

2016 ANNUAL REPORT



THE MISSION OF CHRIST CHURCH...

"Christ Church: A community committed to exploring the reality of God in today's world."

Adopted by the Vestry 2012

CHRIST CHURCH 380 Sycamore Avenue, Shrewsbury, New Jersey, 07702
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Annual Parish Meeting Agenda

The 314th Annual Meeting of Christ Church will begin in the Parish House and will be accompanied by a covered dish brunch!

Invocation

Call of the 314th Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 313th Annual Meeting, January 25, 2016

Presentation of Candidates and Casting of Votes

Presentation of Awards

Presentation of Reports and 2017 Budget

Other Business

Meeting of New Vestry to elect Officers of Vestry

Adjournment

THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2016

Given at the Annual Meeting of Christ Church
Shrewsbury, New Jersey
January 22, 2017

The Right Reverend William “Chip” H. Stokes	Bishop
The Reverend Lisa Sauber Mitchell	Rector
The Reverend Mary Frances Schjonberg	Priest Associate
The Reverend Victoria Cuff	Deacon
The Reverend William Balmer	Deacon
Casey Surgent	Parish Administrator
Christine Psolka	Organist and Choir Director
Jeff Veil	Sexton
Gerry Marengo/David Regiec	Treasurer
Phyllis Edwards	Altar Guild Directress
Sue Napoletano	Christian Formation Coordinator
Nancy Stewart	Clerk of the Vestry

THE VESTRY

Elaine Feyereisen, Senior Warden (2017)
Peggy James, Junior Warden (2018)

Term Ends Jan. 2017

Walter Dein
Tara Dunford
Julie Sinn Cassidy
Pam Aschettino
Jamie Green

Term ends Jan. 2018

Rachelle Spencer-Mikita
Rita Saible

Term ends Jan. 2019

Joanne Montgomery
James O’Connor

Deputies term ends Jan. 2017

Christine Meislohn
Diane Ingenito
Neil Ingenito

Alternate Deputies

Dianne Regiec
David Regiec
Georgette King

2016 NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The terms of the following vestry persons expire at this meeting

Vestry:

Walter Dein

Tara Dunford

Julie Sinn Cassidy

Pam Aschettino

Jamie Green

The following person is duly nominated to serve as Senior Warden for a 2 year term:

Peggy James

The following person is duly nominated to serve as Junior Warden for a 1 year unexpired term:

Elaine Feyereisen

The following person is duly nominated to fill three vestry positions for a 3 year term:

James Craven

Sue Napoletano

Jamie Green

The following person is duly nominated to fill one vestry position for a 2 year term:

Walter Dein

The following person is duly nominated to fill one vestry position for a 1 year term:

Sarah Schmid

The following persons are duly nominated to serve as Alternate Deputies to Diocesan Convention:

Bill Cuff

Renee Meislohn

The Nominating Committee is comprised of the Senior Warden and the retiring Vestry members.

Minutes of the 313th Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, January 31, 2016

The Annual meeting was held in the Parish House following the 10 a.m. service. After the opening prayer, the meeting was called to order at 11:35 a.m. A quorum being present, the 2015 Annual Report was distributed to all in attendance. The Minutes of the 2015 Annual Meeting were reviewed, and a motion was made by Peggy James, seconded by Sarah Schmid and passed unanimously to accept the Minutes as presented.

Nominating Committee

The following slate of candidates was presented:

Junior Warden (2-year term): Peggy James

3 Vestry members (3-year term): Joanne Montgomery, Jim O'Connor, Rosemary Pappa

1 Vestry member (1-year unexpired term): Tara Dunford

The following were nominated as Alternate Deputies to Diocesan Convention: Dianne and Dave Regiec, Georgette King. All were unanimously elected by applause.

Mother Lisa thanked retiring Vestry members, Sarah Schmid, Patrice Thornton, and Sue Napoletano, and Sr. Warden, Rod Webster, and presented them with awards. She also thanked Chris Psolka, Choir Director, for the music during the past year, and Deacon Bill Balmer for all his assistance this year. Parish Historian, Bob Kelly, thanked our intern, Taylor Cavanaugh, a senior at Monmouth University, who did her research paper on the iconography of our gravestones. We have another intern now working on videos describing our church.

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Gerry Marengo reviewed in detail our finances and fund balances for 2015. His report includes a new sheet showing our Endowment Investment Account balances. We ended the year with a deficit of \$17,655, and the deficit continues to be an area of concern. The total withdrawn from the Endowment Investment funds was \$30,508. We lost 3 major donors this past year, and also lost income of \$300 per month for use of our parking lot from the dentist office on Broad Street. Fundraising in 2015 was very positive, generating \$19,169, which is higher than in other years. He reviewed the Diocesan Assessment and explained how it is calculated. For 2016, we have pledged \$17,500 to the Diocese. We have 10 less pledges than last year at this time, and the 2016 budget projects a deficit of \$30,610. Peggy James commented on the importance of pledging to help with the budgeting process. Prior to the Annual Meeting, Mother Lisa had announced in church the generous bequest by Robert Manson of \$340,000 to be used exclusively for the maintenance of the church building.

Bob Kelly gave an update on the Sandy Disaster Relief Grant with most of the work in 2015 focusing on Condition Assessments for the Church building, the gravestones, and the Rectory.

He also reported that the clock in the church tower has been repaired by Stevenson Services and is once again tolling the hour.

Sr. Warden, Elaine Feyereisen thanked the Vestry and parishioners for all they do for the church. Following the drawing for the 50/50 cash calendar, the meeting was adjourned at 1 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Stewart, Vestry Clerk

DETAILS FROM THE PARISH REGISTER FOR THE YEAR 2016

Baptisms

Bennett Grady Bielskie
Tessa Paige Bielskie
Estelle Teresa Holmgren
Christopher Anthony Stroebel
Alexandra Elizabeth Vollmer
Vivian Carissa Vollmer

Confirmations

Christine Alfano
Jeanine Reeman

Marriages

Kylie Jean Muratore to Tyler James Scott
Kristen Feyereisen to Stephen Downs
Lauren Califano to Michael Faccione

Transfers to Christ Church

Daniel, Lauren Bielskie, Bennett and Tessa from St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Livingston, NJ
Jessie Eisel from Christ Episcopal Church, Stroudsburg, PA
Connie Goddard, from St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Evanston, IL
Theodore Keating from the Roman Catholic Church
Dominique Perez, from St. James, Long Branch, NJ
Helio & Cara Tevar, Natalia and Lucia, from St. Catherine's Roman Catholic Church, Holmdel, NJ.
Rob and Elyse Veil from Sacred Heart Roman Heart, South Plainfield, NJ
Valentine Vollmer, Alexandra, and Vivian from St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater, NJ

Transfers from Christ Church

Jeanine Reeman, to St. James, Eatontown, NJ

Burial of the Dead *denotes a member of Christ Church; ** denotes a former member

Virginia Pratt Peters
James Scott Peters

Gerard Marengo*
Craig L. Scanlon
Donna M. Paynton

RECTOR'S REPORT

“Bless, O God, the food we eat, and if there be any poor creature hungry or thirsty walking along the road, send them in to us that we can share the food with them just as you share your gifts with all of us.”
Traditional Irish Grace

Every week we meet to worship and pray – and at the center of it all is the eucharistic feast of bread and wine. We gather at our common table to fellowship, to comfort, to encourage, to strengthen our faith. And the best part is that there is plenty for all. The best part is that all are welcome. The best part is our Lord takes our simple hands and hearts and minds and uses them to feed others, too. Don't you simply love this community of faith? Don't you want to share it with all the world?

This is the twentieth Annual Report I have submitted to Christ Church. That's a lot of reporting! This time, I found my mind particularly drawn to those who are *not* church members, but those with whom we share our Faith Experience during the year – *“those we can share our food with, just as God shares gifts with us”*.

I thought of the **four Boy & Cub Scout Troops** that came to visit our parish and learn about our history. We even hosted an inner-faith dialogue with one group, which I was pleased to moderate – with a Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jew, and Hindu explaining their common connections in Faith. I thought of the **Fourth Grade Classes** of Shrewsbury Boro School who also came to spend a morning in our church and graveyard. The **Lantern Tour, Weekend at Old Monmouth**, the special **Fourth of July at the Allen House** with citizens visiting with us (some even climbing the clock tower), and the **Monmouth County Genealogical Society** who held a meeting here, too. We even designed a special **Bell Tower Basket** to benefit The Foundation for Shrewsbury Education; the school was absolutely delighted with our contribution to the greater community. And I had such fun joining Meg Bernhardt's **Women's Study Class at Brookdale** to discuss Women in Leadership in Faith Communities.

