



Annual Report



Saint



Presented at
The 111th Annual Meeting of
the congregation of

Christopher's

Oak Park, Illinois



January 29, 2023 | 1912 - 2023



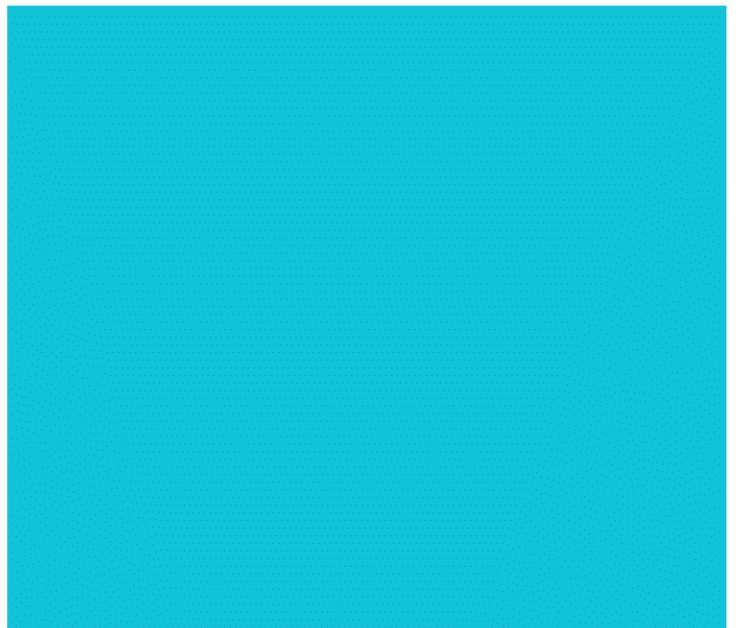


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AGENDA

111th Annual Meeting

Sunday, January 29th, 2023

- I. **Call to Order**
- II. **Appointment of Clerk, John Hillman, and Adoption of 111th Annual Meeting Minutes**
- III. **Interim Rector's Report** The Rev. Kevin M. Goodman
- IV. **Warden's Report** Jenn Urso
- 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
 - **Delegates to Diocesan Convention 2023**
 - ◆ Deb Maue
 - ◆ Bill Pearson
 - ◆ Chloe White
 - **Alternate to Diocesan Convention 2023**
- VII. **Reports**
 - Search Committee
 - Stewardship of Courtesy
- VIII. **Finance Report and Budget**
- IX. **Closing Prayer**
- X. **Adjournment**

2023 VESTRY NOMINATIONS



Paul Clark

I have been a member of St. Christopher's for 30+ years. Two of my three children were baptized here and all were active in youth groups and choir at different times. My day job is managing content at Baker Tilly, a top 10 accounting and consulting firm based in Chicago.

I'm looking forward to joining the Vestry again (I think this will be my fourth stint at St. C's) at a time when both the church and the Church face a variety of challenges related to both COVID and the role of a faith community in the modern world.

I came to St. C's as a young parent and a consistent feature of this parish in my time here has been the way it has drawn young families to the community, providing formation for the children, but also helping parents develop a mature understanding of their faith. St. C's has done this with a vibrant and oftentimes chaotic combination of worship, song, fellowship and outreach to the community. Older parishioners, those without children, those who aren't in committed relationships also find a faith home at St. C's, with opportunities to grow in their faith, nurture friendships with others, and find opportunities to help others in the community.

While St. C's is steeped in tradition, it has never ignored the reality that change and pivoting are healthy features of a strong and growing community. As part of the vestry I will do my best to help honor traditions and embrace change as needed for the good of the church and the Church.

Blaise Denton

I have attended St. Christopher's with my wife, Gabriela, and my two year old son, Luca, since we moved to Oak Park in August of last year. I work as the director of institutional research at Moraine Valley Community College and Gabriela works in communications for churches and nonprofits.

When we first moved to Oak Park we had a long list of churches to try, but we quickly realized that St. Christopher's had something special. The Wiggle Worship at St. Christopher's has been great for our son and you don't regularly find such a large group of young and committed parents at a Mainline church. All of St. Christopher's staff and parishioners have been extremely welcoming and I'm excited to go to church every week.

St. Christopher's is in a time of change and we face the challenges of finding a new rector, making sure we have enough money over the long term, and being a left leaning church in a country that is so often torn between religious fundamentalism and hard secularism. My hopes are the inverse of these challenges: I hope that St. Christopher's can find a rector that fits our unique blend of services and styles, shore up our giving and attract new families of all ages and stages of life so we can continue to grow and thrive, and be the light of Christ in our community.





Julie Dulski

Ten years ago, an unexpected invitation from choirmaster and friend, Dr. Richard Sobak, first brought me to the red doors of St. Christopher's Church. Since that invitation, I have expanded my roles and ministries from initially singing in the Liturgical Choir, to now include serving as an Altar Guild member, Lay Eucharistic Minister and Healing Minister.

Recently, another unexpected invitation came from a Vestry member with an opportunity to serve and am honored to be considered. I firmly believe there is a purpose and reason that this invitation came my way and at this very important time for the church.

God has always placed me exactly where He wants me to be, not only to be of service to others but for my own spiritual growth as well. I hope to be able to add my voice to the concerns facing our church right now, especially during this pivotal time of growth and change. In addition, during this period, my intention is to help ensure that our members receive the shepherding they need and seek along this journey.

I hope that in my serving, I have an opportunity to give back in gratitude for the many blessings I have personally received from St. Christopher's Church.

Chloe White

My name is Chloe White, and I began regularly attending St. Christopher's when I moved to Oak Park in July of 2022.

I live with my husband Johnathan who sings in the choir at St. C's and our 3 Guinea pigs. I have a passion for putting my prayers into action to make others feel welcome, heard, and loved. I am excited to serve in the vestry here because St. C's quickly became a refuge for my husband and I after moving, and I want to be a part of cultivating a church that serves as such for all who find themselves wandering.

I have witnessed how well this congregation makes newcomers feel welcome, upholds parents and young children, and actively engages in aid for the surrounding community. Although these aspects of this church excite me, I am not blind to the challenges that the vestry and congregation at large will face in the coming years.

On levels reaching far beyond our congregation, the Episcopal Church is seeing declines in attendance and tithing. On top of this, we are currently searching for a new rector. These are not light topics nor simple fixes; however, I have faith that the God whom we serve has equipped this congregation with the wisdom, intellect, and talents to overcome far larger challenges.

Ultimately, I am thankful for this opportunity to serve, and I eagerly look ahead to the ways that St. Christopher's can continue to be a beacon for the larger church and our surrounding community.



ELECTIONS

Vestry Members and Nominees

Retiring Vestry Members (Class of 2023):

Jenn Urso
Pam Jacknow
Eva Pearson

Resigning Vestry Members:

Katie Kearns

Continuing Vestry Members:

Class of 2023

Peter Curtin
Thomas Gary
Gretchen Straw

Class of 2024

Paul Clark
Kelly Clissold
Mark Schneider

2023 Vestry Nominees:

Senior Warden: Deb Maue
Junior Warden: Mark Schneider

Class of 2025

Blaise Denton
Julie Dulski
Chloe White

The Vestry:

Senior Warden: Deb Maue
Junior Warden: Mark Schneider

2023

Peter Curtin
Thomas Gary
Gretchen Straw

2024

Paul Clark
Kelly Clissold

2025

Blaise Denton
Julie Dulski
Chloe White

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.

MINUTES

The 110th Annual Meeting and Reports of St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Oak Park, Illinois

Sunday, January 30, 2022

Meeting called to order by The Rev. Kevin M. Goodman, Interim Rector at 10:30 am

1: Rector's Report

2: Search Committee:

Father Kevin went over what will be needed in our process to seek a new Rector

The Story of Me which will take a period of one to three month.

The Story of Us, three to six months

The Story of Now, which is the confidential part of the search by the committee which will take a period of six to 18 months.

Peter Thompson raised the question regarding church attendance being down nationwide and what does that bode for us. Fr. Kevin said that he expects that even with the challenges we face, St. C's will grow after the pandemic.

3: Vestry:

Recognition of retiring Vestry Members Marilyn Huebel, Chris Milsap, Alyssa Hart and Jonathan Daly

Introduction of new Vestry Members Kelly Clissold, Mark Schneider and Gretchen Straw

4: Senior Warden's Report:

"What a mess!" The announcement by Jenn Urso that she and Deb Maue have agreed to stay on as Senior and Junior Wardens during our transition year was met with great gratitude and applause.

The Vestry started 2021 with great hopes, but were never able to meet in person. Both she and Deb were surprised when Father Eric told them that he was a candidate and had a process already in place when it was announced that he was definitely leaving. They feel that they have put together an outstanding search committee. The next 12 months will be difficult, be we have to trust that we will prevail.

5: Search Committee:

Introduction of committee members: Marilyn Huebel, Emily Culbertson, Alexandra Baig, Lea Curtin, Maya Ganguly, Mary Kay Tobin, Peter Walters and Bill Urso.

Emily Culbertson explained the process that we will need to go through in our search for a new Rector.

The committee is separate from the Vestry and will come to the Vestry with ONE candidate. Our website will be updated and will show the pictures of the members of the committee. She stressed that the confidentiality of the candidates is of the utmost importance to the cttee members.

6: Finance Report and Budget:

Marty Dunlavey reported that 2021 was a pretty good year and we ended the year with a \$13,000 surplus. Together with funds from investments, we have an \$82,000 surplus for our operating fund. We have \$682,000 in investments which had an 11% to 15% return.

\$5,000 was moved from the Endowment to fund a credit union on the Westside.

Pledge campaign didn't live up to expectations and pledges are down from the prior two years. We have a budget deficit of \$58,000 which will be covered by our operating fund surplus.

Peter Thompson continued his tradition of thanking Marty, Eva Pearson, Priscilla Nied and Linda Bolte for their continued work as Treasurer and Assistant Treasurers.

7. Closing statements:

Fr. Kevin thanked everyone and asked everyone to “lean in” and help in any way they can this year. Linda also asked everyone to “lean in” and add their name to a ministry this year.

Motion was placed to adjourn the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 11:14 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Priscilla Nied

Nominated from the floor



Interim Rector

Kevin M. Goodman

Finishing this time in-between

As we gather for the 111th Annual Meeting of the congregation of St. Christopher's, I am close to completing my ministry with you as your Interim Rector. I am grateful for the call which you extended to me and for the trust granted to me as we have done the work of this in-between time together. I began serving as your interim in early October 2021. My contract has been extended so that I can remain with you until a call to your new rector has been issued by your vestry.

