

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

Presented to the Congregation on
Sunday, January 28, 2024



CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH
UNIVERSITY DISTRICT + SEATTLE, WA

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Agenda for the Annual Parish Meeting – held on January 28, 2024

12:00-12:05	Opening Prayer	Caity A-P.
12:05-12:15	Review and Approve 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes	Joslin G.
12:15-12:25	Senior Warden’s Report	Joslin G.
12:25-12:45	Treasurer’s Report	Kathy C.
12:45-1:05	Vestry Budget Report	Melissa M.
1:05-1:20	Elections: Vestry Members Convention Delegate and Alternate	Joslin G.
1:20-1:35	Renovation 2024	Joslin G.
1:35-1:50	Marketing Plan Update: Signage, Newcomers, Guest Worshipers, Church Software	Joslin G.
1:50-2:00	Discussion/Questions	Joslin G./Vestry
2:00	Closing Prayer	Caity A-P.

Requirements for Voting and Running for Vestry at the Annual Meeting

*Pursuant to the Canons of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia,
and the Bylaws of Christ Episcopal Church in Seattle, WA*

From the Canons of the Diocese of Olympia

Canon 9, Section 2a *(excerpt)*

Adult Communicants in Good Standing in the Parish shall alone be eligible to serve on the Vestry.

Canon 20, Sections 1-2 *(excerpts)*

A communicant is a baptized person who is faithful in corporate worship and has received the Sacrament of Holy Communion in this Church at least three times during the preceding 12 months.

Communicants 16 years of age and older are to be considered adult Communicants.

A Communicant in Good Standing is a Communicant who is a recorded contributor to the support of the Church with money or with personal service, as determined by the rector or vicar of the congregation.

From the Bylaws of Christ Episcopal Church

Article II, Section 1, Composition of the Vestry.

The number of the Vestry shall be no fewer than six (6) nor greater than twelve (12) members and they shall be Communicants in Good Standing in the parish. The Rector shall be, Ex Officio, a member of the Vestry. The members of the Vestry shall serve for terms of three (3) years each, at least one-third (1/3) of whom shall be elected at each annual meeting. No member of a Vestry who is elected to a full three-year term shall be eligible for re-election to the Vestry until one (1) year after the expiration for which he or she was elected.

There being no provision for absentee ballots or voting by proxy, electors must attend the Annual Meeting to vote.

2023 Annual Meeting Minutes

Annual Meeting 2023

Christ Episcopal Church, February 5, 2023

Call to Order at 12:00 pm (Rev. Shelly Fayette)
Approximately 26 church members were present.
Rev. Shelly offered an opening prayer.

Approval of Minutes of 2022 Annual Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 31, 2022 Annual Meeting was made and seconded. There was no discussion. A voice vote to approve the minutes was unanimous, with no “no” votes or abstentions.

Elections

Rev. Shelly reviewed the requirements for the size of the Vestry and named three candidates for the Vestry: Caitlin Anderson-Patterson, Becky Haver, and Emilie Han. No other names were received from the floor. A motion to elect the three candidates was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The three candidates were elected by acclamation, with no “no” votes or abstentions.

Rev. Shelly presented Mary Pearson as Convention Delegate and Ruth Ewald as Alternate, each to serve a two-year term. No other names were received from the floor. A motion to elect the two candidates was made and seconded. There was no discussion. The two candidates were elected by acclamation, with no “no” votes or abstentions.

Rector's Report

Rev. Shelly summarized the work of the Vestry during 2022, pointing out that last year's deficit of about \$187,000 was not sustainable. The Vestry has tried to present a more realistic 2023 budget that is not an austerity budget but is the first step of a plan for the church to reduce its reliance on bequests by about \$25,000 each year. The discussion addressed the role of a capital campaign, which is to engage in collective giving and demonstrate a commitment to the neighborhood by improving the church's physical space. This is different than giving away bequests or tithing (currently 11% of pledges go out to the community).

Senior Warden's Report

Joslin Harris-Gane highlighted some accomplishments during 2022: Services have been held indoors since March, the Church House has been painted, new tiles were installed at the 47th St. entrance, the hallway is more welcoming, staff offices have relocated, and Wilson Hall is less cluttered and more useful. To increase safety, visitors will be asked to give their name, and a third person should be nearby.

The Vestry voted to give Rev. Shelly a raise in September 2022, not just as a cost-of-living increase but to recognize her commitment to Christ Church.

Joslin thanked Melissa Morrell for running the street chaplaincy program for the last six years.

Joslin reported that Rev. Chris McPeak has researched best practices and has drawn up a marketing plan to help the church grow. She encouraged church members to invite others to attend.

Joslin will continue to serve as Senior Warden for 2023. Todd Voelker and Kathleen Ward have completed their terms on the Vestry.

Vestry Budget Report

Rev. Shelly reminded the group that the budget is a moral document that shows what we care about: it is forward-looking and invests in the future.

Todd Voelker reported that pledges brought in about \$200,000 at a high rate of fulfillment. However, the number of pledges decreases every year, and because pledges vary widely in amount, the situation is fragile. Because pledges do not cover all expenses, cuts have been made in parish administration, cleaning services, and the music director position.

Kathy Chamberlain will serve as a part-time parish administrator for six months and will define the duties of that position. The plan is to hire another person in the summer, but volunteer office workers may be needed.

The music director position will remain unfilled so that we can discern how we want to do music. It would not make sense to hire a new director during a time of uncertainty. The Vestry has already made a commitment to install a new organ, which could eventually attract people to the remodeled space.

Rev. Shelly will be the only clergy for 2023, with some help from Rev. Chris for a few months. Christ Church pays its assessment to the diocese. Shelly will ask whether the church can use a graduated assessment scale.

Melissa Morrell described a new ministry, Community Care, in which volunteers would periodically contact parishioners to ask how they were and to ask for prayer requests.

Ellen Ewald spoke about being welcoming and sharing the joy of our community, even though inviting others may be hard to do.

Starting after Easter, there is a plan to host Dinner Church, an informal evening service and meal, which will be geared toward younger people but open to all.

Capital Campaign

Carlotta Han and Mary Lou Hatcher are co-chairs of the campaign, called Life Abundant—building joyful community. Carlotta pointed to the joy and excitement of starting the campaign after three years of COVID. Major goals include improving accessibility and usefulness and making our buildings more welcoming. The campaign needs volunteers, and some director positions can be shared.

Mary Lou Hatcher described some of the planned activities, including securing advance commitments, planning dinners and a banquet, following up on missing pledgers, and finding pledges from outside the congregation. Church members are encouraged to seek matching donations from their employers.

Closing Prayer

Thanks were extended to Kathy Bowie for managing the lunch before the meeting.

Reverend Shelly gave a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned at 2:27 pm.

Minutes recorded by Charlotte Pratt.



Vestry and Diocesan Convention Delegate Candidates

We will be electing, at minimum, one member to the vestry but can elect up to three. We do not yet have candidates for these positions and will take nominations from the floor.

We will also elect one delegate and one alternate to attend the Diocesan Convention in the fall. One candidate, Hope Moss has agreed to run for the position of delegate and additional nominations can be made from the floor.

Dear friends,

Rector's Report

The Rev. Shelly Fayette

2023 was a year to remember for Christ Church.

Through the love of God and a lot of prayer, we made a huge commitment to our future as a church. You have been reading the details of these decisions for months. What I want to highlight here is what makes them possible.

When I arrived at Christ Church, I encountered some habits that seemed strange. I have no issue with any individuals. I am talking here about the assumed systemic strategies for communication and change. A culture is built by everyone, including me. Sometimes I would have folks come into my office with the assumption that they would tell me what to do, and I would do it. I saw Vestry meetings that went on for 3+ hours, with occasional tantrums and storming out. We went through two vision and mission processes that went nowhere: the disparate answers we received were about how Christ Church met people's individual and highly specific needs. We could not come to a consensus about what the community was, who it was for, or why it existed in this specific place at this specific time. This behavior, from loving and generous people, truly puzzled me, until I started to learn some of the burden placed on people from a painful history of secrets in the parish's past.

