

THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK



ANNUAL REPORT (2023)

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH- JANUARY 28, 2024

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ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

January 28, 2024

- Opening Prayers, Welcome
- Rector's Report
- Warden's Report & Election Results
- Treasurer's Report
- Q&A
- Blessing and Close meeting with the Doxology



RECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to look back at the past year briefly and share some things I think we need to address in the coming year. In 2023 we focused on four “big picture” challenges:

1. Growing our Sunday School and other family ministries.
2. Incorporating newcomers into our Parish Community.
3. Every member making a financial pledge.
4. Maximizing rental and lease income.

We have made progress, and each area remains a priority as we move into 2024. I have offered some thoughts on how we did in 2023 and what we should improve in 2024.

Sunday School & Family Ministires

Most of our family ministries are on the right track. Nursery is offered every week. Sunday School is also offered every week and unlike 2022, the classes are never (or rarely) empty. Youth Group meets monthly and has a small core of four teens present, and we have had two events with six teens. Confirmation Class this year has six students. Vacation Bible School in August had more than twenty kids. The Christmas Pageant included more than a dozen children. This past Sunday (a very cold January 21, 2024) there were more than 30 children and teens in attendance at our three services. The number of children in church is growing, and there are three primary reasons I see for this growth. First is the buy-in and support of our families with children who have made a concerted effort to involve their kids more often, second is the addition to our staff of Evan Felicetti our new Children's Director who started in August, and third is the fact that our congregation is publicly prioritizing family ministries. I am very grateful to Evan, to the three families that each donated \$5,000 beyond their pledges in 2023 to make it possible for us to hire Evan, and to all of our families who have put in the time and effort to ensure their children are active in parish youth events. I am also very grateful for the numerous volunteers who helped with Vacation Bible School in August and the Pageant at Christmas, and I am grateful for our teachers who lead Sunday School every week.

In addition to continuing growth in the above areas, we need to address several areas where we have not seen similar growth. We do not have a children's choir, we do not have children acolyteing every week, and we need teens to help run the livestream. There are also areas where we need some restructuring. I am convinced that worship and music on Sundays and Holy Days needs to be more accessible to families and more reliable in terms of service length and feel. I also beleive that our Coffee Hour and all parish events need to be more family friendly. In 2023 we identified a need to do a better job welcoming and keeping track of newcomers, and this too remains a significant need.

Family Minisrty will continue to be our number one priority in 2024 with the two-fold goal of deepening engagement with the families in our congregation while also bringing in new, active families. I think it is essential that we recognize, give thanks for, and build upon the good work that we have begun. I think it is also essential that we address the challenges we know we have.

Welcoming Newcomers

As noted above, we can do far better welcoming newcomers, and there is a lot of low-hanging fruit that we can address.

We do not have a signup sheet in the narthex or cards in the pews for visitors to sign. We do not have regular events or meet-and-greets to introduce newcomers to the parish. Almost nobody (including myself) wears nametags at any parish event. We do not follow up with an introductory mailing after a new family visits. We do not have an advertising strategy to reach people outside of the parish. Our parish eblast subscriber total has been static for several years and half of our parishioners don't regularly open or read the eblast. Lastly, we need to reconsider how we manage and use our parish database.

All of these areas must be addressed in 2024. Some of this should be done by the staff, but we desperately need more involvement from lay leadership to welcome newcomers effectively. To that end, I am forming a Task Force to Welcome Newcomers who will identify the numerous areas we need to improve and who will offer solutions that can be implemented and led by our layity and supported by our staff.

Pledging

Prior to 2023 we had only broken above \$400,000 one time. In 2023, we nearly hit \$450,000. Much of that increase was due to the generosity from the matching pledge campaign that came when our 2023 campaign faced a deficit heading into the annual meeting. In the hopes of bringing in the entire congregation to help address the deficit, one family made a matching pledge of \$25,000 in January 2023. The \$25,000 was more than matched. Thank you to all who pledged and made increases, and special thanks to the family that started the match.

We need to keep the energy and engagement we saw in 2023 and bring it into 2024. Our 2024 pledge campaign is off to a good start, but we still have about 40 families that made pledges in 2023 who have not yet pledged for 2024. Our goal is NOT a dollar amount. Our goal is 100% of the parish making a pledge to keep the church open and staffed and to support the ministries we offer. Please make your pledge as soon as possible because every pledge and every dollar are essential.

Rental and Lease Income

We went into 2023 with several vacant or underused spaces on our campus. I am happy to report that we made major progress. Hearts and Homes for Refugees moved into the vacant first floor space of the Old Parish House. HHR is a perfect fit in terms of mission, and they are excellent tenants.

Pelham Scout Troop 1 formally moved to Christ Church in September 2023, and we are now the charter organization and host for the troop. Every Thursday we have 30-50 boys meeting in Hoag Hall, and we now host regular Troop 1 Court of Honor ceremonies that are joined by civic leaders and parents. In February we have our first Scout Sunday which I hope will be well attended by our

parish and by the troop and their families. We don't make any money from the troop, but they bring families to Christ Church regularly, and it was likely related that several Scout families came to worship with us on Christmas Eve. This is a great use of our space.

Hoag Hall is now home to a rotating art exhibit. Each exhibit brings in visitors who are friends with the artist and also brings in a new income stream from sales of artwork. The hall is beautiful, more profitable, and bringing in visitors. Make it a priority to come to the "Meet the Artist" receptions because that is an easy way to welcome visitors to the parish who might come back on a Sunday – we have several new parishioners whose involvement is linked to the art ministry. Many thanks to Patrice Fitzpatrick for founding and overseeing the art ministry!

The work of maximizing our spaces for income and ministry never ends. If you have any ideas on maximizing our space use, please let me or our Vestry members know.

A Staff and Program Change

On January 26, 2024, I sent out the following letter to the parish:

I write to share a staff and program change. After much consideration and discussion with Jeffrey Hoffman our Organist and Music Director, the vestry, and many of you, it is clear to me that our music program needs to be restructured in 2024. The wardens and I are working with Jeffrey to navigate this transition and determine the date of his last Sunday at Christ Church.

I am very grateful for the service that Jeffrey has offered as our Organist and Music Director at Christ Church for the past seventeen years. Jeffrey has shared with us his passion and love for choral and instrumental music and composition. He played an essential role in the installation of the Jack Hennigan Organ, and his technological skills and knowhow helped us to go digital during the pandemic. He has also been a loving and pastoral presence to countless parishioners.

Change is difficult, but I believe that this is the right time for us to move in a different direction. When we have worked out more details, I will share them with you. At a date to be determined we will offer a farewell reception for Jeffrey at which we will present him with a goodbye purse in thanks for his service at Christ Church.

The Vestry and I are forming a search committee to survey the congregation about music and to work with me to find our next Organist and Music Director. We hope to complete that search quickly. In the interim, the search committee will do their best to make sure we have supply musicians to play the organ and direct our choir each Sunday. This Sunday is our Annual Meeting which will provide an opportunity for me to answer any questions that you might have about our next steps.

Please keep Jeffrey in your prayers in this time of transition. Please also keep our Parish in your prayers.

As noted in the letter, more details will be made available when we have them. Please note that the letter went out after several of the reports in this Annual Report had been submitted. I want to reiterate my gratitude to Jeffrey for his service at Christ Church and again offer prayers for Jeffrey and Christ Church during this time of transition.

Summary & Thanksgivings

I think we are in a very good place. I believe that we have weathered the past few years well, especially considering that many churches continue to struggle, and some have even closed.

If we build on what is working and address each of the challenges noted above, then I am confident that we will grow even more in 2024. I ask for your support as we continue to make family ministries our top priority. Please support the church financially, please join me in thanking all of our volunteers and staff for their hard work, please consider if you can help out in anyway, please let me know if you have any feedback or ideas, and please be patient as we continue to rebuild in 2024.

I want to thank the members of our Vestry and Officers, in particular our Wardens, Jeff Bodenmann and Etta Gumbs. Jeff is rotating off this year after six years serving as Senior Warden. His wisdom, humor, and hard work as a Warden will be greatly missed. Thank you, Jeff, for all you have done these past years and a job very well done! I am grateful to Allison Bodenmann our Treasurer, John Fox our Assistant Treasurer, and Guy Sanscartier our Bookkeeper. Our Vestry members and officers 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. Several leaders have completed years of service. Marie Dumas and Ed McGann have served as co-chairs of our Outreach Committee the past few years, and they are rotating off. Many thanks to Marie and Ed for their service! I'm pleased to announce that Carla Carroll will step in as chair of the committee in 2024: thank you Carla! Alice Dean has chaired our Grounds Committee for many years, and she is rotating off in 2024. Thank you so much Alice for your service! We are in the process of recruiting a new Grounds chair or co-chairs. Please speak to me or John Fox if you are interested.

I am grateful to our staff and the parish clergy, Marie, Evan, Jeffrey, Ed, Walter, and Deacon Chisara for their hard work and ministry over the past year.

