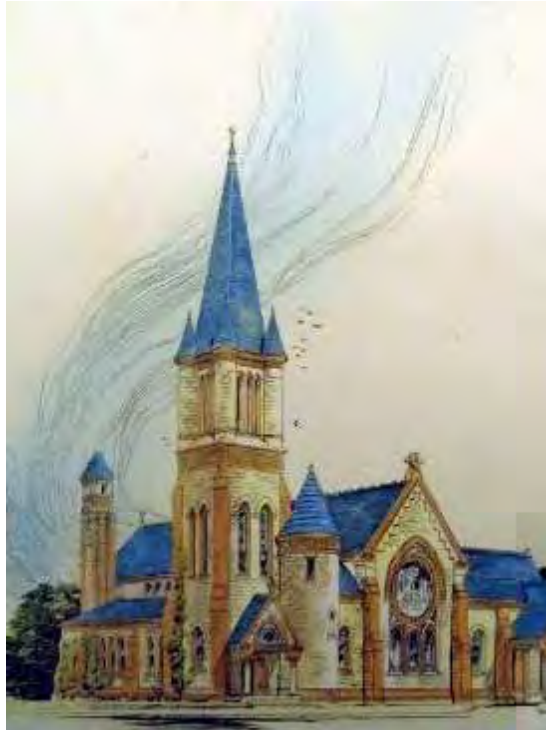


Reports for the Annual Parish Meeting

January 21, 2024



Christ Episcopal Church
One Main Street
Towanda, PA 18848
(570) 265-5035

The Rev. Betsy Sentigar, Priest-In-Charge

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Mission Statement

Christ Church
Towanda, PA

Christ Church Towanda is a Christian community empowered by the Holy Spirit in unity with Jesus Christ. We are a community that endeavors to share God's gift of love.

Christ Episcopal Church
Annual Meeting
January 22, 2023

The annual meeting was called to order by Senior Warden Ginnie Schoonover at approximately 11:10 following church service.

Opening prayer was given by Rev. Betsy Sentigar, Priest-In-Charge.

Ginnie appointed Hilary Haight as secretary pro temp and reported that the annual meeting minutes from 2022 are missing so not available for review.

Rev. Besty read her annual report and mentioned that there were many that we wished to thank for supporting her through the past year.

Ginnie thanked out going vestry members, Mark Vail and John Schoonover. She also reported that Marge Shaner has agreed to stay on the vestry for a new term as she has full filled the term of Connie Burruss.

Marge Shaner presented the slate of vestry members for 2023:

Ginnie Schoonover
Larry Gehring
Susanne Schoonover
Kippy Vail
Marg Shaner

Maureen Gehring made the motion to accept the slate of vestry members, Jim Haight seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Ginnie presented this year's budget in the absence of Gene Weisbrod. With no questions or discussion, Marge Shaner made a motion to accept the budget. Lee Baker seconded the motion. Motion passed.

With no further business to discuss, Ginnie adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Hilary Haight

On March 19, 2023 the 2023 Christ Church Annual Meeting was reopened. A quorum being present. Debi Weisbrod was named Secretary Pro Temp.

The Vestry nominated Larry Gehring as Representative to the Annual Diocesan Convention and Ginnie Schoonover as Alternate. Their being no other nominations from the floor. Marg Shaner made a second to this motion. Motion passed unanimously.

There being no other business at this time the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted ,

Debi Weisbrod

Secretary Pro Temp

Annual Report of the Priest in Charge
Rev. Betsy Welliver Sentigar

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

It has been a prayer answered with great delight and challenge as I have now been with you as Priest in charge for just over a year. As we emerge slowly and cautiously from pandemic years, we look forward with confidence in gaining parish influence in our community. This is accomplished with relevant outreach and invitation accordingly. Assisted by God's grace, our faith tradition helps bolster our connection and Christian impact.

It is a good and joyful thing that we are able to live back into our social norms of meeting. Coffee hours, bible studies, and Attic Treasures are back and viable.

I have faithfully lived into relationships with members of our parish with regular pastoral visits and I greatly appreciate each of you assisting as you can with cares and concerns as they arise. This year I hope to strengthen my connection with members and visitors who haven't engaged with us over the past few years.

