

# Church of the Redeemer

Episcopal  
147<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting  
January 28, 2024

## 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**

## Table of Contents

AGENDA	2
MINUTES OF THE 146th ANNUAL MEETING	2-4
NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT 2024	4-5
PARISH REGISTER REPORT	5-6
ASSISTANT RECTOR'S REPORT 2023	6-8
RECTOR'S REPORT 2023	8-10
SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2023	10-11
JUNIOR WARDEN'S REPORT 2023	11-12
YOUTH GROUP ANNUAL REPORT 2023	12
SUNDAY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2023	12-13
ST. MARY'S GUILD REPORTS 2023	13-14
TREASURER'S REPORTS	15-18
2023 STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	
2024 ASSET REPORT	
STAINED-GLASS WINDOW RESTORATION PROJECT	
2024 BUDGET	
DISCRETIONARY ACCOUNTS 2023	19
ALL SAINTS CHAPEL COLUMBARIUM REPORT 2023	19
MEMORIAL GIFTS 2023	19-20
OUTREACH PROGRAMS	20
SOUPER BOWL OF CARING 2023	
VALLEY FOOD PANTRY 2023	
COMMUNITY SUPPER 2023	
LITURGY AND WORSHIP	20-21
ALTAR GUILD 2023	
SUNDAY MINISTRIES 2023	
MUSIC AT REDEEMER 2023	
TABLE TOPICS	22

**Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal)**  
**147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**January 28, 2024**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of a Quorum
- III. Approval of the 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes
- IV. Nominations for Vestry
- V. Parish Register Report
- VI. Clergy Reports
- VII. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Member & Senior Warden: Linda Murrelle
- VIII. Senior Warden's Report
- IX. Junior Warden's Report
- X. Financial Report
- XI. Other Reports
- XII. Table Topic Reports
- XIII. Adjournment

**Minutes of the 146th Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer**

**January 22, 2023**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Cn. Melinda Artman on January 22, 2023, at 1:00 PM. There were 26 parish members in attendance.

The meeting began with Rev. Artman reviewing what was needed to have a quorum. By the Canons, we need 25 participants or 10% of eligible members. We have 40 eligible members. For our meeting we have 20 members in attendance.

**Annual Meeting Minutes 2022:** It was moved by Linda Murrelle, seconded by Gretchen Rentschler to approve the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting minutes. The motion carried with no discussion.

**Nominating Committee:**

Nominees: Bruce Carpenter and Margaret Cole. There were no nominations from the floor.

A motion was made to reduce the Vestry by one member for a total of 8 members by Rose Carpenter and seconded by Alice Bennett. The motion carried

It was moved by Linda Murrelle, seconded by Amy Murrelle to direct the Secretary to cast 1 ballot for the election of Vestry members. The motion carried.

**Parish Register:** Reviewed and no discussion

**Rector's Report:**

Rev. Cn. Artman started with a review of 2022. It was her first full year in her new role as our rector and the Northern Canon Missioner. Rev. Cn. Artman reminded us that we have entered our third year living with COVID, but we have been learning to live in this new time.

Rev. Cn. Artman reviewed many of the “firsts” post - COVID activities the church has been able to go forward with. St. Mary’s was able to hold rummage sales again. Vacation Bible School was able to be held in-person, along with Sunday School resuming. Youth group has begun meeting again. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have returned. The Street Fair was scaled back and reimaged into the Parish Park Fair where we partnered with St. John.

Since 2019, our community has helped shape new clergy. Rev. Cn. Artman reviewed all who have touched Church of the Redeemer:

- Betsy Sentigar- We hosted a discernment group for her as she explored a call to priesthood, and we served as a learning site while she was a seminarian. She was ordained in December 2022 and is serving as priest-in-charge in Towanda.
- Maryann Philbrook- She was ordained a deacon in August 2022 and will be ordained a priest in early March 2023. She conducted confirmation classes with our youth during the summer of 2022.

Rev. Cn. Artman praised the efforts of all our younger children and youth. Bonnie Garrity, Betsy Schumacher and Margaret Cole were recognized for all the time they have spent guiding our youth. A shout was also given to the Altar Guild for their continued dedication and help with making worship happen in these difficult times. The community supper team, Linda Murrelle and Sherri Gabauer was also recognized.

Rev. Cn. Artman thanked Pastor Scott for all his help as she has taken on new responsibilities and during her recent sabbatical. Rev. Cn. Artman explained the activities/studies she completed over her sabbatical. She has more energy and enthusiasm to continue her work.

Rev. Artman recognized the Wardens, Linda Murrelle and Jeff Watson along with Bruce Carpenter for the work they do in support of the parish. This also included the Vestry. Geraldine Evans was also recognized for all the work she does behind the scenes for our parish. She is the first person whom people encounter when entering our church office. Another person who helps keep our parish running is John Paul Jones. It is great to know that he is willing to help out when needed. The last person to be recognized was Marcella Chaykosky and her ability to provide beautiful music for our worship services.

Rev. Cn. Artman finished her report with looking ahead to 2023. She and Pastor Scott are working to expand the Family Worship service that is held at St. John. She is also looking at holding a book chat/study called “Coffee with Jesus” at local coffee shops. Similarly, she would like to do the same thing but with younger adults but more in the late afternoon/early evening for “Theology on Tap”.

