

# ANNUAL MEETING 2022

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*Reports for the Year 2021*



CHRIST CHURCH

E P I S C O P A L

N E E D H A M

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FEBRUARY 6, 2022

11:30 A.M.

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*The items below were not ready as of publication on Friday, January 28, 2022 and will included in an addendum:*

*The Rector’s Report for 2021 will be given as part of Nick’s sermon on Annual Meeting Sunday, February 6, 2022. It will be included as an addendum in the Annual Reports for 2021.*

## MEETING ACCESS

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### JOINING ON YOUR COMPUTER OR MOBILE DEVICE

1. Click [here](#) to join the meeting.
2. Enter meeting ID: 854 6416 2693#
3. Enter meeting password: 999876#

### CALLING IN ON A TELEPHONE (LANDLINE OR CELLPHONE)

Call either of the numbers after 11:10 a.m.

1. Call (929) 205-6099 OR (301) 715-8592
2. Enter meeting ID: 854 6416 2693 #
3. You do not need a participant ID. Hit # to continue.
4. Enter meeting password: 999876 #
5. When the meeting is over, hang up

# AGENDA

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Call to Order  
Reading of The Warrant  
Opening Invocation  
Necrology and Land Acknowledgement  
Minutes of the 2021 Annual Meeting  
Election of Vestry and Other Parish Leadership  
Assistant Treasurer's Statement  
Warden's Remarks  
Rector's Remarks  
Recognition of Outgoing Warden and Vestry  
Giraffe Award  
Commissioning of Vestry and Officers  
Closing Benediction  
Adjournment

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*Remembering members of Christ Church who have died over the past year:*

Beverly Jeanne Greer

Margaret Batten

Edward R. Epp

Robert Fowler

Robert Markus

Gloria Monteith

Harding Ounanian Sr.

*And remembering the native peoples who were the first stewards of this land on which we have built our sacred spaces:*

The Massachusetts and Pawtucket Peoples

*May they rest in peace and rise in glory.*



*Welcoming those who were newly baptized into the Body of Christ at Christ Church this year:*

Dylan Alexander Oluwole John Otitoju

Charles Nicholas Aronson

Emma Ruth Carpenter

Owen Salvatore Rocco

Samuel James McConarty

*May the Lord give them an inquiring and discerning heart, the courage to will and to persevere, a spirit to know and to love God, and the gift of joy and wonder in all of God's works.*



## 2021 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

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The Annual Meeting of Christ Church was convened at 11:15 on Feb 9, 2021, held virtually on Zoom. An estimated 54-60 people were in attendance; the requirements for a quorum (25) were met. We welcomed Martha Gardner, Missioner for Formation and Networking at the Diocese, was our guest Zoom pilot.

### Opening

The call to order was given at 11:15.

The warrant calling for the Annual meeting was read.

The meeting was brought to order with an opening prayer by Rev. Nicholas Morris-Kliment (Nick Morris-Kliment). Nick then led the congregation in a remembrance of those in the parish who had passed in 2020, as well as of the native peoples—Massachusetts and Pawtucket- who originally occupied the land upon which the Church sits.

### Minutes

A motion was made to accept the minutes from the February 9, 2020 annual meeting. This received a second and was unanimously approved.

### Vestry & Elections

Candidates had been nominated for multiple positions, including: Warden (2-year term) Warden (1 year term), 4 Vestry positions (3-year term), clerk (1 year term), two delegates to Convention and Charles River Deanery (1 year term), and two delegates to Charles River Deanery (1 year term) who would serve as alternate delegates to Convention.

Nick read the nominees for parish offices. After a call for additional nominations, there were no contested offices. The congregation voted to elect the nominees.

The following parishioners were elected as Vestry members in 2021: Warden: Dusty Hecker, (2 year), Warden: Brian Mukherjee (1 year), Vestry: John Carr, Cecile Leroy, Christina O'Connell, & Alyssa Kence, each serving 3-year terms. Also, David Carnahan was reelected for a 1-year term as Clerk. Amy Sweeney was reelected for the one term as a delegate to the Diocesan Convention and a second delegate is requested. We are also seeking a delegate to Charles River Deanery. A treasurer is also sought for 2021.

After the vote, Vestry & Officers for 2021 are:

Dusty Hecker Warden	Brian Mukherjee Warden	Treasurer	David Carnahan Clerk
Ingrid Melvin '22	Bob Keener '22	Annie Russell '22	Duncan Allen '22
Robert Begin '23	Joe Sweeney '23	Ginny Yerardi '23	Jim Black '23
Alyssa Kence '24	Christina '24 O'Connell	John Carr '24	Cecile Leroy '24

### Treasurer's Report

Stefano Migliuolo gave a summary of his 2020 Treasurer's report, which is included in detail in the Annual Report.

The financial impact of the measures taken to reduce the spread of the Covid 19 pandemic was very intense across the Commonwealth, and our Church was no exception, as this severely impacted the revenue received from our tenants. Much, but not all, of the revenue shortfall was offset by a (likely forgivable) Payroll Protection Program loan of \$39K and the generosity of the parishioners; many made special gifts that were immensely helpful. Christ Church received several bequests in 2020, several of which were very substantial. The largest totaled \$560K. These receipts have been added to the Investment Funds (Pension Wealth Managements and Diocesan Investment Trust) and will contribute to the future growth of the parish portfolio.

The properties at 61 & 65 Rosemary Street were reconfigured, and the new lot of 65 Rosemary was sold to a developer for approximately \$750K. The remaining portion of 61 Rosemary Street was absorbed in the lot that contains the Church & Chapel. The proceeds from this sale will be realized in 2021.

On the expense side, the Chapel and Main Church underwent substantial repair & refurbishment. The Rectory also underwent much-needed repair (mostly involving the HVAC). The Finance Committee and Vestry approved these projects (totaling approximately \$78K), financing them via the additional bequests (West and Walsh) received and an additional (“special”) draw (\$40K) from the investment funds.

The organ in the Main Church was replaced and “unveiled” in mid-November. That was entirely self-funded through the generosity of parishioners. Another unforeseen expense was due to funding of the Music Leader line item from the operating budget. Vestry approved this expense, when it became apparent that self-funding was no longer feasible.

On the whole, we ended the year with a deficit of \$14.3K, compared with a projected surplus (when the 2020 budget was approved) of \$2.4K. The overall shortfall of \$16.7K, compared to the 2020 budget, is traceable to several expense categories that went past their budgets: Property (which includes building maintenance & repair, janitorial services & grounds), Office expenses (including copier) and Technology.

Next year’s budget plans for a balanced budget, with income and expenditures at \$489,982. Questions were taken about the tenants who departed or closed in 2020, and also if the Community Concerns budget could be raised. We are looking for new tenants and are hopeful that new ones will be identified.

### **Wardens’ Report**

Jeff Murphy first addressed the parish. The year was difficult and made us adapt as never before. Jeff thanked the staff and volunteers who carry the mission of the church. He especially thanked Ali for her rapid and efficient work. Woody Hughes did a great job at refurbishing our spaces in 2020. Pam and Charles are working tirelessly at bringing refreshing music to us each year. Nick has risen to the occasion and brought leadership and work to bear on a novel solution. Jeff thanked Tim Lysaght for his work to bring a sophisticated camera and videography setup to the church. Phil Trussell also put

in a huge amount of effort to close on the property sale and transfer for 61 Rosemary. Jeff also thanked Stan as his co-Warden, who provided a thoughtful, spiritual balance.

Stan then addressed the congregation and thanked everyone for stepping up and making everything work this year. Stan also thanked Duncan Allen and the Finance Committee for coming up with a way to move forward with the unexpected contributions we received this year, and the way we configured those receipts to guide us to responsible stewardship of the endowment and investment funds. He then thanked those who are coming on board to guide us into 2021.

### **Rector's report**

Nick Morris-Kliment reviewed the year with a PowerPoint presentation, including our 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, activities in Youth Ministry, the Untalent Show, the Valentine's care package preparation, and other pre-Covid accomplishments. Nick then reviewed how we kept on going after the Pandemic began: the work undertaken to refresh the property and modernize our A/V tools, to improve online services during the pandemic. We celebrated the completion of the sale of the Rosemary Street property and the installation of the new organ. We celebrated Lent and Easter with to-go boxes. In response to social upheaval, we established a Racial Justice Initiative this year. Bible study smoothly moved online. Our missions at MANNA and B-Safe are alive and well having adapted to distributed cooking and work. The Annual Appeal was run by Duff Lingard and Kim Rocco; our thanks to them! This year, we ran an Expanded Advent with additional music from our Choir and new organ. Among the few in-person gatherings, in addition to the Advent tree lighting and blessing of the Animals, we were able to gather and host a Christmas Pageant, which was recorded and broadcast online, the production of which was covered by GBH TV and radio.

### **New Mission Strategy Breakout**

The parish was broken into breakout rooms to reflect on three questions, and capture ideas for the future. Some of those reflections are captured here. More are being collected.

- *In the last year, what have we lost, that we must mourn?*
  - Social companionship in person.
  - Hugs!
  - Taking Communion.
  - Attending memorial services and saying goodbye to members whom we have lost.
  - Missing ability to help people in the way we used to.
  - Missing being able to sing together and hear the new organ.
  - Difficulties in planning for regathering; for youth, etc.
  - Our more elderly members are less able to adapt to online worship.
- *In the past year, what have we found, something we must celebrate?*
  - Ability to have digitized services that can go on the internet.
  - Ability to see church members who live far away.
- *What is our essence, that we want the world to know?*
  - Church community that really values, cares, and supports each other and who shares it with the larger region.
  - We would like to work toward greater equity and diversity.
  - Essence: Strength, resiliency, drive, commitment. Even folks outside the parish loved the sign, "the building is closed, but the church is open."

There were many comments expressed, looking forward to:

- holding socially distanced outdoor church services when weather is nicer.
- holding small group virtual social activities, like a game night.
- holding online communal dinner preparation.

### **Thanks to Outgoing Vestry, Officers, and Delegate and Staff**

Nick thanked Janet Haines, Patty Smith, Denise DeGroff, and Mike Niden for their service to Vestry. (Phil thanked Rich Gatto and Mike Niden as key to sale of the Rosemary Street property; in essence, donating their commissions to the Church.) Nick then thanked Annie for her service as Delegate to the Convention, Altar Guild, Worship and Arts, Regathering, and other teams. Nick then thanked Stefano for his faithful service as Treasurer. Nick then thanked Wardens Stan and Jeff for their passionate, level-headed leadership of the Church through this unprecedented time. Nick also thanked Ali Heard, who has supported the Church in her role as Parish Administrator.

