

2014 Annual Report

Presented on February 8, 2015



Christ Episcopal Church
205 North Seventh Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
The Rev. J. Douglas Moyer, Rector

Table of Contents

1 Call to Order		
2 Opening Prayer		
3 Approval of 2013 Annual Minutes	.....	Page 2
4 Senior Wardens Report	.....	Page 4
5 Junior Wardens Report	.....	Page 7
6 Standing Committee Reports	.....	Page 8
i. Evangelism		
ii. Sunday School		
iii. Columbarium		
iv. Treasury		
v. Parish Life		
vi. Youth Group		
7 Adult Study Group	.....	Page 14
8 Music Ministry Report	.....	Page 15
9 Food Pantry	.....	Page 16
10 Election of Vestry Members	.....	Page 17
11 Election of Delegates to Convention		
12 Rectors Report		
13 Closing Prayer		



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

205 North Seventh Street
Stroudsburg, PA 18360
(570) 421-7481
Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday, January 19, 2014

1 Call to Order

The Annual Parish meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer at 10:20 a.m. by Senior Warden Michele Causton.

2 Approval of 2012 Annual Minutes – Michele asked for a motion to approve the 2012 Annual Meeting Minutes as written. The motion to approve the minutes as made by Bob Nelson, and seconded by Cynthia Leenerts. There were no comments from the floor, the motion carried unanimously.

3 Senior Wardens Report – Michele Causton

- Narrative included in report; and we read aloud by Michele

4 Adult Study Group – Barbara Cramer

- Narrative included in report, however, Barbara commented there is also a Wednesday Bible study held after the Healing Mass and there is also a study on Sunday after the 8:00 a.m. worship.

6 Standing Committee Reports

i Evangelism – Jennifer Sutherland. Narrative read aloud

ii Sunday School – Chris Nelson

No comment on narrative, however, Chris stated there is always a need for teachers, and if interested to see her. Also, enrollment in the program is open.

iii Treasury – Howard Alleger

- Reviewed the unaudited Balance Sheet and the Income/Expense sheets. Details of these reports are available for review in the office.

iv Columbarium – Patti Alleger

- Patti further commented on the narrative, citing the increase of the purchase price of a niche and future installation of a unit.

v Parish Life – Sharon Potter

- Standing report.

vi Youth Group – MaryEllen Whiteley

- Standing report. MaryEllen distributed a Youth Group activity planning calendar through June 2014.

7 Music Ministry Report – Sue Stillo

- Standing report. Sue thanked the congregation for their continued support and lobbied for choir members – even if they can't sing!

8 Presentation of 2014 Budget – Howard Alleger

- Standing report. Howard noted that the budget is in balance.

9 Election of Vestry Members

- Michele asked Greg Tanico, Sam Whiteley, and Buz Radican to stand and be recognized for their intent to be elected to Vestry. Michele also asked for other interested individuals. There being no other interested parties, Martha Linne moved to accept Greg, Sam and Buz as new Vestry members. Michael Shands seconded the motion. There were no further discussion. The motion carried unanimously.

10 Election of Delegates to Convention

Two delegates to the March Convention to elect an interim Bishop are Howard Alleger and Michele Causton. It was moved and seconded unanimously to send them to convention as our representatives.

11 Rectors Report – Fr. Doug

Standing Report. Father recognized the four members leaving vestry (expired terms) with a gift of prayer books. The books were given to Michael Shands, Bob Nelson, June Sucre, and Sharon Potter.

12 Closing Prayer

There being no further business before the congregation, Howard moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor were asked to stand, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise K. Bach
Clerk of Vestry

4. Senior Warden's Report

Mathew 23:25

“For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me..... Truly I say to you as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.

How wonderful is it to realize our congregation is living out these very words, the words of Christ. I want to thank all of you for all your gifts and time and for using them to serve God and better our church and community.

I have witnessed our congregation transform their relationship with the community, each other and God through participation in the outreach opportunities our church provides. God's work in our individual lives, in our church community and the community outside our church walls brings healing and hope. The capacity for hope is the most significant fact of life. It provides humans with a sense of destination, the energy to continue and a new life for those in need.

In the year 2014 our outreach into the community continued to grow with the opening of our food pantry, offering clothing and winter attire to those in need, providing a meeting place to a new program that supports the Mental Health needs of individuals in our community and a woman's group open to all who wish to attend. We also continued to provide a meeting place for the three NA and AA groups and continued supporting the Bridges out of Poverty program.

