



Annual Report – 2023



Annual Meeting - January 28, 2024

10:45 a.m.

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**Annual Meeting Agenda
Christ Church
Sunday, January 28, 2024
10:45 a.m.**

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Convening and Opening Prayer | Matthew+ |
| 2. Election of Secretary | Matthew+ |
| 3. Approval of Minutes from January 29, 2023 Annual Meeting | Matthew+ |
| 4. Treasurer's Report
-2023 Year-End Review
-2024 Budget Overview | Curt Voges |
| 5. Report of the Vestry Nominating Committee | Pat Kerpan |
| 6. Acclamation of New Vestry Class and Junior Warden | Matthew+ |
| 7. Commissioning of New Vestry Class and Junior Warden | Matthew+ |
| 8. Recognition and Thanks to Outgoing Vestry Members
-Joo Boe, Carrie Healy, Pat Kerpan, Brooke Wanzenberg | Robin Anstaett &
Matthew+ |
| 9. Report of the Senior Warden | Robin Anstaett |
| 10. Senior Warden Recognition | Gary Martin &
Matthew+ |
| 11. Rector's Report | Matthew+ |
| 12. Closing Prayer | Matthew+ |
| 13. Meeting Adjournment | Matthew+ |

Annual Meeting – Minutes

Minutes of the Christ Church Winnetka, IL
Sunday, January 29, 2023

Convening and Opening Prayer: The meeting was called to order at 10:45 am by the Reverend Tom Crittendon, the Interim Rector of Christ Church, who then offered an opening prayer.

Secretary for the Annual Meeting: Kurt Anstaett served as Secretary for the Annual Meeting. After it was moved and seconded, the Minutes of the January 30, 2022 Annual Meeting were approved without objection.

Outgoing Vestry: Senior Warden Molly Hufton thanked our outgoing Vestry members Patty Lea, Renaat Vereecke, Gary Martin and Hillary Dawson and our outgoing Clerk from a year ago, Carolyn Potter, and presented those who were present with service crosses. Robin Anstaett, the incoming Senior Warden, thanked Molly for her dedication and commitment to Christ Church as a member of the Vestry and serving as Junior and then Senior Warden. Reverend Tom Crittendon presented Molly with a gift certificate and a service cross in thanks for her significant contribution to Christ Church through her leadership roles.

Report of the Nominating Committee: The Nominating Committee, led by Reverend Tom Crittendon, recommended Chris Lyman, Peggy Coffee, Andy Lea and Christine Peterson for positions on the Vestry, and recommended Gary Martin to serve as Junior Warden. There were no other nominations. There was a motion to close nominations that was subsequently seconded and approved without objection. Thus, one ballot was cast to approve the named nominees.

Benevolence Committee Report: Jenny Keller reported on behalf of the Benevolence Committee highlighting that the Committee reviewed 65 prospective grants, met with agency representatives from Chicago area agencies and ultimately approved providing support to 61 of the agencies that applied to Christ Church for support. In 2022, the Benevolence Committee awarded a total of \$164,000 to those 61 agencies. Proceeds from our two rummage sales provided 100% of the funds that the Committee awarded.

Capital Campaign and Campus Improvement Update: Chip Champagne provided a summary of our recently completed Capital Campaign, reported on the status of the funds received to date from the Campaign and noted how those dollars have been deployed. Chip reported that the Capital Campaign ended with total pledge and bequest commitments of \$5.1 million which exceeded our goal of \$5 million. He noted that we have received \$2.4 million of those Capital Campaign pledge dollars to date and have used those dollars to pay for planned capital improvements to our campus (\$1.5 million), to fund our Unrestricted Endowment (\$750,000) and to fund our Outreach initiative (\$163,324). Our campus capital improvements were focused on building a new entrance to Powell Hall and the Chapel at the Parish House to provide an ADA compliant access lift that provides access to all to both of those important Christ Church spaces. The total cost of all of those improvements at the Parish House was \$1.3 million. Campaign funds were also used to fund a new playground at the Church on

the Hill and to construct a new North Wall Garden in our Churchyard. In addition, our 100 year old boiler was replaced by two new high efficiency boilers at a cost of \$230,000 which was funded by utilizing our Maintenance Reserve Fund and using monies from prior years cash surpluses. One known priority capital improvement project in 2023 is to purchase a new air exchanger and condenser for the Church on the Hill which is estimated to cost approximately \$80,000. One primary purpose of the new Exchanger is to protect our organ pipes.

Treasurer's Report: Dan George filled in for Treasurer Curt Voges to provide a report on the financial condition of Christ Church and the status of the 2023 Budget. Dan noted that we finished the 2022 year with an operating deficit of \$92,156 which was somewhat less than the budget deficit that had been projected for the full year when the 2022 budget was approved by the Vestry last January. Based on the level of pledge commitments for 2023 as of the date of the Annual Meeting, we have a projected current budget deficit of \$110,952. As a result of the projected deficit, the Vestry has not yet approved the 2023 budget. Dan noted that our current pledge commitments for 2023 of \$1,183,000 is 16% less than the \$1,408,000 that was committed in 2020, and that pledging levels at Christ Church have essentially been flat going back over 10 years, except for 2020, which has put significant pressure on our efforts to operate with balanced budgets.

Stewardship Report: Renaat Vereecke, who chaired the Stewardship Committee, reported that while pledge commitments for 2023 have fallen \$110,000 short of our pledge goal of \$1,360,000, our pledge commitments to date have exceeded last year's pledge commitments. He noted that we had 23 families pledge to Christ Church in 2023 who did not pledge in 2022 of which 16 of those families were first time pledgers to Christ Church. Renaat shared that our average annual pledge increased by 13% to \$5,528, and that we experienced a 30% increase in the number of pledges that were in the \$5,000 to \$10,000 range which reduced some of our long standing dependence on the extraordinary generosity of a small group of Parishioners. He commented on the continued financial generosity of the Christ Church community and the progress that was made to further build a broader and stronger foundation of financial support of our ongoing Stewardship efforts. On the downside, he noted that the decline in the total number of pledging families from 2022 to 2023 from 233 to 190 is a concern.

Further Discussion of Current Budget Deficit: Senior Warden Robin Anstaett addressed the congregation to further discuss the current shortfall in achieving our stewardship goal and the resultant budget deficit of \$111,000. She noted that the projected budget deficit was more than \$230,000 two weeks ago but as a result of further efforts and outreach by the Wardens and members of the Stewardship Committee to parishioners who had not yet pledged, the projected 2023 budget deficit was reduced to \$111,000.

Robin commented on how generous Christ Church parishioners have been particularly as the parish has been asked to give and give and give again over the last two years, and the parish has responded to all of those asks. Robin said that there are a number of potential solutions to our projected budget deficit in 2023 including cutting some of our programs and ministries, holding off on hiring a full time Associate Rector and instead opting for a part time Associate Rector and withdrawing more money from our unrestricted endowment. Robin commented that she believes that our staff is our most valuable asset, and particularly during this interim time and this upcoming time of transition of calling a new Rector, we very much want to support our staff in every way possible including financially. She also noted that our current budget for 2023 already includes taking a 4 ½% draw of the total amount currently in our unrestricted endowment to help balance our 2023 budget.

Robin noted the similarities between our current budget challenges and the budget challenges we faced in 2012 when we were in the process of calling Christopher Powell as our new Rector. At that annual meeting in 2012, the Junior Warden at the time made the following comments:

“We are a parish full of hope and excitement in anticipation of the arrival of our new Rector, yet we have operating issues to consider. The Budget deficit represents two challenges; first it is a financial problem due to an unfunded shortfall but is also a spiritual issue because it affects our lives and our church. I ask the congregation to consider that we are all stewards of this church. We will lose out spiritually if we don’t support the church financially. We should not hand our new Rector an unfunded budget deficit of \$100,000. Please pray for our church as we seek solutions to deal with our deficit. At the conclusion of Robin’s comments, several parishioners spoke up and expressed their commitment to increase the amount of their pledge for 2023 and one parishioner who had not yet pledged for 2023 committed to make a pledge.

Parishioner Kate Jaworski then read the following passage from 2 Corinthians:

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

Rector Search: Chris Cahill and Lisa Bradner communicated a message of hope and anticipation as we move into the final phase of our search for the 10th Rector of Christ Church. The committee of 17 parishioners has recently completed “on site” visits to the current home parishes for a number of potential candidates and is scheduling visits to Christ Church in February for a small number of candidates which hopefully will lead to us successfully calling one of those candidates to be our new Rector. The Committee has been very pleased with the quality of the candidates that have been interviewed and visited by members of the Committee.

After a closing prayer, it was moved and seconded that the Annual Meeting be adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kurt Anstaett,

Secretary of the Annual Meeting

Commissioning of New Vestry Members and Junior Warden

Gary Martin

I present to you, Lisa Bradner, Tom Font, Linda Maclachlan and Lisa Snabes, to be admitted to the ministry of Member of the Vestry in this congregation.

I present to you, Laura Sniader, to be admitted to the ministry of Warden in the congregation.

Antiphon

The Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth comes knowledge and understanding; *he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity.*

V. I am your servant; grant me understanding

R. *That I may know your decrees.*

Let us pray.

Oh Eternal God, the foundation of all wisdom and the source of all courage: Enlighten with your grace the Wardens and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

In the name of God and this congregation. I commission you Laura, as Junior Warden and I commission you Lisa, Tom, Linda and Lisa as members of the Vestry of this Parish.

Greet your new Junior Warden and Vestry Members.

Kingdom Work

Rector's Report – 2023

*Thus says the LORD,
I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. -- Isaiah 43:16a, 19*

The words above from the prophet Isaiah have been a constant in my ears since my first conversation with the Rector Search Committee almost a year ago. God has been at work doing a new thing here at Christ Church, making paths to new ways of experiencing God in our lives, bringing new life into being all around us.

The first six months of my time as your 10th Rector have been full of experiencing those, “new things,” as practically each week there has been a new “first” springing up: Summer Rummage, Vestry Meeting, Sunday at Christ Church, Staff Meeting, Stewardship Campaign, Annual Rummage Sale, Epiphany procession, Chili Cook-off, Celebration of New Ministry, Advent Lessons and Carols service, Vestry Retreat, Christmas Eve service...and the list goes on. Throughout all of it, God has been mightily present working with us and through us all to help accomplish God's plan for us this past year at Christ Church.

I would like to acknowledge the incredible amount of prayerful work and ministry that the vestry has done in this year of transition—from a departing rector to an interim rector's arrival and then departure, and then my arrival in June. Throughout all this the wardens and vestry have kept Christ Church moving forward navigating these transitions in leadership. I will add a special note of thanks to Robin Anstaett and Gary Martin, our Senior and Junior Wardens. Each has provided wise counsel, helpful context, and a healthy dose of humor all along the way as I've started my time serving at Christ Church. Your vestry and wardens have served our parish in an exceptional way this past year and I hope that you will join me in thanking them for their service.

