



Christ Church

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Parish Profile

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WHERE WE LIVE

Waltham, Massachusetts
“The Watch City”

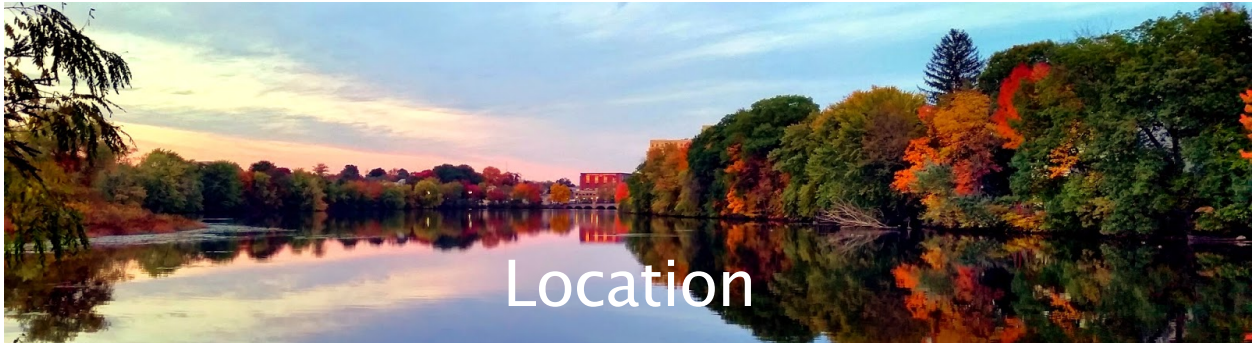
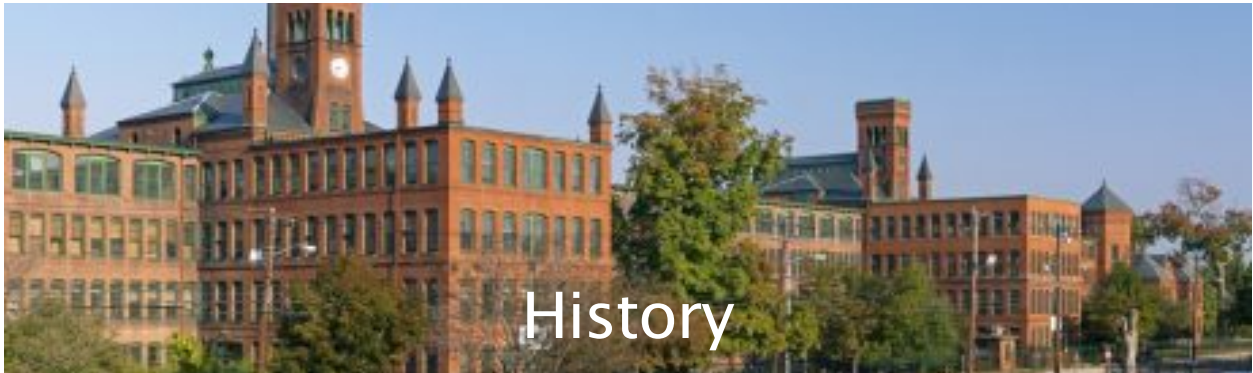


Image Source: PatriotLedger.com

Waltham, voted 13th out of the top 100 best places to live in America by Money magazine in 2017, is a city along the Charles River in Middlesex County, Massachusetts, just nine miles west of Boston. Our community government consists of an elected mayor and an elected 15-member city council.



Waltham was formed in 1738, when it separated from neighboring Watertown. In 1814, the Industrial Revolution came to town with the establishment of the Boston Manufacturing Company textile mill on the Charles River. Forty years later, the American Waltham Watch Factory the first factory to mass-produce watches, opened on the banks of the Charles River.

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These industries created an ethnic mix that continues to be a source of the unique character and community strength of the city and its many distinct neighborhoods. Although a population of more than 65,000 classifies it as a city, “Old Waltham” retains much of the small-town flavor of its immigrant and culturally diverse heritage.



