

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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2021 ANNUAL MEETING

Christ Church, Middletown

in the

Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

in the 318th Year of Founding

Sunday, January 31, 2021, 9:00 am

- AGENDA -

Call to Order and Invocation.....	The Rev. Michael Way Priest-in-Charge
Submission of the 2020 Annual Meeting Minutes	Pauline Dawson Vestry Recorder
Opening Remarks.....	The Rev. Michael Way Priest-in-Charge
Warden's Report.....	Barbara Garrity, Paul Dawson Wardens
Nominating Committee Report	Paul Dawson Junior Warden
Balloting	
2020 Financial Report	John Bailey, Vestry Chair for Finance
2021 Budget Presentation	
Recognition of Retiring Office Holders	Barbara Garrity, Paul Dawson Wardens
Call to Adjourn - Benediction	The Rev. Michael Way Priest-in-Charge

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PARISH ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP

- 2020 -

CHURCH WARDENS, OFFICERS, AND VESTRY

Church Wardens Barbara Garrity, Paul Dawson
Church Officers Pauline Dawson, Vestry Recorder
Betty Truscott, Vestry Clerk
John Bailey, Treasurer
Vestry Frank Kerfoot, Mary-Ann Matuszewski, Vicki Schmelzer, Betty Truscott,
Michelle Cervone, Drew Wilson, Kate Chaballa, Erna Sottile,
Robyn Gerin

STAFF

Clergy The Rev. Michael Way, Priest-in-Charge
The Rev. Dr. Cathy Bickerton, Priest Associate
Director of Children's Formation Christine Stockhausen-Butler
Director of Music/Organist John Balme
Parish Administrator Christine Ruland
Parish Secretary Linda Malanowski
Bookkeeper Kristin Sparaco
Sexton Jordan Sisolak
Nursery Caregivers Jean Lynch, Samantha Rosnagel

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Kate Chaballa; **8 am Acolyte Coordinators:** Fred Hartswell, John Marione; **10 am Acolyte Coordinators:** Linda Barth, Peter Schabert; **Altar Guild:** Joyce Friedersdorff, Erna Sottile, Co-directors; **Daily Office Leaders:** Linda Barth, Harvey Cottrell, Pauline Dawson, The Rev. Michael Way; **Eucharistic Ministers:** John Marione, Scheduling Coordinator; **Eucharistic Visitors:** The Rev. Michael Way; **Lectors and Intercessors:** Marty Truscott; **Director of Music/Organist:** John Balme; **Ushers:** Neil Grootenboer

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Erna Sottile; **Annual CROP Walk:** Cynthia McCormack; **Intercessory Prayer Chain:** Christine Ruland; **Family Promise:** Barbara Garrity, Pauline Dawson

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Vestry Chair: Robyn Gerin; **Tuesday Bible Study:** Women of Christ Church; **Director of Families and Youth:** Christine Stockhausen-Butler; **EfM Coordinators:** Pauline Dawson, George Speidel; **Youth Group:** Cynthia McCormack

PARISH LIFE (MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT/EXISTING MEMBERS MINISTRY)

Vestry Chairs: Vicki Schmelzer, Betty Truscott; **Coffee Hour Coordinators:** Vicki Schmelzer, Betty Truscott

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Frank Kerfoot

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Drew Wilson; **Pledge Treasurers:** Lou Friedersdorff, Kim Schuler

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Michelle Cervone; **Christ Church Crier:** Christine Ruland; **Internet Website:** Christine Ruland; **Facebook:** Linda Malanowski; **Annual Report:** Christine Ruland

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Mary-Ann Matuszewski

DIOCESAN CONVENTION DELEGATES

Mary-Ann Matuszewski

Cathy O'Flynn

George Speidel

Diocesan Convention alternates (Final)

Paul Dawson

Cindy McCormack

Jo Ann Hartswell

MONMOUTH CONVOCATION DELEGATES

Erna Sottile

Judy Forys

Ann Burke

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

318th Annual Church Meeting

Sunday, January 26th, 2019

Call to Order - Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 9:12 a.m. with a prayer by the Very Rev. Michael Way who declared a quorum to be present.

Approval of the 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes:

Lauren Badal moved to accept the minutes of the 2019 Annual Meeting. Laurie Schlachter seconded and all acknowledged by voice vote. The 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes were declared approved.

Warden's Report

Barbara Garrity reported on a successful year at Christ Church. Fr. Michael Way has been our Priest-in-Charge for almost a year. In the Fall of 2019, Fr. Michael refocused the Saturday evening service by reaching out to the recovery community. Music once again became a part of this service. As a result, attendance at the Saturday service has been gradually rising. This November, the All Souls service incorporated the Cherubini Requiem sung by the Brookdale Concordia Chorale into the Saturday evening service.

We continued our commitment to outreach by supporting Family Promise, St. Mark's Center for Community Renewal, and the Calico Cat Pantry, as well as participating in the CROP Walk, Rise Against Hunger, the "Fill the Ark" Project, Thanksgiving and Christmas In-gatherings and other important ministries.

Christian Formation also had a strong year. Education for Ministry is back for its fourth year. In addition to the Men's, Women's, and Contemplative Prayer Groups, the newly inaugurated book group led by Peter Dunn meets monthly. Cindy McCormack continues to work with our youth and Christine Stockhausen became the new Director of Youth and Family Ministry. Barbara pointed out that Sunday school teachers are needed.

The Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper was moved to coffee hour on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday and retitled as a Pancake Breakfast. The new date and time proved to be successful as many attended this event.

The newly inaugurated Calico Gift Auction held on October 20, 2019 at the Middletown Art Center proved to be a great success. We look forward to an even more successful event in 2020.

Unfortunately, we are still behind in pledge payments for 2020. Increases in the 2020 budget reflect a full year's payment of Priest-in-Charge salary, hiring of a Director of Youth and Family Ministry, the reinstatement of music at the Saturday service and an increase in our rate of giving to the Diocesan Marks of Mission. Unfortunately, there is little room in the current budget for cutbacks; as such, any additional cuts will have to be made to crucial staff and programs.

Barbara concluded by thanking parishioners for their hard work and dedication this past year.

2019 Financial Report and 2020 Budget Reports

Drew Wilson reviewed the financial reports beginning on page 28 of the Annual Meeting workbook. He pointed out that an in-depth report had been done last Sunday.

It was noted that the 2019 financial reports balanced in large part thanks to: a) the Extra Mile campaign that brought it an additional \$13,000-\$14,000 in pledges; and, b) the Calico Gift Auction which realized \$13,000-\$14,000.

The budget for 2020 currently shows a shortfall of \$24,047.

Questions/Comments from the Floor

Tom Warren asked the Vestry to consider increasing the Community Outreach Expense Budget by \$100 each year. Fr. Michael acknowledged that Outreach should be growing.

Peter Sparaco asked if there is an updated number of active members. Fr. Michael responded that the process of purging the database is ongoing. Peter also asked if there is a plan to use our campus to raise revenue. Fr. Michael pointed out that we are limited in how the space can be used. However, he is looking into other ways to use our space to generate rental revenue. One way would be to make our worship space available to another congregation who was without a worship space. Fred Hartswell cautioned that such decisions could have tax implications that could affect our tax exempt status.

Recognition of Retiring Office Holders

Barbara Garrity invited the outgoing vestry members - Cathy O'Flynn, Ronnie Warren and Joyce Wright - to come forward to receive Resolutions of Appreciation for Faithful Service, and the applause of their fellow parishioners, in thanks for their years of thoughtful, committed vestry service.

