

# Church of the Redeemer

Episcopal  
149<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting  
January 18, 2026

## 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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**Church of the Redeemer (Episcopal)**  
**149<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Agenda**  
**January 26, 2025**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of a Quorum
- III. Ratification of the By-Laws
- IV. Approval of the 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
- V. Nominations for Vestry
- VI. Parish Register Report
- VII. Clergy Reports
- VIII. Recognition of Outgoing Vestry Members
- IX. Recognition of Service to Community Supper
- X. Senior Warden's Report
- XI. Junior Warden's Report
- XII. Financial Report
- XIII. Other Reports
- XIV. Adjournment

By-laws of the Church of the Redeemer  
Sayre PA  
December 2025

PARISH GOVERNANCE

- A. Annual Meeting
  1. The Annual Meeting shall be held in January at a time and place designated by the Vestry. Public notice of the Annual Meeting shall be given to the congregation at least two weeks prior to the Meeting via eBlast, (or similar email communication,) notice in the bulletin and at all worship services prior to the Meeting.
  2. The purpose of the Annual Meeting shall be to elect members to the Vestry; receive reports from the Vestry, parish officers, and organizations; including any reports about the budget approved by the Vestry for the new year; and to transact such other business as may properly come before it.
  3. At the Annual Meeting, a report of the Parish finances shall be given. This report shall include, but not be limited to: 1) a report of the finances of the preceding year, 2) reports of all assets and liabilities and all income and expenditures of any subsidiary or related organization or entity, including (but not limited to) all trusts, endowments or other accounts, and 3) a budget for the year in which the Annual Meeting is held.
  4. The Annual Meeting shall be presided over by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or if the office be vacant, or if the Rector or Priest-in-Charge be absent, by the Senior Warden.
  5. Lay Members in good standing of the Parish who are physically present, who are at least 18 years of age, who are regular attendants at the services of the parish, and are consistent contributors to the support of the Parish, shall be entitled to vote at all Parish Meetings. A

quorum for the transaction of business in the Annual Meeting shall consist of 25% of the persons entitled to vote if they were present or 25 persons entitled to vote, whichever is less. The Vestry may by resolution permit one or more members to participate in a Parish Meeting by means of conference telephone or other electronic technology by means of which all persons participating in the meeting can hear each other in a manner that is substantially simultaneous and continuous. Participation in a meeting by conference telephone or other electronic technology shall constitute presence.

6. The Vestry shall consist of not fewer than three or more than nine Lay Members, at least 18 years of age in good standing, elected at the Annual Meeting.
7. The qualifications of persons to serve on the vestry shall be the same as the qualifications to vote at the Annual Meeting as set out above except that the person to be elected need not be present at the Meeting.
8. No cleric or member of a cleric's family shall be eligible for election as a member of the Vestry. No employee of the Parish or member of the employee's family shall be eligible for election to Vestry. No more than one member of a household may serve on Vestry at the same time.
9. The Vestry may by resolution designate a Nominating Committee, otherwise the Rector or Priest-in-Charge together with either Warden shall be the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall publish to the parish two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting a ballot with sufficient qualified nominees to fill the vacancies on the Vestry for the coming year.
10. Additional nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. The nominator shall first obtain the consent of the nominee. Any question of the nominee's qualification to serve shall be resolved by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge prior to the election of Vestry members. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Senior Warden shall have the responsibility for determining the qualifications of any person nominated from the floor.
11. Each Annual Meeting shall elect persons to serve on the vestry replacing those members whose term in office has ended. If there are insufficient nominees to fill all vacancies, the Annual Meeting may reduce the number of persons to serve on the Vestry, subject to the limitations in #6 above. If the nominees are insufficient to fill slots for three members, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, together with the remaining Vestry members may appoint a member in good standing to a one-year term.
12. The length of one term of office for members of the vestry shall be three years, with one third of the members, or as near as may be, elected each year at the Annual Meeting. A Vestry member shall not be eligible for re-election until one year after his or her third term has ended.

#### B. Special Parish Meetings

1. A Special Parish Meeting may be held at any time on the written order of the Ecclesiastical Authority or of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or by resolution of the Vestry, or on a petition to the Ecclesiastical Authority if such petition be signed by not less than 25% of the number entitled to vote at the last Annual Meeting.
2. All such orders, resolutions, or petitions shall specify the time and place of such meeting and the business to be considered.
3. At such meeting, no business shall be considered other than that specified in the call.
4. Notice of such meeting shall be given to all members of the congregation at least two calendar weeks prior to the meeting. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting (or provide the appropriate links to an electronic meeting), the business to be considered, and by whose order the meeting is called.

5. Such a meeting may be presided over by the Bishop. If the Bishop does not preside, the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall preside. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Ecclesiastical Authority may request the Senior Warden to preside.

## C. The Vestry

### 1. Duties of the Vestry

- a. In accordance with the Constitutions and Canons of The Episcopal Church and of this Diocese, the Vestry shall govern the parish and shall manage and be responsible for its property and material affairs; shall further the temporal and spiritual welfare of the Parish; provide a suitable place of worship and see that it is provided with all things necessary to the worship of Almighty God; shall select and call a Rector and provide for the remuneration of the Rector; and shall comply with all other requirements of the Canons of the church.
- b. As to civil matters, the Vestry shall be the corporate Board of Directors. The Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall be a member of and preside over the Vestry and is the President of the corporation. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge then the Senior Warden shall be the President of the Corporation.
- c. In consultation with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge all staff positions are created and funded by the Vestry. Personnel filling those positions are hired by and serve at the discretion of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and are accountable to the Rector or Priest-in-Charge. The Rector or Priest-in-Charge may work collaboratively with a nominating or personnel committee in the selection of personnel.
- d. A financial report shall be given at each regular meeting of the Vestry, which shall include current income and expenditures. Following approval, the report shall be made available to members of the congregation by request.
- e. The Manual of Business Methods, as issued from time to time by the Episcopal Church, shall be used as a guide for the conduct of business.

### 2. Officers of the Vestry and Parish

- a. The Lay Officers of the Church of the Redeemer shall consist of the Senior Warden, Junior Warden, Clerk and Treasurer who shall all be adult Lay Members in good standing of the parish and at least 18 years of age. No cleric or member of a cleric's family shall be eligible for election as an Officer of the parish. No employee of the Parish or member of the employee's family shall be eligible for election as an Officer. No household member of a Vestry member may serve as an Officer of the Parish.
- b. The Senior Warden shall be nominated by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge from among the members of the Vestry. The nomination is affirmed by majority vote of the members of the Vestry. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry shall ask the Ecclesiastical Authority to make the nomination.
- c. It is the duty of the Senior Warden to work closely with the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, to advise the Rector or Priest-in-Charge on all matters pertaining to the parish upon which the Rector or Priest-in-Charge may wish to consult the Senior Warden, and to inform the Rector or Priest-in-Charge of all matters which the Senior Warden feels the Rector needs to know. If there is no Rector or Priest-in-Charge, it shall be the duty of the Senior Warden to assume all the temporal duties of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge including, but not limited to, presiding at Vestry meetings, signing documents, filing reports, and maintaining the Parish Register. In addition, it shall be the duty of the Senior Warden to provide for the continuation of Divine worship.
- d. The Junior Warden shall be elected annually from among their number by the Vestry. In the absence of the Senior Warden, the Junior Warden is to assume the duties of the

Senior Warden. It is the duty of the Junior Warden to oversee the care and maintenance of the building and grounds of the Church of the Redeemer.

