

# 2017 Annual Report Presented on January 28, 2018



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, January 29, 2017

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer

The Annual Parish meeting was called to order and opened with a prayer at 10:00 a.m. by Senior Warden Cheryl McPherson. There were approximately 70 members in attendance.

3. The 2016 minutes of the Annual Meeting were approved as written.

4. Senior Warden's Report - Narrative was paraphrased and key points reiterated that are included in the report.

5. Junior Warden's Report – Narrative included in report. (Buz in absentia due to family illness)

6. Standing Committee Reports

- i. Evangelism – narrative included in report (Jennifer in absentia due to family obligations).
- ii. Sunday School – narrative included in report and stands as written.
- iii. Columbarium – narrative included in report, and stands as written.
- iv. Treasurer's Report – Howard noted there is a \$12,000 deficit in the 2016 budget/actual report. He explained this is due to the loss of three top parish contributors due to death or relocation. He further explained the 2017 budget is balanced. Howard also spoke about the three restricted endowment funds and our intention to move those funds to the Diocesan Investment Trust where they will be managed to our best financial interests by a trustee. Joan Duckloe also reminded the congregation of the Giving Tree in the narthex and the Planned Giving Campaign.
- v. Youth Group – narrative included in report. MaryEllen Whiteley thanked our youths and the parents for their continued support.

7. Music Ministry – narrative included in report. Sue thanked the members of the bell choirs, the contemporary, sacred and women's choirs for giving up their time to enhance our worship services.

8. Adult Study/Prayer Team – narrative included in report. (Barbara visiting family on the west coast.)

9. Food Pantry – narrative included in report. Sue asked for additional volunteers to assist with the distribution of food.

10. Daughters of the King – Ruth & Naomi Chapter. Narrative included in report.
11. Ruth & Naomi Financial Statement – included in report.
12. Election of Vestry Members – Leaving vestry due to term expirations and canonical requirements are Greg Tanico, Jennifer Sutherland, and Sam Whiteley. Nominees to fill those terms are Cynthia Leenerts, Coralie Corcoran and Steve Whiteley. Mike Shands moved to accept the nominees to vestry. Sue Freeman seconded the motion, there were no comments or discussion, the motion carried unanimously.
13. Election of Convention Delegates – there were no nominees from the floor, therefore Sue Freeman and Patti Alleger will attend as delegates and Michele Causton as an alternate. Cheryl McPherson moved to accept the election of convention delegates, Mike Shands seconded the motion. There was no further discussion, motion carried unanimously.
14. Rector's Report – narrative included in report.
15. Closing Prayer – Father Doug upon unanimous motion from the floor, closed the meeting with prayer at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Louise K. Bach  
Clerk of Vestry

#### 4. SENIOR WARDENS REPORT

Each year Barbara Cramer begins the new-year by handing out an inspirational Bible verses to each child and each teacher. These verses are intended to provide guidance, inspiration and reassurance and they do.

Like the Bible verses, Christ Church has become a sanctuary for many, including me, in that it continues to provide spiritual guidance and reassurance that we, as a people, are inherently good, despite what we view in the media. This is evident in the various missions that the Church has undertaken in its mission to serve not only the congregation, but the community as well, with such programs as Outreach, Food Pantry and Sunday School.

In order to expand and continue our mission, of providing reassurance to others and for the Sunday School children to be active participants engaged in spreading hope and good will, with the support of our teachers, the Sunday School will be sponsoring a child through Food for the Poor Inc., an organization that works primarily in the Caribbean and South America, building homes, providing clean water to communities and caring for orphan children, among other things. The intent is for the children of Christ Church to correspond with a child of different cultural background but of similar age, with whom they can share experiences. In so doing, will discover that although culturally different, there are many similarities that unites us.

It is my belief that through their act of stewardship of sharing arts & crafts, cards, photographs and letters, the children of Christ Church will give the gift of joy, hope and reassurance to a child that may not otherwise feel hopeful.

We live by faith and as my verse dutifully reminded me, Matthew 19:26, "with God all things are possible"

## 5. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### i. **Sunday School**

Thanks to our dedicated Sunday School teachers, the program has been running smoothly this year.

