

2025 ELECTION BOOKLET AND ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 26, 2025



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CANON 50

Election of Church Officers in Parishes and Missions

SECTION 1. There shall be an annual meeting in every Parish for the election of officers, prayers having been said immediately before said meeting, and due notice having been given as required by law. Said meeting shall be held on a date which may be fixed at a regular or special meeting of the Congregation. There shall be an annual meeting for those Missions that elect officers, to be held also with opening prayers and upon like notice.

SECTION 2. The persons entitled to vote at such meetings must be:

- (a) baptized,
- (b) at least sixteen years of age,
- (c) of good moral character
- (d) adhering to The Episcopal Church and to no other religious body,
- (e) regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish or Mission, and
- (f) regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish or Mission for six months next before the said annual meeting.

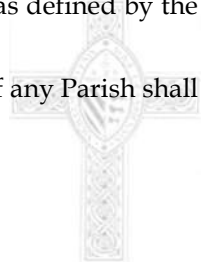
A record of the regular contributors for the support of the Parish or Mission shall be maintained by the Treasurer, with the dates of their contributions. Such records shall be sufficient evidence as to the qualification of a voter with respect to the last preceding requirement. Any voters not baptized in the Parish or Mission must have been enrolled as members in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Rectors, Vicars, or Wardens shall keep a list of all members of the Congregation who have been received as voters, which list shall be open to inspection by the members of the Congregation. No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible to office in more than one Parish or Mission in this Diocese, although members of a Parish or Mission may be eligible also to vote or hold office in a Chapel.

SECTION 3. At said annual meeting the qualified voters shall elect by ballot, by a majority of the votes cast, to serve for the ensuing year, from among the voters in the Parish, three Deputies and three alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, and a Warden or Wardens, who shall all be communicants in good standing; and also such other Vestry members or Mission Committee members, and such other officers as may be provided for by the Parish or Mission charter or bylaws, and six Representatives to the Convocation in which the Congregation is located, who shall all be communicants if such suitable for the office can be found.


SECTION 4. For the purposes of this Canon, the term "communicant" shall be as defined by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

SECTION 5. No provision of this Canon which may conflict with the Charter of any Parish shall have any force in such Parish.

See [Revised Statutes of New Jersey, Sections 16:12-10 and -11](#)



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Annual Meeting Agenda – January 26, 2025

- Call to Order
- Call for Acceptance to assign Secretary of Meeting
- Attendance
- Call for Acceptance of the agenda as presented
- An Order of Service for Noonday Prayer
- Call for Acceptance 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Calling on the Chair of the Nomination Committee to report on the election
 - Introduction of the Ballot
 - Report on Nominating process
 - Distribution of Ballots
 - Election results
- Announcements
- Call for Acceptance of the Written Reports from Parish Organizations
 - Acolyte Masters report by Robertta Shomo
 - Altar Guild report by Allene Ferrell
 - Archives report by Cheryl Rheiner
 - Audit Committee report by Tara Mass
 - Brotherhood of St. Andrew report by Steve Shomo
 - ECW (Episcopal Church Women) report by Robin Atkins
 - Endowment Committee report by Jim Bathurst
 - GWCM report by Darcie Sanchez
 - Hospitality - Oral report by Sophie Seddon
 - Office Volunteer Ministry report by Helen Gwalthney
 - Parish Musicians report by Nick Mynyk
 - Pastoral Care report by Doreen Mills
 - Stewardship Committee report by Sherm Yeiter
 - Sunday School report by Cindy Scales
 - Youth Group report by Sarah Cranston
- Treasurer's Report
- Warden's Report
- Priest-in-Charge Report
- Thank You
- Concluding Collect (Page 7) and Blessing
- Call for Adjournment

An Order of Noonday Service

All standing

Opening Acclamation:

Officiant : O God, make speed to save us.

People : O Lord, make haste to help us.

All:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Except in Lent, add

Alleluia.

Psalm 119 *Lucerna pedibus meis*
Said in unison:

**Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.**

**I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.**

**I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.**

**Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.**

**My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.**

**The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

**Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.**

**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading

The Reading:

If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. *II Corinthians 5:17-18*

People Thanks be to God.

The Prayers:

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**



Officiant O Lord, hear our prayer;
People **And let our cry come unto thee**
Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty and everloving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of thy Church. Teach us in all things to seek first thy honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Collect and Blessing:

All Standing

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. ***Amen.***

The priest pronounces the blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***



Annual Meeting Minutes – January 14, 2024

MEETING DETAILS

Meeting chaired by: Father Lawrence Civale and Warden Robert Johnson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 9:16AM.

ATTENDANCE

Fr. Lawrence Civale, 20 parish members

Senior Warden Rob Johnson explained how moving the meeting to the last Sunday of January would ensure that all the financial reports for the previous year would be available. Father Civale added that moving the date had been brought up at previous meetings. After asking for questions the following motion was made.

- A motion to adjourn this meeting until 1/28/2024, was made by Linda Rosser and seconded by John Lyden.

Number of verbal votes to accept motion: 20 ayes.

Number of verbal votes not to accept motion: 0 noes.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn was made by Jane Gosdis and seconded by Ed Ferrell.
- Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote in favor of adjourning at 9:21AM.

Respectfully submitted by Vestry Clerk, Gwendolyn C. Simpson

Annual Meeting Minutes – January 28, 2024

MEETING DETAILS

This a resumption of the Annual Parish Meeting that was adjourned on January 14, 2024, chaired by: Robert Johnson, Senior Warden

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 11:33AM.

ATTENDANCE

Fr. Lawrence Civale, 54 parishioners of Christ Church

AN ORDER OF SERVICE FOR NOONDAY – Presided over by Fr. Civale

PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

- A motion to accept the Annual Parish Meeting minutes of 1/8/2023, was made by John Lyden and seconded by Sherm Yeiter. Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination Committee Chair Mike Sanchez presented his report of the nominees for the 2024 ballot.

A correction of the ballot was announced. Sarah Cranston was withdrawn as she is already a member of the Vestry, and the position of Senior Warden is not voted on.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS:

Nominated for a position on Vestry as Junior Warden (Elect one):

- Tara Mass
 - A motion was made to close the nomination by John Lydon and seconded by Susan Novalsky.
 - There were no nominations made from the floor.
 - The nomination was accepted by Acclamation by John Lydon and seconded by Richard Bellamente. Nomination was approved by all with a verbal vote.

Nominated for a position on Vestry (Elect three):

- James Bathurst
 - A motion was made to close the nomination by Richard Bellamente and seconded by Ed Farrell.
 - There were no nominations made from the floor.
 - The nomination was accepted by Acclamation by John Lydon and seconded by

Chris Piskun. Nomination was approved by all with a verbal vote.

