



# Annual Report

## 2022-2023

as of 6/4/23



**Christ Church**  
+ SUMMIT +

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## **Senior Minister's Report – Rev. Chuck Rush**

“It was the best of times, the worst of times” wrote Dickens. I thought of that so many times this year, mostly filled with anxiety about what comes next after the pandemic.

I remain incredibly hopeful longer term because the aching need for community will continue to grow all around us. And people really want to negotiate a more diverse set of friends and neighbors than they grew up with. And the wider public wants a spiritual faith that points them towards the future, to finding a spiritual way to live in our secular world that respects one another and works towards inclusive justice.

But the social symptoms of dysfunction were manifest this year. Political tribalism that uses invective in the place of reasoned thought, social isolation and loneliness.

And we just had a record number of people move in the past two years, almost always for solid spiritual reasons. They wanted to be closer to family. They were done with the maddening commute. What that meant for us is that we faced the demographic rollover of the generations faster in New Jersey than most other parts of the country.

We have to pivot towards the generation of Millennials faster than elsewhere, which means we will continue to have to live in rapid change for a while longer. And it has real shake up consequences. We have to figure out how we will finance the spiritual community in the future. The old model only raises part of what we actually need.

So we are starting to roll over the leadership of the church to the next generation. Toiya Facey personified that change this year, younger and newer to the congregation. Likewise, we put together a long-range committee, led by Terry Baker, but composed of mostly 40 year olds that are newer to the congregation to help us develop specific strategies to grow.

Last fall, we hosted two super get togethers, featuring a Cabaret of song and organ by Mark Miller and a night of Jazz with Danny Rufolo. Stacey Robinson brought his show to us in February, followed by Matt Markay's A Capella group from American University, followed by the Catholic Choir Caritas in the spring. All of these brought us together for the community that we have missed for the past two years.

And we stumbled on one of the keys to the future when Terry Baker led us in a several week discussion of Anderson Cooper's podcast "All There Is". About 30 of us gathered on Zoom to discuss the process of grief in our lives, the primacy of love, and the things that are really important to us. This is what we do for each other in the church that no one else is doing in our world. We provide a place to share the matters of our heart and you can only do that with a limited number of people in a context of supportive trust.

At the end of the year, we still have more people joining us for online worship than we do in person worship, our lives are busier and more traveled than ever, and it is harder for people to commit to what they volunteer for. We will keep evolving quickly to keep up with a changed context.

Personally, I've had more moments of anxiety than anytime in my life because we live in a genuinely ambiguous time for church in the midst of a chapter turning epoch, probably as dramatic as the Reformation. For times like these, I am particularly grateful for the number of leaders we have in the congregation that are experienced at navigating through the rapids with calm.

In the past two years, I've attended dozens of webinars on 'best practices' and 'leading through change'. I've come to realize that there are no experts out there. Fortunately, it is up to us because our leaders are not cowed by change or challenges that would overwhelm others.

We have a good sense of who we are and what we do, one of the fundamentals for rebounding through challenging seasons. Grace Kitchen, Bridges, Family Promise, all grew out of Christ Church and our community is so much richer for them.

We are the incubator for wider community development, for racial reconciliation, for multicultural worship. All these attributes will become minimal requirements for millennials to get involved in church for the next generation. We are leaning into what we do best. There is a lot we can't control, but we can nourish this, and our wider community will be better for it.

I find myself quoting Isaiah quite a bit these days. God says, "Behold, I am doing a new thing, do you not perceive it?" Honestly speaking, "No, not yet." But give me your hand, let's pray for vision together, and call up the integrity and authenticity that we possess.

God who began a good work in you, will be faithful to complete it... Faithful to complete it.

The Rev.

## Associate Minister's Report – Rev Julie Yarborough

Dear Friends,

As the 2022-2023 school year comes to a close and we look back over the year, I am grateful for Christ Church and my almost 27 years as your Associate Pastor.

My ministry is focused on helping church members stay connected, reaching out to new members and visitors, providing pastoral care, overseeing faith formation for all ages and working with church members to plan ways to bring people together in order to create community. I also served as the mentor for our ministry intern, Sami Main.

At Christ Church we are focused on drawing the circle ever wider. Our membership is not confined to Summit, or even to NJ. We have members located across the country and are constantly thinking about how to involve those who live outside of NJ in the life and ministries of Christ Church. Many of our boards and committees meet online regularly now and that allows for fuller participation of our community, whether in NJ or out of state. We also offer on-line options in our worship services as well as some small groups and adult education options. This year we held on-line Bible study with Sami Main, *Shakespeare and Faith*, hosted by Professor Donovan Sherman, and a group that listened to and discussed the podcast, *All There Is*, by Anderson Cooper. We were delighted to have Anderson join us for our final Zoom meeting!

At the beginning of the school year, I had the privilege to attend the 11th meeting of the World Council of Churches, held in Karlsruhe, Germany. I was invited to join the UCC delegation at various events during the time I was there. What a pleasure it was to meet, worship and engage in conversation with many interesting church leaders from all over the world.

In October, we introduced *Welcome Wednesdays*, a once-a-month intergenerational gathering for dinner and an interactive program on a spiritual theme. From walking the labyrinth, to packing lunches for Bridges, to practicing yoga and mindfulness, to playing with clay, to cooking a meal together, each month provided fun and fellowship with learning about faith together.

