THE PARISH OF CHRIST THE REDEEMER
PELHAM MANOR, NEW YORK

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2024

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH- JANUARY 26, 2025

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Annual Meeting Agenda

January 26, 2025

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

RECTOR'S REPORT

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I want to look back at the past year and also share some things I think we need to address in the coming year. In 2024 we focused on four primary aspects of our parish life:

1. Restructuring our Music Program
2. Growing our Sunday School and other family ministries.
3. Welcoming Newcomers & Building Relationships with Members
4. Every member making a financial pledge.

I am very happy to report that we have made significant progress in every area.

Restructured Music Program

Last year I announced a staff and program based on two parish priorities: 1) music on Sundays and Holy Days needed to be more well known, more accessible to families, and more reliable in terms of length, and 2) a Children's Choir and children singing in the Christmas Pageant is essential at Christ Church.

I formed a search committee in January of 2024 co-chaired by Jeff Bodenman and Margaret Young, with membership that included Andrew Des Rault, Stephen Dolan, Cherrie Greenhalgh, John Hastings, Martin Nash, and Alison Hinds-Pearl. We did a search, received more than 30 inquiries and resumes from around the United States, and interviewed numerous excellent candidates. I am grateful to the work of the committee and the co-chairs. I am also grateful to Jeff Bodenman, JD Calder, and John Fox who did a great deal of necessary behind the scenes work throughout the transition.

In June of 2024 I called Dr. Justin Bischof as our new Director of Music and Organist, and he has done an excellent job over the past six months programming music and hymns that are well-known, ensuring that the worship starts on time and ends reliably in just over an hour, creating a children's choir and program, leading disciplined choir rehearsals, providing organized and welcoming office and rehearsal spaces, and restarting our concert program. Please review Justin's report for more details.

I am very happy with our new direction. In a half year Justin has accomplished much, and I am grateful for the hard work, planning, organization skills, and energy he has brought to his work. He is a world-class organist and choir director, and it is a pleasure listening to the music he makes each Sunday.

Sunday School & Family Ministries

Our Family Ministries are growing. Nursery is offered every week. Sunday School is also offered every week, and the classes are never without children. Youth Group meets twice a month and has included several events with up to nine young people. Additionally, our Clericus has offered two Youth events for the teens in the Episcopal churches on the Long Island Sound, and Christ Church is hosting the third Clericus-wide Youth event on May 4, 2025. Our Confirmation Class this year has six students, and Confirmation will be Sunday, May 18, at 4pm with Bishop Mary Glasspool. Vacation Bible School in August was our largest yet with more

than twenty-five children and additional teens helping our adult leaders. The Christmas Pageant was twice as large as it was in 2023 with more than twenty-five children. Lastly, as noted above, we have a Children's Choir (now with six children) for the first time since 2019.

We do need to recruit more children and teens as acolytes, readers, and livestreamers, and I am grateful for Mary O'Shaughnessy who has offered to help me and our Verger Walter Roberts with this. I encourage all of our families to consider involving their children and teens as acolytes, readers, and/or livestreamers.

The number of children in church and at our activities is growing, and there are three primary reasons I see for this growth. First is the buy-in and support of our families with children who have made a concerted effort to involve their kids more often, second is the excellent work of Evan Felicetti our Director of Children's Ministires and Justin Bischof our Director of Music, and third is the fact that our congregation is publicly prioritizing family ministries. I am grateful for the work of Evan, Justin, and MaryAngella (who runs our Nursery each week). I am grateful for our teachers who lead Sunday School every week and the numerous volunteers who help with Vacation Bible School and the Christmas Pageant.

Family Ministry will continue to be our number one priority in 2025 with the two-fold goal of deepening engagement with the families in our congregation while also bringing in new, active families. I think it is essential that we recognize, give thanks for, and build upon the good work that we have begun.

Welcoming Newcomers & Building Relationships with Members

Our attendance in 2024 continued to increase, and I think it is notable that the bulk of that increase happened in the second half of the year – you can find detailed information in the worship report about attendance numbers. Our staff, volunteers, excellent worship and programs, and the warm greeting of parishioners are all reasons for this growth. We have also been helped behind the scenes by an upgraded communication and database system.

In the summer we transitioned over to Breeze/Tithley to serve as a unified database, online giving, website, and digital communication platform. Breeze/Tithley is robust and very affordable. One helpful feature has been the fact that I am able to use my iphone to add or update contact information about new or existing members. You may have noticed thank you notes for online giving are instantaneous. You may also have received an email from me on your birthday. All of these are features of Breeze/Tithley. The system also informs me whenever anyone makes an online donation or fills out an information form which make it much easier to follow-up with newcomers and parishioners. The staff is still learning how to use many of the features of Breeze/Tithley, and I am hopeful that as we live into 2025 we will all become more adept and familier with it. I strongly encourage every member to fill out the "Database Form" that is linked at the end of every weekly eblast (and to the right); it will help us communicate with you.

In the Autumn Nicole and I invited all current and past vestry members and ministry leaders to a party at the Rectory. We are planning to do several such events in 2025, beginning with a reception for all families with school-age children and a reception for those who are new to the parish since Covid. Email and eblasts are very helpful, but in-person fellowship and relationship building is essential for spiritual and parish growth.

In 2024 we leaned into more robust and strategic evangelism and advertising via press releases in the Pelham Examiner and on Facebook, and mass-mailing postcards prior to Christmas, Easter, and the start of the academic year.

A database and communications upgrade, more organized newcomer follow-up, planning relationship building events, and the need for more robust and strategic advertsing and evangelism were all highlighted as needs in last year's annual report, and I am very happy we have addressed each of these issues in 2024. I ask for your continued support in 2025. Spread the good news of Christ Church, welcome people, bring family and friends to church and parish events, and use your social media to share Christ Church with others.

Pledging & Budget

In 2023, we had the highest pledge total we have ever had (breaking $400,000 for only the second time, and surpassing our prior high number). In 2024 we broke $450,000. For 2025 we have already surpassed $500,000 in pledges, and I am hopeful that we can truly balance our budget when those who have not yet done so make their pledge for 2025. Thank you so much to all who pledged. Thank you especially for those who pledged for the first time and to those who were able to increase their pledge for 2025. If you havew not yet made a pledge for 2025, please make your pledge as soon as possible because every pledge and every dollar are essential.

Our Treasurer's Report will go into more detail regarding our finances. It is important for everyone to know that we do not yet have a balanced budget, even with record breaking pledge amounts. This is not due to over-spending but rather basic cost of living increases (utilities, insurance, benefits, COLA increases for staff, etc.). We are planning to address the deficit in three ways:

1) We will continue ou focus on stewardship. If you have not yet made a pledge, please make one; if you already pledged for 2025 but the amount was flat from 2024, please consider increasing at least 5% to help us keep pace with real world increases that affect every organization.
2) We intend to apply for a two-year adjustment to our Apportioned Share (Assessment) from the Diocese. Our Assessment has increased from $82,516 in 2023, to $87,494 in 2024, to 95,892 in 2025, which means our Assessment is outpacing even basic cost of living amounts. The appeal process is not instantaneous, so we will not know whether our appeal has been accepted or what amount of adjustment we might receive for several months.
3) In the short term (and possible for the year if the above two plans do not work as we hope) we will be forced to draw additional funding from our endowment. The obvious problem with over-drawing from the endowment is that there is less money available for future years.

How can you help? Again, if you have not yet made a pledge, please make one; if you already pledged for 2025 but the amount was flat from 2024, please consider increasing at least 5% to help us keep pace with real world increases that affect every organization.

Summary & Thanksgivings

Well done! I'm very proud of our parish. We are healthy, happy, and doing the good work of Jesus Christ in our church and community. Please join me in thanking all of our volunteers and staff for their hard work, please consider if you can help out in anyway, and please let me know if you have any feedback or ideas.

I want to thank the members of our Vestry and Officers, in particular our Wardens, JD Calder and Etta Gumbs. I am grateful to Allison Bodenmann our Treasurer, John Fox our Assistant Treasurer, and Guy Sanscartier our Bookkeeper. Our Vestry members and officers put in many hours behind the scenes to ensure that our buildings, finances, and ministries are overseen.

I also want to thank the leaders of every Committee and Ministry.

Special thanks to Carla Carroll who began chairing our Outreach Committee last year. Carla has done an amazing job organizing events and various charity efforts. We had our first ever Classic Car Show thanks to Carla and this past year we also donated over 700 coats for our Coat Drive.

Special thanks also to Michael Moynihan who has kept our Thursday Bible Study running for more than a decade. Michael is going to help oversee all our Adult Christian Education opportunities in 2025 as he takes on an increased new role in this area of ministry in 2025.

