

CHRIST CHURCH OYSTER BAY ANNUAL MEETING

2015-16 Annual Reports

March 6, 2016



The Episcopal Parish
Founded in 1705

Annual Wardens' Report 2015-16

Transition 2015 has come to fruition with the start of Father Michael Piret as our 27th Rector! We had a year (and three months) to be truly thankful for and thanks to the many parishioners who have made great contributions. Thanks to all who have continued to be active in our parish and attended our beautiful services. As is experienced in many transitions, we did see somewhat of a decline in the average Sunday attendance, but the pledge receipts are keeping up and are very much in line with the budget and last year. **Thank you Christ Church community!**

We are at the beginning of a new chapter in our Christ Church history with the calling of the 27th Rector in February 2016. **Thanks to the dedicated work of our superb Search Committee.** They started with 37 candidates and presented us with excellent finalists from which your Vestry and Wardens chose Father Michael Piret to become our new rector. The Piret's have made a great start here in Oyster Bay. We had a welcome luncheon for them on February 7th after Father Michael's first services and sermon.

With the arrival of Father Michael Piret, the installation of Michael Curry as the new 27th (!) Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church in the USA, and our accomplished Music Director, we now have an abundance of Michaels in our lives – and that's not a bad thing. **Thank you Michaels.**

Heartfelt thanks to Father Charlie (and Father Fred) for leading us through Transition 2015. Their combined wisdom, wit, and great sermons have sustained us through this period. We owe a debt of gratitude to both, although Fred sadly left us to become the Interim Priest at St. John's in Cold Spring Harbor. Father Charlie was a real trooper and stepped up both his presence and work load, and he stuck by us until the "bitter end". **We had a lovely farewell coffee hour for Father Charlie to let him know how much we appreciated what a great job he did for us.**

We are also coming to the end of a significant rebuilding program, and that includes the beginning of a multi-year effort to repair and preserve our beautiful stained glass windows. The refurbished rectory has its new occupants, including Fergus the cat. The EYC building will be ready in a couple of months and we have started the work on Hector's house on Sydney Street. **Thank you Ellen and Helen (and our Project Manager Lou Baldino)** for diligently pushing the various trades to stick to the deadlines as much as possible and get the work done.

Lay leadership has again stepped up and is artfully delivering many programs, including our youth and Sunday school – what a glorious Pageant and Christmas celebrations we had late last year! **Thank you Melinda and Shana and all other volunteers and Sunday school teachers.** The new EYC committee under the leadership of **David Asher** is starting its work, with the support of the Long Island Diocese, to lay out plans for using the EYC facility for the benefit of the Oyster Bay community and Christ Church.

Our campus is as beautiful as ever and we know who is responsible – **Thank you Hector** for making us appreciate our beautiful grounds. **And thank you Biblas** for managing the fruitful community garden. We had a re-dedication of Sylvia's Garden with Diane and Ruth Nouri last summer. And let's not forget to **thank the Hospitality Committee** for the many Sunday coffee hours, 12th night dinners, brunches and untold other events, like today's luncheon.

Music is one of our core values, and our Christ Church music program gets better every year. But our special services do deserve a larger following from the congregation! If you missed the Candlemas Evensong, you missed something very special indeed. Just ask Father Michael. The 10th annual Gala concert in June featured a rousing rendition of Vivaldi's Gloria. **Thank you Michael and Ariel.** And thank you **Elisa** for serving up a smorgasbord of very special musical treats. We are getting more and more requests from musical ensembles to perform at Christ Church and that is a tribute to Elisa's hard work.

The Vestry attempted to lead us through Transition 2015 in a responsible and organized manner and they have done an admirable job. We want the Christ Church family to become more "ecumenical" – through increased Outreach, HIHI program, Youth Center commitment, LEC involvement, Potluck Dinners, Interfaith Council, etc. They work hard and are a dedicated bunch of parishioners. **Thank you, Vestry and Godspeed new Vestry.**

The market has been and is quite volatile, but we ended the year reasonably well and we are getting "clean" audit reports. We even have a multi-year capital budget so miracles do happen! Our new parish administrator has made a great start and wants to remind us of updating our information and pictures for the very important new directory. **Thank you Laura, Mary and Peggy.**

Do know that all these committees depend on you to serve on them. Please join the committee of your choice and be counted among next year's honorees.

This will be our last Annual Meeting as your Warden team. I have held the Warden position for the past 5+ years and have been both privileged and blessed by the experience. Junior Warden Stephanie Augustine has decided not to run for re-election due to personal circumstances. We have a great slate for the next leadership team and ***we all will give them our full support.***

Finally, a very special "Thank you" to one of our very special parishioners. We wanted to single her out because she truly is a very special parishioner and person. We all know and appreciate the many contributions she has made to our Christ Church community. Just think about the weddings she managed, the church decorations she has expertly done for Christmas, Easter and Advents, her Vestry duties, Altar Guild, House Committee, St. Hilda's room redo, Transition activities, etc. Basically, she has been there when things needed to be done! As she has had some health issues to deal with of late, she carefully wrote down in detail the many facets of decorating the church for special occasions for the next generation to follow. Your contribution to our parish is so greatly appreciated and we love you for it!