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

VESTRY REPORT

Your vestry accomplished a lot in 2023 keeping our church on a solid foundation and setting the stage for growth. We started last year in a deep (and scary) financial hole where projected income was far from where we wanted it to be. We had several program ambitions but were not sure we could support the base activity much less expand. God showed up as did many of you. Ultimately, we increased our pledge amount to a record level, and we added much needed rental income. We closed the budget gap and were able to direct resources to create a Youth Ministry among other growth initiatives. The job now is to keep that momentum through 2024.

The Vestry's job is to support the spiritual welfare of the parish - to meet the challenges known to us and thrown at us. It helps me to remember that our little church has been through The Civil War, Spanish Flu, The Great Depression, two World Wars, the 9/11 Attack, the Covid Pandemic – so far. Every Christ Church Vestry since 1843 met the challenges thrown at them and came thru it smarter and stronger.

I invite you to join me and thank the members of the Vestry for the great work done on your behalf.

- Etta Gumbs – Junior Warden
- Jennifer Hawks Bland
- JD Calder
- Andrew DesRault
- Stephen Dolan
- John Fox
- Jack Kraft
- Bob Landis
- Courtney McGrory
- Barbara Zambelli
- Matthew Mead - Rector
- Allison Bodenmann – Treasurer
- Jean Gruener – Clerk

On a personal note, I will be stepping down as Senior Warden after the Annual Meeting. It has been both a pleasure and a privilege to serve you and our church. Allison and I love Christ Church and enjoy working to help keep it successful. I encourage everyone to find a way to support the good and important work done here. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeff Bodenmann, Senior Warden

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, Livestream Operators, 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: Art Ministry, 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.

CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRIES 2023

Vestry & Parish Officers

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector;

Jeff Bodenmann, Senior Warden (2018, 2020, 2022, 2023); Etta Gumbs, Junior Warden (2023); Allison Bodenman, Treasurer (2023); John Fox, Assistant Treasurer (2023); Jean Gruener, Clerk (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023)
 Andrew Des Rault (2020, 2023); Jack Kraft (2020, 2023); Barbara Zambelli (2020, 2023); Jennifer Bland (2022); Stephen Dolan (2022); JD Calder (2022); John Fox (2018, 2021); Robert Landis (2021); Courtney McGrory (2021).

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	Michael Moynihan
Service	Children's Ministries Committee	Stephen Dolan	Evan Felicetti
Service	Church School	Fr. Matt	Eileen Peluso
Service	Concerts at Christ Church	Jeff Bodenmann	Jeffrey Hoffman
Service	Evangelism (Newcomers)	Courtney McGrory	Fr. Matt
Service	Outreach	Etta Gumbs	Marie Dumas, Ed McGann
Service	Pastoral Care	Fr. Matt	Deacon Chisara
Service	Discernment	Fr. Matt	JD Calder
Community	Fellowship Events	Barbara Zambelli	Jackie Kraft, Janet Salvatore
Community	Coffee Hour	Jack Kraft	Jackie Kraft, Janet Salvatore
Community	Youth Group	Fr. Matt,	Evan Felicette
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	Courtney McGrory	Erik Ipsen, Missy Kisob
Foundation	Buildings	John Fox	John Fox
Foundation	Tenant and Rentals	Etta Gumbs	Marie Main
Foundation	Finance	Robert Landis	Allison Bordenmann
Foundation	Garden of the Resurrection	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Grounds	Father Matt	Alice Dean
Foundation	Investment	Robert Landis	Margaret Young, Melissa Roddy
Foundation	Personnel/Legal	Jeff Bodenmann	Vestry Lawyers
Foundation	Stewardship / Planned Giving	Father Matt	Curtis Chase
Foundation	Tag Sale	Jennifer Bland	Jackie Kraft, Eileen Wolfe
Foundation	General Fundraising	Father Matt	Marie Dumas

WORSHIP REPORT

In 2023 the Holy Eucharist was offered in-person and livestreamed every single Sunday and on major Holy Days.

A review of the past five years should illustrate where we are compared to the last normal year (2019):

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Total Sunday worshippers	8834	2305	3885	5186	5959
Average Sunday Attendance	170	44	75	100	112
Total Sunday Eucharists	118	62	117	121	130
Easter Attendance	440	0	193	355	346
Christmas Attendance	399	76	185	345	410
Total Weekday Attendance	1848	638	1452	1011	1760
Online Videos / Livestreams *	0	241	281	226	236
YouTube Shorts	0	0	0	673	6
LivestreamViews *	0	18.6K	28.6K	19.5K	19K
YouTube Short Views	0	0	0	168.7K	44.8K
Total YouTube Subscribers	0	192	298	766	1008

* includes all Livestreams and videos (Bible Studies, music, etc.) published by the church except Shorts.

Our Average Sunday Attendance is 65% what it was in 2019. We still are not yet back to normal, but we are making progress, considering it was 58% in 2022, 44% in 2021 and 26% in 2020. Also, our attendance at major services at Christmas have returned to normal, and Easter has nearly done so.

A few thoughts on the livestream:

1. People tend to watch the livestream when they are away from Pelham;
2. People who attend church regularly watch the livestream when they can't make church due to illness or for some other reason; and
3. People who are church shopping watch the livestream.

I encourage you all to take some time to see the Landis AV Room. We are looking for teens to help run the livestream. I hope you will peruse our YouTube channel and share our Sunday videos and sermon on your social media accounts – that truly works to spread the news about Christ Church.

In addition to Sunday morning and Holy Day worship, we offered our 5pm Come As You Are more regularly in 2023. We also continued using Zoom for Evening Prayer on Mondays, Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, and Bible Study on Thursday mornings. In January of 2023 we added a regular Wednesday eucharist which has been well attended (for a weekday mass).

Other Sacraments and Sacramental Rites were offered in 2023. Bishop Dietsche and Bishop Heyd both visited Christ Church in 2023 for Confirmation. Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals were offered in 2023, and we were able to livestream these services to those who could not attend. Anointing with Holy Oil for Healing was offered after each Sunday morning Eucharist. Hospital visits and pastoral calls were offered normally throughout 2023. Looking ahead, Bishop Shin is scheduled to administer Confirmation at 10:00 am on April 14, 2024.

As always, more detailed in-person attendance numbers and online statistics are available upon request. They are imperfect metrics, but they do provide some helpful insights.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Priest & Rector

DEACON CHISARA'S REPORT

Dear Church family,

I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank almighty God for bringing us to the beginning of another year, 2024. We as a faith community have a lot to be grateful for in the past year. We grew stronger in many ways. Our worship experience remained inspirational and attendance at our Sunday worship both in-person and livestream picked up strongly. I am touched by how we strive to grow as a community of faith in our commitment to God's work. Our ministry with Saints John, Paul, and Clement remains vibrant. One of the highlights of our work with the food pantry last year was our participation on September 9, 2023, in an all-County food drive in conjunction with a popular TV station. Our parish group had a strong presence in that campaign. Also, our outreach ministry has supported Saints John, Paul, and Clement food pantry with monetary donations two years in a row.

Our parish continues to seek ways to enrich our Godly lives. Last year, our parish took a bold move to add a ministry to our parish life. Father Matt gave his blessings to the installation of a new chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) in our parish. DOK is an international Order in which Daughters undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. For those who are interested in knowing more about this Order, please visit their website at www.doknational.org. Last year, a group of 6 parishioners started discernment and completed the process. They are now ready to be received in the Order. This means that we are at the verge of the institution of the DOK Christ the Redeemer Charter. I believe that DOK will be an added blessing to Christ Church Pelham.

I am ever inspired by the many wonderful ways the work of God goes on in our parish, and the zeal, the dedication, and commitment with which we do God's work here at Christ Church. It is an attestation that we share in the legacy of good works of the architects of our beautiful parish and fellow parishioners who lived before us, and we affirm our baptismal covenant. Another important

aspect of our lives at Christ Church is Pastoral Care. Pastoral care ministry is vibrant at Christ Church Pelham. Many of our parishioners are on board and engage regularly in pastoral care ministry in many ways. We have an admirable group of parish women with an outpour of love and care to one of us needing our love and support. We have other parishioners eager to join in this ministry of agape love.

2024 is another year God has blessed. There's still much work to do. I pray that we remain blessed with good health, the right spirit, and the strength to continue with God's work to the honor and glory of God. May we always find inspiration and strength to live our lives for God and in God who gave us life. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev Deacon Chisara Alimole

ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER'S REPORT

*Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
With loving zeal;
The poor, and them that mourn,
The faint and overborne,
Sin-sick and sorrow-worn,
Whom Christ doth heal.*

*Christ for the world we sing!
The world to Christ we bring
With joyful song;
The newborn souls, whose days
Reclaimed from error's ways,
Inspired with hope and praise,
To Christ belong.*

These are the first and last stanzas of Samuel Wolcott's nineteenth century hymn, sung to the tune *Moscow* and found at number 537 of *The Hymnal 1982*. In this current age of angst and polarization in our secular world, while the spiritual needs of many people are ignored, unmet, and even exploited by the unscrupulous, this hymn offers a singular, clarion call to remember the importance of singing the Lord's praises and fulfilling our mission as believing Christians, as Father Matthew Mead reminds us regularly, to bring the people in our world to Christ. It is our objective in music ministry at Christ Church not only to uphold our tradition of hymn-singing and a high standard of choral singing, but also and always to do those things in service of this greater aim of the universal Church to share the light of Christ in the world around us.

