

Church of the Redeemer

Episcopal 143nd Annual Parish Meeting Coleman Memorial Parish Hall January 19, 2020

Our Mission Statement

The Church of the Redeemer sees its primary mission

- *To Live a life of faith in the God who loves and cares for everyone.*
- *To Follow in the example and teaching of our Lord, Jesus Christ*
- *To Share God with the world, through our words and actions.*

To Live. To Follow. To Share God

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Minutes of the 142nd Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer January 27, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Melinda Artman on January 27, 2019 at 12:45 p.m. after a pot luck dinner. There were 27 parish members in attendance.

Annual Meeting Minutes 2018: It was moved by Bruce Carpenter, seconded by Jim Shay to approve the 141st Annual Meeting minutes. The motion carried.

Nominating Committee: Linda Murrelle advised that there are 3 Vestry members retiring – Bruce Carpenter, Alice Bennett and Terri House. Bruce is eligible to run again and, in addition, Betsy Schumacher and Jeff Watson have agreed to run. George Lewis is unable to fulfill the remainder of his term and Debbie Zurn has agreed to run for the remainder of that term. There were no nominations from the floor. It was moved by Kay Shay and seconded by Linda Murrelle to accept the slate of new vestry members. The motion carried. It was moved by Jim Shay, seconded by Kay Shay to direct the Secretary to cast 1 ballot for the election of Vestry members. The motion carried.

Parish Register: the average Sunday attendance has remained steady. It was noted that the Easter service was attended by half the people as last year. It was noted that some members went to St. John's.

Priest In Charge Report: Reviewed – no questions.

Senior Warden Report: Reviewed – no questions.

Junior Warden Report: Reviewed. It was noted that we accomplished a lot of little projects as well as repairing some damage done to the building. There is more plaster work to be done.

Financials: The Vestry has tried to cut the deficit by cutting staff hours. Maria Layton will reduce from 17 hours to 13 and Jerry Evans will reduce from 20 to 16 hours. The office will only be open 4 days a week Monday through Thursday. St. John's Lutheran has hired Jerry as their Secretary. Redeemer's office will be open Monday and Wednesday mornings and Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Those individuals will get 6 paid Federal holidays and 1 week's vacation. It was noted that last year's Street Faire was missing from the financials. The revenue was about the same as previous years and the income and expense is logged in the general fund - just not listed separately.

Memorial Committee: Reviewed – no questions.

All Saint's Chapel Columbarium: Reviewed – no questions.

Souper Bowl Sunday: Reviewed – no questions.

Valley Food Pantry: Reviewed – no questions.

Rummage Sale: Reviewed – no questions.

Community Dinner: Reviewed. It was noted that St. John's Lutheran has been added as a ministry partner.

The Bridge & Red Door: Reviewed – no questions.

St. Mary's Guild: Reviewed – no questions.

Altar Guild: Reviewed. Rev. Artman thanked the Altar Guild for the new green chasuble and stole.

Choir: Reviewed – no questions.

Youth Group: Melinda stated that she was impressed with how our parish surrounds and supports our youth and children.

Other items to note, Rev. Artman advised that she was taking the Vestry on a retreat to discuss our vision as a parish and where we want to go, what does the future look like, and to raise it up

to God and he will listen. Today churches are outside in the community. We want to discover what parishioners are passionate about and how the Pastor can support and enable those ideas. February 15 is Family Fun Night at St. John's Lutheran.

It was brought up that we need to improve on communication. The Sunday School was not aware of what was happening in the Chapel. There was a discussion of the key policy and why that was necessary. It was noted that the Altar Guild will be opening the church at 10 a.m.

Katie Zeller volunteered to help with any children's events we need help at.

It was moved by Gretchen Rentschler, seconded by Kay Shay to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terri House

Clerk of Vestry

Nominating Committee Report 2019

Diocesan canons (laws) require all parishes to have the same by-laws the Diocese provides. In keeping with these by-laws all parish officers (wardens, clerk and treasurer) serve one-year terms and are appointed by the Vestry (as opposed to elected by the congregation.)

Wardens must also be elected to a three-year Vestry term. The clerk and treasurer MAY be elected to the Vestry or be appointed by the Vestry. IF they are simply appointed, they do not serve as Vestry members. Without the Bishop's express permission, family members may not serve simultaneously on the Vestry or as Officers nor can family members of parish staff.

Current Vestry	Elected	Term Expirers	
Amy Murrelle	2017	Jan	2020
Debbie Zurn*	2019	Jan	2020
Tracy Schamel*	2018	Jan	2020
Linda Murrelle	2018	Jan	2021
Chuck Preston	2019	Jan	2021
Doreen Marshall	2018	Jan	2021
Jeff Watson	2019	Jan	2022
Bruce Carpenter	2019	Jan	2022
Betsy Schumacher	2019	Jan	2022

* Debbie Zurn was elected to fill George Lewis' unexpired term. Tracy Schamel was appointed by the Vestry to fill Kim Davenport's unexpired term.

Parish Officers: Linda Murrelle, Senior Warden; Jeff Watson, Junior Warden; Doreen Marshall, clerk; and Chuck Preston & Bruce Carpenter, Co-treasurers.

Nominees: Debbie Zurn and Ruth Barber. As allowed by the Diocesan Canons, the Bishop's permission has been sought to suspend the rule regarding "no family members may run for Vestry." The Bishop granted that permission on January 10, 2020. We need at least one more nominee and family members can be nominated!

Nominating Committee: Retiring Vestry members with Senior Warden and Priest-in-Charge.

There are **three** vacancies for a three-year term. Voting will be by ballot in the event of a contested election. Nominations from the floor of Annual Meeting are always accepted with the stipulations that the proposed candidate is eligible for election. Eligibility requirements to participate in Annual Meeting as well as run for Vestry include being at least 18 years of age, regularly attends worship, and are regular contributors for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the parish, and are physically present at the meeting. If someone is nominated from the floor, please ensure that the candidate(s) is willing to serve if elected.

