

THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK



ANNUAL REPORT (2020)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH- JANUARY 24, 2021

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Agenda	3
Minutes of Prior Year's Annual Meeting	4
Annual Parish Elections	7
Rector's Report	13
Ministry Leader Chart	15
The Pillars of Christ Church	16
WORSHIP & CLERGY REPORTS	
Rector's Worship Report	17
Canon Susan's Report	20
Deacon Katie's Report	20
Deacon Chisara's Report	21
Organist & Choirmaster's Report	21
Verger's Report	24
Altar Guild	25
Ushers Report	26
Flower Guild	26
SERVICE & COMMUNITY	
Adult Christian Learning & Bible Study	27
Christmas Pageant	27
Confirmation Class	28
Fellowship Committee	28
Men's Group	29
Outreach	29
Sunday School	31
Vacation Bible School	31
Youth Group	31
Women's Connection	31
Communications	32
FOUNDATION & FINANCE	
Buildings Committee	33
Tenant & Rental Report	34
Grounds	35
Investment Committee	36
Fundraising	38
Stewardship	39
Treasurer's Report	40
Vestry Annual Report	44

ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 24, 2021

- Opening Prayers, Welcome & Instructions
 - Prayer
 - Please keep yourself muted unless you are asked to speak
 - Please sign in via the chat
 - We will use the chat to ask questions
 - We will use the chat at the end for prayer intercessions
- Rector's Report
- Warden's Report & Election Results
- Treasurer's Report
- Q&A
- Farewell to Canon Susan
- Prayers for Parish Departed and others in the chat – 2 mins
- Other Prayers and Intercession
- Blessing and Close meeting

PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Annual Meeting: January 26, 2020

Approved by Vestry, February 19, 2020

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer

Pelham, N.Y.

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Father Matthew Mead at 11:14 a.m.

In attendance:

Sign-in sheets of all parishioners at the meeting are maintained in the Parish office. Ballots were distributed as parishioners signed in.

Polls opened: The polls were officially opened at 10:47 a.m.

Opening prayer: *Father Matthew Mead*

Nominating Committee: *Carol Ipsen*

Carol Ipsen, Junior Warden and Chair of the Nominating Committee, shared the candidates for election to the Vestry and for Delegates to Convention as follows:

- For Senior Warden (two-year term): Jeff Bodenmann
- For the Vestry (three seats for three-year terms): Claire Allen, Andrew Des Rault, Jack Kraft, Sandra Rivera, Tom Salvatore, Barbara Zambelli
- One seat each for two Delegates to 2020 Diocesan Convention and one Alternate: Charlette Finch, Cherrie Greenhalgh, Marie Main

Father Matt described the process for counting of the ballots by two members of the Vestry and the Clerk, noting that to win, a candidate must have votes totaling half of the number of ballots cast plus at least one vote. The three candidates fulfilling this criteria and having the most votes would win.

Rector's State of the Parish Address: *Father Matt*

- Father Matt gave an overview of the year 2019 at Christ Church as detailed in the 2019 Annual Report.
- He noted that the Vestry had adopted a 2020 budget with a deficit of approximately \$45,000 which is partially offset by a carryover of approximately \$34,000 from deferred projects in the 2019 budget. As expenditures for 2020 have been trimmed wherever possible, the only solution to balancing the budget is to increase income.
- As Episcopalians, our church leaders are elected and we pay our own bills. Pledges are the parish's primary source of income; therefore, Father Matt made a three-fold appeal to members of the parish:
 - Every member should consider supporting the parish with an annual pledge.
 - Every member who does pledge should consider proportional giving and take into account that the parish expenses increase each year.

- Christ Church has a pledge gap of \$63,000 and he urged parishioners to join him in stepping up to help fill this gap.

Father Matt supported his appeal with a thermometer chart of progress towards the pledge goal of \$425,000.

Budget/Finance Update: *Jeff Bodenmann and Anne Calder*

- Anne Calder and Jeff Bodenmann spoke to the financial information included in the Annual Report, including preliminary 2019 financial results and the 2020 budget.
- Treasurer Anne Calder emphasized that many of the expenses were items over which the church had little or no control, e.g., utilities, insurance or emergency building repairs.
- The Vestry has explored ways of minimizing or reducing the cost of utilities, including solar energy, which was deemed unworkable for our buildings, and a NYSERDA energy audit with recommendation of the use of LED bulbs.
- Some building maintenance and repair projects from 2019 were deferred to 2020, resulting in a rollover of \$34,000.
- Pledge income for 2018, 2019 and 2020 has remained at \$375,000.

Polls Closed: *Father Matt*

The polls were officially closed at 11:47.

Nominating Committee Receives Ballots

Capital Campaign/Buildings: *Kari Black*

- Kari Black reported on the status of Capital Campaign projects:
 - Tier 1 and Tier 3 (roofs over the church and over the Ranck building) are 99 percent complete.
 - Only project remaining in Tier 1 is to finish repairing and repainting the exterior window ledge around the church.
 - A number of projects in Tier 2 have been completed.
 - During the spring of 2020, focus will be on the following projects: exterior window ledges, plaster work evaluation in the sanctuary, replacement of seven windows on the exterior of the church adjacent to the back lawn and reworking the handicap entrance to the parish hall.

Stewardship/Volunteer Thanks: *John Fox*

- John Fox gave a Stewardship update, discussing briefly that Stewardship is not only about money but also about time and talent.
- He read a list of committee chairs and an additional 60 or so individuals whom committee chairs and Vestry felt were deserving of recognition for their contributions of time and talent to support the work of the parish.
- These individuals were thanked via a round of applause from all present.

Questions from the floor for the Rector, Treasurer, Wardens

Election Results Shared: *Father Matt*

- Senior Warden – Jeff Bodenmann, two-year term
- Vestry Members:
 - Claire Allen, Vestry member, three-year term
 - Andrew Des Rault, Vestry member, three-year term
 - Barbara Zambelli, Vestry member, three-year term
- Delegates and Alternate Delegate to Convention:
 - Charlette Finch – Delegate to Convention
 - Cherrie Greenhalgh – Delegate to Convention
 - Marie Main – Alternate Delegate to Convention
- 110 ballots were cast.

Closing Prayer and Dismissal: *Father Matt*

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gruener

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 24, 2021.

- **For Junior Warden (2-year term): Carol Ipsen**
- **For the Vestry (3 seats for 3-year terms) *: John Fox, Courtney McGrory, Robert Landis**
- ***Jack Kraft will complete the final 2 years of Claire Allen's term. The Allens are moving closer to family in 2021. We sincerely appreciate Claire's service and wish her all the best**
- **Convention Delegates to the 2021 Diocesan Convention and one Alternate: Brandon Dameran, Trabue Bland and Curtis Chase (Alternate)**

Vestry candidate statements are found below.

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: "Qualified voters are the Rector and all persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who have been baptized and belong to the Parish and have been regular communicants at its worship and have financially contributed to its support within the past twelve months." Our bylaws 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 is to complete a departing vestry member's term for the next 2 years.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

Here are the questions posed to all Candidates:

- How long have you attended Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?
- Please describe the positions you have held, or activities you participate in at the church.
- Why do you want to serve and work on the Vestry?
- What skills and life experience would you bring to the Vestry's work?

Carol Ipsen

Junior Warden/Two-year term

How long have you been at Christ Church?

22 years

Please describe the activities and ministries you have been involved in at Christ Church.

- I taught church school for over ten years (fun!!), before becoming superintendent
- Organized Last Supper/Seder re-enactments for children
- A member of the Pastoral Care Committee
- A leader of Morning Prayer on Tuesdays for several years
- The head of the Church Green Team and LED light installer
- Junior Warden since 2017
- Co-creator of the parish photo directory, along with Lily Solmssen Moureaux
- A member of the most recent Search Committee
- A member of summer choirs
- Worker at the tag sales



Other members of your family attending Christ Church

My husband, Erik, attends regularly, and our son, Gus, grew up attending Christ Church

How would you view serving as Junior Warden as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?

It is a privilege, and a pleasure, to be a junior warden. My top job is to spend as much time as possible with my fellow parishioners, in a variety of ways. To me, a large part of Christianity's message is about being together – being productive together and being supportive of one another. As this past year has shown us, that can take many forms.

Please name something you find valuable, something you love about Christ Church.

I've loved the challenging jobs the church has sent my way, combined with the spiritual refreshment I receive every time I sit quietly in our sanctuary. I am deeply grateful.

What skills and experience would you bring to the warden's position?

My work as a journalist, mother and dog-walker helped me develop research and writing skills, patience and imagination, flexibility and a commanding voice. All of those experiences have helped me in my work at our church.

John Fox

Vestry Member/Three-year term



How long have you attended Christ Church?

Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?

I have attended since 1978 and was married, by Fr. Hoag, to my late wife Meredith who was also a parishioner at Christ Church 10 years before that. My son Graham, now 37, attended Christ Church and was confirmed here.

Please describe the positions you have held, or activities you participate in at the church

- Stewardship Committee-Chair
- Usher
- Buildings Committee-Chair
- Men's Group
- Fill in office for Marie

Why do you want to serve and work on the Vestry?

As a long time parishioner, I am now in a position to contribute my time and efforts to furthering our community.

What skills and life experience would you bring to the Vestry's work?

I have a strong business and financial background having been a principal in an international CPA firm and an owner of a successful consulting and valuation firm.

Robert Landis

Vestry Member/Three-year term

How long have you been at Christ Church?

Since 1998. We moved from Manhattan where we were members of Church of the Heavenly Rest, where both of my sons were baptized.

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

Stewardship Committee: 2013, 2014, 2015

Christ Church sponsored Pilgrimage to Israel: 2018

Various volunteer events at Christ Church since moving to Pelham in 1998



Other family members attending Christ Church (if any)

Norma Vargas-Landis

Matthew Landis: Confirmed

Christopher (Moshe) Landis: Confirmed

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry or service to Christ Church?

I find this an exciting chapter in my spiritual life. While I have been a member of the Church, I have not spent the time I would have liked or should have in developing my spiritual life. I find this opportunity to serve the Church will bring me closer to the church, its teachings, and an understanding of God's work.

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

The spirituality and Christian teachings. When I attend Church services, I find it a safe place to reflect on my life and what I can do to better myself and help others. The church is nonjudgmental and accepting of all. That is a comfort to know we are not alone.

What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

I have spent 20 years in the military and understand the need to make long term decisions and weigh all alternatives. My career in finance since 1978 when I moved to New York will allow me to better understand the financial issues that our church faces and help to ensure the works of the church can be sustained. I have no preconceived notions of what must be done, but know that I can work with people, listen to their ideas, and help to arrive at accepting and effective solutions. My plan in 2021 is to spend less time at my day job as I am hiring persons to replace me. I will have significantly more time to assist in the roles assigned as part of the vestry.

