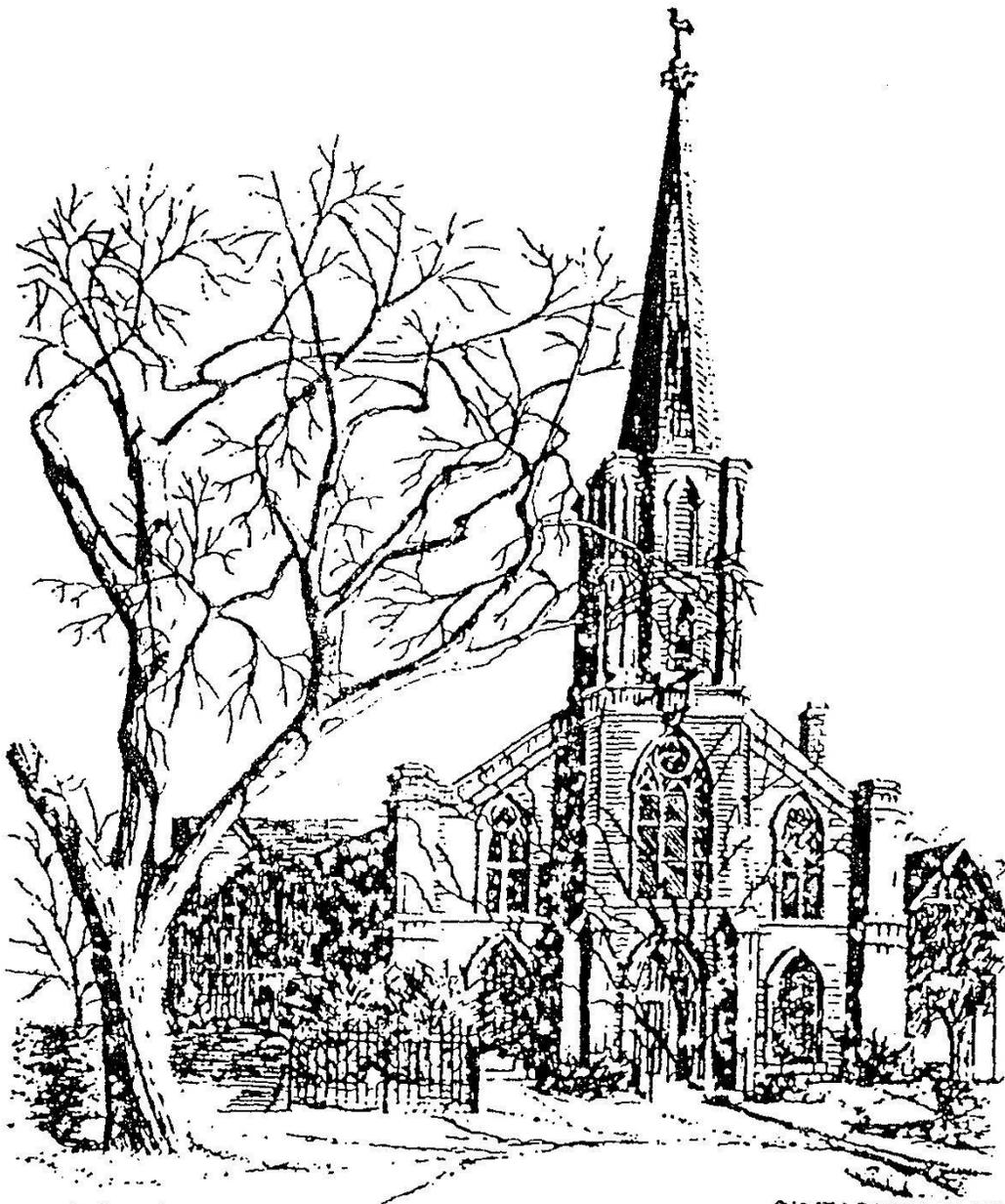


*Christ Episcopal Church
Stratford, Connecticut*



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CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
STRATFORD, CT

*The 295th Annual Parish Meeting
January 24, 2021*

We Are the Church

The first four verses will be sung at the beginning of the Annual meeting, the remaining two verses will be sung at the conclusion of the meeting.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Presentation and adoption of roll of voting members (Clerk)
3. Minutes of the last Parish Meeting
4. Report of the Treasurer
 - 4.1. Financial Report for 2020
 - 4.2. Budget for 2021
 - 4.3. Abridged Endowment Fund Report – Bob Ready
5. Report of the Rector – The Reverend Canon Patricia Coller
6. Report of the Senior Warden – Kenneth Warrington
7. Other Reports Printed within this Booklet
Parish Life Committee, Music Director, Stewardship Commission, Buildings and Grounds Committee, Sunday School, Altar Guild.
8. Election of Wardens, Vestrypersons, Clerk, Treasurer and Commission Members
9. Election of delegates and alternates to Diocesan Convention
10. New Business proper to come before the meeting
11. Closing Prayer

The Prayer for Christ Church

Almighty and everliving God, whose most blessed gift is your son, Jesus Christ. Grant us the grace to reach out in your name with love and service. May we offer a haven to those whose hearts are hurting, a refuge to those whose lives are in turmoil, a place of hospitality to those who don't yet know you, a beacon of hope to those who still seek you, your Peace to those already filled with the joy of loving you. All this we ask in Jesus' name.
Amen.

**294th Annual Parish Meeting
Christ Church, Stratford
January 26, 2020**

The 294th Annual Parish Meeting of Christ Church, Stratford was opened with a prayer by the Reverend Pat Collier who conducted the meeting. The Parish Clerk, Tracey Longway, read the canonical requirements for eligibility to vote at a parish meeting from the church's by-laws.