FROM THE PARISH REGISTER

YEAR	2017	2018	2019
Total Baptized Members	181	179	181
Average Sat/Sun Attendance	47	46	46
Easter Attendance	167	180	137
Christmas Attendance	97	100	136
Marriages	3	0	1
Confirmations	0	3	0
Baptisms	3	6*	1**
Funerals	6	7	8***

*4 of these were adult baptisms and they were also chrismated by the Rt. Rev. Sean Rowe. As such they were confirmed as well as baptized.

**3 baptized Christians transferred their membership to the Church of the Redeemer.

***Of the 8 Burial services performed, 4 were members of this parish.

NUMBER OF SERVICES IN 2019
Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist: 87
Evening Prayer: 14
Private Eucharist: 7

Priest-in-Charge Report 2019
Recounting our blessings!

We remain tremendously blessed to have parishioners deeply involved in the life of this parish. Our Wardens, Linda Murrelle and Jeff Watson, are frequently at church during the week keeping tabs on our operations and troubleshooting issues as they arise. I am deeply grateful for their contributions to the life of the parish. Much of what we do at Redeemer seems to run smoothly and automatically, part of this is due to our able Parish Administrator, Geraldine Evans, and part of this is due to engaged parishioners who ensure that worship happens, Sunday School and VBS happens, lawns get mowed, and snow is removed and salt is spread, to name

just a few routine activities. Our fundraising events are truly parish-wide events, with all hands-on deck to include our young people and our Scouts. These fundraisers are critical to the financial health of our parish.

Like many of us, for most of my adult life I have served on a Vestry (and will do so for as long as I am an active priest). I can assure you that another blessing of this parish is a Vestry that works well together. Under their watchful eye, they have worked hard to responsibly use the monetary gifts we have been given. Further, we have been blessed to have the diocese provide a team to audit our finances. Joan McDonald, the auditor, gave the Vestry a number of useful suggestions to improve our record keeping and accountability, which the Vestry is implementing. We went on retreat together last March and since then have tried to get a sense of the direction the parish wishes to go. It is our collective wish that we are a parish that is very much alive and thriving. The Vestry is committed to do all in their power to proactively plan our present and our future, leaving room for the Holy Spirit to work. All our members work hard on behalf of the parish. Let us be sure to convey our thanks to retiring Vestry members Amy Murrelle, Tracy Schamel and Debbie Zurn.

Christian formation is a passion of mine. I consider myself fortunate to be involved with our Youth Group. Margaret Cole provides excellent leadership to our Youth and I have enjoyed working with her so much. Of course, both parishes have exceptional young people and like Lake Wobegone, all of them are above average. We're looking forward to 2020 and the Episcopal Youth Event (which means that we'll be doing a series of fundraisers – see us about providing your meal during the Super Bowl!) I also get to participate in our Vacation Bible School, a chaotic week that is a great deal of fun. Betsy Schumacher and I make a great team in teaching the VBS Bible lessons. Under Bonnie Garrity's capable leadership, the chaos is well contained. I love how the parish supports VBS (from set making, to set up, to preparing snacks.) Each Sunday I try to be at Redeemer in time to see the Sunday School in action. It is always clear to me that they have had a wonderful lesson and they really enjoy the snack! The Sunday School attended the Instructed Eucharist early last fall – I hope they enjoyed it as I enjoyed their participation.

Intentional Christian formation for adults took the form of a six-week mostly Lenten study called "Taste and See," which allowed us to sample foods mentioned in the Bible. It was a great way to get to know our Bible, enjoying good food and fellowship with our brothers and sisters from St. John. Additionally, this fall, parishioner Beth Paramore helped plan and execute a program entitled "Tell Me What You Want, what you really, really want" regarding dying and death. Again, members from both parishes participated over four sessions.

I am trying to be more visible in the Valley. Toward that end I have joined the Sayre Rotary Club and have helped our Youth partner with them on a project with House of Hope. At the request of the Bradford County Humane Society, I participated in a Pet Blessing this past October. I continue to be involved with the Athens United Methodist Church, Wavery United Methodist Church, and Valley Presbyterian Church in providing GriefShare – a Christian centered grief support group lasting 16 weeks. Together, we provide a Blue Christmas service each year.

I am fortunate to be in the Diocese of Bethlehem. At the Bishop's request, author Tom Linthicum visited us and shared his biography of Bishop Mark Dyer. He attracted a modest group of interested people and we held a nice luncheon for the attendees. Upon learning about the cost of maintaining our stained-glass windows, Bishop Nichols and Canon Steve Baker came to the November Vestry meeting to offer encouragement and diocesan support. Bishop Nichols

will be making an official visitation in September 2020. Our Bishop wants to know each of his parishes and we are blessed by his interest and investment in us. Also, twice a year, the diocese offers a two-day clergy conference that is aimed at professional development. Although this is an overnight trip, the only cost to the parish is my time and my mileage. Additionally, I have served for a year on the Commission on Ministry and am currently serving on a very short-term project, evaluating requests for Congregational Development Grants. I will be assisting developing the training programs offered to the laity for May 2020. It is my pleasure to represent our parish on the diocesan level.

In addition to all of you, I extend thanks to Marcella Chaykoski who enriches our worship with music every week, who selects anthems for our vocalists and who occasionally manages to get us a guest soloist or instrumentalist. Deep thanks and appreciation to The Rev. Hazel Hunt who keeps her oar in at the Church of the Redeemer by presiding at our Saturday evening worship twice a month and on Wednesdays when I am away. I miss Maria Layton, our former Sexton, who stayed on top of all our cleaning needs. I think we're all adjusting to the once a week service ably performed by Class A Cleaning. John Paul Jones consistently makes the needs of the Redeemer his priority, keeps the interests of our church close to his heart, finds ways to keep expenses in check and keeps our systems running – we are grateful for your hard work. Last but not least, Jerry Evans, our Parish Administrator, is the daily face of our Church. She has a strong work ethic, is always pleasant, and cares passionately about doing a good job (which she does.) Jerry is more than my right arm. Thank you.