- Charles Lewis
 - A motion was made to close the nomination by Ed Farrell and seconded by Chris Piskun.
 - There were no nominations made from the floor.
 - Nomination was approved by all with a verbal vote.
- Victoria Scott-Wishnick
 - A motion was made to close the nomination by Kim Henning and seconded by Mary Beth Bathurst.
 - There were no nominations made from the floor.
 - Nomination was approved by all with a verbal vote.

ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE COMMITTEE NOMINATION (Elect one):

Nominated for a position as Endowment Trustee was Robert Johnson.

- Robert Johnson
 - A motion was made to close the nomination by John Lydon and seconded by Chris Piskun.
 - There were no nominations made from the floor.
 - Nomination was approved by all with a verbal vote.

CONVENTION/CONVOCATION DELEGATE NOMINEES (The three getting the most votes, with remaining three as alternates)

Delegate 1: Mary Beth Bathurst [Received 24 votes]

Delegate 2: Kim Henning [Received 26 votes]

Delegate 3: Jean Lucas [Received 32 votes]

Delegate, Alternate: Sarah Novalsky [Received 15 votes]

Delegate, Alternate: Susan Novalsky [Received 21 votes]

Delegate, Alternate: Steve Shomo [Received 14 votes]

- A motion was made to close the nomination by John Lydon and seconded by Jean Lucas.
- There were no nominations made from the floor.

Vote to move Date of Annual Meeting

- A motion was made to move the date of the Annual Parish Meeting to the last Sunday of January by Sherm Yeiter and seconded by Ed Farrell.
- Motion was approved by a vote of 44 to 0.

Call for Acceptance of the Written Reports from Parish Organizations

- A motion was made to accept the Reports for Ministries that follow by Sherm Yeiter and seconded by Ed Farrell. Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.

- Acolyte Masters report by Cindy Scales
- Altar Guild report by Allene Ferrell
- Archives report by Cheryl Rheiner
- Audit Committee report by Tara Mass
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew report by Ed Ferrell
- ECW (Episcopal Church Women) report by Robin Atkins
- Endowment Committee report by Jim Bathurst
- Evangelism Report by Doreen Mills
- GWCM report by Leslie Teris
- Office Volunteer Ministry report by Helen Gwalthney
- Parish Musicians report by John Lyden
- Stewardship Committee report by Sherm Yeiter
- Sunday School report by Cindy Scales
- Youth Group report by Sarah Cranston
- Priest-in-Charge Report by Fr. Civale
- Warden's Report by Sarah Cranston and Rob Johnson



Reports can be found in the 2024 Election Booklet and Annual Report

FINANCE

The 2023 Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Mark Novalsky.

ADJOURNMENT

- A motion to adjourn was made by David Hanson and seconded by Richard Bellamente.
- Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote in favor of adjourning at 12:53PM.

CLOSING PRAYER: Fr. Civale



Respectfully submitted by Vestry Clerk, Gwendolyn C.

Mulching Day

April 2024

Simpson

Announcements

Special Meeting of all members of Vestry following the Annual Parish Meeting (Article IV - Section 2) will be held immediately following the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**.

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund following the Annual Parish Meeting (Article XI – Section 7) will be held immediately following the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 26, 2025**.

Nominating Committee Report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Sudan Novalsky

- Introducing the Ballot
 - Question for Candidates: The offering of our time, talent and treasure is away of expressing our faith that Christ Jesus is alive and present. How do you plan to bring your very best to Christ Church and our Community with this leadership entrusted to you? (see pages 14-19 for responses).
- Report of Nomination process
- Distribution of ballots
- Election results



2024 Christmas Market

Senior Warden of Vestry



Name: Victoria "Tori" Scott-Wishnick
Position: Vestry, three year term
Spouse: David (deceased)
Residence: West Deptford, NJ
Occupation: Educator
Member of Parish: 36 years
Past Service: Clerk, Vestry, Reader, Nursery, Multiple Committees throughout the years

Answer to Question: I plan to encourage and bring forth our very best offerings by leading by example. I feel if I offer my own time, talent and treasure as examples of my own expression of faith, I hope that it will encourage others to do the same.

Junior Warden



Name: Steve Lewis
Position: Warden, Unexpired Term
Spouse: Jennifer
Residence: Mullica Hill, NJ
Occupation: Attorney
Member of Parish: 48 years
Past Service: Warden, Vestry, Acolyte Master

Answer to Question: Christ Church has been my family's home for many years. I have had the privilege of growing up in the Parish and having our daughter grow up here as well. I would work to support and encourage others to take up greater leadership, responsibility, and vision on the Parish, as we all move forward together. I would seek ways to continue to improve attendance at Mass and Parish events, and to continue to work to bring in other new families to share in what we have.

Vestry

Picture
not available

Name: Laura Erasmus
Position: Vestry 3 Year Term
Spouse: Brian
Residence: Deptford, NJ
Occupation: Receptionist
Member of Parish: 2 Years
Past Service: New Member

Answer to Question: I would like to bring a new perspective to Christ Church

Vestry



Name: Robertta Shomo
Position: Vestry 3 Year Term
Spouse: Steven
Residence: West Deptford, NJ
Occupation: Quality Specialist
Member of Parish: 11 years
Past Service: Sunday School Teacher, Acolyte Master

Answer to Question: I'm very excited for the opportunity to serve on Vestry at Christ Church and if elected, I won't take my role lightly. My husband and I have been faithful members for over 11 years. Our children see Christ Church as their second home. I have been a dedicated Sunday School teacher for 10 years and am also the co-Acolyte Master. I've formed strong relationships with our youngest parishioners through these ministries. From these relationships, I can bring a new dynamic to Vestry-- a different point of view--a view from the future leaders of Christ Episcopal Church-Woodbury. I will continue leading by example to keep our parish thriving. My family will come to Mass, attend social activities and will continue trying to bring in new faces to join our Christ Church family. We have a great future ahead, and I'm excited to play an active role in our journey.

Vestry



Name: Nathan Wishnick
Position: Vestry - 3 Year Term
Spouse: N/A
Residence: West Deptford, NJ
Occupation: Student, Rowan University
Member of Parish: 19 years
Past Service: Chorister, Acolyte, Child Bishop

Answer to Question: Hopefully with a fresh, younger perspective, I may be able to make recommendations on improving faith and fellowship within the younger members church community. Also I may put forth ideas, for example, this past advent season I was made aware by the Brotherhood that we lacked a nativity scene. I then spoke with Jim Bathurst and offered my suggestions for a cheap, yet especially pleasing, alternative to what they were planning on buying. (It being a silhouette scene rather than the full wooden structures we have had in the past.)

Endowment Trustee



Name: Linda Rosser
Position: Endowment Trustee
Spouse: Raymond, (deceased)
Residence: Mantua, NJ
Occupation: Retired Teacher
Member Since: 20 years
Past Service: Vestry (former Senior and Junior Warden), Sunday School Superintendent and Teacher, Endowment Committee Member and Chair, Choir Member, Altar Guild.

