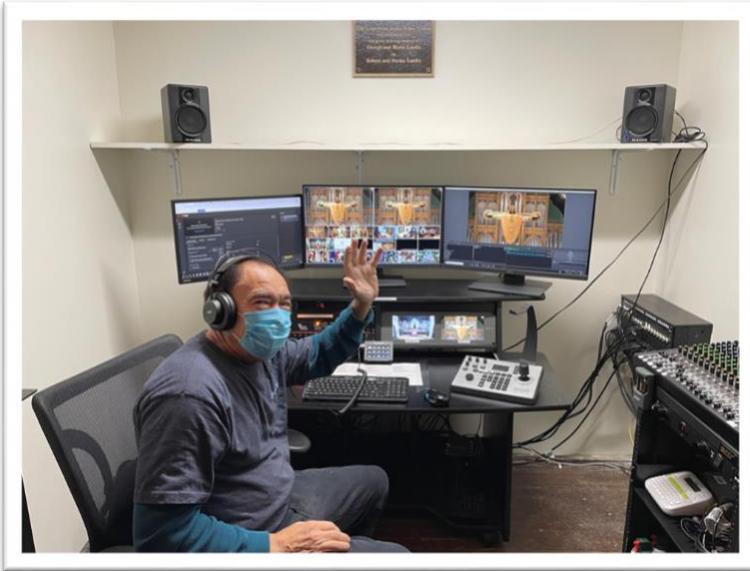


THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER  
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK



# ANNUAL REPORT (2021)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH- JANUARY 23, 2022

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Agenda</b>	3
<b>Minutes of Prior Year's Annual Meeting</b>	3
<b>Annual Parish Elections</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Rector's Report</b>	11
<b>Ministry Leader Chart</b>	13
<b>The Pillars of Christ Church</b>	14
<b>WORSHIP &amp; CLERGY REPORTS</b>	
Rector's Worship Report	15
Deacon Chisara's Report	16
Organist & Choirmaster's Report	17
Verger's Report	20
Altar Guild	20
Ushers Report	21
Flower Guild	21
<b>SERVICE &amp; COMMUNITY</b>	
Adult Christian Learning & Bible Study	22
Christmas Pageant	22
Confirmation Class	22
Fellowship Committee	23
Men's Group	24
Outreach	24
Sunday School	26
Youth Group	26
Vacation Bible School	26
Women's Connection	27
Communications	27
<b>FOUNDATION &amp; FINANCE</b>	
Buildings Committee	28
Tenant & Rental Report	30
Grounds	31
Investment Committee	31
Fundraising	33
Stewardship	34
Treasurer's Report	36
Vestry Annual Report	40

# ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 23, 2022

- Opening Prayers, Welcome & Instructions
  - Prayer
  - If you on Zoom, please keep yourself muted unless you are asked to speak
  - Please sign in via the chat
  - We will use the chat to ask questions
- Rector's Report
- Warden's Report & Election Results
- Treasurer's Report
- Q&A
- Blessing and Close meeting

## PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Pelham, N.Y.

Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting: January 24, 2021

**Call to order:** The meeting was called to order by Father Matthew Mead at 12:00 noon.

**In attendance:** There were 34 in attendance.

**Opening prayer:** *Father Matthew Mead*

**Instructions:** *Father Matt*

Participants were instructed to keep themselves muted unless they were asked to speak and to sign in using the chat function. The chat would also be used to ask questions about the presentations. At the end of the meeting, the chat would be used for prayer intercessions. The meeting was planned to last no more than 45 minutes.

**Rector's Report:** *Father Matt*

Father Matt thanked the various ministry leaders, the Investment Committee, the Vestry and all those who have kept the church's activities going throughout 2020. He noted that the parish financial results for 2020 looked pretty good. He said that he had no answer to the often-asked question, "when will we go back to normal"? Looking ahead, he noted that several pledges had been received in the days since the Annual Report was shared and he asked all those who had not yet done so to pledge for 2021.

### **Warden's Report and Election Results:** *Jeff Bodenmann*

Jeff reported that the mail-in votes had been counted the day before. He thanked the members of the vestry who had completed their terms and were stepping down as well as Claire Allen, who was moving in order to be closer to family in 2021.

The results of the uncontested election were as follows:

- Junior Warden – Carol Ipsen, two-year term
- Vestry Members:
  - John Fox, Vestry member, three-year term
  - Courtney McGrory, Vestry member, three-year term
  - Robert Landis, Vestry member, three-year term
  - Jack Kraft, Vestry member, will complete the final two years of Claire Allen's term.
- Delegates and Alternate Delegate to 2021 Diocesan Convention:
  - Brandon Dammerman – Delegate to Convention
  - Trabue Bland – Delegate to Convention
  - Curtis Chase – Alternate Delegate to Convention

Jeff noted that 87 ballots had been cast and that in future the parish would probably maintain some form of write-in voting.

Father Matt expressed his congratulations to all of the new Vestry members, Delegates and Alternate Delegates to Convention.

### **Treasurer's Report:**– *Anne Calder*

As a supplement to the full financial statement in the Annual Report, Anne shared an overview that included the 2014 through 2019 final figures, the 2020 budgeted and final figures and the 2021 budget. She highlighted the following:

- There remains the need to generate rental income to address a decline in this area starting in 2018; anyone knowing of a prospective tenant was encouraged to put that person in touch with Marie Main.
- Some expenses had been lower this past year due to closure of the church and projects postponed. Some additional expenses were due to the pandemic, e.g. investment in computer equipment that facilitated putting together the online services in their current form.
- A combination of strong response by the congregation for full and early pledges, the PPP loan and relief from the Diocese reducing our annual assessment allowed us to reduce the draw on our Endowment planned in the 2020 budget.
- The PPP loan enabled the church to keep all staff and paid professionals on payroll until the end of 2020 and the loan had been forgiven.
- The biggest challenge to putting together the 2021 budget was not knowing how the year would look. It was assumed that services would continue in virtual mode through spring, with resumption of full in-person worship as of September.

- Spending of \$644,000 was anticipated this year. In developing the budget, the Stewardship team provided an estimate of expected pledges and figures reflect these assumed amounts.

Father Matt added that the Diocese of New York had granted an across-the-board 25% reduction in the Diocesan Assessment. For 2021, the Vestry will vote on each quarter before requesting a reduction. Parishioners should bear in mind that when churches are not paying the full assessment it affects Diocesan activities.

### **Q&A in the chat:**

Parishioners posed questions via chat on trends in the pledge level and the use of the Endowment in emergency situations,

Kari Black said that the Stewardship Committee had looked at past pledging patterns to make a determination for this year. Last year there were 114 pledge units and it was hoped that same number would be attained for 2021. Other additional possibilities for giving were the use of a dedicated account on Smile.Amazon, which makes a contribution to Christ Church for each purchase made on the site, or the posting of a link on Facebook asking for gifts to Christ Church in your honor on your birthday.

Margaret Young said that the Endowment is there for emergency situations such as may unfold. The Investment Committee is careful in investment strategy to ensure that there is sufficient cash and no pressure to liquidate stock. She praised the current management of the church's financial resources and expenses. She said that in an emergency, the endowment could be included in a range of possible responses including expense reduction, other revenue events as appropriate.

Father Matt emphasized that the biggest driver in terms of expenses is that Christ Church is a parish with numerous buildings and a given number of staff. Any cuts in these core expenses would change the identity and character of the parish.

### ***Cannon Susan Goodbye***

Cannon Susan Harriss said that she had not anticipated moving to Christ Church Bronxville but is happy because Bronxville is close to Pelham. Despite the fact that there is so much about the immediate future that we do not know, she hoped that in summer we could all see each other again. She thanked Father Matt for letting her have the pulpit.

### **Prayers for Parish Departed and other prayers and intercessions during the hymn “Draw Us in the Spirit’s Tether”**

Father Matt asked parishioners to keep in their prayers those who had died in the time during which we have not been able to see each other. Parishioners posted in the chat individual prayers and intercessions.

**Blessing and Close meeting:** *Cannon Susan Harriss*

*Adjourned at 12:50*

# 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 23, 2022.

- **For Senior Warden (2-year term): Jeff Bodenmann**
- **For the Vestry (3 seats for 3-year terms): Jennifer Hawks Bland, Stephen Dolan and Etta Gumbs**
- **Convention Delegates to the 2022 Diocesan Convention and one Alternate: Curtis Chase, Gavin Leckie (Delegates), and Walter Roberts (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?