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

The Good News of Jesus Christ has been proclaimed at Christ Church the past year with enthusiasm through faithful worship of Almighty God, the regular celebration of the Sacraments, and a wide variety of ministries inspired by the Holy Spirit. God bless you all for all you have done this year! It is an honor to serve the Church as your rector. Thank you all for your love and commitment to Christ Church. Most of all, I want to recognize my wife Nicole and my boys Liam and Nicholas who have supported my call as a priest and rector. We are grateful to be a part of this wonderful parish. God bless you all, and as always, if you need anything, please let me know.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Priest & Rector

DEACON'S REPORT

Dear Church family,

I greet you once again in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. I thank almighty God for guiding us through the year, 2024, and for bringing us to the beginning of another year, 2025. As always, we as a faith community remain thankful for how God has used us to touch lives and be a blessing this past year. A good observation about pastoral care at Christ Church Pelham is that many of our church members participate in pastoral care without thinking much of it. I have seen parishioners visiting fellow church members on their own both in their homes and in hospitals. Some of us immediately notify the clergy when a parishioner needs a visit, and so on. In summary, pastoral care in our parish has been at its best when we see it as a collective responsibility to look out for one another and be there for one another. It is a good practice to inform/alert the clergy when a pastoral care need arises at any time in the parish. That way, the parish ensures that no one is missed. We always respect the wishes of individual parishioners in times of need. However, it is important for the clergy to be aware of any situation or need and also be notified of the wishes of the parishioner in question in terms of visits.

Our lives as a faith-based community are most relevant when we forge strong relationships within our community and the larger society. We must continue to nurture seeds of Godly love as a church family in our commitment to God's work. Our relationship with Saints John, Paul, and Clement continues to grow. The year 2024 was marked with not just food packing but also participation in fundraising campaigns and food drive up to the County level. On a personal note, I was blessed to participate in a medical mission at the end of last year. The good thing about most medical missions is that you take the aid to the very people who need it the most. It was uplifting in spirit for me to be amid people who received free medical treatment, free medical supplies, free lunch and snacks and Godly love for three days. It made a world of difference to see joy and happiness in the people even if it was for a brief amount of time.

Our parish remains committed to activities which enrich our Godly lives. Last year, the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) Christ the Redeemer Chapter made a strong presence in their first attendance to the Diocesan DOK Spring Assembly. I was invited to be the guest speaker at the event and our chapter members were in full attendance. We also participated as a Chapter in meetings at various national and regional levels. We look forward to attending more conferences and seminars this year. DOK is an international Order in which Daughters undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. For those who are interested in knowing more about this Order, please visit their website at www.doknational.org. We continue to seek new members to this wonderful order.

As we start this new year, let us ask God to renew us in body, mind and spirit to continue the work God has given us to do, to love and serve Christ in others. It is our duty to seek ways to maintain and even increase the work of God in our parish. We must rely on God to increase our zeal, dedication, and commitment with which we do God's work here at Christ Church. Serving God is a tradition at Christ Church Pelham.

The year 2025 presents another opportunity for us to grow as Christians. We still have much work to do. I continue to pray for good health, strength, the right mind and the right spirit, and the desire to persevere in good work to the honor and glory of God. May we always find inspiration and strength to live our lives for God and in God who gave us life. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole

VESTRY REPORT

2024 was my first year as Senior Warden of our Church. This has been a truly rewarding experience, as well as, a year of great learning. For the last several years, the Vestry has concentrated on ways to increase the size of the congregation. In particular, this effort has been directed at families with young children. (Pretty much the goal of the Church for the last 175+ years.) As part of this effort, in 2023 the Vestry hired a Youth Director. Continuing this effort, this past year we welcomed Justin Bischof as our new Director of Music and Organist, and I think I speak for all of us when I say, this is the beginning of a wonderful new day of music for Christ Church.

We began 2024 with a planned deficit. As happens with old buildings, we had several unexpected expenses related to the Old Parish House that increased the size of our deficit. Thanks to a record Stewardship Campaign and the generosity of all of you, we were able to keep the deficit to a level we could manage.

Everything we have here at Christ the Redeemer, is due to the efforts of the Ministers, Vestry members and congregants that came before us. Your Vestry makes a great effort to keep our parish financially sound and to build on the efforts of those past generations so our parish may continue on for future generations.

Please join with me and thank the members of the Vestry for the great work they have done on your behalf.

I encourage everyone to find a way to support the good and important work done here. Your Vestry meets monthly to do the work required by NY State Law and NY Diocese Canon Law. This encompasses reviewing finances, buildings and committee activity status, upcoming events and specific needs and your petitions.

Vestry & Parish Officers

The Rev. Matthew Hoxsie Mead, Rector; J.D. Calder, Senior Warden (2024,2026); Etta Gumbs, Junior Warden (2023-2025); Allison Bodenmann, Treasurer (2023, 2024, 2025); John Fox, Assistant Treasurer (2023, 2024, 2025); Jean Gruener, Clerk (2019- 2025) Jennifer Hawks Bland (2022-2025); Robert Boyer (2024-2027), Curtis Chase (2024-2027), Stephen Dolan (2022-2025), Charlette Finch (2024-2027), Jack Kraft (2023-2026); Robert Landis (2024-2027, Barbara Zambelli (2023-2026).

Vestry Official & Legal Roles and Responsibilities

Responsibility with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the parish.

Aid the Rector in the institution, conduct, and development of the program of the Church both within and without the Parish.

Agent and legal representative in all matters concerning property: maintenance of the buildings and furnishings, maintenance of other property (rectory, parking lot, grounds, etc.), and providing adequate insurance.

Responsibility for the finances of the parish, raising money, prompt payment of salaries and bills, prudent Care of trust funds, endowments and bequests, sale and transfer of securities and other assets, maintenance of records, annual report and budget (approve expenditures and recommend and approve salaries).

- Represent the parish in its relations with the Rector.
- Serve as “Council of Advice" for the Rector when requested.
- Call a Rector if there is a vacancy.

Respectfully submitted,
J.D. Calder
Senior Warden

THE PILLARS OF CHRIST CHURCH

In order to support the various ministries of the parish and coordinate the efforts of our many committees, we continue to rely on a structure that groups our committees into core ministries.

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

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

Foundation – These committees generally work behind the scenes to ensure that our Parish is open, safe, staffed, and able to offer programs and ministries. Foundation committees oversee the buildings and grounds of the church (our literal foundation) as well as the financial aspects of the parish. Committees included in the Foundation ministry include the Buildings, Rentals & Tenants, Grounds, Investments, Stewardship, Finance & Budget, and Vestry.

Each member of the Vestry is assigned as a vestry liaison to one or more ministries of Christ Church. This includes working with the committee chair(s), attending select committee meetings, and reporting to the vestry as a whole on the activities of the ministries within their area of responsibility.

CHRIST CHURCH MINISTRY CHART

Area	Committee	(Co-)Chair; Liason
Worship	Acolytes / Lectors / Chalicists	Walter Roberts
Worhip	Altar Guild	Paige Lavengood, Jackie Kraft
Worship	Flower Guild	Patrice Fitzpatrick
Worship	Ushers	Jean Gruener
Worship	Worship	Fr. Matt
Worship	Pageant & Vacation Bible School	Evan Feclietti & Fr. Matt
Worship	Parish & Children's Choirs	Justin Bischof
Service	Adult Christian Learning	Michael Moynihan
Service	Children's Ministries Committee	Evan Felicetti & Fr. Matt
Service	Church School	Evan Felicetti & Eileen Peluso
Service	Concerts at Christ Church	Justin Bischof
Service	Evangelism (Newcomers)	Fr. Matt
Service	Outreach	Carla Carroll; Etta Gumbs
Service	Pastoral Care	Fr. Matt & Deacon Chisara
Service	Discernment	Fr. Matt & J.D. Calder
Community	Fellowship Events	Jackie Kraft & Janet Salvatore; Barbara Zambelli
Community	Coffee Hour	Jackie Kraft & Janet Salvatore; Jack Kraft
Community	Youth Group	Evan Felicetti & Fr. Matt
Community	Men's Ministry	Andy Des Rault
Community	Seniors	Marie Main; Barbara Zambelli
Community	Women's Connection	Barbara Zambelli
Foundation	Communications	Erik Ipsen, Missy Kisob
Foundation	Buildings	John Fox
Foundation	Tenant and Rentals	Marie Main; Etta Gumbs
Foundation	Finance	Allison Bordenmann; Robert Landis
Foundation	Garden of the Resurrection	Erik Ipsen, Jim Young, Danielle Ganpat
Foundation	Grounds	Erik Ipsen, Jim Young, Danielle Ganpat
Foundation	Investment	Margaret Young & Melissa Roddy; Robert Landis
Foundation	Personnel/Legal	Jeff Bodenmann; Vestry Lawyers
Foundation	Stewardship / Planned Giving	Curtis Chase
Foundation	Tag Sale	Jackie Kraft, Eileen Wolfe
Foundation	General Fundraising	Marie Dumas

WORSHIP & LITURGY REPORT

In 2024 the Holy Eucharist was offered every Sunday and on major Holy Days and all major services were livestreamed. A review of the past years going back before Covid-19 shows attendance trends.