Our participation in the life and worship of the church has shaped us to live as God's baptized people in the community and world. As we live out our baptismal vows through, worship, prayer, studying scripture, giving and serving for the good of others; the Holy Spirit transforms and empowers us more and more to join and take joy in God's mission for us all.

Most of us have had a special person in our life, a parent, grandparent, teacher, or priest who, in his or her own way, proclaimed to us the good news, by word or deed. Those who participate in our outreach programs become this special person to those in need. By opening our church to the community we break down the barriers of the church walls and reach others for Christ.

In August, the vestry attended a one day local retreat to discuss the vision and mission of the church. We reviewed the current statement, “A welcoming, compassionate and healing community in Christ.” Upon reflecting on the transformation our church is currently experiencing, a vision statement has been

created that we believe will help direct the congregation as we continue on our current path.

The new vision statement reads, "Christ Church is a community grounded in Anglican Tradition committed to bring all people into a transformative relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, prayer, education and ministry. We are a community in which every person seeks to grow into the full stature of Christ through daily prayer, continual study of God's Word and ministries in which we reach out daily as witnesses of God's love to our neighbors, our nation and the world.

Proclaiming the word of God is the primary function of the church. We proclaim the biblical truth through preaching and teaching. We educate through our Sunday School program, bible study, adult forum and spiritual groups that are open to the public. In the upcoming year it is my mission to place more emphasis on creating opportunities for all, especially those in our outreach programs and community, to learn and understand the word of God.

The second function of the church is evangelism and missions. We exist for the sake of our community and the world. We are to desire to live as God wants us to so we can be a shining light in the midst of a dark world. The ultimate goal of all ministry is to reach others for Christ. There are many opportunities to minister to those in need. We can continue to support our existing programs and participate in other programs already in existence in the community.

Those whom I have spoken to in the past few months in our outreach programs searching for a church home have many questions and feelings about church and religion. Most have been disappointed by their previous church experiences feeling unwelcomed, not fitting in and uncertain about worship and prayer. One of the women in the Bridges Program asked how long I have been a member of Christ Church. I told her twenty years. She looked at me very surprised and said, "Twenty years, why so long at one church?" I thought briefly and told her initially it was because of the members of the congregation; they were like family but without all the drama. I then mentioned the many programs and opportunities the church provides that have helped transform my life. First Peter 3:15 says to "be ready to give an answer to every man that asks you a reason of the hope that is in you." Christ Church gives me the hope that is within me through all that it offers through outreach, youth and learning God's Word.

Our lives make our testimonies believable or unbelievable. The way we live in the world is important. Those who are doubtful, such as individuals whom we welcome to our church, are watching and listening. Jesus summed up our responsibility to live a righteous life when he said, "Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, who is in

heaven” Matt. 5:16 Unbelievers should be able to look at your life and say, “Only God could do that in a person’s life!”

Let’s make this year a year to let our good works shine on our community, help evangelize those who seek the Lord and a better understanding of the Good Word, and to continue our mission work in the community and world.

Michele Causton

Senior Warden

5. Junior Warden's Report

- Roof has been repaired

- Several inconsequential things 'fixed,' – weather stripping installed on the narthex doors, chair rails installed in the office wing, the walls were repainted in the office wing, light bulbs replaced in the nave were replaced with energy-saving bulbs, installation of new hymn boards, repaired blinds in the office, repaired hydraulic door closers, reworked the ramp for the food pantry.

- Continuation of repairs and maintenance items in 2015.

Thank you to the many who have helped maintain the beauty and safety of the church, both inside and out.

Buz Radican

Senior Warden

6. Standing Committee Reports

i. Evangelism Committee Report

Committee Chairperson: Jennifer Sutherland

Committee members: Barbara Cato, Jessie Eisel, Cynthia Ogelsby, Patricia Figueras, Cynthia Nortey, and Loretta Jones.

Goal of the committee: Help spread the Christian message and raise the profile of Christ Episcopal Church in the community.

Monthly visits to Golden Living Center Stroud Nursing Home, occurs on the last Saturday of each month. On the last Sunday of each month or when feasible, we would hold our meeting after the 10am service to discuss lay Eucharistic visits, visits to the Nursing Home, and knitting projects.

