

Note, the parochial report was updated and the list for stewardship was added as addendum, but included here for next year's purposes

Reports to the 274th Annual Parish Meeting



Our Mission Statement: To welcome all, to provide hope and express gratitude for God's love and creation, nurturing our community and celebrating our faith. *Christ Episcopal Church, a welcoming community of faith on the Guilford Green since 1744.*

February 4, 2018
5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Christ Episcopal Church
Guilford, Connecticut

Agenda

274th Annual Parish Meeting

Christ Episcopal Church

Guilford, Connecticut

Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany
February 4, 2018

Invocation

Presentation and adoption of the Voting Membership List

- Quorum declaration

Approval of the Minutes of the 273rd Annual Parish Meeting

Report of the Nominating Committee

- Nominations from the floor – if any
- Appointment of Tellers – if needed
- First ballot – if needed

Correspondence

Reception of Other Committee and Officer Reports

- Acceptance of reports contained in printed Report to the 274th Annual Parish Meeting
- Updates from the Treasurer and Finance Committee

Second Ballot – if needed

Recognitions

Old Business – update on the Parish Hall improvements from the Evening ECW
– unfinished work from the Capital Campaign

New Business – Celebrating 275 years of love and witness to Christ

Set date for the 275th Annual Parish Meeting: Sunday, February 3, 2019

Adjournment

Benediction

273rd Annual Parish Meeting Minutes February 5, 2017

Attendance: Approximately 80 Voting Members were in attendance.

Invocation: The Meeting began with a prayer led by Rector Harrison West.

The Annual Parish Meeting was called to order at 11:55 a.m. Senior Warden Pat Daunic declared the necessary quorum was present.

Voting Membership List and Minutes of 272nd Annual Parish Meeting: were presented, approved, and adopted.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

- **Nominating Committee was introduced:** Susannah Bryan, Lisa Ste. Marie, Diana Stovall, Paul Whitman, Senior Warden Pat Daunic, Junior Warden Susan Shackford, and Rector Harrison West
- **No new nominees were proposed. It was moved and seconded that nominations be closed, and the Clerk be instructed to cast a unanimous ballot for the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee.**

Vestry Officers for 2017-18: Senior Warden Rose Robinson; Junior Warden Susan Shackford; Clerk Diane Kyle; Treasurer Ted Sands.

Vestry Member for Class of 2018: Katherine Frydenborg

Vestry Members for Class of 2020: Rebecca Ervin, Mitra Kish, Bob McNamara

Alternate Delegate to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in CT: Susan Pogue, for a three-year term

Nominating Committee for the 274th Annual Parish Meeting:

Holley Claiborn, Jennifer Huebner, Jen McShane, Laura Raymond, Kasha Kingsbury, and Alternate Delegate to ECCT Annual Convention Kay Claiborn were thanked for their faithful service.

Annual Parish Meeting Reports:

- **The printed Report to the 273rd Annual Parish Meeting** was received and accepted.
- **Updates from the Treasurer and Finance Committee:**

Ted Sands explained that some parishioners “prepaid” over \$17,000 of their giving estimates for 2017. This overstates the parish’s 2016 income, and raises the possibility of a \$12,000 deficit for 2017. These “pre-payments” are placed into a separate reserved income account, and drawn upon over the course of the year as needed. We are still waiting for 2017 Estimates of Giving from a few parish households; however, the average estimates of giving for 2017 increased from the 2016 pledges.

Ted thanked the following volunteers: Bookkeeper Melissa Lamoreaux, and budget preparation assistants Dirck Goss and Ed Seibert.

Old Business: Evening ECW Parish Hall Project: Diane Kyle explained that the Vestry approved moving forward with Phase One of the Parish Hall project, with funds in-hand; Phase Two was also approved with the stipulation that the EECW must have ready funds before proceeding. Phase One includes building the cabinets and window seats, and Phase Two is the construction of the closets to hold the chairs and tables.

New Business: Strategic Planning. Pat Daunic explained that the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) correlated the surveys from the nine Home Gatherings and the Hymnal Sing. The committee discovered that concerns clustered into four topics: **the parish’s**

financial stability; ministry with our families, children, and youths; in-reach -- parish life and pastoral care; and out-reach -- service in the larger community.

The next step was to have four more open gatherings -- one dedicated to each of these four main topics. The SPC created a mission statement from all of the information received: it is on the tables along with a logo.

Our mission: To welcome all, to provide hope, nurture our community, celebrate our faith, and to express gratitude for God's love and creation. *Christ Episcopal Church, located on the Guilford Green, has been a welcoming faith-based community since 1744.*

Pat concluded by honoring the late Don Pogue and recognizing his instrumental contributions to the SPC and helping to create our mission statement. He is sorely missed. She then invited the assembly to gather into four table groups to continue the conversation on the four topics.

Date for the 274th Annual Parish Meeting was set for Sunday, February 4, 2018: Approved and adopted.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned with a benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Diane C. Kyle,
Parish Clerk

Current Terms of Parish Officers and Vestry Members

Parish Officers:

Senior Warden: Rose Robinson (serving a first one-year term of a possible three)

Junior Warden: Sue Shackford (serving a second one-year term of a possible three)

Treasurer: Ted Sands (serving a third one-year term of a possible three)

Clerk: Diane Kyle (serving a third one-year term of a possible three)

Vestry Class of 2018

Diane Barker

Bill Cuddy

Katherine Frydenborg (serving the final year of Don Pogue's term)

Vestry Class of 2019

Susan Leonard

Peter Marks

David Oshana

Vestry Class of 2020

Rebecca Evans

Mitra Kish

Bob McNamara

Delegates to Diocesan Convention (At the 2013 Annual Parish Meeting, rotating terms were instituted by electing delegates to 3, 2 and 1-year terms, as follows:)

Caroline Herrick -- term expires in 2018

George Kral – term expires in 2019

Alternate Delegate to Diocesan Convention

Susan Pogue – term expires in 2020

Nominating Committee for the 2017 Annual Meeting

(four 1-year terms, not eligible for re-election)

Holley Claiborn

Jennifer Huebner

Jenifer McShane

Laura Raymond

The Wardens and Rector are members *ex-officio*.

Report of the Nominating Committee to the 274th Annual Parish Meeting

The Nominating Committee is pleased to present the following slate of nominees to the Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church, Guilford, to be held on February 4, 2018. The Committee expresses its gratitude to the nominees for their willingness to stand for election and to serve the parish in these roles.

N.B.: Terms expire upon the election of successors, typically at the Annual Parish Meeting on the first Sunday in February of the year given.

Parish Officers:

Senior Warden – Rose Robinson (for a second one-year term, of a possible three)

Junior Warden – Susan Shackford (for a third one-year term, of a possible three)

Clerk – Susan Leonard (for a first one-year term, of a possible three)

Treasurer – Michael Crossley (for a first one-year term, of a possible three)

Vestry Class of 2019: -- Mardee Moore to fulfill the 3rd year of Susan Leonard's term

Vestry Class of 2021: Bill Cuddy, Juliana Harris

Delegate to Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT) -- delegates also represent Christ Church at South Central Region Convocations: Jennifer Huebner, for a 3-year term concluding in 2021

Nominating Committee for the 274th Annual Parish Meeting:

Caroline Herrick, Kathleen Jones,

(The Rector and Wardens are members *ex-officio*.)

Respectfully submitted,

The Nominating Committee for the 273rd Annual Parish Meeting

Elected Members: Holley Claiborn, Jennifer Huebner, Jen McShane, Laura Raymond

Ex-officio Members: Rose Robinson, Senior Warden; Susan Shackford, Junior Warden; and Harrison West, Rector

January 26, 2018

Report from the Rector to the 2018 Annual Parish Meeting

“Gratitude” is the word that comes to my mind from our life together at Christ Church in Guilford. Gratitude for the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ who created us, draws us together, and inspires us to share that love with one another and the community beyond our doors.

Gratitude for what we were “up to” in Christ’s Name in 2017. Gratitude for all the love, commitment, generosity, and care reflected in all the reports you now hold in your hands. From the inspiring delight of our Sunday School’s Nativity Pageant depicted on the front cover, through all the reports about our shared life of worship, education, service, fellowship, and financial support, we experience God’s Kingdom drawn near.

As an aside, I want you to know that as grateful as I am for all our Christmas celebrations, I particularly enjoy our Epiphany Evensong. It’s a simple brief service: our Sunday School children sing their Nativity Pageant anthems; youth readers share the Epiphany prophecies and story; children who were away for the Nativity Pageant on Christmas Eve get to dress up to present a tableau of the Epiphany story; we sing the carols about the Wise Kings; the Choir caps off the whole service with a lovely song; and I have to get out my handkerchief. The Rector’s Roast Beef Supper follows with the help of many, including Sheward Hagerty, Susan Shackford, and Dennis Burke. From my vantage in the kitchen, I was grateful that folks seemed to have such a good time!

