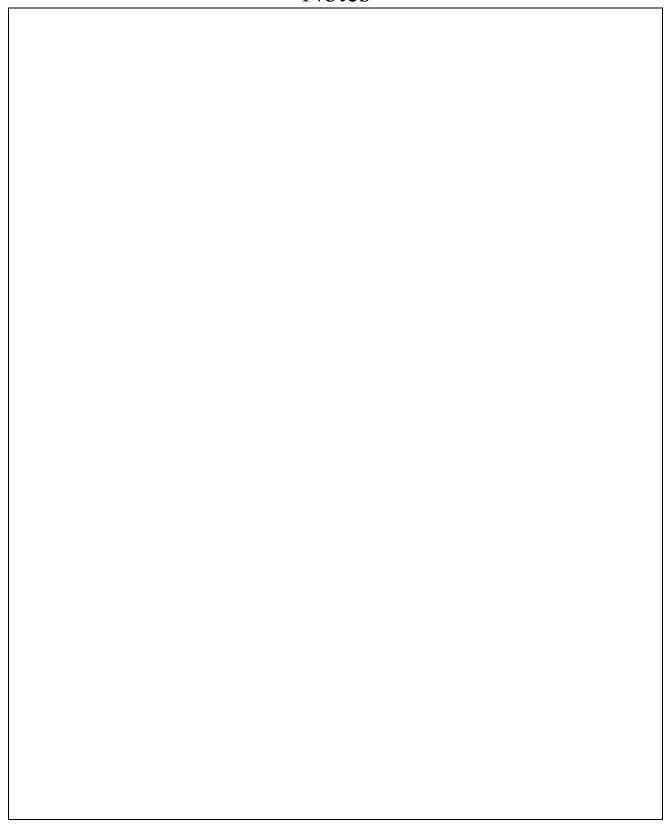
We asked that the following traits be graded from highest to lowest in importance



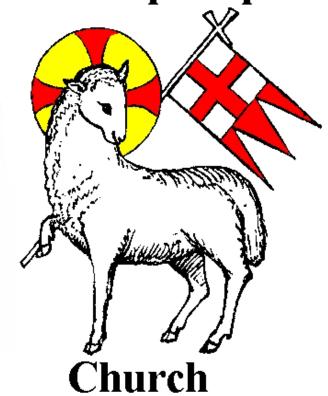




Notes



Christ Episcopal



Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on Christ Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish and those whom you send for us to consider; that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.