Of course a community asked to hide critical information from one another would begin to make their focus smaller. It is difficult to not be able to talk openly about hurt and betrayal by clergy. When I finally saw this, I knew it was Christ Church's first and desperate need to be able to rebuild trust.

Change moves at the speed of trust. Change moves at the speed of relationships. We see every day in the news what it means to have leadership and people exist in a state of mistrustful fear, and how difficult it then becomes to find good, common solutions that work, especially for those who are in need of care.

So little by little, we changed small processes. We built liturgies that invited vulnerability and intimacy. The Vestry was asked to be a team of visionary leaders who held each other in prayer. Slowly, I was permitted into people's most precious moments: deaths, concerts, dinners, births. When in conflict, we learned to speak to each other openly and kindly in public. We realized we could hold each other.

That sense of possibility and openness opened the door to us talking about a long-needed capital campaign to make our building as open and flexible as our hearts were learning to be. We gathered our brave, talented directors and prepared to launch.

Then, of course, Covid arrived. The first year was mostly a mad scramble to learn Zoom, figure out outdoor liturgies, set up saints teams, send things in the mail, and utterly re-learn what it meant to be a community, a people, and a church. As we began to meet again in person, with precautions, we noticed that like every church across the country, the people who returned were people who were profoundly committed to our particular, lovely place. The new people who were drawn to us were people committed to the open-heartedness and faithfulness that they could feel. That commitment showed itself in the re-formation of our capital campaign team and the necessary re-imagining of our project.

This year, we bloomed. After a period of nourishment and dormancy, our trust bloomed into a collective YES. We said yes to a way of being that looks outside of ourselves to see what God is doing in the world, and to see if we can invite God in. We said yes to creating a space that says yes to all bodies, that affirms all ways of moving and loving as good. We said yes to ways of being in leadership that are peaceful and calm, that assume that all are working toward the well-being of our community. We said yes to welcome, we said yes to music, we said yes to each other. Peace be with you, yes, yes, yes.

This yes made it possible for me to live into the very clear yes I received on sabbatical about whether or not I was called to bring another person into being through my body. I could rest in the collective yes in order to say yes to Maria Nova and grow my family. We have been loved so hard during this time; I write this with tears in my eyes. Here's to many, many, many more years of our big, open yeses. See you very soon.

With love,

Shelly

Senior Warden's Report

Joslin Harris-Gane

2023 has been a year! Such a variety of experiences we have encountered and our spirits went from low to high this year in a matter of a few days. In my Senior Warden report last year, I ended with the prediction that 2023 would hold promise, challenges and change and boy did it deliver. We can now celebrate a successful Capital Campaign, our much discussed and sought after renovations will take place in 2024, and our precious 2023

miracle, Maria Nova, will be with us soon along with our beloved Rector Shelly Fayette. All of you embraced the challenges for the promise of an accessible Sanctuary and a beautiful, historic organ, and you have welcomed the rebuilding of our space and relationships. Our church community is growing and strengthening because of your love and care.

Now to the highlights:

Capital Campaign:

The Vestry and church focus from the beginning of 2023 was to restart the Capital Campaign. Led by Mary Lou Hatcher and Carlotta Han, the team regathered and modified the original plan a little and we took off.

Hinge Architects was reengaged to work with us and make some changes to the original renovation plans.

Informational gatherings were organized at parishioner homes and at the church, you all had questions and, hopefully, we had answers.

The banquet was enjoyed by all, and thanks to all of you, the present Capital Campaign fund is \$540,000.

Renovation Decisions

Hinge Architects had the plan estimated and it came in at \$1.9 million, somewhat more than Christ Church could realistically afford. So Hinge Architects was asked to give us some idea what different price points would look like. These were presented to you and you were asked to give us your thoughts on what budget amount you felt comfortable with and what aspects of the plans you most preferred. These were the results:

All four potential budgets (\$1.3, \$1.5, \$1.7, and \$1.9 million) were variously selected by parishioners and Vestry members.

Taking out a loan may make more sense than depleting all reserve funds

The kitchen upgrade was a common priority; it would allow other activities to happen.

Items that were deemed essential included the kitchen renovation, the additional bathroom in the Church House, wood flooring in the sanctuary, electric strikes and card readers for entries, new doors at narthex, and covering the narthex stairs.

Items that were deemed nonessential included the Wilson Hall study space, awning extension at Wilson Hall, church entry awning, relamped light fixtures, lighted cross, stained glass window, roof over the ramp, and movable partitions.

The Vestry reviewed the 24 questionnaire responses from parishioners regarding the overall renovation budget, top three priorities for the project, and possible sources of funding beyond the approximately \$1.2 million from capital campaign pledges and funds from the Gahringer bequest. Vestry members also shared their own thoughts about the overall budget. The proposed changes brought the budget to approximately **\$1.6 million**, with some uncertainty due to estimating the cost of some items. Following the discussion, the following motion was made:

The Vestry moved to proceed with the LA capital campaign project, but removing the following items from the full project (1.9M):

- Wilson Hall study space upgrade
- all exterior coverings (main door awning, ramp roof, roof extension)
- stain glass windows
- moveable partitions
- heat pump (to be funded by a separate source)

Kate Cudney from Hinge met with us again in December to go over the final, final plans. She asked for further input and a few questions/suggestions were made. Currently, permits are being sought, Hinge has been communicating closely and frequently with Andover Organ concerning the organ installation. Without any unforeseen delays, the work on our church could begin as early as June and be completed by October.

The organ installation will then take place after early January 2025, as the renovation must be complete and all construction dirt and dust gone before bringing the organ into the Sanctuary. This is Happening!!

Staff Changes

We had to say Farewell to our cherished Associate, Chris McPeak. Chris' last Sunday with us was on June 25th and we had a splendid party, with cake, to wish him well and give him, Amanda, and Wren a great send off. And we rejoice now in Chris being called as the Rector at Good Samaritan in Sammamish. We were so blessed to have had Chris here as Curate and Associate.

We also parted with our Admin, Cara Peterson. Kathy Chamberlain stepped in and took on the tasks faithfully, for a little longer than expected, and we thank Kathy for her dedication.

Our new Admin is Katie Swearingen, and she is terrific. I hope you will all get a chance to pop in on Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday and introduce yourself. Katie has taken over during a difficult time with Shelly away. They only were here together for a day or two.

Physical Plant

Bike racks were installed in February 2023, and the tile entry was cleaned and coated with a substance that makes the tiles a little more cleanable.

As you all experience, the heating system is not functioning well, hence a cold Sanctuary every Sunday. We are not sure what the issue is. Is it too old and needs replacing? Are the repair people incompetent? I promise you, we will find out.

Rekeying of the church took place in October, this was a project that had been discussed and reviewed for many years and we finally got around to gettin 'er done. As a reminder, if you were given a key, in advance of completing the Safe Church training, please complete the training, if you haven't already.

Art Mural

Christ Church applied for and received a grant for an art mural on the west church house wall. Shelly contacted an artist and they submitted a drawing proposal based on information they received about Christ Church and our community. The artwork was painted in June/July and a local street artist was engaged to assist with the work. The mural was celebrated with a church/neighborhood party/unveiling on September 10th. We are grateful to the artist, Leah Nguyen, that we now have a beautiful expression of our relationship with our faith and our community on display.

New Ministries

Here are two examples of how Christ Church is growing and changing in ways that confirm and strengthen our faith and love to each other and our community.

Community Care

I don't want to say much about this, Melissa has submitted a report, except to say a Big Thank you to Melissa Morrell who has believed in this project and shepherded it through to its implementation.

Dinner Church

Again, as with Melissa, I just want to say another Big Thank you to Todd Voelker, who has championed and believed wholeheartedly in starting a Dinner Church. Thank you also to the whole Dinner Church Committee who has made this a success.

Marketing Plan

We continue to implement stages of our Marketing plan, which Chris McPeak developed, and was shared with you at the 2023 Annual meeting.

Accomplishments:

First Impression/Curb Appeal of Christ Church.

The interior areas of the Church house have been uncluttered and enhanced, with more to be done. The exterior of the church is a challenge, we clean up and it gets dirty, we pick up the garbage and it returns, it's a constant endeavor. The graffiti is removed as soon as we can get to it. A new reader board frame was installed with new signage, the parking and welcome

A-frame signs have been revised. As previously mentioned, we have a lovely mural on the west wall. The gardener tries to keep up with the weeds and new plantings, but the rats are having a heyday in the courtyard. Please, help, if you can, with keeping the grounds tidy.