My goal for 2020 is to continue the work with the Vestry, with input from our parishioners, to shape our present and our future. I hope to enable us to deepen our spiritual life, strengthen our bonds with one another, and discover together whether we have a passion for mission. Your input is needed at the Annual Meeting. You will notice that each table will have a conversation topic related to the life of our parish and a request to report out the results of your conversation.

Respectfully submitted,
(The Rev.) Melinda M. Artman

Senior Warden's Report 2019

Another year has flown by and we are continuing to move in a positive direction. In March the Vestry held an overnight retreat and tried to come up with a plan for The Redeemer to move forward with. We worked hard to come up with ideas that might help us to grow membership and ways to trim our budget. Neither being an an easy task. Pastor Melinda took our thoughts and ideas and added her own ideas and then brought this to the Parish.

She presented this to the congregation and asked for their input. After gathering insight from the Parish as a whole we broke down into small groups with each Vestry member meeting with a group, getting their ideas on " What would work and What wouldn't work". This is all being digested and hopefully we will begin to see our work unfold. I believe this has strengthened us as a

family and will lead to better things at Redeemer.

Once again we joined with St. John's Lutheran Church for joint services over the summer. We are not trying to combine the churches and lose our identity but taking advantage of our unique situation. This allows us to learn from another faith and to share our own with them. It also allows for Pastor Melinda to have a break from rushing from one church to the other on Sunday mornings. There is still a 5:15 on Saturday night at Redeemer if you feel more comfortable doing that. But you are missing out on a wonderful opportunity "To Share Our Beliefs"

Rekeying the Church was definitely worth doing, as we have not had any problems in the Church. I know that it is a little inconvenient for some, but I believe the welfare of our Church and staff is worth that small inconvenience. We held a joint Lenten Program again this year and it was very well received. Our Youth Group continues to thrive and they are a Blessing to both Churches. Again I say to our congregation, we CAN learn from our youth.

We were invited to a Picnic hosted by St. John's at the end of our joint services and I hope that Redeemer will reciprocate this coming summer. For those of us who attended it was a beautiful afternoon of good fellowship and really good food. We have one big issue facing us this coming year and that is how and if we are going to maintain our beautiful stained glass windows. You will be hearing more about this in the coming months, you will be asked on whether we should start the restoration and for your thoughts on how we should finance this huge expenditure.

Our estimates have come in from \$114,000 to over \$200,000. I think that we are headed in the right direction and with everyone's help we will be here for years to come. Thank you for helping to make this not only my church but also my extended family.

Linda Murrelle, Senior Warden

Junior Warden's Report 2019

We had many projects in our church this year, both large and small. Our goal was to complete as many of these projects "in house" as feasible in order to cut expenses in our building and maintenance budget. The following is a list of the larger projects that were completed. The small projects are too numerous to list; the small projects were completed at little or no expense to the church. We cleaned and installed new filters in all of the radiators in the church and atrium.

The unit in the sacristy was in need of repair which has been completed. The cost of materials for this project was approximately \$125.00. We made an emergency repair to boiler #1; we had the parts in house to affect this repair. The cost was \$125.00 Our tower clock was repaired in early spring. The actuating arms for the four clock faces needed to be replaced. Parts for the clock are unavailable so we had the replacement parts fabricated for us in a local machine

shop. There was no cost to the church. It was discovered that the tower roof was leaking while we were making clock repairs. The approximate cost to replace this roof was between eight and ten thousand dollars.

The overall condition of the roof is good and it was decided to make the repairs ourselves by re-bonding all of the seams which effectively corrected the issue. The total cost of this project was \$400.00. Our boiler system (three boilers) had many issues. Nine leaking pipes, several leaking pump flanges, and leaking vents reducing the operating efficiency of the system. We solicited quotes to make the necessary repairs. The quotes ranged from \$2200.00 to \$3400.00. It was then decided to make the repairs “in house”.

This project was completed for a cost of \$700.00. A domestic water line was leaking on the lower level. We have replaced the line and fittings at a cost of \$75.00. The air conditioning units for the atrium and the lower level have disassembled, cleaned and covered for the winter. Covering these units will add to their longevity. Thank-you to all who contributed to this project. I would like to thank John Paul Jones without whose help these many projects both large and small could not have been completed “in house”.

I couldn't ask for a better partner in repairs. I would also like to thank all who contribute by mowing the lawn and removing snow from our sidewalks in the winter. Our Team is as follows : Tracy and Trish Schamel, Bob and Margaret Cole, Rick and Mary Rhodes, Chuck Preston and Paul Pozella. If I have forgotten someone I apologize; your work is greatly appreciated. A special thanks to Glenn Murrelle for taking care of our many plantings and educating me about “all things green”.

In closing I would like to thank Pastor Melinda for having faith in John Paul and myself to execute the larger projects. Your confidence in us is inspiring, and I'm sure that your prayers have helped too!