Our All-Church Retreat was held at Grove Hall in Ocean Grove from October 7-9. There were 18 participants - ranging from ages 5-85 - that came together for fun and faith formation in the beautiful setting offered by this historic Victorian town by the shore. The dates for our retreat this fall are Sept 29 - October 1. Please save the date and come join us!

Advent Vespers were held in December and Lenten Lunches were offered in March, offering opportunities for quiet reflection and meditation. Our Progressive Dinner was resurrected this year in January, with a wildly successful turn-out, thanks to the encouragement of John Houston and the hard work of Penny Vigilante and Claire Rupkey. We thank Lauren and Michael Garvey for hosting the cocktail party and all the dinner hosts for opening their homes and offering the gift of hospitality!

Our women's retreat was held March 18-19 at the St. Marguerite's Retreat House in Mendham. The topic was "Deep Roots for Resilience." We walked the labyrinth, participated in discussions and prayer stations, decorated pots, planted seeds and worshiped together. What a joy it was to spend some relaxing time together in person, exploring spiritual practices that will help us through difficult times.

On June 11, Christ Church will host a table at the North Jersey Pride Event in Maplewood. We've been going to this event since at least 2015, and for a number of years, we were one of the only faith communities there. It's a fun, family-friendly event and we always meet a few folks who are looking for a church home and are surprised to discover that they are welcome at Christ Church, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

As I've said before, we are the Body of Christ in this world, and our hands and feet and voices need to be in the wider community bringing God's message of grace, mercy, love, and justice to people who would never set foot inside the doors of a church. Now, more than ever, we need to brainstorm creative ways to reach out to the community beyond our church building to let them know that "No matter who [they] are, or where [they] are on life's journey, [they're] welcome here!"

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Julie Yarborough

## Director of Children and Youth Ministries Report

As I wrap up my fourth year at Christ Church, I am continuously reminded that our church family is striving daily to embody Christ's love. We have many ongoing activities for the children and youth at CC, from birth through 12<sup>th</sup> grade so I invite you to read about these ministries and reach out to me if you have any questions or you would like to become involved. New ideas, lessons, teachers and volunteers are always welcome!

**Sunday School-** I am happy to report that after a few years of restrictions, this was the first year that we are back in full swing and running Sunday school as we did pre-Covid. Our workshops were able to include baking activities, which the kids all loved, in addition to our stories, art projects, and games. This year, our children learned about Esther, Moses, Martha and Mary, and celebrated a symbolic Passover Seder together. With the help of our congregation and many generous donations, our Sunday school students were able to assemble and donate 30 Easter baskets to Family Promise to be distributed to children in their program. I'd like to lift up Bev York, who is a vital part of our Sunday School and nursery programming. Her organization (with notebooks dating back to the 1980s), artistic ideas, and willingness to help with literally anything are gifts that I hope we never take for granted. In addition, Kate Speer has seamlessly transitioned in as our Sunday School preschool teacher and our little ones are so blessed by her ministry. When given the choice, our preschool and kindergarteners often opt to go with Ms. Kate to their newly decorated classroom and enjoy activities designed especially for them. Thank you, Kate, for all you do for our little ones. Finally, a special thank you to Rob Mathis who helps teach Sunday school each week and is always willing to lend a helping hand. Sunday school will continue to be offered throughout the summer. Last year we "traveled" to a new country each week, with passport in hand, as we learned about different holidays, traditions, education opportunities, and food enjoyed in different communities. This summer, our children will be learning about environmental issues both near and far.

**Nursery Care-** Our nursery is also back in full operation with an average of 2-3 children visiting the nursery each Sunday morning. Kimberly Mayorga, and Carol Torres create a consistent and safe environment for our infants through 3-year-olds who attend church with their families. Thank you for your love, patience, and commitment to our youngest disciples. While our little ones are always welcome to join us in service, please feel free to visit our nursery if your little one needs a safe place to play.

**Youth Group-** This past summer, nine youth and three adults traveled to Yardley, PA to participate in My Calling Ministries summer mission trip. Over the course of three workdays, we served at community food banks and farms as we learned about food sustainability, mucked stalls at a horse rescue, cleaned up a church which serves an aging congregation, relocated furniture to Furniture Bank in Philadelphia where those in need can come shop and acquire basic necessities such as beds for their homes. Our youth worked hard every minute of their workday and gave so much to our neighbors in Philadelphia, Trenton and surrounding towns. Thank you to Krista Witkowski and Brenda Dodds for chaperoning this trip and ensuring our youth were well cared for and continuously supported. This winter, we were able to attend an overnight ski trip where our youth had a weekend to be in fellowship with one another. A special thank you to the Reichart family for offering their Pocono home to us. Jessie is a wonderful host, always ensuring our teens were well fed and enjoying their time together. In addition, thank you to all of our parents who have volunteered, chaperone events, drive to and from activities, or support our amazing teens, and to Keith Miller-Murden who has served as

our intern this year. I sincerely appreciate your hospitality and commitment to ensuring our teenagers grow into strong, happy young adults. Finally, I'd like to thank Bola Lawrence for meeting with our youth group and sharing a bit of her inspiring life with us in February. We all learned so much and are excited to hopefully get a few Christ Church teens on the RETF or STAR.

In a few short months, our team of 18 youth and six adults will be traveling to Fairbanks, Alaska for our summer mission trip. This trip will be construction focused as we work on a homeless shelter for teens and repair/weatherize homes for families who are not able to manage the repairs themselves. Please send prayers for safe travels and that God inspires deeper connection with one another and the community in which we will be serving.