A special thanks to all our volunteer choral singers who sang in our parish choir during 2023: Kim de Beaumont, Jeff Bodenmann, Alison Bodenmann, Curtis Chase, Dennis Doran, Cherrie Greenhalgh, John Hastings, Margo Hastings, Emily Kane, Mboti (Missy) Kisob, Denise Devonish-Liburd, Carolyn Sadler, Jim Young, and Margaret Young. We explored a wide repertoire from the early renaissance straight through the modern age, composed by men and women of faith in numerous languages, primarily Latin and English, but also Estonian, Ladino (a medieval dialect related to Spanish and Portugese), and Ukrainian, from Negro spirituals to the European oratorio repertoire. In my repertoire and programming choices I paid special attention to include music by women composers and African-American composers, who have not always been given the attention they deserve. Our

professional choristers, John Burke, Simon Cram, Jann Degnan, and Jeanmarie Lally helped all of our volunteer choristers excel as an ensemble and from time to time also offered beautiful solos, either on weeks when there was no parish choir scheduled, or accompanied by the choir.

During the months of June and July, our summer choir offered anthems based on lesser known hymns from our *Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, and Wonder, Love, and Praise*. Lisa Buga, Fernando Cherobim, Carol Ipsen, Erik Ipsen, Patricia Johnson, Emily Kane, Janet Kornfeld, Carolyn Sadler, and Winifer Skattebol all participated in our summer choir program.

Thanks to your generous donations to our Easter and Christmas music memorials, we were able to feature the horn quartet The Metropolitan Horn Authority palying for our Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday morning services in 2023; and the string quartet Jonathan Block, Denise Cridge, Kate Dillingham, and Elizabeth Miller helped accompany the music at our two Christmas Eve services.

In October, under the auspices of Concerts at Christ Church, I offered a candlelit mini organ recital of about 45 minutes' length: *Music of Magic and Mystery*. As we look forward to the 2024-2025 season beginning in the autumn of 2024, which will be the fifth anniversary season of the arrival of our Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ by Juget-Sinclair, I hope to fully resume this community concert series that was interrupted by the unwelcome arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic midseason in 2019-2020.

As I contemplate the words of the hymn "*Christ for the world we sing! The world to Christ we bring,*" I reaffirm my commitment to the success and growth of our parish music ministry and extend an invitation for others of you in our parish community to join us, whether as a member of the parish choir, as an occasional Sunday morning instrumentalist, by participating in our summer choir ministry, or by volunteering for Concerts at Christ Church. I hope that 2024 will also bring the opportunity to reboot our parish children's choir ministries. Please speak to me at coffee hour about any of these items or drop an e-mail to

jeffrey@christchurchpelham.org

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey Hoffman

VERGER'S REPORT

The Acolyte Guild

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

Acolytes assist in worship by carrying the processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches", and assisting a Deacon, Priest or Bishop in Liturgical rites of the Liturgy ...

The Ministry gives our young people and Adults an opportunity to assume a leadership position in the Parish, learn our traditions, and to actively participate in its services in a very unique and memorable way. The Acolyte Guild is open to Children age 10 and above, as well as Adults.

A Big "Thank you" to our acolytes for their participation in our services each Sunday. We count on them to make the services flow and our worship is enhanced by their presence ...

The next time you see an acolyte light a candle, remember that you're witnessing a piece of our apostolic tradition that spans at least 17 centuries!

Lectors

The role of a lector is to proclaim the Word to the people of God. It is a ministry in which we are privileged to participate. It calls for sacrifice — an investment in time and energy to effectively communicate the sacred scriptures to the people of the Holy Family. 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 (Chalice Bearer)/Lay Eucharistic Visitor

A person licensed to administer the chalice is best described as an "extraordinary minister of the Sacrament."

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEMs)

LEMs are lay people of the diocese who have been approved by clergy to serve in their parishes in the lay licensed ministries. Basically they will administer communion as part of the Sunday and weekday liturgies. The administration of Holy Communion is properly the province of the ordained—bishops, priests, and deacons. Hence, licensed lay ministers are, paradoxically, not really performing lay ministry at all! They are, in fact, deputized, in a restricted sense, to share in the these functions of the clergy.

Lay Eucharistic Visitor

We extend the Table of Our Lord to those through the service of Lay Eucharistic Visitors. These servants take Holy Communion to the members of our community, typically after the Sunday Service. Their visit includes a review of the readings for the day, and administering Holy Communion One

must approved by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, be a baptized member in good standing of the Parish. They must complete training. Then be Licensed by the Bishop.

Serving Our Lord Together,
Walter Roberts, Verger

USHERS' REPORT

"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness."

Psalm 84:10

The ushers at Christ Church are doorkeepers, the first welcoming faces a visitor to Christ Church sees! Their role is to contribute to the smooth progression of the worship service so that clergy and congregation might better concentrate on their devotions. At each service, they work as a team, usually of two, sometimes three. They arrive before the service and prepare the bulletins, inserting the weekly calendar and any other special flyers for the service. They stand in the Narthex, greeting churchgoers, making arrivals feel welcome, handing out bulletins, answering questions and helping with seating for parishioners and visitors alike. Newcomers with children are shown how to access the Sunday School or restrooms, if requested.

For special services such as baptisms or memorial services, the ushers ensure that family members are escorted to reserved pews. In crowded or overflow situations, they help arriving worshipers find seating, indicating to latecomers the pews on the belltower side of the church.

The ushers assist parishioners or visitors with special needs, opening the second doors to accommodate walkers or wheelchairs and showing them to their pews, making certain that these conveyances will not impede the procession. They monitor the doors from the Narthex into the church during the processional hymn to ensure that the procession is not disrupted by late arrivals.

At the beginning of the service, one of the ushers makes a headcount of the congregation n, including the clergy, verger, acolytes, musical director and choir members. During the service the ushers take up the collection and present the offering at the altar, then arrange the kneeling cushions around the altar rail as needed. During the communion, they direct people to the front of the church, pew by pew. Should any parishioner or visitor need the communion brought to their seat, the ushers advise Father Matt accordingly.

After the service, the ushers count and record the offerings in the collection plates and note the attendance count they have taken. They then ensure that the offerings, envelopes and record book are safely stored away in the church office.

In 2023, twenty-two parishioners served as ushers at the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 services on Sundays, at funerals and memorial services, and at special services during Holy Week, at Christmas and on other holy days.

I am grateful for this small and dedicated group of parishioners who faithfully and joyfully serve the church and I encourage others who would like to join this ministry to let me know of their interest and availability. Please contact me at gruenerjean@me.com

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gruener

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. 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.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Kraft and Paige Lavengood

FLOWER GUILD

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

Due to the generosity of a local florist, Frank at Enchanted Flowers in New Rochelle, we can offer fresh flowers for both the Main Altar and the Bolton Altar for the suggested donation of \$150. Donators can ask for specific remembrance/celebration requests. These requests will be noted in the weekly Sunday bulletin.

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

The guild currently has 13 members, listed below. In 2023 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, Marie Dumas, Charlette Finch, Patrice Fitzpatrick (Chair), Etta Gumbs, Emily Kane, Marie Main, Katherine Kenworthy, Colette Phipps, Janet Salvatore, and Cherie Sigward.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Fitzpatrick, Chairperson

ONLINE BIBLE STUDY

The Rector's online Bible Study meets each Thursday at 8am and lasts about 45 minutes. The Rector's Bible Study takes a fairly academic track and explores one book of the Bible at a time. We are now reading Job. In 2023 we read Obadiah, Ruth, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Revelation, Daniel, and the Psalms. In 2022 we read Saint Matthew's Gospel. In 2021 we read Isaiah, Amos, Jonah and stories of the prophets Elijah and Elisha. Join using the Zoom Button on our website (PW "BOLTON"). Each Bible Study is recorded and posted to our YouTube Page, so you can catch it later if you miss the live version.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead

IN-PERSON BIBLE STUDY

In-Person Bible Study meets each (and almost every) Thursday of the year from 10am-12Noon. We begin by catching up in prayer on the special needs of the group...people we want to remember in prayer...as well as covering the whole world too! We then review the past Sunday's Homily and see if our study the week before prepared us for the Liturgy. We then look at the next Sunday's Scriptures...usually beginning with the Gospel. Every effort is made to study the background of the reading and its meaning today and in our own lives. We aren't afraid to share opinions and personal experiences.

Because we often share moments and experiences that are personal, we have the Rules of Bible Study. The first rule is *what is said in Bible Study stays in Bible Study*...like Vegas! We also make every effort to respect others' opinions and keep politics out of our gatherings. A few times during the year we have a festive breakfast or lunch on occasions like significant birthdays, religious seasons and feasts like Saint Patrick/Saint Joseph: from "Corned Beef to Cannoli."