My interim ministry is composed of **three phases** which have occurred concurrently - **listening, responding, and preparing**. In the beginning, I asked parishioners to schedule **one-on-one meetings** so that I could get to know you better and hear your hopes and dreams for the congregation. I can't tell you how thankful I am for those who met with me over coffee or wine and told me their story and their love for St. Christopher's. An interim enters a congregation without context. Your voices and prayers provided that for me. Additionally, I walked in during a pandemic, so I had no sense of your community life prior to COVID. Your conversations helped me imagine the trajectory this place was on until all of our lives worldwide were seriously disrupted. One of my favorite aspects of ministry is meeting and talking with people and I have been blessed that many have chosen to continue meeting with me during my time with you.

Based on what I learned during those initial conversations, we then moved into the responding phase. After **completing the CAT** Survey (the Congregational Assessment Tool), the **Search Committee** worked in tandem with the **Vestry**, beginning **Small Group Summer**. We had small-group conversations, gathered data, and discerned the way forward. Some of the content of the small group conversations was parked for discussion in the not-so-distant future because it addressed work you should be doing with your new rector. During the months of August, September, and October, the results of Small Group Summer were organized and put into a brochure of information called the "**Parish Profile**" and edited to tell stories about this congregation's mission and ministry as part of the job description called the "**OTM**" (document for Office of Transitional Ministry). We anticipate the diocese will post the position in mid-February.

My hope as I write my final annual report with you is to reflect briefly on the ministry we did together, moving through this time in between.

Regrouping

After last year's Annual Meeting, the vestry met for a retreat and identified the following **hopes** for the work of 2022. We prayed that St. Christopher's would continue to:

be a welcoming congregation, especially for **families with children**

support people when need was help

be able to **increase outreach** post-COVID

serve the people of Oak Park

have the desire to **live into Jesus' teachings**

try harder

The **vestry's role** in all of this is to:

manage **stewardship** of mission and finance

communicate needs and concerns **clearly** to the congregation

represent the needs of the parish **and** ensure that we can **meet** those **needs**

understand and clarify **worship** styles across services

As we began 2022, **challenges** for St. Christopher's during this interim period are:

moving to year-round **stewardship** – time, talent, and treasure

volunteerism – the same people are always the ones stepping up

managing **growth**

establishing appropriate **boundaries** and parameters

getting comfortable with expectations and **accountability**

developing a unified view of itself

creating ties across the **three services**

working outside **cliques**

being **open** to change

discovering how to **let others in**

Although there were challenges ahead, we believed the strengths of St. Christopher's were and remain:

openness

adaptability

closeness

variety

low drama

community

coming together when need is expressed

We concluded the retreat by writing the following prayer: *God, who nourishes us, speaks to us, and centers us, give us guidance, grant us wisdom, provide us money, so that our parish can make a difference by helping others, in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

Rebuilding

Like the Karate Kid, 2022 was “masks on, masks off, then back on again” for many of us. Worship numbers slowly began to increase, however, at St. Christopher's, they are not near pre-pandemic numbers. **Social gatherings** slowly returned and got a nice boost. We were able to reopen our Sunday School, offering faith formation for children with the introduction of a new curriculum titled the “**Whole People of God**” and begin “**Faith Matters**,” a discussion group for adults between the 9:30 AM and 11:00 AM services.

The summer months were times of discernment and hard work. The Search Committee and Vestry shepherded us through **Small Group Summer**. The **Congregational Assessment Tool** revealed that the people of St. Christopher's identified the following top priorities:

Create more opportunities for people to **form meaningful relationships** (for example, small groups, nurtured friendships, shared meals, etc.)

Develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to reach **new people** and **incorporate** them into the life of the church.

Develop ministries that work toward **healing** those broken by life circumstances

Develop the spiritual generosity of the people to **financially support** the ministry of the church.

Expand outreach ministries that provide direct services to those living on the margins of society.

Our summer months were also a time of **staff transitions**.

Alex Nied, founder, and leader of the 9:30 AM music program, **retired**. A new job description was written and approved by the Vestry. The newly-created “Musician for Children and Familie”’s expanded roles and expectations of the position. Music instruction, which traditionally opened the 9:30 AM service but was consistently poorly attended, transitioned into a music component of the new “Whole People of God” curriculum. **Christa Creps joined the staff** in August. We celebrated the ministry of Alex and thanked him for all he had done to help build the 9:30 AM congregation.

Ackli Howell, our parish administrator, announced her **retirement**. As all congregational leaders are aware, a good parish administrator is difficult to come by. Most parishioners are familiar with Sundays at Church but have little knowledge or understanding about what happens on a church campus Monday through Saturday. An effective Parish Administrator is the primary representative of the congregation’s mission and ministry to the community at large, every day of the week. As I searched for Ackli’s replacement, **Pam Green**, parish administrator at St. Elizabeth’s Glencoe, served as “interim administrator.” Although she was on-site Tuesdays, she primarily worked remotely. She assisted in implementing and initially organizing our new Breeze database, created the beginning framework for new communication integrations, and implemented systems for office efficiency. After a six-month search, **Uziel Hernández Martínez** accepted our call to be the **new parish administrator**.

In September, as we prepared to begin the program year, two **institutional realities** emerged that are often a part of the interim time in-between.

Grief and anger – We had arrived at that predictable stage during the interim period when grief and anger emerge. Often, my role as interim is to hear, acknowledge, and work with leadership, considering creative ways to address this appropriately within a congregation’s charism. We decided to address this liturgically. A **choral evensong** focused on grief and healing during times of transition was led by our Choir. It was well attended by parishioners from all three services. We listened to scripture readings, heard reflections, and sang beautiful hymns. Jenn Urso, our senior warden, presented a meditation focused on **transition**. Marilyn Huebel, our co-chair of the Search Committee, led a reflection on **grief**. I presented a reflection on the ministry of an interim theoretically and contextually. Since it was close to Halloween, downstairs, a Monster Mash was held for our younger, more active members. This was followed by the return of the **Chili Cookoff**. It was standing-room-only in a packed parish hall.

Stewardship challenges – It has become evident that a significant number of our newer members were familiar with the polity of the Roman Catholic church and institutional structures of Evangelical faith traditions. There appeared to be little understanding of how money is pledged, budgeted, and spent at St. Christopher’s. This is not an unusual challenge. We encounter this throughout the Episcopal church.

As the program year began, we were also gearing up to go public! The Search Committee was working diligently to create a compelling narrative so that we could post the job description for the future rector of St. Christopher’s.

Reconnecting

During my time here, we were able to begin regathering socially as well. We have learned how to live within the reality of COVID and all the variants it brings along. To prepare for Lent, we celebrated **Gras and Ashes**. This mini Mardi Gras included a feast of jambalaya and hurricanes, coupled with a parade by the Krewe of St. Christopher’s. This march concluded in the sanctuary with prayers and with the imposition of ashes. When the omicron variant revealed itself during Epiphany, our Epiphany pageant was moved outside to our lawn and celebrated in the summer. We gathered for **Christmas in July** and the multi-generational pageant was an instant hit.

The **Chili Cook-off** returned. Past winners were once again triumphant. New winners found a place. And old rivalries remained married! As winter set in, we were able to reach out to those who love to hear the story of Christmas through music and scripture with our beautiful Lessons and Carols. Richard and the choir created the space for us to enter the spirit of the season. Later in the month, we offered a contemporary music service for those

finding the holidays challenging. Christa and I worked together to create a **Blue Christmas** service that recognized grief and trusted in healing in order to move through the challenging times of the holidays.

Our Communications Task Force is now reaching out to the community with our newly-launched **website**. Although the site is live, we are currently working with our designers to complete programming and integration. Later this year, one of our own parishioners will be working with our site's programmers to make the site more accessible for the blind. Our Integration Task Force has spent the interim time considering how we might connect at a deeper level as a congregation by altering the arrangement and accessibility of our **worship space**. As the work of this task force is complete, recommendations were made to the vestry about worship space possibilities.

Stewards of God's Holy Mysteries

Today, the Search Committee is preparing to move into the confidential phase of the search process, and the rest of us will continue to explore how we are **stewards** of God's holy mysteries. As the year concluded, it was clear that we had significant **financial challenges** ahead. A **letter from the wardens** was sent to the congregation in order to prepare all of us for what would be presented at the Annual Meeting. Jenn Urso and Deb Maue shared, "As we prepare for the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 29, we want to make you aware in advance that based on **current forecasted income and expenses**, St. Christopher's is projecting a significant **budget shortfall** for 2023, in excess of \$100,000. Results of a survey shared with the House of Bishops revealed that nationally, pledge income has decreased by 40% vs. pre-pandemic levels, and 30% of parishioners have not returned post-pandemic." We do not believe this situation represents an unsolvable problem; however, it is one that we need to address in order for St. Christopher's to continue to meet the needs of our parish community and the wider Oak Park area. A generous response to the warden's letter was overwhelming to say the least and I believe we will be in a much stronger position to welcome your new rector as we approach the summer months.

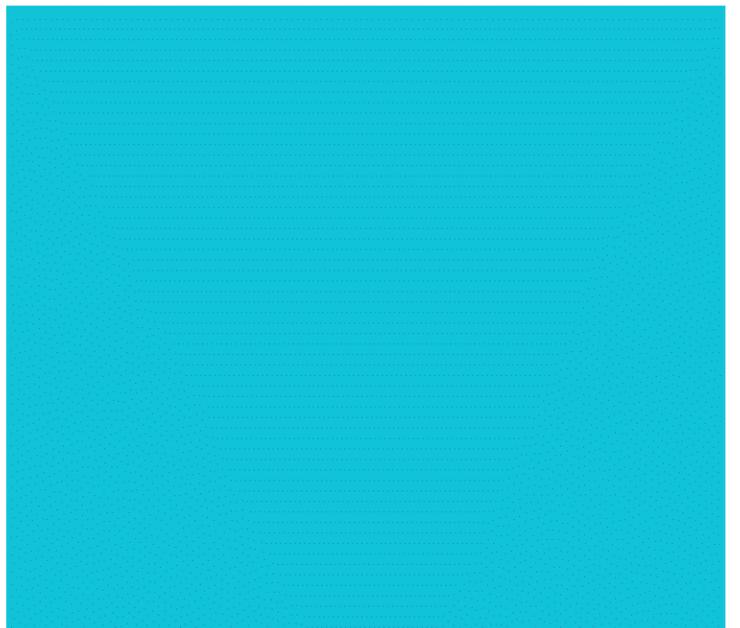
Currently, our **biggest challenge is stewardship**. Treasure. We need **money**. Talent. We need **leaders**. Time. We need **volunteers**. All components of stewardship are needed and are interrelated. As culture shifts, as all members of households typically word, as older members retire and live on fixed incomes, as work demands travel and relocation, the congregational make-up of a church will constantly be shifting and changing.

