

Christ Episcopal Church

2021 Annual Report

Presented on February 13, 2022



The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford, Assisting Priest

Chris Nelson, Senior Warden

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Christ Episcopal Church
2020 Annual Report Minutes

Presented on January 17, 2021

Rev.J. Douglas Moyer, Rector

The Rev. Sidnie White Crawford, Priest Associate

Zoom meeting was called to order at 10:10 am and opened with a prayer by Rev. Moyer. A quorum was present.

The 2019 minutes were corrected, Sharon Moorers name was misspelled, moved by Joan Duckloe, seconded by Michael Shands and passed.

Standing Committee Reports:

- i. **Christian Formation** – Submitted by title
- ii. **Columbarium** – Submitted by title
- iii. **Property** – Submitted by title
- iv. **Altar Guild** – Submitted by title
- v. **Treasurer's Report** –2021 Budget was presented. Tom reported that our members have maintained their pledges. 2021 submitted a balanced budget to the vestry and passed. Hopefully we will be back together in the church by spring or early summer. He thanked Bob Horch for his work with the church finances. Tax statements will be going out soon.

Music Ministry – Submitted by title - Rev Moyer thanked the choir for all the work they did to bring music back to the church service during the Covid-19 closure.

Adult Study/Prayer Team – Barb Cramer thanked all those who pray faithfully when friends and family are in need.

Food Pantry – Submitted by title

Senior Warden – Submitted by title

Vestry Elections – Chris Nelson will serve for her second term and serve as Senior Warden. Joan Duckloe will leave the vestry and be replaced by Rob Causton. Loretta Nwosu will begin her first term. Slate moved and passed. Rev. Moyer thanked Coralie for all the work she did during her term as Senior Warden and with the Altar Guild.

Election of Convention Delegates – 2 delegates will represent Christ Church at the 2021 Diocesan Convention this fall: Patti Alleger and Cynthia Leenerts. Lorelie Whitlock and Jan Selving will serve as alternates.

Rector's Report – Rev. Moyer gave his final Rector's Report before retiring on February 7, 2021. He delivered a heartfelt thanks to all who made his tenure at Christ Church so successful. He gave a retrospective of all the things that were accomplished over the past years, including: the start of the food pantry, working with Bridges out of Poverty, encouraging Morning Prayer 4 mornings a week lead by clergy and lay, purchase of the properties on the corner of Sarah and Seventh Streets, leading Bible Study on Wednesdays with the Healing Service, and many more blessings he provided for us. He encouraged us to not think small as we move forward for God provides abundant power to do his work. Rev. Moyer will be greatly missed by all! He closed with a prayer and motion by Joan Duckloe and Bill Haynes the meeting be adjourned. Motion passed unanimously at 10:55am.

Patti Alleger,

Clerk of the Vestry

4. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

i. Christian Formation

a. Sunday School

Due to the ongoing pandemic, there was no Sunday School in 2021.

12 teen and youth members and their friends participated in our Christmas Eve pageant, which brought a much needed dose of joy and merriment to our Christmas celebration.

Hopefully, 2022 will bring a cessation of Covid-19 and a return to “normal” Sunday School proceeding.

God Bless

Chris Nelson, Director

b. Youth

Again, because of the pandemic, the youth program has been somewhat sidelined. The Nortey triplets, Jerrin, Jaina, and Jelena, have been serving as youth representatives to the diocese. Last year they participated in a Martin Luther King noonday service offering prayers and poem, Good Friday prayers and quotes, Juneteenth celebration offering prayers and original prayer, and Diocesan convention offering prayers of the people. Lastly they contributed to Father Doug's retirement celebration.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Nortey, Youth Group Leader

ii. Columbarium

Our columbarium is located in the chapel at the rear of the church. We have 120 niches in all with 59 being used or purchased for future internments. The cost of a niche is \$500.00. This includes the niche space of your choice, of those still available,

the canister for the cremains, which is given to the funeral director of your choice, a page in the memory book found by the chapel and engraving of the plaque that is on the niche cover. There are 61 niches still available. I hope you will consider joining the Saints of Christ Church as your final resting place. It is so convenient to stop by before or after services to spend some quiet time with your loved ones. You can also visit during the week by contacting me with a simple phone call to open the church for you. It is a safe, secure and comfortable place to be with and remember your loved ones. If you are interested, please contact me at: 570-269-1300 palleger@ptd.net

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Alleger, Columbarium Chair

iii. Property Committee

The property committee functions to maintain the integrity of all properties owned by Christ Church. This includes Christ Church at 205 N. 7th Street, the church office building at 624 Sarah Street and the residence building at 618 Sarah Street. A huge Thank You to Buz Radican and Ted Hoyt our resident repair people for all their expertise in repairing, diagnosing, and fixing so many tasks on or around our properties, and Steve Whiteley for stepping up as junior warden.