Courtney McGrory

Vestry Member/Three-year term



How long have you been at Christ Church?

Since 2011 – nearly ten years. My kids have grown up in the church and our youngest was baptized at Christ Church.

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

Church School teacher, Co Chair Volunteerism committee, New Rector Search 2014

Other family members attending Christ Church (if any)

My husband, Ramsey, and our children, Anna, John, and Riley.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry or service to Christ Church?

I see it as an opportunity to give back to a place that has provided so much to me over the years, including friendship, community, perspective on our place in the world, our responsibilities as spiritual beings and more.

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

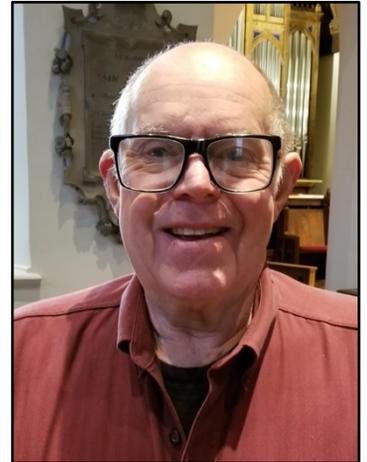
It can be easy to live in a bubble of work, home and our kids' school experience—belonging to Christ Church exposes us to different routines, generations, experiences, families and friends. I love and truly value that diversity and the feeling that this church community knows us and we know it well in return—and that we all belong to something greater that will be around for generations to come.

What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?

Creativity and professional marketing and communications experience that I could apply to campaigns. Valuable perspective on the interests of families who want to be part of a religious community. Plus, having been part of the search process that brought Father Matt to the church, I have been able to build strong relationships with various members of the church and gained a broader understanding of our parish and parishioner needs.

Jack Kraft

Vestry Member/Completing the final 2 years of Claire Allen's term



How long have you been at Christ Church?

I have been a member of Christ Church since July of 1989. My wife, Jackie and I were married here on January 6, 1990, by Father David Hoag.

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

This is not my first rodeo, as I was on the Vestry, years ago when Father Randy Alexander was at the helm. I started the "Greeters" under the leadership of Father Christopher Brown, many years ago. I am on the Building Committee, part of the Men's Group and help out with many Fellowship events, such as flipping pancakes on Shrove Tuesday and helping out at our annual Thanksgiving Dinners, setting up the many Christmas Trees, during advent. (all before Covid).

Many years ago I headed the demolition of walls that partitioned off many areas in the undercroft. I know how to use a hammer, saw and paint brush and am not afraid to use them helping out with the many things that need repair, painting and fixing around here. I have even been up in a bucket truck a few times to repair the rope in the Bell Tower.

(Before Covid) You would usually find me at the 8:00 service, greeting you at the door, making some kind of announcement and helping Paige with Altar Guild duties. Then in the Library for some very interesting and enlightening conversations over breakfast.

This year, with the many outdoor services, I painted the pavers (red) in the Columbarium, removed the stumps behind the outdoor altar (so Father Matt doesn't break his neck) and made repairs to the outdoor altar.

I believe it is a privilege to be a member of such a beautiful and diverse Church and look forward to worshipping with everyone, again soon.

Convention Delegates/Alternate

Brandon Dammerman, Trabue Bland, Curtis Chase (Alternate)

RECTOR'S REPORT

2020 has been a year that we will never forget. It is important to remember that 2020 began quite well at Christ Church. The obvious highlight of the first two months of 2020 occurred over the weekend of February 14 and 15 when we held several events celebrating and dedicating our newly installed Jack Hennigan Memorial Pipe Organ. It was the culmination of Martin Nash's gift and the hard work of Margaret Young, Jeffrey Hoffman, and our Organ Committee, and it was a lot of fun. Little did any of us realize how rapidly our lives would change.

Within weeks, the Covid-19 pandemic would overrun our nation and the world. As March began, we were grappling with the reality that our own communities were the epicenter of the virus in the United States. By March 15 – one month to the day after the organ concert – we were worshipping online, and the Governor had announced that schools and businesses would be closed “for at least two weeks.”

Two weeks has stretched into what I can only describe as the most difficult year I've ever lived through: a pandemic with a death toll approaching half a million Americans; lockdowns that have kept most people from families, friends, and jobs; an economic collapse with a very uneven recovery (a higher than ever market alongside millions of people out of work); protests over police violence and racism; civil unrest and looting; all of which were and continue to be accompanied by an ever-deepening political divide which descended into violence, terror, and attempted insurrection.

After a long and difficult year, there finally seems to be some light at the end of the tunnel. There are now several effective vaccines, the Constitutional checks and balances that we have all taken for granted did not break, and our community at Christ Church has stayed together and supported one another. I am very hopeful that we will all be able to gather together at some point in 2021 – the sooner the better. For now, we must continue to be patient. I am hopeful that 2021 will be the year that we experience the joy in knowing, first-hand and again-and-again, that “this too shall pass”.

My annual report normally looks ahead with plans for various ministries. The specifics of this coming year are hard to plan because so much is still unclear. As you look through this annual report you will note that our numerous ministries and committees cover a broad spectrum of activity in 2020: some were hardly affected, some were able to adapt, some were far less active, and some necessarily went into hiatus. This year will see a mix of renewal, growth, and change for every ministry. That said, I suspect that our plans will mostly align with what we would normally do, led by a mix of “if it is safe” and “as soon as it is safe”.

Our 2021 Budget reflects this reality. We took core expenses that are not discretionary and projected that for 2021. In addition, we assumed increased program and activities expenses will resume sometime in the second half of 2021, and for that number we looked to a “normal” year (2019) as our reference point. Our budget – like last year – shows an operating deficit. Rental income, which was already down, has continued to fall as many of our tenants and outside groups are unable to use their space. We anticipate some of this will pick up in the second half of 2021 as our existing groups

and tenants return, but we also expect it will be a challenge bringing in new tenants. That said, pledging remains our largest and most important source of income. Our 2021 Stewardship Campaign has been very successful thus far, but there are still about 30 families that have pledged in the last year or two who have not yet made pledges for 2021. Bluntly, if the bulk of those pledges do not materialize, the second half of 2021 will force us into a position of belt-tightening at the exact same moment we would all like to come together in celebration.

The past few months have seen ongoing clergy transition. Canon Susan has been called to serve as the Interim Rector at Christ Church Bronxville, and Deacon Chisara is still settling in after arriving late last autumn. It has been one of the honors and joys of my ministry to serve with Canon Susan. I am glad that she will continue to be nearby, and I am happy that Christ Church Bronxville will have her at the helm, though I am very sad to lose her here. She and her husband Ken have become good friends, and she will be greatly missed. God speed and God bless you, Susan. We are blessed that Deacon Katie and Deacon Chisara are part of our clergy team. They each bring a deep love of Jesus Christ and many talents to Christ Church, and I am grateful to navigate this new year with them.

From a staffing perspective, we will not immediately replace Canon Susan. As the year unfolds, and as we reopen our buildings and resume our ministries, the Vestry and I will discern together how best to move forward in terms of a second priest who can celebrate the Eucharist when I am away, provide a regular second voice from the pulpit, help with pastoral care, and expand our formation and education offerings.

I want to thank the members of our Vestry and Officers, in particular our Wardens, Jeff and Carol. They have all put in more hours than anyone can imagine. Our Vestry met every Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. for four months straight. Vestry members worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that our buildings, finances, and ministries were overseen. I also want to thank the leaders of every Committee and Ministry. Some – like our Investment Committee – met more times in 2020 than in any prior year, while others – like our Fellowship Committee – were not able to offer any of their usual events but spent time working to ensure that they were ready to hit the ground running “as soon as it is safe”. I am so proud of our lay leadership for stepping up and helping in every way possible. I am also proud of our staff and the parish clergy. They have worked in what can only be described as the most stressful environment possible and managed to make it all seem normal.

It is an honor to serve the Church as your rector. I know the last year has been hard, but I am hopeful and pray that the coming year will get better. Thank you all for your love and commitment to Christ Church. Most of all, I want to recognize my wife Nicole and my boys Liam and Nicholas who have supported my call as a priest and rector. I don't know what I would have done without them in 2020. We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful parish. God bless you all, and as always, if you need anything, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Priest & Rector

CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRIES

Vestry & Parish Officers

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector
 Jeff Bodenmann (2020) Carol Ipsen, Junior Warden (2019)
 Anne Calder Treasurer (2015, 2016, 2017, 2019); Jean Gruener Clerk (2019,2020),
 Claire Allen (2020); Angela Lore Barone (2020; Curtis Chase (2020); Andy Des Rault (2020); John Fox (2020);
 Etta Gumbs (2019); Amy Heese (2020); Gavin Leckie (2016,2017-2018*); Barbara Zambelli (2020).

Area	Committee	Liaison	Chair (s)
Worship	Acolytes / Lectors / Chalicists	Fr. Matt	Walter Roberts
Worship	Altar Guild	Fr. Matt	Paige Lavengood, Jackie Kraft
Worship	Flower Guild	Fr. Matt	Patrice Fitzpatrick
Worship	Ushers	Fr. Matt	Jean Gruener, Tom Salvatore
Worship	Worship	Fr. Matt	Fr. Matt
Worship	Pageant	Fr. Matt	Fr. Matt
Worship	Choirs	Curtis Chase	Jeffrey Hoffman
Service	Adult Christian Learning	Fr. Matt	Alice Dean
Service	Children's Ministries Committee	Fr. Matt	Fr. Matt
Service	Church School	Curtis Chase	Eileen Peluso, Fr. Matt
Service	Concerts at Christ Church	Curtis Chase	Alice Dean
Service	Evangelism	Gavin Leckie	Kari Black
Service	Outreach	Gavin Leckie	Marie Dumas, Ed McGann
Service	Pastoral Care	Fr. Matt	Deacon Katie
Service	Discernment	Fr. Matt	Fr. Matt
Community	Fellowship Events	Angela Barone	Jackie Kraft, Janet Salvatore
Community	Coffee Hour	Angela Barone	Jackie Kraft, Janet Salvatore
Community	Youth Group	Fr. Matt, Curtis Chase	Fr. Matt, Curtis Chase
Community	Men's Ministry	Fr. Matt	John Fox
Community	Seniors	Barbara Zambelli	Deacon Katie, Marie Main
Community	Women's Connection	Etta Gumbs	Open Position
Foundation	Communications	Fr. Matt	Erik Ipsen, Missy Kisob
Foundation	Buildings	Amy Heese	Fr. Matt, John Fox
Foundation	Tenant and Rentals	Etta Gumbs	Marie Main
Foundation	Finance	Amy Heese	Anne Calder
Foundation	Garden of the Resurrection	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Grounds	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Investment	Gavin Leckie	Margaret Young, David Jefferies
Foundation	Personnel/Legal	Jeff Bodenmann	TBD
Foundation	Stewardship / Planned Giving	Jeff Bodenmann	Kari Black
Foundation	Tag Sale	Angela Barone	Jackie Kraft, Eileen Wolfe
Foundation	General Fundraising	Father Matt	Marie Dumas

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 rely on a structure that groups our committees into core ministries.

