**190th Annual Meeting Agenda**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**Springfield, Ohio**

**(A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio)**

**February 25th, 2024**

Call to Order

Opening Prayer (The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard)

Appointment of Secretary (Kelly Zeller)

Approval of Agenda

Approval of Minutes of 2023 Annual Meeting

INTRODUCTION/OF CANDIDATES AND ELECTION OF NEW MEMBERS OF VESTRY

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO DIOCESAN CONVENTION

RECOGNITION OF VESTRY & ALTAR GUILD "RETIREES"

* Kay Koeninger (Vestry at Large)
* Linda Mortensen (Vestry at Large)
* Anita Beardsell- Altar Guild

REPORTS & REMARKS

* Rector
* Senior Warden
* Junior Warden

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION

Closing Prayer & Necrology (The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard)

Adjournment

**189th Annual Meeting Minutes**

**Christ Episcopal Church**

**Springfield, Ohio**

**(A parish of the Episcopal Diocese of Southern Ohio)**

**February 26th, 2023**

The 189th Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church was called to order at 9:02 am, followed by the opening prayer led by the Rev. Melody Williams.

Scott Yeazell conducted the meeting.

Kelly Zeller was appointed to serve as Secretary for the 189th Annual Meeting.

Scott Yeazell moved to approve the agenda of the 189th Annual Meeting. The agenda was approved.

Scott Yeazell moved to approve the minutes of the 188th Annual Meeting. The minutes were approved.

Treasurer’s Report- Ken Bladh state he would be happy to answer any questions. Ann Chitkara asked about the new endowment. Ken stated we have roughly 6 million in endowments and the latest endowment, Elizabeth Cole-Carpentieri is worth almost a million. Fred Bartenstein asked about the differences in what Lori Swafford reported in Stewardship letter in the Annual report and Ken reported on the budget in the Annual report. Ken stated the difference is because Vestry must vote on the budget in December and that was the amount of pledge giving in December. The budget will be adjusted to reflect the total amount given.

Scott Yeazell introduced the slate of new members of Vestry.

Senior Warden (1-year term): Scott Yeazell

Junior Warden (1-year term): Steve Sharp

At-Large Member (3-year term): Rick Everingham

Lay Delegates (4) ~ Kay Koeninger, Beth Deger

Scott Yeazell moved that we elect the slate of nominees unanimously (a total of 61 votes were received electronically).

RECOGNITION OF VESTRY "RETIREE"- Keith Doubt

Scott Yeazell asked Keith Doubt to come up to the front of the Parish Hall. He thanked him for all of the work he has done in the past three years. He gave him a gift and card. Scott asked the all of the Vestry members to stand and he thanked them for their service.

REPORTS & REMARKS

Senior Warden- Scott Yeazell said he was honored to serve another year as Senior Warden. He thank the supply priest, The Rev. Melody Williams for helping us as we await our new rector, The Rev. Dr. Michelle Boomgaard. He expressed his gratitude to the Search Committee for all of their hard work. He thank everyone that has served on a committee this past year! Brian Shelburne thanked Scott for his work on cleaning up the Bethel room and reconfiguring the rooms to make the Food Pantry more efficient.

Junior Warden- Steve Sharp thank everyone for their support. The Hollenbeck refurbishing project will start on February 27th this will include wallpaper striping, painting, sanding floors, new carpet, new blinds, and moving the refrigerators to the kitchen. He said the organ is going to be a large expense, parts need to be moved from storage and parts need to be restored. The last time the organ was restoration was 50 years ago.

The Rev. Melody Williams read the Necrology and asked all in attendance to pray together the Collect for All Saint's Day.

The 189th Annual Meeting adjourned at 9:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Kelly Zeller

**RECTOR’S REPORT**

2023 marked a year of changes, and – we hope – a transition to end major transitions for a while. I was thrilled to move to Springfield in early 2023, and to officially begin my tenure as your rector on April 1. My first service was Palm Sunday, and we walked through the holiest week of the year together. I could ask for no better reminder of the ways in which God calls us together as community, to grieve and to celebrate.