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Sunday worshippers	8834	2305	3885	5186	5959	7207
Average Sunday Attendance	170	44	75	100	112	139
Total Sunday Eucharists	118	62	117	121	130	134
Easter Attendance	440	0	193	355	346	410
Christmas Attendance	399	76	185	345	410	410
Total Weekday Attendance	1848	638	1452	1011	1760	1647
Online Videos / Livestreams *	0	241	281	226	236	320
YouTube Shorts	0	0	0	673	6	5
LivestreamViews *	0	18.6K	28.6K	19.5K	19K	36K
YouTube Short Views	0	0	0	168.7K	44.8K	29K
Total YouTube Subscribers	0	192	298	766	1008	1193

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

Christmas and Easter have returned to pre-pandemic levels, and our Average Sunday Attendance continues to rise and is 82% what it was in 2019. I believe our attendance numbers will continue to rise in 2025.

In addition to Sunday morning and Holy Day worship, we offer a 5pm Thirty-Minute-Mass most Sundays during the academic year. We offer a regular Wednesday eucharist. On Zoom we offer Evening Prayer on Mondays, Morning Prayer on Tuesdays, and Bible Study on Thursday mornings.

Other Sacraments and Sacramental Rites were offered in 2024. Bishop Shin visited Christ Church for Confirmation. Baptisms, Marriages, and Funerals were offered in 2024, and we were able to livestream these services to those who could not attend. Annointing with Holy Oil for Healing was offered after each Sunday morning Eucharist. Hospital visits and pastoral calls were offered normally throughout 2024. Looking ahead, Bishop Glasspool is scheduled to administer Confirmation at 4:00 pm on May 18, 2025.

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

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead
Priest & Rector

MUSIC PROGRAM REPORT

It is hard to believe that it has already been seven months almost to the day since playing my first service here at Christ Church. They have been an exciting seven months, and I want to thank you for your kind and warm welcoming of me to this special and wonderful community. I especially want to thank those who were so generous with their time helping me during the first many weeks as I hobbled about on my crutches!

While I have not yet completed one full year/season with you I appreciate how important a role the Music Program plays in our life together at Christ Church. I am proud of what we have accomplished in this short time together and am dedicated to continuing to grow the tradition of excellence, a sense of community and giving to others. Music is a unique and powerful way to worship God as a community whether singing a hymn together or sitting in a concert listening to His voice through the pens of the great composers.

As I complete my first year here as Director of Music & Organist at Christ Church, I am excited about what the future holds and taking the journey together as a community of faith, fellowship and music.

Parish Choir
Our Parish Choir is an inspiring group of exceptionally dedicated volunteers and 4 skilled professional section leaders who lead our worship week after week with love and skill. We have been expanding our repertoire with works from Palestrina through gospel and everything in-between. They led us in a wonderful joyous Christmas season with a bevy of gorgeous anthems and traditional carols. They will lead us in song during all the services of Holy Week culminating in a glorious Easter with chamber orchestra. The Parish Choir is a fun and focused group that worships God through music, and we are always interested in like-minded folks joining the choir so be in touch!

Children's Choir
Our new Children's Choir is up and running! We have 6 excited and engaged children who sing once a month during the 10 am service as well as on Christmas Eve and soon on Easter Sunday. The kids had the wonderful experience of singing with members of my orchestra MOO on Christmas Eve in a touching rendition of Away in a Manger. Learning while singing is our motto! We meet every Thursday from 5-5:30 pm and we have room for more so please be in touch with me if you would like your child to join the group.

Friends of Music Concert Series
One of my mandates when I accepted the position at Christ Church was to start a Concert Series. To that end I launched our new Friends of Music Concert Series with 5 concerts scheduled. Our 2024-2025 series is celebrating the 5th Anniversary of the installation of the Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ with 3 internationally acclaimed guest organists who are also distinguished New York City Episcopal organists: Jeremy Filsell Saint Thomas Fifth Avenue, David Enlow Church of the Resurrection Park Avenue and Stephen Tharp St. James Madison Avenue. I opened the series in September with a concert of improvisation on submitted themes from the audience. As I write this report, we are about to have our 1st Annual Orchestra

& Organ concert in a few days which will feature 32 members of my Modus Operandi Orchestra MOO of New York City with organist David Enlow in a program of beloved favorites including Beethoven's glorious Symphony No. 7. Stay tuned for details of our Friends of Music 2025-2026 season!

Organ Curatorship
I am happy to report that we have engaged the stellar firm of A. Thompson-Allen to serve as curators of our world class Juget-Sinclair pipe organ. They are among the most respected organ restoration/maintenance firms in the country whose clients include Yale University with their many organs. They will keep our gem of an organ running smoothly with 2 visits planned per year.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at justin@christchurchpelham.org or 646.206.7638 with any questions or feedback.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Jusitn Bischof, DMA
Director of Music & Organist

VERGER'S REPORT

A Verger is a lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions. Vergers may be full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer. The history of the Verger dates back to the middle ages when the verger was the "Protector of the Procession." He would lead the way, making room for the procession to enter the church from the town square, with his virg (mace) in hand would literally clear the way if necessary.

Under the direction of the Rector, I oversee all liturgies at Christ Church and certain lituirgical ministries (Acolytes, Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visiters, Lectors) and I work with other ministries (Music, Altar Guild, and Ushers) to ensure that the liturgy runs smoothly.

In addition to my work at Christ Church, I have been blessed to able to serve on occasion at the The Cathedral of St. John the Divine for Episcopal Ordinations, Installations, and other Diocesean events.. Having completed advanced training, I have been designated as A Fellow in the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. I am also an EFM (Education For Ministry) Graduate.

Below summarizes my areas of ministry at Christ Church.

Verger Responsibilities at Christ Church

- Oversee the coordination/final compilation and sending out of schedules of lectors, servers, acolytes, and covering vacancies as they appear.
- Coordinate and work closely with the altar guild, choir, servers, acolytes, ushers and other ministry teams as necessary.
- Train & recruit Acolytes and create an Acolyte Manual.

- Assist the Altar Guild in the Changing of the Frontals and hangings for the appropriate Church seasons.
- Stock Litrugical Supplies and Inventory: Bread, Wine, Candles and other Liturgical supplies.
- Anticipate and prepare to direct or prompt participants of the service as necessary.
- Work with clergy to address any liturgical problems.
- When necessary, assist with writing and developing customaries and checklists for special occasions and services.
- Prior to worship ensuring the worship spaces are properly set up.

Acolytes

The Ministry of Acolyte is very old, going back to at least the third century. Tarsicus, an acolyte in Rome, was martyred in 258. These early acolytes had functions very similar to those of the modern day. Acolytes assist in worship by carrying the processional cross, lighting candles, holding the Gospel book, holding candles or "torches", and assisting a Decon, Priest or Bishop in Liturgical rites of the Liturgy. The Ministry gives our young people and Adults an opportunity to assume a leadership position in the Parish, learn our traditions, and to actively participate in its services in a very unique and memorable way. The Acolyte Guild is open to Children ages 10 and above, as well as Adults. A Big "Thank you" to our acolytes for their participation in our services each Sunday. We count on them to make the services flow and our worship is enhanced by their presence.

Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM/Chalice Bearer) & Lay Eucharistic Visitor (LEV)

LEMs and LEVs are licensed by the Bishop with the approval of the Rector to assist with the ministration of communion, usually the Chalice during Mass and the Reserved Sacrament to those who are hospitalized or homebound. The ministry of LEMs and LEVs is overseen by the Verger and the Clergy.

LEM: The administration of Holy Communion is properly the province of the ordained—bishops, priests, and deacons. Hence, licensed lay ministers are, paradoxically, not really performing lay ministry at all! They are, in fact, deputized, in a restricted sense, to share in these functions of the clergy.

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

Lectors

Lectors read the Old and New Testament lessons at the 8:00 and 10:00 service every Sunday as well as the daily office and other services. These volunteers participate in the liturgy by reading God's word to the congregation that is appointed for the lectionary that week. Lectors also may serve as lay intercessors and read the Prayers of the People as well. The existence of the Prayers of the People was first mentioned by Justin Martyr (also known as Saint Justin), about the year 150, and for centuries has formed a vital part of the

Daily Office and Eucharistic liturgy. All Lectors must be baptized and appointed to that function by the Rector or priest in charge.

As you can see, the ministry of Verger is vast! I am pleased to announce that Sandra Rivera is now my new Assistant Verger-in-training, and she has been doing some of the work of the Verger during the 10am the past few Sundays. Training to be a Verger is not a short process and it will take me time to teach her – and I'm not going anywhere – I am grateful for some help! I am also grateful to Mary O'Shaughnessy who will be helping me schedule and recruit acolytes.