Worship – Committees/ministries within the worship ministry include Clergy Reports, Liturgy, Music, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Ushers, Acolytes and Lectors and Chalice Bearers.

Service & Community – The committees that organize and encourage the service that we provide to our parishioners, our community and our world. Committees within the service ministry include Children’s Ministries (Confirmation Class, Church School, Christmas Pageant, Vacation Bible School), Adult Christian Learning (including Bible Study), Outreach, Pastoral Care. The committees that strengthen the bonds between members of our parish are represented by the Fellowship committee, as well as the various other groups of our parish: Communications, Youth Group, Fellowship Committee/Events, Men’s Group, Women’s Connection, and Senior’s Group.

Foundation – These committees generally work behind the scenes to ensure that our Parish is open, safe, staffed, and able to offer programs and ministries. Foundation committees oversee 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 Buildings, Rentals & Tenants, Grounds, Investments, Stewardship, Finance & Budget, and Vestry.

Each member of the Vestry is assigned as a vestry liaison to one or more ministries 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 ministries within their area of responsibility.

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.

WORSHIP REPORT

Sunday & Weekday Worship Schedule (January 1, 2020, through March 14, 2020)

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 1
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with Choir and Hymns
Sundays at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2
Tuesdays at 10:00 a.m. – Morning Prayer
Holy Days at 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist (as announced)

Sunday & Weekday Worship Schedule (March 15, 2020, through July 21, 2020)

Sundays & Holy Days* – PreRecorded Morning Prayer with Sermon & Music on YouTube
Sundays & Weekdays (various) at 10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer / Coffee Talk on Zoom
* Including Holy Week & Easter

Sunday & Weekday Worship Schedule (July 22, 2020, through August 15, 2020)

Sundays & Holy Days – PreRecorded Morning Prayer with Sermon & Music on YouTube
Holy Days at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist (Garden of Resurrection)
Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer / Coffee Talk on Zoom

Sunday & Weekday Worship Schedule (August 16, 2020, through September 26, 2020)

Sundays & Holy Days – PreRecorded Morning Prayer with Sermon & Music on YouTube
Sundays at 9:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Holy Days at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer / Coffee Talk on Zoom

Sunday & Weekday Worship Schedule (September 27, 2020, through December 31, 2020)

Sundays & Holy Days – PreRecorded Morning Prayer with Sermon & Music on YouTube
Sundays at 8:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 1 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Sundays at 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Holy Days at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist
Sundays, Tuesdays & Thursdays at 10:30 a.m. – Morning Prayer / Coffee Talk on Zoom

Christmas Services 2020

Christmas Lessons & Carols – PreRecorded on YouTube
Christmas Pageant – PreRecorded on YouTube
Christmas Eve Worship – PreRecorded on YouTube
Christmas Eve at 3:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Christmas Eve at 5:00 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Christmas Eve at 9:30 p.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon
Christmas Day Worship – PreRecorded on YouTube
Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m. – Holy Eucharist Rite 2 with PreRecorded Music & Sermon

The Covid-19 Pandemic greatly disrupted our worship. In-person worship was suspended on March 14, and like every other house of worship in New York State, we went online.

We settled quickly on YouTube as a viable platform for our main services on Sundays and Holy Days (including Holy Week & Easter). YouTube is advantageous because it allows us to present a prepared and polished worship service each week that can be watched, shared, and rewatched at any time. Every element is recorded in advance. All readings, sermons, and prayers are recorded, edited, and mixed by me. All music selections are recorded, mixed, and edited by Jeffrey Hoffman. I render the final video for each service. On average I spend about 20 hours per service, recording, editing, mixing, and uploading. On average Jeffrey Hoffman spends 20 hours per hymn/anthem. We are able to reuse hymns, anthems, and some prayers.

The YouTube services are similar to the first half of the Holy Eucharist:

Welcome, Opening Prayers & Collect of the Day

Hymn/Anthem

Readings read by members of the Congregation (Old Testament, Psalm, New Testament)

Gospel read by the Deacon

Sermon

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Hymn/Anthem

Concluding Prayers, Blessing & Dismissal

Hymn/Anthem

Parallel to our YouTube worship services we also used Zoom for Coffee Talk & Morning Prayer. At the outset of the pandemic, we met every day on Zoom, and a very large group (often over 20 families) met on Sundays for “Coffee Talk”. By the end of the year, we had trimmed that schedule down to three times each week, and those meetings tended to be attended by fewer than half a dozen people.

Services remained exclusively online until July. Beginning on the Feast of Saint Mary Magdalene on July 22, we resumed in-person celebrations of the Holy Eucharist on Holy Days, outside, socially distanced, wearing masks, in the Garden of Resurrection. On August 16, after preparing detailed guidelines and reconfiguring the church for in-person worship we resumed Sunday Holy Eucharist at 9:00 a.m. – on September 27 we resumed our normal 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. schedule.

Once we opened for indoor worship, in-person worship attendance was restricted to about 40 people at any given service to ensure social distant guidelines of six feet at all times. Masks were required throughout the service for all in attendance, including the clergy. Singing was not allowed. Indoor Eucharists were “Hybrid” services – readings, sermons, and sung music were pre-recorded and shown on large televisions purchased for the Organ Dedication and a good sound system loaned to the parish by Jeffrey Hoffman. Though Readings and Sermons were technically possible to offer “in-person” they were problematic due to masks limiting volume and facial affect and the unpredictability of whether an assigned preacher or reader might have to quarantine after a positive test or exposure

to the virus. Canon Susan and Deacon Katie stopped attending in-person worship in November to limit their exposure; a side-benefit of this was a regular clergy presence at Coffee Talk each Sunday.

In-person Hybrid Holy Eucharist flows as follows:

- PreRecorded Hymn/Anthem during the Procession (same as YouTube service)
- Opening Prayers & Collect of the Day
- PreRecorded Readings of Scripture (same as YouTube service)
- Gospel read by the Deacon
- PreRecorded Sermon (same as YouTube service)
- Nicene Creed
- Prayers of the People
- Confession of Sin
- Peace
- Announcements
- PreRecorded Hymn/Anthem during the Offertory (same as YouTube service)
- Eucharistic Prayer
- PreRecorded Hymn/Anthem during Holy Communion (same as YouTube service)
- Post Communion Prayer, Blessing & Dismissal
- Organ Voluntary

Wine has not been offered to the people during Holy Communion since March 1, 2020. Self-Intinction (dipping your own communion wafer into the wine) is likely to be eliminated permanently, and it is unclear when and how the chalice will again be offered to the laity.

The other Sacraments and Sacramental Rites were also affected by the pandemic. Baptisms and Marriages resumed in October – we had two Baptisms and one Marriage. Confirmations did not happen in 2020, and the Confirmation Class from 2020 is still awaiting a visit from the Bishop. Burials did not stop but were limited to immediate family until August. Three parishioners died from Covid-19 – I buried two – and numerous parishioners knew people who died from the virus. Anointing with Holy Oil for Healing has not resumed. Hospital visits have been nearly impossible for anyone except immediate family – and even that is sometimes prohibited. We know already that the imposition of ashes will not be permitted on Ash Wednesday in 2021.

Attendance numbers are not provided as they are not a useful metric due to the wide variety of types and platforms that we are offering worship. Our parishioners are worshipping in different ways, at different times, or perhaps on their own, and it is not possible to track that. That said, the clergy, staff, and I have spoken to, seen, emailed, or attempted to contact every parishioner, and we are pretty sure that everyone is still “checked in” in some way. If you have been left out of the loop or not checked on, please know we have been trying, and please reach out to me or the parish office.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead

CANON SUSAN'S REPORT

While we did manage a few yoga for prayer sessions in the Library in February and March, that was quickly shut down by the pandemic; attempts at an online class using Zoom were technically challenged, though we tried. I have continued to preach, however, one or more times a month, and with Fr. Matt's support have been able to officiate, mostly online, for the duration of the year. A group conversation in the fall about Ibram Kendi's book, *How to Be an Anti-racist*, gave me the chance to hear from parishioners about their anti-racism efforts, and to engage with the Diocese in its Webinar with the author. Sunday Coffee Talk has been a lifeline for me, and I am grateful to those of you who have joined us! Sadly, I will not be joining you after January 24 as my new responsibilities at Christ Church in Bronxville begin the following Sunday. Thank you all for your loving support this year, especially as I celebrated forty years in the priesthood; we will meet again.

Respectfully submitted,
Canon Susan Harriss

DEACON KATIE'S REPORT

“God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change.”

This is the first sentence of the serenity prayer said in AA meetings. Acceptance of this pandemic and this year has been such a challenge for all of us, young and old. My pastoral visits are by phone. It's just not the same and it's so difficult to be unable to see people, especially those who are in or have been in the hospital.

The next sentence of the serenity prayer is “...courage to change the things I can,” is a time for me (for us) to call on Jesus each and every day (sometimes most of the day) and ask Him to keep us safe and healthy. We just can't change the fact that the pandemic is here.

The last sentence of the prayer said is “...and the wisdom to know the difference.” So rather than fight the fact that we have to stay home, not eat out, have friends over, go visit, travel to see family, and all the things we normally do, I ask for the wisdom to do what is right for now, for today.

God bless you all.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deacon Katie Lawrence

DEACON CHISARA'S REPORT

I served for three years in Christ Church Bronxville, New York, after my ordination as a Deacon in 2017. My ministry while in CCB as it is fondly called, focused on three main areas: pastoral care, prison ministry, and food pantry program. These ministries were critical to furthering my desire to serve the Lord.

The Pastoral Care Ministry enabled me to spend time together with congregants who were sick and were either hospitalized or at home. Pastoral care, just like everything else in our lives has changed in form because of the Covid-19 pandemic which has made in-person services untenable. Now I rely on phone calls to meet the needs of fellow parishioners in this regard.