Respectfully Submitted
Jeff Watson
Jr. Warden

Church of the Redeemer
2020 Budget Summary

Income	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	Change
Investment Income	\$28,456	\$31,878	\$3,422
Open Plate Income	\$2,500	\$3,000	\$500
Pledge Income	\$70,000	\$75,000	\$5,000
Special Day Offerings	\$1,600	\$1,700	\$100
Other Parish Income	\$15,000	\$15,600	\$600
Total Income	\$139,100	\$145,900	\$6,800

Expenses	2019 Budget	2020 Budget	Change
Building Expenses:			
Repairs & Maintenance	\$28,456	\$31,878	\$3,422
Utilities	\$12,400	\$11,410	(\$990)
Christian Education Expenses:	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
Clergy Expenses:			
Salary & Housing	\$32,120	\$32,120	\$32,120
Benefits	\$20,358	\$21,670	\$1,312
Travel Allowance	\$1,300	\$1,300	\$1,300
Education Allowance	\$294	\$900	\$606
Supply Priests	\$700	\$700	\$700
Diocesan Expenses:	\$23,335	\$19,460	(\$5,915)
Fellowship	\$0	\$0	\$0
Music Expenses	\$9,835	\$9,835	\$9,835
Outreach	\$1,600	\$1,600	\$1,500
Parish Admin. Expenses:	\$20,801	\$19,880	(\$921)
Altar and Worship Expense	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$1,500
Total Expenses	\$153,699	\$153,253	\$45,469
Income Less Expenses	(\$12,657)	(\$7,353)	(\$5,304)

Financial Reports for 2019

2019 Ending Balances of Parish Accounts (as of 12/31/18)

Fund/Account	2018	2019
Altar Guild Account	\$7,017.88	\$6,687.81
Bereavement Fund	\$313.34	\$313.50
General Fund Checking	\$19,779.57	\$29,588.87
Non-Parishioner Rector Discretionary Fund	\$2,903.44	\$2,611.86
Guthrie/Meyer Parishioner Discretionary Account	\$4,218.88	\$5,489.58
Hollingshead Money Market Account	\$10,222.72	\$10,465.66
Hollingshead Scholarship Fund	\$11,636.37	\$11,647.02
Memorial Fund	\$7,963.62	\$7,967.59
Capital Funds Account	\$8,120.45	\$2,628.16
St. Mary's Guild (checking)	\$3,916.72	\$6,986.23
St. Mary's Guild (savings)	\$7,347.11	\$3,851.72
Sunday School Fundraisers (restricted)	\$1,582.79	\$1,654.31
Youth Group Checking	\$1,717.17	\$1,974.60
Funds in Diocesan Investment Trust (DIT)	2018	2019
Mary Packer Cummings DIT Trust #217	\$447,960.28	\$489,852.21
Guthrie Discretionary DIT Trust No. 230 (Restricted)	\$23,581.72	\$25,870.12
Bea Meyer Discretionary Fund No. 231 (Restricted)	\$67,436.10	\$10,326.12
Guthrie/Baker Unrestricted DIT Fund No. 245	\$234,727.45	\$257,505.66
Stevens Discretionary DIT Trust No. 288 (Restricted)	\$9,102.88	\$9,986.24
Stevens General DIT Trust No. 289	\$9,102.88	\$9,986.24
Samuel J. Kresge Trust No. 242	\$67,436.10	\$73,980.19
Total Principle in DIT & Investment Accounts		
<i>Annual Revenues from Trust Accounts not in DIT</i>		
Dorothy Tozer Miller Memorial Trust proceeds	\$3,998.69	\$3,973.70
Ruth Tozer Bixby Trust proceeds	\$8,625.41	\$10,746.82
Kresge Trust proceeds (restricted for music)	\$3,117.18	\$3,203.24

Church of the Redeemer
2019 Treasurer's Report

Income	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	Over Budget
Investment Income	\$50,000	\$53,417	\$3,417
Open Plate Income	\$2,500	\$2,592	\$92
Pledge Income	\$70,000	\$80,854	\$10,854
Special Day Offerings	\$1,600	\$3,010	\$1,410
Other Parish Income	\$13,500	\$13,285	(\$215)
Total Income	\$137,600	\$153,158	\$15,558

Expenses	2019 Budget	2019 Actuals	Over Budget
Building Expenses:			
Repairs & Maintenance	\$28,456	\$26,884	(\$1,577)
Utilities	\$12,400	\$10,729	(\$1,671)
Christian Education Expenses:	\$1,000	\$1,027	\$27
Clergy Expenses:			
Salary & Housing	\$32,120	\$32,122	\$2
Benefits	\$20,358	\$19,588	(\$770)
Travel Allowance	\$1,300	\$1,663	\$363
Education Allowance	\$294	\$0	(\$304)
Supply Priests	\$700	\$420	(\$280)
Diocesan Expenses:	\$23,335	\$23,273	(\$62)
Fellowship	\$0	\$20	\$20
Music Expenses	\$9,835	\$8,714	(\$1,121)
Outreach	\$1,600	\$919	(\$681)
Parish Admin. Expenses:	\$20,801	\$18,297	(\$2,061)
Altar and Worship Expense	\$1,500	\$137	(\$1,363)
Total Expenses	\$153,699	\$143,795	(\$9,904)
Income Less Expenses	(\$16,099)	\$9,363	

Discretionary Accounts

The priest has two discretionary accounts available to assist the less fortunate. The Guthrie Meyer Discretionary Account is limited to parishioners. The Church of the Redeemer Discretionary Fund may be used to assist those in need without regard to affiliation with the parish. Our auditor recommended that the Annual Report contain a summary of the amount of money within the account and a general idea of how the money was spent. Once a month, loose offerings are designated for the Redeemer Discretionary Fund. Interest income from a bequest also funds these accounts.

