

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer | Pelham Manor, New York



# ANNUAL REPORT | 2015

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH  
JANUARY 31, 2016

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# RECTOR'S REPORT

I want to begin by thanking all of the members and friends of the Parish of Christ the Redeemer for their warm welcome. My wife Nicole, our children Liam and Nicholas, and I have been welcomed into the Christ Church family in more ways than we can count. It is such a blessing to be here. We love living in Pelham. I am grateful and overjoyed to be your rector. Thank you all so much, and God bless you.

My first official day as your rector was May 25, 2015, the day after Pentecost, and my first Sunday was Trinity Sunday. My family moved from Granite Springs at the end of June so that our children could finish their school year. During the summer I was able to get the lay of the land and meet many people, but I would have to wait until autumn to really begin to understand and get to know parish life and the congregation. When autumn finally arrived I was able to witness the blossoming of our many parish ministries. In my report I want to look at certain ministries that I directly oversee or take a hands-on role in, such as Worship, Pastoral Care, Communications, Stewardship, Youth Group and Confirmation Class, Hospitality, and oversight of our facilities and staff.

Our life as Christians, members, parishioners, and friends of Christ Church begins and ends with worship, and our principal, regular worship services are offered on Sundays. Our 8:00 AM Said Eucharist is regularly about 45 minutes long and contains traditional Anglican language, prayers, and order. Our 10:00 AM Choral Eucharist is regularly about 65 minutes long and contains contemporary prayers, congregational hymns, and a wide variety of musical offerings sung by our excellent choir, and it is ordered according to the most recent liturgical scholarship. Our 5:00 PM Come As You Are service is about 40 minutes and includes contemporary Evening Prayer, an intimate Eucharist with the congregation gathered at the altar, and a variety of music offerings. Come As You Are was offered twice a month in 2015 (except in the summer), in 2016 we will offer that service about three times a month, and every Sunday throughout Lent. I hope to find a way to offer it in the summer as well.

Certain Holy Days (e.g. Palm Sunday, Easter, Pentecost) are always celebrated on Sundays. Our calendar also includes a variety of Holy Days that are not normally celebrated on Sunday. The most well known are Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday, but there are dozens of others. Celebrating Holy Days is something that is important to me and that I firmly believe opens the door for spiritual and numerical growth beyond Sunday. Over the second half of 2015 we celebrated nearly every major Holy Day in our Prayer Book calendar and we are planning to continue that pattern in 2016. The majority of these Holy Days were celebrated by a half dozen people at a simple midday said Eucharist, while others had significantly larger crowds, music and extended opportunities for fellowship over food and beverages. Among the larger Holy Days were The Feast of Saint Michael and All Angels on September 29 which also was my Institution and Installation as the 15<sup>th</sup> Rector, Thanksgiving Day, of course Christmas Eve & Day.

Some of these Holy Days can serve as excellent opportunities for fellowship. After Advent Lessons & Carols, the Christmas Pageant, and the Eucharist on Christmas Day, New Years Day, and Epiphany we had after-church receptions that were well attended, featured great food and drink, and were greatly appreciated. Looking ahead we will have a soup/stew/chili/salad potluck before the Candlemas service on February 2, a Mediterranean potluck before the Maundy Thursday service, a pizzafest before the Easter Vigil, a steak and wine dinner before the Ascension Day service on May 5, an Octoberfest (with commemorative stein) before our Michaelmas service on September 29, a Halloween and Pizza Party on the Sunday before Halloween, and dessert and champagne after All Saints Day on November 1. I've celebrated Holy Days with this sort of fellowship at every parish I've been a part of; they are lots of fun, and they serve as great opportunities to build community and grow the parish. Some basic support for these events has been budgeted, but for the most part they rely on minimal food and financial support from parishioners.

We are all called to offer pastoral care to others, and this is a ministry that the rector can try to model for every member of the parish. Deacon Katie and I make every effort we can to ensure that every person who is homebound is visited and checked up on regularly. We also visit people while they are in the hospital. Our cell phone numbers are available (mine is 914-471-0260) and we answer our phones. If you want a visit, please ask. If you want more visits than you are getting, please ask. If you think someone might want a phone call or a visit, please let us or the parish office know. We are also available for counseling, and I am available if you would like to make a Sacramental Confession. Neither of us can read minds, so please let us know if you need anything.

Another ministry I must take a hands-on role in is communication. Before I arrived our parish website had been rebuilt. I have a fair amount of website and social media experience, and so I have continued updating the website by adding information about the Sacraments and parish history. I have also updated our photo gallery and created our Facebook and Twitter pages. These online resources complement our weekly bulletins and E-Blast.

As you probably know, our 2016 Stewardship program saw a marked increase in pledges. I am grateful for the work of our Stewardship, Finance and Investment Committees, and I am happy to see that we are in a healthier place financially than we were in 2015. Though our 2015 budget was balanced, it included additional income from two temporary sources: first, we overdrew on our endowment, and that is something we cannot do moving forward if we are to be good stewards of our parish patrimony, and second we were able to use money raised in a 2014 fundraiser to help cover costs in 2015. Our increased stewardship helps us move closer to true financial health and allows us to take several steps in 2016 to increase support for our ongoing ministries and to address some of the day to day and long term plant management challenges that we are currently facing.

Youth and family ministries will be better funded in 2016. In 2015 our Confirmation class was reorganized. We now meet once a month: sessions meet either between services on

Sunday morning or meet for an extended dinner and conversation in the evening. Our Confirmation Class has eight young people in it, and we are expecting Bishop Sauls to come on Sunday, May 15, at 10:00 AM for Confirmation. We are in the process of forming a Youth Group, and our Confirmation Class is a part of that. In 2016 we are planning numerous different Youth Group events, and we have budgeted to help support those events. We are also in the process of forming a Parents Group that will help parents connect and share thoughts and concerns about parenting. I want to underscore that I am delighted to lead, but I still need help in these ministries, in particular from parents with younger children. We all know this, but it bears repeating: Without the active involvement of parents, youth ministries cannot thrive.

In 2015 Nicole and I opened the rectory to several dinners thanking and supporting our ministries. We had a staff party in August, a thank you dinner for the Search Committee in October, and a Vestry thank you dinner in December. Family members of those involved in these ministries were also invited which allowed for a festive and fun time for a larger group of people. In 2016 and beyond we are planning to expand this to include all of our other ministries and committees (i.e. Seniors, Confirmation Class, Church School and Adult Learning, etc.). Our hope is to have some sort of event for each active parish ministry or committee every two years. I feel very strongly (my experience in numerous churches backs this up) that events of this sort serve to support the people who commit so much time and energy, often behind the scenes, to making Christ Church the great place that it is, and these events allow for all of us to get to know each other better.

The rector oversees the staff, buildings, and all programs with the support and help of the wardens and vestry. There are two major additions that we are planning for 2016 that affect these three areas. The first is Parish Property Management, the second is a Seminarian.

Over the past two months Parish Property Management (PPM) has been in residency at Christ Church in a consultancy capacity. They have extensively examined our facilities, activities, tenants, and service contracts, and have worked alongside our staff and numerous volunteers to understand how Christ Church operates, is managed, and is maintained on day to day, week to week, month to month, and annual basis. They will produce a report at the end of the consultancy with a wide variety of recommendations. We have made it clear to them that we are very happy with our current staff, but we think we need guidance and perhaps additional manpower making sure our plant is maintained and managed as well as it can be. Our buildings are open every day of the year, usually from before 7:00 AM until about 10:00 PM, and we have two part time sextons and a finite group of skilled volunteers (who have full time jobs elsewhere) to identify and fix things that break or need repair, meet with contractors, and address any number of day to day problems that arise when our sextons are not available. The Wardens, Vestry and I think that PPM will help us better manage and maintain our plant, and also free up our volunteers and their considerable skill sets from an endless band-aid ministry. We have budgeted for a five hour a week facilities manager and a ten hour a week handyman. The manager will oversee our service contracts and our sextons and their regular schedules and routines in a way that ensures our buildings are open, safe, and clean. The manager will also oversee the handyman to ensure that things

that get broken are fixed immediately, and that the long list of minor projects that we never get around to are taken care of. PPM and the manager will also function, as we need them, to assist with tenant issues and any larger buildings and grounds project. PPM will work under the direct supervision of Marie Main and me. The Wardens, Vestry, and I know this will cost money in 2016, but we are convinced it will benefit us, we have a realistic hope that it will save us money in the long term, we are certain that it will free up our staff and volunteers to do more, and we have the option to modify or cancel our agreement with them at any time.

When I arrived as Rector, I was told in no uncertain terms that one of my highest priorities ought to be Youth. I'd love to hire a Youth Minister or, even better, a Curate who would bring the skills of a priest and pastor and who could be dedicated primarily to youth ministry. We aren't there yet financially, but I believe we can be in a year or two. In the meantime, as detailed above, we are adding funding to some of our youth and family ministries, and I hope to bring in a Seminarian Intern in the late summer of 2016. Normally a Seminarian puts in about 10 hours each week at the church where he or she is interning. That must include involvement in worship, occasional preaching and some oversight of or involvement in one or more parish ministries. My hope is that our Seminarian would assist with Youth Ministry and our Come As You Are service, in addition to being involved at both Sunday morning services. I am in the early stages of contact with one person, but nothing is set yet. Often a Seminarian serves at a parish for a second year in a more involved capacity, and in some circumstances that serves as a platform for the parish taking that person on as a priest right out of Seminary. In any event, it doesn't preclude us from planning to expand our Youth Ministry in other ways in 2017 and beyond.

In addition to my work at Christ Church, I take an active role in the larger church. I am the Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee of the Diocese of New York, I am the Chair of the Strategic Plan Task Force on Financial Matters for the Diocese of New York, I was an Alternate Deputy to the 2015 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, I am a member of the Commission on Ministry, I am one of the six Diocese of New York Discernment Trainers, and I am a member of the Diocese of New York Ecumenical & Interfaith Commission and also active in the Pelham Interfaith Council.

I want to conclude by thanking a few people who guided the parish transition and whose continued leadership and support has been a great blessing for me and the entire parish. First and foremost I want to thank Kari Black and John Lent, our wardens. They are excellent wardens, and they have been invaluable to me, to the staff, and to the many ministries and committees of the congregation. They love the Lord Jesus and this parish, and the time, energy, thoughtfulness, and devotion that they give to Christ Church is amazing. I am grateful for their guidance and friendship, and we are blessed as a parish to have them as our wardens.

Thank you also to our parish officers: Jackie Vigil who serves as our clerk and bookkeeper, Anne Calder who serves as our treasurer, Ginny Cragin who served as treasurer for the first part of 2015, and Amy Heese and Marie Dumas who serve as the vestry elected members of

the Executive Committee. Thank you also to our Vestry members, committee chairs and to all committee members: please know that the time, love, and energy that you give to Christ Church is greatly appreciated, and I am personally grateful for being a partner in ministry with you all. Also, I want to thank the members of the Search Committee, and chair Gavin Leckie. Gavin and the Committee were my first introduction to Christ Church, and I am very grateful for their welcome as well as their hard work and long hours spent on the search. Additionally, I want to thank the members of our Building Committee, led in 2015 by Amy Chase. A large amount of their time and efforts went into work on the rectory; it is a wonderful house and their hard work has helped to make it a beautiful and lovely home.

Thank you to the members of our exceptional staff. It has been a pleasure getting to know Deacon Katie, Jeffrey Hoffman, Marie Main, Walter Roberts, and Ed Blue, and I am very grateful for the expertise and gifts that they bring to Christ Church. Coming to the church each day is a joy, and our talented, dedicated, and hard working staff is a big part of that.

Though they are no longer serve at Christ Church, I also want to thank Canon Alan Dennis for his time shepherding the parish as Interim Pastor and Father Randy Alexander who is my predecessor and served as rector for thirteen happy years. I know that their tenures are remembered fondly, and I am grateful for their loving stewardship of Christ Church.