To honor your service to our Parish, Bishop Larry Provenzano has issued to you – the Bishop's Medal for Distinguished Service . . .

God bless you all and may God bless our beloved Christ Church of Oyster Bay.

Ton Heijmen and Stephanie Augustine, Wardens

Worship Committee - Martin Evans, Chair

This newly formed committee was re-established in October 2014 after a long absence and is composed of a group of 11 lay people with clergy who are using our gifts and talents in the ministry of worship. The interim period is seen as a prime time for renewal and reenergizing the parish in its life and mission. Our purpose is to assist the clergy in making worship a fully meaningful experience.

The committee is composed of Michael Haigler (Music and Concerts), Susan Peterson (Eucharistic Ministers), Eric Bergman (Ushers and Greeters), Gene Pagano (Lectors and Intercessors), John Isles (Acolytes), Melinda Wenner Bradley (Religious Formation including Sunday School & Youth Group), Denise Carney (Altar Guild), Vikki LoRusso (Christian Formation), Priscilla Stevens, Marian Verlander, and Martin Evans (Vestry Representative and Chair). Clergy: Rev Charlie Colwell, Rev Fred Miller. Their commitment to improving the worship experience and their efforts are appreciated.

Accomplishments during the year have included (a) the writing or update of User Handbooks to formalize and standardize protocols (b) training for lectors, intercessors, Eucharistic ministers, acolytes and ushers (c) AED training and (d) the overall coordination of worship-related activities. Future activities will include website development, conducting events for the parish community and enhancements for personal worship.

For further information please view the following link: <http://christchurchoysterbay.org/get-involved/ministries>

Lectors and Intercessors Guild - Eugene Pagano

There are over 20 guild members. Five serve at the 8:00 a.m. Eucharist, while the rest serve at the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist. At the 8:00 Eucharist, one person is the intercessor. The four other guild members are in two teams that take turns proclaiming the readings each Sunday.

The other guild members are divided into teams. Teams are rotated from Sunday to Sunday. Assignments are also rotated within each team. Ideally, each Sunday there are two lectors, two intercessors and one member in reserve in case one of the four other members is unable to serve. Some teams, however, do not have five members. For Sundays when those teams serve, other members are asked in advance to volunteer.

The guild coordinator prepares the schedules, and provides formatted copies of the readings several days ahead to enable lectors to rehearse. In the past year several steps have been taken to improve the quality of the proclamation of Scripture. A training program to improve guild members' delivery was established. A ministry handbook was prepared so that all guild members have preparation advice and guild procedures in one convenient reference

Religious Formation Programs - Melinda Wenner Bradley

Programs for children and youth at Christ Church this year include Noah's Nursery for infants through age three, Church School for ages 4-9, Youth Group for students in Grades 5-8, and for middle/high school youth: the Fun-Fellowship-Service Group. A team of adults that includes both staff and volunteers anchors these programs, beginning with Ann Myrato and Felicita Bonilla in the Nursery. Church School is again blessed this year to have a group of wonderful teachers – Andrea Carlsen, Nicole O'Shea-Holohan, and Lillian Soricillo – who are a warm, steady presence in the lives of the children on Sunday mornings. Shana Eutsay is in her second year as Youth Minister, and plans both the religious education lessons for Youth Group (2nd and 3rd Sundays each month) and the service and fellowship opportunities offered twice a month for older youth. Until his departure from the staff, Father Charlie Colwell worked with a group of youth in preparation for their confirmation this May; Vikki LoRusso will complete that journey with the students. We welcome others to join us in the religious formation programs ministry.

The demographics of the youth community continue to shift, and this fall we created one multi-age (4-9) Church School class while Youth Group continues to grow in size; we also created a place for our high school youth with the "Fellowship in Service" community. A number of young people moved from middle school to high school this year, and many of them serve as acolytes on Sunday mornings. We did not want to lose opportunities for them to be in community with one another and part of the Christ Church family after completing their formal religious education in the church. "Fellowship in Service" lifts up the importance of the peer community for youth this age, as

well as providing opportunities to serve. Their program this year has included fun outings like bowling as well as service to the community. They hosted a wonderful coffee hour and served at the MLK Sunday luncheon.

In spring 2015, both Church School and Youth Group focused their lessons on Jesus' life and ministry. Youth Group used the story and music from "Godspell" as a launch for their lessons. We are using the "Weaving God's Promises" Episcopal curriculum in Church School, which provides a nice array of resources and suggested activities for teachers to choose from in creating their lessons. This fall, inspired by the value of a spiral curriculum model,* Church School focused on topics like Liturgy, Eucharist and holy baptism, and included lessons to anchor some of the special days in the fall season (Saint Francis, All Saints, Christ the King). Youth Group lessons are frequently grounded in scripture, and discussions connect to relevant experiences in youth lives.

We put on another wonderful Nativity pageant on Christmas Eve, with 20 children and youth in the parish and members of the Treble Choir participating. We are grateful for the many adult hands that pull together the supporting details of the event, from directing rehearsals to fitting costumes, providing snacks and handling our live animal friends!