Waltham’s current success may be partially attributed to the Raytheon Company, which was an important part of the city’s recovery from the Great Depression. Today Raytheon, a Fortune 100 company, is just one of the many high technology companies in Waltham. Several interstate highways are in or near Waltham, making the city attractive for business and commuters alike. The MBTA offers commuter rail and bus services around Waltham and to surrounding cities.

New and renovated buildings and an increase in business and economic activity make Waltham a bustling place, especially in the downtown business district and in the areas along River Street, Lexington Street, and Second Avenue. The city’s population more than triples every day as people come to Waltham to work, shop and play. The Waltham Downtown Partnership Association helps promote businesses and economic development along “restaurant row” on Moody and Main Streets.

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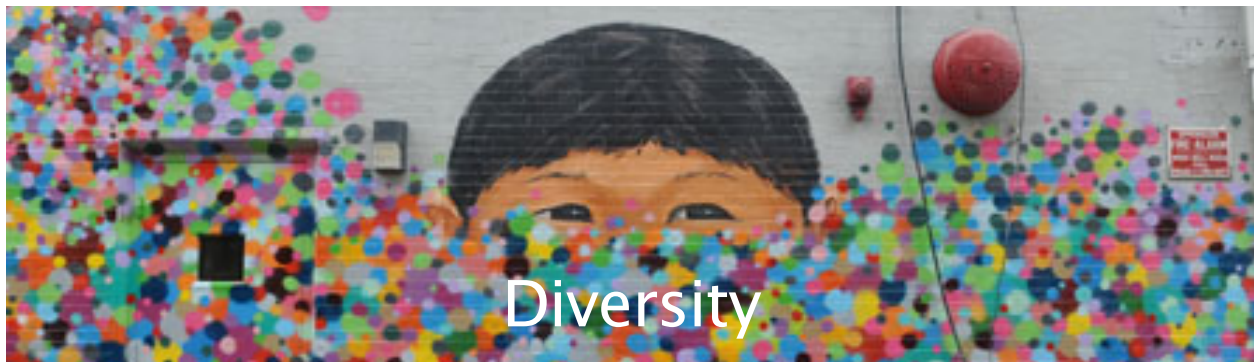
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Culture and Higher Education

Waltham is also a cultural keystone in the area. It's the home of the Reagle Music Theatre of Greater Boston, the Waltham Philharmonic Orchestra, the Waltham Symphony Orchestra, and the Rose Art Museum. Waltham is also home to two universities: Bentley University and Brandeis University. Various world class monuments, museums and art galleries are also found in Waltham, including the Charles River Museum of Industry and Innovation, the Lyman Estate, Gore Place, Robert Treat Paine Estate, the Waltham Museum, the National Archives, and the Girl Scout Museum.

The city is also host to numerous outdoor festivals: [Riverfest](#), [Steampunk Festival](#), Latino Festival, [Race Around Waltham \(RAW\) series](#), a [weekly farmers market](#), [Waltham Fields CSA](#), annual [Waltham Mills artists open studios](#) to name just a few.