# Jeff Bodenmann

## Warden/Two-year term



### **How long have you been at Christ Church?**

Thirty (30) years

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

Choir member - last 17 years and counting

Served on the Vestry – eight years (2003 – 2009, 2016 – 2017)

Served as Senior Warden – eight years (2009 – 2013, 2018 – 2021)

Served on the Stewardship Committee (2005 – 2021)

Parish delegate to several Diocese Conventions

Turkey Carver at annual Thanksgiving dinner – looking forward to resuming these

### **Other family members attending Christ Church (if any).**

Allison and Grace, wife and daughter

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

Serving on the vestry is an opportunity to live my faith in a tangible way. The acts of discussing, directing and supporting the work of the Christ Church demonstrates the positive influence our Church can have on all of us, to our larger community and ideally to the world.

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

The assembly of great and special people and the bond we feel at Christ Church. I have experienced numerous examples of church people rallying around others in need. I also appreciate the context and examination of scripture in the liturgy. It provides an important tool to understand and manage my everyday. I also enjoy participating in choir.

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

Institutional knowledge and experience in the position. Reasonably good at establishing a consensus among differing parties. An ability to communicate in writing and in person.

# Jennifer Hawks Bland

## Vestry Member/Three-year term



### **How long have you attended Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?**

- We have attended Christ Church for several years, visiting and then joining not long after moving to New York in 2016. Yes, my family (husband and two sons (16 and 11) attend as well.

### **Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?**

- I am honored to be asked to consider serving on the Vestry. Our church reflects the strength of our community and vice versa. I hope that I can bring leadership skills and a sense of servant leadership to helping move our church community forward as we recover from the pandemic.

### **Please describe any other positions you have held or activities you have participated in at Christ Church.**

- I have been a member of the Stewardship Committee, hosted coffee hour and my children have participated in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School and the Christmas pageant. My older son participated in the 2019-2020 confirmation class. My husband served as a convention delegate in 2021.

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

- Volunteering is very important, and I give my time and talents to help my community. I am currently the President of the Pelham Art Center board of directors and a past president of the Siwanoy Elementary School PTA. Professionally, I am the Chief Executive Officer of NewYorkBIO and work closely with biotech and pharmaceutical companies with an interest in New York. As a former litigator, I have developed the ability to assess problems and work collaboratively toward solutions that benefit all stakeholders. I know that these various skills will help Christ Church meet any challenges in the year ahead. My full bio is below.

# Stephen Dolan

## Vestry Member/Three-year term



### **How long have you attended Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?**

My wife Ashley and our three children Lucy Field (15), Luke (13) and Reen (11) have attended Christ Church for the last three years. Lucy Field was Confirmed at Christ Church last fall. My sister Mary Kate McGrath and her husband Alex and their two boys (Jackson and Charlie) are members of Christ Church. Additionally, mother Marcia Dolan attends Christ Church.

### **Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?**

I am honored with the potential opportunity to serve on the Vestry. Furthermore, I am excited about the prospect of becoming a more involved member of the Christ Church community. I hope that this experience and exposure helps me help guide friends and family within the Christ Church community to expand their fellowship.

### **Please describe any other positions you have held or activities you have participated in at Christ Church.**

I recently helped with the setup of a home for a family of refugees from Afghanistan, with Hearts and Homes for Refugees. I discovered this organization through Christ Church.

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

Currently I sit on the Board of Project Community located here in Pelham. Where specifically I help organize the annual Color Run that supports many of the organization's programs including Project CHILDD. Previously I sat on the Board of Directors of the Pelham Country Club for seven years where I held several roles including both Treasurer and President

# Etta Gumbs

**Vestry Member/Three-year term**



**How long have you been at Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?**

I joined Christ Church in 2016 after Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon closed. I was a member of Trinity since the age of five. Yes, my mother comes to church with me on occasion since returning from North Carolina.

**Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?**

Serving on the Vestry is a commitment to the congregation and the church. Through my vestry service I am able to support Christ Church, its ministries as well as the surrounding communities the church supports.

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

- Bible Study Group Participant
- Lector/Lay Reader
- Member of the Flower Guild
- Member of the Outreach Committee
- Member of the Women's Connection
- Former Deputy Editor of Soundings

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

I have experienced the Episcopal Church from many perspectives. I served as one of the first female acolytes in the Episcopal Diocese of New York, was a member of my former church's altar guild and, following in the footsteps of my father, served eight years on my former church vestry. As an active member of Christ Church I have good understanding of Christ Church and its ministries. As an attorney, I am detail oriented with a strong background in finance, conflict resolution and negotiation. I believe in being open to new ideas and finding common ground. I will use my past experience and knowledge to support Christ Church and its efforts.

## **Convention Delegates/Alternate**

**Curtis Chase, Gavin Leckie (Delegates) and Walter Roberts (Alternate)**

# RECTOR'S REPORT

2021 was “Year 2” of the Covid-19 Pandemic, and life at Christ Church, in our communities, and throughout the world continued to be disrupted. That said, things have gone quite well at Christ Church, and I think that it is fair to say that we navigated the second year of the pandemic safely and in a way that kept us open, operational, and allowed us to reach and engage with even more people than we had in the past. A few highlights:

- Christ Church and our offices were never closed in 2021.
- The Holy Eucharist was celebrated in-person for the congregation every Sunday and on major Holy Days, and with very few exceptions every major service was livestreamed.
- Baptism, Confirmation, Weddings, and Pageant were celebrated in-person and livestreamed.
- Pastoral Visits, Healing Ministries, and Funerals were offered in-person, and Funerals were also livestreamed.
- For those who were not able to or comfortable to be with us for in-person worship, our livestream setup which debuted by necessity in March 2020 was greatly upgraded and completed thanks to a generous donation. Livestream Operator is now a viable Youth and Young Adult ministry at Christ Church, and the quality of our livestream is excellent.
- Sunday School & Christmas Pageant, Choir, Outreach, Bible Studies, Fellowship Events, and our other ministries were all offered in-person.
- Certain ministries (such as the Rector's 8am Bible Study and Daily Prayer) and Meetings for Ministries and Committee remained online or were offered in a hybrid (online & in-person) format because the format turned out to be more convenient and productive for many people.
- Stewardship and Fundraising – though overall flat from previous years – was much better than anticipated or budgeted. In fact, our Pledging is nearly in line with our normal Stewardship Campaign in 2019. Importantly, the option of online pledging and donations (via Parish Giving, FaceBook, etc.) put Christ Church on contemporary footing in terms of reaching and engaging with possible donors.

There were several staff transitions in 2021. Canon Susan left in February 2021 to take on a temporary role as Interim Pastor in Bronxville, then settled into full retirement in late 2021, and has been with us from time to time for special events and for Sunday supply when I am away. Deacon Katie retired in September of 2021, the Vestry granted her the honorific Deacon Emerita for her service at Christ Church of nearly a decade, and she too is with us for special events. Susan and Katie are both great friends, and their regular presence will be missed.

I am grateful to Deacon Chisara for her work in the parish. Since Canon Susan left and Deacon Katie retired, she has increased her role in the parish, preaching upon occasion, offering healing prayers and pastoral care, leading a weekly prayer service, and helping to build up the Women's Connection. That still leaves our clergy staff short by one, and the Vestry and I will discern together whether, when, and how it makes the most sense to have 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. For the time being, we are in a very good place, and there is no immediate need for another clergy member.

I want to thank the members of our Vestry and Officers, in particular our Wardens, Jeff Bodenmann and Carol Ispen. Our Vestry members put in many hours behind the scenes to ensure that our buildings, finances, and ministries are overseen. I also want to thank the leaders of every Committee and Ministry. 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, Marie, Jeffrey, Ed, Walter, and Deacon Chisara. I am grateful for their hard work and ministry over the past year.

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. Our 2022 budget reflects this reality. We took core expenses that are not discretionary and projected those core expenses for 2022. In addition, we assumed increased program and activities expenses will resume sometime in the second half of 2022, and for that number we looked to a “normal” year (2019) as our reference point. Our budget – like the past two years – shows an operating deficit which can be explained by a mix of lower than ideal pledging and rental income. Pledging remains our largest and most important source of income. Our 2022 Stewardship Campaign has been very successful thus far. If you haven’t yet made a Pledge for 2022, it’s not too late, and I strongly encourage you join me and make your pledge payments online, automatic, and easy through Parish Giving.

Throughout these challenging times our community at Christ Church has stayed together, supported one another, and witnessed to the joy and hope of the Resurrection in our lives. Despite the challenges of the past two years we are doing very, very well. The Good News of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed at Christ Church the past year with enthusiasm through faithful worship of Almighty God, the regular celebration of the Sacraments, and a wide variety of ministries inspired by the Holy Spirit. God bless you all for all you have done this year!