During the winter-spring months of 2016, Church School again turns to lessons focused on the life and ministry of Jesus. In addition to materials in "Weaving God's Promises," we're using a "skiturgy" about the story of the loaves and fishes and Godly Play stories for Epiphany, Lent, Pentecost and the life of Saint Paul.

Parish events continue to be wonderful opportunities for broader fellowship among parents, their children and the wider parish family. We had solid turnout for the Shrove Tuesday pancake supper the last two years (hosted in collaboration with the Men's Fellowship), and attendance at the All Hallows' Eve service and party in October 2015 was around 50. A new event this fall was a special coffee hour for parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles who support their children in the parish programs. We held it in Saint Hilda's room and the adults in attendance appreciated the opportunity for adult conversation and connection. Plans for a spring Game Night and a family potluck are in the works!

The Director of Religious Formation sends email to families weekly with reminders and updates about programs, and families receive a monthly calendar that highlights both Sunday morning plans and other events that month. The Youth Minister also sends communication to families about upcoming events for the Fellowship and Service group. Communication and coordination with the Rector, Director of Music and Coordinator of the Acolyte Guild are ongoing.

After the announcement of Father Michael Piret as the incoming rector, we mailed the "welcome book" created by the children last spring to him and were delighted to receive a note in return! The children have been excited to welcome the Pirets into the Christ Church family, and the adults in this ministry look forward to working together to support the religious formation of the children in this community.

* A spiral curriculum is a course of study in which students will see the same topics throughout their education, with each encounter increasing in complexity and reinforcing previous learning.

*Respectfully submitted,
Melinda Wenner Bradley,
Director of Religious Formation*

Eucharistic Ministry - Susan Peterson-Neuhaus

As Chair of this committee, I recruit, train, schedule and coordinate Eucharistic Ministers for the 10 am services and special holiday services. Our current team consists of 10 parishioners: Patti and Fred Bauerschmidt, Denise Carney, Shari Dembowski, Martin Evans, Sonja Lake, Stephen Phillips, Carrie Schmermund, Renie Warren and myself. As a general rule, this requires that each EM make a time commitment to provide service once each month.

During this period of transition between Rectors, the Worship Committee asked each Guild Director to write a Handbook, which I wrote over the summer. In the Handbook, the duties and responsibilities of each member is spelled out, with proper procedures, and details about serving. It is expected that these procedures will be adjusted with the supervision of our new Rector.

In order to train new members as well as to streamline our procedures for existing members, I provided a Guild Training Session on Sunday, July 12, 2015. All members attended this very productive session with Curate Fred Miller providing advice and guidance, and for their enthusiasm and diligence, all members were given a red and gold Guild Pin to wear during service.

Acolyte Guild - John Iles

The Christ Church Acolyte Guild serves the Church by providing for the training, scheduling and service of Acolytes. Our Acolytes typically serve at the regular ten o'clock services, but also participate in special services, as necessary, throughout the year.

The Guild currently has 13 members; five of whom serve as Crucifers and eight of whom serve as Torch Bearers. With the vast majority of our Acolytes carrying over from last year, recruiting was not a pressing issue this year. However; we will be installing one new Acolyte prior to the end of the year.

Last year, we published a detailed Acolyte Manual in an attempt to standardize and document our functions. The Manual was well received and has provided a great deal of clarity. The Manual was updated as we prepared to welcome our new Rector, Father Piret, and has proved invaluable during the transition.

Men's Fellowship – Frank Rinck and Martin Evans

This independent group of men has met monthly and is in the second year of formation. Meetings are conducted in St Hilda's Room or in various homes. Meeting format: we break bread over dinner, share a spiritual reading and talk about our interpretation of the passage. November's Topic: Gratitude Meetings are informal and open to all men of the parish. A 2016 schedule will appear in the next Compass edition. Please contact Martin Evans and join us.

The Ushers - Eric Bergman

The Usher Guild is proud of our continued service to Christ Church. This year we are pleased to welcome Betsy Bibla, and Logan Isles to our fold, and welcome the return of Regis and Sonja Lake who have come back to the guild after a brief absence. We are also grateful for the continued service of Stephanie Augustine, Betsy Bibla, Shari Dembowski, Christine Kelly, Ann Miles, Marianne Nash, Joseph Barry, Peter Colgrove, William Denslow, John Karabatos, Stephen Phillips, John Sant'Angelo, Fred Bauerschmidt, and Dennis Siple, as well as the mentorship of Daniel McGowan.

All 'official' ushering takes place at the 10:00 AM Service, and special holiday masses (the Christmas Pageant, Midnight Mass, etc...); the 8:00 AM Service handles its own ushering.

Ushers have main four tasks that they perform in the course of the service:

- (1) They greet parishioners, and welcome newcomers to Christ Church. This includes handing out Bulletins, asking newcomers to sign our guest book and providing them with a Welcome Packet, and during services with high turn-out (Christmas and Easter) they help direct worshipers to open seats.
- (2) They distribute the offering plates (bags), and bring the sacraments and offerings to the altar.
- (3) At communion, they work the pews from front to back, to let the worshipers know when to come forward for communion.
- (4) They count the offering after the service and put it in the safe in the Church Office.