We are always finding ways to invite our community to join us. I was so very pleased that we held our first ever **Pride Weekend** in June; a small start, but I found myself a bit “proud” of our own parishioners and their warm welcoming ways. I also believe that in a small way, it helped us process the attack at the Pulse Nightclub the following week. The work we do here is indeed important. I smile when I think about our **“Mass on the Grass”**; this year Brother Richard introduced our outdoor congregation to the beautifully haunting melodies of Taize music and we did “circular worship” with shared homilies (and did you know we even had a baptism alfresco?) And the loveable gathering at the **Blessing of the Animals**. What wonderful gifts to our community.

Did you come and experience **Redeem Her** with us? A ministry that assists women coming out of drug rehabilitation and/or incarceration, they sold dresses in our Parish House to raise funds and awareness (I know I came home with several!).

I am so thankful to our **YFI Ministry** and the work of **Seeing is Believing**. Young families are joining us and finding Christ Church a wonderfully nurturing place. This year we hosted our first **Halloween Party** in several years (thanks so very much to GFS with whom we could not have done it!); we had nearly 60 people attend. Even more attended our third annual **Blessing of Stockings**, in which Jen Cravens bravely took on the masses.

We also take “The Christ Church Experience” with us in many diverse places. This year **Martha’s Cupboard** began the work of expansion; our food program has gone from a once a month experience to once a week, offering art classes, game days, and health education. A big thank you to Deacon Bill Balmer for tackling this. We are still selling the **Cranes**, so wonderfully crafted by Christina Alfano; proceeds to support this important ministry. We are sharpening our focus on **Covenant House**, with another Day at the Beach, Christmas Outreach Project, and supporting the Sleep Out (I expect to see even more involvement with them this next year). Our Lenten Project raised money for **Socks for Refugees** to St. Paul within the Walls (Rome). We amassed **Backpacks for School Children**, collected and sent **Toys to needy children at Christmas**, and rang the bells at the **Salvation Army Kettle**.

There are so many other things to tell you about – but it is time for me to close out this report. I must! – as I am preparing to leave shortly on a sabbatical for which I am profoundly thankful. But do read about all the ministries, fundraisers, educational enterprises captured in this Annual Report. See the exciting work done through the SDRG and the Walkways Project. Take a look at the wondrous giving you all have done through for this next year; I cannot wait to see what God has in store for us.

But I cannot end it without mentioning a couple goodbyes”. The first to Reverend Mary Frances Schjonberg who left us in October; she was a wonderful addition to our staff and has become a much-valued friend to me. I do hope she will surprise you with a Sunday or two at the altar while I am gone. But most of all, I bid a still very sad farewell to our beloved Gerry Marengo who died suddenly in March. Words cannot say how much I miss him; I know you do, too. He was a faithful and faith-filled member of this Church and truly a Treasurer with a heart of gold. I also cannot tell you how blessed we are to have Dave Regiec so graciously volunteer to take on the work of Treasurer after Gerry’s untimely death; Dave’s willingness to step in and his ability to quickly find his own way has been a real gift to this parish.

What a wonderful parish we have! Lots of folks are being “fed” with the good news of Christ. We are constantly sharing the Bread of Heaven, our Lord Jesus Christ, in so many ways that I am sure I must have forgotten a few. And of course, I know you share him wherever you go: as you speak a kind word, stand up for a person with no voice, bring food to a neighbor, pray for the sick and dying.

May we live this year in the shadow of God’s magnificent grace. May we never forget that what we receive each week at the Lord’s Table is meant not only for us, but for the whole world. May our daily prayer be nothing more, nothing less than this: *“Bless, O God, the food we eat, and if there be any poor creature hungry of thirsty walking along the road, send them in to us that we can share the food with them just as you share your gifts with all of us.”*

Peace,

Mother Lisa Mitchell+

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2016

As this second year as Senior Warden comes to a close, I recognize that our parish is comprised of parishioners who are talented and committed to our spiritual journey together. We flourish as a parish as we reach out to each other, the community and the world. As we worship together, we relish in the many ways we support each other and learn to live a spiritual life.

Many accomplishments are listed here in the Annual Report, and each ministry details the multitude of ways that parishioners participate in the life of the church. Thank you to those listed as well as those who were supporters of the various ministries.

Many thanks to Lynn Marengo who continues as Assistant Treasurer. She is so diligent about the business aspects of the bills and finances and is behind the scenes on so many of the projects and aspects of the smooth running of the parish. Casey Surgent is an invaluable asset to the parish and can be counted on to be the glue that holds together details of the parish office and communications. Thank you Casey. We thank Dave Regiec for stepping into the role of Treasurer. He has been a quick study of the financial business, and we all realize the complexity of the task he has undertaken. Thank you Dave. Our financial outcome for the year is one that demonstrates that the frugal budget has been as successful as we could have hoped. In the coming year it will be prudent for the finance committee and vestry to once again keep an eye on the expenditures of the parish to potentially erase the deficit nature of the budget.

The SDRG Grant has given the historic nature of our buildings and cemetery a fresh outlook for structural integrity. Work on various gravestones is completed and contracts for other aspects of the revitalization have shown visible progress. Bob Kelly is key to the grant process and outlines the progress frequently. Thank you Bob.

Each Sunday we are delighted with the presence of the children of the parish. The second Sunday is quiet in church due to the program "Seeing is Believing". We have enjoyed baptisms of little people, the older children who enjoy parish activities, and the service of the older children on the altar and throughout the life of the church. Sue Napoletano is all about the kids and is instrumental in guiding their spiritual life.

As we move through 2017, much will remain the same at Christ Church. Our spiritual journey is one which each of us must discern, and our parish relationships are here for support. While Mother Lisa is on Sabbatical, we will miss her guidance but know that she will return with refreshed knowledge and energy. I pray that we not only keep Christ Church the same, but that we continue to explore new and exciting ways to practice our faith here in our parish, our community and in the world at large. Enjoy reading this 2016 Annual Report, and consider ways you would enjoy further participation in parish life.

Prayerfully submitted, Elaine Feyereisen

2016 STEWARDSHIP REPORT

“INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITY”

On Sundays, November 6^{and} November 13 we had very moving talks by Jim Halpern and Jeff Veil as to what Christ Church means to them. It is always so interesting to hear our fellow parishioner's stories!

November 20 was Ingathering Sunday when we collected the Pledge Certificates and enjoyed a delicious brunch. The invitations to our brunch were again designed, made and donated by freelance designer Susan Heckman.

The following is a comparison of pledge data for 2016 and 2017 as of 1/1/2017.

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Number of pledges	66	64
New pledges	8	8
Increased pledges	30	39
Decreased pledges	4	4
Pledges	\$155,601	\$141,939

Note:

1. New pledges include people new to our parish and those who may have contributed consistently in the past but filled out a pledge certificate for the 1st time for 2017.
2. The budget in 2016 estimated 92% contribution of the pledge totals shown above. This is also the percentage used by the diocese. We do not use the total dollar amount pledged since we never get 100% fulfillment.
3. The highest pledge is \$8500 and the lowest is \$52. The average pledge is \$2358.

It is not too late to pledge for 2017. You can pledge at any time during the year. Pick up a Pledge Certificate in the church office and mail it, drop it off at the church office or put it in the offering plate. If you regularly put money in the plate, but have never completed a pledge certificate, please consider completing one this year. Remember, your contributions are tax deductible. We have asked everyone to try to increase their pledge, even if it is only by an extra 1 week contribution. Every increase helps no matter the amount. Don't be afraid, if your circumstances change, you can always change your pledge. Let's make 2017 the best financial year yet! Thank you, The Stewardship Team.

Respectfully submitted by Peggy James and Tara Dunford, Stewardship Commission

MUSIC MINISTRY REPORT 2016

In 2016, the Liturgy Committee decided to move the Easter Vigil service from the Saturday night before Easter Sunday to sunrise on Easter Sunday. The service included an outdoor Resurrection drama at sunrise followed by a sung Eucharist and was well attended and received.

Palm Sunday's anthems included Stainer's *God So Loved the World* and *Ride On, King Jesus*, arranged by Olsen. Choral anthems for Maundy Thursday included an arrangement of *Ubi Caritas* by Albrecht and an a cappella treble arrangement of *Ave Verum* by Poulenc. The Good Friday service included sacred reflections from a variety of genres - classical, gospel, Gregorian chant and Renaissance.