### **Awards:**

Since 2000, The Giraffe Award goes by vote of the Vestry to someone willing to “stick their neck out” for Christ Church. This year, it is presented to Tim Lysaght for his critical service in helping Christ Church move online, and for his many years of involvement in Property, Vestry, and Treasurer service.

A prayer was held to commission the new Vestry and officers, and for God’s help with the work of the parish in this new year. There being no further business to come before the assembled members of Christ Church, a motion was made to adjourn. After a second and a unanimous vote, the meeting was adjourned at 12:38pm. We thanked Martha Gardener for running the Zoom call.

### **Other Reports:**

Reports were also submitted by a number of committees and missions, including: Property, Altar Guild, Ushers, Healers, Folders, Music, Worship & Arts, Bible Study, Church School, Community Concerns, Fundraising, Haiti Partnership & Clinic, Intercessory Prayer, Knitting, Music, Pastoral Response, Sanctuary Garden, Shelter Cooking, Study Buddies, The Visitor, Website.

I certify that this summary of the Annual Meeting of Christ Church, which took place at 11:15 on February 7, 2021, is true and correct.



David Carnahan, Clerk

# ELECTION OF VESTRY AND OTHER PARISH LEADERSHIP

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## **VESTRY Class of '25 (3-year term)**

Leslie Day

Tedi Eaton

Peter Lyons

Kathryn Mortimer

## **CONVENTION DELEGATES (1-year term)**

Hope Anderson

Annie Russell

## **CLERK (1-year term)**

MaryAnn Ryan

## **WARDEN (2-year term)**

TBD

## VOTE BY PROXY

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The Annual Meeting of Christ Episcopal Church in Needham, MA will be held on Sunday, February 6 at 11:30a.m. The meeting will be run from 1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, Massachusetts 02494, but we ask members to participate by Zoom. [Here](#) is the Zoom link to participate in the Zoom meeting: <https://ccneedham.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/CCN-2022-Annual-Meeting-Zoom-link.pdf>

Members who wish to vote must complete the [online proxy form](#) as directed on the form no later than **11:59 pm on Thursday, February 3, 2022**:

<https://files.constantcontact.com/f49bf5dd001/00c587df-8d17-4ad3-bb18-1c65ca8b7b17.pdf>

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## REPORT FROM THE RECTOR

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Nick's Annual Report for 2021 will be given as part of his sermon on Annual Meeting Sunday, February 6, 2022. It will be included as an addendum in the Annual Reports for 2021.

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## REPORT FROM THE WARDENS: Reflecting on Successes and Challenges in 2021

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2021 had many successes for the Church, but also ongoing challenges. As your Wardens, we would like to take this opportunity to briefly reflect on the life of the Church in 2021, including some of those successes and challenges. (Please note that many of the ministries described below have also submitted their own reports for this Annual Report. We encourage you to review these reports as well, to hear about 2021 from their perspectives).

We think a good place to start is the **physical reopening** of the Church in June, and the opportunity to be together again in-person as a parish. Thanks to **Nick**, the **Regathering Committee** and the **Vestry** for helping guide the Church to this important milestone. In 2021, we also officially welcomed our new **organ** into the sanctuary. Our thanks to the parishioners who supported this endeavor!

While we are pleased that the Church's doors are open, importantly, we want to again note that the Church remains committed to continuing **virtual worship** through Facebook and the Church's website, so those who do not feel comfortable worshipping in person or are unable to do so may continue to be an important part of the congregation. Special thanks here go to the **digital verger** team - Ali Heard, Tim Lysaght, Annie Russell and the other individuals who have maintained the virtual service initiative, which allows everyone to be a part of the Church service, whether in person or digitally. While the Omicron variant threw us a bit of a curveball at the end of the year, we're confident that the safeguards put in place around in-person worship, combined with the Church's virtual presence, can help us weather COVID as we move into 2022.

We think it may be an understatement to say that the Vestry was again hard at work in 2021! Among other things, the Vestry made important decisions regarding the use of funds from the sale of 61 Rosemary, including for important building and repair projects in the Church and the Rectory. The Vestry also approved the extension of the Church's 14-year partnership with St. Luc's Church in Lazil for an additional three years. (Through this partnership, the Church will continue to support the salaries of the teachers at the St. Luc elementary school in Lazil). The Vestry is also undertaking the critical task of considering how our **Church School** will look going forward, and the best ways to ensure that our religious education activities continue to be a vibrant part of parish life.

As part of its important work, the Vestry also tackled the consideration and approval of the **2021 operating budget**, being careful shepherds of the Church's assets and revenues and also considering the important role our various ministries and programs play in the life of the Church and the broader community. Suffice to say, these decisions are not easy, and the Vestry is committed to continuing to explore the right financial path forward for the Church. Of course, the work of the Vestry would not be possible without the crucial support provided by the various operating committees, and in particular the **Finance** and **Property** Committees. Thanks to all who so ably serve on those committees!

Finally, as you know, the Church said good-bye to **Pam Goody** as Music Director. As Nick has said, her contributions to the Church go far beyond her job description as Music Director. We wish Pam

all the best! Our deep thanks as well to our Parish Organist **Charles Raines** who kindly agreed to take on the Music Director role through the end of the 2022 program year at least, combining the functions of Organist and Music Director.

We hope this report helps give you a view on 2021 from your Wardens' perspective. Thank you again for your continued support.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Dusty Hecker](#) and [Brian Mukherjee](#)

## MINISTRY REPORTS

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The following pages contain the Ministries Reports for the year 2021, prepared by those leading the many and varied ministries at Christ Church.

The ministry categories are organized according to the promises made in the Baptismal Covenant, found on pages 416-417 in the *Book of Common Prayer*:

**WORSHIP** - *Continuing in the Breaking of Bread and in the Prayers*

**EDUCATION** - *Continuing in the Apostles' Teaching and Fellowship*

**EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP**- *Proclaiming by Word and Example the Good News of God in Christ*

**PASTORAL CARE** - *Serving Christ in All Persons, Loving Neighbors as Ourselves*

**SERVICE** - *Striving for Justice and Peace Among All People*

**STEWARDSHIP** - *Cherishing the Wonderous Works of God and Protecting the Beauty and Integrity of All Creation*

*Please contact any of the leaders if you would like more information, or to become involved!*

## WORSHIP

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*Continuing in the Breaking of Bread and in the Prayers*

### ALTAR GUILD

2021 brought the loosening of Diocesan restrictions; as summer approached the congregation was able to regather and we could to operate as we're more accustomed, albeit with modifications. We were able to collectively care for the altar linens, candles and Eucharistic vessels in preparation for weekly services, funerals and baptisms. We serve under the guidance of Nick Morris-Kliment, our Rector.

Our membership of 13 is divided into five weekly teams. This year our members are: Marcia Mather, Betsy Amsbary, Nancy Stern, Tedi Eaton, Debbie Rempis, Rosemarie Rappold-Davis, Dorothy Rifai, Bea Dagdigian, Dottie Hagar, Anne Russell, Joanna Starr, Kathleen Kelly and Barbara Brailey.

We miss Nancy Lankford and Mary Ellen Nutting, who have retired. We couldn't do without the behind-the-scenes help of Phil Trussell, Ali Heard, Woody Hughes, Bob Bell and Paul Kingston.

We readied Easter lilies and Christmas poinsettias for delivery by John Carr and Matt Kastantin, members of the Men's Group.

We're grateful for the opportunity to serve God by preparing this holy space for worship and would welcome anyone who would like to help.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Barbara Brailey](#)

### CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Mid-December and vaccinations provided a lull in the pandemic such that many families were comfortable coming inside for a Pageant and Communion service. Thank you to the Lockhart and Sterling households, and to the families of the Pageant Players for organizing this perennial favorite. As always, it was the best pageant ever!

*Taken from the Church School Report.*

### HEALERS

Ironically, the pandemic has forced us to suspend our ministry of healing during Sunday worship. If you are interested in learning more about this ministry when it is safe to restart, please contact me.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Nick](#)

### HOLY FOLDERS

The unflagging service of our "Holy Folders" continues through virtual and in-person worship. When fully virtual, the team would assist with mailing bulletins, announcements, and other items to

parishioners without internet at home. Once we opened for in-person worship, Linda, and Marcia (plus the occasional guest folder) met at the conference table in Upper Parish Hall each Friday morning to fold, sort, and assemble the bulletins and inserts for the upcoming Sunday services. Other times a group of folders would help stuff and mail church mailings (e.g., Easter and Christmas letters). Thank you to Linda Bloom, Marcia White, Marcia Mather, Betsy Amsbary, and Kathleen Kelly for their nimble fingers and jovial conversations!

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Ali Heard](#)

## **MUSIC ANNUAL REPORT... LOOKING BACK AT 2021**

Dear Christ Church Family,

What a year this past year has been! We all thought that we'd be Covid-free by now and back to our regular music programming and seeing all your lovely faces in the congregation. Perhaps next year. Life has certainly changed, some for the better. We have learned patience and forgiveness and acceptance. We have learned that it's okay to have roller coaster emotions. We have learned how vital music is in our lives. Music has been a saving grace during this time of turbulence.

Our Choir numbers have changed considerably since Covid hit. We could not sing as a group because of possible contamination. At first, we had only the four section leaders, Charles, and me in the Sanctuary. We stood 20 feet apart and masked to be able to sing safely. Singing through a mask is a feat! The service with "live" music was streamed into your homes courtesy of Grant Furgieule's amazing technical digital skills.

With safety protocols ever changing, we now sing with six singers, spaced in the Chancel area in an arc formation. The removal of choir pews gives us flexibility of various worship configurations. Microphone placements are still a work in progress. Every week, mic positions are tweaked to improve vocal/instrumental effectiveness. We continue to work on this so that the folks at home hear the same acoustics we are hearing live in the Sanctuary space. Going forward, we will offer live-streaming to your home as well as in-person worship.

Thank you to our section leaders for keeping Choir afloat during the time of Covid. Lisa Correnti, soprano, Lea Peterson, alto (who moved), Evelyn Griffin (filling in for the Christmas season), Grant Furgieule (who moved), Cameron Dinkens (our new tenor section leader), and Mark Anderson, bass. Thank you to our parish singers: Kim Lysaght, MaryAnn Ryan, Duff Lingard and to our parish singers who sing whenever they can and those who support us from home: Mary Susan Convery, Hope Anderson, Susan McCraw, Bob Keener, David Keener, Charley Ferrone. Your voices fill the Sanctuary and our hearts. Your musical contributions to the worship service are immensely appreciated.