We are always looking for additional volunteers for this Ministry. If you are interested in becoming an usher, or you would like to learn more, please feel free to contact Eric at (516) 922-3009, or via email at ericbergman@yahoo.com.

Altar Guild - Denise Carney & Kim Phillips

The Altar Guild diligently continues its work in preparing the sanctuary for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist each week; the great festivals of the church such as Christmas and Easter and to assist the clergy in preparing for weddings, baptisms and funerals.

This year Eve Sarles joined our team of seventeen dedicated ladies who include: Genna Andolfo, Floss Augustine, Patti Bauerschmidt, Sandra Bolbrock, Denise Carney, Judy Colwell, Mabel Fitzpatrick, Mora Gibney, Sonja Lake, Ellen Nicoll, Kim Phillips, Ann Smith, Virginia Slutter, Audrey Tsoukias, Rene Warren and Sandra Watkins. We work in teams of two or three on a five-week rotation basis preparing God's table and serving the Christ Church community.

We welcome new members. If you enjoy working quietly behind the scenes or if you are interested in learning more about the liturgical traditions of the Episcopal Church, this ministry may be for you. Please call Kim Phillips or Denise Carney to learn more about bringing your talents to this important ministry.

*Respectfully submitted,
Denise Carney and Kim Phillips
Co-Chairpersons*

Buildings and Grounds - Ellen Nicoll & Helen Crosson

During 2015 the buildings and grounds committee has continued to work on the campus buildings as well as what was the VNA building on South Street in Oyster Bay.

The Rectory is finished was ready for Michael and Sian's arrival in January. Hector's house on Sydney St is currently receiving major repairs, both interior and exterior. The kitchen will be updated as will both of the bathrooms. The house will be insulated and the siding and windows replaced.

The church building still needs to be addressed. Once started it will be an ongoing project over a number of years.

The former VNA building project, our future Ecumenical Youth Center, purchased in 2013, is slowly nearing the end. A committee has been formed and they are working on programs that will take place in the building.

*Respectfully submitted,
Ellen Nicoll & Helen Crosson*

Hospitality Report – Kim Phillips & Patti Bauerschmidt

Calendar for 2016

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| January 6 | The Twelfth Night open house this year was held in the Parish Hall. Wonderful Food and Community. |
| January 17 | Martin Luther King Diversity Sunday with AME Zion Church and the Hispanic Cultural Center. |
| January 24 | Farewell coffee hour for Fr. Charlie Colwell. |
| February 7 | Welcome Brunch for Fr. Michael Piret as arranged by Transition Committee |
| February 9 | Strove Tuesday pancake supper presented by Men's Group and Church School. |
| February 24 | March 2, 9, & 16 weekly Lenten Lecture Series by Father Piret & Soup Suppers coordinated by Betsy & Michael Bibla and volunteers to provide Soup/Salad/Bread. |
| March 6 | Annual Meeting. Lunch coordinated by Vikki LoRusso. |
| March 24 | Maundy Thursday Agape dinner. |
| March 27 | Easter. Special Coffee hour |
| April | Newcomers Brunch-Date to be determined |
| April-June | The Rev. Dr. Michael Piret's Installation at Christ Church by Bishop Provenzano. Date TBD. |
| June 5 | The Gala Concert |
| June | Parish Picnic. Date TBD. |
| September 11 | Rally Sunday: Sign up for Sunday School & Ministries |
| October | Newcomers Brunch-Date to be announced |
| October | All Hollows Eve worship and Halloween Party |
| December 5 | St. Nicholas Day Celebration |

Every Sunday we have a delicious breakfast served between the 8:00 and 10:00 services and coffee hour after the 10:00 service.

Now that Father Piret is here we are resuming the Pot Luck Dinners. They are social and fun events at parishioners homes, which the invitees participate in by bringing an appetizer, entrées, dessert, or beverage. It is our hope that everyone in the parish will be invited to attend one. Please make sure you are in the Parish's Registry because we use these records to invite you to the pot luck dinners. We hope all will have attended a dinner by the end of the year.

All of these events are organized and carried out by volunteers. Please consider helping on one of these events and/or the coffee hour committee that rotate groups once a month.

I'm sure you all join us in thanking all the members of these committees that give so much of their time and resources to make our time at Christ Church more enjoyable.

A special "THANK YOU" to the chairperson of the coffee hour Lynn Warner and her team members:

- Team 1: Lynn Warner, Marianne Nash, Robyn & Dick Ham, Emily McGowan.
- Team 2: Dense Carney, Marie Brussel, Sonja Lake, Helen Crossen, Judy Palumbo.
- Team 3: Ann Miles, Peter Colgrove, Floss Augustine, Rene Warren, Bill Denslow.
- Team 4: Carolyn Chiu, Linda Braunsdorf, Patricia Hambrook, Rosie Karabatos.
- Team 5: Diane Barrios, Jenn Meyer, Jennifer Iles, Adriane Butler
- Team 6: Connie Cincotta, Beata and Geoge Boruta
- Team 7: Genna & Bruce Andolfo

Our Transition Committee has helped Helen and Ellen setting up the Rectory, with meals, lamps, furniture and the Welcome Brunch for Father Piret and Siân headed by Ellen Nicoll and her Transition team consisting of:

Virginia Slutter
Judith Colwell
Vikki LoRusso
Audrey Tsoukias
Patti Bauerschmidt

Another special "THANK YOU" to Hector Henriquez, our sexton, who is always there with valuable help and direction to make sure all our events are special.