My Prison Ministry involved working with Hudson-Link to maintain Godly communication with prison inmates who currently pursue academic work to improve their lives and to better contribute to their communities upon their release from prison. We write them periodically to encourage them to remember that they are important part of their community and that people in their community care about them and wish them well. I coordinated a program of correspondence between interested fellow parishioners and the prison inmates. Letters were handwritten to the inmates by fellow parishioners encouraging them to keep up the good work with their studies.

The Food Pantry Ministry consisted of collecting and delivering food to designated parishes that run food pantry. This Ministry assumed greater importance during the COVID pandemic in response to the dramatic increase in the number of people who need food to support themselves and their families. We are aware that many people lost their jobs and people who were previously comfortable and self-sufficient suddenly found themselves queuing up for food. I helped to coordinate this Ministry.

There are many ways we can serve the Lord. The Ministries that I have discussed above represent excellent ways to reach out to the needy to demonstrate God's Love. I would like to continue to work to promote these Ministries here at Christ Church to further the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. So, I count on your support to help us grow as community of believers in God in these ministries.

Respectively Submitted,
Deacon Chisara Alimole

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER'S REPORT

The hymn, *All my hope on God is founded*, set to an extraordinarily effective tune by the English composer Herbert Howells (1892-1983) while he was at breakfast one morning, is one of my favorite hymns (Hymn 665), and has been a lodestar for me over the course of what has been, in retrospect, an unexpectedly and sometimes overwhelmingly tumultuous year.

Me through change and chance he guideth, only good and only true.

It's hard to believe it was only a year ago we were making the final preparations for an extraordinary weekend – February 14-16 – to celebrate and dedicate the new Jack Hennigan Memorial Pipe Organ made by Juguet-Sinclair Facteurs d'Orgues of Montreal following our first Advent and Christmas season with this lovely new instrument, the gift of Martin Nash.

Tom Bricker was designing a gorgeous color booklet about the history of Christ Church and its organs, resplendent with photos from the new installation, Cherrie Greenhalgh was planning a wonderful Valentine's Day banquet with Margaret Young, the famous organist Daniel Roth of St. Sulpice Church in Paris was planning his unparalleled dedicatory recital, the organ builders were preparing to put the finishing touches and a final tuning to their instrument, the organ committee had purchased a new closed-circuit television system to enhance the experience of organ performances both for the weekend and for organ recitals yet to come, and all of us in the music ministry – our four staff singers and our volunteer choristers – were preparing to sing a joyful anthem by Felix Mendelssohn-Bartholdy on Sunday morning. It was a marvelous weekend of fun, fellowship and great music-making, indeed... which turned out to be the last big in-person event of the entire year 2020 at Christ Church, despite much else we had planned; because one month later we had to close the church due to the threat of COVID-19 in our community.

Though with care and toil we build them, tower and temple fall to dust.

On March 15, 2020, the church was closed to the public. After streaming a live spoken service on Facebook that morning, our four staff singers and I spent several hours making socially distanced (by six feet, which we understood to be the correct safe spacing at that time) recordings of anthems and hymns for Lent that we had been rehearsing in the preceding weeks, still hopeful we might be able to continue working in that vein, but mindful that we might not. As it happened, we were unable to reconvene our choir in person at all until the fall.

Our ongoing concert series, with two remaining concerts on the calendar, had to be postponed indefinitely. We won't be able to resume hosting live concerts until we can safely resume in-person events at full capacity, though I am currently exploring the possibility of offering a streamed concert while we await a full capacity re-opening of the church.

Our choral and music for liturgy programs suddenly had to shift course to a very different model of pre-recorded (and partially remotely recorded) music available for viewing on YouTube and Facebook. No one anticipated back then that this would continue for the rest of the year and into 2021, but as time went on, it became abundantly clear that we were going to be employing this new model for quite a while to come; and I had to learn some new skills pronto!

Splendour, light, and life attend him, beauty springeth out of naught.

We began at first by recording familiar, seasonal hymns. First, I would make an audio and video recording of the organ accompaniment to each hymn. I would then distribute this recording to each of our four professional staff singers and they would record themselves singing along to that recording using their smart phones or other devices. I would then download their recordings, edit the audio files together to get a good mix between the voices and the organ, then compile the individual video

recordings and synchronize them with the edited audio files and create a multi-channel video. Lastly, I would compile a series of graphic files edited from scans from our hymnal and overlay them line-by-line to synchronize with the singing on the video so people could sing along at home. This is a very tedious process that, over time, I've managed to whittle down to an average of about 20 hours of recording and editing per video.

I also made a few recordings of organ repertoire to upload to our YouTube and Facebook channels. Our goal in all of this was to showcase our beautiful church and grounds for our entire worshipping community in a virtual experience that would be as close to being in the space as we could get while the church was closed to the public and even beyond, since we knew that our services would still be limited to pre-recorded music after we re-opened. Our virtual Easter celebration was the first big test of this new way of working.

His desire our soul delighteth, pleasure leads us where we go.

As the spring progressed and my audio and video editing skill levels grew a bit, we gradually began adding recordings by our volunteer parish choir members and our children's choir to the lineup. Each additional recording had to be incorporated separately, so this required additional editing time, but eventually, we were able to produce some virtual choir performances beginning with Harold Friedell's beautiful anthem "Draw us in the Spirit's tether" for the season after Pentecost and culminating in a giant virtual choir project on the hymn "Amazing Grace" that I completed after the church had reopened to limited capacity, utilizing a mixture of remote recordings and individual in-person recordings over the summer months. I was grateful so many of our parishioners who aren't normally in choir and some of our clergy (Fr. Matthew Mead and Canon Susan Harriss) were willing and able to join in on this project, which the Rev'd Patricia Phaneuf Alexander posted to her Facebook page with the following note on September 28 "Thank you, Jeffrey Hoffman and Christ Church friends. This is exactly what my soul needed this evening. You made me cry (in a good way)!" This quote highlights, I think, an important and initially unanticipated benefit of our COVID video productions: the ability for our parish alumni and friends around the world to participate in our virtual services and to experience a new means of connection to this parish.

High above all praises praising, for the gift of Christ his Son.

By the middle of summer, we had re-opened the church to small, limited capacity attendance, and it became possible to call people in for individual and small group recording sessions. Thanks to the organ committee's closed-circuit television purchase, we were able to incorporate our music videos and online worship format into our in-person worship services in the church.

Following state and diocesan COVID-19 safety guidelines, we also worked out a protocol for time-limited, masked, highly ventilated, extremely socially distanced (by twelve feet or greater) choir rehearsals and recording sessions, which enabled an eventual return to a "nearly-live" recording format for some of our Christmas music videos.

The addition of a powerful new video and audio editing computer plus additional 4K cameras in September, the purchase of new, high quality recording microphones by Concerts at Christ Church, the organ committee, and through a gift from Emily Kane, as well as the loan of microphones and

audio monitors (speakers) from the personal collection of senior warden and choir member Jeff Bodenmann have enabled me to increase the quality of the audio recordings we are producing and have enhanced the audio-visual experience in the church for those who attend in-person worship.

We're still mostly recording the organ parts separately due to the tight spaces in the chancel and the departure of one of our professional choristers which I have needed to fill in for, but our professional quartet can now record together, widely spaced, in the chancel, and our volunteer choir can now record together while spaced widely throughout the nave of the church.

All in all, we posted 70 titles to our Choral Music and Hymns playlist on YouTube in 2020, including 28 titles for Advent and Christmas – an extraordinary 3-month project for all those involved – a children's Christmas pageant, and 18 solo organ selections to our Organ Music at Christ Church playlist. I believe these titles, which have also been incorporated within our online services playlist on YouTube and Facebook, have been a lifeline to many in our parish community and to our extended community of alumni and friends of this ministry throughout this difficult year.

I'm grateful for the hard work and scheduling flexibility by our professional choristers Laurelyn Watson Chase, Jann Degnan, Michael Imbimbo, and Simon Cram throughout the year, and our guest artists Tonna Miller Valles and Douglas Purcell, who joined us in the autumn to assist in our choral offerings for Advent and Christmas. As well, I am grateful for the yeoman's service of several of our volunteer parish choir members, Jeff Bodenmann, Dennis Doran, Michael Fawcett, Linda Gerra, Cherrie Greenhalgh, John and Margo Hastings, Emily Kane, Barbara Nelson, and Jim and Margaret Young for their participation in our virtual and in-person choir recording sessions throughout the year, and to Sofia Ironside, Ariana Mable, Madison Mable, Liam Mead, Nicholas Mead, and Kamryn Randall for participating in our virtual children's choir projects. I'm also grateful for the many parishioners who have reached out with kind notes and cards of encouragement throughout the year. This has been a mammoth undertaking, and it means so much to me to know that it has been meaningful to so many of you.

If you would like to become more involved in the music ministry at Christ Church in 2021, please let me know by email at jeffrey@christchurchpelham.org or by phoning the parish music office at 914-738-5515, ext. 102.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Hoffman
Organist & Director of Music

VERGER'S REPORT

Due to the Covid-19 situation of the past 10 months, the following ministries have been restricted or put-on hold ...

The Acolyte Guild

During this pandemic crisis, the Acolyte Guild at Christ Church is still active operating on a less active basis. We do still have Acolytes for the Hybrid services. Those who feel comfortable, do participate. And of course, I fill in anytime there are none available. A big “Thank you” to our acolytes who do participate in our services especially in this situation. We still count on them to make the services flow, and our worship is still enhanced by their presence.

Lectors

Lectors are lay members of the Parish who regularly read the lessons and the Psalms. Fr. Matt has temporarily taken over Videotaping them for our online and hybrid services. At this point we have double number of Lectors, which I hope stays the same when we go back to normal live Eucharists.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers

As we are not administering wine in the Eucharist at this point, the Lay Eucharistic Ministers (chalice bearers) are and will be totally on hold, till we get back to a normal situation.

It is my pleasure to work with the Acolytes, Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers ...

Serving Our Lord Together,
Walter Roberts, Verge

ALTAR GUILD REPORT

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.

With the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic in early March 2020 and subsequent cancellation of in-person worship, the members of the Altar Guild suspended their work in preparing the sanctuary for all Sunday, midweek and special services. When in-person worship was once again possible the Altar Guild resumed their activities on a limited basis. The Altar Guild continues to provide wine, wafers and candles for use during worship services. Linens, vessels, vestments, and church hangings are cared for by the Altar Guild and replaced as needed.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Kraft and Paige Lavengood

USHERS' REPORT

Christ Church ushers, traditionally responsible for welcoming and seating parishioners, taking up the collection and guiding the congregation to the altar for communion, took on a new role in this extraordinary year of 2020.

