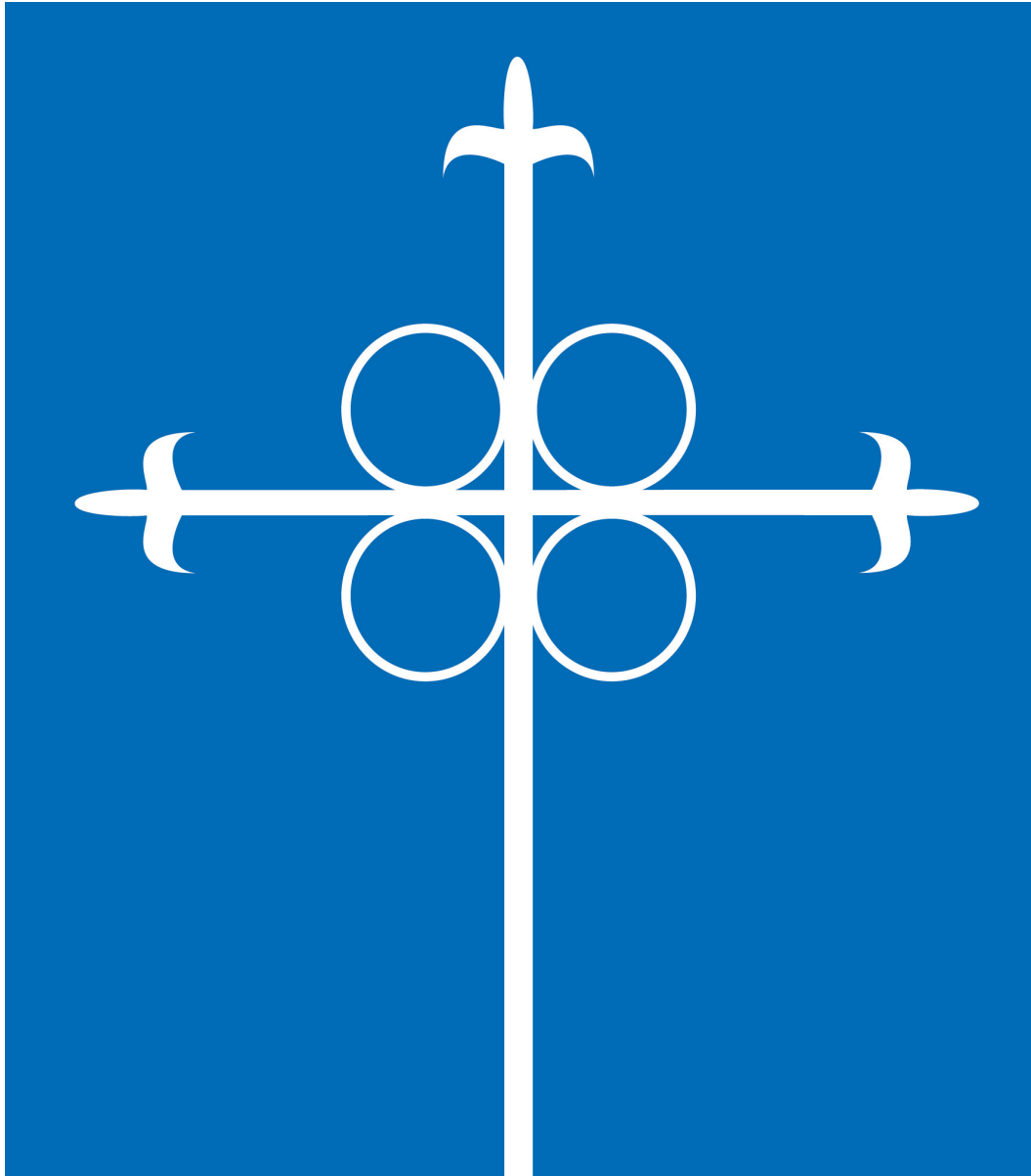


**THE ANNUAL REPORT  
OF  
CHRIST CHURCH IN BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE  
FOR THE  
164<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING OF THE PARISH**



**NOVEMBER 5, 2023**

*Growing in faith ~ Serving our neighbors ~ Creating community*

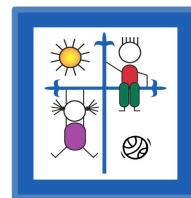






# CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

BLOOMFIELD & GLEN RIDGE



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## AGENDA

- ✦ Call to Order
- ✦ Opening Prayer
- ✦ Introduction of Staff & Guests
- ✦ Review and Approval of Minutes from the 163rd Annual Meeting
- ✦ Warden's Remarks
- ✦ Rector's Address
- ✦ Elections & Voting Certification
- ✦ Adjournment
- ✦ Closing Prayer, Blessing, & Dismissal

