

# CHRIST'S CHURCH ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR 2017



TABLE OF CONTENTS

MINUTES OF THE 2017 MINUTES	2
RECTOR'S REPORT	4
SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT	5
NOMINEE SLATE	7
CURRENT VESTRY	7
STATISTICS	7
TREASURER'S REPORT	8
STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES	10
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	12
2017 BUDGET	14
MINISTRY REPORTS	
OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP	16
PROPERTY	17
COMMUNICATIONS	17
WORSHIP	18
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	19
YOUTH	20
CCW	21
CHRISTIAN WOMEN TOGETHER	22

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CHRIST'S CHURCH**

March 19, 2017

The Annual Meeting of Christ's Church took place in the undercroft of the church on Sunday, March 19, 2017, at 11:00 a.m. after a combined service that began at 9:30 a.m.

The meeting opened with a prayer and welcoming remarks by Father Jeff Wylie. He thanked Barbara Baldwin for the wonderful food.

A motion to approve the minutes of the 2016 Annual Meeting was made by Howard Finney and seconded by Carla Thompson. Motion passed.

Father Jeff announced that Ann Yutz has agreed to replace Barbara Baldwin for the two years remaining on her term. He thanked Barbara Baldwin, Tom Kott and Greg Andreyko for their service on the vestry. Tom Thompson and Dee Claiborne have agreed to have their names on the slate for election to the vestry. Father Jeff asked for a motion to accept the slate of nominees as presented. Deacon Ruth Manson made the motion, Sara Frye seconded. Motion passed.

Greg Andreyko, treasurer, thanked his team of Alan Fleissner and Marsha Tallant for their work. He stated that the 2017 stewardship resulted in 58 pledges totaling \$156K.

He reported that the vestry had approved an Investment Policy and that we opened an account with Morgan Stanley. they will be required to give an annual report to the vestry.

Marsha Tallant reviewed our financial reports as presented in the Annual Report. Father Jeff thanked Marsha and the Finance Committee.

Both Dennis Hyland and Alan Fleissner are currently away, so Father Jeff gave the Christian Education report. He stated that Dennis has started a Men's' Study Group. He hopes to set up a Sunday education for 6<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders. He thanked the teachers for the work they are doing with our children. Father Jeff or Archbishop Bob Duncan will be teaching our Confirmation Class.

Our Youth have become very active both in outreach and education through the "Live a Life" as called by Jesus Christ. Thanks to Leslie and Jeff Simpson for this work. The Youth Group welcomes children from outside the congregation.

Lastly, we now have Bianca as our nursery person to help parents enjoy the service.

Barbara Baldwin reported on Fellowship. She stated she has enjoyed working for the church but with her personal life has changed her ability to plan things for the church and thus must move on. She thanked everyone for all their support and love. Special thanks to her husband, Charlie. Father Jeff added thanks to Barbara.

Ann Yutz gave the Outreach report. She thanked everyone for all their support. She reported that the Food Bank has served many people in Westmoreland and that our food and cash donations are very much needed. Sponsoring an open house during the Christmas Parade will continue. We will also continue the Zach Pack's ministry which is to provide needed items to parents of children who are hospitalized. As a new project, we will support Lionius' Mission of making blankets for hospitalized children.

Gene DiPrimio gave the report for Property. He reported that the mold in the basement of the CE Building has been removed and sealed so that the room is now usable by the youth. He also rebuilt the ramp into the CE Building and painted it with anti-skid paint. Future items include the air conditioner, organ, sound system, and maintaining the furnaces in the CE Building. He stated that right now the air conditioner system is broken. It can be fixed for \$2100 with the hope that it will last a few years. In the meantime, we will work on a complete replacement. Father Jeff reported that when we looked at the air conditioner, we decided that first, we need to do the quick fix. He also explained the reason for the permanent fix and that the fix would be called splits which would be mounted directly on the walls. He talked about the leathers and electrical wearing out in the organ. He also talked about the need to do work in the men's room and the south porch. Gene also reported that the dormers on the CE Building will be painted soon. Father Jeff thanked Gene.