Lastly, I want to thank our Lord Jesus Christ who has called me as a priest in the Episcopal Church and blessed me by directing me to the Parish of Christ the Redeemer in Pelham. It is an honor and great delight to serve as your priest and rector.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead, Rector

# The Pillars of Christ Church

In order to support the various ministries of the parish and coordinate the efforts of our many committees, we continue to support a structure that groups our committees into four core ministries. This annual report is organized according to these groupings:

**Worship** – the committees that support our worship. Committees within the worship ministry include **Music, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Ushers, Acolytes and Lectors and Chalice Bearers.**

**Service** – the committees that conduct and support the service that we provide to our parishioners, our community and our world. Committees within the service ministry include **Outreach, Pastoral Care, Evangelism, Christian Education, and Concerts At Christ Church.**

**Community** – the committees that support the communal activities of the parish. This includes our parish as a whole, represented by the **Fellowship** committee, as well as the various subsets of our parish: the **Women’s Connection, Seniors’ Group, the Men’s Group and Youth Group.**

**Foundation** – the committees that provide the base on which all of our other ministries can take place. This ministry includes the buildings and grounds of the church (our literal foundation) as well as the financial aspects of the parish. Committees included in the Foundation ministry include the **Investment, Finance, Buildings, Stewardship, Grounds, Tenant & Rental Report and Communication** committees.

Each member of the Vestry is assigned as a vestry liaison to one or more committees of Christ Church. This includes working with the committee chair(s), attending select committee meetings, and reporting to the vestry as a whole on the activities of the committees within their ministry.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the preparation of this annual report and to all parishioners who participate, contribute and take on leadership roles in each of our ministries.

# W O R S H I P

## WORSHIP & LITURGY UPDATE

Over 2015 we made several minor changes that affect worship on Sunday mornings. One of the greatest challenges that a new rector and congregation must face is that the norms and expectations of liturgy are not necessarily known by either. We share a common Prayer Book and Hymnal, but there are a whole lot of options. Most of those options are there for a reason, even if they aren't always used for that reason. I always run these changes by the staff, wardens, various committees, and/or the vestry, before they appear in worship, but I thought it would be helpful to offer to the entire congregation some of the reasons why certain things may have changed (even if you haven't noticed them) on Sunday mornings.

I think the biggest change is our bulletins. For all of our Sunday services we now have service bulletins with nearly every hymn, motet, prayer, and Scripture lesson in them. We did a detailed cost analysis of the bulletins and while each bulletin costs a bit more to produce, these bulletins allow us to save money in other areas (graphic design at Christmas & Easter), certain office machines that we no longer lease, etc. The net financial result of switching is that we actually *save* a little bit of money. The analysis also revealed that we were using very little recycled paper at Christ Church. Thus, while these bulletins use more paper (and we do recycle them) they are now made from recycled paper, and all of our internal paper use is now printed on recycled paper. The bulletins allow for a more streamlined liturgy, they are user friendly for visitors and newcomers, and they offer flexibility in the liturgy without causing confusion. The text size is also quite a bit larger than the Prayer Book. Another benefit is that they allow for more information to be communicated each week via the bulletin. Each service includes information about the specific day or season, information about the music, and numerous announcements. Another benefit is that we are now in line with what the vast majority of Episcopal Churches are doing by using this proven tool for making newcomers feel welcome and involved in the liturgy.

Beyond the bulletins and the Holy Days which were discussed in my Rector's Report, there are a few other changes to the liturgy. I will try to address each of these.

After discussing several options with the Church School, we moved the Children's Entrance Hymn from before the Peace to after the Offertory Anthem. That allowed for a slightly longer Church School lesson, it meant that the children didn't have to sit quietly through the announcements and an anthem, and allowed them to enter and immediately join in with the Eucharistic Prayer. It also put us back in line with the rubrics of the Prayer Book which do not actually permit a hymn to be sung before the Peace. That change meant moving the classic Doxology which had been sung into a less frequent rotation, though we do use it still on Sundays when there is a choir but no Church school.

The other change that affects when we sing hymns was the suppression of the Communion hymn when there is a choir. In my experience the congregation is unable to sing most hymns during Communion because they are either in line, at the altar rail, or returning to their pews during the hymn. By adding an extra anthem each week, we give our excellent choir the opportunity to sing something that covers an action that all of us are doing in the meantime.

Another minor change is the use of seasonal Eucharistic prayers. Throughout the Season after Pentecost (from Trinity Sunday until just before Advent), we used Eucharistic Prayer A, which is the shortest of those offered in the Prayer Book, and shorter seems to be appreciated in the summer months. Throughout Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany, we are using Prayer B, which has the most overt Incarnation language of our Eucharistic Prayers, and those three seasons are when the church overtly celebrated the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. During Lent and Eastertide we will use Prayer D which is the oldest Eucharistic prayer in our Prayer Book. Prayer D is traditionally thought to have been authored by Saint Basil (*d.* 379) or Saint Cyril of Jerusalem (*d.* 386), and it is known as the ecumenical prayer because it is common to nearly all mainline Protestant churches, the Roman Catholic Church, and the Orthodox Churches. The celebration of the resurrection of Jesus Christ is the core teaching held by all Christian denominations, and it makes sense to use a prayer in Eastertide that is shared by most Christians.

There are a variety of other small adjustments made each season such as seasonal blessings at the end of the service, forms of the Prayers of the People (chosen by content or length to fit with the other seasonal changes), and of course the hymns, congregational ordinary (*Gloria, Sanctus, Agnus dei*), and the music which are all chosen either because it fits well thematically or because they are well known and appropriate.

You may have noticed that the priest has been singing a bit more on Sundays at 10:00 AM. I like to sing, and I'm not terrible at it. I also believe that chanting certain parts of the service, such as the Thanksgiving over the Water at Baptism and the Preface and conclusion of the Eucharistic Prayer, can help to create a more "holy" mood. I've tried carefully to limit the added chanting that the congregation is doing. To put it into some perspective, this is the first parish I've been in that hasn't sung the Lord's Prayer, and I've been in numerous parishes that sang the Collect of the Day, the Gospel, the Nicene Creed, the Prayers of the People, and even the Blessing and Dismissal. I think the little bit we are currently singing strikes a good balance.

A few people have asked about the Confession of Sin that seems to come and go. There is a longstanding tradition that is observed in many churches that the Confession of Sin is suppressed on festive Holy Days and seasons. The logic behind that is twofold. First, the general Confession of Sin said by the congregation is a fairly late addition to the Eucharistic liturgy and most of our festive Holy Days and seasons predate that addition. Second, omitting the Confession highlights the fact that we are celebrating our relationship with God rather than focusing on those things that separate us from God. Thus, in general, whenever

the vestments are white or red (Christmas, Easter, and Holy Days) we omit the Confession of Sin. Whenever we are in Ordinary time or a penitential day or season, the vestments are purple, blue or green, and we say the Confession of Sin. The exception is at the Rite 1 service, when we will almost always say the Confession of Sin, regardless of the day or season. The reason for that is that Rite 1 is a specifically Anglican rite reflecting a very specific time in the Church's theological and liturgical practice and the Confession has always been a part of that rite; removing it undermines the integrity of the rite in the same way that mixing Rite 2 elements into Rite 1 feels jarring.

A few people have also asked about the Alleluia at the breaking of bread which likewise seems to come and go. In some ways the Alleluia is used in the opposite way that the Confession of Sin is used. It is always used in Easter and at funerals, suppressed in Lent, and may be used at other times. Once or twice I've forgotten to put it in the bulletin, but in general for the past 8 months we have used the Alleluia at the breaking of bread on festive days and at all funerals.

The Rite 1 service has far fewer options, but there have been a handful of changes at that service too. Rite 1 is an adaptation of the traditional Anglican Holy Communion service. There are options to make it feel more contemporary, and there are options that root it strongly in the traditional Anglicanism liturgy from which it is adapted. For the latter reason we are using the more traditional forms of the Nicene Creed, Prayers of the People, and Confession of Sin at the Rite 1 service. Similarly there are two Rite 1 Eucharistic Prayers (conveniently named Prayer 1 and Prayer 2). Prayer 1 is an adapted version of the classic Anglican Eucharistic Prayer. Prayer 2 is a much shorter digest version of that same prayer and is not traditional at all though it sounds Rite 1-ish. The only time I have ever used Prayer 1 is when the church is hot and there is no air conditioning or when I'm losing my voice. Wherever possible, I have tried to maintain the integrity of the traditional Anglican Holy Communion service at our Rite 1 services. I think there is something to be said for worshipping in nearly the exact same way that English speaking Christians have worshipped since Christians have been worshipping in English.

There is a reason for everything we do in the liturgy. There are lots of options that allow us to highlight different themes, but almost nothing is done arbitrarily. If you have any questions about anything we do, any prayers we use or do not use, please don't hesitate to ask. I am more than willing to chat about liturgy and why we do what we do, and I am always open to doing something a different way if there is a compelling reason that I haven't considered.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead, Rector

## ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER'S REPORT

*Bless, O Lord, us thy servants who minister in thy temple. Grant that what we sing with our lips we may believe in our hearts, and what we believe in our hearts, we may show forth in our lives, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.*

These words, which echo a 4<sup>th</sup> century Latin prayer from the Council of Carthage, comprise the choristers' prayer from the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM) and are a prayer often offered by both our adult and child choristers at the beginning of a rehearsal. While striving for musical excellence in "perfecting the praises offered by God's people on earth," as the Collect for Church Musicians and Artists in the Book of Common Prayer puts it, we are reminded by this prayer that the purpose of our praises is to transform our hearts and by transforming our hearts to begin to transform the world around us with the love that springs forth from our faith in Jesus Christ.

The choirs of Christ Church, Pelham are a community of believers who love to sing and who are being renewed and transformed by our commitment to singing the Lord's Praises. In 2015, twenty volunteers joined our four professional choristers from January through June and again from September through December to offer praises on Sunday mornings and also for major feast days and other events in the life of the parish.

They were joined on most of those occasions by four junior choristers, who lend their voices both as a separate ensemble and also as a part of the larger parish choir, learning the rhythms of the liturgical year and singing anthems and motets that amplify or echo the propers for each service. In addition, members of our choir faithfully provide music for our Sunday evening "Come as you are" services, participate in our annual Christmas Pageant, and prepare concerts to share great music with our local community in conjunction with our friends at the Huguenot Memorial Church. In 2015, we joined with the Huguenot choir to present John Rutter's *Requiem* in celebration of the Feast of All Saints shortly after fêting Fr. Matthew Mead at his institution by offering a choral eucharist featuring parts of William Byrd's *Mass for four voices* and motets by Adrian Batten and Rihards Dubra. Our choir community lives out its faith in service to one another, checking on those who are unwell or missing, offering rides for those who cannot get to church during inclement weather, and extending hospitality to each other in times of need and also in times of celebration.

Our primary instrument for worship, our 1968 Casavant Frères organ, presented several challenges in 2015. While its transistor-based combination action has been unusable for quite some time, certain controllers have failed more recently and require costly repairs when they *can* be fixed. Many parishioners will remember how the extreme cold, never a friend to mechanical-action instruments like ours, affected the just-serviced instrument at the Easter Vigil and on Easter Sunday morning in 2015, causing a piercing cipher in the upper notes of both manuals of the instrument. Unfortunately, when such things happen, they seldom happen at a time when a service technician is quickly available (most organ tuners and maintenance people are also employed as church musicians), and since they are weather-dependent, they generally resolve themselves when the weather warms up. Sometimes the

charm of obsolete technology is obscured by lived experience, but we continue to maintain the instrument regularly and make the best of it under those more difficult circumstances that arise.

Since our “Come as you are” service has become a more regular occurrence in the life of the parish, we have been putting our beautiful Steinway piano in the church to regular use, often supplemented by parishioners playing guitar, flute, violin, viola and synthesizers.