May this year give us many reasons to celebrate.

*Respectfully submitted by,
Kim Phillips & Patti Bauerschmidt
Stewards for Community Formation*

Music at Christ Church – Michael Haigler

Greetings! 2015 was a tremendous year for the music program of Christ Church, and for me personally. Believe it or not, I am now in my second decade at Christ Church, completing eleven years here this past December. Welcome to Father Piret, and I am thrilled to work together with him in beginning a new chapter in the musical life of Christ Church!

As many of you know, in June of this year I passed the AAGO certification exam, making me an Associate of the American Guild of Organists. Roughly equivalent to a Master's Degree, this process, certified by the New York Board of Regents, culminated in a massive two-day test of performing solo organ repertoire, sight reading, music dictation (writing what you hear), organ and music history, musical form and analysis, and many other facets. I am proud to have eared the highest score in the nation on the written portion of the test, and am very thankful to Christ Church for providing continuing education funds to cover much of the costs. Thanks also to those of you who supported me in this important endeavor.

In 2015 the Treble Choir again saw growth, bringing our total up to eight active members for the first time in several years, adding Christopher Chiu (12), and Beatrix Postley (13). Also, just a few weeks ago in January, our Treble Choir was invited to join almost 100 other young voices in the 25th Annual Suffolk County Children's Choir Festival celebrated at St. Patrick's in Huntington. Special thanks to Lauren Swezey and Mary Syrett for representing Christ Church among the 20 or so other Churches in Long Island. The singing was absolutely beautiful, led by choral clinician Madeline Bridges, and the singers were joined by organ, violins, a cello, and harp.

The Adult Choir has also grown in the past year, recently welcoming Andrew Mericle, Jeffrey Hoey, and Michelle Parsinski. Our wonderful section leaders (Marla Peltzer, Elisa Dragotto, Jenifer Miceli, Donna Houman, Christopher Judge, and David Burt) continue to do a first-rate job, although we were sorry to see our tenor Michael Fries leave us earlier this year, bound for Iowa. This past June, as a celebration of it being our tenth annual Spring Gala concert, we presented a repeat performance of the first annual Gala concert here in 2006, featuring the Bach Brandenburg Concerto No. 2 and the Vivaldi Gloria. It was a very successful performance, and I daresay we've come a long way in ten years!

Finally, let me remind everyone that both of our wonderful choir programs are volunteer organizations that are always open to new members. Treble Choir is open to boys and girls ages 8 and up with treble voices, and is a wonderful way for children to learn about music. The Adult Choir is open to all as well, but the level is high, so past experience singing in parts is usually (but not always) a requirement. Wednesday rehearsals are 4:30-6pm for the Treble Choir, and 8-10pm for the Adult Choir. Please feel free to reach out to me by email, or in person if you or someone you know is interested in joining, or would like more information.

Peace in Christ, and when in doubt, sing loud!
Michael C. Haigler
Music Director, Christ Church
music@christchurchosterbay.org

Music at Christ Church: Concerts - Elisa Dragotto, Artistic Administrator

Musical events continue to thrive and grow at Christ Church. Our long standing with groups such as the Long Island Baroque Ensemble and Voci da Camera consistently draw enthusiastic audiences to our door. We welcomed a new group, eVoco Women's Ensemble, to the series since eVoco Voice Collective has been a tremendous success. We will also welcome a group called The Red Door to our series in the Spring of 2016. Our donors support us in our efforts to bring quality classical music to the community. With their continued support, we hope to be able to maintain the current surplus in the concerts budget.

Respectfully submitted, by
Elisa Dragotto

Outreach – Adam Kimmick & Outreach Committee

On behalf of the Outreach Grants committee I would like to thank the parish for its continued commitment to outreach. Our budget for 2015 was \$58,800; the basis is the same amount as the prior 6 years, however, we had \$3,800 remaining from 2014. Obviously, we would like to increase our giving, and this year it is our understanding that an increase in our pledge commitment will result in a direct increase in our ability to support worthy causes. Since our endowment is fixed, any increase depends directly on our own generosity.

During 2015 we received request for grants in excess of \$200,000. Surprisingly, formal requests for grants have, so far, been lower in 2015 than in at least the prior 7 years. We welcome your recommendations.

As in prior years we have followed a fairly strict set of guidelines in order to select where our limited funds are distributed. The first guideline is that the charity be a viable charitable organization that provides support for "basic human needs". We take the verification of these charitable organizations very seriously and we have a formal application process. Second, Christ Church has guided our committee to reach out to organizations whose mission aligns with our parishes' values locally, nationally, and internationally. And third, we look to somewhat favor Christian, or Episcopal, charities.

