

SIGNIFICANT MILESTONES
IN
CHRIST'S CHURCH'S HISTORY

MAY 2019



GREENSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Significant Events in the History of Christ's Church, Greensburg

Listed below in chronological order are significant milestones in the long history of Christ's Church located in downtown Greensburg, Pennsylvania. The sources for these dates are extensive; a listing detailing these sources is located on the last page of this document.

July 4, 1776 - The United States of American declares its independence from Great Britain and its Church of England forcing Anglicans in America to form a new church—the Episcopal Church.

November 14, 1784 - The Reverend Samuel Seabury was consecrated by Bishops Kilgour, Petrie, and Skinner in Aberdeen, Scotland. The Church of England could not consecrate American bishops due to the requirement of allegiance to the Crown.

October 1785 - The First General Convention of Episcopal Church was held, with clergy and lay representatives from Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, and Virginia. The General Convention authorized the preparation of an American Prayer Book and named itself *The Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America*.

1787 - Act of Parliament repealed the allegiance to the Crown requirement to allow for bishops of the Church of England to consecrate bishops in America.

February 4, 1787, The Archbishop of Canterbury and three other English bishops consecrated William White as Bishop of Pennsylvania and Samuel Provost as Bishop of New York.

1789 - An assembly of the American Church met in Philadelphia to unify all Episcopalians in the United States into a single national church. A constitution was adopted along with a set of canon laws.

September 19, 1790 - James Madison was consecrated in England as the Bishop of Virginia. When Seabury, White, Provost, and Madison joined to consecrate Thomas Claggett in Trinity Church in New York in 1790, the episcopate in the American Church declared its independence from Great Britain.

The above information was provided as background information on the establishment of the Episcopal Church in North America. What now follows is historical information leading to the establishment of Christ's Church in Greensburg and significant dates in its long history.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

1803 - Judge William Jack Sr, an Episcopalian, donated land to the borough of Greensburg for the erection of a house of public worship and an adjacent "place for burial of the dead." This land is the present St. Clair Park located across from the church office.

September 19, 1813 - First Episcopal Church Service held in Greensburg at the Court House with The Reverend John Curtis Clay and The Reverend George McIlhenny as Celebrants (both were missionaries sent from Philadelphia by the "Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania").

1814 to 1822 - The Reverend Moses Bennet (a Deacon sent by Diocese of Philadelphia and "Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania") held services in the Greensburg area.

1822 - Judge William Jack Sr. donated land on Front Street (now Maple Avenue) for the first church.

November 27, 1822 - Parish Charter signed by vestry with The Reverend Moses Bennet serving as the Parish Rector.

January 31, 1823 - The Parish Charter was signed and granted by an Act of the Pennsylvania State Legislature.

May 1823 - Christ's Church was admitted to The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States by Convention.

May 5, 1823 - The Church Cornerstone was laid for the first church.

1824 - The first church was completed at a cost of \$1,683 and was designed by The Reverend John Henry Hopkins.

1825 - The Right Reverend William White was the first Bishop to visit Christ's Church and confirmed 60 candidates. Candidates were prepared for Confirmation by The Reverend John Henry Hopkins.

1830 - The Reverend Sanson K. Brunot became the fourth Rector. He also served Blairsville. The Parish started record keeping of the Parish and noted on September 26, 1830, the presence of 26 communicants at Holy Communion and 75 pupils in Sunday School.

April 1831 - A new organ installed at a cost of \$140.

1831 - At Diocese Convention The Reverend Brunot reported that the Sunday School was "more flourishing than in any former period with 13 teachers, 104 scholars, besides an

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

efficient superintendent and librarian, with a library of 150 volumes.”

May 1832 – The Reverend Brunot left for health reasons. He was succeeded by The Reverend Edward Y. Buchanan, the brother of James Buchanan who later became President of the United States. The Reverend Buchanan’s wife was a sister of Stephen Collins Foster, the legendary American singer, and songwriter.

1833 – Was the year of the first recorded offering for Missions (\$10.00).

1833-1849 – The Parish suffered hard times, and membership dwindled to 27 members. No Rector, no money, building in ruins.

1848 - The first offering for Foreign Missions was received (\$5.00).

1850 – The Reverend William Paddock arrived as District Missionary and became Rector which led to growth and new church construction.

October 7, 1851 – Mr. and Mrs. William and Harriet Jack conveyed land at Main and Tunnel Streets for building of the second church.

December 1, 1851 – The second Church Cornerstone was laid on same location as our present church.

1853 – Mr. Caleb Cope donated three windows that were installed in the second church. Those windows were moved to the North Transept of the present church when it was completed in 1891.

