

2026 ANNUAL REPORT & ELECTIONS

JANUARY 25, 2026



Christ Church * 62 Delaware Street * Woodbury, NJ 08096

Christchurchwoodbury.org * office@christchurch.woodburynj.org

CANON 50

Election of Church Officers in Parishes and Missions

SECTION 1. There shall be an annual meeting in every Parish for the election of officers, prayers having been said immediately before said meeting, and due notice having been given as required by law. Said meeting shall be held on a date which may be fixed at a regular or special meeting of the Congregation. There shall be an annual meeting for those Missions that elect officers, to be held also with opening prayers and upon like notice.

SECTION 2. The persons entitled to vote at such meetings must be:

- (a) baptized,
- (b) at least sixteen years of age,
- (c) of good moral character
- (d) adhering to The Episcopal Church and to no other religious body,
- (e) regular attendants at the services of the Church in said Parish or Mission, and
- (f) regular contributors to the current expenses of the Parish or Mission for six months next before the said annual meeting.

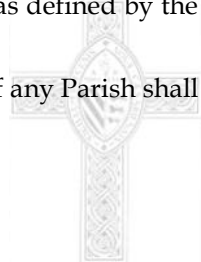
A record of the regular contributors for the support of the Parish or Mission shall be maintained by the Treasurer, with the dates of their contributions. Such records shall be sufficient evidence as to the qualification of a voter with respect to the last preceding requirement. Any voters not baptized in the Parish or Mission must have been enrolled as members in accordance with the provisions of the Canons of The Episcopal Church. Rectors, Vicars, or Wardens shall keep a list of all members of the Congregation who have been received as voters, which list shall be open to inspection by the members of the Congregation. No one shall be permitted to vote or be eligible to office in more than one Parish or Mission in this Diocese, although members of a Parish or Mission may be eligible also to vote or hold office in a Chapel.

SECTION 3. At said annual meeting the qualified voters shall elect by ballot, by a majority of the votes cast, to serve for the ensuing year, from among the voters in the Parish, three Deputies and three alternate Deputies to the Diocesan Convention, and a Warden or Wardens, who shall all be communicants in good standing; and also such other Vestry members or Mission Committee members, and such other officers as may be provided for by the Parish or Mission charter or bylaws, and six Representatives to the Convocation in which the Congregation is located, who shall all be communicants if such suitable for the office can be found.

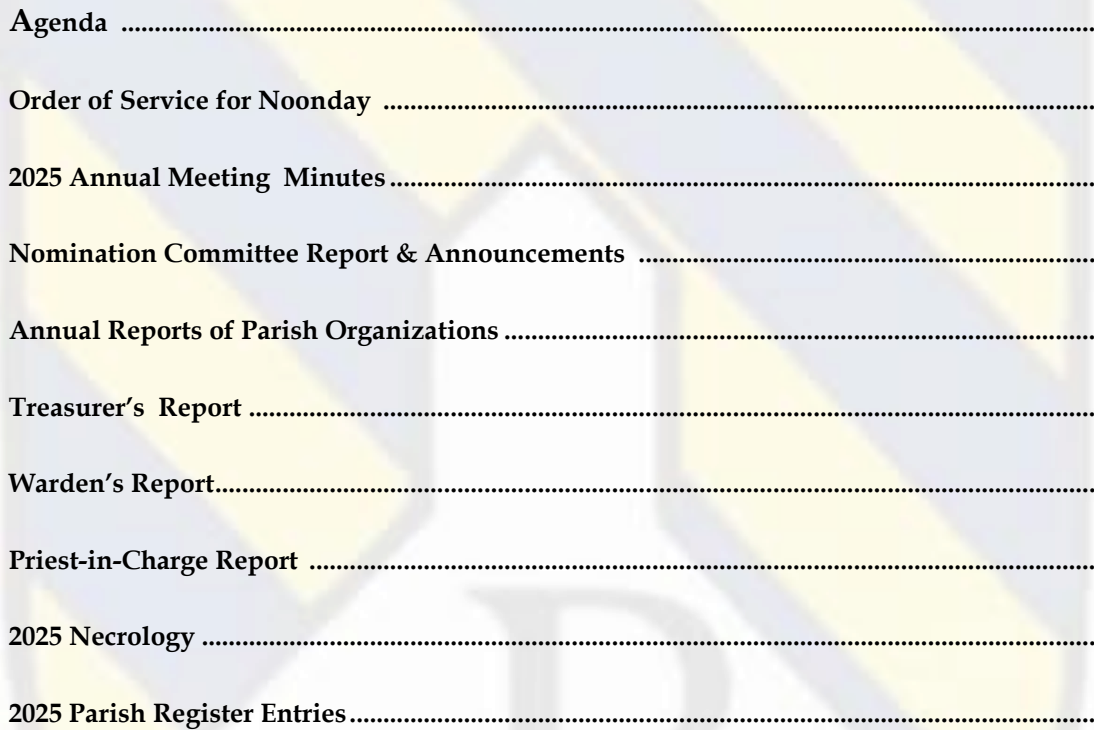
SECTION 4. For the purposes of this Canon, the term "communicant" shall be as defined by the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church.

SECTION 5. No provision of this Canon which may conflict with the Charter of any Parish shall have any force in such Parish.

See [Revised Statutes of New Jersey, Sections 16:12-10 and -11](#)



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Annual Meeting Agenda – January 25, 2026

- Call to Order
- Call for Acceptance to assign Secretary of Meeting
- Attendance
- Call for Acceptance of the agenda as presented
- An Order of Service for Noonday Prayer
- Call for Acceptance 2025 Annual Meeting Minutes
- Calling on the Chair of the Nomination Committee to report on the election
 - Introduction of the Ballot
 - Report on Nominating process
 - Distribution of Ballots
 - Election results
- Announcements
- Call for Acceptance of the Written Reports from Parish Organizations
 - Acolyte Masters report by Robertta Shomo
 - Altar Guild report by Allene Ferrell
 - Archives report by Cheryl Rheiner
 - Audit Committee report by Tara Mass
 - Brotherhood of St. Andrew report by Steve Shomo
 - ECW (Episcopal Church Women) report by Robin Atkins
 - Endowment Committee report by Jim Bathurst
 - GWCM report by Darcie Sanchez
 - Office Volunteer Ministry report by Helen Gwalthney
 - Parish Musicians report by Luke Staisiunas
 - Pastoral Care report by Doreen Mills
 - Stewardship Committee report by Sherm Yeiter
 - Sunday School report by Cindy Scales
 - Youth Group report by Sarah Cranston
- Treasurer's Report
- Warden's Report
- Priest-in-Charge Report
- Thank You
- Concluding Collect (Page 7) and Blessing
- Call for Adjournment

An Order of Noonday Service

All standing

Opening Acclamation:

Officiant : O God, make speed to save us.

People : O Lord, make haste to help us.

All:

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

Except in Lent, add

Alleluia.

Psalm 119 *Lucerna pedibus meis*
Said in unison:

**Your word is a lantern to my feet *
and a light upon my path.**

**I have sworn and am determined *
to keep your righteous judgments.**

**I am deeply troubled; *
preserve my life, O Lord, according to your word.**

**Accept, O Lord, the willing tribute of my lips, *
and teach me your judgments.**

**My life is always in my hand, *
yet I do not forget your law.**

**The wicked have set a trap for me, *
but I have not strayed from your commandments.**

**Your decrees are my inheritance for ever; *
truly, they are the joy of my heart.**

**I have applied my heart to fulfill your statutes *
for ever and to the end.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

Please be seated for the reading

The Reading:

If anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; the old has passed away, behold the new has come. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation. *II Corinthians 5:17-18*

People **Thanks be to God.**

The Prayers:

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: **Christ, have mercy upon us.**

Officiant: Lord, have mercy upon us.

All:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.**

**And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**



Officiant O Lord, hear our prayer;
People **And let our cry come unto thee**
Officiant Let us pray.

Almighty and everloving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in this Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of thy Church. Teach us in all things to seek first thy honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Concluding Collect and Blessing:

All Standing

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People ***And with thy spirit.***

Officiant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son was manifested that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant us, we beseech thee, that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that, when he shall appear again with power and great glory, we may be made like unto him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Ghost, he liveth and reigneth ever, one God, world without end. ***Amen.***

The priest pronounces the blessing

The peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, be amongst you, and remain with you always. ***Amen.***



Annual Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2025

MEETING DETAILS

Meeting chaired by: Father Lawrence Civile

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at: 11:35AM

ATTENDANCE

Father Lawrence Civile, 55 parishioners of Christ Church

A motion to have Gwendolyn Simpson the Vestry Clerk take the minutes was made by Emily Piskun and seconded by Jean Lucas. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

A motion to accept the agenda was made by Chris Piskun and seconded by Charles Lewis. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

AN ORDER OF NOONDAY SERVICE: Presided over by Father Lawrence Civile



PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

A motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting minutes of January 14, 2024 was made by David Hanson and seconded by Chris Piskun. Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.

A motion to accept the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting minutes of January 28, 2024 was made by Jean Lucus and seconded by Frank Gwalthney. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vestry will meet this afternoon immediately following this Annual Parish meeting, including the newly elected members. The Endowment Committee was to meet this afternoon, but it will be rescheduled due to the absence of members.

NOMINATIONS

Nomination Committee Chair Susan Novalsky presented her report of the nominees for the 2025 ballot. She also made note that nominations from the floor would be welcome for any of the positions including the open position on Vestry.

Annual Meeting Minutes – January 26, 2025

VESTRY NOMINATIONS:

Nominated for a position on **Vestry as Senior Warden: Victoria Scott-Wishnick** (2-year term)

Nominated for a position on **Vestry as Junior Warden: Steve Lewis** (unexpired 1 year term)

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made to close the nominations by David Hanson and seconded by Charles Lewis.

The nominations were accepted by Acclamation by Sherman Yeiter and seconded by Mark Novalsky. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

Victoria Scott-Wishnick and Steve Lewis were both elected by voice vote unanimously.

Nominated for positions on **Vestry:**

Laura Erasmus (3-year term)

Robertta Shomo (3-year term)

Nathan Wishnick (3-year term)

A motion was made to close the nominations by Sarah Cranston and seconded by Carol Hill.

Laura Erasmus, Robertta Shomo and Nathan Wishnick were all elected by voice vote unanimously.

One open seat for a two-year term on Vestry was offered to nominations from the floor, but no one was put up for the seat.

A motion was made to leave this seat open by Chris Piskun and seconded by Emily Piskun.

ENDOWMENT TRUSTEE COMMITTEE NOMINATION (Elect one):

Nominated for a position as **Endowment Trustee** was Linda Rosser (4-year term). There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made to close the nomination by Kim Henning and seconded by Ed Ferrall.

Linda Rosser was elected by voice vote unanimously.

**Linda Rosser requested that the following correction to the 2025 Election Booklet be made: She has been a member of Christ Church for over 50 years.*

CONVENTION and CONVOCATION DELEGATE NOMINEES (1-year term) *The three nominees getting the most votes will be Convention Delegates, with the remaining three will serve as alternates. All six will be Convocation Delegates.*

Nominee: Brian Erasmus

Nominee: Barbara O'Mealia

Nominee: Michele Schiffer

Nominee: Leslie Terris

Nominee: James Wenzel

Nominee: Stacy Yeiter

There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made to close the nomination by Robin Atkins and seconded by Sherman Yeiter.

Christ Church Parishioner's votes were tallied by the Nomination Committee [Susan Novalsky, chair; Sarah Cranston, Frank Gwalthney, Cheryl Rheiner]

Convention and Convocation Delegates

James Wenzel [Received 35 votes]

Michele Schiffer [Received 31 votes]

Stacy Yeiter [Received 30 votes]

Convention Alternates and Convocation Delegates

Brian Erasmus [Received 11 votes]

Barbara O'Mealia [Received 18 votes]

Leslie Terris [Received 28 votes]



The signed tally slip is attached to the end of the minutes.

Before the presentation of the written reports in the 2025 Election Booklet, Father Civale introduced Sophie Seddon, who is stepping down from the Vestry Hospitality committee.

Sophie expressed her thanks to the parish of Christ Church for the kindnesses extended to her and her extended family over the years and how it was her privilege to serve on Vestry (In much better words than my reporting).

Call for Acceptance of the Written Reports from Parish Organizations

A **motion** was made to accept the Reports for Ministries that follow by Sherm Yeiter and seconded by David Hanson. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

- Acolyte Masters report submitted by Robertta Shomo & Emily Piskun, Acolyte Masters
- Altar Guild report submitted by Allene Ferrell, Altar Guild Directress
- Archives report submitted by Cheryl Rheiner, Archivist
- Audit Committee report submitted by Tara Mass, Vestry & Audit Committee Chair
- Brotherhood of St. Andrew report submitted by Steve Shomo, Brotherhood President
- ECW (Episcopal Church Women) report submitted by Robin Atkins, ECW President
- Endowment Committee report submitted by James Bathurst, Vestry & Endowment Trustees Chair
- Evangelism Report submitted by Doreen Mills, Vestry
- GWCM (Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries) report submitted by Darcie Sanchez
- Office Volunteer Ministry report
- Parish Musicians report submitted by Nicholas Mynyk, Choir Director and Organist
- Pastoral Care report submitted by Doreen Mills, Vestry
- Stewardship Committee report submitted by Sherm Yeiter, Vestry

Additionally, Mr. Yeiter reported that since submitting his written report the pledge cards totals submitted has changed to over \$215,000. The correct amount will be in the Finance Report.

- Sunday School report submitted by Cindy Scales, Sunday School Superintendent
- Youth Group report submitted by Sarah Cranston, Vestry Sr. Warden
- Warden's Report submitted by Sarah Cranston, Sr. Warden and Tara Mass, Jr. Warden

FINANCE REPORT

The 2024 Financial Report was presented by Treasurer Mark Novalsky.

A **motion** was made to accept the 2024 financial report was made by Kim Henning and seconded by Chris Piskun. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

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A motion was made to accept the 2024 financial report was made by Kim Henning and seconded by Chris Piskun. *Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote.*

PRIEST-in-CHARGE REPORT

The 2024 Priest-in-Charge Report was presented by Father Lawrence Civile.

Reports in their entirety can be found in the 2024 Election Booklet and Annual Report

Father Civile presented gifts and thank you for the service of departing Vestry members:

Senior Warden – Sarah Cranston

Junior Warden – Tara Mass

David Hanson – Buildings and Grounds committee

Tom Phramphus – Outreach committee

Sophie Seddon – Hospitality committee

CONCLUDING COLLECT and BLESSING: Presided over by Father Lawrence Civile

ADJOURNMENT

A motion to adjourn was made by Linda Rosser and seconded by Charles Lewis.

Motion was approved by all with a verbal vote in favor of adjourning at 12:34PM.