Tom Kott gave the Communication report. He announced that Father Jeff is working with a web designer to rebuild our current site. He thanked Sandy Carlson and Marsha Tallant for their work on The Word and the bulletins, respectively.

Marsha Tallant gave the report on Worship. She announced the services for Easter. She also focused on the need for more volunteers to run the services. Father Jeff thanked all who participate in the Worship Ministry.

Tom Kott stated that he thanked everyone for their support while he was on the vestry and thanked all the vestry for their work and support. Father Jeff thanked him for his work as Senior Warden.

Deacon Gretchen Peske reported that she is involved with the Greensburg Ministerium. She talked about the huge problem with drugs that we have in Westmoreland County. She has attended seminars on this as well as on human trafficking. She mentioned a book called *Stolen* that she recommended for those interested in this. She asked us to pray about how we as a parish can help with these problems. She also asked that we

consider doing something for the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCS) in the coming year. We will be serving a meal at Shepherd's Heart in May.

Father Jeff stated his vision for 2017 is that the vestry will be meeting the week after Easter to re-evaluate our Mission and Vision Statements and to ramp up our Outreach and Mission. How can we use our gifts for God's work? He stated that he is very excited that Archbishop Bob has become our Honorary Assistant and that he will be here on an irregular basis.

Father Jeff stated that he has become more involved with FCS and ALPHA. He is also serving on the Diocesan Standing Committee. He is excited about the new website, but in the meantime, he stated that he will be sending out more emails to keep in contact with everyone. He is thankful and humbled that we support him in his ministry here. He stated that we are re-writing our bylaws but have to wait until the diocese changes theirs.

He asked for any questions. There were none.

He closed that meeting with prayer at 12:38.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was passed.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marsha Tallant

### **RECTOR'S REPORT OF 2017 FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING**

This past year has been another wonderful year of spiritual growth. Our Vestry was blessed to have Archbishop Robert Duncan lead a day of recollection in April to hear what God is saying to us and create a vision statement. Hungry People are Fed Here, is what the Vestry heard very clearly from God. This new vision statement has been very helpful in having clarity of what we need to do in worship, in ministry and in our day to day life at Christ's Church. This vision statement is going to continue to be a key factor in our future growth which is happening. Last year is a bit of an anomaly with the way Christmas and New Year's fell on a Sunday. as well it seemed we had bad weather every weekend. It is quite understandable that our ASA (Average Sunday Attendance) was down slightly. However, we were blessed to see new faces as we worshiped Christ together.

We were fortunate to know that God continues to call us to feed hungry people as the negotiations that have been going on with the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh for almost 10 years came to completion in 2017. We were faced with a special Congregational Meeting in which we voted overwhelmingly to accept what was

presented to us; that is, that we will pay the Episcopal Diocese a 3.25% of income assessment for 20 years and thereafter an assessment of 1.75%. Taking the negotiated deal affords us the peace knowing we do not need to worry about looking over our shoulders with The Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh and can focus on doing God's will. This also allows us to begin a process of reconciliation with our sisters and brothers in The Episcopal Church.

This past year has been another year of feeding Greensburg, Western PA and the World with the message of Jesus Christ. Christ's Church Workers continue to do a stellar job in showing the hospitality of Christ in feeding hungry souls as well as bellies in the undercroft. A very successful Coat drive helped many people in Western PA. We were blessed to have Bishop Ali Buba Lamido to share with us the desperate hunger in his diocese and forged a wonderful relationship with him to help feed the needs of a New Hospital Center as well as creating a safe and wonderful school for girls to attend without fear of rape and abuse. This relationship assuredly will be a long-lasting blessing for years to come.

With many blessings of new faces at Christ's Church, there were many painful and sorrowful goodbyes. I know that those who went to the Lord are celebrating the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. My prayers go out to their amazing families as well. It is truly a blessing in serving you, and I look forward in this upcoming year in feeding hungry people with the Love of Jesus, side by side.

