



SOUNDINGS

Advent 2025

*The Parish of Christ the Redeemer,
Pelham Manor*

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Soundings

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FROM THE EDITORS

The editors gratefully acknowledge the gift of our cover story, this year's Classic Car Show...led by, driven by, orchestrated by Carla Carroll; but pulled off over the course of many weeks by platoons of parishioners setting up tables, hawking tickets, finagling donations, belting out the Star Spangled Banner on our bedrock on a cold morning, welcoming 230-odd four-wheeled show stealers to our lawns, making signs, baking brownies, and keeping the show on the road to success. Best of all...we salute them for the collateral benefits of all this...the lasting bonds forged with each other, and crucially...with our surrounding communities.

And speaking of making a difference, we also want to toast some of the decade-defying contributors to the parish's commonweal...Hildy Munch, Ed Blue, Jackie Kraft and John Fox...among others.

Lastly, a special shoutout to two of this paper's own: Missy Kissob, a New-Soundings founder, now living in the northern reaches (Poughkeepsie); and Mary O'Shaughnessy, who has bravely stepped into the breach, putting Soundings on the page digitally, artfully...and cheerfully.

Gratefully yours, the editors

Jean Gruener

Erik Ipsen

Mary O'Shaughnessy



WHAT'S ON MATT'S MIND: RENEWAL AND GROWTH



The Rev. Matthew H. Mead

The past six months have been a time of renewal and growth at Christ Church. We welcomed three new staff members. We have focused on feeding and clothing ministries in our Outreach efforts. Our music program has built on last year's excellent foundation. Our finances have become more sustainable for the long term.

I called Mother Meredith Hawkins as our Priest Associate over the summer. We haven't had a Priest Associate since Canon Susan Harriss left to oversee the transition at Christ Church Bronxville several years ago. Meredith brings a much needed second priestly voice and presence to the pulpit and altar. She is gifted in many ways, and it has been a pleasure having her with us two Sundays each month. Her recent sermon on the history and theology of the "Redeemer" in Scripture was particularly helpful to me. Mother Meredith, Deacon Chisara, and I are a great team, and I am so happy that Meredith has joined us.

This summer I also appointed Michael Moynihan, who has long run our Thursday Lectionary Bible Study, as our Director of Adult Christian Education, and he has already grown our offerings for adults, beginning with "Episcopal 101" and "A Christian Response to Violence". I am looking forward to the Christmas Quiet Day on December 6 that Michael, Meredith, and I are organizing. Michael's increased role has been a great blessing to the entire parish, and I am grateful for his leadership and wisdom the past decade and thrilled his role has expanded this year.

At the start of September, I hired Liam Myers as our Director Children & Family Ministries, a position held for the past two years by now-seminarian Evan Felicetti. Liam has stepped in and done an excellent job programming Sunday School, Confirmation Class, and Youth Events, all while learning about the Parish and meeting parishioners. He hit his stride quickly as Confirmation Class and Youth Groups events kicked off the past few weeks. A recent highlight was a Youth Group gathering making 60 bagged lunches for one of our feeding ministry partners followed by make-your-own pizzas, foosball, and billiards in the Undercroft. I am thankful for Liam's pastoral sense, good humor, and hard work in this essential parish ministry, and I'm really happy he's joined our staff.

Our Outreach efforts overseen by Carla Carroll have been robust all year; the past few months have been especially Spirit-filled and active. Our annual Classic Car Show fundraiser for Outreach raised over \$10,000, we have increased our focus on feeding efforts as the lapse in SNAP funding affected our communities, and our coat drive for the winter has just kicked off. Many

thanks to the scores of volunteers, too many to name, who serve our community and turn prayers for the needs of others into action and direct support.

Our 2025-2026 concert program started with three autumn concerts under the leadership of Dr. Justin Bischof, our Director Music. Justin's opening concert drew rave reviews and was followed by a choral and orchestral concert of the Faure's requiem that packed the church. As I write this, we are preparing to welcome the amazing Stephen Tharp for an organ concert. There are three more concerts in the winter/spring; I hope you will not miss these opportunities to enjoy world-class musicians in our home parish. Justin's work with the parish choir and children's choir has been equally wonderful. Every Sunday's 10 a.m. Mass is reliably excellent (and about 65 minutes!) in large part because of the great organ pieces, hymns, and choral music that Justin and our singers provide. It's a great honor having Justin on staff, and I am grateful to be in ministry with him.