Church Management Software

Christ Church has contracted with Tithely, a church management software company, to facilitate connection, conversation, and relationships between clergy, staff, volunteers, and parishioners. Melissa Morrell and Katie Swearingen are in the process of setting up the software and determining the best way to implement it for Christ church.

Newcomer Experience

The goal is to create a warm and welcoming experience for new people to our church. I will let Carlotta, our lead for the Newcomer team, speak about what has been done so far and plans for the future.

I would like to thank all of you for extending such a warm welcome to our many recent new parishioners.

Guest Worshipers

The next phase of our marketing plan is to evaluate how we are doing as a community in welcoming and engaging visitors. What message are we sending? The idea behind this is to invite people to come to church to provide feedback on all aspects of worship. The Vestry has been working on some follow up questions, for those who visit, to offer us feedback on how their church experience was. We are excited to see the results.

Invite People to Church!

This is the most important component of any Marketing plan: personal invitation. Talk about how wonderful our community is, how we endeavor to help our neighbors, talk about what we love about our church and being together in worship. Talk about Shelly and what she brings to this community and how much she loves Christ Church. Fr. Craig spoke about this in his sermon on Sunday, January 14 and it just so happens that one of our newest parishioners, Muriel Wood, had invited her friend Fiona to worship with us that day. It can be done, we can do this. As Fr. Craig said, we simply have to say to our friends and acquaintances, "Come and See", come and see this great community of faith that is being built on the corner of 47th and Brooklyn.

2024 Budget

The 2024 budget has been diligently worked on for many months by the Vestry, with great help and advice from Melissa Morrell and Kathy Chamberlain. We are faced again this year with lower pledge dollars, a church that costs money to run, is in constant need of repair, and faces challenges from the neighborhood. Like last year, we needed to make some difficult cutbacks and trim almost every budget line from a little to a lot, in order to fulfill our promise to lower our debt amount every year. Thank you all for your continuing monetary support of Christ Church.

THANK YOU TO ALL THE VESTRY MEMBERS

Pat Hyland, Caity Anderson-Patterson, Ellen Ewald, Charlotte Pratt, Emilie Han and Becky Haver!!!

It has been a wonderful, difficult, exciting, productive and fun year working together.

Please thank all of them when you have a chance, for their caring, dedication and devotion to Christ Church.

Thanks to all of the parishioners who love and believe in our community and contribute to our joy together.

Thank you to Rev. Shelly for inviting me to a second year as Senior Warden. Thank you Shelly for all your care, attention and love to this church and community. I am always honored to serve Christ Church with you. We look forward to your return and thank you for bringing to us our newest, youngest member.

2024 will bring clear and beautiful change to our building and our worship life. This is our time to shine, keep loving and caring for each other and showing our community and the world Christ Church's version of a faithful, loving community of weirdos.

Blessings and Love,

Joslin Harris-Gane



Children and Youth Ministry Report

Heidi Hansen

The ministry for children and youth has seen a quiet year in 2023. There have been highlights of thoughtful Godly Play sessions in which children and adults have careful, honest, and encouraging exchanges about our faith's stories. We've had meet-ups and celebrated big and small events in our lives. We had the purest of joys to welcome a new baby into our church family this year. The nursery has been a place of welcome and playfulness. Our nursery staff, Cindy and Rachel, have provided safe and consistent care for any regular attendees or new visitors. The hope is that the relationships that are built create a community of belonging and knowing that spiritually nurtures not just the children, but parents, volunteers, and staff as well. Christ Church has a unique opportunity to create a not-so-distant future church filled with loving and compassionate young adults. We are prayerful for families that are a part of our shared life and, with all hope and expectation, want to see 2024 be a year of fulfillment and growth.

With gratitude and hope,

Heidi Hansen

Children and Youth Director

Treasurer's Report

Kathryn Chamberlain

Christ Church continues to work together as a parish to nurture the spiritual needs of our congregation, to provide space and outreach ministries to serve the wider community, and to be a place where we can find friendship and fellowship. We often feel the struggle to maintain these efforts financially, but we continue to find means to do so. At the same time, we recognize that we must grow and change if we hope to sustain the parish into the future.

The most visible sign of our long-term believe in this community is the successful capital campaign. We have pledged significant funds to transform our church into a more welcoming, accessible space. While we are forward looking, we also are maintaining strong ties to tradition as we prepare to install a restored, historic organ in our newly transformed sanctuary.

We continue to recover from the disruption of the pandemic. We have lost long-time beloved members of our community. We are gaining new members who will help us move towards the community we strive to be. We are experiencing great change, with all the stress and joy that can entail.

One aspect of sustaining our parish, and the point of the Treasurer's Report, is our finances. Below I review some of the highlights of the 2023 operating budget and some additional financial information. Review of the 2024 budget is provided later in this report.

Before diving into the numbers, I'd like to repeat the request I made in last year's annual report for more volunteers to help carry out the financial operations of the parish. Our finances have become more complicated in recent years and the team of parishioners carrying out this vital work is dwindling. There are many jobs to be done, requiring varying time commitments and skills, and we can find a spot that fits for you. Please, if you can help in this area, talk to me, Joslin Harris-Gane, or Melissa Morrell and we will provide more details of the work to be done.

I want to thank the team that has continued to take care of the church's finances: Melissa Morrell (Assistant Treasurer, Quicken Team, finance committee, endowment committee), Frank Pollard (Stewardship Secretary, Quicken Team, finance committee, endowment committee, audit team), Mary Lou Hatcher (payroll coordinator), Pat Miller (finance committee), Randall Lucas (endowment committee), Becky Haver (audit team), and Emilie Han (audit team), along with the many passing parishioners I've snagged to do the weekly deposit with me. And of course, Rev. Shelly and Joslin Harris-Gane who, by virtue of their positions, get to slog through the numbers with us on the finance and endowment committees.

I want to especially thank Frank Pollard and Pat Miller for their many, many years of service to the churches finance work as they now step away from these positions.

The 2024 operating budget is shown in the budget table that follows. The table also includes 2023 budgeted and actual income and expenses for comparison. The balance sheet as of December 31, 2023 is also provided.

Some highlights of the 2023 Operating Budget:

We are blessed to have the continued and generous financial support of our parishioners along with other resources to keep the parish going. Financially we survived 2023 largely as we expected to. The 2023 budget reduced staffing levels. It revised program support to include increased funding for the new Dinner Church service, and to fund a formal marketing plan, while making cuts in other area such as music. We entered into this budget year knowing we would once again have a gap to fill from bequest funds.

- Our pledge commitments in 2023 totaled \$194,568 from 46 pledges, which was \$5,432 short of what was budgeted. Nonetheless, we received a remarkable 99% of those pledges. 83% of our pledgers donated 100% or greater of the amount that they pledged. Nearly all pledges were at least partially fulfilled. Both the number and amount of pledges continues to fall and is lower still in 2024. Loose (plate) offering was significantly greater than budgeted. We received 99% of the budgeted amount for total offerings.

- The 2023 budget included “other sources” of income of \$164,552 to fill the hole in the budget. The final amount needed to cover expenses for 2023 and avoid a deficit was \$126,401, all of which was drawn from the Gahringer Bequest. The amount used was \$33,000 less than that used in the previous year, and we continue to work to reduce reliance on bequests for operating income.
- Excluding unbudgeted expenses for which there was a corresponding unbudgeted funding source, 2023 income and expenses were 9.3% under budget. An additional \$149,797 from these funding sources was used to cover expenses not in the operating budget, primarily for building renovation and repair expenses and for Rev. Shelly’s parental leave.
- In 2023, the vestry continued its goal to tithe pledges for church outreach through the Street Chaplaincy ministry and the Discretionary Fund. The Street Chaplaincy budget was expanded to cover rising costs of supplies and an unflagging need within our neighborhood. The equivalent of 13% of pledges received went towards these ministries. Donations to outreach, including a matching grant received from Microsoft, totaling \$2,085 went towards this budgeted expense. Donations of supplies for street chaplaincy were also received.
- Supply clergy have been employed to cover liturgical and pastoral duties during Rev. Shelly’s maternity leave. We continue to pay Shelly’s normal salary during leave. We receive funds from the Church Pension Fund provided through short-term disability benefits to help cover this added expense. Shelly has also been able to receive funds through the Washington Paid Family and Medical Leave program. Those funds are paid directly to her and we are able to reduce her salary by a corresponding amount (which is why her salary is shown as less than budgeted). This combination of funding should be sufficient to cover costs arising from Shelly’s leave in 2023 and 2024.