It is an honor to serve the Church as your rector. 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. 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, Senior Warden (2018, 2020); Carol Ipsen, Junior Warden (2019, 2021);

Anne Calder, Treasurer (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021); Jean Gruener, Clerk (2019, 2020, 2021);

Angela Lore Barone (2016, 2019); Andy Des Rault (2020); John Fox (2018, 2021); Etta Gumbs (2016\*, 2019); Jack Kraft (2020\*);

Robert Landis (2021); Gavin Leckie (2016, 2019); Courtney McGrory (2021); 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	Jeff Bodenmann	Jeffrey Hoffman
Service	Adult Christian Learning	Fr. Matt	Alice Dean
Service	Children's Ministries Committee	Fr. Matt	Fr. Matt
Service	Church School	Fr. Matt	Eileen Peluso, Fr. Matt
Service	Concerts at Christ Church	Jeff Bodenmann	Alice Dean
Service	Evangelism	Fr. Matt	Kari Black
Service	Outreach	Etta Gumbs	Marie Dumas, Ed McGann
Service	Pastoral Care	Fr. Matt	Deacon Chisara
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,	Fr. Matt, Curtis Chase
Community	Men's Ministry	Andy Des Rault	Andy Des Rault
Community	Seniors	Barbara Zambelli	Marie Main
Community	Women's Connection	Barbara Zambelli	Barbara Zambelli
Foundation	Communications	Fr. Matt	Erik Ipsen, Missy Kisob
Foundation	Buildings	John Fox	John Fox
Foundation	Tenant and Rentals	Etta Gumbs	Marie Main
Foundation	Finance	Robert Landis & Gavin Leckie	Anne Calder
Foundation	Garden of the Resurrection	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Grounds	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Investment	Robert Landis & Gavin Leckie	Margaret Young, Melissa Roddy
Foundation	Personnel/Legal	Jeff Bodenmann	Vestry Lawyers
Foundation	Stewardship / Planned Giving	Father Matt	Kari Black
Foundation	Tag Sale	Angela Barone	Jackie Kraft, Eileen Wolfe
Foundation	General Fundraising	Father Matt	Marie Dumas & Kari Black

# 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

2021 was a very good year for worship at Christ Church. We offered the Holy Eucharist in-person every single Sunday and on major Holy Days, including Christmas. Normally that would be unremarkable, but it is important to note that many churches and cathedrals across the Episcopal Church and other denominations were closed for in-person worship for much of 2021, including Easter and Christmas. In addition to offering in-person worship safely and reliably, we also offered an online option throughout the year for those who were not able to attend in person.

As the year progressed our in-person worship became more and more normal:

- In January of 2021, our in-person Eucharist was a mix of pre-recorded elements (readings, preaching, music) and live, in-person elements (Prayers, and Holy Communion)
- As the months moved along the various pre-recorded elements were done live and in-person, and by Easter, the only pre-recorded parts of the service were hymns and anthems.
- After Easter we began using a live soloist and in September our choir and congregational hymnody returned.
- By Christmas, in-person worship was essentially normal as we learned more about how Covid-19 and vaccinations were received by the vast majority of our congregation.
- Several restrictions that were constant throughout 2021:
  - Masks were required for all singers throughout 2021.
  - Basic precautions were required around social distancing from and masking near those not known to be vaccinated and hand-sanitization at Holy Communion.
  - By decree of the Bishop of New York, the Blood of Christ was not given to anyone other than the Celebrant.
  - As needed due to spikes/waves of the pandemic, some restrictions were increased.

Likewise, as 2021 progressed our online worship improved:

- From January 1 until March 2021 the online option was entirely pre-recorded.
- On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, March 7, 2021, almost exactly one year after our first online worship service we started livestreaming the Sunday morning service.
- On September 11, 2021, the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9-11, our updated livestream setup went live. We needed a few months to iron out some issues and fully install the setup.
- On January 3, 2022, the Landis AV Room was fully finished (photo on the front of this Annual Report). Many thanks to the Landis family for their generosity making our excellent livestream and AV room possible!

I encourage you all to take some time to see the Landis AV Room. Likewise, I hope you will peruse our YouTube channel which provides an excellent record of what we did and how we navigated worship during the pandemic.

In addition to Sunday morning and Holy Day worship services online and in the church, we also offered many outdoor Eucharists in the Garden when the weather permitted, and we used Zoom for

Evening Prayer on Mondays, Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, Coffee Talk on Sundays (for the first half of 2021), and Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Other Sacraments and Sacramental Rites were offered in 2021. Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals were offered in 2021 and we were able to livestream these services to those who could not attend. Confirmations, which did not happen in 2020, were offered in September 2021 by Bishop Dietsche – he confirmed two full classes at one time. Anointing with Holy Oil for Healing resumed in the Autumn of 2021 after each Sunday morning Eucharist. Hospital visits and pastoral calls also resumed in 2021, but those were limited depending on the severity of the pandemic which had multiple waves in 2021. It is also important to note that Coffee Hour resumed in 2021. For much of the year Coffee Hour was offered outside in the Garden. By November 2021 we had moved back to the Parish Hall.

As always, in-person attendance numbers as well as online statistics are available upon request for 2021 in the Sacristy/Vestry – the red Register of Services. They are imperfect metrics, but they do provide two important insights. First, by the end of 2021 between one-half and two-thirds of our in-person congregation had returned to in-person worship. Second, our online livestream remains very popular and has proven to be useful for members, friends of the parish, and potential members.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead  
Priest & Rector

## **DEACON CHISARA'S REPORT**

It has been one year since my ministry at Christ Church Pelham. My call to ministry at Christ Church has been rewarding. I joined Christ Church as a Deacon during a pandemic that has continued to make life difficult and challenging for all of us. Sometimes you cannot but wonder which direction the pandemic will lead us. But God has been present with us, faithful, and merciful even in times of despair because of this virus. In all of this, God has been at work, giving us wisdom to be creative and find ways to connect and function as a church. Glory be His name! We, as a church community remain faithful to our call to serve God in one another even as the virus rages on.

So, I join our church community to stay active in God's service. I, like many others in ordained ministry have learned to adapt to do God's work. For example, I do drive-through pastoral care, whereby I drive by a parishioner's residence and stay in my car to wave and to share a prayer. Also, I touch base with our homebound parishioners over the phone and via emails to check in on them. Since last December, I have been leading a group of women volunteers from our parish to pack food in bags for distribution in the food pantry at St John, Paul & Clement parish in Mount Vernon. I have been a mentor in Education for Ministry for the past eleven years. Currently, I lead an EFM class remotely here in our parish, and this year, we have four EFM candidates for graduation. Our Monday

evening prayer meeting has been on zoom since a year ago. And we welcome parishioners to join us in prayer every Monday evening at 8:30 pm – 9:00 pm.

In addition to my ministry at Christ Church, I serve in the Episcopal Charities committee on programs. I join others to help evaluate charity programs in parishes around our Diocese for the disbursement of EC grants. I have an association with St Jude's Cancer Society for Children. This year, I look to increase my presence in this organization, and I plan to expand my ministry by joining yet another local charity organization, particularly one that caters to the need of children.

Overall, I make myself available to assist our parish priest, Father Matt in any capacity. In all of these, I thank God for giving me the opportunity to serve in appreciation of God's presence in my life and his innumerable blessings which no one can count. Thank you.

Respectively Submitted,  
Deacon Chisara Alimole

## **ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER'S REPORT**

When in our music God is glorified,  
And adoration leaves no room for pride,  
It is as though the whole creation cried, Alleluia!

How often, making music, we have found  
A new dimension in the world of sound,  
As worship leads us to a more profound Alleluia!

So has the Church, in liturgy and song,  
in faith and love through centuries of wrong,  
borne witness to the truth in every tongue, Alleluia!

And did not Jesus sing a psalm that night  
When utmost evil strove against the Light?  
Then let us sing, for whom he won the fight, Alleluia!

Let every instrument be tuned for praise!  
Let all rejoice who have a voice to raise!  
And may God give us faith to sing always Alleluia!  
Amen.

This hymn (Hymn 420 in the hymnal) by Fred Pratt Green has been a staple of our congregation's hymn repertoire for many years, and it's a good hymn to keep in mind as we contemplate the year just past, 2021, the second year of the coronavirus pandemic that has wreaked such havoc on our community, our nation, and the world.

We began the year in our choral program much as we had ended 2020: long Sunday afternoon recording sessions each week with a handful of professional singers and our volunteer choir members spaced 12 feet apart around the church, masked, and singing multiple takes of hymns, service music, and choral anthems and motets to pre-recorded organ tracks I had made. I then edited these multichannel audio and video recordings together throughout the coming week in order to produce a fairly large library of pre-recorded music videos that could be used in place of congregational singing on Sunday mornings at our hybrid model services. We continued throughout the winter and spring employing this hybrid model by incorporating these pre-recorded musical selections on the television screens in the church with live spoken elements of the liturgy, including sermons, during the period when live congregational and choral singing were still inadvisable and/or restricted by orders from the bishop and the governor. I also began playing live organ preludes, voluntaries, and improvised interludes each Sunday morning. All of this went out over our live stream broadcast for people who felt more comfortable staying at home on Sunday mornings.