Tasks and projects completed this past year are as follows:

- **Maintenance Contracts for heating and air conditioning units for all properties.**
- **Received estimates to put new roofs on both Sarah Street properties.** We have filed the paper work with Stroudsburg Borough Council to received approvals from the Historic and Architectural Review Board. Roofs anticipated being completed in the spring of 2022. The roofs must be “slate like” in appearance to maintain the integrity of the Historical District.
- **Exterior door on 624 property.** Replaced in 1/2021

- **Multiple small repairs on all buildings by parishioners volunteering their time and talents!!! Thank you to all who helped with our properties.**
- **Added a commercial dehumidifier** to try to reduce the moisture problem in the “dungeon.” We will be looking to waterproof the area in the Spring.
- **We are in the process of conducting a reserve study for all our properties**, which will be completed in the first half of this year. This involves hiring a company to conduct a complete audit of our real assets and provide estimates on when repairs can be expected along with the anticipated cost for those repairs and upkeep. This will enable us to budget for future maintenance of our properties and not be surprised with unanticipated expenditures.

Blessings,

The Property Committee

iv. Altar Guild

The Altar Guild maintains and prepares for the Eucharistic vessels, vestments, linens and other church furnishings used at each service. These items are kept cleaned, repaired, polished, laundered, ironed and properly placed for each Sunday worship service, every mass during the week, special occasions and holidays. The altar guild also assists with decorating the church for holidays. This work is still happening through the pandemic just on a smaller scale with special attention to proper CDC guidelines.

The Altar Guild has 6 members currently: Jean Armitage, Martha Linne, Chris Nelson, MaryAnn VanWort, Ruth Bachmann and Patti Alleger. The guild works both in teams and individually. We continued placing the Host in glassine pouches until, with the help of several parishioners, we found the Communion Cups which contain the Host and the Wine. This allows us to fully celebrate the Eucharist in safe, hygiene manner.

The altar guild is an integral part of worship with dedicated members that love completing their work in the quiet of the church sanctuary or at home. If you have any interest in the altar guild please contact Chris Nelson, 570-656-6376. We are always accepting help and will teach everything and anything you need to know.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Nelson, Co-Chair

v. TREASURER'S REPORT

From the start we knew that 2021 would be a year of challenges and changes for Christ Church. We were hopeful that the pandemic would ease and we could return to some degree of normal in our church activities. As it turned out we were able to resume some of our regular activities but not nearly as many as we would have liked. We also knew that we would spend the year looking for our next Rector as Father Doug was retiring on March 1st. Both the on-going impact of the pandemic and the loss of our long time Rector had significant impacts on our finances. Despite this, Christ Church was able to largely continue its ministry and to continue to be a Blessing to its community and neighbors. With the restrictions in place and most services being held remotely, we expected a decline in contribution income and actually set our 2021 budget about \$10,000 lower than our 2020 results. Contribution income came in below those lowered expectations by \$10,483 putting it \$20,000 below 2020 results. However, we also received a windfall during the year when our pandemic related Payroll Protection Loan was forgiven by the government allowing us to realize a gain of \$18,272. As a result, our total income for the year exceeded our budget by almost \$4,700 and also exceeded the total income from the year before. Operating expenses were significantly lower than normal this year primarily because we were not paying a fulltime Rector. Instead, we were paying Mother Sidnie in her role of part time Assistant Priest. Since Mother Sidnie is working fewer hours than a fulltime priest her salary is lower and she does not require the pension and insurance package a Rector will expect. We continue to have other expense savings due to the lower level of activities caused by the pandemic restrictions. Youth and Sunday