Gratitude that our Strategic Planning efforts of 2015 and 2016 have led to leadership groups for Outreach, In-reach, and a group focused on ministries with children, youth, and families -- who have decided to call their efforts “Faith Formation.” At the 2017 Annual Parish Meeting, we gathered in small groups to discuss these important dimensions of our common life, and those conversations continued throughout the year, joining the longstanding work of the Finance Committee. These conversations yielded new and renewed efforts that you can read about in the reports that follow.

Gratitude for the worship we share; our worship of God is foundational -- supporting, uniting, and shaping everything we do. From my perspective, a reverent joy underscores all our worship -- whether with music at 10 a.m. or without, at 8 a.m. A recent visitor, now a regular worshiper, remarked that after sharing worship with us, she felt like she’d “been to church.” I hope that feeling is universally shared. And I’m so grateful for all who help lead it -- acolytes, altar guild, choir members, chalice bearers, readers, intercessors, and ushers.

Gratitude for the things I get to do as the rector. I get to lead our Thursday Bible Study -- which challenges and re-focuses me on the Bible’s story. I get to lead the Sunday Rectory Forum and Tuesday Supper discussions of books and videos exploring biblical and theological topics -- in which I’m as much as learner as anyone else. I get to be your pastor through “the changes and chances of this mortal life,” sharing the Church’s prayers and sacraments -- which is a humbling privilege. I get to chair Annual Parish Meetings and monthly Vestry meetings, and to attend the array of other parish gatherings where we take counsel together on what God is up to in our midst, and how we are invited to participate in God’s Mission. And along the way, Jack-the-dog and I get to share with you all the hospitality of our historic rectory.

Gratitude for the privilege of spending time with couples as they prepare to celebrate their marriages; pronouncing God’s blessing on behalf of the Church is a terrific honor. Gratitude for the privilege of talking with parents and godparents -- and individuals of “riper years” (as the

Prayer Book once put it) -- about the baptism of their children, godchildren, or themselves; leading us all in welcoming the newly baptized into “the household of God” never gets old!

Again, in 2017 I had the distinct privilege of preparing both youth and adults for the sacramental rite of Confirmation, i.e., where they confirmed before a bishop the promises made for them, or by them, when they were baptized, and receiving the encouraging renewal of the Holy Spirit’s gift through the laying on of the bishop’s hands. We had another great group this year, meeting regularly through the winter and spring, sharing a pilgrimage day at the Cloisters and St. John the Divine in New York, and dinner with our bishops and confirmands from other parishes at The Commons in Meriden. And then, you all outdid yourselves with your splendid hospitality at the South Central Region Confirmation service that Christ Church hosted on June 17; you ushered, the Choir sang, and you laid out a splendid reception in the driveway!

Gratitude for all those with whom I am privileged to serve this parish’s life and witness: For our Parish Administrator Pat Wakefield -- who does the work that lets the rest of us do what we’re called to do; for our Music Director Mark Sullivan -- under whose leadership our Choir thrives, and whose Sunday morning Music Time with our children is raising up another generation to sing God’s praises; for our Sunday School Director Laurie Varley -- whose faithful commitment and creativity with all our children from the littlest through high school delight us all; for our Sexton Sheward Hagerty who dutifully serves us through summer’s stifling heat and winter’s sleet, ice, rain, and snow; and for our volunteer and over-qualified bookkeeper Melissa Lamoreaux -- who keeps our financial accounts square, transparent, and current.

And gratitude for a great year of service with Senior Warden Rose Robinson -- who also leads our Outreach efforts, and organized our Consecration Sunday stewardship education program; for Junior Warden Sue Shackford -- who also leads our Acolytes, organizes youth wreath-decorating, dessert-baking and car-washing efforts, and who took the photo that graces the cover of these reports; for Clerk Diane Kyle -- who has served for three years as the parish’s chief minutes-taker and record keeper, and also helps lead the Evening ECW and its good works, and participates in the South Central Region leadership team; for Treasurer Ted Sands -- who has carefully captained our financial course through seasonal ups-and-downs with a little-margin-to-spare for three years; for retiring Vestry Member Diane Barker -- who has proofread every word you read in these reports, who edited “Glad Tidings,” and continues to serve with the Pastoral Care team and as a lector; for Katherine Frydenborg -- who also served on the Strategic Planning Team and continues to serve as a stalwart member of the Altar Guild; and for Caroline Herrick -- who has served for four years as alternate and delegate to the Episcopal Church in Connecticut’s Annual Convention. Please be sure to read the reports from (almost) all of these folks, and others. Having done so, you will want to join me in saluting them all for their faithful service in 2017.

With heartfelt gratitude for the life and witness we are privileged to share under Christ’s banner, I look forward to the adventures God has in store for us in 2018!

In faith, hope and love,
Harrison West+
Your Friendly Neighborhood Rector

Senior Warden's Report

As I reflect upon my first year as your Senior Warden, I am thankful. Thankful for the opportunity to serve you in this capacity and thankful for the new friendships that this position has paved the way for.

I know that there is always more to do and certainly more to know. The first year is always a learning period and with the guidance of Harrison and Pat Daunic, the previous senior warden, along with many others, including Pat Wakefield, Sue Shackford, and you, the parishioners, I have learned a lot. I believe that we are a vibrant, caring church that will only continue to grow as we continue to love our neighbors and serve our community as God would have us do.

We have numerous committees that work hard and make us stronger as a church. We have wonderful Sunday School teachers and a fabulous director that supports them. Our Sunday School classes are filled with young smiling faces. We tackle outreach with enthusiasm and we celebrate each other in our in-reach. We welcome our visitors. Name tags and a new directory are helping us to become even better acquainted. The choir continues to amaze me. Nothing fazes our Junior Warden, who keeps our housekeeping (and house) in order. We support programs such as the "Compassion for Refugees Dance," and speakers talking about Malawi, to help ourselves to become more aware. We attend dinners to raise money for refugees and we collect food for the homeless. We gather together and (cheerfully) tidy up our gardens. We support Vacation Bible School and we applaud the Christmas Pageant. We make chili and cookies galore!!

I know I've missed a few things (I could go on and on), but WOW, we do a lot!! My goal is to see us continue to grow both in size and spirituality, and to do even more! Each of us is called to contribute in some way -- be it in a large way or in very small ways. It all counts, and it all brings us closer to God and to each other.

Now it's time to start thinking about our 275th Anniversary, which happens next year. My hope is that we all give a little bit of our time and energy to make this celebration a special one. We are open to suggestions and ideas. Let us know what you think and how you might lend your talents to help pull this celebration together.

I have truly enjoyed serving as your Senior Warden this year! It has been wonderful to have Harrison and a strong Vestry for support along the way. I am looking forward to another year full of new opportunities and new challenges.

--Rose Robinson,
Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Annual Report for 2017

In my second year as your Junior Warden, the following is an overview of projects completed, both large and small.

The chancel roof, on the Town Hall side of the church, was partially replaced, (\$1,730). In concert with the new roof, trees that were hanging over and on the new roof were trimmed back (\$575). Gutters on the church, rectory, and parish hall were cleared of debris (\$150). Wall flashing was sealed on the flat roof valley areas and multiple membrane scars and gutters were cleaned in the gutter above the chancel, and window and wall flashing was secured on the rear of rectory (\$185). The light fixture in the high ceiling of the chancel was replaced and double lights installed (\$442.50). Squirrels were sighted going in and out of the soffit area of the church, and were removed and relocated (\$500). Numerous lights throughout the rectory and church were replaced and LED replacements were used where possible (approx. \$150).

On both the church and the rectory, a number of areas were painted (\$1,885). Included in the painting: entryway doors and trim; railings on entryway to the church and parish hall; trim on entryway doors to the rectory; both the rectory and undercroft Bilco doors; garage door, 5 windows

on rear of rectory and some front window frames on rectory; the steps and landing on the right-side entry to the parish hall (after landing wood rot was replaced); and small porch entry to the vesting room was painted with non-slip paint.