Report of the Treasurer: Doreen Moffat - The Finance Report for 2019 showed us to be where we expected with an approximate parish generated income of \$182,113, non-parish generated income of \$52,402 and an additional amount of \$44,733 drawn out of our Investment Principal (Endowment Fund) and Expenses of approximately \$329,085.

The Budget for 2020 is indicated as follows: Expected income of \$211,950 with the additional amount of \$48,000 to be drawn out of the Endowment Fund and expenses figured to be \$268,042.

The Financial report was accepted by show of hands.

Abridged Endowment Fund Report: Bob Ready - In January 2019 our Endowment Fund assets were transferred from BNY/Mellon to the Episcopal Diocese of CT Donations & Bequests account managed by Bank of America Private Group. The 3 major reasons for this decision were:

1. Lack of timely service from BNY/Mellon
2. Management fees we were charged by BNY/Mellon were reduced by approximately 50%
3. The Vestry no longer had the Fiduciary responsibility to make investment decisions.

Our Endowment Fund asset allocation is a prudent Balanced Portfolio comprised of approximately: **60% Stocks / 40% Bonds**

January 1, 2019 Beginning Balance - **\$1,105,121.00**

December 31, 2019 "Net" Ending Balance - **\$1,198,311.16**

Our 2019 Total "Time Weighted Gross" Annual Return - **+18.98%**

IMPORTANT NOTE: A monthly withdrawal of \$4,066.67 from the Endowment Fund began in February 2019. In the essence of time, please feel free to speak with me individually should you have questions.

Rector's Report: Reverend Pat Collier - Beginning in April of 2018, following the retirement of Priest-in-Charge Scott Lee, I was honored to, along with my friend the Reverend Laura Queen, provide consistent Sunday coverage as supply priest during the interim period between Rectors here at Christ Church. During this time we as a congregation, and I as an individual, prayed regularly for the next Rector of this church to be identified and chosen. At one point it seemed that the person had been found, but for various reasons that call did not work out. So I continued to pray for a new Rector, looking forward to a time in the future when I once again could "retire". As I prayed, however, a voice seemed to come to me saying, "It's you!" As the weeks went by, I kept praying for the right person to be found, but I kept hearing that voice saying "it's you." I began to talk about what I was experiencing with just a few people outside of this church who know me, to get some other perspectives and reactions. That feeling, continued to grow steadily stronger, until one day at a meeting of the Worship Committee I offhandedly let it be known that I was contemplating offering myself as a candidate for the next Rector of Christ Church. That offhanded comment seemed to be received with interest and welcomed. What followed was some weeks of prayer and conversation with individuals in the congregation, followed by an interview with the Transition Committee, and finally with the Vestry. All along I let it be known that if I agreed to be the Rector, I wanted Laura to continue to Preside at a number of Sunday services, allowing me to support the congregation in other ways while still honoring my half-time status. After this

careful process of discernment, at the end of October we all seemed to agree that God has called us to minister together here at Christ Church for the next period of time. And I must say, I could not be more pleased. What a joy it is to be part of this community of faithful, joyful, committed people! How good it is to work in such a welcoming office environment where people are always dropping by to conduct business of one kind or another, or just have a cup of coffee. How awed I am at the commitment I see among the members of this congregation to conduct meaningful worship...to care for the spiritual formation of our young people...to be wonderful stewards of our extensive buildings and grounds...to deepen our prayer lives...to engage in powerful outreach to the community...to welcome the stranger into our midst.

I very much look forward to our life together in the coming months as we learn, grow, and serve together, asking God to lead us every step of the way as we move into a new season of participating in God's mission.
Canon Pat+

Warden's Report: Before we look forward to 2020, we must stop and give thanks for all the blessings of 2019. It was a year of many ups and downs and now thanks, especially, to the hard work and commitment of the staff, vestry, all of our church committees and volunteers, 2019 has become "The Light" to pass forward. We want to give thanks to the Transition Team. Their work and faithful effort gave us the basis for what we wanted and needed in a new rector. God then led us to Reverend Pat and she to us.

Also, our deepest appreciation to the Property Committee for their many years of perseverance with, what became, an extremely frustrating task. Thanks to them, we are finally celebrating the long-awaited sale of both houses and the parking lot. The committee can finally retire!

We want to express our gratitude to Pat Coller and Laura Queen, for their generous and uplifting service to us. In late March, they got together and came up with a shared supply schedule that covered the rest of the year! They lifted the burden of us having to find someone for every service, holiday and special occasion. What a gift! What this year continued to show us is that our church family doesn't turn away from any challenges! The many projects and issues we faced were tackled and resolved. We thank all of you. Without your support it wouldn't have happened. We are starting 2020 on many high notes and hope to continue this with a renewed energy and faith. We look forward to being able to focus on a new and exciting journey. We welcome your continued support, ideas and participation! May God's "light" continue to shine and lead us in our love, growth and mission.

The Warden's report was accepted by show of hands.

Nominating Commission: Margee Ready presented the slate on behalf of the commission. Kenneth Warrington was nominated as Senior Warden, Robert Ready was nominated as Junior Warden. Doreen Moffatt was nominated as Treasurer and Tracey Longway was nominated as Parish Clerk. Nominated to the Vestry for new and continuing terms were Michelle Perillie, Chris Moffat, and Jeff Arkenberg (three-year terms), Raleigh Padgett, Eric Paravos and Leslie Light (two-year terms), Jancee Pust-Marcone, Cynthia Casinelli and Sandy Lefebvre (one-year terms). Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention and Bridgeport Deanery Convocation (three-year terms) were Marilyn Olbrys and Cheryl Warrington.