The work of the Search Committee and Transition Committee also deserve a huge “Thank you” as they did the holy work of discernment and welcome this past year. Over my years of ministry, I have had several experiences with search processes; far and away, from start to finish, this has been the best. From the first phone conversation to my first Sunday in June, to my Celebration of New Ministry in

November...I have truly felt God's presence through all those who served on the Search and Transition Committees. Both Katie and I extend our thanks to all who have helped make this transition to Christ Church both welcoming and truly joyful.

These first six months have been marked with many "firsts" and many "new things," not only for me but for our community. Our staff brings an incredible amount of skill and knowledge to the work they do which has helped make these possible. More importantly, they bring a true dedication to excellence in the many events, programs, worship services and activities we provide to our parish and the wider community. Please join me in thanking them for the many gifts and skills they bring to Christ Church and the dedication they have to Christ Church.

Our parish is also ably served by our clergy team, and I give such thanks for Rev. Rod Quainton, our Priest Associate, and the Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund our Curate. I have learned much from Rod+ and truly appreciate the many ways he has helped me get to know our congregation from a clerical perspective. Teaching an adult formation class with Rod+ this fall was truly a wonderful experience. I look forward to teaching with him again next Fall. Rod+ has been a mentor and friend, and I look forward to his and Nancy's return in early summer. I'm also grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and joy that Rev. Cynthia brings to our parish. Even in her short time here she has integrated into the team and her work with our Outreach Ministries has been truly great to see as she begins her ordained life here at Christ Church. I look forward to her ordination to the Sacred Order of Priests in the Spring—another "new thing" that God is doing in our midst. It will be good to have a full clerical staff to support our ministries and mission in the coming year. I look forward to calling our new Senior Associate Rector and the gifts and talents that priest will bring to us and share with us as we deepen our relationships with God and one another.

In my first sermon, I preached about the desire to make disciples for Jesus Christ, to set this as a priority for our parish during my tenure. What I have seen so far is that our community is, overall, eager to try new ideas, participate in new activities, and have fun together. From the new Chili Cook-Off to Epiphany Door Blessing and Chalking, to Sunday Suppers and new adult formation classes, Christ Church is interested in growing and deepening our faith. Combine that with all the existing ministries, events, activities, classes and opportunities for worship, and it is easy to see that Christ Church offers such a variety of ways for us to deepen our faith, to grow as disciples of Jesus.

As I look at Christ Church, I see so many areas where new things are springing forth in our community and many ways that God is making a path in the wilderness for us, leading us forward. One, "way in the wilderness," that I am particularly excited to see is how we have welcomed many new families and individuals to Christ Church. Our emphasis on welcome, both for those who are new, but also for those who are coming back to church, is vital as we look to grow and bring people to the love and light of Jesus. We have reconstituted our Greeter program and have looked at how we meet people where they are on their faith journey and help them enter the life of our parish family. The vestry has worked on new fellowship opportunities for us to come together, share a meal, and know one another more fully. These are only two examples, but are a sure sign that God is indeed making, "rivers in the desert," and helping all who come to Christ Church find the light and love of God in Christ.

One area where I believe we are being called by God to explore is how we invite all members of our parish into the good work, ministry, worship and fellowship that Christ Church offers. These programs, events, and worship services require us to give of our time and our talents. How can we broaden the number of people stepping forward to help us do the next "new thing" to which God is calling us?

How can we better match the things we love doing with the ministries that need us to help? These questions are ones that the vestry, our new associate and I will be working on in the time to come.

Finally, I would like to thank every person who comes to Christ Church, be it for worship of God, or to volunteer in any of our many ministries or events. Without your presence and participation, none of the wonderful things you will read about on the pages to follow would happen. As we look to the year ahead, I invite each of you to find new ways to help with the in-breaking of God's kingdom here at Christ Church. Each of us is vital to the continued growth and vibrancy of our parish. Each of us is needed as we help to further God's "new things," that are springing up, as we help build new paths in the wilderness, as we bring the water of new life to parched places.

I am truly blessed to be here and to serve with you as we help accomplish God's many new things together.

With my gratitude and God's abundant Blessings,



The Reverend Matthew Hanisian,
Rector

Curate's Report - 2023

What a wonderful, whirlwind start as your Curate. I began my new role on Tuesday, November 7, the day before Rev. Matthew's New Ministry celebration; the next week was our Chicago Diocesan Convention; and the following week was the first week of Advent. It was definitely a full, first month of being a clergy person at Christ Church. I have been awed by the gracious hospitality and warm welcome by all—parishioners as well as staff—thank you. I count my blessings each day for the gift of serving God via this special parish.

The rest of 2023 included deep listening and learning sessions to understand the exceptional programs and ministries of our church community. Numerous one-on-one informational sessions, as well as Vestry, Local Outreach, Global Ministry, and Women's Bible meetings were part of the daily to-dos. It was also a joy to take part in the new acolyte and crucifer training and the Christmas Angels initiative. On a wider-church scale, there were two Evanston Deanery meetings and a New Ministry celebration at St. Peter's, as well as Fresh Start, which is a diocesan initiative for new clergy. Sharing the liturgy with our friends at Mather was a treasure, as was preaching for their Christmas service. In addition to serving as your Deacon at both services on most Sundays, it was a pleasure to read and participate in the sacred Taizé services.

Finally, the year came to a close, with the joyous opportunity to preach for the first time at CCW on December 31. May our 2024 year ahead be full of myriad opportunities in our CCW community to strengthen our faith, serve God and love one another.

Faithfully yours,
The Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund,
Curate

Assisting Priest's Report – 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Another year of transition as we welcomed Matthew as our new Rector and Cynthia as our Curate. I was pleased to be a non-anxious presence and able to fill in as necessary while playing a mentoring role to make the transitions smoother. Once again, I was pleased to prepare the Choir Trip Devotional and accompany the choir to England for the fourth time. I have enjoyed preaching on occasion as well as the occasional memorial service and internment and returning to the Mather for our monthly communion service. The highlight of the year was co-facilitating a five-week exploration of the Book of Job with Matthew. I look forward to assisting as necessary in 2024 being blessed as part of the Christ Church community.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev Rod Quainton,
Assisting Priest

Organist and Choirmaster Report – 2023

Membership in our Primary Choir (1st and 2nd grades), Youth Choir (3rd through 12th grades), Adult Choir, and Handbell Choir continued to build in 2023 as pandemic concerns abated.

Good management of our Music Program was facilitated by Organ Associate Todd Gresick and Primary Choir Director Elizabeth Clemmitt.

Parish choirs sang and played for Sunday morning services of Holy Eucharist from January through June and September through December. Special liturgies included an Epiphany service with a Three Kings procession, Easter and All Saints' Sunday services with added instruments, a service of Advent Lessons and Carols, five Evensongs, eight Taizé services, and a Confirmation service. Parish choirs also sang and played on Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Eve, Thanksgiving, and Christmas Eve.

In February, our choirs sang Evensong at St. Luke's Church in Evanston together with the St. Luke's Choir.

In August, members of our Youth and Adult Choirs traveled together with family members and friends to the United Kingdom for ten days. Our choir was in residence at Canterbury Cathedral for a week, singing seven services there in seven days. Our group also did lots of fun sightseeing, including visits to Windsor, London, Westminster Abbey, Battle, Chatham Dockyard, Leeds Castle, and Dover. A YouTube playlist of our tour music and services can be accessed through the QR code to the right.



Our major fundraiser for the trip was a Hymnathon, beautifully managed by Amanda MacDonald and Nat Samuel. Participants spent the greater part of a day at the church singing one verse of each of the 720 hymns in our hymnal, raising money per hymn to benefit the tour. The event was livestreamed. A video of our final hymn, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” can be accessed through the QR code to the right. Thanks to the efforts of all involved, including many dedicated parents, our Hymnathon was a big success.



In November, our choir sang for a joyful Celebration of New Ministry to welcome Father Matthew.

In early December, our choir sang Christmas carols for the Winnetka Holiday Tree Lighting in Dwyer Park, just west of the post office. Later in December, our annual Christmas wreath sale to support our Youth Choir tour fund was a big success.

Throughout the year, Adult Choir member Carrie Healy skillfully organized our post-Evensong dinners. Adult Choir member Barbara Jones continued to volunteer as our librarian and seamstress, offering excellent and much-needed help to our Music Program.

Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and talent to make our parish Music Program a success in 2023: singers, ringers, parents, instrumentalists, office helpers, and friends. I look forward to working together with you in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Clemmitt,
Organist and Choirmaster

Youth Ministries Report – 2023

Ongoing Programs

The following three areas are administered by Youth Ministries: Acolytes, Confirmation, and High School.

1. Acolytes: 5th to 12th Grades

- June 6th - hosted an ice cream social in recognition of the service given by our youth to the acolyte ministry.
- November was designated Acolyte Training/Refresher month. Each Sunday following the 9:30am service Matthew and Wendy offered training to 5 new acolytes and refresher tips to existing acolytes.

- There are currently 16 youth involved in the acolyte ministry.

2. Confirmation: 7th and 8th Grades

We continue with the “Confirm Not Conform” curriculum that was introduced in 2021/2022. This curriculum contains 20 sessions: 11-20 are currently being taught to 7th and 8th graders; 1-10 were covered in 2022 with the existing 8th graders.

For the first half of the year classes were held once a month on alternating Wednesdays and Sundays; and during the latter half of the year classes were held monthly on Sundays from 10:45 am to 12:15 pm. Classes begin with a meal, followed by a musical offering after which instruction begins. Each Wednesday following the monthly Sunday gathering has been designated as makeup day for youth who were unable to attend.

On Saturday, April 22nd, 15 youth received the Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ Church; 2 at St James Cathedral on May 20th, and 1 was unable to attend either of these dates and plans to be confirmed in 2024.

Our 8th grade Confirmation retreat was held on April 29th from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm under the theme “Go Light the World”. This was an invitation to the newly confirmed to explore and recognize their gifts and encourage them to share these gifts with others. As part of the retreat, each youth made a candle as a reminder for them to be lights in the world.

Breakdown of Confirmands 2023-2024			
Grade	Listed in Realm	Registered for Confirmation	Active Participants
8th	16	16	16
7th	9	9	8
Total Active Participants			24

The program year started with a mentor orientation on 8/23. Mentors continued to meet monthly on the Wednesday prior to the scheduled class. The following ten persons currently serve as Confirmation mentors:

- 8th Grade: Natalie Hamm, Barbara Jones, Gary Martin, Wendy Olson, Howard Underwood, Lois Ware
 - 7th Grade: Jim Jaworski, Amanda MacDonald, Dan MacDonald, Griswold Ware.
- Of the ten mentors, seven have completed the Safe Church Training that is required by the Diocese.

