

ANNUAL REPORT FOR
THE 112TH MEETING OF
THE CONGREGATION OF

ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

*"I give you a new commandment, that you love
one another. Just as I have loved you, you also
should love one another."*

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We seek unity with God and one another in
Christ.



Annual Report
Presented at the 112th Annual Meeting
of the Congregation of
St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Oak Park

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Agenda for the 112th Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

I. Call to Order

II. Appointment of Clerk, John Hillman, and Adoption of 111th Annual Meeting Minutes

III. Rector's Report The Rev. George Arceneaux IV

IV. Warden's Report Deb Maue

V. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members

- Deb Maue, *senior warden*
- Peter Curtin
- Thomas Gary
- Gretchen Straw

VI. Elections

Nomination for Junior Warden

- Emily Culbertson

Nominations for Vestry

- Howard Anderson – 3 Year Term
- Jack Cosbey – 3 Year Term
- David Langert – 3 Year Term
- Stephanie Krajewski – 1 Year Term

VII. Highlight of Reports

VIII. Finance Report and Budget

IX. Closing Prayer

X. Adjournment

Minutes of the 111th Annual Meeting of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

- I. Call to Order
 - The meeting was called to order at 12:31 pm.
- II. Appointment of Clerk, John Hillman, and Adoption of 111th Annual Meeting Minutes
 - Emily Culbertson moved that John Hillman be appointed Clerk for this annual meeting, Bob Wyatt seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.
- III. Interim Rector's Report
 - The Rev. Kevin M. Goodman delivered the Interim Rector's Report.
 - Kevin had served the parish since October 2021 and presumed that he would continue as the interim rector through Easter, if not longer.
 - Kevin, the wardens, and the diocese all work for the next rector to make the transition successful.
 - Kevin has been helping the parish deal with grief and loss over the previous rector's departure and other issues.
 - Kevin wants to stay in his role until a new rector is called, although there needs to be one month between Kevin's departure and the new rector's arrival.
 - Kevin particularly acknowledged the following individuals: Jenn Urso, who clearly loves this church, Deb Maue for her partnership in carrying out the wardens' duties, Pam Jacknow, Eva Pearson for her assistance in the financial area and for agreeing to remain on the finance committee, the stability of the staff; in particular, Richard Sobak, the Organist/Choirmaster, Jen Enriquez, Director of Children and Youth Formation, Christa Creps, Musician for Children and Families, Uziel Hernandez Martinez, Parish Administrator, and Bob Wyatt, Assisting Priest. About Bob, Kevin commented, "I did my best to keep him in line."
- IV. Warden's Report
 - Jenn Urso delivered the Warden's Report. She reviewed significant events during the year:
 - The Pandemic
 - The resignation of the rector
 - The fact that stepping down is bittersweet.
 - That we are in good hands with Deb Maue continuing and Mark Schneider moving into the warden positions
 - And the people said "YES!"
 - Jenn thanked Kelly Clissold for his web design work in relation to Stewardship: treasure/time/talent.
 - She thanked the doctors in the parish for their work as "unpaid advisors."
 - She pointed out the following:
 - The new rector will need people to say "yes."
 - Dan Tevelde commented: "Everyone needs a job and a friend."
 - Give yourself permission to say "yes".
 - Reflections at Vestry:
 - The glass is half empty or half full; we're happy to have a glass!
 - When big things are out of control, think about the things right under your nose that you love!
- V. Recognition of Retiring Vestry Members
 - Jenn Urso, *senior warden*
 - Pam Jacknow
 - Katie Kearns, *resigned*.
 - Eva Pearson
- VI. Elections

- Nominations for Vestry
 - Paul Clark
 - Blaise Denton
 - Julie Dulski
 - Chloe White
 - Thomas Gary moved that the Vestry nominations be approved, Rich Nied seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.
- Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2023
 - Deb Maue
 - Bill Pearson
 - Chloe White
- Alternate to Diocesan Convention 2023
 - Heather West, *alternate*
 - Thomas Gary moved that the Delegate and Alternate nominations be approved, Emily Culbertson seconded the motion, and the motion was approved without opposition.

VII. Reports

- Search Committee
 - Emily Culbertson and Marilyn Heubel, Co-Chairs, reported in behalf of the Search Committee
 - They thanked Kelly Clissold for his work on the parish profile, which is expected to be completed any day now and posted on the parish website.
 - The Office of Transitional Ministry will coordinate the receipt of applications and the vetting of candidates,
 - Prayers will be offered each Sunday until the process is complete.

VIII. Finance Report and Budget

- Marty Dunlavey presented the finance report and budget.
 - He announced a \$65,000 deficit for the 2022 calendar year, not including search expenses.
 - The parish had 53 pledges for the year.
 - For 2023, 59 pledges have been received, and the projected deficit is \$74,000.
 - The deficit must be funded *via* withdrawals from the endowment.
 - Two estate gifts were received in 2023.
 - Marty indicated the following:
 - Endowment Fund (discretionary) = \$247,000
 - Housing Trust = \$170,000
 - Capital reserve = \$66,000
 - Music fund = \$9,000
 - The envelope system has been retired in favor of direct payments.
- Emily Culbertson thanked Marty, the Finance Committee, and the Vestry for their work.
- Deb Maue announced that the projected budget deficit for 2023 is likely to be \$110,000, although the stewardship campaign continues.
 - She thanked everyone for the new and increased pledges that have been received so far.
 - She also expressed the belief that the right candidate will see our challenges and will be excited to take these challenges on.
- Peter Thompson reminded the group that donors (aged 70½ and older) should not overlook making contributions to the church directly from their IRA accounts. [Such contributions count toward their RMD's but are then not reported as taxable income, which can result in substantial tax savings.]

- Eileen Murphy commented that scripture indicates that where your treasure is, that's where your heart is.
- Rich Nied urged people to volunteer and to pledge in order to "help this place survive and thrive".
- Judy Marth commented: "I have never seen a community like this one!"
- Thomas Gary moved that all reports be accepted, Johnathan White seconded the motion, and the motion passed without opposition.

IX. Closing Prayer

- Kevin Goodman offered the closing prayer.

X. Adjournment

- Thomas Gary moved that the meeting be adjourned. And the people voted with their feet by departing in good cheer!

Staff Reports



Rector's Report

Conventional wisdom, at least as I far as I can tell, says that a person in a new position of leadership should focus on the new, the now, and the days to come. So I may be shooting myself in the foot, but I find myself thinking about the past of St. Christopher's.

I was searching our old files for a picture of Emily Culbertson, our nominee for junior warden, sitting with her husband Hal and Paris Coffey on the stones out front of the church as well as a photo of Deb Maue, seemingly used for one of her terms on vestry. I found pictures of families who have been and gone. I saw images of children I've never met but whose parents still attend this wonderful parish as their kids have gone out into the world. I found shots of former rectors and youth leaders, choir members and altar guild ministers. And in the midst of that I found saw the epic tale of St. Christopher's of which the story of 2023 has been added as one more chapter.

You and this place have done so much this past year. You've fed the hungry and given drink to the thirsty through work with Housing Forward and Beyond Hunger. You have welcomed the stranger as new faces have come through these doors. You've quite literally clothed those who were without as evidenced by the Community Migrant Closet in the basement. The sick have been helped and while I don't know if anyone has been visiting prisons I know this community has been there for those trapped in grief or sadness or loss. Concerning the only criteria Jesus ever sets forth about how one enters the kingdom of God (Matthew 25: 31-46), I think St. Christopher's has that list of goals embedded in its DNA.

You've gone through the arduous process of finding a new rector, who incidentally couldn't be more moved and excited to be in his position. You've sung the blues and uplifted loss at Blue Christmas, packed this church during our Christmas and Advent offerings, made worship ever more welcome and wonderful, and more.