Answer to Question: I am a long-time member of Christ Church and have served the parish in a variety of ways, I look forward to serving the parish.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Brian Erasmus
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, One Yr. Term
Spouse: Laura
Residence: Deptford NJ
Occupation: not provided
Member Since: New Member
Past Service: New Member

Answer to Question: I plan to represent our Church and share our mission goals with other churches within the diocese.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Barbara O'Mealia
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, One Year Term
Spouse: Robert (deceased)
Residence: Glassboro, NJ
Occupation: Retired Human Resources for Columbia Bank
Member of Parish: 18 Years
Past Service: Committee for Pastoral Care

Answer to Question: My goal is to lead with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to our shared values ensuring that Christ Church continues to be a beacon of hope and support for all.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Michele Schiffer
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, One Year Term
Spouse: Kevin
Residence: Erial, NJ
Occupation: Teacher
Member of Parish: 21years
Past Service: Sunday School Superintendent, Reader, Missionary team to Ometepe, Nicaragua

Answer to Question: I am honored to be asked to run for a position as Convention/Convocation delegate. I plan to bring my very best to Christ Church by continuing to be an regular and active member in the parish. The parish has been a very important part of my adult life and in giving of my time and talent, I am hoping to leave a small mark on Christ Church.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Leslie Teris
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, One Year Term
Spouse: Ben
Residence: Mullica Hill, NJ
Occupation: Professional Association Management
Member Since: Lifelong
Past Service: Sunday School Teacher, Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Trustee

Answer to Question: Currently, organizations that rely on voluntary contributions of time, talent, and treasure to sustain their mission for the future are challenged to find new ways to engage and grow. Whether elected as a delegate or an alternate, I will seek guidance through prayer and reflection, as well as discussion with fellow parishioners. We are a multi-generational parish with diverse needs and talents. I am honored and humbled to be nominated.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: James Wenzel
Position: Convention /Convocation Delegate, One Year Term
Spouse: Donna
Residence: Cherry Hill, NJ
Occupation: Retired
Member of Parish: Since 2007
Past Service: Convention/Convocation, Discernment Committee

Answer to Question: Having served on this committee twice before, I have a knowledge of what to expect. I feel it is a privilege and duty to serve this Parish and God in any way I can.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Stacey Yeiter
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, One Year Term
Spouse: Sherman
Residence: Sewell, NJ
Occupation: Oncology Nurse Navigator
Member of Parish: 34 years
Past Service: Altar Guild

Answer to Question: I plan to be present and open to all that is presented.

Annual Reports of Parish Organizations

Acolyte Masters

We welcomed this year four new Acolytes: Joey Scales, Daphne Rhodes, Brandon Gorman and Scott Carr. Our Acolyte Corp consists of 17 dedicated children and young adults. Their love for our Parish is reflected in their dedicated service on the Alter every week.

Our annual Shrove Tuesday pancake supper was a great hit last February. The annual Strawberry Festival was another huge success. Thanks to your attendance and generous donations at these events, we've raised enough money to refurbish the marquee in our garden. We couldn't have accomplished this without your attendance and generosity. We are excited for our upcoming Shrove Tuesday dinner in March and our Strawberry Festival later this year. These events are a great opportunity for our Acolytes to showcase their dedication to Christ Church and to God.

We thank the Parish for their continued support of this important ministry within Christ Church. Emily and Robertta look forward to the continued growth, service, and fellowship of this dedicated group of individuals.

Respectfully submitted,
Robertta Shomo and Emily Piskun, Acolyte Masters



Maunder Thursday



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Altar Guild



Many thanks to our crew (L to R Front) Carol Hill, Linda Rosser, Audrey Daugherty, Judy Fulgham. (Back row) Allene Ferrell, Directress, Robin Atkins, Debbie Allbright, Amelia Curran, Scott & Sara Cranston, Stacey Yeiter, Marilyn McGeoch, and Susan Novalsky. Not pictured, our men helpers: Ed Ferrell, Steve Shomo, John Lyden, Christopher Cranston, Matt Baldwin.

The Altar Guild membership continues to grow, and I am very thankful for that, but we could use more volunteers to make it possible for “teams” to be formed. Teams would allow for individuals to have a set schedule and not be depended upon each week. With that said, we have some very dedicated Altar Guild members that assure that the Altar is prepared for all scheduled services, funerals, special occasions, and assuring that the church is beautifully adorned for the holidays. I particularly wish to thank...Debbie Allbright, Audrey Daugherty, Judy Fulgham, Mimi Jones, Susan Novalsky, Carroll Tillberg, Kim Wright, and Stacey Yeiter.

A special “thank you” to Susan Novalsky, Carroll Tillberg and Stacey Yeiter for laundering and ironing all of the linens used for the altar; Sarah Cranston who continues to provide the beautiful weekly flowers for the altar; Linda Rosser for providing, from her garden, the beautiful holly and red berries used at Christmas time. And “thank you” to various other people (Carol Hill, Marilyn McGeoch, and Darcie Sanchez) for lending a hand this past year during especially busy times in the Altar Guild calendar; and to Father Civale, for patiently working with AG and pitching in when needed. Last, but not least, “thank you” to my husband Ed Ferrell for his limitless help and encouragement.

With God’s Guidance,

Allene Ferrell, Altar Guild Directress

Archives

The Archives continue to grow as materials are transferred from the Parish office by Father Civalle. New materials also come from parishioners who are clearing out their collection of parish-related items and the regular printed items that are generated by an active Parish, i.e. service sheets, newsletters, etc. Some of the materials are difficult to characterize, such as the materials from Canon Rauscher about Spiritual Frontiers Foundation and have not found a specific spot in the Archives yet.

In November 2024 the Archivist gave a presentation during the Adult Forum. Background on the difference between an archives and a library was explained and there was a show and tell of some of the items in the Archives, including old letters (1800s), a description of the Disputation of Rafael, Joan Mitchell's Reflections on a Stained Glass Window, miscellaneous belongings of Canon Williams, and blueprints of the remodel of the Parish House.

Submitted by Cheryl Rheiner, Archivist

Audit Committee

Each year, Christ Church Audit Committee completes an annual review of our financial statements and correspondence, which we call the financial audit. The review confirms that our financial statements agree with our parish reporting. The review is typically performed in the Spring of the following year, thus the 2023 review was performed in April 2024. Our committee met and found everything to be in good order. The information was compiled, signed off and reviewed with the Vestry for approval. This packet was then submitted to the Diocese with a cover letter from Father. We have scheduled our upcoming 2024 review for April 2025.

Sincerely,
Tara Freas Mass, Audit Committee Chair



Brotherhood of St. Andrew



It was a big year for the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, Christ Church – Woodbury. Firstly, in January, we elected new officers as Jim Atkins, who served this chapter very admirably for several years, including taking us through the Covid-19 crisis, stepped down as President. Steve Shomo was named President and Bryan Klugh secretary, while Ed Ferrell retained his role as Treasurer.