My Final Moments Are Here

As I prepare to conclude my ministry with you as your interim rector, I am full of melancholy, sadness, and gratitude. Interims **come and interims go**. I was well aware of that reality when I discerned that perhaps I am called to be a **vocational interim**. It makes sense! After 18 years of working as a television producer, the **pattern** of that life was to **imagine** a story, **produce** the project, then **release** it where it lives and continues to **have a life on its own**, minus the gathering of people who created it. I guess that pattern is similar to the work of an interim.

As we move to the other side of the Annual Meeting, we move into the **preparing phase**. My focus turns to preparing to leave as the congregation's focus turns to preparing to welcome the new rector. It is one of two final transitional phases, the first being my departure and the second being the welcoming of the new priest. Although I will be sad to depart, and good-byes are extremely difficult for me, it is the reality of being a vocational interim.

As I prepare to go, I know some join me in this sadness. But trust me, there are others who are glad to see me go! This is just the reality of ministry! But until then, like we say in my beloved hometown of New Orleans, "**Laisses les bon temps rouler!**" or "Let the good times roll!"



Director of Children and Youth Formation

Jennifer Holt Enriquez

The St. Christopher's formation ministry returned to post-pandemic form in 2022. We were thoughtful about noticing the things that were worthy of bringing back and where we could adjust and add depth to our programming. We proclaimed the Word of God in a worship service that feeds all ages, adding diversity of voices and music. The formation ministry is guided and grounded by the promises of our Baptismal Covenant, and we ask for God's help to carry them out.

We continued forward, with God's help.

In the first part of 2022 Covid and variants were a part of our community life and we did our best to balance keeping people safe and being together for worship, teaching and fellowship.

We postponed our Epiphany pageant and joyfully celebrated outdoors, in July. As Lent approached, gatherings felt safer. Kids made box floats during formation time and the Krew of St. Christopher's celebrated Mardi Gras Mambo with a parade, food, burning palms, burying the "ALLELUIA", a prayer service and imposing ashes. Easter came and we celebrated with an ALLELUIA egg hunt. It felt like ages since we could celebrate the Epiphany together. And so we did, with our Christmas in July pageant. We joyfully discovered that our traditional pageant felt better with voices of all ages.

The new program year began and we implemented a new curriculum, Whole People of God. We chose the curriculum because in addition to classroom suggestions there are options for worship and at home discipleship moments. In this new model, we encourage the kids to wonder about the ways scripture lives in our world today.

We added music as a part of our Sunday School experience. With our new musician, Ms. Christa, kids wondered about the scripture message they heard in church, and wrote music together. Art and re-enacting stories were another way we engaged the scripture for the day. Youth workers were critical to our formation ministry, leading and participating in activities with the kids. We honor the time and dedication of these young people by paying them a small wage.

We engaged in community grief and prayer, with our youngest disciples enjoying the gifts of the season in Sunday school spaces. Afterwards, everyone celebrated the joy of our traditional chili cookoff together.

We were excited to return to an in person celebration of another community tradition, Advent Craft and Spaghetti Dinner. We added caroling in our neighborhood to this event, with a group of us singing our favorite carols up and down East Avenue. It was a chilly winter night but our hearts were warm and our bellies full of spaghetti.

Youth Group celebrated the arrival of 2023 together with a bonfire and pizza, and dreaming about what we will do in community with one another. We're excited to welcome Chloe White to this ministry.

Everyone was so excited to celebrate Epiphany with an indoor pageant and a special coffee hour afterwards, including two King cakes. Everyone was invited to participate, and we had three tall kings accompanied by three tiny camels. A very tall Joseph fulfilled his wordless part with a much smaller Mary. And a mom in a sheep hat assisted the shepherds in keeping them in line.

We rounded out the Christmas holidays with an informal evening at the Friendly Tap Coffee house. Several families ate pizza and enjoyed fellowship in the cozy space.

We persevered in faith, with God's help.

Each week in our prayers we invite one another to say "please", "thank you", and "I'm sorry". In this way we remind ourselves that when we do something we shouldn't have done we can talk to the God who loves us and say "I'm sorry", in the same way we might talk to our parents and friends.

We proclaimed the Good News, with God's help.

Worship is an integral part of the formation ministry, and our worship community includes participation by everyone. As Covid restrictions were lifted we were able to return to the model where all members, including young children, were able to assist with blessing the water, and serve as banner carriers in the procession, readers, eucharistic ministers, and altar guild.

We worshipped indoors, with masks during the winter months and when warm weather returned to moved our worship outdoors. We said goodbye to our long-time musician for the 9:30 service, when he decided to “retire” so he could meet the Sunday morning needs of his own young family. Christa Creps joined the formation ministry team in August as our musician for the 9:30 service and with Sunday school classes. We began a discernment process towards a worship service where adults and kids could worship together, and everyone would be fed.

When our worship moved back indoors, we kept our liturgy the same and made some changes to the music and proclaiming scripture. Youth (and other) musicians shared their gifts and we tried telling stories in new ways, sometimes using a montessori approach. The evolution of this worship service is ongoing and we continue to seek input and participation from the St. Christopher's community.

We served Christ in all persons, with God's help.

Service is a vibrant part of formation at St. Christophe's. in 2022 we were excited to return to some pre-Covid projects. Most of our projects were carried out with participation by everyone in the church. In this process, people from different services were able to get to know one another and serving together was joyful.

We gathered items and filled blessing bags that we shared with folks we encounter in our daily routines. Kids and parents packed lunches and delivered them to Housing Forward guests. We also partnered with Housing Forward to provide holiday gifts for three families and two adults. Some parents and kids tried out serving at the local food pantry.

40+ Christopherians got up early on a hot day in July to run the donut operation at the local farmer's market. This is a ministry of another local church and they invited us to be a part of fundraising for the ministries of our two churches. Adults, youth, and kids as young as 6 mixed and fried, powdered and sugared, packed and sold many many dozens. Others sold coffee, collected money and cleaned up.

Some of our youth participated in an Appalachia Service Project trip, along with a large group from another church. The group traveled in 10 vans to McDowell County, West Virginia, and work crews of 5 youth and 2 adults tackled projects that helped make homes warmer, safer and drier for the families. We ate a lot of peanut butter sandwiches, showered in trailers and went to bed exhausted – and fulfilled – each day. We also had time to participate in prayer in the morning and learn about the local culture and economic structure in the evenings. The work didn't stop when we left the work site. Work crews also rotated chores like cleaning up after meals, cleaning bathrooms, and making lunches at the facility where we stayed. We created meaningful relationships with each other made new friends. “Almost Heaven, West Virginia” took on a whole new meaning.

After this trip one of our youth was inspired to organize a winter clothing drive for families in our local community. So far we have delivered five large bins of new and gently used clothing and we anticipate a few more before the cold weather passes.

We strived for justice and peace, with God's help.

We sought to deepen our discipleship around social justice issues in some new ways this year. We partnered with another church in Oak Park in Lent. Together we shared a soup supper and then listened to stories about how the Lie that some are better than others shows up in our world. The stories of Tell Me the Truth About racism helped us understand that because we are all equally beloved children of God, each of us is inherently worthy of dignity. We were further called to support our friends from the other parish, when they were forced out of their building during Palm Sunday and Holy Week because of threats from national groups who objected to this work.

40 kids from the surrounding community participated in Peace Camp this year, another joyful return from a Covid hiatus. The kids at Peace Camp also heard the stories of Tell Me the Truth About Racism, and they wondered about what other ways we humans might consider ourselves “better than” or “less than” one another. The kids also participated in social drama stories, yoga, hip hop dance and art. Games, water play and other silliness helped us to hold space for more serious moments.

Another group of youth visited Plainsong Farm in Michigan in September, along with youth from three other churches in the Diocese of Chicago. Plainsong’s mission is to cultivate connections between people, places and God by making a place that nurtures belonging and the radical renewal of God’s world. During our time there we connected deeply with each other and creation through prayer stations throughout the Farm, a Eucharist outdoors, and helping to harvest produce. We also cooked together, visited an apple picking farm and time around a camp fire.

We lived out our Baptismal promises, with God’s help.

The formation ministry’s biggest challenge was volunteers to lead youth group and Sunday school. We are so grateful to our faithful youth helpers, and still we know that adults have gifts to offer our children and one another as we strive to be faithful disciples. We are excited that some folks tried out a new ministry this year, and we invite the people of St. Christopher’s to prayerfully discern whether you might be called to the formation ministry. Like Zacchaeus, you might not even know that Jesus is calling to you!

In peace, joy, and gratitude.

Organist / Choirmaster

Richard Sobak

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 2022, 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 that offer to the parish their time, talent, and musical abilities. Their primary ministry is in the leading of 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.

(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 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.

Musician for Children and Families

Christa Creps

As I see it, the contemporary service gives people of all ages the opportunity to not only examine their own faith, but to reflect on their own ability to contribute to the greater good and to serve their fellow community members. Music plays a huge role in relating stories and fueling the imagination, It enables old lessons and stories to come alive in a contemporary setting, We are able to become more intimately tied to the lessons we learn when we see ourselves in them. This is why I choose to incorporate some secular, yet relevant songs to the Contemporary service. Learning through stories and music, the messy and beautiful journey of humankind, connects each and every one of us to the true lesson of Christ's love.

I have appreciated all the support the congregation and staff have given me as I have grown into my role as Contemporary musician. The Blue Christmas Service was a blessing to me personally, but I also believe the greater community appreciated sharing the complicated and contemplative nature of the season. I have enjoyed changing aspects of the 9:30AM Contemporary service and I appreciate all the vital input from our esteemed rector Kevin, Jen and the congregation at large. I like to think of the service as a living service, evolving and changing with the needs of the community at large.

We need financial support further grow the ministry and to enable us to reach out to the community though Blue Christmas and support our children who are at their most open and curious. If we are given the gifts of time and financial support, we will be able to share music that is challenging, spiritually grounded and relevant to the congregation.

We need volunteers to grow every aspect of St Christopher's, but especially in our music ministry. To be a part of this living service and to help us evolve in ways that reflect your vision, we need you share your gifts with us.

I am looking forward to working with many of the wonderful St Christopher's musicians and growing the Contemporary music ministry further. There are so many talented and generous people that run the vital St. Christopher's engine. I am looking forward to growing and collaborating with you all.

Parish Administrator

Uziel Hernández Martínez

I want to thank you for your continuous warm welcome and support. I give my sincere thanks to our interim rector for bringing me on board and trusting in my abilities to be your parish administrator. I feel so blessed to be part of your staff and community at St. C's.