I am a creature of hope and excitement. I can't help but eagerly anticipate Mardi Gras and Lent, my dream of an impending Nifty Swifty Lenten Family Movie Night (keep your eyes peeled for mid-Lent for what the heck this might be ;)), and of more and more folks walking through the red doors on East street to find this magnificent assembly of different folks.

And as I hold that excitement, the photos from the past and the people here every day of the week (especially on Sundays) draw me back to rest. To remember that while there is much to hope for and much work to be done, this St. Christopher's we share together NOW is such a treasure. I'm so grateful to enjoy it with you.

What follows are a few thoughts on what I see at the church and what I'm hoping for in the coming year. As always you're both invited and encouraged to speak to me about anything.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. George Arceneaux IV (George +)

Attendance

Coming into 2024, I feel pretty excited about our attendance numbers. While I have received the advice that the "right" church size is whoever shows up on a given Sunday, I do believe that attendance is an important metric when gauging the life of the church. There's no denying that attendance is down since prior to the pandemic, I suspect a fact that many have heard said since 2020. AND YET! I have been so pleased with the number of butts in pews.

Many churches are subsisting with an average Sunday attendance (ASA) of 35-40 which is considered a good attendance. That we regularly and as a conservative estimate have roughly 45-ish people at both the 9:30AM service and the 11AM service is a testament to the power of this place. And on our big days? Fuggetaboutit. We had over

250 folks over the Christmas weekend and over 300 if you extend that to include Blue Christmas. We had standing room only attendance at the Celebration of New Ministry and Lessons and Carols. The Epiphany pageant (yes, I'm cheating by including this service held in 2024) was also jam packed and I suspect it may have had higher attendance than our Christmas Eve Kid-Friendly service had it not been for the dastardly Covid.

You might have noted that I didn't mention the 8AM service above with regard to attendance, and that is because I believe that the power of the 8AM service is also not to be underestimated even though its attendance is not that of the other two services. The reality is that attendance has generally been lower there as long-time, well loved, and faithful parishioners have moved elsewhere or passed away. It's also a reality that the 8AM service at most churches is the least attended. With that said, it has remained not only consistent but it seems to be growing. While there are some Sundays that we have four folks including myself, the 8am has hosted the first baptism I've performed at St. Christopher's as rector and has hosted many, many different faces. One of the greatest services I've ever held here was with two folks. Me and Bob Jones. And our Eucharist together rocked as we moved into the side chapel, adapting worship to meet our needs. The 8AM service allows adaptation and intimacy that is different from our 9:30AM and 11AM offerings. In all, I can think of about 30 different faces who have shown up at 8am, many of whom regularly pop by. It continues to be a space unlike any other and offers something integral not only to St. Christopher's but something I think our world needs.

Our average Sunday attendance (ASA) for 2023 was 96. The way we have collated our data is to show there was a year-over-year increase from 2017 to 2018 which resulted in the highest ASA in the past 20-ish years. Aaaaaand then 2020. Since then we have seen a year-over-year decline in attendance. I must admit I said "dangit!" to myself that we were 1 fewer parishioner than 2022. With that said, while others may interpret the data differently, I read our ASA for the year of 2023 as quite hopeful. We did not really decline in attendance despite that being the case for most churches. That we had an average of almost a hundred church attendants in 2023 is a success, especially given the atmosphere we are in as a society. Not only that, it provides a strong base from which we can continue to program and worship and grow. We've seen this church hold an ASA of 181 at its peak, and while it feels ambitious to say, this is one of the benchmarks I hold for the years to come.

Three Services, One Church

A gift at St. Christopher's is its roots in providing three distinct worshipping opportunities on a Sunday. Yet this has been both a blessing and a curse. In years past, a challenge has been creating a sense of community that expands beyond the confines of each service time and the communities that meet at each space. Not only this, but there was an idea that families and kids who attend the 9:30AM Wiggle Worship service would mature into the 11AM service. While this has been and will continue to be a possibility for some, for many, Wiggle Worshippers are Wiggle Worshippers and have no desire to attend the 8AM and 11AM services.

This poses the question, if Wiggle Worship as a space is one where kids will age out of and no longer find relevant, and the 11AM and 8AM offerings are not appealing to families, how do we make a space that meets the needs of such families?

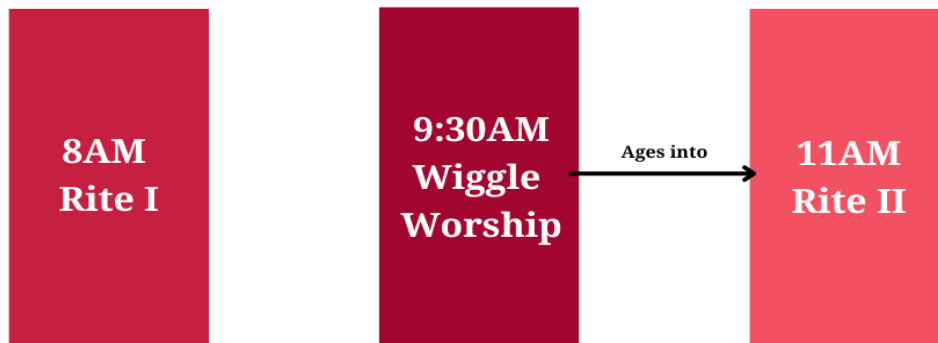
Because I tend to think in imagery, metaphors, and movie references (that last one I think isn't actually in this document) and I have a deep and committed relationship with Canva, I whipped up a diagram to help illustrate my guiding image for the future.

In essence, my hope is to adapt liturgy, scheduling, and programming to move from a model of silo-ed communities which jump between one another to distinct communities which feed into and inform one another. Since I got here in late August, the 8AM service has hosted families who often attend Wiggle Worship and the 11AM service, newcomers have tried out Wiggle Worship even though they consider themselves frequent visitors of the other two services, and between kids periodically acolyting and combining our services like that of today's, we're creating spaces for cross pollination.

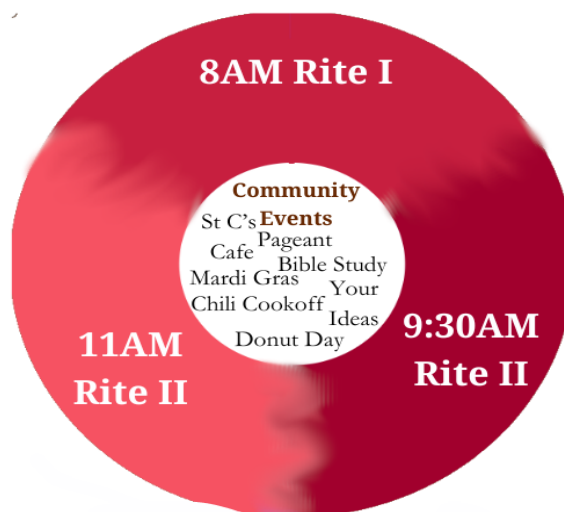
Probably the most visible and regular occurrence of church life programming that bridges these divides is St. C.'s Café led by Paul Clark, Joey Egan, Lex Bukalski, Jane Pearson, and Eddie Pearson. We also have Chloe and Johnathan White helping bridge divides along with the St. C.'s Teens as they hold events and space for conversation. Not only do the teens help IMMENSELY with Wiggle Worship and our after Worship activities, but they have been meeting with Chloe a few times during the 11AM service and have come up to join us for communion. Abby Walhout, Laura Reed, Rebecca Ho, the Wests, Laurie and Thomas Bachrach, and more have helped with kids activities and with connecting them to service and outreach through packing supplies. My understanding is that Zofia Krajewski-Love and Julie Dulski are thick as thieves and that Marilyn Huebel and the Jacknows are best buds. If I ever found the time, I feel like I could write a 50 page (or more) document on all the ways I've seen members of this church interact with one another not only in shared "worship-time" communities but beyond.