When other churches had no music, we faced the challenges of Covid and stayed connected to you. We provided continuous music throughout the year. Weekly services as well as the holiday services were presented in regal style. Easter with trumpeter, Mike Peipman, an Evening Taizé Advent

Candlelight Service, Christmas Eve service with many solos and duets. Jonathan Moretz, guitarist and Bruce Goody, flutist played many reflective moments in our services. We are blessed.

Thank you to our wonderful staff: Ali Heard, Woody Hughes, Liz Marson, Maryann Badejo, Duncan Allen, and to singers and lay leaders Grant Furguele, Annie Russell, Tim Lysaght, Donna Vello, and Harding Ounanian, for technical and publicity support. Thank you to our Rector, Nick Morris-Kliment. We have all journeyed on this path together. For that, I am grateful.

Thank you to Charles Raines, our organist, soon to be Director of Music and Organist. His choice of music, liturgical music history knowledge, and his extraordinary playing are all rolled into one phenomenal package. Charles is a truly talented musician. We can learn a lot from him. We are fortunate to have him in our midst.

As I write this, my final music report, I look back over the past 23 years and count you, dear Christ Church Family, among my many blessings. I am grateful for your friendship, love, and support. I will remember the many times Spirit was with us, “When in Our Music God is Glorified.”

I now turn the baton over to Charles W. Raines, Director of Music and Organist 2022. Best wishes, Charles.

*Peace and love –*

[Pam Goody](#), your friend and neighbor

## **WORSHIP AND ARTS TEAM (WARTS) AND LAY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Worship continued to be guided by quarterly meetings of Worship and Arts. The group shaped the configuration of the Sunday altar service team to effectively lead worship with fewer worship volunteers, and a live-streamed format. They continued to provide feedback and suggestions for the various seasonal changes in the liturgy that were also demanded in response to the pandemic. A few highlights included another expertly crafted, fully recorded Easter worship, thanks to the technical coordination of Tim Lysaght, Grant Furguele, Charles Raines, Pam Goody and the Choir, and the participation of numerous households who recorded pieces at home. A new offering was a Zoom presentation of the 7 Last Words on Good Friday, which replaced the traditional noon Good Friday Prayerbook liturgy. Meditations were provided by parishioners Claudia Yapp, Abby Carr, Annie Russell, Joe Leghorn, Jean McCarthy, Duncan Allen, and Stanley Hitron. This was a tremendous success and likely will be repeated. We also tried another year with 7 week expanded Advent. It is not clear if we will work with this another year, as it does not line up well with available curriculum for Church School.

Liturgy is the work of the people. Thank you to all those who lead us in the worship of God. Lectors, Intercessors, Crucifers, and Ushers participated via sign up genius. Those who served in these ways included:

**Lectors/Intercessors:** Duncan Allen, Phil Trussell, Phil Bergen, Debby Rempis, Abby Carr, Amy Sweeney, Annie Russell, MaryAnn Ryan, and Rich Gatto

**Crucifers:** Troy Wainwright, Claire Aufferman, Kate Black, Rich Gatto

**Ushers:** Brian Mukherjee, Brendan Mukherjee, Amy and Joe Sweeney, Rosemarie Rappold, Tedi Eaton, Dusty Hecker, Phil Bergen, Dorothy Rifai, Elaine Sweet, William Kence, Christian Kence, Pete and Ann Lyons, Hannah Lyons, Mary Carr, and John Carr.

**WARTS** was Abby Carr, Annie Russell, Kristin Aufferman, Duncan Allen, and Pam Goody, along with the Rector.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
[Nick Morris-Kliment](#)

## EDUCATION

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### *Continuing in the Apostles' Teaching and Fellowship*

#### **WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

We spent the first half of 2021 using Zoom to finish studying The Apocrypha, which is a collection of Jewish writings from the time between the writing of the Old Testament and the New Testament, 300 BCE-100 CE. Recognized as canonical by the Catholic Church, but not by Jews or Protestants, it provided us a wonderful bridge between the two testaments, showing us the connections that link the two parts and make it a seamless work.

We were treated to a wonderful Zoom presentation by Linnea Wren about paintings of Judith, a female Jewish leader we had read about, by several prominent artists, including Artemisia Gentileschi, a woman artist from the Renaissance. We had a virtual tour of objects from the MFA that relate to what we studied, such as a Rembrandt image of Tobit and a silver menorah. The evening class had enough sessions left in the spring to do a short unit on angels, their scriptural imagery (no wings!) and duties. We were able to join in person for a picnic lunch at DeFazio after the last class. Donations were made in honor of our learning together to the Needham Community Council and Circle of Hope who both provide help during the pandemic.

In the fall of 2021, we started gathering in a hybrid format, in-person in the Memorial Room and virtually online. Thanks to donations we have a device called OWL to help with the technology. We are studying Genesis this academic year. It's providing us a wonderful foundation to understand all the books that come after it, especially Exodus and Psalms. There are so many references to it in the New Testament that we are developing a deeper appreciation for the intentions of the gospel writers.

The Scripture Study Fund has provided us with companion texts again, for which we are grateful. We're using Robert Alter's *Genesis*. There are two extra copies in the Memorial Room bookshelves if you can find them there. They seem to be very popular. We have new members who contribute meaningfully to the discussion. Several people who had stopped attending when we were only on Zoom, have returned in person. Our numbers hover around 30 combined in the Morning and Evening classes.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Tracy Rubin](#)

#### **CHURCH SCHOOL**

The Church School program continued to be in a time of discernment during Covid-tide in 2021. While inside teaching and learning on Sundays continued to be on hold, Church School families took advantage of outdoor opportunities to gather and stay connected, including an Easter egg hunt on Easter day. Thank you to the O'Connell, Kence, and Lyons families for organizing that event. Sundae Sunday (with an Ice Cream Truck and Bouncy House) in September, Blessing of the Animals, and the Advent Tree Lighting also provide times of outdoor fellowship for Church School families. The mid-December availability of vaccinations for children provided a lull in the pandemic such that many families were comfortable coming inside for a Pageant and Communion service.

Thank you to the Lockhart and Sterling households, and to the families of the Pageant Players for organizing this perennial favorite. **As always, it was the best pageant ever!**

The future is full of promise. The Vestry has authorized the creation of a part-time Assistant for Family Ministries to support families in their Christian growth. A team of dedicated parents and teachers—including Kevin Ruddy, Patty Smith, Diane Gaitley, Alyssa Kence, Christina O’Connell, Virginia Carnahan, and Emily McConarty—has met with Nick and the Rev. Emily Garcia, an expert practitioner of ministry with children, to reboot the Church School community. An energetic Epiphany event hopefully will have taken place by the time you are reading this. More important, with Emily’s help, the group is visioning the Church School we desire, and then defining and designing this position to nurture this vision. My gratitude goes to this team, as well as to families who have been able to take part in our limited offerings. As I have been saying to the group, I believe something good is waiting to happen!

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Nick](#)

### **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

The Confirmation Class has been meeting regularly since early October with nine students, which is very exciting since it’s the first church school class we’ve been able to hold since COVID started. We’ve covered a variety of topics, including the Baptismal Covenant, and undertaken a Thanksgiving service project in which we made cards and turkeys for inclusion in Thanksgiving meals donated to Needham residents. They have also participated in leading worship as Crucifers, Ushers, and Altar Assistants. In addition, pandemic permitting, we will be attending the Barbara C. Harris Camp for a pre-Confirmation Retreat, as well as participating in the City Reach program with the unhoused at our Cathedral.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Kevin Ruddy](#)

### **PUTTING DOWN ROOTS**

The class, led by the Rector to deepen our understanding of our Christian faith, particularly for newcomers, and leading to membership at Christ Church, did not meet in 2021.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Nick Morris-Kliment](#)

## EVANGELISM & FELLOWSHIP

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*Proclaiming by Word and Example the Good News of God in Christ*

### **(EXPANDED) ADVENT WREATH MAKING**

Greens again were provided graciously by Barbara Jones from her yard. These greens, along with electric votives in Advent blue, a sheet of prayers, and oasis (a substance that holds water to keep the greens, well, green) were made available at the Advent Tree Lighting for households to take home to create 7-fold wreaths

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Nick Morris-Kliment](#)

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS & E BLASTS**

The eBlasts continue to be important as much of the parish continues to participate in service virtually. We now produce four communications for the parish each week:

1. Thursday news & announcements: this is posted on Facebook and linked to in the bulletin and on Facebook, YouTube, and our website.
2. Friday worship access: links to the Sunday service, the PDF bulletin, and access codes for the
3. Sunday Zoom Coffee Hour: an email sent on Sundays at 10:15 with just the Zoom Coffee hour link.
4. Hard copy announcements: inserted into the Sunday bulletin

Our average open rate is 37%, which is 3% higher than the industry average. This is down 9% from last year's average open rate. Our click rate is 19% (clicking through links on the eBlast), which is 11% higher than industry average. This is down 4% from last year. The open rate decreased from 40%-50% at the end of May to 30%-40%. It jumped up to 45%-55% in November at the start of Expanded Advent.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Ali Heard](#)

### **COFFEE HOUR COORDINATION**

Coffee Hour attendance was greatly reduced in 2021 due to COVID. So, we reduced the number of hosts to 2 people instead of 3 and instituted safety precautions for the servers, such as wearing gloves and spacing the food away from each other on the trays. Finding people to host was more challenging than usual as there were fewer people coming to church, but those who were called upon were happy to help, as always. Thanks to all who hosted this year, and a special thank you to Ali Heard for all her help with the constantly changing instructions.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Debby Rempis](#)

### **COMMUNITY ART GALLERY (IN THE UPPER PARISH HALL)**

From the spring of 2020 through the fall of this year, the Community Art Gallery was exhibiting "A Years of Skies" by Bridget Kely Kendall. In November, The Gallery launched the exhibition,

“Nature’s Bounty,” by artist [Nancy Present-VanBroekhoven](#), an accomplished watercolorist who is donating 20% of all sales to [Silent Spring Institute](#). This is a nonprofit organization whose mission is dedicated to scientific research that looks at potential environmental causes of breast cancer. An art reception was held during coffee hour on November 21.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

Ali Heard on behalf Lucy LaFleche and Pam Goody

## **MEN’S FELLOWSHIP DINNERS**

The men's dinner was dispensed with due to Covid-19. We had dinners at Cuttyhunk but as a separate monthly meeting, Covid protocols prevented any indoor dining. When it is safe to dine indoors, I will send notice to the current members of the Mens’ Group and new church members inviting them to join us. Please email [Bill Eichhold](#) to learn more and join the fun.

