

2015 Annual Report Presented on January 31, 2016



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

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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

Sunday, February 8, 2015

- 1 Call to Order / Opening Prayer
 - The Annual Parish meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer at 10:30 a.m. by Senior Warden Michele Causton.

- 3 Approval of 2014 Annual Minutes – Michele asked for a motion to approve the 2014 Annual Meeting Minutes as written. The motion to approve the minutes was made by Rob Causton, and seconded by Antonia Harewood-Harris. There were no comments from the floor, the motion carried unanimously.

- 4 Senior Wardens Report – Michele Causton
 - Narrative included in printed report; and was read aloud by Michele and was accompanied with a visual Beatitude procession by our youth.

- 5 Junior Wardens Report – Buz Radican
 - Narrative included in printed report.

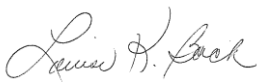
- 6 Standing Committee Reports
 - i Evangelism – Jennifer Sutherland.
 - Narrative included in report.
 - ii Sunday School – Chris Nelson
 - Narrative included in printed report. Chris verbally thanked the parents of the students and the congregation for their continued support.
 - iii Columbarium – Patti Alleger
 - Narrative included in printed report. Patti further commented on the citing the increase of the purchase price of a niche and future installation of a unit.
 - iv Treasury – Howard Alleger
 - An explanation was given regarding the Income and Expense Report included in the packet. Howard then went on to explain several details of our offer to purchase the properties at 681 and 684 Sarah Street and we will make a refundable \$20,000 deposit if we cannot secure funding to purchase the properties. The Diocese of Bethlehem has offered us a bridge loan in the amount of \$150,000 payable after the sale of the rectory property at 704 Thomas Street. The contractual deadline for the completion of the sale is March 22, 2015. Howard is moving forward with plot plans, funding options, and legal matters. He

will keep the congregation apprised of developments as they progress.

- v Parish Life – Sharon Potter
 - Narrative included in printed report. Cheryl Cloke spoke briefly about upcoming events, i.e. Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper and the St. Patrick's Day Supper.
- vi Youth Group – MaryEllen Whiteley
 - Narrative included in printed report. MaryEllen thanked everyone for their support of the group, its activities and fundraisers and disclosed several “hints” for the upcoming fundraiser and the Relay for Life event in June.
- 7** Adult Study Group – Barbara Cramer
 - Narrative included in printed report.
- 8** Music Ministry Report – Susan Stillo
 - Narrative included in printed report.
- 9** Food Pantry – Sue Freeman
 - Narrative included in printed report. Sue thanked everyone for their support of this ministry and noted there are new “shopping lists” of needed items in the narthex.
- 10** Election of Vestry Members
 - Two members have come forward to serve three year terms – Sharon Potter and Cheryl McPherson. There being no nominations from the floor, Howard Alleger moved to accept Sharon and Cheryl as new vestry members. Sue Freeman seconded the motion. No further discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
- 11** Election of Delegates to Convention
 - Two delegates to the March Convention are Sue Freeman and Michele Causton It was moved and seconded unanimously to send them to convention as our representatives.
- 12** Rectors Report – Fr. Doug
 - Narrative included in printed report.
- 13** Closing Prayer

There being no further business brought before the congregation, Rob Causton moved to adjourn the meeting. All in favor were asked to stand, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise K. Bach
Clerk of Vestry

4. Senior Wardens Report

Another year has come and gone here at Christ Church Stroudsburg.

We experienced growth not only in our involvement in the community but also with the acquisition of the buildings and parking across the street. And although these are wonderful accomplishments, I feel compelled to share with you how the members of this congregation have impacted my spiritual journey before I complete my last day as Senior Warden.

When reflecting on my spiritual journey, I owe much of my growth to my experiences at Christ Church. Your love and generosity, fellowship, opportunities to reach out to the community and your ever giving hearts fuel my soul and deepen my spirituality. This church and congregation have demonstrated to me what is possible in small community churches and the importance of experiencing religion and a church family.