The Easter Vigil was held at sunrise on Easter Day, and included several anthems. Choir members Jamie Green, Patty Falzone, Sarah Schmid and Jim Halpern participated. On Easter Sunday St Gregory's Choir participated in a combined children's and adult 10:00 am Eucharist. Anthems included *Risen Today* by Forrest, *Thine is the Glory* by Handel (arr. Porter), for choir, organ and trumpet, and the Bach *Arioso* with flute and organ.

Jeanine Reeman, flute, and Kevin Psolka-Green, guitar, joined St. Gregory's Choir for the Christmas Eve 10:30 service. Anthems included the Willcocks arrangement of *Quelle Est Ette Odeur Agreeable*, the Bach chorale *A Child is Born in Bethlehem*, and *Glory to God, Alleluia* from the Bach Magnificat, arranged by Larkin. The choir joined soloist Janet Breslin in *In the Bleak Midwinter*, arranged by Darke. Flute and organ combined in a performance of *Et Exultavit* from Bach's Magnificat. Christine Maber sang the solo verse in *Once in Royal David's City*.

The newly reconstituted St. Mary's Choir celebrated the birth of Jesus through poetry and music at the 4:00pm Children's Christmas service. Our "boy's band" included Matthew and Joshua Dulford, Dash Cassidy, and Dexter, Kody and Abe Craven. Thanks to Tara Dunford and Julie Cassidy for help in preparing the boys. Christine Maber was featured in the vocal solo, *The Birthday of a King* by Niedlinger.

During the summer, Brother Richard Biernacki worked with Mother Lisa to provide music at our Saturday evening Eucharistic service "Mass on the Grass."

St. Gregory Choir welcomed Edgar John, baritone, to the choir.

I'd like to express my appreciation to Mother Lisa Mitchell for her support and the following members of St. Gregory Choir for their dedication and hard work:

Barbara Carroll
Lisa Halpern
Lynn Marengo
Diane Skelly

Patricia Falzone
Jim Halpern
Renee Meislohn
Patrice Thornton

Jamie Green
Edgar John
Sarah Schmid

Respectfully submitted by Christine Psolka, Organist and Choirmaster

2016 ALTAR GUILD REPORT

The ministry of the Altar Guild members is the preparation for the two Sunday services, special Holy Days, weddings, baptisms, funerals and memorial services. We also trim the church for Christmas, Easter and special Holy Days. The members of the Guild assure the linens, silver, brass and priest's vestments are well maintained so that Christ Church is always a holy and beautiful place in which to worship.

The following members serve faithfully on teams of 2 or 3 members for one week each month. They are Pam Aschettino, Pam Diamond, Phyllis Edwards, Edgar John, Ann Miller, Barbara Raspanti, Rachelle Spencer-Mikita, and Cindy Webster. We are looking for new members.

A special thank you to Barbara Raspanti, our flower treasurer, who maintains our flower account by making sure the flowers are paid for and also acknowledging the donors in the Church bulletin on Sunday. Thank you also to Cindy Webster for handling the flower arrangements in the windows during our special feast days. Cindy also contacts the florist to make sure they know what our needs are for the Sunday services and special Holy Days. Thanks also to Ann Miller for being in charge of the brass cleaning which we do throughout the year.

We are still trying to find a reliable source to repair the gold chalice.

The Altar Guild thanks Mother Lisa for her direction, prayers, and support throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted by Phyllis Edwards, Directress

2016 Altar Guild Flower Account Financial Summary

TD Account Balance, January 1, 2016.....	\$3252.43	
Income:		
Regular Weekly Flower Donations	\$1945.00	
Memorial Contributions	\$1872.00	
Interest	\$ 1.68	
Total Income:		\$3818.68
Expenses:		
Weekly Regular Flowers	\$3005.90	
Holiday Services	\$2156.60	
Safe Box	\$123.05	
Total Expenses:		\$5285.55
TD Account Balance, December 31, 2016		\$1785.56

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Raspanti, Altar Guild

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT 2016

This coming May, I will have been working at Christ Church for *seven years* and 2016 was quite a busy one. My major job responsibilities do not *normally* change too much from year to year, but this year, some new events were introduced to the parish and outside community so I tried to lend a hand where and when I could. Much of my daily office time is spent prioritizing tasks, managing my workload, and getting the most critical deliverables completed that day.

Christ Church continued to acquire some new members. “Seeing is Believing,” and its extended activities, are growing. One area really gaining popularity is the history of Christ Church. We receive many requests for tours and personal ancestry inquiries, which we are able to satisfy, thanks mostly to the dedicated efforts of Bob Kelly!

One of my most important responsibilities is helping to keep the parish community up to date with the happenings of Christ Church. I spend a lot of time coordinating and preparing various communications; the monthly newsletter “The Crown”, the weekly emails, and the Sunday bulletins. They are filled with parish information *we want you to know* so you are encouraged to not just skim over them, but to really take some time to read these.

The “Those Who Serve” schedule continues to be a challenge. I rely a lot on the Holy Spirit. If you are currently sitting in the pew and not participating in a ministry during service at least periodically I ask that you prayerfully consider joining one of the teams. Keep in mind “to whom much has been given, much will be required”. (Luke 12:48) and although not scripture, “many hands make the burden light!”

This past year I wasn’t away from my desk too much. However, my husband and I are planning a few trips this year, so if you are interested in pitching in periodically, please let me know.

My sincere thanks to the many who have helped in the office in anyway over the last year and very special thanks to those who lend a hand when it comes time for collating, folding and stapling holiday bulletins and special reports!

If I seem at ease in my job it is because I am. Everyone sincerely makes me feel appreciated. It is the care and respect of the people I interact with that help to make me happy in my work.

Respectfully submitted by Casey Surgent, Parish Administrator

CHRISTIAN FORMATION COMMISSION REPORT 2016

Sue Napoletano continues the lead in teaching the Lower Church School with Georgette King, and Walter Dein. Attendance has been fairly steady. In addition, since the inception of the Y-FI program which hosts the Second Sunday program entitled “Seeing is Believing” the number of families participating in Lower Church School in general has increased significantly and many have become regular weekly attendees. It is gratifying to see this increase of families seeking to explore and develop the spirituality of their children. Family members work together on activities that broaden their understanding of God and the Community of Faith. Parents learn ways to address matters of Faith with their children at home, sharing and exploring their own traditions.

As for church school, we remain prepared and ready to go forward on a weekly basis with whoever arrives. Our focus in class this year, starting in September 2016 tracks the Seeing is Believing program – *“I am What I Am- And That’s All That I Am”*. Besides the hands on Second Sunday program, our weekly classroom lessons continue the focus on learning more about Jesus. Prior to that it tracked the “Saints” program of Winter 2016 as well as introducing other themes and concepts such as “God Hears Even the Smallest Voice”, stewardship, what happens in Lent and Advent.

Except for the single Lower Church School class, we did not have Middle or Upper Church School classes in 2016. The number of children and youth in that age group is nominal. They participate as acolytes or are engaged in the Girls Friendly Society. We remain ready to offer a Middle and Upper Church School program for anyone who may be interested and to institute new programs to meet the spiritual needs of our older children and youth.

One of the main goals of the Christian Formation Commission has always been to offer our children and Youth a loving, cheerful and safe environment in which to explore and learn about our Faith and how to put that Faith into action. It is evident that the commission is on track in that regard. Continued support of the Church School Program by parents is very much key to a successful outcome of the program and more importantly, the successful development of faith and ensuing service in our children and Youth.

Church School also included special activities and programs:

Stewardship. As a follow up to a lesson on stewardship, children were given envelopes to take home and return with their “offerings” on a weekly basis to instill a sense of contribution in them.

Easter Egg Hunt. This past year volunteers hid the many dozens of Easter Eggs donated by our generous parishioners for the annual Easter Egg Hunt. In fact, once again we had some many eggs we ran out of places to hide them. It was “eggs-citing” for all, especially for those children who found the Alleluia Eggs and were awarded the beautiful Lamb Cakes. The Alleluia Eggs and Lamb Cakes were beautiful. A lovely basket made by Judi Buncher was also awarded.

And, how can we forget the huge “Alleluia” banner created by the children and families which was a follow up to our Alleluia theme curriculum during Lent.

Pride Weekend. On Saturday, June 4 several families gathered in the Parish House to celebrate and affirm our support for people and families of every stripe, gender and affiliation. There were games, a great lunch and delicious rainbow cupcakes and crafts. Yet another over-size Banner was made by all of the attendees which decorated our church the following day.