We did our share of celebrating this year, most notably (for me) my installation in August. We also celebrated two confirmations at a regional confirmation service at Procter Center. We have welcomed a number of visitors this year. Of those, at least six have filled out visitor cards, indicating a desire to stay in touch with us; and at least six (not always the same people) have joined us a somewhat regular worshippers, and others have returned to Christ Church after a time away.

We also did a bit of grieving together, and apart, as longtime and vital members moved away, or passed.

Mostly, however, we spent a lot of time getting to know each other, and trying new things. When I interviewed with the search committee over a year ago, I told them that I was not afraid to experiment – to try something for a season, evaluate, and then continue, adjust, or stop doing it, as needed. This has certainly been a year for that. It began when a number of people approached me after my very first service, and said words to the effect of, “Don’t you live near Mother Stewart’s? We should do something at Mother Stewart’s!” Thus was born our first new ministry – the “We Should Do Something” Game Night group (which meets at a variety of locations, including Mother Stewart’s). It has met almost monthly, and usually averages about seven attendees – both English speaking and Creole – and costs the church nothing.

I’ve done a lot of listening, and a few surveys. I took the vestry on their first retreat in recent memory, and got to know them, and the parish through them. At that retreat, among other things, we determined that our mission statement – drafted decades ago – actually describes us very well today. Since then, we have worked to revive and live more fully into our mission statement.

As a parish, we also engaged in two days of visioning – celebrating our past and imagining our future – in September. Since then, I have begun working with the vestry and others to begin to implement some of the hopes articulated on those days, including efforts to raise up funds and leaders for these efforts.

All in all, it’s been an exciting year. I want to thank the search committee for their efforts to introduce me to Springfield and the remarkable community of Christ Episcopal Church. I also want to thank the vestry and staff, for helping me find my way, and for supporting the work of Christ Church in countless ways, both visibly and behind the scenes. And, I want to thank the many volunteers of Christ Church, who support its mission “To seek Christ in all persons, through the four cornerstones of Christ Church: Hospitality, Education, Outreach, and Worship.”

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Boomgaard+

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH FINANCIAL RESULTS – Feb 2024**