As Easter approached and vaccines became more readily available to a larger percentage of the population than essential services and health care workers, we began to make plans for a gradual shift back towards live congregational and choral singing, but we maintained this model throughout Eastertide and Whitsuntide. All in all, in a little over a year, we added over 100 titles to our “Music at Christ Church” playlist on Youtube, which includes 84 hymns, by my count, and over a dozen anthems and other choral selections. Our music for Holy Week and Easter included a choral video of the Passion according to St. John, adapted to music by the Spanish Renaissance composer Tomás Luís de Victoria and a gorgeous performance of the Exsultet by guest tenor Douglas Purcell, as well as anthems and motets for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil and Easter morning.

In September, we resumed our choral program live and in person, requiring proof of full vaccination from everyone who participated to be on file in the parish office and for everyone to wear masks while singing. We restricted our choir to 12 participants each week on a rotating schedule as necessary.

On September 11, we debuted this new model at a 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary memorial eucharist in which the choir sang selections from John Rutter’s Requiem with organ and oboe accompaniment.

Throughout the fall and into Advent and Christmastide, the parish choir of up to twelve participants sang hymns, chanted the psalms, and offered two motets and/or anthems each week, as we have customarily done here for many years at Christ Church, with the exception that our choir remained masked and our numbers have been reduced from what they were before the pandemic. On the Columbus Day/Indigenous People’s Day weekend in October and again on Christmas morning and on the two Sundays after Christmas, we had solo selections from one of our professional choristers while the choir took a break.

On the last Sunday of Advent, we also offered a service of Christmas Lessons and Carols, which has become a staple of our choral season and marks the beginning of our choral celebration of Christmas at Christ Church. It was wonderful to be able to offer this service live again instead of in a pre-recorded format as we had done in 2021.

We bid farewell to two of our beloved professional choristers during the pandemic, Laurelyn Watson Chase and Michael Imbimbo, who have gone on to pursue other interests, and to a beloved long-time volunteer in our choir, Barbara Nelson, who moved to Colorado after her husband's death, to be nearer her son. We also welcomed two new singers to our professional roster, soprano Melody Joy Rubin and tenor José Ruiz. With Jann Degnan and Simon Cram, these two young professional singers make up the quartet that forms the musical backbone of our parish choir. I'm grateful for the 2021 participation of Jeff Bodenmann, Curtis Chase, Linda Gerra, Cherrie Greenhalgh, John Hastings, Margo Hastings, Emily Kane, Missy Kisob, Barbara Nelson, Jim Young and Margaret Young throughout the long months of tedious recording sessions, and into the return of live, masked singing in our choir. Because of COVID-19 and other illnesses, we have also welcomed several substitute professional singers into our midst in the fall of 2021, and I'm particularly grateful for the professional singers: tenor Douglas Purcell and sopranos Tonna Miller Vallés and Laurelyn Watson Chase, together with bass-baritone Simon Cram and mezzo-soprano Jann Degnan, for their excellent work in making choral videos in the first half of 2021.

On September 26, 2021, Concerts at Christ Church teamed with the American Guild of Organists' Westchester Chapter to present the "Rising Stars" recital, which featured three young organists from the Juilliard School, Jacob Gruss, Cecily DeMarco, and Eddie Zhang in recital. An audience of around fifty masked people enjoyed this concert and an outdoor reception.

On October 30, I offered a candlelit half hour recital in the church, as well. Again, about fifty masked people came to enjoy this concert.

An ankle sprain in early November prevented my giving the next of this planned series of candlelit concerts at the beginning of Advent, but I hope and plan to be able to resume them sometime in the mid-winter of 2022.

As of this writing, the Omicron strain of the coronavirus has been sweeping our community and surrounding communities for a couple of weeks, and we have had to scale back to quartet-only for Sunday morning.

As the current wave subsides and if guidance from health officials permits, I look forward to finding "a more profound Alleluia" in the coming months of 2022 as we hopefully return to a time when our normal choral activities, including a parish children's choir, can resume.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jeffrey Hoffman  
Organist & Director of Music

## **VERGER'S REPORT**

**Our ministries did not totally function as they should have in 2021 due to ongoing Covid-19 concerns and restrictions, 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 services. Those who feel comfortable, do participate. And of course, I fill in anytime there are non 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. They are still key for our 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, Verger

## **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. The members of the Altar Guild have completed another year of service to the Church preparing the sanctuary for all Sunday, midweek and special services. The Altar Guild provides wine, wafers and candles for use during worship services. Although the Altar Guild was not able to convene as a group prior to Palm Sunday to make palm crosses and decorate the church with palms we look forward to resuming this activity. Linens, vessels, vestments, and church hangings are cared for by the Altar Guild and replaced as needed.

We are always looking for people who would like to share in this most rewarding ministry. Please contact Jackie Kraft or Paige Lavengood if you have an interest in joining the Altar Guild.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jackie Kraft and Paige Lavengood

## **USHERS' REPORT**

In 2021, Christ Church ushers fulfilled their role by welcoming parishioners to worship services, distributing bulletins, taking up the collection and guiding the congregation to the altar for communion. As the pandemic continued and Federal and New York State regulations as well as Diocesan recommendations evolved, the ushers were responsible for checking that all who entered the church wore masks, providing a mask for anyone who had forgotten to bring one.

When the church was especially crowded or when many guests were in attendance, ushers helped parishioners and guests find seating. After each service at which a collection was taken, the ushers recorded the attendance, counted and recorded the amounts in the collection plates and ensured that the money and envelopes were safely stored.

Ushers served at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services every Sunday, at funerals and memorial services and at special services for confirmation, during Holy Week and at Christmas. During the course of this year, 22 parishioners joined Senior Usher Tom Salvatore and Co-Chair Jean Gruener in serving as ushers. The Senior Usher and Co-Chair thank all those who have served faithfully 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. Due to the rising cost of flowers, we are increasing our suggested donation to \$175 for the flowers on the Main Altar and \$75 for the Bolton Altar for the specific remembrance/celebration requests. These donations will be noted in the weekly Sunday Sermon e-blast 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 12 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. Summertime flowers were mostly cuttings from gardens so the budget was minimal. In 2021 we have also been investing in real looking artificial flowers to supplement those times when no donations have been made for that week. 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
Patrice Fitzpatrick Chair

## **ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING & BIBLE STUDY**

Throughout 2021 Father Matt offered an online (Zoom) Bible Study on Thursdays at 8:00 am, and this Bible Study will continue in 2022. The 10:00 am Thursday Bible Study (which is based on an in-person, fellowship model) resumed in the Autumn of 2021; all attendees must be vaccinated. Due to Covid-19, other Adult Christian Learning Committee events were not offered in 2021, and we are hopeful that we can resume such events in the second half of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead

## **CHRISTMAS PAGEANT**

The 2021 Christmas Pageant “’Twas the night of the pageant” was offered in-person and also livestreamed on Saturday, December 18. A recording is available on our YouTube channel. Many thanks to all of our families who were able to participate, to Jeffrey Hoffman for music, to Walter Roberts for setting up and breaking down the costumes and set design, and to Father Matt who wrote, organized, and directed the Pageant.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead

## **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 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> 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 and 2020-2021 classed were led by Father Matt and Deacon Katie. We had seven youth confirmands in each class. One confirmand was confirmed at the Cathedral when it was open

in this summer, twelve were confirmed by Bishop Dietsche in September at Christ Church, and one who is in boarding school is awaiting Confirmation. Due to families moving away during the pandemic our number of eligible Confirmands for the next two years is lower than usual. The two teens eligible in 2021-2022 have deferred until 2022-2023.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead

## **FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE**

A big part of fellowship is good conversation over a cup of coffee/tea after worship. We started hosting Coffee Hours again during the summer, outside, behind church, by the Garden. In the fall we enjoyed the warmth of Fr. Matt's firepit. As the weather turned colder, we moved both coffee hours inside in Hoag Hall, with the windows open . . . so far, so good.

We thank everyone for hosting a Sunday morning Coffee Hour - please see either Jackie or Janet to sign up to host an upcoming Sunday Coffee Hour.

We managed to successfully host a few receptions this fall:

- September 11th - Reception followed church service
- September 12th - Blessing of the Backpacks
- September 19th - Confirmation
- September 26th - Wishing Deacon Katie a Happy Retirement
- October 31st - two Halloween Coffee Hours plus kids costume party complete with piñatas
- December 5th - The Greening of the Church
- December 19th - Lessons and Carols
- December 25th - Christmas Day Brunch

The decision was made to wait another year before we resume our famous Thanksgiving Dinner . . . in its place, we held a "Cake Sale" - what fun. Thank You to ALL our Bakers – And, we took in \$405!!! We are looking forward to another cake sale perhaps around Easter – we will keep you posted!