This is my fifth month since I began working for you. Even with the challenges faced since my arrival, I feel very motivated for the upcoming possibilities for growth and development. I believe our interim rector has done an amazing job helping us understand the path we are walking together as we stabilize and revitalize our church inside and out and as we wait for our permanent rector to arrive.

During these past months, I been involved in multiple key areas in the parish administration. However, I will only highlight three of them which I find important to share with you.

First, I been proactive in continuing the strategic work started by our previous interim parish administrator, Pam Green. As you probably know, Pam created multiple systems to organize and update key areas in the parish office and administration. These were necessary as we needed to update and reorganize our church office, data and files as we brought them online on systems like Breeze database. I continue to build on such systems and developed them as necessary. Systems to manage data online is so necessary as we live in a world that thrives in the online cloud. Furthermore, these systems help us to create clear, effective and transitional bridges to pass the baton of leadership to future generations and/or foster the effective team work that we do.

Second, one of my main responsibilities has been the administrative support to your interim rector, the staff, and the congregation of St. C's at large. These includes leaflets and promotional material design, building and printing for internal and external use; secretarial responsibilities in the office to upkeep and develop current systems in place; inventory management (includes: office, cleaning supplies, kitchen and building maintenance as needed); management of the office computer, printer and other office equipment; provide a welcoming office space and hours for St. Christopher's during the week for church members, friends and partners (Tuesdays & Thursdays 8am – 4pm and Saturdays 8am – 12pm; and foster church systems development (including internal systems as well as external system on the office, online and on social media platforms).

Third, I admire the leadership interim work by our interim rector and the vestry so far at St. C's. This period in the life of the church invites us to prepare our church, the office and administration for a new rector and a new period in the life of St. C's. I have been intentional to perceive the possible needs of the future rector and prepare our office and parish administration along side. It has been part of my job to reduced the gap of uncertainty, unreadiness and be proactive to respond to the needs we might encounter in the months to come. Examples of this include, organized supply closets, effective filing system, relationship building with outside vendors and providers, updating licenses and permits, and effective management of inventory for office, events and cleaning services. The office still needs more work but we are on our way to create an efficient, sufficient, safe and proactive environment as we wait for our new rector.

Again, I want to say thank you for being a blessing on my life. You have shown your love by giving me this opportunity in leading your parish administration and I promise you to do the best in my abilities to continue fostering and supporting the many ministry areas at St. C's.

If you have any further questions for me, don't hesitate to reach out. I will be very happy to get to know you and talk to you; and may be, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea.

Many blessings to you.

Sextons

María R. Tecpanecatl & Verónica de Jesús Torres

Rosie's Cleaning Services

We are Maria (Rosie) and Veronica. We represent Rosie's Cleaning Services and specialized in the professional cleaning services of buildings, homes and offices. At St. C's, we have been very active in cleaning and maintaining your facilities, specially St. C's main building, clean, safe and in outstanding working condition. We always want St. C's spaces to be in optimal condition for your events, fellowship times and Sunday services.

On regular basis, we come to the church building on Mondays and Fridays to pick up all the trash, clean surfaces, put things away as necessary and make sure all cleaning needs are taken care of before and after each Sunday. We refill, replace and give maintenance to the facility each week appropriately and efficiently as possible. We make sure there is plenty paper towels, toilet paper, trash bags in the bathrooms, kitchen, parish hall, classrooms and the sanctuary as necessary. We use appropriate safe cleaning supplies to make sure surfaces, rooms and public areas are disinfected and in good working order.

We work closely with the parish administrator to make sure we have all the inventory necessary for each week of work. We have created an inventory list with the help of the parish administrator to make sure we have an efficient purchase list of cleaning supplies.

We thank you for your active support too as you help us maintain our facilities clean and in great condition to worship God, fellowship together and serve our neighbors.

Thank you.

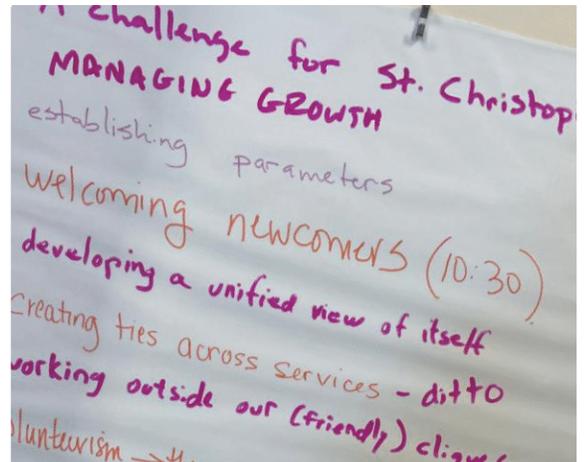
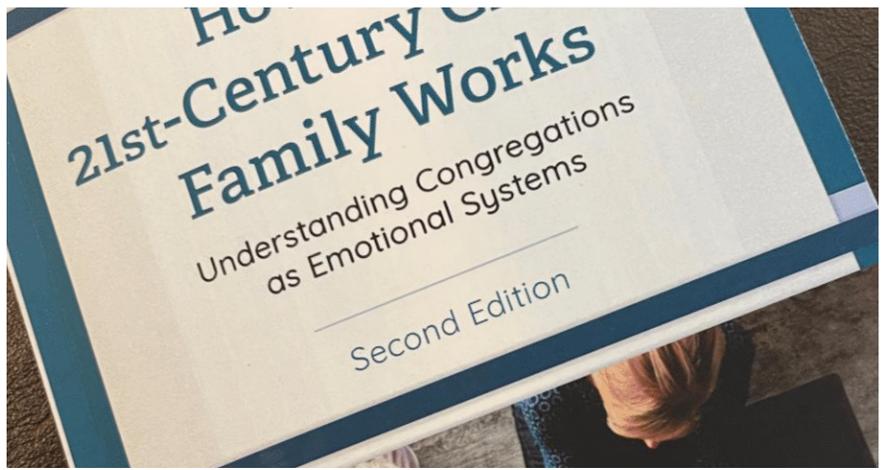
Assisting Priest

Bob Wyatt

I preach and preside when needed and assist with pastoral care when requested to support the rector or interim rector. In the past year, I've preached or presided about ever six weeks and have heard confessions by confidential request.

I never attempt to supplant or even comment publicly on the rector's or interim rector's. Leadership or decision-making. I offer myself as a sounding board and will also, on occasion, speak frankly to the rector in private but never in public. My role is to support and relieve, not to lead.

My preaching, presiding, and presence at St. Christopher's have been a blessing and a joy. As a retired priest and rector, I also take comfort in knowing that the responsibility to lead belongs to someone else.



Report of the Wardens

Jenn Urso

senior warden

Deb Maue

junior warden

When we prepared last year's report, Deb and I reflected a lot on pivoting and being nimble, adapting through change, and the ways in which the people of St. Christopher's had risen up to care for and support one another during a difficult year. And we ended the report with our hopes for 2022: to no longer be talking about COVID (and we're really not); and to be celebrating the many times we gathered together in person to fulfill the mission of this church – which we did!

In 2022, a year of tremendous transition for St. Christopher's, this congregation, under the steady leadership of Kevin and your vestry, laid the important foundational groundwork to be able welcome a new permanent rector in 2023. Systems and structures were created and/or enhanced, outreach opportunities were focused, formation was refreshed, and traditions, old and new, were welcomed and celebrated.

Among these include:

- new parish management software that allows for easier online giving, an electronic directory, and QR based technology
- establishment of a Finance Committee
- refocused outreach centered around Beyond Hunger and Housing Forward
- a new Sunday School curriculum
- Mardi Gras Mambo, lunches for Housing Forward, Evensong for Grief and Transition, and Blue Christmas

In addition to these parish-facing initiatives that were supported by your vestry, we also met monthly and tackled such issues as approving new positions that allowed us to hire a Parish Administrator and Musician for Children and Families, agreeing on a plan for our asylum ministry to complete and conclude St. Christopher's support and transition the Makeubo family to financial independence, and approving the installation of a new keyless system for the Adams Street door. In addition, we affirmed our commitment to health and safety by agreeing to continue our suspension of the Common Cup, we set a lofty stewardship goal, and we voted unanimously to extend Kevin's interim rectorship until our new rector is called.

But some of the most important work we did this year was the work in support of the search committee. This ranged from approving their budget needs, to facilitating the small group conversations, to meeting multiple times with the search committee chairs to review, decipher, and digest the findings of the CAT surveys, and finally, approving the parish profile, which is the "job description" for potential priests and required by the Office of Transitional Ministry at the Diocese in order to post the position.

But the work is not done, and 2023 will be a critical year at St. Christopher's and for your vestry. There will be challenges, no doubt. Finances will be stretched and you will be called upon to support this parish in new and creative ways. But there is also exciting work ahead – including one of the most important responsibilities of any vestry: to approve the call of the new rector. This is a decision that will touch every parishioner and will influence who St. Christopher's is and how we live into our mission for years to come.

As we kick off 2023, we ask for your prayers and support for this vestry, your new wardens, the staff and clergy, and each other, that we may continue to do God's work in each other's lives and in our community.

Report of the Search Committee

Emily Culbertson & Marilyn Huebel

search committee co-chairs

On behalf of the Search Committee, we are delighted to provide an update on the Search process. While we are a parish that has historically relied upon lay leadership for a variety of tasks, COVID has revealed challenges and opportunities for our future. An engaged rector can help us uncover, plan, and carry out a fulfilling and meaningful future for St. Christopher's based on our current skills and gifts.

Over the past year, our Search Committee and Vestry have engaged, listened, prayed, and discerned together in order to open our hearts and minds to the future of St. Christopher's:

- December 2021: The Interim Rector and the congregation commissioned the seven members of the Search Committee.
- Spring 2022: In a thoughtful and prayerful process, the Committee asked the congregation to complete the Congregational Assessment Tool (CAT)
- Small Group Summer 2022: When the Committee and Vestry received the results of the survey, we decided to work together on the next step and launched Small Group Summer. Vestry and Search Committee members co-led small group discussions to better glean the pulse of congregants and the vision of the future.
- September 2022: The Search Committee provided the Vestry with a written summary of the lessons learned from the CAT and small group sessions to prepare for both groups moving forward with our separate roles and responsibilities.
- October-December 2022: The Search Committee then drafted the Parish Profile and Office of Transition Ministry (OTM) materials, which together serve as a job description for the next rector. Those documents provide a snapshot of:
 - o who we are
 - o who/what we believe God is calling us to do
 - o what skills and qualities are needed to help get us there.

The profile and OTM, once posted, remain active for 60 days, after which we anticipate screening, interviewing, and recommending a single candidate for the Vestry to call. We anticipate calling a rector in 2023 who will need to leave an existing call, potentially move to the Oak Park area from another part of the country, and then begin at St. Christopher's.