Respectfully submitted by Gwendolyn Simpson, Vestry Clerk, January 26, 2025



Fall Garden Clean up November 2025

Announcements

Special Meeting of all members of Vestry following the Annual Parish Meeting (Article IV - Section 2) will be held immediately following the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**.

Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Endowment Fund following the Annual Parish Meeting (Article XI – Section 7) will be held immediately following the annual meeting on **Sunday, January 25, 2026**.

Nominating Committee Report

NOMINATING COMMITTEE: Susan Novalsky

- Introducing the Ballot
- Question for Candidates: The offering of our time, talent and treasure is away of expressing our faith that Christ Jesus is alive and present. How do you plan to bring your very best to Christ Church and our Community with this leadership entrusted to you? (see pages 18-20 for responses).
- Report of Nomination process
- Distribution of ballots



Junior Warden of Vestry



Name: Steve Lewis
Position: Warden, Unexpired Term
Residence: Mullica Hill, NJ
Occupation: Attorney
Member of Parish: 49 years
Past Service: Warden, Vestry, Acolyte Master

Answer to Question: Christ Church has been my family's home for many years. I have had the privilege of growing up in the Parish and having our daughter grow up here as well. I would work to support and encourage others to take up greater leadership, responsibility, and vision on the Parish, as we all move forward together. I would seek ways to continue to improve attendance at Mass and Parish events, and to continue to work to bring in other new families to share in what we have.

Vestry



Name: Doreen Mills
Position: Vestry 3 year term
Residence: Ocean City, NJ
Occupation: Retired elementary school teacher
Member of Parish: 17 years
Past Service: Trinity guild, ECW president, Vestry, LEM, Evangelism Commission

Answer to Question: As a vestry member I have followed the guidelines of the Commission of Evangelism by encouraging parishioners to be welcoming and inclusive to newer members, visitors and guests. During Lent of 2025, I presented a four-week series about Telling Our Story, the story of our faith, so that we can become more comfortable in sharing our faith with others. A Greeter Ministry, independent of the usher ministry, is being formed to welcome and greet parishioners, guests, and visitors as they are walking to the front doors and also as they leave following mass.

Vestry



Name: Maureen Carrigan
Position: Vestry 3 Year Term
Residence: Woodbury, NJ
Occupation: CPA
Member of Parish: 3 Years
Past Service: Lector, Card outreach

Answer to Question: By working for the church, not for anything else.

Vestry



Name: Brandon Gorman
Position: Vestry 2 Year Term
Residence: Clementon NJ
Occupation: Manufacturing Technician
Member of Parish: 2 years
Past Service: Acolyte and youth group volunteer

Answer to Question: I first came to Christ Church when I was looking for more traditional worship practices and that desire came out of the change I was seeing in my life after incorporating more traditional prayer practices and disciplines into my daily routine. I plan to bring my best to our community at Christ Church by bringing those daily practices with me and by approaching this role the same way I pray I might approach everything, with discipline, commitment, and prayer. The community, traditions, and even the building itself that we have here at Christ Church are all great gifts and I am excited to contribute, in whatever small way I can, to working out God's plan for these gifts that He has given us, to His glory.

Endowment Trustee



Name: Edward Ferrell
Position: Endowment Fund Trustee
Residence: Woodbury, NJ
Occupation: Retired Administrator & Fiscal Officer for the Gloucester County Department of Health and the Gloucester County Treasurer
Member of Parish: 55 years
Past Service: Licensed Eucharistic Minister, Parish Treasurer, Multiple terms on Vestry, Vice Chair for a search Committee, Construction Committee for two major renovations, Endowment Trustee, Budget Committee, Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, founding member of the Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries (GWCM)

Answer to Question: I have served as a Trustee before and take very seriously the need to maintain and grow the Endowment for the future of Christ Church.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Sarah Cranston
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, 1 year term
Residence: Sewell, NJ
Occupation: Estate & Elder Law Attorney
Member Since: 10 plus years
Past Service: Vestry, Sunday School Teacher, Youth Group Leader

Answer to Question: I will faithfully attend convocation/diocesan meetings, listen carefully, and help keep our parish connected to what's happening at the local and diocesan level. I bring a love of learning, strong listening and teaching skills, and a legal background that helps me think clearly and ask good questions. Grounded in regular mass attendance, prayer and Bible study, I hope to serve with curiosity, encouragement, and a desire to seek God's guidance in all we do.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Amelia (MiMi) Jones
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate,
1 Year Term
Residence: Mantua, NJ
Occupation: retired RN from Penn Presbyterian
hospital in Philadelphia
Member of Parish 3 Years
Past Service: Altar Guild & participating in helping
drive others to church

Answer to Question: Representing Christ Church in either of these roles would offer an opportunity to share personal beliefs and those of Christ Church. It is important to keep our congregation aware of Diocesan and Deanery activities. Communicating whether written or verbal is part of each delegate's responsibility.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Tara Mass
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate,
1 Year Term
Residence: Mullica Hill, NJ
Occupation: Life Insurance Representative
Member of Parish 17 Years
Past Service: Nomination chair, vestry member,
financial audit chair, Sunday school teacher
& Reader

Answer to Question: Any opportunity to represent Christ Church is an honor and I will always bring my very best intentions. My faith is always growing by learning new information through bible study, readings, parishioners, attending mass & adult forum regularly, and by serving on Vestry. I was a delegate years ago and found it so interesting. Since that time, my church knowledge has expanded and I am always seeking to know and understand more.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Barbara O'Mealia
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, 1 Year Term
Residence: Glassboro, NJ
Occupation: Retired Human Resources for Columbia Bank
Member of Parish: 18 Years
Past Service: Committee for Pastoral Care

Answer to Question: My goal is to lead with compassion, integrity, and a deep commitment to our shared values ensuring that Christ Church continues to be a beacon of hope and support for all.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Gwendolyn Simpson
Position: Convention/Convocation Delegate, 1 Year Term
Residence: West Deptford NJ
Occupation: Retired Special Education Techer
Member of Parish: 10 years
Past Service: Choir, Vestry, ECW

Answer to Question: I plan to continue using the Episcopal News Service and NJ Diocese email/websites, so I can make informed decisions and pass information on to the parish.

Convention/Convocation Delegate



Name: Leslie Teris
Position: Convention /Convocation Delegate, 1 Year Term
Residence: Mullica Hill, NJ
Occupation: Professional Association Management
Member of Parish: Lifelong
Past Service: Sunday School Teacher, Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries Trustee

Answer to Question: Currently, organizations that rely on voluntary contributions of time, talent, and treasure to sustain their mission for the future are challenged to find new ways to engage and grow. Whether elected as a delegate or alternate, I will seek guidance through prayer and reflection, as well as discussion with fellow parishioners. We are a multi-generational parish with diverse needs and talents. I am honored and humbled to be nominated



Annual Reports of Parish Organizations

Acolyte Masters

2025 Acolytes Annual Report

This year, we were pleased to welcome three new acolytes into the Christ Church Acolyte Ministry: Petra Ares, Johnny Lyden, and Evan Shomo. Our Acolyte Corps now consists of 18 dedicated children and young adults whose love for our parish is evident in their faithful service at the altar each week.

2025 was a very successful year as we continued to strengthen and develop our acolytes' skills in this important ministry. None of this would be possible without the incredible support of our parents. The children gain a deep sense of fulfillment from contributing to such a meaningful part of our worship, and continued parental encouragement—especially ensuring their regular attendance—helps foster their growing love for this ministry.