School activities have been suspended and some worship expenses are less due to fewer activities. This left the Vestry with a surplus that they wisely decided to allocate to future expenses and projects that will benefit the long-term health of our parish. Recognizing the blessings we have received, the Vestry allocated some money to future outreach commitments. They also reserved some funds to pay for the ongoing costs in the search and installation of a new Rector. We know that we have a water infiltration problem in the basement and boiler room area under the church. Some money was set aside to address that problem during the upcoming year. After all of the challenges and ongoing changes, the church finished the year with a surplus of just under \$13,000. We owe much thanks to God and to our faithful members for this wonderful result. Performance of the Sarah Street properties remained stable during 2021. Both the office building at 624 Sarah Street and the small house at 618 Sarah Street were occupied the entire year. The parking income also returned to normal during the year and some of the 2020 rent backlog was resolved. Our 2022 budget includes hiring a Rector sometime during the 1st quarter of the year. We have also budgeted for a return to more normal committee, youth and Christian Education activities. Thank you for your faithful and generous support. The Lord is always doing something new and we look forward to what he will bring us in 2022.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thomas VanWort, Treasurer

Christ Episcopal Church Stroudsburg
2021 Results and 2022 Budget

	2021		Actual vs Budget		2022 Budget
	Actual	Budget	\$	%	
Income					
Contribution Income	170,067	180,550	(10,483)	-5.8%	165,650
Interest Income	15,265	19,200	(3,935)	-20.5%	20,700
Miscellaneous Income	19,387	300	19,087	6362.3%	14,450
Total Income	204,719	200,050	4,669	2.3%	200,800
Expenses					
Clergy Salaries	42,942	89,974	47,032	52.3%	105,976
Staff Salaries	38,805	39,470	665	1.7%	38,935
Benefits and Taxes	4,871	4,884	13	0.3%	5,156
Total Compensation	86,618	134,328	47,710	35.5%	150,067
Administrative Expensive	8,760	6,365	(2,395)	-37.6%	5,390
Building and Grounds	19,363	16,675	(2,688)	-16.1%	17,250
Total Fixed Expenses	28,123	23,040	(5,083)	-22.1%	22,640
Diocesan Support	24,640	25,572	932	3.6%	26,085
Outreach Projects	15,981	5,750	(10,231)	-177.9%	-
Total Worship	3,457	5,350	1,893	35.4%	5,350
Total Spiritual and Steward	3,032	2,500	(532)	-21.3%	2,250
Total Evangelism	-	400	400	100.0%	400
Total Christian Ed	-	1,110	1,110	100.0%	1,100
Total Ministry	47,110	40,682	(6,428)	-15.8%	35,185
Rector Search Expenses	5,000	2,000	(3,000)	-150.0%	-
Building Major Repairs	25,000		(25,000)	#DIV/0!	-
Total Expenses	191,851	200,050	8,199	4.1%	207,892
Net Income (Deficit)	12,868	-	12,868	(0)	(7,092)

Christ Episcopal Church Stroudsburg
2021 Sarah Street Financial Result

	Actual	2021	Actual vs Budget		2022 Budget
	2021	Budget	\$	%	
618 Sarah St House Rent	13,500	13,500	-	0.0%	13,500
624 Sarah St Office Rent	18,630	18,636	(6)	0.0%	18,630
Parking Income	9,252	7,500	1,752	23.4%	9,000
Total Income	41,382	39,636	1,746	4.4%	41,130
Expenses					
Total Fees and Taxes	17,297	16,808	(489)	-2.9%	17,580
Total Utilities	4,819	5,900	1,081	18.3%	5,100
Current Repairs	3,600	5,000	1,400	28.0%	5,000
Repair Reserve (major repairs)	15,666	11,928	(3,738)	-31.3%	
Total Expenses	41,382	39,636	(1,746)	-4.4%	27,680
Transfer to General Fund					13,450
Net Income (Deficit)	-	-	-	-	-

5. MUSIC MINISTRY

During the 2021 church year, the Music Ministry at Christ Church still struggled through the Pandemic with times of recorded choir vocals and in-person singing with masks. For a short time from September through November the choir sang Mass Hymns from the Choir Loft and added their weekly Offertory Anthem at the collection of the Tithes and Offerings.

In late November, as masks were optional, the choir began to prepare for Advent and Christmas with more challenging music with harmony parts. A full Christmas Mass was preformed and the Choir showcased solos, duets, trios, and full pieces during the Prelude on Christmas Eve.