- e. The Wardens shall see that the financial obligations of the Parish are met and that the building is kept in good repair and is adequately insured. Under the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, they shall see that all things needed for the orderly worship of God and for the proper administration of the sacraments are provided. In the absence of a Rector or Priest-in-Charge, they shall, with the advice of the Ecclesiastical Authority, procure suitable supply for the continuance of the services, to include but not limited to supply clergy or appropriately licensed/trained lay worship leaders.
- f. A Clerk shall be elected annually by the Vestry. The Clerk may, but does not have to be a member of the Vestry. When not a member of the Vestry, the Clerk has seat, but not voice and vote on matters coming before the Vestry. The Vestry may at its discretion allow the Clerk to have voice on any matter the Vestry deems appropriate. The Clerk shall be responsible for seeing that minutes are taken of all Annual and Special Parish Meetings and of all meetings of the Vestry and ensure that copies of said minutes and related reports are maintained in the electronic records of the parish as well as a hard copy kept in parish files as recommended by the *Manual of Business Methods*. The Clerk, on behalf of the Vestry, shall also be responsible for sending thank you notes or other acknowledgements as the need arises. The Clerk shall turn over to his or her successor all books and documents in his/her possession that belong to the Parish.
- g. A Treasurer shall be elected annually by the Vestry. The Treasurer may, but does not have to be a member of the Vestry. When not a member of the Vestry, the Treasurer has seat and voice. Under the authority of the Vestry, the Treasurer is responsible to collect, receive, disburse, and account for the funds of the Parish. Prior to the Annual Meeting, the Treasurer shall present to the Vestry a full and accurate statement of the financial condition of the Parish. At every meeting of the vestry, the Treasurer shall report the total assets and liabilities of the Parish and the income and expenses of the general operating funds. As directed, the Treasurer shall report the income and expenses of any other funds. The Treasurer shall be bonded at the expense of the Parish. The Treasurer shall turn over to his or her successor all books, documents, and funds in his or her possession that belong to the Parish.
- h. The Vestry may fill any mid-term vacancies in their number or among the officers of the Parish by majority vote.

### 3. Meetings of the Vestry

- a. Regular meetings of the Vestry shall be held at least quarterly and are anticipated to meet monthly September through June. All Vestry members are expected to be present at Vestry meetings. If any member of the Vestry is absent from three consecutive meetings without due cause, as determined by the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and the Wardens, that seat shall be declared vacant. The Vestry may permit one or more Vestry members to participate in a Vestry meeting by telephone or other electronic technology.
- b. The Vestry shall not transact any business without the presence of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or in the event that the office of Rector or Priest-in-Charge be vacant, without the presence of one of the Wardens. A quorum consisting of a majority of the elected members of the Vestry must be present for the Vestry to transact business. No action affecting the rights of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge shall be taken at any meeting at which the Rector or Priest-in-Charge has not been given the opportunity to attend.
- c. Special Meetings of the Vestry may be called at any time at the request of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, or any two Vestry members. Notice of such meeting shall be given to

the Rector or Priest-in-Charge, the Wardens, and the members of the Vestry. This notice shall specify the time and place of the meeting and the business to be considered. No other business shall come before such special meeting except with the unanimous consent of the Rector or Priest-in-Charge and all members of the Vestry.

4. Indemnification

- a. No member of the vestry shall be personally liable for monetary damages for any action taken, or any failure to take any action, unless said person has breached or failed to perform the duties of the office prescribed by the By-Laws, and the breach or failure to perform constitutes self-dealing, willful misconduct or recklessness. The provisions of the section shall not apply to the responsibility or liability of said person pursuant to any criminal statute, or for the payment of taxes pursuant to local, commonwealth or federal law.
- b. The Church of the Redeemer shall indemnify any Vestry member who was or is a party to, or is threatened to be made a party to or who is called as a witness in connection with any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, including any action by or on behalf of the Parish by reason of the fact that he is or was a member of Vestry against expenses, including attorney's fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding unless the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness. With respect to any such action, the Parish may participate, at its own expense, and the Parish shall be entitled to assume the defense thereof, with Counsel selected by the Parish to the reasonable satisfaction of the party being indemnified. After notice from the Parish to such person of its election to assume the defense thereof, the Parish shall not be liable to such person for any legal or other expenses subsequently incurred by such person in connection with the defense thereof. Such person shall have the right to employ separate Counsel in such action, but the fees and expenses of such Counsel incurred after a notice from the Parish of its assumption of the defense thereof, shall be at the expense of such person.

D. AMENDMENTS

The Vestry shall have the power to make, alter, amend and repeal the By-laws. Any amendment shall be proposed in writing to at least one regular meeting of the Vestry previous to final action and be adopted at the next regular meeting or any adjournment thereof, by a majority vote of the Vestry members present. After adoption, the amendment takes immediate effect.

**Minutes of the 148<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer**

**January 26, 2025**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Cn. Melinda Artman on January 26, 2025 at 12:45 PM. The meeting began with Rev. Cn. 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 thus would need 4 members for a quorum. We have more than enough participants for a quorum.

**Annual Meeting Minutes 2024:**

It was moved by Margaret Cole, seconded by Linda Murrelle, to approve the 147<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with no discussion.

**Nominating Committee:**

Betsy Schumacher and Jeff Watson are not eligible to run for Vestry for the upcoming term. They both have been extremely devoted to Vestry and we are thankful for their hard work and devotion.

Nominees: Doreen Marshall, Linda Murrelle, and Diane Siebecker. There were no nominations from participants at this meeting. It was moved by Alice Bennett, seconded by Bruce Carpenter, to close the nominations. Motion carries. It was moved by Bruce Carpenter, seconded by Margaret Cole, to direct the Clerk of Vestry to cast one ballot for the election of Vestry members. Motion carries. Diane Siebecker, Clerk of Vestry, cast one ballot for the above-named nominees.

**Parish Register:**

Reviewed and no questions.

**Rector's Report:**

Rev. Cn. Artman reports she works quarter time for our Parish, an other quarter time for St. John Lutheran Church. We pay for a quarter of her salary, a quarter from St. John, and half of which is paid by the Diocese. Thus, it is challenging to meet everyone's needs. Meeting the needs of our parishioners is of paramount importance. I plan to resume parishioner visits as requested.

Two of our youth were wondering how to get baptized. Classes were held and we had three youth receive Baptism during 2024.

August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Bishop Kevin Nichols will be presiding over worship here at Redeemer. We are planning one Confirmation at that time.

I would like to recognize Linda Murrelle for her years of service preparing community suppers. She is hanging up her apron and Alice Bennett will be taking over. A plaque was presented to Linda. A newspaper picture and article will be in the local paper.

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

**Junior Warden's Report:** Reviewed and no questions. Vestry would like to recognize Jeff Watson as our Chairman of Building & Grounds for life.

**Youth Group Annual Report:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Sunday School Annual Report:** Reviewed and no questions.