It is my Pleasure to work with Acolytes, Lectors and Lay Eucharistic Ministers, and I love serving as Verger at Christ Church!

Respectfully submitted,
Walter Roberts
Verger

USHERS REPORT

"I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness." - Psalm 84:10

Ushers are the doorkeepers at Christ Church; they are the first welcoming faces a parishioner or visitor to Christ Church sees.

The usher's role is to contribute to the smooth progression of the worship service so that clergy and congregation might better concentrate on their devotions. At regular Sunday services, the ushers work as a team, usually of two. They distribute bulletins, help with seating, assist parishioners or visitors with mobility issues and monitor the doors in the Narthex during the processional so that latecomers do not disrupt the choir and clergy.

During the service, the ushers take up the collection and bring the offering forward to the altar, then they arrange the additional kneeling cushions. During Communion, they direct the congregation to the communion rail, pew by pew. Should anyone need communion brought to their seat, one of the ushers advises Father Matt accordingly.

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

At funeral services and special memorial services, Christ Church often welcomes large groups of people who are here for the first time and the church is sometimes quite crowded. On these occasions, the ushers are responsible for helping everyone to find seating, sometimes directing latecomers to pews in the belltower.

During 2024, twenty parishioners served as ushers at the 8:00 am and 10:00 am services on Sundays, at funerals and memorial services, and at special services during Holy Week, at Christmas and on other holy days. Some served only once or twice during the year while others faithfully showed up several times a month, sometimes stepping in at the last moment. In addition, two young parishioners regularly assisted with the collection at the 8:00 am service.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Jean Gruener

ALTAR GUILD

The primary purpose of the Altar Guild is to prepare for celebrations of the Holy Eucharist and other sacraments of the church. The Altar Guild's work provides both order and beauty for the worship of the church. The members of the Altar Guild have completed another year of service to the Church preparing the sanctuary for all Sunday, midweek and special services. The Altar Guild provides wine, wafers and candles for use during worship services. Linens, vessels, vestments and church hangings are cared for by the Altar Guild and replaced as needed.

In the fall of 2024, Jackie Kraft attended the New York Altar Guild workshop at Church of the Ascension in Mount Vernon, New York. The workshop was informative as well as providing an opportunity to learn about the practices and challenges faced by other Altar Guilds. We also welcomed one new member, Cathy Bean, to our Altar Guild team. We are always looking for people who would like to share in this most rewarding ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Jackie Kraft and Paige Lavengood

FLOWER GUILD

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

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

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

The guild currently has 14 members, listed below. In 2024 we have also been investing in real looking artificial flowers to supplement those times when no donations have been made for that week. We hope to increase our membership, and prospective new members are encouraged to contact Patrice Fitzpatrick. We invite any parishioners interested in this ministry to join us.

Members of the Flower Guild: Angela Lore-Barone, Allison Bodenmann, Alice Dean, Marie Dumas, Charlette Finch, Patrice Fitzpatrick (Chair), Etta Gumbs, Emily Kane, Marie Main, Katherine Kenworthy, Colette Phipps, Janet Salvatore, Cherie Sigward, and Anne Zahner.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Fitzpatrick

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Sunday School

Sunday school began in September, with many students returning from last year. We were also blessed to have several new students join us as well. Weekly attendance has been consistently higher than last school year, with most weeks averaging at least 5 students. This makes for greater classroom discussions about bible stories, faith, and Jesus. While we have continued to use age-appropriate readings and cartoons as part of our lesson plans, there has been an increased emphasis on storytelling this year, largely thanks to Erik Ipsen. We've also been blessed with the addition of Denise Devonish-Liburd to our regular teaching roster, as Denise brings with her a true passion for Christian education, as well as a wonderful kindness with children. Special thanks this year go to our wonderful roster of Sunday School teachers, who deliver safe, fun, and high-quality lessons to our youth every Sunday. Our teachers include Michele Colangelo, Eileen Peluso, Erik Ipsen, Pat Johnson, Kristine Valerio, Lorraine Collins, Denise Devonish-Liburd, Janet Kornfeld, and Curtis Chase.

Confirmation Class

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

Our 2024-2025 class is led by Father Matt, Deacon Chisara, and Evan Felicetti. We have six youth confirmands in the class who will be confirmed by Bishop Glasspool at Christ Church on May 18, 2025, at 4pm.

Youth Group

As we move into the spring, we are continuing to plan more exciting youth group meetings, as well as opportunities for the youth of our parish to do service in the church and community at large. Youth Group continues to grow this year, and provides a safe space for the teens and tweens of our parish to make friends, have fun, and grow in their faith journeys. A special thanks to John Fox for filling in as a chaperone at numerous Youth Group meetings.

Children's Choir

Please see the Music Program report for an update from Dr. Bischof about our new Children's Choir.

Vacation Bible School

Youth Ministry at Christ Church successfully kicked off its 2024-2025 season, with Vacation Bible School from August 19-21. Total attendance this year was 20 kids, which was truly a blessing. While the weather was a bit challenging on day one, it gave our children the opportunity to engage in fun inside activities that we didn't have a chance to do at VBS 2023. Days two and three featured beautiful weather, which allowed for outdoor water play, plenty of lawn games, and a well-attended family barbecue on day three. New this year was a family concert led by Justin on the final day of camp, which gave parents and guardians the opportunity to listen to the hard work our campers put into their singing over the course of the three-day program.

Christmas Pageant

We were delighted to put forth our Christmas Pageant on Sunday December 22. In what was a truly packed house, we had 25 children participate in the show! This is more than twice the number of children we had in 2023. For the first time in years, our Pageant featured a special performance by our children's choir, conducted by our very own Justin Bischof. Once again, none of this would have been possible without the passion and kindness of Assistant Director Carla Carroll.

Respectfully submitted,
Evan Felicetti
Director of Children's Ministries

OUTREACH REPORT

"For I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me. Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."– Matthew 25:35-40

In 2024, the Outreach Committee began a shift to other giving incentives, while still keeping its' primary focus on providing financial and hands-on support to three local food insecurity programs.

Summary of 2024 Activities Undertaken by the Outreach Committee and Supported by Christ Church Parishioners:

- Brown Bag Lunch Program - In 2024, Christ Church completed its eighth year of support for the Brown Bag Lunch Program at Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church in New Rochelle. This once-a-month commitment included buying and stocking supplies for the Men's Group to prepare sandwiches and assembling lunch bags for sixty individuals. Our special thanks to Chong Genovese for faithfully delivering carloads of these meals each month to Trinity St. Paul's, and for staying on-site to help serve those in need.

- Outreach Sundays – Parishioners continued to generously donate food items each month to support the food pantry at Sts. John, Paul, and Clement Episcopal Church in Mt. Vernon. The Outreach Committee continues to work in cohesion with St. James Episcopal Church/Fordham to donate financially six times a year, for their discretion in stocking their Food Bank.

- Schliemann Scholarship Fund – The Outreach Committee, guided by Patrice Fitzpatrick who each year solicits nominations from parishioners and local high schools and trade schools, for individuals looking for financial assistance to attend a trade or vocational schools. In 2024, the Committee recommended - and the Vestry approved - a grant of $7,382 (up from $5,000 in 2023) to a Mt. Vernon resident, who is a student at Westchester Cosmetology School, to assist in paying off student loans.

- Easter Appeal – The beneficiary of the 2024 Easter Appeal was The Jerusalem Princess Basma Centre, a pediatric medical facility and school opened by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem; it serves thousands of Palestinian children with medical and psychological injuries and disabilities each year. The Appeal began on Palm Sunday with a Dessert Auction which raised over $1,000; thanks to parishioner support, our final donation was over $6,000.

- Period Poverty Donations – During Period Poverty Awareness Week in May, Outreach partnered with the Sharing Shelf of Port Chester, to draw attention to the issue of period poverty and the negative impact it has, particularly for girls and young women. We were able to donate over 150 boxes of products which were donated to women in need and continue to do so.

- St. Francis of Assisi Day/Pet Adoption Event – In conjunction with the Blessing of the Animals on Oct. 6, members of the Outreach Committee and interested parishioners co-hosted a Pet Adoption Event with SPCA of Westchester; with 7 out of 8 puppies adopted by local residents.

- Christ Church First Annual Classic Car Show – On Nov. 2, Outreach and the Vestry began one of the largest initiatives for fund-raising that our church has seen. Over 250 classic cars – from Model T's to hot rods and exotics, were parked on the field; the front lawn; Pelhamdale Avenue; the lower parking lots, and in Father Matt's driveway. Eight hundred spectators enjoyed a gorgeous day of checking out cars, listening to a DJ, dining from a food truck, shopping with vendors placed in Hoag Hall, and touring the sanctuary. This initiative raised over $7,000 divided equally between Outreach and the Church.