Guthrie-Meyers Discretionary Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 4, 218.88
Deposits	\$ 1, 192.59
Expenses:	
Groceries	190.00
Furnishings	90.67
Cell Phone Minutes	38.75
Total Expenses:	\$ 319.42
Ending Balance as of 12/10/19	\$ 5,092.05

Church of the Redeemer Discretionary Fund

Beginning Balance	\$1,710.71
Deposits	\$1,521.53
Expenses:	
Groceries	57.94
Gas	122.55
Rent	230.00
LifeLink/Internet	82.79
Utility Bills	136.70
Dandy Gift Cards (10)	100.00
Total Expenses:	\$729.98
Ending Balance as of 12/24/19	\$ 2502.26

- Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Melinda M. Artman

Memorial Committee Report 2019

Memorial donations received in 2019 were given in memory of Joyce Springer and Patricia Steele. Some of these donations were designated for specific groups and projects and those that were not were deposited directly into the Memorial Fund account. The beginning balance for 2019 was \$7,963.62 and the ending balance for 2019 was \$7,967.59

Thank you

All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report 2018

The All Saints Chapel Columbarium is located in the undercroft of our church. It is open for meditation whenever the Parish Office is open and by special arrangement at other times. Additional time for visitation may be arranged by calling the Parish Office. Each niche is covered with an attractive brass plate on which a brass name bar is attached. The columbarium was dedicated April 6, 1985. According to the "Functioning Rules" adopted when the Columbarium was created, niches are available for purchase by "any Episcopal church member, former member and their relatives."

The cost of a niche is \$300.00 and the corresponding ash container is either \$18.00 or \$21.00 as there is a slight difference in size in the section of the Columbarium. The price of the brass plate and engraving are included in the \$300.00 cost. Applications for reservations for niches are available in the church office. All records of purchases and inurnments are maintained in the church office. Upon purchase of a niche a "Certificate of Ownership" is signed by the rector and a vestry member and provider of purchase.

Souper Bowl Sunday 2019

Our 20th year of participation in Souper Bowl Sunday raised \$309.35. This was reported to the National Souper Bowl of Caring to be part of their permanent records of our parish's annual donation history. The entire amount was sent to the Valley Food Pantry.

Valley Food Pantry 2019

Redeemer members continue to generously contribute many greatly needed canned goods, peanut butter, and boxed cereals in support of this longtime valley charity. The Valley Food Pantry is one of our oldest outreach programs, and we are proud of our history of support. Donations are accepted every weekend and can be placed in the red wagon at the entrance of the church.

Glenda Hinsman

Rummage Sales 2019

We continued the tradition of our semi-annual rummage sales, one in May and the other in October. The May sale netted \$1,284.00, of which \$128.00 was given to the Bridge. The October sale brought in \$1,032.00 and \$103.00 was given to the Valley Food Pantry. The remaining money was given to the general church budget. While these sales continue to be very successful, they require many, many hours of work by our ever-faithful church members, both men and women alike. A most sincere "Thank You, and God Bless You" to all of you for your continued support. Obviously, these events would not be possible without you.

Glenda Hinsman and Rose Carpenter.

Community Dinner 2019

Community Suppers continued for another year serving families on the last Thursday of the month. Our cooking team currently is Linda Murrelle, Ruth Barber, Nina Seebeck and Sherry Gabauer. The setup team currently is The Richard Marshall Family, Phoebe Marshall and Debbie Zurn. We still rely on the sponsors for serving in the dining room as well as dessert, and donations. Linda also recommends doing the December dinner if the dates allow. I have enjoyed being part of the community supper and look forward to another successful year. Below is the 2020 community supper roster.

Debbie Zurn

Month	Date	Group Serving Dining Room
January	1/30/2020	Sayre Rotary
February	2/27/2020	Youth Group
March	3/26/2020	Sayre Rotary
April	4/30/2020	St. Mary's Guild
May	5/29/2020	Strong Women Strong Bones
June	6/25/2020	Sayre Christian Church
July	7/30/2020	Vestry
August	8/27/2020	Federated Church Youth
September	9/24/2020	Athens Education Association
October	10/29/2020	Greater Valley EMS
November	11/26/2020	Boy Scouts & Volunteers
December	12/31/2020	Volunteers

The Bridge & The Red Door 2019

No updated report was submitted by our Parish representative. Jerry Evans continues to serve as an interviewer and voucher writer. Many vouchers were issued through our office in 2019. The Bridge is a joint ministry of many Valley Churches and individuals, who work together to take care of emergency situations.

The Bridge provides vouchers for emergency rent, utilities, fuel oil, and furniture. An affiliate of the Bridge is the Kids at Risk Program. The focus of Kids at Risk is the children in the valley who are lacking basic necessities ranging from clothing and hygiene supplies to larger items such as eye-glasses and dental visits.

St. Mary's Guild Reports 2019

Events Report --- Glenda Hinsman

January – no meeting.

February – Beginning with a pot luck dinner, our guest speaker was Redeemer member Verlyn Warrington, MD, who showed slides of her recent trip to Alaska.

March – James Nobles, Sayre Historical Society and Redeemer member, presented a history of the Sayre Ponds.

April – 1) The Rev. Melinda M. Artman taught members how to make Anglican prayer beads and explained the prayers that are represented by each bead.

2) St. Mary’s sponsored the April Community Supper.

May – No meeting. Members set up and worked the Spring rummage sale.

June – Betsy Schumacher again graciously hosted our annual June picnic on the porch of her lovely home.

July – no meeting.

August – No meeting

September – A pot luck dinner at the church was followed by finalizing plans for the Fall rummage sale.

October – Verlyn Warrington, MD presented a program entitled “Exercise of Your Facial Muscles is Good For Your Soul.”

November – Guild members set up and held our 57th annual Fall Fair under the competent guidance of Rose Carpenter and Amy Murrell. Once again, this rewarding event was supported by the dedication and hard work of all dedicated St. Mary’s members and faithful volunteers from the community.