Sunday School begins at 10:00 am with all children meeting upstairs for a group lesson and singing led by Barbara Cramer. Classes then split into our new Sunday School classrooms for grade level learning.

Classes are divided by school grade:

3 year olds through 1<sup>st</sup> grade: taught by Greg Tanico and Barbara Emert, that includes lessons taught with the use of hand puppets and crafts.

2<sup>nd</sup> through 5<sup>th</sup> grade: taught by Barbara Cramer and Camille McPherson includes lessons taught with felt figures and backgrounds, and crafts.

6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> grade: taught by Cheryl McPherson and Chris Nelson includes discussion of current events and concerns of interest to the students with guidance in how to respond in a Christian manner, the day's Gospel with questions and discussion, and topic-related activities.

We welcomed this year Elena Casey as our student assistant, who helps with the younger students as needed.

Parents can attend class with their children any time. We also invite any member of the parish to volunteer as teachers – subs are welcome! If interested contact Barbara Cramer or Chris Nelson.

Our many, many, many thanks to Barbara Emert who is retiring from teaching Sunday school at the end of this year. We have a deep felt gratitude and best wishes for a great retirement.

## **ii. Columbarium**

No new internments were done in 2017. Two niches were purchased. The cost per niche remains \$500.00. It includes canister, engraving of plate cover and a page in the Memory Book.

The number of people choosing cremation is increasing today. We have 24 niches remaining in our units. We are currently exploring the purchase of a third unit to be placed in the Chapel.

If you are interested in exploring the purchase of a unit or more. Please feel free to contact me: 570-424-1423 (home) or 570-269-1300 (cell)

I look forward to talking to you and sharing the joy of joining the Saints of Christ Church.

Patti Alleger

Columbarium Chairperson

## **iii. Space Utilization Committee**

The space utilization committee is a new committee to Christ Church. This committee was formed when space became available on the second floor of the Sarah St. building. The purpose of this committee is to take inventory of spaces available and communicate with the organizations and ministries at our church that are in need of space.

The committee members are Jay Freeman, Rob Causton, Michele Causton and Coralie Corcoran.

The following changes have occurred this past year:

- Father Doug's and Louise's office moved to 624 Sarah St.
- A deacon's office for Michele Causton and an additional conference room are new spaces created at 624 Sarah St.
- Louise's old office is now a Sunday school/counters room.
- Father's old office is now the music room.
- The hall closet's in the church have reorganized and labeled.
- The upstairs room at the church are dedicated for Sunday School and youth.
- Closet space in the library has been reorganized and labeled.
- Closets in the food pantry room have been reorganized and labeled.
- The basement dungeon is in the process of being cleaned and reorganized with all water damaged supplies being disposed of.
- All NA and AA supplies moved to a closet in the parish hall and labeled.

Thank you to everyone who has been involved in the moves that have taken place this past year. Many people from our parish and the community have stepped up and lent a hand whether it was painting, lifting and moving furniture, hooking up and installing equipment or locks and moving books. It's a pleasure to see our parish come together and support each other.

Sincerely,  
Coralie Corcoran

#### iv. **Property Committee**

As members of the property committee the projects that I and Ken Corcoran have been involved in this past year are as follows:

- Collecting estimates for:
  - Roof repair/replacement on all 3 buildings (church, 624 and 618 Sarah St.)
  - Furnace and AC maintenance, repair and replacement all 3 buildings
  - Landscape all 3 buildings
- Hiring, obtaining permits and overseeing altar roof replacement – completed
- Hiring and overseeing repair and replacement of gutters/leaders where necessary. – completed
- Hiring, obtaining permits and overseeing the demo of the garage at 618 Sarah St. – completed
- Hiring and obtaining signed contracts for yearly furnace and AC maintenance. – completed
- Hiring fall landscape and gutter cleaning. –completed.

Thank you,  
Coralie Corcoran

#### v. **Altar Guild**

The focus for the Altar Guild is the Eucharist. In the simplest terms we set the table, clear the table, and do the dishes for regularly scheduled worship and special events such as baptisms, weddings and funerals. The Altar Guild is responsible for the care of vessels, vestments, linens and other church furnishings used in worship. It is our ministry to see that these items are cleaned, repaired, polished, laundered, ironed and properly placed for use by the clergy in worship.