In the coming year, I hope to experiment with you all in the ways we can adapt services not only to have distinct liturgical identities but to make space available for everyone.

What We're Navigating From



George's Current Guiding Image



Communications and Welcome

Integral to church growth are both systems of welcome and of communication. You and Kevin have done much in the last couple of years to help both areas of growth. The installation of Mailchimp, our website interface MemberShip vision, and Breeze have all been great bases to work from. Since starting, we've been advertising use of the little red cards along with QR codes to get people connected to the church, and I find we have new faces in the pews pretty regularly who use these materials.

Currently these are the projects I hope to implement in the coming year, all of which we've begun progress on and which I believe will streamline how people can get connected to the church and its ministries and events:

- The Red Card Welcome: A person who walks through the doors on a Sunday can easily find a red card, drop it in the offertory plate, and have it return to my desk. I contact that person within the following week to schedule coffee and we send a welcome letter expressing gratitude for their visit.
- The Shepherds: I would love to create a ministry of different parishioners with different backgrounds to assign to newcomers. Shepherds would follow a given person or family for a year at minimum, calling and creating relationship and helping them get a better understanding of the parish.
- The Almighty Calendar: I would love for our online calendar to be the one-stop shop for all things happening in the church. Worried we might have a one-service Sunday? Check the calendar. When is bible study and how do I find the zoom link? Check the calendar. When does the Mardi Gras party start again? Check the calendar.
- Media: While the calendar can be the one stop shop for when things happen, I hope that we can regularly advertise events in the church via the bulletin, Weekly Messenger, Website, event flyers around the building, and social media (especially FaceBook).

My hope is that these systems coupled with programming that is parishioner led and oriented, especially with room for fellowship across all demographics like the programming done at St. C.'s Café or Advent Craft Night or the Halloween Trick or Treat night, will help us welcome new folks, empower those who are here, and grow the church.

Children's Ministry and the Position of Director of Children's and Youth

As we have operated the last five months or so without a Director of Children's and Youth ministry, I've felt both pretty good about what we've done while also believing that we are still in flux. We have had a variety of games, activities, crafts, and service works after every Wiggle Worship service and I've been so encouraged by the leadership of this congregation. Parents and parishioners have stepped up and helped programming from Halloween games to toiletry supply packing for outreach to the pageant. Most recently, I've gotten wonderful help preparing for Mardi Gras which has allowed me to teach Episcopal 101.

With that said, we continue to budget for a staff position. With these resources, I suspect that we may be advertising for a new youth person before too long.

I also have been toying with the idea of a paid field placement for seminarians and postulants.

I have been in contact with the diocese and am actively looking into a field placement intern. Bluntly and perhaps selfishly, this is appealing to me because I kinda love working with the kids and would love to tag-team this ministry along with adult formation after the 9:30AM service with an intern. Giving such a person the authority to

participate in the church beyond kids' activities as is so often the assignment for a placement while also emphasizing the importance of being able to work with kids is rather exciting for me.

Growing into Rectorship

Few jobs are as great as this one. There are plenty of days where I hold doubt and worry as I settle into this role. There's so much that I want to do and see getting done: thinking zoom worship, regular friendship dinners, newcomers events, adult formations I want to teach, organization of the building, creation of ministry teams, meetings with parishioners old and new, and so on and so on. The practicality of the job is both daunting and so, so wonderful.

There's plenty of stuff I want to try and to do. But more than anything, I want to work with you. I have ideas on what's going to help grow the church and get people connected. But how we make that happen... the fact that we're gonna do a Taylor Swift themed Lenten family night as opposed to a Katy Perry night (even though she is the better pop artist 🥰) is based on what I hear from you. When we hold evening services, what kind of dinners we do, what our outreach looks like? Remember we get to decide these things as a community. Your insights and thoughts matter immensely and help me figure out how we steer this ship we call St. Christopher's.

Saint Christopher Children's Worship Music Annual Report

2023 was an exciting year for Children's Worship. The congregation was galvanized and energized through staff changes and passed this transitional phase with flying colors. I have enjoyed working with our new Rector, George Arceneaux IV in forming a cohesive vision of how we will approach music and worship moving forward.

I have worked to combine traditional and more contemporary elements in our service. I have especially enjoyed collaborating with Richard Sobak in our journey to create an inclusive and tradition honoring experience for our congregants.

Blue Christmas 2023 was a resounding success in which congregants played a huge part. I appreciated the talents of the cooks that contributed wholesome food for our after service fellowship, the fabulous musicians and the equipment generously donated made the night shine in the darkness. I look forward to next year's Blue Christmas which continues to reflect the love and community of Saint Christopher's.

Thank you for another beautiful year of solidarity and community!

Respectfully submitted by Christa Creps, Musician for Children & Families

Music Report 2023 for 11:00 a.m. Service

Music for the 11:00 a.m. Liturgy

The choral and hymn repertoire is chosen for its liturgical, seasonal, and musical sensibilities. Music and texts are selected that will primarily reflect upon scriptural texts and the liturgical season of any given service. In 2023, we used hymns and service music from a wider variety of sources. Those sources include the Episcopal *Hymnal 1982*, *Wonder, Love, and Praise*, *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, *Voices Found*, the *Hymnal* from the ELCA, *Ritual Song* from GIA, and *Taizé* Collections.

St. Christopher's Liturgical Choir

The Liturgical Choir consists of adult choristers who offer to the parish their time, talent, and musical abilities, for

leading the congregational singing and providing choral music for the 11:00 a.m. Choral Eucharist. The Liturgical Choir also sings for special choral evensong services, the annual festive Ceremony of Lessons and Carols, and all the evening Holy Week services.

Prospective volunteer singers are encouraged to contact the Choirmaster via email or meet with the Choirmaster after the 11:00 service. There are currently twenty-one singers in the choir, divided into soprano, alto, tenor, and bass sections.

(It is interesting to note that many of our adult singers are also active in other parish ministries: Altar Guild, Acolyte Training, Eucharistic Ministry, Chalice Bearers, Lectors, and Vestry!)

Liturgical Choir Weekly Rehearsals:

7:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., Wednesday Evenings and

10:00 a.m. Sunday morning rehearsal before the 11:00 a.m. service.

The 1927 Moeller Pipe Organ

The 1927 Moeller pipe organ was originally a smaller instrument of only 7 ranks of pipes. Since 1993, the organ has been gradually enlarged to 11 ranks of pipes. Through two major financial contributions, we added an extended Trumpet rank, and totally rebuilt and modernized the organ console.

We currently have 11 ranks of pipes @ 61 pipes per rank, equaling 671 pipes.

The 671 pipes sit on 11 wind chests. The pipes are tucked into a small chamber above the chancel, called a swell box. (It resembles an attic bedroom.) A swell box is a sealed chamber that has one wall of moveable wooden shutters (comparable to a jalousie window). These moveable shutters control the amount of sound emitted from the pipe chamber. The organist controls the volume level by opening or closing the swell shades.

Financial contributions are welcomed for the maintenance and tuning of the pipe organ and the three pianos that are used in the parish buildings.

Respectfully submitted by Dr. Richard Sobak, Director of Music

Wardens' Report and Vestry



Senior Warden's Report

What an exciting year it's been at St. C's. As you know, leading up to last year's annual meeting, the vestry anticipated a \$100,000+ deficit for 2023. It was a highly stressful and uncertain time. But thanks to you, and some luck, and maybe a bit of the Holy Spirit, we ended the year with a much smaller deficit than anticipated. I want to thank you again for your belief in and support of this congregation.