- Thanksgiving-in-a-Box - Christ Church families once again participated in the annual Thanksgiving dinner drive with other houses of worship in Pelham. More than 1,000 dinners were delivered to needy families in Westchester County. Special thanks to Beth Conway, who has faithfully coordinated this effort for Christ Church for many years.

- NYC Cares Winter Coat Drive – In December, Christ Church collected 719 coats that were given to the New York Cares Alliance for distribution to area individuals and families in need. Thanks to the generosity of parishioners and area residents, the number of donated coats grew from 445 in 2023.

- The Umbrella Tree – In 2024, the Outreach Giving Tree became the Umbrella Tree! During Advent and Christmas, parishioners donated both adults' and children's umbrellas, which were distributed by Hearts and Homes for Refugees to their clients, the vast majority of whom do not have access to a car and have to travel by bus throughout Westchester County.

- Christmas Dessert Auction – On Dec. 22, parishioners generously donated a variety of holiday desserts which were auctioned off by auctioneer Father Matt; proceeds of over $800 will be used for Outreach initiatives in 2025.

- Outreach Card Sales – The Outreach Committee would like to thank the many parishioners who purchased Christmas and occasional cards in support of our feeding programs throughout the year. We raised over $1,300 which will allow us to continue to help those in need in 2025.

Summary of 2024 Outreach Grants

In addition to the joint Outreach/parishioner engagement activities noted above, the vestry approved the Outreach Committee's recommendation to provide $7,500 in financial support to the following organizations:

- $1,500 to Hope Community Services which run a food pantry and a soup kitchen in New Rochelle in addition to providing social services support to those in need.

- $2,000 each to St. James/Fordham, Trinity St. Paul/New Rochelle, and Sts. John, Paul and Clement of Mt. Vernon, for their food pantry needs.

We believe that helping those in need is a fundamental tenet of our Christian faith and our Episcopal heritage. The Committee wishes to once again thank parishioners for their in-kind donations and their cash contributions. Your generosity makes our communities kinder and better places for all our brothers and sisters. Thank you!

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

Respectfully submitted,
Carla Carroll, Marie Dumas, Patrice Fitzpatrick, Chong Genovese, Etta Gumbs (Vestry Liaison), Jackie Kraft, Ed McGann, and Sandra Rivera

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

Our Parish has a chapter of the Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) which meets twice a month after the 10am service. We attended the Diocesan DOK Spring Assembly where Deacon Chisara was invited to be the guest speaker and our chapter members were in full attendance. We also participated as a Chapter in meetings at various national and regional levels. We look forward to attending more conferences and seminars this year. DOK is an international Order in which Daughters undertake a Rule of Life which incorporates a Rule of Prayer and a Rule of Service. For those who are interested in knowing more about this Order, please visit their website at www.doknational.org. We continue to seek new members to this wonderful order.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole

BIBLE STUDIES & ADULT CHRISTIAN LEARNING

Rector's Bible Study on Zoom

The Rector's Bible Study meets on Zoom each Thursday at 8:00 am and lasts about 45 minutes. The Rector's Bible Study takes a fairly academic track and explores one book of the Bible at a time. We are now reading Genesis and will continue with Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. In 2024 we read Job, and the Gospel and Letters of St. John. In 2023 we read Obadiah, Ruth, 1 & 2 Thessalonians, Revelation, Daniel, and the Psalms. In 2022 we read Saint Matthew's Gospel. In 2021 we read Isaiah, Amos, Jonah and stories of the

prophets Elijah and Elisha. Join using the Zoom Button on our website. Each Bible Study is recorded and posted to our YouTube Page, so you can catch it later if you miss the live version.

Lectionary Bible Study in the Library

The Thursday Bible Study meets each (and almost every) Thursday of the year from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm in the Library. We begin by catching up in prayer on the special needs of the group...people we want to remember in prayer...as well as covering the whole world too! We then review the past Sunday's Homily and see if our study the week before prepared us for the Liturgy. We then look at the next Sunday's Scriptures...usually beginning with the Gospel. Every effort is made to study the background of the reading and its meaning today and in our own lives. We aren't afraid to share opinions and personal experiences.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Matthew Mead and Michael Moynihan

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

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

The year has started off good with a New Year's Brunch followed by this gathering today. Fellowship receptions of the past: Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Maundy Thursday Dinners, Steak Dinners, Picnics, Pig Roasts, Salad fest, Chili/Stew/Soup Dinners, Easter Eve Receptions, Kentucky Derby Day, Halloween Parties, Candlemas Dinner, Italian Night, Christmas Brunch, and our famous Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner just to name a few.

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

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

MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group meets in the undercroft one Wednesday each month to make sandwiches for Trinity Saint Paul's. After sandwich making, we head to Rockwell's (or elsewhere when feeling more adventurous) for dinner and conversation. We also host several special events during the course of the year. In 2024, among other things, we threw a party for the NFL Conference Championship games (which we are doing again after today's Annual Meeting!). We also enlisted help of the Men to participate in various projects around the Church, including volunteering at the car show. Our hope is to continue apace in the new year with our programming, especially as winter draws to an end. And please let us know if you have any suggestions for activities or events. Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,
Andy DesRault

THE WOMEN'S CONNECTION

The Women's Connection continued its tradition of creating social events as well as performing service projects. We met via zoom throughout the year to plan our activities or just to chat about our lives. We attended a sunset concert at Untermyer Gardens in Yonkers. We had a delightful experience at a Christmas time Scandinavian House performance in New York City. We offered knitting lessons to anyone interested. Continuing our commitment to be of service to others, the women of the parish made meals for hundreds of people to be served by Community Service Associates at their Mount Vernon location. We also packed hundreds of bags of food for the food pantry at the St John, Paul, and Clement Church in Mt Vernon. We help wherever and whenever needed to assist in the activities of our parish. In 2025, we will continue our commitment of service to others and continue to create activities which will bring us together as sisters with a shared faith.

Respectfully submitted,
Barbara Gunther Zambelli

ART MINISTRY 2024

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

It is free for the artist to use the hall, which is very unusual in the art display world. We have had twelve artists so far this year. Even if the artwork is not sold, it still brightens up HOAG HALL and attracts non-parishioners to visit our church.

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

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

Receptions are held for each change of artist.

Twenty percent of the proceeds of the sale of the artwork is donated to the Parish of Christ the Redeemer. As of December 2024, 44 works have been sold, grossing almost $6,000 thereby netting over $2,241 (includes donations) for the Church's outreach efforts.

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

Thank you again to the artists who participated in the "I Love Christ Church show in the summer of 2024. All of the proceeds were donated to christ Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrice Fitzpatrick

BUILDINGS COMMITTEE

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

The most visible project completed in 2024 was revovation of the upstairs apartment in the Old Parish House. This apartment is used by our new director of music Justin Bischof. This renovation included replacement of several inoperable windows, complete painting and plaster repair throughout, replacement of kitchen appliances and some relatively minor electrical repairs. The appliance and window replacements were funded using some of the remaining funds from our 2018 capital campaign.

This year also saw us finally get to the bottom of a problem we have been having with the electrical supply to the organ. At the recommendation of Juget-Sinclair we have replaced certain circuit breakers and made a temporary adjustment of a secondary power supply. Iin 2025 we intend to make permanent the power supply wiring. This solved the problem of intermittent occurrences of the organ tripping circuit breakers when it was turned on.

As in prior years, throughout the year we have had miscellaneous roof repairs and painting projects. In 2024 we discovered bulging and deteriorating plaster at the rear of the sanctuary. These appeared to result from either steam pipe leaks rising from below floor level or leaks from above. After investigatory demolition to determine where the leaks were coming from it was discovered to be caused by leaks in the roof over that area of the church. Those leaks, including flashing, coping stone and some slate replacement and repair were repaired in early January 2025. The repair to that area of the plaster will be completed within the next few weeks.

Projects under consideration for 2025 include refurbishment of the corridor between the Sanctuary and Hoag Hall, other plaster and painting repairs in the Sanctuary, and refurbishment of the door leading out to the Garden of Resurrection.

Respectfully submitted,
John Fox and Father Matt

TENANT AND RENTAL REPORT

Tenants who rent space at Christ Church are:

- **The Pelham Promenanders:** They use the Parish Hall for their dances. They are usually here once a month from September to June.
- **Two AA Groups: The Pelham Women's Group and the Pelham Shore Road Group.** They rent the undercroft for their afternoon and evening meetings several days during the week and on Saturday mornings.
- **Hearts & Homes for Refugees:** Use the old Thrive/GymDandy space. They are an organization committed to assisting and advocating for refugees in our country. Meshing well with Christ Church's Mission Statement.
- **The Montessori School** has been renting space at Christ Church since 1992. This marks their 32nd Anniversary at Christ Church. They use our Hall for various events, including Christmas and Easter parties for families and an amazing student's Art Show at the end of the school year.
- **Alex Wooden Driveway Garage Rental:** Alex has been renting ½ of the Garage since 2017. His contracting home improvement company is responsible for the opening and closing of our niches, adding plaques, and is quite helpful as an onsite handiman.
- **Boy Scout Troop 1:** Have been using the Parish Hall for their Troop 1 meetings every Thursday evening since September 2023. They have additional monthy youth planning meetings, monthly adult planning meetings and two times a year hold Court of Honor meetings where they recognize scouts for various achievements. Their Troop Leader is parishioner, Ted Hopper.