My role as rector means I oversee all the staff and programming at Christ Church, all of which is funded by three primary sources of income: pledges, rentals, and endowment. By far, our largest income source is pledges, and I am pleased that our 2026 Stewardship Campaign has begun very well. Many thanks to Jeff Bodenmann our Stewardship Chair for this year's streamlined campaign. We sent out Pledge Cards to 200 families, and for those who pledged in the past, we included their prior pledge amount and requested an increase of 5% or 10%. The response thus far has been overwhelmingly positive. Our goal is \$550,000 and 150 Pledges. Last year we had 120 Pledges for \$507,000, and the increases will cover continued, normal cost of living increases.

In related good news, the Diocese of New York granted us nearly \$60,000 in assessment relief for 2025. That will allow us to get through 2025 with a balanced budget and a healthy draw of under 5% from our Endowment. Looking ahead to 2026, the Diocese is planning to modify its own income model. The new Common Mission Share, which I helped to draft, will lower assessments for nearly every congregation. Ours should decrease from about \$100,000 to about \$40,000. That savings doesn't get us off the hook for Pledges (we DO need you to Pledge), but it will definitely help balance our 2026 budget, assuming we make our Stewardship Pledge goal of \$550,000.

Many great things are happening at Christ Church right now. Please make your Pledge for 2026 so that we can continue to build on everything that has made 2025 a fantastic year for the parish and those we serve.

VERGER'S CORNER

by Walter Roberts



Oklahoma City bombing memorial: "Field of Empty Chairs"

This year's Vergers Guild Conference drew 75 of us from all across the continent. At St. Paul's Church in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma on October 9 we were officially welcomed as "liturgical storytellers who ensure that worship and tradition are passed down with dignity...while being adaptable to the Church's evolving needs." In uncertain times those traditions can take on even more value.

No wonder the four-day meeting offered workshops on "storytelling and ritual and verger's role...that helps shape collective identity." Think of the shaping the verger lends to each service, walking into the sanctuary first, rod in hand, setting a stately pace for the celebrants to come. That gentle tone shaping stretches all the way to the end, when the verger extinguishes the altar candles and walks around to bow directly in front of the crucifix.

At the conference those traditions stood out clearly with vergers taking up the first five rows of pews in the cathedral in the morning. At the mention of the Lord's name, all bowed their heads and slowly raised them again in perfect unison.

In Oklahoma City, many traditions spring from very different local roots than ours. Exhibit A is the portrait on the cathedral wall of David Pendleton Oakenhater, born 1837, the first native American ever named an Episcopal saint. He was a Cheyenne warrior and revered Sun Dancer, who ultimately became an Episcopal deacon translating Book of Common Prayer passages into Cheyenne, and taking up painting until his death in 1931.

The cathedral itself has had its own powerful traumas. In 1995, just one and a half blocks away, a terrorist's 2,000- pound bomb leveled much of the Murtha Federal Building, claiming 163 lives, shattering windows and blowing the roof off the cathedral.

Our church faced its own tragedy six years later on 9.11. Then, we too came together and leaned into our roots for solace and more. Organizers of this year's conference called on vergers once again to "see their ministry as one of resilience, renewal and hope."

Now once again the need is growing.

Meanwhile, I am happy to report that here at our church Sandra Rivera, who joined me on the liturgical bench back in the spring as I train her to become a verger, is doing great. She has served as an acolyte for a number of years and has taken Education for Ministry (EFM) lessons. "I am very excited. I think she will excel!!!!"

BUILDINGS TAKE A BREATHER

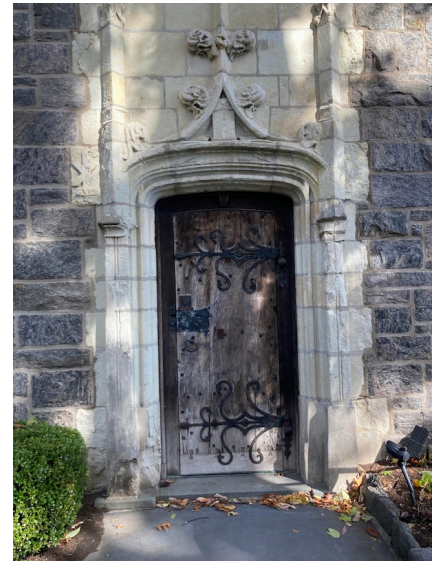
by John Fox, Chair, Buildings Committee

Happily, the last few months have been light on buildings issues. We've dealt with normal day-to-day repairs, almost all relatively minor.