But I don't really want to talk about money in this report.

Six years ago, I joined the vestry, spending the first three years as a vestry member before agreeing to stay on as warden. And six years ago, I did not have "global pandemic" or "rector leaving" on my vestry bingo card. There were many times, particularly in the last three years as warden, when I wondered why I ever agreed to do this, and how we were ever going to get through it. But I leave the senior warden role with the complete belief that St. C's is well on its way to being healthier, stronger, and more vital than ever before, thanks to the support of many, many people in the congregation.

What a year. We started it with a lot of uncertainty, not only around money. We had many questions around our future leadership, including: Would St. C's attract a strong pool of applicants? When we discerned our next rector, would he or she say yes to the call?

We know how that turned out, and it couldn't possibly have been better for the future of St. C's.

Looking back, I would characterize this year as a year of reconnection as a community; of fully reengaging post-pandemic. To name a few things:

- We (and by "we", I mean Paul Clark) began to offer St. C's Café on the first Sunday of every month, bringing people from all three services together to share pancakes, sausages, coffee, and fellowship.
- We reinstated name tags, making it easier for people to connect, and helping to make newcomers feel more welcome.
- We started a meal train for families who needed a little help due to a new baby, illness, or other life challenge.
- We welcomed and trained new ushers so that we would have regular greeters at the 11:00 service.
- We re-started the chili cook-off.
- We reinstated regular coffee hour after the 11:00 a.m. service.
- We volunteered at Oak Park Farmer's Market Donut Day.
- We held the first Women of St. C's event.

The foundation for this community reconnection was putting structure and leadership around key roles in the church. In addition to continuing the great work of the Finance Committee, which was formed last year, we (re)formed three committees to plan and implement important work: Building and Grounds, Stewardship, and Fellowship.

We also leaned into our outreach efforts. In addition to continuing to support Beyond Hunger and Housing Forward with volunteer efforts (and monetary support on the part of many members of the congregation), we became the central hub for clothing donations for migrants in Oak Park, providing warm clothing for those being housed at various locations across Oak Park. And we supported St. Catherine and St. Lucy in their efforts to provide services for people living in our neighboring Austin neighborhood.

As I leave this role, I want to say thank you to:

- Kevin Goodman for his transition leadership that prepared us to welcome a new rector.

- Marty Dunlavey for his many, many years of faithful service as our treasurer, and to Johnathan White for stepping up in the treasurer role.
- Uziel Hernandez-Martinez for his excellent work as parish administrator, which continued on well beyond the point at which he was being compensated, and to Ann Vikstrom for joining us as our new parish administrator.
- My co-warden, Mark Schneider and the vestry for their steady, thoughtful, and prayerful leadership this past year.
- All those serving on committees and in any type of volunteer role.
- The people of St. C's for their prayers for all of us in leadership.

And most of all I want to thank George for saying yes to our call.

I am excited to see the work of the new vestry under the faithful and courageous leadership of Mark and Emily, and look forward to many great years ahead at St. C's.

Respectfully submitted by:

*Deb Maue
Senior Warden*

Nomination for Junior Warden



Emily Culbertson – 1 Year Term as Junior Warden

Emily Culbertson has been attending St Christopher's with her husband, Hal Rees, since Good Friday 2011. She advises private foundations and other nonprofits on digital strategies. At St Christopher's, she bounces back and forth between 9:30 with her twins, Clare and Vaughan Rees, and 11 am, where she sings in the choir. Emily has clerked for the Vestry and most recently co-chaired our rector search.

Nominations for Vestry



Stefanie Krajewski – 1 Year Term

My family (Zach Love, Isaac (11), and Zofia (8)) have been attending St. Christopher's since fall 2016/winter 2017. Zach and I were looking for a community that would foster both our faith and our kids' faith. We feel like we found that at St. Christopher's. Zofia was baptized at St. Christopher's in 2018 as was Zach in 2021.

I work as a paralegal at the Illinois Attorney General's Office in the Public Interest Division. As a Christian, I treat my faith similar to my day job. I strive to help people who have not been as fortunate or as privileged as I have or do not have the voice to do so. We are trying to instill that in our kids by contributing to and making lunches for Housing Forward, making blessing bags for the homeless and volunteering (most) months at Beyond Hunger with Isaac.

When I'm not working or mom'ing, I like to read, watercolor paint, ride my bicycle and find new to me hiking trails.

As we have become more involved, I have enjoyed meeting more folks from other services. I hope that I can serve the community of St. Christopher's compassionately and genuinely during my time on vestry.

Howie Anderson – 3 Year Term

My wife, Susan Montgomery, and I joined St. Christopher's about two years ago, and the congregation feels like home.

I'm a retired journalist who worked at websites, magazines and newspapers for over 40 years. Today, I am a freelance writer and editor.

A cradle Catholic, I started attending Episcopal services when I met Sue, a cradle Episcopalian. I'll be received into the Episcopal community at the bishop's upcoming visit.

One of the things I like best about St. Christopher's is that it is truly welcoming to all, no matter where they are on their faith journey or what they believe. As a member of the vestry, a priority for me will be to look for more ways to welcome diverse new members and accommodate their worship preferences and help them feel at home.

I hope that by serving on the vestry, I can give back to the community and help it to grow and thrive. I'm so grateful for this opportunity.



David Langert – 3 Year Term

I have been attending the Wiggle Worship service at St. Christopher's with my wife and 3 kids since we moved to Oak Park in the summer of 2018. My wife and I were raised in different Christian faiths, and St. C's provided the perfect environment to carry our values on as a united family.

I am truly honored to be a part of the vestry. Through all the changes over the past 5 years at St. Christopher's (and the world!), what has remained consistent are the values of faith, community, and service. I will uphold those values while dedicating my time and energy to addressing the challenges that face the church.

I am grateful for the opportunity to give back to St. Christopher's. I'm excited to deepen my connection to St. Christopher's and the Episcopal Church, and look forward to working with the esteemed group.

Jack Cosbey – 3 Year Term

St. Christopher Church, Thank you for an opportunity to be on the vestry. I'm an Episcopalian since birth and been on several different vestries. I'm retired and attend the 8:00 am Sunday service. Janet, my wife and I, have attended St. Christopher's for about 7 years and became members 5 years ago. Our introduction to St. C was by way of a Shrove Tuesday gathering. We have since enjoyed and cherished the friendships and company of this parish. By the way, I'm 76 and not running for president.



Elections

Retiring Vestry Members (Class of 2023):

Peter Curtin
Thomas Gary
Gretchen Straw

Continuing Vestry Members:

Class of 2024

Paul Clark
Kelly Clissold

Class of 2025

Blaise Denton
Julie Dulski
Chloe White

2024 Vestry Nominees:

Senior Warden: Mark Schneider
Junior Warden: Emily Culbertson

Class of 2024

Stefanie Krajewski

Class of 2026

Howie Anderson
Jack Cosby
David Langert

Voting members of the Parish are . . .

baptized persons age 16 or older who regularly attend public worship and are recognized as members of the parish by the rector and one warden. The name of a voting member must have appeared on the treasurer's books as having contributed by pledge or otherwise in the last six months. Voting members are also conscientiously attached to the doctrine, discipline, and worship of the Episcopal Church.