May 3, 1854 - Bishop Potter consecrated the second church which was built at a cost of \$5,000.

1850s to 1870 – Marked a period of unsettled years, a small congregation; vestry minutes reflect the high cost of building maintenance.

1871 – The envelope system of subscription adopted (modern system for the time).

1885 - Weekly celebration of Holy Communion was instituted by The Reverend James Williams. Prior to this, Holy Communion was offered monthly when a rector was present. The Reverend Williams also founded the Christ’s Church Guild, a women’s group that worked and planned for the church. Their efforts ultimately furnished the church, paid liberally toward the reduction of the mortgage, helped to pay for the furnishing of the Rectory, purchased and cared for the Choir robes, and installed lockers in the Choir room.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

1880 to 1900 - Christ's Church Guild provided much of the social and artistic entertainment for the city of Greensburg. Events included bazaars, antique shows, dramatic and musical performances for the benefit of the raising funds for the church.

1886 - The Reverend George Van Waters arrived and began discussions for a new church. There was little support for repair of the old church which was run down and limited in space.

July 1889 - Demolition of the second church began.

September 27, 1889 - The third Church Cornerstone was laid on same lot as second church (present location). The Right Reverend Cortland Whitehead, D.D., and Bishop of Pittsburgh presided over the service.

July 1889 to December 1891 - Services were held in the Masonic Temple during construction of the new church.

December 1891 - Christ's Church was completed at a cost of \$28,185. The original budget was \$12,000, but the vestry continued to make changes to the original plans that inflated the cost.

1892 - A chapter of "Daughters of the King" was organized. A chapter of "Brothers of St. Andrew" was organized.

1895 - During services for First Sunday of Advent, the first "vested" Choir was introduced, a mixed group of 24 voices.

April 13, 1902 - An amendment of the Church's Charter to allow women to vote for Vestrymen was adopted and incorporated. The Parish paid off its mortgage. An anonymous donor paid to have the church rewired and combination gas and electric chandeliers installed in the Sunday School area, the Guild room, and Vestry room.

May 1903 - The original Charter was amended to reflect association with the newly formed Pittsburgh Diocese.

1907 - The Reverend H. Hobart Barber completed *A History of Christ's Church 1822 - 1907*.

1908 - The Altar Guild was organized to care for the altar linens, frontals, vestments, etc.

May 1911 - A new pipe organ was installed for a price of \$4,100.

April 1916 - The Reverend William Francis Shero, Ph.D. began his service. He was the longest-serving rector in the history of Christ's Church and had a very high standard of

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

music, liturgics, and a firm adherence to the traditions of the church.

January 30, 1923 - Under The Reverend Dr. Shero's organization, Christ's Church celebrated its centennial anniversary of the Parish. Bishop Mann made his first visitation and Reverend Barber, the former rector, made an historical address.

November 1941 - The Reverend and Mrs. William Shero departed the Parish after 25 years of service. He died two years later.

November 7, 1948 - Dr. Lucius Rogers Shero, son of the former rector gave a recital on the refurbished organ, completed as a tribute to Reverend Shero's service to Christ's Church. He played his father's favorite hymn, "O, love that will not let me go."

1950 - The Reverend Chester L. Weems became rector. With youth and vigor, he stimulated the interest and devotion of the parishioners to increased attendance at services and a renewal of life to all the parochial organizations.

1954 - Christ's Church was stronger and more active than ever, and the interest and efforts of the laymen were on a much wider scale than had been the "norm" in the past. A new organ was installed. A Rectory was purchased on Harrison City Road.

1955 - Without undue pride, Christ's Church was considered one of the finest churches in Greensburg and also in the Diocese of Pittsburgh.

September 1955 - "Christ Church Greensburg, an Early Episcopal Parish in Western Pennsylvania" by Mr. Hugh Welty was published and distributed.

1957 - Mr. James Nash was hired as Choir Director; his wife, Martha, was hired to direct the Junior Choir. Ms. Margaret Davidson continued as Organist.

December 2, 1957 - Reverend Weems died suddenly of a heart attack after seven years of service to Christ's Church. The congregation mourned his passing.

February 1958 - A house at Center and Grant Streets was purchased for Mrs. Weems.

June 9, 1958 - The Reverend Allen Miller was installed as the new rector.

February 6, 1962 - There was a vestry discussion about the "paid Choir" also referred to as "professional singers."

September 4, 1962 - The vestry passed a motion to terminate the "professional Choir" effective June 30, 1963, and establish a "volunteer Choir" with a hired director.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

November 3, 1964 - Christ's Church Guild, along with other churches agreed to provide tutoring to potential drop out junior high school students. The Parish house was used twice a week for this purpose.