The altar guild started this year out with five members. We lost one member, Cynthia Larsen when she moved out of state but gained three more members after an announcement for additional help went out to the parish. We now have seven members. Some working in teams and others completing tasks that are done individually. Our members are Jean Armitage, Martha Linne, Louise Bach, Chris Nelson, Mary Rego, Sue Freeman and Coralie Corcoran.

During this past year in addition to their regular duties the altar guild has cleaned out the utility closet in the sacristy and made it a vestment closet. Found brass vases in the depths of the upper cabinets in the sacristy, that were cleaned, polished and are now being utilized on the shelf behind the altar for Sunday worship flowers. In the next year we would like to purchase a new fair linen to fit the St. Mary's chapel altar in the back of the church since the one that is currently there is slowly falling apart and difficult to repair.

I would like to thank all our members for their outstanding work and dedication to this ministry. Without our team working together it would not work so seamlessly.

Sincerely,  
Coralie Corcoran

vi. Treasurer's Report

*Christ Episcopal Church*  
**Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)**  
 January 2017 - December 2017 & 2018 Budget

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	Current Period	Current Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>			
<b>CONTRIBUTION INCOME</b>			
UNRESTRICTED	\$172,910.65	\$172,200.00	\$151,500.00
DONOR RESTRICTED	1,561.00	1,200.00	1,150.00
Subtotal Contribution Income	<u>174,471.65</u>	<u>173,400.00</u>	<u>152,650.00</u>
<b>INTEREST INCOME</b>			
Investment Interest	21,721.64	11,400.00	20,500.00
Subtotal Interest Income	<u>21,804.83</u>	<u>11,400.00</u>	<u>20,550.00</u>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS INCOME</b>			
	<u>1,476.98</u>	<u>17,100.00</u>	<u>800.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<u>197,753.46</u>	<u>201,900.00</u>	<u>174,000.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>FIXED EXPENSES</b>			
SALARIES / BENEFITS	\$123,984.94	\$127,900.00	\$120,302.00
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	5,258.15	4,050.00	5,460.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	26,335.24	27,750.00	17,448.00
Subtotal Fixed Expenses	<u>155,578.33</u>	<u>159,700.00</u>	<u>143,210.00</u>
<b>CHURCH MINISTRIES</b>			
DIOCESE	25,727.00	25,727.00	26,000.00
COMMUNITY / OUTREACH	4,200.00	1,929.00	3,500.00
WORSHIP	6,506.80	6,894.00	5,950.00
SPIRITUAL NURTURE	1,174.75	2,400.00	1,900.00
STEWARDSHIP	199.87	800.00	690.00
FELLOWSHIP/PARISH LIFE	1,377.43	1,000.00	1,200.00
EVANGELISM	360.88	1,000.00	600.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	1,829.89	2,450.00	1,950.00
Subtotal Church Ministries	<u>41,376.62</u>	<u>42,200.00</u>	<u>41,790.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<u>196,954.95</u>	<u>201,900.00</u>	<u>185,000.00</u>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$798.51</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>-\$11,000.00</u>

Christ Episcopal Church

Income and Expense Statement (UNAUDITED)

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Sarah Street, January 2017 - December 2017 & 2018 Budget

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		Current Period	Current Budget	Next Year Annual Budget
<b>INCOME</b>				
SARAH ST BUILDING INCOME	4700			
618 Sarah House rent	4705	\$12,375.00	\$0.00	\$13,200.00
624 Sarah rent	4708	15,000.00	0.00	18,000.00
Parking Income	4710	8,597.90	0.00	8,800.00
C.A.R.E.S. Rent	4720	9,000.00	0.00	9,000.00
Subtotal Sarah St Building Income	4700	<u>44,972.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<u>44,972.90</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,000.00</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
SARAH ST BLDGS EXPENSES	7000			
Loan Interest Expense	7003	\$964.34	\$0.00	\$735.00
MB&A Mgmt Fees	7009	3,337.50	0.00	3,740.00
Sarah St Bldgs Taxes	7010	11,513.52	0.00	12,000.00
Gas expense	7015	792.35	0.00	1,000.00
Electric expense	7016	3,385.83	0.00	3,500.00
Trash expense	7017	150.00	0.00	600.00
Water/Sewer Exp	7018	503.33	0.00	540.00
Water/Sewer 618 Sarah	7019	539.38	0.00	600.00
Repairs 618 Sarah	7020	80.40	0.00	0.00
Repairs/Maint 618-624 Sar	7021	7,076.10	0.00	25,000.00
Borough Fees	7022	50.00	0.00	285.00
Sarah St Church Off exp	7023	1,917.79	0.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Sarah St Bldgs Expenses	7000	<u>30,310.54</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,000.00</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<u>30,310.54</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>49,000.00</u>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>		<u>\$14,662.36</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>