It is through the relationships we create with those in our neighborhood that inspire hope, love and builds our faith through shared opportunities and authentic relationships. The growth in our outreach programs, youth groups and choir demonstrate our love of Christ and each other. We have continued to work in our community this past year by supporting programs that better the lives of our neighbors by providing them with needed items, food and more importantly hope. By accepting and treating our neighbors as ourselves we fulfill the great commandment: "Love your neighbor as yourself." (Matt. 22:36-40).

Jesus preached the golden rule and with a little time and understanding we too can learn about those in our community better and deepen our relationships with them. We need to pray to be stronger and wiser and open our imaginations and our creativity while using the gifts God has given us to spread the Good news.

Bishop Paul has requested we all begin a pilgrimage in the diocese by looking deep within ourselves and the programs in our congregations. It is a time of intentional discernment, planning and decision making. To grow closer to God, one another and prayerfully listen to what God is calling us to do and be. To co-create with God while on our holy pilgrimage.

It is a time of discernment about our individual personal spiritual needs as well as the congregation and diocese. A time of discernment about our community and the transitions taking place in these complex times and to preserve our families and future of this church. It will be challenging to discern what to hold onto and what to let go of in our future. To assess the value of some traditions and create new ones to welcome those struggling in our community. All must be done through prayerful discernment.

Heaven knows there's much that we are still learning. We're all in this world, community and congregation together. Our spirituality, the importance of the church and the nurturing experiences it provides must be treasured and more importantly shared. Let's open our hearts to God and in the upcoming year work together to truly discern who we, Christ Church, are and how we are to spread Gods love in our community.

I was given a precious gift while on my spiritual journey during my time at Christ Church. It is my dream, that even for one moment, to share it with you. A gift of awe, humility, peace, hope and love. Through prayer, study and interactions with those in our church let's begin our own pilgrimage and share the beautiful gifts God has given us. New opportunities for outreach, small group studies and an increase in fellowship will be my focus in the New Year. Come join me and let's begin a pilgrimage together.

5. Junior Wardens Report

Continued with minor repairs, including:

- ** repairing the ceiling in a bathroom,
- ** replacing water damaged ceiling tiles in a bathroom
- ** replaced water damaged ceiling tiles in the library
- ** rehangng a sink in a bathroom
- ** spot painting several locations
- ** minor painting in the Rectory
- ** replaced a light dimmer in the sanctuary

Fr. Doug arranged to have the track lights in the sanctuary replaced with new LED lights, and the burned out light bulbs in the hanging lights replaced.

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.

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

For the year 2015 we visited and ministered to 170 individual residents. Hymns were sung to the residents, prayers were read, and Forward Day by Day booklets were given out. We were able to visit residents on the second floor to introduce them to Christ Episcopal Church.

Patricia Figueras knitted scarves for five of the residents for Christmas.

Barbara Cato and Jessie Eisel are no longer able to participate in our group. We thank them for the dedication and commitment that they have shown. We wish them all the blessings that God has to offer.

The goal for 2016 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**

Our Sunday School teachers continue to reach out to the children and to improve our Sunday morning gatherings. Children 3-12 years old meet in the upstairs Sunday School classroom at 9:45 am for an opening prayer, short story and a song. They then split into 2 groups: 3-6 year olds are taught by Greg Tanico and Patti Laing with puppets, lessons and crafts. The 7-12 year olds are taught by Barbara Cramer, Cheryl McPherson and Barbara Emert with a lesson and a follow up craft to reinforce the lesson.

Teen Forum is for teens aged 13-15 who meet downstairs in the teen room with Michael Shands, sharing lessons via DVD presentation followed by in-depth discussion of the day's topics.

Chris Nelson, Sunday School lead, fills in where needed.

Sunday School and Teen Forum are open to all Christ Church youth. We also welcome any parishioner interested in teaching and/or helping out with crafts. Please contact Chris or Barbara Cramer to sign up.