Other Activities

- February 21st: Pancake Supper - \$650 was raised and donated to the Michael J Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research.

- During the supper, confirmands made pancakes; assisted with serving, clearing tables, and facilitating games for the younger children.
- Involvement in ongoing ministries - approximately 60% of our confirmands are involved in ongoing ministries such as: hospitality, youth choir, lectors, greeters, ushers, altar guild (preparing the altar for worship), flower guild (decorating the altar), acolytes, and assisting with Sunday School. The aim is to have all of the confirmands involved by the end of the 2024 program year.

3. High School Program

- a) May 14th: Children & Youth Sunday - Avery Brock and Jack Jaworski preached at the 8:00 am and 9:30 am services.
- b) Christmas Angels: youth families adopted and purchased gifts for a family of ten.
- c) Come-And-See Trip to Mustard Seed Communities (MSC) in Jamaica from June 17th to 24th. Four adults (Gary Martin, Lisa Snabes and Wendy Samuel from Christ Church, and Jyrekis Collins from Church of the Holy Comforter) spent a week working at and touring the apostolates in Kingston, Spanish Town, Moneague and Gordon Town. MSC is an organization that cares for children with disabilities who have been abandoned, children with HIV; and pregnant teenagers. The trip was initially for high schoolers, but due to low enrolment it was changed to a Come-And-See Trip.
- d) October 1st: high school kick-Off - 4 youth attended.
- e) October 22nd: high school cookout - 6 youth attended.

Other Activities

- January 29th: Valentine Fundraiser for youth ministries.
- February 25th: volunteer opportunity at the Winnetka Community House - packing meals for “Kids Against Hunger”. 10 persons (7 youth; 3 adults involved)
- February 27th to March 5th: Family Promise - youth shared meals with the families on various nights and provided entertainment and companionship for the younger members.
- April 9th: Easter Egg Hunt preparations - 6 youth assisted with hiding eggs for the younger members of our congregation.
- Families were invited to send a picture and brief description of future plans of their graduate. We received 22 pictures and descriptions which were included in the Sunday bulletin on May 21st.
- Summer Happenings for July: a series of youth gatherings to engage youth in various activities such as: Pizza and Ping Pong; Fun with Food; Candle-Making; and Basket Weaving. There was also a gathering for recent high school graduates who made a video sharing their first year of college experiences.
- September 23rd: approximately 10 youth participated in Rummage Flyover.
- October 5th: 5 youth attended a Youth Revival at Kenilworth Union Church.
- October 14th to 31st: Pumpkin Patch
 - 705 pumpkins and assorted gourds delivered (delivery was delayed by 6 hours due to a late departure from the farm in New Mexico); 45 persons assisted with unloading and setup of patch.
 - Patch was open daily from 11:00 am to 6:00 pm and manned by 65 volunteers, some of whom served in more than one-time slot.
 - sold \$9,873.09 worth of pumpkins; our portion was 33.3 % (\$3,287.74).
 - one pickup truck load of pumpkins was taken to Winnetka Public Works for composting.

- October 29th to November 4th: Family Promise - youth shared meals with the families on various nights and provided entertainment and companionship for the younger members.
- October 29th: 5 youth attended a youth revival at Kenilworth Union Church.
- November 4th: All Souls Celebration - persons whose relatives were buried at Christ Church since October 2022 were invited to a remembrance service which included placing candles on the final resting places of their loved ones. 4 youth assisted with placing the candles for families who could not attend.
- November 2nd: Feed My Starving Children - 5 participants.
- December 2nd: Feed My Starving Children - 8 participants.
- December 3rd: Service Trip information meeting. Plans are underway for a service trip to Appalachia, to make homes warmer, safer, and drier.
- December 16th: Feed My Starving Children - 7 participants.
- December 24th: Christmas Pageant - youth helped the younger children with their costumes and served as scene directors and narrators.

Submitted by,
Wendy Samuel,
Director of Youth Ministries

Childrens Ministries Report – 2023

It has been a joyful year for Christ Church Children’s Ministries.

To begin, I would like to highlight just a few of our special events, which build community, make memories, and help us grow in faith.

The year began with the Epiphany Three Kings and Children’s Procession. 35 children and youth participated along with five adult helpers. This continues to be one of our most beloved Christ Church traditions, full of majesty and pageantry and yet very child friendly. A perfect start to a new year.

On Good Friday, we co-hosted “Holy Week Journey with Jesus” with St. Augustine’s Wilmette. 35 Christ Church parishioners traveled to St. A’s for the event, to walk along with Jesus through the Holy Week stories, each presented in a child-friendly way. HWJJ will become an annual tradition, and next time will include St. James the Less Northfield as well.

December brought the return of the Wrap & Roll Caroling Party with 80 attendees and a fun new tradition: a Christmas Shoppe, where the children could shop on their own for family members and friends. Then there was the Christmas Pageant held on Christmas Eve, with 80+ children and youth.

In addition to the special events, which sparkle and shine, and bring lots of people together, I feel very happy with our regular weekly and monthly programming, which provide structure, learning and community.

On Sunday mornings, our Nursery and three Sunday School classes are bursting with activity. I am especially proud of our 3rd and 4th grade classroom, which the teachers named the Bread of Life Atrium. The class welcomes not only the 3rd and 4th graders, but 5th and 6th graders, and even the occasional 7th grader, who like to be helpers. The “BOL” gives the older children a special place to go during the first

part of the worship service, if they do not want to sit in the pews the whole time, or if they are not singing with the choir on a particular Sunday. As helpers they are much-appreciated members of the class.

2023 was the sixth year for our weekly Playgroup and the fifth year for Club 56 (5th and 6th grade) and Kids Connection (3rd and 4th grade.) I am happy that we can provide regular children's programming during the week, especially for those who cannot make it to church every Sunday.

I am very grateful for Andy Lea, our Children & Youth Vestry rep, and for all our adult and youth volunteers. It is truly inspiring to have so many enthusiastic, devoted teachers and leaders. Consequently, I think the children feel very well cared for.

Lastly, I wanted to mention our new leadership at Christ Church. Fr. Matthew and Deacon Cynthia are bringing wonderful new vision and guidance to the church. I am so excited that I get to work with them.

With gratitude,
Melissa Durbin
Director of Children's Ministries

Senior Warden's Report - 2023

Christ Church will remember 2023 as a time of transition and new beginning. We began in interim time, as we sat between the Reverend Christopher Powell's retirement and the calling of a new rector. This congregation, with our dedicated staff, vestry, and parish members, worked tirelessly to navigate this transition with grace, determination, and considerable faith.

I would like to thank the twelve members of the Vestry, as well as the Clerk, Treasurer and Chancellor, for their unwavering support throughout the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the retiring members of the vestry: Joo Boe, Carrie Healy, Pat Kerpan, and Brooke Wanzenberg. They have shown themselves to be capable and faithful leaders whose talents will be sorely missed.

Thirteen months of discernment by our Search Committee ended in February when the vestry voted unanimously to approve its recommendation. On February 28th, Gary Martin, Junior Warden, and I had the honor and privilege to invite the Reverend Matthew Hanisian to accept the call to become the 10th Rector of Christ Church. Matthew+ accepted our offer with a joyous 'yes;' our Bishop confirmed the call with a joyous 'yes,' and we officially had our Rector-Elect.

There began a great flurry of excitement and activity as we prepared for Matthew's arrival. The Transition Committee reinvigorated itself to plan welcome events, and our facilities and maintenance team developed plans for rectory repairs, painting and shed building. The Rev. Tom Crittenden, our Interim Rector for 10 months, continued his work to help prepare us to receive a new rector. During Tom's time at Christ Church, he showed his love for us and his faith in God by standing with us in all that we did during this 'in-between' time. We wished Tom a hearty thanks and fond farewell in April with a 'Taste of Chicago' extravaganza.

On June 1st, we welcomed to Winnetka the 10th Rector of Christ Church, the Reverend Matthew Hanisian, and his wife, Katie Glover. On June 3rd, at 8 a.m., Matthew+ experienced his first Christ Church rummage sale, albeit the small one, as he took hold of the megaphone to welcome shoppers. The significant efforts of both our Search and Transition Committees culminated at Matthew's Celebration of New Ministry on November 8. We are indebted to the members of these committees who bore significant responsibility, and dedicated considerable time and energy on behalf of all of us. Thank you for a job well-done and for your service to Christ Church.

Matthew's arrival has brought energy, renewed spirit, and joy to Christ Church. The rectory is filled with life (yes, literally, with 2 dogs and a rabbit), myriad gear to support unique hobbies, intriguing art, a penchant for color, and delicious creations from the kitchen (that would be Katie.). Thus far, our life together as a parish has seen new ideas merge gracefully with Christ Church traditions. We have added a curate to our staff, the Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund, returning Christ Church to being a teaching parish, and we have a new (long awaited and much prayed for) leader of our women's weekly bible study. Parish communications have been streamlined and improved at all levels, and we experienced a new way to think about how we give back to God through our annual stewardship campaign. While these and other new initiatives have gained support and momentum, our cherished music program, our strong financial management structures, and our hundred-year-old tradition of local outreach through rummage have been embraced and continue to thrive.

We, Wardens and Vestry, are honored and privileged to have been a part of the Christ Church leadership team during this period of significant change. We are grateful to the staff for their guidance and support, and to the parish for its enthusiasm and faithfulness. I would like to offer special thanks to our Assisting Priest, the Rev. Rod Quanton. Rod has offered encouragement to our staff and our wardens throughout the entire interim period with his wisdom, strength, and immense faith. We are excited and invigorated by the opportunities which await us as we join Matthew+ in creating our shared future together.

Respectfully Submitted,
Robin Anstaett,
Senior Warden

Vestry Structure at CCW

Kingdom Work

Membership
*Jenny Keller, &
Joo Boe*

Adult Formation
Lois Ware

Youth & Family Formation
Andy Lea

Pastoral Care
Carrie Healy

Global Mission
Peggy Coffee

Local Outreach
Christine Peterson

Church Work

Communications
Pat Kerpan

Stewardship/Capital Campaign
Chris Lyman

Building & Construction
Chip Champagne

Grounds
Brooke Wanzenberg

Personnel
Alden Senior



Local Outreach

Local Outreach - 2023

2023 was a year of transition and reengagement for Local Outreach at Christ Church. As our community finally fully emerged from pandemic-era limitations and began reengaging with service, we took the opportunity to evaluate our existing outreach programs and consider how we might optimize our impact both within Christ Church and in the broader community.