## 6. MUSIC MINISTRY

During 2017, the Music Ministry at Christ Episcopal continued to grow and to develop to its potential, serving not only the church congregation but reaching out to the community, as well.

The Adult Choir increased from 8 members to 18 strong. Practices are held twice a week to split the group because the practice room is too small. I see that as a good problem to have. Members include: Sopranos: Liz McQueen, Justin McQueen, Cassi Shands, Barbara Cato, Louise Daileigh, Cynthia Leenerts, Shigeko and Do Young (students at ESU), Janet Ullo; Altos: Andrea McQueen, Debbie Tanico, Colleen Schaufele, Patti Alleger, Carole Gabrielan; Bass: Howard Alleger, Terry Miller, Michael Shands, Steve McQueen. Special Soloist: Antonia Harewood-Harris

Once again, on November 5th, several choir members performed at Stroudsburg High school with other area choristers in the PROJECT ONE STEP concert raising over \$10,000 for Monroe County Food Pantry, Fill a Glass with Hope, and Bridges Out of Poverty.

On November 19th, CEC participated in the Interfaith Worship Service for the Stroudsburg Area Churches. The Community Choir consisted of 35 members from other area choirs. We sang Pepper Choplin's "Thanks for the Giving" and other hymns from various faiths.

On December 3rd, the Teen Bell Choir, Cassi Shands, Liz McQueen, Pamela Woisin, Alicia Laing, Noel Nelson, Justin McQueen, performed sacred Christmas Hymns and Carols at the Stroudsmoor Inn's Tree Lighting Festival. Everyone enjoyed the fine performance. The teens spent several months on Monday evenings practicing for this event and were well prepared.

On Christmas Eve, at the family service, the Teen Bell choir performed the entire Mass ringing the bells for each Christmas Hymn. At the 11:00 Christmas Eve Service, the Teen Orchestra performed the entire Mass. Both groups did an excellent job. Members of the String Ensemble include: Lena Morella, violin; Cassi Shands, viola; Winnai Hoyt, cello; Frank Cloke, bass; Liz McQueen, keyboard.

Newly incorporated, for 2017, was The Children's Masses in which the students fully participate in the readings and the homily with Father Doug. The Youth Choir also performs the Offertory Anthem. Members of the Youth Choir are Jerrin, Jelena, Jaina Nortey, Eva Hoyt, Riley Tepper, Elena Casey, and Justin McQueen.

Overall, it was a successful year for the Music Ministry at Christ Church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Stillo

## **7. ADULT STUDY GROUP**

A small group of men and women from various churches meet for Bible study at the home of Barbara Cramer on Tuesday afternoons from 1-3PM. This year we completed Beth Moore's DVD studies "Breath", on the Holy Spirit, and "Entrusted", on Paul's two letters to Timothy. Then we did John Ortberg's DVD study of Jesus, "Who Is This Man?" followed by the DVD study "Joseph: Journey to Forgiveness" by Melissa Spoelstra. We completed the year with Max Lucado's DVD study "Be Anxious for Nothing" from Philippians 4:4-9. Each study has touched different aspects of our walk with God. We just began a study of Paul's letter to the Galatians. Anyone is welcome to join us. Call or e-mail Barbara at 570-424-6921 or [bjcramer@ptd.net](mailto:bjcramer@ptd.net) if you are interested.