In February, The Brotherhood held its annual Super Bowl Sunday Chili and Pretzel sale with great success, thanks in large part to Brother, Steve Rash, raising approximately \$215.00. In February, the Brotherhood and other friends of the Brotherhood aided the Acolytes by cooking the pancakes and sausage for Christ Church’s annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper. In March we held a social gathering at Eight and Sand Brewery in Woodbury. In April, the Brotherhood, along with several friends of the Brotherhood (in fact, more than 30 people showed up) took a large role in the mulching of the Church grounds, saving the Parish several hundred dollars. In June, the Brotherhood took a large role in organizing, setting up and cooking for the Annual Parish Picnic at Red Bank Battlefield Park. In August, we held our first Wine Tasting Event, with special thanks for the Sanchez Family, which was a huge success, raising nearly \$1,000.00 for the Adopt a Project program at Christ Church. In November we had our Annual Feast of Saint Andrew Service, at which Father



Civale provided a wonderful service, that was followed by the cleaning of leaves and debris from the Church grounds, saving the Parish approximately \$600.00. In December we held our annual social event at the Bonesaw Pilot House in Deptford, NJ.

In 2024, the Brotherhood added 4 new members, Brandon Gorman, Scott Carr, Justin Roback and Nathan Wishnick. We currently stand at 11 members.

The Brotherhood of Saint Andrew typically meets once a month, every third Thursday, which includes what is always a wonderful Bible Study as well as a business meeting. If you are interested in joining the Brotherhood, please reach out to Steve Shomo, steve.shomo@yahoo.com.

We love new members and would love to have you!

Our Treasurer’s Report to end 2024 stands at: \$383.13.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Shomo

ECW (Episcopal Church Women)



The ECW of Christ Church continues to meet the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at 7:00 pm. All women of the parish are always welcome to join us for prayer, bible study, fellowship, and outreach activities.

We have continued to lead with our executive team: Robin Atkins, President, Debbie Rash Vice-President, Marilynn McGeoch Secretary, and Carol Hill Treasurer.

Our “hive” of members are always busy doing something. We once again partnered with the Brotherhood of St. Andrew for a “Super Sunday” sale of chili and Valentine’s Day baked goods and treats. As we moved into Lent we contributed to the Lenten Soup Suppers. Hosting coffee hour was another way of sharing with our parish family. In April we had the honor of hosting a very lovely tea party to welcome our special guest, Bishop Sally French, at her first visit to Christ Church. The Language of Flowers theme in shades of purple (of course) was an introduction to our beautiful church and parish hall. May concluded our programmatic year with the annual covered dish dinner. Our theme was “Bee Happy”.

The Sanchez family was brave enough to invite us back to their home and garden for another summer get together. This July was a Key West BBQ featuring cheeseburgers in paradise, tropical mocktails, and key lime desserts. The Parrot Heads even had a scavenger hunt for that “last shaker of salt”. September brought us back again for a Parish Homecoming as we settled into our routine of study and service. Before long, we donated to UTO, the Altar Guild, the Samaritan Purse Shoe Boxes, GWCM, Greater Good Charities, and the Episcopal Relief Fund.

At our October meeting a basket was placed next to the attendance sheet for any change for urgent requests in our southern states where an attempt was being made to provide pollen substitutes to save the bees from starvation due to the destruction from Hurricane Helene. It was no surprise that collection totaled enough to save 5 hives from starvation. Without pollinators our own human source of produce also suffers. I guess we can say that the bee is our ECW spirit animal! We concluded 2024 by joining Vestry with our participation at the Christmas Market. We supplied a Holiday Bake Sale and a Vintage Shoppe of preowned treasures. ECW also has a special connection with Santa and Mrs. Claus who were there to greet children and pose for photos. Thank you for supporting our fundraisers and helping us to do good works.



Respectfully submitted, Robin Atkins, ECW president

ECW (Episcopal Church Women)



ECW Annual Financial Report December 31, 2024

Beginning Balance – December 30, 2023		\$514.13
Deposits and other credits:		
Proceeds Valentine Treat Sale	\$ 438.00	
Membership dues	195.00	
UTO Box	36.70	
Beehive donations	75.00	
Coffee hour donation	10.00	
Christmas Market Proceeds	556.00	
Reimbursed cash used for change	100.00	
Interest	<u>.11</u>	
Total deposits	\$1,410.81	
Sub-total		<u>\$1924.94</u>
Expenses/Checks disbursed	-\$ 993.07	
Ending Balance December 31, 2024		<u>\$ 931.87</u>

Respectfully submitted,

(Mrs.) Carol A. Hill
ECW Treasurer

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

2024 Annual Report of the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

The Endowment Board of Trustees for 2024, consisting of James Bathurst (2025), Chair, Ed Ferrell (2024), Vice-Chair, Mark Novalsky, Parish Treasurer, Sarah Cranston, Vestry Liaison, Rob Johnson (2027), Bryan Klugh (2026) and Father Civale, Priest-in-Charge. Scheduled Trustee meetings occurred in January, April, July, and October of 2024 with all the meetings taking place virtually. These meetings were held in collaboration with McLaughlin Private Wealth, our professional wealth management firm. Christ Church works exclusively with Meaghan McLaughlin, Monica Lupinetti, and Michael McLaughlin to respond to opportunities and address challenges faced by today's institutional investors.

Our first meeting in January was an especially important meeting with much discussion on two major considerations of importance. The first was what we were going to do with the proceeds from the sale of the Jackson property. The question was are we going to put the proceeds from the sale directly into the endowment fund or was there a more efficient use of the funds? After much discussion and upon the advice of our wealth managers, it was decided that we would pay down the line-of-credit that we had remaining from the Parish Hall renovation. This was decided because of the monthly amount of money we had to take out of the Endowment to cover the line-of-credit and to address our deficit budget was creating a drawl on the Endowment of about 9%. By using the proceeds along with additional funds from the building fund we could reduce our line of credit to \$44,800. We also decided that we would only make interest payments on this line for the 2024 year to reduce additional funds from the Endowment. We would consider what to do with the line of credit when the rate renewal comes up in mid-July of 2025.

The second item of discussion had to do with the current drawl from the Endowment and the need to cover the annual \$45,000 line item in the budget from the Endowment and a projected deficit of \$63,821 for 2024. It is important to note that the portfolio strategy target goal was 7-9% yield. The Endowment growth is affected by the amount of our distributions to fund the operating expenses of the Parish. It was determined that we would have to have a monthly withdrawal of \$9,230 to cover both. This is about \$1,500 less than 2023. The distribution rate would amount to an estimated 8% rate for the year. This rate would still be well above the recommended drawl rate of 4-5% from the Endowment for the year.