I am grateful for the privilege of ministering in this parish and most profoundly thankful for the lives of those who were in my charge as your choirmaster: Kim de Beaumont, Jeff Bodenmann, Jocelyn Paige Carlisle, Scarlett Carroll, Amy Chase, Curtis Chase, Laurelyn Watson Chase, Simon Cram, Jann Degnan, Dennis Doran, Michael Fawcett, Linda Gerra, Cheryl Hepburn Greenhalgh, John Hastings, Margo Hastings, Michael Imbimbo, Victoria Hoffer, Jessica Jaffe, Emily Kane, Missy Kisob, Barbara Nelson, Zoe Peña, Margot Wichagen Phillips, Will Tifft, Robert Weeks, Jr., Jim Young, and Margaret Young.

Thank you also, to all the parish instrumentalists who offered instrumental music during our liturgies this year: Curtis Chase, Ralph Gerra, Jessica Jaffe, Jabea Kisob, Will Ruocco, and Pilar Vigil, and to Michael Fawcett and Curtis Chase for assisting Fr. Matt and I in coordinating and performing the music for the evening services. Thank you to Peter Ruocco and Ed McGann for installing beautiful new shelving in the choir library in 2015, to Joe Keegan for taking care of our electrical needs, to John Hastings for coordinating concert staging, to Barbara Nelson, Jessica Jaffe, and Margaret Young for keeping our music library in such good order, and to Carla Carroll, our Junior Choristers’ Choir Mother.

If you’d like to be a more active part of the music ministry at Christ Church, please speak to me in person, by telephone or by e-mail. I pray that we will all grow in grace as we continue to show forth in our lives the praises of the One to whom all praise is due in 2016.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Hoffman, Organist & Choirmaster

## VERGER REPORT

### ACOLYTE GUILD 2015

The Ministry of Acolyte is very old, going back to at least the third century. Tarsicus, an acolyte in Rome, was martyred in 258. These early acolytes had functions very similar to those of the modern day.

Acolytes assist in worship by carrying the processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, carrying candles or "torches", and assisting a Deacon, Priest or Bishop in the rites of the Liturgy. Serving as an acolyte gives our young people an opportunity to assume a

leadership position in the Parish, to learn our traditions, and to participate actively in its services in a very unique and memorable way.

The Acolyte Guild at Christ Church is quite active. Please take time to view the many photographs of acolytes from years past in the acolyte room. At present we have **19** acolytes and an additional 2 on leave. The Acolyte Guild is open to children age 10 and above, as well as adults. The next time you see an acolyte light a candle, remember that you're witnessing a piece of our apostolic tradition that spans at least 17 centuries!

Anyone interested in this ministry should contact Walter Roberts through the Parish Office.

## LECTORS

Lectors are lay members of the Parish who regularly read the lessons from the Old Testament, the New Testament and, sometimes, the Psalm for the day. A sub-set of this group also leads the Parish in the Prayers of the People. Christ Church is blessed to have **29** dedicated lectors, who take the reading of Scripture very seriously. While not terribly time consuming, this ministry is vitally important to our worship. It requires practicing the readings and conveying the meaning intended in the text. Mr. Walter Roberts, our Verger, marks the passages and schedules the Lectors. Anyone interested in this ministry should contact Walter through the Parish Office.

## CHALICISTS

Chalichists are Eucharistic Ministers who administer the chalice during Communion, playing another vital role in our worship. Upon application, chalicists are licensed by the Bishop for this ministry. We currently have **11** chalicists, also scheduled by Mr. Roberts. Likewise, anyone interested in serving as a chalicist should contact Walter through the Parish Office.

As Verger of this Parish, it is my pleasure to work with the Acolytes, Lectors and Chalicist.

Respectfully submitted,  
Walter Roberts, Verger

## ALTAR GUILD

The primary purpose of the Altar Guild is to prepare for celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and other sacraments of the church. The Altar Guild's work provides both order and beauty for the worship of the church. The members of the Altar Guild have completed another year of service to the Church preparing the sanctuary for all Sunday, midweek and special services. The Altar Guild provides wine, wafers, candles, palms and decorations for special

occasions such as Palm Sunday, Easter and Christmas. Linens, vestments and church hangings are replaced as needed. We welcomed 3 new members to the Altar Guild this year and we are always looking for people who would like to share in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Kraft and Paige Lavengood

## FLOWER GUILD

The mission of the Flower Guild is to ensure that the church and altar are adorned with flowers appropriate to the season and occasion. The principal activity of the guild is to purchase and arrange the flowers displayed in the Church every week. We also work with parishioners who wish to make donations of flowers in honor, memory or celebration of a special event or person.

The guild currently has 11 members, listed below. In 2016, we hope to increase our membership. We would also like to hold a workshop on flower arranging, for current and new members.

We invite any parishioners interested in this ministry to join us.

Members of the Flower Guild:

|                    |                     |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Allison Bodenmann  | Patrice Fitzpatrick |
| Ellen Bruzelius    | Mildred Johnson     |
| Anne Calder, Chair | Emily Kane          |
| Alice Dean         | Janet Salvatore     |
| Marie Dumas        | Catherine Scinta    |
|                    | Cherie Sigward      |

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Calder

## USHERS

Ushering offers as much to our church community as it does to the ushers themselves. We are the first faces of our church and we are a source of information and liturgical signals throughout the service. We love greeting, meeting and guiding the congregation through our service. We are, you might say, lay leaders of the service, “plants” for reference and as such, we share information between ourselves that results in our communion with each other that

is as wonderful as the communion we share with the congregation as a whole. We have made strong and enduring friendships as a result of ushering together.

Please join us! We welcome new members to our ministry just as sincerely as we greet the congregation as a whole. The tasks are simple and well defined, in a document that Walter regularly updates and shares with us. It starts at the entrance, goes to the offering, monitors the flow of people at Communion, and finishes with a final accounting of the donations in the sacristy after the service concludes.

We would love to have you along to enjoy the gifts this wonderful ministry offers. Please call Jane at 917.225.6337 and I will show you the ropes! Try us out! I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jane, Patrick and Ronan Cooke

## S E R V I C E

### ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Members of the parish have expressed a deeply felt need for help and guidance in their spiritual lives. In 2014 a group of men and women in the parish responded to this by forming the Adult Christian Learning Ministry. The members of this ministry are deeply committed to providing programs and experiences that accomplish several things: learning about our faith, beliefs, and values; building our knowledge of the Bible and its relationship to our lives; deepening our understanding of what it means to be a Christian and an Episcopalian; and nourishing our faith and guiding our spiritual journey.

Under the guidance of our Interim Pastor, Fr. Dennis, we presented a series of varied programs for the parish. Michael Moynihan gave us the background of St. Nicolas for Christmas. We celebrated Martin Luther King Day with an evening meeting open to the community on Apartheid in South Africa. Fr. Alan and his wife Jenny spoke to us about their experiences there and overwhelmed us with their grace and courage. Our Lenten program series was also led by Fr. Alan. Curtis Chase supplemented this series with his group discussion on Suffering. For Pentecost, Fr. Holton, a guest priest here at Christ Church, led us in an interesting and challenging experienced based group discussion of racial issues called "Warriors of the Dream."

In the Bulletin, Janet Kornfeld inserted "Factoids" which were little known facts about faith and Christianity. People seemed to have enjoyed that.

In the Fall of 2015, our new Rector arrived. His support and suggestions have greatly strengthened and invigorated our program of offerings as well as our ministry. So that the parish and he could know each other better, Fr. Matt led the four fall programs. We started with Bible Basics and then two Instructed Eucharists, followed by a discussion of Birth Narratives. Curtis Chase participated in this as well.

When choosing topics and schedules we have tried to make sure that each program offering was discrete. This way the parish members could pick and choose what was meaningful to them. We will continue to do this. We also scheduled programs for both day and evening. Our attendance was good over all, ranging from 13 to 20 people. Our community offering was attended by almost 100 people. After all of the evening programs there was an opportunity for fellowship

The Bible Study group on Thursdays continued to flourish and grow under the leadership of Michael Moynihan. They discuss the Bible readings for the up coming Sunday. This group has also prepared Coffee Hour on several occasions.

The Ministry created annual brochures under the leadership of Cathie Arquilla with a signature design to inform the parish of our mission and programs. These have been inserted in the bulletins and mailed to the parish. Further announcements of programs have been made in the Bulletins and from the pulpit.

The members of the ministry have been firm in their commitment to Adult Christian Learning Ministry and have worked very diligently to ensure that their work supports the parish's spiritual needs. The parish is very fortunate to have such a group working on its behalf. We have been fortunate as well to have the participation of our new Rector here at Christ Church. Our thanks go to Fr. Matt who has enriched and furthered our work. I am thankful for all the care and work of this collegial group on behalf of the parish.

Alice K Dean (Chair)  
Cathie Arquilla  
Curtis Chase  
Janet Kornfeld  
John Lent

Michael Moynihan  
Colette Phipps  
Missy Kisob  
Walter Roberts  
Xandra Schultz

The Rev. Matthew H Mead  
The Rev. Deacon Katie Lawrence

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice K Dean

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Prayer Book states about Confirmation: “In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop.”

Our 2014-2015 Confirmation Class was led by Michael Moynihan and Janet Kornfeld. On behalf of the parish I want to thank them both for their hard work shepherding our youth through this important stage in their faith journey.

Confirmation Class begins in the fall each year and continues until spring. Our 2015-2016 is meeting, on average, once a month. Classes rotate between Sunday morning round table discussions and Sunday/Saturday evening dinner parties where the class members prepare all the food, worship together, and then discuss a single topic over dinner. We explore topics that are appropriate for and of interest to 21<sup>st</sup> century teens who attend an Episcopal Church.

Topics of the class include: Using the Gifts God has given me, Practicing Outreach, Basics of the Bible, Who are the Episcopalians?, Christian Ethics for High School Students, The Easter Vigil, Pain & Death, Being an Adult Christian, and Meeting the Bishop.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead, Rector

## CHURCH SCHOOL

Church school is pleased to report registrations of 33 children for the 2015-16 school year. We have the children in four classes, including a pre-K/kindergarten class, a 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> grade group, a 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> grade and a 7<sup>th</sup> grade class.

One of our teachers, Alison Pearl, was injured during the summer and our best wishes and prayers go to her for a speedy recovery. In Alison’s absence, we have 3 parishioners who are teaching grades 1-3: Jessica Abrahams, Pat O’Byrne and Susan Reische. They have performed wonderfully with this dynamic class and we thank them for their dedication. To support their work, we are actively seeking help from a high school student or someone who can teach, on some of the Sundays between January and June. Please contact me if you feel the calling to be with this age group.

Rounding out our teaching staff is Curtis Chase teaching the 7<sup>th</sup> grade; the 4<sup>th</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> grade class is taught by Janet Kornfeld Phillips and Eileen Peluso-Hoffer teaches the youngest children in Pre-K-/Kindergarten.

We start church school each Sunday with seasonal music which is chosen by the junior choristers. Under the guidance of Fr. Matt, church school now has a subscription to Living the Good News. This online curriculum provides the teachers with readings, activities and inspiration for each Sunday. Our subscription covers all age groups from pre-K through 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Please take a look at the curriculum at [www.livingthegoodnews.com](http://www.livingthegoodnews.com).

Most Sundays the classes meet with their teachers to learn prayers, read the teachings, and engage in activities that are designed for their age group. We also gathered as a group for events such as a baptism in September, the first Family Eucharist held in October with the children and making Advent wreaths the Sunday before Thanksgiving.

We have a full schedule planned for the rest of the year including special prayers for Lent, the children's Seder on Palm Sunday and the second Family Eucharist. In addition, we will host two events: the egg hunt on Easter Sunday which is for the kids, and coffee hour on Mother's day to honor our mothers.

In June, Carol Ipsen stepped down after serving 6 years as co-director of church school and 7 years as a teacher. Carol's inspiration continues to guide the students and teachers and we look forward to her involvement in the church school Seder on Palm Sunday. Carol, thank you again for your passion and commitment to church school.