Ministry and Parish Life Reports



Acolyte Report

Acolytes help guide our worship by leading processions and assisting the celebrant at the 11:00 service. We welcomed Pete Curtin, Kurt Amolsch and Ben Schwarz as new acolytes this year. We appreciate the continued service of Carla Bukalski, Trish Joy, Jane Pearson, and Bria Urso. All are welcome to serve in this ministry, from children to adults, with training and the ministry itself adapted to the gifts of the person serving. Being an acolyte continues to help its ministers deepen their relationship with the liturgy and worship. If you are interested in being trained as an acolyte, please contact Rev. George Arceneaux.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. George Arceneaux in consultation acolytes

St. Anne's Altar Guild Report

St. Anne's Altar Guild is largely a behind-the-scenes organization, providing for the beauty of worship by preparing all necessary vessels, linens, vestments, candles, and flowers for services. These services include Sunday morning worship, holidays and celebrations, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and other special events. The Altar Guild is also responsible for the ongoing care of these items, the sanctuary and nave, the chapel and the sacristy.

The Altar Guild roster for 2023 included Kurt Amolsch, Linda Dempsey, Julie Dulski, Deb Maue, Joan Radovich, Jenn Urso and Peter Walters. We also extend our gratitude to Patti Ferguson and Christine Look for baking our gluten free altar bread throughout the year, and to Patti Ferguson for laundering our sacramental linens. Thank you all for your faithful service.

Each member of the Altar Guild serves approximately once per month on average. Typically, one to two hours are required on a Saturday, preparing for Sunday worship services. A short time before and after Sunday services is also required to complete all necessary work.

Serving St. Christopher's as a member of St. Anne's Altar Guild provides a deeper understanding of the rich symbolism inherent in Episcopal worship, and an opportunity to spend contemplative time in a quiet church – all without monthly meetings. New members are always welcome. Please contact Peter Walters if you are interested or would like more information.

Respectfully submitted by Peter Walters

Fellowship Report

At St. C's, Fellowship may start with coffee and goldfish crackers on Sunday morning, but we are always looking to take it to the next level. For Mardi Gras in February, we had our second annual jambalaya / hurricane fest; last year we also combined this with burning ashes and an early Ash Wednesday service for the children.

In June, we had an interesting, mainly indoor, parish picnic; only the grill masters got wet.

In December we continued our annual tradition of Advent Craft Night and Spaghetti dinner.

And in between, we started a new tradition – St. C's Café. On the first Sunday of every month, we serve pancakes and sausage starting with the end of the 8:00 service and ending whenever the last pigs-in-a-blanket is consumed. Much of the work for St. C's Café (set-up, cooking) is done by the teens of the parish, in particular Jane Pearson, Eddie Pearson, Alex Bukalski, and Joey Egan. The café has helped nurture connections through all three services on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Clark

Healing Ministry

The healing ministry of St. Christopher is a prayer service found in the Book of Common Prayer. It is currently held during communion of the 11 am service in the chapel. We were also able to offer this ministry during the Blue Christmas service. We welcomed Judy Marth to this ministry this year. We are grateful to Becky Dunlavy, Julie Dulski, Trish Joy, Judy Marth, Peter Walters, Chole White and Mary Kay Tobin for their service. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Mary Kay Tobin at mktmd77@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kay Tobin

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM)

Lay Eucharistic Ministers assist the celebrant at the 11 am service. They read the lessons if the assigned person is not available and prepare and serve the wine for the Eucharist. We welcomed Judy Marth to this ministry this year. We are grateful to Deb Maue, Carla Bukalski, Bill Pearson, Julie Dulski, Trish Joy, Judy Marth, Peter Walters, and Mary Kay Tobin for their service. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please contact Mary Kay Tobin at mktmd77@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted by Mary Kay Tobin

Search Committee Report

In part, this report is like a mystery novel – let’s call it *The Search* – where everyone knows the ending, since our work officially concluded when the vestry accepted our recommendation to call George Arceneaux IV to be St. C’s next rector. Our work is included in this annual report because the final steps in our 18-month process took place in 2023 and we want to provide you with highlights of that journey as well as account for our line item in the budget.

- Once the application period closed in late April last year, we had 9 candidates from around the country, including 3 women, 2 BIPOC, and 2 LGBTQ+.
- Eight interviews were scheduled, and 6 screening interviews conducted (2 candidates withdrew their names from consideration to pursue other calls).
- After subsequent interviews, two finalists spent an evening with the wardens, vestry, and search committee; they also planned and presided over a worship service for those groups.
 - The majority of our costs, which totaled \$3,817 in 2023, are associated with these events, covering travel, housing, and fellowship meals. There were also a couple of administrative fees and the rector’s relocation costs. This means that we only used nearly 20% of the approved budget.

As indicated above, this was the final chapter in *The Search*. Previous chapters involved:

- 210 collective hours of committee meetings.
- 72 collective hours of interviewing.
- 20 hours of watching sermons.
- 10 hours of checking references.
- 76 hours in creating our online profile and materials for the candidates’ applications and co-leading and reporting on Small Group Summer of 2022.

- More than 100 administrative hours.

None of us – including you – knew what each chapter of the book would be like, particularly during a worldwide pandemic and with a shortage of ministerial candidates for all of the job openings nationwide. Those of us who became some main characters in the book are grateful to have had the opportunity to come together, to coalesce in prayer and dedication, and to lead this important service on your behalf. We thank you for your thoughtful and prayerful support throughout *The Search* and look forward, with you, to all of the exciting books the congregation will now author in this new era.

In gratitude,

Emily Culbertson and Marilyn Huebel, Co-Chairs Maya Ganguly

Peter Walters

Mary Kay Tobin

Bill Urso

Children’s Ministry and Education Report

2023 was a marked by the incredible work of Jen Enriquez, Kevin Goodman, Christa Creps, the St. C.’s Teens, and more with regard to children’s ministry and education. However, after the departure of Jen, we’ve found ourselves not only in a space of uncertainty, but also in one of possibility. I’ve been so grateful for the creativity, leadership, and passion of the St. Christopher’s community as we have begun discerning what this ministry might look like. We’ve leaned into the 9:30AM service as a place for formation and education as we have taught liturgy, the Gospel, and even church history (preaching on Elizabeth I was a treat). In addition, we have found space for fellowship, games, service, and crafting in the space directly following our Wiggle Worship space.

We’ve played with the Divination Orbs of Nostradoggus (check my office for this ancient relic), trick-or-treated on Halloween with the help of different costumed parishioners, played Halloween games in the basement and created twist tie blankets along with visitations from St. Nicholas, Advent Craft Night, and packed supplies. I can’t thank enough workers like Abby Walhout and Laura Reed enough for their work organizing the kids and especially Eddie and Jane Pearson, Joey Egan, Lex Bukalski, and Laura Gimesky for their immense support in working with the kiddos.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. George Arceneaux

Youth Ministry Report

2023 marked a new beginning for youth ministry at St. Christopher’s with the kickoff of “New Year, New Youth Group.” Youth in grades 6-12 met throughout the year for spiritual formation, community, and service. During the spring, youth engaged in a weekly confirmation class ending with 3 youth being confirmed at the cathedral! A general theme for the year was growing in community as the youth built deeper relationships with one another and the congregation of St. Christopher’s at large through studies of scripture and church history, jumping on trampolines at SkyZone, conversations about faith, riding rollercoasters together at Six Flags, and flipping pancakes monthly at St. C’s Café. In 2024, we plan to continue to meet together for formation and grow in relationship to one another and our community.

Respectfully submitted by Chloe White

Outreach Ministry Report

Sometime last year, a Vestry member said to me, “Outreach is St. Christopher’s best kept secret. It shouldn’t be.” The point being that St. C’s does a lot regarding outreach, but, especially in the post-COVID era, not a lot of people knew what we were doing.