1964 - The Rector's report recommended building a new Parish House, indicating the present rented space at 126 North Maple Avenue was too small.

July 1965 - Vestry discussed options of building a new church at a new site vs. remodeling present church and purchasing the University of Pittsburgh building at 122 North Maple Avenue for use as a Parish House.

1967 - The Huff House owned by Mrs. John Horn at 424 North Main Street was generously offered as a gift to Christ's Church as a rectory. (This is the present YWCA).

1968 - The Reverend Allen Miller served on the Navy Hospital Ship "HOPE" along with Dr. Pascal Spino of Greensburg.

April 8, 1969 - The vestry approved sale of the Horn property on North Main Street and agreed to provide a housing allowance to The Reverend Allen Miller. He became the first rector to purchase his own home.

1969 - The McWhorter property at 126 North Maple Avenue was purchased through funds donated by Ms. Virginia Jamison in honor of her mother, Ms. Margaret Humphrey. This became the first Parish House (office). There was a "cottage" in the rear which became the Sexton's residence.

1969 - Ms. Carolyn Jamison Lynch established a scholarship fund in memory of her mother, Ms. Hettie Barclay Jamison. Since that time, Christ's Church has funded the education of 28 students who have attended Episcopal secondary schools, colleges, or theological schools. Fourteen of those have been ordained to the diaconate or priesthood.

April 12, 1970 - Ms. Jane McCartney became the first woman elected to the vestry of Christ's Church.

May 1970 - Christ's Church was granted a Charter to sponsor a Boy Scout Troop.

June 1970 - The vestry approved the sale of all properties owned by the church that included Mrs. Weems residence and property on College Avenue (a former rectory). The Weems property did not sell!

1971 - Ms. Christy Davidson, Ms. Mari Haeflein, Ms. Sue Hargnett, Ms. Kendall Kay, and Ms. Jane Star served as the first female acolytes.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

November 23, 1971 - The Reverend Allen Miller presented his letter of resignation to become the Canon Pastor of Trinity Cathedral, effective January 13, 1972.

January 1972 - October 1972 - The Reverend David St. Clair, a member of Christ's Church, served as Interim Rector.

1972 - A new Moeller organ and new choir furniture were installed. The previous organ suffered from water damage.

October 29, 1972 - The Reverend David VanDusen was installed as Rector of Christ's Church.

December 1972 - Choir Directors, Mr., and Mrs. James Nash, retired after 15 years of dedicated service. Mr. James Thompson became Senior Choir Director as well as continuing to be the organist.

1973 - Episcopal Church Women (ECW), formerly Christ's Church Guild, sponsors the first "Salad Bar."

March 1973 - The congregation and vestry approved recommendations of the Chancel Renewal Committee to relocate The Lord's Table from the rear wall of the Sanctuary to a free-standing Lord's Table in the center (as it is today).

May 20, 1973 - The 150th Anniversary of Christ's Church was celebrated. The service was led by The Reverend VanDusen, with The Right Reverend Robert B. Appleyard, Bishop of the Diocese of Pittsburgh, preaching the sermon. He confirmed 20 candidates presented by Reverend VanDusen. Following the service, a buffet luncheon was served in the Undercroft.

July 10, 1973 - Christ's Church participated in the Westmoreland County Bicentennial (1773 -1973) celebrations by placing a float in the Frontier Parade from Greensburg to Hannastown.

June 8, 1974 - Ms. Harriet Haile was selected at the first female Junior Warden of the Vestry.

1974 - Prayer Chain initiated by The Reverend VanDusen. A walkway was installed between Christ's Church and Trinity United Church of Christ leading from Main Street to the alley. The grounds were landscaped to create a park-like atmosphere.

1974 - Mrs. Maggie Mackie directed the Junior Choir with 24 children in the choir.

1975 - The Reverend VanDusen resigned as rector to answer a call in Weston,

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

Massachusetts. New needlepoint kneelers were installed at the Communion Rail.

1975 - The Reverend Robert Bauer served as Interim Rector. Mr. Frank Keck presented a series of six seminars on "The History of Anglicanism."

November 14, 1976 - The Reverend William T. Pickering was installed as the 34th Rector of Christ's Church. The University of Pittsburgh building at 122 North Maple Avenue was purchased for \$100,000. The Parish House at 126 North Maple Avenue was sold for \$60,000, and these funds were used as the down payment.

1976 - The first issue of *The Word* was published by Ms. Sandy Carlson as Editor and Publisher. The "Calling and Caring" ministry began.