December – Our Christmas party was held at the new Yanuzzi’s restaurant. For members and guests. Before the meal, our priest The Rev. Melinda M. Artman delivered a homily on the Christian history of mistletoe and holly. -Glenda Hinsman, President St. Mary’s Guild

St. Mary’s Guild Outreach Summary for 2018

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$540.00
Community Supper	\$100.00
Church of the Redeemer – Annual Pledge	\$2,000.00
Church of the Redeemer –Refrigerators	\$1,500.00
Church of the Redeemer – Tables (26)	\$2,079.48
<u>Episcopal Church Women (Diocese of Bethlehem):</u>	
Book of Remembrance	\$100.00
Cypress Bakery	\$100.00
Miles of Pennies	\$60.10
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund	\$100.00
The Bridge “Sleep Out”	\$250.00
“Choices” Program for Valley Youth	\$300.00
Sayre Historical Society	\$35.00
	<hr/>
	<u>\$7,145.58</u>

Results of our Small Group meetings: Shaping our Present and our Future

In March the Vestry went on retreat to evaluate where we are and where we want to go. As the Vestry began to set goals, it became apparent that they wanted more input from the congregation. Last June, a special worship service in the Parish Hall shared with the congregation our financial reality as well as the context in which we are living, including the fact that the Church is declining and there are only a few factors over which we have control. Using information from the national Church about practices that tend to cause churches to decline or grow, in November Vestry members held five small group meetings with a combined total of 33 members to see what practices our parish might adopt or change.

Listed below are the ideas that were generated. Notice that some ideas conflict. This is not a bad thing! Noting our contradictory ideas allows us to dig deeper and explore the reasons behind the suggestions and how we might go about achieving desired results in a way we might all find agreeable. This list, and especially those items on the list that conflict, will be a subject of discussion at our Annual Meeting.

WORSHIP

General Comments:

- We're at church for one reason only: to worship.
- We ought to have a Young People's service.
- Bring kids in during service [Melinda's note: as in, from Sunday School? Or just in general?]
- If we get the children involved, the parents will come (as in doing a performance.)

Building/Nave:

- Chapel is a very intimate place to have worship
- Don't move pews, don't make free standing altar a regular feature of Sunday worship
- Willingness to have a mix of pews (up front) and chairs around a central focal point like a fireplace
- The Nave needs comfortable chairs and "warm fuzzies" [in addition to the pews.]
- Willingness to use free standing altar
- In the church itself, there is a certain level of formality that requires respect and reverence.
- Open air services: church went to the people

Liturgy

Prayers/Eucharist/Language/Shape of Worship

- Have a moment in the service where new people are introduced
- Willingness to be experimental; however, be subtle about it.
- Willingness to have different liturgies
- Church service occasionally performed by Youth
- Go ahead and be experimental with the worship service
- Prefer to worship in our church, not be entertained.
- Current worship is boring, people simply say the prayers by rote
- Acolytes need better training, they act bored during the service
- Exchange of peace is a magical moment in our worship
- Have a multi-faceted approach
- Have a “Holy Hour” – similar to the Catholic’s Veneration of the Sacrament
- Let people sit and pray in the Chapel AFTER church, during coffee hour.
 - Have trained lay people available to pray WITH folks in the Chapel.

Music

- Have Gospel music or a particular music genre one Sunday
- Praise band
- Music needs updating
- Bring in the Pat Haggerty Dancers again
- Have a contemporary choir
 - Our kind of music is beautiful, but it isn’t the ONLY kind of music
 - I like to hear the piano played
 - VBS music is upbeat, enthusiastic and uses the whole body – this is what kids want
 - Have more modern, contemporary music
- Bring the bell choir back
 - Eventually developed a youth choir
 - Praise & Worship Hymnal
 - Focus on piano and drums (percussion)
- We need stirring music
 - We’ve had Spirituals before, we should do it again.

FORMATION

Operational:

- Print the Sermon so people can take it home and have a discussion group during the week

- We need a nursery and we should hire someone to staff it.
- Sunday School should be at the same time as church. This might encourage adults to attend church.

Substance:

- Willingness to try intergenerational experiences
- Have an icon writing workshop
- Do something to explore our faith, like Alpha 1 x per month
- Offer Finance or similar workshops targeted to millennials

FINANCE

- Gratitude Fund for building improvements ... a yearly gift
- Dinner Dance fundraiser, low cost high yield
- We should have “naming rights” – so to everyone who donates \$180 to operate the church gets a day named after them.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

- We need an attractive Welcome Center, both in the church and in the Parish Hall.
- The Parish Hall and undercroft is part of our public space and may be the only interior space the public sees. It is not an attractive or welcoming space. We should spend some energy in making this area more inviting.
- The Atrium is an uninviting space. It is the first thing you see when you come in the doors and you see coat racks, tables and chair. It is an ugly area.
- We do not use our space to our best advantage.
- Get the stove fixed, clean out the heads ... then it will work just fine. [NB This work has been done by Crofts, and the heads ARE clean and the lines HAVE been checked. It may be that we replace the stove.]
- Along the back of the building, along the curve, we need signs like the “Burma Shave” signs.
- The area along the back of the building should have Christmas Trees at this time of year.
- Downstairs, replace all the old pictures, paintings with newer, brighter pictures and paintings.
- The Rectors’ pictures should not be locked up, and they should be displayed where everyone can see them; perhaps in the stairwell.
- Have a painting of people on the columns downstairs
- There needs to be a fire exit plan in all places where people gather.
- All Saints Chapel has become a catch all place and its identity as a Chapel is disappearing. The Sunday School uses it and the message the

children receive is that it is not important to preserve it as a worship space.

FELLOWSHIP

- Always celebrate birthdays & anniversaries
- Have a Parish Supper at 6:00 P.M. on a Saturday so both congregations can mingle
- Game night!
- Get Vestry to sign up and sponsor Coffee hour (or find someone to do it.)
- The church needs to be friendlier.
- Let's have a supper club or Dinners for 8 – a great way to get to know the parish.
- We need to act like a family, to be a family.

OUTREACH

Aspirational:

- We need to do things to attract young people
- This is about the whole church not just an individual
- Our church should be the liveliest in the Valley.

Communications:

- Do Push Notifications on Facebook
- Seek out cost effective opportunities for advertising
- We need to have a better Facebook presence – like the Presbyterian Church.
- We need to have a better presence on Facebook and social media (Jessica Morrow volunteered to help.)
- Assign someone to do Communications (not the priest.)
- We need better advertising.