I appreciate how our church continues and keeps in the forefront our relationship with the Diocese of Bethlehem. Christ's Church's stewardship is exceptional per honoring payment of diocesan assessment. That Bishop Kevin has shepherded this community through a very difficult time at the outset of his bishopric means more than one can express. Additionally, Ginnie Schoonover has been on the Diocesan Reunification Committee of both of the Diocese of Bethlehem and the Diocese of Central PA in a two year objective to determine if these diocese's should combine. Thank you for all the hours and hard work dedicated to this wider initiative.

It was gratifying to offer a special **service of Taïze**, holy week services and a **Blue Christmas** service complete with instrumental additions. The Lenten season was robust with weekly bible study/brunch and weekly Lenten luncheons hosted by TACA at the local Catholic Church.

I was blessed to have a reunion with my entire family on August 12th. This had not happened in 25 years. We celebrated on Seneca Lake complete with a Eucharist, a meal, prayer quilt, and photographs of each family gathered. This was a blessing and historic event for each family member. 71 people were present which included only siblings, partners, children and grandchildren. All were blessed by water of the Holy Land sprinkled upon them.

As my second grandson Mario John was born just this last week, I want to notify you that I will be visiting our newly expanded family in February after they gain some routine in their household. As well, in the beginning of March, I will be traveling to Holy Cross Monastery for a Lenten retreat for a few days and Chatauqua Institute this summer.

I encourage anyone in the parish to mark their calendars for Saturday May 4th for "Gather 24" an event hosted by the diocese at the PNC field in Scranton, Pa. More details will follow. We can band together for travel.

Ministries:

- **Hosting Grace Connection**

I remain very proud that Grace Connections was established in this church through the vision of our vestry. Many people with various kinds of financial need are supported through the efforts of this ecumenical ministry. I am on the board and attending the monthly meetings. Many thanks to Lee Baker for serving as a greeter. As well, I am so pleased that our community had such a robust response for the Christmas gift card initiative (approximately \$800.00).

- **Launching the warming Center at "Main Link"**

In conjunction with the Y , United Way, Holy Name of Mary Catholic Chapel and our church, Towanda is now offering a warming center at the Main link which will open if there is snow or temperatures below 20 degrees. There was s soup and food give away in November.

- **Child Advocacy Sunday - Blue Sunday**

April 30, 2023 Christ Church hosted the Child Advocacy Center's initiatives as Brittney Eiklor, their executive director came to Sunday service and discussed objectives and opportunities at their center. I attended an open house of the organization prior to our service together.

- **Journeying through Grief ministry**

Christ Church continues to offer a powerful resource to those who are grieving as a way to express ongoing pastoral care. This ministry uses personalized letters and booklets sent out over the first difficult year following the death of a loved one. Many have found them to be a supportive lifesaving resource letting them know that God is present community who empathize with their pain. In this way we are able to offer comfort and prayer at a very significant time in their lives. Please contact the parish office if you wish to have this offered to someone.

- **Being the Church in a Post Pandemic World**

The vestry took on the task of reading the book "Being the Church in a Post Pandemic World by Kay Kotan. This was equivalent of bringing in a consultant as each chapter (10 total) challenged our perceptions and encouraged hard conversations. We named the difficulties of adapting to shut down. We found and named potential areas of growth. Strengths named were resilience, adaptiveness, relationships, and innovation.

- **Pastoral care and Home Visitation**

A total of **33 home/hospital visits** were made from Christ Church with **73 sacramental communions** were offered by myself and 4 eucharistic lay visitors.

- **Pastoral offices - weddings/burials/confessions**

I conducted **2 funerals** outside of Towanda and **1 Order of Marriage. 2 private confessions** (Reconciliation of a Penitent) were conducted this year.

- **Upcoming baptisms**

I have selected the "Feast of Pentecost" as the day Christ Church will conduct baptisms. I am in the process of collecting a list of candidates and will have more information for parents forthcoming. The date will be Sunday May 19th.

Many thanks go out to all of you for the part(s) you play in our Christ Church community. This list is long and I don't want to leave anyone out. Please know that my gratitude abounds.

Betsy+

2023 Junior Warden

Stained glass windows

Peggy Ehrhart, who had been working on our windows, has had to shutter her business and is working for another company. We continue to try to find a company that we can work with to finish our restoration.