**Actual Dollars for 2016-2023; *Budget for 2024***

**Ken Bladh, Treasurer**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Year** | **2016** | **2017** | **2018** | **2019** | **2020** | **2021** | **2022** | **2023** | ***2024*** |
| **EXPENSES** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Worship** | **6,913** | **4,561** | **6,112** | **4,940** | **6,657** | **12,260** | **6,153** | **4,895** | ***6,400*** |
| **Education** | **3,087** | **2,923** | **3,271** | **4,424** | **871** | **629** | **924** | **566** | ***2,000*** |
| **Pastoral Care** | **633** | **87** | **681** | **109** | **406** | **0** | **0** | **203** | ***350*** |
| **Fellowship** | **375** | **795** | **493** | **746** | **335** | **826** | **589** | **447** | ***1,250*** |
| **Stewardship (utilities)** | **63,445** | **67,429** | **65,809** | **75,686** | **69,126** | **71,599** | **78,492** | **82,425** | ***93,907*** |
| **New Member Ministry** | **424** | **156** | **323** | **193** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | ***300*** |
| **Administration** | **16,551** | **15,825** | **15,983** | **17,372** | **16,229** | **17,429** | **15,038** | **16,873** | ***19,900*** |
| **Vestry (Mission Share)** | **39,803** | **29,907** | **30,629** | **41,569** | **35,542** | **34,841** | **27,147** | **40,155** | ***47,590*** |
| **Communication** | **551** | **1,624** | **1,419** | **1,388** | **1,083** | **1,259** | **455** | **502** | ***1,000*** |
| **Clergy** | **46,594** | **43,470** | **100,260** | **105,857** | **85,596** | **55,716** | **25,344** | **116,264** | ***160,039*** |
| **Staff** | **90,942** | **88,942** | **91,790** | **91,753** | **95,767** | **101,269** | **107,020** | **110,095** | ***116,223*** |
| **TOTAL SPENDING** | **270,991** | **255,719** | **320,772** | **344,037** | **311,658** | **295,828** | **261,635** | **372,424** | ***448,959*** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **REVENUE** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Pledges** | **192,703** | **180,234** | **188,562** | **199,171** | **173,945** | **156,069** | **121,238** | **128,328** | ***151,000*** |
| **Special Offerings** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | ***0*** |
| **Plate Offerings** | **2,604** | **2,397** | **2,404** | **2,767** | **349** | **686** | **1,851** | **1,767** | ***2,000*** |
| **Episc. Retire. Homes** | **5,000** | **5,000** | **1,250** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | ***0*** |
| **Endowment Transfer Restricted (Cat. I)** | **2,356** | **2,246** | **2,740** | **2,735** | **3,450** | **2,820** | **2,586** | **2,886** | ***2,880*** |
| **Endowment Transfer by Vestry for Ops** | **27,059** | **23,714** | **79,493** | **93,534** | **87,038** | **98,121** | **89,505** | **164,372** | ***237,854*** |
| **Endowment Transfer by Vestry for Staff** | **31,500** | **31,499** | **31,500** | **31,500** | **31,499** | **33,750** | **45,000** | **56,068** | ***50,025*** |
| **Miscellaneous Income** | **9,769** | **10,630** | **17,824** | **14,330** | **15,377** | **4,382** | **1,155** | **19,004** | ***5,200*** |
| **Restricted Income** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | ***0*** |
| **TOTAL REVENUE** | **270,991** | **255,719** | **320,773** | **344,037** | **311,658** | **295,828** | **261,635** | **372,424** | ***448,959*** |
| **Net Income (Loss)** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** | **0** |  |
|  | **Part-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Part-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Full-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Full-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Part-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Part-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Part-time Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | **Part-year Priest**  **Full-time PAPC** | ***Full-time Priest***  ***Full-time PAPC*** |

**TREASURER’S REPORT 2023**

***This outline provides narrative highlights of (1) the actual Parish revenue sources and amounts, and spending for 2023 expressed in dollars, for all categories as a complement to the attached one-page table (the table includes comparable values for each budget category for each of the past eight years to illustrate trends) and (2) the Vestry-adopted 2024 budget (that appears in italics as the right-most column of the table). Item (3) summarizes 2023 Parish expenses outside the operational budget.***

**Respectfully. Ken Bladh, Treasurer**

**(1) Highlights of 2023 Actual Revenue (1-6) and Spending (A-H)**

1. Operational expenses and revenue were balanced - $372,424. (Budget was $433,667)
2. Balance was possible only by sale of some of the endowment value to supplement the 2023 endowment income (dividends & interest)
3. Operations used $223,326 from endowment (60% of all revenue) or (3.4% of the EOY market value)
4. Pledges, plate offerings, and misc. totaled $149,100 (40% of all revenue)
5. The Parish received 93% of the income expected from the group of 52 pledges.
6. Spending for staff and clergy totaled $226,359 (61% of expenses)
7. Upkeep of facilities and Utilities was $48,462 (13% of expenses)
8. Mission Share to Diocese of Southern Ohio was $42,226 (11.3% of expenses)
9. Office expenses totaled $17,375 (4.7% of expenses)
10. Property & Liability insurance totaled $17,340 (4.6% of expenses)
11. Outreach (not including food pantry) was $16,000 (4.3% of expenses)
12. Worship & Education expenses totaled $5,461 (1.5% of expenses)