A number of repair projects were performed: soffit area of church was sealed (entryway for squirrels); replaced fence palings and replaced a number of boards on the side entrance to the parish hall (safety issue); removed bird's nest from parish hall bathroom and replaced vent door; and reviewed rectory front soffit for wood rot (\$455). Installed new air conditioner in the rectory (\$50); fixed a drain issue in the sacristy (parts & labor \$70). Replaced door knob to the side entrance to the rectory (\$115); replaced threshold, toe kickboard, and caulked, painted, and installed a new door sweep on the main entrance to the parish hall (parts & labor \$283). Replaced and relocated pews in the choir loft (\$650). The floor in the small bathroom had buckled and had to be replaced (issue was leaking radiator) (no charge); fence in back corner yard repaired and ceiling tiles in new nursery and adjacent room fixed (\$50); cleaned plugged-up drain in children's bathroom (\$57); replaced bulbs in the arch over chancel and repaired splitting post; screwed several rails back onto their post and fixed the light fixture in the balcony (\$100); replaced the slide-bolt mechanism of the front door on the church, and replaced the broken spring in the knob latch as well (\$90).

Ongoing and new projects:

1. Father Harrison, Bobbie Stewart, Pat Daunic and I continue working on a feasibility study for the Tower project and a statement of work. Grants are being reviewed. More to come on this subject in the not-too-distant future.
2. The roof on the parish hall and the remaining areas of the chancel roof are in need of replacement.
3. Many more areas of all our building are in need of painting, and some windows need to be glazed.
4. It has been determined that the outside storage shed is in very poor condition and will need to be replaced. We will be forming a team to review just what the church needs for storage areas.
5. There were 2 major cleanups this year. A thank-you to Laurie Varley who headed up the fall clean-up and to Anthony LaFata and Gene Bishop, who arrived with trucks to carry away an array of debris. Anthony also brought a number of pieces of ground equipment. Gene delivered a truckload of mulch. Thank you to all who took part. Please consider taking part in future cleanups; it is difficult at best to hire people to perform this task.
6. Need to fix the slate at the entry door to the church and review various broken slates around the church interior.
7. A number of members of the parish have requested that we post a list of projects that need to be done in and around the church. The thought is that parish members might have the skill set or would like to help by taking on a project. In review.
8. A special thank-you goes to the "Adopt a section of the garden" group -- Gene and Jane Bishop for keeping the Christ Episcopal sign at the left front of the church looking wonderful with seasonal flower and plants, and to Alicia Bacon, who has done a great job with the two entries to the parish hall. Thanks to the other members who have taken on other sections of the grounds -- David Oshana, Carol Iovanna, Diana Stovall, Katherine Frydenborg, and Annie Rae. Please consider joining them and taking on a section of the gardens around the grounds. No big requirements -- just weeding and sprucing up!

Respectfully submitted,
Susan C. Shackford, Junior Warden

Capital Campaign Report: The Unfinished Business of the Tower

Although the Capital Campaign of 2012-16 accomplished a great deal beyond its original program – re-furbishing Parish House interiors was added to work on the exteriors, heating systems and the rectory first floor, plus retiring debt for the restoration of the rectory exterior -- repairing and re-painting the Tower shutters was not completed. Our original painting contractor had to withdraw his offer to do that work when his insurance carrier would not cover it. Apparently, this was a job for those who specialize in work in high places. To fund this work, conversations with the Finance Committee and the Vestry encouraged exploration of grants available from the Connecticut Historic Trust. An ad-hoc committee of Junior Warden Sue Shackford, (now former) Senior Warden Pat Daunic, Bobbi Stuart and *YFNR*, came together to start these conversations.

We first met with two representatives of the Connecticut Historic Trust who explained the kinds of 1:1 matching grants that would apply to our situation: 1) Assessment and Planning; 2) Maintenance and Repair Mission Statement: To welcome all, provide hope and express gratitude for God's love and creation, nurturing our community and celebrating our faith. *Christ Episcopal Church, a welcoming community of faith on the Guilford Green since 1744.*; and 3) Capital Programs for preservation and restoration. Our interest was in Maintenance and Repair grants; however, we were told by both Trust representatives (and everyone else with whom we have talked) to begin getting help for a professional analysis of our buildings' current situation, and to seek an Assessment and Planning grant from the State Preservation Office for that work. The Trust would want to be assured of the underlying stability of the structure, i.e. that we wouldn't be painting over serious issues, before considering a Maintenance and Repair grant.

As a preliminary step before applying for an Assessment and Planning grant, we were told to search for measured drawings of the church structure and parish house, both plans and elevations. We searched through the box of drawings we have on site, and through the many boxes of Christ Church-related materials kept in the diocesan archives at The Commons in Meriden. Although we found drawings for particular projects, and many documents and some photos of great historic interest, we did not find the desired measured drawings.

The Trust representatives said we should talk to an architectural firm that specializes in historic properties. (As a reminder, our buildings are all located in a National Register Historic District, and the church and the rectory are individually listed on the National and State Historic Registers.) From the list of firms the Trust provided, we began a conversation with Nelson Edwards, Architects, a firm known and recommended by Bobbi.

When we got together with Nelson Edwards' architects Sarah Nelson and Laura Boyer (whom we later learned is Ed Seibert's niece), they wanted to know our principal concerns. They are: 1) The Tower – repair and repainting of its shutters and church soffits, and the condition of the Tower bell; 2) A handicap-accessible Interior route from the nave to the Parish House and its restrooms; and, 3) installing a restroom on the Sunday School level. We also wondered how pinnacles like those which once graced the Tower, could be restored. We were told restoration of the pinnacles would go beyond the scope of an initial assessment and planning grant.

Working with these three priorities, the architects recommended a process that included measuring the entire structure by laser and turning the resulting 3-D "cloud" of data into 2-D measured drawings, a site survey (for drainage and other issues effecting the lower level),

analysis by structural engineers and planning by the architects. The architects comprehensive bid to address our three priorities approached thirty thousand dollars. The maximum match for planning grants is \$10,000, which would mean we would need to raise \$20,000. We thought this would be at least \$10,000 too much. The pushback we received from the Vestry confirmed our thinking.

So, after talking it over among ourselves and with the architects, we asked for a bid that would address only the first two priorities named above, generating measured drawings for only the Tower and possible accessible internal routes from the nave to the parish hall. That bid approaches \$20,000; if we were to apply for and receive a grant, our portion would be \$10,000. An anonymous source has promised half of that, leaving \$5,000 to be raised by the parish.

When we last met with the architects, they offered to put us in touch with the bell specialist they use. We accepted, and their specialist turns out to have been “our specialist” in a previous generation. Their specialist was excited to hear from us and arranged to visit on Friday, December 15, at no charge to us. Here is the Rector’s report on that visit, first published in his weekly e-letter:

On a cold and breezy day, Architect Laura Boyer, bell specialist Joe Duffy III, and *YFNR*, climbed to the bell chamber in our Tower; it was definitely worth getting bundled up. Joe comes from a family who have known and looked after our bell for three generations. As it happens, Joe’s company, “Church Specialties, Inc.” located in Vermont, is in Parish Administrator Pat Wakefield’s Rolodex, but the connection between their specialty and our bell was unknown to us: Joe’s father, Joe Duffy, Jr., had serviced the bell and remembers it as a fine instrument.

We currently toll the bell before services, during the Eucharistic prayer, and on solemn occasions. But we can’t ring the bell. To toll the bell, the bell stays in place and is struck by a clapper coming up from the chamber floor; the bell sounds just once for each pull on the clapper rope. To ring the bell, the bell would rock side to side in its cradle and be struck by a clapper that hangs inside the bell; when rung, the clapper strikes both sides of the bell giving a ding-dong sound. Joe rang the bell manually for Laura and me; the sound is beautiful and full of overtones.

The bell was cast of bronze, in Troy, New York by Jones & Hitchcock in 1855, and weighs 2100 pounds! Joe said the bell, its harness and cradle are all in excellent condition; he said the wheel used to rock the bell was the work of another company, and is entirely service-able. Iron and steel parts of the system could use some rust removal and prevention, but the patina of the bell should be left as is. On my previous trips to the bell chamber, it appeared that the bell touched one side of the cradle; in yesterday’s cold, there was clearance. Joe said if clearance were an issue, the massive cradle could be “eased” a bit. Joe identified another issue as preventing the bell from rocking easily in its cradle: The bell-harness rests in notched pivots at the top of the cradle; and the lubrication of previous generations has seized up and created a solid goop. Joe reported that standard practice today would be to lift the bell out of the cradle, clean out the pivot, install ball-bearings on both ends of the harness, and then lower the harness back to pivot. The good news is that Joe was sure this work could be done over the course of three or four days within the bell chamber; the process would not require removing the bell from the chamber or using a heavy-duty crane from the ground. Nonetheless, how to manage that lift, from above or below, would involve a structural engineer and professional riggers, and there is still the issue of how to get the Tower shutters repaired and re-painted. Upon close inspection, Laura noted that at this stage repairs and repainting are still possible. However, the window is closing before some shutters will have to be replaced.