We also had some surprising, good news, notice of a generous gift from Pelham Preservation and Garden society to be put towards repairs of one of our stained-glass windows. Some may recall that in the late summer last year the group staged their annual fundraising gala in the grassy area on the backside of the church by the columbarium. Each year they give money to fund local restoration projects. In our case their grant will be used to remove the weathered plexiglass shield over the stained-glass window on the rear of the church. Its wooden frame will also be restored and re-painted. We anticipate that this "uncovering" will brighten the look of the window from both inside and outside the church.

More recently, we skirted a potentially serious setback. As Father Matt announced in October, we had a small fire in the rectory in one of the upstairs bathrooms caused by an electrical issue with a built-in fan. Luckily, the fire triggered the fire alarm, and a quick response from the Fire Department. Happily for the Meads, there's a second bathroom on that floor. Our insurance will cover the majority of the cost of repairs. We are, however, taking the opportunity to evaluate whether further updates to that bathroom should take place at the same time.

Meanwhile, back on the rear of the church we have postponed long-planned repairs to both the ancient Spanish door, as well as the restoration of the windows in the choir room and music library room. We will use that postponement to nail down clarified bids for those projects, as the bids we received last year differed widely. We also plan to apply for a diocesan grant to pay for part of this work. Our timing is not fixed, but we anticipate making the grant application in the spring of next year.





Michael Moynihan

ADULT EDUCATION'S FRESH FOCUS

by Michael Moynihan, Director of Adult Learning

We are gifted at our parish to have not one but two Bible study groups meeting weekly. On Zoom, Father Matt leads an ongoing study of the Pentateuch (the first five books of the Old Testament) on Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m. That group has just begun to read Exodus. An in-person, lectionary-based group gathers in the Church library on Thursdays from 10:00 a.m. to noon. It is led by Michael Moynihan.

Periodically, we also offer adult learning on specific topics in evening sessions. We began the year with "Loss, grief and faith " and the struggle with them when they overlap. We followed with "Episcopal 101", a session we billed as an opportunity to discuss and share our varied experiences as Episcopalians ranging from the cradle variety to recent converts. Both sessions drew nearly 30 participants each.

Our third gathering took place on October 29 when we discussed "A Christian Response to Violence". That night we opened the floor to talking about growing violence in our world, our country, and our communities. We discussed how to consider and deal with violence, and how to help children cope with it as well.

Moderated by our Rector, and our Director of Adult Learning, we heard from two guest speakers, the head of psychiatry at a large Westchester hospital, and a retired special agent with the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF). Our aim was to help each other in thinking about, avoiding, and managing violence. Curiously, our two experts agreed that a "lack of respect" needs addressing...even if we're talking about our own responses to people who behave criminally among us. That dollop of civility, difficult as it may be, they suggested pays off in reducing tensions...and violence.

Who knew? Your psychiatrist for one, plus a veteran lawman who told us he had carried a gun every day for over 20 years.

Each of these sessions began with Mass at 5:15 p.m., a light dinner at 6:00 p.m. and our Conversation running from 7:00-8:30 p.m.

Our hope for these programs is always to welcome new people who are searching to deepen their faith.

A LIAM MYERS PRIMER: THE LIFE AND TIMES OF OUR NEW YOUTH MINISTER

by Liam Myers

My spiritual journey has brought a continuous blessing of new connections leading me to deepen my understanding of God's call for me. Joining the Christ Church community, and doing so through our Children's and Families ministry is a great joy.