**(2) Highlights of Approved Christ Church Operational Budget For 2024**

1. Expenditures match revenues to provide a balanced budget ($448,959)
2. Line-by-line analysis of actual 2023 expenditures and revenues and the priorities of the parish strategic goals guided allocations in 2024
3. Assumes one full-time staff position (PAPC) and one full-time Priest for the entire year.
4. Increases 2023 salaries by 3% for clergy and lay staff
5. Funds for Outreach maintained at $16,000 (3.6% of expenses)
6. Endowment use for Operations is $290,759 (65% of expected revenue)
7. Estimated income to the endowment is $244,007 (3.7% yield of market value)
8. Number of pledges was 46 ($148,391 on 1/21/24) (33% of expected revenue)

**(3) Other Parish Expenses (outside the operational budget in 2023)**

1. Four Vestry-approved Capital Projects were paid from endowment funds and a $10,000 grant from the DSO and totaled $48,212. In addition, a deposit of $7,375 was paid toward the future installation of additional pipes on our Skinner organ.
2. The parish food pantry spent $7,209 on food and miscellaneous items for clients. The pantry received $5,497 in donations (including a $1,000 food grant from ECM) and used $1,712 from a parish designated-fund containing previous unused donations.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE ENDOWMENT FUND ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

I am honored to report to you as Chairman of our Finance Committee.

The Finance Committee has the responsibility to safeguard the donations and contributions of parishioners and previous generations of our Christ Church family. We are charged with faithfully following the original wishes of the donors and overseeing that their directions and intentions are followed by us and future generations. We provide advice to the Vestry concerning the financing of capital improvement projects, and provide support for the annual operating budget. I am proud to report that we have been faithful in performing this task. I would like to thank the other members of the committee, Dan McGregor, Ted Delong, Ken Bladh, Steve Sharp, and Rev. Boomgaard.

The Finance Committee would like to thank Jim Kreckman and the Trust Department at Security National Bank for their assistance in navigating a very difficult investment year.

During 2023 we increased the total endowment through both earnings and new contributions by 14%, while using a safe, income focused portfolio. For those of you who are not familiar with our Endowment Fund, we now have (6) categories. Categories 1, 2 & 5 are restricted to using the income only and the principle may not be used. Categories 3, 4 & 6 are unrestricted as to the use of principle and earnings. We have three named funds, Categories 3, 5 & 6. Category 3 is named the Hollenbeck-Bayley Fund in memory of Jane Hollenbeck and Beatrice Bayley. Category 5 is named the “Rosie” Fund, given in memory of Rosie Anderson, and a new Category 6 fund was created in memory of Elizabeth Cole-Carpentieri.

I would like to bring your attention to the Bushnell Society of Christ Church. The Bushnell Society recognizes those of all generations who make a financial provision for Christ Church through a planned gift. We honor and thank those who have chosen to become members of the Bushnell Society. Please view the Bushnell Society plaque in the Parish Hall to honor those who have remembered & supported Christ Church Endowment fund with financial gifts. If you would like additional information, please contact me or any member of the Finance Committee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Scott Yeazell, Chairman

[scott@triec.com](mailto:scott@triec.com)

**STEWARDSHIP**

In 2023, we linked the Christ Church stewardship campaign directly to the visioning we had done in September. We proposed budget increases to implement some of the items specifically mentioned, such as Taizé and other innovative worship, or children’s programming. With the help of our treasurer, Ken Bladh, the vestry then approved a budget that would fulfill these wishes, while decreasing our draws on the endowment.

We set an ambitious stewardship goal – approximately 10% over last year’s goal. By the end of 2023, we had met close to 87% of this goal (subsequent contributions and pledges in January of 2024 have brought us to 98% of the goal).  The total pledged income for 2024 is $148,391, within $2,609 of the goal.  Higher than expected revenue in one of the endowment accounts designated exclusively for music help make up the revenue difference necessary for a balanced budget.

**SR. WARDEN ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2023**

I am honored to report to you as your Sr. Warden for 2023.