The slate of nominees was accepted by show of hands.

The Stewardship Commission, Property Sale Commission, Worship Commission, Building and Grounds Commission, Sunday School Commission, Transition Team, Outreach Commission, Music Director, Events Committee and Altar Guilds all submitted reports for review to the Annual meeting summarizing their work over the last year and updating their current statuses. All these reports were accepted by show of hands.

Reverend Pat Coller concluded the meeting with a Litany of Thanksgiving for a church followed by a closing hymn led by Dottie Cameron and the choir.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tracey Longway

Tracey Longway

Parish Clerk

2020 Treasurer's Report

The Finance committee met 4 times this year, once in person and the rest on Zoom! We had very good attendance at each meeting. Thank you to all committee members for your commitment and diligence! Topics of discussion and decisions included:

- Monitoring monthly income and expenses
- Monitoring investment performance
- Establishing an accurate and realistic budget for 2021 reflecting the impact of the pandemic on our finances
- Determining how to invest proceeds of property sales

We ended 2020 with slightly more income (3% more) than we had budgeted and slightly more expense than budgeted (6% more). To close the gap we transferred funds from the savings account to the checking account as necessary. Items of note:

- Ended the year at 89% of budget for pledge income. This means our income was short by \$15,000—funds pledged by parish members but not actually given. In 2019 it was 95% .
- The large amount in Misc Income is because we received a \$22,400 PPP loan (Paycheck Protection Program) from the Small Business Administration as part of the CARES Act passed by Congress in the spring as pandemic relief. The loan is forgivable, meaning we don't have to pay it back because we used the funds as specified by the Act. Interest income from our bank savings account is also in this line.
- Building use income was down by 40% due to the pandemic. We expect this to continue and have adjusted 2021's budget accordingly.
- Professional Fees included a \$10,000 unplanned expense as we had to pay a retainer to the attorney assisting us in ongoing property related matters.
- Utilities were considerably over budget, not because we had high utility bills (just the opposite since church was closed quite a bit!) but due to a budgeting error –uncertainty about the impact on the budget of the short term costs involved in updating to energy efficient fixtures. This has been addressed in the 2021 budget.
- General Maintenance and Repairs considerably over budget due to expenses related to upgrading/replacing plumbing and bathroom fixtures, replacing the Fire/Security alarm system and roof repairs.

With the sale of the parking lot and other properties at the end of 2019, we put the proceeds into a bank savings account, with the intention in 2020 to go through a prayerful discernment process on how to further invest and utilize those funds. As a result, in December 2020 the Finance Committee recommended, and the Vestry approved that we move a large amount of that into the endowment, held in the Donations and Bequests investment account with the diocese. That process will take place over the first half of 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Doreen Moffat