## LEADERSHIP AND STAFF OF CHRIST CHURCH

**Rector:** The Rev. Diana L. Wilcox

**Wardens:** Michelle Ryndak and Tom Reynolds

**The Vestry:**

**Class of 2023**

Bill Seeman  
Denise Massay-Williams

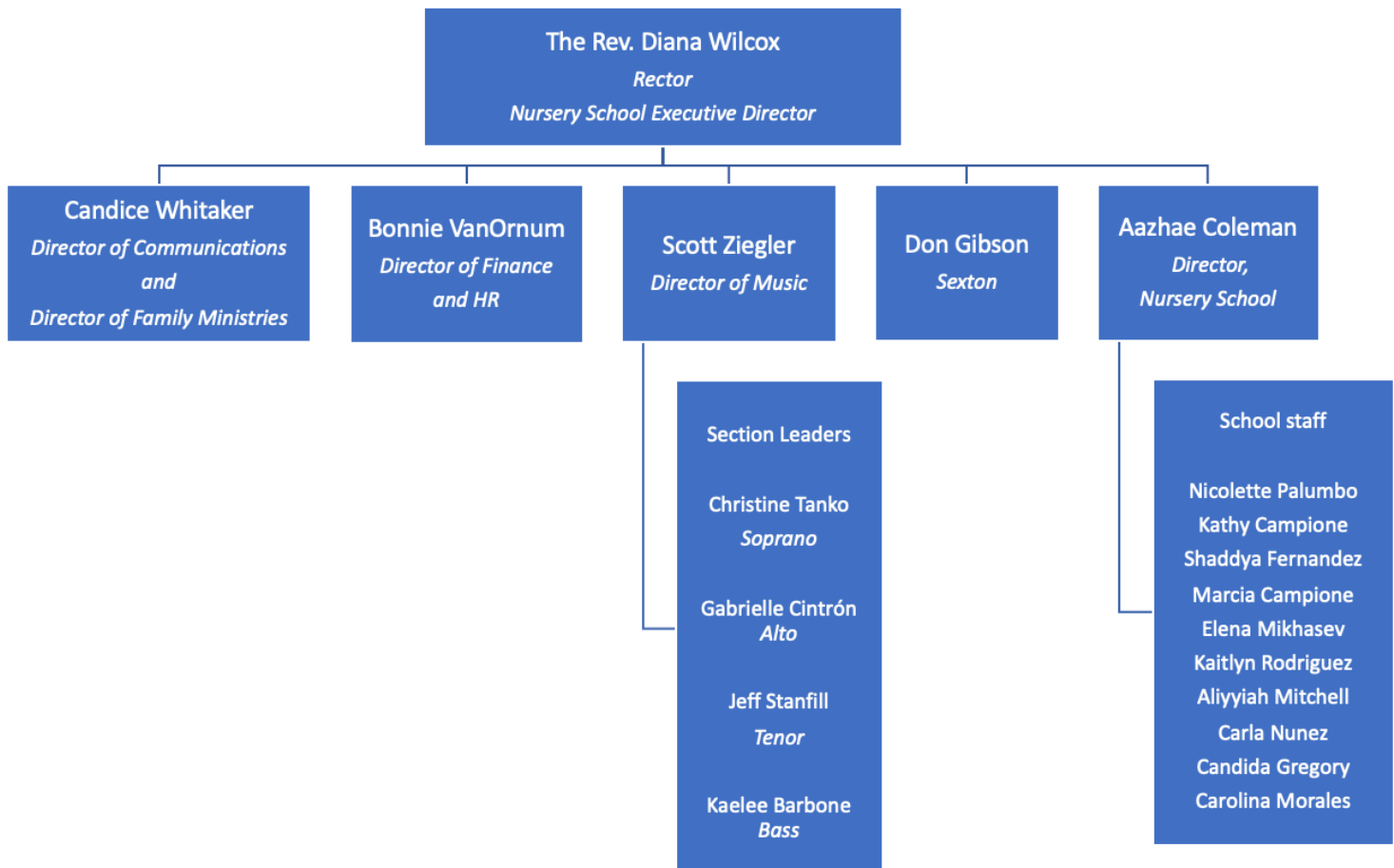
**Class of 2024**

Ben Reynolds  
Leo Toledo

**Class of 2025**

Open Seat  
Open Seat

**The Staff:**



## OPENING PRAYER & SCRIPTURE

Rector: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Rector: Let us pray together...

**Almighty and ever living God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with us as we take counsel in Christ Church in Bloomfield & Glen Ridge for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Lector: A reading from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians

I therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift... The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ. We must no longer be children, tossed to and fro and blown about by every wind of doctrine, by people's trickery, by their craftiness in deceitful scheming. But speaking the truth in love, we must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love.

## MINUTES OF THE 163RD MEETING OF THE PARISH

CALL TO ORDER: The 163<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Parish was called to order by the Rev. Diana L. Wilcox, Rector of Christ Church, on Sunday, November 6, 2023 following the 10:30 A.M. worship service. After the opening prayer, the minutes of the 162<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting were unanimously approved.

RECTOR'S REMARKS: Mtr. Diana Wilcox, reviewed our current status as we emerge out of the pandemic.