The year 2023 was an eventful year for Christ Episcopal Church. At the beginning of 2023 we were in the final stages of the Search for a new Rector. The Search had been narrowed down to two candidates. By the time of the Annual Meeting in 2023 we had selected Rev. Boomgaard to be our new Rector and were making preparations for her arrival.

The Search Committee work culminated with their presentation on Jan. 15th, 2023 and recommendation of Rev. Michelle Boomgaard as the next Rector of Christ Church. The Vestry unanimously voted to offer the position to Rev. Boomgaard. She began her tenure with us on April 1, 2023, with her first service being Palm Sunday, April 2nd. Special thanks are due to everyone who served and worked very hard on the Search Committee.

Many thanks are due to everyone who also worked very hard on our very important committees. Our committees are Worship, Outreach, Pastoral Care, Finance, and Pantry Committees. These committees are very important to the life of our church. Many people stepped up and performed individual leadership to keep our programs healthy and functioning during a transition year.

Thanks go to Steve Sharp who directed a much needed facelift to the Hollenbeck Offices in preparation for a new Rector.

I want to give special thanks to our 2023 Vestry members who served very well during a difficult year and helped make our parish stronger with their service.

Respectfully,

Scott Yeazell

Sr. Warden

**JUNIOR WARDEN**

It has been a busy year!

In anticipation of our new Rector starting her position in April 2023, we began to refurbish a very tired looking Hollenbeck House. Work accomplished was refinishing exposed wood floors, replacing all carpet in rooms, hallways and stairs, stripping off vinyl wallcoverings, patching and repainting walls and ceilings, and replacing window curtains with new blinds. It was very nearly complete when Michelle arrived in April. Scott Yeazell procured a LED lighting grant which greatly improved optics and will save us on energy costs.

Our two wonderful buildings require ongoing renovation work to keep these historic structures in good shape. Repairing and painting plaster in the back of the sanctuary (nave) was necessary due to an old roof leak. Back in Hollenbeck House the food pantry refrigerators were repositioned for better workflow. The exterior doors at the church kitchen and food pantry room were deteriorating and replaced. We were also getting lots of water coming into the basement level of the church near the chapel. New yard drains, downspout boots and underground storm piping were installed to divert the rainwater to High Street and away from our basement. On top of everything else, three furnaces failed (20+ years old each) and were replaced.

You may have noticed that the City demolished a decrepit wood house just east of the church property near the High Street bridge over the railroad. Now Christ Church is participating in the City of Springfield’s “Mow to Own” program. That abandoned parcel will be deeded over to Christ Church next summer for under $200 just so long as we take care of it in the interim.

Over 22 years ago our organ choir division pipes were stolen, and we have not yet installed replacement pipes. However, Peebles-Herzog, the Columbus company that services and maintains our organ, has stored the replacement pipes for us for those 22 years. Christ Church has made the financial commitment to do this work while there is still a specialist in our area that is trained to work on the classic organs. Just a caution that these concert quality organs need major overhauls every 50 years, and we are overdue. Much more is needed to do on this 100-year-old instrument.

And finally, the Diocese of Southern Ohio provided a consultant to the parishes at no cost to us, to survey the condition of both of our buildings. Scott, before me, and I have worked hard to keep our wonderful, historic 150-year-old buildings in excellent condition. The consultant noted they are the “best standard possible within the resources available”. Just remember that maintenance is an on-going process.

Our church and Hollenbeck House are a true, and sometimes frustrating, joy to work with. I thank the parish from the bottom of my heart for letting me be your Junior Warden.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Sharp, Jr. Warden

**STAFF REPORTS**

**PARISH ADMINISTRATOR/PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

As Parish Administrator/ Program Coordinator, I wear a lot of different hats, and this year was no different! Some highlights from 2023:

* Welcoming a new rector
* Continuing my work with The Food Pantry
* Continuing my work as Secretary to the Vestry, serving on the Parish Care Committee, and Worship Committee
* Updating Christ Church’s Website to offer online giving

I'm incredibly grateful to work with the Christ Church Staff, Vestry, and the Church!