Treasurer

	2020 Actual	2020 Annual Budget	% of Annual Budget
Income			
4100 · Parish Generated Income			
4110 · Pledges- Current Year	120,056	135,000	89%
4120 · Plate Offering	13,782	25,000	55%
4130 · Initial Offering	119	150	79%
4140 · Easter	777	1,000	78%
4150 · Christmas	825	3,000	28%
4160 · Fundraising	343	0	
4170 · Bequests	10,000	0	
4190 · Misc/Other Income	43,258	10,000	433%
Total 4100 · Parish Generated Income	189,160	174,150	109%
4200 · Non-Parish Generated			
4210 · Building Use	13,290	22,000	60%
4220 · Prageman	1,017	800	127%
4230 · Cowdery Interest	4,243	6,000	71%
4250 · Leavenworth	7,621	7,000	109%
4260 · Stratford Clergy Association	2,000	2,000	100%
Total 4200 · Non-Parish Generated	28,171	37,800	75%
Total Income	217,331	211,950	103%
Expense			
6100 · Administration Expense			
6105 · Admin Asst Salary	30,066	30,066	100%
6110 · Pension Contributions	2,372	2,450	97%
6115 · Medical Insurance	1,380	1,380	100%
6120 · Social Security Taxes	2,300	2,325	99%
6125 · Bookkeeping	6,340	6,720	94%
6130 · Payroll Service	570	550	104%
6135 · Advertising	289	1,500	19%
6140 · Service Contract & Equip Rental	4,514	4,500	100%
6145 · Office Equipment	976	0	
6150 · Office Supplies	2,423	1,800	135%
6155 · Postage & Mater Rental	338	200	169%
6160 · Internet	745	1,100	68%
6165 · Telephone	2,498	1,800	139%
6170 · Professional Fees	14,760	4,200	351%
6180 · Bank service charges	383	0	
Total 6100 Administration Expense	69,953	58,591	119%
6200 · Christian Education Expense			
6210 · Adult Education	504	500	101%
6220 · Curriculum Material	0	500	0%
6230 · Sunday School Supplies	157	500	31%
6240 · Youth Ministry	0	500	0%
Total 6200 Christian Education Expense	661	2,000	33%
6300 · Ordained Ministry Expense			
6310 · Rector's Salary	39,000	39,000	100%
6340 · Travel/Expense Allowance	26	2,800	1%
6350 · Life, Medical & Dental Ins.	0	2,400	0%
6360 · Pension Contributions	932	0	
6370 · Continuing Ed.	0	1,850	0%
6380 · Professional & Phone Expense	0	1,000	0%
6390 · Supply Priest	1,650	5,000	33%
Total 6300 Ordained Ministry Expense	41,608	52,050	80%
6400 · Other Categories Expense			
6410 · Stewardship Campaign	557	700	80%
6420 · Consultant Fee (Transition)	0	1,000	0%
Total 6400 Other Categories Expense	557	1,700	33%
6500 · Parish Outreach Expenses			
6510 · Diocesan Pledge	31,032	30,000	103%
6520 · Bridgport Soup Kitchen	2,648	2,000	132%
6530 · Spooner House	65	1,000	7%
6540 · Misc. Outreach/CC Soup Kitchen	3,058	2,000	153%
Total 6500 Parish Outreach Expenses	36,804	35,000	105%
6600 · Parish Property Expense			
6610 · Fuel Oil -2000 Main Street	11,517	22,000	52%
6615 · Furnace Maintenance Contracts	1,170	0	
6620 · General Maint. & Repairs	22,948	5,000	459%
6630 · Cleaning Services	7,500	10,000	75%
6635 · Sexton	2,870	2,400	120%
6640 · Grounds Care (Grass & Snow)	4,556	5,500	83%
6650 · Utilities	23,636	12,500	189%
6660 · Carting/Disposal Charges	2,564	3,000	85%
6665 · Security Monitoring Fees	1,160	500	232%
6670 · Property & Casualty Ins	16,146	17,000	95%
6675 · Worker's Comp Ins.	384	800	48%
6680 · Sewer Usage Fee	1,257	900	
Total 6600 Parish Property Expense	95,708	79,600	120%
6700 · 1969 Main Rectory Property			
6710 · Fuel Oil -1969 Main Street	4,198	4,500	93%
6720 · General Maint. & Repairs	1,991	1,000	199%
6730 · Ground Care (Grass & Snow)	1,769	1,650	107%
6740 · Utilities	2,504	2,684	93%
6770 · Sewer Usage Fee	792	400	198%
6790 · Misc	506	0	
Total 6700 Rectory Property Expense	11,761	10,234	115%
6800 · Worship Expense			
6810 · Organist/Choir Dir Salary	22,415	22,415	100%
6820 · Social Security Taxes	1,715	1,700	101%
6830 · Altar Supplies	289	500	58%
6840 · Choir Music	34	500	7%
6850 · Substitute Organist	250	725	34%
6860 · Organ & Piano Maint.	1,715	1,200	143%
6870 · Special Instruments and Vocals	0	177	0%
6880 · Flowers **	1,511	650	232%
6890 · Misc/Other	0	1,000	0%
Total 6800 Worship Expense	27,929	28,867	97%
Total Expense	285,377	268,042	106%
Net Income	(68,047)	(56,092)	
5000 · Endowment Fund Principle Draw	4,067		
Net Income	(63,980)	(56,092)	

Christ Episcopal Church

Balance Sheet

December 31, 2020

Assets		
1000 People's United Checking		10,376
1100 People's United Savings		1,170,963
1200 Rector's Discretionary Account		1,913
Total Cash		1,183,252
1400 Accounts Receivable		17,587
1420 Prepaid Expenses		1,376
1600 Macquarie Bond (Rect Discr) #7862		1,462
1700 Rector's Scholarship Fund (Diocese)		157,070
1900 Endowment Account - US Trust		1,193,660
Total Other Assets		1,371,156
Total Assets		2,554,408
Liabilities		
2000 Accounts Payable		10,099
2500 Security Deposits		100
Total Liabilities		10,199
Equity		
Unrestricted Funds		1,237,482
Designated Funds		
3101b Piano and Music		4,934
3101c Altar Guild		268
3101d Book of Remembrance		190
3101e Outreach		2,657
3101f Godly Play		984
3101z Designated Giving		1,763
Total Designated Funds		10,796
Temporarily Restricted Funds		
3130 Memorial Garden		7,718
3160 Macquarie Bond (Rect Disc)		1,462
Total Temporarily Restricted Funds		9,181
Permanently Restricted Funds		
3570 Rector's Scholarship - US Trust		157,070
3590 Endowment - US Trust		1,193,660
Total Permanently Restricted Funds		1,350,730
Net Income		(63,980)
Total Equity		2,544,209
Total Liabilities and Equity		2,554,408

Endowment Fund Summary Annual Report - Calendar Year 2020

Prepared by: Bob Ready

In spite of COVID-19, political unrest, racial injustice, strained US foreign relations, trade tariffs, turbulent world financial markets, record high U.S. unemployment, etc., calendar year 2020 was a good year for the 3 major United States stock indices; the Dow Jones Industrial Average, the S&P 500 Index and the NASDAQ Composite. Therefore, as a result of these positive market performances, it was also a good year for the Christ Church Donations and Bequests (D&B) Endowment Fund.

CALENDAR YEAR 2020 TOTAL RETURNS

(INCLUDES PRICE INCREASES AND DIVIDEND RE-INVESTMENTS)

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE - +7.25%*

S&P 500 INDEX - +16.26%**

NASDAQ COMPOSITE - +43.64%***

2020 MONTH BY MONTH PERFORMANCE OF CHRIST CHURCH D&B ENDOWMENT FUND

OUR ACCOUNT BALANCE AT THE BEGINNING OF 2020 WAS \$1,199,808.10

MONTH ENDING	TOTAL AMOUNT INVESTED	MONTHLY GAIN/LOSS	END OF MONTH VALUE
12/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$44,992.38	\$1,353,811.00
11/30/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$98,098.49	\$1,308,818.62
10/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	(\$5,909.24)	\$1,210,720.13
09/30/2020	\$1,045,931.50	(\$26,126.26)	\$1,216,629.37
08/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$38,813.72	\$1,242,755.62
07/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$49,455.81	\$1,203,941.90
06/30/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$19,805.99	\$1,154,486.09
05/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$40,341.13	\$1,134,680.10
04/30/2020	\$1,045,931.50	\$84,311.79	\$1,094,338.97
03/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	(\$118,562.99)	\$1,010,027.19
02/29/2020	\$1,045,931.50	(\$58,017.05)	\$1,128,590.18
01/31/2020	\$1,045,931.50	(\$9,134.20)	\$1,186,607.22