Twelve monthly visits and 164 individual room visits were made to Golden Living Center Stroud Nursing Home residents for the year 2014. Hymns were sung to the residents, prayers were read, and Forward Day by Day booklets were given out. At times we would just talk and let the residents reminisce about their past and voice their concerns for the future.

Monthly sick and shut in visits were made by Jessie Eisel. Jessie Eisel is lovingly providing the Holy Eucharist to Albert and Maria Matos during her visits.

Sue Freeman knitted 27 baby caps for the Care Wear program at Pocono Medical Center. These hats will provide warmth for the babies in their Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and maternity ward.

Two new members joined the Evangelism Committee in 2014 and their names are Loretta Jones and Cynthia Nortey.

The goal for 2014 will be to continue to grow in membership and reach out to the people of our community who are often ignored and forgotten.

Thank You and God Bless
Jennifer A Sutherland

ii. Sunday School

Sunday School teachers, under the curriculum guidance of Barbara Cramer, continue to teach and learn from over 20 children on a weekly basis. There are over 30 children on our roster with more joining every month. The children love the format, are able to follow the stories and actually remember them from week to week as we informally quiz them to reinforce the stories.

The children decided to help folks in need in our own area this year and have been bringing non-perishable food for our food pantry to Sunday School each week.

Michael Shands has been holding teen forum with our confirmed youth during Sunday School hour in the teen room downstairs.

My thanks to Heather Blum, Taylor and Ethan's mother, for redoing the Christmas star for the Christmas Eve Sunday School pageant, and to all the parents who made their children available and/or helped during rehearsals.

Sunday School teachers are Barbara Cramer, Barbara Emert, Patti Laing, Michael Shands, Greg Tanico, Cheryl McPherson, Derrick McKay, and Carlee Haase, Patricia Bazan-Figueras is a substitute teacher. If you are interested in teaching or helping with our children, contact Chris Nelson or Barbara Cramer.

Chris Nelson
Coordinator

iii. Columbarium

We had one internment this past year, leaving 31 niches available to parishioners and family members.

If you are looking for a loving final resting place, consider our columbarium. A niche is available for \$500.00. This covers a container for the remains, engraving on the wall plaque and a page, done in calligraphy, in our memory book.

Your final resting place is in a peaceful location that is easy to visit every Sunday, and weekly upon request. Burial in the church is a long standing Anglican tradition. We invite you to investigate this option.

Stop by some Sunday and visit our columbarium in the Chapel in the back of the church.

For more information contact:

Patti Alleger at: palleger@ptd.net, or 570-424-1423 home, 570- 269-1300 cell.

iv. Treasury

Christ Episcopal Church
Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)
 2014 Year End Report

02/07/2015 09:19 AM

Page: 1

	Current Period	Annual Budget	Annual Budget Difference	Next Year Annual Budget
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTION INCOME				
UNRESTRICTED	\$168,825.87	\$155,300.00	\$13,525.87	\$172,200.00
DONOR RESTRICTED	1,742.00	2,700.00	-958.00	1,200.00
Subtotal Contribution Income	170,567.87	158,000.00	12,567.87	173,400.00
INTEREST INCOME				
Investment Interest	11,994.94	11,900.00	94.94	11,400.00
Subtotal Interest Income	12,006.71	11,900.00	106.71	11,400.00
INVESTMENT INCOME REINV	95.00	0.00	95.00	0.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME	17,697.27	17,600.00	97.27	17,100.00
TOTAL INCOME	200,366.85	187,500.00	12,866.85	201,900.00
EXPENSES				
FIXED EXPENSES				
SALARIES / BENEFITS	\$123,252.11	\$125,855.00	-\$2,602.89	\$129,100.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	4,726.35	4,750.00	-23.65	4,050.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	22,276.23	21,100.00	1,176.23	27,750.00
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	150,254.69	151,705.00	-1,450.31	160,900.00
CHURCH MINISTRIES				
DIOCESE	22,415.38	22,424.00	-8.62	24,221.00
COMMUNITY / OUTREACH	1,063.49	3,071.00	-2,007.51	1,929.00
WORSHIP	5,177.71	5,700.00	-522.29	7,200.00
SPIRITUAL NURTURE	1,940.59	800.00	1,140.59	2,400.00
STEWARDSHIP	364.65	0.00	364.65	800.00
FELLOWSHIP/PARISH LIFE	1,005.96	1,000.00	5.96	1,000.00
EVANGELISM	384.00	500.00	-116.00	1,000.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,332.49	2,200.00	-867.51	2,450.00
Subtotal Church Ministries	33,684.27	35,695.00	-2,010.73	41,000.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	183,938.96	187,400.00	-3,461.04	201,900.00
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS				
TRANSFER FROM OTHER FUNDS	-\$4,184.36	\$0.00	-\$4,184.36	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	-4,184.36	0.00	-4,184.36	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$12,243.53	\$100.00	\$12,143.53	\$0.00

iv. Parish Life

Parish Life Report for year ending December 31, 2014

Sharon Potter – Chair

The Parish Life Committee helps to maintain a sense of community within our parish through organizing and running events and activities for our church members.