Highlights of Non-Operating Funds:

- **Bateman Fund and Final Sabbatical Expense Report:** Rev. Shelly was able to complete the last part of her sabbatical, her trip to the Holy Land, in January. Her sabbatical was repeatedly delayed by the pandemic and ultimately taken in multiple parts. The sabbatical was funded primarily by the Bateman Fund which is endowed for this purpose. The total cost of the sabbatical including Shelly’s expenses and the expenses of the parish (clergy coverage and program costs) was \$78,433. Bateman funds expended in 2023 included \$2,274 for the sabbatical and \$5,872 for continuing education expenses. At the end of 2023, the Bateman Fund has a value of \$194,078 of which \$35,379 is currently available for clergy continuing education and future sabbatical expenses.
- **Endowment Fund:** An endowment draw of \$26,959 was taken for the operating budget. This draw was 6% of the value of the fund as of 9/30/2022. An additional \$1,845 was used to fund capital improvements. \$1,045 was returned to the fund from the insurance payment for the breezeway painting following the fire damage. \$2,497 was added to the fund from interest earned on the emergency fund held in Treasury Bills. The endowment had a year-end balance of \$463,292.17. Due to a strong market, and despite funds drawn from the endowment, the value of the fund increased by \$21,441 in 2023.
- **Gahringer Bequest Fund:** This fund has been kept separate from the general bequest fund for historic reasons. The fund is unrestricted and can be used at the direction of the Vestry. In 2023, the Gahringer Bequest was used solely to fill the hole in the budget, requiring \$126,401 to avoid an operating budget deficit. This fund had a year-end balance of \$985,676. In 2023, the fund value decreased by only \$13,241.
- **General Bequest Fund:** This fund is unrestricted and can be used at the direction of the Vestry. In 2023, \$31,307 in bequests were added to the fund. \$720 in interest earned from Treasury Bills was also added. \$45,235 was used for capital projects including: bike rack installation, a 3-year maintenance agreement for the chair lifts, Art mural expenses, reader board installation, building rekeying, organ restoration, environmental monitoring, and architectural design and cost estimating for the renovation project. The Bequest Fund had a year-end balance of \$341,938.

Designated Funds: These are funds donated or held for a specific purpose, often for a short period of time. While each sub-fund is tracked, they don't warrant creating separate funds in the books. \$48,830 from donations for the organ restoration were spent in 2023 and the value of that fund is currently \$0. We received and paid out the \$6,000 grant for the art mural and used the remaining Bach's Lunch fund, \$253, for the mural celebration musicians. \$2,500 from PHRA's move-in fee was applied to the building re-keying project. \$15,509 from the fire damage insurance claim was paid to the contractor after finally completing repairs and providing a final invoice. Designated Funds had a year-end balance of \$15,582.

Campus Ministry: Christ Church receives a grant from the Diocese to cover our expenses arising from Campus Ministry. In 2023, we received a grant of \$32,000.00. Direct program expenses totaled \$5,547.94. The remaining \$26,452.06 was applied to the operating budget to cover some of the costs of clergy time devoted to this program.

Capital Campaign Fund:

The Life Abundant Capital Campaign pledge commitments (36 pledges)	\$533,450
Pledges and other donations received through 2023	\$171,215
Capital Campaign and project expenses	<u>(\$32,401)</u>
Capital Campaign Fund year-end balance	\$138,815

In past years I have provided a significantly more detailed look at the various funds which make up our assets. While I'm unable to provide that in this year's annual report, I hope to put some of that information together for the first meeting of the new vestry, and it can be provided to parishioners who are interested in that level of financial detail.

2024 Budget
2023 Actual vs Budgeted Income and Expenses

<u>Category Description</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Ratio</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
INCOME					
A-Offerings:					
15-110 Pledges	214,726	200,000	193,271	0.966	177,800
15-120 Special Gifts	2,803	3,000	680	0.227	3,000
15-130 Loose Offering	9,336	10,000	16,725	1.673	20,000
TOTAL A-Offerings	226,865	213,000	210,676	0.989	200,800
B-Other Sources	159,613	164,552	126,401	0.768	146,660
B-Endowment Draw	17,866	26,959	26,959	1.000	26,581
C-Other Income:					
15-510 Interest	22	0	0	N/A	0
15-530 Facilities Use	9,835	10,500	10,320	0.983	19,560
15-540 Weddings & Funerals	0	0	0	N/A	0
15-610 TR from Designated Funds	191,280	39,078	178,945	4.579	33,078
15-900 Other	1,244	1,000	9,136	9.136	1,000
TOTAL C-Other Income	202,381	50,578	198,401	3.923	53,638
TOTAL INCOME	606,725	455,090	562,438	1.236	427,679

<u>Category Description</u>	<u>2022 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2023 Ratio</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
EXPENSES					
E-Assessment	58,154	56,296	53,282	0.946	53,221
F-Salaries:					
16-1510 Rector	96,929	107,674	100,738	0.936	112,627
16-1520 Associate	8,000	10,441	10,441	1.000	0
16-1525 Curate	20,217	0	0	N/A	0
16-1530 Supply Clergy	847	1,625	6,851	4.216	1,875
16-1540 Administrator	37,618	37,319	39,698	1.064	31,200
16-1550 Organist	29,489	0	0	N/A	0
16-1553 Supply Musicians		17,520	17,450	0.996	18,000
16-1560 Child Care Positions	0	4,348	3,834	0.882	4,548
16-1580 Dir. of Children and Youth	17,135	22,012	22,012	1.000	17,268
TOTAL F-Salaries	210,234	200,939	201,023	1.000	185,524

<u>Category Description</u>	2022 <u>Actual</u>	2023 <u>Budget</u>	2023 <u>Actual</u>	2023 <u>Ratio</u>	2024 <u>Budget</u>
G-Benefits:					
16-2010 SS & Med	6,444	4,871	5,014	1.029	4,056
16-2020 WA State Taxes	2,744	2,538	2,390	0.941	2,252
16-2030 Pension - Rector	17,447	19,381	19,381	1.000	20,273
16-2032 Pension - Associate	1,440	1,879	1,879	1.000	0
16-2034 Pension - Administrator	3,050	3,359	3,573	1.064	2,808
16-2036 Pension - Organist	2,654	0	0	N/A	0
16-2038 Pension - Curate	3,586	0	0	N/A	0
16-2040 Medical Insurance	32,573	24,542	19,647	0.801	31,793
16-2060 Transport, Rector	1,204	1,000	482	0.482	1,000
16-2070 Transport Other	7	250	0	0.000	250
TOTAL G-Benefits	71,150	57,821	52,366	0.906	62,431
H-Discretionary	3,310	1,200	1,200	1.000	1,200
I-Programs:					
16-4410 Music	11,127	8,990	3,300	0.367	4,650
16-4520 Christian Formation	1,823	3,000	553	0.184	1,000
16-5460 Clergy Contin. Education	2,024	4,000	5,021	1.255	4,000
16-4570 Rector's Expenses	582	1,000	519	0.519	1,000
16-4400 All other programs	5,018	6,700	3,615	0.540	5,700
TOTAL I-Programs	20,575	23,690	13,008	0.549	16,350
I-Programs - Stewardship					
16-5450 Stewardship Campaign	158	330	123	0.374	330
16-5460 Planned Giving	0	0	0	N/A	0
TOTAL I-Programs - Stewardship	158	330	123	0.374	330
J-Office					
16-5510 Office Supplies	756	900	721	0.802	1,000
16-5517 Electronic Fund Transfer	869	900	708	0.787	700
16-5520 Electronic Communications	3,321	3,485	3,451	0.990	4,020
16-5530 Postage	235	400	185	0.463	400
16-5550 Publicity	863	10,000	739	0.074	5,000
16-5570 Licenses and Fees	2,946	3,400	3,550	1.044	4,630
16-5575 Payroll Service	889	1,020	978	0.959	1,080
16-5580 Copier Rental\Service	3,678	3,570	3,085	0.864	3,500
16-5590 Bank Charges	0	50	0	0.000	50
TOTAL J-Office	13,555	23,725	13,416	0.565	20,380