We use and refer to various Scripture Commentaries and reference books that explain and clarify many of the passages that we study. These tools are extremely helpful in our study of the Sacred Texts. Our sessions are led by Michael Moynihan and Missy Kisob.....All Are Welcome!

Respectfully submitted, Michael Moynihan

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Our 2023 Christmas Pageant was presented at the 10am service on December 17th. The pageant was a huge success all around and featured 11 children from our parish in acting roles. An additional 6 teens from our confirmation class also helped out by doing the readings, and by acting as stagehands. This wonderful celebration of Jesus' birth wouldn't have been possible without the guidance, leadership, and kindness of Carla Carol.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Felicetti

CONFIRMATION CLASS

The Prayer Book states about Confirmation: "In the course of their Christian development, those baptized at an early age are expected, when they are ready and have been duly prepared, to make a mature public affirmation of their faith and commitment to the responsibilities of their Baptism and to receive the laying on of hands by the bishop." Our youth confirmands tend to be in 8th or 9th grade, but we welcome all youth through high school. Confirmation preparation for adults is also required and is handled separately by the rector.

Our 2023-2024 class is led by Father Matt, Deacon Chisara, and Evan Felicetti. We have six youth confirmands in the class who will be confirmed by Bishop Shin at Christ Church on April 14, 2024, at 10am.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

A big part of fellowship is good conversation over a cup of hot coffee/tea after worship. We thank everyone for hosting a Sunday morning Coffee Hour - please see either Janet or Jackie to sign up to host an upcoming Sunday Coffee Hour.

As we are trying to bounce back from the pandemic, we will just list the many receptions, dinners and brunches we has hosted in the past. The year has started off good with a New Year's Brunch followed by this gathering today. Let's see what else we can accomplish this year.

Fellowship receptions of the past: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Maundy Thursday Dinners, Steak Dinners, Picnics, Pig Roasts, Salad fest, Chili/Stew/Soup Dinners, Easter Eve Receptions, Kentucky Derby Day, Halloween Parties, Candlemas Dinner, Italian Night, Christmas Brunch, and our famous Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner just to name a few.

We always welcome help and new ideas for fellowship, you can always find Janet and Jackie at Coffee Hour after the 10:00 service, we look forward to a great 2024!

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

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets in the undercroft one Wednesday each month to make sandwiches for Trinity Saint Paul's. After sandwich making, we head to Rockwell's (or elsewhere when feeling more adventurous) for dinner and conversation. We also host several special events during the course of the year. In 2023, among other things, we threw a party for the NFL Conference Championship games (which we are doing again after today's Annual Meeting!), hosted a Cajun Men's Group dinner at Bayou in Mount Vernon and took a trip to a local brewery. We also enlisted help of the Men to participate in various projects around the Church, including cooking at barbecues, setting up the Creche and assisting with the tag sale. Unfortunately, due to timing and other issues, we were unable to host the annual Pig Roast or Christmas movie viewing in 2023, but plan to do so this year. Our hope is to continue apace in the new year with our programming, especially as winter draws to an end. Please stay tuned!

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 2023, the Outreach Committee’s primary focus continued to be on providing financial and hands-on support to local feeding programs.

Summary of 2023 Parishioner Engagement Activities

Brown Bag Lunch Program - In 2023, Christ Church completed its seventh full year of support for the Brown Bag Lunch Program at Trinity St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in New Rochelle. This 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. Our special thanks to the Men’s Group for making the sandwiches and assembling the lunch bags each month.

Outreach Sundays – Parishioners were asked to donate food items on the first Sunday of each month to support the food pantries at St. James Church and Agatha House in the Bronx. Monthly parishioner food donations were 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 of \$5000 to one student from Southern Westchester BOCES.

Easter Appeal – The beneficiary of the 2023 Easter Appeal was the Food Pantry Mission at the Church of Saints John, Paul and Clement. Parishioners donated a total of \$1,085 to assist the Food Pantry Mission with its work.

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 the Food Pantry at Saints John Paul and Clement in Mount Vernon.

Animal Shelter Donations – In conjunction with the Blessing of the Animals on October 1, parishioners donated food and other much needed supplies which were given to the Westchester Humane Society in New Rochelle.

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 1,000 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.

Winter Coat Drive – In December, Christ Church collected 445 coats that were given to the New York Cares Alliance for distribution to individuals and families in New York City.

Giving Tree – During Advent parishioners donated winter hats, gloves, socks and scarves which were distributed by Hearts and Homes for Refugees and our partnering food bank organizations for distribution.

Outreach Card Sales – The Outreach Committee would like to thank the many parishioners who purchased Christmas and occasional cards in support of our feeding programs during Advent. Through your generosity the Outreach Committee was able to raise over \$1,000 which will allow us to continue to help those in need in 2024.

Summary of 2023 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.

\$1500 to Hope Community Services which runs a food pantry and a soup kitchen in New Rochelle in addition to providing social services support to those in need.

\$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.

\$1000 to the Food Pantry Program at Saints 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 thank parishioners once again 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), Jackie Kraft, Ed McGann (Co-chair) and Sandra Rivera

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday school began without a hitch starting in September. Attendance has definitely increased this past fall. We have a larger group of children attending part of the time, which makes for more kids getting the chance to learn about our faith, and about Jesus. Weekly crafts, age-appropriate cartoons, and in-person storytelling have also roused interest, and have made multiple students request to keep coming back each week. Evan Felicetti has been a great addition. His energy, enthusiasm and help plus a much larger teaching pool has made life a lot easier for teachers. Additional activities in addition to Sunday School and VBS have included October's Halloween Party, making Gingerbread Houses over Thanksgiving weekend, and making Christmas Cards for a local nursing home in December. We also can't forget December 17th's wonderful Christmas pageant, that wouldn't have been possible without the guidance, leadership, and kindness of Carla Carol. Our wonderful group of teachers for this school year are Eileen Peluso, Erik Ipsen, Pat Johnson, Michele Colangelo, Concetta Eudicone, Kristine Valerio, Janet Kornfeld, and Curtis Chase. Joining our teaching team in the spring will be Denise Devonish-Liburd.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Felicetti and Mrs. Eileen Peluso

YOUTH GROUP

Christ Church Youth Group got off to a nice start in Autumn of 2023, even though our attendance numbers are not where we would like them to be. However, as the year has gone on, more and more teens have begun to come to our meetings, and have given great feedback. Very successful youth group meetings have included our pizza making competition, our foosball tournament, and our board game night. As recently as earlier this month, Christ Church joined forces with the Youth Group at Huguenot Memorial Church to go bowling at Bowlero in White Plains! It was a wonderful afternoon of fun, friendship, and laughter.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Felicetti

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Youth Ministry started off with a bang for the 2023-2024 school year, with Vacation Bible School in late August. Total attendance this year was 21 kids, which provided great opportunities for games, laughs, and new friends. The weather cooperated nicely as well, giving our children the opportunity to experience an outdoor Eucharist with bread they proudly baked themselves.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Felicetti

WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Women's Connection held fun and festive social gatherings and continued its commitment to service projects. We met via zoom throughout the year to plan our activities. Our June cocktail party was a great success. We had dance lessons from Josie of Josie's International School of Dance who taught us salsa, bachara and merengue. We enjoyed a delicious taco bar along with signature cocktails. In the fall a group of us had the great privilege of taking a tour of our magnificent Cathedral. We were awed by its beauty and profoundly moved by its history. We had a delightful Christmas Cookie Exchange at the home of a parishioner.

Continuing our commitment to be of service to others, the women of the parish made meals for hundreds of people to be served by Community Service Associates at their Mount Vernon location. We also packed hundreds of bags of food for the food pantry at the St John, Paul, and Clement Church in Mt Vernon. In 2024, we will continue our commitment of service to others and continue to create activities which will bring us together as sisters with a shared faith.

Respectfully Submitted,
Barbara Zambelli

ART MINISTRY 2023

One year after our new Art Ministry began brightening up the Parish Hall with monthly displays of paintings, drawings, photographs, and other hanging artworks for sale from local artists, including some parishioners, the ministry has proven to be a success and enjoyed by all!

It is free for the artist to use the hall, which is very unusual in the art display world. We have had TWELVE artists so far this year. Even if the artwork is not sold, it still brightens up HOAG HALL and attracts non-parishioners to visit our church. We have even had a surprise sale by our very own Marilyn Leone! She had it listed as NFS (not for sale), but she let it go. The painting was a wonderful sunrise in the Israel desert – a memory from her pilgrimage to Jerusalem. It is now framed (thank you Cherie Siegward) and on display in Father Matt's office.

The ministry features artists of all mediums. With 7 large display areas there is room for up to 28 pieces of artwork. Displays will include art on canvas, photography, textiles, watercolors, pastels, etc. Works will be displayed for 4-6 weeks and then another show will be rotated in.

All are welcome to display their god given talents. Please spread the word. The Art Ministry is always looking for new things to show. If it can hang on the wall, we can hang it!

Receptions are held for each change of artist.

Twenty percent of the proceeds of the sale of the artwork is donated to the Parish of Christ the Redeemer. As of December 2023, 51 works have been sold, grossing almost \$8000 thereby netting over \$1600 for the Church's outreach efforts.