Due to the COVID pandemic, Christ Church and all other area churches were closed for in-person worship from mid-March to early July. When services resumed on Sunday July 5th, parishioners who had signed up to attend the 9:00 a.m. Eucharist service were greeted at the door by two members of the Vestry who checked that everyone entering the church was wearing a mask, invited parishioners to use the hand sanitizer provided and asked questions about symptoms and possible exposure to others who were ill. Later, temperature scanning with a hand-held thermometer and questions about recent out-of-state travel were added to the screening procedures. Worshipers were then shown to the seats in the open pews and advised to sit at a distance from all who were not members of their own household. The hosts kept a list of all those attending for potential contact tracing purposes and ensured that there were never more than 40 persons in the church at any time during the service.

In September, the number of Sunday services was increased to two and a roster of ushers joined the Vestry members in this essential task. As many of those who previously had served as ushers were unable to return to in-person worship due to health and vulnerability concerns, the roster was greatly reduced. In addition to the Senior Usher, Tom Salvatore, and the Co-Chair Jean Gruener, several members of the Vestry and eight additional individuals served in a host/usher capacity for the balance of 2020's worship, which included two Eucharist services each Sunday morning and a full schedule of services during the Christmas season.

The hosts and ushers have helped our church to welcome parishioners and visitors to an environment that follows state and local guidelines for public worship. Together with the clergy, vestry and staff of Christ Church, their faithful service has allowed the church to remain open and to provide a beacon of stability, faith and hope in these troubled times. The Senior Usher and Co-Chair thank all those who have served in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gruener, Co-Chair

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. We are currently requesting \$100 as a donation for the flowers on the Main Altar and \$50 for the Bolton Altar for the specific remembrance/celebration requests. These donations will be noted in the weekly e-blast and

are included in the Sunday Service Bulletins and are in addition to collections made during Christmas and Easter. The donations help to make the Flower Guild a self-sustaining ministry, and we thank everyone who has made donations throughout the year.

The guild currently has 13 members, listed below. This year we scaled back the flowers in the church due to the pandemic and the limited number of people allowed in the church. Flowers were mostly cuttings from gardens so the budget was minimal this year. No flowers for Easter in 2020 but a glorious display for Christmas. In 2020, we said goodbye to our long-standing member, Mildred Johnson. We will have a celebration of flowers in Mildred's honor when the church resumes its normal in person service. We hope to increase our membership and prospective new members are encouraged to contact Patrice Fitzpatrick. We invite any parishioners interested in this ministry to join us.

Members of the Flower Guild:

Angela Lore-Barone, Allison Bodenmann, Alice Dean, Marge DeLillo, Marie Dumas, Patrice Fitzpatrick - Chair, Etta Gumbs, Emily Kane, Katherine Kenworthy, Colette Phipps, Janet Salvatore, and Cherie Sigward.

ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING & BIBLE STUDY

Due to Covid-19, very few Adult Christian Learning events were offered in 2020. We are hopeful that we can resume events in the second half of 2021. Due to Covid-19, our Thursday Bible Study (which is based on an in-person, fellowship model) went on hiatus in March of 2020. We are hopeful that we can resume in the second half of 2021.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It was not possible to have an in-person, indoor Pageant, and our experience getting rained out (see Church School) dissuaded us from trying to organize an outdoor Pageant. The Pageant debuted on December 20 on YouTube, and was recorded, edited, and mixed throughout November and December. Jeffrey Hoffman worked with the children to record and mix two carols, and he also did much of the video recording and syncing of audio. Father Matt wrote the script, scheduled the children, helped to record, and edited and published the Pageant video. Walter Roberts assisted with setup. We were blessed to have on hand our supply of stunning sets and beautiful costumes, the majority of which were made by Michael Fawcett. Thanks to all of our families and children who were able to come to record! You can watch it online – please do, if you haven't already.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead & Jeffrey Hoffman

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 youth confirmands tend to be in 8th or 9th grade, but we welcome all youth through high school. Confirmation preparation for adults is also required and is handled separately by the rector.

Our 2019-2020 was led by Father Matt and Deacon Katie. We had seven youth confirmands. Our 2020-2021 is led by Father Matt and Deacon Katie and we meet exclusively on Zoom, every Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. We once again have seven youth confirmands – all boys! The 2019-2020 class has not yet been confirmed and we do not yet have a date for either last year’s class or this year’s class to be Confirmed, but our Bishops plan to resume visitations and confirmation this year after they have received the vaccine.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

A big part of fellowship is a good conversation over a cup of coffee or tea after worship. We thank everyone for hosting a Sunday morning “Coffee Hour”. Hopefully, we can work our way back to coffee hours soon.

Along with overseeing both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Coffee Hours, our main event before Covid hit was our annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, with our Rector leading us in a few rounds of “Balderdash,” it was a fun night and a good time was had by all!

As soon as we can, our Committee is ready to coordinate dinners, receptions, and a picnic. We truly miss everyone and look forward to the very first event we can share together, until then, wear your mask and stay safe.

Events we missed this year . . . Candlemas Dinner - Maundy Thursday Dinner - Easter Eve Reception - Ascension Day Steak Dinner - Our Parish Picnic - Saladfest - Stew/Soup Night, Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, The Greening of the Church at Christmas time - Reception after The Christmas Pageant - Christmas Day Brunch.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Kraft and Janet Salvatore, Co-Chairs

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets in the parish hall the first Wednesday of the month to make sandwiches for Trinity Saint Paul's and again via Zoom for a virtual "happy hour" in the third week of each month. It is our hope to resume regular outings to Rockwells (or another local restaurant) after sandwich-making at some point, hopefully later this year when pandemic concerns subside. We also hope to revisit a rather ambitious activities calendar that had been put on pause last March. In previous years, the Men's Group has also sponsored an annual Jazz concert in September.

Respectfully submitted,
Andy Des Rault

OUTREACH

"Truly I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me." – Matthew 25:40.

As a result of the pandemic, the Outreach Committee's primary focus was to provide financial and hands-on support to local feeding programs. The Outreach Committee wishes to thank all our parishioners who so generously participated in one form or another in the 2020 Outreach efforts detailed below.

Summary of 2020 Parishioner Engagement Activities

- Brown Bag Lunch Program - In 2020, Christ Church completed its fourth full year of support for the Brown Bag Lunch Program at Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Rochelle. The once-a-month commitment, on the first Thursday of each month, included buying supplies and gathering a group of parishioners to prepare sandwiches, pack bags and deliver lunches to 60 people in New Rochelle. At the request of Trinity St. Paul's, Christ Church suspended lunch deliveries in May when the Boys Scouts began to supply Trinity St. Paul's with brown bag lunches on a daily basis. However, for six weeks, this summer the Outreach Committee provided approximately 50 loaves of bread (parishioner donations were supplemented with store purchases) each week to Trinity St. Paul's when traditional bread sources were not available to them. Christ Church resumed providing lunches in October. Our special thanks to the Men's Group for their monthly assistance in making the sandwiches especially during these challenging times.
- Cereal Drive - In conjunction with the Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper parishioners donated 25 bags of groceries which were delivered to WestCOP food pantry in Mount Vernon.
- Winter Clothing Drive for Hearts to Homes for Refugees (HHR) - In September, parishioners were asked to donate winter coats/boots and clothing gift cards to HHR which would be given to recently resettled refugee families in Westchester county.
- Commercial Refrigerator Donation to HOPE Community Services -- In September, Christ Church provided a grant of \$3960 to HOPE Community Services in New Rochelle to purchase an additional commercial refrigerator necessitated by the unprecedented increase in

demand for their feeding programs. These funds were raised several years ago and were specifically earmarked for this type of durable assistance to local feeding programs.

- Thanksgiving-in-a-Box - Christ Church families once again participated in the annual Thanksgiving dinner drive with other houses of worship in Pelham. As a result, a record-breaking number of 1055 dinners were delivered to needy families in Westchester county. More than 60 dinner boxes were donated by Christ Church parishioners. Special thanks to Beth Conway, who has faithfully coordinated this effort for Christ Church for many years.
- Giving Tree – During Advent parishioners donated more than 60 boxes of cereal were donated to HOPE Community Services’ feeding program in New Rochelle. Parishioners also participated virtually in HOPE’s Christmas Toy Drive through its Amazon Christmas Wish List portal.

Summary of 2020 Outreach Grants

In addition to the parishioner engagement activities noted above, the Vestry approved the Outreach Committee’s recommendation to provide \$6500 in financial support to the following organizations:

- \$1500 to Community Service Associates in Mount Vernon which serves a full nutritious dinner four nights a week to anyone in need. Dinner guests are also provided with a take home lunch for the next day.
- \$1500 to HOPE Community Services which runs a food pantry and a soup kitchen in New Rochelle in addition to providing social services support to those in need.
- \$1500 to NourishALL in New Rochelle which provides food gift cards to the needy from 35 local restaurants during the pandemic.
- \$1000 to Agatha House Foundation which operates a fixed and mobile food pantry in the Bronx and Mount Vernon.
- \$500 to the WestCOP Food Pantry in Mount Vernon. WestCOP (Westchester Community Opportunity Program) provides support to low-income individuals and families throughout Westchester.
- \$500 to the New Rochelle OASIS Shelter which offers three meals a day to homeless individuals during the pandemic.

We believe that helping those in need is a fundamental tenet of our Christian faith and our Episcopal heritage. The Committee wishes to once again thank parishioners for their in-kind donations and their cash contributions. Your generosity makes our community a kinder and better place for all who live here.

The Outreach Committee welcomes suggestions and new ideas from all parishioners. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Outreach Committee or if you would like to volunteer to participate in one of Christ Church’s Outreach activities, please let us know.

Respectfully submitted,

Marie Dumas (Co-chair), Patrice Fitzpatrick, Etta Gumbs (Vestry Liaison), Melo Jones, Jackie Kraft and Ed McGann (Co-chair)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Covid-19 disrupted all children's ministries in 2020. We initially had Zoom Sunday School, but attendance was poor, so we stopped after a month. We planned six outdoor events in the second half of the year. More than half of our planned outdoor events were rained out and never came to fruition, but the ones we had were fun. In particular our Halloween Party and Scavenger Hunt was a rousing success! Beginning in November all focus was on the Christmas Pageant. We are planning a few outdoor events in 2021 once the weather warms (possibly an Easter Egg Hunt), and we hope to resume in-person Sunday School in the autumn.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead and Mrs. Eileen Peluso

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Due to Covid-19, the third year of Vacation Bible School was canceled. We are hopeful that we can have this wonderful Summer program for the youth of Christ Church in August of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Caroll

YOUTH GROUP

Due to Covid-19, the only Youth Group event in 2020 was serving and making bagged lunches at Trinity on President's Day. We are hopeful that we can resume in the second half of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

During the first week in March an email was sent to the women of the parish seeking their ideas on what they would like to see done by the Women's Connection. We had a wonderful response with a variety of excellent recommendations for speakers, day trips, at home potlucks, morning coffees as well as cultural events. Unfortunately, the pandemic shut down our plans for 2020. We hope that at some point in 2021 we can gather in person for one or more of these activities!