White Elephant Sale

Janet Chaballa made an appeal for items to be donated to the White Elephant Sale being held in February. Small electronics will be accepted, but no clothes, furniture or exercise equipment. As the sale will be a two-day event, many volunteers are needed.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m., following a closing prayer by the Very Rev. Michael Way.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pauline Dawson, Vestry Recorder

PRIEST-IN-CHARGE REFLECTION

The Rev. Michael Way

Today, the clergy, wardens, vestry, and people of Christ Church hold our Annual Meeting. This is in keeping with a centuries old tradition that goes back to the founding of the Episcopal Church. Of course, Christ Church's history predates the founding of the Episcopal Church, but even so, the importance of the Annual Meeting is a part of our history. In keeping with that history, at each annual meeting, we are given an opportunity to reflect on the year that has passed, consider the state of our church in the present, and look forward to what the future holds for us a community

of faith in the year to come. This has been true for us every year for over 300 years; but this past year has been unlike any year before; so, things are different for us as we prepare for this meeting in 2021.

Certain aspects of our life and mission have been dramatically and fundamentally altered over the past ten months; and these changes, though mostly temporary, may have rattled our security and sense of identity. The changes in how we conduct our worship and how we pursue our mission have altered how we “do” church. So, with all of the disruption we’ve encountered this past year, we may feel a little lost, spiritually cast adrift, and in danger of losing a sense of who we are as a community of faith. This is understandable.

Still, while our identity may have been shaken somewhat, no one can deny that our parish has shown remarkable perseverance, patience, and grace throughout this roller coaster ride of a year, when waves of pandemic, racial strife, election drama and societal polarization have swept over our nation. Fortunately, despite these mostly unexpected challenges, we have remained an oasis of peace in the midst of these turbulent times. Indeed, our church family has held strong through all the chaos of the past year. So, I want to take this opportunity to affirm that who we are and how we are called to serve God’s mission in the world has not changed. And as we slowly begin to emerge from this strife-filled world toward a brighter future, we will continue to be the dynamic parish we have always been.

But, of course, we are not there yet and may need to have our identity affirmed in order to see that we still have God’s love at the core of our life together. So, who are we? Well, Christ Church is a mission-oriented community of faith; an open, loving parish that genuinely welcomes all who enter our doors. But we are also a church that is committed to moving beyond our building to engage more effectively our neighbors, meeting them wherever they are. As such, at Christ Church we are dedicated to service and seek to make a positive difference in the lives of those around us by feeding the hungry, caring for the sick, welcoming the marginalized, loving the unloved and living out our Baptismal Covenant to seek Christ in all persons, to strive for justice and peace in our world and to respect the dignity of every human being.

At Christ Church we are committed to Diversity! When we say, “All are welcome,” we mean it! All people, regardless of political persuasion, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender, economic status or faith tradition are honored, respected and valued. There isn’t just one type of Christ Church parishioner, there is a whole spectrum of parishioners – and we recognize that we all belong together regardless of any individual differences we may have. This is reflected in our commitment to an open table at the Eucharist where all are invited to share in the sacrament. We see this as a powerful example of the kind of radical hospitality that was modeled by Jesus; and this, perhaps more than anything else we do, reflects our openness, love and respect for all of humanity!

At Christ Church we are also committed to the spiritual growth of our community through a variety of quality worship experiences, formation classes and a host of opportunities for prayer and fellowship for both young and old alike. This variety of experiences is unusual for a parish of our size and is indicative of our approach to meet the needs of our community, wherever and whenever we can, through worship, service, study, prayer and fellowship.

And lastly, at Christ Church we are blessed with a beautiful, large campus composed of separate buildings that enable us to worship, gather, study, and serve others. Christ Church as a physical structure is a community asset – a place where amazing things take happen, a destination for all who are seeking a closer relationship with God, a safe and loving place, where people suffering from the pain of addiction can gather for support in their recovery, and a haven for all of those in need.

Our gifts to the wider church and to the community are numerous; and they are all offered in service of God's mission. We are blessed, indeed, but this is not to say that there isn't room for improvement, for change, for fresh approaches to our life as a community of faith. Indeed, this is a reality that Christ Church embraces, for while we honor our past, none of us want to be stuck there – we are not content to rest on our laurels; Christ Church is too active for that!

As we move forward into a brighter future, we are mindful of our need to be relevant to the world around us and to find other ways, new ways, to be of service to God and neighbor. Thankfully, the steps that we need to take in order to move forward chiefly involve building upon the gifts with which we are already blessed. We are preparing to take these steps to improve and update our facility and programs so that a wider audience may benefit from that part of God's bounty that has been entrusted to us.

So, join us, be part of the Jesus Movement, here at Christ Church, be active agents of God's Mission in the world; and be kind, forgive others, love God, and love your neighbor. Amen.

Michael +

CHURCH WARDENS' REPORT

Church Wardens: Barbara Garrity, Paul Dawson

WOW! Little did we know last January what the year ahead would bring. Before Fr. Michael had been our Priest-in-Charge (PIC) for even a full year, COVID-19 struck, upending all our plans for 2020 and throwing us into uncharted territory. Even so, by the grace of God, with able leadership and hard work by Fr. Michael, our vestry, staff, and ministry leaders, and with your support, we have soldiered on, doing our best to worship God, love our neighbors and maintain our sense of community safely during a pandemic. Again I am reminded, as our late Bishop Cuncill would say, "I don't think God is done with us yet!"

When COVID-19 struck in March, Fr. Michael promptly began live-streaming our services, not only on Saturday and Sunday, but also added daily Morning and Evening Prayer, and a Saturday morning meditation. Since then, lay leaders have stepped up to lead many of the Morning and Evening Prayer services, which now include prayer for each of us by name over the course of the year.

By early June the diocese provided guidance on ways to safely resume in-person worship, ministries and support group meeting. We assembled a Re-Opening Committee (ROC), which worked to apply the diocesan guidelines to our particular physical spaces. By August we were again offering in-person worship to those who were comfortable attending, and hosting our various support groups. The Calico Cat also reopened, with numerous precautions. Although the second wave of COVID-19 cases and post-holiday surges have put us on a virtual-services-only footing since November, we will resume in-person activities as soon as it is safe. Please join me in thanking the hardworking members of your ROC, namely Fr. Michael, John Balme, Barbara Garrity, Neil Grootenboer, Frank Kerfoot, Tia LaPiana, John Marione, Erna Sottile, Christine Stockhausen Butler, Cindy McCormack, Christine Ruland, Vicki Schmelzer, Betty Truscott, and Joyce Wright.

Throughout the pandemic, our Altar Guild and various music ministries have continued their work, helping to keep our worship beautiful and as normal as possible. John Balme, aided all summer by Cindy Balme as soloist, has gone the extra mile as lector, psalmist and organist. He has also found ways to safely rehearse and record our various choirs performing choral, bell and recorder selections, so music has continued to enliven our worship. Our ushers, too, have served during our in-person services. They all deserve our special thanks.

Our outreach efforts have focused on food and clothing drives this year as COVID-19 brought financial hardship to many of our neighbors. In addition to the Thanksgiving and Christmas in-gatherings, CROP Walk, and the household supplies collection, we have held nearly monthly food drives for St. Mark's and/or the Calico Cat pantry. What little in-person fellowship we've been able to have this year has primarily been conversations as we drop off our contributions. Vestry members have also reached out to the parish with phone calls. We are all looking forward to a time when we can celebrate being together again!

Christian formation for all ages has continued, primarily online or outside. Pauline Dawson and George Speidel continued to lead Education for Ministry (EfM) on zoom. The Women's Group made room 118 their new home as the year began, and even managed a few in-person sessions. Our youth continued to work with Cindy McCormack, and supported and assisted with our food drives, CROP Walk, and in-gatherings. Fr. Michael has been leading an online confirmation class.

Not surprisingly, we were unable to hold any of our usual fundraising events this year, and plate offerings were nowhere near their budgeted amount. Fortunately, that shortfall was covered in part by parishioners faithfully and generously fulfilling or exceeding their pledges, as well as a kind bequest from Liz Ellwood's estate.

As I write, our 2021 pledges are down in number and about \$60,000 below where we need to be to meet our needs. Fortunately, our vestry obtained a \$43,700 Payroll Protection Program (PPP) loan, which we believe will become a grant, but we don't know when. But even that resource would leave us short for the year. We don't appear to qualify for the next round of PPP loan/grant, but will apply even so.