Below are the grants which we have made during 2015. I encourage you to research these charities and be generous.

Grants for 2015

Several years ago the Outreach Grants committee and the vestry decided to focus on large grants where our funds would make a bigger impact and where we found an affinity with our parish's goals. Because we do receive many (many) requests from very worthy smaller charities, we fund a budget for smaller requests at our rector's discretion. This year, although these funds are only partially depleted, we request that the remaining \$4000 funds carry over to 2016.

Oyster Bay Youth and Family Services (YFCA) (\$6,000). Funding of an on-going summer program. Past grants were less than \$2K and were made from the Rectors Discretionary Fund. Recommendation is to fund the \$2,000 2015 grant from the Rectors fund as well. *Vestry approved \$6,000 to be paid from the Redington Fund - NOT from Outreach Budget. This matches prior years' funding and source.*

The Safe Center LI (\$10,000). FKA Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Coalition Against Child Abuse & Neglect. They received a grant from CCOB in 2012 for their relocation and merger of the aforementioned agencies. Funding requested is for their Client Needs Project the purpose of which is to ensure basic everyday needs as they prepare for a life free of violence. Transportation needs for travel to/from safe houses, courts, schools and health care. Food and essential household items would also be funded. Outreach recommended \$5,000 grant. *Vestry approved \$5,000 grant.*

Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI) (\$10,000). This on-going program of aid to the homeless has been supported for years by CCOB. It is one of only a few programs where our Grants and parishioners efforts are both brought to bear. *Vestry approved this \$10,000 grant.*

Centro Cultural Hispano – Hispanic Cultural Center (\$15,000). Funding is requested to expand the Afterschool Enrichment program of this group serving the towns of Oyster Bay & East Norwich. The program is targeted to help at-risk students that come from homes where English is not the first language. Concentration on children in Grades 3 - 6. Additionally the funding is intended to provide teacher recommended technology in the form of computers and tablets. While the recommendation is less than requested (\$5,000), it is also recommended that CCOB have a "Donate Your Retired Computer" program to help meet the need for web-access and teacher approved applications. Students will be able to enhance their math and literary skills. *Vestry approved \$5,000; "Donate Your Retire Computer" program was not approved.*

Fortune Society (\$20,000). This New York City based group is well known to CCOB. We have funded programs that have since flourished within the Fortune Society (i.e., community food garden). No grant was given to this group in 2014, so this is seen as a two year grant (2014 and 2015). Focused on the reintegration of ex-prisoners into society this group offers temporary housing, access to work programs and other transition tools. We have granted \$55K to this group through 2013. They have spoken to and performed for our parishioners. *Vestry approved \$10,000 for the 2015 grant; not the 2014 request.*

Just Leadership USA (\$15,000). This organization is dedicated to cutting US prison population in half by the year 2030. The Founder and Executive Director, Glenn Martin, has a relationship with CCOB in his former position as VP of Development and Public Affairs at the Fortune Society. Funding is for the education of formerly incarcerated individuals in leadership training in their Emerging Leaders program. NOTE: We recommend inviting Glenn Martin to address our parishioners in the fall of 2015. *Vestry approved requesting Glen Martin to address the congregation this fall and granting 2/3 (\$10,000) of their request.*

Uplift Help International, Inc. (\$10,000). Program request is for Health Care Screening and Provision of Care and Medications for the 6,000 people in Ishiagu, Nigeria. This Rockville Center, NY based group purchases and distributes medications for Malaria, Typhoid, Worms, Malnutrition, Arthritis, Infections, Stroke and Poor Vision. There are no employees, all those who go on the mission go at their own expense. *Vestry approved \$10,000 Grant and would like to invite the local leader(s) to speak to the congregation in the near future.*

Nepal Earthquake Relief – Bishops Request – Via E.R.D. (unspecified). CCOB has been asked by the Bishop to contribute to the Diocesan efforts to support ERD's work in Nepal, Texas floods and in fighting e-bola. A specific amount was not requested. CCOB plate offering is currently earmarked for ERD's Nepalese support. *This was not approved in 2015, but may re-open these discussions with our new Rector.*

Additional funding of Rector's Discretionary Acct	\$0.00
Spend through May 2015	\$4,800
Total recommended spending	<u>\$44,800</u>
2015 budget	\$58,800
Remaining from 2015 budget	\$ 4,000
Available balance for 2015	\$4,000

A brief list of some Prior Grants

International Hospital for Children in Richmond
 Episcopal Relief and Development Fund
 The Seamen's Church Institute
 Partners in Health
 United Society for the Propagation of the Gospel
 Life Enrichment Center of Oyster Bay
 Eastern Farm worker's Association
 Interfaith Nutrition Network (INN) in Hempstead.
 Youth and Family Counseling of Oyster Bay
 Caring for the Caregiver
 HHHI
 The International Hospital for Children (New Orleans)
 We have twice supported specific missionaries in their work
 The Safe Place
 St. Etienne's Church in Haiti
 Fortune Society

**CHRIST CHURCH OYSTER BAY
TREASURER'S REPORT - THE STATE OF THE FINANCES
ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – March 6, 2016**

INTRODUCTION

Christ Church Oyster Bay (CCOB) maintains a solid financial base with substantial managed investments that provide support for outreach, music and capital needs as well as subsidizing the operating budget.