Both the Strawberry Festival and the Pancake Supper were well attended and enjoyed by all, particularly our young acolytes, who had the opportunity to showcase their service skills. Together, these events raised nearly \$900, which was used to replenish acolyte vestments and support the GWCM. We are truly grateful for the attendance and generosity of our parish community that made this possible.

This year's Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is quickly approaching! Please mark your calendars for **February 17th**, when we will gather for a delicious pancakes-and-sausage meal. This event is a wonderful opportunity for our acolytes to come together, serve, and have a little fun—okay, *a lot* of fun—while offering our favorite breakfast-for-dinner tradition. Families and friends are warmly invited; the more the merrier! Proceeds from this year's free-will donations will go toward our spring cleanup of the church grounds. More details will be shared soon.

I would like to thank the Parish of Christ Church-Woodbury for its continued support of this important ministry. I look forward to the ongoing growth, service, and fellowship of this remarkable group of dedicated individuals.

Respectfully submitted,
Robertta Shomo

Altar Guild



The Altar Guild members are a dedicated group of individuals who share their time and talents each week in preparing and initiating that the specified needs of the church are addressed in order that a reverent space is ready for whatever needs arise. It is a group of individuals whose work is mostly unseen, but would be greatly missed if not performed, i.e., no candles or flowers on the Altar, no set-up for communion, no special adornments for Christmas or Easter, etc.

We have some very dedicated Altar Guild members that assure that the Altar is prepared for all scheduled services, funerals, special occasions, and assuring that the church is beautifully adorned for the holidays. I particularly wish to thank...**Debbie Allbright, Audrey Daugherty, Judy Fulgham, Mimi Jones, Susan Novalsky, Kim Wright, and Stacey Yeiter.**

A special “thank you” to **Susan Novalsky and Stacey Yeiter** for laundering and ironing all of the linens used for the altar; **Sarah Cranston** who continues to provide the beautiful weekly flowers for the altar; **Linda Rosser** for providing, from her garden, the beautiful holly and berries that are used at Thanksgiving and Christmas time. And “thank you” to various other people (**Carol Hill, Marilyn McGeoch, and Darcie Sanchez**) for lending a hand this past year during especially busy times in the Altar Guild calendar; and to Father Civale, for patiently working with AG and pitching in when needed. Last, but not least, “thank you” to my husband **Ed Ferrell** for his limitless help and encouragement.

With God’s Guidance,
Allene Ferrell, Altar Guild Directress



Archives

There were no substantial donations of unique archival materials in 2025. The Archivist continues to organize and file the existing collection of Canon Rauscher, as well as the regular materials generated by the Parish.

Submitted by Cheryl Rheiner, Archivist

Audit Committee

June 6, 2025

TO: The Rector, Wardens & Vestry of Christ Church, 62 Delaware Street, Woodbury NJ

RE: 2024 Financial Audit - Committee Certificate

We have inspected the financial statements and related records of Christ Church Woodbury as of **December 31, 2024** and the related statement of activities and cash flows for the year then ended. Our inspection was made in accordance with the audit guidelines of the *Manual of Business Methods in Church Affairs*.

We believe the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects the **financial position of the Congregation on December 31, 2024**, and that the changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, are in accordance with the principles authorized by the General Convention of the Episcopal Church on a basis consistent with that of the preceding year.

Our review included:

General (Operating) Account	Endowment Savings/Checking
Building Fund	Endowment Investment Portfolio
Rector's Discretionary Fund	Wells Fargo (Fish) Trust Account

Our inspection and certificate are not meant to be construed as an audit and opinion rendered by a Certified Public Accountant.

Sincerely,

Members of the 2024 Financial Audit Committee

Tara Mass, Chair

Edward Ferrell

David Sheeky

James Bathurst

Jennifer Lewis

Darcie Sanchez

Christ Church Woodbury 2024 Financial Audit Report - Cover

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Brotherhood of St. Andrew



Brotherhood of Saint Andrew – Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ

Annual Report for 2025 (Submitted January, 2026)

Submitted by: Steve Shomo, Chapter President

It was another strong year for the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew – Christ Church, Woodbury, NJ. We started the year with our Annual Chili and Pretzel sale in February, this year adding chefs, Matt Baldwin and Bryan Klugh, who lent their own brands of chili to the menu, along with our veteran chili chef, Steve Rash, and raised nearly \$300.00!

We followed that up by assisting the Acolytes with cooking sausage and pancakes for the Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper in March. In April, we, along with friends of the Brotherhood, did a Spring Cleanup of the Church grounds. and in May, we purchased and gifted carnations to all the women who attended both 8:00 AM and 10:00 AM service on Mother’s Day. In June we held our Annual Parish Picnic with great success and in August, at the home of the very gracious Mike and Darcie Sanchez, we held our second annual Wine Tasting event, raising approximately \$600.00 for Stewardship.

In the fall, we hosted a delicious Coffee Hour, partnered with the Gardening Ministry to perform a very productive leaf clean-up in November, obtained and assembled a new creche and nativity scene for the Jubilee Garden at Christmas (special thank you to Bryan Klugh and Brandon Gorman), officially inducted Sam Buck into the Brotherhood and even ran a holiday season coat drive for Jeanette's Closet (special thanks to Jim Bathurst and Ed Ferrell for spearheading the collection). Finally, in December, we even found time to enjoy a nice, social gathering at the Bonesaw Pilot House at the Deptford Mall.

We also made our annual donation to the Seamen’s Church Institute of Philadelphia and South Jersey, an act that our beloved Brother, Jim Atkins began several years ago. To end the year, our Treasurer’s Report stands at \$1,609.87.

If you or anyone you know might be interested in joining our chapter of the Brotherhood of Saint Andrew, please don’t hesitate to approach any one of us, or contact Chapter President, Steve Shomo, by emailing steve.shomo@yahoo.com. We generally meet the third Thursday of each month and do a lot to help our parish, its members and each other. Our Chapter currently consists of 14 members and we are looking to grow even more!

In 2026, we plan to keep up our annual activities, add new ones and potentially do more outreach to help bring others nearer to Christ and Christ Church in particular!



Joy to the World was the theme for our annual winter tea in January. What a wonderful theme to begin the year. We tried something new by scheduling our gathering during the Christmas and Epiphany season rather than the busy month of December with other parish events. At this holiday party we celebrated the customs and traditions of Christmas around the world complete with cultural desserts and decorations. Our guest of honor was Arabella Irmsher, an exchange student from Germany, who shared stories and customs from her homeland.

Other highlights from our year included the annual Valentine's Day Treat Sale in February. Proceeds from the sale enabled us to surprise Arabella with a gift card to spend on the senior school trip to Disneyworld. This was our outreach in relation to the Girls Friendly Society. The GFS is an organization within the Anglican Communion that empowers girls and young women by encouraging them to reach their full potential through educational opportunities. We are sure Arabella's memories of Disney will last her lifetime.

At times our women contribute to Lenten soup suppers, coffee hour, UTO collections, GWCM, and monthly ECW meetings. We knitted and shipped blanket pieces to Warm Up America. Three shipments were sent by us each with a total of three dozen in a box. Warm Up America is a non-profit organization who through volunteers provides a mission to assist people in need of warmth at homeless shelters, veteran's homes, hospitals and hospices, women's shelters, and American Red Cross chapters throughout the country. In November we donated and assembled "cake kits" as our project for GWCM. Also some of our members have joined the Gardening Ministry by caring and beautifying our church grounds.