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Zambelli

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In a year dominated by COVID-19 lockdowns, social distancing, face masks, and a shift by many parishioners to online everything – from worship and morning prayer to Sunday Coffee hour and even the Christmas Pageant – the Committee found a whole new constellation of stories to explore. In 2020 we did that in two issues of *Soundings*, our occasional church news magazine.

In June, our 40-page issue began with a What's on Matt's Mind column on "A New World of Virtual Worship". In it, Father Matt talked about efforts to re-open the church safely in the summer, even as he and music director Jeffrey Hoffman geared up digital versions of complete services that parishioners could access anywhere and at any time. Meanwhile, he noted plenty of other things going on in the world, developments that had led him in recent months to sermonize on issues ranging from racism and street protests, to mass unemployment.

In that same issue Canon Susan Harriss wrote about finding God in "the Stillness", even as she meditates in her apartment, listening to the sound of her super, Will, out in hallway with a bucket of bleach and water, sanitizing the elevator buttons and stair rails. Similarly, Deacon Katie wrote about discovering in lockdown "what's truly important and what's truly not!"

We also had parishioners sharing their "Lockdown diaries". Colette Phipps, a self-professed work fanatic revealed that once she got everything set up and began working remotely, "I started to appreciate some of the things I have at home." Among them she listed the ability to peer out the windows and enjoy "the beauty of the day." She also credited online church services, which she finds in some ways "more personal", with increasing her faith. Meanwhile, thrown suddenly into a daunting new world of teaching 4th grade from home, John Hastings told us that he and his colleagues experienced "the joy that flows from solving new problems—lots of them each day". He concluded by predicting that "we will be better teachers for this experience."

And last month in our 24-page 12th issue we saluted Deacon Chisara Alimole's return to Christ Church as the newest member of our clergy, and heard from the father of Chazz Des Rault, the son of Andrew and Christine Des Rault, the only one baptized outside in the garden last summer at Christ Church. What's more Marie Main clued us in on what it's like to administer our church amid a pandemic, and Jackie Kraft and Eileen Wolfe detailed the Tag Sale's new part-time home in the Undercroft.

We concluded the issue with Hildy Munch's thoughts on Christmas 2020, as well as some of the other 102 she has celebrated. We wrapped things up with four wistful watercolors painted by her late husband Frank.

We thank our committee members for their hard work and steadfast good humor in giving us such a rich variety of perspectives on a year that brought hardship as well as renewed faith to so many. We are especially grateful to *Soundings* editor Missy Kisob, who had her own experience of the joys as

well as the frustrations of working remotely, putting Soundings together from her remote command center in Poughkeepsie. We also salute committee members Etta Gumbs, Erik Ipsen, and Barbara Nelson for their hard work. Kudos as well to our advisors, Father Matt, Jeff Bodenmann and Kari Black, and to Marie Main, for all their help. Special thanks to Lilly Solmssen our well-focused photographer who decamped to her new home in Maryland in the summer.

Thanks too to parishioner/readers for their suggestions on what and whom we should (or should not) write about, for encouragement, (invariably) constructive criticism, and a vast array of winning smiles in so many photographs snapped by Lily Solmssen, our wonderful photographer. Please contact Missy at kisob@msn.com or Erik at erikipsen@me.com if you would like to suggest a story, share a recipe or poem or picture... or to join our merry team.

Now more than ever, our goal is to share the news of all that our parish does, to acknowledge those who make it possible, to gladden the hearts of our fellow parishioners, and inspire others to do more for our church and our broader community in God's name.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Ipsen and Missy Kisob

BUILDINGS MINISTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

With input from Parish Property Management and other knowledgeable professionals, the buildings ministry coordinates the regular upkeep and maintenance of all Christ Church buildings and infrastructure and recommends to the Rector and Vestry short and long-term plans for capital improvements that will enhance the use and preserve the historic character and architectural elements of the buildings.

Like many of our personal lives, 2020 has turned out to be a year in which we had to postpone projects as well as adapt to changing circumstances. When things closed down for the parish in March, we tabled all major capital projects and decided to perform only required maintenance and projects that our Sextons, Ed Blue and Walter Roberts could undertake. We of course also performed needed emergency repairs.

Below is a summary of the projects Walter and Ed completed:

- stripping and refinishing the floor and hold Hall refinishing floors in the undercroft and Rank building lobby;
- refinishing floors and general painting in the apartment located in the old Parish Hall;
- glue down of most of the parquet floors in the altar area of the church;
- purchasing of a power washer and power washing the Garden of Resurrection area.

We do want to highlight two other areas particularly because of the input from Parish members. Both sets of lights that illuminate the Pelhamdale parking lot recently failed. With the assistance of

parishioner Chris Ganpat, we engaged a local electrical firm to both replace the burnt-out bulbs with newer LED bulbs and install new sensors. This was not a minor project given the need to have a bucket truck.

Our new worship circumstances forced us to add WiFi to the sanctuary. With the assistance of parishioner Russ Avolio, we engaged a wiring firm to run computer cabling from Hoag Hall to the music room. This was done at no cost to the church.

Going Forward. In 2021 we plan to resume the capital projects that we had anticipated completing in 2020. These include replacement of several of the windows in the rear of the church. This is a substantial undertaking and will include repointing of the brickwork and masonry surrounding the windows, as well as some repairs in the Sacristy and the Vestry rooms. We are also investigating providing additional lighting of the rear of the Church at the same time. Assuming things get back to somewhere near normal by the Fall we also intend to continue the planning for and design of the handicapped entrance into Hoag Hall. We had previously engaged in architect to develop ideas on how to accomplish this most effectively and economically. His initial plans have been prepared but pricing and permitting have not been completed. Another planned project is the refurbishment and renewal of the sign facing Pelhamdale Avenue. Less major but equally important we also plan on painting the remaining window frames on the front of the church as well as the painting required on the rectory.

Of note we ceased using PPM to advise us during 2020 but plan to renew this relationship later this year as well as have them act as project manager on the windows and handicap entrance projects.

We have a great committee. We will again meet when the things return to normal and plan to have four regularly scheduled meetings throughout the year. If you would like to be a part of the team, please feel free to reach out to any one of us. We would love to have you join us!

Respectfully submitted,
John Fox and Father Matt

Members of the 2019 Buildings Committee: Russell Avolio, Amy Heese, Erik Ipsen, Jack Kraft, and Marie Main

TENANT AND RENTAL REPORT

The pandemic has changed so much for Christ Church AND for our renters. In March, the AA Groups (3 of them), Gym Dandy, and the Pelham Promenaders, were told that going forward, we are closing our doors and would reopen when the world deems it to be safe.

As Thrive and the PCRA had both moved to Wolfs Lane prior to the pandemic, we were working to fill both these spaces with the Episcopal Service Corps fellows; unfortunately, this possibility is currently not available as the program is being reduced by the diocese.

In November 2020, we reopened our parish hall to one AA Group (the Shore Road Group). They have adhered to the NYS Guidelines and have been very appreciative of the space and the ability to meet in person. They also have brought in their own large screen TV and are able to Zoom with members who are not able to come for in-person meetings.

The Undercroft which used to house all the AA meetings and also Gym Dandy, has been temporarily taken over by our “Old and New Tag Sale,” run by Jackie Kraft and Eileen Wolfe. Because of these two dedicated ladies, we are making excellent use of that space. We anticipate that the Undercroft will revert to its normal AA and other groups use by the summer of 2021.

In September 2020, the Montessori School opened their doors. They have their own entrances/exits and are making good use of their playground – trying, with appropriate weather, to have outdoor activities as much as possible. They have also shortened their hours and now dismissal is at 1:00 p.m. instead of 3 p.m. Montessori has their own cleaning procedures, along with meeting all NY State Guidelines.

All other hall rentals are on hold. The building is quiet, but more importantly safe!

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Main, Parish Administrator

GROUNDS

The Grounds of the church and the Garden of Resurrection are in good order. Frank Moretti continues to take care of the routine maintenance of both areas. He remains conscientious about the health and appearance of our campus. Moreover, he undertakes other tasks that we may require promptly and, in a cost-effective manner. He is reliable and always available when we need him.

Our tree care is handled by Dan Dalton at Almstead Tree Co. He tours our grounds annually and checks them should there be storm damage. As a result, with his help and advice our on-going pruning and removal of unhealthy trees efforts, we have had no damage to our buildings or hardscape. We have this work done in the winter in order to take advantage of their lower winter rates.

In the past few years the invasive vines such as porcelain berry and kudzu have noticeably expanded their territory. We will start a project soon to begin to remove these insidious invaders. It is important that we do this regularly.

We continue our annual program of poison ivy removal around the children's playground and other areas where people congregate.

My thanks go to Ed Blue and Walter for their help throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Alice K Dean, Chairperson

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

2020 Investment Committee Activity

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment of the endowment, which was \$3.8 million at 12/31/20. Members of the committee are: David Jeffries and Margaret Young (co-chairs), Brandon Bethea, Ed Cragin, Ed McGann, Michael Micciche, Melissa Roddy, and Kevin Widmaier. We would welcome additional members who have a background in finance.

As reported previously, Granite Group Advisors, in Wilton CT, assumed all day-to-day responsibility for managing the assets of the endowment in January 2015. We have now been with Granite for six years. 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. For their service, we pay Granite Group a fee of 50 basis points annually, or .5%; in addition, there are reporting fees and fees paid to outside managers. Total fees paid are approximately 53 basis points, or \$21,790 for 2020. The Investment Committee's role is to recommend asset allocation targets to the Vestry, monitor and communicate market risks, oversee Granite Group's performance as outside manager, and ensure that the endowment continues to be managed according to the asset allocation limits approved by the Vestry.