**St. Mary's Guild Events:** Reviewed and no questions. On February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025 Canon Melinda and Nina will be our speakers.

**St. Mary's Guild Contributions to Parish Expenses:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Financials:** Bruce Carpenter provided some highlights for 2024. We ended 2024 with a surplus of

approximately \$20,000. The statement of assets was reviewed including DIT assets with Truist Bank (up 3½ %) and the Conklin Trust. Our goal was surpassed for the Window Restoration Project. Also reviewed projects completed and those in progress. The 2025 Budget is projecting a deficit but not bad as we watch our spending. Bruce was thanked for his hours upon hours of hard work.

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

**All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Memorial Gifts:** Reviewed and no questions. We gratefully received Memorial Donations in memory of Audrey Garfield and Helen Tracy.

### **Outreach Programs**

**St. Mary’s Guild Outreach Summary:** Reviewed and no questions.

**“Souper Bowl of Caring”:** Reviewed and no questions.

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

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

### **Liturgy and Worship**

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

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

**Musical Sounds:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Adjourn:** There being no further business, Alice Bennett made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Bob Cole. The meeting was adjourned at 1:13 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Siebecker

Clerk of Vestry

### **Nominating Committee Report 2026**

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.

<b>Current Vestry</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Margaret Cole	2023	Jan 2026

Bruce Carpenter	2023	Jan 2026
Alice Bennett	2024	Jan 2027
Glenn Murrelle	2024	Jan 2027
Mitzi Mohn	2024	Jan 2027
Diane Siebecker	2025	Jan 2028
Doreen Marshall	2025	Jan 2028
Linda Murrelle	2025	Jan 2028

Parish Officers: Margaret Cole, Senior Warden; Alice Bennett, Junior Warden; Diane Siebecker, Clerk; and Bruce Carpenter, Treasurer.

Nominees: The nominating committee made up of the Rector, the wardens and retiring members have asked Margaret Cole, Bruce Carpenter and Jeff Watson to run for Vestry. Although we have two vacancies, the Vestry could be returned to a nine member board. All the nominees have agreed to serve if elected. Nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. Please make sure that you have a nominee's consent prior to nomination. In the event of a contested election, paper ballots will be issued. Since there are three vacancies for a three-year term, and if there are no nominees from the floor, it would be appropriate for a motion to be made asking the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate. 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.

### Parish Register Report

YEAR	2023	2024	2025
Total Baptized Members	88	90	98
Average Sat./Sun. Attendance	29/34 <sup>1</sup>	32/35 <sup>1</sup>	37/41 <sup>1</sup>
Easter Attendance	50	65	80
Christmas Attendance	45	56	56
Marriages	1	0	0
Confirmations	0	0	4 <sup>4</sup>
Baptisms	0	3	6
Funerals	8 <sup>2</sup>	3 <sup>3</sup>	4 <sup>5</sup>

1 Roughly between Memorial Day and Labor Day our Sunday worship is combined with St. John Lutheran Church. This impacts how average Sunday attendance is calculated. The first number indicates the average based upon 52 Sundays, the second number is the average of 46 Sundays.

2 Of those who died, only two were carried in our register as baptized members.

3. In 2024, our parish had five deaths of which only one was carried as an official member of the Church

of the Redeemer. Those who died were: Helen Tracy, Shirley Spears, Audrey Garfield, Beverly A Hill, and John Anderson.

4. At the Bishop's triennial visitation, we had four people received into the Episcopal Church: Paul & Heather Romano, Diane Siebecker and Jack Wheeler.

5. Of those who died, only one was listed as a baptized member: David "Jake" Marshall, the other three were Carlyle Hooper, Steven Slaght and Edith "Louise" Alborn.

### **Number of In-Person Services In 2025**

Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist: 91

Wednesday Holy Eucharist: 41

Sat./Sun. Morning or Evening Prayer: 3

### **Rector's Report 2025**

*Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ~Philippians 4:4*

*My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. ~ John 15:8*

In most ways, 2025 was a very good year at the Church of the Redeemer. We welcomed into the household of God through the sacrament of baptism two babies, one child, two youth, and one adult. At the Bishop's visitation in August, we received four Christians from other denominations as Episcopalians. We welcomed into our parish family at least eleven others who have become regular worshippers, two at our Saturday afternoon service and nine at our Sunday worship. Our recent upgrade in our sound system along with a camera has increased the numbers of people who participate in our worship remotely. Thanks to our parishioners' support and the Conklin Trust we have been able to undertake needed investments in our physical plant. Our partnerships with area churches continue to expand and our relationship with St. John Lutheran Church remains strong. Reflecting on this fruitfulness, I rejoice.

**Christian Formation.** During the season of Lent (thanks to two of our youth group members insisting upon being baptized) I gave instruction in the faith to our four faithful youth group members. We enjoyed good food, explored the meaning of the Apostle's Creed and the Baptismal Covenant, and made crafts together. We had fun. Much credit for these young people's formation goes to our Sunday School team of Bonnie and Emily Garrity, Betsy Schumacher, and Kristin Stone. These faithful teachers of the faith share our foundational Bible Stories and provide our young people with a sense of our Christian heritage. They continue this good work during Vacation Bible School, which was hosted by St. John this year. We (St. John and Redeemer) teamed up with Valley United Presbyterian Church and Sayre Christian Church. Our program was "Waves of Wonder" and our children seemed to enjoy the program.

For adults, I offered an Inquirer's Class to prepare our four members for Reception when Bishop Kevin Nichols came for his once every three years visitation. During Lent, we had roughly 20 people between my two congregations participate in a six week Bible Study on the Parables, by Josh Scott. For the first time, I offered a morning session and an evening session. In late October, I offered a four week Bible Study in preparation for Advent using a book by Matthew Skinner, where 18 people participated.

Both book groups were well received.

Margaret Cole continues to do an amazing job as our singular Youth Group leader. Our youth adore her. From January to June, I was with Margaret at our weekly Youth Group gatherings. From September to December, I dialed back my participation to monthly, and Margaret has recruited other volunteers to assist her with the kids from both of my parishes. This has worked out very well so far.

**Partnerships:** I have a full time ministry thanks to the Diocese of Bethlehem, St. John and you. This partnership enables me to see best practices elsewhere and use good ideas that I find here. I hope that this also helps inform my preaching and I still hold your attention from week to week. As noted above our Vacation Bible School was jointly shared by four area churches. Since the number of young people participating in VBS is declining, there is some thought that 2026's VBS be either multigenerational OR geared towards adults.

Our most significant partnership is with St. John. With them we hold joint summer worship, they host us for Family Game Night and a monthly craft day. They participated with us in the Community Supper and the Parish Park Fair. They help with our rummage sale and we helped with theirs. They also provided some volunteers to assist with our Fall Fair and the Parish Park Fair. Together we engaged in a community garden ministry, helping to feed those who are food insecure. We participate in one another's Shove Tuesday pancake supper, rotating from year to year as host. They also invited us to a potluck in October and in December. We are tentatively exploring together whether and how to worship together outside of the summer months.