**Assistant Priest Report:** Reviewed and not questions.

**Senior Warden’s Report:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Junior Warden’s Report:** Reviewed and no questions. Rev. Cn. Artman thanked Jeff Watson for all he has done as Junior Warden.

## **Financials:**

Bruce reviewed that we ended 2022 in the black. He highlighted the Discretionary account. Currently, the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month, the open plate contribution goes into this account. Rev. Cn. Artman has asked that this money, along with the interest that comes from the Stevens discretionary account go to The Bridge each month. Bruce then reviewed the capital funds project-stained glass windows. Currently, \$9,557.00 out in pledges, leaving \$2,562.81 still needed to be raised.

Bruce then reviewed the 2023 Budget. He explained that utilities have doubled and that is reflected in the new budget. He also explained that the Diocese provided a grant to help cover the cost of the 8% cost of living adjustment that they suggested for all employees. He has applied for this.

There was no further discussion of the Treasurer's report.

**Discretionary Accounts:** Reviewed and no questions.

**All Saint's Chapel Columbarium:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Memorial Gifts:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Souper Bowl Sunday:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Valley Food Pantry:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Community Supper:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Saint Mary's Guild:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Alter Guild:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Sunday Ministries:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Music:** Reviewed and no questions.

Gretchen Rentschler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Alice Bennett. Motion carried.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Doreen Marshall

Clerk of Vestry

## **Nominating Committee Report 2024**

In keeping with Diocesan canons and by-laws, all parish officers (wardens, clerk, and treasurer) serve one-year terms and are appointed by the Vestry (as opposed to being 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. Such permission was received for Margaret Cole and Bruce Carpenter to serve concurrently.

<b>Current Vestry</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Linda Murrelle	2021	Jan 2024
Doreen Marshall	2021	Jan 2024
Alice Bennett	2021	Jan 2024
Jeff Watson	2022	Jan 2025
Betsy Schumacher	2022	Jan 2025
Diane Siebecker	2022	Jan 2025
Margaret Cole	2023	Jan 2026
Bruce Carpenter	2023	Jan 2026

Parish Officers: Linda Murrelle, Senior Warden; Jeff Watson, Junior Warden; Diane Siebecker, Clerk; and Bruce Carpenter, Treasurer.

Nominees: Alice Bennett has consented to be nominated for a second term. Glenn Murrelle and Mitzi Mohn are prayerfully considering whether they are willing to be nominated. Committee: Retiring Vestry members with Senior Warden and Rector. There are three vacancies for a three-year term. For lack of a full slate, last year we voted to reduce the Vestry from nine to eight. If we are unable to recruit a full slate, we will also vote to decrease the number of members of the Vestry. By state law, we must have at least five members. Voting will be by poll in the event of a contested election. Nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting are always accepted with the stipulations that the proposed candidate is eligible for election. Eligibility requirements for participating in the Annual Meeting as well as running for Vestry include being at least 18 years of age, regularly attending worship, being a regular contributor for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the parish and being present at the meeting. If someone is nominated from the floor, please ensure that the candidate(s) is willing to serve if elected.

### **Parish Register Report**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>
Total Baptized Members	91 <sup>1</sup>	90	88
Average Sat./Sun. Attendance	31	28/31 <sup>2</sup>	29/34
Easter Attendance <sup>3</sup>	3	86	50
Christmas Attendance <sup>4</sup>	56	41	45
Marriages	1	1	0

Confirmations	2	0	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Funerals	6	3	8 <sup>5</sup>

Apples-to-apples comparisons remain impossible as the pandemic changes our operations from in-person worship to virtual worship, and to a blend of in-person and virtual worship.

1. In 2021, the Baptisms were more carefully reviewed, and 91 active members were counted.
2. In 2022, for five weeks we worshipped at St. John. Our absence lowers the ASA. If we account for the five weeks of absence, our ASA remains constant with 2021. In 2023 we worshipped for eight weeks at St. John. If we account for those eight weeks, our ASA increased to 34.
3. Easter for 2021 was conducted virtually.
4. Christmas, like all our services now has been in-person and online. In addition to in-person attendance we had 177, 77, and 40 online views for 2021, 2022, and 2023, respectively.
5. Of those who died, only two were carried in our register as baptized members.

### **Number of In-Person Services In 2023**

Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist: 95

Sat./Sun. Morning or Evening Prayer: 2

### **Assistant Rector's Report 2023**

Beloved siblings in Christ:

2023 was another interesting and exciting year. It started off with Cn. Melinda returning from her sabbatical and myself heading off to Turkey and Greece following Paul's footprint journey. While COVID is no longer the headlines it was, we are still learning to live in today's post-COVID world. For some people, they no longer feel comfortable gathering in large numbers and for others they developed different habits concerning worship.

We are lucky that as a parish family, we are able and willing to be flexible in today's world. I have seen continued willingness to have joint summer services that combined both Episcopalian and Lutheran Services together to make a unique worship experience. Also, we are willing to share spaces, such as when St John's South Wing became unusable for their Family Fun night or when we started joint service early to have the arch fixed at Redeemer. We continue to adapt to the changing world we find ourselves in.