<u>Category Description</u>	2022 Actual	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Ratio	2024 Budget
K-Maintenance:					
16-6010 Contract Cleaning	15,543	11,400	11,831	1.038	11,400
16-6030 Minor Maintenance	6,733	11,000	8,381	0.762	10,000
16-6035 Minor Repairs	6,329	10,000	8,130	0.813	10,000
16-6040 Custodial Supplies	792	900	1,205	1.339	1,500
16-6050 Special Event Cleaning	0	0	0	N/A	0
16-6060 Yard Maintenance	467	200	24	1.121	0
16-6100 Major Bldg Maint.	118,020	0	143,084	N/A	0
TOTAL K-Maintenance	147,884	33,500	172,656	5.154	32,900
L-Utilities:					
16-6510 Electricity	4,708	5,011	4,951	0.988	6,283
16-6520 Natural Gas	6,368	6,500	9,275	1.427	8,500
16-6530 Trash and Recycling	8,307	5,700	5,365	0.941	6,120
16-6540 Water and Sewer	1,491	2,000	992	0.496	1,500
TOTAL L-Utilities	20,876	19,211	20,582	1.071	22,403
M-Insurance:					
16-6110 Security Service	446	500	446	0.892	500
16-7010 Building Insurance	7,489	8,238	8,509	1.033	9,000
TOTAL M-Insurance	7,935	8,738	8,955	1.025	9,500
N-Outreach:	21,017	23,140	23,553	1.018	23,340
Q-Seminarian Support	200	500	0	0.000	100
O-Sabbatical:					
16-7510 Sabbatical Sub Salary and CEC Expenses	2,520	0	0	N/A	0
16-7520 Sabbatical Rector Expenses	29,157	6,000	2,274	0.379	0
TOTAL O-Sabbatical	31,676	6,000	2,274	0.379	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	606,725	455,090	562,438	1.236	427,679

NET CHURCH POSITION	0	0	0	0
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Christ Church of Seattle - Balance Sheet

	<u>1/1/2023</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>
Where the money resides		
Bank of America Checking	\$ 133,335	\$ 61,785
Bank of America Checking – Gahringer Bequest	15,139	32,859
Bank of America Checking – Discretionary Fund	296	261
PayPal and Venmo	0	0
Fidelity Giving Marketplace	0	0
Capital One High-Yield Money Market – Altar Flower Fund	2,246	0
Chase Bank Savings and Petty Cash – Rector’s Aid	6,020	6,602
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts	157,037	101,507
Diocesan Investment Fund	1,794,318	1,833,966
Treasury Direct	49,894	219,195
TOTAL Other Assets	1,844,212	2,053,161
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 2,001,249	\$ 2,154,668
How the money is allocated		
Outreach Fund	\$ 0	\$ 0
Designated Funds	39,683	15,582
Campus Ministry	0	0
Capital Fund	1,100	138,815
Wedding/Funeral Deposits	0	0
Memorial Fund	4,059	4,209
Bush Altar Flower Memorial	2,355	2,655
Altar Flower Fund	2,688	1,561
Rector’s Aid Fund	6,020	6,602
Discretionary Fund	296	261
Endowment – Building & Grounds	319,978	349,554
Endowment – Building & Grounds Emergency Fund	65,108	53,326
Endowment - General Purpose	41,925	44,611
Endowment - Education	14,840	15,801
Bateman Fund	180,461	194,078
Bequests	323,819	341,938
Bequests – Gahringer Estate	998,917	985,676
Payroll Advance	0	0
Withholding	0	0
Voluntary Deductions	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS	2,001,249	2,154,668
Unallocated (accumulated operating surplus/deficit)	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATIONS AND SURPLUS/DEFICIT	\$ 2,001,249	\$ 2,154,668

Vestry Report on the 2024 Budget

Joslin Harris-Gane (for the entire vestry)

Documented on the next page you will find Melissa Morrell's excellent details on the budget. Thank you to Melissa and Kathy for providing the Vestry with all the information the Vestry needs to make decisions. When we had questions, they had answers.

Similar to last year, the Vestry worked from October to December to find the right balance in the budget in order to continue on an upward path for Christ Church. It has been difficult, because, like last year, the church's income has been reduced; therefore, expenses needed to be trimmed. Once again, the Vestry had to make some tough decisions. Christ Episcopal Church does not bring in enough income in the form of pledges, plate offerings and rental income to cover our costs. The 2024 budget only lost 2 pledges in total from 2023, but our pledge income has decreased by approximately \$20,000 from 2023. At the same time, of course, our expenses have increased, and, as was reported last year, we don't bring in enough income to run a bare bones church operation. That is, to pay our Rector and maintain the church buildings.

Once again, we have made up the difference between our operating expenses and our pledges and loose plate offerings through draws from our endowment (6%) and from bequests. We are so fortunate to have these sources to draw upon, but taking large draws year after year is not sustainable.

We are extremely blessed to have a very large unrestricted bequest to draw on for our deficit, and we have done that for many years now. The amounts that we have withdrawn from the Gahringer bequest have increased year over year and in 2022 the amount rose to \$160,000. At this rate, even with cutting expenses, the bequest will run dry in 10-15 years. The Vestry made the commitment in 2023 to decrease the amount withdrawn by \$20-25,000 every year for the next 5 years. In the 2024 budget we have decreased the amount withdrawn from the bequest to approximately \$145,000, but that did require some further cuts to our expenses. We endeavored to make small cuts in a variety of line items in an effort not to eliminate any positions or programs.

This year, as is the case every year, our pledgers have fulfilled their pledges at almost a rate of 100%. You are all such faithful and consistent pledgers and the Vestry thanks you wholeheartedly for your love and dedication. We also have received 5 new pledges for 2024, and we thank them for believing in Christ Church.

The Vestry again asks you to invite your friends to attend. As I mentioned last year, this will be a recurring Ask; it is one of the proven best ways to grow a church. Share the joy that you experience here with your friends and acquaintances.

The Long Term Goals for Christ Church remain the same,

- To grow our congregation and reduce our dependence on the bequest for shortfalls in the budget.
- To reach a time soon when we can cover 75% of our expenses with pledge income.
- To become less reliant on the bequest for our operating income, so it can be used for doing other good works in our community.

In 2023 we began working on these long term goals in these ways:

Dinner Church:

We began in earnest, after many months of meeting and planning in September 2023 and the first "open to the public" dinner church was in October. It is still evolving in presentation, but this informal gathering of community to eat and worship together is growing every month in numbers and relationships. It is truly a blessed addition to the life of Christ Church.

Promotion:

We have taken big steps in our marketing campaign, new signage, welcoming newcomers, increased the "curb appeal" of Christ church, interior and exterior and invested in church management software that will improve church organization and communication.

Community Care:

This costs NOTHING, and it draws our community closer together in care and prayer.

Child Care:

We continue to be dedicated to supporting young families and their children.

Invitation, Welcome, and Fellowship:

This is how we can all contribute to our vision of the future of Christ Episcopal Church. It is through talking to our friends and family about how awesome our church is, that our church will grow. Once people come to church, we greet them and welcome them into our parish and hope that they become part of our community. Once they are here, we rejoice in each other through fellowship.



2024 Operating Budget

Melissa Morrell

Income

Offerings: Pledges for 2024 are lower than last year. We have a total of 42 pledges for 2024 (down from 46 in 2023) which included 37 renewed pledges and 5 new pledges. Loose offering was increased to \$20,000 to reflect the opening of the building and the general trend we have seen over the course of the current year. This amount brings us back to 2019 levels of loose offering income.

Other Sources: We are budgeting \$146,659 to come from bequests to fill the projected amount needed to balance the 2024 budget, unless other sources are found. This amount is a decrease from last year and reflects the desire of the vestry to push toward becoming sustainable without draws from bequests. In other words, this number is large, but it is actually a sizeable decrease from 2023's projected draw and we hope that the trend continues in 2025.