As always, we celebrate each other before our summer break with a covered dish dinner. This year our "Jersey Girls" took to the shore with the theme "*Under the Boardwalk*". Our refreshment table of boardwalk delights was topped with our own version of the Atlantic City shoe parade. There were so many uniquely decorated shoes, but there's only one member crowned. Our Miss ECW is Kim Wright! We hope you saw the photos in the newsletter.



ECW (Episcopal Church Women)

After the Parish Homecoming this Fall we started a new season by inviting a guest speaker to our first meeting. Christina DiGiovacchino is a member of the Division of Gloucester County Senior Services. Christina was extremely informative in describing the offerings and help available to seniors in our communities. She even brought lots of handouts and giveaways that we shared during the Adult Forum.

There is strength in numbers. Join us when you can and share in the good things we are doing together. We continue to lead with our executive team: Robin Atkins President, Debbie Rash Vice-President, Marilyn McGeoch Secretary, and Carol Hill Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted, Robin Atkins ECW President



Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

2025 Annual Report of the Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

The Endowment Board of Trustees for 2025, consisting of James Bathurst (2025), Chair, Rob Johnson (2027), Vice-Chair, Mark Novalsky, Parish Treasurer, Tori Wishnick, Vestry Liaison, Bryan Klugh (2026, Linda Rosser (2028), and Father Civale, Priest-in-Charge. Scheduled Trustee meetings occurred in February, April, July, and October of 2025 with all the meetings taking place virtually. These meetings were held in collaboration with McLaughlin Private Wealth, our professional wealth management firm. Christ Church works exclusively with Meaghan McLaughlin-Reid, Adam Elover, and Michael McLaughlin to respond to opportunities and address challenges faced by today's institutional investors.

Our first meeting was held in February. A major point of discussion centered on the amount that we are taking out of the Endowment to support our operating budget and the anticipated deficit for the 2025 year. Our Treasurer, Mark Novalsky advised the group that the Endowment Checking Account had accrued a total of \$81,695 over the course of 2024 because of our monthly drawl of \$9,230 that turned out to be not needed to cover our monthly costs. Since we were not having any issues with cash flow, it was decided to decrease our monthly drawl to \$5,000. A motion was made to initiate this change starting March 1, 2025. This had a positive impact on our distribution rate from the Endowment which put us more in range of the distribution rate recommended for non-profits.

At our July Trustees meeting the market was not performing well and it was decided that we would continue paying the interest only on our line of credit for the parish hall project of 2018. We had hoped to pay off this item during this year. Another item of discussion was to consider a change to some of our allocations to get a better rate of return since the market was in flux. This would help to cover the costs associated with going to a full-time parish administrator and potential building maintenance costs.

At the October meeting of the Trustees, our Wealth managers explained to us the changes to our portfolio that will give us some more return and flexibility. Our portfolio goal design would be 65% Equities, 25% bonds and 10% private markets. Risk is not an issue with private equities as liquidation is easy to do to mitigate any issues that may arise. As has been stated in the past, it is incumbent upon Vestry to adhere to the recommendations of our asset managers as to the amount of distribution for our Portfolio to protect the Endowment base and provide for growth. To this end, it is important that we as a Parish do our absolute best with our annual pledges to support the proposed budget each year. Also, for those retirees with investments requiring a

Endowment Fund Board of Trustees

Required Minimum Distribution please consider making this requirement a part of your annual pledge as it is tax free if given to the Church. Additionally, if you have a will, please consider a gift to Christ Church's Endowment Fund be included in the will.

Portfolio value on December 31, 2024,	\$1,554,404
Portfolio Deposits	\$0
Distributions	(\$64,230)
Approximate (increase in portfolio value)	\$159,031
Portfolio value on December 31, 2025,	\$1,649,205

The 2026-2027 meeting schedule of the Endowment Fund Trustees of Christ Church is as follows: (All meetings are held on Mondays, beginning at 7:00 PM and will continue to be virtual): January 26 (Fourth Quarter), April 27 (First Quarter), July 27 (Second Quarter), and October 26 Third Quarter), January 25, 2027, for quarter ending December 31, 2025.

The Board of Trustees, along with Vestry's approval, will continue our strategy for growth for the Endowment Fund Portfolio that will allow us to meet our needs. We will monitor current trends to allow continued growth, mitigate risks, and address our facilities needs.

Respectfully submitted, **James Bathurst, Endowment Trustees Chair**



Evangelism Commission

The Evangelism Commission oversees projects and events that provide the members of the parish opportunities to socialize or work together on a parish or community project. In January, 2025, I presented an outline for new member ministry to the vestry. This is a ministry in which every member of the parish can participate. An All Member Ministry article was included in the spring newsletter with ways the we can meet, greet, attract, and keep new members. A Greeters ministry will be established to welcome parishioners and visitors as they are walking to the church doors.

Our 2nd Homecoming event was held in September with Laura Erasmus (Hospitality Commission) and Robertta Shomo (Programs and Activities Commission) assisting before, during, and after the event. Thank you to all of the ministry leaders for their table displays.

The Greeting Card Ministry has completed its first year. There are 14 volunteers and 14 parishioners to whom we are sending notes and cards. Positive feedback has been offered by those receiving cards and their families, and from the volunteers, as they have formed relationships with their Greeting Card Partners. Our homebound parishioners will be receiving their greeting cards from a different member of the Greeting Card Ministry in 2026.

In November an idea for a parish fundraiser, A Christmas Attic sale, was presented to the vestry, was agreed upon, and a date set for November 14, 2026. Leadership for the event is forming and a “to do” list will be presented displaying many ways for parishioners to participate. This project is an example of an evangelistic activity that will involve parish participation and outreach as we invite the Woodbury and surrounding communities to our Christmas Attic event.

Doreen Mills

Respectfully submitted,
Doreen Mills



GWCM (Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries)



Christ Church is one of 13 faith communities that make up Greater Woodbury Cooperative Ministries.

In 2025 GWCM served 10,346 families. These families included 15,511 children and 24,105 adults. Thank you to our parish for donating food each week and to our volunteers who deliver it.

For Thanksgiving, GCWCM provided each of their client families with a turkey and all the fixings for a holiday meal. Christ Church participated in collecting the fixings and they had 200 bags to give out! For Christmas they provided a lasagna dinner, purchased through a grant from Atlantic City Electric and salad fixings, including fresh vegetables from Lipman. In addition to food, hygiene bags were given to the clients, including soap, shampoo, razors, deodorant, etc. Christ Church provided 50 hygiene bags!

GWCM also runs Jeanette's Closet, a clothing distribution center that has been open for 4 ½ years. Our own Brotherhood of Saint Andrew spearheaded a coat drive and donated 12 bags of blessed coats!

Thank you for your generous support that made all this possible and for the many volunteers who generously give of their time and energy.

For more information about GWCM visit GWCM.org.

Respectfully submitted, Darcie Sanchez



Office Volunteers' Guild

Volunteers are always needed no matter what the situation. When you stop to think about our Christ Church it has survived and continues to survive because of the many volunteers...the altar servers, choir members, church officers, ushers, lectors, and food bank donors. Sometimes extra hands are needed to put address stickers on envelopes and simply stuff the envelopes.

After all the word "volunteer" comes from the Latin word volo (I wish); so, if you wish to be helpful to Christ Church please contact Helen Gwalthney at 856-845-5531 or Carol Hill at 856-468-8787.

Thank you for your help.