Our 2021 budget already includes reducing our office staff and filling in with volunteers to cover the phones. Any further cuts would require becoming more volunteer-dependent and/or seeking a part-time priest. We don't want to do this as we believe it would undercut our ability to be the parish we want to be. We are the church, and it is up to us to make this a parish worthy of our support, just as those who came before us did. That takes financial support in addition to our gifts of time and talent. We ask that you prayerfully consider increasing your 2021 pledge, however modestly. We hope that when the pandemic ends and we can resume full-time in-person worship, plate offerings and fundraising events will again provide their customary income, and reduce our reliance on pledges.

Christ Church has survived and thrived here on the Kings Highway for 319 years – through wars, depressions, fires, and now, a pandemic. While we do not know of any parishioners who have died from COVID-19, we mourn with those who have lost family members and friends, and keep them in our prayers. We thank all of you for the spirit and hope palpable in how we have loved and served one another in these precarious times. With God's help and our united commitment, we will weather this pandemic and grow into the plans He has for us. We look forward to walking this path together with you.

Barbara Garrity and Paul Dawson

VESTRY NOMINEES

Nominating Committee: Paul Dawson, Chair;
Michelle Cervone, Frank Kerfoot, Mary-Ann Matusewski

LAUREN BADAL – NOMINEE FOR PARISH LIFE

My husband Clint, and I have been members of Christ Church for over 30 years. We have 2 children, Michael and Elyse, who were brought up in the church. I have been a member of the Christ Church choir for over 25 years and also am a member of the Outreach Committee. I have acted on that outreach service by having served lunches at St. Marks for many years. In addition, I worked as one of the chair persons for the Calico Fair.

Having served on the vestry as head of the Worship Committee. I am familiar with the Vestry commitment. As a member in the Parish for as long as I have, a good Parish Life program means a lot to me and I plan on working diligently to provide opportunities for families, couples and individuals to experience a true parish life community.

FRED HARTSWELL – NOMINEE FOR BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Jo Ann and I have been members of Christ Church for over 35 years. During that time, I have been an usher, chalice bearer, reader, and intercessor. I have also chaired the Calico Fair (and helped with some Fair events). I have been a member of the Finance Committee, Stewardship Committee, as well as Vestry member and Warden. In addition, I was a member of the Old Church Foundation.

On a personal basis, Jo Ann and I have one married adult son with a grandson that is the source of much joy. My working career started in engineering and migrated to business management. After retirement, I have had a few relatively short-term working activities that helped keep my mind and body active. Both as a member of Christ Church and in my work activities, I have met wonderful people that have boosted my positive outlook for the future.

TIA LA PIANA – NOMINEE FOR STEWARDSHIP

I was in second grade when my family moved to NJ and I first came to Christ Church. I sang in the children's choir, made my Confirmation, joined EYC, became an acolyte, and eventually was married here. I am currently a member of the Altar Guild, the Committee for the Reopening of Church, and was usually the Eucharistic Minister for the Saturday service.

When I moved to Union about 15 years ago, I still called Christ Church my parish, and I was excited to return when I moved to Tinton Falls 4 years ago.

I believe that my skills as a retired special education Principal and Central Office Administrator will be beneficial to Christ Church and the Vestry. I am used to working within a budget, being responsible for designing and implementing district-wide training protocols, being a leader of both large and small groups, and designing and implementing special projects.

In my retirement I am enjoying crocheting, caring for my Bonsai trees, and baking. And, of course, my cat Mr. Noodles.

LINDA MALANOWSKI – NOMINEE FOR COMMUNICATIONS

I have been our Parish Secretary for almost 3 years. A congregation member now for over 5 years, I originally joined Christ Church because it treats all its parishioners as family. I felt so much at home here that I transitioned from the Roman to Anglican Rites. Looking back, it was the best decision I could have made for myself and two sons.

After considerable reflection, I've decided to leave my current job as Parish Secretary effective February 28th, in order to accept a full-time position with Red Bank Regional High School as an Administrative Assistant in their Guidance Department. Sad as I am to leave Christ Church, I believe that this new opportunity is in the interest of my family and career ambitions. And even though my official employment with the church will end, I'd love to continue my service by volunteering for the Communications Position on Vestry.

During my time at Christ Church I volunteered wherever I could: I am on Joyce Wright's team at St. Mark's Soup Kitchen, I helped with teaching the Holy Moly class, and I've worked with the Middletown Reform Church to help organize our Vacation Bible School.

I look forward to serving Christ Church as the Communications Person.

BETTY TRUSCOTT – NOMINEE FOR JUNIOR WARDEN

Marty and I have been parishioners at Christ Church for well over 20 years; our daughter Rebecca was baptized and confirmed here and we're looking forward to her marriage here in October of 2021.

I just recently retired from Prudential where I lead Operations and Analytics for the Corporate Sourcing and Procurement Group. At Christ Church I have served as a Church School teacher, vestry member and for a brief moment, the choir. I am currently a member of Altar Guild, I serve as a Counter and co-leader of a St Marks serving team. I have also had the privilege of serving with Vicki Schmelzer in the Parish Life role this past year.

So you see, I've been walking these hallways for quite a while – I've made lifelong friends here, I've watched my daughter grow up here. That she is always welcomed here warms my heart. What I have learned is that Christ Church is full of wonderful, kind, resourceful and generous people – over the last year I have been particularly struck by the talent and dedication of our priest and current vestry. I am honored and excited by the prospect of working with you and with them as we build for the future.

PARISH STATISTICS

At Year End:	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>*2019</u>	<u>2020</u>
Members Active/Inactive	274/437	300/435	292/424	236/527	**
Households Active/Inactive	150/90	160/89	152/84	127/208	**
Church School Enrollment	50	44	39	33	**

**The church database was purged.*

***This data is unavailable due to the pandemic.*

For Full Year:

Pledging Units	90	103	102	95	104
Total Active Households Pledging (%)	60	64	67	75	**
Total Pledged (\$)	229,593	276,810	267,414	261,998	274,743
Total Received (\$)	235,491	269,616	234,724	251,578	273,623
Pledge \$ Received (%)	103	97	88	96	96

***This data is unavailable due to the pandemic.*

For the Year:

Baptism	2	6	8	9	5
Confirmed/Received	18/5	5/5	0	0	0
Marriages	5	0	1	1	1
Burials	6	11	6	4	6
Transferred In	13	0	6	6	17
Transferred Out	3	0	3	2	5
Average Sat/Sun Attendance	123	108	119	116	**

***This data is unavailable due to the pandemic.*

WORSHIP MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Kate Chaballa

SPECIAL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE MADE WORSHIP POSSIBLE DURING THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic has challenged us to offer livestreamed services that are meaningful and spiritually enriching for all of our parishioners who cannot join the clergy and music director for in-person worship. This has required the dedication of a small group of people who have been responsible for making worship available to the community. In addition to our priests, Cathy Bickerton and Fr. Michael, we have benefitted from the hard work and dedication of the Altar Guild, especially Erna Sottile and Joyce Friedersdorff; our musicians John and Cindy Balme, Christine Ruland and Harvey Cottrell; and the participation of Paul and Pauline Dawson who led Morning Prayer on Sundays when the clergy was on vacation. Special thanks to all of these folks who kept our community spiritually healthy through our virtual worship services.

THE DAILY OFFICE

A new feature of Christ Church's worship life has been the addition of the regular observance of the Daily Office (Morning and Evening Prayer). Since March, the Office has been available by livestream, Monday through Friday, at 7:30 am and 6 pm. Linda Barth, Harvey Cottrell, Pauline Dawson and Fr. Michael share the responsibility of leading the Daily Office for all who are able to join this virtual service either as a livestream or for later viewing in the FB archives. The Daily Office has quickly become a much-valued component of our worship life with a loyal following of parishioners and many others who have discovered our presentation of Morning and Evening Prayer online and join us on a regular basis.