Art is available to be viewed/bought on Sundays from 8 am till noon or by appointment. If you or someone you know would like to display artwork in Hoag Hall, please contact Patrice Fitzpatrick at patric23@optonline.net or 914-393-1885.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Fitzpatrick, Chair

COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

In a year when Buildings Committee Chair John Fox literally rolled out a brand-new red carpet from the Communion rail to the repainted narthex; when Evan Felicetti took over as the new head of the Youth Ministry in a domain running from Sunday School, to 3-day Vacation Bible Camp, and to teen outings; a year when Allison Bodemann signed on as Treasurer; when Ed Blue celebrated a half century as our Sexton; when Patrice Fitzpatrick repurposed the walls of the Parish Hall for a rotating, eye-pleasing, income-earning (for the benefit of our Outreach efforts) series of art shows; when the Women's Connection taught members how to step out and Tango; when the Men's Group ate crawfish at the Bayou Restaurant in Mt. Vernon; when Deacon Chisara took Christ Church out into the community from Manhattan to New Rochelle; when Jackie Kraft sated us week after week with some of the tastiest fellowship events in our 180-odd year history; and when Father Matt celebrated his 8th anniversary as our rector; and Hildy Munch deepened her dive into the record books celebrating her 105th birthday; and when we all thanked God for allowing us to breathe easier again.

What we did not have, in the end, was our planned 15th issue of Soundings, the church's occasional newsletter. With help from several wonderful contributors, we came close to publication in November, before we encountered unexpected technical difficulties that barred our path forward.

This year we plan to get our show back on the road, and to chronicle what already looks to be a busy period of growth and spiritual fulfilment.

Again, we thank you for your patience, encouragement, and sheer interest in parish life. Please contact our editors Missy Kisob kisop@msn.com, Erik erikipsen@me.com, or Jean at gruenerjean@me.com if you would like to join us in breathing fresh life, ideas, and energy into Christ Church's communications ministry. We welcome your story suggestions, favorite recipes, poems, or pictures. We would also love to have you join our merry team as a writer, editor, photographer, social media maven, or online producer.

Our goal is to share the news of all the wonderful things our parish does, to lovingly and hopefully colorfully acknowledge those who make it possible, to gladden the hearts of our fellow parishioners, and to inspire others to do more for Christ Church and our broader community, in God's name.

We also hope to have a good time together realizing those ambitions.

Respectfully submitted,
Missy Kisob, Jean Gruener 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. A few significant projects were undertaken in 2023, paid for using the remaining funds from our 2018 capital campaign.

The most visible project completed in 2023 is that of the refurbishment of the Narthex. This included removal of all the old wooden coat hooks, complete fresh coat of paint and addition of new carpeting within the Narthex and up the main aisle of the church.

Also completed this year was the refurbishment of the large stained-glass window along the east side of the Old Parish House. This included recaulking and painting. In addition, this year a much needed painting was completed of the exterior of the Rectory. This included the garage door, and all the lintels over the windows.

In 2023, we also completed a flushing and renewal of the exterior drainage systems around our buildings. Given the nature of the underground water around the buildings, as well as the runoff from our multiple roofs, this was a substantial accomplishment. As part of this process, we discovered issues relating to the drainage from the sump pumps underneath. The Sextons apartment. The solution to that problem was the installation of a manhole. It's installation in the center of the driveway, at the rear of Ranck Building has completely solved. a long-time drainage issue.

We also completed fine tuning of the new air conditioning system that had been installed late in 2022. This has resulted in not only more efficient and effective air conditioning for the church, but also a reduction in electricity costs.

Projects under consideration for 2024 include refurbishment of the corridor between the Sanctuary and Hoag Hall, plaster and painting repair in the Sanctuary,

Respectfully submitted,
John Fox and Father Matt

TENANT AND RENTAL REPORT

Tenants who rent space at Christ Church are:

- **The Pelham Promenanders:** They use the Parish Hall for their dances. They are here 2 Sundays a month from September to June.
- **Two AA Groups: The Pelham Women's Group and the Pelham Shore Road Group are in full swing.** They rent the undercroft for their afternoon and evening meetings several days during the week and Saturday. They are using our space for meetings only and bring their own beverages. They are very grateful to be having in-person meetings once again.
- **Hearts & Homes for Refugees:** Have moved into the old Thrive/GymDandy space. They are an organization committed to assisting and advocating for refugees in our country. Meshing well with Christ Church's Mission Statement.
- **The Montessori School** has been renting space at Christ Church since 1992. marks their 31st Anniversary at Christ Church. They use our Hall for various events, including Christmas and Easter parties for families and an amazing Art Show at the end of the school year.
- **Alex Wooden Driveway Garage Rental:** Alex has been renting ½ of the Garage since 2017. His contracting home improvement company is responsible for the opening and closing of our niches, adding plaques, a redo of the livestreaming room, and painting the Narthex.
- **Boy Scout Troop 1:** Our newest tenant as of September 2023, they use the Parish Hall every Thursday evening for their weekly Troop Meetings. They have additional monthly youth planning meetings, monthly adult planning meetings and two or three times a year and hold Court of Honor meetings where they recognize scouts for various achievements. Their Troop Leader is parishioner, Ted Hopper. On September 9th our own Liam Mead was recognized as an Eagle Scout in the first Eagle Court of Honor at Christ Church.

This year, we have had several one-time, hall events/rentals. First birthday parties, anniversary parties, etc. Our parish hall dresses up beautifully for all occasions. Looking forward to renting the hall for these and all occasions in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Main, Parish Administrator

GROUNDS

Our historic church, built in 1843, is located on approximately six acres of land near Long Island Sound. Roughly three of them are used for church activities and require continual maintenance. These include the land around the Church and its attached buildings, the Rectory, the parking lots, the Columbarium, the field, and the playground. All require regular maintenance.

The physical setting of the church and the geographic features of the land are spectacular. The unusual rock formations and the cliff-like setting of the Columbarium are unique. The man-made stone walls and the granite of the church building itself enhance these natural features. Every effort should be made to look after the stone walls by periodically removing the English ivy that grows on them in various places.

A major issue for the work of the Grounds Committee is the very poor quality of the soil in all areas. The impacted clay soil and the abundance of small rocks in the soil make it infertile and very difficult for plant growth. To remedy this deficiency, we annually apply mulch and a liquid organic fertilizer. Both of these efforts help improve the soil in an ecologically responsible manner.

The annual efforts of the committee focus on the maintenance and improvement of the grounds. Frank Moretti continues to take care of the routine maintenance as he has for the last eleven years. This includes mowing, pruning shrubs, weeding, and mulching. In addition, he promptly takes care of any special tasks that we require. He is reliable and always available for extra help and advice. He is also aware of our financial constraints so his fees have been reasonable over the years.

Our tree care efforts are supported by Matthew Burgess from Almstead Tree Co. He and I tour the grounds annually to determine what our tree needs are. As a result, with his help and invaluable advice, our on-going tree program of regular pruning and removal of unhealthy trees, there has been no damage to the hardscape. Since we do our tree work in the winter, our costs are reduced. We also use Almstead's services to take care of other matters that involve the health of our grounds. This year the issue was the lantern bugs.

I strongly recommend that we continue to use both Moretti and Almstead services for the parish.

The Committee also oversees the grounds of the Columbarium. We believe that we have a particular responsibility to tend that area so that parishioners may enjoy it for visiting and repose. We regularly prune the shrubs and trees in that area but it has been many years since we have attended to the state of the shrubs and planting. We need to look to doing some replacement planting of shrubs and ground cover in the near future. We should evaluate what shrubs and plants that need to be added or replaced so that the area maintains its lovely presence. In addition, we should plant some shade-loving ground cover. For these tasks we will need professional help.

Last year the parking lot in the back of the church was improved by the installation of much needed new wooden barriers between the playground and the parking lot. This project was undertaken by Liam Mead for his Eagle Scout project. We continue to be grateful for his successful work. It has

made the lot a safer place to park. We continue to supply the playground with appropriate mulch and weed control.

The area in the front of the church has been greatly improved by the refurbishment of the Church sign as well as two columnar boxwoods and carpet cypress in this area. Both the sign and the plantings were donated anonymously.

The flower containers at the Narthex door and the Parish Hall have been planted this past year.

Remove the increasing invasive weeds that surrounds our grounds.

Purchase new benches for the Columbarium area.

Investigate drainage problems around the Columbarium.

Evaluate the plantings in the Columbarium: add and replace where needed.

Improvement of the small garden at the head of the front stairs

Plant the front area of the Rectory.

My thanks also go to Walter Roberts for his help and to Eric Ipsen for his maintenance of the sedum garden near the Narthex.

Again, thank you to Liam Mead for his much- needed contribution to the grounds.

Like every other committee, we need and welcome more members. New eyes and hands will help keep Christ Church beautiful. Please come and give your ideas and get your hands dirty. It is good for the Soul!