**Property:** A building and property as old as ours require lots of tender loving care. Volunteers mow our lawn, trim our hedges and plants, weed, plant flowers, and shovel our sidewalks. They can always use more help. I am grateful for how they keep our property beautiful. This year our Vestry undertook replacing our 40+ year old parking lot. By necessity, we had to replace our alarm system as replacement parts were no longer available and reporting an incident like a fire became unreliable. At the Bishop's suggestion, we applied for and obtained a grant for 50% of the cost of installing a new sound and camera system. It was operational just before Christmas and initial reports are very positive.

Next year, the Vestry has budgeted for refinishing the Church's front doors, replacing the Parlor flooring, and upgrading all our light fixtures to LEDs. This change should positively affect our electricity bill. A suggestion has been made that it would be nice to have cushions on the pews. This could be an opportunity to form a needle crafting group to make cushions. This could be a ministry, fun and fellowship all rolled into one.

Church of the Redeemer also offers a home to Taking Off Pounds Sensibly, Strong Women, Strong Bones, and we are the host organization for The Boy Scouts.

We are not immune to change. Long-time Altar Guild head Phoebe Marshall and her daughter Sherry Gabauer decided to retire from this ministry. They have been dedicated members of the Altar Guild and have served as the "go to" people with questions about all things logistical when it comes to worship. I am very grateful to them for their often unseen work. All that's left to say is "well done faithful servants." I am glad to see that both continue their contributions to the Community Supper. Speaking of which, the Community Supper also saw a change in leadership. Linda Murrelle decided to hang up her apron and pass the wooden spoon on to Alice Bennett. To our regulars the hospitality

continues to be as warm and nurturing as the food. Another change this year was the cancelation of one of our rummage sales due to an insufficient number of people to staff the event. This limitation caused a rethinking of how to operate the Holiday Celebration (formerly Fall Fair), which was scaled back and much to our delight was more profitable than last year.

**Vestry** I am blessed to work with and for such capable and faithful people in leadership. All our Vestry members work very hard on the parish's behalf. Their many varied gifts are reflective of a cross section of our parish. Our officers devote even more time to the running of the parish and thanks to the work of all the parish runs smoothly. They take the stewardship of our resources very seriously. With the Conklin bequest, they have decided to share \$250 each quarter with a local charity. In this last year, Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Northern Tier, Grace Connection (an organization similar to the Bridge, working in the Towanda area and housed in our sister congregation, Christ Church) and Kids at Risk, and the Bridge have received these small gifts.

We continue to be blessed by the music provided by Marcella Chaykowski. Geraldine Evans is the consistent presence in our office and is always a joy to encounter offering a pleasant word and positive outlook to all our visitors. Jerry also is the sole voucher writer for the parish, interviewing clients of The Bridge for such things as rent, furniture, and utility assistance. Finally, Maria Layton lovingly cleans our building as if it were her own. Her tender loving care of our building is greatly appreciated.

## **Diocese**

My work for the Diocese includes supporting the other 27 parishes in the northern part of the Diocese of Bethlehem. This is done primarily through attending Convocation meetings: one meets monthly, another meets quarterly and the third (ours) meets very occasionally. I have also supported parishes in transition, that is parishes looking for a priest. This remains challenging as nationally there are more parishes looking for a priest than there are priests looking for a parish. I also served on two working groups that met to assist with the reunification of Bethlehem and Central Pennsylvania: Commission on Ministry and Constitution and Canons. I devoted significant time to working on the Constitution and Canons. My passion for both of us locally and regionally, is forming partnerships among and between congregations. The work the Northeast Pennsylvania Synod of the ELCA (of which St. John is a member) has a model of six geographically close parishes, working with three clergy and six lay worship leaders, focusing together one mission-related ministry. This model allows individual congregations who cannot afford a full-time member of the clergy to achieve full time clergy coverage and allows the clergy person to have a full-time job. So far, this looks like win-win. The Episcopal and Lutheran parishes in Bradford County might see themselves in such a partnership. I am supporting a similar effort in both the Scranton area and Wilkes-Barre area. In the Diocese of the Susquehanna, my responsibilities will be exclusively focused on the northeastern portion of our Diocese – no more priest searches outside of our geographic area.

Respectfully submitted, The Rev. Canon Melinda M. Artman

## **Senior Warden's Report 2025**

It is with a grateful heart that I am writing this report for 2025. We have so many blessings to count at our Church Of The Redeemer!

I was so honored to have been asked to be the Senior Warden in January but was also unsure of just how good of a job I would do. I am very hopeful that I have not let you down. I enjoy working with Pastor Melinda as she is always looking for and open to trying new things. I am not sure how she juggles all that she does with the Diocese and her two parishes.

We had a successful Parish Park Faire this year and I am so grateful to everyone that put in the work to pull it off. St. John Lutheran Church did an absolutely wonderful job with the “Kids Corner”. We enjoyed a beautiful day with live music, great food including a phenomenal baked goods table, lots of vendors, fun and games, and friends reconnecting. Many hands helped make it the event that it was. I truly believe it is a wonderful thing to greet the community in this way.

We are blessed with so many people that do so much to keep this church running smoothly and look as beautiful as it does. We have five, 2-man lawn mowing teams and a small team of us that do snow removal from the walks. We have folks that volunteer to help to plant and trim and clean the church grounds led by Glenn Murrelle. We have dedicated Altar Guild members led by Mary Rhodes that clean and polish and care for the altar and work to ensure that services run smoothly. We have an incredible Community Supper team led by Alice Bennett feeding those who are in need of a good meal. We have a busy Sunday School led by Bonnie Garrity and Betsy Schumacher and a growing Youth Group under the direction of Pastor Melinda and me. Jeff Watson, the Director of Building Maintenance, keeps this building running smoothly from the plumbing to the lights to the boilers, to sidewalks and parking lots. The man does it all and has thwarted many problems from getting out of hand. The ladies of St. Mary’s Guild is a long standing, hard working group of our church that I believe should be cherished. Marcella provides us with beautiful music each week, Maria loves and keeps this building sparkling, and Jerry keeps the office warm and friendly and is always willing to help you out.

This church has been filled with the excitement of welcoming new members to the parish, and numerous baptisms this year. We are enjoying the gift of the wonderful new A/V system which makes hearing the service so much better and has made the on-line experience a blessing for those who cannot be in attendance. We have enjoyed Bible Studies this year led by Pastor Melinda which were well attended. As always, these studies broaden our faith and increase our understanding of His word and how it applies to our lives.