During the year, we continued to track the income and expenses with the expert assistance of our Parish Treasurer, Mark Novalsky. Along with the budget reductions made for the 2024 budget, reductions in landscaping costs (through the efforts of members of the Parish) and an

improved income we have reduced the anticipated deficit for the year. This helped to reduce our projected distribution rate to at least 7%.

The other major item for the year was news that our portfolio manager from CNR, Adam Elover, had joined McLaughlin Private Wealth as Chief Investment Officer and Partner. While this will mean we will leave CNR as our investment platform, Adam Elover will still be overseeing our investments.

As was stated last year, it is incumbent upon Vestry to adhere to the recommendations of our asset managers as to the amount of distribution from our Portfolio to protect the Endowment base and provide for growth. To this end, it is important that we as a Parish do our absolute best with our annual pledges to support the proposed budget each year. Also, for those retirees with investments requiring a Required Minimum Distribution please consider making this requirement a part of your annual pledge as it is tax free if given to the Church. Additionally, if you have a will, please consider a gift to Christ Church's Endowment Fund be included in the will.

If you review the activity of our Fund for 2024, you will see that the growth of the Fund was clearly affected by the number of distributions for 2024 (\$112,280) versus \$45,000 for 2023. If we did not have to take the additional amount to cover the deficit budget for 2024, we would have added additional funds to the value of the Fund.

Portfolio value on December 31, 2023,	\$1,420,395
Portfolio Deposits	\$227,000*
Distributions	(\$319,280) +
Approximate (increase in portfolio value)	\$226,323
Portfolio value on December 31, 2024,	\$1,554,438

*Deposits from the sale of the Jackson House (\$200,000), from the Building Fund (\$7,000) and from Memorial Funds (\$20,000)

+Distributions to pay down the Line of Credit (\$207,000) and transfer to Endowment Checking account (\$112,280)

The 2025-2026 meeting schedule of the Endowment Fund Trustees of Christ Church is as follows: (All meetings are held on Mondays, beginning at 7:00 PM and will continue to be virtual): February 3 (Fourth Quarter), April 28(First Quarter), July 28 (Second Quarter), and October 27 Third Quarter), January 26, 2026, for quarter ending December 31, 2025.

The Board of Trustees, along with Vestry's approval, will continue our strategy for growth for the Endowment Fund Portfolio that will allow us to meet our needs. We will monitor current trends to allow continued growth and mitigate risk.

Respectfully submitted, **James Bathurst, Endowment Trustees Chair**

Evangelism Commission

The Evangelism Commission oversees projects, events, and activities that encourage activities and membership within our parish and outside our doors. During the past year, the program of Parish Pathfinders was formed to provide transportation to those who may need a ride to church or other church events.

The Adult Forum Presentation of Be Our Guest was reviewed to prepare us to welcome visitors to the parish. This is often called New Member Ministry with a dedicated group of volunteers, but All Member Ministry is for us all to have the welcoming skills to interact with visitors and new members when we gather.

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday our Adult Forum Program, 'Eat, Pray, Love' provided a list of ways that we could observe a holy Lent. In small groups, we were to decide if the observances were a form of prayer, fasting, self-denial or meditation on God's Holy Words. During the next four Sundays at Adult Forum, participants shared their faith journeys from childhood to adulthood to help them share the Gospel with others.

We celebrated 'Mother's Day in May' as we collected baby and toddler clothes for the clients of the National Life Center in Woodbury. The volunteers were grateful for the generosity of our parish.

Our first Homecoming Sunday was a well-attended, joyful event with sheets for each ministry.

The Greeting Card Ministry was introduced in the fall. Our volunteers are sending greeting cards and making phone calls to our homebound parishioners monthly to let them know that we are thinking of them and remembering them in our prayers. This ministry has been well received by those on our homebound list. All are welcomed and needed for our Parish Pathfinder and Greeting Card ministries.

Respectfully submitted, Doreen Mills



GWCM (Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries)



In 2024 GWCM served 10,600 families. These families include 15,277 children and 24,148 adults.

Each Thanksgiving, GCWM has been able to provide our client families with a turkey and all the fixings for a holiday meal. At Christmas, a variety of gifts have been provided to each man, women and child member of our client families. This year they were also provided a lasagna dinner, purchased through a grant from Atlantic City Electric and PSE&G. At Thanksgiving they receive a turkey and “the fixins”, and in the Spring, we have provided bras for women and boxers for men.

Thank you for your generous support that made this possible and for the many volunteers who generously give of their time and energy.

PLEASE HELP

Donations are especially needed at this time due to continued high numbers of those coming to us. For monetary donations go to GWCM.org.

HERE ARE THE ITEMS WE NEED

IMMEDIATE REQUEST

Pancake Mix & Syrup and Peanut Butter & Grape Jelly

ALWAYS NEEDED

Toilet Paper, Canned Tuna, Canned Fruits and Vegetables, Hearty Soups, Mac and cheese, Tea Bags, Coffee, Laundry Detergent (liquid), Shampoo, Body Wash, Soap, Toothpaste and Brushes, Deodorant, Mouth Wash, Shaving Cream, Razors

Respectfully submitted, Darcie Sanchez



Office Volunteers' Guild

Volunteers are always needed no matter what the situation. When you stop to think about our Christ Church it has survived and continues to survive because of the many volunteers...the altar servers, choir members, church officers, ushers, lectors, and food bank donors. Sometimes extra hands are needed to put address stickers on envelopes and simply stuff the envelopes.

After all the word "volunteer" comes from the Latin word volo (I wish); so, if you wish to be helpful to Christ Church please contact Helen Gwalthney at 856-845-5531 or Carol Hill at 856-468-8787.

Thank you for your help.



Epiphany Reception 2025

Parish Musicians

I was honored to become the Organist and Music Director of Christ Church, Woodbury on September 1st, 2024. While it has only been a little over four months since my arrival, Our Lord has greatly blessed our Music Ministry. With God's help we have added additional volunteer rehearsals, updated the choral and organ repertoire, welcomed singers and musicians from a variety of denominations, and have restarted the youth chorister's program.

The adult choir has been working very hard, and I am most grateful for the extra time and talent they have given of themselves in both rehearsals and the Liturgical life of the parish. We are most grateful to our Choral Scholars for their valuable support and expertise. The Choir has added much new repertoire in the past four months. They have added the traditional minor propers from the Anglican Gradual which highlight the lessons and Gospel of the day. In the past four months the Choir and Scholars have sung 60 different compositions comprising

Introits, Motets and Anthems; a staggering amount! These musical offerings are in addition to the Psalms, Service Music and Hymns.