**Confirmation Class-** I'd like to again welcome our newest members to Christ Church as our confirmation class just concluded with a beautiful celebration last month.

Congratulations to Alex, Eden, Adele, Charlie, Naima, and Sarah. We had seven students attend our class and six were confirmed in May. In addition, we transitioned to a group mentor program to ensure our Confirmands had an opportunity to meet many wonderful adult members of Christ Church, and hear about the many wonderful ministries that they are invited to take part in. Thank you to all who served as mentors this year, Terry, Monique, Keith, Mattie, Kristen, Paul, and Annie, and to Sami Main who co-taught our confirmation class. Your wisdom, enthusiasm, and care for our Confirmands is a testimony of love and commitment to our church family.

**Welcome Wednesday-** This year our Faith Formation team introduced "Welcome Wednesday" to our list of intergeneration activities designed to connect and build community between our children, youth and adults. Once a month, we gathered in Barnwell for dinner, followed by a faith focused activity. We cooked together, practiced yoga, walked the labyrinth during the Winter solstice, and so much more. Welcome Wednesday will begin again in the Fall and will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from October through February. We invite you to join us- all are always welcome!

**OWL Classes-** It is our hope that our church will launch a UUA/UCC sponsored curriculum titled Our Whole Lives: Lifespan Sexuality Education this fall. It is an extensive and inclusive course created to foster healthy relationships, increase self-esteem, improve decision making and build self-acceptance offered from kindergarten through adults. Kristen Seith, Monique Taylor-Kincaid and I have been trained over the past few months and we are looking to build our team of adults who feel passionate about bringing this curriculum to Christ Church. Thank you to both Monique and Kristen for joining me on this journey and to Pastors Julie and Chuck for encouraging and supporting this curriculum at Christ Church.

The children and youth of Christ Church are an active and vibrant part of our church community and it truly would not be possible to offer all that we do without the help and support of so many adults at Christ Church. I look forward to next year and exploring new ways to grow, teach and serve together.

Blessings,

Ashley Kile  
Director of Children and Youth Ministries

## Report of the Minister of Music

*Will you give me yourself?  
Will you come travel with me?  
Shall we stick by each other as long as we live?*

- From "Song of the Open Road", *Leaves of Grass* by Walt Whitman

Worship services were back this year with an energy and (dare I say) continued normality that we have not experienced in several years. The music program on Sunday morning was thriving this year, as were the special programs that were once again a part of our life at Christ Church. Please see Annie's wonderful report on the Music & Fine Arts Committee to read up on those events.

With our livestreaming in full swing for every Sunday service, I want to offer a big word of thanks to the young people who have led the weekly charge! We have our regulars Ravi Nanavati, A/V tech director, Sara Bolden, Sequoia Pilgrim, Griffin Shoemaker, and also Keith Miller Murden, Liz Markay, Matt Markay, Ryan Richardson, Sophia Seith, and honorary young people, Terry Baker and Sami Main.

Our advent season this year was an especially busy time with the Advent Workshop festivities on December 4, the overflowing Christmas Cabaret in Lile Hall on December 11, a spirited performance of Vivaldi's "Gloria" with orchestra in worship on December 18, and Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services.

Holy Week was, as in past years, an incredibly powerful time of spiritual reflection, renewal, and rejoicing. Some of the many highlights include the children marching to 'Siyahamba' on Palm Sunday and singing "Roll the Rock!" on Easter, the heart-wrenching performance of "Gethsemane" by Justin Gonzalez on Maundy Thursday, and the choir and orchestra performing my choral poem 'Song of the Open Road' for soloists, choir and orchestra, again on Easter morning.

The organ restoration, which was a wonderful highpoint of last year's report, continues to enhance our worship services not only with sound but also with sight! New custom made casework was installed in the chancel right before holy week this year. (see picture below) These remarkable facades will add distinction and special beauty for generations to come.

We have so much to be thankful for when it comes to our musical staff and volunteer musicians. Once again Ali Caravano joyfully led our children's choirs, Church Mice and Genesis, in their participation in worship throughout the year. Although the 11:15 a.m. service has been discontinued, Dan Rufolo's exquisite talents were put to use at the 10 a.m. gathering with many offerings composed by Dan. Rev Chuck and I organized two special concerts in the fall designed to re-connect our community and re-commit our community's resources to the church's mission. The first concert on September 17<sup>th</sup> of organ and singing (special thanks to Cassondra James Kellam and Jillian Tundidor!) and then on October 29 with Dan Rufolo and friends, were very well received and a joy to perform. Renowned performer and dear friend of Christ Church Stacey Robinson performed his one-man show memoir to a 'packed house' in Lile Hall on February 11.

Finally let me offer a word of thanks to the spiritual heart of our Sunday worship services, the Chancel Choir. Here's a shout-out to these dedicated members! Frank Bolden, John Houston, Frederick Kincaid, Ken Grispin, Paul Tukey, Deb Trisler, Annie Salorio, Dean Nielson (and son, Jeremy!), Laura Willet, Jill Bernstein, Beth Quick, Brinna Kolitz, Hedy Tukey, and Penny Vigilante.