We, like most parishes, are facing the realities of small attendance with fewer available clergy. Many of us have seen one of the main outcomes of this situation which is not as many volunteers as we have had in the past. I believe we cannot act as if things will go on the same as in the past but need to embrace change and think "outside of the box" going forward. By embracing the new reality of a smaller parish that fortunately still has a desire to follow our mission to live, follow and share God, we can continue to do great things that includes new ministries started in 2023.

## FORMATION

- **Sunday School:** The Sunday School continues to meet on Sunday's from 9:30 am to about 10:35 am. One of the challenges is the time of the Sunday school prohibits the Rector or the Assistant Rector from being more involved with the program. Another challenge is the lack of people attending the church service from students and teachers. Cn. Melinda had the office send information to the families with appropriate aged youth from the parish and those who attended VBS in the summer. We were blessed to have a new family attending Sunday School this year. I ask that everyone prays on how you might be called to help with this ministry. It is not limited to teaching, but talking about the ministry to people you know, helping with food, or with setting up the space for the ministry on Sundays as possible examples to help.
- **Vacation Bible School:** We had an in-person Vacation Bible School program for the second time since COVID began. There was an increased number of enrollments from last year. How can we work on increasing the Valley's awareness not just that we offer this ministry, but what it could mean to them and to the community.
- **Youth Group:** We have a good solid youth from both congregations that meet after the service on Sundays every other week. Under the leadership of Margaret Cole, Cn. Melinda, and myself, we planned out more of the year with specific programs. We have one new young person who regularly attends the meetings.
- **Coffee with Jesus:** We started a new ministry that was designed to go where the people are located. It is being held on Wednesday mornings at Black Diamond Celebration. We offer a cup of coffee and pastry to anyone not a member of either Redeemer or St. John. We started with discussing the book *What Made Jesus Mad* by Tim Harlow. We then discussed *Love Wins* by Rob Bell.
- **Bible Study:** We had two different Bible studies this year. The first one was on the *Seven Words* by Susan Robb and the other was *Love Wins* by Rob Bell. The first book study was held as in the past at St. John during Lent. The second book study had two options. One option was at Celebrations in the morning with Coffee with Jesus on Wednesday. We offered this option for those who do not like to drive at night. The other option was at night at the Church of the Redeemer due to the south wing of St. John not able to be used.
- **Clergy Formation:** As a "first-call" Lutheran Pastor, I have gone to two mandatory retreats meant to help with my formation as a pastor. I am anticipating having two more mandatory retreats in 2024. I also attend various clergy retreats and conferences for the Diocese. I have completed an anti-racism training, Walking the Mourner's Path, Pastoral Care Zoom classes, Transitional Ministry training, Clergy Ethics and Congregational Boundaries training, Confronting Sexual Harassment training, along with Homeless training: How to manage problematic behaviors compassionately.

## PASTORAL CARE

We continue in sending Journey through Grief booklets to those who lost a loved one during the first year. In addition to sending them to our members, we also sent one to a member of our local community after placing a prayer request on the prayer wall and attending a Saturday service. I was able to assist with funeral services, committal services and memorial luncheon.

Our Prayer Wall continues to be used by our neighbors. Not only do people place prayers on the walls that are uplifted in our services, but we have seen people stop to read and pray the requests on the wall.

I helped with a Pet Blessing with Valley United Presbyterian Church. I am helping the Bridge to be a voucher writer. I have sent my email and phone number via the Eblast to let people know how to contact me. I also have visited people in the hospital that has included communion along with calling people.

I joined in with the volunteers who attended The Bridge's Sleep-Out in November that helped raise money and awareness of those facing housing issues in the Valley. Our Parish along with St. John Lutheran Church helped with financial support, participating at the sleep-out along with collecting socks.

I am continuing the prayer ministry, called Prayer Warriors for both congregations. I have added to the content to include scriptural passages from Revised Common Lectionary, Daily Readings to reflect on previous lessons along with preparation for the upcoming lessons.

### **FUNDRAISING**

The Parish Street Faire was canceled this year due to difficulty in finding volunteers and vendors for the event. It is the hope to proceed with the Faire next year but paired down with available volunteers.

### **THANKSGIVING**

I am very thankful to Vestry and Cn. Melinda for the opportunity to serve as your Assistant Rector for the past two years. It has been exciting to learn your worship service along with learning about members of your parish.

I am very thankful for all the help that our volunteers give to make sure not only the worship services are able to be done, but all the other ministries that happen here. We have the community supper, supporting Strong Women, Strong Bones, Boy Scouts, Girls Scouts, and TOPS to name a few.

May God continue to bless us and help us bear the fruit of the Kingdom of God.

Faithfully,

The Rev. K. Scott Harvey

### **Rector's Report 2023**

*"Christ Jesus has made me his own...this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead." Philippians 3:12*

Pastor Scott's report thoroughly covers the activities of the last year in his Assistant Rector report. He is a wonderful partner in ministry, and he makes it possible for me to juggle a variety of responsibilities. While my diocesan responsibilities take up much of my time, I am still involved in the life of this parish by:

- Preparing for and participating in worship on Wednesdays, Saturdays & Sundays
- Preparing for and attending Youth Group gatherings, every other week
- Input into our weekly eBlast
- Participation in Vestry
- Bible Study and/or Book Groups
- Parish Clean-up day(s)
- Funerals – we had eight of them and Pastor Scott presided over most of them.