Given this urgency, the ad-hoc committee asks the Vestry and the parish to consider authorizing a program to raise the \$5,000 needed so that we can apply for an assessment and planning grant from the State of Connecticut Preservation office.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Daunic, Susan Shackford, Bobbi Stuart and Harrison West+

Stewardship

Our Consecration Sunday Stewardship program should be feeling a bit more familiar to all of us. We have just completed the process for the second year in a row. To sum up the program for those who are not totally familiar with how it works:

- New Consecration Sunday assumes that parishioners do not like to visit other parishioners in their homes for the purpose of having them fill out a pledge card.
- New Consecration Sunday focuses on the need of the giver to give for his or her own spiritual benefit rather than on the basis of the need of the church to receive to balance its budget.
- New Consecration Sunday focuses on the question, “What is God calling me to do?” rather than on the question, “What does the church need in order to pay its bills?”
- New Consecration Sunday focuses on giving as an appropriate faith commitment for which God’s grace empowers us.
- New Consecration Sunday models the idea that stewardship is part of our worship of God, rather than a fundraising procedure.
- New Consecration Sunday aims to have people enjoy the stewardship program.

Let me first say that we had a “tremendous” team of people working on this program. I must give great credit to Pat Daunic for “co-chairing” this process with me as I could not have done it without her. Having chaired the committee last year, she “just kept that hat on,” and helped to lead us effortlessly through the process.

As usual, Pat Wakefield was helpful in countless ways, providing and updating lists, sending mailings, and making sure crucial dates in the process were met. Her “Excel” skills proved life-saving in the end when she was behind the scenes calculating final numbers for us to present to the congregation.

The highlight, and one of the more meaningful parts, of the Consecration Sunday process came with our three speakers. Bobbi Stuart, Sudie Danaher, and Bob McNamara each gave a personal witness to their convictions regarding the value of financial stewardship. It was moving to hear each of them speak about how Christ Church plays a role in their lives and how it affects their giving based on their own spiritual development. Each of them was truly inspirational.

The Rev. Pat Hames (we had a lot of “Pats” to keep track of) provided us with exceptional guidance through the process, by meeting with Harrison and our committee on multiple occasions. She provided the calm and the leadership to keep us all on task. She was truly a “Blessing” in our Consecration Sunday process.

Wrapping up this process with an all-inclusive luncheon at the end was a way to celebrate our giving and have us think about how our faith in God and our church had inspired us to give. We asked that everyone attend this luncheon whether or not you had handed in an Estimate of Giving

card. It was important that we all come together and celebrate the results of our work. Thank you to Bob Donahue and Michael D'Agostino, who organized our beautiful fall-themed luncheon and to Antonio and Debbie Greco for providing such tasty food.

Our Christ Church congregation ultimately made the process a success. As I write this report, we have collected 91 pledge cards totaling (drum roll please!!) \$216,714, an increase from the approximately \$191,944 pledged for 2017. Fifty-eight families increased their pledge amounts over last year. There are still some outstanding pledge cards from families that we hope to hear from, but all in all, we as a church body showed that we were enriched in our understanding of Christian stewardship.

If you are still intending to fill out a pledge card, please contact Pat Wakefield or Harrison. They will be happy to get those recorded and added to our final tally.

A huge, heartfelt thank-you to all who helped with our Consecration Sunday and to all who pledged.

Rose Robinson,
Consecration Sunday Chairperson



Profound thanks to the following parishioners and friends
who have provided an Estimate of Giving card for 2018 as of February 2.

Jo-Ann Ansaldo
Alicia Bacon
Chuck & Mandy Benjamin
Lisa Bolard
Marsha Brown
Susannah & Rodger Bryan
Martin & Gabriela Cabrego
Richard & Anne Christofferson
Kay Claiborn
Barbara Corbett
Crossley Family
Bet Cummiskey

James Austin-Small
Diane Barker
Gene & Jane Bishop
Beth Brause
Alfred & Ann Brunetti
Peter & Rula Burrow
Bob & Nancy Cairns
Holley Claiborn & John Mayo
Frank Colton
Jean Courtney
William Cuddy
Pat Daunic

Barbara Debruyn
Bob Donahue & Michael D'Agostino
Anne Duong
Cynthia Dwyer
William & Jane Ferrall
Katherine Frydenborg
Dirck & Liz Goss
Juliana Harris
Richard & Barbara Hazall
Lee & Madeline Hubbard
Rob & Stephanie Hutchison
Peter & Gabrielle Johnson
Kasha Kingsbury
Charlie & Jeanette Koncz
Diane Kyle
Steve & Melissa Lamoreaux
Diane Link
Dennis & Pat Marden
Bob & Cindy McNamara
David & Mardee Moore
Janice Novak
David & Elizabeth Oshana
Page Pelphrey
Annie & Jim Rae
Harold Mastalerz & Linda Reich
Rose & Chris Robinson
Ted Sands & Caroline Herrick
Yvonne dePotter Scott
Susan Shackford
Hope Sperry
Evan Stewart
Bobbi Stuart
Talbot & Sara Trotter
Jean Valentine
Harrison West /
Dick & Georgia Whitney

Richard & Susan DiNardo
Damian & Susan Doria
Anna Dwyer
Rebecca Evans
Richard Formica
Joan Gilliland
Andrew & Jennie Hamilton
Bob & Joan Haversat
Jim & Lee Hill
Jennifer Huebner
Carol Iovanna
David & Kathleen Jones
David & Mitra Kish
George & Pat Kral
Anthony & Donna Lafata
Tony & Susan Leonard
Bob & Evelyn Linsky
Peter Marks & Jenifer McShane
Janet Moffat
Frances Nolte
Allen & Sarah Oshana
Charles & Camilla Palmer
Susan Pogue
Laura Raymond
Robert Rinoul
Diane Rotnem & Clark Springgate
Boynton M. Schmitt
Ed & Winnie Seibert
Ginger Sheppard
Richard & Lisa Ste.Marie
Diana Stovall
Virginia Syombalhy & Tim Malton
Charlie & Lynda Tyson
Holly & Bob van Marx
Paul & Rhoda Whitman
Elliot & Nancy Wilcox

Art & Nancy Wilk



Report on the 233rd Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut

November 17-18, 2017

Hyatt Regency, Greenwich

Submitted by Susan Pogue:

When Pat Daunic called me to ask if I would be willing to be nominated as an Alternate Delegate to the Annual Convention of the Episcopal Church in Connecticut, I had no idea what that would entail. It sounded interesting and I was pleased to be involved with an institutional activity of the Church, so, I said “yes.” I am glad I did. I found it very interesting. The day I attended, Delegate George Kral could not attend, so I was able to vote, which made me feel very much a part of the proceedings. My first impression on walking through the door of the convention hotel was that I had never seen so many white collars in one place! But I soon realized that there were many lay people attending as well. The atmosphere was engagingly upbeat, and everyone was very friendly. There was extensive debate about the resolutions, perhaps a trifle more than was necessary. However, the proceedings and all the debate were impressively handled by Bishops Ian Douglas and Laura Ahrens. The topics around race and ethnicity stirred much feeling, even though the content was largely around the best wording to use. I came away feeling quite proud that the Church in Connecticut was organized in such a democratic manner and pleased to be part of the process. Highlights of the day for me also included lunch with Father Harrison and a car ride with Caroline Herrick. I am glad I said “yes.”

Submitted by George Kral:

I attended the Saturday session of the 2017 Convention, along with Caroline Herrick and the Reverend Harrison West. The formal results of the Convention business and the resolutions approved can be found at www.episcopalct.org, so I won't repeat the specifics here. Instead I will offer my impressions of the convention.

First, I want to thank Christ Church of Guilford, for sending me to the Convention. It was a privilege for me to attend. I want to also say that I really enjoyed the opportunity to spend the day with Harrison and Caroline, and to meet several of our fellow Episcopalians from other churches in Connecticut.

The experience of the meeting was very positive. The meeting was managed and run in a very businesslike manner with decisions made expeditiously, and at the same time allowing for a diversity of views to be presented and for reasonable debate to occur. Most importantly, all discussions were open and respectful of all participants. Prayer was frequent both informally and explicitly throughout the proceedings. It was evident to me that God was watching over us, and we conducted ourselves with this in mind.

There were several opportunities to share our feelings in a small group format. These were particularly rewarding because the participants were able to share real feelings and experiences. The convening of the South Central Region's delegates in a break-out session was noteworthy in this respect. The Bishop's formal remarks to the Convention urging us to take up the challenges of our parishes, both in forming disciples and sending out apostles to address critical issues in Connecticut -- environmental sustainability, economic, and the opioid crisis -- created a challenging theme for the day. Finally, two resolutions directed to this summer's General Convention of the Episcopal Church particularly caught my attention: they recommended changes to the Prayer Book and our liturgy. One resolution urged allowing the use of Anglican Prayer Books developed in other countries as a way to appreciate the diversity of our international Anglican tradition. A second resolution urged that revisions to our Prayer Book incorporate "gender expansive" language; this resolution was also enthusiastically approved.