- We baptized one and said a sad goodbye to three, including Sheila Jackson.
- Our financial situation is still troubling post-pandemic. In 2019, we closed our year with our endowment spending at nearly sustainable levels (5.75%) and had just under \$1,000,000 in our endowment. During pandemic we paid off our loan for the infrastructure project to avoid a call on it, and we had no income from our school because it was closed. That means our Pledge income is still far off of what it should be (50% of operation budget).
- Our history of pledging has not been what it should be. She implored everyone to increase their pledge, and if not pledging, to do so – working toward a tithe (10%) a little each year.
- She again reviewed our history of rising from the ashes in 2014, and all the things we did to turn things around. She then reviewed our current challenges and opportunities.

WARDEN'S REMARKS: Our warden, Denise Massay Williams, shared her view of our future, and our past.

- Denise spoke from a place of deep faith and of the Holy Spirit calling us into new life.

RESOLUTIONS There were two resolutions, passed initially by the Vestry, and submitted for full parish approval. Both were related to the makeup of our vestry, requiring proper notice of a change to our bylaws. Both were also recommended to be temporary, particularly the second one relating to terms of office.

### **Bylaw Amendment Resolution 1– October 4, 2022**

RESOLVED, that Section IV, Article (2) be amended to read “There shall be six Vestrypersons (N.J. Rev. Stat. 16:12-1). One-third of the Vestrypersons shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Parish, to hold office for three years or until their several successors are elected and qualify (E.C. Can.I.14.1) & N.J. Rev. Stat. 16:12-11). One Alternate Vestryperson may be elected for a one-year term to attend Vestry meetings with a voice, but no vote unless and until he or she becomes a Vestryperson in the event of a vacancy, as provided in paragraph (4) below.

Original language of sec. iv, article (2):

There shall be nine Vestrypersons (N.J. Rev. Stat. 16:12-1). One-third of the Vestrypersons shall be elected at each Annual Meeting of the Parish, to hold office for three years or until their several successors are elected and qualify (E.C. Can.I.14.1) & N.J. Rev. Stat. 16:12-11). One Alternate Vestryperson may be elected for a one-year term to attend Vestry meetings with a voice, but no vote unless and until he or she becomes a Vestryperson in the event of a vacancy, as provided in paragraph (4) below.

### **Bylaw Amendment Resolution 2– October 4, 2022**

RESOLVED, that Section IV, Article (3) be amended to read “*Qualifications for Office:* The persons entitled to hold office of Warden or Vestrypersons in the Parish shall be qualified voters of the Parish, as described in Section I, paragraph (7), of these Bylaws (*D.N. Can. 9-6 and N.J. Stat. Rev. 16:12-10*).”

Original language of sec. iv, article (2):

*Qualifications for Office:* The persons entitled to hold office of Warden or Vestrypersons in the Parish shall be qualified voters of the Parish, as described in Section I, paragraph (7), of these Bylaws (*D.N. Can. 9-6 and N.J. Stat. Rev. 16:12-10*). In addition, a Warden shall have prior experience as a member of the Vestry of this Parish. No person shall serve more than two consecutive full terms as Vestryperson or as Warden. Service as Warden may follow immediately upon service as Vestryperson; however, no retiring Warden may be re-elected to the Vestry until at least one year has elapsed (*D.N. Can. 9-6(b) and N.J. Stat. Rev. 16:12-10*).

ELECTIONS: The following were elected to the position of Warden: Tom Reynolds, Michelle Ryndak. The following were elected to Vestry: Bill Seeman, Denise Massay-Williams, Ben Reynolds, and Leo Toledo, Jr.

FINANCIAL REPORT: The state of the parish financial position was presented. The following is a summary:

- At the end of the third quarter of 2022, Christ Church is running an operating deficit of \$150,000 and the Nursery School is at break even. We must improve in both the church and the school as these run rates, if continued, will exhaust our funds and cause us to close by the end of October, 2023.
- In order to avoid this conclusion, we must cover the deficit by increasing income and decreasing expense by \$20,000 per month. Growth of enrollment to 85-90 in the Nursery School along with increased income and reduced expense in other areas should accomplish this goal.
- We have taken positive steps in this direction through expense control, growth in pledges and student recruitment during the past year but must move faster. Events like our winning of the NJ Stabilization Grant are great examples of helpful efforts.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 pm. A blessing was offered by Mtr. Diana.

## 2023 PARISH ELECTION NOMINEES

### NOMINATIONS FOR VESTRY

#### Denise Massay-Williams – Class of 2025



I have been attending Christ Church since 2002 following the closure of the Central Brick Presbyterian Church which our family attended since 1988. Guyana is my birth country and I was baptized at the St. James-the-less Anglican church as an infant, however our family worshipped at the Queenstown Moravian Church up until I migrated to the USA. After attending my brother's wedding at Christ Church, and as we were church shopping, we decided to attend a worship service – Mrs. London was our connection to Christ Church, being related to my sister-in-law. We chose Christ Church because of the warm welcome received during each visit and for its diversity and the familiarity of some of the hymns sung during service. I am a divorced mother of two (a son and a daughter) and am grandmother to three girls. Najja, who was one of our 2014 high school

graduates, Paris who was a lector, and Eleise who lives in South Jersey, but visits occasionally. I am from a family of 8 (originally) 1 brother deceased and 6 siblings most within easy visiting distance. My mother attended Christ Church until her death in 2007. My sister Iona Hutchinson is also a member of Christ Church. I work full time for MetLife's Midtown office as a contracts analyst in the Global Employee Benefits unit - a job that consumes the majority of my day. My interests include reading, music (listening to and singing), and enjoying a busy family life. From as early as I can remember, I have always had an active church life, beginning in the children's choirs and graduating to youth and the adult choir; Sunday school and vacation bible school teacher, youth group and other activities. In addition to being a lector and a chorister, I have served on the Christ Church vestry for two three year terms, Warden for two terms, and decided to serve once again as I feel called to help in the transformation that Christ Church is experiencing.