The Rev. Michael Way

ACOLYTES

8 am Coordinators: Fred Hartswell, John Marione

10 am Coordinators: Peter Schabert

8 am Acolytes

Christ Church is fortunate indeed to have regular acolyte and lector service proved by Ethan and Julia Hood. What a blessing it is to have two young people present and active at our early morning contemplative service in the Old Church.

The Rev. Michael Way

10 am Acolytes

Once again we have been blessed with a superb team of acolytes led by our exceptional head acolyte, Linda Barth who reverently guided us all in fulfilling our mission of carrying out our required duties during what transpired to be a very abbreviated year. Her team included Jack Thurman, a very able support crucifer; Sandra Casci and Stefan Gerin, as impressive Gospel Book bearers; with Nicklaus Barth, William Drake, Maeve Thurman, Juliette Rossnagel-Tranberg and Jason Faanes as experienced and able Torch bearers. I consider it an honor and a blessing to also have been a member of the team. Needless to say, we all were saddened by the impact of the pandemic, the need to suspend all acolyte functions and not to be able to serve particularly during Holy Week. I am confident that when church services do return there will be no loss in the team's ability to resume their duties and meet Father Michael's expectations for competent service.

As always, I am deeply indebted to all the acolytes and their parents for their support and all they have done to perform this important ministry so faithfully.

Peter Schabert

ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild prepares both the Historic and Main Churches for weekly services by setting up the Altar, polishing silver as needed and caring for the Altar linens. We also prepare the church for baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Greening of the Church before Christmas and decorating the church with lovely spring flowers for Easter are particularly pleasant events on the Altar Guild schedule.

Current members of the Altar Guild are: Linda Barth, Barbara Brown, Ann Burke, Pauline Dawson, Judy Forsys, Joyce Friedersdorff, Rita Grootenboer, Susan Hoffmann, Tia LaPiana, Vicky Mariocca, Sue Murphy, Melinda Rudnicki, Kim Schuler, Erna Sottile, George Speidel, and Betty Truscott.

The Altar Guild always welcomes new members, and we hope that you will consider joining us. We serve on teams and the commitment is just one weekend a month with on-the-job training provided! No invitation is needed, merely a desire to serve God and Christ Church by tending to His Altar.

Due to the pandemic in 2020 and lack of in-person worship, Altar Guild duties were greatly curtailed and only a few members performed weekly setup and linens. We hope to see a return to normal scheduling sometime in 2021.

Joyce Friedersdorff and Erna Sottile

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Unfortunately, the suspension of our in-person worship due to COVID-19 has required a lengthy pause of our Eucharistic ministries as well. Prior to March 13, 2020, Christ Church saw the active participation of the laity in our worship life. Eucharistic ministers led weekly services for residents of Brighton Gardens, served as chalice bearers at Sunday Eucharists at both 8 am and 10 am, and brought the Holy Sacrament to homebound parishioners. We have missed the participation of the laity in these quiet months since March, but look forward to resuming Eucharistic ministry as soon as possible.

The Rev. Michael Way

EUCCHARISTIC VISITORS

Eucharistic Visitors brought Holy Communion to those in our congregation who were homebound or hospitalized for a significant period of time. Thank you to Judy Forsys and Erna Sottile for serving as Eucharistic Visitors in the first quarter of 2020. Visits were suspended in March due to COVID-19 restrictions, however contact was maintained by telephone.

LECTORS AND INTERCESSORS

Our parishioners served the Christ Church community as lectors (those who read the lessons) and intercessors (those who read the Prayers of the People) during the two months of in-person worship services in 2020. We have a roster of 23 lectors and intercessors that faithfully serve our congregation at the 5:30 pm (Saturday), 8:00 am and 10:00 am Sunday worship services.

As you all know, 2020 had its own unique set of circumstances. As we moved to virtual and restricted worship services because of COVID-19, a special note of thanks to Harvey Cottrell (Saturday 5:30 services) and Cindy and John Balme (10 am services) for their multi-tasking is clearly in order. They served as lectors/intercessors as well as providing music or solo singing efforts.

On behalf of the clergy, vestry, and congregation, I want to thank all the lectors and intercessors of our church community for their important contribution to our worship experience.

If you would like to read the lessons or intercessions when in-person services are re-established, please contact the Church office. We always welcome new lectors and intercessors.

Marty Truscott, Convener of Lectors

PARISH MUSIC

Director of Music/Organist: John Balme

To state the obvious, 2020 was a strange new world for the music department at Christ Church! As the storm clouds gathered in February and early March, we continued early preparations for Holy Week and Easter. Then suddenly in mid-March everything stopped and months later I found neat piles of music waiting for distribution for services that we had missed in the spring. It was like a scene out of "On the Beach."

As soon as normal services stopped and we moved to virtual services, Cindy and I stepped in to provide music both for the Saturday evening service and the Sunday 10am service. Saturday was kind of fun as we got to provide music not normally in our repertory! The elegant and jazzy arrangements of Mark Hayes got an in-depth presentation.

Eventually Christine and Harvey returned to their rightful place on Saturdays and our three performing ensembles got back to work. Ever since then we have lived a new life:

I scan or distribute the music. For the choir, I then record the accompaniment. Then I record each vocal part, played over the accompaniment track, a sort of study aid. Then we rehearse on Zoom. Now this requires everyone being muted and singing to their heart's content to the house pet(s). Then I send out the accompaniment track for the singers to practice by themselves. After all this, we get together and record a group of anthems for use at future services.

The recorders and hand bells receive their music ahead of time also, and then we get together to rehearse and record. During the summer and early fall Sandra Casci most generously let us use her patio as our recording studio.

John Balme, Director of Music/Organist

USHERS

One of the hallmarks of the ushers is the ability to adapt on-the-fly to situations. After the first two months of the year ran in a business-as-usual manner, everything changed with the onset of COVID-19. In person services were discontinued pending guidance from the diocese as to how they could be restarted in a safe manner. To this end, the role of the ushers was represented as part of the Reopening Committee formed by the church. Revised usher guidelines were developed that followed COVID-19 protocols. Simultaneous to the preparation of the revised guidelines, the church members acting as ushers were canvassed to determine their level of comfort in continuing in that role during the pandemic. As some chose not to participate, it became necessary to recruit new members. Ten individuals ultimately formed the pool of ushers to support the 10 AM service, consisting of teams of two, while one church family agreed to support the 8 AM service.

In preparation for the resumption of in person services at the beginning of August, a training session in the new COVID-19 usher guidelines was held in July. The ushers then supported the resumption of the in-person services each week until they were discontinued again at the end of

November. The ushers continue to participate in the meetings of the Reopening Committee and will adapt again as necessary to provide the support needed when in person services resume.

I wish to thank all ushers for their help and dedication during this past year. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Christine Butler who developed the role of check-in coordinator for the restarted services. She successfully integrated that role with that of the ushers which significantly helped worship attendees follow new COVID-19 protocols implemented for in-person services.

Neil Grootenboer

OUTREACH MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Erna Sottile

The mission of our Outreach Ministries is to serve Christ through serving others. COVID-19 restrictions provided challenges, however Outreach continued to be a priority at Christ Church in 2020. Even during these difficult times, Christ Church parishioners demonstrated that they remained a loving, generous, and caring family to our neighbors in need.

The Outreach Committee's role is to assess community and world needs that might be addressed. The committee organizes Outreach projects for parish involvement, determines disbursement of Outreach funds, sponsors fundraising events, and provides the Annual Meeting continental breakfast. Committee members include Lauren Badal, Ann Burke, Janet Chaballa, Kate Chaballa, Judy Forys, Barbara Garrity, Robyn Gerin, Maria Kerfoot, Cindy McCormack, Cathy O'Flynn, Pat Robertson, Christine Ruland, Erna Sottile, Betty Truscott, Marty Truscott, Tom Warren, and Fr. Michael Way.