Although they have moved out of Summit, we are grateful for Nancy Mion's dedication to the choir and singing with us anytime she is in town! Thank you to Sara Zimmerman, who graced us for just this year and will be moving out of state. Congrats to Jillian Tundidor on the birth of her twins! We miss her regular singing but hope we get to see more of her as the girls grow up 😊. We love having our talented college students Liz and Matt Markay sing with us when they are back in town! Many thanks to our college choir scholars Griffin Shoemaker and Lauren Taylor and to Leslie Adler, Justin Gonzalez and Julian Wamble for their regular & inspired participation! We enjoyed when John Gottstein came back and brought his son Alex to choir this year and hope to see them return in the fall! This year Jill Bernstein fully came into the role of choir librarian and keeper of all things sacred in the music room and we give thanks! Blessings on Marilyn Devroye and her and Maurice's move to Cedar Crest, and thank you for your service to the choir. Finally, to my colleague, Assistant Conductor and all-around fabulous musician, Matt Lee, thank you for another great year of making music!

Faithfully Submitted,



Mark Miller  
Minister of Music



## The Executive Board

It is with joy and gratitude that I present you with the year end report for Christ Church of Summit. As we reflect upon the past year we are filled with a sense of optimism and the warmth of a thriving community.

This was the first year that the post-COVID world was beginning to stabilize. For those that work, the urgency to physically get back into the office was felt. We all started to awaken from the COVID slumber of yoga workpants and endless zoom calls. The world was coming alive again. We were attending holiday parties, we returned to the theatre and our traditional Progressive Dinner was back again. We were in a new normal. While the last three years proved to be one of the most challenging, we persevered and learned to be flexible as a church community. We continued our virtual services and the number of people in the pews increased each Sunday. It was heartwarming to see the pews full on Christmas Eve and standing room only for our Easter Services.

Throughout the year we continued to assess our new normal and the impact of the pandemic on our resources and membership. As we assessed our financial position during the March 2023 budget review, we communicated to the church that the Church's financial position suffered in the pandemic and our 2023 budget was showing a large deficit. The Executive Board's commitment was to develop a short-term and long-term plan to address the challenges that Christ Church was facing. We addressed the short-term challenges through the gifts of Angels and launched a Matching Challenge Campaign in April 2023. We also established a long-term planning committee who will be focused on our long-term strategy and revisiting some elements of the visioning work that was done in 2020 – 2021.

Despite the challenges we faced, we have remained steadfast in our commitment to faith, service, and fellowship. Together we have persevered.

- We built stronger connections: In the Fall 2022 we hosted a Homecoming Celebration where we invited our in-person attendees and our virtual attendees to come "home" to Christ Church.
- We launched the Matching Challenge Campaign to help address the short-term budget shortfall and we are about 70% to our \$25K match goal.
- We re-invigorated interest in volunteering through our weekly committee highlights in Church.

As we turn our gaze to the future I am filled with optimism and anticipation of what lies ahead. We will build upon what we have already established and continue to adapt and innovate to the changing needs of our community.

In closing, on behalf of the Executive Board, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to every member, volunteer, and supporter who has contributed to making us the wonderful Church community that we are. Together we have created a thriving community where love, compassion and spirituality are nurtured.

Blessings,  
Toiya Facey  
Chair, Executive Committee

## **Church Clerk's Report**

### **Christ Church Congregational Meetings 2022-2023**

The following minutes of congregational meetings were recorded by the Church Clerk:

### **Christ Church Congregational Meeting Budget Presentation and Review-March 5 & 8, 2023**

Two informational meetings were held to review the proposed 2023 operational budget for Christ Church and provide an opportunity for questions. The first meeting was held in-person, immediately following the church service on Sunday March 5th at 11:20am. The second meeting was held via zoom on Wednesday March 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm.

At both meetings, Toiya Facey, the Executive Board Chair called the meeting to order and explained that voting for the budget would take place online via survey. The budget is typically presented to the congregation in February, however this year we were waiting for some additional pledge commitments in order to project accurate revenue. Steve Jones, Treasurer, reviewed the proposed budget which was distributed to the congregation via email and also distributed in church at the 3/5 meeting. The proposed budget included \$812,000 in revenue and \$ 905,000 in expenses, representing a deficit of \$93,000. Steve then answered any questions from members about the budget. Before closing the meeting, Toiya explained that she would report back to the congregation on both short and long term financial plans to be developed by the Executive Board.

The survey for the vote was emailed to the congregation on March 6, 2023. The congregation was reminded that as per our by-laws, the budget must be approved by 75 of our members.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jayne Graepel, Clerk

## **New Members**

### **February 26, 2023**

Dean and Jennifer Nielsen

### **Confirmation Class, May 7, 2023**

Eden Elizabeth Facey  
Alexander Gottstein  
Sarah Elizabeth Noonan  
Naima Renee Pilgrim  
Charles Peter Rosoff  
Adel Patricia Ross

## **Deaths**

Alfred MacRae – February 15, 2023  
Emmy Hale – April 21, 2023

## **Baptisms**

Cooper William Mozer – October 23, 2022  
Lucy Gottstein – March 5, 2023  
Jaxton Joel Palma – April 16, 2023  
Eneko Paz Barry Godín – May 28, 2023  
Dalián Lur Barry Godín – May 28, 2023

**Slate of nominees**

**A. EXECUTIVE BOARD**

<i>Chair</i>	John Houston
<i>Vice Chair</i>	OPEN
<i>Cornerstone Liason</i>	OPEN
<i>Clerk</i>	Jayne Graepel
<i>Treasurer</i>	Steve Jones

**Members-at-Large**

<i>Communications</i>	Ben Bowen Amy Knight
<i>Planning</i>	Toiya Facey
<i>Staff Relations</i>	OPEN