## **Bill Seeman- Class of 2025**



I have been attending Christ Church since the late 1990s following my return from a five year corporate assignment in London, England. I chose Christ Church as a life long Episcopalian and stayed because of the worship experience and friendly nature of the congregation. I have been a Vice President and Financial Advisor with Ameriprise Financial Services since 2012 after 12 years with Merrill Lynch. Prior to Merrill, I spent 27 years as a banker specializing in corporate cash management. I have been a resident of

Glen Ridge since 1980 following over six years in Bloomfield. I have been active in the Glen Ridge community serving as President of the 'Taxpayers' Association, President of the Kiwanis Club and as a current member of the Board of Adjustment. At Christ Church I have served as Finance Chair, on the Vestry for two terms and as Warden. Education includes a BA in History from Gettysburg College in 1973 and an MBA in Finance from Seton Hall University in 1980.

## **Vestry Nominees 1&2 – Class of 2026**



## REPORT OF THE RECTOR



It has now been nearly 10 years together as priest and parish, with so many memories and opportunities for renewal and growth. Inside these pages are the stories – our stories – of transition, of new life, of growing to serve and serving to grow. We have endured much loss due to the pandemic – emotionally, physically, and financially, yet we have come through the desert to the other side together, by God’s grace.

I encourage everyone to read these pages, because they are your story – a story of the Holy Spirit at work here at Christ Church-through you.

Since our last Annual Meeting...

- ❖ We have stabilized our financial position, with a plan to move us into a brighter future.
- ❖ We installed solar panels all over our parish hall and Coursen room roof through a diocesan program that will save us significant funds over the years, even offering some revenue down the road.
- ❖ Our choir continues to be a source of joy and this next year, our Lenten Evensong and Advent Lessons & Carols will be return.
- ❖ We continue to provide space for PFLAG, the NJ Reading Orchestra, the Charles Sellers Foundation (a group that raises money to pay off medical debt), and singing lessons taught by an Opera singer.



- ❖ We continued our parish wide celebrations – Mass on the Grass with Brass & Parish Picnic and the Fall Founder’s Fest. And we once again partnered with PAWS Montclair to offer a Blessing of the Animals service.
- ❖ Our website has reached hundreds of thousands (over 196,000 views and nearly 98,000 visitors) and our Facebook page has 1,000 followers – more than any other church in our diocese!

As your priest, 2023 has been another year packed with community engagement, justice and outreach ministry, and diocesan work.

- ❖ On a Diocesan level, I serve on the Standing Committee, the Budget & Finance Committee, the Ecumenical & Interfaith Commission, and as the diocesan liaison to Episcopal Migration Ministries (refugee work). I also serve as a Co-Chair of the Anti-Sexism Task Force, and was engaged in creating and presenting training. And, I am frequently working with diocesan staff and leadership on visioning projects and convention planning.



- ❖ On the Episcopal Church level, I was appointed to the Executive Council Committee on Corporate Social Responsibility (seen above at our Interim Bodies Meeting in Cleveland in April of 2023). I am also an Alternate Deputy to the 81<sup>st</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church in Louisville next summer.



- ❖ Pastorally, there have been many calls and visits, both in homes, and in hospitals, in the past year. This ministry of presence is a privilege and a trust. Spiritual direction is also a part of pastoral care, and involves meeting with people as they discern where God is calling them. We have challenges and opportunities ahead of us in these years coming out of pandemic:

#### Challenges:

- ❖ We are still operating a deficit budget.
- ❖ Our endowments are 1/3 what they once were, just under \$300,000 and the markets are not allowing us to earn income
- ❖ We have not received a single bequest since 2014, so there has been no increase in our endowment.
- ❖ We continue to have low parishioner pledges – both in number of units and in amount pledged.
- ❖ In-service attendance has been sparse, making it difficult to gain cohesion as a parish community – this is our biggest concern right now!
- ❖ Our lay led outward ministries need to grow.
- ❖ Our building needs repair (especially the four areas of the nave).
- ❖ Livestreaming is keeping people home (see also opportunities).



#### Opportunities:

- ❖ Our neighborhoods are growing!
- ❖ We seem to have stabilized our financial situation, with an achievable and measurable plan in place, because of the hard work of our leadership and staff. However, that requires that the church hit its goals of pledges meeting or exceeding that of 2022.