We look forward to moving ahead in the coming year, supporting our endeavors, maintaining our strong commitment to outreach and music while finding ways to gain greater financial support from means other than investment funds. 2016 is a special year, with the calling of our new rector, who will be blessed with assets that provide a firm base for the future of a church as it celebrates its 311th anniversary.

CCOB is searching for ways to broaden our contributor base and lessen the investment fund contributions that are used to support our programs. In the past several years, there has been progress in this area but we are a long way from being able to self-support our needs without heavy dependency on investment funds. During the past year 58% of all budgeted expense was supported by investment funds, 15% was supported by major gifts and grants while only 26% came from pledges, giving and facility based contributions.

THE INVESTMENT FUNDS OF CHRIST CHURCH

For 28 years, Christ Church Oyster Bay has had the privilege of being a comfortably funded parish. Our investment funds provide privilege and benefit that would not be available to a parish of this size with the amount of revenue raised annually. We are stewards of a special bounty that needs to be wisely managed as well as protected. In reality, this asset should be referred to as an unrestricted fund as the greatest percentage of it was not specifically earmarked for any given use. To that end, several years ago, the Vestry restricted the amount of funds used to balance the operating budget that can be taken from the investments in any given year to a 4.0% draw based on a trailing three year average. This was done to assure responsible fiscal management as well as preserve our assets for those who come after.

In 1987, the largest part of our investment funds came to Christ Church through the Wivenhoe Trust established by Mr. and Mrs. Huntington Babcock, members of the Doubleday family. The trust was divided in three ways. Christ Church Oyster Bay was beneficiary of 1/8 of the trust, St. James Church in New York City was beneficiary of 3/8 of the trust and the remainder went to St. Luke's Hospital.

Prior to 1987, the Wivenhoe fund comprised a non-traded interest in the Doubleday Company and provided approximately \$50,000 of income annually to Christ Church. It was generally regarded at that time, that the fund had a value of \$1,000,000 though it was not in liquid state.

In 1987, the family sold their interests in the Doubleday Company as well as in the New York Mets and the beneficiaries received payouts at that time. Christ Church, a 1/8 beneficiary, received approximately \$8,000,000 from the payout. After taking draws for many years and underwriting several large capital projects, this portion of our investment fund is still valued at \$9,829,080 (as of 12/31/15).

The Investment Committee oversees the investments of Christ Church. In 2009, monies from the 1987 Doubleday gift were placed in equal dollar amounts with two investment brokers providing an equal starting point from which progress is monitored. Merrill-Lynch and Morgan Stanley are the managers of these funds. Draws from the two investment funds are made in equal amounts at the same time in order to facilitate the tracking of the progress of each manager.

In addition, 20 years ago under the investment guidance of Byam K. Stevens, a Listerine royalty share was purchased for \$132,000. The current value of this investment is \$1,284,150 and generated income is approximately \$80,000 per year. An incredible asset for CCOB!

RECENTLY FUNDED ENDOWMENTS

In 2010, three additional funds were established in accounts invested with The Investment Fund of the Diocese of Long Island.

	Amount Inception	Value 12/31/2015
1. Sylvia Redington Endowment For Special Needs Children In Memory of Sylvia Hobart Redington <i>Funds Added 2012</i>	\$50,000 \$15,000	 \$29,260
2. James A. McDonald Foundation Foundation was dissolved and CC. shared in the final payment	\$500,000	\$653,043
3. Nancy and Charles Slanetz Fund Music Endowment To support musical aspects of church services	\$20,000	\$27,169
4. General Fund		<u>\$128,394</u>
TOTALS	\$585,000	<u>\$837,865</u>

- ❖ The **Sylvia Reddington Fund** and **Slanetz Fund** are restricted with uses specified. During 2015, Redington funds were used to support the Community Garden and Learning Tree scholarships for children.
- ❖ The **Mc Donald** foundation gift remains unrestricted. During 2015, funds were used to support the salary of the concert director.
- ❖ In addition, **The Christ Church Memorial Gifts Fund** was funded by gifts given by individuals in memory of loved ones and for thanksgivings.
 - As of 12/31/2015, the value of the fund is \$62,414.46.
 - The Vestry determines how these monies are allocated.
 - A memorial gift of \$5,000 was given to Kwagala's Children – school in Uganda in memory of Sarah Meyer, a warden and longtime member of CCOB.
 - In 2010, \$1,300 was allocated for two benches in the memorial garden in memory of Bob Neuhaus and Patti Jones. A tree was also planted and dedicated on the church grounds in memory of Patti Jones.
 - In 2012, a \$2,100 scholarship was granted from this fund.
 - In 2013, iron gates were restored for the Memorial Garden for \$1,855.
- ❖ In addition, **The M. Lynn Griffith fund** is funded by annual gifts to Christ Church from Lynn Griffith for treble choir expense and expended annually for this purpose.