**Chairs of Boards**

<i>Board of Membership</i>	Laura Engelhardt
<i>Board of Deacons</i>	Paul Judicke
<i>Board of World Fellowship</i>	Anne Kennison
<i>Board of Property Mgrs</i>	OPEN C. Mixon
<i>Borad of Music &amp; Fine Arts</i>	Annie Salorio
<i>Board of Resources</i>	OPEN

**B. BOARDS OF THE CHURCH**

**1. DEACONS**

Paul Judicke, chair Robin French Dolly Blanco	Hedy Tukey Ginny Jordan Trudy Noonan	Laura O'Rourke Barry Pilgrim Suzie Wall Krista Witkowski

**2. FINANCE**


**3. MEMBERSHIP**

Laura Engelhardt, chair Lynn Richardson	Ginny Jordan Maura Aimette	Jeff Andrienas
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**4. PROPERTY MANAGERS**

Chair Open Patty O'Neill Chuck Gelber	Chuck Mixon Frederick Taylor-Kincaid	
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**5. RESOURCES**

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**6. RETF**

Chair Open Margaret Haughey Don Richards B. Von Klemperer	Kirk Johnson Ed Walter Dave Graepel Frank Bolden	Donovan Sherman Bola Lawrence Janet Quatarone
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**7. WORLD FELLOWSHIP**

Anne Kennison, chair Cynthia Mathis Rob Morse	Mila Trigos Joe Salsberry Dave Bunting Roz Kendellen	Yesenia Reichart Bill LaCurtis Bruna Lopes
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**8. FAITH FORMATION**

Christina Froehlich John Ross, co chairs	Krista Witkowski Kate Speer	Bev York Lynn Richardson Lisa Cardinal
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**9. MUSIC & ARTS**

Anne Salorio, chair Manish Ambre Brina Kolitz Ed Walter	Kim Reynolds Patty O'Neill Felipe Lopes Lizanne Ceconi	Cary Hardy Nancy Mion Rosemarie Gelber Rick Morey
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**C. CHARTERED COMMITTEES**

**1. AUDIT**


**2. COMMUNICATIONS**

Chair Open Ben Bowen Amy Knight		

**4. PERSONNEL**


**5. CHURCH LIFE**

Penny Vigilante Claire Rupkey		

**6. ASSISTANT TREASURERS**

Karen Harrison Hedy Tukey	Karen Harrison Hedy Tukey	

**D. OTHER COMMITTEES**

**MEMORIAL GARDEN**

Julia O'Brien  
Chad O'Brien

**GREENFAITH COMMITTEE**

**Jennifer Nielsen**  
Jill Berstein  
Nancy Davies

**USHERS**

Terry Baker  
Rosemary Gelber  
Chuckl Gelber  
Lou & Dolly Blanco  
Kate Blanco  
Annabelle O'Brien  
Lynn Richardson  
Chuck Mixon  
Daryl & Rob Lubin  
Rosoff Family  
Noonan Family  
Hayes Family  
Guida Family

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PLANNING**

Kate Speer  
Bev York

**FINANCIAL SECRETARIES**

Brian Angle  
Tom Cummins  
John Ahlbeck

**ASSISTANT FINANCIAL  
SECRETARIES**

Lizanne Ceconi  
Joe Salsberry  
Maurice Devroye  
Heather Landsittel

**PAYROLL**

Debra Trisler

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

John Houston  
(Need Volunteers)

**LONG TERM PLANNING**

**Terry Baker**  
Ryan Mathias  
Deanna Smeltz  
M. Taylor-Kincaid  
Toiya Facey

## Financial Secretary/Board of Resources 2022-2023

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
Number of Pledges	150	140
Total Amount Pledged	\$624,770	\$605,905
Total Received on Those Pledges	\$635,866	
Number of Pledges Met	108	
Number of Pledges Exceeded	17	
Number of Unfulfilled Pledges	25	
General Contributions	\$84,971	
Donations to SOS	\$22,341	\$14,954 (to date)

The pledge drive for 2023 resulted in a decrease of 3%.

Automatic recurring online donations are used by 46 donors, with another 10 donors sending recurring checks directly from their bank accounts.

Statements were sent via email in February of 2023 to all donors that contributed \$250 or more in 2022, and included amounts paid as pledges, general contributions, and SOS contributions. During 2022, emails were sent mid-year and again before year-end to all pledgers showing all payments received. Giving statements are available at any time on-line, via a secure, password-protected account.

Brian Angle, Tom Cummins and John Ahlbeck

## **Treasurer's Report for the Year 2022-2023**

Please refer to the page showing Christ Church's financial performance in 2022 and approved budget for 2023.

**The church's financial performance suffered in 2022 and our budget for 2023 shows another large deficit. We need to increase our income to match our expenses more closely.** Please see a brief description of the 2022 results and 2023 budget below:

### **2022 Performance**

The church lost approximately \$90,000 in 2022 after posting a surplus of \$37,000 in 2021. Our revenue materialized largely as planned in 2022, although Contributions were approximately \$10,000 below what we expected and Building Use was inflated by approximately \$20,000 because of catch up rent payments that were deferred during COVID and some prepaid rent.

Most of our expense line items increased in 2022 versus the prior year, in part because we used the church more in 2022. Property manager expense increased by almost \$75,000 versus the prior year because of increased expenditures for repairs and maintenance as well as utilities.

### **2023 Approved Budget**

Our 2023 budget results in a \$93,000 deficit.