Basic Maintenance

- We continue with our boiler maintenance agreement with Postler & Jaeckle Corp. Unfortunately we had a major steam leak below the cabinets in the kitchen, nearest the refrigerator. Before they could repair that pipe and the one running up the radiator in the sanctuary, we had to have a company come in and remove the asbestos the pipe was wrapped in. I'm guessing that 80% of the pipes in the basement are still wrapped with it. When the asbestos was installed, it was a good idea. Not so much now. This will have to be addressed in the future as these pipes age and develop leaks.
- The steam leak caused both kitchen counters to warp. Gene is investigating an insurance claim to help cover the cost to replace the counters.
- We continue to change over to LED bulbs throughout the church. Lights in most of the rooms down stairs have been retro-fitted by rewiring the fixtures to accept LED tubes. We have started replacing the lights in the Parish Hall as they burn out. Eventually we will have to figure out what to do about the altar lights. I have yet to find LED bulbs that would look good around the columns.
- We continue our agreement with Kerner and Merchant, East Syracuse New York, for the maintenance and tuning of the pipe organ. We have it tuned and repaired for Christmas and Easter each year.
- AEDs (automated external defibrillators) have been installed at the rear of the church and in the Parish Hall, near the steps leading up to the Sacristy. Current Vestry members and Grace Connection were presented with a training video on its use as well as how to use the Narcan nasal spray, which is in the same wall cabinets. Narcan nasal spray was designed to rapidly reverse the effects of a life-threatening opioid emergency. We are still looking for donations to pay off the purchase of the AEDs. The Narcan is donated and kept up to date by Guthrie.
- Some of the low voltage light switches have started to fail. We have found a company that, for the moment, makes a replacement switch.
- The office had a color printer installed.
- More security cameras were installed throughout the building.
- The sink drain pipes have been replaced in the ladies room and the faucets in the Sunday school room were also updated.
- We have added an outdoor aluminum, glass door "poster board" to the doors at the top of the ramp and the south vestibule. These will be used for announcements and general information rather than taping things to the doors.

- We are looking at updating at least the railings on the ramp if not rebuilding the entire ramp outside the Parish Hall. Multiple boards shifted this year and needed to be leveled and reinstalled to avoid tripping hazards. The non skid strips were replaced with skip resistant paint.
- We are still looking to compile a capital improvement plan and fund. For any item(s) that you believe should be addressed, please see a Vestry member to have it added to the list.

My Other hats

- Next Christmas season we are planning to have the “Endless Mountains Choral Society” perform Part I of Handel’s “Messiah” in our church.
- Plans are also underway to increase the interest in our beautiful Johnson Tracker Organ, and encourage a new generation of organists. We hope to do this by allowing the Northern Tier Unified Arts Association to use our facility to have “Orgelkids USA” (<https://orgelkidsusa.org/>) come and build a small tracker organ with young students from throughout the county. After the organ is built, they then present a public concert using the instrument and a flutist.
- We were pleased to have a local student, Anna Caplinger, play the Christmas Eve service. She is looking forward to sharpening her organ playing skills and hopefully being able to fill in when needed as she gets more comfortable on the bench.

Mix Avenue Property

- Two trees were removed. The first one was near the power lines and most recently a tall tree near the parking spaces.
- Heating system, including the thermostat replaced. There is a warning system with the thermostat that will alert us if the temperature goes below 60 degrees – a light in the rear porch window will flash to draw attention to it.
- Leaking water heater replaced
- Bad main shutoff valve and attached pipes replaced.

Be sure to visit our website and Facebook pages:

www.christchurchtowanda.org

<https://www.facebook.com/christepiscoal.church>

Sunday School Report

Our Sunday School children have been very busy! They continue to sing in church most weeks to the joy of those present. They did an excellent job with their giving themed Christmas program and later went to visit Doris Lewis for a private performance. She was beyond thrilled to see these wonderful little ones and has repeatedly said it was the best part of her Christmas. In accordance with the giving theme of their program, the children kept a good deeds calendar for most of the Advent season to earn money for a service project. With the very generous support of the congregation, \$310.00 was earned and donated to Heifer International, which is a global nonprofit working to eradicate poverty and hunger through sustainable, values-based holistic community development. With the money they earned, the children were able to purchase a goat, a sheep, a flock of chicks, a flock of ducks, and a swarm of honeybees. Even better, at the time their donation was submitted, a 4 times matching grant was in effect. That quadrupled their donation so that many more families will be helped. The children are learning that they can show and share God's love. Please pray that our Sunday School will continue to grow.