In closing, if there is something that you would like to see happening here at Redeemer, please share your thoughts with me. If there is a group you would like to join, please reach out. When a plea is put out for volunteers don’t be afraid to answer yes. I promise it’s not a life sentence and you will enjoy the task and the folks you are working with. As we hear every week before we leave service “The service is over but our work continues” So I say let’s all keep worshipping together and making lasting friendships in our church home. Let us continue to feed the hungry and show God’s love to all. And let us continue “to do all such good works as He has prepared for us to walk in!” It’s what we are called to do and why we are here. Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Cole, Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden Report 2025**

Junior Warden:

Per the website [episcopalchurch.org](http://episcopalchurch.org): "The junior warden is often given responsibility for the upkeep of the parish buildings and grounds. The senior warden typically presides at vestry meetings in the absence of

the rector, and the junior warden presides at vestry meetings if both the rector and the senior warden are absent. "

I have been particularly blessed as Junior Warden to have had Jeff Watson carry the entire duties of Junior Warden in his position as Building and Grounds Chair! I offered my opinion when asked and assistance when needed... which was rare because Jeff is awesome. Bless you Jeff! - Alice Fedorka Bennett, Jr.  
Warden

### **Buildings and Grounds Report 2025**

There were many small projects and repairs made to the Church and grounds during the past year. However, there were two capital projects that took place in 2025. The first capital project was the replacement of our parking lot, which had deteriorated substantially over the past few years. It was decided that we would not merely repair the existing surface as the base material of the area had subsided causing damage to the surface material. The parking lot was removed in its entirety then re-graded and packed. Four inches of asphalt was applied over the new base. The newly built parking lot will last us far into the future. The second capital project was the replacement of the sound system in the church with a state-of-the-art audio/visual system. The new system allows us to stream and record services as well as enhance the audio to improve clarity throughout the church proper. For those of you who have not yet experienced the audio clarity in the church the improvement is nothing short of amazing. The new visual portion of the system will allow those who view services at home to enjoy a clear, uninterrupted view. The new system also allows us to record while streaming special events such as weddings or concerts on a thumb drive. The high-resolution camera is capable of rotating 340 degrees for viewing from the back of the church up to the high altar, showing the entire event in real time.

A smaller, but no less important project took place in the fall of 2025 when we replaced the alarm system in the office area and the sacristy. Several outside doors were added to the system as well as new smoke alarms. This system will provide much improved coverage to our building for years to come.

We have a capital project scheduled to start in mid to late January of 2026. We will be replacing all of the fluorescent lights in the building with LED lighting. To minimize cost we will not replace the light fixtures, we will be converting the existing fixtures to LED compatible. LED lighting costs approximately 75 to 80% less to operate than our current fluorescent lighting. In addition, LED light bulbs have a life span that is between 4 and 5 times longer than our current lighting system. This project will take place in steps to minimize disruption in the lower parish hall and kitchen areas. There is a total of 75 light fixtures to be converted.

I would like to thank everyone who has helped keep our church beautiful by mowing and clearing snow. Your work never goes unappreciated or unnoticed by both church members and neighbors! A special thanks goes to Jim Bennett for making repairs in our kitchen while I was "out of commission".

Respectfully Submitted

Jeff Watson – Building and Grounds Chair

## **2025 Youth Group Annual Report**

Our Youth Group of 5 members continues to meet, but on a weekly schedule as the kids requested when we returned from summer break. I was blessed with an array of volunteers from both of Pastor Melinda's parishes. Each serve on a scheduled basis. In this way we did not completely overwhelm Pastor Melinda. Pastor Melinda attends one meeting a month and volunteers come the remaining 3 weeks that month to help us out. Thank you to Jeri Mullen, Betsy Schumacher, Bonnie Garrity, Cheryl Buttone, Heather Romano and Bob Cole for coming to help when called upon.

While small in number, they are a good group that encourages each other in all things from school to acolyting and they work very well together as a team. As I said we meet weekly, enjoy a meal together and make plans for future events. We play games and as always end our time with our closing prayer. We had the blessing of two of our youths being baptized this year. Those not being baptized were all in attendance and actually helped with the service. It was a very special day!!

On March 4th we hosted the Shrove Tuesday meal for both Parishes and it was very well attended indeed! We flipped a lot of cakes that day!!

I had the whole group help us with the Parish Park Faire in June. They stayed the entire day and helped out wherever it was needed.

In September, upon reconvening after summer break, we got busy planning things to do this year. We walked the streets of Sayre writing positive affirmations on sidewalks in front of businesses and the hospital.

In October we drove to a Corn maze in Columbia Crossroads, which was a lot of fun. We enjoyed toasted marshmallows and S'mores around a campfire upon conquering the maze.

On November 23rd we hosted a small gathering for the youth and their leaders from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Owego NY. I was so pleased and impressed at how our kids welcomed this group to our meeting. They planned the menu for our lunch, set the table and showed such hospitality! We played a name game to break the ice, embarked on a scavenger hunt in the church, and then created advent wreaths to have during the Advent season. All of the kids got along famously, and we plan to have these meetings quarterly. I am also going to plan a good old-fashioned lock-in and invite the group from Owego to join us. More to follow on this and how we progress. On November 28th we participated in the "Sleepout" organized by the Bridge to raise funds for the growing needs of the valley.

Last but not least the youth were quite a help with greening the church this Christmas season. They were very helpful in making it a quick task. And they were there to help with the de-greening as well. We are so very blessed to have such a warm, safe space to meet and to have the loving support that you all give us. Thank you!

I also want to express how thankful I am to have Pastor Melinda so involved with the youth of our church. It is NOT easy.... But it is so worth the time and it makes a huge difference in their lives. Thank you, Melinda. And now, on to another year of who knows what!! Thanks be to God!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cole

## **Sunday School Annual Report for 2025**

Our Sunday School program for the 2025 year began on January 5<sup>h</sup> with the class participating in the church service by pantomiming the Christmas Story as it was being read. Our regular classes started on January 12, 2016. Sunday School was held on Sundays January to May and September to December from

9:30 AM to 10:45 AM. The teachers this year were Betsy Schumacher and Emily Garrity. Rachael Bradley and Kristen Stone assisted with our lessons.

During the Sunday school year different lesson programs were used in order to follow the celebrations of the church. The programs used were lessons from *Children's Church, Adventure Trails that Lead to Jesus!* Red Editions; a VBS program, *Water Works*; Jubilation Station's *Holy Week*; and Advent and Christmas programs. The lessons selected are very much in step with today's issues and identify with the Bible's values.

Attending Chapel took place in 2025 as part of the Sunday School program. Chapel time is for talking about lesson-related things, sharing thoughts, asking questions, birthday wishes, life's special happenings, singing, and praying. Important stuff.

On February 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School held the annual Super Bowl Soup & Chili Sale in conjunction with the Super Bowl football game. Everything was delicious. Thank you to all that helped make this possible.

VBS was held July 13,14, 15,16,17, 2025 at St John's Lutheran Church. This year our church partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church, Sayre Christian Church, and the Valley United Presbyterian Church to put together a great VBS for the kids in our community. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents to help make this successful VBS.

Sunday School "kicked off" for the Fall – Winter classes on September 21, 2025, with a get-together breakfast in the Parrish Hall. The regular classes began on September 28, 2025.

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. The Christmas program presented an Advent program with lighting of the candles and a reading of the Christmas Story followed by refreshments, which included a birthday cake, and small gifts for the kids.

The money received from the recyclable bottles and cans was donated to Heifer International. This is a project that was initiated by Betsy Schumacher years ago and continues today. Thank you all for your participation.

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

Bonnie Garrity

### **Scouting America Troop 4019 2025 Report**

This is an update for Troop 4019. We currently have twelve dedicated Boy Scouts—Ajay, Austin, Ayden, Blake, Greg, Isiah, Karson, Lucas, Michael, Murtagh, Tom, and Vlad—that have embarked on a journey that blended outdoor adventure with meaningful service and a deep reverence for their duty to God. Together, they ventured on countless hikes, setting out not only with maps and compasses, but with hearts full of purpose. Along the way, they discovered both the beauty of nature and their responsibility to protect it.