The Music Ministry has been focusing specifically on texts we sing which are all taken from The Book of Common Prayer, the Bible, and writings of poets and Saints from the Anglican Tradition. This attention to words reinforces the motto of the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), "Psallam spiritu et mente, which translates to "I will sing with the spirit and with the understanding also", (1 Corinthians 14:15). It is truly an honor to regularly come to Christ Church and be surrounded by such deeply spiritual music. We never perform but rather offer our music to the glory of God. In a day and age in which much of the traditional Sacred Music repertoire has been relegated to the concert stage or recordings, the Christ Church Music Ministry is a treasure because we offer the music of the great composers for exactly what inspired them to write

such moving music: the liturgical worship of our Lord.

It was such a pleasure to welcome so many different musicians and voices from the greater Woodbury community at Lessons & Carols. The Service was such a wonderful illustration of God's work through music. This Service brought together many diverse traditions, ages, and music in one beautiful worship Service. We sang in three different languages and music from

nearly every period of Sacred Music. What was especially moving was hearing our budding young choristers sing and pray with our adults. It was humbling to be a part of a truly multi generational ensemble.

The choristers are back! I would thank Erika Holland for helping me restart the Chorister Ministry. In just a month the choristers learned enough music to participate in Lessons & Carols, Christmas Eve and Epiphany. They are working hard and are so enthusiastic! We have reestablished our RSCMA membership and choristers will be able to receive their awards and medals as they complete their work books and musical curriculum. We welcome all youth to join the Chorister Ministry. It is a wonderful way to learn to sing, read music, and participate in the Liturgical life of the Church.

Future goals for the Music Ministry are to continue to expand the repertoire, sing Evensong & Benediction, acquire a traditional Anglican Chant Psalter, sing a choral Mass, sing with other RSCM choirs in our diocese, and continue to create events that reach out to all ages in the wider community.

God Bless, Nick Mynyk



Pastoral Care

A Pastoral Care Team has been formed with the guidance of Father Civale. The areas of service have been identified with Jean Lucas overseeing Martha's Meals; Barbara O'Mealia overseeing Parish Pathfinders; Deb Allbright overseeing Visitation/Caregiver support; Doreen Mills, Greeting Card Ministry and Coordinator. We continue to work on our Vision and Mission Statements that will be presented upon completion. The ministry was introduced at a recent Adult Forum along with opportunities to serve in one of these areas. Thank you to those who have volunteered to be a part of this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Doreen Mills

Stewardship

Fellow Members in Christ,

Our Stewardship campaign for 2024 has been unique from previous years. This year we spoke multiple times at the 8am and 10am services, expressing our church's financial status. We also had our Financial adviser, McLaughlin Associates present their views of how they (and us) can assist in Christ Church financial future, thus providing us with the best way to allow our church to grow and prosper.

Stewardship, in the easiest definition, is gift of self-giving back to God what He gave us, which is everything. This year, we currently received 78 pledge cards totaling \$215,790.00. Thank you all!! This number grew from multiple pledging families increasing their original pledge due to the need of the church. This was an increase from last year. So first I say , Thank You!!!

Everything cost more now, just like in our homes. The Vestry has worked diligently stretch the dollar and curbing expenses.

Thanks to the Vestry and the Endowment committee, they have assisted on keeping our beautiful doors open, and allowing us to spread God's word.

But stewardship doesn't end once we receive our pledge cards, stewardship is a yearlong endeavor. Our goal is to have events throughout the year to assist in the needs of the church. Your support and involvement will allow us to assist in Gods work.

Thank you all for what you have given.

Sincerely,

F. Sherman Yeiter III



Sunday School

The 2024-2025 school year began with Rally Sunday Kick-off in early September. The students came together, with teachers, to create posters of gratitude for our community workers. The poster were displayed on the garden fence. They enjoyed an ice cream social following the decorating activity.

It is our fourth year using the curriculum, Sparkhouse Digital. Our curriculum offers lessons for all ages pre-k to youth. Our younger students are following the lectionary based curriculum. The children use a colorful story Bible to learn lessons of the Gospel. They are greeted each week with interactive lessons, songs, crafts and activity leaflets that correspond with the weekly lesson.

Our preschool students being taught by Susann Kaback. Lower elementary is being instructed by Robertta Shomo. Eva and Zach Ares- Deterding are working together to teach our upper elementary students. Lastly, our middle school and high school students are being instructed by Sarah Cranston. Darcie Sanchez and Michele Bathurst will instruct our First Holy Communion Class again this year. Sarah Cranston and Scott & Anna Carr are leading our youth group this year.

Attendance is slightly up this year with a couple new enrollments! There are currently 32 students enrolled in the Sunday School program. Of our registered students we have about an 80 percent attendance rate each week.

I would like to thank the parish for the continued support of our Sunday school program. Our children are truly blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Scales, Sunday School Superintendent



Youth Group

Meet the Crew:

The youth group at Christ Episcopal Church is led by a dedicated team that includes Scott and Anna Carr – we're thrilled to have them on board! Together, we are committed to helping our youth grow spiritually, connect with each other, and enjoy meaningful experiences along the way.

When We Get Together:

We meet on the first Sunday of every month when Sunday School is in session. This year, we've been diving deep into the Psalms. Each session looks a little like this:

- Game Time: Starting off with some fun and laughs to set the tone.
- Psalm Study: We pick a Psalm, read it together, and dig into what it's all about. We talk about its message and how it relates to our lives today.

We usually have 10-12 students join us – including our honorary "youth member", Teddy, who happens to be Scott and Anna's son.

Events & Projects:

Beyond our monthly meetups, we organize events and service projects to foster fellowship and give back to the community. Here are some highlights:

The Big December Project:

In December, we spread some holiday cheer visiting our homebound parishioners. We 10 students team up into three groups (each by an adult). Together, we visited six everyone feel ready, Jim and Marybeth Bathurst ran a practice session on how to handle the visits with confidence. The feedback? The students loved it! They got to



by had led households. To help



know some incredible church members and even learned a few cool tidbits about Christ Church's history.

What's Coming in 2025:

- Food Pantry Volunteering: In March, we're rolling up our sleeves to help out at the food pantry at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Glassboro.
- Valentine's Day Painting Party: Break out the brushes! On February 14, we're getting creative with a painting party that promises to be full of fun and artistic flair.

The youth group is more than just a gathering—it's a place where friendships grow, faith deepens, and memories are made. We can't wait to see what adventures 2025 brings!