Special thanks to Sopranos: Louise Daleigh, Janet Ullo, Helen Hawkes, Elizabeth McQueen; Altos: Cassi Shands, Patti Alleger, Colleen Shaufele, Carol Gabriellen, Lorelei Whitlock, Andrea McQueen; Baritone: Michael Shands, Terry Miller, Justin McQueen
Currently the choir is on a break, as singing properly in full voice (with mandatory masks) is difficult. A small group of volunteers will be back in February and hopefully the full choir will sing during Lent and Holy Week Services including Easter Sunday.

Ms. Sue will take a leave of absence for six weeks as she travels to Florida to vacation with her husband, Terry. Elizabeth McQueen will substitute as organist. Many thanks to her dedication in this role until Sue returns and continues with the choir until the summer.

Once things are back to normal, the Bell Choir will re-form with the young teens and Sunday School Youth Choir will seek new members.

Respectfully submitted,

Ms. Susan Stillo, Music Minister at Christ Episcopal Church

6. PRAYER PARTNERS

I have always said that prayer is a hidden ministry, but Christ Church has become known as a praying church. People ask us to pray for their loved ones near and far ~ Brazil, Canada, Germany, Ghana, Ireland, Japan, Panama, Singapore. The pandemic has made our prayer support all the more important, but it has also kept us from gathering to pray together. We have missed the blessing and encouragement of sharing in this ministry with our voices united in prayer. The list of needs grows and changes almost daily, so using email to communicate is vital to our ministry, keeping our prayers current. It also means we can receive pictures, putting faces on the people for whom we pray who may live at a distance and be unknown to us. But as we pray, we grow to love them. We rejoice when they are healed and grieve when God takes them to their eternal Home. Though we pray alone in our own homes, we are knit together by our shared ministry of prayer which is an expression of our love for God and His children. We are blessed to have a strong team of intercessors: Patti Alleger, Louise Bach, Jo Bauer, Pat Bazan, Barbara Cato, Jenny Collier, Barbara Cramer, Mother Sidnie Crawford, Isaac During, Antonia Harewood-Harris, Trish Hughes, Cyn Leenerts, Eileen Lindsley, Cheryl McPherson, Chris Nelson, Cynthia Nortey, Gloria O'Sullivan, Mary Rego, Sue Stillo, Debby Tanico and Lorelei Whitlock who receive email updates. Others take a copy of the updated lists I leave under the Gethsemane window and pray using it. If you want us to pray for you or someone you know, or if you would like to add your prayers to ours and receive updates by email, please call or e-mail Barbara Cramer at 570-424-6921 or bjcramer@ptd.net. Concerns that are **strictly** confidential we keep in **private** prayer, using first name only. Help us continue to be a blessing to our community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Barbara Cramer, Chair

7. FOOD PANTRY

While the pandemic continues to impact our nation and our food pantries everywhere, we remain in faith to supporting the community with this ministry. Our patrons have gracefully accepted and adapted to our COVID-19 guidelines and distribution practices. Each person that arrives to the food pantry is required to wear a mask, use hand sanitizer, and donned gloves to ensure the safety of all who are present.

2021 Highlights:

- Food pantry distribution remains 1st and 3rd Saturday of the month, and volunteers were welcomed.
- We served 1279 family members (adults, children & seniors combined).
- We received over 8740 pounds of food from Second Harvest, retail partners, the community, parishioners, and Pack 300 troops whose efforts contributed 4000 pounds of food to the total.
- We welcomed Stroudsburg HS Key Club and Guardian Life Insurance staff members to our volunteer team.
- We had 204 volunteers (30 of them new!) and they served over 816 hours, credentialing, distributing, and organizing foods. That's an average of 17 volunteers per month.
- The food pantry participated in Monroe County United Faith Blue & You initiative and distributed 25 bagged goods to the community at large at ESU campus.
- The food pantry shared food resources with We Share Corp, a newly formed non-profit community outreach program. We Share Corp, provides financial counseling, budgeting, work re-entry program for displaced workers, food pantry to name a few.
- We sponsored 24 children during the holiday season, thanks to the generous support of the church.
- We started our mobile food pantry to ensuring everyone have access to food.