- ❖ We now have a seminarian who is engaging with us in ministry.
- ❖ We received an additional \$75,000 in State grants of \$195,000 for the school since 2022.
- ❖ We applied and received an Employee Retention Tax Credit of nearly \$90,000.
- ❖ Our people love this place!
- ❖ Livestreaming offers new paths for evangelism (see also challenges).
- ❖ New people continue to come through our doors, and we have an increase in membership over last year, and an increase, although small, in our average Sunday attendance (in-person – online is not counted).
- ❖ We did receive a notice of a small bequeath by a former parishioner, and others are indicating that they have remembered us in their estate plans.
- ❖ We continue to offer worship to all people – welcoming everyone, no exceptions!



**Perhaps most of all... we have been here before and we know, by God's grace, we can do it again!**

The rest of my report provides important details about our parish life (see Parochial Report below), and yet, as Christians, it is vital to remember that we do not exist, nor does the church, for ourselves alone, but for God,



and we are called to love and serve in the name of Christ.

In the years ahead, we will continue to “grow in faith, serve our neighbors, and create community,” that others may know that they are loved unconditionally and for all time. There is much work to do in this dark and weary world, but together we will step boldly forward knowing that in all that we do, because of Christ, there is no darkness that his light cannot overcome, that life is stronger than death.

I am truly humbled to be called to love and serve you these past nine years, and I pray we continue to hear and respond to the Holy Spirit in the years ahead.

Blessings,  
Mother Diana+  
Rector



## PAROCHIAL REPORT

### Average Sunday Attendance & Membership & Pledging

Average Sunday Attendance, or ASA, is one of the ways churches are able to understand their overall health as a congregation. It is not the only way we can measure vitality – being Christ in the world (outreach to the community, engagement in justice issues), and financials (plate and pledge) are others. The chart below shows our statistics for these three areas over 10 years, and is readily available from The Episcopal Church at this link: <https://www.generalconvention.org/explore-parochial-report-trends>

These statistics are from our filed Parochial Reports.







## Baptisms

There were no baptisms this year.

*God, the Creator of all, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon these your servants the forgiveness of sin, and have raised them to the new life of grace. Sustain them, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit. Give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love you, and the gift of joy and wonder in all your works. Amen. (BCP, p. 308)*

## Confirmations



There were no confirmations or receptions this year.

*Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your Son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (BCP, p.309)*

## Weddings

There were no weddings in the past year.

*O gracious and ever living God, you have created us in your image: Look mercifully upon these wedded partners who come to you seeking your blessing, and assist them with your grace, that with true fidelity and steadfast love they may honor and keep the promises and vows they make; through Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen. (BCP, p. 425)*



## Funerals

Joan Wing  
Velma Johnson

*Mother of all, we pray to you for all those whom we love but see no longer. Grant to them eternal rest. Let light perpetual shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen. (BCP, p. 498, adapt.)*



## REPORT OF THE SEMINARIAN



My internship as seminarian at Christ Episcopal Church Bloomfield and Glenridge began July 2023. The internship is part of the process leading to ordination as a Deacon. The process includes screening, administrative requirements, educational courses and spiritual discernment. There are four major steps – aspirant, postulant, candidate and ordinand. I am currently a postulant and scheduled for Candidate's Conference on October 28<sup>th</sup>.

The deacon is called to a special ministry of servanthood directly under the bishop. According to the ordination of a deacon, "In the name of Jesus Christ, the deacon is to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely."

Even though the deacon serves under the supervision of the rector, the deacon promises to obey the bishop. Deacons are assigned by the bishop and are charged to bring to the congregation needs seen in the community/world. Deacons are to remind the congregation of the baptismal covenant that in serving others, we are serving Christ.

My responsibilities under the direction of Mother Diana were to assist in church ministry program services within the church and into the community. To that end I have:

- Participated in weekly worship services.
- Carried the Gospel Book
- Set the table for communion
- Cleared the table after communion
- Dismiss congregation at end of service
- Preached every 4 weeks
- Re-started Healing Prayer Ministry
- Conducted Healing Prayer series based on healing stories in the Bible
- Lead Morning Prayer
- Coordinated two-day food drive to support Holy Spirit Episcopal Church Food Pantry, Verona NJ



My time at Christ Episcopal Church has been very valuable to me. It has been a learning and spiritual experience for me. Mother Diana and the parishioners are very warm and welcoming. I have been blessed with a wonderful enriching placement.

Jacqueline McLeod  
Seminarian

## REPORT OF THE NURSERY SCHOOL OF CHRIST CHURCH

The Nursery School of Christ Church has continued to expand in recovering from our closure during the pandemic. We were able to re-open the Preschool 1 classroom over the summer. We currently has four rooms open with 7 Infants, 9 Toddlers, 7 students in Preschool 1 and 5 in Preschool 2, totaling 28 students. We have been making small strides in reaching our goal, slow and steady wins the race. A few new families have joined the school since January. Many prospective parents tour the school regularly, noting they've read or received great reviews about our programs. They are continuously amazed by how much gym space the children have, especially when the weather doesn't permit outdoor play.

Our fall session is off to a great start with the return of Kiddie Soccer, Dance, and Gymnastics. These outside companies, accompanied by an NSCC staff member, come to our facility to offer the students various enrichment programs. Having these extracurricular activities makes it readily accessible for many parents. At the end of soccer and gymnastics, the children receive a medal. At the end of dance, the children put on a recital for their families to watch.