Where We Have Been

- *COVID-19 Pandemic Response* – In response to many in the congregation requesting a church-wide response to the COVID-19 pandemic, three actions were taken in the spring. The Youth Group sponsored a food drive which benefited St Mark's Center for Community Renewal. \$250 from Outreach funds was donated to Lunch Break, which provided hot meals, groceries and emergency funding to those suffering from the virus. A donation dedicated in Fr Michael Way's name was given to St Mark's Center for Community Renewal, as he requested. Our tribute to Fr. Michael, as a way of thanking him for all he does to spiritually lead and sustain us, especially during the pandemic, brought in \$5410.
- *Family Promise* – As a host church we would be responsible for providing shelter, food and hospitality to Family Promise guests for one week on 4-5 separate weeks under the guidance of Barbara Garrity and Pauline Dawson, our Christ Church Coordinators. Our first scheduled hosting week in February 2020 was canceled due to changes in the Monmouth County program. Hosting by all churches ceased during the pandemic. Our future participation in Family Promise has not yet been determined.
- *St Mark's* – Teams of Christ Church volunteers provided and served meals at St Mark's Center for Community Renewal on Saturdays in January, February and March, prior to COVID-19 restrictions. Many of these 'unseen' workers have volunteered for many years. We and those you serve thank you! Special gratitude goes to George Speidel for the many ways he assists this important ministry and to Lauren Badal who did the scheduling.
- *COG* - As a member of the Community Outreach Group (COG), Christ Church helped to staff the Calico Cat Thrift Shop and Pantry. We contributed to the COG Back to School Program. The Calico Cat Household Goods Drive provided 20 bags of supplies that were distributed to needy families through the Calico Cat's Evening Pantry. Thank you to Janet and Kate Chaballa

for coordinating this program all year long. Thank you to Marty Truscott who serves as our representative to the COG Board.

- *Seamen's Church Institute* - Along with donating unused, sample size toiletries throughout the year, Christ Church parishioners knit and crocheted hats and scarves for the Seamen's Church Institute Christmas at Sea Program. These are included in the gift packages distributed to the mariners who are miles away from home during the Christmas season.
- *Essential Goods Drive* - Winter clothes and toiletries were collected in January for the homeless in Monmouth County. Thank you to Robyn Gerin who coordinated the drive in conjunction with Monmouth County Veteran's Services and to the youth group who tightly packed the SUV with all the donations.
- *Souper Bowl* - We held our 5th Annual Souper Bowl Collection in which we 'voted' for our favorite Super Bowl team: Kansas City \$166, San Francisco \$159. Your voting donations raised \$325 for feeding the hungry at St Mark's Center for Community Renewal.
- *Lenten Alms* - This year we again chose Heifer International's Fill the Ark as the recipient of our Lenten Alms. The generosity of our church members, both adults and children, yielded \$3814.35 to provide life changing gifts of paired animals to help families and communities throughout the world become self-reliant. Special thanks to Robyn Gerin, our Lenten Alms Project Coordinator.
- *Rise Against Hunger* - Christ Church parishioners donated \$875 and more than 25 parishioners participated in this event, a joint effort of the seven faith groups who are part of the Bayshore Interfaith Ministerium. Cindy McCormack coordinated for Christ Church.
- *Aslan Youth Ministries* - We provided sandwiches, snacks and fruit to 60 children attending the Aslan Youth Ministries Summer Day Camp in Red Bank on August 3 through August 7. In addition to the donations of lunch supplies, \$150 was collected and donated to help offset the cost of running the day camp. For over 40 years Aslan has provided relationship-driven programs, anchored in Christian values and principles, that impact and empower at-risk youth. Lauren Badal and Erna Sottile coordinated the project.
- *CROP Walk* - Christ Church CROP Walk and Sunday Social was held on October 18 on the church front lawn. We participated in an abbreviated local walk, enjoyed fellowship, collected over 400 lbs. of food for the Calico Cat Pantry and raised over \$2000 for CROP Walk. Thank you to Cindy McCormack, our CROP Walk coordinator, Betty Truscott, Vicki Schmelzer and Christine Stockhausen for a wonderful social event.
- *Collection Events* - In response to the pandemic and the growing need of our neighbors affected, a number of drop-off collection events were held in the lower parking lot. These events not only provided car loads of donations but a chance for socially distanced fellowship. The May 31 food drive benefited St Mark's. The July 19 food drive also included diapers, all of which was donated to St Mark's. The August 30 food drive, which benefited Calico Cat Food Pantry, also included household goods for our COG Household Goods project. Thank you to all those who donated. Special thanks to Cindy McCormack and Christine Stockhausen who helped coordinate these events.
- *Thanksgiving Ingathering* - Our Thanksgiving Ingathering was held on the front lawn of the church for the first time because of COVID-19 restrictions. Betty Truscott, Vicki Schmelzer and Lauren Badal coordinated a wonderful social opportunity for the 40+ parishioners who stopped by. 50 boxed dinners (plus 6 boxes of miscellaneous items) were donated to St Mark's

Center for Community Renewal for the benefit of the families they serve. Thank you to all who donated, to the Christ Church youth group who boxed up the donations, and to Cindy and Bill McCormack who once again delivered our donations to St Mark's.

- *Christmas Ingathering* - The families of St Mark's Center for Community Renewal were the recipients of our Christmas Ingathering. The donations of toys, clothing and gift cards, which far exceeded previous years, were distributed to children in the Bayshore area. Thank you to all who donated and helped bring the joy of Christmas to so many others.
- *Financial Contributions* - Quarterly financial support was provided to Family Promise, Aslan Youth Ministries, COG and St Mark's totaling \$1150 per quarter.
- *Special Donations* - Fairview First Aid and Old Village Fire Company were each given \$50.
- *Cinderella's Closet* - A gift of \$100 was given to Cinderella's Closet, which provides prom dresses for disadvantaged young women who are graduating from high school in spite of great personal challenges.
- *Westside Food Pantry* - a gift of \$250 was given to Westside Food Pantry in Southwest Harbor, Maine. The pantry is managed by The Rev. Dean Henry, former rector of Christ Church.

How We Are Funded

Outreach is a ministry of our entire Parish. Thanks to each of you, we can work together to share the love of Christ with those in need. Specifically, Outreach receives its funding from the following sources:

1. The Outreach Portion of the annual church budget
2. The quarterly coffee sales, which moved online when in person worship was suspended. The sales not only benefit our Outreach ministries but also Jersey Shore Coffee Roasters, a local small business.
3. An anonymous annual gift of \$1000 from the Outreach Gift Liability Fund, for which we are sincerely grateful.
4. Your donations through the year. Thank you for your generous gifts and response.

Where We Are Going

Our Outreach efforts are concrete ways of putting our faith into action. Thank you to all of you who assisted through financial support, volunteer time or in donation of items. We welcome all ideas on how we can further serve Christ through serving others.

Erna Sottile

ANNUAL CROP WALK

On October 18th, Christ Church once again showed its unwavering support for CROP Walk by re-imagining the 40th Annual Red Bank CROP Walk. As the actual walk could not be held due to the pandemic, Christ Church planned its first ever "CROP Walk Sunday Event", a socially-distanced walk, fellowship activity and food collection. With the support and planning of our Outreach Chair, Erna Sottile, Christine Stockhausen-Butler from Children's Formation and Parish Life vestry members, Betty Truscott and Vicki Schmelzer, the event was a huge success. Over 50 parishioners of all ages walked Kings Highway in a simulated walk, dropped off hundreds of pounds of food for the Calico Cat and enjoyed a beautiful autumn day of safely distanced fellowship. The creativity of the planning committee helped raise over \$2,500 for CROP, during a time of great food insecurity here in Monmouth County and around the world. The 40th Annual Red Bank CROP Walk, although completely virtual, was able to raise over \$135,000 dollars, outpacing the totals of

the last few years. Monies raised will be distributed to local food programs including Lunch Break, Monmouth Daycare Center, Calico Cat Food Pantry, Aslan Youth Ministries, and Family Promise, as well as for Church World Service programs in the United States and around the world. Thank you to our parish for their continued and generous support of the Red Bank CROP Walk!