One of the greatest blessings of this committee work is doing it together and listening to one another. When selecting the members of this committee in the fall of 2021, the Vestry took care to choose people from all corners of St. Christopher's. We represent all three worship communities and are varied in our length of tenure at St. Christopher's. Getting to know one another has been a gift. While undertaking this work during a pandemic has been a challenge, meeting on Zoom has allowed more flexibility, especially for committee members with young children.

We remain grateful for your financial support as we anticipate travel expenses for candidate interviews as well as likely relocation expenses for the rector we call. In the longer term, financial support will make the plans and actions we dream and pray for possible.

We do not currently need volunteers, but, as we and the Vestry welcome a new rector to St. Christopher's and say good-bye and thank you to Kevin, we will likely engage the entire congregation in tasks to help create warm and meaningful celebrations.

Integration Task Force

aka “The Space Force”

Hal Rees

The Integration Task Force (affectionately nicknamed “The Space Force”) has been charged with evaluating the use of the St. Christopher’s physical plant and finding new ways to use this asset to enhance worship. This church has three services using the same space, with different worship styles. The group has met several times over the past year on an ad hoc basis to see how the chapel, nave, and apse might be reorganized to suit these diverse needs. With guidance from Father Kevin, members include Patti Ferguson, Priscilla Nied, Gretchen Straw, and Hal Rees. Marty Dunlavey has participated as well and has been instrumental in engaging with outside contractors and providing financial discussion. Linda Bolte has also contributed but has moved to another parish.

There has been discussion of reconstructing the nave and apse to place both on one level, which would enhance accessibility for those with mobility challenges, although this change would require substantial capital and modifications to the church building. An architect was engaged to examine this possibility and while it could be done, the current financial situation of the parish makes it impossible to proceed at this time. A more immediate need is the area around the altar, which is a tripping hazard for the altar servers, and provides a tight space for the clergy to celebrate the Eucharist. It has been proposed that the elevation in the apse under the altar could be removed and the altar moved forward, which would increase the space available and remove the tripping hazard. Another proposal involved moving the altar to the crossing at the bottom of the stairs, which would allow for improved accessibility and space. This proposal has been tested at a few services this year.

Serving on this committee has provided members the opportunity to look forward and find ways in which space will be used more effectively to suit modern worship. In particular the 9:30 service has faced challenges with use of the existing worship space, and future work will focus on how the Space Force can help these parishioners. Finding flexible seating arrangements will also be a priority as the congregation experiences worship in new ways. At the moment this task force requires little funding, but in the future if there are changes to be made to the physical plant, pledge and capital support will be needed to make those changes happen. Those who wish to volunteer their time and expertise instead of financial capital will be welcomed also.

Communications Task Force

Kelly Clissold

Big changes happened in 2022. Our giving software moved to the Breeze platform, which came with the benefit of integrating the parishioner database. In the fall, parishioners were invited to enter their family information in the new system, helping to update the overall directory in a way that will keep the rector and staff better connected with the parish, and parishioners with each other.

In January, our new website went live. With integration enabled for Instagram and Facebook, as well as Breeze and MailChimp, the new site provides clear information and concise navigation to parishioners, visitors, and the surrounding community. The bulletin, too, has been rethought, so that information, both long- and short-term, is more concisely presented than the various inserts of the past.

Still in the works is a streaming solution to allow those unable to attend in-person services to remain connected to the liturgy.

From the start, the goal was to bring St. C's communications into one stream, so that no matter how you're used to receiving your information, it will be current and consistent. Though there is still some work to be done, that goal has largely been met.



Altar Guild

Peter Walters

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, 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.

Continuing members of St. Anne's Altar Guild for 2022 include Linda Dempsey, Julie Dulski, Deb Maue, and Peter Walters. New members also joined our ranks in 2022: Kurt Amolsch, Joan Radovich and Jenn Urso. 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

Healing Ministry

Mary Kay Tobin

The healing ministry of St. Christopher is a prayer service found in the Book of Common Prayer. This ministry is part of our spiritual history. We were able to restart this ministry in October 2022.

Healing Prayer is based on the belief that we together can pray for each other in a way that brings grace to the person asking for support from their prayer community as well as those gathered to pray. "For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am among them." Matthew 18:20.

The healing ministers for the day ask the person requesting prayer if they would like to speak their intention. Whether or not they choose to share their intention, one minister anoints the person with oil on their thumb in the center of their forehead saying, _____, I anoint you with oil in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The second healing minister leads the prayer and others join, _____, I or we lay our hands upon you in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, beseeching him to uphold you and fill you with his grace, that you may know the healing power of His love. Amen.

We are grateful to Becky Dunleavy, Julie Dulski, Trish Joy, Peter Walters, and Mary Kay Tobin for their service as healing ministers.

Ministry Scheduler Pro / Rota Coordinator

Trish Joy

At St. Christopher's, over 40 people (in addition to the choir) serve in our weekly and holiday services. These volunteers are scheduled through the "rota", and include ushers, lectors, altar guild members, lay eucharistic ministers, healing ministers, service ministers, acolytes, presiders, preachers, and vestry members responsible for lock up.

In June 2022 we started using a software program, Ministry Scheduler Pro, to generate the rota. While we are still fine tuning our skills in using this program, it has been an enormous time saver from the outset. Volunteers can check their schedules from an app on their phones and/or request reminder emails before their dates of service. Paper copies of the Rota are available on request.

Our community would benefit from additions to all of our ministry teams, especially the acolytes, which includes both children and adults as volunteers.



Background

The Asylum Ministry is one of Saint Christopher's Outreach programs. It is one of the ways this congregation responds to the gospel teachings that Christians should feed the hungry, provide clothing and shelter to those in need, and welcome the stranger. (Matthew 25:31-46.)

The current iteration of Saint C's Asylum Ministry began operating towards the end of 2020, after our former Rector was contacted by people attending the First United Church of Oak Park about helping families seeking asylum in the United States.¹

With Vestry approval, the Rector contacted Episcopal Migration Ministries to offer up Saint Christopher's as a sponsor for a family seeking asylum in the United States. After vetting our parish and the First United team, EMM agreed and the Makuebo family (Lelo, Gabriela, and their three children Naftali, Olivia, and Quezia) arrived in early December 2020. The Makuebos moved into an apartment near the church, where they still reside (443 South Scoville Road).

Successes

By all tangible measures, the Asylum Ministry's work with the Makuebo family was quite successful. Throughout 2021 and 2022, with volunteers and other support from First United Church (the unofficial "co-sponsor"), more than a dozen Saint C parishioners volunteered their time and made donations (in-kind and financial) to help provide for the Makuebo family's needs.

After the initial frenzy of activity in late 2020 and early 2021 to get the family to Oak Park, into a furnished apartment, registered for LINK benefits, and connected to healthcare, and the children enrolled in local schools, the ministry reorganized into five teams to respond to the family's continued needs for housing; food; health care; schools; language learning; help navigating the various government bureaucracies; the legal/asylum process; budget planning; translation; transportation; and integration into the community. The ministry had committed to help the family for two years.

The ministry paid the rent and utilities for the Makuebo family throughout 2021 and volunteers continued to work with the family in some areas as the family became much more independent in others. In November 2021, Lelo and Gabriela received Employment Authorization Documents from USCIS, which also serve as official picture identification. The family obtained Social Security cards and in early 2022, Gabriela and Lelo opened a bank account, found jobs, and began to work. The Makuebo's *pro bono* attorney from the Children's Legal Center had filed their asylum applications in mid-2021, and their first hearing (the Master Calendar hearing) was held in March 2022. At that hearing, their case was continued. Their next hearing is scheduled for March 2023.²

The Asylum Ministry was initially funded only through individual donations and collections/gifts from members of both parishes. But in early 2022, the Vestry approved a \$6,000 donation to the ministry to ensure it could meet the two-year support commitment. With Lelo and Gabi able to legally work, the ministry leadership coordinated with the family and World Relief to develop and implement a plan to taper off direct financial support to the family in stages. The direct assistance phase of the ministry's work with the Makuebos ended in December 2022. The family is now officially financially independent.

¹ Asylum-seekers are not legally required to have sponsors, but when they do, the sponsors are encouraged to enroll the family with a professional local resettlement agency whenever possible. No resettlement agency in the Chicago area worked with asylum seekers until World Relief established its asylum program in the Summer of 2021. Saint Christopher's enrolled the Makuebo family with World Relief then, and the Asylum Ministry's leadership team became an "official" World Relief volunteer team. World Relief continues to provide case management services and ongoing assistance to the Makuebo family.

² The backlog of asylum cases has skyrocketed in recent years due to the growth in cases, rules changes, the Covid-19 pandemic, and variable funding levels. Depending on the type of case, the estimated average time to resolve asylum petitions filed in 2021 is 4-7 years.

But the Makuebos are a young family of five with limited resources, no extended family in the U.S., and limited community contacts, so there may be opportunities to help in the future. In December 2022, First United provided Christmas gifts and warm clothing for the family, and Saint Christopher's organized a Christmas gift drive for Naftali, Olivia and Quezia.

Challenges

These issues were addressed in more detail in the 2021 Annual Report.

- (1) As the sponsor of a family of asylum-seekers in an area without an operating resettlement agency, Saint Christopher's was responsible to help address their needs in areas including housing, food, clothing, financial support, health care, education, job search, transportation, and legal support. This is a huge commitment for volunteers from a small parish. The scope and complexity of this ministry was much greater than was initially understood. Saint C's previous experience sponsoring a young, single man who lived on the lower level of the Parish Hall hadn't prepared us for the more complex needs of a family of five.
- (2) Given the overwhelmed asylum system and regulations requiring asylum seekers to wait one year after entering the U.S. before applying for work permits, sponsoring future asylum-seekers will be at least an eighteen-month commitment.
- (3) It is essential to recognize the complex challenges and power dynamics involved in communicating with and assisting persons from a different culture, especially if we are not fluent in their language. Translators are critical, and Google is not enough. Language problems combined with a mutual lack of understanding of the respective cultures caused or contributed to misunderstandings and mistakes on all sides. Ministry volunteers must be mindful of language issues and cultural differences, receive appropriate training, and take special care to ensure clear and effective communication.

Conclusion

Our direct work with the Makuebo family has ended, and there are no immediate plans to take on another such project. Saint Christopher's must prayerfully and thoughtfully discern how best to use its time, talent, and treasure to welcome the stranger given our congregation's size and resources. The lessons learned from this experience should inform our decisions on whether and how to sponsor or support asylum-seekers, refugees, or other immigrants. For any future projects, the ministry should seek to ensure that some of the team have relevant experience and familiarity with the U.S. immigration system.