In September, we had a fantastic Back to School night where many current and future parents took the time to peek into each of our classrooms and put themselves in their children's shoes. They got to meet the staff and review what a typical day for their child would look like.

Other significant events offered schoolwide are the Halloween Parade in October, the Thanksgiving Feast in November, and the Holiday Show in December. Starting with the Halloween Parade, the children dress up in costumes and sing songs for the entire school. It is always a monster mash to

remember. The Thanksgiving feast is an amazing opportunity for the school's students and teachers to come together and show our gratitude. During the month of December, The Nursery School is busy with all the holiday events that take place. Such as the Dance recital, Christ Church visit for the children whose parents give permission, and the Holiday Show. This does not even include the preparations to ensure these events go off without a hitch. However, it is great to note that we take pride in the holiday spirit and having a visit from Santa seals the deal. This year's Holiday Show will be held on Friday, December 15, at 2:00 p.m. Let us all ensure we do our part to be on the nice list because Santa will check it twice.

Respectively submitted,  
Aazhae Coleman  
Nursery School Director



## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



We have had another wonderful year. Our section leaders are: Christine Tanko, Soprano; Gabrielle Cintrón, Alto; Jeffrey Stanfill, Tenor; and Kaelee Barbone, Bass

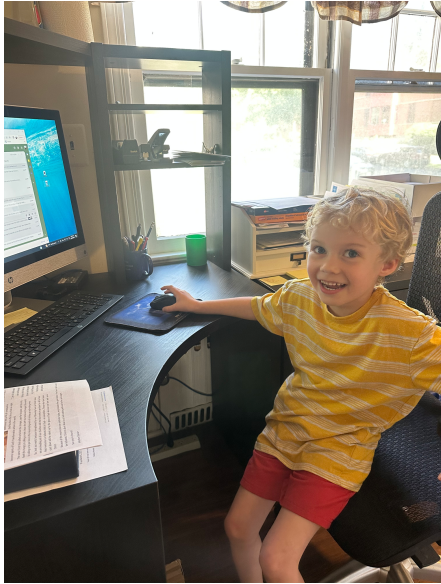
Of course, our choir is a ministry of the church and our section leaders serve to assist our dedicated and hardworking volunteer singers who make this such a special part of the life of Christ Church. Over this last year we have been working to improve our sound and blend, and we have added some new challenging anthems to our repertoire, especially some more contemporary arrangements.

The organ is in good shape. Work was done to fix the air reservoir which sustained minor water damage in a bad rainstorm earlier in the year. Minor repairs were also needed after the boiler incident, because the organ pulls wind up from the basement. The console remains covered with a blue tarp to protect the keyboards from the occasional bit of limestone dust from the wall above.

Please join us on Sunday December 17th at 5:00 pm for Christmas Lessons & Carols, and spread the word to your friends and family in our community. This is a unique service not often found in our area!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Scott Ziegler  
Director of Music

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS



The Parish Office is responsible for all communications and the management of the facilities. It is also often the first point of contact for vendors, visitors, and others looking to know more about the church. We have several groups who use our space throughout the year, and we love being able to give back to our community in that way.

We work very hard to share all the good things that are happening in and out of Christ Church. We are active on social media and post regularly on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and now Threads (@cc74park on all accounts). Our big events are submitted and posted on the Diocesan calendar and events page. We keep our banners updated on Bloomfield Ave. to reflect our latest events, also!

In addition to increasing communications within our church, we have worked to update and increase our methods of communications for our Nursery School staff and families as well. We have a monthly newsletter that goes out the 1<sup>st</sup> of every month to our Nursery School families. It includes important updates, calendars and newsletters for each class, activities our students can try at home, and photo highlights from the previous month. We implemented the use of Class Dojo last year, which allows for easier and more streamlined communications between the staff, families, and teachers. It has been working out very well!

The best way to stay up-to-date on all the news and updates at Christ Church and in our Diocese is through our email communications. We send out weekly emails to help you stay better connected. If you're not subscribed, or if you have not been getting these emails, simply use your phone camera to scan this QR code to subscribe!



We also offer a text service to provide you with last-minute updates, closings, news, events, etc. You can text **CHRISTCHURCH** to **313131** to receive these messages. However, it is not free for the church to use so we try to use this service sparingly; make sure you're on our email list!

We continue to produce the bulletins and Sunday Papers for every worship service, all of which are uploaded online each week, as is the most recent newsletter. There are plenty of ways to stay connected at Christ Church and we are always looking for the best ways to reach everyone; don't miss out!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Candice Whitaker  
Director of Communications



## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF FAMILY MINISTRIES

We are delighted to see more children in church this year, and our youth involved in our diocesan youth events! The pandemic years were tough for our kids and nursery school, but we are so happy to see an active presence again.

We are intending to make the first Sunday of every month especially dedicated to our children and youth. Childcare will be provided, Sunday School will return, and older children and youth are encouraged to serve in our worship as crucifers and acolytes.