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. Treasurer's Report

Christ Episcopal Church
Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)
 January 2015 - December 2015

01/30/2016 10:45 AM

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	Current Period	Current Budget	<i>2016</i> Next Year Annual Budget
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTION INCOME			
UNRESTRICTED	\$170,274.16	\$172,200.00	\$171,950.00
DONOR RESTRICTED	<u>1,662.00</u>	<u>1,200.00</u>	<u>1,650.00</u>
Subtotal Contribution Income	171,936.16	173,400.00	173,600.00
INTEREST INCOME			
Investment Interest	<u>12,369.96</u>	<u>11,400.00</u>	<u>11,400.00</u>
Subtotal Interest Income	12,402.03	11,400.00	11,400.00
MISCELLANEOUS INCOME			
	<u>11,604.30</u>	<u>17,100.00</u>	<u>8,400.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>195,942.49</u>	<u>201,900.00</u>	<u>193,400.00</u>
EXPENSES			
FIXED EXPENSES			
SALARIES / BENEFITS	\$127,035.73	\$129,100.00	\$127,985.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	5,178.49	4,050.00	5,200.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	<u>32,699.59</u>	<u>27,750.00</u>	<u>19,800.00</u>
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	164,913.81	160,900.00	152,985.00
CHURCH MINISTRIES			
DIOCESE	24,220.80	24,221.00	26,093.00
COMMUNITY / OUTREACH	87.10	1,929.00	4,200.00
WORSHIP	5,266.88	7,200.00	5,672.00
SPIRITUAL NURTURE	903.27	2,400.00	900.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	800.00	100.00
FELLOWSHIP/PARISH LIFE	1,559.06	1,000.00	1,500.00
EVANGELISM	573.89	1,000.00	350.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	<u>1,793.68</u>	<u>2,450.00</u>	<u>1,600.00</u>
Subtotal Church Ministries	34,404.68	41,000.00	40,415.00
OTHER EXPENSES			
	<u>74.79</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>199,393.28</u>	<u>201,900.00</u>	<u>193,400.00</u>
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	<u><u><u>-\$3,450.79</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>\$0.00</u></u></u>	<u><u><u>\$0.00</u></u></u>

v. Parish Life Report

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 2015

- 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 Dinners

vi. Youth Group

It has been a great year for the Christ Church Youth Group. We sent two youths and three adults (plus our fearless leader, Fr. Doug) on the high school mission trip to Grace House on the Mountain. Along with 8 high schoolers from other parishes throughout the diocese, we spent a week in June fixing up a house for an impoverished family in the Appalachian Mountains in southwestern Virginia. Through our contributions of time, talent, and good old-fashioned determination, we were able to make major improvements to their dwelling. It was an enlightening and fulfilling experience for all involved. We plan to travel again this coming summer to Grace House to work on other projects in the depressed, coal mining district. We have already started raising money to fund the trip, starting with our Jewelry and Christmas Ornament Sale just before Christmas. Through the amazing participation and generosity of our congregation we were able to raise more than \$400 toward our mission trip.

- In 2015 we also participated for the third year, along with the First Presbyterian Church in Stroudsburg, in the annual Relay for Life charity event, sponsored by the American Cancer Society. After year-around fundraising, we took part in the 24-hour relay in the football stadium at East Stroudsburg University in June. We again pitched our tents and spent an entire day and night walking around the track to raise money for this worthy cause. Our team, Youth Against Cancer, raised more than \$5,000! 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. And for the second year in a row our team won the coveted Spirit Award at the 2015 Relay for Life!
- We held our second annual Hoe Down fundraiser at the American Legion Hall in East Stroudsburg in August, with proceeds going toward our 2016 Relay team. It is a fun time and a big fundraiser for our Relay for Life team.