## **PRAYER PARTNERS**

Prayer is a quiet, hidden ministry, so you may not be aware that there are many in our church who pray through a long list of specific concerns each day. We are grateful for their faithfulness, especially when people tell us how much our prayers helped them endure very difficult times. A current list is kept on the prie-dieux by the chapel so anyone may pray through it or take a copy home. There is also a prayer scrapbook with some pictures as well as prayers. It helps to see the face of someone we may not know as we pray for them. There are notes of gratitude in the back of the scrapbook. If you would like to be part of our Prayer Partners or if you want us to pray for you or someone you know, call or e-mail Barbara Cramer at 570-424-6921 or [bjcramer@ptd.net](mailto:bjcramer@ptd.net). If you have concerns you want kept strictly confidential, we will keep them in our private prayer, but not on our public list.

## 8. FOOD PANTRY

Christ Church, Faith United Methodist and Second Harvest has partnered through the year to keep the food pantry stocked with food. Through your regular and continuing donations we have been able to feed 569 families this year. A monthly breakdown is at the end of this report. Thank you for your generous donations.

Boy Scout Troop 300 donated 1880 pounds of food and non-food items in November, from their food drive. Thank You!



During the summer, Joe Tonnes, from Faith United Methodist donated fresh veggies from his Eagle Scout Project. Thank You!

The Irish American Association has donated food throughout the year and pledged \$150.00 per quarter for 2017. Thank You!

The Lions International of Stroudsburg started volunteering early in 2017. They also donated Christmas dinners to every client that received food during December, that was 56 turkey or ham, potatoes, stuffing, and cranberry sauce. Thank You!

The students at The Growing Concern School in Tannersville have donated their chore money to buy food for local pantries. Our food pantry has received their gifts on several occasions. Thank You!

Verizon Telecommunications and Stausser Landscape have donated food to this pantry, after hearing how nice a pantry it is. Thank You!

Aldi Foods has donated (through the Feeding America Program) a total of 2571 pounds of food. That is for a 10 month period during 2017. Thank You!

The Reverse Advent Baskets collection was a great success. Christ Church (21 baskets) along with Faith United Methodist (29 baskets) gathered a total of 1,144 pounds of food and personal hygiene items.

Thank You! A big thank you to Rob Causton for brining this idea to the food pantry.

Pub 447 donated 20, \$25.00 gift card from ShopRite for Christmas. Holly, Lilly and Liz also stayed to help distribute them and wish all clients a Merry Christmas. Thank You!

A total of 4300 miles was driven by Jay Freeman to pick up food from Second Harvest, Aldi's and Faith United Methodist during 2017. Thank You!

To all the volunteers that donated their time (approximately 3 hours per distribution day) (sometimes twice a month), I thank you.

To everyone mentioned above and to the congregations of Christ Church and Faith United Methodist, this food pantry would not be open to feed the hungry without your generous donations.

The following is a monthly breakdown of families we helped in 2017:

Jan - 40, Feb - 42, Mar - 33, Apr - 52, May - 35, Jun - 49,  
Jul - 44, Aug - 55, Sep - 55, Oct - 49, Nov - 59, Dec - 56.

We were also able to purchase a new refrigerator and freezer this year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Freeman

## **9. THE ORDER OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE KING RUTH AND NAOMI CHAPTER**

We have had a busy year making 28 prayer shawls, 150 teddy bears and 6 lap blankets. Thank you to Joan Stillo and Barbara Cramer for helping with the prayer shawls. Thank you to Margaret Geise for donated yarn so the Daughters could make shawls. Four shawls were given to parishioners. Fifteen prayer shawls and lap blankets were given to the residents at The Meadows and Spring Valley Nursing Homes.

In June 2017 three Daughters attended the Province 3 retreat at Bishop Claggett Center in Buckeytown, Md. Seven Daughters attended the Diocesan Assembly October giving a presentation of Saint Johanna.

Janet Vogt and Andrea McQueen were admitted to The Order of the Daughters of the King on November 19, 2017.

Thanks

Sue Freeman  
Chapter President

## 10. Election of Vestry Members

## 11. Election of Convention Delegates

## 12. Rector's Report

This annual meeting is my 7th in which I have had the privilege of participating as your Rector. So this is the 7th consecutive year I can say we have been blessed by God as we continue to witness to the Risen Christ through the many ministries here at Christ Church.

Each year I begin my report with some statistics from the prior year before reflecting on your faithfulness to our mission over the past year as well as highlighting some possible challenges and opportunities for this coming year. I will do the same again this year.