Respectfully submitted, Alice K Dean, Chairperson

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

2023 Investment Committee Activity

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment of the endowment, which was \$3.65 million at 12/31/23. Members of the committee are Melissa Roddy and Margaret Young (co-chairs), Brandon Bethea, Ed Cragin, Erik Ipsen, Ed McGann, and Tom Sampson. Robert Landis is the Vestry Liaison. The committee met four times in 2023. We would welcome additional members who have a background in finance.

The endowment is managed by the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). The DIT is an investment fund that functions like a mutual fund and is open to all parishes in the diocese. For most of 2023, the investment advisor was Commonfund, an investment manager for not-for-profit institutions. However, DIT determined that a new manager could likely improve performance and switched advisors to Partners Capital (“Partners”) in October 2023. The Investment Committee was apprised of the move and given the opportunity to review materials and join a call with the new advisor.

The move to Partners was made in part to access a greater range of alternative investments and a slightly more aggressive investment approach following Commonfund’s lackluster performance for much of 2022 and 2023. Hopefully results should improve in 2024. Partners is a global, independent, investment office, with \$25 billion in assets under management and over 320 employees, including a 100-person client portfolio management team and a 56-person investment research team. The Investment Committee is comfortable with and endorses the move from Commonfund to Partners.

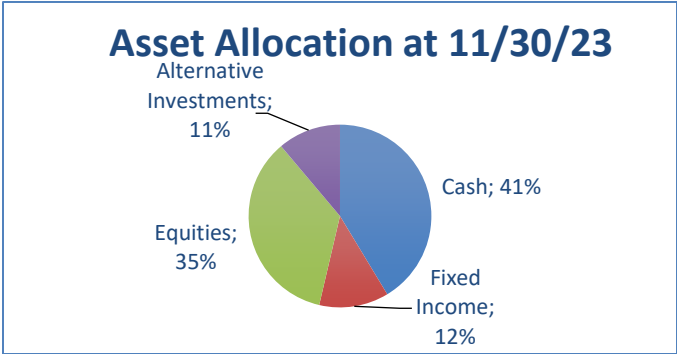
Endowment Report

US and Global equity markets ended 2023 on a high note. This performance was due to a cooling off in global inflation, a slide in the dollar index, declining crude oil prices, and higher expectations of rate cuts by the US Fed and other central banks. In the US, the S&P500 was up 24%, the tech-heavy NASDAQ more than 40% and the Dow Jones Industrial Average up 14%. Globally, the MSCI World Index was up 24%. The iShares Core US Aggregate Bond Index was up 5.5%. A typical 60% Equity/40% bond portfolio often used for endowments would have been up roughly 15%. Our portfolio return was 11% before withdrawals, and did underperform in 2023, in part due to the move to Partners in October and the higher cash balances toward year-end. The Investment Committee plans to carefully monitor 2024 performance to re-assess DIT management.

An overview of the activity in the Parish’s endowment during 2023 is shown here. The investment returns covered the endowment withdrawals with the remainder almost covering inflation.

Balance at December 31, 2022	\$3,442,823
Total Investment Returns:	390,857
Withdrawals for church operations:	(181,184)
Net Investment Returns after withdrawals:	\$209,673
Balance at December 31, 2023	\$3,652,496

The asset allocation at 12/31/23 was not available when report this was prepared, but the allocation at 11/30/23 is shown at the right. The high cash balance reflects the recent transfer (one month earlier) from Commonfund to Partners; it will take Partners some time to fully invest the balances.



Withdrawals

In January 2023, the Vestry approved a 5% draw from the main endowment and a 5.9% draw from the Garden of the Resurrection endowment, to supplement the annual operating budget. These withdrawal percentages are higher than the guidelines set in prior years; however, the withdrawal from the Garden endowment reflects the fact that there was no withdrawal for several years prior and therefore a higher withdrawal in 2023 than would have been made otherwise. The draws are calculated as a percentage of the prior 3 year’s rolling average of the endowment’s value.

The goal is to both maximize returns and minimize withdrawals in order for endowment growth to exceed inflation. Over the last 10 years, a total of \$1.46 million has been withdrawn to fund church operations and capital needs. Withdrawals in 2023 were the highest since 2008, reflecting increasing costs due to inflationary pressures, the one-time withdrawal from the Garden of the Resurrection account after several years of no withdrawals, and lower rental income.

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 client. The Investment Committee has regularly suggested to the Vestry that it try to reduce the endowment draw as a percentage of the endowment, 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 difficult without commensurate increases in pledges or cuts in programming and is particularly hard to accomplish when the markets are down or in periods of economic uncertainty. Donations to the endowment and memorial contributions will help preserve the endowment value.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

Brothers and Sisters of Christ Church Pelham,

To be the Stewardship Chair of Christ Church is to be in a constant state of gratitude as one continues to be awed by the generosity and charity of this Christian family. It is also to be in a constant state of agitation of recognition that in order to truly become the Parish I believe we are destined to be, we need a few more families and individuals to join our Christian family. I have been reading a lot about churches steadily losing congregants over the last few years and each Epiphany I recommit to building the membership in the year to come. This year – and I am aware one hears this a lot – this effort is more important than ever.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2024 stands at a point where it has come a long way and still has a long way to go. As of January 19, our Stewardship total is \$331,000 from 73 pledges that have been submitted - this is a great start, but we have quite a bit of work to do to get where we need to. We still have 46 families who pledged in 2023 who have not yet pledged for 2024, and we have an additional 55 families who are active in the parish but have not yet made pledges for 2024. That totals 101 families that we hope can be added to our current total, bringing the Parish to a larger membership than it has seen in decades and will allow us to heighten our profile in the Sound Shore communities and build on the effort to welcome members who may have drifted away over the past difficult period.

Thus, from the members of the Christ Church family, we need three things: for those of us who have not had the opportunity to pledge yet, please take this opportunity to do so at this time. Once again, the ways in which you can submit your pledge continue to grow: you can either submit a pledge card either by mailing your Pledge Card in, or emailing Marie Main in the Parish at Marie@ChristChurchPelham.org or calling 914-738-5515. There is also the option of pledging through the Parish Giving option – scan the QR code on the Parish website to access online giving

options. This option is in many ways preferable as when you use the Parish Giving option your donation comes from your bank account, and the church pays minimal processing fees.

Second, if there are friends or family that you believe could make use of Christ Church's brand of Christianity, invite them for a Sunday morning service or one of our Wednesday night family nights. Third, for those of us who are a bit behind on our 2023 pledge, this is the time to catch up and get square. In this year of 2024, the church stands at special moment, in which a loving and listening brand of Christianity is needed more than ever. With your financial commitment to the mission and ministry of Christ Church, 2024 is poised to be a very special year indeed.

Yours in In Christ's Mission
Curtis Chase
Stewardship Chair



TREASURER'S REPORT 2023

The 2023 Operating Budget

The 2023 Operating Budget was developed with the expectation that in person services would continue throughout the year supplemented by streaming services. Other ministries and parish operations were anticipated to ramp up slowly. The budget reflected a deficit of \$60,331. Due to a record year for pledges, the addition of a new Tenant and successful fundraisers we anticipate ending the year with a surplus of \$28,000.

2023 Operating Results

On the revenue side, pledge income came in over budget by \$33,811. Plate income was up by 10,018. Rental income increased by \$9,891 due to Hearts and Homes for Refugees moving into the old Thrive space. Fundraising was up by almost \$1,000 due to a successful Tag Sale and the addition of a monthly Art Exposition allowing artists to sell their work. The Endowment draw was slightly less than we budgeted. Total expenses came in higher than budget by \$22,678.

- Personnel expenses were down because medical and taxes came in lower than anticipated.
- The Diocesan Assessment was exactly as expected.
- Worship and music expenses increased as more people were attending church and we increased services where we included music.
- Outreach was down due to timing.
- Insurance and office expenses increased.
- Utilities were less than anticipated after major spikes at the end of 2022.
- Professional services were down due to turnover of bookkeepers and timing.

As of December 31st, 2023, the Parish financials reflect a \$28,548 surplus.

The 2024 Operating Budget

The 2024 budget was prepared under the premise that we are “back to normal” with a goal to build back families and youth participation.

Revenues

The 2024 budget reflects total revenues of \$707,634. Pledge income is expected to be roughly the same as 2023 actuals (which was a record-breaking year). Some pledgers have moved away, but we are seeing new pledges and pledges with increases. The plate was increased slightly but in line with 2023. Fundraising is expected to be at the 2023 actual levels. We included a 4.5% draw on the Endowment versus the 5% that we needed last

Expenses

The budget reflects total expenses of \$790,000, before below the line expenses. This is an increase of 9% over the 2023 Budget.

- Total personnel expenses are budgeted to increase by \$32,484 or 8.9%. This is due to the addition of a Director of Youth Ministry to salaries this year. This cost has been offset by a grant from the diocese and gifts from parishioners. Also, there are increases in salaries and related taxes and benefits. (Note the COLA increase for 2024 is 3.4%).
- The Diocesan assessment is up to \$87,494 which is an increase of 5.8% over last year, however there was virtually no increase from 2022 to 2023.
- Worship, Service and Community expenses have been budgeted in line with last year's budget and/or with last year's actual expenses.
- Professional fees increased as we need to budget for a full audit in 2024.
- Insurance is expected to increase midyear.
- Utilities are budgeted higher than last year's actual but lower than what was budgeted.
- Buildings and grounds are budgeted with slight increases as there is always work to be done on old buildings.