- In April we participated in the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation walk to raise money for diabetes. We had a great turnout and a good time while doing some good work.
- Once again, in 2015 we made Christmas stockings for kids in the Bridges Out of Poverty program. We bought and filled 29 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. We also filled 4 boxes with gifts for the family in Virginia whose house we had worked on during the mission trip in June. We were informed by the director of Grace House that our gifts and a food basket donated by a local church, were all the gifts the family had during the holidays. Upon hearing that news, the Christ Church Youth Group has decided to continue to “adopt” the Silcox family and send gifts of food and support regularly throughout the year.
- But it wasn't all work. We visited Knoebel's Amusement Park for the second year in a row for a day of fun and fellowship. We enjoyed riding the roller coasters and eating the great amusement park food.
- We are pleased with the enormous amount of work we accomplished in 2015. 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.

7. MUSIC MINISTRY

In 2015, the music programs at Christ Episcopal Church continued to grow and inspire with praise to both our congregation and community.

After a brief music survey in June 2015 given to the congregation, it was resolved that a mixture of sacred, contemporary, bell choir, and solo numbers are most enjoyed by the congregation. Music Minister, Susan Stillo, combined a mixture of these different genres during the monthly Offertory Anthems.

The Sacred Choir has been proclaiming God's word through music for many years. Long time members include Antonia Harewood-Harris, Barbara Cato, Andrea McQueen, Patricia Alleger, Gil Janes, Howard Alleger and most recently, Colleen Schufele and Debby Tanico; who practice weekly to present beautiful four-part harmony in Offertory music selections. Their dedication is exemplary!

After months of rehearsals, the Sacred Choir members performed with the Project One Step Community Chorus on November 7th at Stroudsburg HS under the direction of the famous Joseph Martin, composer and guest conductor. The Sacred Choir will share these beautiful musical works once a month during the Winter/Spring 2016.

Our newest choir installation has been the Contemporary Choir. Seven new members have joined with the Sacred Choir to complete the ensemble this year. They include adults: Michael Shands, Steve McQueen, Terry Miller, Carole Gabrielan and teens Helen Hawkes, Cassi Shands, Lena Morella, Liz McQueen, Justin McQueen, and Frank Cloke. An instrumental ensemble to accompany some of the contemporary numbers feature Liz McQueen on the piano, Justin McQueen, congo drum; Frank Cloke, double bass; and Cassi Shands, percussion.

The teen Bell Choir members consist of Cassi Shands, Noel Nelson, Pam Woisin, Alicia Laing, Liz McQueen, and Justin McQueen. The group performed once a month during mass this past Fall. They also played for the Easter morning service in April, brought Christmas cheer by performing for the Bridges Out of Poverty Christmas Party and in Mrs. Bush's Personal Care Facility in December. Their final performance for the year was at the Children's Christmas Eve 5:00 p.m. in December 2015.

The Teen String ensemble was a new addition this year and performed a beautiful full service mass at the 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Members include Lena Morella, violin; Cassi Shands, viola; Winnai Hoyt, cello; and Frank Cloke, double bass.

Music is a vital part of our worship service. If you would like to be a part of any or all groups, please see Susan following one of the weekly masses.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Stillo

8. ADULT STUDY GROUP

A diverse small group meets for Bible study at the home of Barbara Cramer on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3PM. This year we completed Beth Moore's DVD studies "To Live Is Christ" on the life and ministry of the Apostle Paul, followed by "Children of the Day", a study of Paul's two letters to the Thessalonians. Then we watched and discussed John Ortberg's DVD study "If You Want to Walk on Water, You Have to Get out of the Boat". We followed this with another Beth Moore DVD series, "Living Beyond Yourself," a study of the fruit of the Spirit. In September, since we like John Ortberg's study so much, we watched and discussed his study called "God Is Closer than You Think". During Advent, we did Ann Voskamp's DVD study "The Greatest Gift". In January, we began another Beth Moore DVD study, "Jesus, the One and Only."