1977 - The former University of Pittsburgh building became the Christian Education (CE) Building and new church office. At a vestry retreat, new by-laws were approved, and the vestry approved use of the CE Building for an Adult Basic Education Program, funded by "Manpower." Twenty-nine students enrolled in the GED Program. The "Commission System" was adopted by the vestry defining responsibility and authority over various area of parish life.

May 1978 - The vestry approved relocating the library from the Undercroft to the CE Building. Stained glass window protective coverings were installed.

1979 - A position of Assistant Minister approved by the vestry. The Reverend James Ezell was assigned by the Diocese as Assistant Minister to begin a "Yoke" Ministry with St. Bartholomew's Church, Scottdale.

March 1979 - The Reverend Pickering initiated a Prayer Vigil from the end of Maundy Thursday Service through the night until Good Friday Services began.

May 8, 1979 - The Reverend Pickering selected Ms. Sandy Carlson as the first female Senior Warden.

October 1979 - Christ's Church pledged \$1,000 to "Women's Services of Westmoreland County," helping them to set up a "battered" women's shelter.

1981 - The Yoke Ministry with St. Bartholomew's ended with The Reverend Ezell being called to North Carolina; the "Order of St. Luke" healing ministry was introduced; Cursillo, an international short course in Christianity renewal program, was introduced.

December 1981 - Diocese Board of Trustees approved sale of the Weems home. A \$5,000 grant received for a Christian Preschool was to begin in September 1982.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

December 2, 1981 - The 90th Anniversary of the Dedication of the present Church Building was held, The Reverend Pickering presiding.

September 1982 - Christ's Church Preschool began. Forty inquiring 3 and 4 year-olds filled the classroom three days a week.

January 24, 1983 - The Reverend William T. Pickering resigned as he was called to St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

February 1983 - The Weems residence sold for \$30,000.

March 1983 - The Reverend John Fetterman approved as Interim Rector for Sundays only. The Reverend Sara Chandler served as Interim Rector for March and April.

September 1983 - Major fire damaged the CE Building affecting the library and nursery.

1984 - Mr. James Thompson resigned as Organist/Choir Director. Ms. Suzanne Newman hired to replace Mr. Thompson, and she also directed the Children's Choir.

1984 - The Reverend Dr. Karl Ruttan was installed as the 35th Rector of Christ's Church. Reverend Ruttan initiated a focus on small groups, parish development, and outreach.

1984 - The Reverend Karl Ruttan originated "The Tunnel Street Gang" to foster fellowship among the younger membership. (*Howard Yant selected the name of the group!*)

1985 - Church supported Ms. Melody Patterson as a Missionary to Kenya, Zambia, and Guatemala.

1986 - A new sign/message board was installed at the church entrance. The "Second Century Renewal Fund" was established by the vestry to plan toward renovation, repair, and preservation of the church' buildings.

August 1987 - Mr. Jim Thompson was hired for the second time as Organist/Choir Director following the resignation of Ms. Suzanne Newman.

August 1988 - A Mission team traveled to Agua Viva, Guatemala City for 10 days. An Evangelism committee was formed with "home churches" encouraged.

1989 - Deacon Ruth Manson joined the staff.

1989 - A chairlift was installed in the stairway to the Undercroft, and the entire facility was upgraded to be handicapped accessible. Christ's Church received a Congressional Citation for our accomplishments.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

1989 - The pews were stripped and refinished. New carpeting was installed in the Nave.

1990 - The Reverend Ruttan took a sabbatical to study Anglican spirituality at Westcott House, Cambridge, England. The Baptismal Font was relocated to the rear of the Nave.

April 1991 - Mr. and Mrs. Ralph and Mary Lou Hargnett started the Christ's Church Travelers group. Over the course of seven years, the group journeyed to Canada and the northeastern United States. They enjoyed plays and musicals as well as scenic adventures.

1991 - Mr. Corey Whitaker was hired as Youth Minister to develop youth programming.

December 1, 1991 - 100th Anniversary of the Consecration of the Church. The Reverend Karl Ruttan presided with The Reverend William Pickering and The Right Reverend Alden Hathaway, Bishop of the Pittsburgh Diocese.

1993 - The church sponsored a second mission trip to Guatemala. Deacon Marion Kush joined the staff. Two stained glass windows in the Tiffany style are installed as is a new sound system.

1994 - An Epiphany Partnership was developed.

September 7, 1994 - The Reverend Karl Ruttan resigned, accepting a call to Charleston, WV. The Reverend Kelly Marshall was approved as Interim Rector.

1995 - The slate roof replacement project is completed at a cost of \$150,000.

July 23, 1995 - The Reverend Larry Knotts appointed the 36th Rector of Christ's Church.