I begin with the statistics: In 2017 there were 7 baptisms, 3 funerals and 153 Saturday Evening/Sunday morning services, with an average weekend attendance of 108. In addition to our weekend services, we also celebrated the Eucharist an additional 45 times on weekdays and provided the Eucharist another 46 times in visitations to parishioners who were either shut-ins or hospitalized. This past year 3 people transferred out of the parish, 3 parishioners died and 12 new members joined; for a net gain of 6. As I mention at every Annual Meeting, these statistics, as well as all the others you have heard from the various committee chairs today, while informative, do not tell the full story of who you are as a parish. For it is your faithfulness to the mission of what Presiding Bishop Michael Curry refers to as the Episcopal Branch of the Jesus Movement that really gets to the heart of who you are.

Some of the highlights of your ministries this year include:

- Food Pantry – Many faithful parishioners helped with this vital ministry. As Sue mentioned in her report, 569 families received food this year from our Food Pantry. But we no longer do this alone. Volunteers and food donations came not only from Christ Church, but also from Faith UMC, the Lions Club, the Irish-American Club, Verizon Partners, the Boy Scouts, grocery stores, restaurants, schools, college athletes, and even a landscaping firm. If you have not participated in this amazing ministry, I strongly urge you to do so. Even if you can only give a couple of hours once a month, your help, which is certainly needed, will be greatly appreciated; and the feeling you get from serving will stay with you long after your hour or two of helping. Sue Freeman is a contact for those of you who would like to learn more and participate.
- Prayer partners – this group of faithful Christians pray through a long list of prayer requests each day. And all you need to do is ask those for whom they have prayed how helpful and comforting this ministry is. Barbara Cramer is the contact for this ministry if you would like to learn more and participate or request prayer.
- Our music ministry is wonderful. When I first came to Christ Church the choir had about 6 members. As Sue mentioned in her report, it is now 18! And that does not include the Youth Choir or the Bell Choir. This ever increasing group of people dedicates their time and talent not only to lift our worship, but also participate in various community events throughout the year; spreading the joy of our Lord to our neighbors. Sue Stillo is the contact for our music ministry.

- Our ministry among children and youth continues to be lively and important. Chris Nelson, Barbara Cramer, Barbara Emert, Camille McPherson, Cheryl McPherson, Greg Tanico, Elena Casey, and Cynthia Nortey with assistance from numerous parents bring energy and creativity to this valuable ministry. Chris Nelson, Barbara Cramer and Cynthia Nortey are contacts for our ministry with young people.
- Daughters of the King – this prayerful and faithful group of women serve the parish and the community in various ways. Their prayer shawls and blankets are a source of comfort to homebound parishioners as well as to the elderly at two area nursing homes. Sue Freeman is the contact for this ministry.
- Mission to Appalachia – For the past three years the Diocesan Youth Mission trip has been led by a group from Christ Church. Each year this group has gone to Appalachia in southwest Virginia to help refurbish homes for people who are either disabled or cannot afford to pay for the repairs. The youth who attend not only learn how to use tools but, more importantly, how to help those far less fortunate than we. If you or a young person would like to learn more and participate in this amazing ministry, the contact is Mary Ellen Whiteley.
- Habitat for Humanity – this past year several groups from Christ Church worked at a couple of locations here in Monroe County to do similar work to what the mission group does in Virginia. For two consecutive weekends parishioners from Christ Church, working with the folks from the Monroe County Habitat for Humanity, helped to repair a couple of homes

right here in our own backyard. The contact for this ministry is Mary Ellen Whiteley.

- Your response to our need to replace a section of the roof on the church. While some may not think of this as a ministry, two NA groups, one AA group, and the Bridges Out of Poverty group use space in this building to transform lives and make a difference in this community. While there may not be a separate line item in our budget for these ministries, your generosity in supplying these groups a warm, dry, and safe space at no cost helps make these ministries possible.
- Bridges Out of Poverty – This past year was our fifth year in working with the Pocono Alliance in support of this program which helps people help themselves move from poverty to self-sufficiency. We support this program through your generous contributions; providing them a place to meet; and volunteering as mentors for the participants in this program. Father Moyer is the contact for this ministry.
- Outreach Ministries – Not only have you supported all of these ministries, but this past year you also supplied aid to the victims of the devastating hurricanes that affected so many in this country and the Caribbean; aid to the children in our sister diocese of Kajo-Keji in the south Sudan; med-packs for refugees in the Middle East; clothing and other needs for the homeless of Stroudsburg; and financial support to the less fortunate in both the National Church and in this diocese.