Current local outreach ministries at Christ Church include Benevolence, Christmas Angels, Family Promise, Grace House/St. Leonard's, New Trier Food Pantry, and Rummage. These programs are each spearheaded by wonderfully dedicated, experienced, and capable Christ Church leaders and are detailed in individual reports below. In addition to these parish-wide programs, the children and youth of Christ Church participate in regular service outreach as a part of their formation under the guidance of our excellent Melissa Durbin and Wendy Samuel. And from time to time, individual parishioners organize additional welcome service outreach offerings.

This year, after careful and prayerful discussion with our longtime volunteers and organizers, we chose to discontinue our in-person food service at A Just Harvest. We are grateful for the long leadership of this ministry by Jenny Smith and Suzie Peregrine and continue to value the work done by A Just Harvest in the community. We expect this decision will not impact our longtime financial support of A Just Harvest via the Benevolence grant process.

As Christ Church enters 2024 with renewed energy, we are beginning to look at additional, expanded or improved service opportunities that will connect with our parish. As a part of this process, we have talked with the New Trier Township Supervisor regarding the area's most pressing needs. We also are initiating conversations with the other churches in our area and within our Deanery to identify ways that we may work together and learn from one another more effectively on service outreach. We believe there are many crossover opportunities where service outreach can work hand-in-hand with Formation and Fellowship and hope to develop these ideas further this year. We also look joyfully forward to celebrating the 100th anniversary of Rummage and beginning to discern with our new leadership the best use of the Faith Forward Fund established as a part of the recent capital campaign.

Respectfully Submitted,
Christine Peterson

Rummage Steering Committee Report – 2023

2023 marked the 99th annual Christ Church Rummage Sale. Gross proceeds were \$335,634. This is an increase of \$20,030. Our expenses for the year were \$97,044. In addition, eight percent of the gross proceeds were given to the church operating budget. Rummage is the largest outreach ministry at Christ Church.

Events of Rummage 2023:

- Introduced our new rector, Matthew+, to the joys of rummage at our June summer sale just days after his arrival. He opened the sale with a megaphone and message of welcome like an old pro.
- Improved traffic pattern for the few departments in the Parish House during the summer sale with improved signage and better flow to the basement; Sales in Treasures more than tripled and Rugs, located in Powell Hall, was #1 in overall sales at the summer sale for the first time.
- Thoroughly enjoyed the ‘Tailgate’ themed Tent Party that included creative and lively Cheers for Rummage performed by attending parishioners.
- Changed the days for providing our Worker’s Lunches to better attract and serve more volunteers; our volunteers look forward to these fellowship opportunities with their fellow workers.
- Added a Food Truck to provide lunch on Pre-sale day - demand was so high that we ran out of food; Bishop Paula, who was shopping at her first CC rummage sale with her staff, got the last sandwich and enjoying it at a picnic table along Maple Street with rummage volunteers.
- Hired additional manpower to move furniture from the Lock-Up to the Furniture Tent during Fly-Over; this allowed for safer, more efficient and less taxing set up for our volunteers. We also began charging a small furniture pick up fee which funded the cost of hiring movers for this task.
- Were grateful to share lunch and life stories with the hardworking men of St Leonard’s Ministries who helped us on two days (increased this year by one day) with sale set and clean up.
- Welcomed charity shoppers from both Revive and St. Leonard’s Ministries to shop for goods at no cost near the end of Sale Day.
- Added two new volunteers to our dedicated group of year-round sorters.
- Increased office staff productivity by moving the rummage volunteer Welcome Desk to space outside of the church office-everyone enjoyed the additional space and area to congregate.
- Began gathering volunteer data and volunteer rummage memories in preparation for celebrating our 100th Year of Rummage in 2024.
- Celebrated a very successful year two with our Rummage Director, Karen Forsberg.
- Wished a fond (and very sad) farewell to devoted Rummage Steering Committee and community member, Joanie White. Joanie retired from Christ Church rummage after more than 30 years of year-round service.

The mission of Rummage is three-fold. First, it is an outreach program, not only with the money shared through the work of the Benevolence Committee and our local outreach ministries, but in goods shared with the greater community. In the past year, monetary grants were disbursed to 59 Chicago area agencies dedicated to helping those in need. In addition, furniture, housewares, clothing, toys, bedding and sporting goods were donated to various charitable organizations, needy individuals and Christ

Church. A detailed listing of organizations supported through Rummage proceeds and goods is available in the Church office. Rummage proceeds also funded the Local Outreach fund; a small fund meant to help parishioners participate in outreach ministries of the church without experiencing a financial burden.

Second, Rummage provides an important community service by offering high-quality clothing, household necessities, furniture, books, hardware, shoes, toys and sports equipment at affordable prices. It also provides a valuable outlet for donors to recycle unwanted belongings. Our recycling efforts expand and improve each year as we strive to reduce waste in our operations.

Finally, Rummage provides an unmatched opportunity for fellowship and creates a strong sense of community within the parish. It is a wonderful place to meet other parishioners, make new friends, and feel connected to a large, multi-generational group of people, as we grow our faith by working together towards a common goal. Volunteers also experience the deep satisfaction of giving their time to help people in need. We recognize and appreciate the importance and value of the rummage community in each of our lives.

The Rummage Steering Committee gives thanks for our success in all areas of Rummage's mission and especially for the ministry of our director, Karen Forsberg. Karen's passion for rummage and her attention to detail in the management of all areas of our operation have allowed us to contain costs despite the continued impact of rising inflation. We also offer thanks for the guidance of Mario Ruiz, the hard work of Sergio Santiago and for our dedicated volunteers, without whom Christ Church Rummage could not exist.

We begin our 100th year with excitement for the future and great thanks to all those who have made it possible for us to reach this significant milestone of a century of service to our community.

Current Steering Committee members are: Robin Anstaett, Julie Flood, Leslie George, Courtney Jack, Erika Kreisa, Darlene McKinney, Elizabeth Parkinson, and Carol Rasmus.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin Anstaett,
Rummage Steering Committee

Family Promise Chicago North Shore Report – 2023

The mission of Family Promise is to help families with children in homeless situations return quickly to permanent housing by providing emergency shelter, meals, job search assistance and other support, while working to address the causes of their homelessness. Christ Church is one of 28 partner churches and synagogues on the North Shore helping to provide meals and a safe place to live for transitionally homeless families one week at a time. In 2023, longtime Executive Director, Tracy McKeithen, returned to Family Promise after a hiatus to work full-time on her PhD dissertation.

We hosted families twice in 2023. The week of February 26-March 5, we welcomed 3 families which included 3 adults and 3 children. 29 parishioners hosted this week. 34 parishioners helped to host the week of October 29-November 5 welcoming 3 families which included 3 adults and 6 children. It was so fun trick or treating in the neighborhood. A first for us. The moms loved seeing the Home Alone house; a treat for them.

Christ Church volunteer hosts organized and purchased supplies, set up the rooms, welcomed our guests each night, provided delicious dinners, continental breakfasts, a hot breakfast Saturday morning and lunch fixings, stayed overnight, and reconfigured the rooms after the guests completed their stay with us. The Christ Church hosts enjoyed socializing with the guests, and the guests loved being with the hosts. We are grateful to all who volunteered behind the scenes and directly with the families, especially those who volunteered more than once.

In addition, our youth designed name cards for each bedroom to welcome the families and served as activity hosts.

Throughout 2023, Christ Church parishioners have had the opportunity to sign up to provide meals as needed and donate funds to support the mission of Family Promise. In addition, our Family Promise friends were invited to shop at the end of the summer and fall Rummage sales.

The Family Promise Committee works with the staff, the Hospitality Committee, and others to ensure that all Christ Church programs and ministries function as seamlessly as possible during the Family Promise weeks. We welcome more hosts to join us in 2024.

Family Promise Committee 2023

Meals: Julie Flood and Jenny Keller

Overnight Hosts: Robin Anstaett

Hospitality: Leslie George, Molly Hufton

Logistics: Bob Spencer, Erika Kreisa

Gratefully submitted,
Elizabeth Parkinson,
Chair

New Trier Food Pantry Report – 2023

Christ Church continued its ministry supporting the New Trier Township Food Pantry this year. The pantry continues to see an increase in the number of clients they serve, which includes many seniors on a fixed income for whom the rising cost of goods has placed additional strain.

We continued holding designated “Pantry Collection Sundays,” and parishioners responded by bringing items from the pantry’s list of most needed items or with cash donations, which the committee used to purchase needed items.

We partnered with the Sunday School to collect items for the pantry as part of the annual Kings and Queens procession for Epiphany, which resulted in a car load of food and hygiene items for our neighbors in New Trier Township.

Christ Church once again provided 100 “fun” bags for the pantry to distribute to clients with their Christmas meals. These bags included hot cocoa, small tubes of hand cream, and lots of candy. These items are luxuries that many pantry clients cannot afford to buy for themselves, but helped make the holidays brighter, whether they used them to treat themselves or fill kids’ stockings.

The Food Pantry is thinking about new ways in which we can support their clients in the coming year. With many corporate sponsors stepping up to help with bulk food donations, there may be other opportunities for Christ Church to help support our neighbors. We will continue talking with the Township about the greatest needs and how we can help fill those needs.

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church who has supported the New Trier Township Food Pantry in any way this year. We are truly shining the light of Christ on our neighbors.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Challenger
Sarah Generes
Debbie Ross,
New Trier Food Pantry Chairs

Christmas Angels – 2023

Thanks to an inspirational effort from a dedicated committee, parishioners of all ages, several confirmation groups -- and many very generous donors -- Christ Church once again provided Christmas joy to families and individuals in need throughout our Diocese. For many, ours are the only gifts they receive. **Altogether we estimate that we served close to 600 people.**

Most of the parish participated in some way in this parish-wide effort by adopting a family, donating money, shopping for gifts, assembling packages, wrapping gifts, or delivering vanloads of gifts to ministry partners in Chicago.

Families Adopted

Christ Church “adopted” 113 families – a total of 375 individuals -- through **Revive Center for Housing and Healing**. We sent 355 boxes – 2 truckloads – to Revive containing gifts from their wish lists, household items, and Jewel gift cards. We are particularly grateful to the parish for not only adopting all 109 families originally assigned to Christ Church, but also for responding generously when Revive asked us just days before pickup to take an addition 4 families who had not been adopted by other parishes.