**Blessings,**

**Fr. Jeff**

### SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

Over the past year, we continued towards fulfilling our mission "To worship God and to make known the love and salvation of Christ." With our new tagline "Feeding Hungry Souls," I believe we have continued in this spirit.

2017 once again brought about changes, many positive. One of the biggest changes was our ability to put behind us the concern over the lawsuits concerning the ownership of our church building and funds between the Episcopal Church and us. The special church meeting in December to review a possible settlement was a major milestone. Our overwhelming vote to accept the settlement was in my view monumental. Although everyone will agree the settlement was not ideal, like most all compromise, it was something we can work with and move forward in a very positive way.

We as a church continued to provide for the needs of our congregation, as well as the local community and beyond. This past year we have had food drives, coat drives, and salad bars. We hosted Bishop Lamado and provided support for his mission to bring the Gospel to Africa. We come together in fellowship with the annual picnic and holiday dinner as well as our weekly coffee hours after each of the services. Spiritually we continue to grow closer to the Lord and closer to each other.

I want to thank our Spiritual Leader, Father Jeff for keeping us focused on the goal stated in our mission statement, as well as the other clergy, Deacon Ruth and Deacon Gretchen, for their continued work and support. Also, I want to thank all the other folks that work to make our church successful. Lastly the Vestry for all the work they have done this past year.

Looking ahead I feel confident we will continue to make positive changes and move forward with our mission. May God bless us all with his guidance in this mission.

Respectfully,

Alan Fleissner

**SLATE OF NOMINEES FOR VESTRY ELECTION**

Rotating off the vestry is Marsha Tallant. Thank you for your service.

Alan Fleissner and Amy MacMannis have agreed to run again. Nick Lynch has also agreed to have his name put forth for election.

**VESTRY 2016 - 2017**

Dee Claiborne, Fellowship & Outreach (2020)  
Eugene DiPrimio, Jr Warden & Property (2019)  
Alan Fleissner, Senior Warden & Assist Treasurer (2018) - replaced Fred Vornbrock  
Amy MacMannis, Communication (2018) - replaced David Sandala  
Marsha Tallant, Treasurer/Clerk & Worship (2018)  
Tom Thompson, Christian Education (2020)  
Ann Yutz, Fellowship & Outreach (2019)

**VITAL STATISTICS**

MEMBERSHIP

Active Baptized Members	295
Baptisms in 2016	4
Confirmations or Receptions	2
Deaths	6

ATTENDANCE AND SERVICES

Average Attendance at Principal Services	97
Services	
Principal	105
Holy Days	5
All Other	105

Other

Marriages	3
Burials	4



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

In 2017, as seen on the Financial Statements, we were once again blessed to receive more income than we had expenses. Thank you to all the people of the church who love God and this parish enough to support it adequately. New to this year's financials:

- We moved all the investments to the Vestry Restricted Fund. This was to comply with the regulations that the Episcopal Diocese stated about their assessment
- We have a new fund called Harvest. This is because Father Jeff now is the Rector of Harvest Anglican in Homer City and they send us money for Father Jeff's expenses. With the new fund, we will separate the money from ours

Everything else has remained the same.

Our investments with Morgan Stanley are doing very well - of course so is the Stock Market. We earned over \$15,000 this past year.

The budget for 2018 remained close to the same as prior years. Father Jeff received a 6% raise, and Sara Frye was restored some of the salary that she lost in the years that the budget was cut.

Thank you again for the continued support.

Marsha Tallant, Treasurer  
Alan Fleissner, Investment Committee Member

















## OUTREACH & FELLOWSHIP

Friends, Christians, Anglicans, lend me your ear. 2017 was the first year for the combined Outreach/Fellowship commission and what a great year it was! The love of Christ was abundant at every function and activity.

As always, Christ's Church parishioners were very generous in donating items for the Westmoreland County Food Bank, Zach Packs, coats for Shepherd's Heart and diapers for the Children's Bureau. Many thanks to the ladies who knitted hats, scarves, and mittens for those in need this winter. The residents of Rosewood Manor also benefited from your generosity.