Now, as Scoutmaster for the past few years, I am proud to share that we have gained one more Eagle Scout: **Stan Vatnitski**. Watching him grow from a young Scout eager to learn into a capable young man

dedicated to service has been a humbling experience. His journey to Eagle required perseverance, commitment, and a deep sense of duty to others and to God—a journey I was privileged to support and witness firsthand.

Through all their efforts, these Scouts have carried their duty to God beyond outdoor adventures and into acts of kindness, service, and stewardship. They have held numerous fundraising events, with the largest being their annual rummage sale, graciously hosted in the church basement. The funds raised through these efforts help support the Scouts' camping trips and other adventures. For the past several years, the Scouts have also proudly participated in **Wreaths Across America**, taking part in the flag and wreath ceremony before heading to the cemetery to place wreaths at the gravesites of our veterans. In addition, they have supported the church by helping set up for their rummage sales and bazaars and by assisting with cooking chicken for the Parish Park Fair. Through every hike, campfire, fundraiser, and service project, these young men have demonstrated the Scout ideal of walking in love, embodying compassion, respect, and selflessness. Their journey has deepened my own belief in the enduring values that Scouting instills.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Church of the Redeemer, Pastor Melinda, and the Church leadership for not only providing Troop 4019 with a place to meet, but for offering a place filled with love—a place we are proud to call home.

Yours in Scouting,  
Pete Qauttrini

### **St. Mary's Guild Events 2025**

January: No meeting

February: Rev. Melinda Artman & Nina Seebeck were our Guest speakers. They shared with us details from their trip to Spain.

March: Myrph McMahan was our guest speaker and shared with us information about the "Stand With Me" program.

April: Rummage sale

May: Speakers from the Athens High School Future Farmers of America.

June: No meeting

September: Picnic held at Betsy Schumacher's house.

October: No meeting

November: Redeemer's Holiday Celebration, formerly "Fall Fair".

December: Christmas Party at Yanuzzi's Restaurant. Rev. Melinda gave a short program.

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

Glenda Hinsman, President  
Rose Carpenter, Treasurer  
Linda Murrelle, Secretary

## St. Mary's Guild Income Statement for 2025

### **Income:**

Fall Fair	\$4,264.95
Rummage Sale - April	1,629.00
Christmas Dinner - Yanuzzi's	720.00
	<hr/>
	\$6,613.95

### **Expense:**

Church of the Redeemer - Annual Pledge	\$2,000.00
Outreach (1)	1,487.00
Fall Fair (2)	274.38
Rummage Sale Advertising	90.00
Troop 1 Thank You for Helping with Rummage Sale	50.00
Christmas Gifts	200.00
Christmas Dinner - Yanuzzi's	864.00
	<hr/>
	\$4,965.38

Net Income	<hr/> <hr/>
	\$1,648.57

### **(1) Outreach**

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$637.00
E&R Community Supper	150.00
The Bridge "Sleep Out"	300.00
<u>Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem:</u>	
Book of Remembrance	100.00
Million Dollar Match	100.00
<u>St. Mary's Guild Programs</u>	
Barcelona	50.00
Stand With Me	100.00
Athens FFA	50.00
	<hr/>
	\$1,487.00

### **(2) Fall Fair**

Food and Supplies	\$119.38
Raffle Prizes	125.00
Advertising	30.00
	<hr/>
	\$274.38

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2025  
2025 Final Receipts & Expenditures  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 18, 2026

<b>Funds Received</b>	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Operating Income</b>			
Open Plate	\$2,637	\$1,500	176%
Pledges	86,308	83,000	104%
Special Days	3,369	2,750	123%
Investments - Unrestricted DIT	40,875	40,875	100%
Other Investments	23,045	17,500	132%
Other Operating Income	15,717	2,400	655%
<b>Restricted Income</b>			
Discretionary	4,931	3,219	194%
Restricted Worship (not used in Operations)	1,263	6,379	20%
Other Restricted Income	25	0	
<b>Designated</b>			
Community Supper	2,640	3,000	88%
Parish Faire	6,700	4,000	167%
Sunday School & Youth	1,231	250	492%
Other Designated Income	9,400	4,600	204%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	\$171,951	\$148,025	116%
<b>Total Restricted &amp; Designated</b>	\$26,189	\$21,448	122%
<b>Expenses</b>	2024 Actuals	2024 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Worship & Altar	\$6,466	\$1,700	368%
Diocesan	24,117	24,496	98%
Music	9,142	9,650	95%
Education Ministries	933	1,150	81%
Clergy	31,747	33,680	98%
Office Supplies	6,672	7,054	95%
Staff Payroll	32,630	33,329	94%
Building	36,558	38,921	94%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,255	1,255	100%
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Community Supper	3,441	3,000	115%
Parish Faire	2,769	2,000	138%
Outreach	6,998	6,100	115%
Other Non-operating Expenses	6,530	4,820	111%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	\$149,520	\$151,235	99%
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	\$19,738	\$15,920	117%
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	\$22,431	-\$3,210	-699%
<b>Net Total Income</b>	\$28,882	\$2,318	1297%

An error was discovered in this report after the Annual Meeting. Please see the last page for the corrected report.

# Church of The Redeemer

## Treasurer's Report 2025

### 2026 Budget

Presented to the Annual Meeting January 18, 2026

<b>Funds Received</b>	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	% Change
Operating Income			
Open Plate	\$750	\$1,500	100%
Pledges	83,000	83,000	0%
Special Days	2,950	2,750	-7%
Investments - Unrestricted DIT	35,720	36,788	3%
Other Investments	15,000	17,500	17%
Other Operating Income	2,250	2,400	7%
Restricted Income			
Discretionary	3,333	2,998	-10%
Restricted Worship (not used in Operations)	4,996	6,351	27%
Designated			
Community Supper	3,000	3,000	0%
Parish Faire	4,000	4,000	0%
Sunday School & Youth	500	750	50%
Other Designated Income	4,025	4,100	2%
Total Operating Income	\$139,670	\$143,938	3%
Total Restricted & Designated	\$159,524	\$165,137	4%

<b>Expenses</b>	2025 Budget	2026 Budget	% Change
Operating Expenses			
Worship & Altar	\$800	\$1,700	113%
Diocesan	24,444	24,496	0%
Music	9,820	9,650	-2%
Education Ministries	1,350	1,150	-15%
Clergy	52,119	33,680	-35%
Office Supplies	6,442	7,054	10%
Staff Payroll	31,366	33,330	6%
Building	39,235	38,921	-1%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,475	1,255	-15%
Non-Operating Expenses			
Community Supper	2,500	3,000	20%
Parish Faire	2,000	2,000	0%
Outreach	4,760	6,100	28%
Other Non operating Expenses	5,520	4,820	-13%
Total Operating Expenses	\$167,051	\$151,236	-9%
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$181,831	\$167,156	-8%
Net Operating Income	-\$27,381	-\$7,298	
Net Total Income	-\$22,307	-\$2,019	

Church of the Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2025  
2025 Final Asset Values  
Presented at the Annual Meeting January 18, 2026