Allow me to share a bit about myself. I grew up in a small suburb just north of Milwaukee on Lake Michigan, called Port Washington. It is a beautiful town, right on Lake Michigan, with a population about the same as Pelham, 12,000. We have some nice parks, a cute little downtown area, and a wonderful church, St. Mary's, at the top of the hill. Down on the lake in Veteran's Memorial Park, there is a bandshell where I played my alto saxophone in concerts stretching from my high school through college years with various groups, including my own ensembles. Some of my fondest childhood memories are of hours spent with Grandma in her garden where she grew flowers for our church's farmers' market. My love for the land and God's creations blossomed in that soil.

Five years ago, I moved to New York City to study theology at Union Theological Seminary. Back then I lived in Manhattan's Morningside Heights, and later nearby in Harlem. From there I moved to the Lower East Side living two years in the Maryhouse Catholic Worker House, in a community that seeks to live daily the works of mercy. There cooking for our soup kitchen and working for our newspaper taught me a lot about life lived in communal settings, close to the poor.

These days I live in Bedford Park near the New York Botanical Garden in the Bronx. Living in NYC has been quite an adjustment for me, but I am loving it now. I enjoy watching the sun set against the city buildings and amid all the sounds of my neighborhood. There is a surprising closeness we feel to one another in this city that truly doesn't sleep!



Liam Myers



Mariangela De Carvalho

TWO TEACHERS HAVE SUNDAY VISIONS

by Mariangela De Carvalho

After eight years overseeing our nursery, just down the hall from the Church library, working with the youngest of our Sunday Schoolers (ages 1 1/2 to 4), Mariangela De Carvalho has become something of an unflappable/unflagging institution for fellow teachers and her young wards alike. Each week she brings crafts and crayons, colorful story books and even the occasional biblical video to bear at the starting gate to a Christian education.

"I use colors and crafts and crayons and drawing, and the magic of glue and scissors to help them express themselves, she says, "I treat each of them as a person, not a baby." She also notes that kids today can be heavily scheduled. In the nursery a different aim comes into play: "We want to have fun."

Born and raised in in the mountains of Brazil's Minas Gerais, she has lived in New Rochelle for 30 years raising her son, today a government affairs specialist for a children's education services non-profit. She has worked in schools, summer camps and as a caregiver, from Yonkers to Rye and Dobbs Ferry.

by Janet Kornfeld

I like kids, from cute little babies, to toddlers cruising around during coffee hour, to high schoolers looking forward to future opportunities. But the kids I like best are middle schoolers.

You see, little kids are learning how to do things like reading and holding a scissors. High school kids are discovering the way the world works, how it used to work, and hopefully, where they can make it fit better for all. To do that, they need context. And that they find in middle school.

It was on a middle school field trip when I discovered ancient Egypt. You can still see artifacts from Egypt, the country of the Exodus in museums. Egypt looked so impressive. Why, I wondered, did the Hebrews flee?

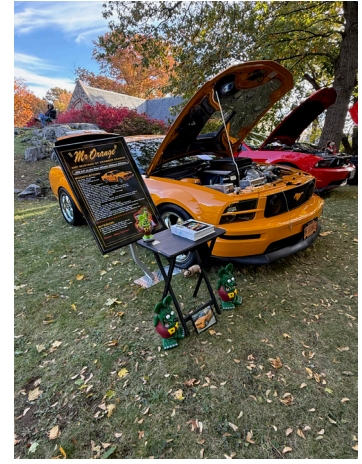
Later, at Le Moyne College, I minored in theology. Why? Because my husband was in the Air Force and we kept moving. Those were the widely offered courses which would give me enough credits to graduate.

What good were all those theology courses? Life got tough. My child had a heart defect. During all those hours at the children's hospital, I was never alone. God lent me strength.

People need to know where they belong. Years ago, when our parish was searching for a new rector, a young woman on the search committee told me she had been in France when a parent died suddenly. Devastated, she "went home" by visiting the nearest church. She credited Sunday School for giving her a foundation in life's toughest moment.



Janet Kornfeld



CAR SHOW TAKES (AND MAKES) A PARISH

by Carla Carroll

Something wonderful began to take shape just after dawn at 1415 Pelhamdale Avenue on the first Saturday of November 1. A bumper crop of vintage vehicles streamed in for spots on our lawns, prime real estate in our Second Annual Classic Car Show. Entrants ranged from a stripped-down buffed-up dark purple 1940 Ford delivery van, to a pair of sleek red late-model Ferrari Portofinos—not to mention Pelham Manor's beloved 1910-vintage fire engine stationed on the grass beside the driveway.