Cynthia McCormack

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GROUP

Christ Church is one of the founding members of the Community Outreach Group, which we refer to as "COG." It is a 40-year-old organization comprised of 12 participating Congregations in northern Monmouth County. Christ Church continued its participation and involvement in COG in 2020. Community Outreach Group (COG) is an ecumenical and interfaith organization which continues to offer "outreach, support and hope" to those in need in northern Monmouth County.

The Congregations are: Christ Episcopal Church, Middletown Reformed Church, Old First Church, Lincroft Presbyterian Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church, Middletown United Methodist Church, St. Leo the Great RC Church, St. Catharine's RC Church, Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Holmdel Community United Church of Christ, Ecumenical Missionary Church and Masjid Al Aman Mosque-Islamic Society of Monmouth County

Thank you to the members of our congregation who faithfully volunteered in 2020 with other COG volunteers in the Thrift Shop, Sorting Department, Emergency Food Pantry, the Cupboard or the Emergency Assistance Fund and Auto Repair Program. Also, thank you for your continuing donations of clothing, shoes, bric-a-brac, accessories, small furniture, small household appliances, linens, sheets, jewelry, blankets, books etc. Thank you for other income donations in 2020 submitted to COG for their various programs, such as the Emergency Assistance Fund, the Auto Repair Program Fund, Back-to-School Contributions, Christmas Giving Tree Donations, and Food Pantry donations.

In 2020 the COG Board of Trustees disbursed \$22,700 to more than 19 qualified non-profit organizations in the northern Monmouth County area. The following areas of need were addressed through the funding: underserved children and youth, childhood hunger, two soup kitchens, group housing, impoverished families in the area, food pantries, two daycare groups for low income working families, services for intact homeless families in Monmouth County and mental health counseling as well as health and medical services.

In addition, COG provided continuous in-house funding during the year for an Emergency Assistance Fund assisting 108 households in crisis, with over \$50,000 in disbursements in total, to help with emergencies in housing and utilities. The Emergency Food Pantry, another COG program, served 7,772 persons in 2020. An Automobile Repair Program, funded by the Hatfield Family Foundation, continues to help income-qualified persons have a viable means of transportation to get to work and keep their families afloat.

The pandemic has had a substantial impact on many aspects of COG's operation. In addition to the Calico Cat Thrift shop closing from March through late August 2020, many aspects of the pantry distribution have been revamped to address COVID-19 issues.

In conclusion, COG operations are led by nine Volunteer Team Leader Managers and several Department Coordinators together with 75 Volunteers who give their time to run the Thrift Shop, the Sorting area, the Emergency Assistance Fund, the Auto Repair program for qualified individuals, the weekly Food Pantry, and the Emergency Pantry for income qualified working families. The Thrift Shop is open 6 days a week. So, if you have 2-6 hours available where you can "make a

difference” in the lives of those who need our help, please think about joining the Community Outreach Group. They will train you on how things work. If you are interested, contact a Team Leader at the Thrift Shop.

Marty Truscott, COG Liaison

INTERCESSORY PRAYER CHAIN

The Christ Church Prayer Chain is a group of people who remember confidential requests before God daily, linking to form a chain of intercession and petition. It has been in operation since 1992. The volunteers provide support, faith and hope to those for whom they pray in times of need, loss, illness, joy and trouble. Intercessions are very powerful and bring us together in faith and fellowship.

Email your confidential prayer requests to Christine Ruland at *ChrisRul52@yahoo.com*, or by calling the Church office at 732-671-2524.

Christine Ruland

FAMILY PROMISE

While we continue to support the goals of Family Promise of Monmouth County (FPMC) -- providing shelter and support for homeless families with children – we parted company with them in early 2020. Changes to the Monmouth County program meant we would be expected to host 20 individuals at a time, up from 14, not only straining our volunteers, but also placing us at risk of violating NJ law as an unlicensed shelter and losing our insurance coverage. Raising these concerns with the FPMC director and board did not result in a satisfactory resolution, so the vestry voted to terminate our hosting participation in the network. We continue to support FPMC financially through quarterly outreach contributions.

During the pandemic, in lieu of hosting, FPMC has focused on keeping families in their homes or hotels, and providing support to them where they are. Once the pandemic is over, we may choose to participate in FPMC again, perhaps as a support congregation. That will be a decision for the vestry.

Many thanks to all our parish volunteers for your service during our 18+ years in FPMC! We look forward to again supporting our homeless neighbors in whatever capacity.

Barbara Garrity & Pauline Dawson, Co-coordinators

ST. MARK'S CENTER FOR COMMUNITY RENEWAL

For a quarter of a century, members of Christ Church have volunteered in various capacities at St. Mark's Food Kitchen in Keansburg. As volunteers, they have donated food, prepared meals, served lunches and engaged in conversation and fellowship with the food kitchen guests. This outreach mission is of utmost importance as it helps people through rough times in their lives and provides them with nourishing meals in a clean and friendly environment. St. Mark's provides meals seven days a week, 365 days a year. Teams from Christ Church continued their faithful service for the months of January, February, and March of 2020, after which all volunteer groups serving the community were suspended due to COVID-19. Currently, St. Mark's offers outdoor pick up of meals. Restaurants have been providing many of the meals, supplemented by the food bank and donations. Heartfelt thanks to all our volunteers and those yet to come!

Lauren Badal

CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Vestry Chair: Robyn Gerin

HOLY BAPTISM

In 2020 we welcomed five new Christians to the Body of Christ through the Sacrament of Holy Baptism: Finley William Angelozzi, Lily Grace Lawson, Liam Parker McMillen, Noelle Caroline Arcuri, and Anthony Ingianni, Jr.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR CHILDREN

Director Families and Youth: Christine Stockhausen-Butler

We started the year with our Epiphany Pageant that set the tone for what we hoped would be a wonderful year. Much like everything else, the Children's Christian Formation program had to be modified due to the Coronavirus. Without the option of in person Sunday School we used various technologies to stay connected. Facebook, Google Classroom, Zoom and email have all been blessings during this difficult time.

In the spring the children made prayer chains to help them deal with the uncertainties of lockdown. They also made cards and pictures that were distributed via Meals on Wheels to homebound seniors in our area. To say this gesture brightened their day would be an understatement and it also provided an opportunity for community outreach for the children as well.

We proceeded with planning our annual Vacation Bible School to be held in the summer but unfortunately, we could not host due to safety concerns. The good news is we can use all the preparations for this coming summer!

In the fall when COVID-19 restrictions were eased we were able to have several in person services with families outside. In September we had a very well attended "Back to School Blessing" in which we blessed the students and educators in our church community. In October we celebrated the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi with a Blessing of the Animals. We collected pet food and blankets at the services that were donated to the ASPCA. On Halloween we had a "Blessing of the Trick or Treaters" and started planning for some outdoor events for the winter. We had a couple of children come to in person Sunday services and we were able create videos of these lessons held outside.

In December our guest teacher Mrs. Hartswell presented a wonderful Advent series on Facebook that was both informative and entertaining. We are so grateful for all of our teachers and hope to schedule more guest appearances in the future. In December, the children also made Christmas cards that were distributed to homebound seniors.

Looking back, despite the challenges that we all faced this year, our Sunday School adapted and continued to provide learning and outreach opportunities, and we are grateful to have gathered together in faith both virtually and in person whenever possible.