Pancake Breakfast. Last year's pancake breakfast on Sunday, June 5 during coffee hour was again a success thanks to the service of the GFS and all other Youth who participated. The breakfast was the culminating activity of Pride Weekend and even some of the pancakes were rainbow colors. Proceeds of the breakfast benefitted the Casey Kerr Scholarship Fund.

Youth Sunday, June 12, 2016. Sincere thanks were offered up for the people who mentored and influenced our children and Youth over the years. Children, Youth and Volunteers were recognized for their contributions and some awards were given out. The program concluded with the traditional Ice Cream Sundaes.

Rally Sunday, September 11, 2016. Once again Rally Sunday, the second Sunday in September, kicked off with the Seeing is Believing Program of the Y-Fi initiative chaired by Julie Cassidy. Each second Sunday parents and children gather in the classroom to receive a lesson on a specific yearly theme followed by a related craft activity and concluding with family Eucharist in the Chapel.

St. Nicholas Sunday: On Sunday, December 4, 2016, the Bishop of Myra aka St. Nicholas appeared for his annual visitation. Jamie Green delightfully recounted the story of the real St. Nicholas to our youngsters and Parish. The youngsters were given special chocolate "gold" coins as a remembrance treat from St. Nicholas. The visitation coincided with our annual in-gathering of toys and gifts for St. Mark's, Keansburg which, as always, was astounding.

The Christian Formation program at Christ Church would not be possible without the support of its main volunteers Georgette King, Walter Dein, all parishioners, parents, family, and clergy. Keep up the good work!

Respectfully Submitted by Susan Napoletano, Christian Formation Vestryperson

FUNDRAISING REPORT 2016

Fundraising events for 2016 at Christ Church was the good year with an increase in dollars for some of our events over the past years. Thanks to our Chairperson's and all our Christ Church members that put such hard work into volunteering for each event and supporting our events by either attending or sending pieces in for purchase or monetary contributions if one was not available to attend in person. I'm sure you all know who you are and a big pat on the back and a huge **THANK YOU** from our Christ Church Vestry members. It was well noticed and appreciated! *We also had a little fun too....right!*

This year we added one new Fundraiser which did not come to fruition yet. But we did raise some money towards the *virtual car wash* that had to be cancelled. The real Vestry Car Wash should be taking place in the Spring of 2017.

We also may look into a possible winetasting event at Christ Church.

Below is our chart of fundraisers for 2016 for your review.

Christ Church Fund Raiser Event	Contributions 2016	vs. 2015
Book Sales	\$129.50	\$172
Calendar Cash Out	\$795.00	\$432
Spring Flea Market	\$3,149	\$2,613
50/50 Raffle for 55" TV (Bazaar)	\$250.00	n/a
50/50 Raffle	\$1,052.50	\$1,907.75
Moravian Pie Sale – YUM!	\$611.05	\$595
Holiday Christmas Bazaar	\$8,887.49	\$9,530
Lantern Tour	\$2,228.31	\$2,385
Vestry Car Wash (Virtual)	\$120.00	n/a
Weddings/Baptisms	\$2400.00	\$3200.00
Quiche Sale	\$276.00	-
TOTAL	\$19899.00	\$20835.00

Respectfully submitted by Joanne Montgomery

FATHER MAINER FUND 2016

The Father Mainer Fund was established many years ago by an Episcopal priest connected with Christ Church. The purpose of the Fund is to help individual poor people and he stated that up to \$2,500 could be spent from it each year. Because of the difficulty in finding reasonable low-cost housing in Monmouth County and because Father Mainer also relied on low-cost public housing, this account is used specifically to assist people with housing needs. The maximum amount to be dispersed each year remains **\$2,500**. The maximum amount given out to any one family is **\$500**. In 2016, five allocations for a total of **\$2,479.23** were given out to the following:

Contributions:

Thanksgiving offering from a wedding	\$200.00
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Assistance Given:

Rent and utility assistance for a single mother & son	\$459.66
Hotel assistance for a mentally ill man	\$114.00
Rent assistance for a woman undergoing chemotherapy	\$500.00
Rent assistance for a mentally ill man	\$500.00
Utility assistance for single mother & daughter	\$405.57
Rent Assistance for a single woman, working student	\$500.00

Total: \$2,479.23

End of Year Balance of the Fund: \$5,374.93

The Father Mainer Fund is a limited fund; he assumed that once the monies are dispersed, the account will be closed. However, the needs are as real today as they were in his own day. If you would like to make a donation to this fund, your check may be made out to "Christ Church" with "Father Mainer Fund" on the memo line.

Faithfully Submitted,

Mother Lisa Mitchell, Rector

PROPERTY REPORT 2016

2016 was a busy year for property. Many of the smaller projects listed below were completed during the Second Saturday Workdays.

Church Yard:

- Assembled and installed a new storage shed
- Painting the white bench in the rose garden
- Trimming trees, bushes and raking up the black walnuts
- Putting up and taking down the fence banners
- Installed solar lights along the walkways
- Repaired the damaged Stop sign
- Removed the dead rose bush at front steps
- Set up the large wooden cross and returned it to storage

Church Building:

- Added a rocking chair near the baptistery font
- Replaced the platform at the lector stand
- Made emergency electrical repairs

Church Rectory:

- Repaired the toilet
- Repaired the tub drain
- Removed junk from the basement
- Repaired and painted the garage

Parish House:

- Installing the window air conditioners
- Cleanup of the undercroft basement area
- Replaced damaged ceiling tiles
- Replaced the broken TV in the church school
- Added a lighted Exit sign at the fire escape door
- Replaced batteries in the emergency lights

There is also a host of reoccurring tasks such as picking up of trash in the church yard and untangling the Episcopal flag.

Sincerely submitted by Walter Dein, Property Chair

USHER REPORT 2016

At the 8:00 AM service, the usher is the first person a guest or parishioner meets and at the 10:00 AM service, it's the greeter 1st and then the usher. The ushers and greeters play a very important role in the church. The ushers are there to make sure a guest feels comfortable and to be available to answer their questions, direct them to the nursery and the restrooms. They need to see that all the assigned lectors are present, and if not, they need to find a substitute. Many times our ushers act as tour guides since so many guests have questions about the church. When the service is over, the ushers straighten up the kneelers and books and prepare the church for the next service. Being an usher is a very rewarding experience and we are always looking for new ushers for both services. If you think that you might like to be an usher, please talk to me or Mother Lisa. We would love to have you!

In 2016 we welcomed Jim O'Connor to the usher team, which also includes; Walter Dien, Chris Brondi, Mimi Brown, Judy Buncher, George Edwards, Elaine Feyereisen, Jim Miller, Susan Perl, Rod Webster, Bramley Maber, Carl Alfano and me!

Respectfully submitted by Peggy James, Usher Coordinator

WEDDING COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

In 2016 we hosted three weddings. We had some unexpected "free" publicity when our April wedding was featured, with lovely pictures, in the Sunday Newark Star-Ledger.

Our total income for 2016 was \$1425, and our profit was \$1200 after our expenses were deducted. I want to note that the 2016 income appears lower, because one of the weddings was paid in full in calendar year 2015, when the rental agreement was signed.

I want to thank all of the many parishioners who helped make these weddings run so smoothly.

As a final note I want to mention that Gerry Marengo's help on the wedding days is greatly missed by all of us.

Respectively submitted by Noel Murgio, Wedding Committee Chairperson.

YFI: Young Family Initiative 2016

Y-Fi (Young Family Initiative) grew even more this past year as we continued to focus on young children and their families in our church community. The purpose of Y-Fi is to engage current families with young children in the parish and to attract new families from the local community. Our goals are three-fold: 1) seek ways to meet the needs of parents in regards to the nurture and care of their children; 2) develop a network of support and fellowship for the parents themselves; and 3) plan educational and social events to attract young families in the immediate area. Y-Fi is meant to work in conjunction with our current programs, complementing and supplementing existing parish structures such as Church School, GFS, Mass on the Grass, Goodies in the Graveyard, the Parish Picnic, and Communion Classes.

In the Spring, Seeing is Believing: Experiences of the Holy for Parent and Child finished out the school year by focusing on a variety of saints. For the Fall, the delightful Georgette King volunteered to organize the activities for our second Sunday meetings as we concentrated on learning more about Jesus through his “I am” statements. Deacon Vicki Cuff and Sue Napoletano also helped with the lessons, which were followed by communion. All of the second Sunday gatherings continue to be well attended, and our program has drawn in new families.