On March 12 we welcomed Bishop Hobby for those being confirmed and received. A breakfast was held for him following the early service sponsored by Freda, Rodger and many others. After the later service, a reception catered by Sun Dawgs was held in honor of his annual visit.

In May we celebrated the 90th birthday of Deacon Ruth. Light refreshments and cake were served in honor of this monumental milestone. Sandy Carlson presented her with a beautiful collage of pictures from her ministry, and Deacon Gretchen gave her a "bell" to keep all of us standing at attention.

The annual parish picnic was held at Hempfield Park on August 24th. A service was held prior to the service with Father Jeff officiating and Sara and David Frye leading the music. Deacon Gretchen and Dee Claiborne planned many games and activities for picnic goers. The high lite of the picnic was the magician and the caricatures of children done by our resident artist, Lee Klingenberg. About 75 attended and everyone enjoyed food prepared by Chef Geo and food donated by everyone in attendance

Christ's Church is sponsored a new ministry called the Attitude of Gratitude which is held the first Sunday of October every year. This is a different kind of blessing for those who love to ride motorcycles. At the start of the year, the bikers ask for a blessing of safe riding. Fr Jeff blesses each and every rider and prays for other difficulties they might be having in their lives. Light refreshments are served, and door prizes and vest pins are given away.

The annual Christmas parade is probably the biggest event at Christ's Church. Two years in a row, mother nature did not cooperate. Parade goers dodged raindrops and found fellowship in the undercroft. Hot dogs and kraut, homemade cookies, snacks, and hot drinks were enjoyed by everyone. Leftover food was sent to the Welcome Home Shelter.

Without the love and support of Father Jeff, Deacon Ruth, Deacon Gretchen and all the people of Christ's Church we would not be able to be a beacon of light to our community and beyond.

If you have ideas for future outreach ministries, please contact Ann Yutz or Dee Claiborne.

### **PROPERTY REPORT**

When we have property, as most of us know, we have concerns and issues. Our beautiful church and C.E. building are no different. The year of 2017 was once again a busy year, but, with any property, it is always busy.

In 2017 we replaced the sound system in the church. This was expensive but needed. Thanks to Nick Lynch and Don Born the outside of the windows in the undercroft were painted. Some repairs were made to the south porch, but it is not yet complete. A railing was added outside the front door of the church. The water meter was moved in the CE Building. And a few minor but costly repairs were made to the chairlift and the air conditioning.

Some really major items are now becoming a major issue. As you know, we had to do repairs to the air conditioning system, which were very expensive repairs for us. We were also informed the system is on borrowed time, so to speak. As we address the air conditioning, we must also consider the heating system. The boilers are very old and are now starting to have problems, which, will also be expensive.

As with all things that get older, it means more calls to the doctor. We are trying to keep everything working, as best we can, we all can be comfortable in church each Sunday.

Respectfully,  
Gene DiPrimio, Property

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

In 2017, we spent time to maintain our current communication systems we have in place. We continued to look into advertising who we are as a church through community events.

We have made great strides in revamping the church website. The new site is live and working as expected. Currently, the site holds upcoming event information, links to our

affiliates, the latest newsletter available for download, easy to use directions and contact information, our full calendar of events and multiple pages dedicated to advertising our missing and "How We Feed." Additionally, the site is easier to manage and update which is saving time and money for the church.

In 2018, updates and improvements to the website will continue. Throughout the year, the site will support online donations and a digitally available newsletter. The website will also have the ability to host other parishes in the diocese who cannot support their own online presence, without adding time or financial strain on us.

We are still seeking volunteer(s) to take over assembling and publishing of "The Word" newsletter. Anyone interested in helping to maintain the longstanding tradition of Christ's Church, please let me know.

Thank you for your time,

Amy MacMannis

### **WORSHIP MINISTRY**

The Worship Ministry is made up of The Lay Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Altar Guild, Choir, Acolytes and Projection Team – all the ministries that work together to make sure that the worship services flow smoothly.