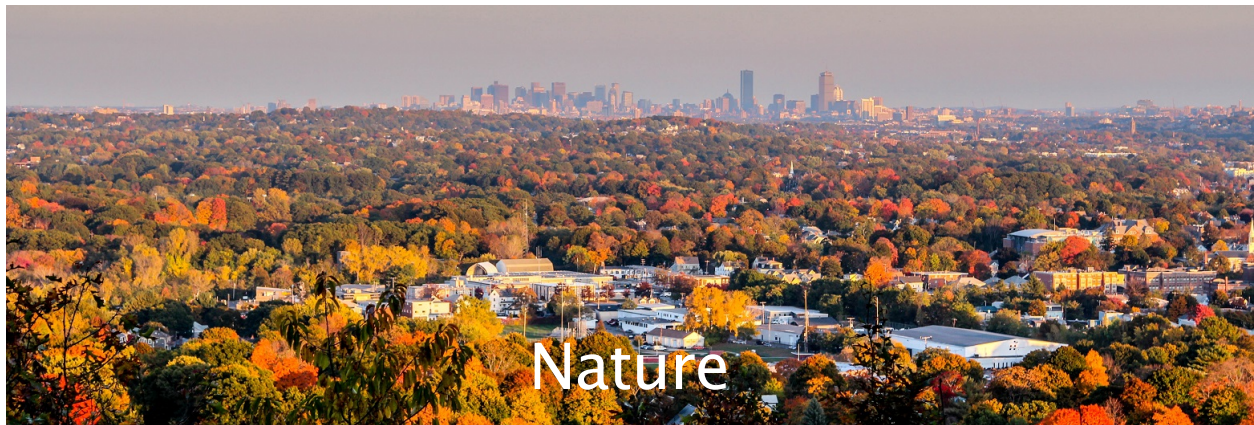


Diversity

Waltham is a very diverse city with about 60 languages spoken in the city's schools. As of 2015, greater than 25% of the residents (~16,350 people) were born outside the US, many originating from Guatemala and India. In recent years, Waltham has also become a center for Ugandan culture, with an estimated 1,500 Ugandans living here.

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The Charles River runs through the center of Waltham, and is utilized for sailing, canoeing, kayaking, rowing, and sculling. The River Walk is a scenic walking and bicycle trail situated along the banks of the Charles. The great pond, Hardy Pond, is a wonderful natural resource on the city's north side. The city also offers Prospect Hill Park, a 252-acre municipal park with numerous hiking trails and picnic areas that is the oldest and largest public open space in Waltham

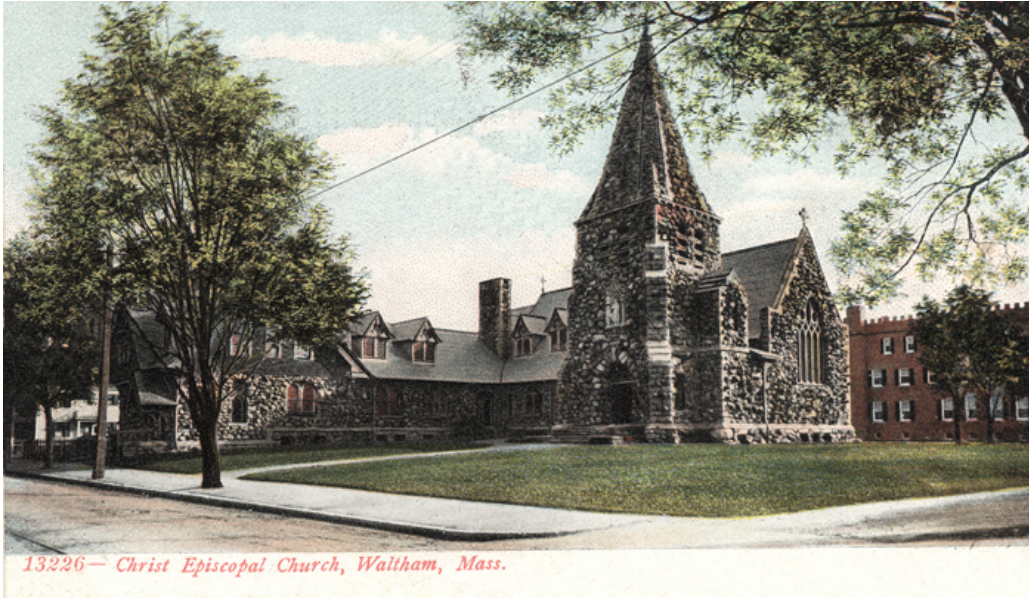


The Waltham public school system consists of six elementary schools, two middle schools, and one high school, serving more than 5,500 students. There are also several private elementary and high schools in Waltham. All six of the elementary schools and both middle schools were rebuilt or modernized between 2003-2008. A new high school has been approved, and the city is currently exploring new sites to accommodate an expansion.

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Where We Worship



Our History

Christ Church was founded in 1848, under the leadership of 12 local community leaders, who met with Albert Patterson, missionary at large for Boston and the vicinity. The group began meeting for morning prayer in Rumford Hall, the same location that eventually would become Waltham's City Hall.

In 1849, they moved into a gothic wooden building on Central Street. The Rev. Thomas Frederic Fales was the first pastor to the growing congregation. During the rapid industrialization of Waltham, they soon outgrew their space.

Robert Treat Paine, the great-grandson of the signer of the Declaration of Independence with the same name, was the chair of a committee to build a new church, which was consecrated in 1902. Christ Church today is housed in a stone English country style church on Main Street in Waltham. It is on the National Registry of Historic Places.