We truly miss everyone and look forward to more events we can share together,

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. In May of 2021, after over a year hiatus due to the initial wave of the COVID pandemic, we resumed our regular outings to Rockwells and plan to continue to do so as the circumstances permit. Later, in June, the Men's Group hosted a well-attended, and by all means well-received "pontifical pig roast" outdoors in the grounds next to the Garden of Resurrection. Fun was had by all! Finally we capped off the year with a Christmas movie viewing and chili cook off competition. Our hope is to continue apace in the new year with our programming, especially as winter draws to an end and renewed pandemic concerns subside.

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.*

In 2021, the Outreach Committee's primary focus continued to be on providing financial and hands-on support to local feeding programs.

### Summary of 2021 Parishioner Engagement Activities

- Brown Bag Lunch Program - In 2021, Christ Church completed its fifth 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 for sixty individuals as well as sixty sandwiches for the Oasis Men's Shelter in New Rochelle. In June, Father Matt and teens of the parish made additional sandwich bags that allowed us to provide an additional day of sandwiches for the Brown Bag Lunch Program. Our special thanks to the Men's Group for their monthly assistance in making the sandwiches during these challenging times.
- Lenten Food Pantry Drive – During Lent parishioners were asked to donate food or money for the benefit of the Food Pantry Programs at St. James Episcopal Church serving the Fordham area of the Bronx and Agatha House serving the Bronx and Mount Vernon. The Drive was extended through mid-April in lieu of an Easter Appeal and resulted in two large food deliveries to each of these locations.
- Outreach Sundays – Beginning in June, the Outreach Committee designated the first Sunday of each month as Outreach Sunday. Parishioners are asked to donate food items for the food pantries at St. James Church and Agatha House. Monthly parishioner food donations are supplemented with additional food purchased with parishioner financial contributions for feeding programs supported by Christ Church.
- Schliemann Scholarship Fund – The Outreach Committee solicited nominations from parishioners and local high schools for individuals looking for financial assistance to attend a

trade or vocational school. The Committee recommended and the Vestry approved a grant to one member of Christ Church.

- Laundry Day Drive – In May, parishioners were asked to donate laundry detergent and dryer sheets. These items were then distributed to those in need by Hope Community Services of New Rochelle.
- Diaper Drive – In September, the Outreach Committee sponsored a drive for disposable diapers and baby wipes for recent and soon-to-be veteran moms in the Bronx and Westchester counties. Donated items were distributed by Worldwide Veteran and Family Services.
- Hearts to Homes for Refugees (HHR) -- In September, parishioners were asked to volunteer their time to clean and set up apartments for arriving Afghan refugees and to donate gently used winter coats/boots to be given to recently resettled refugee families in Westchester County.
- Women’s Connection Support – The Outreach Committee wishes to acknowledge and thank the Women’s Connection for providing prepared foods to local feeding programs as well as volunteer support to a local food pantry.
- Thanksgiving-in-a-Box -- Christ Church families once again participated in the annual Thanksgiving dinner drive with other houses of worship in Pelham. More than 1000 dinners were delivered to needy families in Westchester County. Special thanks to Beth Conway, who has faithfully coordinated this effort for Christ Church for many years.
- Giving Tree – During Advent parishioners donated eight large bags of new winter gloves, hats and socks which were distributed to those in need by Worldwide Veterans and Family Services, a not-for-profit providing services to veterans and their families in the New York metropolitan area.
- Holiday-in-a-Box – In December the Outreach Committee purchased six boxes of food for families who are part of The Guidance Center of Westchester which offers support to those challenged by mental illness, substance abuse, poverty and homelessness.
- Outreach Card Sales – The Outreach Committee would like to thank the many parishioners who purchased Christmas and Sympathy cards in support of our feeding programs during Advent. Your generosity will allow us to continue to help those in need in 2022.

### **Summary of 2021 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:

- \$2000 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.
- \$2000 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.
- \$1000 to Agatha House Foundation which operates a fixed and mobile food pantry in the Bronx and Mount Vernon.
- \$1000 for the Food Pantry Program at St. James Episcopal Church at Fordham in the Bronx.

- \$500 to the Food Pantry Program at Sts. John, Paul and Clement in Mount Vernon.

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, Chong Genovese, Etta Gumbs (Vestry Liaison), Melo Jones, Jackie Kraft and Ed McGann (Co-chair)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Covid-19 disrupted all children's ministries in 2020 and the first part of 2021. In-person Sunday School resumed in the autumn of 2021. We also offered our Halloween Party and Christmas Pageant. We are planning a more normal year in 2022. Many thanks to our four regular Sunday School teachers Eileen Peluso, Janet Kornfeld, Erik Ipsen, and Curtis Chase.

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

## **YOUTH GROUP**

Due to Covid-19, the only Youth Group events in 2021 were serving and making bagged lunches in the first half of the year. We are hopeful that we can resume a more normal schuedle in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead

## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

Due to Covid-19, Vacation Bible School was canceled for the second year in a row. We are hopeful that we can have this wonderful summer program for the youth of Christ Church in August of 2022.

Respectfully submitted,  
The Reverend Matthew Mead and Carla Carroll

## **WOMEN'S CONNECTION**

The Women's Connection continued to meet via zoom and also in person during 2021. We discussed what we felt should be our purpose. In the fall, we began planning an indoor program which was put on hold due to continuing virus variant infections. However, we determined as a group that it was very important that we do outreach. To that end, in November and December, 20 women made food for over 90 people served by the soup kitchen in Mt Vernon (under the auspices of Community Service Associates). We also packed hundreds of bags of food for the food pantry at St John, Paul, and Clement Church in Mt Vernon. We hope to continue with both projects as well as an indoor activity in 2022.

Respectfully submitted  
Barbara Zambelli

## **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

### Soundings2022 HOPES

In June of 2021, with Covid clouds thinning and hopes for sunnier days rising, we put out a 25-page edition of Soundings. Father Matt kicked things off, talking about a New Normal.

Seen through the broad sweep of history, he was confident that our church community would bounce back. But what changes could we expect to emerge? Among other things he forecast we would again get together in person with relatively few restrictions, while more of us would join in online via new live-streaming equipment. Meanwhile, we'd press ahead with long-planned improvements in fellowship and gathering spaces including the conference room off the Parish Hall and the Undercroft kitchen.

The June issue of Soundings also chronicled the parish's efforts to make more use of our outdoor spaces for coffee hours and special events including the Men's Group's first-ever spring Pig Roast. We also checked in with the three newest members of our Vestry: Jack Kraft, Bob Landis, and Courtney McGrory.

We also wrote about the church's near miraculous 2020 tag sale that went into the record books as the longest ever, after repeated Covid-driven delays. Co-chairs Jackie Kraft and Eileen Wolfe finally closed up shop on March 29, after several days of moving some items out into bright sunshine in the parking lot beside the Parish Hall. Money raised from the sale went to help fund our outreach efforts, which had been stepped up to meet increasing needs in surrounding communities.

Soundings also paid homage to parishioners who had passed on, as well as those who had been confirmed, baptized, married, written books and taken on new jobs. We also welcomed Chisara Alimole back to our church, this time as an ordained deacon, serving alongside Katie Lawrence until her retirement at the end of the year.

As it turned out that issue, our 13<sup>th</sup> of recent years, was our only one in 2021--a year frequently overshadowed by concerns about Covid, but one in which we also witnessed modest though steady gains in everything from church attendance to more frequent appearances by our choir, including two new professional members.

In 2022 we look forward to doubling or even trebling the number of Soundings issues we put out as we catch up on many of the developments of these last few months and talk about what looms in the future. To do that we will need your help. Please think about joining our editorial team and helping to knit our parish closer together by chronicling in stories, photos, poems, and more the life that we share on Pelhamdale Avenue beneath the roof of our beloved church, online via our various internet streams, and out in the community.

This is our church. It's endured a traumatic couple of years. The Communications Committee needs your help to inspire and energize a reborn congregation by sharing for all to enjoy the good news of what the Church has done and our hopes and plans to build on those successes.

With Missy Kisob, our multi-talented, hard-working editor-in-chief now largely living abroad, our ranks have slimmed but with help from frequent contributors – members of the clergy, Walter Roberts, plus the heads of our various ministries Soundings lives on. All are ably (and gratefully) guided by our advisors: Father Matt, Jeff Bodenmann and Kari Black.

WATCH OUT! In February we will hold our first (ZOOM) meeting of the year and put together a list of stories that we will pursue for planned first issue of 2022. Your help, energy, creativity, inspiration, humor and hard work would be wildly appreciated. Please reach out to Missy Kisob ([kisob@msn.com](mailto:kisob@msn.com)) or Erik Ipsen ([eipsen@me.com](mailto:eipsen@me.com)) if you would like to join our merry (temporarily tiny) team, or if you have any ideas about what stories we should cover, what pie recipes we should try, poems we should read, etc.