Submitted by Caroline Herrick:

This year's convention took place on Friday, November 17, and Saturday, November 18, at the Hyatt Regency, Greenwich. I attended both the Friday and Saturday Legislative Sessions, driving there with alternate Susan Pogue on Friday and delegate George Kral on Saturday. The Reverend Harrison West was there both days.

The First Legislative Session, on Friday afternoon, began with an opening prayer and reflections. New clergy were welcomed into the diocese, and the six new regional missionaries were introduced. Then came the business matters of the diocese: the treasurer's report was presented, and resolutions concerning the budget for the diocese and clergy salaries passed unanimously. The next resolution was to recommend to the 79th General Convention of the Episcopal Church, to be held in Austin, Texas, in July 2018, a resolution that the Church Pension Group report Clergy Compensation by race as well as by gender. This passed unanimously. The next resolution affirmed the ECCT's commitment to racial reconciliation by charging its Leadership Gathering to devote at least two of its meetings in 2018 to study the impact of racism on our common life and to establish benchmarks for dismantling racism in Connecticut. The next resolution affirmed the ECCT's solidarity with indigenous peoples.

The resolutions that were presented at Saturday's Second Legislative Session had to do with "Proposed Baptismal Covenant Language Reflecting Our Unity with All Creation"; reducing our carbon footprint; revision of the diocesan canons to "clarify the processes the Standing Committee, Mission Council, and Bishops use when parishes and worshipping communities overspend endowment, and/or cannot, or do not, fulfill their obligations to our diocesan common mission support"; the process for selecting a bishop; defining "clergy in good standing"; establishing a policy for use of other Anglican books of worship; and recommending use of gender expansive language in any revision of the Book of Common Prayer. Specifics of each resolution can be found at <https://www.episcopalct.org/events/annual-convention/2017/resolutions/>.

In many ways, this year's convention seemed more low-key than the conventions of the previous three years. Perhaps this was because there wasn't a keynote speaker. Or perhaps it was because the reorganization of the diocese that had been discussed and then implemented over the past several years is now complete. The six regions, each with a regional missionary, are in place. What impressed me is how we, both as parishes and as individuals, can learn from one another. Throughout both sessions, each of the six regions presented a short (one-minute) film, highlighting a special program or project of one of its parishes. The two that stand out in my mind are one from a parish in West Hartford that had sponsored a Syrian refugee family and one from another parish that described how it had joined with other parishes in its community to negotiate for lower fuel costs. As the diocese moves forward in its new regional configuration, it is expected that more of this inter-region and inter-parish communication will take place. Especially moving was a presentation by parishioners of St. John's, East Hartford, which, due to a dwindling congregation, decided to merge with St. John's, Vernon. Members of both churches described how invigorating their merger was, making what could have been a very depressing situation into an inspiring one.

It has been a privilege to serve as a delegate to the convention for the past four years, first as an alternate and then as a delegate. It has been a tremendous learning experience, as I had never really given much thought to the larger institutional framework of the church before.

Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care team in 2017 consisted of Diane Barker, Cindy Smith, Annie Rae, Sheward Haggerty, and Tony Leonard, under the direction of our rector, Harrison West. We meet periodically to discuss who needs a call, a visit, a dinner, a ride to church, or any other support during a difficult time, health-wise or any other way. Cindy sends cards to those who are ill, and all have received training in how to conduct a home Communion service for those who are homebound. If you haven't been able to get to church for a while or if someone falls ill and needs a visit, please let Harrison know. We are here to help!

--Diane Barker

Outreach

Outreach is defined as “the act of providing services or goods to populations who don’t (for many different reasons) have access to those goods or services.”

Christ Church has an active and caring outreach committee, and if you have not yet joined us for a meeting, I encourage you to do so. We meet the first Monday night of each month, usually in the Guild Room at 6:30 p.m. Some of the projects we’ve been involved in over the past year include:

- 1) Helping to support St. Andrews in Madison with raising money for their refugee program.
- 2) Participating in the “Day of Peace” on the Guilford Green.
- 3) Increasing our awareness and contributions to the Guilford Food Bank
- 4) Raising and contributing funds to the New York Haiti Project to help build a new Episcopal school and church in Matel, Haiti.
- 5) Assisting with a Habitat for Humanity Build in New Haven.
- 6) Collecting supplies and backpacks for Guilford school children.
- 7) Supporting our local “Fuel Fund” for those in need of heat in Guilford.
- 8) Supporting the homeless through Chapel on the Green by collecting mittens, scarves, hats, toiletries, and candies on our Christmas “Mitten Tree.”
- 9) The Chili Supper during the Annual Tree Lighting continues to be a successful Outreach project.
- 10) We will be providing and serving lunch to the homeless at a Sunday Chapel on the Green service on April 8, 2018. Mark your calendars and come help!
- 11) Researching “Rhythms of Grace,” a creative church experience for those with special needs. “Stay tuned” as we hope to have this become a service that we can offer to the Guilford community as well as surrounding areas.
- 12) We also hope to participate in some way with the “Big Sleep Out” in March. This program involves educating the community about our homeless population.

As you can see, we’ve had a busy year, and we’ve only just begun. Feel free to join us for a meeting or a project and, as always, we are open to new suggestions.

--Rose Robinson, Outreach Chairperson

Sunday School

"The Lord bless thee, and keep thee. The Lord make his face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give thee peace" (Numbers, Chapter 6:24-26).

At Christ Church, we foster a warm and caring environment for your youngest parishioners, helping children to grow in their love of God and understanding of Christ's teachings. Children learn the word of God through Bible study, song, and activity. Through individual class time and group gatherings, we want children to feel they are important members of the Christ Church family and precious children of God.

Nursery care is provided for infants through 3 years old. Our nursery is staffed each week by Ella Hophner and Keelyn Ervin.

Sunday School classes begin at the pre-school level and run through high school. We have a dedicated team of teachers for the 2017/2018 year that meet with children each Sunday morning.

They are:

Pre K-1st: Becky Patino
2nd - 3rd: Gabriel La Torre and Stephanie Hutchison
4th - 5th: Richard Marvin
6th - 8th: Page Phelprey
9th - 12th: Graham Marsh
Substitute: Donna Lafata

Each Sunday, Pre-K through 5th grade meets with Laurie Varley, Sunday School Director, for "Chapel Time." The Bible story for that particular Sunday is introduced, children share "Prayers and Praises," and children also participate in craft activities.

From 10 a.m. - 10:35 a.m., children attend their Sunday School class based on their school grade. At 10:35 a.m., we meet with Mr. Sullivan in the parish hall for music time.

We continue with the program called "Weaving God's Promises," which is an Episcopal Bible-based program that emphasizes worship, education, and service as the three-fold components of Christian living. The curriculum is entirely online, allowing teachers to customize their lesson plans and print only what is necessary for their age group.

Spring:

Children participated in the Good Shepherd Sunday skit and program during Sunday worship service.

Summer:

Christ Church offered Vacation Bible School, July 10-14, for children kindergarten-6th grade. This year's theme was "Barnyard Roundup" -- Jesus Gathers Us Together. VBS ran 9 a.m.-12 noon each day. 20 children attended VBS.

Our VBS mission project involved children and families donating numerous much-needed baby items (diapers, baby wipes, and onesies) to benefit new mothers at St. Raphael Hospital in New Haven. This mission project continued throughout the fall. Thank you to all who participated.

Fall:

The first day of the new Sunday School year was September 10. Our Bible lessons focused on stories from the Old Testament.

Also during VBS, children made peace mandalas and wrote a personal prayer to accompany their mandala. These mandalas were displayed at the Guilford International Peace Day on September 21.

Another VBS activity included the group craft project of making a cross mosaic. This mosaic, which was made entirely from recycled crayons, was entered in the Recycle Craft Division at the Guilford Fair, where we won a Best in Show ribbon. Our cross mosaic is on display in the parish hall.

Thank you to all who helped with our church yard clean-up day on Nov. 11. Several truckloads of leaves and debris were taken away. A special thank you to Anthony Lafata and Gene Bishop.

Prior to Thanksgiving, Sunday School children and families brought in numerous donations of stuffing and canned vegetables, which were donated to the Guilford Food Bank.

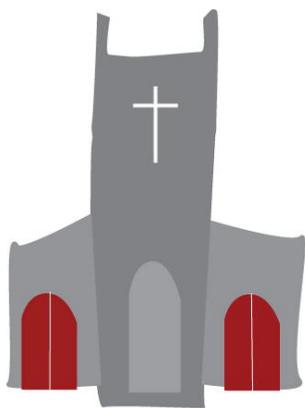
Winter:

During the Advent season, children made handmade Christmas cards, which were donated to the Meals on Wheels program.