In October, twenty-three children, their adults, and one dog attended our first-ever Halloween Party. We painted pumpkins, played games like Pin the Nose on the Witch, decorated cupcakes, and sent home goodie bags. A great deal of thanks must go out to Dorrie Pedalino and the Girls Friendly Society for designing and hosting the fabulous event. All in all, 56 people attended, parents were delighted, and the children had a great time.

In December, we hosted our third Blessing of the Stockings. The morning was filled with cookie decorating, tree trimming, and a delightful visit from St. Nicholas, who related the story of his life and hid chocolate coins in the stockings. Then, Mother Lisa blessed all the holiday stockings. Numerous Boy Scouts and their families attended this year in order to earn their community badges as well as families who regularly attend Christ Church. The cookies that were not eaten were donated to the children at St. Clare’s House in Neptune. In addition, the children made Christmas cards for the boys and girls of St. Clare’s House. A very special thanks goes out to Saint Nicolas for sharing his story, Walter Dein for setting up the tree, and Jennifer Craven for overseeing the event. We had a rambunctious morning.

While I was the lead for the Y-Fi program, it could not be as successful as it has been without the help of Georgette King, Sue Napoletano, Deacon Vicki Cuff, and Mother Lisa. Thank you all for the energy and creativity you have brought to the young families at Christ Church Shrewsbury.

If you would like to be part of Y-Fi – whether in planning future events or helping with current ones, do not hesitate to contact Mother Lisa or me.

Faithfully Submitted by Julie A. S. Cassidy

OUTREACH COMMISSION REPORT 2016

Covenant House

2016 was the first year of Covenant House being a specifically identified ministry of Christ Church-and what a successful year it was!

Covenant House opened its doors over forty (40) years ago in New York City to serve homeless young people ages eighteen (18) to twenty-one (21). Since that time it has expanded to over twenty (20) locations throughout the United States, Canada, and Latin America. Locally Covenant House is in Asbury Park serving dozens of young adults at its outreach center providing food, baby necessities, high school equivalency tutoring, job counseling and ultimately a path out of homelessness for those youth who transfer to the Covenant House shelter in either Newark or Atlantic City (over forty young adults have moved from Asbury Park to one of the shelters to take advantage of the housing and transitional services offered by Covenant House).

In 2016 dozens of Christ Church parishioners supported the Covenant House mission through sponsorship and participation at the following events:

- Spring Lake Five fundraising team: Supported a team of runners at this annual road race who raised over \$5,000 for Covenant House.
- New York City Sleep Out: Sponsored volunteer “sleepers” who slept outside the Covenant House NYC shelter to raise money and awareness for the mission (over \$500,000 raised in one night!)
- Sandy Hook Beach Day: We hosted fourteen (14) young adults from Covenant House Newark at Sandy Hook for the day, providing towels, beach toys, flip flops, lunch and sunshine! Many of these young people have never been to the beach and more importantly rarely, if ever, have a day of pure fun!
- Christmas Party: Provided gifts, gift cards, and other support for the annual Covenant House Christmas Party in Asbury Park
- Clothing donations: Throughout the year parishioners generously donated suits and other “office work/interview” clothes for the youth who have very little proper clothing to wear for interviews and office jobs.

Thank you to everyone at Christ Church who supported Covenant House with your prayers, time and donations in 2016. We helped dozens of young adults move from homelessness to self-sufficiency through our collective efforts. In 2017 we plan on continuing our support of the same events outlined above as well as expanding our mission. If anyone is interested in learning how to get involved please contact Jim O'Connor at jimoc63@gmail.com or 732-610-8329. God Bless.

Faithfully submitted by Jim O'Connor, Outreach

OUTREACH FINANCIAL SUMMARY REPORT 2016

Outreach Financial Summary Report 2016

Outreach Funds:

TD Account Balance, January 1, 2016	\$	2650.10
Total Income/Contributions:	\$	1579.00
Total Disbursements/Expenses:	\$	(2275.60)
TD Account Balance, December 31, 2016	\$	1953.50

1/16/2016	335	ERD Christmas Offering	-\$450.00	
1/27/2016		Deposit	\$87.00	Books 4 Books
3/17/2016		Deposit	\$30.00	Martha's Cupboard donation - King
3/27/2016		Deposit	\$138.00	Holy Week Offering for Jerusalem
4/1/2016	336	Jerusalem	-\$138.00	Holy Week Offering for Jerusalem
4/25/2016	337	Diane Regiec	-\$174.63	Martha's Cupboard
5/9/2016		Deposit	\$886.00	Socks
5/10/2016	338	St. Paul's Episc. Church	-\$886.00	Socks
5/19/2016		Deposit	\$100.00	Martha's Cupboard donation- Cashion
5/31/2016	339	Food Bank of M.C.	-\$120.16	Martha's Cupboard
6/6/2016		Deposit	\$25.00	Missions
7/7/2016		Deposit	\$50.00	Paint the Town Pink
7/7/2016	340	Meridian Health	-\$50.00	Paint the Town Pink
7/26/2016		Deposit	\$143.00	Covenant Beach supply donations
8/5/2016	341	Trinity Cathedral	-\$200.00	Golf Day Ad Journal
8/8/2016		Deposit	\$50.00	Covenant House donation
8/17/2016		Deposit	\$30.00	Backpack/supplies donations
8/17/2016	342	Covenant House	-\$231.81	Beach Trip Supplies
8/24/2016		Deposit	\$40.00	Backpacks/supplies donations
11/2/2016	343	Shrewsbury PBA 300	-\$25.00	support drive

Respectfully submitted by Neil Ingenito



Gfs: GIRLS' FRIENDLY SOCIETY

Reverend Lisa Mitchell, Clergy Sponsor

Dorrie Pedalino, Branch Advisor

And Away We Go!

The current Christ Church Branch of GFS has been active now for over a dozen years (I write *current* because I understand there was a branch here during the 1950's – and who knows, perhaps even before that time!). We have our hands involved in all kinds of projects and events and invite all the girls of our parish to join us. The following is a report on our activities during 2016:

- January: Coordinated with the Chapter at St. George's, Rumson to make completed crafts to sell at the Holiday House Gift Shop. Heard a presentation on Holiday House Summer Camp and had Face-Time with the GFS National President. Meeting held at St. George's, Rumson.
- February: We made and sold our famous Super Bowl Soup (and Breads) to support various chapter activities.
- February: Teamed up with St. George's GFS to host a Valentine's Day Party at the Brandywine Assisted Living. The girls assisted attendees in making crafts. They also provided baked good and gift bags for the residents to take with them.
- March: Hosted St. George's GFS to make Palm Crosses for Palm Sunday Service and to bake our delicious Easter Bread.
- March: We attended NJ Diocesan Convention, assisting at the GFS Information and Display Table.
- April: Leaders attended the Board of Directors Meeting at Grace-St. Paul's, Mercerville.
- May: A trip to Laurino Farms, Colts Neck, which donates food to JBJ Soul Kitchen in Red Bank.
- June: Assisted with Christ Church's first Pride Weekend. Helped with decorating, games, food and all the activities of the day.
- July: Dorrie and Erin Pedalino attended GFS National Assembly in Bloomfield, CT.
- July: Induction Ceremony for Danielle Lauterwasser at the White House, in Oakhurst.
- July: Mother Lisa, Dorrie Pedalino, Stacy Reagan, Cassie Reagan, and Danielle Lauterwasser attended NJ Week of GFS Summer Camp in Cape May, where the theme was "Becoming Care Bears: Partnering with God in Caring for Ourselves, our Families, our World".
- August: We joined with GFS St. George's, and GFS Berlin, for a Swim Party and Cook Out at the Ocean Township Pool.
- September: Kick-off Meeting of our 2016-2017 program, "The 7 Wonders of the Christian World", in which we began with the sacrament of Baptism, and will hit all 7 Sacraments during the year.
- October: Participated in the Ocean Beach Sweeps, cleaning up Maple Cove, in Red Bank, followed by a luncheon at Toast in Red Bank, where we did planning for the Halloween Party
- October: Hosted Coffee Hour for the Parish.
- October: Hosted the Parish Halloween Party, in which we provided supper, games, crafts, and treats with nearly 60 attendees.
- November: Contributed to the Holiday Bazaar with baking, baskets and assisting at the event.
- November: Worked at St. Mark's Soup Kitchen in Keansburg the day after Thanksgiving. We donated hats/gloves/scarves and served lunch to over 60 attendees.
- December: Volunteered at Holiday Express, with supper afterwards at Pizza Mia.