Christine Stockhausen-Butler

CHRISTIAN FORMATION FOR YOUTH

As in all ministries this past year, youth ministry at Christ Church looked much different during the pandemic. But with faith-filled hearts, flexibility, and perseverance, we were able to learn and share the love of Christ with each other and our community. Our year started on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day with a Rise Against Hunger Event at the Middletown Reformed Church. What was supposed to be the joint effort of two area church youth groups, soon blossomed through social

media, into over a hundred youth working in shifts to package thousands of meals for the needy around the world. Our youth next helped in their traditional role as servers at the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. The month of March saw us host one of the last public events in the Christ Church sanctuary before the pandemic shut everything down. We co-hosted a presentation for the interfaith teen group MOSAIC, with the Middletown Reformed Church, welcoming new friends from many different faith traditions throughout Monmouth County. The spring months saw the youth stay connected through Google Hangouts and Zoom meetings. In June, we surprised our graduating high school and college seniors with a drive-by caravan greeting to show them our love during a difficult year. To continue to show Christ's love in the community, our youth created videos, graphics and posters to publicize the first of many drive-by food collections in the spring and summer for St. Mark's in Keansburg. Our youth helped collect, sort and transport at the parish food drives, as well as the Thanksgiving and Christmas In-gatherings. The 40th Annual Red Bank CROP Walk was re-imagined as an on-site, socially distanced, parish-wide event with about 50 youth and adults participating, making it a great success. The early fall saw the youth begin, "Faith Confirmed", with Fr. Michael, preparing them for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Early classes included a "Spiritual Walk and Talk" hike at Tatum Park and an exploration of Middletown's September 11th Memorial. Classes later in the year have included Zoom discussions on Jesus' Life and Ministry, the Holy Spirit and the Creeds. It has been a difficult year for our middle and high schoolers, but they have handled themselves with grace and a love for neighbor and each other that is truly inspiring.

Cynthia McCormack

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY (EfM)

Education for Ministry (EfM) is an initiative of the School of Theology at The University of the South, Sewanee. The program has nurtured spiritual growth and deepened understanding of our heritage for 46 years. (see www.efm/sewanee.edu for a complete overview of this unique program.) The four years of study, with enrollment one year at a time, covers the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament), the New Testament, Church History and Theology.

This has been a challenging year for Education for Ministry (EfM) at Christ Church as COVID-19 swept through New Jersey and made in-person meetings unsafe. The mentors and participants had to quickly learn the optimal ways to hold our meetings virtually. Despite these restrictions, we successfully completed the fourth year of EfM in June 2020 and began the fifth year in September 2020. Unfortunately, the pandemic hindered our ability to recruit new members and our group now consists of 1 Second Year, 1 Third Year and 4 Fourth Year participants, along with 2 mentors. We are hopeful that, once enough residents of New Jersey have been vaccinated and normalcy has returned, we can grow the number of participants in this program that is designed to explore living faithfully in the world today as Christians and our relationship with God and one another.

Pauline Dawson & George Speidel, EfM Coordinators

CHRIST CHURCH MEN'S GROUP: KNIGHTS OF PANERA

On Saturday mornings at 7:30 am, a small group of men meet via Zoom to discuss spiritual and religious topics. This group is working through The Daily Meditations of Richard Rohr, OFM. All men are welcome to join us whether or not you are a member of Christ Church.

John Marione

CONTEMPLATIVE PRAYER

Our Centering Prayer group meets every Tuesday morning at 9:30. We begin with a brief reflection followed by twenty minutes of contemplative prayer. We welcome anyone who would like to join us. All it takes is a willing heart and a desire to be in God's presence in the silence of prayer.

Ann Burke

WOMEN'S STUDY GROUP

Our group has been meeting faithfully every Tuesday at 10:30 for over thirty years. We are presently reading *A Family Like Mine* by Rosalind C Hughes, an Episcopal priest in Euclid, Ohio. During this year of the pandemic, we began a Card Ministry as an outreach to our Christ Church family. Our meetings have taken place in the library, room 118 and on Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome.

Judy Forys

PARISH LIFE (FORMERLY NEW / EXISTING MEMBERSHIP)

Vestry Chairs: Vicki Schmelzer, Betty Truscott

2020 was a year that none of us will soon forget. As the reality of COVID-19 challenged all of us to change how we look at things, the one constant was the wonderful resilience and sense of community in our Christ Church family as we adapted and came together however we could. We reached out to parents of our newly baptized to see how Christ Church might support them. We sought opportunities to come together - First Fridays and the in-person CROP Walk and Thanksgiving Ingathering events we sponsored with Outreach (albeit socially distanced and masked) were well received and warmed our hearts.

And while COVID-19 is still a concern and the weather will hamper our ability to gather outdoors, Parish Life will not be deterred in the near term. We will continue to find opportunities to nurture and bring our community together and, with great joy and hope, look forward to planning events in 2021 where we can celebrate together and in-person! We'll keep you posted--please join us.

Vicki Schmelzer and Betty Truscott

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Frank Kerfoot

We addressed a number of Building & Grounds concerns in 2020, although some projects have been delayed by COVID-19. Early in the year we determined that people meeting in the Undercroft in the evening had to exit to the street in the dark. We purchased an LED spotlight to be placed at the edge of the roof on the NW corner to light the driveway and sidewalk, but have not installed it due to the pandemic. During the COVID shutdown we performed calculations on the allowed capacity for both churches and studied various ventilation strategies. The rechargeable batteries in the fire system died, and we replaced them ourselves rather than contracting the work. Linda parks her car in the new gravel parking lot in the back, and frequently leaves after dark in the winter. She asked for better light to her parking place. We replaced the simple door light with a motion-activated dual spotlight. We discovered that several of our lighted exit signs don't light their associated spotlights on power failure, as required. We will replace them ourselves, and that work is ongoing. We got more serious about restoring the steeples in both of our church buildings. We solicited additional quotes and we received one, with another due imminently. We replaced the hot

water heater in the historic church ourselves, and investigated the slow draining from the sink. We have not yet found a solution to the latter.

I want to thank several people who helped with this work. Our sexton Jordan Sisolak helped with many projects, including several small repairs on his own, in addition to his primary role of keeping the church clean. Paul Dawson helped with many of these projects. Conor Wright has been keeping our lawns well-maintained. Drew Wilson is part of the team planning steeple repairs.

Frank Kerfoot

COMMUNICATIONS MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Michelle Cervone

The communications ministry strives to reach the Christ Church congregation and surrounding community through different avenues of media. We hope to inform parishioners and the public regarding our church services, events and important parish news using weekly announcements, newsletters, parish-wide e-mail blasts, Facebook, and the Christ Church website.

Fresh photos are constantly needed for Facebook and the Christ Church website. Please contact the church office if you are interested in participating in this important facet of communications. Thank you to all who provide photos from time to time, especially Clint Badal, Judy Forys, Linda Malanowski, Christine Stockhausen-Butler, Erna Sottile, and Michael Way.

Christine Ruland

FINANCE ADMINISTRATION MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Drew Wilson

FUNDRAISING

The White Elephant Sale

On February 14 & 15, 2020 our annual White Elephant Sale was held in the Undercroft. This was the first time it was held without the Calico Fair. It turned out to be a successful event, raising \$4,625.00! This would not have been possible without the support of our Christ Church family, especially Jo Ann and Fred Hartswell who took over publicity. The Food Court, run by Paul Chaballa, fed all the workers and some shoppers. Best of all, everything was picked up and taken away the same day.