## **MEN’S PRAYER GROUP**

The Men’s Prayer Group continued to meet weekly this past year over Zoom. The group meets on Tuesday mornings from 8-9:00 AM. We always welcome new men who are curious about how to make sense of Scripture. On average we had about six curious souls attend regularly, with as many as eight. Rev. Nick is our host and helps us deepen our understanding of both historical context and cultural dynamics of Jesus' time. Each week a different member of the group is responsible for bringing a Scripture verse or a spiritual writing for us to discuss. We read the piece as if we were a monastic, in the style of *Lectio Divina* (Latin for "Divine Reading"), which is a traditional monastic practice of Scriptural reading, meditation and prayer that is intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's Word. Please consider joining us as we love the opportunity to welcome new participants into our group for fellowship and study.

*Blessings and Gratitude to you!*

[John Carr](#)

## **A RETURN TO CUTTYHUNK**

After one year of a Covid hiatus, on the weekend of September 17-20, 15 souls attended the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Cuttyhunk Men’s Retreat. Chris Swanton, Dave Carnahan, John Carr, Nick, Bob Begin, Bob Bell, Phil Bergen, Bill Eichhold, Brian Horrigan, Steve Peck, Tim Lysaght, Jeff Murphy, Brian Mukherjee, Michael Niden, and Matt Kastantin attended. Out of an abundance of Covid 19 caution, all journeyers were tested before the trip. Needless to say, all tested negative and there was no post-Cuttyhunk Covid breakthrough.

The journeyers traveled to the island via the Cuttyhunk Ferry or Captain Steve Peck’s Sailboat Lotus II. It was a beautiful sail from Woods Hole to Cuttyhunk.

We sorely missed Chef Leghorn and his epicurean delights. We all pitched in, improvised, and created delicious meals from the sea, the soil, and the range. For dessert, we served Admiral Joe Barr’s Banana Foster, a hit for 17 years. We remembered our Cuttyhunk brothers who are either no longer with us or no longer can go. There are always new attendees, so we take turns sharing who we are, what Christ Church means to us, and what we were thankful for.

Each night after dinner we had Compline from the New Zealand Prayer Book followed by spirited and meaningful discussions.

On Thursday night we had a wonderful oyster reception. The event was hosted by Brian Horrigan and oysters supplied Seth Garfield's, Cuttyhunk Shellfish Company. Our days consisted of reading, hiking, fishing, birdie ball, and relaxing. At any time, one could walk out onto the porch overlooking Gay Head and find someone to "chew the fat" with. On Friday Nick lead "A Walk in God's Good Creation" to Cuttyhunk's West End. Along the path, we would stop and listen to Nick read preselected Bible passages. Collectively we reflected and shared our thoughts and feelings in response.

On Sunday, we all participated in a beautiful Eucharist, cleaned up, and headed home. The trip home on Lotus II was a little more spirited with significantly rougher seas and ended with a tow back to Woods Hole Harbor.

We met our mission of creating lasting and deeper relationships between the men of Christ Church. The 2022 Trip is planned for September 15-18

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Mike Niden](#)

## **OFFICE OPERATIONS**

Office operations provides essential support for the evangelism and fellowship ministries. The operations continue to be full and robust. Office operations have morphed yet again as the Church reopened and continued offering virtual services. I continue to expand and grow the role taking on additional responsibilities and work to streamline operations to increase effectiveness.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Ali Heard](#)

## **REGATHERING TEAM**

The Regathering Team met periodically through the year to prayerfully discuss and reassess plans for worship and fellowship, following guidance from the Diocese and state and local Covid-19 restrictions. During the year, we were able to move worship back into the Main Sanctuary safely, with masks, and held a number of in-person events both outdoors and inside, following protocols. The infection surges following the Delta and Omicron variants required making and revisiting our plans, frequent check-ins and agile decision making, including moving to suspend coffee hours in recent weeks. While we long to be together again without restrictions, we are encouraged by our hybrid live streamed and in person worship experiences, and we are so grateful for the parish's flexibility, patience, and good humor throughout this season. The Regathering Team is Joe Barr, Abby Barr, Brian Mukherjee, Annie Russell, Nancy Stern, and the Rector.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Abby Carr](#)

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Nick and I focus on sharing relevant, meaningful, and timely information. At the end of 2021, we had 273 Facebook followers. The Sunday 10am service is live-streamed through a Facebook event and on our website. I regularly updated the cover photos and profile picture to be seasonally relevant. I post pictures about parish life as Church activities, and events occur. Please send pictures of your events, activities, and meetings to share! Weekly on Youtube, I post the 10am service and the sermon. We also use Youtube to post the occasional video announcement about a special event or season.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Ali Heard](#)

## TECHNOLOGY

A variety of technological developments have graced this past year to help us navigate the pandemic. Livestreaming of Sunday morning worship has proceeded with the expert guidance of Tim Lysaght, with help from Annie Russell and Jamie Morris-Kliment. Optimum microphone placement after experimentation has helped the sound quality of Sunday broadcasts remain high. In order to facilitate hybrid community, we have procured a dedicated laptop for Coffee Hour. For meetings such as Wednesday Bible Study and Vestry, as well as periodic staff meetings we have procured OWL technology thanks to a generous donor, which allows people at home to see and hear people in the meeting room at Church, and allows people at the Church to see people at home projected onto screen, and to hear them through the OWL speaker. Office operations have been smoothed by remote bill pay capability, which allows for more timely paying of bills and for signatory flexibility for Wardens, Assistant Treasurer and the enhanced the option of working at home when weather or illness intrudes. In addition, we are looking into managing our cloud and tech functions ourselves, in order to reduce our current, sometimes pricey, reliance on our traditional technology consultants.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Nick Morris-Kliment](#)

## THE VISITOR NEWSLETTER

*The Visitor*, Christ Church's newsletter, is sent out to the congregation throughout the year via e-mail, or as hard copy to those who request it. In 2021, three issues were created. Copies are snail-mailed to about 35 subscribers, electronic copies are posted on the Christ Church website ([ccneedham.org](http://ccneedham.org)) and linked in the Thursday email blasts. *The Visitor* reports on church happenings and parishioner activities and informs the congregation of upcoming church-related events. A monthly calendar is included in each issue. Editors Donna Vello and Harding Ounanian, Jr. receive articles and photos for each issue from church members, staff, and leadership. Donna and Harding compile and edit stories, add additional graphics, design and create the document. Photos and graphics are encouraged with submissions and included when available. Issues are also archived on the Christ Church website.

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Donna Vello](#) & [Harding Ounanian, Jr.](#)

## **WEBSITE**

Our website serves two broad purposes. It is a “front door” and “window” for those seeking information about us and hopefully, seeking a church home. Equally important, it is a multi-faceted medium of communication with parishioners about events and programs. Our site was developed in 2013 by an active committee of parishioners and Tech-tamer, Inc. My primary role is to regularly update the “News” and “Upcoming Events” sections of the homepage, provide seasonally appropriate updates to the homepage slideshow, update the online calendar, and post worship materials. In addition to those weekly tasks, I have created an updated and relevant Members section and am updating the copy and images on the website as time permits. I invite program leadership to suggest updates of the sections describing their purpose and activities. And I especially invite photographs of church activities for use on the site.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Ali Heard](#)

## **WOMEN’S MINISTRY**

During 2021, the women of the congregation have gathered a few times, outdoors due to Covid-19. A group of 20 women had a wonderful evening under the heat lamps on the patio of Hearth Pizzeria here in Needham. In June we had a large gathering as well in Kim Lysaght’s backyard around the pool. Over the summer a group also gathered at the home of Alyssa Kence. Plans are being made for a February 2022 Zoom gathering.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Donna Vello](#)

## PASTORAL CARE

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*Serving Christ in All Persons, Loving Neighbors as Ourselves*

### **INTERCESSORY PRAYER GROUP**

The Intercessory Prayer Group continues to be busy during the Ongoing Time of Covid-19 2021.

The numbers of both our membership and those being served remain constant and there are about 88 people or concerns being prayed for every day during the month, with notes sent to some people if it is deemed appropriate. It is a ministry that continues to leap across borders of nationality, status, race, and religion...all God's children are included.

The prayer list is updated via email during the month as concerns come in or change. A clean, updated list is sent out to the members on the 25th of every month. It is sent as a PDF file, along with a monthly meditation. (A few lists are printed and mailed to members who do not have comfortable access to computers.)

We are still enjoying the convenience of meeting via Zoom on the third Sunday of every month. These meetings enable members who would not be able to attend an in-person meeting to gather, talk, and pray together. The faithful core of the group continues in its ministry during this pandemic and members have been sharing prayers and information about additional opportunities to pray.

We are grateful for the blessing of being able to serve God and God's children through prayer. Prayer is a gift of God to us to develop the relationship between us. As such it is the foundation of our faith and spiritual journey. In this ministry, we are blessed daily to see God's loving presence among us.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Claudia Yapp](#)

### **KNITTING MINISTRY**

After more than twenty years, we are still knitting prayer shawls, pocket prayer shawls, winter hats, and afghans on the first Monday of the month in the Memorial Room. The prayer shawls given to anyone in need of comfort from illness, death, or stress in the family. The hats are sent in town to our MANNA friends on the days that Christ Church hosts the lunch at the Cathedral.

Meetings have been irregular this year due to the virus. However, we do our best to knit at home. We always need more hats, so any knitters, please consider knitting and donating hats! We always need more! Knitters are ALWAYS welcome. Just call the office or Bea.

#### **Members**

Marcia White, Linda Bloom, Barbara Brailey, Heidi Fieldston, Pat Kingston, Winnie West, Emily O'Neill, Bea Dagdigian

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Beatrice Dagdigian](#) (781-444-1013)

## PASTORAL RESPONSE MINISTRY

The Pastoral Response Ministry seeks to find ways that we as a parish can come together and care for each other in times of difficulty and transition, supporting the efforts of clergy and bringing our Christian community together. This caring and sharing strengthens our community, as the person in need and the helper grow in faith as they move together through difficult times.

The members of PRM serve at the invitation of the Rector. This group provides confidential support to the clergy in their pastoral work, as well as providing direct support to parish members during difficult times. Led by Rev. Nick Morris-Kliment, the members of PRM for 2021 include Barbara Brailey, Jean McCarthy, Patty Smith, and Christine Ruddy. Long term PRM member Barbara Murphy retired from PRM in mid-2021 when she and Jeff moved to Cape Cod. We all are so grateful for her compassionate service to our parish for so many years, and we wish her well in her new home. The PRM group meets on Tuesday, on a weekly or biweekly basis as needed.