As often as I can, I also participate in the Valley Clergy Association. I do similar activities on behalf of St. John. I note that the Lutheran Synod is working on meeting the needs of congregations with less than full-time pastors and the needs of pastors who need full-time work. They are working on a model they are calling 6-2-6-1. These numbers stand for 6 geographically proximate congregations served by 2 full-time pastors, 6 trained lay worship leaders, and 1 deacon. Those of us in Bradford County are being encouraged to find someone in our parishes to undertake a two-year (once class at a time) course of study that enables him/her to lead worship in the pastor's absence. In our case, that could include someone from our congregation as easily as from St. John. The cost of the course is borne by the congregation. The interested individual gives up some time. Clergy in a diocese are given five Sundays "off" as part of their vacation time. Yet finding supply clergy is difficult at best. This lay worship leader function takes some of the pressure off all considered and allows the clergy a respite. If you'd be interested in a deeper dive into the Bible, in preaching and in church history, please let me know.

My diocesan responsibilities take me around the Diocese, primarily from here in the far north of the diocese to places as far south as Hazelton. I had the pleasure of visiting at least 14 parishes over the course of the last year. There are at least three occasions when my diocesan duties overlap with my duties as your rector: they are participation in Convocation 1, Gather, and Diocesan Convention. In none of these roles am I a solo act – we need lay representation and participation in all three.

## **CONVOCATIONS**

The parishes that make up our Convocation (Convocation 1) include all four parishes in Bradford County (besides us - Trinity Athens, St. Paul's Troy, and Christ Church, Towanda) and the three parishes of Susquehanna County (St. Paul's Montrose, St. Mark's New Milford, Christ Church, Susquehanna). The goal for the parishes in each Convocation is to foster relationships between the parishes, share our strengths and ministries, and further the priorities of the Diocese. The Diocese has five priorities: 1) vital and stable congregations, 2) racial reconciliation and advocacy for the most vulnerable, 3) lay and clergy formation, 4) new worshipping communities, and 5) diocesan partnerships. Convocation leaders, made up of a parish priest and a warden or member of Vestry, meet four times a year (once a quarter). At least once a year, an event is held where any and all members of the parishes meet. The hope is that the convocation model assists in creating vital and stable congregations. There is a diocesan racial reconciliation task force with two representatives (out of 12) representing the northern part of the County. They are the Rev. Rebecca Barnes (Scranton) and the Rev. Deacon Chris Sutton (Dallas.). Two new worshipping communities have been established in the southern portion of our Diocese, serving those who worship in Spanish. Diocesan partnerships include partnering with neighboring dioceses. For last year and most of this year, our Diocese is in discernment on whether and how we and the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania might partner. Options range from doing nothing, to sharing resources, including staff, to a full merger. We as a parish community are encouraged to keep abreast of what the Discernment Committee is discovering. You can find out more here: <https://reunificationdiobethdiocpa.org/> Which brings me to lay and clergy formation and Gather.

## **GATHER**

For the last two years, lay formation has been offered at the Slippery Rock Resort in the early Spring (as soon as practical after Easter). Next year's Gather event is scheduled for May 4<sup>th</sup>. At each Gather event there is the opportunity for fellowship, networking and of course, education (otherwise known as formation). Topics covered have included church governance, how to apply for grants to fund ministry initiatives, stewardship, finance, Bible

and spirituality. It is the bishop's hope that every congregation send at least two people to this formation opportunity. In each of the prior years we have had a nationally recognized and inspirational keynote speaker. Please look for more information in the months ahead.

## **DIOCESAN CONVENTION**

We sent one representative to Diocesan Convention plus our rector and next year will be a very important gathering. We'll be meeting in State College in a joint convention with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. Important decisions such as the diocesan budget, compensation, our diocesan assessment, diocesan acceptance, and diocesan ministries will be discussed. At this convention, whether and how we partner with the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania are anticipated decisions to be made.

Participation in the life of our parish IS participation in the life of our diocese. Taking part in diocesan activities – especially in this age of Zoom meetings – helps us and equips us as part of the Body of Christ. I hope you will take an interest in what the Diocese has to offer us.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Melinda M. Artman

## **Senior Warden's Report 2023**

I think we have survived the worst of COVID but it is still with us and we are taking the proper precautions to deal with it. In-church attendance continues to increase, and we have started taking communion at the altar once a month giving us the feeling of normalcy. Groups that use our building have been able to meet every month. TOPS meets weekly, Strong Women, Strong Bones meet twice a week, and our Boy Scout and Girl Scout Troops meet weekly. We have continued with our virtual services to aid those unable to attend in person.

We have had a couple of very successful Rummage Sales this year and we held a very successful Fall Fair in November. There were a few changes to these events, but they were still successful.

Community suppers are serving dinners the last Thursday of every month and the in-house dining increases every month. Take-outs are still about 50% of the dinners.