None of us are "experts", so we appreciate studies by others more knowledgeable than we are. Anyone is welcome to join us. There are men and women in our group, some from Lutheran and Methodist churches, so we are indeed "diverse". Each study takes 7 to 11 weeks, so you can just take part in one study or come for all of them. Call or e-mail Barbara at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net if you are interested in participating.

PRAYER PARTNERS

James Bryan Smith wrote in his book *Embracing the Love of God*, "One of the greatest things we can do for one another is to pray." Our Prayer Partners show their love, even for strangers, by praying each day through a growing list of concerns. With e-mail, we can quickly communicate new requests and updates so our prayers are current. There is a copy of our prayers on the prie-dieux by the chapel at the back of the sanctuary. Anyone can use the list to pray for the current concerns of our Parish. Concerns that are completely confidential are not included on that list, but are kept in prayer by the Prayer Partners each day. There is also a Prayer Scrapbook on the prie-dieux that includes pictures we have of those for whom we pray, as well as the prayers we pray for them. Obituaries of those who have died are in the back so we can be in particular prayer for their families. It can enhance our prayers to see the faces of those for whom we pray, particularly if they are not familiar to us. If you would like your loved one included in our prayers, just ask, and if you have a picture for our scrapbook, please give it to Barbara Cramer. A picture with their family is very nice, because often include the family in our prayers.

We recently added a time of praying together on the first Wednesday of each month at 11AM, before the Healing Service, and the first Saturday of the month at noon, after Food Pantry distribution. Anyone would be welcome to join us then for a time of prayer in the sanctuary.

This year, Antonia Harewood-Harris, Cheryl McPherson, Cynthia Nortey became Prayer Partners, joining Howard & Patti Alleger, Jo Bauer, Barbara Cato, Jenny Collier, Barbara Cramer, Jessie Eisel, Pat Figueras, Trish Hughes, Gil Janes, Cynthia Leenerts, Eileen Lindsley, Chris Nelson, Sue Stillo, as well as Bob Barker and Gloria O'Sullivan who, though geographically distant, continue to pray with us. We are so thankful for all these faithful prayer warriors and their dedication to this hidden ministry. We grieve the loss of Gini Strunk who continued to pray with us even after she moved to Texas.

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.

9. FOOD PANTRY

The food pantry has been open for more than a year now and is still going strong. We have on average of 45 families per month, and an average of 5 new families per month.

This past year we have received food donations from The Cub Scouts, East Stroudsburg Elementary School, Project One Step, Faith United Methodist Church and of course, our parishioners of Christ Church.

In November 2015 we had 52 Thanksgiving Meal Baskets donated by you and Faith United Methodist and The Irish American Organization of Stroudsburg. If this had not happened families would have gone without a meal on Thanksgiving.

Thank you so much to all the volunteers that take the time to help with this ministry. Thank you to everyone who has donated food to help the hungry in the area.

Submitted by:
Sue Freeman

10. Election of Vestry Members

11. Election of Convention Delegates

12. Rector's Report

The purpose of my report is to give you a brief overview of the past year as well as to highlight some possible challenges and opportunities we anticipate for this year. I shall begin with the parish statistics from the past year. In 2015 there were 2 baptisms, 2 weddings, 4 funerals and 145 Saturday Evening and Sunday services, with an average weekend attendance of 107. In addition to our weekend services, we also celebrated the Eucharist an additional 48 times during weekday services and provided the Eucharist another 18 times in visitations to parishioners who were either shut-ins or hospitalized. Finally, this past year we had 5 people move away, 2 parishioners die and 13 new members join; for a net gain of 7 members.

While these statistics, as well as all the others you have heard from the committee chairs today, give a good indication of where we are as a parish, they do not entirely, nor sufficiently, describe this parish. I believe we need more to truly tell the story of who you are as a parish; and that is to somehow measure your generosity to people in need. And so as I tried to do that I discovered that every year for the past 4 years you have increased the amount you give to help people in need; and by a significant amount. In fact this past year, 2015, you contributed almost 7 times more for outreach than this parish did only 5 years ago, in 2011. While, at the same time, you also donated additional funds to balance the operating budget of the church. And as awe-inspiring as that may be (at least to me), this still only tells part of the story; because your generosity has not only helped benefit numerous people, it has also inspired others to be generous as well.