**Current Assets**

<b>Checking/Savings</b>	January 1, 2025	December 31, 2025
<b>Deposits at 1st Citizens Bank (FCCB)</b>		
Church General Fund Checking	\$48,611.28	\$70,084.16
General Discretionary Fund (Checking)	3,693.21	2,972.97
Guthrie Discretion Fund (Checking)	8,481.31	9,871.48
Altar Guild (Savings)	10,328.70	11,610.40
Sunday School (Savings)	3,003.12	3,248.77
Youth Group (Savings)	1,623.66	2,229.52
Bereavement (Savings)	307.81	308.27
Capital Funds Account (Savings)	62,863.48	32,562.86
Memorial Fund Account (Savings)	4,587.30	4,719.29
St. Mary's Checking	7,757.27	9,505.84
Community Supper	6,849.48	6,058.90
Hollingshead	<u>12,940.70</u>	<u>12,973.08</u>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$171,047.32</b>	<b>\$167,145.54</b>

**Long Term Assets**

**DIT Assets as of Quarter ending 9/30/2025**

<u>Restricted to Discretionary</u>		
DIT Fund 230 Guthrie Discretion	\$30,614.19	\$33,229.90
DIT Fund 288 Stevens Discretion	11,817.55	12,935.76
<u>Restricted to Music</u>		
DIT Fund 242 Kresge	87,546.77	95,830.51
<u>Restricted to Discretionary and Organ (50% each)</u>		
DIT Fund 231 B. Meyer Discretion	12,218.93	13,375.08
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
DIT Fund 217 Mary Pack Cummings	\$576,526.74	\$631,045.85
DIT Fund 245 Guthrie/Baker	304,727.41	333,560.93
DIT Fund 289 Stevens General	11,817.55	12,935.76
DIT Fund 348 Conklin	925,064.27	1,008,761.06
Total Restricted DIT Funds	142,197.44	155,371.25
Total Unrestricted DIT Funds	<u>1,818,135.97</u>	<u>1,986,303.60</u>
<b>Total DIT Assets</b>	<b>\$1,960,333.41</b>	<b>\$2,124,923.39</b>

<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b><u>\$2,131,380.73</u></b>	<b><u>\$2,309,101.42</u></b>
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## 2025 Capital Projects

December 31, 2025

### HVAC Project - Jeff Paul Plumbing Heating Electric

upstairs/Office Area Air Conditioning

Original Estimate \$12,150

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
	1/1			\$8,100
Final Payment	3/17	Check 11750	\$8,100.00	\$0

### Security System Project - Sentry Alarms, LLC

Replace/update Security System

Original Estimate \$25,000

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
1st Payment	3/19	Check 11751	\$12,500.00	\$12,500
Jeff Paul; Dedicated electric line for new alarm system	6/10	Check 11784	\$233.41	\$0
Final Payment	6/23	Check 11789	\$12,500.00	\$0

### Parking Lot Project - Bishop Brother's Construction

Replace parking Lot

Original Estimate \$45,325

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
Parking Lot			\$45,325	\$45,325
New Curb Bumpers			\$600	\$45,925
Final Payment	7/15	Check 11795	-\$45,925	\$0

### A/V System - OnCor Technologies

A/V System

Sound Estimate \$39,609.00

Camera Estimate \$8,871.00

Total \$48,480.00

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
Sound + Camera; Down Payment	11/11	Check 11827	\$29,088.00	\$19,392.00
Sound + Camera; Final Payment	12/11	Check 11836	\$19,392.00	\$0.00
Electrical Prep Work - Mountain Lake Electric	12/18	Check 11838	\$1,618.80	\$0.00

A Mission Resource grant from The Diocese of Bethlehem funded 50% of the new A/V system. The remainder of the A/V system and all other capital projects were funded by the quarterly distribution from the Dr. Conklin DIT fund, and the revised annual distribution from the Bixby endowment. Vestry is grateful for the generosity of Dr. Conklin and the Bixby family.

## **Discretionary Accounts 2025**

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 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. In 2025 we donated \$2484.88 to The Bridge. We have yet to send our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter donation, however the amount for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will be \$1,095.

From the Church of the Redeemer discretionary fund approximately \$96 was spent on hotel rooms for a person in crisis, \$900 in grocery gift cards, and \$700 for rent. At the beginning of the year, this account had \$3,693.21 and at year end we had \$2,972.97.

From the Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Funds, which are restricted to members of our parish only, no payments were made. We began the year with \$8,471.31 and ended the year with \$9,871.48.

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 2025**

Thank you to Larry Gabb for having name plates engraved for those that are interred in the Columbarium. 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 interment 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. There are 25 niches available for purchase.

## **Memorial Gifts 2025**

We no longer have a functioning Memorial Committee although we do keep track of monetary gifts (and acknowledge them) through the Parish Office. In 2025, received Memorial Donations in memory of David "Jake Marshall. Our beginning balance was \$4437.30, and we ended the year with \$4719.29.

**Outreach Programs**  
**“Souper” Bowl of Caring 2025**

Our “Souper” Bowl pots collected \$168.22 for the Valley Food Pantry in Waverly, NY.

**Food Pantries 2025**

Our monthly collection is split between the 2 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 286 items were donated in 2025. Thank you to everyone that donates in our little red wagon and the box downstairs.

**Community Supper 2025**

This was my first year helping direct the activities of the Community Supper, along with Sherry Marshall-Gabauer. I will admit I had big shoes to fill in taking over what Linda Murrelle had done so successfully for many years, but Sherry proved to be an excellent mentor and sidekick (and Sherry is also responsible for securing sponsors for each monthly meal and maintaining communication with those contacts!)

Community Supper, free to any and all, is served from 4:00 to 5:30 PM on the last Thursday of each month, except for November (and often December). We served meals on ten Thursdays in 2025, and held an additional meal on Tuesday, 12/30. In total we served over 1,000 meals, with 1/3 of those being takeout meals. The main kitchen team is comprised of me, Sherry Gabauer, Steve Novak and Nina Seebeck - we work well as a team and we have fun! Thank you to the team and to many others who have assisted in and out of the kitchen throughout the year, including Jerry Evans who does all the "marketing" for the meals! Thank you to all who have donated money to support this ministry, and to our friends at the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry for their support.

Thank you also to the sponsoring groups who pay a sponsorship fee and lend us incredible people to help serve the meal, bring desserts and help clean! This year's sponsor groups were Sayre/Athens Rotary, First Citizen's Community Bank, St. Mary's Guild, Encounter Church, Sayre Christian Church, St. John Lutheran Church and Guthrie Healthcare Cardiac Health professionals. We are blessed to be able to serve in this ministry and we look forward to another year of providing fun, nutritious, delicious free meals.

- Alice Fedorka Bennett

**Liturgy and Worship**

**Altar Guild 2025**

*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, Mitzi Mohn, Diane Siebecker, Margaret Cole, Heather Romano and our 5:15 Altar Guild assistant, Jeff Watson. After many years of devoted service, Sherry Gabauer stepped down from serving. Margaret Cole and Heather Romano graciously joined the team later in 2025. Please appreciate them as much as we do and remember there is always an opening for you.