The youth group is thriving as a place for spiritual exploration, community service, and personal growth. We are excited about what 2025 will bring for our students and the church community.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cranston



Treasurer's Report

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY
TREASURER'S 2024 ANNUAL REPORT & 2025 BUDGET
 2025 Budget Approved by Vestry on 12/12/24

	2024 BUDGET	2024 ACTUAL	2025 BUDGET
REVENUE			
PLATE	8,000	16,984	15,000
PLEDGE	192,000	208,699	215,790
DESIGNATED GIFTS (for operations)	19,000	21,596	19,000
OPERATING REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES	45,000	45,000	45,000
INTEREST	-	-	-
BUDGET SHORTFALL	63,821	14,000	49,034
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 327,821	\$ 306,279	\$ 343,824
OUTGOING			
MISSION			
DIOCESAN ACCRUAL	23,892	23,892	27,813
OUTREACH	2,000	600	2,000
SEMINARY SUPPORT	-	-	-
TOTAL MISSION	\$ 25,892	\$ 24,492	\$ 29,813
PERSONNEL			
RECTOR	\$ 67,213	67,213	\$ 67,213
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	19,760	17,260	20,254
ORGANIST	30,000	23,017	32,000
SEXTON	10,478	9,672	10,740
OFFICE ASSISTANT	-	4,890	5,000
NURSERY SITTING	1,728	2,352	1,728
CHORAL SCHOLARS	18,000	18,700	18,000
SUPPLY ORGANIST	-	-	-
FACILITIES MANAGER	-	-	-
OPERATING FD SALARIES	\$ 147,179	\$ 143,104	\$ 154,935
TAXES & BENEFITS			
SSI MEDICARE	12,996	11,524	13,834
WORKMANS COMP	2,000	887	1,200
PENSION CLERGY	19,841	22,436	19,898
PENSION SECRETARY	-	-	-
CLERGY HOUSING EQUITY	2,800	3,842	2,800
DENTAL INSURANCE CLERGY / SECR	648	127	672
HEALTH INSURANCE CLERGY / SECR	14,928	14,313	16,800
TERM LIFE INSURANCE	222	185	222
DISABILITY INSURANCE	-	-	-
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,075	20	1,075
TOTAL TAXES & BENEFITS	\$ 54,510	\$ 53,333	\$ 56,501
OTHER EXPENSES			
ADVERTISING (YELLOW PAGES)	-	1,006	-
PARISH OFFICE	4,500	6,535	5,500
REPRODUCTION MACHINE RENTAL	5,000	4,164	4,500
POSTAGE	1,800	1,175	1,500
PRINTING SERVICES	750	434	750
TELEPHONE	1,300	1,566	1,300
IT SERVICES	1,900	1,403	1,500
CABLE TV & INTERNET SERVICE	2,940	2,060	2,500
HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES	500	650	500
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	1,000	-	1,000
LAY MINISTRY MUSIC/CHOIR	500	623	500
DIOCESAN CONVENTION	250	85	250
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	4,500	2,116	4,500
REPAIRS / MINOR IMPROVEMENTS	4,000	6,244	4,000
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	15,000	20,171	15,000
SUPPLY PRIEST	1,250	3,317	2,225
SUPPLY ORGANIST	-	-	-
FUEL / ELEC / WATER / SEWER	30,000	31,219	30,000
INSURANCE MULTIPERIL / BONDING	21,500	17,512	23,500
HOSPITALITY	500	1,647	500
NEW MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT	-	461	-
YOUTH MINISTRY	-	-	-
PARISH NURSING	-	-	-
SUNDAY SCHOOL	2,000	1,935	2,000
STAFF & LAY CONTINUING ED.	-	462	-
BISHOP'S VISITATIONS	350	350	350
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE	100	-	100
GIFTS & RECOGNITIONS	600	1,137	600
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 100,240	\$ 106,273	\$ 102,575
TOTAL EXPENSE NORMAL OPERATIONS	\$ 327,821	\$ 327,201	\$ 343,824

Treasurer's Report - Parish House Renovation Capital Fund

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY

2024 Summary of Parish House Renovation Capital Fund

Beginning Balance	\$	13,452.55
Designated Offerings & IMO's		-
Direct Deposits		-
Interest		-
Total Fund Before Expenses	\$	13,452.55
Loan Payments	\$	10,186.18
Bank Charges (ACH)		-
Total Expenses	\$	10,186.18
Fund Balance 12/31/2024	\$	3,266.37

2024 Summary of Line of Credit Loan

Original Loan Amount	\$	286,097.36
Beginning Balance (12/20/23)	\$	254,241.25
Principal and Interest Paid (2024)	\$	210,377.54
Current Loan Balance (12/20/24)	\$	44,967.29



Treasurer's Report - Endowment Fund

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY 2024 Summary of Endowment Savings Account

Beginning Balance (1/1/24)		\$ 237,925.37
Deposits:		
Deposits from Portfolio	\$ 112,280.00	
Over Payment Return from Bancorp	766.91	
Remote Deposits (IMO)	100.00	
IMO for Fr. Bird	20,000.00	
Interest	-	
Total Deposits		\$ 133,146.91
Payments:		
Transfer to Portfolio (Jackson House Funds)	\$ 207,000.00	
Transfer to Portfolio (IMO Fr. Bird)	20,000.00	
Transfers to GF per Vestry (2024 Operating)	59,000.00	
Line of Credit Payments (Bancorp)	3,377.54	
Total Payments		\$ 289,377.54
Ending Balance (12/31/24)		\$ 81,694.74



2024 Wardens' Report

Marking a Milestone:

August 2024 marked the one-year anniversary of Father Civale's ministry with Christ Episcopal Church. Over the past year, we have seen a shift toward stability and growth as we move forward from the challenges of the pandemic and significant staff changes. Father Civale's leadership has brought renewed energy and focus to our parish, helping us rebuild and strengthen our community.

Music Ministry Highlights

The Search Committee worked prayerfully and persistently to find the right person to lead our music ministry, and we were thrilled to welcome Nick Mynyk as our new organist in September 2024. Nick's arrival has been a true blessing, and his talent and enthusiasm have enriched our worship services. This was especially evident during our Lessons & Carols performance, where we were joined by members of the community in a beautiful celebration of the season.

Building for the Future

Significant repairs and improvements were made to our buildings this year (see Jim Bathurst's report on Buildings & Grounds), thanks to the generous support of our parishioners in both time and financial contributions. These enhancements underscore our shared commitment to creating a space that supports worship, fellowship, and outreach.

Revitalizing Outreach

The Parish has reinvigorated its outreach efforts with some key initiatives:

- **Homebound Parishioners:** Increased focus on calls and visits has deepened relationships with members who are unable to join us in person. This includes the Greeting Card Ministry. Through this program the parish is reaching out to parishioners who are unable to attend church regularly, sharing Christ's love through thoughtful cards and notes. This small yet impactful gesture has strengthened our connections within the church family.
- **Community Engagement:** The Vestry has embraced an outward-looking approach, asking how we can serve not just those who cross our threshold but the wider community as well. For example, the Christmas Market held on the first Saturday in December, this year's market featured 13 vendors and alpacas in the garden, delighting visitors of all ages. Thanks to excellent organization and robust social media promotion, the event was our most successful yet. This event brings joy to attendees and strengthens our ties to the broader community.