Other income: We expect to receive building use fees from PHRA, the Bridge Club, and music events. The Transfers from Designated Funds include funds from other sources outside of the operating budget, such as designated funds and grants, which are available to cover the expenses of specific line items. These transfers cover expenses for clergy continuing education (Bateman Fund), Camp Huston camperships (Campership fund), outreach (Outreach fund), and part of the expense of Campus Ministry (Diocesan grant).

Expenses

Projected expenses for 2024 have decreased by 6% over last year.

Expenses of note:

Assessment: The 2024 assessment rate is 14.5% and is unchanged from 2023. The assessment is calculated on 2024 budgeted operating income after allowed deductions. Deductions are allowed for operating income used for outreach and major maintenance as well as for any repairs which extend the life of the facilities without a minimum cost requirement. Diocesan grants received for Campus Ministry are also excluded from assessment. The final assessment paid will depend on actual income and deductions from December 2023 through November 2024.

Supply Clergy expenses are up from 2023 due to rates increased by the Diocesan cost-of-living adjustment (COLA). Costs for coverage during Rev. Shelly's parental leave are expected to be covered by short-term disability insurance and WA Paid Family and Medical Leave payments, but these costs are not included in the budget.

Salaries and Benefits:

- Salaries and benefits are the largest part of the budget and costs are relatively fixed. This year, the cost-of-living adjustment – COLA (which is set at the October Diocesan Convention) – was quite large – 4.6%. As a result, there is a big jump in the total cost of our staff (salaries, pensions, and taxes are all tied to the COLA). Again, this year, we do not expect to hire a music director and will continue with supply musicians such as Lacey Brown, Cara Peterson, and Caitlin Anderson-Patterson. After careful consideration, the position of director of children and youth was dropped to a 9-month position.
- Medical insurance increased but some savings were made by moving Rev. Shelly and her family onto Chris Craun's insurance. Christ Church will share the cost of this insurance, making payments to the Diocese of Oregon.

Program budget notes:

- Music budget: The music budget has been halved for 2024. The primary budgetary items are for supply musicians at special services, music, and licenses.
- Christian Formation: Last year, the budget was high to refresh the Godly play materials, which we do not expect to do this year.
- Other Programs: The budget includes expenses for altar supplies, liturgy materials, fellowship activities, and Diocesan Convention. The fellowship portion of the budget includes funds needed to award two parish crosses and funds for vestry departure gifts. We expect fellowship to be an important part of reopening the church and have budgeted accordingly. Convention expenses include an overnight hotel stay for the rector.

Office Expenses: Electronic Funds transfers remain the least expensive way for the church to receive money: Zelle (bank to bank transfers) is free and Vanco at 0.6% + 25 cents per transaction. PayPal charges 1.99% + 49 cents. Payroll expenses have been broken out separately because they have continued to grow since we started using a payroll service rather than writing checks. Electronic Communications includes telephone and internet services, hosting, domain, Zoom, and livestreaming. We decreased the amount to be spent on publicity as we were overly optimistic about how much we planned to spend last year. Licenses and fees: includes fees paid to the U District Partnership (which takes care of graffiti and some trash clean up), King County's property tax (drainage) fee, background checks for Vestry members, new church management software (Tithe.ly and Breeze) and other license and subscription costs.

Maintenance: We increased our custodial supply budget, but the rest of the subcategories remain relatively unchanged.

Utilities: Budgeted amounts are based on known and estimated rate increases for 2024.

Insurance/Security: Budgeted amounts are based on known and estimated rate increases for 2024.

Outreach: In 2024, we kept the Street Chaplaincy budget unchanged as it is approximately at the level that they are spending for their weekly supplies. The outreach line item includes \$22,500 for Street Chaplaincy, \$400 for Camp Huston camperships (covered by campership fund), \$440 for Real Rent Duwamish to help compensate the Duwamish tribe for the use of the land they once owned.

Seminarian Support: We currently have no seminarian candidates to support, but this line item makes a small amount available should we get a new seminarian (\$100). We are no longer donating to our local seminary, the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, CA, as it has become endowed.

Sabbatical Expenses: None!

Outreach Report

Kathryn Chamberlain

In addition to the Street Chaplaincy outreach ministry undertaken by our congregation and our housing of the People’s Harm Reduction Alliance (PHRA) to support their outreach efforts, we support outreach through financial gifts from parishioners and the operating budget.

Designated Offerings: On special Sundays during the church year, we collect donations to support other organizations. Designated Offerings are a chance for our church community to recognize and support organizations that are aligned with our values and mission.

Our current schedule of designated offerings supports the following organizations:

- First Sunday in Lent: Episcopal Relief & Development
- Maundy Thursday: University District Food Bank
- Good Friday: Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East
- Easter: United Churches Emergency Fund (UCEF)
- Pentecost: Christ Church Discretionary Fund
- Transfiguration Sunday: Faith Action Network
- St. Francis Sunday: Earth Ministry
- Sunday before Thanksgiving Day: Sanctuary Art Center
- Christmas: ROOTS

Pass-through Donations: These are donations we receive that are earmarked for other organizations. Parishioner donations to the Christ Church Discretionary Fund are treated as pass-through since that fund is outside the normal operating budget, and it continues to be the primary recipient of pass-through donations.

Christ Church Outreach: The bulk of our outreach activity and funding remains focused on Street Chaplaincy. Over the past few years, we have significantly increased the outreach portion of the operating budget to support this ministry, and we also receive additional earmarked donations to support it. The operating budget also includes a donation to Real Rent Duwamish.

2023 Designated Offerings	Maundy		Good Friday	Easter	Pentecost	Transfig-uration	St Francis	Thanksgiving	Christmas	Totals
	ERD Sunday	Thursday								
Totals for Designated Sundays	\$ 505.00	\$ 1,149.00	\$ 763.00	\$ 1,063.00	\$ 1,170.00	\$ 165.00	\$ 195.00	\$ 72.09	\$ 530.00	\$ 5,612.09

Designated Offering Recipients:

Christ Church Discretionary Fund					\$ 1,170.00					\$ 1,170.00
Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society			\$ 763.00							\$ 763.00
Earth Ministry							\$ 195.00			\$ 195.00
Episcopal Relief and Development	\$ 505.00									\$ 505.00
Faith Action Network						\$ 165.00				\$ 165.00
ROOTS									\$ 530.00	\$ 530.00
Sanctuary Arts Center							\$ 72.09			\$ 72.09
United Churches Emergency Fund				\$ 1,063.00						\$ 1,063.00
University District Food Bank		\$ 1,149.00								\$ 1,149.00

Other pass-through donations and Christ Church Outreach:

Pass-through parishioner/other donations:		Christ Church outreach:	
Christ Church Discretionary Fund	\$ 2,545.00	Christ Church Discretionary Fund - budgeted amount	\$ 1,200.00
University District Food Bank	\$ 20.00	Christ Church Street Chaplaincy	\$ 23,113.02
		Real Rent Duwamish	\$ 440.00
2023 Total Outreach (CEC and pass-through)			\$ 32,930.11

Stewardship Report

Pat Hyland

The number of pledges for 2024 is down from last year's total, with:

- 37 returning pledges and 5 new pledges in 2024 compared to
- 46 (total) in the previous year (2023) and
- 54 (total) the year before that (2022).

This continues a multi-year trend of the number of pledges decreasing, and it will be critical for the ongoing financial health of our parish that we focus on inviting friends and neighbors, welcoming newcomers, and building a vibrant community that is large enough to support our hopes and dreams. Parishioners who do make pledges continue to be very faithful in fulfilling their pledges, with 99% of the pledged money being received by the end of 2023.

Thank you to everyone who gives to support the mission of Christ Church, no matter the size of the gift!



Parish Administrator Report

Kate Swearingen

Hello everyone,

In some ways this feels more like an introduction letter given I have only been your parish administrator for a short time. Nevertheless, I wanted to take the opportunity to offer my sincere thanks to the CEC community for all the warm welcomes that I have received since I started this past

November. I have appreciated all of your patience and kindness as I have acclimated to this role, and if there are some of you that I haven't met yet, I hope to do so soon.