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The church contains stained glass windows that date back to the late 1800's and early 1900's, produced by several noteworthy manufacturers, including Clayton and Bell, Charles Connick, Louis Comfort Tiffany, and Donald MacDonald.

The Pipe Organ at Christ Church Waltham was designed and built by Cole and Woodberry in 1898 - the same time that the church itself was built - and is comprised of 1,734 pipes and two manuals. The organ has gone through several renovations since its initial introduction, the last of which was completed at its rededication on September 27, 1981.

Over its history, Christ Church has responded to the needs of the Waltham community in many different ways. Through the years, there have been basketball teams, theatrical performances (the Fieldstone Players), couples groups, handbell choirs, the Fleur-de-lis girls and young women's group, along with the Sir Galahad Club for boys and young men.

Since its founding, eight clergy have been elected by the Christ Church parish to serve as Rector:

- The Rev. Thomas F. Fales (1849-1890)
- The Rev. Herbert Noel Cunningham (1890-1895)
- The Rev. Hubert Wetmore Wells (1896-1900)
- The Rev. Francis Ellsworth Webster (1901-1930)
- The Rev. George O. Ekwall (1930-1960)
- The Rev. John S. Kromer (1961-1970)
- The Rev. William R. Mawhinney (1971-1999)
- The Rev. Peter W. Wenner, Priest in Charge (1999-2005)
- The Rev. Sara H. Irwin, Priest in Residence (2005-2006)
- The Rev. Sara H. Irwin, Priest in Charge (2007-2009)
- The Rev. Sara H. Irwin (2009-2017)

Join us as we build the next 150 years of our history.

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Who We Are

Christ Church Waltham is a welcoming Episcopal community brought together in our common worship of God and united in our desire to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Our Vision

1. Welcomes all newcomers and encourages fellowship through social events and opportunities for outreach and service, collaborating with others in service of the common good.
2. Strives for justice and peace among all people; that gives our time, treasure, and talents to serve vulnerable populations such as the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison.
3. Values the liturgy and worship of the Episcopal Church; that is both grounded in tradition and open to the world.
4. Nurtures an active prayer life and encourages spiritual growth in Communion with God.
5. Fosters the clarification of Christian thinking through study, reflection, and discussion; that recognizes these pursuits as vital to the practice of Christian charity and humility in a broken world.
6. Is committed to growing a vibrant and diverse Christian community; that develops its resources to follow God's call.
7. Has reverence for the earth as God's own creation and uses its resources rightly in the service of others; that advocates for responsible stewardship of the earth locally and globally.

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8. Celebrates the gifts of every phase of the journey of life and appreciates the contributions of everyone, from our youngest to our oldest members.
9. Appreciates music in worship and seeks to include musical contributions from all members of the community.
10. Stewards the legacy of our historic building; that opens our doors to host other communities of faith; that invites all to share our grounds as a place of beauty and peace in the heart of Waltham.

Worship

Christ Church is a diverse, welcoming, and vibrant community of faithful worshippers. Some of us are lifelong Episcopalians and some of us have chosen the Episcopal Church from many different backgrounds. We come together to worship and pray. While many of our worship services are fairly traditional in practice and style, we also like to incorporate additional worship styles and ideas from our community. Once a month the church hosts a special children's sermon when everyone worships together. We especially enjoy greeting each other by passing the peace during our worship services.

Christian Formation

(click to visit our web page and learn more)

Our Christian Formation is available for all ages: children, youth, and adults. The children's and youth programs take place before the worship service and continue during the first part of the worship service. The children then join their families for communion.

Children in pre-k through grade 3 participate in Godly Play, a Montessori style program used to educate our children about stories from the Bible and various liturgical actions. The children and storyteller sit in a circle on the floor and the storyteller shares the story using both words and materials. The program allows children to build a language around Christian spirituality and gives them the freedom to contemplate the stories in their own way.

The curriculum for children in grades 4 & 5 is called *Connect from Sparkhouse*. The lesson plans have structure to them that repeats every week: opening game, video, communal reading from the Bible and discussion, activity/craft, closing ritual.