In closing please join me in thanking the teachers for their dedication to our youth each Sunday of our 30-week calendar. Their time and talent is the reason our church school is the vibrant and important center of religious teaching for our children.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcie Wiehagen

## EVANGELISM

The Evangelism Committee's main function is to attract and welcome newcomers who want to hear and learn more about "the good news" of the Gospel. The Committee is responsible for development of ideas and publicity to project an exciting and appealing view of our Parish to those who are looking for a spiritual home and family. This includes the placement of advertisements purchased through the committee's budget and fostering good will through public relations – all of which is intended to publicize Christ Church's religious services, cultural, social and other events and the deep love that binds all the members of our Parish as one caring family.

In sharing details about our parish, nothing seems to work as well as word of mouth and the witness that each member of the parish gives in daily life. Many newcomers are here

because a current Parish member has invited them to come and see our beautiful and historic “English country church,” hear the outstanding music and thought-provoking sermons, and enjoy the coffee hour following each service to meet our clergy and parishioners. The Committee gratefully thanks those who have brought in friends and neighbors who may now be new members.

On a somber note, we are sad to report that Jim Greenhalgh, a founding member of the Evangelism Committee and active member of our Parish, passed away suddenly on January 10, 2016 and his parish family immediately joined in comforting and caring for his wife and son in their time of sorrow. Please keep Jim, his wife Cherrie, and their son Hunter in your prayers.

During the transition in 2015 the Committee did not plan any events. We are planning to revive the New Comers Party. The date for the 2016 party will be set for a date during the spring or fall. When the date is announced, please mark your calendars and plan on attending. We will be most happy to see you.

We also plan to revive a series of small dinners which were attended by two to four newcomer individuals and families and the Rector’s family. The enthusiasm of all who have attended these intimate gatherings hosted at the home of a parishioner makes this an integral part of the committee’s activities during our transition. In honor of the memory of Jim Greenhalgh who spearheaded this idea back in 2006, the Committee plans to hold four dinners in the coming months. Anyone who wishes to host a dinner and spend “quality time” with Father Matt, his lovely spouse and several newcomers should contact Ralph Gerra, who has assumed the coordinating role performed by Jim Greenhalgh before his death.

In 2016, a Guest Book was added to the Narthex. Numerous visitors have signed the book, and when they do, Marie Main and Father Matt make contact by email, mail, or phone so that a personal connection is maintained.

In addition to Father Matt, thanks to the other hard-working members of the Evangelism Committee including Jennifer Alleyne, Jim Greenhalgh before his untimely death, Betty Hoover, Jasmine Moore, Marilyn Leone, and Derek Weihs, and our Vestry liaison, Colette Phipps.

In keeping with the spirit of our Committee, we welcome anyone who would like to join. Or, if you have an idea that will assist us in furthering the Committee’s purpose, please feel free to speak with one of us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ralph Gerra, Chair

## OUTREACH

**Isaiah 58:10** Feed the hungry and help those in trouble. Then your light will shine out from the darkness, and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon.

**Romans 12:7-8** If it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

During 2015, a new group of individuals came together to continue the good work of Outreach within Christ Church and to assist in organizing activities to support local and national organizations helping those in need. Our goals are to provide both meaningful financial support to a group of local and national organizations and to promote volunteer opportunities for parishioners of all ages in support of these organizations.

In the Fall of 2015, we conducted a Supply Drive to assist Community Service Associates (CSA). Parishioners donated about 85 units of supplies, including utensils, paper goods and cleaning supplies in time for the holidays. These supplies are critical to CSA in carrying out the mission of providing meals to homeless individuals and families in Mt. Vernon and the surrounding area.

Though not a specific program of the Committee, the Parish contributed significantly to an important interfaith outreach effort in Westchester County again this year, *Thanksgiving in a Box*. Through the coordination efforts of Beth Conway, Parish families contributed 47 boxes of the over 500 total boxes for this effort.

Most recently, the Committee organized a Toy Drive to benefit Hope Community Services in New Rochelle. The Drive was a great success, receiving more than 50 donations. Hope Community Services in New Rochelle distributed the toys, bringing joy to dozens of children for Christmas season 2015.

We are grateful to the many parishioners who donated to these efforts, and we look forward to developing new initiatives in 2016 that will hopefully expand the foundation of activity we have established in the last four months of this year.

The local charities we support provide meals and homeless services in our surrounding towns and are important to us, as many may know from volunteering: CSA in Mount Vernon, Hope Community in New Rochelle, and The Sharing Community in Yonkers, as well as food rescuer and provider, County Harvest. The Fessenden House provides a home for men recovering from addiction, but also coping with serious illness, mental health or other problems. Hudson Link provides college, career training and other support to those in prison resulting in less than one percent recidivism of men and women on their release from

prison. While Kairos Outside helps provide a supportive network for women with incarcerated family members.

And we, once again, supported the Episcopal Charities of New York which provides programs and assistance across New York State to children, adults and seniors in times of need.

We thank the Outreach Committee for all their initial efforts in 2015 and specifically for providing fundraising leadership to purchase the boxes Christ Church parishioners used for the *Thanksgiving in a Box* program. Our Vestry Liaison is Marie Dumas, and the members of the Committee are:

|                  |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| Courtney McGrory | Geoffrey Allen |
| Jackie Vigil     | Peter Ruocco   |

A recap of Christ Church’s 2015 Outreach grants includes:

|              | ORGANIZATION                                   | FUNDING         |
|--------------|--|-----------------|
| LOCAL        | CSA/COMMUNITY SERVICE ASSOCIATES IN MT. VERNON | \$ 1,500        |
|              | THE SHARING COMMUNITY YONKERS                  | \$ 1,000        |
|              | HOPE COMMUNITY SOUP KITCHEN                    | \$ 1,000        |
|              | FESSENDEN RECOVERY MINISTRY                    | \$ 2,750        |
|              | HUDSON LINK                                    | \$ 2,500        |
|              | KAIROS OUTSIDE                                 | \$ 1,500        |
|              | EPISCOPAL CHARITIES *(SERVING NY STATE)        | \$ 750          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |  | <b>\$11,000</b> |

Outreach 2016 needs you! As we look forward to a new year, if you want to get involved, please contact anyone on the Committee to express your interest in supporting Outreach at Christ Church. Thank you for all your support and involvement in 2015!

Respectfully submitted,  
Courtney McGrory and Geoffrey Allen

## PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE

In 2015 we did not meet formally but remained in contact with one another. In 2016 I would like to have all those in this group work on a new goal. A parishioner asked me if I knew someone in the group who could take her to the doctor and then pick her up. In early 2016 we will have a meeting of the pastoral care group and see who would be able to do this on occasion. Then I would like to have all the phone numbers and when someone would need this help they could be given the numbers of those willing and able to drive. I won't

just offer this opportunity to the pastoral care group but to others in the church who would like to help.

Visits are continuing to those who can't get to church. Father Matthew is also visiting, which is such a blessing to those who are homebound. So, for the most part, those at home are sometimes getting two visits in a week. Both Father Matthew and I are making sure that anyone who is in a New York City hospital will receive a visit.

For people who are very private, I want you to know that our work is confidential and we value your privacy. If you would like a pastoral visit you can always call me at 914-589-1628. Either Father Matthew or I are always available.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon Katie

## C O M M U N I T Y

### FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee's mission is to develop and implement an organized program of Christian fellowship in the congregation. The committee provides social opportunities for all demographics of parish life.

The Fellowship Committee plans and carries out various fellowship activities throughout the year and, upon request, coordinates with other committees and groups to provide fellowship support for their programs and activities.

Specifically, the committee maintains a list of volunteers, plans and coordinates regularly scheduled congregational fellowship activities, particularly for major holidays and church receptions, such as the Annual Meeting, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Easter Eve Reception, Easter Coffee Hour, Confirmation/Bishop's Visit Reception, the Parish Picnic, Stewardship Meeting, Thanksgiving Dinner and Greening of the Church. Other activities include overseeing the weekly coffee hours, monitoring contents of the hospitality closet, as well as periodic kitchen maintenance.

The committee welcomes new members. If interested, please contact Jennifer Alleyne at [jenalleye@aol.com](mailto:jenalleye@aol.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Jennifer Alleyne, Chair

## MEN'S CONNECTION

The Christ Church Men's Connection is committed to the spiritual, social and service ministry of the men of our church community.

*The Men's Connection was not active in the past year. We are in the early stages of building a men's group.*

## SENIORS MINISTRY

This year the Seniors Group held three lunches. So much was happening at the church that we skipped our "after summer" lunch, because of our fabulous reception to celebrate Father Matthew's Institution.

Our Christmas lunch was again a big success. With Father Matthew and his lovely wife attending, we had 31 attendees. Jeffery Hoffman was there to play the piano, and to guide us in singing Christmas carols. Missy Fink made a fabulous lunch and Michael Moynihan and Missy Kisob served, which made it all the more special. Eileen Wolfe totally out did herself again with the decorations!

In 2016, we plan to have our four lunches again. They are such a great way for our seniors to be together. It's a meaningful and cherished tradition.

I have shared this with other churches and I don't know of any that have this in place, but I think some of them want to start up their own Senior Lunch events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deacon Katie

## WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Christ Church Women's Connection is committed to the spiritual, social and service ministry of the women of our church community.

*The Women's Connection was not active in the past year and therefore has no report.*

## YOUTH GROUP

At the end of the 2015 we began to rebuild our Youth Group. Our first event was planned for Saturday, January 30, 2016 to tour the 9-11 Memorial Museum, Historic Trinity Church Wall Street, Historic Saint Paul's Chapel, and eat pizza at one of the city's most famous pizza parlors. More outings are planned for 2016, and we are planning to expand our Youth Group to teen and pre-teen (4<sup>th</sup> grade to 7<sup>th</sup> grade). Volunteers and helping hands are needed. Support from the parents at Christ Church is essential.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead, Rector

## F O U N D A T I O N

## COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

Late in 2015, we took important steps to reconstitute the parish Communications Committee. Long-time parishioner Erik Ipsen has signed on to lead this effort. Early in 2016 the committee will hold an open meeting for everyone interested in helping. Parishioners who have skills, experience or simply an interest in graphic design, social media, or publicity will be encouraged to attend that meeting and/or to reach out to Erik at [erikipsen@optonline.net](mailto:erikipsen@optonline.net). The committee also will explore re-launching the *Soundings* newsletter in some form in 2016.

The committee's first priorities will be to add more parish news to the weekly E-Blast and the Sunday bulletin, space permitting. The committee will work with the chairs of other committees as well as with the vestry ministry liaisons to gather news and information for regular updates of their activities. Additionally, parishioners will be encouraged to submit church-related event photos and reports for use on our web site, Facebook page and e-blast. Thanks to the hard work of Parish Administrator Marie Main and several volunteers, we kept the parish community abreast of news, events and announcements on a regular basis throughout 2015. Every week parishioners receive the "Christ Church E-Blast". It includes worship schedules, program announcements, committee meeting dates, calls for volunteers, and special prayers. Much of that information can also be found in hard-copy form in the Sunday worship bulletins.

Our website <http://christchurchpelham.org/> and our Facebook page continue to be important sources of information and news for parishioners and for people seeking a church

to attend. The parish staff and ministry leaders keep the web site calendar current and regularly update content, including audio recordings of Father Matt's sermons.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Lent and Erik Ipsen

## BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

In 2015, our parish completed the search for our new rector. While we projected a certain amount of work in the rectory, significant additions were required, including the replacement of the gas line between the church and rectory, replacement of moldy carpet in the basement, structurally strengthening the deck, replacement of an exterior door, rebuilding a section of stone wall, replacement of countertops, sink and appliances in the kitchen. At the same time, the Old Parish House required some unanticipated work with the replacement of a broken sewer line in the basement, the transfer of the former rectory appliances to the upper apartment, and the emergency replacement of a clogged chimney flue liner.