Our budgeted income of \$812,000 is relatively fixed, with the exception of Contributions and Cash in Plate, which represent only approximately 10% of our total income.

Compensation & Benefits and Property Managers represent approximately 90% of our total budgeted expenses of \$905,000. We are budgeting no increase in staff compensation in 2023. We have budgeted 2023 Property Manager expenses \$50,000 lower than actual expenditures in 2022, assuming that we will spend less on repairs and maintenance, although actual expenditures are difficult to predict.

**The Executive Board is implementing a short-term plan to fund deficits while developing a long-term plan to ensure the church's future viability.**

Respectfully submitted,

Steve M. Jones, Treasurer

**Christ Church Summit**  
**Income & Expense - Budget vs. Actual**  
**Year Ended December 31, 2022**

Income	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Pledges	632,300.00	590,000.00	-42,300.00
Contributions	79,400.00	80,000.00	600.00
Cash in Plate	14,600.00	12,000.00	-2,600.00
Building Use	<u>152,300.00</u>	<u>130,000.00</u>	<u>-22,300.00</u>
Total Income	878,600.00	812,000.00	-66,600.00
Expense			
Compensation & Benefits	556,500.00	565,000.00	8,500.00
Property Managers	279,200.00	229,000.00	-50,200.00
Music & Fine Arts	30,400.00	24,000.00	-6,400.00
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Board of World Fellowship	11,700.00	10,000.00	-1,700.00
Denomination Payments	0.00	9,500.00	9,500.00
Christian Education	10,500.00	10,000.00	-500.00
Office Expenses	16,300.00	15,000.00	-1,300.00
Information Technology	19,700.00	13,000.00	-6,700.00
Video Production	29,700.00	20,000.00	-9,700.00
Deacons	2,100.00	2,000.00	-100.00
Church Life	5,200.00	3,000.00	-2,200.00
Race Equity Taskforce	4,900.00	2,500.00	-2,400.00
Other Expenses	<u>2,800.00</u>	<u>2,000.00</u>	<u>-800.00</u>
Total Expenses	<u>969,000.00</u>	<u>905,000.00</u>	<u>-64,000.00</u>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b><u>-90,400.00</u></b>	<b><u>-93,000.00</u></b>	<b><u>-2,600.00</u></b>

## **Board of Deacons 2022-2023**

### **Committee members for 2023-24**

Paul Judicke, Chair  
Dolly Blanco  
Robin French  
Ginny Jordan  
Trudy Noonan  
Laura O'Rourke  
Barry Pilgrim  
Hedy Tukey  
Susie Wall  
Krista Witkowski

Allen Cheng retired as a Deacon and Trudy Noonan, Laura O'Rourke, Barry Pilgrim and Susie Wall are new additions.

### **Committee Activities**

Deacons successfully supply, prepare, and administer the Eucharist, deliver Easter lilies, Christmas poinsettias and altar flowers to parishioners, support members of our church family and change the paraments according to the church calendar.

In June 2023, the Reverends and the Chair will finalize the formation of the remainder of the 2023-2024 Deacon roster.

New and existing Deacon training will commence in late summer/early fall after the 2023-2024 Deacon roster has been finalized.

## **Board of Faith Formation**

The faith formation committee had a successful year in promoting new faith-based activities and strengthening long established programs. Ashley, Kate and Deb provided a weekly children's Christian education program for prek- grade 5 that was well attended. Ashley led both the middle school and high school youth groups. A group of confirmands were confirmed in May after completing a full confirmation class schedule and engaging in community building activities with group mentors. A monthly Welcome Wednesday event was instated starting in September and ran through May. This event for all ages allowed for community members to come together for a fun faith based activity (exp. walking the labyrinth, completing a service project or doing art) and a communal meal. Several adult education events took place this year, many under the leadership of Julie and intern Sami. The Women's Retreat was well attended, as were a number of after church discussion groups. Offerings on zoom for connection and learning included a group on loss that was rooted in Anderson Cooper's podcast and a two week session on Shakespear and faith. We hope to continue with pre-existing faith based activities in the fall in addition to adding new members to our group with new ideas for programming.

Respectfully Submitted,  
John Ross and Christina Froehlich, co-chairs

## **Board of Property Managers 2022-2023**

It's been an eventful year for the Property Managers at Christ Church!

Amongst the usual ho-hum, repair and maintenance work required to take care of around the church and parsonage, we had some drama this year: a huge tree branch fell onto the playground and damaged part of the fencing and playground equipment. Luckily, this was in the middle of the night and no one was around. The branch and dead tree were removed and everything was repaired.

Our sanctuary A/C hobbled through the summer and its replacement happened this past winter. We also tackled a large portion of the roof repair over Cornerstone and it seems to have been successful. However, just as we addressed those leaks, the Sanctuary decided to present some new ones for us!

Shout out to Chuck Mixon for working very hard with our landscaper to keep our grounds the envy of the neighborhood.

We also looked at our utility bills and made some decisions to help with the overall Church budget challenges. This effort will continue into this coming year.

This coming year we hope to address some exterior lighting repair and improvements. There's some repair work to address in the Chapel, and we are planning on replacing the tired carpet in the atrium and office areas.

It's an honor to serve Christ Church on the Property Manager Committee. We are hoping that some of you might consider serving with us this next year by joining. Please come talk to me anytime.