That changed on Halloween night when almost 200 migrants were moved from the streets of the Austen neighborhood, less than a mile from St. Christopher’s, into Oak Park. Within days a group of parishioners – most notably Emily Culbertson, Mark Schneider, and Eileen Murphy – along with many volunteers from the community, started collecting season-appropriate clothing from around the village as we stood up a migrant’s clothes closet in the basement. This migrant ministry work is ongoing, with new donations coming in the door several days week and clothes being delivered to migrants throughout the village.

Members of St. C’s have also supported Housing Forward this year in a number of ways. Parents and children from the 9:30 service have prepared lunches, snack bags and toiletry bags to be delivered to Housing Forward’s emergency overnight shelter at St. Catherine’s and St. Lucy’s church. Others have prepared and delivered lunches and dinners to both Housing Forward’s interim housing location and the emergency overnight shelter, which together serve about 60 clients every night.

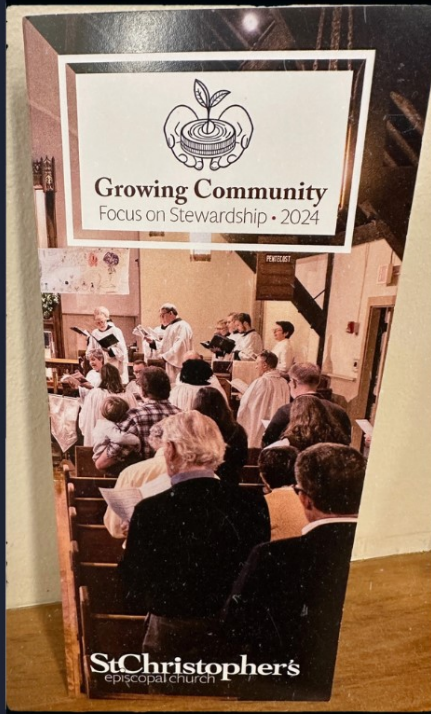
St. C’s continued its work with Beyond Hunger, which has provided hunger-relief programming in the area for over 40 years. On the second Saturday of each month, St. C’s has a dedicated spot for about 10 parishioners to spend a couple of hours at the Saturday food distribution.

Individual St. C’s parishioners also donate their time for other shifts at Beyond Hunger, which has two food distributions each week, but available shifts six days a week.

Finally, several members of the parish attended a presentation in December for the Neighborhood Bridge, a new initiative that will establish a central location for providing social services to families from five schools in the Austin community, as well as other Austin residents. These services also will be based at St. Catherine’s and St. Lucy’s.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Clark

Administrative Reports



Buildings and Grounds Committee Report

In mid-2023, the Vestry formally approved the revival of a Buildings and Grounds Committee. This Committee stands on the shoulders of years of volunteers, including those who planned and oversaw the construction of Saint Christopher's outdoor columbarium and Memorial Garden. It represents a key piece of the Vestry's continuing effort to build out an organizational structure to meet the needs of a growing parish, to lighten the burdens too heavily concentrated on a few volunteers, and to disseminate and preserve our institutional knowledge about the daily operations and maintenance that keep the parish going.

The current members of the Buildings & Grounds Committee are Pete Curtin (Vestry Liaison), Marty Dunlavey, Becky Dunlavey, Patti Ferguson, Wendy Norris, and Mark Plante. Junior Warden Mark Schneider has facilitated this work. The Committee meets regularly in the Parish Hall at 6 PM on the second Wednesday of each month.

The purpose and envisioned role of the Committee is to: (a) transmit relevant information to and from the Vestry; and (b) oversee expenses and projects related to the building and grounds, including the outdoor columbarium and Memorial Garden (routine operations/maintenance and larger projects). The Committee's medium-term goals include developing a central repository of vendor contracts and contact information, and an "Operations Guide" for Saint Christopher's Parish.

Repair and maintenance projects for 2023 included:

- Improved lighting in the Sanctuary;
- Removing the dead tree to the left of the red church doors; and
- Volunteer maintenance of planted beds.

Projects under consideration for 2024 include:

- Repairing one of the A/C units;
- Eliminating the tripping hazard (platform) around the high altar, lowering the base of the altar to the level of the kneelers at the communion rail;
- Improving the outdoor lighting; and
- Refreshing/refinishing the distressed pews (in stages).

Respectfully submitted by Pete Curtin and the Building and Grounds Committee

Stewardship Report

After a year of a deficit budget, the stewardship committee set a lofty goal for 2024- to pass a balanced budget with estimated expenses for the year totaling \$340,000. With a healthy balance of optimism and realism, the stewardship committee consisting of John Hillman, Mark Schneider, Gabriela Denton, Johnathan White, and myself, set out to communicate our goals to the congregation in a transparent and hope-filled manner. Through discussions, it became clear what this stewardship campaign was truly about- "Growing Community!" As a result of countless emails, several meetings, Gabriela's design expertise, and John and Mark's combined financial knowledge, the stewardship committee was able to mail out letters, hand out brochures, include testimonials in the weekly bulletins, and distribute and collect pledge cards to increase congregational awareness of the goals for the 2024 budget.

As we move forward, we look forward to kicking off a year-round-style stewardship campaign that focuses on how we can each be good stewards of our time, talents, and treasures.

Respectfully submitted by Chloe White

2023 Operations

For 2023, we passed a budget with a planned deficit of \$72,414, but ended the year with a gratifying \$4,940 deficit. This was partially caused by higher income: giving overall was \$16,196 higher than expected, But was mostly caused by lower costs than budgeted.

Three budgeted items stick out due to much lower costs than anticipated: Search Committee expenses were \$16,183 lower than expected, Life and Health Insurance was \$10,277 lower than expected, and costs for the Christian Education Director position were \$16,412 lower than expected due to vacancy. Those three factors combined to lower the budgeted expenses by a total of \$42,656.

Lower expenses overall led to much lower than expected deficit. It is never ideal to close the year with a deficit, but we ended the year in a much better position than we started.

Investments

The total value of our investments to close 2023 is \$541,085 which is within \$600 of the value to close the previous year, despite the \$60,000 withdrawn from the investments during 2023.

The amount withdrawn covered the deficit, but was primarily used to increase the bank account balance to prevent an overdraft, as well as pay for extra-budget expenditures, such as disbursements of the St. Martin's and San Miguel funds, J2A expenses, and others.

Because of these pre-allocated expenditures, the withdrawn amount is not indicative of future need in cases with a similar deficit.

Pledges

We received 60 pledges for 2024 totaling \$244,194. Of the 59 pledgers from last year, 2 moved, 4 left the parish, and 4 members declined to renew their pledges. We have 11 new pledges.

Next Year's Budget

Our expected income for 2024 is \$298,404. This is close to \$7,000 better than our 2023 expected income (excluding the Endowment Fund Transfer, which has been removed from the 2024 budget).

Expected expenses are much lower than last year's budget; \$340,484 in 2024 compared to \$375,568 in 2023. This is higher than the actual 2023 expenses of \$324,291, although those lower expenses were mostly caused by staff departures and low Search Committee expenses. The primary drivers for increased expenses are staffing for Christian formation, building maintenance, and utilities.

Because the expenses are largely inflexible, we must expect a deficit of close to \$42,000 in 2024. Not ideal, but still much better than the projected deficit for 2023. We continue to make progress towards a balanced budget, but we still have more work to do.