By opening time our ten volunteer gate keepers, all sporting donated bright red Manor Auto t-shirts, had logged in nearly 250 vehicles, as more people streamed in to oogle the rolling stock, and much more.

Michael Moynihan, standing on the rock overlooking the field opened the show with a prayer at 10, followed by Michael Fawcett's stirring acapella rendition of the national anthem", with Bob Landis, U.S. Army veteran, proudly hefting the American flag at his shoulder.

And from then on until just after 4p.m., the day proceeded only to get better. Visitors snapped up 50/50 raffle tickets, chowed down at Anthony's Food Truck in the oval drive, soaked in our DJ's great tunes outside the narthex doors, and snacked on delicious homemade baked goods from our very own "Cookies to Go at the Classic Car Show" team.





Others hit the vendor stalls in the Parish Hall, or snapped up raffle tickets for a chance at winning any of 108 goodies. They ranged from baskets of high-end French cosmetics, to gift cards from over a dozen different area eateries, to an autographed photo of Muhammad Ali handsomely framed, to prime football tickets...and, oddly enough, to a bevy of automotive supplies.

Above all, our visitors, just over 1,200 of them, had fun. They did so with the aid of our team of over 45 Christ Church volunteers, plus an indispensable handful of members of our Classic Car mentors' club, the Bronx Mopars--led by a great friend to our parish, Nick Hooks.

Other guests strolled the campus, taking in our Church's beautiful sanctuary, or tried their luck buying tickets for our 50:50 raffle, as a few others chilled out down among still more vehicles in the lower parking lot. There the Westchester SPCA chapter had clutches of puppies and kittens up for immediate cuddling, and possible adoption down the road.

Towards the end of the day Father Matt presented plaques outside to the winners in various car show categories (plaques sponsored by parishioners and local businesses) and announced the lucky 50/50 winner. He then walked his microphone back into the Church Hall to draw the lucky ticket winners for all those raffle goodies.

To all the tired, but deservedly happy volunteers: God bless each of you for playing pivotal roles in making the Second Annual Classic Car Show fundraiser such an astounding success.

From helping gather in those vital donations in the course of many weeks beforehand, to the big push to set everything up the day before, and take it all down at the end...Christ Church volunteers made it happen!



SIX CONFIRMANDS STEP UP

by Jean Gruener

On May 15, 2025, Bishop Mary Glasspool administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to six young Christ Church parishioners. Prior to the service, she met with members of the Vestry and then with the Confirmands and their families.

This was Bishop Glasspool's last official visit to our parish, before her retirement this past summer. During the service, the congregation joined with the Confirmands in reaffirming their own baptismal vows, and then welcomed them with hearty applause.

Confirmands were Harris Adams Bland, Ainsley Evangeline Bloise, Ethan James Bloise, Emmett Glaser Cho, Riley Richard McGrory, and Aiden Matthew Munro.

In their own words, here are their stories:



HARRIS BLAND

I am a ninth grader at Pelham Memorial High School. I especially enjoy math and science. Outside the classroom, I like playing tennis, rowing or - in season - snow skiing. I enjoy spending time with my dog Eliza.

I really enjoy travel. One of the highlights of my summer was a Boy Scout high adventure trip to Florida Sea Base camp with fellow scouts from our troop that meets at Christ Church.

My family and I have been a part of Christ Church for nine years. In that time, I have attended Sunday School and participated in the Vacation Bible School, first as a student and later as a middle-school counselor. I have also served as an acolyte, and over the years have had various roles in the Christmas Pageant.

For me, Confirmation means choosing my faith for myself. It made me feel closer to God and more connected to my church.



AINSLEY BLOISE

I am in the 8th grade at Pelham Middle School. My favorite subjects are science and English. Outside of school, I enjoy reading, sleeping, skiing and horseback riding. I take care of my cat Ellie and enjoy trying to teach her new tricks. I play the piano too.

My family has been at Christ Church since I was very small. I was baptized here in June of 2012. We recently started attending again after a break for COVID-19.

These days I enjoy running the livestream for church services. I'd like to be in the Christmas Pageant or Easter Egg Hunt, but we're usually away visiting family across the country over the holidays.