Marsha Tallant currently schedules the LEMs and Lectors and sees to it that they have what they need. This year we added Matt Cook and Jayne Oberdorf to the list. They always do a great job reading the lessons and helping to serve communion. Dale Poole has taken on the job of taking Eucharist to our shut-ins and nursing homes. He also conducts services at Weatherwood on a regular schedule. Deacons Gretchen and Ruth also conduct services at nursing homes.

The Altar Guild under the guidance of Janet Colosimo, who is currently on a medical leave, worked very hard to see that the sanctuary was ready for all services. They are really in need of new members. Please consider this when you think about how God uses you in the lift of the church.

The Acolytes worked hard every week because their numbers are so few as well. Katie Kott, Lilly Cook, Daniel Cook, and Kellen Wylie handle the 10:30 services while Luke Sandala and Alessia Sandala take care of the 8:00.

In 2017 the choir lost a long-time member, Carla Thompson to death. She is greatly missed. If you love to sing, please join us on Thursday evenings at 7:15.

Under the direction of Howard Finney and Greg Andreyko at the 10:30 and 8:00 services respectively, the Greeters and Ushers continue to see that our services run smoothly from the rear of the nave. The greeters with their friendly smiles are the first people visitors see, and we do appreciate them. Howard also see that we have greeters at funerals and holy day services.

We have added projection at the 8:00 a.m. service recently. Father Jeff needs help in advancing the iPad. With the new liturgies coming out yet again – it helps that it is projected, and we do not have to cost of printing new books at this time. New Prayer Books will be coming out soon.

Many thanks to all the members of each of these groups – without them, we would not be able to worship God without too many glitches. You are all a blessing.

If you of you are interested in joining any of these group, please talk to Father Jeff or me. We will be delighted to have you join in.

Marsha Tallant  
Worship Ministry Chair

### CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

This year saw growth in some areas of Christian education but also some difficulties. Overall the Sunday School continued to teach our children with the help of our Lord and the hard work of our dedicated Sunday School teachers.

A new Sunday School class for middle school-aged children began meeting in September on Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15. The class has four students that regularly attend, with attendance varying from one week to the next. They have been studying the Scriptural lessons used for each week's service and how the principles in these lessons apply to their lives.

Father Jeff has also been teaching a Confirmation class which led up to Katie Kott and Nick Lynch being confirmed on Feb 25, 2018.

This fall we noted with sadness the passing of long-time Sunday School teacher Esther Yant. While we know that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord, the children miss her, and we are all grateful for her love and dedication to the children of the church.

In adult education, a Men's Study Group led by Dennis Hyland, every Thursday mornings in the CE Building. They met for [six] weeks, and the group enjoyed the study. At the end of April, they began a six-week study on James. Talk to Dennis if you are interested or to hear what they are presently studying.

Seasonally on Wednesday and Thursday mornings, in the CE Building, Women's Day Out meets. They study a variety of books. The classes are independent of each other. For more information talk to Karen Artuso.

This fall there was also a class titled "Spiritual Cooking" that was held on Wednesday evenings starting in early September, but interest waned, and the class eventually stopped meeting.

The nursery area was renovated at a cost of \$2500 from the Evangelism Fund to the church undercroft so that the babies can be closer to their parents. We are looking for someone to volunteer to work in this area.

### **CHRIST'S CHURCH YOUTH GROUP REPORT**

Our group provides a way for the youth to form trusting relationships with adults who are dedicated to listening to their hurts, encouraging their hearts and nurturing them in their Christian faith. The Objective is to teach them how to use the bible in a way that they can apply it to their everyday lives.

A typical evening at youth group begins with causal conversation by asking each member to share their Highs and Lows for the week. This give each member a chance to share a bit of what is going on in their life and a chance to get to know each other. We then proceed with the lesson for the night. Each member takes a turn read the appointed scripture that accompany each lesson, and we discuss how it may relate to something in their life.

