

## **Christ Church, Warwick, Bermuda**

### **Presbytery Report – March 2020**

#### **Overview**

Now that our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations and the Local Church Review are over we are turning our attention to more regular issues!

The Kirk Session has been clear on our vision of Congregation, Community and Worship as the pillars for us to work on coupled with our desire to be known in the community as being a place for the community.

#### **Congregation**

We are putting much more effort into looking after our existing members. Traditionally we have looked towards those we may see less regularly but now feel it is sensible to concentrate on our regulars and hoping to continue to grow this group.

Our Wednesday ‘Coffee and Conversation’ mornings, started early last year, have really taken hold and have become a key event in the week of a number of our members – particularly our older and retired members.

Our youth programme continues strongly although we have identified a softness at the lower end of the age range which we are looking to bolster. Outside regular Sunday School we have had a couple of Movie Nights which are well supported and usually bring in some additional friends and sometimes their parents.

For our regular membership we are holding ‘Fabulous Fridays’ on the first Friday of the month. An evening at the Church with a meal and a different theme each month. Themes have included a concert by our organist and a number of his students, a presentation on a recent trip to the Holy Land by members of the congregation and a fun bingo evening which has appeal to a wide range of ages.

Behind the scenes we are actively progressing our new cloud based database system which will allow us to keep our records in one place and hence consistently up to date. It will also allow those with access to contact members or particular groups of members remotely rather than having to route everything through the church office and will also be a major step forward with regard to compliance with privacy of information legislation.

#### **Community**

It has been our desire to embark on a significant community outreach project but this has been on hold for the time being. Our expectation is that this will be something major and multi-year/ongoing as well as consuming significant finance so it is being approached with care.

In the meantime we continue with our Loads of Love laundry and shower programme for homeless and disadvantaged members of our community. Anyone can come and have their clothes laundered and have a shower at our facility on a Saturday morning. In addition we serve cooked breakfasts while the laundry/shower facility is in operation. This is staffed by volunteers from our church and from others in the community who wish to be involved in giving back to the community.

Bermuda Overseas Missions is planning another overseas building trip, this year going to Brazil. These have been annual trips for over 15 years now. Church members as well as others from the community travel along with a number of young people (late teens/early 20s) to work along with Habitat for Humanity in countries in need. While helping in the country visited the experiences all the volunteers have and bring back to Bermuda make these trips an amazingly valuable experience.

In addition we continue to support a local rest home, assist with school uniforms for families needing help, support the local branch of the Salvation Army and a number of other community based projects.

### Worship

Traditionally we have had two services on a Sunday morning – 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. The earlier service has seen lower support over the past number of years with the later service, aimed more at families, continues to thrive.

At the start of the year we changed our organist's hours. He teaches six days per week asked if we could be flexible about the early morning on Sunday. He now only plays at the later service. We are using pre-recorded music at the earlier service. Although this is working it is not ideal.

In addition to regular worship we have been holding monthly Messy Church Services. These have also proved popular and have attracted a number of friends and people we don't normally see.

### Other Significant Items

#### Finance

Last year our Treasurer initiated a very significant campaign to have members of the congregation formally pledge a financial commitment to the church. This has proved to be very successful with a healthy increase in congregational giving.

On a related note, spending on our fabric was down last year. This was due in part to the amount of work done to prepare for our 300<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the

past several years and also due to the enormous dedication of our Fabric Convener who has worked hard himself and motivated others to carry out many jobs around the buildings and grounds.

### Holy Land Trip

Last October, immediately following the presbytery meeting in Geneva, a number of our members, plus some friends from UK, visited the Holy Land. The group numbered 23 in total and was led jointly by Alistar Bennett and by John Chalmers. While in the Holy Land we visited various traditional holy sites in and around Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Nazareth and the Sea of Galilee. In addition, because of the contacts of John and Alistair as well as John McCulloch and Kate McDonald we were very privileged to visit with locals in places such as the Tent of Nations; the Aida Refugee Camp and others. This trip was an amazing experience for all those attending.



Tent of Nations

### Sale of Manse

We decided last year that selling our Manse would be a financially sensible decision. The existing property is way too large, the elderly building needs significant upkeep and altogether this eats up way too much congregational resource, both financial and in volunteer time. A small committee is working on progressing this sale.

### Newsletter



The Quarterly Newsletter of Christ Church Warwick, Bermuda  
Visit to The Holy Land October, 2019  
The newsletter is published quarterly and is available to all members of the church. It contains news, reports, and photographs from the church and its activities. The newsletter is published by the church and is available to all members of the church. It contains news, reports, and photographs from the church and its activities. The newsletter is published by the church and is available to all members of the church. It contains news, reports, and photographs from the church and its activities.



For anyone interested in our latest on line newsletter please check the following link:-

[http://christchurch.bm/images/Newsletters/Christmas\\_2019.pdf](http://christchurch.bm/images/Newsletters/Christmas_2019.pdf)

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