These are just some of the highlights of what you have done this past year.

Work that positively impacted thousands – let me repeat that – thousands of lives.

When I came to this parish a little over 6 years ago, the search committee that interviewed me told me the primary concern of this parish was its financial stability. But, after reading your parish profile and studying your history, I saw things little differently and at my first parish meeting I told you, and I quote:

“You do not need to be here very long before you recognize that this is a congregation that wants to reach out to others; a congregation with a heart for mission...a parish [with] a storied history of reaching out into the community...”

But due to many factors, we had gotten away from that. But as my summary today indicates, that is no longer the case. For over the past 5 years you have added the Food Pantry, the Bridges out of Poverty Program, the mission work in rural Southwest Virginia, the work with Habitat for Humanity, the Daughters of the King, and your support to Kajo-Keji and many other ministries. Which is why I can make the statement that you have positively impacted the lives of thousands of people less fortunate than we. In a time when many look at the problems we face as a society and throw up their hands in despair and defeat; you have taken a different path. The path our Lord Jesus Christ called us to take. Instead of throwing your hands up in the air in defeat, you used them to make a difference – one family, one person at a time. For if the history of Christianity has taught us anything, it has taught us this lesson: the way to true change, societal change, occurs one family, one person, at a time.

And oh, by the way, within two years after I addressed my first Parish meeting with you, you also erased those annual budget deficits of \$20,000 to \$30,000 and achieved a balanced budget.

And this takes me to our challenges.

As Howard mentioned in his Treasurer's report, our proposed budget for next year shows a deficit of \$11,000. This is the first time in the past 4 years that vestry has had to present a budget that was not balanced. And so I am asking for your help. If you can increase your estimated giving by only a few dollars a week we can erase this deficit. I have increased my estimated giving already and ask you to do as well. I am not, and never will, ask you to give more than you can afford. I do not believe we are called to that. But if you can give a little more – it would only take a few dollars a week from each of us – we can balance this budget.

My final challenge to you is the same one I proposed last year.

When I came here I had a vision of who we could be as a parish. And I challenged the leaders of this parish to help our ministries grow to the point at which we would be limited by our space. It is this vision which your vestry enthusiastically embraced and led them to purchase the building across the street. Not so we could rent that space to others. That is simply a stop-gap measure until this parish needs that space. So when Sue Stillo or Sue Freeman or Chris Nelson or Cynthia Nortey comes to me claiming they need more space for the music program or the Food Pantry or the Sunday school or the Youth group, my response has always been the same: that's the kind of problem I want.

And let me tell you, that's the problem I got. That's the reason we moved the offices across the street. But I want more. And this is where you come in. As I said to you last year, I believe it is our responsibility – yours and mine – to tell

people whom we know about the difference our faith and this church community makes in our lives; and in the lives of others. So once again I am asking each of you to invite a friend, or a neighbor, or a co-worker, or a relative who you know does not attend a church to come to church with you one Sunday. I am asking each of you to find one person – one – in the next two years to come with you to church. I am not asking you to convert them; or teach them about the Bible. I am not asking you to go knocking door to door. I am simply asking you to invite someone you care about to discover the difference faith can make in their lives and, through them, the lives of so many others. To do what the world thinks cannot be done – to change things for the better. To make “thy kingdom come” a reality. By simply inviting them to join you one Sunday; and then leaving the rest in God’s hands.

You have effectively and enthusiastically answered Jesus’ call to reach out to the least among us. But Jesus also asks us to make disciples. One person at a time. And so I ask you: one person in the next 2 years. Not just so there are more hands to help with our ministries; that is just a side-effect. The real purpose is to witness to the people in our corner of the world the love of God for us in Jesus Christ that leads to the spiritual and emotional freedom and peace which passes all understanding. My challenge is: Let’s make this worship space too small!

### 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.*

May I have a motion to adjourn? A second.

# Notes