Children and youth also participated in our annual Christmas Eve Pageant held at 4:30 p.m. A special thank-you goes to Suky Bryan for rehearsing and leading the youth orchestra. Thank you also to Donna Lafata, Stephanie Hutchison, Becky Patino, and Gabriela La Torre for their help with the rehearsal and pageant. Thank you also to Mr. Sullivan, who teaches our children music each Sunday.

It's a blessing to be a part of Christ Church. Thank you for allowing me to serve your children and families.

--Laurie Varley,
Sunday School Director



Christ Episcopal Church

Laurie Varley, Sunday School Director

11 Park Street, P.O. Box 574

Guilford, CT 06437-0574

(203) 453-2279

Sunday School e-mail: CEC.SundaySchool@snet.net

Website: www.ChristChurchGuilford.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/cecguilford/>

Christ Church Sunday School and Faith Formation Information

Newcomers are welcome to attend Christ Episcopal anytime!

Infants – 3 years of age

Nursery care is provided for infants through 3 years of age, each Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The nursery is located downstairs. Our nursery care staff are Safe Church Trained.

Kindergarten – 5th grade

Each Sunday, from 9:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m., children meet with Laurie Varley, Sunday School Director, in the 4th/5th grade classroom downstairs, for Chapel Time. We introduce the Bible story for that particular Sunday, have a group craft and share our Prayers and Praises. At 10:00 a.m., children go to their individual classrooms based on the grade they are in. At

10:35 a.m., children meet with Mark Sullivan, Christ Church Music Director, for music time. We practice and learn new songs which we often share with the parish during worship services. Children then join their parents at the Peace.

Middle School – 6th - 8th grade

Page Pelphrey leads the Middle School Program. Her class meets upstairs, near the Parish Hall.

High School – 9th - 12th grade

Graham Marsh, our seminarian, leads the High School class. This class meets downstairs.

Our faith formation program has numerous activities throughout the year such as: Vacation Bible School, Christmas Eve Pageant, mission opportunities, Good Shepherd Sunday skit, confirmation classes, acolytes and gathering donations for those in need.

Youth Faith Formation

Infants – 3 years of age

- Nursery available every Sunday 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
- Weekly music program with Church Music Director
- Participation in the Christmas pageant (Christmas Eve)
- Vacation Bible School (beginning pre-k one week each summer)

Elementary – Pre-k/Kindergarten to 5th grade

- Chapel Time and Sunday School (meet weekly based on Sunday school calendar)
- Participation in the Christmas Eve pageant and Epiphany services
- Weekly music program with Church Music Director
- Yearly Haiti fundraisers to benefit St. Luke School and Church Matel (typically February)
- Vacation Bible School (one week each summer)
- Participation in the Acolyte program (beginning in 4th grade) – see below

Middle School – 6th to 8th grade

- Middle School Class (weekly based on Sunday school calendar)
- Participation in the Acolyte program
 - National Acolyte Festival Washington DC (~every three years on Columbus Day Weekend)
 - Carwash fundraiser (typically end of August)
- Decorated wreaths and hot chocolate sale (2nd Friday after Thanksgiving– tree lighting on the Green)
- Trip to Camp Incarnation, Essex, Connecticut (typically May daytrip or overnight)
- Spaghetti supper fundraiser (typically Sunday evening - end of April)
 - dessert baking in Sue's gourmet kitchen (Saturday prior)
- Participation in the Christmas Eve pageant, Epiphany and Tenebrae youth run services
- Teen gatherings (movies, games, etc.) - organized throughout the church school year
- Participation in **The Big Sleep-Out** – a program to raise awareness, activism, and funds through an overnight, supervised sleep-out on the Green. (Middle and High School age students) – Spring timeframe

High School – 9th to 12th grade

- High School Class (weekly based on Sunday school calendar)
- Participation in the Acolyte program (see above)
- Youth Confirmation – annual/biennial for those nearly age 16 and older
 - Preparation includes:
 - meetings with the Rector, dinner with our Bishops, pilgrimage day or overnight to NYC (e.g. St. John the Divine, Nightwatch, Ground Zero, Cloisters)
- Participation in mission trips:
 - Dominican Republic (locally Christ Church organized, community supported)
 - Assist with VBS programs in DR (typically end of June)
 - Pilgrim Fellowship (Congregational Church organized, Christ Church supported)
 - Building projects in rural Eastern US region (typically spring break)
 - Urban mission trip (summer timeframe)

On-going: Christ Episcopal Church values the importance of outreach. We feel it is important for the kids to be in service to others and continually seek ways to serve communities both near and far.

Choir

Our choir has continued to grow! This fall we were grateful to add Charlie Tyson to our Christ Church Choir family. We continue to explore the classics of the sacred music repertoire, and the choir continues to develop in sound, blend, and confidence. The choir maintains its regular weekly rehearsals on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings, with additional rehearsal as needed. In November we participated in the annual ecumenical Thanksgiving service, and in December sang at our yearly Advent prayer service; if you missed it, check out the audio link on our website! I am deeply grateful to each and every member of our choir for their commitment to Christ Church and their willingness to work towards providing the best music we can each Sunday morning

It is always a highlight of our year when we are able to include some of our young instrumentalists in our services. The choir was joined by string players this past Easter and at our candlelight Christmas Eve service, and a larger ensemble played for the Pageant service and for last spring's Easter celebration. We look forward to creating additional opportunities to include our instrumentalists in our worship. Our grateful thanks to Suky Bryan for her time and effort in this regard -- it would be impossible without her!

In an effort to conserve our limited resources, I have begun taking advantage of the vast quantities of sacred music masterpieces that are in the public domain and are now available online for free. This past year we have added classic settings by Schutz, Loosemore, Gibbons, Tallis, Attwood, Byrd, and others.

Working with Laurie Varley and the Sunday School teachers, we continue our weekly “music time” with the Sunday School students, with the goal of including them in meaningful ways in our Sunday morning liturgies.

Our organ is in good health, and continues to be a joy to play (and, I hope, to listen to)! We have continued to expand our repertoire of hymns and service music, with the aim of enriching our liturgies. I am blessed to work in a church with a congregation of such willing singers! I continue to be grateful for the opportunity to serve Christ Church.

Respectfully,
Mark Sullivan

Ushers' Report

I would like to thank all the ushers who assisted at the 2017 Christmas services. Thank you to all the ushers, who have done an outstanding job in 2017. We have a very friendly group who does their best to welcome all who attend Christ Church. The ushers arrive 20 minutes early on their designated Sunday each month. They welcome guests, distribute programs, ring the bell, and assist anyone needing special assistance. During the service, a couple is invited to take the elements to the altar. The ushers are responsible for the offerings and direct the communion. After the service is over, ushers are responsible for cleaning the pews and making sure the rear of the church is left in an orderly state. Please contact Mardee Moore at email MHMOORE1234@gmail.com if you have any interest in joining this ministry.

– Mardee Moore

Acolytes

We continue to have a great group of acolytes here at Christ Episcopal Church. In our 7th year, we have maintained an average active roster of 13, plus 6 senior acolytes who serve when needed. New in the fall of 2017 was Matthew Chabrejo. Welcome Matthew, to the Christ Episcopal Church acolyte program! Within a couple of sessions, Matthew became a crucifer and has been an acolyte a number of times.

Matthew joins Natalia Bryan, Carter Bryan, A.J. LaFata, Kenneth Pelphrey, Keelyn Ervin, Olivia Ste. Marie, Gabriela Perez, Natalia Perez, Sofia Perez, Emily Crossley, Avery LaFata, and Emily Austin-Small. A number of acolytes have been serving for six to seven years, most starting in the fourth grade.

Serving when needed are Zoe Lamoreaux, Megan McNamara, Mark McNamara, Mariam Kish, and Andre Kish. A special thank-you goes to Lisa Ste. Marie and Andre Kish, who acted in my behalf at the Christmas Eve 10 p.m. services, getting the acolytes through lighting numerous candles and the changes to their normal routine.

Three acolytes are required each week, and for holidays and special services. Each acolyte is scheduled to serve about every 3-4 weeks. On Palm Sunday, Easter Sunday, and at Christmas, all acolytes who wish to serve may do so.

New members of the acolyte program might be hesitant when first asked, but once trained and they serve for the first time, that dissipates and new-found confidence, along with grin from ear to ear, takes its place. Your youngster can be an acolyte -- he or she just has to be in at least 4th grade to be a torch bearer, and for a crucifer, you have to serve for at least 6 months as a torch bearer and be in the 6th grade or higher. Training is ongoing, and you can contact Pat Wakefield in our church office or Father Harrison or myself following the 10 a.m. service.