Events for 2014

- Weekly Coffee Hour
- Annual Parish Picnic
- Lenten meals after the Stations of the Cross
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
- Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
- Bridges Out of Poverty Meals

iv. Youth Group

It has been a great year for the Christ Church Youth Group. In 2014 we, once again, joined with the Youth Group from the First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg to participate in the annual Relay for Life charity event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society and chaired locally by our own John Barnak. After year-around fundraising, we took part in the 24-hour relay, held on Father's Day weekend in the football stadium at East Stroudsburg University. We again pitched our tents and spent an entire day and night walking around the track to raise money for this worthy cause. This year there were 37 teams participating, and together we raised more than \$97,000 for the fight against cancer. Our team, Youth Against Cancer, raised more than \$3,500 or twice what we had raised the year before! We acknowledge the incredible support and financial contributions, as well as the contributions of time and talent, from people from our congregation toward making our Relay for Life an overwhelming success. As an added bonus, our team also won the coveted Spirit Award at the 2014 Relay for Life, an achievement we hope to duplicate in 2015!

We have more than 40 team members already signed up for our 2015 Relay for Life team. Our goal this year is to raise \$2,500. We held a Hoe Down fundraiser at the American Legion Hall in East Stroudsburg in August, with proceeds going toward that goal. We also held a bake sale in December to raise more funds; and in early January, we created our Youth Against Cancer video, that will be available soon on our Facebook page, so stay tuned!

Other charity work we participated in this year included making Christmas stockings for kids in the Bridges Out of Poverty program. We bought and filled 17 stockings, bringing smiles to the faces of children who might otherwise not have had as much to celebrate.

It was a moving event that brought as much joy to our members as it did to the kids in the Bridges Out of Poverty Program.

As a group, we visited Knoebel's Amusement Park for a day of fun and fellowship. We enjoyed riding the crazy roller coasters and eating the great amusement park food. We also went bowling as a group and had a lot of fun, even if we didn't throw a lot of strikes. We also went tubing at Camelback as a Relay for Life event, with some of our group staying until the wee hours of the morning to enjoy the wintry weather.

Our plans for 2015 include tubing at Alpine Mountain in February, courtesy of the very generous gift of free tickets from the resort owners and Christ Church member, Claudia and Kevin Fabiano. We will also be returning to Knoebel's for a post-Relay for Life celebration.

Our other big project in 2015 will be to send some our members on a weeklong Mission Trip to Appalachia to offer our services to a community in need. We will be building and landscaping as needed. We will provide more information to the congregation as details become available.

We are currently selling Christ Church T-shirts to members of the congregation, with proceeds earmarked to support our 2015 activities.

We are pleased with the enormous amount of work we accomplished in 2014. We have an enthusiastic, energetic, and committed group of kids who work hard, play hard, and really appreciate the support provided by the church. We look forward to the youth group contributing even more to our Church family and the wider community in the months and years ahead. We would like to thank all the members of Christ Episcopal Church for the enormous support you have given us as we explore our spirituality, build a stronger society, and discover our places in our church and in our world.

The Christ Church Youth Group meets at 9:45 am on the third Sunday of every month in the teen room, located in the church undercroft. Anyone in 7th through 12th grade who is interested in joining us is welcome.

Mary Ellen Whiteley

7. Adult Study Group

A diverse small group meets on Tuesday afternoons for Bible study at the home of Barbara Cramer. This year we completed Beth Moore's DVD studies of "David: Seeking A Heart Like His", "Stepping Up: Psalms of Ascent" and "Paul: To Live Is Christ". None of us are "experts", so we appreciate studies by others more knowledgeable than we are. Anyone is welcome to join us, even if just for one study, that may last 7 to 11 weeks. Call or e-mail Barbara at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net if you are interested.