Functional

- Put up a Prayer Wall at the Street Fair
- Focus on preventative health care
- Focus on preventative health care

EVANGELISM

- Provide a loaf of bread to newcomers
- Willingness to go to another church to see how they are successful (churches like Encounter and Crossroads.)
- Coffee House 1x/mo
 - Open mic
 - Volunteer run
 - Musicians & poets

- Stay in contact with our kids after they graduate. Be sure they know we are still here, and they are welcome.
- Erin Wayman comes to church with her parents. We should have follow-up when lapsed members come to worship.
- Make an effort to let all the groups using our building know when our services are.
- If we start a contemporary service, it should be separate from the 5:15 and 9:00.

Other

- Ease the changes in
- Love the eBLAST
- Try something 3 or 4 times a year ... if it works, try it once a month.

Liturgy and Worship

Altar Guild 2019

There is no greater spiritual satisfaction than the preparing of The Lord's Table for the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

Our church is blessed to have a great devoted group of ladies that each week prepare the Lord's table for the Holy Eucharist. They are: Mary Rhodes, Linda Murrelle, Debbie Zurn, Rylee Morrow Ruth Barber, Amy Murrelle, Alice Bennett, Sherry Gabauer, Mary Brougham, Mitzi Mohn, Rose Carpenter, Jessica Morrow and our 5:15 Altar Guild Assistant, Jeff Watson. Please appreciate them as much as I do and remember there is always an opening for you.

Phoebe Marshall
Director

Sunday Ministries 2019

We are thankful for the ministry of all the people who serve the parish in liturgical and hospitality roles during our weekly worship.

Readers: Kim Davenport, Chuck Preston, Glenda Hinsman, Alice Bennett, Gretchen Rentschler, Amy Murrelle, Margaret Cole, and Lorden Warrington. Special occasion readers include Emily and Kayla Marshall and Madison Barnes.

Chalice Ministers: Glenda Hinsman, Alice Bennett, Amy Murrelle and Rose Carpenter.

Ushers and Greeters: Bruce & Rose Carpenter, Sherry Gabauer, Phoebe Marshall, Glenn Murrelle, Walter Chaykosky, Chuck Preston, Rick & Mary Rhodes, Tracy & Tricia Schamel, Chris McCutcheon Linda Murrelle and Margaret Cole.

Acolytes: Emily Marshall, Julian Shay, Jillian Shay, Kayla Marshall and Rylee Morrow. Special thanks to our occasional thurifer, Emily Garrity.

Redeemer Choir 2019

Voices you heard in Redeemer Choir throughout some of 2019 included Alice Bennett, Laurie Davies, Glenda Hinsman, Gretchen Rentschler, Jim Shay, Kay Shay and Vickie Stewart. The choir presented anthems and led in hymns during Sunday services. Special music was presented by Alice and Chris Kuhlman. The duet was "How Great Thou Art". Chris sang the "Holy City" for Easter Sunday.

Julian Shay played his French horn twice for services. The Christmas Eve service was the most recent, playing "What Child is This." The choir practices at 10:15 on Sunday before church. If anyone is interested in sharing time and talents, you are invited to attend.

One of my favorite Bible verses is Psalm 92:1 which tells us that "It is a joy to give thanks to the Lord, and to sing praises unto thy name, O Most High."

Respectfully submitted
Marcella J. Chaykosky
Redeemer Organist/Choir Director

YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Our youth group holds steady with 7-10 members. We gather now at noon after morning service which is a time that seems to fit schedules well.

In March it was our turn to flip the pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. We had a great time and a wonderful turn out of pancake lovers from both parishes.

In the spring we met at St. John's to help spread mulch around their playground equipment. It was hard work but it looked great and was an added safety feature for soft landings!

In June we were all present and ready to work at the Street Faire. I was so proud that everyone showed up and worked hard to help make the Faire a success. They make me so proud to watch them run the game table and treat the children with such kindness.

In October we were present to help out with the decorating and games at the Halloween Party. Always a fun time for all.

In early November we partnered with Sayre Rotary Club to rebuild the planting beds at House of Hope. Later that month we held a lock-in at the church and painted our Youth room downstairs. The kids did a great job and it looks great! Hand prints were added to our wall and memories were made.

Melinda shared books with us that she had discovered which looked at Bullying from three different vantage points. We looked at it from the eyes of the "bullied", from the eyes of the "Bully" and from those who sit and watch it happen. We had a lot of good discussions as to ways to handle these situations, understanding why some people bully and how we can find forgiveness and understanding. It is a complex problem that is present in our children's lives and Melinda and I just wanted to open up the channels for such discussions. I believe it was a successful undertaking.

We also participated in the Bridge Sleep out this year. We would like to thank St. Mary's Guild for coming out and showing their support in the form of a donation to the Bridge.

Once again we went caroling in December and we sounded pretty good if I do say so myself. It was chilly clear night and we were welcomed with treats and hugs by those folks we visited.

I want to say a special thank you to Pastor Melinda and offer a great big "God Bless Melinda!" This has been a very difficult year for myself and for my family dealing with our loss. When I would come to Youth Group to meet with this awesome group, I was always greeted with love, smiles and blessings galore. Melinda, who had nothing else on her plate, planned and guided us through the adventures we had this year, and for that I am so grateful.

It's been wonderful to watch how these two separate church's youth groups have become one amazing clan. We always have fun and we are looking forward to our future escapades! We continue to meet Sundays right after church until 2:00. It is a wonderful group eager to please and have fun. We invite any youth between 7th -12th grade. Bring your open mind and heart and have a snack with us, play a game or two, learn lots and travel with us on your faith journey.

Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted

Margaret Cole

Sunday School Annual Report for 2019

Sunday School classes are held each Sunday at 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM. Between three and ten students attend these classes. The fluctuation in attendance is primarily due to today's life style. On September 15th we began our school year with one of the lesson from July's VBS program *Roar – Life is Wild – God is Good*. This was followed by a 6-week-program from the Jubilation Station series, *Jesus' Friends*. After a special lesson for Thanksgiving, the material from the Red Book of the *Noah's Park Children's Church – Adventure Trails That Lead to Jesus!* was resumed from our Spring 2019 session, and is currently being used for our program.

The staff for 2019 was Betsy Schumacher, Debbie Zurn, Jessica Morrow, and myself. Assisting in our programs and various projects including Vacation Bible School were: Betsy Schumacher, Pastor Melinda, Nate Garrity, Emily Garrity, Megan Cole-Cates, Nina Seebeck, Rose Carpenter, Linda Murelle, Ruth Barber, Jessie Morrow, Jonathan Mizener, Mary Rhodes, Amy Murelle, Margaret Cole, TJ Mizener, Gretchen Rentschler, Beth Williams, Hannah Garrity, Alexis Frisbie, Katie Zeller, Diane Seebecker, Maddy Barnes, Debbie Zurn, Emily Skjöld, Sherri Stroud, Fran Bentley and Jerry Evens. Amy Murrelle and Mary and Rick Rhodes were literally behind the scenes for our VBS program. A mighty and wonderful group! Thank you.

In 2019 the students and/or staff participated in the following activities: The students took part in Palm Sunday and Easter services and helped with the Easter egg hunt as well as the Mite Box collection. The Mite Box contributions were donated to the Heifer Project. This year the students requested tree seedlings be purchased with their contribution. The Sunday school students also served the Mothers' Day Breakfast; collected pennies for the Miles of Pennies (Rylee Morrow was the top Sunday School collector); helped with the bake sale, Street Faire, and a dinner fund raisers; and performed a mini Christmas program on December 15, at 9:30

AM. The program was a one act, one rehearsal skit which depicted a more modern day approach to the real meaning of Christmas.

Other events in 2019 were: face painting at Open Forest March 3rd; the annual Knoebels Park parish fun time event on May 18th; Vacation Bible School - *Roar – Life is Wild – God is Good*, held on July 15th 16th, 17th, 18th; and the Halloween Party held on October 27th. The deposit plastic bottle collection project is ongoing with Betsy Schumacher collecting and redeeming the bottles. The proceeds generated from the bottle redemption is given to the Heifer Project.

The Sunday School fund raisers for 2018 were: Super Bowl Chili/Soup Sale, a bake sale, and a dinner. The proceeds from the fund raisers are used for our Sunday School and Youth Group activities and needs.

As always, we welcome everyone who would like to join us in the Sunday school program.

Your help, support, and prayers are very much appreciated. Thank you.

Bonnie Garrity

A Parish Who's Who – 2019

Church Address: 201 South. Wilbur Avenue. Sayre, PA 18840

Church Office: 570-888-2270

Church Web Page: www.redeemersayre.org

Church Email address: credeemer2@empireaccess.net

Staff

Priest-in-Charge: Pastor Melinda M. Artman

Assisting Clergy: The Rev. Hazel Hunt

Organist: Marcella Chaykosky

Parish Administrator: Geraldine Evans

Vestry

Linda Murrelle Senior Warden; Jeff Watson Junior Warden; Chuck Preston, co-Treasurer; Bruce Carpenter, co-Treasurer, Doreen Marshall Clerk, Debbie Zurn, Amy Murrelle, Betsy Schumacher, and Tracy Schamel.

Acolytes

Emily Marshall, Kayla Marshall Rylee Morrow,

Julian Shay and Jillian Shay

Altar Guild

Phoebe Marshall (Director), Sherry Gabauer, Amy Murrelle, Linda Murrelle, Mary Brougham, Mitzi Mohn, Mary Rhodes, Ruth Barber, Debbie Zurn, Rose Carpenter, Alice Bennett, Jessica Morrow and Rylee Morrow.

Sunday School

Bonnie Garrity (Superintendent), Betsy Schumacher, Jessica Morrow
Debbie Zurn and Shari Stroud.

Columbarium Committee

Larry Gabb and Phoebe Marshall, Chair Persons.
Jerry Evans, Assistant.

Community Supper

Parish Dinners were hosted by parish groups in conjunction with local churches and service organizations. Debbie Zurn (scheduling groups to serve and meals, setting up dining room); Phoebe Marshall (setting up dining room); Alice Bennett (supplies for dinners); Linda Murrelle (assisting with bulk food purchases and meals), Ruth Barber, Nina Seebeck and Sherry Gabauer kitchen assistants.

Choir

Marcella Chaykosky, Organist and Choirmaster; Gretchen Rentschler, Alice Bennett, Glenda Hinsman, Jim Shay, and Kay Shay.

Parish Communications

Bruce Carpenter, webmaster; Terri House Newsletter Editor; Geraldine Evans & Melinda Artman, eBlast & bulletins.

St. Mary's Guild Officers

Glenda Hinsman (President), Vickie Stewart (Vice President),
Linda Murrelle (Secretary) and Rose Carpenter (Treasurer).

Ushers & Greeters

Rose Carpenter, Bruce Carpenter, Mary Rhodes, Tricia Schamel, Amy Murrelle, Margaret Cole, Terri House, Sherry Gabauer, Phoebe Marshall, Glenn Murrelle, Chuck Preston, Tracy Schamel, Rick Rhodes, Chris McCutcheon and Walter Chaykosky.

Readers

Kim Davenport, Chuck Preston, Glenda Hinsman, Alice Bennett, Gretchen Rentschler, Amy Murrelle, Margaret Cole and Lorden Warrington.

Lay Eucharistic Ministers & Worship Leaders

Glenda Hinsman, Phoebe Marshall, Amy Murrelle Rose Carpenter
Alice Bennett

Youth Group

Margaret Cole, Adult Advisor