Ministry Partners

This year we received 64 very generous donations from parishioners that totaled \$19,434. This was used to purchase gifts and gift cards for residents of 5 Episcopal ministry partners:

- 33 senior citizens, mostly living in government housing and supported by **Revive**, received Jewel gift cards, gifts from their wish lists and household items.
- 97 men from **St. Leonard's House, St. Andrews Court and Harvest Commons** received winter coats, sheets, bed pillows, blankets, towel sets, t-shirts, underwear, socks, hats, gloves, scarves, sweatshirts, sweatpants, toiletries, Amazon gift cards. These gifts are distributed unwrapped to the men through their Christmas “store”, allowing them to choose their own items and sizes – a gift in itself to those newly released from prison.
- 15 **Grace House** women received sheet sets, bed pillows, comforters, towel sets, pajamas, fleece bathrobes, slippers, underwear, bras, socks, hats, gloves, personal toiletries.
- 49 homeless residents of **Primo Center** (13 mothers and 36 children) received gifts from their wish lists, food gift cards, Christmas goodie bags and clothing for the children.
- 5 local families in crisis -- who are currently reliant on **NT Township** supportive services -- received Jewel, gas, Target and Visa gift cards. We also provided 100 goody bags to **The NT Food Pantry** that they distributed to their clients at Christmas.

Christmas Angels Committee

Committee Co-Chairs: Julie Flood and Emily Baillos

Senior Citizens: Julia Werner (Team Leader), Cindy Lyman, Kathy Newlands, Molly Hufton

St. Leonards House, St. Andrews Court, Harvest Commons: Erika Kreisa

Grace House: Elizabeth Parkinson (Team Leader), Kinga Zwolnik

Primo Center: The Kuhns Family, Kelsey Forsberg, The Maclachlan Family

Invaluable Support: Kurt Anstaett, The entire Christ Church Staff

2024 Goals

1. Recruit some new committee members.
2. Collect some of the items needed for the Ministry Partners throughout the year, to allow us to serve more people, and involve the parish in this meaningful ministry year-round.

Gratefully submitted,
Julie Flood

Grace House Report - 2023

I am pleased to report that plans are under way to revitalize the Mentoring Program at Grace House. This program started in 2017 and there was a robust number of parishioners who participated as mentors. During the pandemic, it became difficult to continue and since that time we have not been able to gain traction to keep it going. There is new leadership at Grace House and we want to capitalize on their enthusiasm to get the program up and running. More details will be forthcoming in Weekly News.

In March, Christ Church hosted residents of Grace House in their performance of “Coming Home”. Residents in conjunction with Still Point Theatre created and directed, “Coming Home” a story following a woman who has just been released from prison en route to Grace House. “Coming Home” sheds light on the challenges of being system-impacted while also underlining the importance of community support and compassion. There was a reception following the performance including post-discussion with the cast.

In December, at St. Andrews, we held a round table Saturday morning bible study, which included St. Leonard’s residents and several Christ Church parishioners. The discussions were very thought provoking and plans are underway for a mid winter Lenten program. Watch for dates and times in upcoming Weekly News. All parishioners are invited to attend.

Respectfully submitted,
Carmen Wilcox

Benevolence Committee Report – 2023

The Benevolence Committee determines the allocation of proceeds from our Rummage Sales. Committee members receive and review grant applications, meet with agency representatives, discuss the efficiency and effectiveness of the agency’s efforts, and determine appropriate grant amounts.

In 2023, the Benevolence Committee awarded a total of \$190,000 in grants to the following agencies:

2023 Benevolence Grant Recipients

A Just Harvest	Care for Friends
Bishop Anderson House	Carlson Community Services
Brent House	Changing Worlds
Bundled Blessings Diaper Pantry	Chicago Metamorphosis Orchestra Project
C24/7: Father's Arms Ministries	Chicago Street Medicine

Chicago Training Center	Old Irving Park Community Clinic
Chicago Urban Ministries and Life Intervention	Our Place of New Trier Township, Inc.
Counseling Center of the North Shore	Primo Center for Women and Children
Curt's Cafe (PS it's Social)	Ravenswood Community Services
DoodleBug Workshop	Rebuilding Together North Suburban Chicago
Eldercare Lake County	Rector's Fund
Erika's Lighthouse	Restoring the Path (dba Crushers Club)
Family Matters	ReVive Center for Housing and Healing
Family Service of Glencoe	Santa's Volunteers
First Baptist Church/Cool Learning	Special Gifts Theatre
GiveNKind	St. Clement's Open Pantry
Good News Partners	St. Leonard's Ministries
Haven Youth and Family Services	St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Holy Family Ministries	Storycatchers Theatre
Hopeful Beginnings of St. Mary's Services	Tellin' Tales Theatre
Housing Opportunities	The Alliance for Early Childhood
Interfaith Action of Evanston	The Volunteer Center
LAWRENCE HALL	The WasteShed
Living Works	Tri-Con Child Care Center
Mobile Care Chicago	Tutoring Chicago
Music Theater Works	UR Chicago Alliance
National Alliance on Mental Illness Cook	Warren W. Cherry Preschool
County N. Suburban (NAMI CCNS)	Waukegan to College
New Life Baptist Church of Chicago	West Point School of Music
North Channel Community Rowing	Youth Guidance

Benevolence Committee Members: Blair Anstaett, Chris Cahill, Judy Harmon, Brian Hickey, Jenny Keller, Cindy Lyman, Jennifer Marquardt, Christine Peterson, Alex Ross, Annie Ross, Mary Walther, Gris Ware

Respectfully Submitted,
 Jenny Keller,
Benevolence Chair

Global Mission - 2023

2023 was another productive year for Global Mission Ministry. We started by taking a look back at Christ Church's history with our companion relationships. We launched a new committee comprised of five parishioners: Phil Adams, Eric Hillebrand Rick Jones, Gary Martin, and Lisa Snabes, along with Interim Rev. Tom Crittenden. By the end of the year it expanded to include new members Nina Gray, Mary Walther, and our Curate, Cynthia Rigali-Lund.

At the 2023 Chicago Diocesan Convention held in November, a resolution was unanimously approved by the delegates to extend companion relationships between the Diocese of Chicago and the Dioceses of St. Michael's Parish in Southeast Mexico and Jesus De Nazaret in Paloach, South Sudan, respectively. In December, Christ Church honored financial commitments with \$6,000 to sent to St. Michael's Parish and \$4,000 to Jesus De Nazaret. Those relationships began in 2001 and will continue for another five years.

We re-introduced the Companion Parishes to the Prayers of the People at Sunday services. The Committee held two adult forums to highlight Christ Church's past association with St. Michael's and Jesus De Nazaret parishes.

Christ Church is a long-standing partner congregation with Episcopal Relief and Development. We contributed \$2,000 toward Turkey/Syria earthquake relief in February 2023.

In 2024 we will be looking at to expanding potential involvement with a variety of organizations. On a local level the priority is to support migrant issues, and on the global front, we will consider a new association with AFRECS (American Friends of the Episcopal Church of the Sudans).

We will be using the weekly e-newsletter to share information regarding opportunities for parishioner involvement and education. We also have plans to create a Global Mission Ministry tab on the Christ Church website.

Another goal in 2024 is to collaborate with Director of Children's Ministry Melissa Durbin and establish a pen pal program with Jesus de Nazaret for the 4th through 6th grade Sunday School classes as well as confirmation students. We are also looking at the possibility of opening a food pantry for Jesus de Nazaret.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Coffee,
Chair, Christ Church Global Mission Ministry

Pastoral Care - Meals for Parishioners Report – 2023

Meals for Parishioners

The year 2023 provided us with the opportunity to serve our Christ Church family with food for dinners at home in addition to two memorial services. We had 31 cooks sign up to provide thirty-four meals and lots of friendship for five Christ Church families throughout the year. We also had 18 cooks provide cookies and/or finger sandwiches at two memorial services.

We have a remarkable committee of men and women who offer their time and skill to cook for parishioners who are in need of meals to get them “over the hump”. As I have said for 25 years, “It is not really about the food -the food is the excuse to let our fellow parishioners know that we care at all times of life.” It takes the entire parish to make this program a success. It is a humbling experience to deliver meals to the appreciative recipients. Remember, as stoic as we may all be, there is a time when it is ok not too be “too Episcopalian” and to say “yes” to meals. Thank you to the meal recipients who teach us grace, friendship, and courage.

Whether you cook or not, you can be part of our team. If you know someone who needs a meal, a ride, some friendships, or care, please notify the Parish Office or Carrie Healy Carrie@CarrieHealy.com or 847-507-7666. We cannot assist people unless we know they need assistance. If you would like to join our list of cooks and drivers, please let me know.

Rides

We provided rides to medical appointments to one rummage worker who needed help this summer.

Flower Delivery

The flower ministry continues to bring joy to recipients who have fresh altar flowers delivered to their doorstep on Sundays when we are worshipping at the Church on the Hill. This ministry has been led by Carmen Wilcox who stepped down after many years of leadership. Lois Ware picked up the leadership role. If you are interested in helping with this lovely ministry of delivering flowers on Sundays, please let Lois know.

At Home Visits

We have a small team of parishioners who visit some of our parishioners who are housebound. This is a wonderful ministry as it helps include some of our longstanding church members even though they are unable to attend in person. This practice slowed down during COVID and is slowly resuming.

There is a also a small group who have been trained to deliver the Eucharist at home. This also halted during COVID and we are revisiting resuming that practice.

Respectfully submitted,
Carrie Healy

Adult Formation – 2023

Programming in 2023 offered parishioners a wide variety of Adult Formation offerings on Sunday mornings after the 9:30 service and continued several long-standing programs during the week.

Sunday Series and Presentations:

January – February 2023 – *Personal Epiphanies* – CCW staff and parishioners shared their stories of faith followed by small breakout sessions with the formation attendees.

Wes Smedley, Chaplain of St Leonard's Ministries presented on the ministry of St Leonard's – Grace House.

March 2023 – Lent Series – Book discussion – *Women of the Passion, A Journey to the Cross* by Katie Sherrod. Offered parishioners unique Lenten program that focused on women from the Scripture who narrate their encounters with Jesus through the story of Christ's Passion.

May 2023 – Global Mission – Presentation on CCW's partnership with Southeast Mexico and Renk-South Sudan.

October 2023 – *Exploring Life's Great Questions with Job and His Friends* – Rev Matthew Hanisian and Rev Rod Quainton led discussion focusing on a particular question about life and its meaning using the book of Job as the lens.

Mission Trip Presentation – CCW missionaries shared their experience from the June trip to Mustard See Communities in Jamaica.

January 2024 – *Praying and Singing Our Way through Worship* – Rev Matthew Hanisian and Richard Clemmitt lead a series about the Book of Common Prayer and the Hymnal 1982 to discuss how best to use these wonderful resources for worship at Christ Church.