In Christian Love,
Maurine Gehring

Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

Treasurer's Report

The financial obligations for our parish consist of three parts: the operational budget (pays bills including salaries, utilities, supplies, and the diocesan assessment/acceptance), our investments, and the capital budget (long-lasting repairs and equipment purchases).

The operational budget:

2023 was something that I hadn't seen since 2017 – we grew. Our giving rose by 17% from \$48943 to \$57361. Our spending was well controlled at just over \$113000. The difference between our spending and our giving, which is about \$56000, usually comes from our investments. This past year, we utilized some reserve funds which had been built up during 2021 and 2022 when we had no or limited pastoral care. Note that roughly half of our spending is covered by investments, and only half is covered by giving. I also think we grew spiritually. I feel lifted by Reverend Betsy's version of pastoral care and hope that you do as well.

The investments:

By utilizing reserve funds as mentioned above, we did not need to withdraw any money from our main DIT investment account again this year. We were able to benefit from the market recovery and, as a result, our investments recovered most of the losses incurred in the past 2 years. This puts us on a solid footing to pay our bills and perhaps to increase our investments in outreach and ourselves.

The capital budget:

On the capital side, we made significant investments in our rectory, with a new furnace, hot water heater, and water inlet valve. These costs totaled over \$5000. Our focus for 2024 is on windows and other small projects.

It is really gratifying to be part of such a giving group, where someone always steps up when there is a need. Thank you, everyone, for each and every gift to the church, whether monetary or of your time or considerable talents. They are all deeply appreciated.

Respectfully submitted

Gene Weisbrod, Treasurer

Acct	Disbursement	Proposed 2023 budget	Actual Dec 2023 YTD	Proposed 2024 budget
	Ministry Inreach			
60000	Youth + Sunday School	\$400.00	\$191.19	\$400.00
60100	Choir	\$-	\$46.10	\$500.00
60200	Altar Supplies	\$400.00	\$180.95	\$400.00
60400	Worship & Liturgy	\$1,800.00	\$1,443.90	\$1,800.00
60500	Special Programs	\$1,000.00	\$1,357.09	\$1,500.00
	Ministry Outreach			
61000	Assessment	\$10,129.80	\$10,129.80	\$9,667.80
61100	Acceptance	\$2,532.45	\$2,532.48	\$2,416.95
61300	insurance reserve	\$-	\$-	\$-
61400	Church Discretionary	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00	\$1,200.00
	Clergy			
62000	Salary	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$21,600.00
62100	Housing Allowance	\$9,200.00	\$9,200.04	\$9,936.00
62300	Mileage & Fuel	\$500.00	\$201.00	\$500.00
62400	Auto expenses & insurance	\$-	\$-	\$-
62500	Employer SS	\$2,233.80	\$2,233.80	\$2,412.50
62600	Pension	\$5,658.08	\$5,658.12	\$6,110.73
62700	Supply Clergy	\$1,500.00	\$969.01	\$1,400.00
62800	continuing education	\$1,000.00	\$-	\$900.00
		\$40,091.88	\$38,261.97	\$42,859.23
	Staff			
63000	Cleaning Expenses	\$3,536.00	\$3,366.28	\$3,744.00
63100	Musical Services	\$5,400.00	\$4,885.00	\$5,400.00
63200	Employer SS tax	\$522.29	\$522.29	\$558.00
63300	Employer Medicare Tax	\$122.15	\$122.15	\$130.50
63400	Workman's comp	\$250.00	\$112.00	\$250.00
63500	Secretary Salary	\$8,424.00	\$8,424.00	\$9,000.00
63600	Professional & Education	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
	Vestry			
64000	Miscellaneous	\$300.00	\$12.00	\$500.00
64100	Convention	\$500.00	\$63.18	\$500.00
64200	Interest	\$-	\$-	\$-
64300	Service Charges/Fees	\$-	\$-	\$-
64400	Vestry Gifts	\$500.00	\$-	\$500.00
	Church Utilities			
65000	Telephone	\$1,000.00	\$863.26	\$900.00
65100	Natural Gas Heating	\$8,400.00	\$6,405.05	\$4,400.00
65200	Water & Sewer	\$300.00	\$350.00	\$375.00
65300	Electricity	\$1,800.00	\$1,706.04	\$2,000.00
65400	Trash	\$200.00	\$200.00	\$250.00