I came in at quite an exciting and hectic time, right before Advent and right as Rev. Shelly started her parental leave. Fortunately, I have had Kathy Chamberlain to train me, and I'm grateful to her for her patience as she guided me through that whirlwind of a season. A big thank you to the volunteers who helped usher in a beautiful Advent season. I would also like to extend thanks to the many volunteers and members of the vestry who offered guidance and helpful tips to me when they could.

In the two (soon to be three) months that I have been here, I have seen the ways in which this community supports one another and the U District community, and I am grateful that I get to support these current and future projects as your parish administrator. I echo the sentiments and excitement of many in this report for the exciting projects and changes that 2024 is sure to bring.

Warmly,

Kate Swearingen

Parish Ministry Reports

Parish ministries provide a wide range of opportunities to get involved in the community and work of Christ Church. These reports highlight some of our ministries and we hope to provide more information on these and others throughout the year. If you would like to find out more or to be connected with a particular ministry, please contact Kate at office@christchurchseattle.org.

Dinner Church – Dinner Church services officially launched in September of this year, and so far, the program has been a great success. Dinner Church services happen every 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month in Wilson Hall. One member of the team plans and prepares the dinner, while others take turns leading the music, greeting people at the door, or acting as a “shepherd” for newcomers attending the service for first time. The liturgy is led by a priest or by lay leadership, and involves lots of chances for folks to meet each other, talk honestly about what's on their mind and their heart that week, and discuss the week's lesson and wrestle with theological questions. It is a warm and welcoming space, and all are invited to join the community around the table. The size of the service has been growing week by week - our first services in September were held with 5 or 6 people, and grew to 16 people by the end of the year, many of which are first-time attendees at Christ Episcopal Church.

Prior to the launch of services, the Dinner Church planning team meet bi-weekly for several months, planning the liturgy, welcoming practices, and setting intentions for the type of community and conversation we wanted to keep. It took longer than expected to get the first services launched, but it's been well worth the effort so far. Thank you to everyone who participated in the planning process - Nick Alfeo, Caity Anderson-Patterson, Emilie Han, Joslin Harris-Gane, Pat Hyland, and Mary Pearson. Our goals for the coming year are to continue to grow the size of the program without losing sight of the intimacy that we've cherished in the first weeks, and to bring in more of the newcomers to be regulars and members of the planning team. We'd like to see our Dinner Church regulars become full members of the CEC community, participating in annual meeting, Vestry, and pledging their financial support to the church as they are able, and eventually, grow the size of our volunteer team to support weekly services instead of bi-weekly.

Please come join us around the table every 1st and 3rd Wednesday! *Todd Voelker*

Street Chaplaincy – Street chaplaincy is an outreach effort of Christ Church where we walk through the neighborhood, providing material and emotional support to the unhoused. We give away socks, underwear, bottles of water, hand sanitizer, a candy bar, cup noodles, crackers, hand warmers, a lighter and a cigarette, and any sanitary supplies as needed (e.g. condoms, feminine hygiene products). Our route goes from the church down the Ave to 43rd Street and back up, then back to the church to restock, then a big stop at the University Heights center basketball court where there is a breakfast, past the showers on the north side of U-Heights, and then a last stop at PHRA. The chaplains meet people where they are and give them a bit of comfort, all without judgment of the people we serve.

This past year of street chaplaincy continued the tradition of walking every Sunday, rain or shine (or snow or searing heat or parish anniversary). The chaplaincy crew averaged around 60 people helped every week (an increase from 50 last year). The packers and walkers have gotten more and more efficient this year, and continuing the lessons learned in 2020, we pre-pack most items into easily distributed bags, with set places in our cart for items that need individual attention. There are so many people who help this effort in one way or another – and thank you to all of them: Randall Lucas, Kathy Chamberlain, Ruthie Ewald, Todd Voelker, Mary Lou Hatcher, John Anderson, Susan Folk, Mary Herdell, Dan Catchpole, Becky Haver, Mary Hammond, Ellen Boling, Miguel Orr, Simone Ainsworth, Conrad Brown, Angela Gao, Jesse Miles, Carolyn Pearson, Cecilia McCurio, Brandon Duncan, Carlotta Han, and Melissa Morrell, and thank you to all those who have contributed in one way or another to Street Chaplaincy that may have been missed off this list. Special thanks to Mary Pearson who has stepped up as our main Costco shopper and frequent packer, and regular bringer of new volunteers to the ministry. And to everyone who has contributed in some way to this ministry. Thank you! *Melissa Morrell*

Eucharistic Visitor Teams – “And he summoned (them) and began to send them forth two by two.” Mark 6:7. As with the disciples, Eucharistic Visitors have been sent out in pairs with communion from Christ Church to visit homebound parishioners. Parishioners may request such a visit with a call to the church office. A team will then be assigned to contact the parishioner to arrange a date and time for a visit. Eucharistic Visitors are trained and licensed by the Diocese and must have completed the Safeguarding God's People classes. Anyone interested in becoming trained for this ministry should speak with Reverend Shelly. Please call the church office if you are interested in receiving communion through this ministry. *Susan Folke*

Pastoral Care Teams – “Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40. In September 2017 Christ Church commissioned a ministry of Pastoral Care Teams. Dwindling membership in this ministry and COVID has transformed our provision for Pastoral Care from teams who were “on-call” once a month to a group of 9 souls who respond as they are able to requests -- primarily for prayerful support, greeting cards and phone calls to our fellow Parishioners in need. Please call the church office if you are interested in participating in this ministry. *Susan Folke*

Altar Guild – We are what we eat. When we come to the altar and receive and eat the bread and drink the wine, the body and blood of Christ, we are called to become Christ to the world. We are called to serve God by feeding the hungry, healing the sick, visiting the prisoner, clothing the naked, spreading God’s Word, loving God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our mind, and loving our neighbor as yourself. Doing this takes strength and we must be nourished. We are nourished by the liturgy, by the music, in communion with our neighbors. The Altar Guild prepares God’s table for this life-changing feast. And what a feast! We, the Altar Guild, come in on Saturday to set the table, to change the colors, to set flowers on the altar, to make sure the candles will make it through the service, to see to it the baptismal font is open. We lovingly care for the linens and silver and candles. We work behind the scenes to prepare this feast for you. After church is over for the day, we stay behind and clean up. We do it out of love and joy.

In addition to Sunday morning worship, the Altar Guild decorates for Christmas, Easter, and All Saints. The normal commitment for this is about 30 minutes on Saturday and 30 minutes on Sunday. We’d love to have you join us in this Holy ministry. We will train you and work side by side with you while you learn. All are welcome. The only qualifications are a love of God and a desire and willingness to serve. The more people who serve, the easier this service becomes, and our joy increases. Please consider joining us, either as a member of our guild, or as a substitute. Your children are welcome to serve alongside you. Your cup will overflow with blessings and joy! The altar guild team includes Heidi Massuco, our directress, Todd and Betsy Voelker, the latter serving as flower coordinator, and Edie and John Burkhalter.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, *Edie Burkhalter*

Community Cares - In October 2023, we started a new stewardship ministry called Community Care, with the aim to contact every person in the parish over a few months to ask them two (and only two) questions: How are you and is there anything or anyone you would like us to pray for? And at the end of every call, the Community Care volunteers go into the sanctuary and pray over everyone that was called. With just two volunteers (Melissa Morrell and Julie Coryell), we reached out to 50 households in 2023 and prayed over countless individuals. If you haven’t received a call yet, don’t worry, we have another 41 households on our list. Once we complete the list, we’ll start all over again. Making a personal connection with fellow members of the church has been an unexpected joy and has deepened Melissa and Julie’s friendship – and the people we contact (maybe you!) seem to be pleasantly surprised that the church is reaching out. If you are interested in joining this ministry, please do not hesitate to reach out to Melissa Morrell at melre199@hotmail.com. *Melissa Morrell*

Rector's Aid – Rector's Aid has served CEC and the community for 68 years by raising funds for the church and outreach. We create hand crafted items which are offered for sale at select coffee hours. Thank you to our loyal customers. We are still not having in-person meetings at church but have met for fellowship and lunch. We are grateful to our longtime faithful members who have retired. We will be donating funds to the Life Abundant campaign *Linda Donaldson*

Readers and Eucharistic Ministers – This year we had a dedicated group of parishioners who served by reading scripture, leading the prayers of the people and administering the chalice during Eucharist. There were 3 Eucharistic Ministers and 5 lay readers. Those serving were: John Anderson and Mary Lou Hatcher, Owen Ewald, Susan Folk, Becky Haver, Gene and Nancy Leonardson and Kathleen Ward, A big thank you to them for their service! If you are interested in joining this vital ministry, please contact Becky Haver. We could especially use one more person to serve as a Eucharistic Minister.