June 1996 - Ms. Bonita Heisey became Director of Christian Education and made major changes to the Sunday School program. Schedules were altered, and a new curriculum was put in place for each age group. The result was 167% increase in attendance! Additionally, Adult Education incorporated a new curriculum with Mr. Willy Heisey as leader and attendance also increased.

1996 - Mr. Shawn Porter joined the staff as Youth Minister and started a new era.

1997 - Under direction of The Reverend Knotts, an Alpha program was initiated, small group ministries began, a Stephen Ministry was established under the leadership of Deacon Ruth Manson, and a service for younger parishioners was started. *Mysterious footprints appeared in "the alley" to lead the way from the Undercroft to the C.E building!*

1997 - Sunday School attendance increased by 120% - 191% above the 1995 level.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

A summer program for children up to fifth-grade level was originated.

1997 - A house and lot adjacent to the CE building was acquired. The house (damaged by a fire) was demolished, and the lot became the Children's Playground.

Summer, 1997 - Vacation Bible School began with 60 children attending. The original Charter document was restored, framed, and displayed on the wall near the Sacristy entrance.

December 28, 1997 - In cooperation with the Junior Choir, the Sunday School children presented a Christmas pageant at the 10:30 service. Following the service, a "Happy Birthday Jesus" party was held in the Undercroft.

September 1997 to November 1998 - Numerous events led to the 175th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner at Mountain View Inn on November 20, 1998. The numerous events included plays, picnics, a Seder meal, a harp recital, and more. Ms. Sandy Carlson created a special booklet on the stories behind the church's stained glass windows for this occasion. New Hardanger altar linens were presented, too.

1998 - Lite@Nite, a contemporary service began on Sunday evenings; Mr. Marc Dobson led the music. Junior and Senior Youth Groups continued to grow under leadership of Mr. Shawn Porter.

April 13, 1999 - Mr. Gene Sherman was hired as the new Youth Minister as Mr. Shawn Porter had been accepted as a Postulant for Holy Orders. Gene started a "Breakfast Club" for junior high students to study Episcopal doctrine. A Sunday night "Club" also began for the youth to learn about discipleship.

1999 - Christian Education flourished as Women's Day Out split into two groups with over 30 women attending.

October 3, 1999 - The Reverend Knotts initiated the first "Family Service," held the first Sunday of every month using a computer and projector to project the entire service instead of using the Bulletin, Book of Common Prayer and Hymnal.

Summer, 2000 - Vacation Bible School attracted 100 children!

September 2000 - As part of her fieldwork assignment, Ms. Cathy Cook arrived from Trinity School of Ministry. She worked with Alpha, taught some Sunday School classes, and preached a few sermons with Reverend Knotts mentoring.

May 2001 - Ms. Cathy Cook (now Hitch) departed for Colorado where she was ordained and serves at Calvary Episcopal Church in Golden, Colorado.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

2001 - Christ's Church joined the "Adopt A Highway" program. Our area of responsibility was the West Newton Interchange on U.S. Route 30.

June 2001 - The Reverend Tony Welty was appointed as Assistant Rector. Reverend Welty assisted with Alpha, played bass guitar in the instrumental group, and helped lead Lite@Nite.

2002 - Under direction of Reverend Welty, small groups prospered. He also started a ministry assisting couples through the trials of marital difficulties. He and his wife, Cherie, led several discipleship classes as well. Mr. and Mrs. Bonita and Willy Heisey stepped down, so Reverend Welty took on the responsibility of Christian Education. Ms. Karen Artuso became Sunday School Director, and Ms. Cherie Welty became Children's Ministry Coordinator.

Summer, 2002 - The Reverend Welty coordinated "An Evangelistic Weekend with Michael Greene." The planning committee involved several seminarians from Trinity School of Ministry, and many were led to the Lord that weekend.

Fall, 2002 - "Bible Studies 'R' Us" small group began on Wednesday evenings and grew from 6 to 18 adults over four-year span.

May 2003 - The Reverend Tony Welty was called to St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Geneva, IL to serve as Assistant Rector.

2004 - Mr. James Thompson retired as Organist and Choir Director after 50 years of dedicated Christian service. The vestry appointed Ms. Sara Stinson (Frye) as Organist and Choir Director. She also started a Junior Choir. Alpha was phased out and Wednesday Night Bible Study became "Food for Thought."

2005 - The "Barna" program for church growth was put back in the closet as we embarked on the diocese sponsored "Natural Church Development" program, mentored by The Reverend Mark Wright. Our church scored lowest on internal communication, so much emphasis was placed on that area of improvement.