Throughout the year we have several service-inviting and sharing events. We began this season with lock-in January followed up with a potluck dinner and a movie. In February we held the annual Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday. During March and April, the group met for brunch after the Sunday service at 10:30 and then proceeded to the movie "The Shack" and went Cosmic Bowling. April followed with the traditional Easter egg hunt. When we resumed after the summer break the day switched from Wednesdays to Thursday still from 6:00 to 8:00 to try to accommodate the many activities that the youth are involved in during the week. September started off with a weekend retreat at Camp Allegheny. Always a favorite! October was the backwards Halloween, followed by the Salvation Army Red Bucket campaign ringing of the bell in November, and a Spaghetti Dinner in December.

Respectfully Submitted  
Jeff & Leslie Simpson.

## CHRIST CHURCH WORKERS

The mission statement of the CCW is: "To glorify God in relationships and activities, and to encourage a servant's heart toward God, the church family, and our community." We have many opportunities to practice this mission statement with our unique ministry.

The CCW had a good year. Our fundraisers are thriving, and the support from the church family has been outstanding. Some highlights of the year are as follows:

Our Salad Bars, six each year, continue to be a major fundraiser and provide many opportunities for ministry and fellowship. Christ's Church is recognized in Greensburg for delicious, homemade food at its salad bars, and our goal is to serve at least 100 guests on a regular basis.

Be assured that our salad bars are so much more than the money. Fr. Jeff is asked many times for prayers and counsel, another important part of his ministry.

The salad bars run smoothly with our seasoned helpers, because everyone knows what to do, and they do it well. One of our guests, who attends on a regular basis, has given the CCW a \$50.00 donation at Christmas for the past few years. No leftover food is wasted; first to the helpers in appreciation for their help; the Welcome Home Shelter, a needy person or family--whatever situation presents itself.

The Lunch, Soup, and Bake Sale, in December only, is a very popular event and is our biggest and best fundraiser. In 2017, we had a generous variety of homemade soups and baked goods, and our net income was \$1,485.45. This sale requires a huge amount of work but is definitely worth the effort.

Our Frozen Pie Sales are another fundraiser, held twice a year – one in May and one in November for the holidays. We offer 15 kinds of pies (including no-sugar-added) in addition to apple dumplings and pumpkin rolls. Many of our orders come from outside the church on a regular basis.

Scheduling our Christmas Dinner on a Saturday after the holidays has been one of our best decisions. About 100 adults and children attend, far more than in the past. Our next dinner will be on Saturday, January 5, 2019, at Lakeview.

At our January 6, 2018 dinner, the GBoyz, Gary and George, world famous in this area, sang and entertained us with their many songs. They were definitely a crowd favorite.

Funeral Luncheons are a ministry that the CCW provides to help and comfort parishioners in the death of a loved one. The CCW and the family work with a caterer

to provide their choice of food. We serve the food, provide tableware and centerpieces, and do final clean-up. We also provide a sheet cake and beverages at no expense to the family.

Donations from our fundraising events during the past year helped us to be good stewards of Christ's Church and our community as follows:

\$1,000.00      Five local charities: Blackburn Center, Noah's Ark Child Center, Union Mission of Latrobe, Welcome Home Shelter, Westmoreland County Food Bank

\$25.00      Students from Clelian Heights - gift card from Dairy Queen in appreciation for distributing salad bar flyers

\$100.00      Christ's Church - Office - use of copier

\$500.00      Christ's Church - Fellowship - use of kitchen supplies

Checks are written in June, after the last salad bar, and also includes a sizable check to Christ's Church for the Building Fund.

The CCW also provides assistance in various Fellowship events, as needed.

We welcome ALL members to be a part of our ministry because it provides an opportunity to be "ambassadors" for Christ's Church. We deeply appreciate the continued support of the church family and look forward to sharing good times at our many events.

Freda M. Schultz  
Chairman, CCW Ministry

### **CHRISTIAN WOMEN TOGETHER**

Christian Women Together is a new group at Christ's Church. We meet monthly, usually the second Monday, and go to a restaurant together. The fellowship and food is always delightful. Some months we have had almost 25 attendees. Watch for the announcements in the bulletin or talk to Deacon Gretchen for information.