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Children in grades 6 through 8 use the program called *Reform from Sparkhouse*. This curriculum is focused on the emotional and intellectual make-up of students at this age. The lesson plans have a similar structure as *Connect*. Additionally, the middle school youth group, in partnership with Church of the Good Sheperd of Watertown, meets several times a year to expose the children to educational, social, and service-based activities. We recently added a new high school program designed to engage students by providing a forum for conversations about moral issues in their lives within an Episcopal, Christian, and spiritual context.

Our adult education programs vary throughout the year with seasonal offerings during Advent and Lent. Some programs are offered after the 10:00 am Sunday service and others are offered during the week.

Fellowship

After our 10:00 am Sunday service we gather in fellowship for coffee hour to meet new friends or to reconnect with old friends. We also join together in fellowship for several annual events:

Fieldstone Dinner & Silent Auction

In November we gather for a dinner and silent auction, the church's main fundraising event and a wonderful chance to socialize and donate items for auction, including the use of vacation homes.



Fieldstone Dinner and Silent Auction



Pancake Dinner

Shrove Tuesday

Our pancake dinner, which includes other treats (such as sausages), with a festive Mardi Gras theme.

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June Barbecue

A celebration on the church grounds following Sunday 10 am service, when we fire up the grill, introduce ourselves to newcomers, and enjoy the summer weather.

Newcomers Events

Hosted at a church member's home, a way to welcome newcomers in a more intimate setting.

Outreach

(click to visit our web page and learn more)

*Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me... Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.
(Matthew 25: 35-36, 40)*

At Christ Church, we try to live our faith by giving to others in need. Our primary outreach projects are:

Grandma's Pantry

Grandma's Pantry is a supplemental food pantry for the elderly of Waltham, which began in 1990. Our faithful local community contributors and parishioners fill our cupboards and support us financially. The pantry is the recipient of their generosity through out the year and especially at holiday times. In 2016, Grandma's pantry served 1,723 people.

Diaper Depot

27,810 Diapers	879 Children	739 Parents
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Diaper Depot, founded in 2009, continues its work of distributing diapers to Waltham families in need. We distributed over 27,000 diapers in 2016! This would not be possible without our many volunteers.

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Community Day Center of Waltham

This is the only day shelter supporting homeless individuals in Boston's metro-west area. Christ Church members began serving lunch at the CDC once a month beginning in 2013. As of September 2017, we will transition to a monthly drive based on the current needs of the participants.

Thanksgiving Baskets

Christ Church began this project in 2006, organizing and assembling complete Thanksgiving dinners for families in need from local schools. In 2016, we were able to contribute dinners to 44 families, assisted by a local Boy Scout troop.

B-SAFE (Bishops' Summer Academic Fun Enrichment Program)

B-Safe is a diocesan program that provides a safe summer refuge for 100 inner city children at a church in Boston. Christ Church members make lunches to serve these children for three days in a specific week, volunteer to read to the children and fund the bus ride for the end-of-the-week field trip to a local beach.

Louis Brown Peace Institute

Each Mothers' Day we join the diocesan "B Peace" program and march for three miles through Dorchester with thousands of others in support of the Peace Institute's work. The walk is an annual fundraiser for the Institute's work in peace education and in support for survivors of violence.

Christmas Gift Cards

Christ Church members have donated gift cards for homeless teens staying at a Waltham hotel and also gift cards for transgender teens at a Waltham LGBT shelter.

Community

Christ Church Waltham is a welcoming Episcopal community brought together in our common worship of God and united in our desire to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Christ Church is part of the [Episcopal Diocese of Massachusetts](#), which includes greater Boston and Cape Cod. There are 110 dioceses in the The Episcopal Church of the USA and we are part of the global Anglican Communion, with congregations in 160 countries.

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Our partner congregations, St. Peter's Anglican Church of Uganda, Missionary Church of Christ, and Chaplains on the Way, also meet weekly for worship at Christ Church.

Our diocesan bishop is The Rt. Rev. Alan H. Gates. He works with assistant bishop The Rt. Rev. Gayle Harris.

Pastoral Care

Christ Church's pastoral care program provides individuals and families support and comfort when a member is grieving, ill, or dying. Clergy and lay members of the church are available on a daily basis to provide spiritual guidance and to deliver communion to those unable to make it to Christ Church in person.