Prayer Team

Loyal members of our Prayer Team pray each day through a growing list of concerns. With e-mail, we can quickly alert our team to new requests and updates on those for whom we continue to pray. There is also a copy of our prayers on the prie-dieux by the chapel at the back of the sanctuary, so anyone can pray for the current concerns of our Parish. Concerns that are completely confidential are not included on that list.

This year, Sue Stillo, Barbara Cato, and Chris Nelson have been added to our team that also includes Howard & Patti Alleger, Jo Bauer, Jenny Collier, Barbara Cramer, Jessie Eisel, Pat Figueras, Trish Hughes, Gil Janes, Cynthia Leenerts, Eileen Lindsley, as well as Bob Barker, Gini Strunk and Gloria O'Sullivan who, though geographically distant, continue to pray with us. We prayed for newborns in crisis, seeing pictures of their tiny forms obscured by tubes, but our prayers turned to praise when we received e-mail with pictures of them now strapped into their car seats, going home from the hospital.

In addition, we sent cards, some being made by our Sunday School youth, to our homebound and to the people for whom the prayer team prays. We have had a positive response from those who have received the cards.

If you would like to be part of our Prayer Team or if you want us to pray for someone you know, call or e-mail Barbara Cramer at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net.

7. Music Ministry

Adult Choir: The Christ Episcopal Adult Choir meets every Thursday evening from 7-8:30 during the months of September to June. The nine member *ALL VOLUNTEER* Choir works diligently to prepare Sunday Worship Hymns and selected Offertory Anthems to inspire and praise.

For the second year in a row, the Choir participated in the regional concert: Project One Step featuring area choristers raising money for Pocono Alliance, VALOR, and local food pantries. They prepared for months to perform a beautiful Christmas Cantata by Pepper Choplin. Over \$10,000 was raised.

This year at the midnight Christmas mass, the choir was joined by the five member Teen Choir as they performed the *Itty Bitty Babe in the Manger* from this Cantata.

The Young Peoples Orchestra added their beautiful sounds to that Christmas Eve Midnight Mass as well.

Special thanks to these volunteers:

Adult Choir: Sopranos- Antonia Harewood-Harris, Janet Ullo, Barbara Cato; Altos: Andrea McQueen, Paula George, Patti Alleger, Colleen Schufefe; Tenor: Gil Janes; Bass: Howard Alleger

Teen Choir: Ubu Nwosu, Ariana McCrae, Arielle McRae, Elizabeth McQueen, Justin McQueen, Zarya Tom-Wing

Young People's Orchestra: Violin: Lena Morella; Cello: Winnai Hoyt; Flute: Natori Tom Wing; Clarinets: Yacine Tom Wing, Elizabeth McQueen; Orchestra bells: Justin McQueen.

Teen Bell Choir performed at the Christmas Eve, 5 pm service. They met for two months on Thursday evenings and worked hard in preparation. During the month of December, the Bell Choir traveled to Mrs. Bush's Assisted Living Facility in Kunkletown to perform for the residents there. Jane Martin, a CEC parishioner invited us. Music was enjoyed by all.

The Teen Bell Choir also performed for the Ladies Auxiliary of Faith United Methodist Church during their annual Christmas Party. The organization presented the group with a \$50 check. The teens unanimously agreed to donate the money to the Relay for Life Cancer Society in which their Youth Group takes part.

Members include Noel Nelson, Cassi Shands, Pamela Woisin, Alicia Laing, Elizabeth McQueen, Justin McQueen and Paula George, assistant

During the month of November, piano students of Susan Stillo, who are also members of Christ Episcopal Church, performed Prelude, Postlude and Communion Meditations during the worship services. Special thanks to John Casey, Elena Casey, Raymar DeCaires, Rayland DeCaires, Alicia Laing, Elizabeth McQueen, Justin McQueen, Noel Nelson and Pamela Woisin for sharing their talents with our church and enhancing the worship service with joyful sounds.

8. Food Pantry

Christ Church Food Pantry officially opened on 4 October 2014. We are open twice a month on the first Saturday, from 10 am to 2pm, and the third Wednesday from 5 to 7 pm.