The following weekly Adult Formation series continue to provide the in person and hybrid opportunities to connect with parishioners and clergy:

Friends in Faith, Mondays 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Centering Prayer, Tuesday 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Women's Bible Study, Thursdays 9:30 am – 11:00 am

Special thanks to Elizabeth Clemmitt for her commitment to Adult Formation for the both Sunday series and weekly programming.

Respectfully submitted,

Lois Ware,

Adult Formation Chair

Membership 2023

This year, Membership prioritized offering opportunities for all Christ Church parishioners to gather and contribute. We focused on welcoming new members as well as members who have been a part of Christ Church for many years. Throughout 2023, many new parishioners have found their way to Christ Church, including many families with young children.

This year, we formed a new Christ Church Welcome Committee. This committee is currently 15 people strong and has had a lot of success in its first year. In 2023, the Welcome Committee introduced these new initiatives and events:

Greeters

Greeters welcome and chat with people as they arrive at church for the 9:30 a.m. service. They are also there to answer any questions, encourage people to stay for coffee, etc.

Sunday Suppers

Volunteers from the committee organize an evening of fellowship with a simple dinner and time to relax and mingle. These suppers are held on the last Sunday of the month from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Newcomer Coffees

Specifically for brand new parishioners, members of the committee reach out and invite them to coffee to welcome them to Christ Church.

Chili Cook Off Supper

The first annual this year, the Chili Cook Off was a great success with Club 56 taking first place.

A chili contest, supper for all, games for the kids, and square dancing made for a terrific night.

We also helped with a wonderful Pancake Supper and Progressive Dinner this year.

Going forward, the Welcome Committee will be led by Joo Bo and Molly Hufton, with Jenny Keller serving as the Vestry representative.

Looking forward to finding more ways to welcome new parishioners, provide fellowship, and encourage participation in all that Christ Church has to offer.

Respectfully submitted,
Joo Boe and Jenny Keller,
Membership Chairs

Hospitality Committee – 2023

Fellowship opportunities to get together and make personal and meaningful connections were plentiful at Christ Church in 2023. Good food and lively conversation are the perfect pairings for genuine fellowship as we enjoy each other's company and experience the joy of meeting a new friend. The Hospitality Committee had a robust year hosting 54 Fellowship events: 28 Sunday Coffees, 4 Dinners, 8 Receptions, 4 Parties, 3 Brunches and 7 Refresh and Connect Meeting Refreshments. The most popular were the Pancake Supper, Progressive Dinner and the BBQ Picnic. The number of people who stayed after the 9:30am Sunday service for Coffee and Conversation increased steadily throughout the year. It is wonderful to watch so many children at play and enjoying a snack.

We welcomed 2 new Hospitality Committee volunteers, Mary Lou Bracken and Sue Fullerton. They enthusiastically jumped in, often to fill a last minute gap. Caroline McQueen and Zara Samuel, from our Youth Group volunteered to help at the Chili Cook-Off. I am looking forward to integrating them and other youths into our group in the future. If you are interested in joining us, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I would love to have you "on board".

Hospitality Committee participants love serving you and measure our success as a ministry by the attendance at our gathering and the length of time you all stay. I am grateful for all your support and encourage you to come, as often as you are able and stay, as long as time permits. We cherish the special connections and the sense of belonging we have with our parish family as a vital community at Christ Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Darlene McKinney

Church Work

Treasurer's Report – 2023

Christ Church Winnetka (“CCW”) had a breakeven fiscal 2023. Despite lower pledges in 2023 than in the previous two years, we were able to end the year modestly cash positive due to lower expenses than budgeted in many program areas especially Ministry as we had only one full-time clergy person for most of the year.

	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2021 Actual</u>
Cash Sources			
Pledge Income	\$1,191,961	\$1,227,583	\$1,376,715
All Other Income and Cash Sources	<u>\$749,204</u>	<u>\$459,029</u>	<u>\$369,248</u>
Total Cash Sources	\$1,941,165	\$1,686,612	\$1,745,963
Cash Uses			
Total Ministry	\$326,913	\$286,123	\$359,893
Total Music	\$290,663	\$278,953	\$277,266
Total Christian Ed & Youth Ministry	\$212,286	\$167,683	\$157,582
Total Facilities Maintenance	\$511,800	\$634,336	\$423,200
Total Projects	\$154,132	NA	NA
Total Administration	\$280,379	\$248,324	\$248,985
Total Wider Church Mission	<u>\$164,550</u>	<u>\$163,350</u>	<u>\$184,350</u>
Total Cash Uses	\$1,940,723	\$1,778,768	\$1,651,276
Net Total	\$442	(\$92,156)	\$94,687

In recent years, CCW's Finance Committee began presenting as Cash Sources transfers from our various Endowment funds and unusual one-time receipts of funds and as Cash Uses any large ticket capital spending or transfers to our Endowment Funds. This ongoing transition in our financial reporting is intended to aid visibility on our total cash requirements to operate Christ Church especially the cost to maintain our buildings.

Cash Sources.

In 2023, Pledge Income fell from both 2022 and 2021 levels. Other Income and Cash Sources increased primarily due to (i) the receipt of an Employee Retention Credit (the “ERC”) of about \$240,000 from the IRS and (ii) the transfer of about \$70,000 from the Unrestricted, Churchyard, Leadership and Program Enrichment Funds.

In 2022, approximately \$[120,000] from our Maintenance Reserve was transferred into Other Income and Cash Sources to cover part of the boiler replacement project at 470 Maple.

Cash Uses.

In 2023, Total Cash Uses increased largely due to (i) various building maintenance projects and (ii) the one-time cost of our successful Rector search. Facilities Maintenance includes \$88,000 transferred to the Maintenance Reserve from unspent ERC money. For presentation purposes, we have added a new category called Projects, which in 2023 contains 5 large-ticket building maintenance projects including a new air handler for our sanctuary, final payment for the boiler at 470 Maple, a building security project, sound system enhancements at the Church on the Hill and updates to the space used by a former tenant, Samaracare, to make it usable as new and additional space for Willow Wood Preschool. The increased spending in Christian Ed and Youth Ministry and Administration reflects increased personnel costs for overtime or staff additions.

In 2022, Facilities Maintenance contained spending of about \$200,000 for the new boiler at 470 Maple.

Looking forward, the current 2024 budget reflects increased Cash Sources from Pledge Income of \$1,334,000, a 12% increase from 2023's pledges paid, transfers from the Churchyard, Leadership, Program Enrichment and Music Funds and increased rental income. These improvements in Cash Sources are expected to result in revenues of \$1,850,000. Expenses, largely due to increased Ministry costs related to our plan to have a full staff of three clergy in 2024, are expected to increase to \$1,905,000 resulting in a full year deficit of about \$55,000.

Vestry hopes to fill this remaining deficit by continuing our Stewardship efforts targeting those Parishioners who have not yet pledged with a particular focus on potential first time pledgers. In the event these efforts do not fill our funding gap, it is expected that the Vestry would again approve a transfer from our Unrestricted Endowment Fund to cover the projected shortfall.

Last, a word of thanks to our tireless Financial Manager, Cindy Lyman. This Treasurer, and indeed the entire church, is the beneficiary of all of her diligent, thorough, and high-quality work. Thank you, Cindy.

Also, many thanks to this congregation's Executive Finance Committee, Kurt Anstaett, Dan George, Jerry Hufton, Jeff Morse, Lawson Whitesides and Laura Zung, which helps this parish tremendously with their conscientious stewardship of our financial resources.

Respectfully submitted,
Curt Voges,
Treasurer

Investment Committee Report – 2023

Background

Pursuant to the formal investment policy approved by the Vestry in June 2013, the Christ Church Investment Committee is charged with overseeing the management of Christ Church’s investment funds. The funds are invested within formally established investment types and allocation parameters in a variety of professionally managed investment funds, primarily through the Vanguard family of mutual funds. The investments at Vanguard are allocated among various equity index, bond index, and money market funds.

For monies in our **Long-Term Investment Funds**, the primary objective is to generate long-term growth. These funds include the Unrestricted Memorials & Special Gifts Fund, Churchyard Fund, Music Endowment Fund, Healy Family Music Fund, and Program Enrichment Fund. These funds maintain our church properties, support our music program, and fund educational and enrichment programs.

For monies in the **Christ Church Leadership Fund**, the primary objective is also to generate growth. However, because it is anticipated that a portion of the Leadership Fund will be spent each year, the monies are invested with a somewhat more conservative asset allocation than the Long-Term Investment Funds.

For monies in our **Reserve Funds**, the primary objectives are capital preservation and immediate availability. These funds include the Maintenance Reserve Fund and Altar Guild Fund.

Fund Balance Changes

The value of Christ Church’s total investment portfolio at Vanguard increased by \$1,371,023 to \$5,090,744 on 12/31/23 compared to \$3,719,721 on 12/31/22. The year-end portfolio balances over the past five years are shown below.

	<u>12/31/23</u>	<u>12/31/22</u>	<u>12/31/21</u>	<u>12/31/20</u>	<u>12/31/19</u>
Altar Guild Fund	\$ 8,739	\$ 8,315	\$ 8,188	\$ 8,187	\$ 8,151
Churchyard Fund	537,874	493,086	601,479	584,748	520,295
Unrestricted Memorials & Special Gifts Fund	3,388,369	2,216,814	2,555,562	2,031,256	1,806,838
Music Endowment Fund	235,109	202,993	241,230	212,490	146,135
Maintenance Reserve Fund	11,592	11,031	134,215	53,505	51,807
Healy Family Music Fund	268,631	220,520	239,132	173,871	154,754
Program Enrichment Fund	58,803	56,543	65,617	63,168	56,240
Christ Church Leadership Fund	<u>581,627</u>	<u>510,418</u>	<u>603,679</u>	<u>544,290</u>	<u>504,216</u>
Total	\$5,090,744	\$3,719,721	\$4,449,103	\$3,671,515	\$3,248,436

The \$1,371,023 increase in 2023 was the net result of the following three factors:

(1) Investment return:	
Market gain	\$ 469,973
Income return	<u>140,596</u>
Total return:	\$ 610,570
(2) Withdrawals from funds*:	\$ (54,547)
(3) Contributions to funds:	<u>815,000</u>
Total increase:	\$ 1,371,023

*expenditures for landscaping, certain programming expenses, and other Vestry authorized purposes

Investment Returns and Commentary

A large number of risk factors impacted the U.S. and global economies in 2023. These factors included a regional bank crisis, continued Fed interest rate hikes through July, recession concerns, continued high inflation, wars in Ukraine and the Mideast, commercial real estate issues, high mortgage rates and the impact on housing, volatile energy prices, and government budget deficits. The number and broad range of these risk factors led to significant uncertainty and volatility across the financial markets throughout the year. However, in the last two months of 2023, the bond market rallied in response to moderating inflation and the hope the Fed would begin to lower its benchmark interest rate in 2024, which in turn spurred a significant, unexpected rise in the equity markets.