Kelly Zeller

**PARISH BOOKKEEPER**

I manage the day-to-day financial activities for the Church. This includes tracking income and expenses, reconciling bank statements, paying bills, processing payroll, generating financial reports, providing information for the annual audit, and filing required city, state, and federal payroll tax returns. It is a blessing to be a part of the staff and apply my experience and expertise in day-to-day financial operations.

Tina Knox

**FACILITY MANAGER**

I assisted with the remodel of Hollenbeck House. I assisted with the installation of the New LED lights in the classrooms, Nursery, Guild Room, Choir Room, restrooms, kitchens, offices, conference room, and hallways. I facilitated the ordering and installation of the new exterior steel doors for the Hollenbeck and Church kitchens. I scheduled maintenance repairs and inspections of furnaces, air conditioners, backflows, fire extinguishers, fire alarms, and fire departments.

Paul McAfee

**MUSIC DIRECTOR/MUSIC PROGRAM**

Having completed 24 seasons as music director at Christ Episcopal Church, Dr. Christopher Durrenberger continues to provide musical leadership and offerings at special and regularly scheduled worship services streaming and archived on our Facebook page.

Special services were enhanced with multiple guest musicians - Andrew Jones assembled a festive Brass Quintet on Easter and Christina Darding provided classical guitar selections on Christmas Eve. Joy Meyers and Jeff Carter supplemented regular services with special music and supply guest musicians included Kenta Thompson and Christina Darding.

The Christ Church Choir continued their dedicated service collaborating on anthems, hymns and service music weekly, and have been enhanced with special choir scholars from Wittenberg this past fall. Please contact Chris if interested in joining this devoted ensemble!

**2023 Christ Church Choir**

*Sopranos                     Altos                            Tenors                            Bass/Baritone*

Marilyn Howat            Liz Wheeler              Fred Bartenstein               Trevor Meyers

Joy Meyers                  Linda Butler Jayden Bardo Seamus Dunphy

Joan Hurley

**WORSHIP**

For the most part, our Sunday worship services remained steady throughout 2023. We continue to draw a small but faithful crowd for the Rite I service at 8 AM, and considerably more for the 10 AM service, which alternates between Rite II and Enriching our Worship liturgies.

We did try two new things at the 10 AM service this year. The use of some French (initially at the opening collect and Gospel, later only the collect) was meant to make the service more accessible and welcoming for our Haitian neighbors. The use of standing communion stations was introduced to allow those who find the chancel steps difficult to continue to serve as Eucharistic Ministers (chalicists).

The midweek Eucharist service was initially moved from 10 AM to noon on Wednesdays so that it would no longer conflict with food pantry. However, we eventually discontinued the service due to lack of attendance. A Thursday online noonday prayer service has filled the void for midweek worship opportunities (see report elsewhere).

Finally, calling a rector allowed the monthly Oakwood Village Sunday service to return to a service of Rite I Holy Eucharist. Dawn and Jack Ivy, who had faithfully led Morning Prayer there during the interim, were able to take some well deserved rest. After a few bumps in the road (largely involving communication at Oakwood Village about when services are held), we are averaging about 7 each month. I also visit folks who are unable to make it to the chapel.

**ALTAR GUILD**

The Altar Guild is made up of four (4) teams of ladies (men are welcome, too) who each work one Saturday/Sunday morning each month to clean and set up the Chancel area for Sunday worship. We also work weddings, baptisms, and funerals. Members Gretchen Hicks, Joan Hurley, Sally Schwartz, and Cathy Yeazell, are very devoted to their work. New members are welcome any time. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, please contact me at [jahurley500@gmail.com](mailto:jahurley500@gmail.com). No experience is necessary.