April 8-10, 2005 - Christ's Church sponsored a "Faith Alive" weekend. This special weekend event was held in our church, with neighborhood groups meeting Saturday morning in the homes of our parishioners. Men, women, and teenagers from churches near and far traveled at their own expense to serve as facilitators and leaders of programs for youth and children. Faith Alive musicians led in the worship services. Stories of faith proved how lives are refreshed by a conscious commitment to follow Jesus Christ as Lord.

August 2005 - Mr. Bill Owens arrived as the new Youth Group Leader. He along with his family came to us from Louisiana through the Faith Alive weekend.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

2006 – Mr. Bill Owens renamed the Youth Group “3:58” as they decided to meet every Sunday at 2 minutes to 4 PM. The group made the Christian Education building their focal point by enhancing the audio and video equipment, installing new window treatments, plus a fresh coat of paint. Youth studies included Confirmation classes, Book of Common Prayer, plus in-depth Bible Studies. Ms. Leslie Simpson joined the adult leadership team as Assistant to the Youth Leader.

Summer, 2006 – “Christ's Church Travelers” began again with two scheduled trips; the first, a day trip to Lancaster and the second, a tour of four of Pittsburgh's Landmark Churches.

August 2006 – A new era of ECW began as Ms. Freda Schultz replaced Ms. Carol Pracel as ECW Chairperson. The group was much smaller than previous years but was proud to be one of the most active ECWs in the diocese.

Fall, 2006 – The Reverend Knotts began a sermon series on “The Purpose Driven Life.”

2007 – The Youth Group (3:58) took on “the dungeon.” The basement of the CE building was completely redone as a flood did a lot of damage to the area. The renovated basement was renamed “3:58 Underground.”

March 2007 - With The Reverend Barbara Knotts health declining, the diocese blessed us with a new assistant rector, The Reverend Peggy Means. As an avocational priest, Peggy began by assisting in the leading of Sunday services. Reverend Means also started a small group study, performed monthly Eucharistic Services at local assisted living facilities, and supported The Reverend Larry Knotts wherever necessary.

Summer, 2007 – Through the efforts of Mr. Bill Owens and Mr. Jeff Simpson plus a team of golfers from the Parish, the Youth Group hosted their first Golf Outing. The Youth Group continued to grow through events like “Invite a Friend to Church,” Lock-ins, softball games, and the favored “Slob Fest”! The youth group also sponsored a “Concert in the Park” offering Christian music at St. Clair Park.

2007 – Fellowship, Outreach, and Evangelism continued to grow through numerous coordinated efforts including Senior Lunches, Bible Studies, Dinners for the Needy, visits to The Women's Shelter, and support of the County Food Bank, just to name a few.

November 2007 – The diocese took the first vote to disaffiliate from The Episcopal Church. Christ's Church supported that vote.

2008 – The ECW donated animal oxygen masks to three local fire departments, and Sewickley Township successfully used theirs to resuscitate a pet.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

April 2008 - "Friday Night Friends" home Bible Study Group began.

Fall, 2008 - The Reverend Peggy Means initiated a mother/daughter small group bible study. The Parish Youth began "Chick-fil-a Fridays" an event that continued for four years. One Friday every month during the school year, the Youth Group team fed youth that attended Greensburg-Salem Middle School. The youth team used the experience to share testimony and discuss the Bible.

September 2008 - The Right Reverend Robert Duncan, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese in Pittsburgh, was deposed by the national church.

September 7, 2008 - Dr. Jack Gabis, the Director of the Anglican Network Youth Ministry, visited Christ's Church.

October 11, 2008 - Volunteers from Christ's Church visited the Seeds of Hope Episcopal Church in Pittsburgh and served dinner to 128 people.

November 2008 - The diocese took the second vote to disaffiliate from The Episcopal Church. Christ's Church supported that vote.

2009 - Articles of Incorporation were revised to reflect the *proper name* of our church. Our Charter indicated the name to be Christ's Church, and all documents were revised accordingly. The vestry approved all changes, including a new Personnel Policy.

2009 - Ms. Amy Owens initiated a "Partners for Prayer" group to pray for the needs of others. The prayer chain continues to grow.

January 7, 2009 - Alpha started again on Wednesday evenings.

May 7, 2009 - Christ's Church participated in the National Day of Prayer celebration.

October 2009 - Outreach sponsored a "Dads and Lads" weekend retreat at the Diocesan Donegal Lake Common Life Property. The weekend included outdoor activities like building a "zip line," rope swing, and model rockets plus Bible instruction and sing-alongs!

October 5, 2009 - The Reverend Peggy Means began weekly evening prayer services on Wednesday nights following a potluck dinner.