Music

Program

The primary component of our music program is a volunteer, non-auditioned adult choir. The choir sings at the 10 am Sunday service and rehearses once a week on Sundays before and after the service. Although the choir on any given Sunday ranges from 2-8 singers currently, there are no limits on numbers and the group is always looking to welcome new members.

In addition to the adult choir, a children's choir meets several times a year, at the 10 am Sunday services, as part of the children's education program to prepare an anthem for the offertory. Other occasional elements of our music program include a hand bell choir, a jazz ensemble, and additional instrumentalists from the congregation.



Christ Church Jazz Ensemble

Resources and Personnel

Our sanctuary houses a two-manual, 35 rank pipe organ and a Steinway grand piano. We also own a full set of hand bells. We employ a quarter-time director of music.

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Music in Worship

Our liturgical music tends toward the traditional. We draw the majority of our hymns from the Hymnal 1982. However, we regularly incorporate selections from *Wonder, Love, and Praise* and *Lift Every Voice and Sing II*; we seasonally incorporate a jazz ensemble, hand bells, guitars, and drums into our services; and in the past have held evening Tenebrae and Compline services. As our congregation grows, we welcome additional musical ideas.

Vestry

At Christ Church, the Vestry is a committee elected by members of a congregation to serve with the church Wardens in managing the church's temporal affairs. Vestry members serve a three-year term. Christ Church currently has two Wardens, one Clerk, and one Treasurer who are elected annually. There are six other Vestry members two elected each year at the annual meeting in January.

Vestry meetings are held on the third Mondays of each month at 7:15 pm. Minutes are posted on the church bulletin board in Upper Fales Hall.

Staff

As of July 2017, Christ Church has hired a three quarter-time interim priest while we search for a new full-time rector. Other employees of the church include a half-time office manager who manages our accounts, tenants, rentals, assembles worship programs, and performs general office duties, as well as handles our front door ministry (distributing gift cards to local grocery stores as needed).

Christ Church also employs a part-time Sexton who is responsible for the general maintenance and upkeep of the church. The final contracted employee is Christ Church's musical director who helps organize the music, the choir, and any special musical events.

Christ Church has volunteer leaders of the church's outreach ministries, as well as children's ministries.

Altar Guild

The goal of the altar guild is to provide a beautiful and peaceful setting for worship. The members of the guild ensure that the elements of the Eucharist are available for services. Several times a year all members of the congregation

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are asked to assist with cleaning, and polishing, as well as wrapping potted plants.

The ministry of the guild also involves working with the rector or celebrant for those special celebrations of marriage, baptism, and death. Being a member of the guild provides moments of quiet reflection in our beautiful sanctuary and involvement with all members of our community.

Some of the other ways we give our time and talent

Meadow in progress

An outside group of volunteers has transformed our east lawn into a beautiful meadowscape.

Building committee

A 170 year-old building always needs some TLC.

Knitting group

Folks get together after Sunday service to create beautiful projects and enjoy fellowship.

Our Parish Family

Christ Church is blessed to be part of such a diverse community. Our parish consists of families without children, families with children in Pre-K through 12th grade, families with children in post-secondary education, retired families, a number of single-person homes, and graduate students. The longevity of Christ Church affords us the pleasure of having long-term families and new families join us every Sunday. Waltham's diverse population allows us the opportunity to welcome all regardless of their gender, age, race, ethnicity, or national origin, range of abilities, sexual orientation, gender identity, financial means, education, and political perspective. The church has a motto: "All are welcome, everyone is welcome to receive." It is this purposeful inclusion on which we pride ourselves.

Stewardship/Finances

Christ Church receives income from five main sources. The first source, our generous parishioner pledges, accounts for roughly 50% of the total income. In 2016, the church received \$115,765 in pledge and plate donations. Our

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second source of income is derived from the creative use of our space to generate a sizable rental income stream, which brought in \$69,276 in 2016. Additionally the church received \$3,551 from special fundraisers and \$40,975

in interest from investments in the DIT (Diocesan Investment Trust Funds). The church did not draw on its endowment in 2016.