We would like to thank the acolytes' parents who get their youngsters to church each Sunday. We are grateful to Suky Bryan, Mellissa Lamoreaux, Lisa St. Marie, Donna Lafata, and John and Holly Mayo for overseeing the acolytes on Sunday mornings in my absence. Thank you, Annie Rae, for stepping in to be a crucifer when our acolytes are on vacation.

We were unable to attend last years "Annual Festival of Acolytes" at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC. We will start planning meetings in February, with high hopes of attending this year.

Father Harrison, members of the parish, and I much appreciate all your efforts in our church services. Thank you to all the parents who get the youngsters to church early on Sunday mornings, so that they can serve.

Susan C. Shackford,
Director of Acolytes

Counting Team Report

The following folks are part of the behind-the-scenes groups performing a task that goes unnoticed but is very much an important part of the operation of our church. Gene Bishop, Bob Cairns, Bill Cuddy, Caroline Herrick, Melissa Lamoreaux, David Moore, Ted Sands, Paul Whitman, and Rhoda Whitman work in teams of two, alternating each week to process our weekly collections.

This doesn't just entail the traditional collection of pledge fulfillment but all of the miscellaneous proceeds from our fundraising events. It can get quite hectic at times, especially during Christmas, but this group handles it all. Hats off to them and their steadfast devotion to our church -- this is faithfully done. Also, thanks must also go to Pat Wakefield, who can always be counted on with her support. We're always looking for folks to join our "merry group." As the saying goes, "many hands make light work," and we would love to have you join us. Please see or call me for more information.

– Carol Iovanna

Ushers' Report

I would like to thank all the ushers who assisted at the 2017 Christmas services. Thank you to all the ushers, who have done an outstanding job in 2017. We have a very friendly group who does their best to welcome all who attend Christ Church. The ushers arrive 20 minutes early on their designated Sunday each month. They welcome guests, distribute programs, ring the bell, and assist anyone needing special assistance. During the service, a couple is invited to take the elements to the altar. The ushers are responsible for the offerings and direct the communion. After the service is over, ushers are responsible for cleaning the pews and making sure the rear of the church is left in an orderly state. Please contact Mardee Moore at email MHMOORE1234@gmail.com if you have any interest in joining this ministry.

– Mardee Moore

Altar Guild

Volunteer members of the Altar Guild faithfully serving the needs of the parish each Sunday are JoAnne Ansaldo, Anna Dwyer, Cynthia Dwyer, Sarah Oshana, Hope Sperry, and Katherine Frydenborg, with additional assistance from Cindy Smith. You will also find us caring for the linens, silver, hangings for funerals, weddings, baptisms, and holiday services.

And special thanks to Marsha Brown for her dedication to the flower schedule and decoration of the sanctuary.

Extra hands are always welcome -- thanks Kaye Claiborne and Lois Sawtell! I would encourage anyone who would be interested in joining us to speak to Fr. Harrison or me.

– Katherine Frydenborg

Liturgical Assistants – 8 a.m.

Reading the Lessons, leading the Prayers of the People, and assisting in the distribution of Holy Communion are all important lay contributions to the worship service. We are few in number -- Elliot Wilcox, Richard Christofferson, Katherine Kingsbury, Diane Barker, Susan Pogue, and our seminary intern Graham Marsh. All are dedicated and faithful. We serve at the 8 a.m. service and at combined special services.

We need and would welcome the participation of other parishioners. Please talk with our Rector or with me if you would be willing to serve.

– Janet Moffat

Liturgical Assistants – 10 a.m.

It is indeed a welcome opportunity to be able to thank each and every lay liturgical assistant for your enthusiastic and capable service throughout the past year at our 10 a.m. and combined services. You are the much-needed extra pieces integral to all our worship services, whether by reading, leading Prayers of the People, or serving the chalice at Holy Eucharist.

I am most grateful for the many blessings each of you bestows with your unique talents to our finely tuned services. If you would like to join our lay liturgical group to read or serve the chalice, please let Harrison, Pat Wakefield, or me know. We welcome new members (ages 14-114) throughout the year. Please consider joining our readers or chalice bearers, even if just as a tryout to see if you enjoy it. I have found reading has added many layers of interest to my experience as a congregant.

– Laura Raymond

Episcopal Church Women (ECW)

The ECW (Episcopal Church Women) holds its regular business meeting on the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. in the Guild Room, with a carry-in luncheon at 12 noon. We sometimes have a guest speaker or special program following lunch. We meet all other Thursdays in the Guild Room after Bible study, around 10:30 a.m. These are informal meetings. All churchwomen are welcome to join us for any or all of our meetings. We do not meet in July and August.

The 2017 year started with a wonderful luncheon hosted by Sue Shackford at her home, Guilford's Christmas wonderland. This was a wonderful way to start the New Year. The remaining monthly meetings are spent selecting worthy projects to sponsor and identifying their needs and determining how best we can meet those needs. These project are both outreach and in-house.

This year we continued for the fourth year in holding our "Roses for Mothers" and "Roses for Mommy" project. We were finally able to purchase, with the proceeds, new white altar hangings. They will be delivered soon. Thank you all for your continued support of this project. We will announce the new roses project in early February. We continue to collect "new sox and underwear" for homeless men, women, and children, and urge our parishioners to continue to bring in donations.

We continue to support the Episcopal diocese of Connecticut ECW by supporting the "White Envelope" project, a unique project started to provide needed funds, through their Grant program, to Connecticut Episcopal churches' requests for funds to start projects or needed programs in their communities. We collect small donations monthly and ask for a special donation at our annual June and December luncheons. Our ECW has over the years been a generous supporter of this program. Our parish has also been a faithful supporter of the United Thank Offering. This project also provides needed funding both in-state and outside of Connecticut. We collect your donations in the fall and the spring and are very appreciative for your support.

We also send contributions to the National Cathedral and special needs in the community and our church as we become aware of them. We have purchased candy for Halloween, both for "Trunk or Treat" and our Sunday School and have donated several hundred candy-filled eggs for our annual Easter Egg Hunt for our Sunday School children. We gave three scholarships to graduating high school students. The funds for the scholarships were raised through the sale of homemade cookies at the annual Chili Supper. We thank all who have supported this project.

Other fundraisers this year was a "Tiny Tag Sale" held during coffee hour and "Carnations for Heroes" held in November. We made two separate donations with the proceeds from the sale of carnations. A donation was sent to the Connecticut Department of Veteran's Affairs for their Veterans and Families Program, and the second donation was given to the Guilford Fire Department to be used for a program they sponsor twice a year for furthering education in technical medical studies.

Last year a special award was created to recognize parishioners who have for many years given of themselves selflessly to Christ Episcopal Church and the community. This year we honored Evelyn Linskey and Robert Cairns with "The Pearl of Great Price" award.

We wish to thank everyone who has supported us!

– Diane Link, President

ECW Treasurer's Narrative Report

It was another successful year for the Christ Church ECW. Thanks to everyone who supported our fundraisers, including our Tiny Tag Sale, Roses for Mothers, Carnations for Heroes, and our annual Christmas Cookie Sale. Your generous donations made it possible for us to provide scholarships for three graduating high school seniors and to repair and refurbish the Christ Church sign on the front lawn. We were also able to make contributions to local veterans' services and the Guilford Fire Department EMT training program. Once again we provided candy for the annual Easter egg hunt and Halloween Trunk or Treat. We greatly appreciate the support and participation of all our parishioners.

– Rhoda Whitman, ECW Treasurer

ECW Treasurer's Report 2017

Checking Account Beginning Balance 01/01/2017	\$2,122.88	
Income		
White Envelopes	\$313.00	
United Thank Offering	\$708.00	
Donations	\$337.00	
Fundraisers	<u>\$1,628.69</u>	
Total	\$2,986.69	
Expenses		
Supplies	\$259.35	
Sunshine	\$25.00	
In Parish	\$1,097.78	
Outreach	<u>\$ 950.00</u>	
Total	\$2,312.13	
Checking Account Ending Balance 12/29/2017		\$2,356.93
Savings Account Beginning Balance 01/06/2017	\$1,170.43	
Savings Account Ending Balance 12/29/2017		<u>\$1,420.65</u>
Total in Checking and Savings Combined 12/29/2017		<u>\$2,591.08</u>

In-Reach Committee

Members: Katherine Frydenborg, Laura Raymond, David Jones, Diane Barker, Diane Kyle, Kasha Kingsbury, Cynthia Dwyer, Diana Stovall, Barbara Hazall, Ann Rae, Pat Daunic, Tony Leonard, and Susan Leonard, chair.