Joan Hurley

**THURSDAY CHAPEL SERVICE**

Noonday Prayer is a brief service, usually no more than fifteen minutes, one of the Daily Office services from the Book of Common Prayer. It includes a psalm, a reflection, and a time of prayer. Although it does not need to be prayed at noon, it most often is meant to provide refreshment during the day. Because it is a recorded service in the chapel, it can be accessed from the Christ Church website at any convenient time.

From January until early May, the service was held on Wednesdays. After a summer sabbatical, it resumed on Thursdays. Judy Johnson leads the service, including the brief reflection, usually on one of the saints honored in the Episcopal calendar of saints during the week. Kelly Zeller assists with the task of taping and uploading the service.

Judy Johnson

**OUTREACH COMMITTEE 2023 ANNUAL MEETING SUMMARY**

The Outreach Committee of Christ Church, Springfield, continued to place emphasis on many ministries it has supported historically in addition to placing a priority on food insecurity and housing, which are, arguably, the two largest social issues in Clark County, as well as literacy.

The food pantry continued to serve a large number of families each month and had many dedicated volunteers.  Additionally, the church financially supported the food ministries of Jefferson Street Oasis Garden, Second Harvest Food Bank, Rainbow Table, Springfield Farmers Market, Children’s Rescue Center/the Ark, and the Springfield Soup Kitchen.

With housing a significant problem in Clark County, the Outreach Committee designated funds for Habitat for Humanity and Sheltered, Inc. (formerly Interfaith Hospitality Network).  Loosely tied to this issue were the related issues of domestic violence and substance use disorders which often render a person homeless.  Therefore, funds were also assigned to Safe Harbor (now Her Story) and Project Woman.

Christ Church supported the Warder Literacy Center and the Children’s Defense Fund Freedom Schools in an effort to bolster literacy.  Additionally, one of CEC’s parishioners faithfully tutored a Haitian doctor in the English language to help him become more fluent so he could take the licensing exam to practice medicine in the U.S.  The committee also designated funds for the Promise Neighborhood, which is a ministry in the church’s metaphorical backyard.  Other funds were assigned to Partners in Ministry in Liberia for the support of two young men in their last year of high school and Episcopal Community Ministries.

As 2023 ended and 2024 began, the committee discussed ways of helping the Haitian community in practical ways.  Some exciting things are likely to be coming in this area, so be sure to be on the lookout for opportunities ahead!

Respectfully Submitted- Linda Mortensen

**CHRIST CHURCH FOOD PANTRY**

Christ Church Food Pantry had another successful year in 2023. In 2023 the pantry provided food the third Wednesday every month to clients who qualified under federal income guidelines. We served a total of 1376 households in 2023. That is an increase of 439 households from 2021. The busiest month was November - 157, the least busy was January - 73 households.

Volunteers from Christ Church, Covenant Presbyterian Church, and friends of our food pantry made the pantry a success. Anne Randolph was able to successfully recruit volunteers for each pantry distribution day. Anne also had a crew of people who helped her make “double” brown bags. Brian Shelburne led a small army of volunteers who gathered on the Thursday after the 2nd Wednesday who bagged tons of grocery. They filled 1000s of bags in 2023.

We participated in The Covenant Presbyterian Church’s Alternative Christmas Market. Kelly Zeller and Ann Chitkara attended and answered questions about the pantry. We received over $1,100. Of donations from this event.

Pantry continues to operate as a drive-through pantry. We operate with several stations - client registration, fresh meat and veggies station, miscellaneous station and dry goods station. The food that was distributed was delivered to the Church from Second Harvest Food headquarters at least 2 times each month and unloaded by volunteers. Bags were packed for distribution prior to the distribution date again - thank the volunteers.

Clients depend on this pantry being open the 3rd Wednesday of each month regardless of weather or other circumstances. We strive to consistently meet their expectations with a spirit of kindness toward our clients and one another.