Our future rests in your hands.

Respectfully submitted,  
Missy Kisob and Erik Ipsen

## **BUILDINGS COMMITTEE**

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. Somewhat like last year with the restrictions and issues related to Covid we only undertook selected major projects in 2021.

We contracted with Rohlf's Stained Glass to replace eight leaded-glass windows on the south-facing side of the church (facing the Garden of Resurrection). As part of this Capital Campaign project, we also repointed the brickwork and replaced all broken bricks surrounding those windows. The work began in May and due to delays in getting the frames was completed in November. Two major surprises surfaced during the project. The first was that the two upper level windows turned out to be decorative only and did not actually open into the attic area as we thought. The second was that the glass in those two windows was actually a mirror reflecting to outside.

The other major project we undertook was to install a complete audio-visual system to efficiently livestream regular and special services from the church. This project included installing three new cameras in the sanctuary, mounting two existing cameras between the altar and choir areas, hanging the existing high-end microphones from the ceiling of the sanctuary, replacing microphones on the pulpit and lectern areas and new lavalier and over the ear microphones for clergy. To control all of this equipment we converted a closet into an AV room utilizing a mix of new and previously owned computer and related equipment. All of this was accomplished as a result of the very generous donation of **Robert and Norma Landis**.

As an Eagle Scout project, a refurbishing of the cabinetry in the undercroft kitchen was also completed. This involved some repairs, plus sanding, painting and replacing hardware. In preparation for that, our Sextons, **Ed Blue and Walter Roberts** cooked up a creative way to help remove the kitchen's heavy and long-inoperable steam table. They used a car jack to pick it up and help place it on dollies. Following the kitchen refurbishment Ed and Walter painted the Undercroft and resealed the floors, making it look like a new area.

Parishioner **Jack Kraft** created a large sturdy table (Now in center of the Parish Hall) by refurbishing a former riser that was removed when we installed the new organ. It took most of the Men's Committee to move it to the Parish Hall and was so heavy that Jack did the refurbishment in place.

Facilitating outdoor coffee hour adjacent to the Garden of Resurrection the local Cub Scout Pack donated a new fire pit and **Jack Kraft** donated a metal bench and repaired the existing wooden benches. This was furthered by a donation of a cord of firewood by Pelham Country Club.

Assuming things get back to somewhere near normal in 2022, we also intend to continue the planning for and design of the handicapped entrance into Hoag Hall. We had previously engaged an 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.

We have a great committee. We will again meet when the things return to normal and plan to have 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!

Members of the 2020-2021 Buildings Committee: Russell Avolio, Amy Heese, Erik Ipsen, Jack Kraft, and Marie Main

Respectfully submitted,  
John Fox and Father Matt

## TENANT AND RENTAL REPORT

We are thrilled to say that most of our Tenants have returned feeling safe and adhering to Christ Church/NYS Guidelines.

**Gym Dandy** has moved out of the Undercroft and now has her own space in the old Thrive Studio. They love their new “digs,” and we have more access going forward to rent the Undercroft.

**The Pelham Promenanders** are glad to be back in the Parish Hall. They are limiting their rental to dancing only and not serving food or drinks, and when it is necessary, they are dancing with masks on.

We have 2 AA Groups that now feel comfortable meeting again in the Undercroft. They are the **Pelham Women’s Group** and the **Pelham Shore Road Group**. The two AA groups now enter and exit from the back door to the undercroft and are using the space for meetings only – not socializing. They are thrilled to be back and having in-person meetings.

**The Montessori School** has been in full operation since the pandemic and 2021 proved no different. 2022 marks their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Christ Church.

This season saw the temporary return of the **Pelham Travel Soccer group**. Due to some field work that was being performed in Pelham this fall, the group was looking to rent additional field space for their soccer practices. We were happy to oblige and had the happy sounds of children playing soccer for 11 weeks. We also had a one-time field use by BSA Greater Hudson Valley Council Pack 8. They finished their rental by roasting marshmallows around our fire pit.

Lastly, we had a beautiful wedding AND Hall Reception on Tuesday, December 28<sup>th</sup>. Our Parish Hall dresses up so well for these rare occasions, it would be wonderful to have more fun events – and hopefully, we will!

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**

### **2021 Investment Committee Activity**

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment of the endowment, which was \$4.04 million at 12/31/21. (The endowment is actually two accounts: the larger, main account and a separate, smaller, account for the Garden of the Resurrection.) Members of the committee are: Melissa Roddy and Margaret Young (co-chairs), Brandon Bethea, Ed Cragin, Ed McGann, Michael Micciche, and Kevin Widmaier. The committee met 12 times in 2021. We would welcome additional members who have a background in finance.

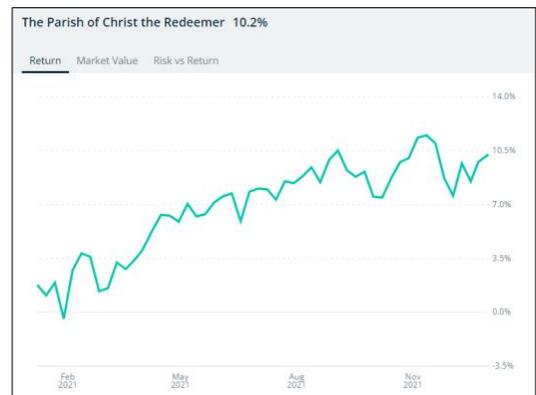
The most important decision made in 2021 was to move the management of the endowment from Granite Group Advisors to the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). The DIT is an investment vehicle that functions like a mutual fund and is open to all parishes in the diocese. The investment advisor is Commonfund, a highly regarded investment manager and a pioneer in investing long-term portfolios for not-for-profit institutions. We had been with Granite for seven years and this seemed like an appropriate time to review all options. In addition, we wanted greater access to private investments (such as private equity and venture capital funds). We weighed staying with Granite against the

following: managing the endowment ourselves; investing through Vanguard in two different options; moving to an alternative small advisor; or moving to the DIT.

We agreed that it was important to have an outside advisor; the committee is composed of volunteers, and the endowment deserves professional oversight. DIT was the only option to meet all the criteria we established, including professional management (through Commonfund), access to private assets, fee structure, and alignment with Diocesan interests regarding socially responsible investing. The fees payable to DIT / Commonfund will be comparable to Granite’s fees, but DIT / Commonfund’s performance has been better. All assets were transferred from Granite to the DIT effective 12/31/21. The Vestry was kept apprised at each step of our decision making process, and approved the transfer at the November Vestry meeting.

### Endowment Report

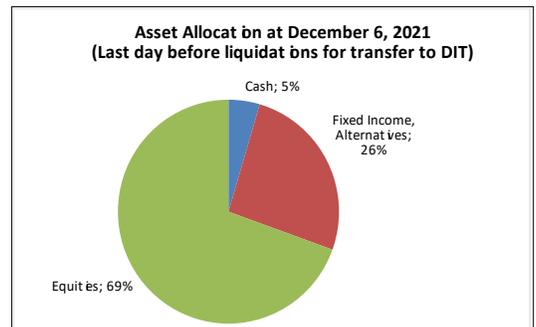
Granite was the endowment manager for all of 2021. The markets generally performed well in 2021, without the same extreme fluctuations as in 2020. Total Investment Returns (net of fees) were 10.2%, in line with most comparable averages. The chart here shows the steady increase in the endowment over the year.



An overview of the activity in the Parish’s endowment during 2021 is shown here.

Balance at December 31, 2020	\$3,815,900
Total Investment Returns, net of fees:	\$387,042
Withdrawals in 2021 for church operations:	(\$161,486)
Net Investment Returns after withdrawals:	\$225,556
Balance at December 31, 2021	\$4,041,456

The asset allocation as of 12/6/21 (the last day of full investment before liquidations started to transfer cash to DIT) was as follows:



We began the year with a significant cash position, which was used to fund distributions for the year and increase our bond holdings. Equities were consistently well represented in the portfolio, increasing from 65% to 69% of the total endowment.

## Withdrawals

In January 2021, the Vestry approved a 5.0% draw from the main endowment (excluding the Garden of the Resurrection balances) to supplement the annual operating budget, keeping within the strict guidelines set in prior years. The draw is calculated as a percentage of the prior 3 year's rolling average of the endowment's value.

While Total Investment Returns of \$387K easily covered withdrawals of \$161K in 2021 (see figures above), the goal of course is to both maximize returns and minimize withdrawals in order for the endowment growth to exceed inflation. The Total Portfolio net of withdrawals increased by \$225K, or 5.9%, which did not keep pace with the rising rate of inflation in 2021 of 7.0%, resulting in a loss of purchasing power for the endowment. Over the last 10 years, a total of \$1.4 million has been withdrawn to fund church operations and capital needs. Withdrawals are trending in a positive direction; five years ago, the withdrawals over the prior 10 years were \$1.5 million.