The COVID-19 Pandemic continues to present challenges, and the committee met by Zoom for most of 2021. Throughout much of 2021, we were limited in our ability to visit our home-bound members and those dealing with serious illness. While the vaccines have helped in this regard, we are carefully watching the developments with new variants and will adjust accordingly to comply with applicable protocols to help keep our fellow parishioners safe and healthy. We will continue our important ministry of sending cards and letters to let people know they are in our prayers. We hope to get back to organizing luncheons for older parishioners and providing meals to those in recovery from hospitalization or other serious illness when virus transmission and safety guidelines allow.

As in prior years, PRM committee members sent approximately 110 notes offering prayers, support, or condolences during the year. The committee also sent cards to celebrate with parishioners in times of joy. At Thanksgiving, cards were sent to parishioners who were house-bound or otherwise in need of a check in. At Easter and Christmas time we delivered flowers to shut-ins and those bereaved in the previous year. We also are in very regular phone contact with shut-ins and others needing support.

If you or someone you know might need support, please contact Rev. Nick or any member of PRM. We are all pleased to have continued to serve our church community as best we can through another challenging year.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Christine Ruddy](#)

617-943-0435

## VALENTINE CARE PACKAGES

Valentine's Care packages are for our college-age and military kids. With the generous donations and support of parishioners, we send a snack care package with a letter from the Rector to all college students and to those in the military to show that Christ Church is thinking about them, and that God loves them. We sent over a dozen care packages this past year.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Kim Rutherford](#)

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## SERVICE

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### *Striving for Justice and Peace Among All People*

#### **B-LOVE**

Christ Church has continued to support the food program at St. Stephen's Church on Shawmut Ave in Boston. Thirty bags of groceries were collected and delivered two times during 2021. We also collected and delivered laundry detergent, a highly requested item by the families who are served through B-LOVE.

B-SAFE, the summer camp program which is held in five Boston locations and also coordinated by the staff at St. Stephen's, was able to run a COVID-safe program this past summer. We delivered 80 bagged lunches loaded with sandwiches and other goodies for the students, counselors and staff to St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Dorchester, the site that Christ Church was assigned to.

Thank you to all who donated groceries, money and/or time to this effort to be the hands and feet of God.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Kathleen Kelley](#), [Donna Vello](#), and [Virginia Carnahan](#)

#### **COMMUNITY CONCERNS COMMITTEE**

We are all very aware of the need for food and housing assistance, medical support, counseling and other services in our community, our country and around the world. At Christ Church, we are trying to do our small part to alleviate suffering and provide for the health and dignity of all.

As we continue to deal with the effects of a global pandemic, the Community Concerns Committee carefully allocated our 2021 charitable funds to organizations where we believe they will have the most impact. We are grateful to parishioners and church leadership for your generosity in supporting our efforts. Our total budget this year was \$12,000, plus an additional \$525 raised from the sale of Christmas amaryllis. As in 2020, we determined it would be best to allocate all funds in early spring, rather than in a spring and fall installment as in the past.

Haiti, the poorest country in our hemisphere, has a special place in the hearts of Christ Church parishioners. The current political unrest, coupled with health crises from COVID and the continuing effects of extreme weather events, have presented Haiti with incredible challenges. This year we again supported women's and children's health in Haiti with contributions to **Innovating Health International** (which concentrates on early detection of cervical cancer) and **Midwives for Haiti**. We further assisted Haiti by making a grant to **Herd Heroes**, which provides pregnant female goats to impoverished families in L'Azile, Haiti. Locally, we supported the Gift of Warmth program at the **Needham Department of Public Health**, as well as the food pantry of the **Needham Community Council**. We also continued our support of **Ecclesia**, **Epiphany School**, **Fair Foods**, and our own **MANNA Monday Lunch Program**. We supported women in shelters seeking a new life free of domestic violence, the clinicians at **Boston Health Care for the Homeless**, and veterans and refugees served by **The New England Center for Homeless Veterans** and **Refugee Immigration Ministry**. This year we added two new grantees, **World Central Kitchen** and **The Johns Hopkins Center for**

American Indian Health. For a full description of our 2021 supported organizations, please see the list below.

*The Community Concerns Committee invites any and all to join us at our twice-yearly meetings (spring and fall) to learn more about this interesting and rewarding ministry. We welcome new members! Please contact any committee member below to find out how to get involved.*

**Current Members:**

Sue Barber [sabarber1@verizon.net](mailto:sabarber1@verizon.net)

Joanne Neale (Chair) [jmneale@gmail.com](mailto:jmneale@gmail.com)

Christine Ruddy [cgibsonruddy@gmail.com](mailto:cgibsonruddy@gmail.com)

Donna Vello [donna.vello@gmail.com](mailto:donna.vello@gmail.com)

**2021 Community Concerns Committee Grant Allocations**

\$300	<b>Needham Board of Health</b>	Emergency funds for heat assistance for Needham residents through The Gift of Warmth
\$800	<b>Needham Community Council</b>	Funds for food pantry
\$300	<b>Ecclesia (Boston Common Ministries)</b>	Provides outdoor services, food, physical and emotional support to homeless on Boston Common
\$700	<b>Riverside Community Care</b>	Serves local teens and their families who are facing crises with alcohol and drug abuse, escalating family conflict, eating disorders or serious emotional problems
\$400	<b>Epiphany School</b>	An independent, tuition-free, middle school for economically disadvantaged children
\$500	<b>Monday Lunch Program - MANNA-COVID Response</b>	Christ Church shelter cooking ministry at St. Paul's Cathedral
\$500	<b>Fair Foods</b>	Provides surplus donated food to very poor families in Boston for \$2.00 per bag
\$400	<b>Boston Health Care for the Homeless - SPOT Clinic</b>	Treating the health care needs of homeless individuals; SPOT Clinic is for substance addiction treatment
\$1000	<b>New England Center for Homeless Veterans</b>	Offers food and shelter, counseling and job training for men and women vets who are struggling with addiction, trauma, mental illness and/or unemployment
\$500	<b>Renewal House</b>	Domestic violence shelter for homeless women and their children

\$500	<b>Finex House, Inc.</b>	Shelter for abused women and their children, especially those with disabilities or those who are trafficked
\$500	<b>Respond, Inc.</b>	Domestic violence shelter, supporting homeless women and their children
\$500	<b>Transition House</b>	Shelter for abused women and their children
\$700	<b>Boston Health Care for the Homeless</b>	Inpatient facility treating the health care needs of homeless individuals discharged from acute care hospital; Barbara McInnis House
\$500	<b>Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health (NEW)</b>	Based at the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, the Johns Hopkins Center for American Indian Health supports and implements public health interventions designed for and by Native peoples, with the mission to promote health equity for Native Americans. Their work includes behavioral health, mental health, infectious disease prevention, higher education, and leadership development. They currently work directly with 149 Tribal communities in 23 states, and their health communication resources are used by Tribes across the country.
\$200	<b>Little Brothers – Friends of the Elderly</b>	(in Boston) a national, non-profit, volunteer-based organization committed to relieving isolation and loneliness among the elderly
\$300	<b>Herd Heroes</b>	The purchase of one doe (a female goat) for a rural Haitian family will provide a continuous source of income for children’s school tuition and essential household purchases. Prioritizes young mothers in rural L’Azile, Haiti as recipients and also provides access to unlimited veterinary and breeding services at no additional cost
\$200	<b>The Grow Clinic</b>	Provides comprehensive specialty medical, nutritional, developmental and social services and dietary assistance to very young FTT (Failure to Thrive) patients and their families at Boston Medical Center
\$300	<b>Women’s Lunch Place</b>	Provides meals and resources for poor and homeless women in Boston
\$800	<b>Refugee Immigration Ministry (RIM)</b>	Assists immigrants and asylum seekers from many countries; provides advice, pastoral counseling, legal assistance and help with housing and medical needs
\$300	<b>Circle of Hope</b>	Provides clothing and necessities to homeless children, women and men in and around Boston in order to preserve and enhance overall health and dignity

\$300	<b>Action for Boston Community Development</b>	Provides basic services and programs for individuals, families, and communities in Boston to overcome poverty and live with dignity
\$925	<b>Innovating Health International Inc.</b>	Provides cancer care and cancer prevention in Haiti and other developing countries. When we received word in December that the Haiti program was in danger of running out of funds, we increased their initial \$400 grant with the \$525 proceeds from the sale of Christmas amaryllis
\$500	<b>Midwives for Haiti</b>	Trains midwives to increase access to skilled maternity care in Haiti
\$500	<b>World Central Kitchen (NEW)</b>	Founded by Chef Jose Andres in 2010 after the earthquake in Haiti, WCK has created a new model for disaster relief - helping devastated communities recover and establish resilient food systems. Their programs include emergency food relief (serving freshly made food to people affected by disaster), supporting communities most affected by the climate crisis, support for small food producers, and moving kitchens away from harmful wood & charcoal cooking
\$100	<b>MANNA Monday Lunch Program</b>	Supplies for our church's shelter cooking ministry (Monday Lunch Program)
		<b>TOTAL GIVEN \$12,525.00</b>

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Joanne Neale](#)

## THE GIVING TREE

Thanks to the dedicated leadership of [Donna Vello](#), [Harding Ounanian, Jr.](#), and [Alyssa Kence](#), Christ Church parishioners again provided women's winter care packages for those who live at Shepherd House, a drug and alcohol recovery home in Boston, as well as holiday gifts for their children who live elsewhere. Parishioners also provided gift cards for groceries and other necessities for women living at Transition House, a domestic violence shelter in Cambridge. The fruits of the congregation's generous donations are gratefully received by these agencies and those they serve.

## HAITI PARTNERSHIP

During 2021, Christ Church renewed and revitalized our partnership with St. Luc's Parish in Lasile, Haiti. After a period of discernment, the Vestry voted to continue this important international mission, which is funded through the parish budget and individual donations. In addition, the Christ Church Haiti Council was formed to spearhead and administer the relationship.

During the lull between coronavirus variants, in late September, the group held an in-person planning meeting under the white tent on Needham Common. Council members and their roles were agreed upon as follows:

Duncan Allen - Finance  
Heidi Fieldston - Music program  
Rich and Claudia Gatto - Coffee hour  
Holly Hartman - Adviser  
Cecile Leroy - Co-coordinator  
Nick Morris-Kliment - Adviser  
Margaret Pantridge - Co-coordinator

More recently, the Council was delighted to welcome Betsy Keener as a new member.

The Council's first activity was hosting coffee hour on November 14. Through the generosity of Christ Church parishioners, the Council raised more than \$200 by selling Singing Rooster coffee and chocolate bars. This closed a gap in funding the Lasil music program that remained for the fall semester after individual donations. A generous donation from Betsy and Bob Keener will fund the coming semester.