Overall, the operating budget reflects a \$69,866 deficit, which is offset by a \$28,548 surplus from 2023, leaving the overall deficit at \$41,318.

From an operating standpoint the big issue facing the parish continues to be revenues which are highly dependent on pledges from parishioners, 58% of operating revenue. More will be discussed on this during the annual meeting. We have made a great effort to keep expenses as low as possible and will continue to do so, but in the meantime, we need to grow our youth program and that will take time and money.

Many thanks to the members of the Finance committee for their dedication to this ministry, John Fox, JD Calder, Jeff Bodenmann, Margaret Young, Melissa Roddy, Etta Gumbs and Father Matt Mead. Also, many thanks to Amy Heese who spent much of 2023 training new people to take over her excellent work for the last 14 years.

We invite any parishioners with an understanding of financial matters and an interest in our parish to consider joining us.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Bodenmann, Treasurer

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
Financial Report
Year Ended December 31, 2023

	2024 Budget	2023 Act (Prelim)	2023 Budget	2023 Bud vs Act	2022 Final
INCOME					
Pledge Income	409,579	408,063	374,252	33,811	380,893
Plate and Feast Days	70,000	68,318	58,300	10,018	59,825
Rental Income	64,866	66,597	56,706	9,891	57,777
Total Fundraising	7,700	7,601	6,650	951	1,981
Endowment Income	155,489	172,896	173,867	(971)	141,215
TOTAL INCOME	707,634	723,475	669,775	53,700	641,691
EXPENSES					
Personnel Expenses	402,203	359,581	369,719	(10,138)	349,143
Diocesan Assessment	87,494	82,680	82,679	1	82,516
WORSHIP					
Music	28,200	32,360	29,800	2,560	26,610
Worship	7,100	7,329	5,900	1,429	5,452
SERVICES					
Christian Education	5,400	968	770	198	458
Budgeted Clergy Discretionary	1,000	500	1,000	(500)	1,000
Evangelism	750	-	750	(750)	-
Conventions and Seminars	1,800	650	1,800	(1,150)	699
Outreach	13,000	-	6,500	(6,500)	6,500
Fellowship	6,000	6,346	3,785	2,561	3,218
FOUNDATION					
Office Expense	40,500	37,069	34,485	2,584	36,093
Professional Services	24,400	11,902	15,200	(3,298)	13,100
Comprehensive Insurance	41,630	39,884	36,884	3,000	33,988
Utilities	64,217	58,704	70,433	(11,729)	64,029
Building	44,580	41,406	40,355	1,051	39,214
Grounds	21,725	20,122	22,120	(1,998)	19,376
TOTAL EXPENSES	790,000	699,502	722,180	(22,678)	681,396
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(82,366)	23,973	(52,405)	76,378	(39,705)
BELOW THE LINE EXPENSE (INCOME)					
Recurring Activity	2,500	2,124	7,926	(5,802)	4,591
Net Garden of Res.	-	-	-	-	-
Donations and Restricted Contributions	(15,000)	(6,698)	-	(6,698)	(171)
One Time Activities	-	-	-	-	-
Total below the line Expenses (Income)	(12,500)	(4,574)	7,926	(12,500)	4,420
Net Income (Expense)	(69,866)	28,548	(60,331)	88,879	(44,125)
Amount avail from prior year	28,548	-	-	-	44,024
Net Surplus(Deficit)	(41,318)	28,548	(60,331)	88,879	(101)

PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Pelham, N.Y.,
Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting, January 29, 2023

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Father Matthew Mead at 11:30 a.m.

Attendance: There were 60 parishioners attending in person and four attending via Zoom.

Opening prayer: *Father Matthew Mead*

Timeline for nomination and voting: Voting had been open since January 18 when the ballots were mailed to every eligible voter. For those who did not return their ballots by hand or mail, ballots were available at the registration desk and could be completed and submitted on site. The polls closed at 12:00 noon, approximately one hour after the end of the 10:00 a.m. church service.

Rectors' report: *Father Matthew Mead*

Father Matt began by stating that the parish would focus on four “big picture” challenges this year:

Welcoming and incorporating newcomers into the parish e.g., by re-establishing a Newcomers and Welcoming Committee, encouraging the use of name tags at coffee hour, and providing a newcomer’s welcome card in the pews.

Strengthening the family ministry – Pre-pandemic, Sunday attendance had averaged 170 each week. In 2020, the average figure was 44, in 2021 it was 75 and in 2022 it was 100, 58% of what it had been in 2019. To attain pre-pandemic levels, the church would encourage families to attend in person and to participate in the life of the parish.

Address the 2023 budget shortfall of approximately \$60,000. The budget task force has worked to minimize expenses but income must be increased by finding new tenants and rentals for the church’s available space.

Increase pledges as a way to balance the budget. A document was shared that showed the various levels of annual pledge in a series of “steps”. Father Matt encouraged all parishioners to pledge and those who already pledge to consider moving from their current step to the next level.

Father Matt noted that “we are in the parish together”. There is a need for volunteers in all the ministries of the church and every contribution of time and energy is valuable. For example, he said, everyone who attends the coffee hour after the service could host a coffee hour at least once a year. Finally, he thanked the staff, ministry chairs, Vestry and Officers, treasurer, bookkeeper, lay leadership – and all those individuals whose contributions of “time, talent and treasure” make Christ Church a living and vibrant congregation.

Wardens' Report and Election Results: *Jeff Bodenmann*

The results of the uncontested election were as follows:

Junior Warden: Etta Gumbs to serve a two-year term

Vestry Members:

J.D. Calder to serve the two years remaining in Etta's term as Vestry member
Andrew DesRault to serve a second three-year term

Jack Kraft to serve a three-year term

Barbara Zambelli to serve a second three-year term.

Delegates and Alternate Delegate to 2023 Convention:

Gavin Leckie – Delegate to Convention

Jean Gruener – Delegate to Convention

Carol Ipsen – Alternate Delegate to Convention

Treasurer's Report: *Allison Bodenmann*

The full Financial Report for the year ending December 31, 2022, including the 2023 preliminary budget figures, was available in the Annual Report that had been distributed prior to the meeting. The anticipated budget deficit for the year 2023 had been \$60,330. At the beginning of the year, a parishioner agreed to make a one-time \$25,000 challenge to match additional pledges in order to close the shortfall. Allison was pleased to announce that as of the current week, \$10,000 of this \$25,000 had been pledged, thus reducing the deficit. She invited questions from the parishioners assembled.

Announcement: *Sandra Rivera*

Sandra announced the establishment at Christ Church of a chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King, a program of prayer, service and evangelism primarily for Episcopal women but also for women in Anglican, Lutheran or Roman Catholic congregations. The first meeting of the Christ Church chapter would be held on the first Sunday in March, at 3:00 p.m.

Final Blessing: *Father Matt*

Singing of the Doxology

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Treasurer's Report: *Anne Calder*

Treasurer Anne Calder reviewed the 2021 actual financial results and the final 2022 budget. Income in 2021 had been strong, especially given the circumstances. Pledging and plate contributions remained strong and the figure for fundraising was exceptionally good, due to the tag sale. The one weak area was in rental contribution and she encouraged parishioners to recommend Christ Church as a venue for events.

She noted that the draw from the endowment had historically been 5% ; however, the Investment Committee had strongly recommended that this percentage be lowered to 4% going forward and the 2022 budget reflected this recommendation.

Regarding personnel expenses, staff salaries for 2022 reflected a cost of living raise of 6 %.

The Diocesan assessment would return to the full amount, compared to 2021, during which there had a been a 25% reduction for three quarters. Fellowship expenses, which had been low during 2021 due to the lack of fellowship events, were expected to return to normal. Anne noted that the expenses for the Outreach activities were a fraction of what the Outreach Committee actually achieves.

The 2022 budget reflected a deficit of \$48,000. Anne urged parishioners to be mindful of opportunities to increase revenue for the church.

The floor was opened for questions on the budget from those in attendance, both in person and on Zoom. In response to a question on how the amount of the Diocesan assessment is calculated, Father Matt answered that the assessment, which the Diocese calls an apportioned share, is a percentage of the normal operating income of the parish as submitted in the annual parochial report.

Father Matt mentioned two additional opportunities for parishioners to increase revenue for the church: a Facebook fundraising campaign, e.g. on one's birthday, with Christ Church as the beneficiary and shopping on Amazon Smile, with Christ Church receiving a small percentage on all purchases made on the site. He also encouraged parishioners who had not pledged to do so and those who had already done so to consider increasing their pledge when possible.

There was a ten-minute break before the announcement of the results of the election. Ballots were being counted by Junior Warden Carol Ipsen and Nominating Committee member Charlette Finch.