What a wonderfully full year! In addition, our GFS Branch was also the recipient of a Grant for two Viking Sewing Machines. And we made a donation to the Book Sale in Cape May to benefit Holiday House (this is the place where we go to camp each summer). Dorrie Pedalino transported the books and assisted with the sale.

We are now ready for the new year! All girls and their mothers are invited to join us.

Faithfully Submitted, The Reverend Lisa Mitchell and Dorrie Pedalino

GRAVEYARD COMMISSION REPORT 2016

The Graveyard has had some changes this year mostly on the maintenance side and, interestingly, revealing some historical information.

There is bit one new interee in the graveyard in 2016. That person is Gerry Marengo, our beloved Treasurer, whose ashes were placed in The Memorial Garden

For the Memorial Garden there were no new activities beyond the interments. In the near future, a plan must be created to address the growing number of memorial plaques on the Cross.

There were no significant changes in the Historic Rose Meditation Garden. The Shrewsbury Garden Club did its usual excellent work in tending the garden. The Property Committee painted the Throckmorton bench. The Sycamore Garden had no changes but more plots have been purchased and a new area for a similar burial space will need to be identified.

The main burial space for traditional casket burials had the most changes in 2016. These changes were almost all due to the graveyard work of the SDRG project.

The key change in the information about our gravestones was due to the comprehensive SDRG-funded assessment work performed by Lorraine Schnabel. Every stone was photographed from many angles and the condition of each marker was described. All of this information is incorporated into our graveyard database. The SDRG also funded the restoration of fourteen of our oldest stones in the most critical condition from the perspective of damage by future storms. This work was performed by Jablonski Building Conservation led by Stephanie Hoagland-Bond under Lorraine Schnabel's guidance. Thirteen of the fourteen restored markers were made of brown sandstone which was common in New Jersey in the 17th and 18th centuries. These are the markers that were restored.

1. Marker 601 Joseph Tole 1762-1781
2. Marker 316 Sarah Throckmorton 1659-1743
3. Marker 428 Margaret Throckmorton 1765-1817
4. Marker 331 Hartness Throckmorton 1735-1760
5. Marker 490 Elizabeth Vaughton 1715-1800
6. Marker 491 Mary Wessells 1728-1816
7. Marker 494 Susannah De Haert 1724-1780
8. Marker 502 Mary Leonard 1716-1782
9. Marker 731 Zilpha Halstead 1723-1754
10. Marker 366 Hendrick Pool 1798-1818
11. Marker 392 Mary Slocum 1734-1809
12. Marker 717 John Hart 1759-1805
13. Marker 701 Clara Wheeler 1782-1855
14. Marker 866 Christina Hageman 1781-1784

During the restoration some interesting historical aspects were discerned. The Halstead marker which had been broken at the base revealed, upon excavation, some practice carving by the carver on the base. Rather than re-attach the marker to its base with a resultant unaesthetic appearance, we chose to lay the marker horizontally which then permitted the view of the practice markings.



Zilpha Halstead

Zilpha was the sister-in law of Daniel Halstead, the lead carpenter for the present church construction in 1769. We also restored the marker of Christina Hageman, a two year old, whose condition was an incomplete jigsaw puzzle collection of delaminated pieces. The inscription could thus no longer be read. Her marker was also separated from the base but the base could not be found. Once restored as well as possible, we relocated her marker much closer to the church.



Christina Hageman

The full inscription text is incomplete but some research found the poem near the bottom to be.

**Happy the babe who privileged thus by fate
To shorter labor and a lighter weight
Received but yesterday the gift of breath
Ordered tomorrow to return to death**



Lorraine Schnabel and Stephanie Hoagland-Bond

In addition, the marker of John Lewis fell over during the winter of 2015-2016. Peter Wooley and team from Peaceable Kingdom reset that marker in August. This is an attempt to fix fallen markers as they occur and avoid a growing number of such gravemarkers.

Faithfully submitted by Robert M. Kelly, Jr., Parish historian, Cemetery commission

2016 Christ Church Cemetery Fund Financial Summary

1/1/16 Balance	\$6,920.57
Deposits	
Sickles Fund	\$8,060.00
Plot Purchases	\$1,000.00
Veterans Day Remembrances	\$ 225.00
Perpetual Care Fee	\$1,000.00
Donation	\$ 500.00
Interest on Account	\$ 5.17
Total Deposits:	\$10,790.17
Checks and Debits	
Lawn Care (mowing & clean up)	\$5,450.00
Snow Removal	\$2,291.00
Plaques for graves	\$ 124.21
Copies of Graveyard Map	\$ 19.21
Tree Removal	\$ 133.75
Total Debits:	\$7,443.17
11/31/16 Balance	\$9,767.57

Faithfully Submitted, Mother Lisa Mitchell, Rector

Sandy Disaster Relief Grants (SDRG) for Historic Sites

While emphasizing SDRG activities in 2016 this report encompasses the entire project to make it more understandable.

The signs in front of the Church and the Rectory announce to the world that we are undergoing restoration related to repair and resiliency from storms like Superstorm Sandy. This restoration is enabled by federally funded grants received by the parish and other Sandy-affected historic sites. The grants are being administered by the New Jersey Historic Trust. Initially we were awarded about \$150,000 for the church (and graveyard) and about \$122,000 for the Rectory. However, early this year additional grant monies in the amount of about \$84,000 were made available to the parish. This latter amount did not expand the scope of the items that were covered by the original grant but defrayed higher estimates of the costs of in-scope items. Consequently, our total grant is about \$356,000.

The grants do not require matching funds, as is the case for many grants. However, the grants require the recipients to fund the approved work and to seek reimbursement after the work is completed. Given the significant sums involved, this can be quite a burden and some temporary source of funds was needed. The solution, that is quite beneficial to the parish, has been the approval of a 0% interest loan from the Diocese for the full original amount of the grants. This will enable us to avoid the costs of a traditional bridge loan or use of funds from our endowment that would negatively impact the endowment's critical investment earning power. The structure of the loan caused the line of credit to be reduced to \$200,000 in June of 2016 and then to \$100,000 in June 2017. Due to the increase in the amount of the grants and to the late and compacted timing of the bulk of the construction work (see below), this loan structure was not going to be adequate for the required cash flow. As a result, the Diocese amended the loan terms to keep the loan amount at \$200,000 through June 2018. However, that additional \$100,000, if utilized, carries a 4% interest rate.

In 2015 most of the work funded by the grants was focused on Condition Assessments for the Church building, the gravestones, and the Rectory. Thus, most SDRG effort involved planning and preparing for the subsequent construction work. The planning work continued into 2016 and blended into the construction work.

Westfield Associates completed the Condition Assessment of both the Church and Rectory, two invaluable documents for long term reference. They then continued to detail the construction requirements for the work at the two sites that were realized in Project Manuals and Construction Diagrams for both buildings. These latter documents were then used as Statements of Work in a Request for Quote from 3 highly qualified General Contractors. Separate quotes were sought for the Rectory and the Church. For each, the low bidder was selected and was the same firm: Masonry Preservation Group. The work included in the contract with MPG for the church includes repair of the front steps, replacement of the bulkhead doors, refurbishment and repainting of the cupola louvers, repair of the sacristy steps, and spot point masonry work of the foundation. The total for this work is \$55,500. The work included in the contract for the Rectory includes rear step repairs, restoration of the CMU wall in the basement, footings and steel posts in the basement, new gutters and downspouts, and restoration of the shutters throughout. The total for this work is \$169,620. The contract with MPG was signed in November. The desire is to complete all of this work in early summer 2017 though the contract stipulates completion no later than August 2017.

MPG work has already begun and most of the work on the Church is complete. This includes the front steps, the bulkhead doors, the sacristy steps, and the cupola louvers.



Restored Front Steps



New Bulkhead Doors

For the Rectory, work is mostly complete on the back steps and the foundation work has started with the basement work framed and ready for concrete. Other items will await warmer weather including the shutters, windows, gutters and downspouts

There are other construction items for the Church and Rectory that are part of the grant but not included in the MPG contract. For the Rectory these include the cement for the basement floor and the sump pump as well as soil regrading. For the Church these include sump pump battery back-up and soil regrading.

In addition, trees have been removed and pruned at both the Rectory and Church sites. Also as reported last year the clock mechanism was repaired in late 2015.

For the graveyard, Lorraine Schnabel our graveyard conservator, completed the condition assessment of every gravemarker in the graveyard. When the condition assessment work was complete at the end of February, we used her findings to issue a Request for Quote for restoration of the most critical need and within the grant funding levels. The successful bidder for this work on 13 stones (with one added later), was Jablonski Building Conservator (JBC) for roughly \$24,000. This work has now been completed and here are examples of their work.