THE FUNDS OF CHRIST CHURCH – Account Values 12/31/2015

		<u>12/31/2014</u>	<u>12/31/2015</u>
OPERATING ACCOUNT			
1 STATE BANK			
Operating acct	TOTAL	\$240,583	\$103,946
INVESTMENT ACCOUNTS			
1 LISTERINE		\$1,295,000	\$1,284,150
2 MERRILL-LYNCH		\$5,303,272	\$5,138,861
La Salle		\$35,818	\$39,375
3 MORGAN-STANLEY		\$5,180,797	\$4,650,844
4 DIOCESAN FUND		\$844,227	\$837,865
McDonald (\$500,000)			
Redington (\$65,000)			
Slanetz (\$20,000)			
	TOTAL	\$12,658,914	\$11,951,096

- **2015 -** \$210,000 each drawn from Merrill and Morgan accounts
Total Draw for 2015 = \$420,000

THE INCOME OF CHRIST CHURCH (non-investment)

The non-investment income of Christ Church for 2015 **exceeded budget:**

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Pledges	\$225,000	\$246,633
Plate	12,000	5,078
Non-pledge	15,000	24,734
Rents	20,000	40,762
Other	<u>10,000</u>	<u>10,498</u>
	\$282,000	\$327,705

THE BUDGETS OF CHRIST CHURCH

Christ Church runs a fiscal year on a calendar basis i.e. January through December on a cash basis of accounting.

1. Operating Budget – Funded 40% by income and 60% by investment funds

- ❖ Annual operating budget is established to cover
 - Salaries of priest, sexton, financial administrator, parish administrator.
 - Benefits for full time employees including health insurance and pension.
 - Rector’s benefits include housing equity contribution and pension.
 - Buildings and grounds includes maintenance and repair of church, parish hall, office, rectory and sexton’s house, as well as grounds maintenance, property and liability insurance.
 - Utilities expense includes telephone, website, gas and electric.
 - Christian education, worship expenses, church school, youth group, flowers, advertising, coffee hour and babysitting expenses.

- Administration fees include office supplies, bank fees, postage, and internet expenses.
- Included in the operating budget are the expenses for the annual diocesan pledge of \$67,749 and other ongoing outreach i.e. discretionary expense, membership in the Consortium of Endowed Episcopal Churches for a total of **\$79,049**.

- ❖ **\$690,440** operating budget only
- ❖ \$408,440 (60%) – from investment funding
- ❖ \$282,000 (40%)- from pledges, contributions and facility based income i.e. rents

2. **Outreach Budget** – from investment funding

- ❖ **\$58,743** from investment funds was budgeted in 2015 to fund outreach programs. The Outreach Committee meets regularly and determines annually how these funds are allocated to those charities deemed worthy of receiving them.

3. **Music Budget** – from investment funding

- ❖ **\$119,943** from investment funds was budgeted and expended in 2015 to fund the music program - music director salary + benefits, special music, choir, instrument maintenance.

4. **Capital Budget** – from investment funding

- ❖ Campus expenditures for 2015 totaled **\$183,963**. Included \$13,860 for Sidney Street house repair (additional \$136,140 deferred to 2016) and \$119,021 for rectory repair as well as \$51,082 for capital expenses
- ❖ **\$218,479** spent on renovation of the EYC building. (additional \$79,306 deferred to 2016)
- ❖ Transition expenses of **\$24,314** included search committee, relocation of new rector and other expenses incurred during search and transition process
- ❖ It is anticipated that three year program outlining capital needs will be put in place in early 2016 to include \$250,000 for restoration of the stained glass windows in the church and estimated \$65,000 for air conditioner replacement.

5. **2015 – Funding of Total Expense**

\$1,236,739	2015 actual expense for operating, outreach, music, capital and transition
718,094	58 % Investment draw
\$ 327,705	26% Income and contributions.
\$ 190,940	15% Major gifts and grants

AUDIT

- ❖ Christ Church is audited annually by the firm of Anthony Basile, CPA
- ❖ An unqualified audit was achieved for 2014
- ❖ Diocese of Long island requires each parish to file a completed audit of the previous year by September of every year which was accomplished in 2015 by Christ Church.
- ❖ The diocese requires the audit be submitted as requirement for our parish to vote at the diocesan convention. The audit is available for review at the parish office.

The FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mary Sadler started work as the CCOB financial administrator in April 2014. She is a highly qualified individual and both a CPA and member of the New York Bar. Her skill level has enabled CCOB to enjoy an efficient professional that is a valued member of our staff, and we are most pleased to work with Mary. During 2015, Mary worked diligently with the assistance of Dick Ham on a challenging transition to an updated version of our financial software program, Church Windows. Thanks for their efforts, the system is now in place and working well.

The FINANCIAL PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Financial Planning Committee, chaired by the Treasurer meets on a quarterly basis, (more often if needed) to review budgets and financial matters that affect CCOB. The Rector, Wardens, members of the Audit Committee and the Financial Administrator attend these meetings. This committee works to establish the annual budget.

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