Sunday School and Youth Group continue to meet and although they are small groups, they are very active. Vacation Bible School held another successful session over the summer.

We continue to make a big dent in our budget with our pledges, which always seem to come in over the projected budget. This congregation is amazing. We have been blessed with a large contribution from the Estate of Dr. Conklin that will ensure our continuance over the years.

I would like to thank everyone for their help this last year. I am thankful that I am part of this awesome parish that has become my second family. Thank you to Melinda and Scott for their leadership and keeping us on track. Thank you to Jerry for keeping the office running smoothly. Thank you to Jeff for keeping our beautiful church in

good shape and for saving us a lot of money. Thank you, Bruce, for taking care of the financial side of things and keeping us on the straight and narrow. And thank you to all the parish for stepping up whenever needed and just being you. It has been an honor serving as your Senior Warden and I thank you for the trust that you have had in me.

May God bless us all in 2024.

Linda Murrelle, Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden's Report 2023**

We had many projects in the church this year, however, most of the projects fall into the routine maintenance category and are far too numerous to list. We all know the effort we put into maintaining our homes and our church is a very big home requiring that effort on a much larger scale. I will list some of the larger and more expensive projects below:

It was discovered during the tuning of our organ that the archway above the organ pipes was deteriorating, dropping debris into the pipes and causing damage to the organ valves. Several remedies were discussed, however, it was decided that the best fix was to hire a brick-mason and do the repair correctly. This required removing all of the organ pipes to facilitate the repair. The size of bricks required for the project are no longer available due to the age of the church. Commercial bricks were purchased and cut to the size required. The mason did an excellent job matching the color and size of the existing brickwork.

The sidewalk outside of the main entrance of the church was scheduled to be replaced. The work was started several weeks ago; work was stopped after it was discovered that what we believe is another slab of concrete or possibly debris from construction of the atrium about 24 inches below the existing sidewalk. This will have to be removed before the new concrete is poured. The contractor has postponed the project until next spring.

This coming year we face two large projects. This first is the repair or replacement of both of our air-conditioning systems. The office system has been leaking refrigerant for the past two years requiring a charge each year. The coil in the unit is bad and will need to be replaced. The unit for the parish hall is just barely functioning; parts and refrigerant for this unit are no longer available so we must replace the entire system.

Our heating system has required extensive maintenance over the past five years. Currently our three-boiler system is operating on all three boilers; however, the air handler that supplies warm air for the lower parish hall and is also part of the air-conditioning system is in break-down mode. Parts for this system are difficult to source because the equipment is obsolete. We have purchased used parts to effect this repair. We face the same situation with our boilers; the manufacturer no longer supports our system with spare parts, so all repair parts are sourced on the used market. At some point in the very near future we will need to replace our heating system.

Thanks goes to John Jones for his assistance in completing some of these projects.

I would also like to recognize and thank all of you who kept our church grounds beautiful by mowing the lawn and

clearing sidewalks of snow. Your efforts never go unnoticed or unappreciated.

A special thanks goes to Glenn Murrell for all the effort he puts into keeping all of the plantings trimmed and looking good. This requires many hours of work.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Watson, Jr. Warden

### **Youth Group Annual Report 2023**

Our group consists of five members under the age of 18 and three members over the age of 40. Melinda, Scott and I have attempted this year to keep this group busy. Meeting every two weeks, we have eaten countless snacks, watched movies, done numerous Bible studies, and played lots of games. We hosted the Shrove pancake supper and helped with the Fall Fair.

We had planned a walk about town with sidewalk chalk to leave positive messages for all, but it was thwarted by rain, so those messages were written instead on paper and left for our parish families in the pews at both St. John and Redeemer. I think they were appreciated.

We were there to help with the greening of the church this year and luminaries were again lighting our path to the Christmas Eve service. We also enjoyed some bowling over the Christmas holiday.

We are a group of very busy individuals, always available to help wherever needed. We are encouraged by your love and support and look forward to this new year to continue to grow.

As always, I want to say “God Bless Pastor Melinda and Pastor Scott” for being a vital part of our group. We are so very thankful to have you with us. Here’s to 2024!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cole

### **Sunday School Annual Report 2023**

Sunday School classes began the 2023 year on January 8<sup>th</sup>. Class time is 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

Our teachers are Betsy Schumacher, Emily Garrity, Kristen Stone and Rachael Bradley (new this year). Debbie Zurn was unable to assist with the classes this year.

The class material used this past year was from the *Children’s Church, Adventure Trails that Lead to Jesus!* Blue Edition, one of our older lesson plans. The lessons are very much in step with today’s issues and clearly identify with the Bible’s values. The students usually take part in the lessons by dressing in costumes and acting out the parts. The backdrops, signs, and furnishings complement the lesson as do the crafts, music, games, and puppet shows. The students also go to Chapel each Sunday for discussions on lesson-related topics, singing, and prayer. Emily leads this portion of this class.

On February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the Sunday School held the Souper Bowl Soup & Chili & Sandwich Sale in conjunction with the Super Bowl football game. Everything was delicious. We do have good cooks.