Standard practices for many not-for-profit institutions allow endowment draws of 4% - 4.5%. The DIT recommends 4% and automatically facilitates endowment draws of that amount for each of its clients. The Investment Committee has regularly suggested to the Vestry that it try to reduce the endowment draw as a percentage of the endowment, in order to ensure the long-term viability of the endowment and ensure that endowment growth outpaces inflation to preserve purchasing power. 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 and growth of principal needs to be the highest priority.

Respectively Submitted,  
Margaret Young  
CoChair of the Investment Committee

## FUNDRAISING 2021

Let us give thanks!

*"For from his fullness we have all received Grace upon Grace." John 1:16*

Fundraising in 2021 remained strong demonstrating the amazing generosity of our parishioners. Fundraising contributes to the life of our parish by allowing us to fund our ministries and maintain/upgrade 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 staffed our tag sale, and for parishioners who set up on-line fundraisers and who used Amazon Smile to benefit our parish as they made purchases.

### How Funds Were Raised

	Total
Tag Sale	\$ 4,167.00
Amazon Smile	\$ 164.00
On-Line/Facebook fundraising	\$ 6,768.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 11,504.00</b>

### Other Fundraising and Donations

Additional fundraising to benefit outreach and feeding program ministries included:

	Total
Christmas card sales and direct donations to Brown Bag	\$ 3,510.00
Food Pantry (funds monthly shopping for food pantries)	\$ 3,400.00
Episcopal Charities	\$ 10.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 6,920.00</b>

Respectively Submitted,  
Marie Dumas

## 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: Allison and Jeff Bodenmann, Amie Carter, Brandon Dammerman, and Father Matt.



We were able to conduct Stewardship Sunday in person, in conjunction with the Church School's Halloween festivities. Above is a photo of the bags that were distributed by the Stewardship Committee, containing treats and pledge cards. Thank you to the committee for the gift bags and for the hot cider, donuts and cookies enjoyed by all in attendance.

We continue to be grateful for the opportunity for parishioners to pledge through the Parish Giving online site. Parish Giving allows parishioners to set up recurring and/or make one-time gifts to the parish. Please visit our website: [www.christchurchpelham.org](http://www.christchurchpelham.org) and click on the Parish Giving box to see how easy this option is. As a reminder, we also have two other online giving opportunities: Smile.Amazon and FB fundraisers. This is our second year of being officially recognized by Facebook as a non-profit and we 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. To date \$6,390.00 has been contributed to Christ Church through FaceBook donations in 2021. If you are interested in posting/sharing a FaceBook fundraiser in honor of your birthday or other significant event and need assistance, please let the parish office know. This is a good way for your friends and family outside of the parish to support our mission.

<b>Pledges for</b>	<b>2022 (as of 1/13/22)</b>	<b>2021* (as of 12/31/21)</b>
Number of Pledges	100	92
Amount Pledged	\$386,012.00	\$376,358.00
Average pledge	\$3,860.12	\$4,090.84

*\*Please see 2021/2022 budgets for details on how the pledge numbers are adjusted to reflect historical giving patterns.*

We still have work to do... if you have not yet had the opportunity to make a pledge for 2022, please consider doing so now. You can ask for a pledge card from the parish office or you can simply call or email (914-738-5515 or [marie@christchurchpelham.org](mailto:marie@christchurchpelham.org)) and let Marie know your commitment for 2022. We are grateful for our parish home and for all of you.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Kari Black  
 Chair of the Stewardship Committee

## TREASURER'S REPORT 2021

### The 2021 Operating Budget

The 2021 operating budget was developed with the expectation that services would be virtual for the first half of the year, and that in person worship would return in September. Parish activities were assumed to follow a similar schedule. Based on this premise, the budget reflected an operating deficit of \$22, 427; including the surplus from 2020, the net budgeted deficit was \$14,634.

### 2021 Operating Results

On the revenue side, pledge income fell \$4,500 short of the budget and 2021 results. However, plate income and fundraising came in much stronger than anticipated, supported by on-line giving, several facebook fundraisers, and strong results from the tag sale. Rental income was also above expected levels, largely due to rental of the upstairs apartment in the old parish house. Rental income continues to be below historical levels (it was \$85,000 to \$98,000 in 2010 through 2018) and represents an opportunity to increase our revenues.

On the expense side, total expenses came in about \$30,000 below budget.

- Personnel expenses were below budgeted levels; salaries were as anticipated, while benefits and other expenses came in below expectations. Note that the 2020 expense included a full year of expenses for the assistant priest position, as compared to one month in 2021.
- The budgeted Diocesan Assessment reflects the 25% reduction the Diocese offered Parishes in need of relief. Christ Church paid this reduced amount in the first three quarters of the year. Given the stronger-than-anticipated income levels, the vestry elected to increase our payment in the fourth quarter.
- Worship expenses were below budget, as childcare during services was not reinstated. Music expense was also below budgeted levels.
- For the second year, the Diocese lifted the requirement for audited financials (by an external accountant/auditor), resulting in \$4,500 in savings.
- 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.
- Utility expense was lower than budgeted, due to a refund of overcharges in 2019-2020.
- Significant savings were achieved in maintenance and repairs, with only \$7,400 in ordinary repairs incurred as compared to the budgeted \$19,000. Fees paid to our building manager, Parish Property Management, were higher than budgeted, as they returned to full-time participation in the latter half of the year.

- Higher than anticipated Niche Sales resulted in revenue of over \$16,000, net of expenses, for the Garden of the Resurrection.

As of December 31, 2021, the parish financials reflected a surplus of \$36,190. Including the amount rolled over from 2020 resulted in a total surplus of \$43,983.

### **Endowment Contribution**

A key element of Christ Church's annual revenue is the draw from our endowment. For the past nine years (since 2013), the draw has been budgeted at 5% of the average balance of the endowment as of December 31 for the preceding three years. The budgeted amount was taken in all years except 2015, when an additional \$40,000 was drawn to fund necessary repairs to the rectory prior to Father Matt's arrival, and 2020, when reduced expenses and the PPP funds allowed us to draw only one quarter of the budgeted amount.

The 5% draw has historically been the recommended maximum for non-profit organizations. However, more recent guidance indicates that a 4% draw is more appropriate. In the current reduced interest rate environment, this lower draw is consistent with, and necessary to, the goal of maintaining the principal balance of the endowment. The Vestry has made a 4% draw the goal for future budgets; this goal is supported by the investment committee.

The draw is taken in quarterly installments. In 2021, the 5% budgeted draw was \$160,992. Due to the timing of pledge income and anticipated expenses, we took the final installment of \$40,248 late in the fourth quarter. Ultimately the year end revenues were stronger than expected, resulting in the \$36,190 surplus. This surplus equals just over 1% of the average endowment balance. In other words, had timing not necessitated the fourth quarter draw, the church's total 2021 expenses would have been supported by a 4% draw. However, it must be noted that expenses in 2021 were influenced by reduced operations related to COVID, and thus were lower than would be expected in a 'normal' year.

The 2022 operating budget reflects a 4.0% draw on the endowment. The resulting \$139,152 is roughly \$22,000 lower than the amount taken drawn 2021.

### **Capital Expenditures**

Outside the operating budget, a total of \$82,103 was invested in capital expenditures on designated projects.

Further equipment and upgrades to support our Live Streaming: \$42,564  
Repairs to the stained-glass windows and repointing of brickwork: \$39,539

The cost of the Live Stream project was substantially funded by a \$40,000 donation dedicated to this purpose. The balance of the costs were funded by proceeds from the capital campaign.