This year, we have had several one-time, hall events/rentals. First birthday parties, anniversary parties, etc. And the wedding reception of parishioners Denise & Junior Farrell. Our parish hall dresses up beautifully for all occasions. Looking forward to renting the hall for these and all occasions in 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Marie Main
Parish Administrator

GROUNDS COMMITTEE

Rarely has the six-acre site our church has called home for over 180 years served us more famously than it did in 2024. In the late summer hundreds of people flocked to our grounds for (of all things) our first-ever Classic Car Show. It featured nearly 200 mint-condition vintage autos carpeting the entire playing field and spilling over from the circular drive out front to the little lawn out back. There, a few weeks earlier Pelham's Historic Preservation and Garden Society had welcomed over 150 guests to its torch-lit gala beneath the trees... near the spot where a month earlier, soaking-wet campers from our annual Vacation Bible School frolicked on a thirty feet-long slip-n-slide...next to an area where the church's Men's Group had chowed down sunset on chicken and burgers hot off the grill at sunset.

Bottom line: Our grounds work overtime for us in all manner of ways, as long as we can return the favor. In the last year that give-back thankfully included a small group in the spring, paced by parishioner Dave Hoffer, hacking, pulling, and chopping away at vines smothering many of our trees. We also thank others, including Jim Young, who refurbished the plantings around the church sign on Pelhamdale, and filled the pots outside the narthex doors with seasonal plantings including a summer-long bounty of orange begonias.

The bulk of the work, though, remained in the hands of professionals: Frank Moretti Landscaping and Lawncare, who have kept the grounds green for a dozen years now, with an eye towards getting the best result for the least cost; as does our other pro squad, from Almstead Tree and Shrub.

In 2025 we hope to address the badly eroding path that leads up from the children's playground to the lower reaches of the Garden of Resurrection, and perhaps to reset the stone paving stones ringing the rustic cross in front of the parking lot on Pelhamdale.

If you would like to lend a hand with any of our greening efforts, please reach out to our Committee chairs, and please, set aside some time to stroll our grounds and enjoy what we have out there year around.

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Ipsen, Jim Young, Daniel Ganpat
Grounds Committee Co-Chairs

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

Pledge Update as of Janaury 24, 2025

TOTAL 2025 Pledge	114	$501,285.00
TOTAL 2024 Pledge	112	$460,815.24
Total Not Yet Pledged for 2025 but who pledged in 2024	21	$18,470.00
Potential But Doubtful to Pledge for 2025	20+	?
Hoped for if all 2024 Pledgers Pledge in 2025	**135**	**$519,755.00**

Brothers and Sisters of Christ Church Pelham,

As of January 24, 2025, the Stewardship Committee is happy to report that our 2025 Pledge Campaign has already received 114 pledges totalling $501,285. We are optimistic that we can reach our goals of 150 pledges and a balanced budget when those who have not yet done so make their financial pledges to support Christ Church in 2025. The Stewardship Committee and Vestry are grateful to all who have made pledges for their generosity to our wonderful parish.

Our focus in the coming weeks will be achieving our goal of 150 pledges. For those who have not yet pledged for 2025, please take this opportunity to do so; any amount is cherished and appreciated. The easiest way to make a 2025 pledge is to scan the QR code to the right. You may also fill out a hard copy of the Pledge Card and return it to the Parish office. Or simply contact the Parish Office at Marie@ChristChurchPelham.org or 914-738-5515.

Stewardship can take on many different dimensions, including inviting friends or family to Sunday or Holy Day worship or to any of our other events, such as the upcoming football watch parties or the MOO concert on Wednesday, January 29th. We all can and we all should reach out to our own family and friends to make our parish larger and more diverse.

Thanks to all of you, for ensuring that the Good News of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Episcopal Church continues to be shared on the Sound Shore in Pelham in the Year of Our Lord 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Curtis Chase & The Rev. Matthew Mead
Stewardship Co-Chairs

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

2024 Investment Committee Activity

The Investment Committee is responsible for overseeing the investment of the endowment, which was $3.87 million at 11/30/24. Members of the committee are Melissa Roddy and Margaret Young (co-chairs), Brandon Bethea, Ed Cragin, Erik Ipsen, Ed McGann, and Tom Sampson. Robert Landis is the Vestry Liaison. The committee met four times in 2024. We would welcome additional members who have a background in finance.

The endowment is managed by the Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT). The DIT is an investment fund that functions like a mutual fund and is open to all parishes in the diocese. Since October 2023, the investment advisor is Partners Capital ("Partners").

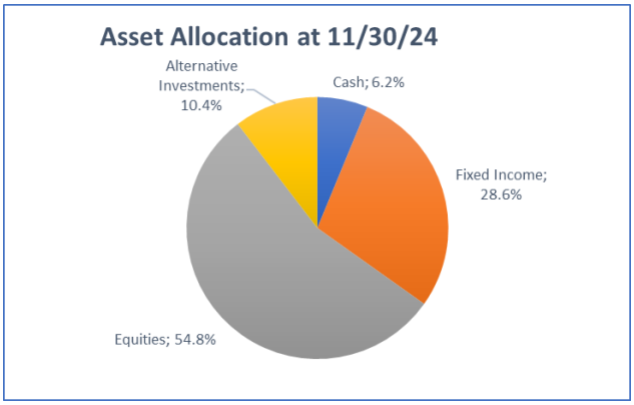
Endowment Report

US equity markets ended 2024 on a high note. The S&P 500 climbed 24% in each of the last two years, a remarkable feat that last occurred over 25 years ago. This performance was due to continued economic growth combined with three cuts in interest rates by the Federal Reserve, a spectacular year for the largest tech stocks driven by the potential for AI, and stable prices in crude oil. The tech-heavy NASDAQ composite grew almost 30%, and the Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 13%. Globally, the MSCI World Index was up 10%, as non-US equity markets lagged opportunities in the US. The Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index posted a muted return of 1%. A typical 60% Equity/40% bond portfolio often used for endowments would have been up roughly 14%. Our portfolio return was 13.9% before withdrawals, despite a slow start in getting assets invested following the move to Partners in October 2023. The Investment Committee plans to carefully monitor the investment performance in 2025 to continue to assess DIT management.

Balance at December 31, 2023	$3,624,540
Total Investment Returns:	504,756
Withdrawals for church operations:	(259,523)
Net Investment Returns after withdrawals:	$245,233
Balance at November 30, 2024	$3,869,773

An overview of the activity in the Parish's endowment during 2024 is shown here. The investment returns covered the endowment withdrawals. The net investment return equates to growth of 6.8%, well above inflation in 2024 of 2.7%.

The asset allocation at 11/30/24 is shown on the right. These allocation percentages have been relatively stable since the assets were fully invested beginning in March 2024.



Withdrawals

In January 2024, the Vestry approved a 4.5% draw, or $155K, from the main endowment to supplement the annual operating budget. No draw from the Garden of the Resurrection Fund was anticipated or made. The draw is calculated as a percentage of the prior three years' rolling average of the endowment's value. The actual endowment draw for the year, approved by the Vestry, was $259.5K, or a 7.7% withdrawal rate. Withdrawals were higher than originally budgeted to cover the planned deficit for the year, the transition to the new Music Director, higher insurance premiums, and capital improvements to one of the apartments. Several of these pending needs were discussed at last year's annual meeting and all were approved by the Vestry.

The budgeted endowment draw for 2025 is 5%, or $170K.

The goal is to both maximize returns and minimize withdrawals in order for endowment growth to exceed inflation. Over the last 10 years, a total of $1.58 million has been withdrawn to fund church operations and capital needs. Withdrawals in 2024 were the highest since at least 2002.

Standard practices for many not-for-profit institutions allow endowment draws of 4% - 4.5%. The DIT recommends 4% and automatically facilitates endowment draws of that amount for each client. The Investment Committee has regularly suggested to the Vestry that it try to reduce the endowment draw as a percentage of the endowment, to ensure the long-term viability of the endowment and ensure that endowment growth outpaces inflation to preserve purchasing power. A lower endowment draw is difficult without commensurate increases in pledges or cuts in programming and is particularly hard to accomplish when the markets are down or in periods of economic uncertainty. Donations to the endowment and memorial contributions will help preserve the endowment value.

Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Young & Melissa Roddy
Investment Committee Co-Chairs

TREASURER'S REPORT

The 2024 Operating Budget
The 2024 budget was prepared under the premise that we are "back to normal" with a goal to build back families and youth participation in the church.

2024 Operating Results
Pledge and plate income exceeded the budget by $39,247 (8%). Rental income was below expectations due to shorter rental periods. We planned to draw 4.5% ($155,489) from the endowment but had to withdraw an additional $100,000, reflecting an overall draw of 7.7%

We started the year at a deficit of $41,318, which we anticipated would be made up with pledges over the course of the year. At the time the budget was approved we did not know that we would be changing the music program. Between personnel changes in music, apartment renovations and repairs, increased insurance, utility, and office charges we anticipated that we would be off by $100,000. The additional endowment draw was for that reason. Ultimately, we needed $73,191 to balance the budget.

As of December 31, 2024, the Parish financials reflect a surplus of $37,620.

The 2025 Operating Budget
The 2025 budget was prepared to continue the goal to bring back families, increase youth programs and enhance the liturgy.

Revenues
The 2025 budget shows total revenue of $799,028. Pledge income has reached a record high with 114 pledges totaling $501,285.

Due to the discontinuation of apartment rentals, rental income is anticipated to decrease. Other revenue streams include outreach, music, and additional items that were previously classified as below-the-line items.

Endowment revenue is budgeted at $170,129 which is 5%.

Expenses
The 2025 budget reflects total expenses of $905,675. This is an increase of 14% over the 2024 budget and a 5 % increase over our actual expenses.

- Total personnel expenses are budgeted to increase by $35,807 or 8%. This includes a new Music Director, and increases in salaries, related taxes and benefits. (Note the COLA increase for 2025 is 3%)

- The Diocesan Assessment is up to $95,892, which is an increase of 10% over last year, the highest increase in recent history.
- Worship is up versus last year as we plan to increase fees for professional choral members to be competitive to other churches in the area in September. Services are in line with last year's budget for the most part.
- Foundation expenses are up slightly for office expenses although lower than last year's because so many more people are attending church and there is more activity.
- Professional services are up because we need to do an official audit in 2025.
- Insurance and utilities are up, which is based on trends from last year.
- Other expenses are offset by Other revenue income.

The Operating budget shows a deficit of $106,648. This will be partially offset by a $37,620 surplus from 2024, resulting in an overall deficit of $69,027.

From an operating standpoint the big issue facing the parish continues to be revenues which are highly dependent on pledges from parishioners, 66% of operating revenue. More will be discussed on this during the annual meeting. We have made a great effort to keep expenses as low as possible and will continue to do so, but in the meantime, we need to grow our church, youth programs and family programs and that takes time and money.

We extend our sincere gratitude to the members of the Finance Committee for their dedication to this ministry: John Fox, JD Calder, Margaret Young, Melissa Roddy, Etta Gumbs, and Father Matt Mead. Additionally, we acknowledge the Vestry for their valuable contributions to the process.

We welcome parishioners with knowledge of financial matters and an interest in our Parish to consider joining us.

Respectfully submitted,
Allison Bodenmann, Treasurer

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer
Financial Report
December 31st, 2024

	2025 Budget	2024 Actuals prelim	2024 Budget	2024 Bud vs Act Fav/(Unfav)	2023 Actuals	2022 Actuals
REVENUE						
Pledge & Plate Revenue	531,233	518,826	479,579	39,247	476,301	440,698
Rental Revenue	54,666	59,586	64,866	(5,280)	66,597	57,777
Other Revenue	43,000	50,401	29,600	20,801	19,458	26,840
Endowment Revenue	170,129	259,523	155,489	104,034	167,155	141,215
TOTAL REVENUE	799,028	888,336	729,534	158,802	729,510	666,530
EXPENSES						
Personnel Expenses	433,161	437,669	401,862	35,807	363,938	353,412
Diocesan Assessment	95,892	87,492	87,494	(2)	82,680	82,516
WORSHIP						
Worship	40,700	42,397	35,300	7,097	36,415	31,921
SERVICES						
Christian Education	5,400	3,019	5,400	(2,381)	(4,032)	458
Budgeted Clergy Discretionary	1,000	1,000	1,000	(0)	500	1,000
Evangelism	750	-	750	(750)	-	-
Conventions and Seminars	1,800	2,035	1,800	235	650	699
Fellowship	9,000	9,874	6,000	3,874	6,407	3,038
FOUNDATION						
Office Expense	46,800	52,948	40,500	12,448	37,074	36,092
Professional Services	39,400	17,474	24,400	(6,927)	11,902	13,100
Comprehensive Insurance	47,506	43,846	41,630	2,215	39,884	33,988
Utilities	77,303	70,562	64,217	6,345	58,704	64,029
Building	44,338	42,099	44,580	(2,482)	41,081	39,214
Grounds	21,225	20,973	21,725	(752)	20,122	19,376
OTHER EXPENSES						
Other Expenses	41,400	31,461	13,000		11,185	16,652
TOTAL EXPENSES	905,675	862,850	789,659	73,191	706,510	695,495
NET OPERATING INCOME (EXPENSE)	(106,648)	25,486	(87,625)	113,111	23,001	(28,966)
BELOW THE LINE EXPENSE (INCOME) (BTL)						
Recurring Activity	-		2,500			
Net Garden of Res.	-		-		-	0
Donations and Restricted Contributions	-	(15,000)	(15,000)		(7,052)	
One Time Activities	-				(302)	(58,716)
Total below the line Expenses (Income)	-	(15,000)	(12,500)		(7,354)	7,625
Net Income (Expense)	(106,648)	37,620	(75,125)		23,030	(44,215)
Amount avail from prior year	37,620		23,030			
Net Surplus(Deficit)	(69,027)	37,620	(52,095)		23,030	(44,215)

PRIOR YEAR ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

Minutes of the Christ Church Annual Meeting, January 28, 2024
Pelham, N.Y,

Call to order: The meeting was called to order by Father Matthew Mead at 11:27 am
In attendance: There were 52 parishioners in attendance.
Opening Prayer: *Father Matthew Mead*

Timeline for Voting: The polls opened when parishioners received the ballots mailed the previous week. For those qualified parishioners who had not already returned a ballot by mail or by hand, ballots were available at the registration desk and could be completed and submitted on site.

Rector's Report: *Father Matt*
Father Matt opened with a heartfelt thank you to all who help to lead the parish. He highlighted Jeff Bodenmann for his years of guidance and leadership as Senior Warden. He thanked John Fox, rotating off the vestry but staying on as Assistant Treasurer, for serving as the Buildings Chair and as Interim Treasurer in addition to his vestry duties. He thanked Courtney McGrory for her service on the Vestry.

He thanked Jackie Kraft and her Fellowship team for the wonderful level of hospitality offered throughout the year.

Father Matt mentioned the position of Delegate to the 24th Diocesan Convention and recommended that those parishioners interested in learning more about the Diocese take the opportunity to attend a Convention. He noted that the Installation of Matthew Heyde as Bishop of New York would take place on February 10th at the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine and that all parishioners were welcome to attend. As parking near the Cathedral can be difficult, he urged parishioners to carpool or to take advantage of the free bus leaving from Trinity Saint Paul in New Rochelle.

He thanked Marie Dumas and Ed McGann, who were stepping down after several years as Co-Chairs of the Outreach Committee and he welcomed Carla Carroll as the new Chair of that committee. The parish is looking for a new Chair of the Grounds Committee, responsible for oversight of contracts for the church grounds and Garden of the Resurrection.

He recognized Deacon Chisara for her wonderful pastoral presence. A recommendation has been made to create a list of all senior parishioners, homebound and otherwise, and to have Father Matt, Deacon Chisara and Marie Main reach out on a monthly basis to all of them. He asked parishioners to let Marie Main know who should be on the list.

Father Matt recognized Marie Main for her service as Parish Administrator and Evan Felicetti, the parish's new Director of Children's Ministries, whose organization of last summer's successful Vacation Bible School was

his first event. Evan is working with the Sunday School, the Youth Group of middle- and high-school students and the Confirmation class.

There was a round of applause for Ed Blue, who has been Sexton at Christ Church for 50 years. A stone plaque is being installed in the church to celebrate his 50 years of service.

Father Matt noted that this year will bring a transition in the music program and staff. Jeffrey Hoffman, who has been organist and choirmaster at Christ Church for the past seventeen years, will be leaving at the end of May. Father Matt recalled Jeffrey's accomplishments, especially his overseeing of the installation of the Jack Hennigan Memorial Organ, his organization of the trip to Montreal for parishioners to visit the Juget-Sinclair organ builders during the organ's construction, and his accomplishments during the Covid pandemic, using digital technology to publish church music online. Father Matt reminded the congregation that it must never forget these gifts that Jeffrey has given the church and should support him, love him and pray for him during the transition. There was a round of applause for Jeffrey.