As a result of additional work, a number of planned projects were, of necessity, held off. The 2015 budget included profoundly over-due works needed to maintain the integrity of our campus, yet again held off. The list included window repairs in the main church not touched since the 2008 Sedovic condition report categorized them as an urgent repair, the painting of exterior window sills, the replacement of metal window lintels in the Ranck building, some of which are starting to crumble. Looking ahead, the roof of the main church building will require full replacement of both roofing and flashing work in the imminent future. This has also been known since the 2008 Sedovic report. These will require attention in 2016.

We are grateful for the leadership of the Vestry in investigating the use of Parish Property Management (PPM) for on-going building maintenance. The work of the Buildings Committee for our lovely, but old campus, as it is presently carried out, is far more time-consuming than the availability of committee members. This creates an awkward mission, a hybrid of Hans Brinker and Alice's White Rabbit, ever holding the sea of repairs back, ever late. Although reluctantly received at first, upon reflection, we appreciate the wisdom of evaluating this possibility of moving routine maintenance into the hands of experts in routine maintenance. We pray for wisdom for the Vestry's consideration of this course of action. This potential change in approach would change the focus of the Building Committee, and we will need to rebuild the work of the committee based on a revised mission.

This year has been an extraordinary one in the contributions of so many people to the work of this committee. We would not have stayed on course without the devotion of the time and talents of Ed McGann, the work on the committee of Jim Greenhalgh and Amy Heese,

the help of so many parishioner volunteers on two major clean-up days in May and in August, the help with the Rectory by Debra and Adolph Orlando, the work generously offered by John Felicetti in painting the upper apartment in preparation for a new tenant, the detailed care of Walter Roberts, Ed Blue and Marie Main, and the budget tracking by Jackie Vigil, ever important to keeping sight of the work vs. budget balance. Similarly, our Wardens' leadership have continued to act upon their savvy insights into the needs of the campus, the individuals on the committee and the spiritual health of the congregation, all crucial to keeping our work on course. We are so very fortunate to have their leadership. To them and to all, Thank you.

This is my last report as Building Committee Chair. I have come to appreciate the thoughtful work of my predecessors, Art Scinta and Adolph Orlando, both of who quietly took up the tasks of the day and made them happen, with what I now realize was enormous personal sacrifice. I am blessed and humbled by the experience of following in their footsteps and serving our congregation in this way. Thank you.

Members of the Committee in 2015 were:

|                  |                           |
|------------------|---------------------------|
| Amy Chase, Chair | Amy Heese, Vestry Liaison |
| Ed McGann        | Jim Greenhalgh            |
|                  | Art Scinta                |

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Chase

## 2015 BUILDINGS EXPENDITURES

|                                      |                  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| Music Repairs                        | 1,938.40         |
| Organ/Piano Care                     | 2,430.00         |
| Alarm/Phone Line Repair              | 275.00           |
| Supplies                             | 4,307.38         |
| Exterminator                         | 1,295.00         |
| Ordinary Repairs                     | 4,119.25         |
| PPM Consulting Fee                   | 2,250.00         |
| Buildings                            |                  |
| Sunday School Roof & Closet          | 1,925.00         |
| Church                               | 3,348.94         |
| Old Parish House                     | 10,800.97        |
| Parish Hall                          | 375.00           |
| Rectory                              | 48,542.23        |
| Gas Line Repair                      | 11,150.00        |
| Undercroft                           | 250.00           |
| <b>Total Maintenance and Repairs</b> | <b>93,007.17</b> |

# TENANT AND RENTAL REPORT

2015 saw us welcome our new rector, Father Matthew Mead, and continued rental usage at Christ Church. Our tenants very much appreciate the space we have to offer them, and so much so that the undercroft is busy with our AA groups, the New Freedom Church, and Gym Dandy – every day and evening during the week and weekend.

The following list briefly describes Christ Church’s on-going tenants:

## AA GROUPS

We have three very active AA groups that rent space in the undercroft every afternoon and evening except for Wednesday and Friday. They are the Pelham Women’s Group, the Shore Road Group and the North End Group.

## NEW FREEDOM CHURCH

New Freedom Church has been renting space in Christ Church for 4 years. Experiencing God, connecting with others, growing the Word, worshipping and serving God freely – that is what Freedom Church is all about. “Leading people of all walks of life to a true relationship with Jesus Christ” is their mission. Pastor David Rivera and his congregation meet and rent the Undercroft Wednesday and Friday evenings and the Church/Undercroft on Sunday afternoon for their Sunday services.

## GYM DANDY

Gym Dandy has been renting space at Christ Church since 1998 for the “Mommy and Me” playgroup classes for preschoolers. Gym Dandy classes and birthday parties are held in the Undercroft. Classes are held on Thursday, Friday & Saturday mornings, with additional Gym Dandy birthday parties on several Saturday afternoons.

## MONTESSORI SCHOOL

The Montessori School has been successfully operating at Christ Church since 1992. At that time, the school was under the supervision of Elizabeth Griffiths. Now, 24 years later, her daughter, Liz Capuano is proud to continue the tradition. The Montessori School provides an educational experience for pre-school children ages 2 to 6. The Montessori classes are for 3-to 6-year-olds, and Toddler classes are for 2- to 3-year-olds. Students can attend either three or five mornings a week. They utilize our Sunday school classrooms and playground on weekdays throughout the school year.

## PELHAM PROMENADERS

This is a square dancing group that meets in the Parish Hall alternate Sunday afternoons from September – June.

## **SOCCER GROUPS:**

**PELHAM TRAVEL SOCCER:** From the spring of 2007, Pelham Travel Soccer found a new home in our field for the younger age soccer students. They used our field for practices during the fall and spring.

**Kinderkickers:** Since 2007, a Saturday program for 4- to 5-year-olds held in the spring and fall.

**UK ELITE SOCCER:** UK Elite is a private company focused on providing a world class youth soccer experience. They offer team and individual soccer training, camps, club teams, international tours and club services. They used our field this summer.

### **PELHAM RECREATION SOCCER REFEREE TRAINING:**

This group has been renting our Parish Hall in early September since 2012 - their purpose is to get the referee's trained for the upcoming soccer season. This is a one day rental.

## **THRIVE FITNESS & NUTRITION STUDIO**

Thrive is a health and wellness studio located in our Old Parish House/Nursery since 2008.

## **PELHAM COMMUNITY ROWING ASSOCIATION**

This year, we have new tenant(s) renting the upstairs apartment. The Pelham Community Rowing Association (PCRA) has the use of one room on the top floor of the Old Parish House which they use for their offices. The rest of the apartment is rented to a member of the PCRA coaching staff- Jane Ditweiler. They are both great tenants.

## **WESTCHESTER BLADES FENCING**

This program provides fencing instruction to children and adults in our Parish Hall Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with the occasional Saturday afternoon tournament. They also hold a 2 week fencing camp in the summer. Alex Abend, the head coach, and his group have been renting the hall since 2009.

## **YOUNGLIFE**

Their mission: Introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith. Core promises of this group: "As followers of Jesus Christ, we are out there in the world of kids, we are inviting in all that we do, we witness changed lives as kids meet Christ and we stand on a firm foundation." Their ministry is directed toward middle school and high school students. They started their association with Christ Church 3 years ago when they rented the field for their Wyldlife "mess fest." Stop by and talk with Steph Reubenheimer, the Area Director or Jason, Jillian and Ethan, Staff Associates of Pelham branch of YoungLife. Their door is always open.

In addition to these ongoing tenant relationships, 2015 has been a busy year in renting our beautiful Parish Hall for private parties, wedding receptions, meetings, etc. (the Bouncy Castle has returned for a 5<sup>th</sup> year for a Halloween/Birthday party). We also provide meeting space free of charge to non-profit organizations such as the Girl Scouts Leaders, the PACT Coalition, and the Pelham Rowing Association.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Main, Parish Administrator

## GROUNDS

The Grounds Committee continues its stewardship of the grounds of the parish. Frank Moretti provides our general maintenance services and has done a fine job for us. Our grounds are in good shape, well kept by Frank and his men. Pruning, mowing, leaf blowing and the like are done properly and in a timely manner. Frank is very accessible and willing to take on projects whenever we need something done. Frank takes great and justifiable pride in his work for us and for that we thank him. The fees for his services remain stable. The increase in the total cost is a result of expanding his services to cover work in the Columbarium. We will use his services again this year.

We are still pursuing our tree program with Almstead. Dan Dalton, our arborist there for many years, inspects the grounds annually and then makes his recommendations. We have an excellent working relationship with him as we do with Frank. His advice is always very helpful and welcome. He is easily available if unforeseen or new problems arise. All of the work is done at Almstead's winter rates which are considerably lower than their seasonal ones. As a result of systematic tree care we have had very little storm damage either to the trees or our buildings.

We still use several applications of compost tea in the beds and in the Columbarium. Our soil is very poor and, in places, very thin thus requiring regular fertilization and annual mulching for plant and shrub health. Our flowers and flowering trees and shrubs have responded well to these efforts. Additionally, our boxwoods, especially the older ones in the Columbarium have required pest control measures to keep them healthy.

This past winter we had numerous snow and ice events that resulted in major expenses for snow removal and salt. The plowing of the driveways and parking lots is done by Chris, owner of Manor Auto, and, we are very pleased with his work and reliability. He does a good and prompt job, removing the snow on our grounds and salting the pavements. Chris repeats his efforts if needed during a snow storm and does not charge for these extra services. He has kept his fees steady but the price of salt has risen. In exchange for keeping his fees steady we allow him several parking spaces in our parking lot. Walter continues to shovel areas of the parish that cannot be reached by the plow, as well as the public sidewalks.

As you may have noticed, the Vestry installed several towing signs in the parking lot. Granted they are unsightly but we need them in order to control the use of our parking lot. Overnight parking, loitering and the like that have been problems in the past have been, for the most part, eliminated. This effort along with the lighting makes this area safer for those who use our facilities.

The Grounds of the parish are in good condition. We have found dedicated and skilled people like Frank, Dan, Chris and Walter, who we can rely on for good work and who are sensitive to our financial situation. They are very much appreciated by the committee. My thanks, too, to the Vestry for understanding the importance for this ministry.

Members of the Committee include:

Alice K. Dean, Chairperson  
Walter Roberts

Mildred Johnson  
Emily Kane

Respectfully submitted,  
Alice K Dean

## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

### 2015 INVESTMENT COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment of the endowment, currently approximately \$3.3 million. The committee of seven people meets regularly and as needed, in person or via conference call; in 2015, the committee met six times. Members of the committee are: David Jeffries and Margaret Young (co-chairs), Brandon Bethea, Pamela Lent, Iain MacInnis, Michael Micciche, and Melissa Roddy.

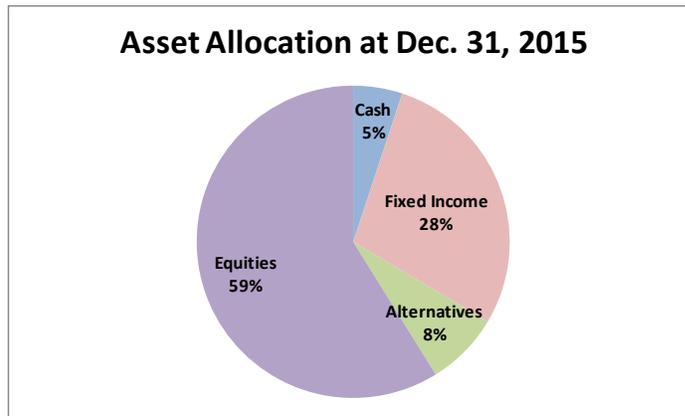
As reported previously, Granite Group Advisors, in Wilton CT, assumed all day-to-day responsibility for managing the assets of the endowment in January, 2014. Royal Bank of Canada is custodian of the assets. Granite Group's management provides the consistency and professional scrutiny we feel the endowment deserves, at a reasonable fee; the protection of principal remains their highest priority. The Investment Committee continues to meet regularly, to oversee Granite Group's performance as outside manager, and to insure that the endowment continues to be managed according to the asset allocation limits approved by the Vestry.

