

# Church of the Redeemer

Episcopal  
146<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting  
January 22, 2023

## Our Mission Statement

*The Church of the Redeemer sees its primary mission:*

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

**To Live, To Follow, To Share God**

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## Minutes of the 145<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer

January 23, 2022

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Melinda Artman on January 24, 2021 at 12:30 PM by zoom. There were 21 parish members in attendance in person and 4 via zoom.

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

**Annual Meeting Minutes 2021:** It was moved by Gretchen Rentschler, seconded by Linda Murrelle to approve the 144<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting minutes. The motion carried with no discussion.

### **Nominating Committee:**

Nominees: Jeff Watson, Betsy Schumacher, and Diane Siebecker. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was made by Alice Bennett to close the nominations and second by Bruce Carpenter. It was moved by Linda Murrell, seconded by Deb Zurn to direct the Secretary to cast 1 ballot for the election of Vestry members. The motion carried.

**Parish Register:** Reviewed and no discussion

### **Priest In Charge Report:**

Rev. Artman started with a review of 2021 and it being dominated by the pandemic. She emphasized that we had demonstrated again and again our resiliency and adaptability to the circumstances we found ourselves in. She highlighted the change to hold the Annual meeting by zoom to carry on our temporal task of electing members to Vestry and receiving the report on prior years activities. Zoom was also used to hold Vestry's monthly meetings. She thanked Nina Seebeck for operating the iPad which transmitted the services through Facebook and our webpage. Marcella Chaykosky also was present to provide music during this time. Rose Carpenter and Linda Murrell were praised for their efforts to reimagine the Rummage Sale. They had help with mini rummage sales, a bake sale, and other efforts to raise money. The staff and many volunteers were also recognized for their efforts in helping to keep all things operating. Geraldine Evans-keeps us running without a hitch. The Vestry for always being ready to roll up their sleeves and pitching in wherever needed. Our Wardens, Linda Murrelle, and Jeff Watson along with our treasurer Bruce Carpenter for making sure the bills are paid and building maintenance issues are addressed. Our Altar Guild for continuing to do whatever is needed for worship to be safe- Mary Rhodes and Sherry Gabauer.

Rev. Artman shared that early in 2021 the Vestry elected her Rector. Additionally, mid-year she took on the additional responsibility with the Diocese as Northern Canon Missioner. She will be assisting clergy and at the end of 2020 Rev. Scott Harvey was hired as the assistant for both the Church of the Redeemer and St. John Lutheran Church.

Rev. Artman continued her report, with the progress of the stained-glass windows. Willet-Hauser has begun the process of restoring the windows. The windows were returned in late spring. It was also noted the pledges are still coming in to help cover the cost of the restoration process. We are within \$15,000 of raising all the money we need for the windows.

Rev. Artman provided the following Pastoral care- bereaved members received support through a Journey Through Grief booklet series during the first year after the death of a close loved one. The Prayer Wall continues to get regular use and we incorporate the request into all our worship services. A "Blue Christmas" tree by the Prayer Wall was added, so that loved ones could be remembered. Once we could gather, Rev. Artman provided home communion to those that have asked.

Rev. Artman highlighted Christian Formations that continued during the 2021 year.

Sunday School kept in touch with the children by sending out Easter packets to all of the children. All children

were invited to a virtual VBS offered by St. John Lutheran Church. In-person Sunday School will resume in the fall. Our devoted volunteers that work with our children-Bonnie Garrity, Betsy Schumacher, Gretchen Rentschler, Debbie Zurn, Jessica and Rylee Morrow and Emily Garrity.

Conformation- Classes were held virtually over the summer with Seminarian Maryann Philbrook and in person, in the fall with Rev. Artman. Emily and Kayla Marshall were confirmed by our Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Kevin D. Nichols.

Youth Group-Started to meet over Memorial Day weekend. Then continued to meet roughly every other week for those interested. Thank you to Margaret Cole for her continued support with our youth.

Bible Study-The Book of Revelation and the books of Esther and Ruth were studied.

Clergy Formation: The Rev. Arthur Jones, newly ordained priest, spent the early part of the year being mentored by Rev. Artman. Through their work together, he discerned a call to chaplaincy. Additionally, seminarians Maryann Philbrook and Betsy Sentigar (now deacon) were supervised by Rev. Artman. Rev. Artman continued with professional development days through the Lutheran Synod and Diocese.

There were no questions about the remainder of Rev. Artman's report.

**Senior Warden's Report:** Reviewed and no questions- Alice Bennett thanked Linda Murrelle for her leadership.

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

### **Financials:**

Bruce Carpenter, Treasurer, reviewed that we were shown to have a budget for 2021 with a deficit of \$20,000 but now it is at \$6,700 thanks to pledges being \$10,000 over what was expected.

Bruce then explained that the new budget was significantly lower because the Diocese is paying Rev. Artman's salary because of her new responsibilities. We are only paying for Rev. Harvey's salary, and this is split with St. John.

Assets were the next area highlighted. DIT increased \$90,000. The stock market has done well.

Bruce then highlighted the capital funds category. We have received a check from the Diocese. This is partial payment for Rev. Artman's salary. Half of this money went to St. John's. \$4,000 will be used for the parking lot. The remainder will go towards the stained-glass windows. At this time, \$22,680 has been donated and 26,900 has been pledged. Many of the people who have adopted a window will be paying it over a three-year period.