In 2023, CCW's total portfolio earned \$610,570, representing an investment return of 14.5%. This compares to the returns in the following benchmark indices:

- Dow Jones Industrial Average 13.7%
- S&P 500 Index 24.2%
- Bloomberg US Aggregate Bond Index 5.5%

Given the high level of uncertainty throughout 2023, the CCW Investment Committee felt it was prudent to take a balanced but conservative investment stance, particularly with respect to the capital campaign funds received from parishioners in 2023 that were added to the Unrestricted Memorials and Special Gifts Fund. In summary, 2023 was a challenging time in the financial markets throughout most of the year, but CCW's investment results were favorable.

A longer term history of the investment returns on CCW's **total portfolio** over the past 1, 3, 5 and 10 years is as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Cum. Total Return</u>	<u>Rate of Return*</u>
1 year	\$ 610,570	14.5% p.a.
3 years	\$ 518,824	4.2% p.a.
5 years	\$ 1,465,436	8.5% p.a.
10 years	\$ 1,913,320	6.2% p.a.

The investment return on only the Long-Term Investment Funds portion of the portfolio is as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Cum. Total Return</u>	<u>Rate of Return*</u>
1 year	\$ 523,375	14.2% p.a.
3 years	\$ 439,902	4.2% p.a.
5 years	\$ 1,233,156	8.5% p.a.
10 years	\$ 1,673,559	6.4% p.a.

The investment return on only the Leadership Fund portion of the portfolio is as follows:

<u>Period</u>	<u>Cum. Total Return</u>	<u>Rate of Return*</u>
1 year	\$ 86,210	16.9% p.a.
3 years	\$ 79,337	4.8% p.a.
5 years	\$ 227,997	9.5% p.a.
Since inception in early 2016	\$ 231,324	6.0% p.a.

*as of 12/31/23

Investment Committee Members

The members of the Investment Committee are Kurt Anstaett, Lawson Whitesides, Linda Stephans, Breece McKinney, Curt Voges, Dan George, Bruce Koepfgen, and Richard Jones.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard T. Jones,
Chair

Stewardship - Annual Campaign – 2023

It's been an honor to serve as Chair of the Stewardship campaign this year. The Christ Church community continues to be very generous with the time, talent, and resources God has entrusted to all of us.

Our 2024 Stewardship campaign theme, *Rooted in Abundance*, speaks to the deep roots of the giving tradition here at Christ Church. It means we recognize that because we have been showered with such an abundance, we are then enabled to give back to God abundantly. The result of our giving back to God enables us to do the ministry, work, healing and service of Christ in our community of faith, in our neighborhood and in the world.

Throughout the year we've expanded our stewardship committee messaging to incorporate a mid-year acknowledgement with the goal of sharing how all of our stewardship of Christ Church helps the church deliver our ministries every day. This update included important contributions we all make every week of our time, talent, treasure, and ministry, without which, much of what we all love about the Christ Church community would not be possible.

While our first mid-year update was far from exhaustive, we plan to continue to expand these updates in the future and thank the many parishioners who continue to give joyfully. The tireless contributions from our parishioners continues to be a blessing to Christ Church and forms the bedrock of our community. Just a sampling of these gifts we'd like to acknowledge include those teaching Sunday School, arranging flowers, singing in the Choir, hosting and caring for our families from Family Promise, responding to parishioners needing pastoral care, running a search for our new Rector, sponsoring our Confirmands, helping with Youth Ministries, volunteering at Rummage, and cooking and feeding us at so many events.

So many of you responded joyfully and with prayerful consideration this year, and for that the entire stewardship committee and entire parish, is thankful. We received pledges totaling \$1.334M for 2023, a 12% increase over last year's \$1.191M in pledges received. And, 21 families, who had never pledged before, joined our active pledging families to help Christ Church continue to deliver and grow the ministries we come each Sunday to enjoy. Also pointing to the growing vitality of the church, we saw Advent and Christmas service attendance up 32% since last year with many new families continuing to find the special community that is Christ Church.

The entire Christ Church Stewardship Committee helped with all aspects of our 2024 campaign. Thank you to Renaat VerEcke, Kurt Anstaett, Jerry Hufton, Anna Mills, Gary (2-hats) Martin, and Curt Voges for all the great work.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Lyman,
Stewardship Chair

Capital Campaign - 2023

Sharing Our Faith, Securing Our Future: The Campaign for Christ Church launched in 2020 with a goal of raising \$5 million for three defined purposes:

- To *strengthen* our financial future so we have the resources to respond and adapt to a rapidly changing world. Strengthening our *unrestricted* endowment represented 60% of our goal.
- To *modernize* our buildings and grounds to make them safer, more accessible, and better able to respond to the needs of the communities we serve. 30% of the campaign goal was dedicated to capital improvements.
- To *serve God's people in need* and enable our parish to live into its call to serve by creating an enduring fund for future ministry support. The campaign included a 10% tithe for outreach. We are currently calling this the "Faith Forward Fund".

Thanks to the generosity of the people of Christ Church – and their faith in our future -- we exceeded our initial campaign goal and received \$5.7 million in gifts and pledges.

We are currently just over halfway through the 5-year campaign period, and are pleased to report the following milestones:

- \$2,954,929 has been received to date in pledge payments, well over half of the total, and with the support of a committed parish we are on track to meet our 5-year goal.
- \$1.44 million dollars was used to pay for the 2021-22 capital improvements to 470 Maple and the Churchyard, eliminating the need for a construction loan. In thanksgiving for his extraordinary generosity of time and professional resources, in 2023 the new accessible entrance to 470 Maple was dedicated in honor of parishioner and architect John Myefski.
- \$163,000 was given to the Benevolence Committee in 2020 to cover grants to our benevolence partners during a year when there were no Rummage proceeds available due to Covid. This amount was allocated from the "Faith Forward" outreach fund.
- \$1,050 has been transferred to date into the unrestricted Endowment funds.

In 2024 we are looking to create specific goals, guidelines and a management structure around the "Faith Forward" outreach fund. A committee will be formed, and the goal is to present the results of their work to the parish by the end of the year.

We continue to be grateful to the Christ Church community for the leap of faith it has taken to support the Capital Campaign invest in the future of our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Flood, Lisa Kerpan and Lawson Whitesides,
Campaign Co-Chairs

Buildings and Grounds Report - 2023

As was begun 2023, the role of Vestry Liaison for Building was separated from the role for Grounds. The Buildings Vestry Liaison role was assigned to Chip Champagne, and the Grounds Vestry Liaison role to Brooke Wanzenberg.

Buildings

In 2023, the Buildings program focused on three key initiatives: the replacement of the air exchanger at Church on the Hill, the enhanced usage of available space at the Parish Hall, and commencement of a security program for various Christ Church buildings.

The replacement of the air exchanger was substantially completed by year-end 2023. The \$165,000 project resulted in the installation of a 20-ton gas powered exchanger that produces both heat and cooling for the Church. Maintaining temperature stability is critical for several reasons, notably to keep the organ in tune. The prime contractor on the project was O'Hare Mechanical, the longtime maintenance and repair provider for the Church's heating and air-conditioning systems. O'Hare was assisted by: Neville Mechanical Engineering and Alta Mechanical Engineering, who completed the mechanical engineering plans; George Calistri a master mason who has provided valuable service to the Church of the years; and by R. Karsten's Organ Works, the Church's organ consultant. The contractors worked well together thanks to the coordination of Andrew Matecki of O'Hare. The project was ably overseen by a committee of parishioners and Staff: Robin Anstaett, Jim Caldwell, Chip Champagne, Richard Clemmitt, Cindy Lyman, Kevin McCool, and Steve Tracey. There were a number of challenges with the project, including avoiding damage to the organ, lifting and installation of the unit onto the church roof without damage to the Church Yard, designing of the new ductwork system, and, of course, permitting by the Village of Winnetka. Fortunately, and thanks to the work of the above companies and individuals, the project was completed on time and basically on budget.

In 2023, the Church's longtime tenant Willow Wood was granted an extension of its lease of the third floor of the Parish Hall as well as an increase of leased space adjacent to its current space. The additional space was vacated by Samaricare Counselling. Details of the lease and renovation of this additional space remain to be finalized. We anticipate working closely with Willow Wood as it makes improvements to the interior space. The vestry is pleased that the relationship with Willow Wood remains strong and productive for both parties as it helps to fulfill the Church's mission of outreach to the community.

The final strategically important project begun in 2023 involves enhancing the level of security at the Parish Hall and the Church on the Hill. This initiative arose out of several incidents in 2022 and 2023 of vandalism, and of people entering the Church offices and threatening staff members. The project was based on recommendations by the Winnetka Police Department of the need to "harden" the buildings. The initiative focuses primarily on the personal safety of people in the building (as opposed to protecting property). The overall program includes development of a series of protocols surrounding properly security of exits (written procedures) as well as electronic monitoring enhancements. To assist from a technology standpoint, Keyth Security was engaged to make recommendations for both the Parish Hall and the Church on the Hill. In keeping with those recommendations, the locks on many of the doors were replaced with enhanced locking mechanisms. In addition, at the bridge entrance to the

Parish Hall, a camera system and locking system were installed. This system allows the staff to control entry into the building. The amount spent to date on enhancing security totals approximately \$17,000.

Aside from the above, there were several building-related activities of note:

1. The rectory was painted, its basement cleared, and minor window repairs performed in advance of the new Rector's arrival. Thanks to Jim Caldwell and Steve Tracy for their hard work this summer.
2. In connection with ongoing work to clean out the Parish Hall and thanks to efforts led by Gary Martin, Christine Peterson, Pat Kerpan, and Michelle Sweeney, the Church was able to sell 27 wooden doors and three windows no longer in use to a re-cycling building materials dealer for \$3,000.
3. As part of its ongoing commitment to being a "good neighbor", the Church allowed its neighbor at 717 Oak Street (to the west of the Maple Street parking lot) to use a portion of the parking lot for a major renovation project during the summer. While the project presented some headaches for the Church, the Church did receive \$550 in contributions.

In 2024, we expect to make further progress on the security initiative described above, and on the Willow Wood tenancy. At Father Matthew's instruction we will also be putting in place a strategy to maximize use of available space in the Parish Hall for community events or short-term usage arrangements. This initiative will enhance the local outreach mission of the Church while generating some revenue. Finally, budget permitting, we will address several "one-off" requests from various committees for improvements to the Church on the Hill.