## ENDOWMENT REPORT

The following is an overview of the activity in the Parish's endowment during 2014:

|   |             |
|---|-------------|
| Balance at Dec. 31, 2014                    | \$3,566,798 |
| Contributions (other than pledge payments): | -           |
| Withdrawals in 2015:                        |             |
| For ongoing church operations:              | (159,105)   |
| For rectory renovations:                    | (40,000)    |
| Investment Fees:                            | (18,141)    |
| Total withdrawals:                          | (217,246)   |
| Investment Returns:                         | (89,364)    |
| Balance at December 31, 2015:               | \$3,260,188 |

The asset allocation as of December 31, 2015 was as follows:



For reference, benchmark investment returns over the recent past are as follows:

|          | <i>Annual return, with income reinvested</i> |         |                              |
|----------|--|---------|------------------------------|
|          | Dow Jones Industrial Avg.                    | S&P 500 | Vanguard Total Bond Mkt Fund |
| 1 year   | 0.2%   | 1.4%    | 0.3%                         |
| 3 years  | 12.7%  | 15.1%   | 1.2%                         |
| 10 years | 7.7%   | 7.3%    | 4.4%                         |

Before withdrawal activity, the endowment generated an investment loss of approximately 2.5% in 2015. There was very little volatility until August, and markets were generally flat for the 18 months from early 2014 through late summer 2015. Then, with concerns over lower growth in China and dropping commodities prices, the markets began to fluctuate more, with stock indices down 10 - 12% in August. Since then, the equity markets have rebounded somewhat, although not to the levels of mid-summer. The broad US stock and bond markets all declined in 2015; this was the first year of decline in the equity markets since 2008.

It is difficult to compare the endowment's performance with benchmarks, because endowment income is not reinvested. Over the last 10 years, a total of \$1.6 million has been withdrawn to fund church operations and capital needs. However, the endowment's performance was roughly in line with the markets overall, and the Investment Committee remains comfortable with the selection of Granite Group. We will continue to monitor Granite's performance and the investment performance of the endowment.

## WITHDRAWALS

In January, 2015 the Vestry approved a 5.0% draw from the endowment to supplement the annual operating budget, keeping within the strict guidelines it set for itself the prior year. In May, the Vestry determined that several rectory renovations, long delayed, were necessary to prepare the rectory for the new rector, (including the repair of the gas line connecting the church with the rectory) and approved an additional, one-time, withdrawal of \$40,000. The draw for operations, of 5.0%, is consistent with the prior year and is also consistent with standard practices and guidance for endowments held by not-for-profit institutions. The draw is calculated as a percentage of the 3 year rolling average of the endowment's value.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Jeffries and Margaret Young, co-chairs

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

*For everything is from you, and we only give what we have received from you*  
1 Corinthians 29:14-16

The Christ Church stewardship committee implemented a new program in 2015 called *New Consecration Sunday* as a way to reinforce the biblical and spiritual principles of generous giving. *New Consecration Sunday* is based on Christian theology that focuses on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual development, rather than on the need of the church to receive. The program encourages Christians toward proportionate and systematic giving in response to the question, "What percentage of my income is God calling me to give?"

Highlights of this year's *New Consecration Sunday* program included:

- Testimonies from parishioners in church about why they give to God through Christ Church
- A parish Leadership Dinner where our program Guest Leader, The Reverend Andrew Mead, spoke to 45 parish leaders about stewardship
- Stewardship sermons given by Father Matt and Father Andrew Mead
- New Consecration Sunday worship services where parishioners brought their Estimate of Giving Cards to the altar

- Two parish celebrations on New Consecration Sunday; a Celebration Brunch after the 8 a.m. service and a Celebration Luncheon after the 10 a.m. service

The Stewardship Committee thanks every parishioner who has pledged financial support of our parish. This year's results give us all reason to rejoice.

**Christ Church *New Consecration Sunday* Results**

|   | <b>2015 Final</b> | <b>2016 Projection</b> |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Pledges   | 115               | 136                    |
| Amount Pledged  | \$299,873         | \$370,140              |
| Average Annual Pledge Amount                          | \$2,608           | \$2,722                |
| Percentage of Parishioners Who Increased Their Pledge | 42%               | 42%                    |
| New Pledges   | 10                | 22                     |

*If you have not submitted an Estimate of Giving Card for 2016, please consider doing so. Estimate of Giving Cards are available outside the parish office.*

Respectfully submitted by the Christ Church Stewardship Committee,

|                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Claire Allen        | Robert Landis        |
| Allison Bodenmann   | John Lent (Co-Chair) |
| Jeff Bodenmann      | Father Matthew Mead  |
| Jane S. Cooke       | Colette Phipps       |
| John Fox (Co-Chair) |                      |

## FUNDRAISING

The amazing generosity of time and treasure is evident in this successful fundraising effort at Thanksgiving. It would certainly not have been possible without the vision, time and talent of Eileen Wolfe. All proceeds support the ministries of our church.

**HOW FUNDS WERE RAISED:**

|                         | Total              |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| Silent Auction          | \$ 3,080.00        |
| Cash and carry Thursday | \$ 195.00          |
| Cash and carry Sunday   | \$ 585.00          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>            | <b>\$ 3,860.00</b> |

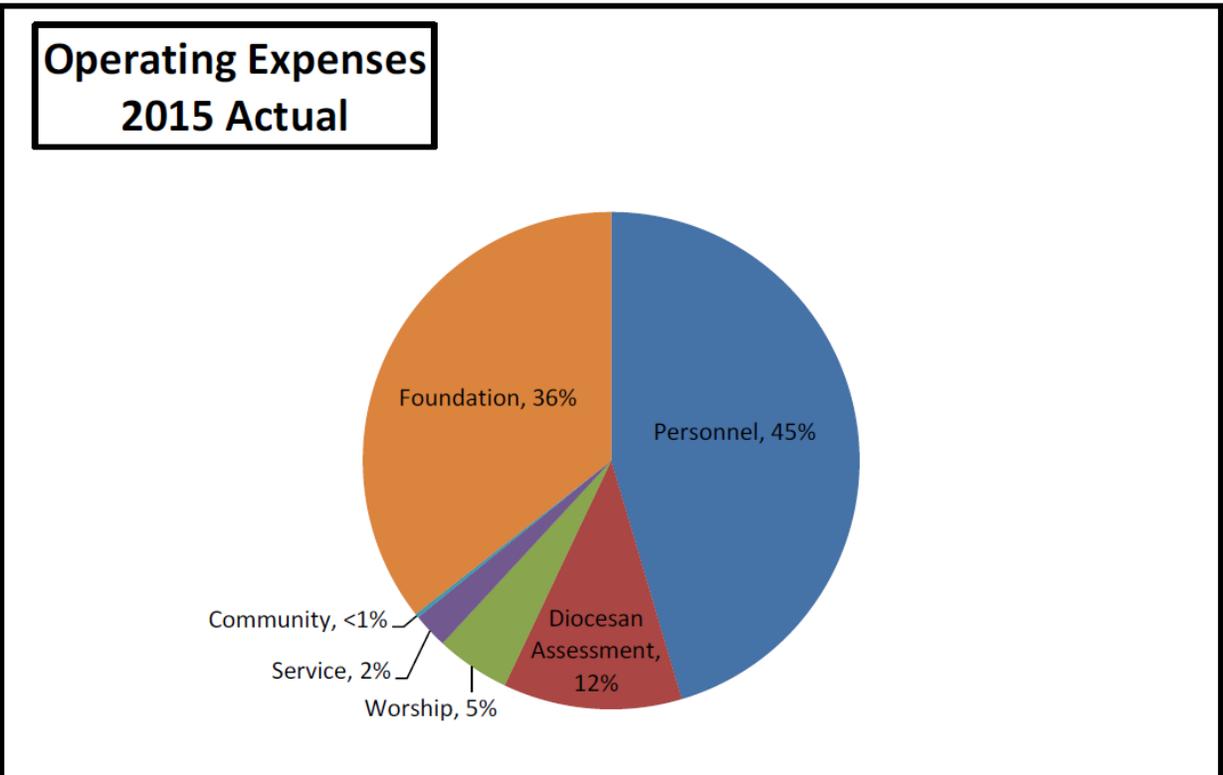
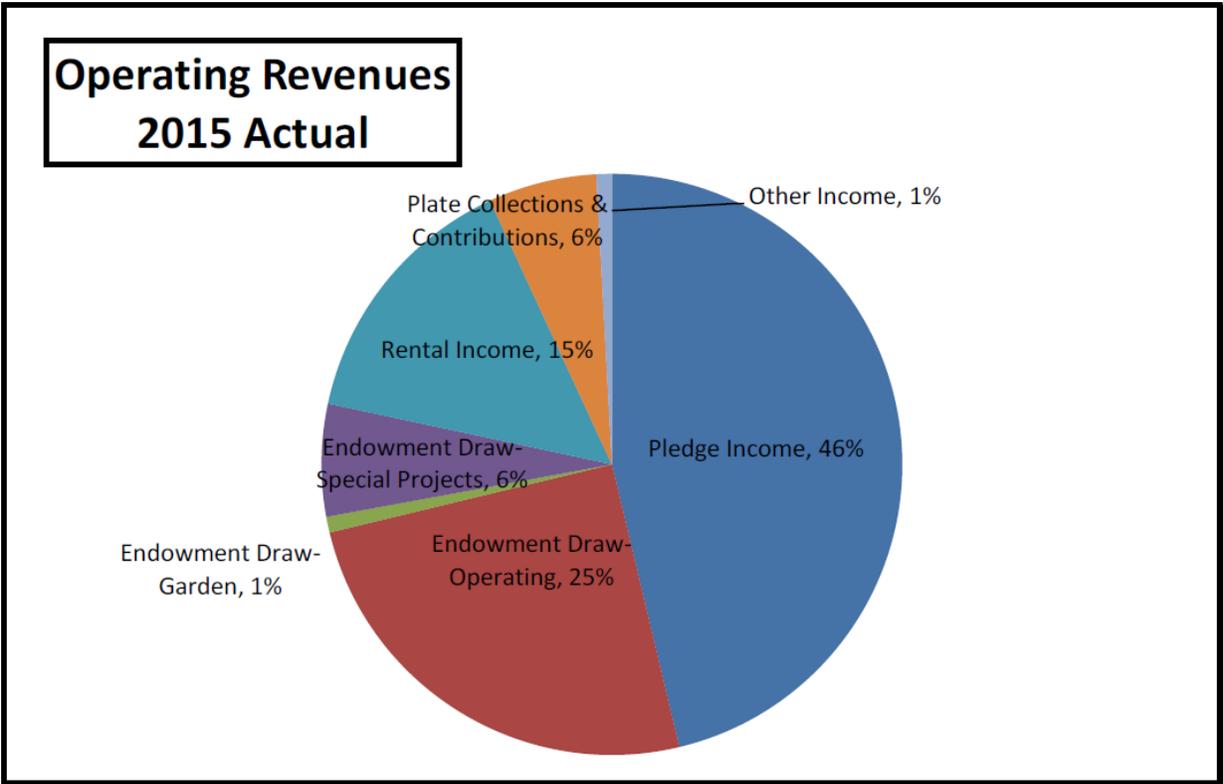
Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Dumas

# TREASURER'S REPORT 2015

## OVERVIEW OF 2015 FINANCIAL RESULTS

- The final 2015 Budget totaled \$609,000. This amount reflects a \$10,000 reduction from the figure reported at the time of the 2015 annual meeting of \$619,000 as subsequent information was obtained regarding stewardship results and staffing costs.
- **Endowment Draw:** The budgeted endowment draw to support normal operations was \$159,794, which is consistent with the Vestry's established guideline limiting the annual draw to 5% of the rolling three year average endowment fund balance. As the building committee worked to prepare the Rectory for Father Matt and his family, it became apparent that significant capital repairs were required at the Rectory. In addition, a leak in the gas line from the Church to the Rectory was discovered, requiring immediate replacement of the line. In order to address these pressing issues, the Vestry authorized an additional \$40,000 draw from the Endowment in early 2015, bringing the overall draw to 6.3%.
- **Operating Revenues:** Actual Operating Revenues, *excluding the endowment draw*, totaled approximately **\$435,000**, falling \$4,000 short of the budgeted amount of \$439,000. This variance was due to a combined shortfall of \$11,000 in expected Pledge and Plate revenues, offset by positive budget variances from other revenue sources.
- **Operating Expenses:** actual Operating Expenses were approximately **\$635,000** compared to the budget of \$609,000. Significant variances are as follows:
  - **Personnel:** The lay youth position budgeted at \$10,000 was not filled and other minor savings were realized to create a \$14,000 budgetary savings.
  - **Maintenance & Repairs:** As previously noted, there were significant capital repair projects completed in 2015 causing a \$40,000 "Maintenance & Repairs—Special Projects" budgetary overage.
- **Deferred Funds from the Summer 2014 Fundraiser:** The fundraiser held in the summer of 2014 raised \$69,025, to cover the costs of replacing the roof on the Old Parish House, new vestments, and provide for an anticipated operating shortfall. The roof and related repair work to the leaders, gutters, soffit and trim was completed in the fall of 2014, at a cost of \$29,805. Given the timing of the clergy transition, the intended purchase of the vestments and hiring of a lay youth leader were postponed. As a result, the remaining \$39,400 of the fundraising proceeds was deferred to the 2015 budget. In 2015, \$15,900 of the deferred funds was utilized to meet the operating needs of the parish. The balance of \$20,000 had been earmarked for capital projects scheduled for late 2015. These projects were postponed, pending the results

of the property management consultancy period. Thus, the remaining funds have been deferred to the 2016 budget. The \$3,500 designated for new vestments has also been deferred until the vestments can be purchased.