Maybe in the future I could serve as an acolyte or an occasional reader.

My Confirmation has helped me find a closer relationship with God, and has me thinking about finding more balance in my life.

ETHAN BLOISE

I am a tenth grader at Pelham Memorial High School, where my favorite subjects are Chemistry and History. Favorite activities in my free time are skiing, playing golf, and video games. Recently, I began fencing, and am enjoying learning the strategy and tactics behind the sport. I also play the violin.

My sister and I were baptized at Christ Church in June 2012. After a pause during the COVID pandemic, my family resumed regular attendance and have become more involved again in church activities this past year. Although we typically are away from Pelham during the holidays spending time with relatives, we are here at church for much of the year. I may be able to help with some events and would consider being an acolyte or reading lessons.

For me, Confirmation has been an opportunity to confirm my Christian faith and to become more involved in a religious community.



RILEY MCGRORY

I am in the 8th grade at Pelham Middle School. My favorite subjects are social studies, math and earth science. Away from school my favorite activities are playing baseball (I'm a left-handed pitcher) and baking.

I am excited about going to Iona Prep next year for high school. My family and I have been at Christ Church since 2010. I have been an acolyte since fourth or fifth grade (Walter will know when I started - it has been a while!). I have been a reader and have also taken part in church school, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunts, and Christmas Pageants. I was baptized at Christ Church too - the only one in my family!

To me, Confirmation means confirming my beliefs as a Christian and my relationship with God.





EMMETT CHO

I'm Emmett Cho, a 9th grader at Pelham High School. My favorite subject is social studies. I run cross country, row crew, run track, and am on the forensic speech and the Model UN teams.

My family has been at Christ Church for a year and a half. In my time here I have been a speaker in the Christmas pageant and helped pack eggs for the Easter Egg Hunt. I also enrolled in Confirmation class and now have gotten confirmed.

To me, Confirmation means becoming a full member of the church community, especially because I began the process right as my family joined Christ Church. It's about expanding my faith, from being a personal set of beliefs, to being a part of a community that I can participate in through service and commitment.



AIDEN MUNRO

My name is Aiden Munro. I am a sophomore at Salesian High School in New Rochelle. Math and science are my favorite subjects because I am good at rearranging numbers and solving formulas and problems. I am on the Cross Country team. Football is my favorite sport, and I am a huge Buffalo Bills fan (Go Bills!). I really like dogs and spending time with friends and family.

My mother joined the congregation at Christ Church when she was pregnant with me. I've been at Christ Church since I was born; I was baptized at the church when I was six months old. I have participated in many barbecues, dog adoption events, Christmas pageants, Easter egg hunts and many more. In the past year, I joined the youth group and have participated in some of their events and service projects.

Being confirmed means to me that I have more knowledge of Jesus Christ and his teachings, and how I can apply those lessons in my everyday life.

WHY DO WE HAVE A CHILDREN'S CHOIR?

by Justin Bischof, Director of Music

Fact is...most people like to sing... some more than others. But children? A good many love to sing.

But did you know that it can be very healthy for them? It can boost their cognitive development by improving language, memory, and literacy skills. It can also promote emotional growth by building confidence and providing a creative outlet for self-expression. Memorization of words and music may stimulate a child's intellectual development. Some studies even suggest that kids who are involved with music frequently do better in other areas of school. Performing in public can boost a child's confidence. The experience of facing the on-looking gaze of an audience, and performing "under pressure" helps build confident and competent adults.

As for singing in a church children's choir, we are all familiar with the statistics showing many young people stop attending church after high school.

When young people have a satisfying, meaningful, and even tuneful connection to church, they have more reason to stay involved as they grow up, and even move out of the house. Memorizing songs helps children internalize biblical principles that they will carry with them for their whole lives.

I say Children's Choir is fun as well as healthy. Sign up today!



MEET OUR CHOIR'S SECTION LEADERS

by Justin Bischof, Director of Music

Our Parish Choir has a professional section leader for each of the voice parts - soprano, alto, tenor and bass. Their role is to lead their section vocally as well as provide helpful singing tips. They are a crucial part of our Music Program at Christ Church and we are grateful to them for sharing their talents with our church community. You have heard and seen them, but you may not know that much about them...until now.