Goal: To involve the congregation in building and enriching our church community.

Meetings: Held four meetings at church during coffee hour. This made it hard for 8 a.m. service members to attend, although several did so.

Nametags:

Thanks to help from Rev. Anne Richards, our summer supply minister, we initiated the use of name tags, including ordering name tags for all members age 16 and up from That Personal Touch in New Canaan, CT. We regularly updated the list of members to include in orders. Many people pick up name tags and wear them to coffee hour. We currently have two magnetic boards in use, but are having trouble deciding where/how to place them most effectively.

Congregational Breakfast:

We held a breakfast at 9 a.m. in hopes of attracting members from both services. Those who attend Rite I at 8 a.m. do not get to enjoy coffee hour with those from the 10 a.m. service. Ann Rae, Susan Leonard, and Tony Leonard cooked and served sausages and French toast. David Jones was extremely helpful in cleaning up. About 40 people attended, mostly from the 10 a.m. service.

Ministry Sundae:

We conducted a program whereby the congregation could survey programs offered within the church and choose to join and support one or more. Representatives of each program were invited to stand by to recruit. Participants were offered dishes of ice cream and the various programs enticed listeners by providing the sundae toppings. ECW, EECW, Altar Guild, Liturgy Support, and Sunday School all gained new members. A men's group was supported by two men. Other groups may have received publicity. Mildly successful. Lots of ice cream left over.

Commentary: This committee could be improved by holding and publicizing regularly scheduled meetings. Publicity is key to the participation of more people in all activities. Susan will attempt to improve work in these areas. Ordering and encouraging the wearing of name tags was probably our most successful undertaking. In addition to meeting one another, the congregation can become aware of the presence of new members and sometimes the absence of those who once attended but no longer do so.

Ideas for future activities:

- Initiate ride-sharing program, especially at Evergreen Woods
- Hold more regular meetings, perhaps not during coffee hour. Communicate more effectively
- Maintain and encourage use of name tags
- Create a list for coffee hour, and actively encourage participation across the community
- Establish regular monthly potluck dinners, either at homes or at the church
- Repeat breakfast in the spring
- Repeat Ministry Sundae in the fall
- Possibly hold a soup lunch during coffee hour in February

– Susan Leonard

Middle School

The middle school is using the RE:form curriculum this year. Each lesson is centered on a question, followed by a short YouTube-style video. Then students discuss the questions and complete activities from the “anti-workbook.” They seem to really enjoy the new format and having questions answered.

Middle school continues to help with the fundraisers: the car wash, the wreath sale, and the spaghetti supper. This year we are going to sell chocolate for Valentine's day.

Page will continue to chaperone the diocesan VBS week in Santo Domingo. This will be her third trip and second with members from Christ Church.

– Page Pelphrey

Evening Episcopal Church Women (EECW)

The Evening ECW has completed our third year, and I pleased to announce that we are more than halfway to achieving our goal! With the completion of Phase I and Phase II, we will now turn our attention towards the purchase of the round tables and chairs in Phase III.

Our fundraisers included our first Soup and Bread Sale in April and our third successful Tag Sale in September. As in the past, all unsold items went to Goodwill. We also hosted a Family Fun Night in February, which was well attended and fun for all.

At this time, I would like to thank everyone for their help and support in making our dreams a reality. This project will not only benefit us, but also our community.

– Diane C. Kyle

Evening Episcopal Church Women (EECW) Treasurer's Report 2017

Checking Account Balance 01/01/2017		\$7,184.28
Income		
Tag Sale	\$2,697.50	
Donations	1300.00	
Soup Luncheon	439.00	
Fundraisers	<u>\$1,628.69</u>	
Total Income		\$2,986.69
Expenses		
Construction	\$5,561.00	
Tag Sale	<u>50.00</u>	
Total Expenditures		\$2,312.13
Checking Account Balance 12/29/2017		<u>\$6,009.78</u>

Melissa Lamoreaux
EECW Treasurer

United Thank Offering

Many thanks to all who contributed to the two United Thank Offering campaigns in 2017. Parishioners donated \$360 in May and \$708 in December for a total of \$1,068 this year, up \$94 from 2016. These funds are sent to the national Episcopal Churchwomen organization, which then allocates grant funds worldwide, nationally, and locally within Connecticut. In the recent past, funds have gone to aid church programs in New Haven, New London, and Clinton.

Thank you,
Suky Bryan

Newcomers Committee

Mardee Moore, Kay Claiborn, Annie Rae, and I have been “doubling down” on meeting and greeting newcomers to Christ Church. Many have come back, but many have not, regretfully. If any members see someone new, kindly let one of us know, so we can introduce ourselves. We do not ask them to sign the book on their first visit, but upon their return we do.

This past fall, following the 10 o’clock service, we had a most successful brunch for the entire congregation, which honored the newcomers. Everyone enjoyed it and there were definitely good conversations between the newcomers and the current members. We were pleased with the event and look forward to another one in the spring.

As always, winter months tend to be quieter and slow, so we are hoping that, come March, we will see an increase in numbers, both new and our “regulars.”

Thank you,

Diana Stovall

2017 Parish Parochial Report

	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Baptisms	4	2
Confirmations/Receptions	6	10
Marriages	1	3
Renewal of Vows	1	0
Burials	10	10
Communicants received by letter of transfer	0	4
Communicants who became active again	2	1
Communicants received by record of Baptism	0	1
Communicants who became active by Motion of Courtesy	11	8
Communicants reaching the age of 16	6	5
Communicants lost by letter of transfer	0	0
Names removed by request	0	0
Communicants moved to inactive status	9	4
Communicants lost by death	7	1
Total active communicant strength	362	375
Average Sunday attendance	110	107
Celebrations of the Holy Eucharist	115	117
Private Home Communion	11	N/A
Meditation & Prayer	36	36

Treasurer's Report

At first blush, our cash basis accounting system would seem to indicate that the Parish had a bonanza month in December 2017 with record monthly Revenues of \$61,487 and Net Income of \$33,743. For 2018 as a whole, the cash basis financial statement indicated Total General Purpose Revenues of \$268,809 and Net Income of \$8,134.

However, in a situation where parishioners prepay commitments, a cash basis accounting system, like ours, can lead to major distortions. And that is just what happened in November and December 2017. These significant prepayments were likely motivated by the impending change in the tax code. As pointed out at this time last year, December 2016 Pledge Revenues included \$16,700 of prepaid \$2017 Pledges. The reported revenues of November 2017 included \$5,072 of prepaid 2018 pledges. But the really big change came in December 2017 when the Pledge Payments included \$32,934 of prepaid 2018 pledges.

The attached Exhibit titled "Adjustments to Cash Basis Accounting" lays out the details of the necessary adjustments. For the full year 2017, we had adjusted Pledge Income of \$182,845 and a Net Loss of \$10417. Two observations relative to the adjusted numbers for the full year 2017.

A. 2017 Pledges	\$191,000
2017 Pledges Collected	182,845
2017 Uncollected Pledges	<u>\$ 8,155</u>

This is the first year in memory where we have had a significant shortfall in collecting pledges. Some sort of follow up campaign may be in order.

- B. The Net Loss was smaller than we had budgeted, primarily because revenues from non-pledge sources were above budget. If we had collected the full amount pledged for 2017, the Net Loss would have been reduced from \$10,417 to \$2,262.

The Stewardship Campaign for 2018 was notably successful with Total Pledges increasing from \$191,000 in 2017 to a projected \$220,000 in 2018. Based on this much improved Pledge Commitment, the 2018 Budget as attached projects an essentially breakeven year.

Respectfully submitted,
Ted Sands, Treasurer

Finance Committee Report

The purpose of the Finance Committee is to advise the wardens and the treasurer on Parish financial matters. As such, the committee focuses on three key areas: liquidity, the endowment and Parish operating costs.

We define our liquidity position as the sum of our Operating Fund, Capital and Generator Funds and the Deferred Income Fund (including our balance at Infinex Securities and Undeposited Funds). During 2017, Our liquidity position increased by 17%.

	<u>Year End</u>	
	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
Operating Fund	\$ 404	\$ 9,743
Capital and Generator Fund	23,754	17,424
Deferred Income	<u>46,023</u>	<u>54,850</u>
Total	\$70,181	\$82,017

Turning to the Endowment, 2017 saw an 12% increase to \$447,632. Considering that the Endowment delivered 4% in cash to the Operating Fund during 2017, the total investment return on the Endowment in 2017 was a very respectable 16%.

Because we anticipated a loss for the year, Parish expenses were tightly controlled. As a result, the 2017 expenses came in at slightly less than Budget.

Considering the very positive 2018 Stewardship Campaign, the Parish made significant financial progress during 2017.

Ted Sands
Finance Committee Chair