Our Kid Kits that we introduced last year continue to be an asset in the church. Children have always been welcome in our services but this was just an additional option to make our worship service more kid friendly. The bags contain books, crayons, activities, and quiet toys that allow children to be present in worship even if they are not yet sure how to participate. We continue to have our kid zone in the back of the church, also. There are plenty of books and activities, rocking chairs, and more space for littles to move around. We love having more children present in worship, though we do hope to offer child care again soon for those that wish to utilize it. **We are urgently trying to find volunteers for Sunday School and child care providers (paid) in order to provide both at the start of the year. Please reach out to me (Candice) if you are interested in either.**



Diocesan Convention and other summer programming. These events are always shared in our weekly emails and our Sunday paper, but reach out to me for more information on any event.

Aazhae (our Nursery School Director) and I are coordinating an event together for the children of our parish and our school on December 16. Stay tuned for more details coming soon, but there will be cookie decorating and an opportunity to get a photo with Santa and an elf! I look forward to all the fun festivities we have coming up!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Candice Whitaker  
Director of Family Ministries

## STEWARDSHIP REPORT

### PLEDGES FOR 2023

Thank you to those who pledged their commitment last year to serving Christ through the mission and ministries of Christ Church, their parish home.

Gwenda Barnes  
David Drislane & Leo  
Toldeo  
Judith Dunkley  
Joe and Jane Durham  
Nancy Fairty  
Edmond Fursa  
Bonnie Gustafson  
Gail Jackson  
Betty Kish and Ann  
Watson  
Richard Lamb  
Carol Madden  
Denise Massay-  
Williams  
Kelly and Amy  
McAllister  
Clara & Curtis Mitchell

Francis Myrill  
Amy & Tom Reynolds  
Stephanie & Ben  
Reynolds  
Michelle Ryndak  
William Seeman  
Nadine Sempier  
Loretta Simon  
Corielle Voge  
Emmanuel Wakhata  
Rhonda Watson  
Robert & Joan White  
Mother Diana Wilcox  
Dan Wing and Yvette  
Lucas  
Elizabeth Yarborough



# PLEDGE REPORT – TEN YEAR OVERVIEW

## Christ Church Bloomfield-Glen Ridge Pledge Report and Trends 2013-2023 -Ten Year Overview

	Pandemic Years										
	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Number of pledges	68	41	64	68	58	49	56	48	46	38	28
Amount pledged	#####	\$87,581	#####	#####	#####	\$83,100	\$84,257	\$76,277	\$87,784	#####	\$84,072
Average pledged	\$ 1,788	\$ 2,136	\$ 1,647	\$ 1,636	\$ 1,595	\$ 1,696	\$ 1,505	\$ 1,589	\$ 1,589	\$ 2,810	\$ 3,003
Total Vestry & Clergy pledging	\$ 25,764	\$27,732	\$ 34,150	\$ 39,771	#####	\$27,710	\$26,192	\$26,773	\$34,108	\$ 41,362	\$29,432
% Vestry pledging	-	-	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Rector pledge*		\$ 4,600	\$ 4,800	\$ 4,924	\$ 5,000	\$ 5,070	\$ 5,140	\$ 5,270	\$ 5,400	\$ 5,720	\$ 5,720

INCREASES											
Number of Decreased pledges	26	13	20	18	15	19	24	21	18	17	13
Number of new pledges	9	6	23	15	9	14	10	15	7	10	3
New Income from increase pledges	\$ 7,309	\$ 7,541	\$ 5,918	\$ 8,977	\$ 2,482	\$ 5,886	\$ 8,621	\$12,522	\$ 9,966	\$ 29,894	\$ 7,840
New income from new pledges	\$ 4,552	\$ 2,750	\$ 23,448	\$ 11,385	\$ 6,340	\$ 9,144	\$ 6,584	\$12,093	\$ 5,260	\$ 10,590	\$ 4,700
<b>TOTAL NEW INCOME</b>	<b>\$ 11,861</b>	<b>\$ 9,805</b>	<b>\$ 29,366</b>	<b>\$ 20,362</b>	<b>\$ 8,822</b>	<b>\$15,030</b>	<b>\$15,205</b>	<b>\$24,615</b>	<b>\$15,226</b>	<b>\$ 40,484</b>	<b>\$12,540</b>

DECREASES											
Number of decreased pledges	9	10	6	10	3	6	7	6	8	0	2
Number of pledges unrenewed	3	22	10	8	11	14	7	17	13	15	12
Lost income from decreased pledges	\$ (2,028)	\$ (7,184)	\$ (4,284)	\$ (5,110)	\$ (6,980)	\$ (7,910)	\$ (3,722)	\$ (6,259)	\$ (2,705)	\$ -	#####
Lost income from unrenewed pledges	\$ (4,200)	#####	\$ (16,280)	\$ (6,240)	\$ -	\$ (2,700)	#####	#####	\$ (8,914)	\$ (10,292)	#####
<b>TOTAL LOST INCOME</b>	<b>\$ (6,228)</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$ (20,564)</b>	<b>\$ (11,350)</b>	<b>\$ (6,980)</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>#####</b>	<b>\$ (10,292)</b>	<b>#####</b>

\* 10% Salary

## **BUILDINGS & GROUNDS**

### **Repair & Maintenance**

We continue to try to take great care of our buildings, and accomplished the following this year (this is only the major repair items):