Since opening, we have served 206 families that total 719 individuals. We also have given over 50 coats to people who were in need. I would like to thank all the volunteers that have helped with the food pantry from stocking shelves, moving the shelves out of the storage area for distribution and then moving them back to the storage area, helping with the declaration forms and helping clients with their selections. I would also like to thank the congregation for all of the generous donations of food, money, and coats. Most of all I thank God for blessing the food pantry and letting us to be his hands in serving the hungry.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Freeman

10. Election of Vestry Members

Term:

2013 -2015	Michele Causton Martha Linne Howard Alleger
2014-2016	Sam Whiteley Greg Tanico Buz Radican
2015 -2017	Nominees: Cheryl McPherson Jennifer Sutherland Sharon Potter

11. Election of Delegates to Convention

12. Rector's Report

The purpose of the rector's report is to give a brief overview of the past year, as well as highlight some of the challenges and opportunities that we will likely face in the upcoming year. I am only going to spend a short time reviewing last year – after all, the others who preceded me have done a very good job of that. I am going to focus a little more on our future. But first I must fulfill the requirement of reporting some statistics from the past year.

In 2014 there were no baptisms, 2 funerals and 146 Saturday Evening and Sunday services, with an average weekend attendance of 115. In addition to our weekend services, we also celebrated the Eucharist an additional 47 times during weekday services and provided the Eucharist an additional 26 times in visitations performed by me or our Eucharistic visitors to parishioners who were either shut-ins or hospitalized.

This past year we also had 28 new members join, 9 people move away and 3 parishioners die, for a net gain of 16 members. And this continued growth in the parish is across all age levels; adults and young people. As Chris Nelson mentioned in her report, our Sunday school attendance continues to grow; and, as Mary Ellen told us, our youth group is also flourishing; in both numbers and ministries.

But statistics do not tell the real story of this parish. As uplifting as the growth in our membership over the last few years may be, what is even more exciting is the growth in our ministries. As Michele mentioned in her report, we are reaching an ever growing number of people each and every month. And this became really evident to me about a week or so ago. Let me explain.

Several months after I had come here, as winter faded and the weather became warmer, I started strolling around Stroudsburg a little more. One afternoon I stopped at the Mediterranean Grill on 8th street for lunch. I introduced myself to the owner and as we chatted he asked me in which church I was serving. I told him Christ Church; the Episcopal church on 7th street. His response? "There's a church on 7th street? Where?" Of course, I told him where we are located; but I realized that we were not very well known in the community. After all, the Mediterranean Grill is less than 2 blocks away.

Fast forward to today and the difference is startling. This church and all that you have done has been in the Pocono Record several times and on television at least twice. And the event I mentioned that occurred a little over a week ago? A person prominent in the community commented to me about how thrilled the community is that Christ Church is such an integral part of Stroudsburg. You, and all that you have done for the benefit of others, has been noticed and appreciated. And your generosity, that is evident not only in all that you do, but in your giving as well, as Howard's report clearly shows, has made all of this possible. And I feel like the most fortunate priest in this diocese to be serving in this faithful, faithful parish.

But just as I stated at last year's annual meeting, our work is not done; but just beginning. God has poured out his blessings on us because, as Michele mentioned, we have been faithful to Jesus' challenge to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, shelter the homeless and visit the ill. And in the parable of the talents, Jesus tells us that our faithfulness in a little will lead to God giving us charge over much. And we are beginning to see this as more and more people come to us for nourishment; both physical and spiritual.

We are always in need for people to help with the food pantry; to stock shelves; to be here to serve when the pantry is open; to donate and or solicit food from other organizations in the community. Our work with the Bridges Out of Poverty Program continues and so we need people to help these families as they work to escape the clutches of poverty. As Jennifer mentioned in her report, the Evangelism Committee is always in need of volunteers to help them, in

Jennifer's words, "reach out to the people of our community who are often ignored and forgotten." There is still much for us to do. And so I urge each of you to consider what talents, skills and passions you possess – gifts given to you by God – which you could offer to the church.

Finally, I believe our opportunity to acquire the property across the street is one more indication of God blessing all that we do and giving us the means to do even more. We are living in what may well be the most exciting time in the history of this parish; a time when the number of people who have not heard the message of the gospel may be greater than at any other time in the history of Stroudsburg. And a time when we at Christ Church are well poised to proclaim that message to people who desperately need to hear it. And so I ask all of us to help proclaim the gospel message far and wide by both word and deed; so that this year we set the parish record for baptisms.

May God continue to bless all that we do in His Name. Thank you. Before we adjourn, are there any questions?

13. May I have a motion to adjourn. A second.

Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ***Amen.***