And we need look no further than Mary Ellen's report on our youth's activities this past year. They have followed your example by reaching out not only to those here in Monroe County, but also to people in need hundreds of miles away. And our youth is

only one example. As Sue mentioned in her report for the Food Pantry, numerous organizations, moved by your generosity, have contributed to our outreach programs.

But that still does not tell your whole story; and maybe not even the best part of your story.

I have here in my hands thank you notes written by parents thanking all of you for the Christmas gifts you gave for their children. Gifts you gave out of the kindness, generosity and compassion of your hearts that put smiles on the faces of children who otherwise would have had little to nothing under their trees on Christmas morning.

And there is more. This past Thursday on the channel 13 News at 5, there was a story of a family who was able to purchase their first home through Habitat for Humanity. A family whom you supported by helping them improve their lives through the Bridges Out of Poverty program that you sponsor and host right here in this parish.

I am certain there are many other stories just like these of which we are simply not aware. But just because we do not hear of all the stories does not mean you have not impacted numerous families and lives. And as I was trying to think of a way of quantifying what is in reality something that is this unquantifiable, I remembered something I first saw 19 years ago.

In 1997 MasterCard began what would turn out to be their most successful ad campaign in their history. I am certain everyone here has seen more than one of these ads. But I especially remember the first ad that launched this now 19 year ongoing campaign. Maybe it is because it was about a father and his son, and I have two sons. Or maybe it is because it centered around baseball, and as you all know, I love baseball. But for whatever reason I still remember it. It began with a scene of a father taking his young son to a baseball game. As the two enter the stadium through the turnstiles and make

their circuitous way to their seats, a voice enumerates: "Two tickets, \$46. Two hot dogs, two popcorns, two sodas; \$27. One autographed baseball; \$50. Real conversation with 11 year-old son; priceless."

As I was reviewing all you have done this past year, that commercial came to mind. Winter coats, scarves and hats; \$500. Christmas gifts for kids; \$800. Groceries; \$4000. Feeding the hungry, giving coats to the freezing; and putting smiles on the faces of children; priceless.

We cannot quantify all you have done because it is priceless. Or, as Jesus once put it, what you have done is store up treasures in heaven; treasures which are priceless indeed.

Of course our work is not done. There are many still in need. And so we must continue to look at ways in which we can help meet those needs. It is with this in mind that this year your vestry decided to establish an endowment fund specifically dedicated to outreach. Some of our current investment funds will be used to seed this endowment fund, but our goal is to add to the Outreach Endowment Fund through bequests.

So, in two weeks, on Sunday, February 14 we will kick off a planned giving campaign here at Christ Church. Planned giving simply means adding Christ Church in your will. Some members of the parish have already done so. And vestry has agreed to do the same. Charlie Barebo has agreed to be here on the 14th to provide more details on planned giving and answer any questions you may have. And Joan Duckloe, who is the chair of the Endowment Committee that will oversee this work, along with fellow committee members Michael Casey and Barney DeFreitas, is trying to get some local attorneys to donate their time to help us with wills at little or no cost.

If you have not noticed already, there is a tree with brass leaves adorning the wall in the narthex. This is a planned giving tree. Every person who adds Christ Church to their will (and the dollar amount is solely between you and God) will have their name engraved on one of the brass leaves. Our goal is to have no blank leaves. In this way we can pass on a priceless gift to the those who come after us in this parish; ensuring there will always be funds available for this parish to continue the work you have so faithfully begun. I do hope I see all of you at our luncheon on February 14.

And I pray that God will continue to bless all that you do in His Name.

Thank you.

May I have a motion to adjourn. A second.

13. Closing Prayer

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.*