November 13, 2009 - ECW sponsored a Gospel and Patriotic Concert featuring Elvis Tribute Artist, Mr. Eddie Steen. ECW Salad Bar proceeds helped sponsor six local charities.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

November 22, 2009 – The Reverend Ruth Manson, our beloved deacon, conducted and celebrated one last time at Christ's Church.

2010 – The Parish website was modified to reflect the original name: Christ's Church. In addition, the links to the Diocese of Pittsburgh and the Anglican Church of North America were updated.

2010 – Through the efforts of Mr. Bill Owens and a team of skilled carpenters from the Parish, the Choir area was renovated so that the Choir now has a "loft" and faces the congregation. The organ was also relocated. This also required a support wall in the Undercroft, so that area now has a storage area for supplies. New signage was installed to reflect our proper name.

2010 – To correspond with our given name, the ECW (Episcopal Church Women) changed their name to CCW (Christ's Church Women).

January 17, 2010 – Christ's Church held a retirement reception for Deacon Ruth.

February 14, 2010 – Christ's Church celebrated Ms. Louise Kilgore's 100th birthday by giving her a birthday party and luncheon.

March 21, 2010 – Mr. Vladimir Mitnitsky from the *Jews for Jesus* ministry visited and conducted a program at Christ's Church as part of Passover.

April 2010 – The Membership approved all revisions to the By-laws. The State of Pennsylvania has on file our new Articles of Incorporation, and our new Personnel Policy was placed in effect in accordance with the diocese document.

August 29, 2010 – Christ's Church hosted a "Senior Luncheon" for all of its members who had 60 years or more of life experience. Almost 50 attended.

September 2010 – The vestry appointed Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Simpson as leaders of the Youth Group.

October 3, 2010 – The congregation embraced the E100 Bible Study Program.

November 10, 2010 – Christ's Church changed its by-laws deleting all references to the Protestant Episcopal Church of the USA.

2011 – Youth Ministry continued to expand in Outreach and Evangelism with events like servings hot dogs in the park on concert nights, support of the county food bank, and Chick-fil-a Fridays.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

January 2011 - The Reverend Barbara Knotts, wife of The Reverend Larry Knotts, died following a long illness. The congregation mourned her passing.

February 2011 - The Reverend Peggy Means was appointed the Rector at Good Samaritan Church in Liberty Borough in Pittsburgh.

March 4, 2011 - Christ's Church hosts a special luncheon: *Made in America – the Role Christianity Played in Making America*.

March 6, 2011 - The Reverend Peggy Means celebrated her last time at Christ's Church.

April 2011 - Christ's Church announced a new website.

May 15, 2011 - Christ's Church hosted a luncheon for Archbishop Bob Duncan.

September 11, 2011 - Christ's Church conducted a special 10th Anniversary of 9-11-18 service to honor those killed.

December 10, 2011 - The Reverend Gretchen Peske was ordained Deacon. Bishop Robert Duncan assigned her to Christ's Church.

February 2012 - The Reverend Larry Knotts announced his retirement after nearly 17 years of service to Christ's Church. He was the second longest tenured rector of Christ's Church.

March 11, 2012 - A retirement dinner and special celebration was held for The Reverend Larry Knotts.

March 2012 - Mr. Bill Owens announced that he was departing for a position in the Diocese of South Carolina.

March 2012 - The Reverend Dr. Daniel Crawford was appointed as Interim Rector while the search committee sought a new rector.

April 29, 2012 - The Right Reverend Rodgers attended a luncheon in his honor at Christ's Church.

April 2012 to January 2013 - The vestry and diocesan staff work to complete a profile of Christ's Church for use in acquiring a new rector.

April 13 - 14, 2013 - Christ's Church celebrated its 190 years serving Greensburg and the surrounding area.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

October 6, 2013 - Marked the last sermon by The Reverend Dan Crawford during his 19 months at Christ Church.

November 2, 2013 - Archbishop Duncan presented the Deacon's Award to The Reverend Ruth Manson for her 25 years of service.

November 9, 2013 - The Parish hosted a "Celebration Dinner" recognizing the selfless service of The Reverend Dan Crawford as the Interim Rector.

November 16-17, 2013 - Women from Christ's Church participated in a regional Women's Retreat at Mt. Macrina, Uniontown.

December 14, 2013 - Christ's Church along with three other places of worship participated in a city church open house. This festive event was well attended.

January 2014 - The beloved Sexton of Christ's Church, Jim Armstrong, died in a car crash. The Parish mourned his sudden and untimely death.

January 2014 - The expression, "Come and Grow with Us" was restored as the Parish's logo.