The Altar Guild has a dedicated funding stream from the Bixby Tozer Miller Trust. This enables us to

purchase paraments and other supplies for the altar. As a Guild we noticed that our white hangings were becoming frayed and worn out. With input on design from Phoebe Marshall, we ordered a new frontal, pulpit and lectern hangings, burse, chasuble and stole. They are beautiful and they arrived on Christmas Eve. They will be put to use and blessed at the worship service for the Baptism of Our Lord early in January. Later in 2026, we will be purchasing blue paraments for the Advent season along with blue candles for our Advent Wreath.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mary Rhodes

### **Sunday Ministries 2025**

We are thankful for the ministry of all the people who serve the parish in liturgical and hospitality roles. If you would like to serve as a reader acolyte, usher, greeter, A/V operator or serve on the Altar Guild, please do reach out to the Parish office. We would love to have you.

### **Musical Sounds**

#### **Church of the Redeemer 2025**

Welcoming parishioners to services at Redeemer are the 2 octaves Carillion. The 14 bells weight is 5,144 pounds. Near the organ is the keyboard on which the bells are played. The Carillion was dedicated in 1974. Also. The tower contains the first town clock in Sayre. As you enter the church next time, take notice of the awesome treasure the tower contains. The beautiful Schantz pipe organ was installed in 1989. On the manual of the organ, 2 octaves of chimes can be played.

David Peckham is the pipe organ and chime guru. He tunes the organ twice a year and whenever maintenance is required. Normally I alternate playing organ and piano for Sunday services. On December 10, Ted Davenport from Apalachin, NY, presented and organ and harp concert. His unique talent is playing without sheet music. His gift of music is unique and was well received. The Children's sermon on December 28 included Rev. Melinda leading the congregation singing "This Little Light of Mine". Everyone knew this song and sang well. The piece I chose for communion that day was "Pass it On". The words to part of the first verse: It only takes a spark to get a fire going, and soon all those around can warm up in its' glowing." I felt the sermon and the words were de-LIGHT-ful, and matched beautifully.

A Favorite verse is from Psalm 147:1 which reads: "Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God. For it is pleasant and praise is beautiful.

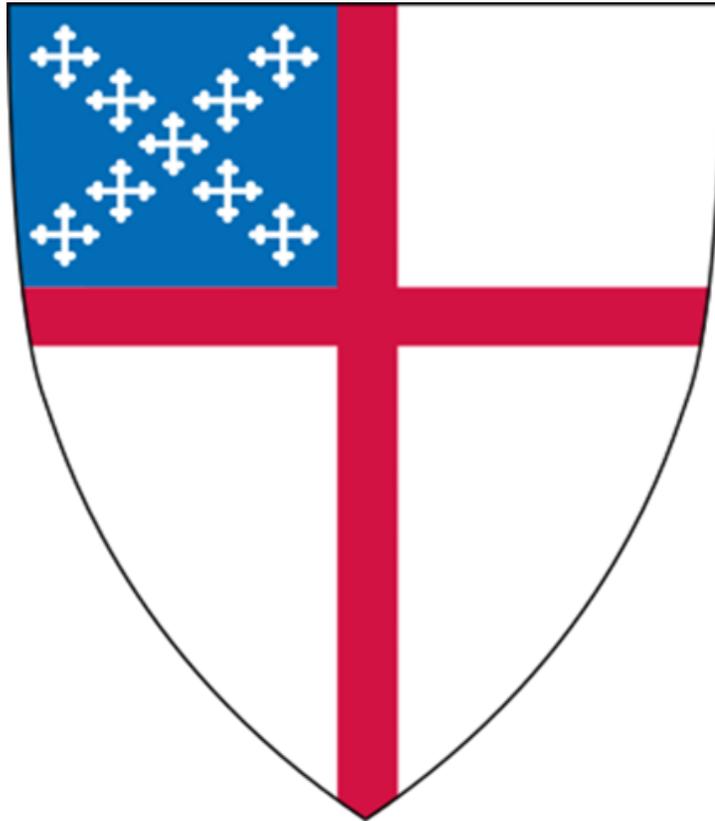
Sincerely submitted,  
Marcella J. Chaykosky  
Organist & Pianist



Stanley D. Conklin, MD was a lifelong resident of Bradford County having been born in Rome and practiced medicine at the Robert Packer Hospital for 53 years. In addition to being a pillar of medicine at the hospital, he was active in professional societies as well as in local affairs. In an obituary authored by William Beck and Joseph Cady, it noted that Dr. Conklin was “an unusually devoted husband, he demonstrated particular devotion to his wife, Viven, during her long, final illness. A lifelong member of the Church of the Redeemer, he served his church as both vestryman and senior warden. He was a regular communicant and a loyal supporter of the church.” Dr. Conklin died on June 12, 1989. His funeral was presided over by the Rev. Don R. Greenwood.

Recently the last surviving beneficiary of Dr. Conklin’s estate died. The bequest stipulated that the residual of the estate be distributed to a number of parties, including the Church of the Redeemer. Imagine the Vestry’s surprise to learn in late 2024 some 35 years after Dr. Conklin’s death, that we were to receive an amount that nearly doubled our endowment. Dr. Conklin’s commitment to the Church of the Redeemer outlived him and he has enabled us, in his thoughtfulness, to undertake capital projects to preserve our beautiful historic building and grounds. Vestry has invested the bequest in the Diocesan Investment Trust and so far, has dedicated the interest income to large scale projects. We thank God for the life and legacy of Dr. Conklin.





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Secretary email

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office hours:

Monday & Wednesday's from 8 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Tuesday and Thursday's from 12:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2025  
2025 Receipts & Expenditures  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 18, 2026

It was discovered that a booking error of the December property insurance premium was made. The corrected Receipts and Expenditures report is below. This report will be an addendum to the filed Annual Report.

<b>Funds Received</b>	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Operating Oncome</b>			
Open Plate	\$2,637	\$1,500	176%
Pledges	86,308	83,000	104%
Special Days	3,369	2,750	123%
Investments - Unrestricted DIT	40,875	40,875	100%
Other Investments	23,045	17,500	132%
Other Operating Income	15,717	2,400	655%
<b>Restricted Income</b>			
Discretionary	4,931	3,219	194%
Restricted Worship (not used in Operations)	1,263	6,379	20%
Other Restricted Income	25	0	
<b>Designated</b>			
Community Supper	2,640	3,000	88%
Parish Faire	6,700	4,000	167%
Sunday School & Youth	1,231	250	492%
Other Designated Income	9,400	4,600	204%
Total Operating Income	\$171,951	\$148,025	116%
Total Restricted & Designated	\$26,189	\$21,448	122%

<b>Expenses</b>	2025 Actuals	2025 Budget	% of Budget
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Worship & Altar	\$6,466	\$1,700	368%
Diocesan	24,117	24,496	98%
Music	9,142	9,650	95%
Education Ministries	933	1,150	81%
Clergy	31,747	33,680	98%
Office Supplies	6,672	7,054	95%
Staff Payroll	32,630	33,329	94%
Building	36,018	38,921	93%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,255	1,255	100%
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Community Supper	3,441	3,000	115%
Parish Faire	2,769	2,000	138%
Outreach	6,998	6,100	115%
Other Non operating Expenses	6,530	4,820	135%
Total Operating Expenses	\$148,980	\$151,235	99%
Total Non-Operating Expenses	\$19,738	\$15,920	124%

Net Operating Income	\$22,971	-\$3,210	-716%
Net Total Income	\$29,422	\$2,318	1269%