VBS was held July 17-20, 2023. The program was *Jonah, An Overboard Adventure*. The program was about Jonah and his adventures (or misadventures) in following God's instructions to save the Ninevites. *Jonah* is an old VBS program. We first used it in the late 1990s and then again in 2011. It has been a success each time it has been used. The kids love it. And we had a BIG whale thanks to Emily Garrity, Teala Hugo, Kristen Stone and "master carpenter" Ed Garrity. This year's productions required making items, rather than just ordering and buying them. Thank you to the many folks who donated their time and talents to help make this successful VBS.

Sunday School "kicked off" for the fall-winter classes on September 24, 2023, with a get-together breakfast in the Parish Hall. The regular classes began October 1, 2023. Three of the *Jonah, An Overboard Adventure* lessons not used in July were used to start with.

Some of the special days and holidays that were celebrated with extra events and studies were Easter, Mother's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. Again, this year the Girl Scout Troop helped decorate the hall for the Sunday School's mini-Halloween party. After their party that evening, the scouts took down the decorations and cleaned up! Thank you. The Christmas program this year was a short play, following an Advent program. There were refreshments including a birthday cake and small gifts for the kids.

As always, thank you to all of you who have helped us with your special talents, time, patience, and prayers.

Bonnie Garrity

### **St. Mary's Guild Report 2023**

- February: Tabletop Trivia about Valley businesses circa 1950; special thanks to Jim Nobles.
- April: Rummage sale to benefit St. Mary's Guild.
- May: Presentation on the "Wreaths Across America" program.
- June: Annual Picnic hosted by Betsy Schumacher.
- September: Presentation by Pastor Scott Harvey:  
"Following the Footsteps of St. Paul through Turkey and Greece".
- October: Rummage sale to benefit St. Mary's Guild and Church of the Redeemer.
- November: Presentation by Taylor Maslin on the "Disciple Makers" program.  
Another successful Fall Fair thanks to our dedicated volunteers!  
Booths included Baked Goods, Candy, Books, Christmas, Raffle, and Country Store.  
We were pleased to offer lunch and dinner thanks to Alice Bennett and Linda Murrelle.
- December: Christmas Party at Yanuzzi's Restaurant.

Presentation by Canon Melinda Artman: "The Women Behind Christmas".

Respectfully submitted by the Officers of St. Mary's Guild:

Glenda Hinsman, President

Rose Carpenter, Treasurer

Linda Murrelle, Secretary

**St. Mary's Guild Outreach Summary for 2023**

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$607.00
E&R Community Supper	100.00
Church of the Redeemer - Annual Pledge	2,000.00
Episcopal Church Women (Diocese of Bethlehem):	
Book of Remembrance	100.00
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund - Million Dollar Match	100.00
The Bridge "Sleep Out"	300.00
Valley Food Pantry	85.00
Feed My Sheep	85.00
Wreaths Across America	135.00
Disciple Makers	100.00
	<u>\$3,612.00</u>

**St. Mary's Guild Contributions to Parish Expenses**

Parish Hall Rugs	\$430.04
Air Conditioner Repairs	1,550.00
General Operations	5,000.00
	<u>\$6,980.04</u>

**Treasurer's Reports  
2023 Statement of Activities**

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2023  
2023 Receipts & Expenditures  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 28, 2024

Funds Received	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Open Plate	\$2,160	\$1,000	216%
Pledges	82,850	85,000	97%
Special Day Offerings	4,043	2,550	159%
Investments - Unrestricted	53,633	48,463	111%
Investments - Restricted (DIT)	5,591	5,614	100%
Other Community Giving	13,350	9,550	140%
Altar (Bixby Restricted)	1,669	1,300	128%
Sunday School & Youth	1,292	550	235%
Community Supper	3,395	1,500	226%
Other Parish Income	9,935	8,450	118%
Total Income	\$177,917	\$163,977	109%

Expenses	2023 Actuals	2023 Budget	% of Budget
Worship and Altar	\$1,106	\$750	147%
Diocesan	25,035	25,465	98%
Music	9,968	9,920	100%
Education Ministries	301	2,450	12%
Community Supper	2,044	2,000	102%
Outreach	6,752	5,817	116%
Clergy	53,399	50,490	106%
Office Supplies	6,693	6,265	107%
Staff Payroll	16,131	16,568	97%
Building	47,252	50,440	94%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,688	1,688	100%
Other Expenses	11,253	6,700	168%
Total Expenses	\$181,620	\$178,553	102%
Income less expenses	-\$3,703	-\$14,576	25%

I am pleased to report that the \$18,000 deficit Canon Melinda mentioned in her Christmas message has been significantly reduced thanks to the generosity of our parish. A DIT distribution certainly helped, St. Mary's Guild gifted \$5000, and Pastor Scott donated the proceeds from Our Savior Lutheran Church to St. John's and Redeemer. Other gifts and the Christmas offering exceeded all expectations. We all made difference. Thank you.