## OVERVIEW OF 2016 BUDGET

The Vestry approved the 2016 Budget totaling \$670,060 at its January 25, 2016 meeting. Highlights of the major operating revenues and expenditures are noted below.

### Operating Revenues

- With the blessing of a successful 2016 Stewardship campaign, the Vestry is pleased to reflect an increase of approximately \$54,000 or 18% in budgeted Pledge Income, bringing this figure to \$360,000 or 54% of total operating revenues (inclusive of the endowment draw).
- The Vestry has approved an endowment draw of \$160,726 or 5% of the average year-end endowment fund balances for the three years ending December 31, 2015.

### Operating Expenses

- Personnel Expenses, the largest component of our expenditure budget, include salaries and any contractually required benefits for the Rector, Organist & Choirmaster, Parish Administrator and the part-time and weekend Sextons. A modest \$1,000 is included in 2016 to support expenses related to engaging a seminarian to provide clergy support.
- Maintenance and Repairs includes ordinary, recurring maintenance costs as well as identified special projects of a capital nature. In addition, the Maintenance and Repair budget for 2016 includes professional property management to oversee the maintenance of our historic buildings, to provide tenant management for the various groups who rent space from the parish and to plan for larger capital improvement projects. The Vestry has consciously included expense estimates related to the professional property management firm in the budget but final numbers and details of the arrangement are pending receipt and approval of their final proposal. More information on this is included in the Buildings Committee report and the Rector's report.

Many thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for their dedicated ministry this year: Amy Heese, John Lent, Father Matt, Kari Black and Jackie Vigil.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Calder, Treasurer

| CHRIST CHURCH<br>TREASURER'S ANNUAL REPORT<br>2015 FINANCIAL SUMMARY (Including 2016 Budget) |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
|--|-------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|
|  | 2015                    |                |                         |                      | 2016           |                        |
|  | Actual<br>(Preliminary) | Budget         | Variance<br>Fav (Unfav) | % of Total<br>(Budg) | Budget         | % of Total<br>(Budget) |
| <b>OPERATING REVENUES</b>  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Pledge   | 296,241                 | 305,900        | (9,659)                 | 50.2%                | 360,000        | 53.7%                  |
| Endowment Draw   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Operating needs (planned)  | 159,794                 | 159,794        | 0                       | 26.2%                | 160,726        | 24.0%                  |
| Garden of the Resurrection (planned)   | 5,639                   | 10,334         | (4,695)                 | 1.7%                 | 9,707          | 1.4%                   |
| Capital improvements   | 40,000                  | 0              | 40,000                  | 0.0%                 | 0              | 0.0%                   |
| Rentals  | 94,440                  | 88,457         | 5,983                   | 14.5%                | 92,675         | 13.8%                  |
| Plate & Contributions  | 38,624                  | 40,000         | (1,376)                 | 6.6%                 | 41,702         | 6.2%                   |
| Fundraising & Other  | 5,480                   | 4,750          | 730                     | 0.8%                 | 5,250          | 0.8%                   |
| <b>Total Operating Revenues</b>  | <b>640,218</b>          | <b>609,235</b> | <b>30,983</b>           | <b>100.0%</b>        | <b>670,060</b> | <b>100.0%</b>          |
| <b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| <b>Personnel</b>   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Salaries & Benefits  | 288,209                 | 292,518        | 4,309                   | 48.0%                | 305,436        | 45.6%                  |
| Salaries & Ben-Asst Rector/Lay Youth Leader  |                         | 10,000         | 10,000                  | 1.6%                 | 0              | 0.0%                   |
| <b>Total Personnel</b>   | <b>288,209</b>          | <b>302,518</b> | <b>14,309</b>           | <b>49.7%</b>         | <b>305,436</b> | <b>45.6%</b>           |
| <b>Diocesan Assessment</b>   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Diocesan Assessment  | 73,829                  | 73,829         | 0                       | 12.1%                | 76,069         | 11.4%                  |
| <b>Total Diocesan Assessment</b>   | <b>73,829</b>           | <b>73,829</b>  | <b>0</b>                | <b>12.1%</b>         | <b>76,069</b>  | <b>11.4%</b>           |
| <b>Worship</b>   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Worship Materials  | 2,844                   | 3,700          | 856                     | 0.6%                 | 3,250          | 0.5%                   |
| Music  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Professional Choirsters  | 23,530                  | 23,000         | (530)                   | 3.8%                 | 24,360         | 3.6%                   |
| Special Music (net of contributions)   | 495                     | 2,500          | 2,005                   | 0.4%                 | 1,800          | 0.3%                   |
| Supplies & Other   | 1,255                   | 1,150          | (105)                   | 0.2%                 | 1,850          | 0.3%                   |
| Childcare  | 2,550                   | 2,600          | 50                      | 0.4%                 | 2,600          | 0.4%                   |
| <b>Total Worship</b>   | <b>30,674</b>           | <b>32,950</b>  | <b>2,276</b>            | <b>5.4%</b>          | <b>33,860</b>  | <b>5.1%</b>            |
| <b>Service</b>   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Christian Education  | 980                     | 2,440          | 1,460                   | 0.4%                 | 3,560          | 0.5%                   |
| Budgeted Clergy Discretionary  | 1,000                   | 1,000          | 0                       | 0.2%                 | 1,000          | 0.1%                   |
| Evangelism   | 705                     | 1,520          | 815                     | 0.2%                 | 1,050          | 0.2%                   |
| Diaconate Support  | 750                     | 750            | 0                       | 0.1%                 | 0              | 0.0%                   |
| Outreach   | 11,000                  | 11,000         | 0                       | 1.8%                 | 11,000         | 1.6%                   |
| <b>Total Service</b>   | <b>14,435</b>           | <b>16,710</b>  | <b>2,275</b>            | <b>2.7%</b>          | <b>16,610</b>  | <b>2.5%</b>            |
| <b>Community</b>   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Fellowship   | 1,647                   | 1,350          | (297)                   | 0.2%                 | 4,000          | 0.6%                   |
| <b>Total Community</b>   | <b>1,647</b>            | <b>1,350</b>   | <b>(297)</b>            | <b>0.2%</b>          | <b>4,000</b>   | <b>0.6%</b>            |
| <b>Foundation</b>  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Office Expense   |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Equipment Rental   | 12,682                  | 7,260          | (5,422)                 | 1.2%                 | 12,068         | 1.8%                   |
| Supplies, Postage & Copy Charges   | 10,009                  | 9,501          | (508)                   | 1.6%                 | 9,000          | 1.3%                   |
| Telephone, Communications & Web  | 2,725                   | 5,620          | 2,895                   | 0.9%                 | 3,364          | 0.5%                   |
| Other (incl meetings, graphic design, etc)   | 6,233                   | 7,300          | 1,067                   | 1.2%                 | 7,675          | 1.1%                   |
| Admin Expense (Audit & Sewer Line)   | 8,434                   | 9,200          | 766                     | 1.5%                 | 9,000          | 1.3%                   |
| Maintenance & Repairs  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Ordinary   | 30,713                  | 39,900         | 9,187                   | 6.5%                 | 14,100         | 2.1%                   |
| Special Projects   | 60,042                  | 19,600         | (40,442)                | 3.2%                 | 45,850         | 6.8%                   |
| Parish Property Management (PPM)   | 2,250                   | 0              | (2,250)                 | 0.0%                 | 35,250         |                        |
| Grounds & Snow Plowing   | 21,885                  | 19,527         | (2,358)                 | 3.2%                 | 24,107         | 3.6%                   |
| Utilities  |                         |                |                         |                      |                |                        |
| Electricity  | 19,223                  | 19,500         | 277                     | 3.2%                 | 20,000         | 3.0%                   |
| Gas  | 22,910                  | 24,000         | 1,090                   | 3.9%                 | 24,000         | 3.6%                   |
| Water  | 3,500                   | 3,600          | 100                     | 0.6%                 | 3,750          | 0.6%                   |
| Internet Access  | 1,578                   | 900            | (678)                   | 0.1%                 | 2,104          | 0.3%                   |
| Insurance  | 23,607                  | 25,000         | 1,393                   | 4.1%                 | 25,378         | 3.8%                   |
| <b>Total Foundation</b>  | <b>225,791</b>          | <b>190,908</b> | <b>(34,883)</b>         | <b>31.3%</b>         | <b>235,646</b> | <b>35.2%</b>           |
| <b>Total Operating Expenses</b>  | <b>634,585</b>          | <b>618,265</b> | <b>(16,320)</b>         | <b>101.5%</b>        | <b>671,621</b> | <b>100.2%</b>          |
| Summer 2014 Fundraiser*  | (15,900)                | (39,400)       | (23,500)                | -6.5%                | (23,500)       | -3.5%                  |
| Garden of the Resurrection Expenses  | 5,639                   | 10,334         | 4,695                   | 1.7%                 | 9,707          | 1.4%                   |
| Other Non-Operating Expenses   | 15,981                  | 20,036         | 4,055                   | 3.3%                 | 12,232         | 1.8%                   |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>  | <b>640,305</b>          | <b>609,235</b> | <b>(31,070)</b>         | <b>100.0%</b>        | <b>670,060</b> | <b>100.0%</b>          |
| Excess (Deficit)   | (87)                    | 0              | (87)                    |                      | 0              |                        |

\*Summer 2014 Fundraiser proceeds totaled \$69,205. Of this amount, \$29,805 and \$15,900 were recognized as income in 2014 and 2015, respectively. The remaining proceeds have been deferred to 2016.

# ANNUAL PARISH ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election as vestry members at the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Christ the Redeemer on January 31, 2016.

- **For Senior Warden (2-year term): Kari Black, Tom Salvatore**
- **For the Vestry (3 seats for 3-year terms; 1 seat for a 2-year term): Angela Barone, Jeff Bodenmann, Marie Dumas, Gavin Leckie, Marilyn Leone, Marc Palladino**

Candidate statements, listed in alphabetical order, are on pages 40-47.

## ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE BYLAWS

Our parish bylaws provide specific procedures for elections at our annual meeting. All qualified voters present, must sign in to receive a ballot.

Regarding voter qualifications our bylaws state the following:

“All persons eighteen years of age or older, both male and female, belonging to the Parish, who have been baptized and are regular attendants in its worship and contributors to its support for at least twelve months prior to an annual meeting shall be qualified voters.”