The Council renewed warm communications with Father Milor, the pastor of St. Luc's who is our primary liaison. His assistance is especially important in years when we are unable to send a delegation to visit Lasil.

The council welcomes new members. It is not necessary for members to travel to Haiti. If you are interested, please contact Cecile Leroy at [clhutton@gmail.com](mailto:clhutton@gmail.com) or Margaret Pantridge at [mpantridge@verizon.net](mailto:mpantridge@verizon.net).

*Respectfully Submitted,*  
[Margaret Pantridge](#)

## **MANNA MONDAY LUNCH PROGRAM**

Due to the consistent generosity and hard work of our faithful volunteers, the MANNA Monday Lunch Program was able to complete another year of delivering food to our sisters and brothers at the Cathedral of St. Paul in downtown Boston, one Sunday each month. Once again, we had to work within our new format, which meant preparing the food at the homes of the various volunteer families, rather than being able to gather in our Christ Church kitchen to prepare it. The pandemic has also largely prevented us from having a dedicated group of parishioners go down to the cathedral in person to serve the lunch on Mondays. We miss those opportunities to be together, and the MANNA Community misses us very much as well! We hope to find ways to modify how we do things as we go forward, to provide more opportunities for community and fellowship.

However, we carried on the MANNA Ministry in the best way we could, considering the challenges presented by the COVID pandemic, and we are ready and determined to do the same in 2022.

Since annual reports often contain numbers, here are some from the 2021 MANNA Program:

**VOLUNTEERS:** At least 50 different individuals volunteered during 2021.

(Many were repeat - month after month. Others were occasional.)

**FOOD MADE AND DONATED:**

Casseroles: 59 (Each containing 5 lbs ground beef, macaroni and spaghetti/tomato sauces.) Baked

Goods: 1200 Individually wrapped cookies, brownies, muffins, etc.

Bananas: 900

Bagged lunches: 900 Lunches (Each consisting of a sandwich, juice box and occasional treat.)

**DRIVERS:** 5 Different individuals and families drove the food from Christ Church to the cathedral on various Sundays during 2021.

In a recent conversation with the Rev. Jennifer McCracken, the priest to MANNA at The Cathedral of St. Paul, she stated how grateful she and her staff are to Christ Church Needham, as well as to all of the other churches who participate in this program. She, too, stated that she truly hopes more of us will feel comfortable going down to the cathedral in person to visit with the folks at MANNA and to help serve lunch to them as we go forward in 2022.

*A HUGE THANK YOU TO EACH AND EVERY PERSON AND FAMILY WHO VOLUNTEERED AND HELPED MANNA MONDAY LUNCH DURING 2021. YOU ARE ALL WONDERFUL!!*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Ingrid Melvin](#) and [Joanna Starr](#)

**RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE**

Christ Church's Racial Justice Initiative completed its first year in October 2021 and continued to meet monthly via Zoom. Since we are a new group for Christ Church, we thought it would be helpful to remind parishioners of our origins and mission.

In the spring of 2020, a series of brutal and senseless deaths involving people of color led many to recognize the ongoing and systemic crisis of racial injustice in America. In response, the Vestry charged our Rector to recruit a group of parishioners to help our parish explore how we are called – individually and together – to dismantle racism and, in doing so, to truly love our neighbor as Jesus calls us to do.

Whereas, it is the call of Episcopal Christians by our Baptismal Covenant (BCP, p. 305) to seek and serve Christ in all persons loving our neighbor as ourselves; and to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being; and Whereas, we believe that all humans are created in the Divine Image (Genesis 1.27-28); and Whereas, it is the call of all Christians to be “ministers of reconciliation” (2 Corinthians 5.18);

Therefore, the Vestry of Christ Church, Needham, Massachusetts, as leaders of this Christian community, acknowledges the inequity of racism.

In response, we will exert ourselves beyond our convenience to love our neighbors as ourselves by prayerfully:

~ committing to exploration, listening, and reflection to understand the nature and sources of these sins.

~ committing to engage in just actions and practices which promote the equality and dignity of all people.

The Racial Justice Initiative was formed as a direct result of this charge. It was and still is co-chaired by Bob Keener and Cynthia Anderson, and currently includes these additional founding members: John Carr, Heidi Fieldston, Janet Haines, Sandy Kastantin, Donna Vello and our Rector Nick.

Our first offering to the parish was the 21-day Racial Equity Challenge, which participants found to be very powerful. Led by Heidi Fieldston, the program prompted daily explorations of race, racial identity, and racism with the goal of making such personal explorations a regular habit. For those who are interested in addressing racism, it can be helpful to be “ever mindful” – especially when our history tends toward ignoring racism and the harm it causes.

Later in the year, the group decided to work with the Vestry to endorse a strong statement about our parish’s stance against racism. We had two very fruitful discussions with Vestry that focused on our initial proposed statement and then a revised version. Through those discussions, we found that strongly held beliefs differed enough that consensus would be difficult. In the end, we decided to table that effort and turned attention to finding offerings for our parish and other opportunities for education and action.

We decided to offer an Episcopal Church program called [Sacred Ground](#). Luckily, Nick found parishioners at St. Paul’s in Natick who had participated in the program and were planning another one. They welcomed us and we partnered with them to offer it starting in late January or early February of 2022.

The program is designed specifically for Episcopal Churches and features documentary films and readings that focus on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian/Pacific American histories as they intersect with European American histories. In the words of the curriculum introduction, guided discussions are designed to help participants “peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day – all while grounded in our call to faith, hope and love.”

The Racial Justice Initiative group will keep meeting to plan additional offerings and actions. We are also ready to welcome other interested parishioners. Please consider joining us!

*Respectfully submitted,*

[Bob Keener](#) and [Cynthia Anderson](#), co-chairs

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## STEWARDSHIP

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*Cherishing the wonderful works of God and protecting the beauty and integrity of all creation*

### **ASSISTANT TREASURER'S STATEMENT – JANUARY 20, 2021**

This statement presents information on Christ Church, Needham's 2021 operating results and its operating budget for 2022. The information on revenues and expenses for 2021 in this statement relies on the Statement of Activities for January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, as reported by the Church's accounting system, and on a statement from the Diocese of Massachusetts identifying payments made on our 'green loan' for 2021. The Assistant Treasurer does not represent that this information constitutes a full statement of the financial position of the Parish.

At its meeting on January 18, 2022, the Vestry of Christ Church adopted a budget for 2022 including the revenues shown in Table 1 and the expenses shown in Table 2. These tables also show the corresponding budget for 2021, actuals from 2021, and differences between the 2022 budget and the 2021 actuals. The tables use a slightly more complex structure than those from prior years based on changes made to the church's chart of accounts, including both expenses and revenues associated with special endowment draws.

A table has been added to show adjustments to the total surplus value for 2021 which in the Assistant Treasurer's opinion, brings it more in line with the amounts in past Treasurer's reports and makes it comparable to the amount in the budget for 2022.

## Revenues

<b>Table 1. Revenues</b>	<b>2021 Annual Budget</b>	<b>2021 End of Year</b>	<b>2022 Annual Budget</b>	<b>Budget 2022 - EOY 2021</b>
<b>Offerings</b>				
Pledge Income	\$ 331,565	\$ 343,758	\$ 317,500	\$ (26,258)
Regular Operating Support	\$ 31,625	\$ 29,695	\$ 25,083	\$ (4,613)
Loose Plate	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,487	\$ 2,000	\$ 513
Christmas & Easter Offerings	\$ 4,000	\$ 3,115	\$ 4,000	\$ 885
Donations/Gifts	\$ 15,000	\$ 8,375	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,625
Music Leader Donations	\$ -	\$ 2,000	\$ -	\$ (2,000)
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 3,144	\$ 3,207	\$ 63
Summer Music	\$ -	\$ 1,060	\$ 1,250	\$ 190
Close out Friends of Music (one time)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,600	\$ 2,600
Other (misc & reimbursed processing costs)	\$ -	\$ 919	\$ -	\$ (919)
<b>Investment Income</b>				
Facility Rental Income	\$ 53,000	\$ 72,853	\$ 76,833	\$ 3,980
Endowment Income (Four Points)	\$ 42,409	\$ 53,011	\$ 53,900	\$ 889
Endowment Income (Music-related funds)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,700	\$ 5,700
General Memorial Fund	\$ -	\$ 21,190	\$ 14,400	\$ (6,790)
<b>SUBTOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 479,599</b>	<b>\$ 540,607</b>	<b>\$ 518,472</b>	<b>\$ (22,135)</b>

The revenues shown in Table 1 include four items which would not have been included in revenues as presented in previous treasurer's reports:

- \$8,424 in pledge revenue from transfers of stock made in 2020 but not booked until 2021; these should have been shown as pledge revenue for 2020.
- \$10,602 in excess operating draws which will be deducted from planned draws in 2022.
- \$4,520 in endowment draws for the rectory improvement project which were not spent in 2021; and
- A rebate of \$4,375 for the boiler purchased with endowment draw funds.

The adjustments discussed above would re-state the revenues for 2021 as \$521,110. The principal reasons for this number being above the budget forecast of \$479,607 were the special endowment draw for the boiler project and rental income well above the budget forecast.

In the assistant treasurer's opinion, if the revenues for 2020 and 2021 were to be restated to adjust for the above, the recent history of Christ Church's aggregate revenues as reported in previous Treasurer's reports would be as follows, with the values in italics being restatements:

Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Revenues	\$589,482	\$ 567,019	\$ 550,233	\$ 613,366	\$ 619,459	<i>\$572,371</i>	<i>\$521,110</i>

It should be noted that the values immediately above include:

- The results of the special 'We're All In' fundraising campaign in 2018.
- Significant unrestricted donations in 2019; and
- A Federal Paycheck Protection Program loan for \$39,613 in 2020, which was forgiven in 2021.

For the year 2022, the revenues budget includes two 'one time only' entries: the use of the remainder of the 'Friends of Music' fund towards the costs of music section leaders, and \$14,400 in what the Vestry considers 'bridge funding' from the General Memorial Fund of the endowment. Such possible use was foreseen when the Vestry allocated the recent additions to the endowment from the sale of 61 Rosemary Street and the Robert Storer bequest. The ground rule for using 'bridge funding' is that a case can be made that the revenue can be expected in future years. In this specific case, growth estimated at \$14,400 can be expected as the three-year averaging process for endowment spending progresses.