In 2016, we had a successful stewardship campaign that delivered an increase in committed pledge dollars from \$108,022 to \$117,453. With this increase in pledges and our other streams of income, we expect to continue as good stewards of Christ Church and remain fiscally stable.

In addition, the church has had two successful capital campaigns over the last few years, which have allowed us to continue to maintain our historic church.

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Our Strength & Aspirations



Word cloud generated from Appreciative Inquiry feedback

Without question, the most frequently cited strength noted in the results of our parish-wide Appreciative Inquiry is our welcoming and inclusive community. Many respondents commented on the sense of belonging they feel at Christ Church Waltham. We are a diverse and supportive spiritual community of open-minded people who are accepting of everyone as unique children of God. Words such as *belonging, friendly, giving, open, acceptance* and *home* were used by many respondents to describe these core values. In this spirit of community, we aspire to expand pastoral care and fellowship opportunities to meet the needs of our diverse population and grow our membership.

Our worship and music are core strengths at Christ Church Waltham, and many parishioners cited holiday services and traditions as being particularly meaningful. Our Christmas Eve service, Holy Week worship (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil) and jazz masses all hold special significance to members of the community. We aspire to build on these traditions and create new ones, as well as expand and diversify our music

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program. Our worship brings us closer to God and helps us connect with one another as a community of believers.

Outreach programs in the broader community are core to the mission of Christ Church Waltham, and it is important to maintain the ministries we currently support, as well as strengthen and build on them. By doing God's work we not only deepen our connection to God, but to the larger community beyond our doors. We aspire to include new people in our outreach programs, including children and young adults, in order to invigorate existing programs. We hope to inspire others in our congregation to create new ministries and outreach programs.

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Tiffany window along the south wall

Our New Rector

Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be open. (Matt. 7:7-8)

Christ Church Waltham is a welcoming community of people that values prayerful worship; inclusiveness and diversity; social justice and outreach; and nurturing the spiritual lives of the individuals and families of our parish. We seek a Rector who will embody these values and strengthen the rich foundation we have built together.

We pray that our new Rector will be an open-minded collaborator and good listener with creative ideas about how best to grow our community in spirituality and membership. Our new Rector should be adept at motivating others, as well as recognizing the ways in which individuals seek to grow and helping them get there. This is particularly important at Christ Church where involvement of the parish community is key to our core ministries. Our new Rector should identify ways to invite people into leadership and meaningfully

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recognize them for their important contributions to the life of the parish—whether time, talent or treasure.

We pray that our new Rector will be a vibrant and deeply spiritual preacher who inspires us to be kinder, better human beings as we embark or continue on our own spiritual journeys. Their preaching should be relatable to people of all ages and viewpoints, and rooted in emotional intelligence and intellectual connection. Our new Rector should inspire acceptance and tolerance, warmth and openness in individual and group interactions. Pastoral care is an important aspect of the life of our parish and we seek an astute, compassionate Rector who embodies sensitivity and is intuitive about the level of support an individual needs. We pray that our new rector will cultivate our growing children's education and adult formation initiatives in partnership with committed participants who enrich these programs on an ongoing basis.

Christ Church seeks a detail-oriented, skillful administrator with a hands-on, modern approach to the management of the parish. We wish to preserve our financial stability and position ourselves for growth in fundraising and potential revenue streams. Our new rector should have strong organizational and communication skills and inspire confidence as a leader. They should have a presence in the larger community beyond the doors of Christ Church. This will enable our outreach missions to expand and thrive, and inspire new calls to service for the people of our parish.

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To learn more visit us at

<http://www.christchurchwaltham.org>

<https://www.facebook.com/ccwaltham/>

<https://twitter.com/ccwaltham?lang=en>

If this is the congregation you were raised up to serve, please read further on how to apply.

Submit your application, ministry portfolio, introductory letter, resume, and three sermons (video preferred) to Jackie Genereau, Correspondence Secretary of Search Committee, at christchurchsearchcommittee750@gmail.com.

Please label your submission as follows:
Last name.First initial.Middle initial.CCWaltham.Document name

We are asking that all applications be submitted by end of day Monday, November 5, 2018.

The Christ Church Waltham Search Committee is looking forward to learning more about you!