Soprano **Jeanmarie Lally** attended The Crane School of Music in Potsdam, NY, where she was an Opera Studies major; and SUNY Fredonia, where she studied Musical Theatre. A Commack, Long Island native, she joined us in January 2022. While musical theatre has always been a great love, Jeanmarie has also been a frequent guest soloist at NYC churches. They include St. Bartholomew's on Park Avenue, where she was soloist with the Orchestra of St. Luke's for 15 years. She is happy to be at Christ Church Pelham with such talented and generous colleagues.



Mezzo-soprano **Jann Degnan** holds graduate and post-graduate degrees from the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music, where she was awarded the Grand Prize in the Corbett Triegle International Opera Competition. An accomplished choral symphony and concert soloist, her performances span the masterworks and contemporary repertoire, and include appearances with Roanoke Symphony, and the Mantovani Orchestra and Chorus. In compositions embracing the great choral and vocal masterworks as well as modern works, she has been a featured ensemble member and soloist with both the New York Treble Singers, and Gregg Smith Singers. As a liturgical musician, she enjoys collaborative work that brings together her skills as both soloist and ensemble artist within the genre she loves. She joined us in September 2014.

Tenor **Konstantin Jan**, a Prague-born musician with Russian heritage, is an accomplished vocalist and instrumentalist with performance experience across Europe and the United States. Trained initially as a pianist and violinist, he later pursued vocal studies in Poland, and earned his master's degree from the Manhattan School of Music. He has appeared on prestigious stages including Suk Hall of the Czech Philharmonic, the Silesian Opera in Poland, and various venues in New Jersey and Manhattan. Coming from a family of distinguished musicians, he brings a rich artistic background and fluency in five languages to his diverse operatic and musical work. He joined us in September 2025.



Baritone **Jonathan Lawlor**'s love of vocal music from Baroque chamber music to experimental music informs his every performance. He has experience both in early music, including well-known Baroque groups like Boston Baroque, Emmanuel Music, and Marsh Chapel, as well as in opera. There he took part in the young artist programs at Opera Maine, Music Academy of the West, and Central City Opera. Jonathan received his Bachelor of Music from the New England Conservatory and received his master's degree from Bard Conservatory's Vocal Artist Program. Recently, Jonathan sang the Bonze and covered Sharpless in Opera on the James' production of Madama. He has been with us since September 2025.





OUTREACH

by Carla Carroll

The Outreach Committee continues to fulfill our mission to serve those brothers and sisters in Christ who are in need in our communities. Food banks rank as a primary focus now, amid growing food insecurity due to the government shutdown and cutbacks in SNAP availability. For the food program at Trinity/St. Paul in New Rochelle, we are temporarily doubling our bagged lunch program...now prepping 60 lunches twice a month. The Men's Group still spearheads this mission, but the Youth Group stepped up on Sunday, November 9 to make 60 more lunches. Sts. John Paul and Clement in Mount Vernon will receive more non-perishable food staples, with the aid of Christ Church parishioners' donations and Outreach purchasing, which has increased. Volunteers to help distribute food at the church are needed. In addition, we make a monthly financial donation to St. James/Fordham.

To aid in our efforts Ed McGann and Kari Black have generously donated a redo/remodel of the Outreach Closet in the Undercroft. New shelving has replaced large, bulky tables for non-perishable food donations headed to Sts. John Paul and Clement, bagged lunch prep supplies, Car Show supplies and Outreach greeting cards/tags. That closet also must hold donated garments for the Coat Drive, for regular transport to distribution centers. And yes, the Coat Drive, now charging full steam ahead. The Outreach Committee partners each year with NYC Cares, the charitable organization that innovated the concept of collecting coats for New Yorkers in need 45 years ago, and continues to run the largest coat drive in the U.S. We collected a record 750 coats in 2024 and aim to bring in 1,000 coats this year.

Christ Church Coat Drive partners with local organizations to place collection boxes, which committee members regularly empty and transport to the distribution center. Partners this year include Huguenot Memorial Church, the Pelham Jewish Center; the Pelham Public Library; Rockwell's Restaurant; the Pelham Police Department; Silver Beach Hall of the Bronx. Local businesses have also supported the initiative, with placement of flyers in their windows. As in previous years, parishioners who wish to donate new or used coats can use the coat drive boxes in the Narthex or inside the glass doors at the lower parking lot. Anyone who is able to put a donation box at their place of business or would like flyers to distribute can contact Carla Carroll at 646-245-5618.