Our Endowment Fund asset allocation is a prudent Balanced Portfolio comprised of approximately:
60% Stocks / 40% Bonds

ACCOUNT SUMMARY

January 2020 Beginning Balance - **\$1,199,808.10**

December 2020 Ending Balance - **\$1,353,811.00**

2020 Gain in Account Balance - **\$154,002.90**

2020 Gross Return - +**13.71%**

The management fee charged by Bank of America Private Bank is approximately 50 basis points (½%).

Please feel free to email me at rjready@aol.com should you have questions.

Thank you.

References:

***DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE** is a stock market index that measures the stock performance of 30 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.

****S&P 500 INDEX** is a stock market index that measures the stock performance of 500 large companies listed on stock exchanges in the United States.

*****NASDAQ COMPOSITE** is a stock market index of the common stocks listed on the NASDAQ stock market and is heavily weighted towards information technology companies.

RECTOR'S REPORT

Rector's Report

I had been Rector of Christ Church for less than five months. I was just getting “warmed-up” in terms of engaging with our Vestry and congregation to see what adventures God might be calling us to in the coming year when COVID-19 descended upon us and threatened to grind life to a halt! In fact, with the advice and guidance of our diocesan bishops, we and most other churches in Connecticut closed our buildings for several months while scientists and doctors tried their best to understand this new virus and how to deal effectively with it and bring the pandemic to a quick end. As we now know, the end is still not in sight, but life at Christ Church has adapted to our circumstances, and we continue to worship and serve the Lord in ways old and new, even in this unusual time.

Our buildings may have been closed, but the ministry here at Christ Church continued. Almost immediately, the staff and lay leaders here at the church began educating ourselves in the use of technology in order to provide worship. Very early on we began creating videos of our services, and posting them to YouTube, the Christ Church Facebook page, and the Christ Church website. We all learned how to use Zoom technology for meetings, whether it be staff, Vestry, Bible Study, or other group meetings. Many of us joined together for Centering Prayer in the evenings on Facebook thanks to Cyndi Cassanelli's leadership.

Early on we looked to see how many were watching our services in a virtual format, so that we could record those numbers in our parish register. To our surprise, we learned that many people beyond our congregation were seeking the solace that worship could bring. Over 200 people logged on to our first services, and a record number attended our 2020 Easter service. After prayer and consideration, the Vestry determined that it would be part of our ongoing mission to provide both in-person worship services (when we're able) as well as making those services available virtually on an ongoing basis. As time went on, a number of parishioners worked together to extend our existing internet connection throughout the building, and to upgrade our sound system, and we experimented with “live-streaming” our services as well.

Meanwhile, the Buildings and Grounds Committee was hard at work making repairs and improvements to our property. The floor in the old parish hall was refinished and the ladies' room in the office wing was painted and

new toilets installed. Repair to paint and plaster was completed in the choir room vestibule, and that area is becoming a “sitting area” suitable for small group meetings. The choir room itself has been re-organized and cleaned. The meeting room across from the parish office has had a dramatic makeover thanks to the volunteer efforts of parishioners, and numerous other repairs and improvements were made in and around the buildings and grounds.

In November we were blessed to have Ethan and Barbara Stewart attend our 10:00 worship service. Ethan has written a book, *The Restoration of Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery*, and he and Barbara spoke to our congregation about the work that was completed there, thanks to the DAR and SAR, and we were presented with two copies of the book. That work helped restore a number of the headstones in the cemetery, and several new stones were placed to honor Patriots and participants in the Revolutionary War. In doing the research on the cemetery it was also made more clear that there are several persons who were “slaves” of some of the early citizens of Stratford who are buried in the cemetery. There are no grave markers for them, and as part of Christ Church’s response to the diocesan mandate to participate in acts of racial healing, justice and reconciliation, particularly in response to the renewed awareness of those issues brought on by events of this past year, the Vestry has agreed to place a marker in our cemetery in memory of those persons.

Through all of these months, the Lord’s Kitchen has continued to serve meals twice per week to those who are “food insecure” in our community. Meals are served on a “take-out” basis, but this ministry has never stopped during the pandemic, for which our guests are always grateful.

A “Re-opening Task Force” worked together to create safe ways for us to begin to worship in-person again, which we did when the COVID numbers decreased, beginning July 5. Unfortunately because of the rise of the Pandemic in the fall we had to cease in-person worship once more, but the office has remained open, and ministry continues in the midst of the challenges of this past year.

There are so many people to thank for their faithful ministries: Sue Hovan our Office Administrator, Dottie Cameron our Music Director, the Buildings and Grounds Committee, Godly Play and Teen Group leaders, Altar Guild, Parish Life Committee, Property Committee, Stewardship Commission, Re-opening Task Force, Sound System Task Force, and of course, the Vestry. Even in this strange time, Christ Church has responded to God’s call to spread the Good News, and I am honored to minister among you.