A Growing Spirit of Fellowship:

This past year, Christ Church has experienced a renewed energy and sense of purpose. Parishioners have come together in worship, service, and fellowship—from mulching the church grounds to organizing the Christmas Market. These moments of collaboration embody the "MULCH" principle developed by Rev. Canon Caroline Carson from Congregational Vitality & Engagement at our Vestry retreat: Mission Under Loving Christ-centered Hospitality.

Guided by these principles, Vestry at its November retreat developed SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound) Goals for Growth. We focused on setting clear priorities for the year ahead, guided by two goals:

1. Vision: Form a committee to draft a vision and mission statement by January 2025, providing direction for the next three to five years.
2. Communications: Establish a committee to review and enhance communication strategies. By May 2025, create a plan to increase visibility and engagement, with implementation targeted for September 2025.

We are grateful for the resilience and dedication of our parish family as we enter this exciting new chapter. Together, we look forward to continuing our journey of faith, service, and growth in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cranston and Tara Mass



Homecoming 2024



Priest - in - Charge Report

Dear Parishioners of Christ Church,

Christ Church continues to show signs of stabilization and growth. As the parish and I continue to get to know each other, I feel that 2024 was a good year. Despite the deaths of a number of our beloved parishioners, the parish has seen the return of a number of parishioners who had left in prior years and has also welcomed some new members. For me the parish has some great energy and a renewed spirit which is essential if we are going to see continued growth and do all that the Lord has in store for us. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of my thoughts and hopes regarding the overall state of things, both pastoral and administrative.

Regarding administrative improvements, my continued plan is to organize the office to ensure transparency and build an infrastructure so that the institutional information of the parish is accessible; and if something were to happen Betsy or me, the person stepping in would be able to run things with as much continuity as possible. Betsy, Dee and I have begun to make progress, but it has been difficult with a part time assistance. After one and a half years of serving at Christ Church, I firmly believe that this parish and in fact any parish of this size needs to invest in a full-time administrator. I regret agreeing to the experiment of splitting the position in order to save money. We rely on volunteers to fill in the gap- and they have been wonderful. But I feel that a full-time presence Monday through Friday will help with organization and consistency, especially if we are going to invest in growth for our future. I continue to be committed to streamlining our expenses and I will continue to work with the Finance Committee and Vestry to explore our options.

Regarding attendance and involvement, our average Sunday attendance has risen from 99 people in 2023 to 105 people in 2024. And since September, we have seen an even greater increase of 15-20 people per week. As well, our weekday Mass attendance has increased. We celebrated two baptisms. The number of homebound people visited by clergy for sacramental visits increased. The Sunday School program has seen an increase in membership and the Youth program has become more active in the parish and community. We confirmed, received and reaffirmed eleven people last spring and five children received their First Holy Communion. Pledge amounts and pledging units increased and individual parishioners have been very generous in giving additional money to our music program and our building and grounds needs. This has helped the parish address many needed projects and maintain its musical excellence without dipping into our endowment or developing a capital campaign.

Other signs of renewed life can be seen in an increase in membership of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew. Their involvement with property care, the involvement of the newly formed Garden Ministry, and the outpouring of assistance last spring with the mulching of the grounds, shows some innovative stewardship on our part. Your generosity of time has saved the parish a lot of money. And the involvement of the newly formed Pastoral Care Team shows that Christ Church cares deeply about the parish and its members. A significant concern is that projects and committees that attract volunteers tend to be more short-term. It is more difficult to find volunteers who are able to commit consistent time over a longer time frame. This is evident in the difficulty finding vestry members to run this year. This is not a judgement, but an observation, and may affect how we envision the future. For example, many parishioners have expressed that we need to be a parish that is more directly involved in mission and evangelism in the local community. The reality is that we cannot achieve this desire if more of our members are not committed in a more routine and ongoing way. This is a challenge in churches everywhere. There are many distractions and commitments that church life competes with.

Liturgically we continue to try to tighten things up at the altar and with our music program. It's been a pleasure to work with our new music director, Nick Mynyk. We both were surprised by the enthusiasm that our very young people showed during the Christmas Season. Part of our hope and expectation for the first year was to explore ways to engage the children of the parish in our music program and this happened very quickly. This is another example of new energy and enthusiasm.

In November, as part of its annual retreat, the Vestry completed a 16-month review with diocesan volunteer, Canon Joan Mason. I will continue to work with the new Vestry with a goal of working as a respectful and cohesive group which serves the needs of the parish and community. Adherence to the Vestry Covenant developed last summer will be emphasized while further developing our understanding of the different role and responsibility of each member. We will also develop an official vision and mission statement, which will be shared on the parish website. As well, a committee that focuses on communication at all levels is being formed. Working with clergy and parish administration, it will explore ways to improve communications in the wider community. It will address how to make the community aware of parish events, liturgies and formation opportunities in a productive way and will also address how information is presented and received within the parish itself. We thank Sophie Seddon, Tom Phrampus, David Hanson, Sarah Cranston and Tara Mass for all that they have contributed as they step off Vestry.

Christ Church has so much to share as a member of the Body of Christ. Its commitment to prayerful and transformative liturgy and music, its traditional understanding of the Creeds, its robust Sunday School and Youth programs, and its genuine care for each other, are all rooted first in our understanding that we are people redeemed by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is at the foundation of the good news that we are all called to share.

This upcoming year, I want to focus on education around the Prayer Book and liturgy at our Adult Forums. As well, a Bible study will be offered on Monday evenings by Scott Carr. As your pastor I will continue to address vestry organization, stewardship, property concerns, evangelism and our financial challenges. I am excited to be with you as your priest and look forward to our continued journey with the Lord to meet the challenges that are before us and to continue celebrating all the good things that Christ Church has to offer each other and the world outside its doors.

Faithfully in Christ,

Father Civale

The Year in Photos





A Service of
LESSONS AND CAROLS
at Christ Church in Woodbury



Friday
December
at 6:30 in





NECROLOGY 2024
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord....

Dr. Ross Beitzel
The Rev. Dr. John E. Bird †
Bejamin H. Brown, Jr.
Carla Colella
Margaret S. Geiger
Anthony A. Giaccio
Robert J. O'Mealia
The Rev. Canon William V. Rauscher, Jr. †
Robert W. Scott
Violet M. Wells

2024 Parish Register Entries

Added by Baptism	2
Added by Confirmation/Reception	11
Added as New Member with Letter of Transfer	2
Lost by Death (member)	(9)
Lost by Death (non-member)	(1)
Lost by Letter of Transfer-Out	(0)
<hr/>	
Total Change in Membership	6

Compiled by **Betsy Murphy**, Parish Administrator



Christ Church
62 Delaware Street,
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 845-0190
www.christchurch.woodburynj.org

*A Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
and the worldwide Anglican Communion*

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM Healing Mass
Thursday: 6:30 PM Mass
Friday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Lawrence Civile

Organist and Choir Director

Nick Mynyk

Parish Administrator

Betsy Murphy