Janet and Kate Chaballa, Coordinators

STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY

Vestry Chair: Mary-Ann Matusewski

COMPARATIVE STEWARDSHIP REPORT

PLEDGES	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Received	111	111	103	81	90	103	102	95	104
Increased	42	44	44	28	42	72	48	47	73
Unchanged	11	38	42	38	38	22	42	37	22
Decreased	52	19	17	15	10	4	8	11	9
New	6	10	10	1	15	20	6	3	16
Amount	\$307,806	\$290,184	\$281,182	\$209,254	\$229,593	\$276,810	\$267,414	\$261,998	\$274,743
Average	\$2,764	\$2,778	\$2,720	\$2,556	\$2,551	\$2,687	\$2,622	\$2,758	2,642

2020 SUMMARY OF PARISH ACCOUNTS

Summary of Fund and Liability Account Balances - YE 2019 vs YE 2020

	12/31/2019	12/31/2020	Change FY19 to FY20
Major Improvements Fund Balance	(20,074)	(20,074)	
Memorial Funds	23,851	25,175	1,325
RDF Fund Balance	2,154	2,180	26
J2A Pilgrimage Fund Balance	9,384	9,384	-
Tent Fund Balance	2,200	2,200	-
Outreach Fundraising Fund	1,059	1,059	-
Calico Cat Building Fund Balance	7,750	14,950	7,200
Undercroft Renovation Fund Balance	10,938	10,938	-
Kitchen Improvement Fund Balance	732	732	-
Cemetery Headstone Repair Fund Balance	12,814	12,814	-
Outreach Gift Liability	4,000	3,000	(1,000)
Coffee Sales for Outreach	440	693	252
Godly Play	700	700	-
Other Funds Net	3,566	3,613	47
Total Designated Funds	59,514	67,364	7,850
Operating Fund Balance	(22,756)	(45,626)	(22,871)
Invested Funds	143,884	161,112	17,228
Total Funds	180,642	182,850	2,207

Fund Raising (Net of Expenses)

White Elephant Sale	4,626
Pancake Breakfast	498

2020 BUDGET REPORT AND 2021 BUDGET

2020 Budget to Actual Report and 2021 Budget

General Operating Accounts - Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

Description	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 New Budget
Diocesan Support			
Fair Share	32,877	32,877	39,500
Parish Staff			
Rector Salary	59,375	57,000	68,000
Rector Housing Allowance	38,542	37,000	26,000
Rector Prof Exp	4,019	3,000	4,500
Assisting and Supply Clergy	870	1,500	900
Sexton	11,844	12,000	11,600
Director Parish Services	18,000	18,000	24,250
Bookkeeper	5,435	4,000	5,400
Parish Secretary	17,035	18,000	5,088
Music Director	20,000	20,000	20,000
Musicians-Historic Church	6,000	6,600	6,000
Nursery Monitor	2,450	2,350	2,500
2nd Nursery Monitor	2,450	2,450	2,500
Dir of Children's Formation	7,000	7,000	
Total Parish Staff	193,019	188,900	176,738
Social Security/Medicare	14,483	14,004	13,150
Workers Compensation	1,841	1,750	1,800
Rector Pension Fund	18,214	18,300	18,200
Rector Continuing Ed and Training	876	1,000	1,000
Health Insurance	13,985	18,300	14,600
Life Insurance	228	228	228
Total Related Staff Expense	49,628	53,582	48,978
Oil (Historic Church)	2,794	3,000	2,800
Natural Gas	8,768	8,520	8,800
Electric (Historic Church)	273	302	300
Electric (Main Church)	3,431	3,200	3,400
Water	1,443	1,448	1,400
Sewer	640	640	600
Waste Disposal	1,012	1,200	1,000
Buildings Upkeep	3,922	5,000	4,000
Grounds Upkeep	5,536	5,000	5,500
Property & Liability Insurance	20,400	20,401	20,400
Elevator	2,185	1,818	2,200
Total Plant Operations	50,404	50,529	50,400

2020 BUDGET REPORT AND 2021 BUDGET

2020 Budget to Actual Report and 2021 Budget

General Operating Accounts - Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

Description	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 New Budget
Office Supplies	2,919	3,000	2,500
Telephone & Internet	4,987	4,200	3,400
Equipment Maintenance	2,652	2,500	2,700
Net Vanco Fees	767		700
Financial Management	2,206	2,400	2,200
Total Parish Office	13,531	12,100	11,500
Worship - Altar Supplies	3,138	2,000	3,000
Altar Guild Expense FLWRS	6,080	7,200	6,100
Worship - Choir & Music	831	1,764	800
Community Outreach Expense	2,200	2,200	2,200
Comm. - Postage	733	1,145	600
Adult Christian Growth & Development	532	200	300
Children's Christian Development	942	800	900
Parish Life- Activities	0	650	0
Parish Life-Hospitality	65	1,625	100
Stewardship	390	525	400
Total Parish Programs	14,911	18,109	14,400
Coffee Hour Supplies	199	-	-
Misc. & Contingencies	1,123	1,000	1,000
		-	-
Special Parish Events	-	-	-
Total Parish Other	1,322	1,000	1,000

SUMMARY AND NOTES

General Operating Accounts Summary of Receipts and Disbursements

	FY 2020 Actual	FY 2020 Budget	FY 2021 New Budget
Plate Offerings/Donations	14,118	26,000	8,000
Prior Year Pledge Payments	1,120	2,500	1,000
Current Year Pledge Payments	273,580	272,000	267,500
E. Ellwood Bequest	30,000		
Building Usage Donations	1,780	4,000	1,000
Investment Income PR	75	50	75
Altar Guild Income Flowers	7,260	8,500	7,000
Fund Raising	5,124	20,300	5,000
Total Receipts	333,057	333,350	289,550
Fair Share	32,877	32,877	39,500
Total Parish Staff	193,020	188,900	176,738
Total Related Staff Expense	49,627	53,582	48,978
Total Plant Operations	50,404	50,529	50,400
Total Parish Office	13,531	12,100	11,500
Total Parish Programs	14,911	18,109	14,400
Total Parish Other	1,322	1,000	1,000
Total Disbursements	355,693	357,907	342,516
Disbursements in excess of Receipts	(22,636)	(24,047)	(52,941)
Payroll Protection Loan Forgiveness			43,700
Net Deficit	(22,636)	(24,047)	(9,611)

Notes:

- 1) This has been a difficult year for our families. The contributions reflect the current documented pledges. There are parishioners who have pledged in the past, who have not yet pledged. We again ask that you let the Pledge Treasurer (Lou Friedersdorff) know if you are pledging this year or are not, so we can better plan our financial alternatives.
- 2) Expenses are in line with our 2020 projection of last year. With the retirement of Christine Ruland and Linda Malanowski being offered a fulltime position at Red Bank Regional High School, Christine Stockhausen will assume a new role in the Parish. We continue to look at every expense line and have made reductions as possible.
- 3) The Fair Share donation has increased again in line with our need to support the Diocese as they support us with expanded services, in particular regarding the PPP Loan and the COVID-19 responses
- 4) Through the efforts of the Finance Team, we were able to obtain the PPP loan this year, we have met all the requirements for full loan forgiveness and all documents have been provided to the SBA processor. On the reasonable anticipation that the loan will be forgiven, we have included that income as an offset to the short falls we expect from a lack of fundraising opportunities and the lower Plate Offerings due to the limitations on church attendance.

RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE

**Resolution of Appreciation for Faithful Service
to Christ Episcopal Church as Vestry Members**

*

Michelle Cervone
Barbara Garrity
Frank Kerfoot
Mary-Ann Matuszewski

*

Whereas, this marks the last meeting and term completion of Christ Church Vestry members **Michelle Cervone, Barbara Garrity, Frank Kerfoot, and Mary-Ann Matuszewski**, and

Whereas, these persons have fulfilled their duties as Vestry persons with exemplary faithfulness and a sense of service to Christ and His Episcopal Church in Middletown, New Jersey, and

Whereas, these persons have willingly shared their unique gifts, their time, and their energy in positions of leadership, this community of Christ has increased in souls and spirit, and

Whereas, these persons have given themselves to build-up the Body of Christ for its individual and collective ministries in the world, and

Whereas, these persons have been instrumental in the clarification of God's mission, the collection of ideas, the formulation of long and short-range objectives, and the planning of budgets to pursue our congregation's ministries, and

Whereas, these persons have made significant contributions to the growth and nurture of our parishioners **in the areas of Communications, Senior Warden, Buildings & Grounds, and Stewardship**, and

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved, the Vestry of Christ Episcopal Church meeting in regular session on January 26, 2021 expresses its sincere appreciation and gratitude to **Michelle Cervone, Barbara Garrity, Frank Kerfoot, and Mary-Ann Matuszewski** for their committed and good service to our Lord, His Church, the Diocese of New Jersey, and our Bishop, and to each of us who have been witness to their faithful example as Vestry persons and fellow members of Christ's Body.



The Rev. Michael Way, Priest-in-Charge



Paul Dawson, Junior Warden

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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