As we continue into the new year, our ongoing mission moves forward. We continue to improve our ability to provide meaningful worship, and music, in a virtual format. The hungry continue to be fed. Godly Play is still provided to our children. A study group is working through a book that encourages us to be prayerfully open to God’s prompting toward new mission enterprises through the power of the Holy Spirit. Plans are being developed for a Virtual Shrove Tuesday event, and Lenten worship opportunities. I look forward to learning what God has in store for us in 2021!

Respectfully and faithfully,

Canon Pat

While all of this was going on, the Vestry and Property Committee learned early in the year that Christ Church was being served with a lawsuit initiated by a person who had originally planned to purchase the parish parking lot. While this person did not end up purchasing the property, he feels he assisted in having the zoning of the

property changed and should therefore benefit from the financial gain we realized from the sale. Christ Church has retained an attorney to represent us in this case, and we are hopeful that the situation can be resolved without undue cost to us. The Pandemic has dramatically slowed courtroom processes, but we do receive updates regularly from our attorney, and we have reason to believe that this situation will be settled before too long.

WARDEN'S REPORT

Before we say hello to 2021, we need to say goodbye to 2020 and give a heartfelt thanks to Canon Pat, Dottie, Sue and all our wonderful volunteers. They showed us the strength and spirit of our Christ Church family, through their hard work and dedication. Even though the past year was a year like no other, we remained focused on our mission.

We started 2020 on a very high note with the sale of the property and were excited about moving forward. Then in March, due to COVID-19, the church was closed. Our closure was not an ending, but led us to the beginning of an exciting additional path. Thanks to a very devoted group who had the willingness to experiment with new technology, we were brought beautiful weekly services online. We also had, through Zoom, a Bible Study, a parishioner led Centering Prayer group, monthly Vestry meetings and periodic meetings with our Finance Committee and Parish Life Committee. Another new technology we've accessed is the opening of our Christ Church PayPal account, a convenient way of sending in your pledges or contributions.

The Buildings and Grounds group stayed busy all year with both small and large projects. Our Altar Guild did a beautiful job preparing the altar for both our virtual services and our live services, through the summer. Also, throughout the year, our hosting and serving, of the much needed Lord's Supper, was never interrupted.

In June, we had a wonderful re-opening, of our Church and the office, with all the safety protocols in place. It was so good to see each other in person. Sadly, we saw the Corona Virus re-emerge and had to close again in the fall. Our office is still open, and we continue to have the opportunity and gift of worship in our homes with our online services and other online programs. We give our sincere thanks to all of you who have helped maintain and support Christ Church with your continued pledges and donations in these difficult times. We could not continue without this support.

It turns out that during one of the most difficult times in our history we are not only surviving, but in many areas, most importantly our faith, we are thriving and working to extend Christ Church's mission.

Thanks to God for the love, wisdom and support of all, bringing us to this very promising new year!

Ken Warrington and Robert J. Ready

Nominating Commission Report

Submitted by Jancee Marcone

Senior Warden	Kenneth Warrington
Junior Warden	Robert Ready
Treasurer	Doreen Moffat
Parish Clerk	Tracey Longway

Vestry

Joining the Vestry

3 Year Term	Judy Kurmay	Gloria Lui	Felix Esposito
1 Year Term	Trevor Jones		

Felix Esposito

Delegates and Alternates to the Diocesan Convention and the Bridgeport Deanery Convocations- 3-year term:

Delegates

Marilyn Olbrys Cheryl Warrington

Vestry Nominees

Gloria Lui

I moved from Hong Kong to Stratford, Connecticut in 2017 and started going to Christ Church Stratford regularly since then. I believe I may be new to some of the parish members. At present, I am serving as a door helper in Godly Play, a choir member and a member of altar guild team.

Prior moving to the States, I worked in marketing and event management field for over 10 years. Currently, I am a volunteer for the Development Department in the America Red Cross and a co-leader of Girl Scout Connecticut.

I have been married to Max Di Marco for 8 years. We enjoy traveling, hiking and cooking.

Judy Kurmay

I was raised in Virginia where I attended local schools and graduated from the College of William & Mary and later from the University of Virginia with degrees in history. After teaching in Virginia and marrying Paul, I moved to Stratford where we raised our three children and are now the grandparents of five. I taught in the Stratford school system for twenty years.

Over the decades at Christ Church, it has been my privilege to join in the work of being the hands and feet of God in the world. The journey has been inspiring (Godly Play), rewarding (property sale at long last in 2019) and sometimes frustrating (see afore mentioned property sale). Along the way, I have served on assorted committees. Some were temporary (300th anniversary of Christ Church) while others have been permanent (stewardship, finance and outreach). Also I have served as warden in addition to several previous terms on the vestry.

Thank you for your consideration,

Judy Kurmay

Felix Esposito

I have two married children and 5 grandchildren and I have lived in Stratford for the last 50 years.

I am a retired Manufacturing Engineer, and have spent the last 20 years of my career in the manufacturing of Medical devices.

As an active member of Christ Episcopal Church for about 45 years I have served on the Vestry, Finance committee, Stewardship and Building and Grounds.

I am looking forward to serving on the Vestry and meeting the challenges of the next year.