- Applying for diocesan grants for the roof repairs, which were made over the organ and on the second floor of 74 Park.
- Applying for security grants to replace old hard key system, replace the Coursen Room door (now required by NJ State), increase camera security, and other things to keep us safe.
- Renewed contract for boiler maintenance and for organ maintenance
- Renewed our snow plowing contract

### **Planned & Future Work**

We are ever grateful to our sexton, Don Gibson, for his work. Don is primarily responsible for a great deal of the maintenance work done around these buildings. There is more work to do, but we are well on our way to keeping our buildings and grounds in top shape. In particular, we will need to address the following in the next year or two:

- Pointing in the church tower still needs to be completed (interior this time)
- We have a columbarium issue, in that we are full, and need more space. Also, we need to properly etch the doors with the names of those interred.
- The flooring in the church by the walls, damaged by the old steam pipes, are in need of repair/replacement.
- Repairing other roof leaks
- Removing old paint and repainting the wood framing around the windows of 74 Park and the Church to ensure the wood does not rot.
- Security needs to be improved, as noted above.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

### Financial Report

October 3, 2023 for the period ending September 30, 2023

Below are the financial reports for the Church and the School through September 30th, along with the current deficit projection into 2024:

**Christ Church:** As of August 31, 2023, we have operating cash on hand of \$192,047. The new calendar year began on January 1, 2023. Through the month ending August 31, 2023, Parish generated YTD income was \$74,104 and the expenses were \$269,568. Through the month ending August 31, 2023, the YTD net income was \$36,931.

January through August 2023 actual pledges were \$61,525. The monthly amounts were: January- \$13,388, February- \$7,217, March- \$7,851, April- \$7,395, May- \$6,150, June- \$6,377, July- \$7,093, and August- \$6,114. Over the summer giving was down.

**NSCC:** The new fiscal year began on July 1, 2023. Year to date ending August 31, 2023 (July and August, we earned \$99,017 against expenses of \$103,915. The YTD net loss is -\$4,898.

As of August 31, 2023, the Nursery School has \$63,562 in operating cash, another \$16,126 in working capital and \$27,138 in security deposits, which formally is off limits for operating expense.

Based on the August projected and current data for the average combined CC and NS, I estimate that we need to find another \$19,565 per month and the close date is extended to September 2024. To meet that \$19,565 deficit, NSCC will need to increase enrollment by 19, however 9 have already registered and only 10 new students will now need to be added.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Bonnie VanOrnum  
Director of Finance

## MINISTRY REPORTS

The following reports are not inclusive of all ministries at Christ Church, but those that submitted reports to the office in time for inclusion in this Annual Report. They are grouped by our mission of “growing in faith, serving our neighbors, creating community.”

### GROWING IN FAITH

#### Adult Formation

Christ Church isn't only for the young, but the young at heart too! Adult Formation is an important part of living into our baptismal covenant. Forums are always announced in our Sunday Paper and weekly emails.

#### Altar Guild

Throughout 2022-23, the Altar Guild, Carol Madden, Frances Myrill, and Michelle Ryndak, continued to ensure that the Altars at Christ Church were set up and prepared for worship services every week, as well as for special events, such as weddings, funerals, and other special services, making sure that everything needed was in place and that the Altars and the areas around them were in proper order. Particular attention was paid in setting up for the major festivals at Christmas and Easter.



#### Healing Team

Thanks to our seminarian, Jackie, our healing team has returned. Healing prayers continues at the 10:30 am service at Saint Mary's Chapel during communion most Sundays. Anyone who would like to be involved in this ministry, please contact Jackie.

## Worship Ministries

Worship takes a community of people who read the word, offer the sacrament, provide healing prayer, carry symbols of our faith (the cross and candles), greet people as they enter the church, count the offering we give to God, and so very much more.



We are always grateful to Leo Toledo for his scheduling of these teams, and for his leadership of the acolytes, lectors, and other worship assistants. This year we focused on engaging more of the children and youth in the service, and there is always room for more (and for adults too!).

## SERVING OUR NEIGHBORS AND CREATING COMMUNITY

### Animal Ministry

Once again we have partnered with PAWS Montclair, the local animal shelter, to provide needed food and supplies. We collect each week, and once per month bring those items to PAWS.

During our annual Blessing of the Animals in October, we presented checks and supplies to PAWS Montclair Animal Shelter. We are always so grateful to David Drislane, who organizes this service. The donations were from the parish, but the blessing of animals brings in people from all over our community, and is itself an outreach program.



### Food Ministry

We continued to accept donations from our parishioners to support the good work of local food pantries. Jackie, our Seminarian, just led a Food Drive for the food pantry of Holy Spirit in Verona in October, and it was extremely successful with both food and monetary donations.

## CLOSING PRAYER & BLESSING

Rector: God be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Rector: Let us pray together...

**Almighty and everliving God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Thank you for being a part of our celebration of all that has been happening here at Christ Church in 2023. We hope that you leave here excited for the future, and ready to go wherever the Spirit leads us.*

*If you are able, we will need help with clean-up, so please join with others in getting the parish hall ready for tomorrow for our nursery school children.*