2024 Budget

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Income and Expense by Year

	Actuals 2022	Budget 2023	Actuals 2023	Budget 2024
INCOME				
Pledge Income	222,039.21	235,624.00	232,432.01	244,194.04
Non Pledge Income	29,331.55	42,820.00	44,016.61	39,000.00
Prior Year Pledges	2,118.00	0.00	3,400.00	0.00
Plate & Initial Offerings	3,733.39	2,500.00	3,702.27	2,700.00
Festival Offerings	1,360.85	1,000.00	1,767.27	1,000.00
Parish Hall Use	529.50	400.00	857.80	1,000.00
Special Offerings	7,078.30	8,500.00	19,920.36	10,000.00
Flower Donations	100.00	300.00	1,206.72	500.00
Endowment Fund Transfer	12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	-
INTEREST INCOME				
Banking Interest	20.98	10.00	47.44	10.00
TOTAL INCOME	278,311.78	303,154.00	319,350.48	298,404.04
EXPENSES				
RECTOR AND ADMIN EXPENSES				
Rector Salary	0.00	24,499.98	19,453.13	49,800.00
Housing Allowance	0.00	16,500.00	12,578.14	32,200.00
Life and Health Insurance	26,737.08	41,400.00	31,122.81	29,265.00
Pension	19,042.42	20,500.00	20,149.99	14,760.00
Entertainment Allowance	86.54	0.00	428.80	-
Continuing Education	0.00	1,000.00	255.74	1,000.00
Worker's Comp Insurance	1,521.00	1,600.00	1,706.00	2,415.00
Office and Postage	2,839.64	2,800.00	3,401.83	3,300.00
Payroll Taxes	7,121.57	7,175.00	4,572.19	7,313.00
Consumable Supplies	938.28	1,500.00	1,021.01	1,000.00
Stewardship Expenses	281.48	400.00	450.50	600.00
Office Manager	19,447.59	21,316.00	21,417.06	19,500.00
Office Equip Purch&Main	3,620.09	4,000.00	6,059.63	6,300.00
Online Service Fees	3,206.77	3,300.00	4,300.06	4,515.00
Interim Rector Salary	56,500.08	24,040.00	28,250.04	-
Interim Rector Housing	33,000.00	13,750.00	16,500.00	-
Search Committee Expenses	750.25	20,000.00	3,817.02	-
Special Purchases	0.00	2,500.00	2,104.32	-
Subtotal Rector And Admin Expense	175,092.79	206,280.98	177,588.27	171,968.00
Outreach Expenses				
External Communications	2,362.90	2,000.00	3,701.68	3,255.00
Diocesan Pledge	23,000.06	23,000.00	23,000.04	23,000.00
Outreach & Social Justice	6,086.25	1,000.00	25.42	1,000.00
Rector's Discretionary Fu	0.00	0.00	150.00	-
Subtotal Outreach Expenses	31,449.21	26,000.00	26,877.14	27,255.00
Worship and Music Program				
Music Salaries	33,372.00	33,825.00	33,806.34	33,400.00
Supply Organist	500.00	500.00	250.00	500.00
Music Supplies	962.24	500.00	864.75	500.00
Tuning & Repairs	780.00	1,500.00	1,105.00	780.00

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Income and Expense by Year

	Actuals 2022	Budget 2023	Actuals 2023	Budget 2024
Supply Clergy	1,821.40	1,800.00	1,899.81	5,100.00
Altar & Sacristy Supplie	1,382.34	1,700.00	955.30	1,700.00
Altar Flowers	789.00	1,000.00	1,039.56	1,000.00
Rite 3 Worship Music	7,242.48	8,374.00	8,976.93	9,200.00
Rite 3 Worship Expenses	6.99	0.00	462.94	500.00
Subtotal Worship And Music Program	46,856.45	49,199.00	49,360.63	52,680.00
Building Expenses Cleaning				
Service	11,962.72	12,000.00	11,760.00	13,200.00
Gas	7,436.92	7,800.00	5,385.92	7,800.00
Electricity	4,378.53	4,000.00	4,186.67	4,830.00
Telephone and Internet	2,912.12	3,500.00	2,977.19	3,300.00
Water, Sewer, Disposal	731.47	600.00	319.12	1,000.00
Property & Liability Ins	14,946.00	15,704.00	15,704.00	17,270.00
Maint. & Improvements	7,812.33	7,500.00	7,531.70	8,400.00
Elevator Maint. & Repair	829.00	0.00	1,534.00	1,050.00
Alarm System	2,261.37	1,400.00	1,272.12	1,365.00
Subtotal Building Expenses	53,270.46	52,504.00	50,670.72	58,215.00
Christian Education Expen Rite3				
Youth Serv Minister	3,079.40	2,800.00	2,441.45	5,459.00
Sunday School Youth Assis	1,716.91	2,400.00	529.18	-
Church School	346.26	1,500.00	822.24	500.00
Christian Formatr Support	477.67	2,780.00	1,448.19	1,500.00
Pilgrimage Reserve	0.00	0.00	282.63	-
Mission Trip	439.30	0.00	176.82	-
Adult Education	245.68	200.00	111.45	200.00
Christian Education Direc	29,562.00	30,304.00	13,891.80	21,707.00
Church School Teachers	386.25	600.00	90.00	-
Continuing Education	842.48	1,000.00	0.00	1,000.00
Subtotal Christian Education Expen	37,491.78	41,584.00	19,793.76	30,366.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	344,160.69	375,567.98	324,290.52	340,484.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSE	-65,848.91	-72,413.98	-4,940.04	-42,079.96

2023 Balance Sheet

ASSETS		
BANK ACCOUNTS		
Checking - Byline Bank	\$30,564.05	
Rector Discretionary Acct	4,732.19	
Subtotal Bank Accounts	35,296.24	
INVESTMENTS		
Investments-Schwab	541,102.31	
OTHER ASSETS		
Accounts Receivable	247.59	
Prepaid Expenses	1,622.50	
Subtotal Other Assets	1,870.09	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$578,268.64	
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE		
Federal Withholding	\$1,510.92	
State Taxes Payable	274.47	
Subtotal Payroll Taxes Payable	1,785.39	
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	13,467.01	
TOTAL LIABILITIES	15,252.40	
NET ASSETS		
UNRESTRICTED		
Unrestricted Net Assets		\$9,971.98
RESTRICTED		
Music Endowment Balance	11,489.20	
Capital Reserve Balance	73,846.71	
Endowment Balance	266,853.56	
Housing Trust Balance	187,424.53	
MJ Sanders Memorial	500.00	
Ellie Waltemade Memorial	2,975.19	
John Sanders Memorial	475.00	
Dorothy Sobak Memorial	2,402.94	
J2A Pilgramige Fund	15,517.95	
Rector Sabbatical Fund	774.80	
Other Outreach Funds	4,248.65	
Diocese of Renk	1,800.00	
Christmas Purse Clearing	-47.09	
Chapel clearing Account	-6,296.39	
Rector Disc. Fnd.	8,932.00	
Columbarium Fund	-18,202.29	
Peace Camp	68.18	
San Miguel	181.32	
St. Martin	100.00	
Subtotal Restricted	553,044.26	
TOTAL EQUITY	563,016.24	
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$578,268.64	

Average Sunday Attendance (ASA)

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
JANUARY	207	191	171	128	58	85
FEBRUARY	157	181	174	171	108	93
MARCH	177	177	NA	219	97	81
APRIL	186	226	NA	144	119	108
MAY	167	167	NA	129	98	101
JUNE	174	166	NA	120	100	85
JULY	133	178	NA	54	57	82
AUGUST	137	122	NA	97	93	67
SEPTEMBER	167	181	NA	NA	NA	85
OCTOBER	173	165	NA	113	108	112
NOVEMBER	189	219	NA	113	110	104
DECEMBER	193	205	NA	99	119	142
YEAR AVG	172	181	NA	114	97	96

Resolutions of Courtesy

from your Wardens, Vestry, Clergy, Staff, and Parish of St. Christopher's

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their warmest welcome to The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, Bishop of Chicago, to St. Christopher's during her visit on February 4th, 2023.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend a heartfelt thanks to those who served on Rector Search Committee - Marilyn Huebel, Emily Culbertson, Maya Ganguly, Mary Kay Tobin, Peter Walters, and Bill Urso.