Acct	Disbursement	Proposed 2023 budget	Actual Dec 2023 YTD	Proposed 2024 budget
	Church Property			
66000	Building Maintenance	\$3,700.00	\$5,815.26	\$4,344.00
66100	Supplies	\$500.00	\$863.70	\$900.00
66200	Grounds Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$1,130.00	\$2,500.00
66300	Insurance	\$10,500.00	\$10,253.70	\$11,500.00
	Rectory			
67000	Property Taxes	\$1,250.00	\$1,230.63	\$1,300.00
67100	Natural Gas Heating	\$-	\$-	\$-
67200	Electricity	\$-	\$-	\$-
67300	Water & Sewer	\$1,200.00	\$223.65	\$1,200.00
67400	Rectory Maintenance	\$2,500.00	\$7,208.65	\$3,000.00
	Administration			
68000	Fellowship	\$500.00	\$793.25	\$750.00
68100	Stewardship	\$500.00	\$288.20	\$500.00
68300	Office Supplies	\$500.00	\$518.70	\$600.00
68400	Copier Contract	\$250.00	\$140.07	\$200.00
68500	Postage & Shipping	\$600.00	\$842.40	\$600.00
68600	Computer & Internet	\$1,000.00	\$1,463.43	\$1,500.00
	total disbursements	\$114,808.57	\$113,146.37	\$118,645.48
	Capital expenses		\$3,740.90	
	Income			
41000	Benevolence Outreach	\$7,000.00	\$3,316.65	\$4,000.00
42000	Mission Inreach	\$-	\$-	\$-
43000	Building & Capital	\$-	\$14,986.77	\$-
44000	General Funds	\$1,500.00	\$1,575.81	\$1,500.00
45000	Designated Collections	\$-	\$-	\$-
47000	Pledge	\$45,480.00	\$44,477.23	\$45,000.00
47100	Non-Pledge	\$5,000.00	\$5,903.00	\$3,500.00
47200	Plate	\$1,000.00	\$5,405.27	\$4,000.00
47300	Children's offerings	\$-	\$-	\$-
48000	Interest	\$300.00	\$334.04	\$200.00
48100	Trust Income	\$25,258.12	\$25,689.28	\$25,000.00
48200	DIT Income	\$28,627.00	\$10,501.21	\$29,845.00
49000	Rent	\$9,600.00	\$9,550.00	\$9,600.00
	Total budgeted income	\$116,765.12	\$103,435.84	\$118,645.00
	DIT growth		\$126,507.44	
	fundraising		\$801.63	

4:54 PM
12/31/23
Cash Basis

Christ Episcopal Church
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2023

	Dec 31, 23
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Checking/Savings	
10001 - C&N Key (main) checking	
Altar Guild Balance	6,045.92
Capital fund balance	
D Darrow	9,146.31
dit funds	25,000.00
organ fund	240.00
window fund	19,185.73
Capital fund balance - Other	-58,998.44
Total Capital fund balance	-5,426.40
Choir fund balance	124.62
Church Discretionary Balance	
special Church Discretionary	1,227.69
Church Discretionary Balance - Other	5,993.04
Total Church Discretionary Balance	7,220.73
Columbarium Fund Balance	3,042.93
General Fund Balance	39,126.79
Insurance deductible reserve	5,000.00
Outreach Balance	5.00
Planned contingency budget fund	1,113.85
Rental property deposits	1,606.73
Special collections balance	250.00
Total 10001 - C&N Key (main) checking	58,110.17
10100 - C&N Rector Discretionary	1,036.40
10300 - C&N Wonder Group	1,168.93
10400 - CN Bank CD # 1 Window Fund	321,443.42
11000 - DIT funds - nondesignated	
DIT fund # 187 endowment	695,648.77
Total 11000 - DIT funds - nondesignated	695,648.77
11100 - DIT funds - designated	
DIT # 49 Altar Guild	6,003.31
DIT 248 ECW designated	20,247.72
Total 11100 - DIT funds - designated	26,251.03
11500 - M&T account D	247,656.06
Total Checking/Savings	1,351,314.78
Total Current Assets	1,351,314.78
TOTAL ASSETS	1,351,314.78
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
24000 - Payroll Liabilities	247.64
Total Other Current Liabilities	247.64
Total Current Liabilities	247.64
Total Liabilities	247.64
Equity	
30000 - Opening Balance Equity	708,934.20
32000 - Unrestricted Net Assets	525,474.46
Net Income	116,658.48
Total Equity	1,351,067.14
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	1,351,314.78