Parish Musicians

Christ Church Woodbury 2026 Musicians Annual Report

Firstly, thank you all for the warm welcome to Christ Church as I jumped into the middle of things this fall! While navigating through a period of transition is never easy, it has been wonderful to be here working with all of you, the choir, choral scholars, and choristers. They all work hard to lead mass every week, and have continued to grow in what they can do as I've worked with them these past few months. I've focused a lot of energy into making our rehearsals more efficient to make the best use of our time together, particularly with regard to rehearsing the hymns and psalms each week. While it is not unheard of to only hold Sunday morning rehearsals, it requires discipline on the part of the choir to be prepared to move quickly through music. I'm thankful that our volunteers have risen to this, and are able to get a lot done in the time we have!

Looking forward, I have been exploring ideas to nurture and grow the music ministry, and the impact it has. There is a lot that we can do, using the music ministry as it is as the foundation. While resources are limited at this moment, I have been able to make use of what we have and make it work. Shifting the mindset from making do with what is on hand to looking forward to what we could be doing is the key to securing the future. As with many churches, Christ Church does not have the volunteer participation from within the parish as it once did. However, there are opportunities to attract members who may be looking for a church home, or even just a community of nice folks to sing with. Depending on how the parish wishes to proceed with advertising and outreach, the opportunity can be seized to use this as an area for growth.

In this part of the Philadelphia area, traditional music programs are not common. Christ Church has held onto traditional worship, choral music, Anglican chant, and hymnody. This is something which needs to be cherished, promoted, and nurtured not only within the parish, but needs to be treated as an asset worth investing in to help grow the parish, and bring people into it. Should the parish choose to make this investment, they can further work to establish Christ Church as a beacon for traditional worship on this side of the river. Philadelphia and its surrounding areas are rich in Anglo-Catholic parishes, and Christ Church has an opportunity to put itself on the map, should the parish choose to do so.

Parish Musicians

Lastly, I'd like to thank Fr. Civale and Jackie in the parish office for their guidance and help these first few months, along with the choral scholars and volunteers for helping lead worship to God week after week, and for additional guidance and support with filling me in on what was done in the past!

-Luke Stasiunas



Pastoral Care

The Pastoral Care Team of Christ Church has been formed and is prepared to offer assistance to parishioners. Members of the PCT are Deb Albright, Jean Lucas, Doreen Mills, and Barbara O' Melia. The PCT has been formed to assist with transportation to church or church activities (Parish Pathfinders), to provide meals for those who are in immediate need due to illness or personal loss (Martha's Meals) and to offer caregiver support when needed. Visitations to our shut-ins is an important area that needs to be developed.

The PCM team wants you to help us identify parishioners in need. Please contact the church office (856-845-0190), Deb Allbright (609-280-7251), or Father Civale, (617-947-3261 in case of pastoral emergency) when you are aware of a hospitalization or another need of someone in our parish family. All are invited to join this team to serve the Lord in this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Doreen Mills

Stewardship

Stewardship 2026 Pledge Update as of January 8, 2026

- Although the Stewardship Campaign ended in November we have continued to receive pledges.
- As of January 6, 2026, we have received 79 pledges totaling \$224,500.
- Compared to 2025, we are approximately \$12,000 ahead of last year. This is a testament to our congregation.

Thank you all for what you have given.

Sincerely,

F. Sherman Yeiter III



Following in Faith

Sunday School

Sunday School continues to be a vibrant and meaningful part of our church life. We currently have 28 children enrolled, and it has been wonderful to see their enthusiasm for learning and growing in faith each week. Our classes provide a welcoming environment where students can ask questions, build relationships, and deepen their understanding of God's love.

Cindy Scales and Zach Ares-Deterding are doing a great job teaching our students, bringing energy, care, and dedication to their roles. We continue to use the Spark House curriculum, which offers engaging lessons that connect faith to everyday life and encourage thoughtful discussion at every age level.

Our high school students are taught by Sarah Cranston, Scott and Anna Carr, and Brandon Gorman. This team does an excellent job guiding our older students through deeper conversations about faith, service, and living out Christian values. We are grateful for all of our teachers and their commitment to nurturing the spiritual growth of our children and youth.

Respectfully submitted by:
Michele Schiffer



Christ Church Youth Group: 2025 Year in Review

During the 2024–2025 program year, the Christ Church Youth Group met regularly for Sunday School, service projects, and group activities focused on scripture, community, and participation in parish life. The year included both structured learning and hands-on service, as well as opportunities for the youth to spend time together outside of Sunday mornings. We welcomed a new youth member and leadership expanded with Brandon Gorman becoming more regularly involved alongside Sarah Cranston, Scott Carr Jr., and Anna Carr.

Christian Formation

In the winter and spring of 2025, Sunday School focused on the Psalms. Youth read and discussed selected psalms and talked about how they function as prayer, lament, praise, and reflection. This study emphasized that scripture includes a wide range of human experience and that prayer can be direct and honest.

During the summer, the youth group gathered for an end-of-year pool party, graciously hosted by the Sanchez family. At that gathering, each youth received a Bible as a gift. Youth are encouraged to bring their Bibles regularly and to use them during Sunday School as a practical part of learning to read and engage with scripture. In the fall, the group began a yearlong study of the Gospel of Mark, focusing on the life and ministry of Jesus and on developing habits of reading scripture carefully and asking substantive questions.

Service and Parish Engagement

Service was an ongoing focus throughout the year. In the spring, youth and adult leaders served at Kitchen of Hope, the food pantry ministry at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church in Glassboro. Youth assisted with sorting food and distributing groceries to individuals and families through the pantry's drive-up system. Time was set aside afterward for reflection on the experience and on the role of service in Christian life.

The youth also supported parish life in several ways. They hosted a themed "May the Fourth Be With You" coffee hour, where youth prepared and served refreshments and

Youth Group

interacted with parishioners. During Advent, the youth visited homebound parishioners, delivering poinsettias and spending time in conversation. These visits emphasized listening and connection as forms of ministry and developing intergenerational relationships.

Fellowship and Group Activities

In addition to Sunday School and service projects, the youth group participated in several group activities, including a Valentine's Day paint party and a fall outing to Dalton Farms. These activities supported relationship-building within the group and helped integrate new members.

Looking Ahead

A central goal for the coming year is to identify and develop a mission project, beginning with local or regional service and, over time, potentially expanding beyond the immediate area. Planning is also underway for additional group activities, including a youth lock-in and the possibility of another paint party, which may also serve as a fundraiser to support mission and service efforts.