Be it resolved that the congregation thanks Christa Creps and those musicians and worker who continued the tradition of the Blue Christmas service, offering a special worship space to the people of St. Christopher's, to the people of our community, and beyond.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their thanks and gratitude to Christa Creps for her musical expertise and leadership for our parish not only during our 9:30AM service, but elsewhere also.

Be it resolved that the congregation thanks Richard Sobak and the choir for providing us with beautiful service music throughout the year, at All Saints' Evensong, and at Advent Lessons and Carols.

Be it resolved that the congregation thanks Peter Walters and the members of the altar guild for their work in preparing for worship services and cleaning up afterwards.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their thanks and gratitude to Uziel Hernandez, for serving as parish administrator and assisting Rev. George Arceneaux in orientation to his new call.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their gratitude and welcome to Ann Vikstrom for beginning her work as the new parish administrator.

Be it resolved that the staff especially thank all who donated to the generous Christmas Purse this year.

Be it resolved that the congregation shares thanks and much appreciation to Kelly Clissold and all others who have assisted in the management of St. Christopher's online presence.

Be it resolved that the congregation thanks everyone else who has volunteered, contributed, and in every other way helped St. Christopher's in this past year.

Be it resolved that the congregation shares thanks and much appreciation to Rosie Tecpanecatl and Veronica de Jesus Torres for their indefatigable cheer and marvelous sexton work.

Be it resolved that the congregation lauds and magnifies the outreach work undertaken by Emily Culberston, Paul Clark, Mark Schneider, Eileen Murphy, the children of St. Christopher's, and the community members who created and worked in the Community Migrant Closet, packed supplies for Housing Forward, and more to feed the hungry and give rest to the weary.

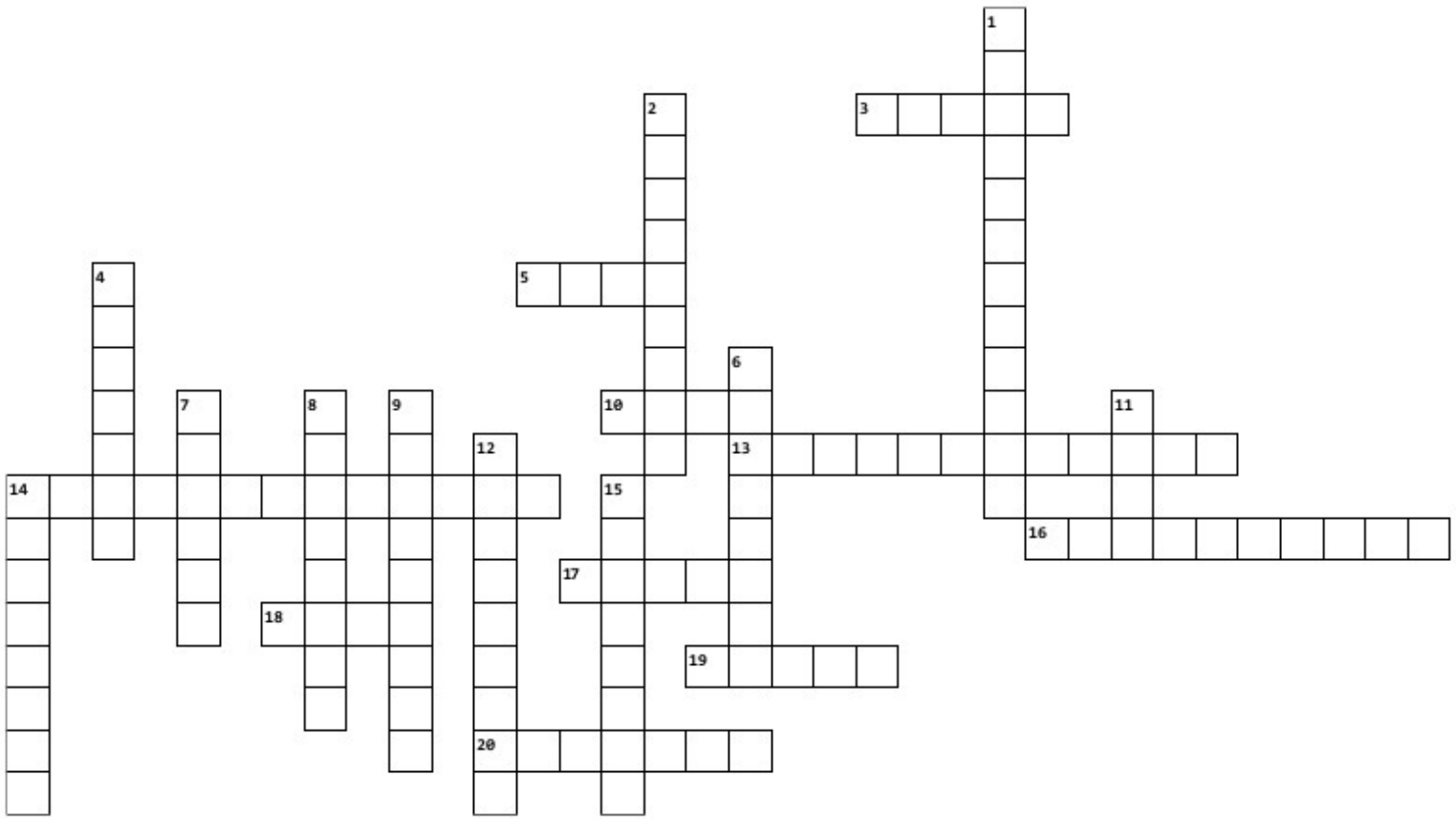
Be it resolved that the parish and staff thank our retiring vestry members for their service and support. Kindest regards are extended to Deb Maue, senior warden, and to Pete Curtin, Thomas Gary, and Gretchen Straw.

Be it resolved that the vestry, rector, and parish thank the Treasurer and Associate Treasurers for their careful tending of our financial resources. Special gratitude as well to Marty Dunlavey and Priscillan Nied for their many years of service in the treasury and their guidance in orienting new leaders.

Be it resolved that the congregation thank all who have cooked, brewed coffee, brought drinks, and set up receptions and parties in the parish hall and church at the many events throughout the year.

Be it resolved that the thanks of the interim rector, wardens, vestry, and staff go out to all of the people of St. Christopher's who so faithfully contribute time and talents to God's mission and ministry at this place and to those beyond.

The Annual Report Crossword



Across

- 3.** name of the rector before the rector before George
- 5.** First name of the rector before George
- 10.** The Street the red doors open to
- 13.** A St. C's event with a trophy attached
- 14.** Christa Creps' triumph that may have a part II in Spring/Summer
- 16.** The instrument George's wife
- 17.** George's wife's name (like Shrek)
- 18.** What George had way too much of on his hands and so he made this crossword
- 19.** Name of the interim rector before George
- 20.** The crochet figures that may be a little sus

Down

- 1.** Some of the first words in the mission statement
- 2.** The flavor of church in which we worship
- 4.** Our Outgoing Warden
- 6.** Paul Clark and the Teens' Baby at the first of the month
- 7.** The degree that goes before Richard Sobak
- 8.** A fine fiber art that happens after worship on the second and fourth sundays
- 9.** George's Favorite Pop Artist
- 11.** What this whole Christianity thing is all about
- 12.** The most important promises we'll make (at least according to George)
- 14.** Our beloved associate
- 15.** The kind of pageant we have