Becky Haver

Crucifers – This year, 4 people served as crucifer throughout the year: Kathy Chamberlain, Susan Folk, Becky Haver and Heidi Massuco. The duties entail: lighting/extinguishing the candles before and after the services, assisting the priest to prepare the Eucharist and carrying the cross during process/recession. If you'd like to join this ministry please contact Becky Haver. *Becky Haver*

Greeters – Mary Lou Hatcher, John Anderson, Mary Herdell, Becky Haver, Susan Folk and Kathleen Ward have been our faithful greeters in 2023. In addition, we have had Yukiko Hendrich almost every week, standing at the front doors to identify and give a hearty welcome to Newcomers. The greeting team has handed out parking passes, put out parking signs, cleaned debris from the property, checked for masking and, most importantly, have been a welcoming presence for parishioners and visitors. They come early every Sunday and make sure the stairs are swept and other various nastiness gets cleaned up. Please thank them for being here to make sure that the church doors are open, that Covid protocols are being followed and that everyone coming through our doors is made to feel most welcome. *Joslin Harris-Gane*

Music – In 2023, we embarked on a new musical adventure at Christ Church. With Henry's departure and no organist, it was an opportunity for us as a parish to explore music in a new, more introspective way. We were joined by Lacey Brown, whose beautiful voice and gentle spirit have led and uplifted us during 10am worship, and will continue to do so into 2024. Lacey's calm and steady musical presence has been a blessing in this time of transition. Caity Anderson-Patterson led us a cappella throughout the year, and was joined by Sue Folk, Frank Pollard and Kathy Chamberlain during Holy Week. Kathy continued to join Caity during the Advent season, and Betsy Voelker joined them on piano as well for Advent III. The duets added to the festive and familial spirit of the season. Three times this year we were blessed to have Joss Mory and Emily Silks join us. In July they shared original music with the congregation, and Caity joined them on vocals. In September they performed for our mural celebration, and they provided lively energy and merriment to both our Advent IV and Christmas Eve services, sharing new arrangements of traditional carols. They will hopefully be joining us again in future!

Our music program continues to grow and expand, and we continue to learn about parishioners with different musical gifts. If you have an idea or are interested in being involved with music at Christ church, please reach out to Caity. She believes that all voices are beautifully made by God, and when we raise them together in praise, it blesses us all!

Caity Anderson-Patterson

Capital Campaign Team – The Life Abundant Capital Campaign kicked off in January 2023, with an amazing team, who all shared the vision for the future of Christ Episcopal Church. This team saw the future of our building to be a place that is inviting and inclusive, a physical space that all would be welcome in and a beautiful space in which to gather and worship. During the first half of the year 2023, the Life Abundant team planned events to build community and help all parishioners to envision our future here together. Events included: Bible study, an advance commitments celebration, a lovely all Church Banquet, and, of course, our Celebration Sunday. I Thank this Fantastic team, and all of the work that they put in: Rev. Shelly Fayette, Mary Lou Hatcher, Ellen Ewald, Joslin Harris-Gane, John Anderson, Heidi Hansen, Melissa Morrell, Linda Donaldson, Becky Haver, E. Myers and Kathy Chamberlain. *Carlotta Han*

Newcomers Team - This community of volunteers first met in the fall of 2023. We now have a Newcomers Welcoming team that includes Carlotta Han, Yukiko Hendrich, Miguel Orr, Kathleen Ward and Joslin Harris-Gane. We, as a team, greet new people as they come in to the church and at the peace, and offer them a “God Loves Weirdos” mug full of treats. We have distributed at least 20 mugs to new people! We have observed that the congregation has heartily embraced welcoming visitors to the Church as well. Thank you and keep it up! We are planning a brunch for all the recent newcomers. We would love for you to join our team! Come give out mugs. *Carlotta Han*

Minor Maintenance Team – Christ Church is a long-lived church community with a lovely old building in need of lots (lots!) of loving care and maintenance. While we pay to have basic cleaning done and for more complicated jobs that require professionals, we conserve funds by having volunteers undertake many small repair and upkeep tasks.

The list of tasks to be done is long, but many are one-off or occasional tasks. There is something that fits almost any skill level. Some items on our current to do list: gardening, battling the local rat population, graffiti removal, window washing, dust/spider-web removal, changing light bulbs, fixing molding and other things that should be more securely attached to the building, minor plumbing fixes, painting stuff, washing stuff, etc., etc.

Membership in this group has fallen in recent years and we need to rebuild to take the burden off a very few who’ve helped keep things in working order since the pandemic. Thanks to Stephen Rice, Muriel Wood, and Ruthie Ewald for volunteering to join Kathy Chamberlain and Joslin Harris-Gane as core members of this group. Also thanks to Ellen Ewald and Charlotte Pratt for organizing a highly successful cleanup party in December to prepare for Advent. A dozen or so parishioners joined together to make this a fun time and create a more inviting building. Special thanks to Stephen for sharing his window washing knowledge.

If you can help, we can certainly find a job that fits your time and talents. Please email office@christchurchseattle.org to let us know and we'll gratefully find the right task for you. *Kathy Chamberlain*

PARISH CROSS RECIPIENTS

- 1994 Ray Olson
- 1995 Ruth Legg, Nita Pederson
- 1996 Andrea Franklin, Pat Hyland
- 1997 John Gordon, Don Brown, Joy Pelligrini
- 1998 Ruthmarie Quigley, Mary Stephens
- 1999 Nancy Gantz, Paul Osborne
- 2000 Carolyn Carlstrom, Kathleen Ward
- 2001 Liz Osborne, Edith Burkhalter
- 2002 Nancy Kirkner, Carol Simpson
- 2003 Vinny Thorson, Beth Nelson
- 2004 Robert & Terry Cochrane
- 2005 Cora Lawrence, Br. Michael Stonebraker
- 2006 Al & Jane Johnson
- 2007 Don & Judy Ostrow
- 2008 Verlene Brown, Frank & Judy Pollard
- 2009 Sue Wardle, Jan McNair
- 2010 Doug Adams, Debra Lewis, Linda Donaldson
- 2011 Don Willis
- 2012 Dix Gedney
- 2013 Kathryn Chamberlain
- 2014 Gus Webster
- 2015 Marilynn McGlashan, Dennis Gray
- 2016 Betsy & Todd Voelker, Pat Miller
- 2017 Bernita Jackson, Francis Van Dusen, Jr
- 2018 Carlotta Woodward Han, Ellen Woodward Ewald
- 2019 Susan Folk, Wes Ono
- 2020 Joslin Harris-Gane, Melissa Morrell
- 2021 Emilie Han, Mary Lou Hatcher
- 2022 Heidi Massuco, Becky Haver
- 2023 Kathy Bowie, Gene Leonardson

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A parish community that has been active for over 100 years in Seattle's University District

God Loves Weirdos

A special thank you to all who contributed reports for the Annual Report!

*Document designed by Kate Swearingen
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2023 VESTRY

Joslin Harris-Gane, Senior Warden
Caitlin Anderson-Patterson, Junior Warden
Ellen Ewald
Emilie Han
Becky Haver
Pat Hyland
Charlotte Pratt

Kathryn Chamberlain, Treasurer
Melissa Morrell, Asst. Treasurer

STAFF AT CHRIST CHURCH

The Rev. Shelly Fayette, <i>Rector</i>	rector@christchurchseattle.org
Kate Swearingen, <i>Parish Administrator</i>	office@christchurchseattle.org
Heidi Hansen, <i>Children and Youth Director</i>	kids@christchurchseattle.org

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