My thanks to the vestry, the Christ Church staff and the many parishioners who supported the various efforts with Buildings this year.

Grounds

Throughout 2023, we continued to emphasize our commitment to the maintenance and enhancement of both Church on the Hill and Maple Street with specific emphasis on the beauty and serenity of our beloved churchyard. All work is done to preserve and enhance the properties for generations to come.

We continued the maintenance contract with North Shore Turf Company who actively engaged in general landscape maintenance at both properties including weed control, euonymus trimming and mulching. Rodriguez Tree Service was used for tree feeding and pruning and Sergio's Tree Service for various removal of dead or diseased trees. The irrigation contact was extended with Halloran and Yauch. Much gratitude and appreciation are placed on Michelle Sweeney, Steve Tracy and Jim Caldwell who address minor maintenance issues at both properties throughout the year.

2023 also served as a planning year for a major landscape and hardscape renovation at the Rectory. Robin Anstaett and Debbie Ross have been instrumental in conceptualizing and finalizing plans for this much needed improvement to be completed in Spring of 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Chip Champagne,
Buildings Chair
Brooke Wanzenberg,
Grounds Chair

Communications Committee Report – 2023

This year has been a year of transition for communications at Christ Church, keeping the day-to-day processes running while awaiting the calling of our new rector.

The primary focus for the year was assisting our part-time communications specialist with Weekly News, standalone emails, and website updates.

Some progress was made in streamlining information in our member directory in the Realm system.

We put in place a permission management and workflow system for our Facebook and Instagram social media sites which allows for multiple members of staff and lay leaders to create posts.

We also made improvements in two important areas of information technology. First, we have transitioned the passwords to all our different online accounts and computer systems from paper records to a secure, shared password manager with control in the hands of our parish administrator. Additionally, we expanded Wi-Fi coverage at the 470 Maple building. There is now coverage on the main office floor, in the Guild Room, the Great Hall, and the areas used by the Boy Scouts and the Rummage "treasures" department.

With Father Matthew's arrival he took the reins of our communications channels and is coordinating the efforts with our communications specialist and staff.

We left the year with some IT tasks unfinished including expansion of Wi-Fi at Church-on-the-Hill, consolidation of our YouTube channels, and rationalization of our online use of Google Workspaces and Microsoft Office.

The communications needs for Christ Church are broad and encompass:

- Website
- Weekly newsletter
- Standalone email communications supporting parish life and ministries
- Weekly service bulletin
- Realm Member Directory
- Google Workspace/Drive/Calendar
- Streaming via Youtube/Boxcast
- Social Media (Facebook and Instagram)
- US Postal Mailings

While each of the items is important and requires attention, Christ Church does not have the available budget to tackle all of the opportunities in these areas. As such, day-to-day responsibility for essential support of each of these items is spread across both ministry and operations staff.

As I exit the role of vestry member, I am of course happy to contribute on these initiatives in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Kerpan,
Communications Chair

Personnel Committee Report - 2023

2023 was a year of transition. We said goodbye to our Interim Rector, Tom Crittenden. He was instrumental in leading our parish while we searched for our new Rector. We also wished Conrad Selnick, our Interim part-time Associate Rector, well as he left to pursue other endeavors.

Numerous parishioners were involved in the search for Christ Church's newest Rector. We were pleased to call The Rev. Matthew Hanisian as the 10th Rector in the history of Christ Church. He and his wife, Katie, and their children joined us over the summer and have been welcomed by the congregation while at the same time inviting parishioners into the rectory for an open house.

Christ Church has also brought on The Rev. Cynthia Rigali-Lund as our new Curate. This is part of our long history of working with newly ordained members of the clergy. She joined us shortly after being ordained by our very own Bishop, The Rt. Rev Paula E. Clark, of the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago. Cynthia joins us with her husband, Tom, and their three daughters.

We have also increased volunteer coverage in the parish office. For many years we only had coverage one partial day a week. That has now increased to five partial days a week. Our office volunteers are Willie Dooley, Mary Anderson, Priscilla Barlow, and Mary Lou Bracken. The office still has an opening for a volunteer on Tuesday afternoons.

In 2024, we will be looking for a Sr. Associate Rector to join our clergy. This senior leadership position will work closely with the Rector in a wide variety of ministries touching virtually every aspect of our parish's life including a focus on restarting our once-vibrant Adult Formation program as we develop our faith and how our faith takes form in the world.

Respectfully submitted,
Alden L. Senior,
Personnel Chair

Rector Search Committee - 2023

The Rector Search Committee, commissioned at the Annual Meeting in January 2022, concluded its work in the first quarter of 2023.

In February three finalist candidates were invited to visit Christ Church on separate occasions for extensive interviews, meals and to conduct a worship service and an adult forum. At the conclusion of that process the search committee unanimously agreed to recommend that the vestry call Matthew Hanisian as the next Rector of Christ Church.

The vestry was then responsible for making the call and completing the hire. The news was shared with the congregation in March and on March 19th the Search Committee Co-Chairs formally presented Matthew's background and credentials as well as information about his wife, Katie Glover, to the congregation.

We are so grateful for the dedication and enormous commitment of the entire committee throughout the process. It has been a privilege to work with this group:

Members of the Rector Search Committee

Phil Adams	Julie Flood	Gordon Montgomery
Lisa Bradner	Dan George	Bill Newlands
Chris Cahill	Carrie Healy	Elizabeth Parkinson
Melanie Cody	Jerry Hufton	Candy Pyle
Will Dorsey	Lisa Kerpan	Patrick Rooney
	Phil Krone	Laura Zung

Faithfully submitted,
Lisa Bradner and Chris Cahill,
Rector Search Co-Chairs

Transition Committee – 2023

The Transition Committee was established by a vote of the Vestry in 2022 and charged with organizing the parish activities connected with celebrating Christopher Powell's 10 years of service as the 9th Rector of Christ Church and his 37 years in parish ministry in the Episcopal Church, welcoming an Interim Rector and welcoming the new 10th Rector when called. Thirteen members of the parish were appointed to serve: Gris Ware (co-chair), Anna Mills (Phase I co-chair), Laura Sniader (Phase II-IV co-chair), Stephanie Emrich, Steve Hudson, Jim Jaworski, Kristin Koepfgen, Patty Lea, Gary Martin, Carol Rasmus, Todd Trubey, Janes Whitesides and Susanna Ver Eecke.

Phase I

January through June 2022, our committee focused on phase one, saying “so long for now” to Christopher Powell and celebrating his 37 years in parish ministry. This was completed and reported on in the Transition Committee 2022 Report.

Phase II

In this phase, beginning in July 2022, the Committee focused on preparing the Rectory for our Interim Rector, Tom Crittendon, and organizing events to properly welcome Rev. Crittenden. Again, those matters were completed in 2022 and documented in the 2022 Transition Committee Annual Report.

Concluding Phase II, the Transition Committee went on hiatus until the new Christ Church Rector was called.

Phases III/IV

Phase III/IV focused on farewell events for Rev. Tom Crittendon, arranging his transition out of the Rectory, coordinating Rummage furniture move to a storage location, initiating, the process of assessing repairs to the Rectory for the new Rector and coordinating welcome events, move-in logistics, providing community information as needed for the new Rector.

In February 2023 the Committee was advised that a new rector could be called by March or early April.

At that time, the Committee began the process of understanding the budget i) to celebrate Tom Crittenden’s interim ministry with CC and ii) for the celebration of the incoming Rector. Initial budget for transition was projected to be \$20K with half designated to the new Rector’s moving expenses.

The Transition Committee reviewed the CC 2012 Annual Report to get some information on past practices.

The Transition committee officially reconvened with its first meeting on March 15, 2023. We confidentially disclosed the new Rector Rev. Matthew Hanisian and his wife, Katie Glover and that his expected starting date would be June 1, 2023, with his first service scheduled for June 4, 2023. Over the Spring of 2023 the Transition Committee met periodically and Meeting Minutes were kept for future reference (Thank you Laura).

The Transition Committee was advised that Tom’s last Sunday would be April 30 and arranged a farewell and thank you gathering for Tom following the 9:30 am service on Sunday, April 23. Tom’s farewell and thank you gathering had a Taste of Chicago theme (Italian beef, deep dish pizza, hot dogs with trimmings, cheese fries, root beer and Green River). Malnati’s catering provided deep dish pizza and Italian Beef. Irving’s provided hot dogs and veggie wraps. Special call out to Jane Whitesides for tracking down Eli’s Cheesecake from the source (and at a great price). The menu was very well received!

Gifts for Tom included gift cards to restaurants and coffee shops in his hometown of Staunton, VA.

The overall responsibility for preparation of the Rectory for Matthew and Katie's arrival was taken on by the vestry and the Building Committee. The Transition Committee provided a list of items as a starting place.

There was \$30K left in the Search and Transition budget after the search was complete, it was tentatively split \$20,000 for the Matthew's and Katie's move and \$10,000 for Transition's remaining expenses. The Transition Committee was asked if it could operate with \$6300 to fund the actual \$23.7K expense of the move. The Transition Committee agreed to the reduced budget. The final Transition Committee spend was \$47,260.

The Transition Committee met with Matthew via Zoom on Thursday, April 20, 2023 to review plans.

The Transition Committee arranged to stock the Rectory with some essentials for Matthew and Katie's arrival (paper towels, milk, cleaning supplies etc.). A new cleaning service was hired to deep clean the Rectory before Matthew and Katie's arrival.

The "all church" welcome gathering for Matthew and Katie was combined with the End of Year Parish Picnic on June 11, 2023. Matthew and Katie specified they would rather meet in small groups than have a specific big party. Gatherings of 16 people (for people not on Vestry, Search or Transition Committees) were set as follows: 6/23 (Rasmus'/dinner), 7/4 (AM at the Leas on the Winnetka Parade route), 7/7 ((Afternoon Tea) Emerich's), 7/14 (Koepfgen's/Dinner), 7/21 (wine and cheese gathering on the patio at the Church on the Hill), and 7/28 (Ware's/Dinner).

The in-home gatherings were a success. The final Transition Committee Meeting was held in September at a dinner at Indian Hill club generously hosted by Jane and Lawson Whitesides.

Laura and Gris would like to publicly express our very deep gratitude to those who served on this Committee through all of its Phases. It was indeed our pleasure to work with all of you!

The Committee: Anna Mills (previous co-chair), Jane Whitesides, Carol Rasmus, Kristin Koepfgen, Gary Martin, Susanna Ver Eecke, Stephanie Emerich, Todd Trubey, Jim Jaworski, Steve Hudson

Respectfully submitted,
Gris Ware and Laura Sniader,
Transition Co-Chairs



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