February 1, 2014 - The Reverend Jeff Wylie was installed as the new rector at Christ's Church.

May 5, 2014 - Mr. Lee Klingenberg, lifelong member of the Parish and professional artist, offered watercolor classes to Parish members. All proceeds were donated to the Parish Building Fund.

May 11, 2014 - Christ's Church hosted a luncheon in honor of Assistant Bishop Frank Lyons during his visit to the Parish.

June 25-28, 2014 - The Provincial Assembly was held at St. Vincent's College with more than 900 participants attending from across the globe.

June 28, 2014 - Archbishop Duncan was replaced by the Most Reverend Foley Beach as part of the Provincial Assembly program.

October 2014 - Exterior work was done on the Tunnel Street-side of the church building. French drains were installed to solve the seepage problem, the old church cross was refurbished and installed atop of the steeple, and a new belfry was put in place.

November 2014 - "Favorite Recipes" from the Salad Bar were included in the monthly church newsletter.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

January 4, 2015 – The first “James Armstrong Award” was presented during the 10:30 am service to Mr. Gino Di Primio for his excellent contributions to Christ’s Church.

March 2015 – The Vestry approved use of the Undercroft by a local chapter of Narcotics Anonymous.

March 24, 2015 – Ms. Karen Artuso retires at the Director of Christian Education.

April 1, 2015 – Christ’s Church hosted a Seder Meal during Holy Week.

May 3, 2015 – The Reverend Jeff Wylie conducted a Blessing of the Bikes service in front of the CE Building following the 10:30 am service.

May 9, 2015 – Was the last day Christ’s Church participated in the “Adopt-a-Highway” program.

August 2015 – Christ’s Church welcomed The Reverend Joe Gasbarre, his wife, Alyssa, and their son, Joey, to Christ’s Church. “Fr. Joe,” as he was called, served as the assistant rector focusing his attention on youth and Christian education.

September 19, 2015 – Was the night of the first Saturday night combined evening worship and Communion service with Fr. Joe officiating.

September 20, 2015 – Christ’s Church participated in the annual and national “Back to Church Sunday” celebration.

October 4, 2015 – Christ’s Church conducted a “Blessing of the Pets” service in St. Clair Park, across from the CE Building.

January 20, 2016 – Bishop Lobby is confirmed by the College of Bishops as the new bishop.

February 3, 2016 – Christ’s Church participated in a diocesan-wide Day of Prayer and Fasting for the selection of a new bishop.

February 14, 2016 – Christ’s Church hosted a dinner/mystery show, *Indiana Smith and the Restaurant of Doom*.

June 12, 2016 – The Most Reverend Robert Duncan made his last “official” visit to Christ’s Church before retiring.

October 16, 2016 – The Reverend Joe Gasbarre officiated one last time before moving to Savannah, Georgia to become their Your Pastor.

Significant Milestones in Christ's Church

December 2016 – The Sexton of the Parish, Mr. Ken Mock, announces his retirement.

December 2016 – Mr. Dennis Hyland became the Director of Christian Education.

March 2017 – The Men's Weekly Group was restarted.

March 2017 – Archbishop Duncan, now retired, became an honorary assistant rector at Christ's Church (an unpaid position).

April 23, 2017 – The Right Reverend Jim Hobby, the new diocesan bishop, made his first visit to Christ's Church.

May 2017 – The last edition of the Parish's newsletter, *The Word*, was published. Ms. Sandy Carlson announces her retirement after 40 years of faithfully writing, editing, and publishing this monthly newsletter. She was presented the Bishop's Award for Exemplary Service during the bishop's visit one week before the final issue was distributed.

November 10, 2017 – Christ's Church's own professional artist, Mr. Lee Klingenberg, announced that the Latrobe Art Center was hosting a two-month-long exhibit of his artwork.

September 2018 – A new version and the first edition of the Parish's monthly newsletter, *The Word*, was published. Mr. Lee Klingenberg—lifelong Parish member and a professional artist—agreed to take on this responsibility.

The historical information in this document was compiled from the Archives of Christ's Church. Specifically, this included Vestry Minutes, Annual Reports, Newsletters, "History of Christ's Church 1822-1907" by The Reverend H. Hobart Barber, "Christ Church Greensburg, an early Episcopal parish in Western Pennsylvania" by Hugh Welty, Anniversary Programs, and other miscellaneous documents. Plus, information embedded in the memory of many parishioners!

The History Committee:

Steve (Chairman) and Cindy Swencki

Herb and Kay Ferree

Howard and Bettyann Finney

Jim and Julie Smith

Bob and Dee Wicker

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