Despite many challenges, the people of Saint Christopher's did good work through the Asylum Ministry from 2020 – 2022. We provided critical assistance to a family who really needed the help, and created a basic framework for continuing similar work in the future.

Housing Forward

Emily Culbertson

St Christopher's has provided longstanding support to the work of Housing Forward, an agency providing emergency and interim housing as well as homelessness prevention in the western suburbs of Chicago. Members of St Christopher's have served on board and advisory committees over the past two decades. Several people lead their effort, most notably Paul Clark and Bria Urso. This year, Clark secured a \$10,000 grant for Housing Forward awarded from the foundation of his workplace, Baker Tilly. This award was one of only 15 given nationwide out of 200 entries.

During the coronavirus pandemic, St Christopher's pivoted along with Housing Forward. We previously staffed a shelter two to three nights a month at the church, which has been replaced during COVID by an interim housing model in a defunct hotel located in the center of Oak Park. In 2022, St Christopher's provided breakfasts one to two times a month for 60 residents of interim housing and recently returned to making lunches approximately once a month between services as an intergenerational activity.

Beginning in 2023, St Christopher's parishioners will return to volunteering and providing meals at emergency housing for between 15 and 25 people, currently hosted at St Catherine and St Lucy Catholic Church. We also hope to look for ways to continue to support interim housing.

The blessing of serving in this capacity is the immediate ability to live out our baptismal covenant with our neighbors. This is a faith community that values service to others. Pre-COVID, easily 20% of weekly churchgoers participated in Housing Forward in one way or another. The challenge is in the continuous change in the Housing Forward model and the newness of these increased opportunities, many of which conflict with the schedules of the many working families with school aged children in the parish. It also is less possible to work in the larger groups of four to six people that made Housing Forward both a great service activity as well as a driver of fellowship and an opportunity to create connections between services.

Although Housing Forward is not a huge draw on the parish's revenue, its work depends upon the parish's infrastructure and benefits from our pledges and communal prayer life. Housing Forward benefits from the staff work to organize service, the physical space and kitchen necessary to prepare meals, and the use of our conference room for meetings. It is possible Housing Forward may ask to return to our church for shelter again.

Housing Forward is always in need of volunteers and meal providers. If you are interested, please speak to Paul Clark or Emily Culbertson.

Community of Congregations Holiday Gifts

Heather Guth West & Clara Sage

This ministry is in partnership with the Housing Forward "Holiday Food and Gift Basket" program, which helps out about 800 families in the community. Housing forward identifies families, and local churches such as St. C's agree to provide gifts.

This year we provided gifts for three families and three individuals identified by Housing Forward. Parishioners graciously shop for and wrap gifts. After they are returned to church, gifts are bagged and labeled by family and delivered to a church on the north side of Chicago where local volunteers organize and coordinate the final leg of the delivery to the families. Thank you to all who participated in 2022.

Beyond Hunger

Paul Clark

Beyond Hunger provides hunger-relief programming and services to 13 zip codes across Cook County, including portions of Chicago and near-west suburbs. The services include a twice-a-week in person food pantry (located at First United Church of Oak Park, on Lake St., near the library), a home delivery service, food rescue from several local grocery stores, and nutrition education. Members of St. Christopher's have volunteered at Beyond Hunger for years, either individually or as part of a group working at the Saturday food pantry once a month.

Each week, during the Wednesday and Saturday pantry hours, anywhere from 100 to 200 local families will get about 80 pounds of canned food, fresh fruit and vegetables, meat, bread, eggs, diapers and toilet paper, among other things.

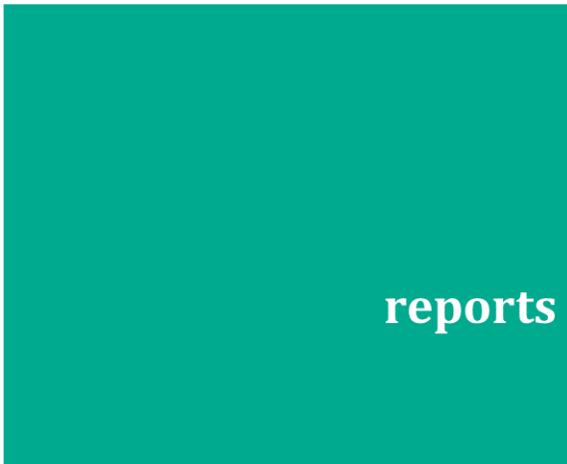
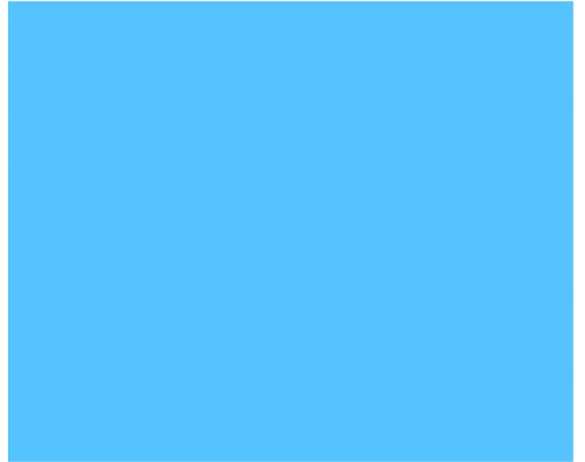
The once-a-month Saturday group includes more than a dozen members of St. C's, of all ages. One of the exciting developments in 2022 was seeing new families, especially from the 9:30 service, join in on the Saturday shift. We may be packing boxes with food, filling bags with vegetables, helping fill clients' cars with boxes and bags, or working with the clients in the walk-up community pantry. The commitment is flexible; some St. C's folk work every month; some when they have time. The work is kid friendly, too (well, let's say about age 8 and up, working alongside a parent).

Members of St. C's have also helped with the home delivery service, which operates out of a building close by in the Austin neighborhood. Or we have driven to Panera, Whole Foods, Trader Joe's or other stores to pick up fresh fruit and vegetables, bread, and prepared meals to be included in the weekly pantry distributions but would otherwise be thrown away.

St. C's also has participated in the food drives that Beyond Hunger has on a regular basis every year.

Since Beyond Hunger operates 6 days a week, and the commitment for a shift or a task is usually just a couple of hours, there is likely a shift or an opportunity to serve that fits your schedule.

Have questions or want to learn more? Ask Paul Clark.



reports



STEWARDSHIP & FINANCE



Report of the Treasurer

Marty Dunlavey

2022 Operations

For 2022 we experienced a deficit of \$65,849, whereas we had planned for a deficit of \$58,827. In spite of having not spent the \$20,000 we anticipated for search and relocation expenses of a new rector, expenses were higher than budget by \$7,529, which combined with the \$20,000, resulted in other expense items being over by \$27,529.

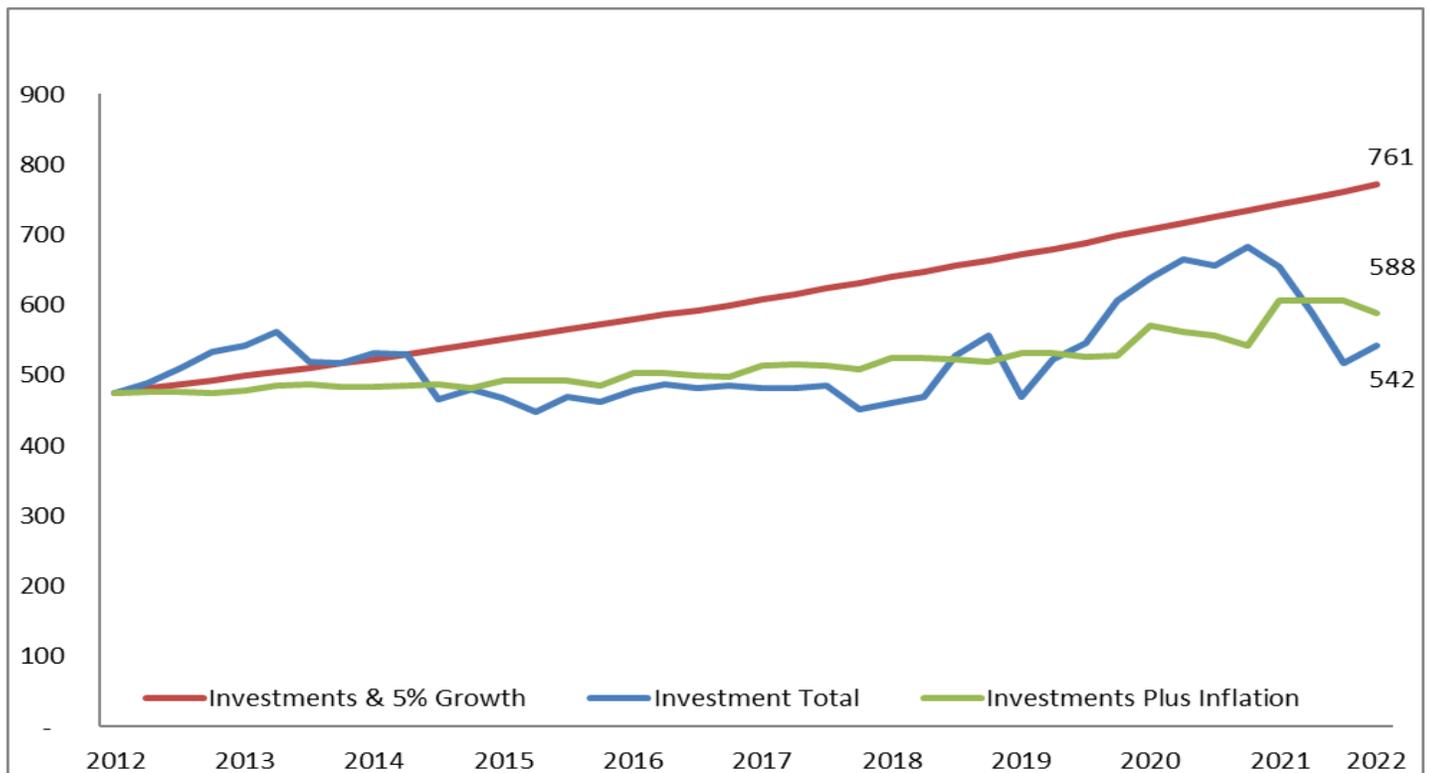
The big budget busters were the spending of additional amounts for an administrative assistant, which amounted to six months of unforeseen expense totaling \$14,344, plus \$4,000 of unexpected rector's pension.