The stock market fluctuated wildly in 2020 in response to the COVID pandemic, and the committee met 17 times in the 2020 calendar year; in April and May we met weekly. In mid-March, the endowment had lost 16% of its value year-to-date, down from \$3.5 million at 12/31/19 to \$2.9 million. Since then, the markets have been on a steady march upward, in response to government stimuli and optimism around the vaccine, and the endowment value stands now at its highest point ever, at slightly over \$3.8 million. This recovery, from \$2.9 million to \$3.8 million, or 32%, was in line with the general market performance - which struck most of us as surprisingly strong. This reflects both the positive investment performance and that church withdrawals have been lower than originally budgeted.

We began the year with a significant cash position, being in between investments. We reinvested part of that cash into equities during the year, following a plan approved by the vestry. Still, our goal was to maintain cash balances (including short-term bonds) larger than usual in order to meet any unexpected withdrawal needs by the church. Since the church was able to secure a PPP loan and trim

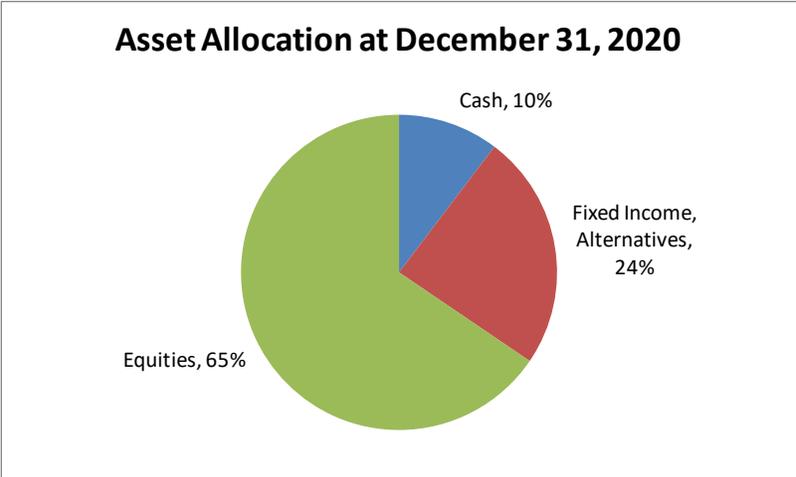
some expenses, the church needed less cash than expected, and in fact the endowment draw was only 25% of what was budgeted (or \$39K of an expected \$158K.)

Endowment Report

The following is an overview of the activity in the Parish’s endowment during 2020:

Balance at December 31, 2019	\$3,499,312
Withdrawals in 2020:	
For ongoing church operations	\$39,552
Investment Fees:	21,791
Total Withdrawals:	<u>61,343</u>
Investment Returns:	255,245
Balance at December 31, 2020	\$3,815,900

The asset allocation as of December 31, 2020 was as follows:



For 2021, some trends remain highly favorable (the promise of vaccines, the Federal Reserve's intent to hold interest rates low, and the continued rebound in earnings). However, the markets seem already to have priced in a stronger economy and the arrest of the coronavirus pandemic; this raises the risk that any disappointment in the recovery will rattle investors. And eventually, the growing government debt burden will lead to higher interest rates. Our strategy is to maintain a balanced portfolio while seeking higher returns where we can, adjusted for risk.

Withdrawals

Over the last 10 years, a total of \$1.3 million has been withdrawn to fund church operations and capital needs. Endowment withdrawals are definitely trending in a positive direction; five years ago,

the withdrawals over the prior 10 years were \$1.6 million. In January 2020, the Vestry approved a 4.6% draw from the endowment to supplement the annual operating budget, keeping within the strict guidelines set in prior years (with a targeted draw of ≤ 5%). The draw is calculated as a percentage of the 3-year rolling average of the endowment’s value. Endowment draws of 4.5% - 5% are consistent with standard practices and guidance for endowments held by many not-for-profit institutions.

The Investment Committee has regularly suggested to the Vestry that it try to reduce the endowment draw, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the endowment. A lower endowment draw is, of course, difficult without commensurate increases in pledges or cuts in programming. The current high-water mark in the endowment should not be construed as an invitation to increase the endowment draw; if the endowment is going to sustain the church for generations to come, the preservation of principal needs to be the highest priority.

Respectively Submitted,
 Margaret Young
 CoChair of the Investment Committee

FUNDRAISING 2020

“Let us give thanks! For from his fullness we have all received Grace upon Grace.” (John 1:16.) Fundraising in 2020 remained strong in spite of restrictions demonstrating the amazing generosity of our parishioners. Fundraising contributes to the life of our parish by allowing us to fund our ministries and maintain the programs and building of our beloved church. These efforts would not have been possible this year without the vision, time and talent of Jackie Kraft and Eileen Wolfe who conceived and now staff our pop-up tag sale, and for parishioners who set up on-line fundraisers for Giving Tuesday and who used Amazon Smile to benefit our parish as they made purchases. Many thanks also to Kari Black for setting up Facebook fundraising.

How Funds Were Raised

	Total
Pop-Up Tag Sale	\$ 2,891.00
Amazon Smile	\$ 125.00
On-Line/Facebook fundraising	\$ 3,705.00
TOTAL	\$ 6,721.00

Other Fundraising and Donations

Additional fundraising to benefit outreach and charitable ministries included:

	Total
Card sales (2019 Christmas) and donations to Brown Bag	\$ 2,180.00
Bingo for Outreach Feb 2020	\$ 475.00
Episcopal Charities Easter Appeal	\$ 310.00
TOTAL	\$ 2,965.00

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Thank you to every parishioner who has pledged and contributed to this year’s stewardship campaign! Thank you also to the committee: Claire Allen, Allison and Jeff Bodenmann, Jennifer Hawks Bland and Father Matt.



Although the Stewardship Campaign had to be conducted virtually this year, one of the unexpected joys was the opportunity for many faces to be seen (virtually) and many voices to be heard. Father Matt filmed a total of 14 different parishioners sharing their pledge encouragements. These messages were able to reach people who attended church, as well as those who viewed Sunday worship from their homes. Thank you to everyone who participated in this effort. While we were

unable to meet in person to celebrate this year’s pledges, on Sunday, November 22nd, Father Matt blessed the envelopes/pledges received to date.

In rounding out the “e-pledge season”, we were thrilled that our parish had recently taken the step of providing an opportunity to electronically make pledge payments (many parishioners are now using this option). Please visit our website: www.christchurchpelham.org and click on the Parish Giving box to see how easy this option is. We also became officially recognized by Facebook as a non-profit and now have a live donate button on our page which has brought in gifts from both members of the parish as well as gifts from extended friends of the parish.

Pledges for	2021	2020*
Number of Pledges	79	112
Amount Pledged	\$351,428	\$391,730
Average pledge	\$4,448	\$3,498

**Please see 2020 budget for further details on how the pledge numbers are adjusted to reflect historical giving patterns.*

We still have some work to do...some people in our parish will not be able to make a pledge this year due to the unexpected financial difficulties of 2020. For those of you who can, it becomes even more critical. Please join the 79 families/individuals who have made a 2021 pledge to Christ Church by emailing marie@christchurchpelham.org or by calling the parish office. We have so much to be grateful for.

Respectfully submitted,
Kari Black
Chair of the Stewardship Committee

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2020 financial statement is presented on the following page. This statement includes the 2021 budget and actual figures for 2019.

The 2020 Operating Budget

We entered 2020 with a deficit of \$45,220 in the operating budget. After adjusting for funds rolled over from 2019, the total deficit was expected to be \$10,992. Revenues were forecast to be \$16,700 lower than 2019 levels, principally due to continued declines in rental revenue. Expenses were expected to be about \$19,000 higher than 2019 levels, due to anticipated building projects (\$5,600) and a \$4,200 increase in the diocesan assessment. Personnel expenses were also budgeted to increase modestly, as well. In a year when nothing went as anticipated, we ended with an operating deficit of \$27,911. This was covered by the funds rolled over from the prior year, resulting in a surplus of \$6,317.

2020 Operating Results

On the revenue side, the best news is the pledge income received. In a year of financial stress for so many, we are thrilled to note that pledge income was only about \$5,500 lower than budgeted. Many parishioners paid their pledges early, and many increased their giving, facilitated by the on-line Parish Giving option. Revenue was also derived through several FaceBook fundraisers; the re-engineered tag sale also contributed to our income. As a result, our income before the endowment draw was only \$12,500 lower than budgeted, primarily a result of a significant shortfall in rental income. This was due to the loss of two tenants as well as lower income from tenants who were not able to use the buildings for most of the year.

Expenses were substantially lower than budgeted. At the outset of the pandemic, Diocesan assessments were reduced by 25% throughout the Diocese, a savings of almost \$22,000. The Diocese also suspended the requirement for a third-party audit to parish financial statements, yielding further savings. With limited activity within our buildings, ordinary maintenance and utility expense was reduced, and the absence of our planned communal activities resulted in much lower fellowship expenses. We also received a \$6,900 refund of electricity expenses from Con Edison. Some building maintenance projects were deferred, while maintenance of the grounds continued as budgeted, with some additional expense for tree and shrub pruning necessitated by the condition in these areas.

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
Financial Report
Year Ended Dec. 31, 2020