## Expenses

	2021 Annual Budget	2021 End of Year	2022 Annual Budget	Budget 2022 - EOY 2021
<b>Table 2. Expenses</b>				
<b>Operations &amp; Education</b>				
Child Care	\$ 400	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Family Ministries	\$ 1,050	\$ 174	\$ 640	\$ 466
Adult Education	\$ 150	\$ 47	\$ 150	\$ 103
Holy Grounds	\$ 400	\$ 11	\$ 300	\$ 289
Music	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,172	\$ 5,180	\$ 4,008
Music Section Leaders	\$ 14,000	\$ 15,980	\$ 19,000	\$ 3,020
Office Supplies & Expense	\$ 9,000	\$ 7,213	\$ 5,000	\$ (2,213)
Vestry	\$ 800	\$ 100	\$ 800	\$ 700
Postage	\$ 1,300	\$ 1,487	\$ 1,350	\$ (137)
Stewardship & Planned Giving	\$ -	\$ 218	\$ 300	\$ 82
Telephone	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,157	\$ 3,200	\$ 43
Travel	\$ 1,200	\$ 3,304	\$ 1,500	\$ (1,804)
Treasurer	\$ 15,500	\$ 10,983	\$ 12,000	\$ 1,017
Worship	\$ 2,500	\$ 3,991	\$ 5,700	\$ 1,709
Flowers	\$ -	\$ 4,245	\$ 4,415	\$ 170
Sundry - Clergy	\$ 500	\$ 110	\$ 500	\$ 390
Technology	\$ 3,000	\$ 2,731	\$ 3,060	\$ 329
Communications	\$ 1,550	\$ 1,013	\$ 1,200	\$ 187
Fellowship	\$ 2,000	\$ 704	\$ 2,000	\$ 1,296
<b>Outreach</b>				
Community Concerns	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,425	\$ 12,000	\$ (425)
Parish Partnership (Haiti)	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,000	\$ -
<b>Payroll/ Taxes/ Insurance/ Pension</b>				
Payroll Expense	\$ 142,352	\$ 166,042	\$ 180,121	\$ 14,079
Housing Allowance	\$ 34,962	\$ 33,618	\$ 34,962	\$ 1,344
Taxes - Payroll	\$ 6,308	\$ 7,842	\$ 7,345	\$ (497)
Insurance - Health	\$ 14,700	\$ 14,935	\$ 16,332	\$ 1,397
Church Pension Premiums	\$ 17,560	\$ 25,058	\$ 25,564	\$ 506
Continuing Education (Clergy)	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,322	\$ 1,500	\$ 178
<b>Property Improvements &amp; Maintenance</b>				
Building Repairs	\$ 6,700	\$ 5,893	\$ 5,600	\$ (293)
Property Improvements	\$ 10,360	\$ 8,445	\$ 20,700	\$ 12,255
Rectory Improvement Project	\$ -	\$ 3,800	\$ 4,570	\$ -
19 Homestead	\$ -	\$ 9,820	\$ 10,000	\$ 180
Building Maintenance	\$ 26,000	\$ 8,209	\$ 8,500	\$ 291
Grounds	\$ 14,000	\$ 19,735	\$ 17,500	\$ (2,235)
Building Supplies	\$ 4,100	\$ 1,025	\$ 1,250	\$ 225
Cleaning Service	\$ 11,800	\$ 5,372	\$ 5,750	\$ 378
Electricity	\$ 4,100	\$ 5,524	\$ 4,750	\$ (774)
Heat (fuel - oil & gas)	\$ 13,500	\$ 16,294	\$ 17,000	\$ 706
Insurance - General	\$ 29,750	\$ 20,047	\$ 24,000	\$ 3,953
Copier	\$ 4,400	\$ 5,449	\$ 5,000	\$ (449)
Sewer & Water	\$ 3,200	\$ 2,490	\$ 2,600	\$ 110
<b>Diocesan Assessment</b>				
Diocesan Assessment	\$ 67,119	\$ 65,019	\$ 65,011	\$ (8)
Repay Green Loan	\$ 5,531	\$ 5,713	\$ 5,531	\$ (182)
<b>SUBTOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$ 489,792</b>	<b>\$ 503,717</b>	<b>\$ 544,881</b>	<b>\$ 41,164</b>

It should be noted that the budget for 2021 did not include an interpretation of pension requirements which the parish adjusted for in 2021, and that some increase in payroll for cleaning services was more than offset by a reduction in contracted services.

For 2022, the payroll-related items reflect a change in the configuration of the music program and the addition of a part-time staffer for family ministries; this combination did not significantly change the bottom line. Growth in the payroll-related items relative to the 2021 actuals corresponds to cost-of-living increases, and inclusion of the Rector's delayed sabbatical, and increases in health insurance costs. For Property Improvements, the estimated full amount which can be supported from the earnings of the Property Improvement Fund of the endowment is shown. Should that full amount not be required in 2021, the reduction in draw would be also shown as a reduction in revenue.

**Summary**

As tabulated below, the previously mentioned adjustments would re-state the surplus for 2021 as \$8,969:

<b>Adjustment of Surplus for 2021</b>	
Total Revenues from Above	\$ 540,607
Total Expenses from Above	\$ 503,717
<i>Surplus or Deficit per Accounting System</i>	\$ 36,890
Excess Operating Draw 2021	\$ (10,602)
Unspent Draw for Rectory Project 2021	\$ (4,520)
Boiler Rebate	\$ (4,375)
Pledge via stock for 2020 booked in 2021	\$ (8,424)
<i>Adjusted Surplus (Deficit)</i>	\$ 8,969

The budget for 2022 shows a significant deficit of \$26,408. The Finance Committee has already negotiated some reductions in original requests to some programs, but without further reductions or an increase in offerings or other revenues, it appears the church will need to resort to making a 'non-bridge' draw on the General Memorial Fund. The imbalance is significant enough that the Vestry has committed to identifying and taking actions needed to minimize or eliminate the need to rely on the 'bridge' funding in 2022 and following years, including program reconfiguration and additional sources of revenues.

*Respectfully submitted,*



[Duncan W. Allen, P. E](#)

*Assistant Treasurer*

## **GREEN TEAM**

The Green Group has been monitoring our two solar systems to make sure they continue to be operational. Together, the systems generated 57,000 kwh of electricity and saved the church more than \$4,750 on our electric bills. If anyone has ideas of ways to make the church greener, please contact Kevin Ruddy at [kruddy@ptc.com](mailto:kruddy@ptc.com). We're always looking for projects that will make us more sustainable and save the church money.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Kevin Ruddy](#)

## **INVESTMENT COMMITTEE**

### **2021 Commentary**

Favorable markets and the contribution from the sale of Rosemary combined to make 2021 a bountiful year for the endowment. It grew by \$633,167 from \$1,702,134 at the beginning of the year to finish the year at \$2,335,301. Contributions of \$457,590 and favorable performance of \$273,192 were offset by \$97,615 of withdrawals. Our allocation among equity, fixed income and cash remained relatively steady at 73/26/1 throughout the year. The allocation between our two managers changed slightly during the year. Pension & Wealth Management's share of the endowment fell from 55% to 51% while Diocesan Investment Trust's grew by 45% to 49%.

### **Pension & Wealth Management (PWM)**

PWM's annual performance fell short of its benchmark. The equity portion of the fund grew by 15.3% but underperformed its benchmark which was up 19.0%. Lagging performance was due to overexposure to small cap and Chinese stocks. Fixed income performance was helped by higher than benchmark exposure to high yield debt and exceeded its benchmark: 0.7% vs (1.5%).

### **Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)**

DIT delivered a solid year of performance with slight underperformance in its equity fund offset by better fixed income performance. As you may recall, we transitioned our equity holdings from the DIT Stock Fund (annual fee of 72bps) one year ago to the DIT Fossil Fuel Free Fund (annual fee of 47bps). So far this has been a good move as the Fossil Fuel Free Fund continued its multiyear string of outperformance versus the Stock Fund. The Fossil Fuel Free Fund did slightly underperform its benchmark: 22.9% vs 23.4%. DIT's Income Fund outperformed its benchmark, 0.4% vs (1.5%), for the same reason PWM did: higher exposure to high yield debt.

### **2022 Outlook**

Since the start of the year, equity markets have been negatively impacted by rising interest rates. Markets could continue to be choppy as high inflation persists and political jitters become more pronounced as midterm elections approach.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Dave Borah](#)

*Chair, Investment Committee*

## SANCTUARY GARDEN.... A SANCTUARY FOR LOVED ONES

The Sanctuary Garden design provides an area for caring disposition of cremated remains of loved ones. Designed as a place of living beauty, it invites one to come not only for solace but for reflection, mediation, and quiet prayer.

The blessing and dedication in memory of Phyllis L. Ferrone took place on June 11, 2000, and contributions to the Memorial Endowment Fund in Phyllis's name provided the funds necessary to create the garden. The garden is professionally planned, and no markers, bushes, trees, or other artifacts may be added without approval of the Sanctuary Garden Committee and Vestry.

The garden is maintained and managed by the Garden Committee. Brochures and applications detailing regulations and policies are available in the church office. Funding for the garden comes from fees and donations, which are used for perpetual care and improvements.

You are invited to stroll by the lighted garden after dark and enjoy its beauty.

*Respectfully Submitted,*

[Winnie West](#)

## STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

The 2022 Annual Stewardship Appeal which provides the primary funding for the operating budget began in late October with the theme of "In Joy and Hope." Our communication with the parish referenced finding the joy in the continued ministries and mission of the Church, despite the ongoing pandemic and how these joys allow us to hope for the future. We invited parishioners to think about where they have found joy and hope at Christ Church when considering their estimate of giving. The Committee Members sent follow up letters and emails and made phone calls as needed to answer questions and to respond to comments.

We thank all who contributed to the Stewardship Appeal!