There were other various overruns for extra heating costs (\$2,937), upgrades to the alarm system (\$1,461), unexpected building maintenance (\$1,812), and a telephone system upgrade (\$1,963). These were partially offset by lower phone bills and waste disposal fees.

This year's deficit was paid for by prior years' surpluses which came about from the special gifts from the estates of Carol Holdsworth and Mary Monti, plus the Employee Retention Credit. These allowed for an Operating Fund balance of \$80,760 going into this year. We are left now with \$14,910 in the Operating Fund to carry to next year's operations.

Investments

Our investment total is \$541,647 and reflects a 14% growth over a ten year period. It was necessary to withdrawal \$60,000 in 2022 to cover the deficit. Over the past ten years we've withdrawn \$110,000 which is within the \$120,000 provided for when the funds were established.



The above is a ten year analysis of our investment growth compared to a targeted annual 5% growth and to the Consumer Price Index, which has grown 23.4%.

Pledges

We've received 59 pledges for 2023 amounting to \$234,424. Of the 53 pledges we had for 2022, 1 moved away,

1 passed away, 2 left the parish, and 4 members declined to renew their pledges for unknown reasons. We have 14 new pledges.

Next Year's Budget

Total revenue next year is expected to be \$303,154, an improvement of \$24,843 over last year. This was brought about by a surge in pledges and pledge increases after an appeal made to the parish. Overall however, this amount is not enough to keep us from incurring a deficit in 2023.

Expenses are expected to increase by \$31,408, to \$375,568. This reflects a full year's cost of our administrative assistant of \$46,152, or \$28,689 over what the position cost originally. (One half of the increase is reflected in 2022 amounts). Also built in is \$20,000 for search related costs. The rector's salary and housing are budgeted for 11 months, reflecting a one month gap between the interim and new rector's tenure.

The resulting deficit will be \$72,414, worse than 2022 by \$6,565.

Assuming that the search expenses will be over next year, unless structural changes are made to our operations and the budget, we can presume ongoing deficits in the amount of \$50,000 annually. At this rate our investments will probably be depleted in about ten years. Needless to say the parish and Vestry will be addressing this issue as the next year develops.

As always I extend my gratitude to Priscilla Nied for taking over the bill paying, and to Marc Schneider, Peter Curtin and Eva Pearson for their valued assistance as Finance Committee members who are helping us all to plan out this challenging time.

Building and Grounds

Marty Dunlavey

Our longstanding policy has been to encourage use of our space by other groups. We have made our rental rates tied to the "ability to pay" and not a firm set of fees as a way to encourage groups to hold their meeting and events here.

In past years our building has been used by a wide variety of community organizations from language, voice, instrumental teachers to art camps, yoga classes, and groups such as AA and Alanon. We also have hosted family events for members and non-members of St. C's. Since the pandemic, AA and Alanon continue, as does Allison Sings voice lessons, and various recital music. The Maiden Street Dancers however have not returned.

We enjoyed another very good year of service from our building. The new boiler system continues to perform magnificently, and the air conditioners are performing well. However one of the sanctuary air conditioners will require repair in 2023 for \$1,600.

As you all know heating costs have risen quite a bit, and we likewise experienced \$7,500 in cost, about \$3,000 more than expected. On a more positive note, however, we've almost completed the lighting changeover to LED's which should save \$800 annually.

In 2023 we hope to accomplish adding LED flood lights to the sanctuary which will brighten the space and make things easier to see and read.

Shortly we'll be installing push button access to the Adam's street entry to keep out trouble makers, people who threaten and intimidate members and staff at times when the building is occupied.

Many kudos to the Wild Weeding Women, Julie, Patti, Priscilla and Becky, who after taking over from Wendy following her many years of devoted care, have managed to continue keep our grounds and flower beds looking smart. Many people have noticed and commented.

Thank to the Urso family for their donation of the refrigerator in the kitchen.

2023 BUDGET

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church Budget Comparison

	2021	2022		2023	Better (Worse)
		Budget	Actual		
INCOME					
Pledge Offerings	236,158	223,702	222,039	235,624	13,585
Non Pledge Offerings	24,813	30,000	29,332	42,820	13,488
Prior Year Pledges	8,626	1,500	2,118	-	(2,118)
Plate and Initial Offerings	544	800	3,733	2,500	(1,233)
Festival Offerings	734	1,000	1,360	1,000	(360)
Parish Hall Use	4,875	5,000	530	400	(130)
Special Gifts	7,450	3,500	7,078	8,500	1,422
Flower Offerings	392	300	100	300	200
Employee Retention Credit	28,471	-	-	-	-
Endowment Transfers	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	-
Investment Income	25	10	21	10	(11)
Other	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL INCOME	324,088	277,812	278,311	303,154	24,843
EXPENSES					
Rector and Admin					
Rector Salary	30,833	-	-	24,500	(24,500)
Housing Allowance	24,000	-	-	16,500	(16,500)
Combined	54,833	-	-	41,000	(41,000)
Insurance Reimbursement	3,333	-	-	-	-
Life and Health Insurance	14,011	15,728	26,737	41,400	(14,663)
Pension	14,038	15,000	19,042	20,500	(1,458)
Auto Allowance	1,733	-	-	-	-
Continuing Education	-	1,000	-	1,000	(1,000)
Associate/Interim Rector Salary	12,713	57,688	56,500	24,040	32,460
" Housing Allow	7,425	33,000	33,000	13,750	19,250
Worker's Comp Insurance	2,046	1,200	1,521	1,600	(79)
Vestry Retreat	-	-	396	400	(4)
Office and Postage	2,843	3,000	2,926	2,800	126
Office Equipmnt Purch & Maint	4,008	3,000	3,620	4,000	(380)
Payroll Taxes	7,128	7,000	7,122	7,175	(53)
Kitchen and Building Supplies	941	1,500	938	1,500	(562)
Stewardship/Search Comm	232	20,000	1,033	20,000	(18,967)
Administrative Assistant	16,296	16,298	19,448	21,316	(1,868)
Vanco Service Fees	3,184	3,300	3,207	3,300	(93)
Special Purchases	3,632	-	-	2,500	(2,500)
Sub Total Expenses	148,396	177,714	175,490	206,281	(30,791)

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church
Budget Comparison

	2022		2023	Better (Worse)	
	2021	Budget			Actual
Outreach					
External Communications	388	400	2,363	2,000	363
Diocesan Pledge	21,378	23,000	23,000	23,000	-
Outreach and Social Justice	1,183	6,000	6,086	1,000	5,086
Diocese of Renk	-	-	-	-	-
Rector's Discretionary Fund	-	-	-	-	-
Sub Total Expenses	22,949	29,400	31,449	26,000	5,449
Worship and Music Program					
Organist and Choir Director	33,372	33,000	33,372	33,825	(453)
Supply Clergy	1,438	600	1,821	1,800	21
Supply Organist		-	500	500	-
Continuing Music Education		-		-	-
Music Supplies	1,271	930	962	500	462
Tuning and Repairs	1,290	1,500	780	1,500	(720)
Altar Flowers	460	430	789	1,000	(211)
Altar and Sacristy Supplies	3,305	2,200	1,382	1,700	(318)
Child and Family Worship Musician	7,242	7,000	7,250	8,374	(1,124)
Sub Total Expenses	48,378	45,660	46,856	49,199	(2,343)
Building					
Sexton/Cleaning Service	11,540	12,000	11,963	12,000	(37)
Gas	6,226	4,500	7,437	7,800	(363)
Electricity	4,063	4,000	4,379	4,000	379
Telephone	4,383	3,500	2,912	3,500	(588)
Water and Sewer	1,759	1,600	731	600	131
Property and Liability Insurance	14,737	15,000	14,946	15,704	(758)
Maintenance & Improvements	9,804	6,000	7,812	7,500	312
Elevator Maintenance	1,069	800	829	-	829
Alarm System	913	800	2,261	1,400	861
Sub Total Expenses	54,494	48,200	53,270	52,504	766
Christian Education					
Rite 3 Youth Service Minister	5,519	4,000	3,079	2,800	279
Sunday School Youth Assistant				2,400	(2,400)
Church School	899	1,000	1,717	1,500	217
Christian Formation Support	247	300	1,263	2,780	(1,517)
Continuing Education	-	-	843	1,000	(157)
Adult Education	235	200	245	200	45
Christian Education Director	29,562	29,565	29,562	30,304	(742)
Church School Teachers	52	600	386	600	(214)
Sub Total Expenses	36,514	35,665	37,095	41,584	(4,489)
TOTAL EXPENSES	310,731	336,639	344,160	375,568	(31,408)
OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)	13,357	(58,827)	(65,849)	(72,414)	(6,565)

2022 BALANCE SHEET

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Balance Sheet

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Consolidated - December 2022

Page: 1

	Current Year
ASSETS	
BANK ACCOUNTS	
Checking - Byline Bank	\$309.04
Rector Discretionary Acct	<u>2,606.69</u>
Subtotal Bank Accounts	2,915.73
INVESTMENTS	
Endowments-TD Ameritrade	<u>541,647.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>\$544,562.73</u></u>
LIABILITIES	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
PAYROLL TAXES PAYABLE	
Federal Withholding	\$4,165.57
State Taxes Payable	<u>437.52</u>
Subtotal Payroll Taxes Payable	4,603.09
OTHER CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Prepaid Pledges	<u>776.04</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	5,379.13
NET ASSETS	
UNRESTRICTED	
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$14,910.82
RESTRICTED	
Music Endowment Balance	9,333.97
Capital Reserve Balance	65,843.87
Endowment Balance	246,896.31
Housing Trust Balance	169,799.54
MJ Sanders Memorial	500.00
Ellie Waltemade Memorial	2,975.19
John Sanders Memorial	475.00
Dorothy Sobak Memorial	2,402.94
Robert Nied Memorial	2,500.00
J2A Pilgramige Fund	21,325.17
Rector Sabbatical Fund	774.80
Other Outreach Funds	4,093.79
Diocese of Renk	1,800.00
Christmas Purse Clearing	-257.66
Chapel clearing Account	-6,296.39
Rector Disc. Fnd.	9,620.04
Columbarium Fund	-16,377.29
Asylum / Immigration Fund	476.62
Peace Camp	734.18
San Miguel	4,771.70
St. Martin	<u>2,881.00</u>
Subtotal Restricted	<u>524,272.78</u>
TOTAL EQUITY	<u><u>539,183.60</u></u>

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Balance Sheet

Consolidated - December 2022

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	Current Year
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	<u>\$544,562.73</u>