	2021	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2020			2019	2020 v 2019	
		Budget	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Variance
			Thru Dec.	Thru Dec.	Over (Under)		
INCOME							
Pledge Income	369,650	370,347	375,803	(5,456)	375,445	(5,098)	
Plate	44,300	48,965	40,500	8,465	51,682	(2,717)	
Fundraising	7,000	6,721	9,641	(2,920)	8,458	(1,737)	
Rental Contribution	46,955	51,090	63,631	(12,541)	75,342	(24,252)	
Income-Subtotal	467,905	477,123	489,575	(12,452)	510,927	(33,804)	
Endowment Contrib.-Planned	160,992	39,552	157,406	(117,854)	152,713	(113,161)	
Leale Harper Contribution	2,018	2,018	1,960	58	1,960	58	
TOTAL INCOME	630,915	518,693	648,941	(130,248)	665,600	(146,907)	
EXPENSE							
Personnel							
Personnel Expenses	338,622	328,768	338,519	(9,751)	337,234	(8,466)	
Diocesan Assessment							
Diocesan Assessment	66,714	65,552	87,404	(21,852)	83,184	(17,632)	
Worship							
Worship	1,600	4,278	1,600	2,678	1,003	3,275	
Music	26,575	31,364	27,925	3,439	26,848	4,516	
Childcare	1,300	2,600	2,600	-	2,550	50	
Total Worship	29,475	38,242	32,125	6,117	30,401	7,841	
Service							
Christian Education	770	447	1,200	(753)	(61)	508	
Budgeted Clergy Discretionary	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-	
Evangelism	750	510	300	210	235	275	
Conventions & Seminars	1,800	400	1,800	(1,400)	1,250	(850)	
Outreach	6,500	6,500	6,500	-	6,500	-	
Total Service	10,820	8,857	10,800	(1,943)	8,924	(67)	
Community							
Fellowship	2,425	476	3,850	(3,374)	1,891	(1,415)	
Foundation							
Office Expense	32,458	37,144	33,743	3,401	32,912	4,232	
Professional Services	14,100	9,600	13,100	(3,500)	16,600	(7,000)	
Insurance	32,700	32,067	32,394	(327)	31,450	617	
Utilities	54,553	38,884	55,459	(16,575)	55,258	(16,374)	
Maintenance & Repairs	40,298	28,161	57,195	(29,034)	51,611	(23,450)	
Grounds	18,325	19,934	18,325	1,609	16,434	3,500	
Snow Plowing	3,500	1,212	3,500	(2,288)	1,325	(113)	
Total Foundation	195,934	167,002	213,716	(46,714)	205,590	(38,588)	
Total Expense	643,990	608,897	686,414	(77,517)	667,224	(58,327)	
NET OPERATING INC. (EXP)	(13,075)	(90,204)	(37,473)	(52,731)	(1,624)	(88,580)	
BELOW THE LINE EXP (INC)							
Recurring Items	7,491	6,787	7,747	(960)	7,289	(502)	
One Time Activities	-	(68,780)	-	(68,780)	(21,185)	(47,595)	
Garden of the Resurrection, net	16,318	3,573	21,207	(17,634)	(9,392)	12,965	
Garden of the Res. Draw	(16,318)	(3,573)	(21,207)	17,634	9,392	(12,965)	
Contributions	-	(300)	-	(300)	(50)	(250)	
Total Below the Line Exp (Inc)	7,491	(62,293)	7,747	(70,040)	(13,946)	(48,347)	
NET INCOME (EXPENSE)	(20,566)	(27,911)	(45,220)	17,309	12,322	(40,233)	
Carryforward from Prior Year	6,317	34,228	34,228		21,906		
Net Balance	(14,249)	6,317	(10,992)		34,228		

The outreach budget of \$6,500 was fully funded, and at the recommendation of the Outreach Committee, the vestry approved grants to several local organizations that support our communities.

The pivot to on-line worship necessitated the purchase of new computers and equipment to support the creation and presentation of our services. The cost of these items is reflected in the music and office expense lines. As these expenditures were not anticipated, these line items came in over budget.

At the outset of the pandemic, the vestry made the decision to retain all staff and paid personnel; this included the professional choristers and the Sunday morning nursery attendant. Thus, payroll and personnel expenses were in line with the budget. This decision was also consistent with the requirements of the Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) under the CARES Act. In March, we applied for and received a PPP loan of \$68,780. Consistent with the terms of the program, this loan has since been forgiven, and is recorded as income in the below the line section of the financials.

The original budget anticipated drawing approximately \$157,400 from the endowment, to supplement pledge and other income. This would normally be taken in quarterly installments. As a result of the lower than anticipated expenses, and with the additional revenue from the PPP program, we only took one quarterly draw of \$39,552, leaving \$117,854 in the endowment account.

As of December 31, 2020, the parish financials reflected a deficit of \$27,911. This was covered by the income deferred from 2019, resulting in a surplus of \$6,317.

The 2021 Operating Budget

Preparing the 2021 operating budget was challenging, as we do not yet know when we will be able to resume normal activities. For the purposes of the budget, we assumed that we will continue to operate as we have been – with online services and limited activity in the building – throughout the spring. We have further assumed that we will return to normal activities in the fall, and that the summer will be a hybrid, as we transition between these two formats.

Revenues

The 2021 budget reflects total revenues of \$630,900. This is significantly higher than 2020 levels, but \$18,000 lower than 2019 levels, which we consider a more appropriate benchmark.

- Pledge income is budgeted to be on par with 2020 levels, and about \$5,000 lower than the 2020 budget and 2018 and 2019 actual pledge income. The lack of an increase in 2019 was believed to be due, in part, to the Capital Campaign that year, but clearly, we are still challenged in this area.
- Rental income is forecast to be \$47,000, continuing the declines which we have experienced since rental income peaked at over \$98,000 in 2014. The 2020 budget had anticipated replacing Thrive and PCRA, both of which vacated the Old Parish House in 2020, with the Episcopal Service Corps. However, this program was cancelled in 2020, and has now been terminated. Many of our other tenants (most of whom pay based on usage) have been inactive, and there is some uncertainty as to when – and how often – these will resume. We continue to seek tenants for all of our spaces.

- Plate income is forecast at \$44,300; this line item includes donations made through Parish Giving, and in 2020 includes some supplement gifts from individuals and families who had fulfilled their pledges.
- The endowment draw is calculated as 5% of the average balance as of December 31 of the past three years. This formula yields a \$3,500 increase over the amount budgeted for 2020.
- All other sources of revenue are expected to be generally flat.

Expenses

The budget reflects total expenses of \$643,990, before below the line expenses. This is a decrease from both 2019 actual and 2020 budget expenditures, but an increase over actual 2020 costs. The budgeted line items generally reflect half of a year of minimal on-site operations, and a half of a year of full, 'normal' operations.

- Personnel expenses are forecast on par with the 2020 budget; the loss of Canon Susan resulted in a decrease in payroll, which is offset by COLA increases in salaries, and increases in benefit costs. This total also includes the anticipated costs of supply priests when Father Matt is on vacation; Canon Susan previously covered these Sundays.
- The Diocese has implemented a program whereby parishes may apply for a 25% reduction in the assessment. The applications must be made on a quarterly basis; Christ Church's application for the first quarter of 2021 has been approved. The Vestry will determine each quarter whether we will apply for this reduction. The budget assumes these reductions, and reflects 75% of the full assessment.
- The buildings committee has limited their budget to include only ordinary maintenance costs, with few additional projects anticipated to be funded through the operating budget. Certain projects have been planned for 2021 which will be funded through amounts raised from the Capital Campaign.
- All other expenses are positioned in line with the original 2020 budget, with appropriate adjustments for lower expenses during the first half of the year.

From a financial perspective, the most critical issue facing the parish is the need to increase revenues. Although we have made great strides in cutting expenses, most of our costs will continue to increase. Moreover, it is not clear that the reduced level of spending is sustainable over the long term. Our buildings are a particular concern, especially as projects funded by the Capital Campaign have somewhat insulated the operating budget from bearing the cost of some needed repairs.

Many thanks to the members of the Finance Committee for their dedicated ministry this year: Amy Heese, Kari Black, Jeff Bodenmann, John Fox, Carol Ipsen, Margaret Young and Father Matt Mead. This group has comprised the committee for the past several years and would welcome a fresh perspective. We invite any parishioners with an understanding of financial matters and an interest in our parish future to consider joining us.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Calder, Treasurer

VESTRY ANNUAL REPORT 2020

This year demanded a new approach to everything. With that I want to share some of the extraordinary achievements of the Christ Church vestry done in your service.

Starting in March, days after the lock-down was imposed, Fr. Matt and your vestry met on-line every week to determine how to fulfill our mission and keep our beloved church operating in whatever form possible. Nothing was certain in addressing the endless list of challenges. On-line worship seemed possible, but what format, how do we produce it and how would it be delivered? Financials were a complete unknown, would people pledge, do we qualify for any relief, would our tenants fail? Ministries, the community need was great, how could we help? The list seemed endless.

We established a model to bring church on-line, approved upgrades to the church's aging technology to support video production. Set up on-line giving on the website in 2 days. Successfully applied for a PPP loan and did the additional work to convert that to a grant. When our endowment value took a dive, we took steps that allowed time to gain back the initial loss.

In June the possibility of in-person worship returned bringing a new list of challenges. Members of your vestry joined an expanded list of parishioners to work through how to safely bring people back into church. How would we manage the number of people, traffic flow, reservations, health checks, distancing, masks, hand sanitizing, communion, etc.? We arrived at a hybrid model which allowed for a limited number in attendance with portions from the on-line service played in church.

Since the start my feeling was, there is no one, right way to do any of this. We would try things and adjust as we went. The commitment, flexibility and effort of your vestry kept the essence of Christ Church alive, open, and available to all of us. I am truly thankful to have had Christ Church there for me and my family in this extraordinary time. A time which has been, in turn, annoying or terrifying – sometimes both.

I thank God for the Christ Church vestry. I thank them personally and am honored to be a warden here and I invite you to thank them yourself.

- Carol Ipsen – Junior Warden
- Claire Allen
- Angela Barone
- Curtis Chase
- Andy Des Rault
- John Fox
- Etta Gumbs
- Amy Heese
- Gavin Leckie
- Barbara Zambelli

- Matthew Mead - Rector
- Anne Calder – Treasurer
- Jean Gruener – Clerk

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Bodenmann, Senior Warden

Your Vestry meets monthly to do the work required by NY State Law and NY Diocese Canon Law. This encompasses reviewing finances, buildings and committee activity status, upcoming events and specific needs and your petitions.

Vestry Official & Legal Roles and Responsibilities

- Responsibility with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the parish.
- Aid the Rector in the institution, conduct, and development of the program of the Church both within and without the Parish.
- Agent and legal representative in all matters concerning property: maintenance of the buildings and furnishings, maintenance of other property (rectory, parking lot, grounds, etc.), and providing adequate insurance.
- Responsibility for the finances of the parish, raising money, prompt payment of salaries and bills, prudent care of trust funds, endowments and bequests, sale and transfer of securities and other assets, maintenance of records, annual report, and budget (approve expenditures and recommend and approve salaries).
- Represent the parish in its relations with the Rector.
- Serve as “Council of Advice” for the Rector when requested.
- Call a Rector if there is a vacancy.

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Reverend Canon Susan C. Harriss, *Priest Associate*
The Reverend Deacon Katie Lawrence
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Verger and Sexton*
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

Wardens & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
Mr. Jeff Bodenmann, *Senior Warden*
Ms. Carol Ipsen, *Junior Warden*
Ms. Anne Calder, *Treasurer*
Ms. Jean Gruener, *Clerk*

Ms. Claire Allen	Mr. John Fox
Ms. Angela Lore-Barone	Ms. Etta Gumbs
Mr. Curtis Chase	Ms. Amy Heese
Mr. Andy Des Rault	Mr. Gavin Leckie
Ms. Barbara Zambelli	

The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.
Prayers for Healing are on Hold because of the Pandemic
Morning Prayer is read on Zoom every Tuesday at 10:30.

† A Parish of the Diocese of New York †

Christ Church

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803
914.738.5515
914.712.0526, *fax*
www.christchurchpelham.org

*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.*