DEACON'S CORNER: HILDY MUNCH

by Rev. Deacon Chisara Alimole

I first met Hildy in 1999, when my family and I joined Christ the Redeemer. Then in her young 80's, she was well known to all as a vibrant, beloved, and remarkably energetic parishioner... active in wide range of parish life. As I recall, at one time or another Hildy had belonged to practically every ministry the church had to offer...from lay reader to pastoral care. She remained an ardent eight o'clocker well into her centenarian life.

When my Diaconate program kept me away from Christ Church for a number of years, I missed her greatly. After my ordination I came back to visit Christ the Redeemer several times. And Hildy often had one question for me: "When are you coming back to Christ Church as a Deacon?" When I finally accepted ministry here in 2020, Hildy was happy to see me. It also came as no surprise that Hildy continued her active Sunday worship in her beloved parish all the way until early this year. Only then did she finally slow to a stop in her in-person Sunday-service participation...at the age of 106.

Hildy has given her whole life to worshiping God and serving her neighbors. Along the way, she has become a household name in charity in the Pelham/Mount Vernon area. A few years ago she earned an award for her charitable work in Mount Vernon, helping provide pastoral care at the Wartburg where she now lives. She clearly heard the call to open our hearts to God, and to love one another. She devoted years in ministry to helping others. And now deep into her life, she continues to model exemplary ways as a Christian by being open and receptive of God's love through pastoral care.

In recent years Barbara Zambelli and I have sat with her in the common room in her building, where she is almost always ready, well-turned-out, and eager to receive pastoral care from her parish...always eager to receive communion from her church even after she has received Communion from the Wartburg's own Lutheran church a stone's throw from her door. Even now, her hearing long withered, she still joins in saying our Lord's prayer. She still gamely attempts to chat whenever Barbara and I or others visit.

Hildy is also never shy to ask questions that baffle her about life and death, while at the same time, hanging on dearly to her faith. When she cannot find the words, she always has her holy ways of letting pastoral care visitors know that she is with them in spirit. She either makes the sign of the cross, or she makes the symbol of people and church opening the door to let God in.

I feel blessed to get the honor of doing pastoral care with Hildy. It is both uplifting in spirit and humbling to worship and be together with a strong woman of God.



BAPTISMS

There is one body and one spirit;
there is one hope in God's call to us;

One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of All.

Samuel John Eudicone:

September 18, 2022

Lucy Hendry Schoenmann:

October 23, 2022

Griffin Otis Butler:

November 6, 2022

Hanna Grace Kirschbaum:

April 30, 2023

Luke Robert Carberry:

May 7, 2023

Kirk Maxwell Reische:

June 18, 2023

Legacy Jade Ranga:

August 6, 2023

Nazir W. Richards:

November 19, 2023

Miles Robinson Charles Mitchell

January 14, 2024

Austin Xavier Charles Mitchell:

January 14, 2024

Cairo Lukas Sirius Gray:

April 28, 2024

Brynn Davis Johnson:

June 2, 2024

Mai Johann Kaufmann Collins:

September 29, 2024

Saint Wade Wiggins:

February 2, 2025

Robert Thomaz Allison:

April 27, 2025

John Wesley Eudicone:

May 4, 2025

Edward William James Morse:

August 10, 2025

Harry (Henry) Wells Russo:

September 14, 2025

James Francis Moran

July 17, 1940 –
August 11, 2024

Margaret (Marge) DeLillo

April 18, 1939 –
December 30, 2024

Michael Alvarez

May 30, 1963 –
January 13, 2025

Edwin Bradford Cragin

April 11, 1940 –
March 9, 2025

Eileen R. Wolfe

January 7, 1946 –
May 30, 2025

Anne Peyton Cooper

December 6, 1928 –
August 22, 202

IN MEMORIAM

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Amen.

*The Parish of Christ the
Redeemer, Pelham Manor, is a
parish of the Episcopal Church.
Whatever your path in life has
been, you are welcome here.*