We are especially grateful to the youth for their consistent involvement and willingness to participate fully in this ministry, and to the parents and parish for their continued support, encouragement, and generosity. Their partnership makes it possible for the youth group to learn, serve, and grow within the life of Christ Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah Cranston



Treasurer's Report

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY
TREASURER'S 2025 ANNUAL REPORT & 2026 BUDGET
 2026 Budget Approved by Vestry on 12/11/25

	2025 BUDGET	2025 ACTUAL	2026 BUDGET
REVENUE			
PLATE	15,000	35,790	15,000
PLEDGE	215,790	223,271	220,000
DESIGNATED GIFTS (for operations)	19,000	19,837	19,000
OPERATING REVENUE FROM OTHER SOURCES	45,000	45,000	45,000
INTEREST	-	-	-
BUDGET SHORTFALL	49,034	-	55,524
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 343,824	\$ 323,898	\$ 354,524
OUTGOING			
MISSION			
DIOCESAN ACCRUAL	27,813	27,913	29,212
OUTREACH	2,000	1,100	2,000
SEMINARY SUPPORT	-	-	-
TOTAL MISSION	\$ 29,813	\$ 29,013	\$ 31,212
PERSONNEL			
RECTOR	\$ 67,213	67,213	\$ 67,213
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR	20,254	21,889	29,640
ORGANIST	32,000	32,829	32,000
SEXTON	10,740	9,915	11,144
OFFICE ASSISTANT	5,000	5,253	-
NURSERY SITTER	1,728	2,168	2,144
CHORAL SCHOLARS	18,000	20,450	18,000
SUPPLY ORGANIST	-	-	-
FACILITIES MANAGER	-	-	-
OPERATING PD SALARIES	\$ 154,935	\$ 159,717	\$ 160,141
TAXES & BENEFITS			
SSI MEDICARE	13,834	13,334	14,232
WORKMANS COMP	1,200	961	1,200
PENSION CLERGY	19,898	16,935	19,898
PENSION SECRETARY	-	-	2,668
CLERGY HOUSING EQUITY	2,800	2,800	2,800
DENTAL INSURANCE CLERGY / SECR	672	-	672
HEALTH INSURANCE CLERGY / SECR	16,800	12,656	12,828
TERM LIFE INSURANCE	222	204	222
DISABILITY INSURANCE	-	-	-
CONTINUING EDUCATION	1,075	56	1,075
TOTAL TAXES & BENEFITS	\$ 56,501	\$ 46,945	\$ 55,595
OTHER EXPENSES			
ADVERTISING (YELLOW PAGES)	-	611	-
PARISH OFFICE	5,500	8,590	5,500
REPRODUCTION MACHINE RENTAL	4,500	4,197	4,500
POSTAGE	1,500	1,016	1,500
PRINTING SERVICES	750	972	750
TELEPHONE	1,300	1,409	1,300
IT SERVICES	1,500	1,540	1,500
CABLE TV & INTERNET SERVICE	2,500	2,729	2,500
HOUSEKEEPING SUPPLIES	500	724	500
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	1,000	325	1,000
LAY MINISTRY MUSIC/CHOIR	500	1,529	500
DIocese CONVENTION	250	30	250
PROFESSIONAL EXPENSE	4,500	3,129	4,500
REPAIRS / MINOR IMPROVEMENTS	4,000	3,119	4,000
PROPERTY MAINTENANCE	15,000	21,918	17,500
SUPPLY PRIEST	2,225	2,400	2,225
SUPPLY ORGANIST	-	-	-
FUEL / ELEC / WATER / SEWER	30,000	33,646	30,000
INSURANCE MULTIPERIL / BONDING	23,500	25,818	26,000
HOSPITALITY	500	1,146	500
NEW MINISTRY DEVELOPMENT	-	49	-
YOUTH MINISTRY	-	51	-
PARISH NURSING	-	-	-
SUNDAY SCHOOL	2,000	2,219	2,000
STAFF & LAY CONTINUING ED.	-	880	-
BISHOP'S VISITATIONS	350	-	350
INSTRUMENT MAINTENANCE	100	-	100
GIFTS & RECOGNITIONS	600	612	600
TOTAL OTHER EXPENSES	\$ 102,575	\$ 118,657	\$ 107,575
TOTAL EXPENSE NORMAL OPERATIONS	\$ 343,824	\$ 354,332	\$ 354,523

Treasurer's Report - Parish House Renovation Capital Fund

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY	
2025 Summary of Parish House Renovation Capital Fund	
Beginning Balance	\$ 3,266.37
Designated Offerings & IMO's	-
Direct Deposits	-
Interest	-
Total Fund Before Expenses	\$ 3,266.37
Loan Payments	\$ 2,145.04
Bank Charges (ACH)	-
Total Expenses	\$ 2,145.04
Fund Balance 12/31/2025	\$ 1,121.33
2025 Summary of Line of Credit Loan	
Original Loan Amount	\$ 286,097.36
Beginning Balance (12/20/24)	\$ 44,967.29
Principal and Interest Paid (2025)	\$ 2,145.04
Current Loan Balance (12/20/25)	\$ 44,989.43



Treasurer's Report - Endowment Fund

CHRIST CHURCH IN WOODBURY 2025 Summary of Endowment Savings Account

Beginning Balance (1/1/25)		\$ 81,694.74
Deposits:		
Deposits from Portfolio	\$ 64,230.00	
Remote Deposits (IMO)	25.00	
Interest	-	
Total Deposits		\$ 64,255.00
Payments:		
Rectory A/C Unit Replacement	\$ 17,728.17	
Balance for New Vestments (IMO Fr. Bird)	4,250.00	
Transfer for Designated Fund Replenishment	30,000.00	
Transfers to GF per Vestry (2025 Operating)	45,000.00	
Line of Credit Payments (Bancorp)	2,145.04	
Total Payments		\$ 99,123.21
Ending Balance (12/31/25)		\$ 46,826.53

Submitted by: Mark Novalsky, Treasurer



2025 Wardens Report

This past year has been an important one in the life of our parish, marked by stability, discernment, and a growing sense of shared purpose. We are deeply grateful for the faithful leadership of our clergy, the dedication of the vestry, and the many parishioners who support the life and ministry of this church through their time, talent, and treasure.

A significant focus of the vestry this year has been our ongoing discernment regarding clergy leadership. As our priest-in-charge entered the final year of his three-year agreement with the parish, the vestry engaged in prayerful conversation and careful reflection. With the approval of the Bishop of the Diocese, the vestry voted in December to appoint Father Civale as Rector, effective January 1. We are pleased to formally announce this today and look forward to continuing our shared ministry together.

Looking ahead, the vestry is mindful of the responsibilities that come with this next chapter in our common life. In the coming year, we will be placing renewed emphasis on stewardship, inviting the congregation to reflect on how we support the mission and ministry of this parish in a sustainable and faithful way. At the same time, we will be addressing necessary capital improvements to our church facilities, ensuring that the physical home of our worship and community life is well cared for and prepared for the future.



We are grateful for the spirit of generosity, cooperation, and commitment that continues to define this parish. With God's guidance, strong leadership, and the shared efforts of this congregation, we are confident that we are well positioned for the year ahead.

Respectfully submitted,
Tori Wishnick & Steve Lewis



First Holy Communion 2025



Priest - in - Charge Report

Dear Parishioners of Christ Church,

Christ Church has shown signs of continued stabilization and growth in 2025. The parish continues to see the return of parishioners who have left in prior years and has also welcomed some new members. Our average Sunday attendance increased slightly to 107. We had 9 deaths and 7 funerals. We celebrated 3 baptisms. We grew with 10 news members. A new family with two children joined the parish in September and enrolled their two children in Sunday School but when they realized the parish's First Communion policy, they found another church.

The parish has seen another year of substantial change and challenge. It has also evidenced a renewed spirit which is essential if we are going to see continued growth and do all that the Lord has in store for us. As with so many parishes, financial resources are a primary concern.

In June we lost both our part time parish administrator and music director. Both people made it abundantly clear that it was purely a financial decision and that they liked working at Christ Church. You may remember from last year's Annual Meeting, I acknowledged that it had been a mistake to reduce the parish administrator position to part time in 2023 and my hope was to continue to work with the Vestry to restore the position to full time. I noted that there was too much to do in a parish our size to keep things running smoothly. This loss was what leadership needed to restore the position to full time and Jackie Fahr began with us in September. The Vestry came to agree that in order to invest in the future we needed to financially invest in a full time office administrator.