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2023  
2024 Asset Report  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 28, 2024

**Current Assets**

Checking/Savings	December 31, 2022	December 31, 2023	Change in Value 2023
<b>Deposits at 1st Citizens Bank (FCCB)</b>			
Church General Fund Checking	\$37,606.01	\$26,950.61	-\$10,655.40
General Discretionary Fund (Checking)	5,397.39	6,719.48	\$1,322.09
Guthrie Meyer Discretion Fund (Checking)	9,424.51	7,944.73	-\$1,479.78
Altar Guild (Savings)	8,080.52	8,973.19	\$892.67
Sunday School (Savings)	2,300.07	2,672.51	\$372.44
Youth Group (Savings)	1,405.32	1,741.19	\$335.87
Bereavement (Savings)	307.01	307.35	\$0.34
Capital Funds Account (Savings)	49,529.89	57,419.82	\$7,889.93
Memorial Fund Account (Savings)	4,960.97	4,240.86	-\$720.11
St. Mary's Checking	6,776.31	3,459.44	-\$3,316.87
St. Mary's Savings	3,441.84	3,445.63	\$3.79
Community Supper (Savings)	3,105.78	5,025.06	\$1,919.28
Hollingshead (Savings)	12,884.97	12,908.39	23.42
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$145,220.59</b>	<b>\$141,808.26</b>	<b>-\$3,412.33</b>

**Long Term Assets**

DIT Assets as of Quarter ending 09/30/2023

<u>Restricted to Discretionary</u>			
DIT Fund 230 Guthrie Discretion	\$26,010.47	\$28,388.13	\$2,377.66
DIT Fund 231 B. Meyer Discretion	10,381.50	11,330.48	\$948.98
DIT Fund 288 Stevens Discretion	10,040.41	10,958.24	\$917.83
<u>Restricted to Music</u>			
DIT Fund 242 Kresge	74,381.55	81,180.89	\$6,799.34
<u>Unrestricted</u>			
DIT Fund 217 Mary Pack Cummings	\$489,971.99	\$534,655.43	\$44,683.44
DIT Fund 245 Guthrie/Baker	258,902.76	282,569.50	\$23,666.74
DIT Fund 289 Stevens General	10,040.41	10,958.24	\$917.83
<b>Total Restricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>120,813.93</b>	<b>131,857.74</b>	<b>\$11,043.81</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>758,915.16</b>	<b>828,183.17</b>	<b>69,268.01</b>
<b>Total DIT Assets</b>	<b>\$879,729.09</b>	<b>\$960,040.91</b>	<b>\$80,311.82</b>
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,024,949.68</b>	<b>\$1,101,849.17</b>	<b>\$76,899.49</b>

Church of The Redeemer  
Window Restoration Project  
Presented at Annual Meeting  
January 28, 2024

**Capital Fund Savings Account**

1/1/2023	\$49,529.89	
Deposits	14,795.00	Donations, Memorials, Gifts, and Window Adoptions
	98.10	Earned Interest
Withdrawals	\$7,003.17	Loan principal
12/31/2023	\$57,419.82	

**Loan From Diocese of Bethlehem**

Originated:	August 25, 2020	
Amount:	\$75,000.00	
Term:	10 Years	
Interest rate:	3.00%	
Payment	\$724.21	Due the 1st of the month
as of 12/31/2023:		

40 of 120 payments have been made totaling:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2020-2023</u>
Interest	\$1,687.84	\$6,419.48
Principal	\$7,002.68	\$22,548.92
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,690.52</b>	<b>\$28,968.40</b>
Leaving a Principal Balance due of		\$52,451.28

**Fundraising**

Donations	\$33,767.54
Adoptions (received)	39,744.00
Fundraisers	4,703.68
Long Name Grant	5,000.00
Hollingshead	10,454.97
Memorial Account	5,000.00
Altar Guild (adoption)	1,540.00
Dio Beth Compensation	8,337.00
<b>Total Raised In Hand</b>	<b>\$108,547.19</b>
Outstanding Pledges	\$3,100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$111,647.19</b>
Total Project Cost	\$107,430.00

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2023  
2024 Budget  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 28, 2024

<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Open Plate	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$500
Pledges	85,000	83,000	-2,000
Special Day Offerings	2,550	2,950	400
Investments - Unrestricted	48,463	50,720	2,257
Investments - Restricted (DIT)	5,614	5,679	65
Other Community Giving	2,100	2,350	250
Altar (Bixby Restricted)	1,300	1,500	200
Sunday School & Youth	550	500	-50
Community Supper	1,500	3,000	1,500
Other Parish Income	15,900	8,325	-7,575
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$163,977</b>	<b>\$159,524</b>	<b>-\$4,453</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Worship and Altar	750	800	\$50
Diocesan	25,465	24,444	-1,021
Music	9,920	9,820	-100
Education Ministries	2,450	1,350	-1,100
Community Supper	2,000	2,500	500
Outreach	5,817	4,760	-1,057
Clergy	50,490	52,119	1,629
Office Supplies	6,265	6,442	177
Staff Payroll	16,568	31,366	14,798
Building	50,440	39,235	-11,205
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,688	1,475	-213
Other Expenses	6,700	7,520	820
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$178,553</b>	<b>\$181,831</b>	<b>\$3,278</b>
<b>Income less expenses</b>	<b>-\$14,576</b>	<b>-\$22,307</b>	

### **Discretionary Accounts 2023**

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 has previously 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. Additionally, as part of the Treasurer's Report, the Vestry receives an accounting of discretionary funds spent monthly. Once a month, loose offerings are designated for the Redeemer Discretionary Fund. Interest income from a bequest also funds these accounts. The treasurer's report provides a summary of income received into the discretionary accounts. It is noted that the Stephens DIT funds go into the unrestricted discretionary account.