Frederick Taylor-Kincaid, Chair

## Board of World Fellowship 2021-2022

The Board of World Fellowship (BoWF) is the philanthropic arm of the church, charged with oversight of three funds that benefit from the generosity of our congregation. All donations are made to charities to advance their missions, as well as the mission of Christ Church.

- 1) **3Kings Gift.** This year, the Board continued the tradition of celebrating 3Kings Day each January with a gift to a charity selected by the Congregation. Three organizations were nominated: Children's Aid and Family Services, Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan NJ and Roots & Wings. This year, nearly 100 votes were cast with Roots & Wings as the favorite. We divided the budget of \$6,000 proportionally with \$3,426 awarded to Roots & Wings, \$1,428 to Children's Aid and Family Services and \$1,146 to Planned Parenthood.
- 2) **SOS Fund.** Contributions collected during the Sundays of Sharing (SOS) campaign held during Lent are distributed to organizations addressing emerging and urgent crises worldwide. Examples of such crises include disease, natural disasters, conflict, displacement, and racial persecution. With a record-breaking 2022 SOS collection of \$20,976, we were able to continue to support Ukraine relief (World Central Kitchen, Our Children, Direct Relief). We also made donations to the UCC's climate justice initiative and to their flood relief programs in California and Pakistan, World Central Kitchen's Climate Disaster Fund, Sanibel Interfaith Hurricane Relief, and the Turkey/Syria Earthquake relief through Doctors without Borders and Embrace Foundation. With our 2023 SOS collection netting \$14,354 we hope to continue our mission going forward.
- 3) **The Margaret Baker Fund.** Margaret Baker, a longtime member of the church and teacher, gave a bequest to Christ Church for the three-year support of a chosen charitable institution focused on education in the amount of \$5,000 a year. One World, One Love NJ, a non-profit dedicated to refugee resettlement in our community, received this grant in 2021 and we will continue to provide annual support through the end of this year when a new recipient will be selected from nominations made by the congregation.
- 4) **Volunteer Efforts.** The Church's strategic plan calls for a deeper commitment to volunteerism and we responded with a revival of our annual Inter-generational Volunteer Day at the Community Food Bank's warehouse in NJ. A crew of 24, from teens to seniors, joined in a morning of packing boxes for distribution to New Jerseyans in need. A second inter-generational team joined together to prepare winter hygiene kits for the clients of Bridges. We provided further support to Bridges with a coat drive which collected 60 winter garments.
- 5) **Cash in Plate Distribution.** Due to budget concerns, we discontinued this program in February. Prior to this point we distributed funds from the Sunday collection to GRACE, Home Sharing, the Christ Child Society, the Pastor's Christmas fund, and Keys to Success.
- 6) Current Board members include Anne Kennison, Joe Salsberry, Cynthia Mathis, Milla Trigos, Rob Morse, Carolyn Dorflinger (Secretary). My deepest thanks go out to them for their dedication, service and creative energy. All will continue to serve next year and will be joined by Jessica Reichert, Bill La Curtis, Roz Kendellen and Dave Bunting. Anne Kennison will succeed me as Chair, as I move on after four years on this Board.

Sincerely, Mary Dickey, Chair, Board of World Fellowshi

## **Membership Board**

The Membership Committee held 5 internal meetings this year to discuss ideas and opportunities to expand membership in Christ Church. On November 9, 2022 Reverend Julie and Lynn Richardson hosted a prospective member Zoom call for those seeking more information about Christ Church and membership.

Current members Paul Judicke, John Bragg Houston, Toiya Facey and Terry Baker also joined to lend their perspective and insights to the discussion. Additional invitations have been sent to other prospective members offering to have informational Zoom calls.

A new member Sunday was held February 26, 2023 and two new members joined; Dean and Jennifer Nielsen.

Lynn Richardson, chairs

## **Memorial Garden**

We still hope to see the plaques containing nameplates removed from the exterior walls of the atrium and returned to the Memorial Garden area at the top of the stairs, where they were housed for decades before Barnwell Hall construction required their removal. Funds have not been available.

The Memorial Garden continues to be a place for quiet meditation, reflection and prayer, and provides a final resting place for former members and friends of Christ Church. It is supported by donations and fees: \$750 per member and \$1500 per non-member, which includes an inscribed bronze nameplate. Spaces can be reserved by sending a letter of intention, with payment, to the Christ Church Administrator.

Julia O'Brien and Chad O'Brien, Co-Chairs

## **Race Equity Task Force 2022-2023**

Members: Frank Bolden, James DeBoer, Dave Graepel, Margaret Haughey, Kirk Johnson, Ashley Kile, Alan Knight, Bola Lawrence, Janet Quarterone, Don Richards, Donovan Sherman (co-chair), Monique Taylor-Kincaid (co-chair), Barbara Von Klemperer, Michele Urcuyo, Ed Walter

*Mission statement. **We seek to unify our congregation in a call for racial equity that stems from our Christian faith. We acknowledge the complexities of race, both nationally and in our community, while also believing in the power of dialogue and action to achieve justice.***

**Race Equity Task Force typically meets monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at noon and we welcome those who want to join our efforts!**

Observed Hispanic Heritage Month in conjunction with MFA committee with a Latin American textile display in Barnwell Hall

“Raising White Children” with Dr. Jennifer Harvey in an all day workshop

Observed Native American/Indigenous Peoples Heritage Month by posting a list of businesses owned by NA/I people and a traditional welcome of the Munsee Lenape via video

Observed Dr. MLK Jr birthday with video excerpts of his speeches highlighting the themes of economic injustice

Observed Black History Month with Stacy Robinson’s one-man show “Don’t Tell Mama” in conjunction with the MFA, “Unsung Heroes in the Arts” profiles each Sunday and “Still I Rise” joint concert and dinner with Fountain Baptist. The proceeds from the concert, \$2000 was donated to Keys to Success.