2022 CHANGES IN EQUITY

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

Changes in Equity

January 2022 - December 2022

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CONSOLIDATED ALL FUNDS

		Beginning Balance	Direct Transactions	Income	Expenses	Transfers	Ending Balance
NET ASSETS	3000						
UNRESTRICTED	3100						
Unrestricted Net Assets	3110	80,759.73	0.00	278,311.78	-344,160.69	0.00	14,910.82
RESTRICTED	3200						
Music Endowment Balance	3202	11,358.58	162.60	-2,187.21	0.00	0.00	9,333.97
Capital Reserve Balance	3203	74,990.95	0.00	-9,147.08	0.00	0.00	65,843.87
Endowment Balance	3205	309,137.77	-12,000.00	-49,597.55	0.00	-643.91	246,896.31
Housing Trust Balance	3206	190,032.99	0.00	-20,233.45	0.00	0.00	169,799.54
MJ Sanders Memorial	3212	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
Ellie Waltemade Memorial	3214	2,975.19	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,975.19
John Sanders Memorial	3215	475.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	475.00
Dorothy Sobak Memorial	3216	625.94	1,777.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,402.94
Robert Nied Memorial	3217	5,000.00	0.00	0.00	-2,500.00	0.00	2,500.00
PADS Fund	3252	-8.83	8.83	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
J2A Pilgramige Fund	3253	19,989.42	0.00	3,855.75	-2,520.00	0.00	21,325.17
Music Availability Acct	3254	162.60	-162.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seminarian Assistance Fnd	3255	-439.84	439.84	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
St. Cyprian Food Pantry	3257	516.41	-516.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Seats Campaign	3259	-320.24	320.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Rector Sabbatical Fund	3260	774.80	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	774.80
Organ Improvement Fund	3261	1,777.00	-1,777.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Outreach Fund	3262	795.00	-795.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Other Outreach Funds	3263	1,850.31	1,311.41	932.07	0.00	0.00	4,093.79
Artisans' Fair clearing	3264	125.00	-125.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diocese of Renk	3265	1,800.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,800.00
Christmas Purse Clearing	3266	-259.00	0.00	3,151.34	-3,150.00	0.00	-257.66
Chapel clearing Account	3267	-6,296.39	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-6,296.39
Rector Disc. Fnd.	3268	10,146.50	0.00	3,023.16	-3,549.62	0.00	9,620.04
Columbarium Fund	3269	-16,377.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-16,377.29
Asylum / Immigration Fund	3270	5,747.34	-50.84	9,487.90	-14,707.78	0.00	476.62
Peace Camp	3271	2,517.70	0.00	3,729.50	-5,513.02	0.00	734.18
San Miguel	3273	3,915.00	0.00	882.12	-25.42	0.00	4,771.70
St. Martin	3274	2,281.00	0.00	600.00	0.00	0.00	2,881.00
Subtotal Restricted	3200	623,792.91	-11,406.93	-55,503.45	-31,965.84	-643.91	524,272.78
TOTAL EQUITY		704,552.64	-11,406.93	222,808.33	-376,126.53	-643.91	539,183.60

STATISTICAL REPORTS

2022 Metrical Records

Baptisms:

1. Emma Grace Bolte May 15th, 2022
2. Leo Christopher Downy June 1st, 2022

Confirmations:

N/A

Receptions:

N/A

Weddings:

1. Katie Cashmar & Joel Crevier May 21st, 2022

Burials:

1. Barbara Nurse October 31st, 2022

2022 Public Worship Statistics

Attendance on Sundays recorded on the Parochial Report

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Ash Wednesday	43	39	41	66	81	93	162	121	117	35
Children's service									90	53
Maundy Thursday	43	36	35	59	69	56	60	N/A	75	46
Good Fri. Children's Service	9	9		28	28	25	30	N/A	8	N/A
Stations of the Cross	9	12	4	12	15	18	15		52	23
Good Friday Liturgy	43	44	39	38	49	48	76		47	51
Epiphany Pageant	92	65	73	86	145	192	150	N/A	N/A	87

2022 Monthly Average Sunday Attendance

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
January	113	92	85	99	98	138.8	207.8	191	171	128	58
February	100	97	95	96	151	134.5	157.5	181	174	171	108
March	119	132	101	107	165	125.5	177.5	177	N/A	219	97
April	153	87	140	130	107	160.8	186.8	226	N/A	144	119
May	128	110	95	93	121	139	167	167	N/A	129	98
June	95	98	126	102	94	143.3	174.5	166	N/A	120	100
July	99	86	103	93	85	110.2	133.4	178	N/A	54	57
August	96	87	84	102	100	122.5	137.3	122	N/A	97	93
September	118	93	112	95	104	156	167.2	181	N/A	N/A	94
October	106	106	107	119	114	181.4	173.5	165	N/A	113	108
November	114	104	121	114	138	148	189.8	219	N/A	113	110
December	94	112	127	134	260	220	193	205	N/A	99	119
Year Avg.	111	109	108	107	128	149.6	172	181	N/A	114	97

2022 Christian Education Attendance

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Preschool	3-6	3-11	2-7	2-10	2-8	2-6	4-8	8-12	8-12	N/A	8-12
Primary: K-2	4-11	0-11	2-13	0-12	3-8	6-10	6-10	8-12	8-12	N/A	8-12
Intermediate: 3-6	2-7	0-7	0-7	Combined With Primary	1-5	2-6	10-12	4-6	6-8	N/A	6-10

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Rite 13/Sojos Merged into Youth – Middle School in 2018	2-6	2-8	5-6	5-7	6	6	8	6-8	6-8	N/A	6
Sojourners Combined with Rite 13 in 2017 Merged into Youth – High School in 2018	6-12	6-10	6-10	4-5	4-6	6	6	8	3-4	N/A	

Other Special Services

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Easter	252	189	238	244	229	235	272	301	N/A	299	173
Pentecost	136	119	136	83	115	161	186	178	N/A	132	98
1st Sun. in Advent	125	94	93	107	170	250	275	168	N/A	130	115
Christmas	215	196	219	191	187	215	243	316	N/A	275	154



Resolutions

COURTESY



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, consecrated thirteenth Bishop of Chicago, at the Westin Lombard, on September 17, 2022.

Be it resolved that the Search Committee shares thanks and much appreciation to Kelly Clissold and Michael Kohnhorst for their artistry, expertise, and generous contributions of talent needed to create the Parish Profile.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their thanks and gratitude to Alex Nied, 9:30 AM musician extraordinaire whose pastoral presence and musical artistry created a service of music and prayer for families with children.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend their thanks and gratitude to Ackli Howell, parish administrator who served administratively for two rectors and for the interim rector.

Be it resolved that the thanks of the interim rector, wardens, vestry, and staff go out to Pam Green who traveled great distances to assist and organize the office as the search for a new Parish Administrator was conducted.

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. Not only does your ministry touch many lives, but it allows your church to be good stewards with its limited financial resources.

Be it resolved that the people of St. Christopher's extend a heartfelt thanks to those who said "yes" to serving on our Rector Search Committee - Marilyn Huebel, Emily Culbertson, Alexandra Baig, Lea Curtin, Maya Ganguly, Mary Kay Tobin, Peter Walters, and Bill Urso.

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

Be it resolved that the parish and staff thank our retiring vestry members for their service and support. Kindest regards are extended to Jennifer Urso, senior warden, and to Pam Jacknow and Eva Lord Pearson.

Be it resolved that the vestry, rector, and parish thank the Treasurer and Associate Treasurers for their careful tending of our financial resources.

Be it resolved that the thanks of the parish go out to all who did outreach work among and on behalf of us this year, including those who contributed to Beyond Hunger, Asylum Ministry, and Housing Forward. And may God's blessing and our hands and feet be with you as these ministries continue to grow!

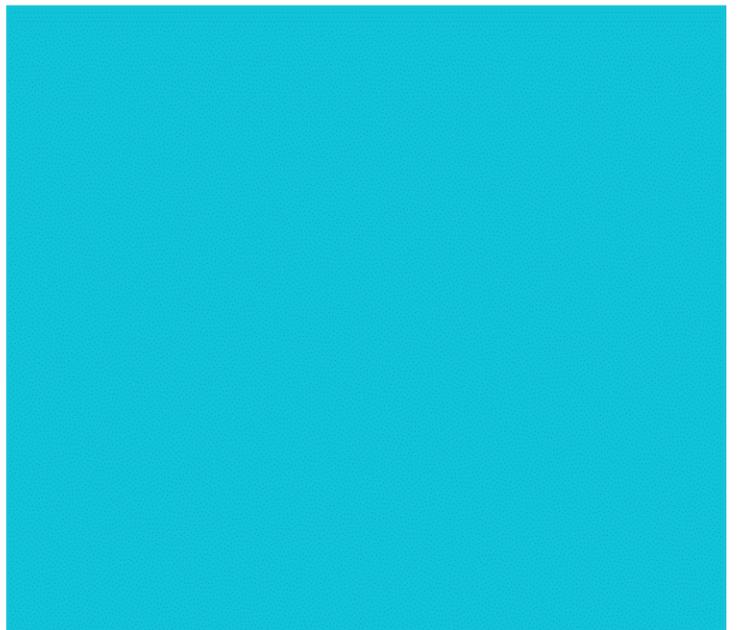
Be it resolved that the congregation thanks Jen Enriquez, Paul Clark, Becky Dunlavey, Pricilla Nied, along with Krewe chief Kevin and all who made Gras and Ashes an initial success!

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

Be it resolved that the congregation thanks Christa Creps for creating and producing then offering the Blue Christmas service to the people of St. Christopher's and to the people of our community and beyond.

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



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF CHICAGO

The Rt. Rev. Paula E. Clark, *Bishop*



The People of St. Christopher's the Ministers

Kevin M. Goodman
Interim Rector

Uziel Martinez Hernandez
Parish Administrator

Jen Enriquez
Children & Youth Formation

Richard Sobak
Organist / Choirmaster

Christa Creps
Director of Music for
Children and Families

Jenn Urso
Deb Maue
Wardens

Emily Culbertson
Marilyn Huebel
Search Committee Co-Chairs

Bob Wyatt
Priest Associate

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church

an open and affirming congregation in the worldwide Anglican Communion. You are welcome here . . .

- if you are married or single, for we will partner with you;
- if you are a parent or a child of one, for we are all family together;
- if you know what you believe or have no idea what you believe, for we are one in our longing for deeper knowledge of God;
- if you are from this place or a stranger from far away, for we were all once strangers ourselves;
- if you are straight or gay, black or white, rich or poor . . .

No matter who you are, we welcome you, praying that you will find here what you seek. In fact, we pray that you will find here the love that is Christ's law – love that bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things – knowing that God's love is bigger than anything we can ask or imagine.

All people – adults and children – who are seeking deeper relationship with Christ are invited to receive Holy Communion and to share freely with us in all aspects of our worship. .