The Rector, Wardens, and Parish Administrator have provided three sign in sheets. The first is for those who have been determined to be qualified voters. The second is for newcomers who fulfill all of the requirements of qualified voters except they have not been a part of the parish for twelve months. The third is blank and for those who are not on any list. The Rector, who the bylaws note is the presiding officer of the meeting, “shall be the judge of the qualifications of the voters”. At this meeting, any questions of any voter will be determined by the Rector in consultation with the Nominating Committee.

Our bylaws also state that vestry members can run for two consecutive terms and serve a maximum of six years before they have to step down from the vestry for at least a year before they run again. There are four open vestry positions this year. Three are for the full 3-year term and one seat is for a 2-year term. The 3-year terms will go to the three candidates receiving the highest number of votes. If this is their first term, they will be eligible to run for another full term in three years, for a total of six years of service. The person receiving the fourth largest number of votes will serve the 2-year term. If this is the person’s first elected term, they will be eligible to run again in two years for a full 3-year term. If they win a 3-year term in that election they would have to step down from the vestry at the end of that term for at least a year. This means they will have served five years instead of the customary six, before having to take a rest from the vestry.

## CANDIDATE STATEMENTS



### **KARI BLACK FOR SENIOR WARDEN**

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

We have been members since 2000.

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

I have been blessed by being in ministry with other Christ Church parishioners in the following areas: church school teacher, church school co-superintendent, altar guild, Christmas Pageant coordinator, vestry member, warden, co-chair of stewardship, and member of the outreach committee.

*Other family members attending Christ Church.*

My husband Ed McGann also attends Christ Church and our daughters Addie and Morgan were regular attendees at worship when they were younger. Ed and I alternate between attending the 8, 10 and 5:00 worship services.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

My first term on the vestry taught me how important listening is as part of my Christian journey. Listening to and sharing fellow parishioners' journeys, has taught me what a blessing it is, to be part of a Christian community. Being able to pray together and work on ideas and solutions together brings me great joy and comfort.

*Please name something you find valuable or something you love about Christ Church.*

At high *and* low points in my life, the people of Christ Church have been here for my family and me and have been an integral part of our support system. Beyond the Christ Church family, one of my favorite things is the opportunity to worship at different types of services... Sunday morning services, the 5:00pm Come as You Are, Morning Prayer and Feast Day services provide different opportunities for engagement, music, prayer, and fellowship.

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

My experience comes from having spent six years on the vestry, another four as warden, and serving on many of the committees of Christ Church. I believe that when elected to the vestry, you represent *all* parishioners – not a specific demographic of the parish or a special interest of the parish. I can be available on short notice, I value patience, have an open mind, enjoy working as part of a team and I strive to be a good listener. I also have strong faith, and believe that God is calling us to do more each year at Christ Church.



## **TOM SALVATORE FOR SENIOR WARDEN**

I am Tom Salvatore and would like your support to be Senior Warden of our parish. My wife Janet and I have been members of Christ Church for approximately 25 years. We were brought up in the area and were originally Roman Catholic. We have chosen to live out our faith in the Episcopal Church, where we see openness and direction and the Episcopal faith is much more embracive of us and our family. We have gone through joys and sorrows with the church community at our side and as our rock and our support.

As a member of the parish, I have served on the vestry, fellowship and hospitality committees as well as usher, lector, altar server and lay Eucharistic minister. I have been on two search committees for picking the rector of Christ Church. I consider myself a hard worker for the church and I try to be present at most, if not all, parish events. I see the role of Warden and vestry as motivational and service, the responsibility as exciting and challenging. As a husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, I see our constant challenge to provide for our families in all the diversity. Our seniors, our children our church school and adult education and our worship require hard work, listening and cooperation. I am willing to put the effort in.

This is an exciting time for our parish with our new Rector, Father Matt. We have a wonderful opportunity to grow our parish. Good times we gather for worship, social and educational events. As well as events like recent funerals, we have the chance and invitation to work together and show that Christ Church is alive, growing and welcoming.

As Warden, I would try to lead and work hard as I do in all that I try to accomplish.



## **ANGELA BARONE FOR THE VESTRY**

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

I have been a member of the Parish of Christ the Redeemer for over 25 years.

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

Currently I am serving on the Altar Guild and as an Acolyte and Eucharist Minister. I also regularly attend the Bible Study. Previously for several years I served on the Fellowship Committee and as an Usher. In addition to my activities here at Christ Church I am a long-time volunteer in the Brown Bag Lunch Program at the neighboring Parish of Trinity-St Paul, New Rochelle.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

I would view serving on the Vestry as contributing my gifts of time and talent. As a member of the Vestry I would like to see an expansion of the Parish Outreach Program. I'm also interested in the work of the Buildings and the Grounds Committees.

*Please name something you find valuable or something you love about Christ Church.*

I am especially moved by the fellowship within the Parish.

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

I've had previous experience as a Vestry member several years ago at Trinity-St. Paul, New Rochelle.



## JEFF BODENMANN FOR THE VESTRY

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

Twenty-five (25) years

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

- Choir member - last 11 years and counting
- Served on the Vestry – six years (2003 – 2009)
- Served as Senior Warden – four years (2009 – 2013)
- Served on the Stewardship Committee – 2005 - 2015
- Parish delegate to several Diocese Conventions
- Men's Connection – remains a work-in-progress
- Turkey Carver at annual Thanksgiving dinner

*Other family members attending Christ Church.*

Allison and Grace, wife and daughter

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

I view the Vestry as an opportunity to live my faith. The acts of discussing, directing and supporting the work of Christ Church lets me (and us) show what Christ Church means to us as a congregation and in the larger community (and I guess the world).

*Please name something you find valuable or something you love about Christ Church.*

The collection of really great people. On the train platform in the morning I truly enjoy greeting and talking to Christ Church people. Also during liturgy, I enjoy getting context and explanation for the scripture. My response is often, “so, that’s what that means...” (but that might just be me).

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

Institutional knowledge, experience in the position.



## MARIE DUMAS FOR THE VESTRY

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

10 years

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

I have served one term on the vestry and during that time was a member of the search committee with the responsibility of calling a new rector for our church. The search committee was an amazing experience and further cemented my commitment to serving our parish home. I am also an active member of the Flower Guild and the Vestry liaison for Outreach, plus a reliable pair of hands for the tag sale and when Fellowship needs workers for the Thanksgiving dinner or the picnic. This year, along with Eileen Wolfe, I helped coordinate the fundraising efforts at Thanksgiving to support our church ministries.

*Other family members attending Christ Church.*

The two men in my life, John (husband) and Evan (son, 20) are active members of the church. John was past co-chair of Outreach and for many years sent the parish weekly e-blast. Evan is away at Fordham University but, when home, still joins us on Sunday.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

I was raised with the traditions and in the belief that service is an integral part of the Christian journey. Christ Church is a very special community of God and the place our family has found a home to worship. My hope is that by serving on the Vestry, my time and talents can contribute in a more significant way to the life and growth of our church community.

*Please name something you find valuable/something you love about Christ Church.*

Our family attended multiple churches in Pelham before finding a Christian home at Christ Church. From the very first picnic we attended we felt welcome and embraced. We found a church home where each of us finds the spiritual guidance and fellowship we need whether adult, teenager or child.

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

I spent my career in corporate America and have the skills to administer, organize and engage in service to the mission of our Christian Community. I am a doer. I like to work with other people and get things done. No job is too big or too small as long as we serve and have fun while doing it.



## **GAVIN LECKIE FOR THE VESTRY**

*How long have you been at Christ Church? Other family members attending Christ Church.*

Elizabeth and I first started coming to Christ Church in 1995 when we moved to Pelham from New York City. During that period our four children (Hamish, Catriona, Angus and Elspeth) were baptized and confirmed there. My father Fred also attended for several years prior to his death. I work as a lawyer and banker with JPMorgan.

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

I have served as Chair of the Evangelism Committee (1998 to 2003) and one term on the Vestry, from 2002 to 2005. I was the chair of the Search Committee that led the search culminating in the calling of Father Matt. Serving on the Search Committee was an extraordinary experience as we knitted together a disparate group of people into a body whose judgments by the end of the process were very much in sync with one another.

*Please name something you find valuable/something you love about Christ Church.*

Apart from the beautiful church and grounds, I have always appreciated Christ Church as a place with a strong sense of community, bringing together people with a much more diverse background than one might expect of a smallish Episcopal church located in a well to do Westchester suburb. In the past I have particularly valued the wide range of ages of our congregation and see the “graying” of the parish as something we need to address by attracting younger families. It was consistently one of the major themes voiced in our parish survey and the various break out groups and meetings held during the search.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

The search for Father Matt gave me an opportunity to think more deeply about my own beliefs and my view of myself as a Christian. Service on the Vestry would be an opportunity to continue that growth, as a focused and intentional way of seeking to discern the path of God’s Will through the undergrowth of parish budgets, building maintenance and the like!



## MARILYN LEONE FOR THE VESTRY

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

I have been coming to Christ Church for the past seven years. It did not take me long to feel welcomed and comfortable, due to the friendly reception given by our church members.

*Please describe the activities/ ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.*

I've been a member of the "Newcomers Committee", an usher and recently became part of the Altar Guild. I also attend the Thursday morning Bible Study Group and am in my second year attending the "Education for Ministry" group at St. Simon's Church. My children and grandchildren, when visiting, attend the service.

*Please name something you find valuable/ something you love about Christ Church.*

Fellowship is strongly exhibited at Christ Church, and the numerous social events and educational programs add a positive dimension to the spiritual life of the Church.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

I would view serving on the Vestry as a privilege and an honor and an opportunity to continue to serve God and the church community. I have had many years, as a retired community social worker and Manager, meeting the needs of others in an impartial and unconditional way. I would continue to do so, as a Vestry member and as part of my Christian journey and development.

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

I would bring to the Vestry all my past professional, church and family experiences, in order to work with the Committee, ensuring the needs and affairs of the parish are met.



## MARC PALLADINO FOR THE VESTRY

*How long have you been at Christ Church?*

While I have been attending Christ Church since 1998, my family first became involved in the very early 80's.

*Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church:*

During my time here, I have been a member of the Altar Guild, the Fellowship committee and the Choir.

*How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?*

I joined the Vestry in October of 2015; stepping up to fill in for a departing member. I believe it's a privilege to be able to steward the parish by serving on the Vestry. Balancing the needs of our community through fiscal responsibility and utilizing the talent within our parish requires patience and dedication.

*Please name something you find valuable/something you love about Christ Church.*

When I first walked into our beloved church, I literally felt like I was coming home. The people here are welcoming, the sanctuary is beautiful and the commitment we have as a Christian community is heartwarming. I want to see that flourish as we embark on Christ Church's next chapter with our new Rector.

*What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?*

My professional background is in Marketing and Human Resource Management. I believe both areas will serve me well in helping our wonderful church grow and prosper over the next several years.

## CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

**CLERGY & STAFF**

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*  
The Reverend Deacon Katie Lawrence  
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*  
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*  
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Verger and Sexton*  
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*  
The Reverend David S. Hoag, *Rector Emeritus*

**WARDENS & VESTRY**

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*  
Ms. Kari Black, *Senior Warden*  
Mr. John Lent, *Junior Warden*  
Ms. Anne Calder, *Treasurer*  
Ms. Jackie Vigil, *Clerk*

Ms. Anne Calder      Ms. Amy Heese  
Mr. Curtis Chase      Mr. Jack Kaufmann  
Ms. Alice Dean      Mr. Marc Palladino  
Ms. Marie Dumas      Ms. Colette Phipps  
Mr. Tom Salvatore

**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Christ Church Pelham is a Christian community in the Episcopal tradition.  
As members of the Body of Christ, we are dedicated to spiritual growth  
and committed to serving God through worship and service to our community and the world.*

**Christ Church**

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer  
1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803 | 914.738.5515, fax 914.712.0526 | [www.christchurchpelham.org](http://www.christchurchpelham.org)