Observed Asian American Pacific Islander Month with the viewing of the Netflix documentary “Chef’s Table: Asma Khan” while enjoying Indian cuisine of Begum Indian Restaurant of Madison

Celebrated Juneteenth by sponsoring a table for CCS at the community event and hosting a Juneteenth Gospel Brunch

Plans for 2023-2024:

Change in co-chairs of RETF

Sponsoring table at ethnic heritage community events on the Village Green

## Board of Music & Arts 2022-2023

This year the Music and Fine Arts Committee (MFA) welcomed new leadership as Anne Salorio became Chair.

We presented two musical programs and two visual arts exhibits.

### **Committee members for 2022-23**

Mark Miller, Minister of Music  
Anne Salorio, Chair  
Lizanne Ceconi  
Rosemarie Gelber  
Cary Hardy  
Brinna Kolitz  
Nancy Mion  
Rick Morey  
Ed Walter

Cary Hardy joined us in November 2022 and has been a wonderful and dedicated addition! Brinna Kolitz, our newest addition, offered to join us in May 2023 as a result of increased outreach to the congregation throughout Spring 2023 regarding committee opportunities. We are thrilled to have her!

### **Musical Programs**

**December 11, 2022 - "A Christmas Cabaret"**, our first in-person cabaret since 2019, was presented in Lile Hall on Sunday at 3:00 in the afternoon. The community has deeply missed these excuses to gather, share food and music, and simply enjoy time with one another, and this cabaret was a lovey addition to the Christmas season!

The cost for presenting this event was \$120.00, and after suggested and other donations, we raised \$720.00.

**March 5, 2023 - "Still I Rise"**, formerly "Let Justice Roll", was presented in the Christ Church Sanctuary at 4:00 in the afternoon. This event, which has been greatly missed the past few years due to the pandemic, was made possible thanks to a wonderful partnership with the Race Equity Task Force (RETF). We sincerely thank RETF for all their great work to bring this event to the community.

The Christ Church Chancel Choir was joined by performers from Fountain Baptist Church, as well as soloists from Christ Church, Fountain, and other friends of the community. Fountain Baptist also generously contributed \$2,000 to the event expenses (in thanks, we did **not** ask members of Fountain Baptist who attended to make the suggested donation at the door).

In addition, the event featured invited guests from Keys 2 Success, a music education nonprofit that does great work in Newark. Founder Jee-Hoon Krska attended with 11 of her students. A plate was passed during the service with proceeds from the plate donated to Keys 2 Success.

The event was followed by a catered dinner, which allowed for welcome time to chat with community members and guests.

Thanks in part to additional marketing, including posting the event on [patch.com](https://www.patch.com) community calendars for Summit and the surrounding towns, the event was packed. It was wonderful to see a full sanctuary!

The cost of presenting this event was just under \$5,000 and raised over \$2,600 after tickets and donations.

### **Visual Arts**

**What Does Christmas Mean to You?** - These works came from a table the MFA Committee set up at the 2022 Advent Workshop. Numerous children from the congregation stopped by to create pictures sharing their many interpretations of the holiday. Pictures featured snowmen and snowy landscapes, wrapped gifts, Christmas trees, and more. Rosemarie Gelber ensured that these works were hung and prominently displayed in Barnwell Hall through the Christmas season, keeping us all in cheerful spirit and reminding us what talented young artists we have up and coming in our community!

**Spring Art Show** - This special exhibit, curated and coordinated by Rosemarie Gelber, features existing, emerging, and wannabe artists in our Christ Church congregation. We are eager to highlight the multitude of talented people with whom we are blessed to share this community. A variety of mediums (paintings, collages, crafts, etc.) are welcome. This display will begin on Sunday, May 21, and will hang in Barnwell until June 11.

### **Future Events**

**June 18, 2023 - Gospel Brunch** - MFA will again be partnering with RETF to present a Gospel Bunch in honor of Juneteenth. More details coming soon!

Possible music events for next year include a possible cabaret or variety show event featuring Christ Church musicians and friends as part of the congregation's planned "Homecoming" celebrations in the Fall, as well as some kind of organ presentation or concert once installation is complete.

We are also working for increasing our number and variety of fine arts installations, including a possible upcoming exhibit exploring the concept of "home".

*We look forward to continuing to bring a vibrant arts and music culture to our church community!*

## **Shawl Ministry**

The shawl ministry is a virtual group at Christ Church. We do not have meetings. We are a group of women who knit or crochet shawls at our leisure to be donated to members of Christ Church or to other people in need of comfort. They are given to Rev Julie Yarborough to give to the people who need them. She knows the needs of the congregation.

We are listed with the national group Prayer Shawl Ministry. <http://www.shawlministry.com/>

We could use more members. I have the directions for the basic shawl or they can be obtained from the Prayer Shawl website. I also have yarn in my house that has been donated that people can use.

Facilitator for Shawl Ministry

## **In Remembrance**

Together we remember the vital contributions of those members of Christ Church who died this past year.

*Requiem aeternam donei, Domine, et lux perpetua luceat eis. Requiescant in pace. Amen*

Alfred MacRae – February 15, 2023

Emmy Hale – April 21, 2023