Father Matt added that there were areas in which the parish could improve, including:

- Welcoming Newcomers – a committee is being formed specifically for this purpose. Parishioners are encouraged to join the committee, to wear their nametags during coffee hour and to greet and introduce themselves to people whose faces they do not recognize.
- Pledging – the number of pledges is more important than the total dollar amount. All parishioners should pledge what they can because their dependable financial support keeps the church open and staffed.
- Rentals and Leases – Hearts and Homes for Refugees, whose mission is compatible with the church, is a new tenant in the Old Parish House and the Pelham Boy Scout Troop One is meeting weekly in the Undercroft. The troop pays no rent but the scouts clean and renovate the space and Eagle Scout projects benefit the church. Nonetheless, there is still additional space that could be rented.

Father Matt noted that regular feedback on the church's sound system is very much appreciated.

He finished his report by declaring that it is an honor being the Rector of Christ Church and that he is grateful to all parishioners.

Warden's Report: *Jeff Bodenmann*

Jeff stated that it had been a pleasure and a privilege serving as Senior Warden. The most difficult issue faced by the vestry was the budget deficit. The vestry informed the parishioners about the budget deficit and together the congregation became owners of the budget problem. At the start of 2023, the deficit was over $60,000 but thanks to some increased pledging and careful monitoring of expenses, the parish ended with a slight surplus rolled into the current planning year. At the beginning of 2024, there is a $41,000 deficit and the parish has eleven months to work on the problem. Jeff thanked the congregation for their faithful support.

Treasurer's Report: *Allison Bodenmann*
Allison highlighted some successes over the past year that had contributed to the transformation of an initial deficit into a slight surplus:

- Record pledging came in over budget by $33,811.
- Fundraising was up by almost $1,000 due to a successful Tag Sale and a series of Art Expositions in Hoag Hall, with sales that provided a percentage for the church.
- Hearts and Homes for Refugees moved into the former Thrive space, increasing rental income to a projected $66,597.

During 2023, a 5% draw on the Endowment was needed. The 2024 budget includes a 4.5% draw.
One major expense for 2024 will be an audit; recommendations for an auditor would be welcome. Costs of buildings and grounds will increase slightly as there is always work to be done on old buildings. Additionally, building the youth program will require both time and money. It is hoped that the $41,000 deficit can be closed over the course of the year.

Questions and Answers:
The answer to a question as to what would happen if the deficit could not be closed was that some items would have to be cut and/or there would be a larger draw on the Endowment.

Results of the Election: *Etta Gumbs*
The results of the uncontested election, with 69 ballots cast (including ballots submitted by mail and at the meeting), accepted the recommended slate of candidates, as follows:

- Senior Warden – J.D. Calder, two-year term
- Vestry Members:
- Robert Boyer – Vestry Member, one-year term (serving the remainder of J.D. Calder's term)
- Curtis Chase – Vestry Member, three-year term
- Charlette Finch – Vestry Member, three-year term
- Robert Landis – Vestry Member, three-year term
- Delegates and Alternate Delegate to the 2024 Diocesan Convention:
- Jeff Bodenmann – Delegate to Convention
- Curtis Chase – Delegate to Convention
- Gavin Leckie – Alternate Delegate to Convention

Father Matt congratulated and thanked the new Vestry Members, Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegate.

Final Blessing: *Father Matt*

The meeting was adjourned at 12:21 pm

PARISH ELECTIONS

The Nominating Committee proposes the following slate of candidates for election as vestry members at the Annual Meeting of the Parish of Christ the Redeemer on January 26, 2025.

- **Jr. Warden (2-year term): Etta Gumbs**
- **Vestry (3 seats for 3-year terms): Jennifer Bland, Stephen Dolan, and Robert Boyer**
- **Convention Delegates to the 2025 Diocesan Convention: Barbara Zambelli and Carol Ipsen (Delegates) and Andrew DesRault (Alternate)**

Elections according to the bylaws

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

Candidate Statements

Here are the questions posed to all Candidates:

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

Etta Gumbs
Jr. Warden / Two-year term

How long have you been at Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?
I joined Christ Church in 2016 after Trinity Episcopal Church in Mount Vernon closed. I was a member of Trinity since the age of five. Yes, my mother comes to church with me on occasion since returning from North Carolina.

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

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

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

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

Jennifer Bland
Vestry Member / Three-year term

How long have you attended Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?
We have attended Christ Church since moving to Pelham in 2016. Yes, my family (husband and two sons - a college freshman and eighth grader) attend as well. Harris, our younger son, is an acolyte and participates in youth group.

Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?
I am honored to be asked to continue serving on the Vestry. Our church reflects the strength of our community and vice versa. I hope that I can bring leadership skills and a sense of servant leadership to helping move our church forward to serve a broader part of our community.

Please describe any other positions you have held or activities you have participated in at Christ Church.
I have been a member of the Stewardship Committee, hosted coffee hour and my children have participated in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, Youth Group and the Christmas pageant. Our children have participated in confirmation, and my younger son is doing confirmation class now.

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

Robert Boyer
Vestry Member / Three-Year Term

How long have you been at Christ Church?
Since 2009 with Father Randy.

Please describe the activities/ministries in which you have been involved at Christ Church.
I have been ushering since 2009. My daughter Gia joined me later as an usher. Gia was baptized at Christ Church, grew to be a young lady and still ushers when school is not in the way.

Other family members attending Christ Church (if any).
My wife Ivy, my son Brandon, my daughter Gia, and my sister Carmen all attend Christ Church when able.

How would you view serving on the Vestry as a ministry, as part of your Christian journey?
I'm here to serve my Lord and always help with church or someone whenever needed.

Please name something you find valuable or something you love about Christ Church.
I just love the church for what it stands for in the community and beyond. Reaching out to help others less fortunate because in the end of the day we are all family.

What skills and experience would you bring to the Vestry?
I have the skills and experience to run companies and help others as well. I'm the man behind the scenes and don't mind. I would love to see the church in great standing and help its longevity. It would be the BEST FOR EVERYONE!

Stephen Dolan
Vestry Member / Three-year term

How long have you attended Christ Church? Do other members of your family come to Christ Church?
My wife Ashley and our three children Lucy Field (18), Luke (16) and Reen (14) have attended Christ Church for the last seven years. All three of our children have been confirmed at Christ Church. My sister Mary Kate McGrath and her husband Alex and their two boys (Jackson and Charlie) are members of Christ Church. Additionally, my parents Marcia and Peter Dolan are members of the Church.

Why do you want to serve on the Vestry?
I am honored with the potential opportunity to serve on the Vestry for another term. Furthermore, I continue to be excited about becoming a more involved member of the Christ Church community. I hope that this experience and exposure helps me help guide friends and family within the Christ Church community to expand their fellowship.

Please describe any other positions you have held or activities you have participated in at Christ Church.
Participated in events for Hearts and Homes for Refuges. Our family are active participants in many Outreach efforts including meal prep and Thanksgiving in a box.

What skills and life experience would you bring to the Vestry's work?
I have been fortunate enough to sit on the Vestry over the last three years affording me both history and perspective around our wonderful community. Having teenage children at Christ Church has given me unique perspective on how important it is to have this cohort it has engaged within our parish. Additionally, formerly serving as board member of Pelham based non-profit Project Community has given me insight to our local non-profit environment.

CHRIST CHURCH

Episcopal/Anglican

Clergy & Staff

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
The Reverend Deacon Chisara Alimole, *Deacon*
Ms. Marie Main, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Justin Bischof, *Director of Music & Organist*
Mr. Evan Felicetti, *Director of Children's Ministries*
Mr. Walter Roberts, *Verger and Sexton*
Mr. Ed Blue, *Sexton*

Honorary Clergy

The Rev. David Hoag, *Rector Emeritus*
The Reverend Deacon Katie Lawrence, *Deacon Emerita*

Parish Officers & Vestry

The Reverend Matthew Hoxsie Mead, *Rector*
J.D. Calder, *Senior Warden;* Etta Gumbs, *Junior Warden*
Allison Bodenmann, *Treasurer;* John Fox, *Assistant Treasurer ;* Jean Gruener, *Clerk*
Jennifer Hawks Bland, Stephen Dolan, Robert Boyer, Charlette Finch,
Curtis Chase, Jack Kraft, Andy DesRault, Robert Landis, Barbara Zambelli

Worship Schedule

Every Sunday at 8am & 10am: Holy Eucharist
Sundays as announced at 5pm: Holy Eucharist or Evensong
Wednesdays & Holy Days as announced at 5:15pm: Holy Eucharist

The Parish of Christ the Redeemer

1415 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, New York 10803
914.738.5515 - www.christchurchpelham.org

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