This work also revealed some interesting historical aspects of the graveyard noted in the Graveyard Commission Annual Report. The details of the restoration work can also be found in that report



Clara Wheeler, Before



Clara Wheeler (Marble) Restored



Joseph Tole, Before



Joseph Tole, Restored

Thanks to the rector, wardens, and treasurer for their guidance in this significant project. Thanks also to Walter Dein for his advice and guidance and to Casey for her support.

Faithfully submitted by, Robert M. Kelly, Jr., SDRG Project Manager

HISTORY COMMISSION REPORT 2016

We had another busy year in further discovering, celebrating, and sharing our rich history.

Regular Annual Activities

We have a regular schedule of activities each year and did so again this year. These included the Weekend in Olde Monmouth in May in partnership with the County Historical Commission, the Lantern Tour in December, the Independence Day Service on the Sunday before that holiday, and the visit and tour for the Shrewsbury Borough 4th graders in June.

At the Independence Day Service Robert Kelly portrayed Samuel Stelle Smith, Judi Buncher was Louise Jost, and Patrice Thornton portrayed Graham Kearney Cooke.



Patrice Thornton portrays Graham Kearney Cooke



Judi and Stuart Buncher greet visitors at WOM

As always the Lantern Tour was a partnership with the Quakers, the Allen House and the Presbyterian Church. This year 150-160 tourists learned about the amazing history at the four corners.



Some Cast Members from the Lantern Tour

The tour of the church by the Shrewsbury Borough 4th graders in June, after having learned about the History of New Jersey was highlighted by the portrayal of Florence Hazard and her family by Shrewsbury resident and member of the church's Dead Actors' Guild, Magdalena Aders.

Group Tours

As always we host different groups at the church for tours of the historic building and its surrounding graveyard. Sometimes individuals request a tour but many are arranged for groups. Prominent this year were tours for three different Cub Scout troops: Shrewsbury, Fair Haven, and Oceanport, in addition to over 70 members of the Monmouth County Genealogical Society.



Judi Buncher portrays Louise Jost for the Monmouth County Genealogical Society

In addition, on October 12th, Dr. Richard Veit of Monmouth University brought his Historical Archaeology Class to the church for a tour of the church and the graveyard.



Rich Veit discusses the Victorian era gravemarkers

The Clock Tower Raffle



The clock tower at the church was added to the west elevation in 1874. It was always intended to be a town clock that was attached to the most prominent edifice in the town. The funding came through donations from townsmen and the clock tower was successfully built. However, no provision was ever made for the funding of ongoing maintenance.

For the past 70 years, repairs to the clock tower were paid for primarily out of church monies and occasional local fundraisers. (In 2005 a County Historical grant defrayed some of these repair costs.) Since this is not the primary mission of the church, proper maintenance has not been able to be fully funded.

It is this uncertain maintenance funding history that led to a raffle for such monies in 2016. The raffle had three prizes that take the winners on a guided tour of the clock tower. Hopefully, this type of fundraiser can be conducted annually to ensure an adequate source of clock tower maintenance and repair monies.

About \$600 was raised through this 2016 raffle that was drawn at the Independence Day celebration in town at the Allen House.

The melodious tolling of the bell and the beautiful three clock faces are an integral part of Shrewsbury's life and hopefully their proper operation can be assured for many years.

Did You Know ...?

The "Did you Know ...? Column in the Crown continued through 2016. In addition to some topics covered elsewhere in this report, a comparison of the parish from the early 1940s to the present based on the Parochial Report was written as was one on Theodosius Bartow. Bartow was signer of the 1738 charter for the church and owner of one of the gravemarkers in the floor of the church. His name came into prominence most recently as the father of Aaron Burr's wife, Theodosia, about whom a song was written for the hit musical "Hamilton".

INTERNSHIP

In 2015 an aerial video was taken of the church. This video was placed on the church web site with G F Handel's Hallelujah chorus in the background. This year we engaged another student from Monmouth University to expand the videos describing the church again using the aerial videos as the background for the videos. However, for these videos there would be more information as well as a focus on different aspect of the life of the church. The four videos are:

- General Information
- History
- Our Spiritual Life
- The Graveyard

These four videos are almost complete but need a little more editing before being ready for broader distribution. The student who did this work is Amanda Kontor who was in the Communications Department at Monmouth. She was valedictorian at her graduation in May and is now studying for her Master's Degree at the University of Vienna. (Her family is originally from Poland and she speaks fluent Polish.) She did a spectacular job on the videos.

We are planning a fifth video about the Community Life of the Parish.

George Keith Sign

The sign along Broad Street that marks the History of Christ Church and the role of George Keith has been replaced through the efforts of the parish. The original sign was badly worn and only partially legible. This bright new sign now makes the history more clearly known to the many motorists passing by each day.



HISTORICAL VIGNETTES

Looking ahead to 2017, we are working on a project called Historical Vignettes. The intent of the project is to create brief multimedia descriptions of aspects of our history. A given vignette might include video, text, audio, photos and a voice over narration. Robert Maber, Kristen Kormann and Robert Kelly will be members of this project. Examples of these vignettes are the Stained Glass (1867 or before), Reverend Samuel Cooke (1751-1775), The Bell (1788), the Clock Tower (1874), the Organ (1875), the glebe (1739-1906), the triptychs (1942/1973), the Vinegar Bible (1716), The Lotteries (1758, 1760), William Leeds (18th c), Lewis Morris (18th c), the Parish Houses (1899-present), our histories (1875/1902), the parish and church building anniversary celebrations (1869-2002), the WWII triptychs, the deeds (1686-1950), the Rectory (1824), the clergy (1702-present), the priest/missionary letters (1733-1775), the parish register (1733-present), the Queen Anne Communion Service (1708), 17th and 18th century books, graveyard stones, and graveyard prominent individuals

These will be on the parish web site and in other venues to communicate the rich history of the church to the broader community.

Respectfully submitted by Robert M. Kelly Jr., Parish Historian

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – COMMUNICATIONS REPORT 2016

2016 saw the continued strengthening of our communications capabilities using electronic distribution and social media. For parishioners, the tools are principally weekly and special e-mails and the Crown monthly newsletter. This is an excellent supplement to the paper form Sunday bulletin. The electronic email bulletin has grown to include more information than can be readily incorporated into the paper bulletin. In addition, the weekly e-mail is a good alternative for weekly information for parishioners who cannot attend church on a particular Sunday. The Crown newsletter can also go into more detail about different parish activities

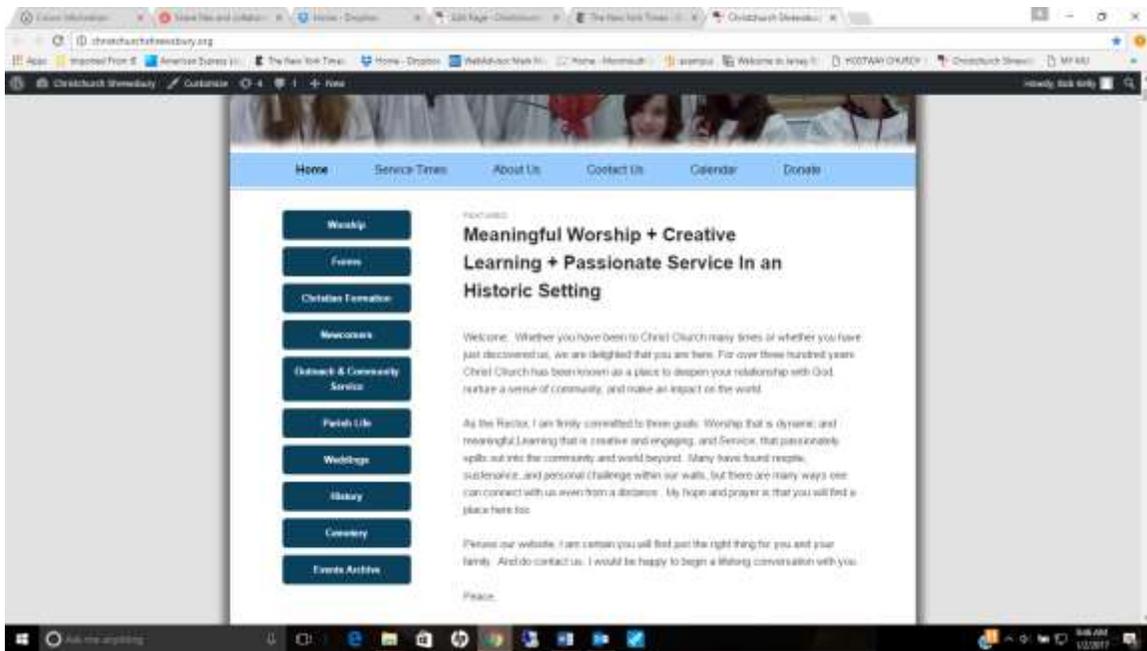
The parish web site (christchurchshrewsbury.org) and the Facebook page are good sources of information for non-parishioners. With these tools non-parishioners can find us. We have growing evidence that some non-parishioners looking for a church to attend have found us in this manner. The tools provided by Facebook, especially for sharing are also good ways for information to be disseminated by non-parishioners to their friends and family when they see an event that interests them.