The loose offerings collected on the first Sunday of the month (funds designated for the Church of the Redeemer Discretionary account) and funds from the Stephens DIT for this discretionary account have been designated for The Bridge. The first three quarters totaled \$1,285.00. The 4<sup>th</sup> quarter receipts totaled \$1,417.23 and a check for \$1,420 is being written this month (January 2024) for The Bridge. The total amount received and passed on to The Bridge of Penn-York is approximately \$2,700.

From the Church of the Redeemer discretionary fund approximately \$300 was spent on hotel rooms for homeless persons; \$200 in gas cards; and \$75 in grocery gift cards.

From the Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Funds, which are restricted to members of our parish only, approximately \$1,200 helped with medical bills, \$1,000 for a car repair, \$600 for rent and \$250 for gas/groceries.

All funds from the discretionary accounts were spent on those within our community who had no other resources to pay for the requested assistance, in accordance with the Canons of the Episcopal Church and IRS regulations.

### **All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report 2023**

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 times 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.

### **Memorial Gifts 2023**

We no longer have a functioning Memorial Committee although we do keep track of monetary gifts (and acknowledge them) through the Parish Office. In 2023, we gratefully received Memorial Donations in

memory of Marjorie Davies, Shirley Rhodes, Lois Horn, Becky Fiorello, Chris Kuhlman, Mary Brougham, Patricia Douglas Ring, Helen Fitzgerald and Winda Blair. Much of the funds were directed to the Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project. Our beginning balance was \$4,960.97, and we ended the year with \$4,240.86. In 2023 we received \$2630.00 in memorial donations that went directly to the Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project.

### **Outreach Programs**

#### **“Souper” Bowl of Caring 2023**

Our “Souper” Bowl pots collected \$133.00 for the Valley Food Pantry in Waverly, NY.

#### **Valley Food Pantry 2023**

Our monthly collection is now split between the two local food pantries. the Valley Food Pantry in Waverly and the Athens United Methodist Church “Feed My Sheep”. Each month a different food item is requested; such as cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit and spaghetti sauce. A total of 365 items were donated in 2023. Thank you to everyone who donates in our little red wagon and the box downstairs.

#### **Community Supper 2023**

Another year successfully serving from 60 to 100 people on the last Thursday of the month. We are still doing around 40 – 45 take outs with the balance eating in. Some of the meals we have provided are Italian Baked Chicken, Hot Dogs and Macaroni Salad, Goulash, Roast Pork and Macaroni and Cheese, and Chili with Corn Bread. Helping me in the kitchen are Sherry Gabauer, Fran Bentley and Pastor Scott. Setting up and taking down the tables is Rick Marshall, Phoebe Marshall, Diane Siebecker, and Mitzi Mohn set the tables and have everything ready to go when we open the doors at 4:00. The sponsors who donated \$100.00 (and some increased that amount) provided dessert and helped serve the dinners were:

Sayre Rotary – January and March  
Cath Lab – February and July  
Strong Women, Strong Bones – April  
St. John Lutheran Church – May and December  
Sayre Christian Church – June and October  
Encounter Church – August and November  
St. Mary’s Guild – September

Here’s to another successful year serving our community.

Linda Murrelle

### **Liturgy and Worship**

#### **Altar Guild 2023**

*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 who each week prepare the Lord’s Table for the Holy Eucharist. They are Linda Murrelle, Amy Murrelle, Alice Bennett, Rose Carpenter, Phoebe Marshall, Mitzi Mohn, our newest members Diane Siebecker and Bonnie Brimmer who joined in December, and our 5:15 Altar Guild assistant, Jeff Watson. Please appreciate them as much as we do and remember there is always an opening for you.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Rhodes & Sherry Gabauer  
Co-Directors

### **Sunday Ministries 2023**

We are thankful for the ministry of all the people who serve the parish in liturgical and hospitality roles and are very blessed to have been able to continue to gather in person again for worship.

### **Musical Sounds Church of the Redeemer 2023**

We should remind ourselves regarding our freedom of worship. It has been wonderful to be a part of the music presented for Redeemer services. It has been a blessing for me to have the opportunity to play the sounds of music for 2023.

The 14 Bell Carillon located in the tower is played on a keyboard near the organ. They are played as a traditional call for parishioners to church. The bells are loud and can be heard for quite a distance.

In July we held service downstairs with the nicely tuned piano.

Comments from our “pew people” are the piano is their favorite, others want only the organ. In order to accommodate, I chose to alternate Sundays with the musical sounds.

The beautiful chimes can be played from the lower keyboard on the organ. The Schantz organ was installed in 1989.

Making a “joyful noise” from our versified 1982 Hymnal, the “WLP- Wonder, Love and Praise” and “LEVAS – Lift Every Voice and Sing” gives us many wonderful choices.

Respectfully Submitted

Marcella J. Chaykosky,

Organist & Pianist