The pantry is supported by the entire congregation. We depend upon financial and prayer support to make the pantry possible. People also donate toilet paper and other miscellaneous items to the pantry. The pantry will need financial support as well as the continued volunteer support of this congregation in 2024.

Respectfully submitted - Ann Chitkara

**BABY FOOD FOR JESUS**

Thanks to *everyone* who participated this past Advent~Christmas~Epiphany Season**, 42 x 4oz. jars, tubs & an 8 oz. canister of rice**were blessed and donated to **Help Me Grow  (HMG)1** that shares space in the same building as Women, Infants & Children (WIC) so that women who do not qualify for WIC but need assistance can be referred to them for help. Geographically, HMG is just down the street on East High St. and located on the bus line. Since HMG has trained Home Visitation Consultants, it was decided to give ALL of the baby food donated this year to them since they typically get the tubs ( all but 7 items were tubs) as they have shorter expiration dates and they see more clients. Therefore, our donations are benefiting little ones in more ways than one.

Deb Southward

**THE PROMISE NEIGHBORHOOD CHRISTMAS STORE**

The Promise Neighborhood Christmas Store continued its work of providing affordable gifts to families in a high-needs community. Once again, Christ Church provided Clifton Ave. Church of God (1408 Clifton Ave.) with a bountiful of new toys which were made available at reduced cost to residents of the Promise Neighborhood in the weeks leading up to the holiday.

Kelly Zeller

**DAYTON RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE-PULL TABS**

Last year **5.015 lbs** of Aluminum PULL-Tabs were brought in by members & friends of Christ Episcopal. This represents 7,782 aluminum cans kept out of the landfill IF all were recycled. This was enough to raise the roof on **5 SMALL PULL-Tab** Collection Houses … a cul-de-sac ;). Our 5 lbs will be combined with PULL-Tabs collected by Covenant Presbyterian & Rainbow Table so as to be able to have Springfield Recycling (part of Franklin Iron & Metal Corp who DRMDH has an account with) issue a check to the Dayton Ronald McDonald House. Keep “pulling” for DRMDH to help provide a “home away from home” to families of critically ill & injured children.

Deb Southward

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY**

Prayer Shawls are available on the Worship level each Sunday and can be given to anyone in need of comfort in difficult times, such as surgery, bereavement, or illness. New members are welcome any time. If you would like to be a part of this ministry to knit or crochet shawls or if you would like to learn to knit or crochet, please contact me at jahurley500@gmail.com.

Joan Hurley

**EDUCATION AND FORMATION REPORT**

After my arrival, we tried a few different formation programs. During the summer, we explored the depths of the Episcopal tradition with “Walk in Love.” We might use this resource again if we revive a catechumenate program.

In the fall, I conducted a “Formation Survey,” which revealed (perhaps not surprisingly) that people at Christ Church are interested in a variety of different topics and formats, and settings. We immediately began a weekly Bible Study, which seemed both straightforward and in demand. Throughout the next year, we will strive to incorporate some of the other wishes revealed in the survey, and in conversation with people along the way. In 2023, this included a more contemplative series for Advent. In the coming year, it may include more guest speakers, book studies, and possibly even films.

The results of the survey are available to anyone who wishes to ask. Suggestions for topics are always welcome.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Boomgaard

**CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH NECROLOGY FOR 2023**

Ron deLanglade-April 29th, 2023

Joanne (Joni) Pulver- May 9th, 2023

D. J. Banion- May 17th, 2023

Jeff Yeazell- July 23rd, 2023

David Drew- October 26th, 2023

William “Bill” Yeazell- November 13th, 2023

*May they rest in peace, and rise in glory!*

**The Collect for All Saint's Day**

"Almighty God, you have knit together your elect in one  
communion and fellowship in the mystical body of your Son  
Christ our Lord: Give us grace so to follow your blessed saints  
in all virtuous and godly living, that we may come to those  
ineffable joys that you have prepared for those who truly love  
you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy  
Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. *Amen."*

(The *Book of Common Prayer*, page 245)