I write this report highlighting “we” in acknowledgement of the many wonderful people who put their heart and soul into the success of this ministry. Some are visible and while others are anonymous, yet their goals are the same. I offer gratitude to the volunteers for showing up rain or snow, to the people who provided monetary contributions and for food/good donations received. A very special thanks to our faith partners, Faith UM for their monthly food collections, Troop 300 for their annual food collections, Stroudsburg Lions Club for their Christmas turkey & ham donation, Notre Dame High School for donation of 25 complete Thanksgiving dinners and the Sheriff’s Department for delivering them, Mayor Probst for the personal hygiene donations, Caleb Duah for running the mobile food pantry, and community members Kathy & Kathy for their special bagged dinners. This food pantry continues because of their generosity. We continue our commitment to ensure that our community receives the food they need to provide nourishing meals for their families.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Nortey, Food Pantry

8. Senior Warden Report

Approximately one year ago, Father Doug asked me to become the Senior Warden. He also assured me that he had lined everything up that so that I would only really have to worry about the search for a new rector (Ha!! Ha!! I actually fell for that). It took a few days and a lot of introspection and prayer, for me to accept. I accepted because I knew that we had a strong vestry with members who had a lot of expertise in various church matters (finance, property, diocese happenings) and that those members would be there to help in any way I needed.

Those first few months following Father Doug’s retreat, we were hit with many maintenance issues: leaking roofs, problems with the plowing of the parking lot, complaints from neighbors, water in the dungeon, alarms being serviced, and a few personnel issues. Thankfully, vestry was there to help me wade through all the unfamiliar ground, and resolve

many of those issues. I was especially grateful when Steve Whitely agreed to be the Junior Warden. I was not surprised by Vestry's willingness to step up and take care of our church, and I am grateful.

What I was surprised about, although I shouldn't have been, is how this whole congregation stepped up to ensure that our church would remain solvent, and remain a beacon of light to each other and to this community. Throughout the year, even during Covid spikes, our parishioners were there to continue feeding our neighbors, to solve technological issues to keep our livestream going, to find ways to improve communication, to usher, to host coffee hour (and if you haven't been to a coffee hour lately, you're missing out!), to shovel sidewalks, to fix leaks, to suggest activities and outreach (Flower Power, Walk for United Thank Offering, providing Christmas presents for needy families, Ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army, collecting donations for Street to Feet), to celebrate us and our love of Jesus Christ.

We appointed a search committee to find a new priest. They've worked very hard, wending their way through the diocese's ever-changing directions on how to proceed. They are now interviewing candidates.

We have an updated and relevant website, and the newsletter has been reborn.

There is a new CEC icon and banner, and Swag!, to help advertise and make our church recognizable to the community.

We have taken the first step to a full building assessment, which will take place this spring, to help us better predict and prepare for upcoming maintenance needs.

We have been working with the Stroudsburg Historical Preservation Society to replace the roofs on our Sarah Street properties, which will hopefully also take place this spring.

Our livestream services continue, along with live, in-person outdoor services for Easter and Pentecost. We brought back Wednesday noon services until the lack of attendance dictated that we put that on hold. We are once again holding services in the church proper. Twelve brave children participated in our Christmas Eve pageant, bringing the joy of laughter and

song back to our worship. And vestry members hosted the first ever Wassail gathering following the 10:30 Christmas Eve mass.

Morning Prayer is held four mornings a week via Zoom, and Friday evening Compline is held live on our Facebook pages.

Our music program was revitalized with beautiful in-person offertory anthems until Covid once again forced the wearing of masks.

We lost three beloved church members last year – Jennifer Sutherland, Mike McKeown, and Claire Guliano. Their passing left a hole in our hearts, but their love for us remains.

And we had a wonderful retirement brunch for Father Doug, delayed until September, that was enjoyed by a great many of you.

I trust that the year ahead will be just as challenging and rewarding as 2021:

We are exploring the possibility of charging a fee for the use of the church to help recoup the cost of trash removal and cleaning services.

If Covid allows, we will once again hold our church picnic at the Iron Pigs game on Friday, August 26. This is the game that Father Doug reserved for us in 2020, held over for two years now.

Our parish will become more involved in diocese activities as the Bishop's initiatives are put into place. You will hear more about Convocation 4 and Assembly, partnering with other Episcopal churches, in the months ahead.

And we will, someday soon, be welcoming a new priest to our church family.

Christ Episcopal Church – you astound me! You astound me with your enthusiasm, your support, and your love, and I thank you with every fiber of my being.

Respectfully Submitted,

Chris Nelson, Senior Warden

9. Election of Vestry Members

10. Election of Convention Delegates

11. Rector's Report