As well we lost a fine organist and music director who in a very short time surprisingly built up a chorister program. He began reaching out to the community to build our music program and helped bring the musicians together. At his resignation, he noted that the parish has great potential to grow and that we offer a beautiful liturgy which needs a music program which the parish needs to increase its investment in. He also made it clear that what he had been doing was not feasible at 15 hours per week. In many ways echoed what the parish has made clear in past surveys- that good music and liturgy is a high priority.

In the past the parish was blessed to have a number of fine musicians who worked for nothing or for very little money. And gradually as volunteer singers became less available and weekday rehearsals were discontinued, paid scholars were employed to support each section and offer more difficult pieces. Throughout the changes, the parish continued and continues to expect high quality music. It also desired the growth of a children's chorister program. Simultaneously, nationwide the availability of trained organists and sacred music directors has become drastically less than even 10 years ago. As I've shared since beginning at Christ Church, I see music and liturgy as one of the parish's most important charisms. If you ask any visitor or new member what brought them and keeps them at Christ Church, music and liturgy would be at the top of the list.

The bottom line is that we will need to increase funding for music in order to meet expectations and grow the music program. I will be forming a small committee to work with me to explore our options. My first suggestion to them and to Vestry is that we create a specific fund for money to go directly to the music program, so that we can increase the hours and salary of the music director, begin to update our music library and find inventive ways to build the chorister program. We could look at this initially as a fund drive, with the hope that people will continue to give annually. We already have an anonymous donor who gives specifically to help pay the choral scholars. Based on its results, we will see if our current expectations are realistic. I hope they are.

Another money related campaign will be coming in the near horizon. Our buildings and grounds are in great need of basic repair. For many years some important basic projects have been put off and need to be addressed. The Buildings and Grounds Committee, will be putting together a booklet which will include the history of how our property has been maintained in the past 30 years. It will include a formal assessment of what needs to be done and when and how a capital campaign will address those needs.

It's important to remember that what we pledge during the stewardship season, is about maintaining our parish and even with those generous pledges we continue to depend on our endowment. Like most of us, I dislike talking about money. There are so many things I'd rather be doing as your pastor. But this is our reality in 2026. We can continue to put off the inevitable with our property needs and pay a higher price later. We can continue to hire music directors who don't stay. Or we can be strategic and invest in what draws people to our parish.

Turning to other things, I continue to be heartened by signs of renewed life in the parish. The enthusiasm of the men in the Brotherhood of St. Andrew is a great example. The number of young men who enjoy serving the parish and the fellowship with each other and the older men is a very hopeful sign. Their involvement with property care and involvement with the Garden Ministry has been so important. The fellowship of the women of ECW is also encouraging. As well, the hard work and dedication of the Sunday School, Youth program, Bible Study, Pastoral Care team, the Acolytes and the Altar Guild show me that discipleship is alive in the parish. We simply cannot do what we do without those of you who step up. One significant concern I still have is that projects and committees that attract volunteers tend to be more short-term. It is more difficult to find volunteers who are able to commit consistent time over a longer time frame. I mentioned this last year and it is a serious concern. It is not a judgement, but an observation, and will affect how we envision the future. For example, many parishioners have expressed that we need to be a parish that is more directly involved in mission and evangelism in the local community. The reality is that we cannot achieve this desire if more of our members are not committed in a more routine and ongoing way. This is a challenge in churches everywhere. There are many distractions and commitments that church life competes with. But again, like with financial giving, if we are not committing our time in a thoughtful strategic way to the Church, we will increasingly look like a parish that doesn't have its act together and people will not want to join us.

I have been working with the Vestry to look at this problem. And at our last Acolyte Master meeting we spent much time talking about how difficult it is when the parents of the acolytes don't plan ahead and coordinate serving at the altar with the many other things in our children's busy schedules. Again, if we are going to attract new members and grow, we need to commit to church like we commit to other important things in our lives.

We thank Sherm Yeiter, Laura Erasmus and Gwen Simpson for their service and all of their hard work as they step off Vestry. We thank Susan Novalsky for heading our nominating committee. And we thank the new Vestry members and those staying on for all that they do.

This winter, at the Adult Forum, we will return to discuss the Prayer Book and liturgy with a special focus on the Eucharist. We will explore what we do and why we do it throughout the Mass. We will also discuss our tradition of putting off First Communion until 2nd grade. We will offer the Ecumenical Lenten meal and book study. As well, Bible study will continue to be offered on Monday evenings by Scott Carr. And we will hold two Holy Hours followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament following Stations of the Cross during Lent. As your pastor I will continue to address vestry organization, stewardship, property concerns, evangelism and our financial challenges. My hope is that by our next annual meeting, leadership will have put together a clear vision and mission statement which will carry the parish into the future. Christ Church has so much to share as a member of the Body of Christ. Its commitment to prayerful and transformative liturgy and music, its traditional understanding of the Creeds, its robust Sunday School and Youth programs, and its genuine care for each other, are all rooted first in our understanding that we are people redeemed by the Death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This is at the foundation of the good news that we are all called to share. I am excited to be with you as your priest and look forward to our continued journey with the Lord to meet the challenges that are before us and to continue celebrating all the good things that Christ Church has to offer each other and the world outside its doors.

Faithfully in Christ,

Father Civale



The Year in Photos









In Memory of Joe Chew and his Brothers Andrew
Who have lead and served with distinction
Christ Church in Woodbury

B. Dawson Shoemaker
July 2009

Joseph Chew
April 2011

William Cooper
October 2011

Bernard Lasoski
December 2014

John Deal
January 2015

Robert Buchanan
October 2015

Daniel Jlets
September 2018

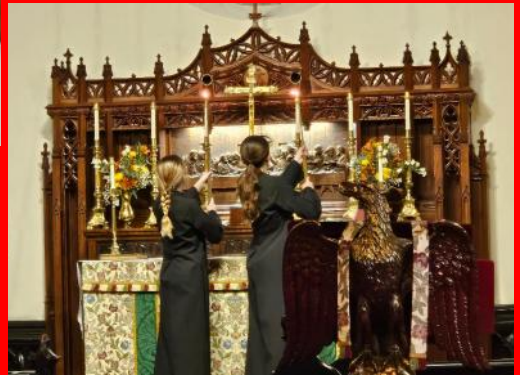
David Wianick
October 2021

Robert Scott
August 2024

Paul Goldy
April 2025

Jonathan Jones
May 2028

James Atkins
July 2028



Given in Memory of
The Reverend John E. Bird Jr.
The Reverend Canon William V. Rauscher

NECROLOGY 2025
Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord....

James Atkins
Carol Eaton
Paul Goldy, Sr.
Shirley Harris
Jonathan Jones
Doris Landberg
Donald Moser
Joseph Shapley
Marilyn Waples

2025 Parish Register Entries

Added by Baptism	4
Added by Confirmation/Reception	1
Lost by Death (member)	9

Compiled by **Jacqueline Fahr**, Parish Administrator



Christ Church
62 Delaware Street,
Woodbury, NJ 08096
(856) 845-0190
www.christchurchwoodbury.org

*A Parish of the
Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey
and the worldwide Anglican Communion*

Service Schedule

Sunday: 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM
Wednesday: 10:00 AM Healing Mass
Thursday: 6:30 PM Mass
Friday: 5:30 PM Evening Prayer

Priest-in-Charge

The Rev. Lawrence Civile

Interim Organist and Choir Director

Luke Staisiunas

Parish Administrator

Jacqueline Fahr