Felix

Trevor Jones

- Graduate of Trumbull HS in 1977 and Worcester Polytechnic Institute in 1981

- I have been a Teacher/administrator/coach in the State Technical High school system since 1982
- Married my high school sweetheart Lori Vertucci at Grace Church [my previous Church] in Trumbull in 1981
- We have two children Luke and Marcus, and two grandchildren Lilianna and Colton
- I began serving in the Episcopal church in 1973, in Flushing New York
- After moving to Trumbull I served at Grace Episcopal through 1977
- In 1984 we moved to Stratford and joined Christ Church
- While the children were growing up I served on the fellowship committee and ran many events such as Monthly Sunday morning breakfasts, Stratford Day events, and taught Sunday school

Stewardship Commission Report

Submitted by Judy Kurmay

In spite of the many challenges of the 2020 pandemic, God’s good stewards at Christ Church have continued “to serve on another with whatever gift each has received.” (1 Peter 4:10) When the church “closed”, the technologically gifted quickly kept us connected by posting services on line. Also our community outreach continued through the Lord’s Kitchen, Spooner House and St. John’s.

Our stewardship campaign continued in the fall. Many thanks to Doreen Moffat, Bob Ready and Cyndi Casinelli for their witness. As always, Canon Pat was invaluable in her witness and work on the nuts and bolts of the annual pledge drive. Also, thanks to Sue Hovan, parish administrator, who saw to the many details as well as Mary Anne Sulik, bookkeeper, who keeps track of the numbers-always a moving target. As of January 13th, 46 families have pledged \$120, 144 for 2021. For 2020, we do have a short fall of \$14, 080 as compared to the amount pledged. Now is always a good time to complete your 2020 pledge either by check or through PayPal as indicated on the church website.

In Christ,

Judy Kurmay, Chair, Beth Brooks, Anne Minatti and Bonnie Paradise

Parish Life Report 2020

Submitted by Cheryl Warrington and Gail Roth

The Parish Life Committee has evolved from the Worship Commission and with the guidance of our Rector, we support the various groups that contribute to and implement our beautiful worship services.

2020 began on a very high note. We had plans for special services and for many exciting events, some old favorites and some brand new. We were looking forward to growing our faith, enhancing our services and coming together with fun filled events. Sadly, COVID brought a halt to all.

We want to thank everyone who kept things going during this crazy year, especially the Altar Guild, the Lay Readers, the Voice Choir, led by Dottie Cameron, the Bell Choir led by Marilyn Olbrys and our NEW video and sound crew! This year, in spite of the Corona Virus, services were held every week! We are very grateful to Canon Pat for bringing us many worship experiences. We were offered the service of Compline online, a Bible Study through Zoom and both virtual and in-person Sunday services. When we reopened during the summer, our in-person services were also streamed, allowing those of us at home and many viewers new to Christ Church, to worship together. Our services were offered on the Christ Church website, the Christ Church Facebook page and YouTube and are still available to watch.

Sincere thanks to our NEW video and sound crew, who together with Canon Pat, enthusiastically entered into this unknown territory. Kudos to Gail Roth, Chris Moffat, Gloria Liu, Raleigh Padgett, Kathie Powell, Jeff Arkenberg, and Jeff Lorrius for making it a huge success.

A special thanks to Dottie, Raleigh and the choir members, for their hard work and willingness to participate. They brought us both solo and full choir performances in many of our streamed services. Through the technology of recording and mixing tracks of voices, instruments and even the bell choir at Christmas, we were

gifted with music that rivals professionals! Thanks also to Cyndi Casinelli, who graciously hosted a Centering Prayer group online, nightly, for many weeks during the shutdown. Also, Canon Pat led “Dwelling in the Word”, an informative and rewarding Bible Study, on Zoom, for several weeks. It was great to interact with each other while “shut-in”.

For as much as the Corona Virus has shut down the world, we at Christ Church have been blessed with a thriving spiritual life. We hope you have been able to and will continue to participate.

For anyone interested in joining us in any of these aspects of worship or may have any comments or concerns, please feel free to join us or talk to us at any time.

We look forward to implementing our many exciting plans and growing our faith together in 2021!

Gail Roth, Dottie Cameron, Cheryl Warrington, Debbie Stebbins, Marilyn Olbrys, Sue Hovan, Julie Seeber, Charlotte Matthews, Amy Taylor, and Lori Jones

Building & Grounds Annual Report

Submitted by Felix Esposito

Covid 19 has made B&Gs task of repairing and the maintenance of the many buildings and grounds at Christ Church very interesting.

This past year emphasis was placed on installing new toilets in the ladies room. The repairs and up keep projects completed with outside contracts cost us \$14,314.00.

The Building & Grounds team spent \$4,381.00 on material, and saved us estimated \$7,140.00 on labor cost.

This year we are faced with a major repair to the ceiling in the main hall of the church. We are in the process of getting an estimate.

Again I would like to thank members of the Building and Grounds Committee for their financial donations, hard work and dedication to Christ Church to keep it looking as good as new.

It has been a labor of love for all involved, we are a hands on committee, we have many new projects in the works for 2021; we welcome new members to spread the workload.

Felix F Esposito

Outreach Commission

Submitted by Tracey Longway

This year has been a difficult one for Outreach. With COVID closing our building and preventing us from gathering, in person outreach has been very difficult. We had renewed our commitment to the Council of Churches of Greater Bridgeport to contribute to their work so we took the cost of this commitment out of our operating funds as we could not have an in-person fundraiser. Bethlehem House asked for our assistance in putting together Thanksgiving food baskets and we are pleased to say that in true Christ Church fashion, our parishioners went above and beyond with food donations for these families.

Other organizations receiving contributions were:

Sterling House Food Pantry

Heifer International, Pennies for Chicks

Episcopal Relief and Development

Coffee hour donations go to Outreach to help fund these projects (when we had in-person services and coffee hours)

Connecticut Food Bank

American Red Cross

Spooner House Food Pantry

Many thanks to the devoted and hard-working commission members for all they do.