The Parish Facebook page continues to be actively managed by Kim Roberts-Honecker and is attracting many friends to our numerous events and activities. We are now up to 355 friends. It is being coordinated with our parish web site.

The web site has been an active follower of the parish's activities including Upcoming, Ongoing and Past Events. The Events are kept on the web page for a full year in order for visitors to see the full set of activities at the parish. We have continued to keep it up to date, one of the most difficult aspects of a web site managed mostly by volunteers. We have also sought to enrich the web pages with photos and videos. We now have over two years of sermons preached from our pulpit and posted on the web site to listen to. Most of the web site richness is focused on the Home page where we post the Crown and the Rector's monthly letter. In addition our Donation page again brought in about \$400 this year. The calendar is also up to date and a good way of seeing what is happening from your home or work locations.

This year we have added some new features mostly on the Home Page. When you look at the web site Home Page there are three principal navigation tools. At the top are tabs that take the visitor to different major items of interest to a visitor including Service Times, how to Contact us, and the Donation page. Then on the left side of the same page there are menu choices to navigate to principal aspects and details of our spiritual life and community life, like Christian Formation and Parish Life. Selecting these choices brings the visitor to an expanded set of information about the subject. Below this on the Home Page are a set of buttons that lead to special information like the Sermons and the current Annual Report and Crown. Below these choices are the aforementioned Upcoming, Ongoing, and Past Special Events.

Here are images illustrating some of these features:



In 2016 we have expanded the web site to include more pictures and the beginning of more videos. In addition, we have added buttons to access past Crown issues, Community Bulletin Events, and a portfolio of pictures that will continue to grow.

In 2017 we are planning to expand our coverage of our rich History with multimedia vignettes. Thanks to Kim Roberts-Honecker, Rupa DasGupta, Mimi Brown, Casey Surgent, Jeff Veil, Jim Halpern and all who provided content for the e-mails, web site, and Facebook.

Faithfully submitted by Robert M. Kelly, Jr.

PARISH LIFE REPORT 2016

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank each of those parishioners who so graciously volunteered their time this past year. Coffee hour is such an integral part of Sunday worship and parish life. It would not be possible without the help of so many of you including Walter Dein, Elaine Feyereisen, GFS, Connie Goddard, Jamie Green, Paola Lauterwasser, Ann and Jim Miller, Dorrie Pedalino, Dom Perez, Cassie and Stacy Reagan, Nancy and Bob Stewart, Cindy and Rod Webster and all of the Vestry members who provide refreshments after the Summer Service. An extra special thanks to Walter Dein who unflinching provides refreshments after every Saturday Mass on the Grass, rain or shine. If I have omitted anyone I apologize but please know that your help was greatly appreciated.

In addition, there were some special events this year as well.

The 2015 Annual Parish Meeting and Pot Luck brunch was attended by 60 parishioners. To celebrate Independence Day, the Chorus of the Atlantic entertained followed by a reception. The Holiday Bazaar Preview Night was again a great success. Thanks to everyone who came out in support. Vicki and Bill Cuff's 50th wedding anniversary and vow renewal was a beautiful event.

We are looking forward to an even better 2017 with some new events in the works.

Faithfully submitted by, Rita Saible, Parish Life

KNITTING PEARLS 2016

The Knitting Pearls have completed another year of clicking needles and rolling balls of yarn. Our hands are always busy and our hearts always looking for ways to help others.

We start at home with our parish, its people and then people outside our parish family. We have made a number of baby blankets for the newest members of our family. Lorraine Cameron Strohmenger (not a member) has made several lovely blankets with a cross in the middle. Thanks Lorraine. We're going to keep you busy.

We began a year ago to make a variety of hats. We did make a goodly number which we sold at the bazaar, ones that were not sold we sent off to "Covenant House" to be added to the Christmas gifts. Certainly many teenage heads are warmed with our hats!

We will continue to knit and do whatever we can to assist Mother Lisa and make our parish family warm and comforted with our knitting. Of course we are still making prayer shawls and if you know of anyone who needs one; speak to Mother Lisa or any one of our Knitters.

Do you want to help? Do you want to learn? See us!
We meet most Wednesdays 7 – 9 pm at the Cameron home in Tinton Falls.

Thanks to all who contributed in any way to our projects. We would like to especially thank Pam Orel a former member, who made several lovely items for the bazaar. Thanks Pam.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn (Perky) Cameron

MARTHA'S CUPBOARD 2016

Martha's Cupboard is one of the Outreach programs at Christ Church. In conjunction with the Food Bank of Monmouth County, we help supply food to senior citizens at the Washington Manor affordable housing community in Long Branch. We do this through food and cash donations by our parishioners that supplement the monthly allocation from the Food Bank. We have been involved in this ministry for over eight years and have developed a great working relationship and friendships with the staff and the residents at the Manor. The monthly food distribution takes less than two hours yet allows us to help up to fifty needy individuals.

In addition, the program was expanded in 2016 to include drawing classes, game days, and healthy lifestyle programs on alternating Thursdays throughout the month. We also introduced quarterly Celtic music concerts which have been especially well-received by the residents. With the help of our parishioners and others in the community, we hope to keep these the food program and other activities vital for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank the volunteers who assist with the food distribution and other programs and events sponsored by Martha's Cupboard, especially Kit Schiavo, Carol McKeever, Eileen Kennedy, Mother Lisa, Jeff Veil, Allie Cummings, John Potzae, Deacon Bill Balmer, Justin Regiec, Denise Surman, Laura and Steven Leech, and Pat Malley. I would also like to thank the Webster, Marengo and Cashion families for their cash donations that also give us extra help to supply the pantry at Martha's Cupboard.

Special Thanks to everyone who donates generously to the cupboard on a weekly basis and to anyone whom I may have missed in the listing above. With their help and support we are fulfilling an important and necessary community outreach.

Respectfully submitted by Dianne Regiec, Director Martha's Cupboard and Deacon Bill Balmer

2016 LAY MINISTRIES REPORT

Acolytes

Christina Alfano, Kate Apostolacus, Andrew Brown, David Immerman, Edgar John, Teddy Keating, Georgette King, Jimmea King, Larissa King, Danielle Lauterwasser, Cassie Reagan, Stacey Reagan, Jeanine Reeman, P.J. Reyes, Brandon Shin, Erin States, Matthew White, Michael White

Altar Guild

Pamela Aschettino, Pam Diamond, Kate DiLiberto, Phyllis Edwards, Edgar John, Ann Miller, Barbara Raspanti, Rachelle Spencer Mikita, and Cindy Webster

Chalice Bearers

Sharon Babb, Andrew Brown, Judy Buncher, Perky Cameron, Priscilla Gettis, Edgar John, Georgette King, Rod Webster

Clock Winders

Walter Dein, George Edwards

Greeters

MiMi Brown, Perky Cameron, George Edwards, Elaine Feyereisen, Bob & Kim Honecker, Jim O'Connor

Lectors

Sharon Babb, Meg Bernhardt, Richard Brugger, David Burrell, Perky Cameron, Tom Cameron, Bill Cuff, Walt Dein, Bob and Kim Honecker, Peggy James, Mark Landers, Robert Maber, Christine Meislohn, Susan Coene-Perl, Kathy Redinger, Patrice Thornton, Bob Zeller

Ushers

Carl Alfano, MiMi Brown, Judi Buncher, Walt Dein, George Edwards, Elaine Feyereisen, Peggy James, Bramley Maber, Jim Miller, Jim O'Connor, Susan Coene-Perl, Rod Webster

Additional members that serve when available during holidays or other special occasions

Casey Alfano, David Alfano, Kyle Clarke, Sophie Halpern, Erin Pedalino, Danny Shin

To all of the above, many, many thanks from a grateful Parish.
(Apologies if we missed anyone!)