Results of the Election: *Carol Ipsen*

The results of the uncontested election, with 101 ballots cast, were as follows:

Senior Warden – Jeff Bodenmann, two-year term

Vestry Members:

Jennifer Hawks Bland – Vestry Member, three-year term

Stephen Dolan – Vestry Member, three-year term

Etta Gumbs – Vestry Member, three-year term

Delegates and Alternate Delegate to the 2022 Diocesan Convention:

Curtis Chase – Delegate to Convention

Gavin Leckie – Delegate to Convention

Walter Roberts – Alternate Delegate to Convention

Father Matt congratulated the new Vestry Members, Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegate. He noted that this year, convention delegates really mattered because in December there would be an election for Bishop Coadjutor, who in May would become the new Bishop Diocesan of New York.

He invited parishioners to share thoughts on the mail-in voting process.

In closing, Father Matt thanked Deacon Chisara, the staff of Christ Church, the Vestry, the Clerk and all Ministry Chairs.

Final Blessing: *Father Matt*

Singing of the Doxology

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

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.

- **Warden (2-year term): J.D. Calder**
- **For the Vestry (1 seat for 1-year term): Robert Boyer Serving the remainder of J.D. Calder's term**
- **For the Vestry (3 seats for 3-year terms): Curtis Chase, Charlette Finch, and Robert Landis**
- **Convention Delegates to the 2023 Diocesan Convention and one Alternate: Jeff Bodenmann and Gavin Leckie (Delegates) and Curtis Chase (Alternate)**
- Vestry candidate statements are found below.

ELECTIONS ACCORDING TO THE BYLAWS

Our parish bylaws provide specific procedures for elections at our annual meeting. All qualified voters present must sign in to receive a ballot. Regarding voter qualifications our bylaws state the following: "Qualified voters are the Rector and all persons eighteen (18) years of age or older who have been baptized and belong to the Parish and have been regular communicants at its worship and have financially contributed to its support within the past twelve months." Our bylaws state that vestry members can run for two consecutive terms and serve a maximum of six years before they have to step down from the vestry for at least a year before they run again. There are four open vestry positions this year, three are for the full 3-year term and one is to complete a departing vestry member's term for the next 2 years.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

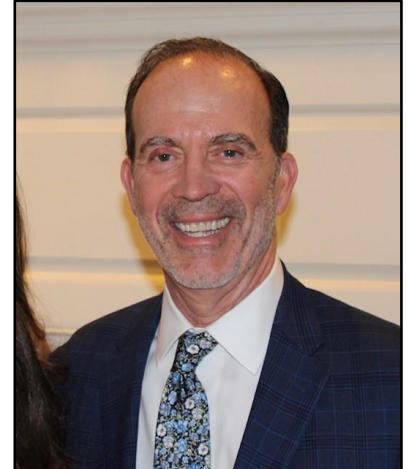
Here are the questions posed to all Candidates:

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

J.D. Calder

Senior Warden/Two-year term

My wife Anne and I have been members of Christ Church since 2000, and over the years, I have participated in many areas of the Parish. I served several terms on vestry, participated in and later co-chaired the Outreach committee for many years, co-chaired the AmeriCares parish outreach work project for five years, and served as treasurer for two years. My wife and I co-chaired the 2017/18 Capital Campaign. We raised both of our children here, and they were active members of the parish; our son Alexander was an acolyte for many years.



During my previous time on the vestry, our children were in elementary school, and I put much of my energy to making Christ Church a place for families. Although my children are older now, I still believe that families are key to a well-rounded and robust parish. As a member of the vestry, I would work to reach out to young families, and ensure that the church offers programs and activities that will appeal to these groups. We need to keep Christ Church a welcoming place to all, but we owe it to those who have come before us to make every effort to keep our wonderful home going.

Outreach is very important to me. God has been very good to our family. In thanks for that, I devote a great deal of time to outreach and volunteer work. I have participated in various outreach and service initiatives over the years, from directing home fix-up projects, to assisting refugee resettlement, to running a food pantry during the pandemic. I'd like to use my experiences to expand our outreach presence and parish involvement.

Finally, although I no longer practice, I am an attorney by training. During my previous service on vestry, this training came in very useful, and as a vestry member I would be available to offer a legal perspective on issues facing the church.

Robert Boyer

Vestry Member One-Year Term



1. How long have you been at Christ Church?
Since 2009 with Father Randy.
2. Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.
I have been ushering since 2009. My daughter Gia joined me later as an usher. Gia was baptized at Christ Church, grew to be a young lady and still ushers when school is not in the way.
3. Other family members attending Christ Church (if any).
My wife Ivy, my son Brandon, my daughter Gia, and my sister Carmen all attend Christ Church when able.
4. How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey? I'm here to serve my Lord and always help with church or someone whenever needed.
5. Please name something you find valuable or something you love about Christ Church.
I just love the church for what it stands for in the community and beyond. Reaching out to help others less fortunate because in the end of the day we are all family.
6. What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?
I have the skills and experience to run companies and help others as well. I'm the man behind the scenes and don't mind. I would love to see the church in great standing and help its longevity. It would be the BEST FOR EVERYONE!

Curtis Chase

Vestry Member Three-Year Term

I have been a member of Christ Church since 1999. My wife Amy, and daughter Kira are currently residing in New Rochelle. Kira has become one of the nation's premier bell ringers, ringing in the towers at Trinity Church in New York, Church of the Advent in Boston, the National Cathedral in Washington, DC, and St. Paul's in London. My daughter Emma has moved to LA.



Ministries include the Chorus, Christian Education, Outreach and, as you may have noticed, Stewardship.

I have served on the Vestry twice before – and would continue to focus on building the Parish to become a regional community that serves people from the Bronx to New Rochelle, as part of my larger mission of establishing the Episcopalian faith into a moderate loving voice in these polarized antagonistic times.

What I love the most about the Parish is the community it has become, particularly in the wake of welcoming our brothers and sisters from Mount Vernon who have added head and heart to an already wonderful collection of Christian souls.

Hope to bring to this Vestry the years of experience of previous Vestry terms, and time as a Junior Warden in Brooklyn, which mostly involves listening to one another and ensuring that the many ministries of the church are being properly supported. To quote Tiny Tim: God bless us, everyone.

Charlette Finch

Vestry Member/Three-year term



1. I have been a member of Christ Church for about 7 years. I joined the Thursday morning Bible Study group, volunteered to work with the committee preparing for the church Tag Sale, helped with the Church Anniversary video presentation, was a member of the four-year Education for Ministry class, served as delegate to the Convention and presently attend 8am & 10am Bible Study groups.
2. My husband, James Finch often attends services and activities. My three grandchildren attended the 2023 Summer Bible School program.
2. Serving on the Vestry is a ministry that gives a member the opportunity to be a part of the decision-making process and gain a better understanding of the operation and preservation of the church. The Christian journey includes planning for spiritual needs, as well as lay operations, and property upkeep.
4. What I find so valuable about Christ Church is the welcoming atmosphere, the knowledge, availability and concern of the clergy and staff. There are many daily and weekly opportunities for worship, and a variety of activities for parishioners and the community to interact and enjoy.
The choir and quality of the music add to the passion of the church services.
5. As a 30-year member of the former Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon, New York I served as lay reader, Sunday School teacher, member of the Episcopal Church Women United, the Vestry and Senior Warden.
6. It is hoped that with my experience as a New York State educator and librarian I can be of some assistance in recognizing and increasing the participation of the youth of the congregation.

Again, I am truly honored to have been nominated to serve on the vestry and thank you for your consideration.

Robert Landis

Vestry Member/Three-year term

How long have you been at Christ Church?

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

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

Vestry 2021-2023,
Stewardship Committee 2013, 2014, 2015
Church sponsored Pilgrimage 2018 and 2022
Various volunteer events at Christ Church since moving to Pelham in 1998



Other family members attending Christ Church (if any).

Norma Vargas- Landis
Matthew Landis Confirmed
Christopher (Moshe) Confirmed

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

I would like to continue this enlightening chapter of my spiritual life. During my time as a member of the Church and on the Vestry, I have gained a much greater insight into the world of Christianity. This opportunity continues to bring me closer to the church, its teachings, and understanding of God's work.

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

The camaraderie and spirituality among the parishioners. It allows me to reflect on my own personal journey with Christianity. The church provides the comfort of knowing we are not alone.

What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry

I have spent 20 years in the military and have had a career in finance since 1978. I understand the financial issues confronting the church and its annual need for sustainability. I hope to continue to support the church during my second 3-year term in a similar fashion, only better with the experience I have gained.

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole
Mr. Jeffrey Hoffman, *Organist and Choirmaster*
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Mr. Evan Felicetti, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Vergers and Sexton*
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

Wardens & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
Mr. Jeff Bodenmann, *Senior Warden*
Ms. Etta Gumbs, *Junior Warden*
Ms. Allison Bodenmann, *Treasurer*
Mr. John Fox, *Assistant Treasurer*
Ms. Jean Gruener, *Clerk*

Ms. Jennifer Hawks Bland	Mr. John Fox
Mr. J.D. Calder	Mr. Jack Kraft
Mr. Andy Des Rault	Mr. Robert Landis
Mr. Stephen Dolan	Ms. Courtney McGrory
Ms. Barbara Zambelli	

† A Parish of the Diocese of New York †

Christ Church

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

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