Many thanks also to our parishioners for the many contributions you make to outreach work. Please join us if you are interested in helping us to further our missions. We are always looking for new members and normally meet the second Sunday of the month in the conference room at 9:15am.

Tracey Longway, Chair, Judy Kurmay, Beth Brooks, Anne Minatti, Bonnie Paradise and Nancy Comboni.

Godly Play Report 2021

Submitted by Gail Roth and Amy Taylor

Our sixth year of the Godly Play program has been quite a challenge due to the Covid 19 pandemic. In March of 2020 we suspended in person worship as well as our Godly Play lessons. Our Godly Play Facebook page continued to post stories for the children to watch at home. In addition, each week different children came to ring our church bell at 7 pm as symbol of hope during the pandemic. For Easter, special gift baskets were hand delivered to all our children with a special sign for their front yards. Thanks to Brooks Matthews and Zach LaPuglia for being our delivery people. Unfortunately, we were unable to resume classes for the school year. In October we welcomed the children back to Godly Play in person classes. It was so wonderful to see them again and share the stories. However, this did not last long, as we went back to virtual worship in November. We continued to share stories on the Facebook page. For Christmas Eve we had a special video presentation of the Godly Play Christmas Eve Liturgy starring Brayden and Alexander Acevedo. They did a wonderful job placing all the nativity pieces in place as the story was narrated by Julie Seeber.

We hope to be able to resume in person classes as soon as it is safe to do so. In the meantime, we will continue to post stories on our Facebook page for families to enjoy together.

Our program continues with the faithful staff: Lori Jones, Judy Kurmay, Amy Taylor, Margee Ready, Sue Ziman, Julie Seeber, Amy DiGiugno, Gail Roth and Gloria Liu. We pray that the next school year will bring us back into the classroom with all of our wonderful children.

Blessings,

Gail Roth, Amy Taylor

Report of the Music Director

Submitted by Dorothy Cameron

We started out 2020 with services in our parish hall, a move that was made with the goal of good stewardship in the name of heating oil. Our choir sang anthems with piano, harmonium and guitar. Our bell choir brought over the bells from the sanctuary and played for offertories and hymn accompaniments. We worshipped in the parish hall for January, February and the first two Sundays in March before stopping in-person worship services until July, due to coronavirus.

In July, we reopened our church for in person worship. We are all probably familiar with our extensive preventative health practices before reopening. We are probably also aware that singing is a particularly unsafe practice when done indoors and at distances of less than 12 feet. Christ Episcopal is not having in-person singing of hymns or service music by the congregation or anthems by the choir at this time. A result of this is that in the short term we are not hearing music that is an integral part of our liturgy, in both our hymns and service music. We are also not singing our hymns, an important expression of our faith that we miss acutely. Other churches are solving a lack of music by the use of digital recording to add music to digital services. We started to move in that direction in May of last year, by asking our choir to record themselves singing into their cell phones while listening to a practice track for a particular anthem sent to them on their email. They then send back their recordings to Raleigh Padgett and me, and we digitally combine their individual sound files into

a virtual choir. We have a library of anthems, recorded by choir members and people who have volunteered to help, but we need more!!

I am most fortunate to have the help of the Open Mic performing group from our church, Raleigh Padgett, Cynthia Lordi and Jeff Arkenberg in assisting in the recording and laying down of practice tracks to send to the choir. I am very lucky to have personal assistance through the computer learning process from Raleigh Padgett. If there is a Saint of Patience, his name must be Raleigh. He has edited most of our library of anthems, from their native state of individual cellphone recordings to a finished and harmonious whole. In other words, we try to make every individual voice be heard, but have them execute the anthem in perfect union. Raleigh is able to do it!! And if you have missed any anthems, you may find them on the church website, thank you Kathie Powell!

I very much appreciate working with the choir -- those who have sent in recordings of their parts and those who have come into the choir room to work with Raleigh and me to record their part. Individual help in recording is a great learning tool for me -- I get to hear each voice alone, and work with them to understand how best to help with the anthem.

Thank you to Rebecca and John Arkenberg for a beautiful instrumental Prelude to our virtual Christmas Eve service. It was solemn and quietly contemplative, a perfect beginning to Christmas Eve. Thank you to the Senior Bell Choir for working to record the Offertory and carols for Christmas Eve. Recording has been a process of discovery all year! We went to recording bells in the music room, instead of the church, and found everything worked much better in terms of communication, audio quality and tempo. So, we were able to have a tape of bells, and simultaneous live organ music playing O Come All Ye faithful and Joy To The World. In other words, a performance of tape and organ. :) Remember, no bells were present on Christmas Eve -- it is so easy to forget, it sounded so nice!

Looking forward to learning how to do digital better, to learn more about how to help us sing, and to seeing more of my choir in the New Year!!

Altar Guild Annual Report

Submitted by Charlotte Matthews and Julia Seeber

The Altar Guild currently has 12 members which are divided into four teams. The number of the teams corresponds to the of the Sunday that they serve during any month. A team consists of two or three members.

Owing to the fact that we haven't been participating in worship in the church, there hasn't been much activity this year. Teams do meet on their assigned weeks and set-up articles that are needed for videoed presentations, and then make the arrangements to do the necessary clean-up.

Julie has been instrumental in working on some organization and labeling of articles and materials in the Sacristy.

Altar Guild and members of the Worship Commission and Parish Life Committee have participated in the labeling of pews, etc. for when we are in the building. These groups have also worked together for any decorating or special services that have occurred in the parish. Thanks to all who have been involved in this very special ministry!

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Matthews
Julia Seeber

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Dorothy Cameron, Music Director/Organist
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