	2022	Year Ended Dec. 31, 2021			2020	2021 v 2020			
		Final	Actual	Budget			Variance	Actual	Variance
<b>INCOME</b>									
Pledge Income	374,252	365,119	369,650	(4,531)	370,669	(5,550)			
Plate	56,300	58,257	44,300	13,957	49,193	9,064			
Fundraising	11,650	11,504	7,000	4,504	7,521	3,983			
Rental Contribution	60,626	61,025	46,955	14,070	51,090	9,935			
<b>Income-Subtotal</b>	<b>502,828</b>	<b>495,905</b>	<b>467,905</b>	<b>28,000</b>	<b>478,473</b>	<b>17,432</b>			
Endowment Contrib.-Planned	139,152	160,992	160,992	-	39,552	121,440			
Leale Harper Contribution	2,140	2,139	2,018	121	2,018	121			
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>644,120</b>	<b>659,036</b>	<b>630,915</b>	<b>28,121</b>	<b>520,043</b>	<b>138,993</b>			
<b>EXPENSE</b>									
<b>Personnel</b>									
Personnel Expenses	355,803	332,405	340,483	(8,078)	328,768	3,637			
<b>Dioscesan Assessment</b>									
Diocesan Assessment	83,073	69,494	66,714	2,780	65,552	3,942			
<b>Worship</b>									
Worship	1,600	1,818	1,600	218	4,278	(2,460)			
Music	26,710	24,739	26,575	(1,836)	31,376	(6,637)			
Childcare	1,300	-	1,300	(1,300)	2,600	(2,600)			
<b>Total Worship</b>	<b>29,610</b>	<b>26,557</b>	<b>29,475</b>	<b>(2,918)</b>	<b>38,254</b>	<b>(11,697)</b>			
<b>Service</b>									
Christian Education	770	133	770	(637)	447	(314)			
Budgeted Clergy Discretionary	1,000	1,000	1,000	-	1,000	-			
Evangelism	750	-	750	(750)	510	(510)			
Conventions & Seminars	1,800	600	1,800	(1,200)	400	200			
Outreach	6,500	6,500	6,500	-	6,500	-			
<b>Total Service</b>	<b>10,820</b>	<b>8,233</b>	<b>10,820</b>	<b>(2,587)</b>	<b>8,857</b>	<b>(624)</b>			
<b>Community</b>									
Fellowship	2,425	1,521	2,425	(904)	578	943			
<b>Foundation</b>									
Office Expense	32,765	31,945	32,458	(513)	37,120	(5,175)			
Professional Services	14,100	9,600	14,100	(4,500)	9,600	-			
Insurance	33,500	32,092	32,700	(608)	32,067	25			
Utilities	61,669	55,120	54,553	567	38,884	16,236			
Maintenance & Repairs	47,075	28,445	40,298	(11,853)	28,045	400			
Grounds	18,325	18,511	18,325	186	19,934	(1,423)			
Snow Plowing	3,500	2,080	3,500	(1,420)	1,212	868			
<b>Total Foundation</b>	<b>210,934</b>	<b>177,793</b>	<b>195,934</b>	<b>(18,141)</b>	<b>166,862</b>	<b>10,931</b>			
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>692,665</b>	<b>616,003</b>	<b>645,851</b>	<b>(29,848)</b>	<b>608,871</b>	<b>7,132</b>			
<b>NET OPERATING INC. (EXP)</b>	<b>(48,545)</b>	<b>43,033</b>	<b>(14,936)</b>	<b>57,969</b>	<b>(88,828)</b>	<b>131,861</b>			
<b>BELOW THE LINE EXP (INC)</b>									
Recurring Items	8,150	6,843	7,491	(648)	6,787	56			
One Time Activities	-	-	-	-	(68,780)	68,780			
Garden of the Resurrection, net	16,535	(5,470)	16,318	(21,788)	3,573	(9,043)			
Garden of the Res. (Draw) Addition	(16,535)	5,470	(16,318)	21,788	(3,573)	9,043			
Contributions	-	-	-	-	(400)	400			
<b>Total Below the Line Exp (Inc)</b>	<b>8,150</b>	<b>6,843</b>	<b>7,491</b>	<b>(648)</b>	<b>(62,393)</b>	<b>69,236</b>			
<b>NET INCOME (EXPENSE)</b>	<b>(56,695)</b>	<b>36,190</b>	<b>(22,427)</b>	<b>58,617</b>	<b>(26,435)</b>	<b>62,625</b>			
Carryforward from Prior Year	43,983	7,793	7,793		34,228				
<b>Net Balance</b>	<b>(12,712)</b>	<b>43,983</b>	<b>(14,634)</b>		<b>7,793</b>				

## **The 2022 Operating Budget**

In preparing the 2022, the finance committee assumed that the church would offer in-person services throughout the year, supplemented by on-line offerings. Other ministries and parish operations are assumed to be somewhat less than normal levels, reflecting the program modifications from necessary COVID precautions.

### **Revenues**

The 2022 budget reflects total revenues of \$644,120. Pledge income is forecast to be \$374,250, a \$9,100 increase over 2021. The 2022 budgeted amount is consistent with Pledge income in 2018 and 2019. Plate revenue is forecast to be slightly lower, principally due to new pledges from parishioners who historically contributed through the Plate. Fundraising and rental are expected to be essentially flat. The net surplus in income is offset by the reduced draw amount, resulting in a \$14,900 decrease in revenue from 2021 levels.

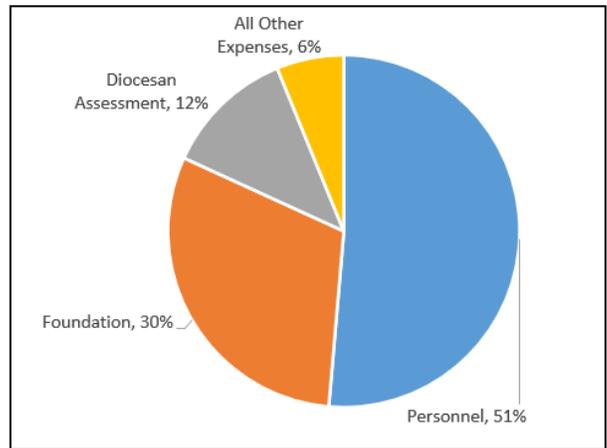
### **Expenses**

The budget reflects total expenses of \$692,665, before below the line expenses. This is an increase of \$76,700 over 2021 levels, and \$25,400 over 2019 levels (the most recent 'normal' year).

- Total personnel expenses are budgeted to increase by \$23,400, or 6.6%. Much of this is due to increases in salaries and related taxes and benefits. (Note that the COLA increase for 2022 is 5.9%.) In addition, Father Matt deferred his 2021 continuing education budget to 2022, to be applied to an extension of the Pilgrimage trip as part of his scheduled sabbatical.
- The 25% reduction to the Diocesan assessment is no longer available; the full assessment is \$83,073. This is consistent with the 2019 assessment of \$83,184.
- Worship, Service and Community expenses are all budgeted to increase modestly.
- Professional fees will increase as the Diocese's external audit requirement is reinstated.
- Utility expenses are forecast to increase, due to inflation and the lack of the 2020 refund.
- Building expenses are forecast to increase by \$18,630, reflecting normal levels of ordinary repairs and maintenance, and a full year of PPM fees.

Overall, the operating budget reflects a \$56,695 deficit. Much of this will be covered by the 2021 surplus of \$43,983. Absent this surplus, the operating shortfall equates to 1.6% of the endowment balance. In other words, to achieve a balanced budget the draw would have to be 5.6% of the endowment balance, not the 4.0% that is the Vestry's goal and is reflected in the budget.

From a financial perspective, the most critical issue facing the parish continues to be the need to increase revenues. Although we have made great strides in cutting expenses, at this point the line items that are considered discretionary have been reduced to the minimum levels necessary to sustain our ministries. The personnel line item comprises over 51% of our expenses, while foundation costs are 30% of the total expenses. These are expenses over which we have little control and will almost certainly increase over time. Increased revenues will be needed to offset these expected expense increases.



One of the long-term goals of the parish has been to add a second priest, to support Father Matt and our various ministries. With the onset of the pandemic and related decrease in all activities, this need has been less immediate. However, over the long term, this issue will need to be addressed.

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 2021

Your Vestry met the challenges of "year two" with the same effort, ingenuity and flexibility that got our church through the first year of the global covid pandemic. Many of the emergency measures we adopted lead to some on-going improvements this year like hybrid meetings and ministries and live-stream worship. I remain thankful for the energy and talent of our Vestry that provided a thoughtful and constructive response to the constantly shifting conditions and rules.

The Vestry's primary job is to support the spiritual welfare of the parish - the mission stayed the same. The support of that mission has evolved in ways none of us could have predicted two years ago. It helps me to remember that our little church on the corner of Pelhamdale and Shore Road has been through The Civil War, Spanish Flu, The Great Depression, two World Wars, the 9/11 Attack and now the Covid Pandemic. Every Christ Church Vestry since 1843 met these challenges to support the spiritual welfare of the parish and do good in the broader community. Next year will inevitably bring more changes requiring new thinking and new solutions. I thank God we have the vestry to meet what comes and ultimately make things better.

I am honored to be a warden here. I invite you to join me and thank the members of the Vestry who do great work on your behalf.

- Carol Ipsen – Junior Warden
  - Angela Barone
  - Andrew DesRault
  - John Fox
  - Etta Gumbs
  - Jack Kraft
  - Bob Landis
  - Gavin Leckie
  - Courtney McGrory
  - 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 Deacon Chisara Alimole

Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*

Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*

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. Angela Lore-Barone

Mr. Jack Kraft

Mr. Andy Des Rault

Mr. Robert Landis

Mr. John Fox

Mr. Gavin Leckie

Ms. Etta Gumbs

Ms. Courtney McGroory

Ms. Barbara Zambelli

***The Holy Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays at 8 and 10 a.m.***

**Prayers for Healing are given after both services.**

† 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](http://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.***