Here is a comparison between 2021 and 2022 EOGs:

*This year's campaign was launched later than previous years' campaigns which made follow up challenging with the holidays and then the unexpected COVID surge. These numbers are as of January 28, 2022. Follow ups are continuing to happen.*

	2021 year	2022 year
Total EOG's	109	102
Total amount	\$339,458	\$314,839

*Respectfully submitted,*

[Kim Rocco](#) and [Jean McCarthy](#)

## ROSEMARY STREET REPORT

This report is a summary of the 61 Rosemary Street project started in late 2019 by Christ Episcopal Church Needham. 61 Rosemary St. (purchased in 2007) was an unbuildable lot lacking the required square footage (only 8945 sf and 10,000 sf is required) and inadequate frontage (65 feet and 80 feet is required). We planned to remove the church-owned house on the 65 Rosemary St. lot and take enough square footage from that lot and add it to the 61 Rosemary St. lot to make it a conforming legal lot. The decision was made to employ the well-respected law firm of Frieze Cramer Rosen and Huber LLC who were also known to have excellent relations with the Needham Planning Board. Due to the many complexities of this situation and the Pandemic, the project took several months longer than expected. The church property records were not in great shape, so additional searching for deeds was necessary, all while the Registry of Deeds was closed. We also employed a surveying firm recommended by Cramer, VTP Associates, to provide the plans required by the Planning Board. Finally, on July 19, 2020, we received the approved plan, so we were able to proceed with the removal of the 65 Rosemary St. house. The demolition process is very time-consuming as all service providers must be notified and sign that their service has been capped – water, sewer, gas, and electric. Asbestos had to be abated, and the pests removed. Tim Lysaght managed this complicated sequence. Abutters must be notified when the demolition is to take place by certified mail. The house was finally down on January 28, 2021, which allowed the surveyor to stake out the new 61 Rosemary St. lot of 10,146 sf and 80 feet frontage. Rich Gatto's appraisal for a fair market value for 61 Rosemary St. lot as a buildable single-family house lot in February 2020 was \$750,000. He and Mike Niden agreed to serve as brokers in the sale of the lot on a pro bono basis which saved the church at least \$15,000. They obtained a cash offer from Needham Enterprises Inc. in the amount of \$750,000 and who also agreed to pay for the demolition cost of about \$20,000 which the church was expecting to pay. The closing took place on February 4, 2021. Much gratitude goes to Rich Gatto and Mike Niden for sharing their real estate expertise, and to Tim Lysaght for managing the cumbersome permitting process connected to the removal of the house.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
[Phil Trussell](#)

## PROPERTY REPORT

It was an active year for the physical plant, one of our most valuable assets for loving our neighbor. We prepared and maintained the building to welcome tenants, returning and new, into our building, representing a variety of activities; disposed of useful remnants from the Building Next Door; prepared the chancel in the Main Sanctuary for more flexible liturgical music making; made the building safer and more secure. Along with this activity is the constant attention by the Facilities Manager to the people and needs of an active space, inside and out used by 100s of our neighbors, as well as parishioners, each week, throughout the year. Some highlights give only a glimpse:

- The basement was emptied, refurbished and updated, readying it for new tenants: walls and doors patched and painted
- Boiler from Rosemary Street was donated to Boston Building Resources
- Choir pews in the Chancel were removed and gifted to, among others, Jess, the granddaughter of 60s' sexton Archie Friswell; and to Barnstable Brewery (see page 4 of [The Visitor: Summer 2021](#)).
- Sanctuary Garden fountain pump was replaced.

- Doors into rooms where there was interaction with children or counseling were retrofitted with glass windows to be in compliance with Safe Church policies.
- LED lights were installed throughout the church at no cost – a savings of more than \$25K of fixtures and labor.
- **Tenants:**
  - **Returning Tenants**
    - Chizh Kids
    - Total Eclipse Dance Studio
    - Cub Scouts
    - Girl Scouts
    - AA Needham Big Book Step Study
    - AA Needham On Time
  - **New Tenants**
    - Boston Bilingual Singers
    - Storytime Crafts
    - Jai Shi Piano Lessons
- **One-time/Occasional Renters:**
  - Jai Shi Piano Recitals
  - Highland Glee Club
  - Boston Bilingual Singers Concerts  
FeiGe Vocal Recitals
- **Looking ahead to 2022:**
  - Toastmasters
  - Needham Afterschool Community Ed Program – 25 children, 2 supervisors
  - More concerts and recitals

In the Rectory at 19 Homestead Park, the aging oil-fired boiler was replaced with a high efficiency, gas-fired boiler, in addition to seasonal cleanups from MHK Landscaping, run by the Jonathan Kurker, son of long time parishioner and founder of MHK, Mitch Kurker; and seasonal attention to the sprinkler system.

### **About Storytime Crafts, our new mission focused tenant.**

Storytime Crafts is a nonprofit organization founded with the goal of uniting communities to promote inclusive childhood learning opportunities. The organization is dedicated to amplifying the voices and stories of diverse children’s book authors and directing literacy resources throughout communities. Storytime Crafts works to achieve its mission by partnering with schools in and around Boston that are ethnically, racially, socio-economically, and learning diverse. Throughout the year Storytime Crafts identifies the needs of partner nonprofit organizations, schools and their students, while delivering books to meet those needs. Since our founding in 2019, Storytime Crafts has distributed over 52,082 books, and developed new special initiatives during COVID-19, to provide free books to children and families in need. On top of the nonprofit’s main focus on literacy, during the pandemic it has equipped others with masks, hygiene products, bikes, games, and baby formula. Learn more here.

We are fortunate to have this precious space to share, and to have Facilities Manager Woody Hughes and his multiple skills to serve the building and those who work, prepare the space for worship, pray, play, learn, serve, recover, and make music in it. In addition, we are grateful for assisting sexton Liz Marson, who has not only saved us many thousands of dollars that we used to spend for a cleaning service, but takes pride in maintaining a clean, tidy, and sweet smelling space for all to enjoy.

We are grateful for the leadership of Tim Lysaght as chair of the Property Team to manage the overall health and future of our properties, assisted by team members Phil Trussell, Bob Bell, Paul Kingston, and Woody Hughes.

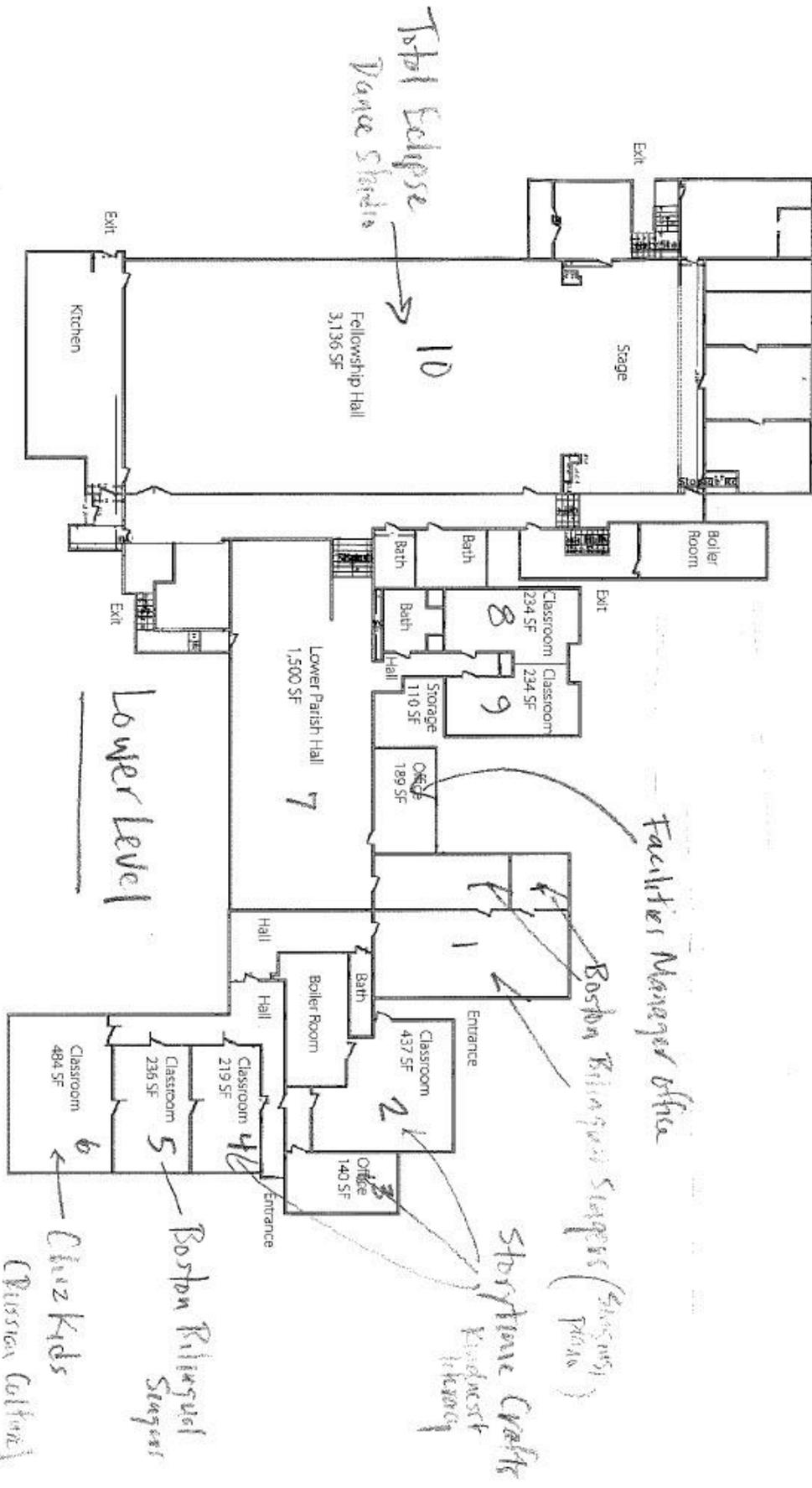
The Property Committee meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 5 pm in the Memorial Room. Please contact Tim Lysaght if you are interested in learning more ([tim@thelysaghts.com](mailto:tim@thelysaghts.com)).

We are blessed indeed.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
Nick

DECEMBER 2021

Christ Episcopal Church Needham



Upper Level - Multiple Community groups - AA, Scouts, Recitals, Concerts, Rehearsals



W O R S H I P P I N G   †   C A R I N G   †   R E S P O N D I N G   †   G I V I N G

#### PARISH STAFF

[The Rev. Nicholas M. Morris-Kliment](#), Rector  
[Charles Raines](#), Director of Music and Organist   [Ali Heard](#), Parish Administrator  
[Woody Hughes](#), Facilities Manager   Liz Marson, Assisting Sexton  
[Maryann Badejo](#), Bookkeeper

#### ELECTED OFFICERS

Dusty Hecker, Warden   Brian Mukherjee, Warden   Dave Carnahan, Clerk  
Assistant Treasurers: Duncan Allen and Janet Haines

#### MEMBERS OF THE VESTRY

Class of '22: Annie Russell, Bob Begin, Bob Keener, and Ingrid Melvin  
Class of '23: Duncan Allen, Ginny Yerardi, Jim Black, and Joe Sweeney  
Class of '24: Alyssa Kence, Cecile Leroy, Christina O'Connell, and John Carr

#### CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

1132 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494 • 781-444-1469  
Find us online: [www.ccneedham.org](http://www.ccneedham.org) • [Facebook](#) • [Youtube](#)

*Join us online for worship and connection Sundays at 8:15 a.m. in the Chapel and 10 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary, on [Facebook](#) and our [website](#).*