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

**Discretionary Accounts:** Reviewed and no questions

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

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

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

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

**Rummage Sale:** Reviewed and no questions.

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

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

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

**Sunday Ministries:** Reviewed and no questions

**Music:** Reviewed and no questions.

Deb Zurn made a motion to adjourn the in-person/zoom meeting, second by Margaret Cole to adjourn the meeting. Motion carries.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Doreen Marshall

Clerk of Vestry

### **Nominating Committee Report 2023**

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

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

<b>Current Vestry</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Vacant*	2020	Jan 2023
Margaret Cole	2020	Jan 2023
Ruth Barber	2020	Jan 2023
Linda Murrelle	2021	Jan 2024
Doreen Marshall	2021	Jan 2024
Alice Bennett	2021	Jan 2024
Jeff Watson	2022	Jan 2025
Betsy Schumacher	2022	Jan 2025
Diane Siebecker	2022	Jan 2025

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

Nominees: Margaret Cole. Bruce Carpenter is willing to run also. Nominating Committee: Retiring Vestry members with Senior Warden and Rector. There are three vacancies for a three-year term. If we are unable to find a volunteer to serve on the Vestry, we will vote to reduce the Vestry from nine to eight. Voting will be by poll in the event of a contested election. Nominations from the floor of the Annual Meeting are always accepted with the stipulations that the proposed candidate is eligible for election. Eligibility requirements for participating in the Annual Meeting as well as running for Vestry include being at least 18 years of age, regularly attending worship, being a regular contributor for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the parish and being present at the meeting. If someone is nominated from the floor, please ensure that the candidate(s) is willing to serve if elected.

\*Debbie Zurn resigned from Vestry and is now attending Epiphany parish.

## Parish Register Report

YEAR	2020	2021	2022
Total Baptized Members	177	91 <sup>1</sup>	90
Average Sat./Sun. Attendance		31	28/31 <sup>2</sup>
Easter Attendance	3	3	86
Christmas Attendance	4	56	41
Marriages	0	1	1
Confirmations	0	2	0
Baptisms	0	0	0
Funerals	5	6	3

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

1 In 2021, the Baptisms were more carefully reviewed, and 91 active members were counted.

2 For 5 weeks we worshipped at St. John. Our absence lowers the ASA. If we account for the 5 weeks of absence, our ASA remains constant with 2021.

3 Easter for both years was virtually conducted; see chart below.

4 Christmas was virtually conducted in 2020 and blended in 2021.

### Virtual Attendance Total Views

YEAR	2020	2021	2022
Saturday		70	24
Year	2020	2021	2022
Sunday	Not tracked	87	24
Wednesday	Not tracked	47	23
Christmas	155	150	77
Easter	283	133	61

### NUMBER OF IN-PERSON SERVICES IN 2022

Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist: 93

Sat./Sun. Morning or Evening Prayer: 2

### Rector's Report

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

2022 was the first full year of my new roles: as your rector and as the Northern Canon Missioner for the Diocese of Bethlehem. We also began our third year of living in a time of COVID. With vaccinations,

medications, and care for one another, we have carefully and cautiously created a different way of being. In many ways, we are like a small community after a natural disaster, and we find ourselves in the process of both quietly mourning what we have lost as well as rebuilding for tomorrow. As a community we need to cherish and honor our past even as we look ahead to discern what the Holy Spirit would have us do now. The above quote from Philippians is about perseverance, and we as a community have persevered.

We were able to have several “firsts” post COVID: St. Mary’s Guild was able to meet and carry out rummage sales, Vacation Bible School happened in person, Sunday School resumed, Youth Group is finding its feet, a Girl Scout troop has begun meeting here and the Boy Scouts returned. A somewhat scaled back Street Fair was reimagined, and St. John Lutheran Church was invited to participate in the event leading to a new name: Parish Park Fair. The weather was favorable, the turn out was great, and we were able to make some money. It was a good time had by all. Almost all our ministries are now smaller, with fewer people volunteering – yet those who do volunteer are fantastic.

Since 2019 we have been a community that helps shape new clergy. We have hosted a discernment group for Betsy Sentigar as she explored a call to priesthood and served as a learning site while she was a seminarian. She was ordained to the priesthood last month, in early December, and is serving as priest-in-charge at our neighboring parish in Towanda. Last summer, we helped in the formation of Maryann Philbrook, who conducted confirmation classes with our youth. She was ordained a deacon last August and will be ordained a priest in early March. The Rev. Philbrook serves at the Cathedral of the Nativity in Bethlehem. Currently, we are assisting the Rev. K. Scott Harvey as he lives into the first years of his ordination. You will find his report on his first year within this document.

We continue to be blessed with terrific Christian Formation leadership. I find it somewhat miraculous that Bonnie Garrity and Betsy Schumacher have spent decades with our children in Sunday School and Margaret Cole has spent (not quite as many) decades with our Youth Group. They are amazing, as are all the other adults who assist in these programs.

I also want to give a shout out to our Altar Guild for without them, worship would be a lot more difficult! They keep flowers looking fresh, candles filled with oil, bread and wine in stock, the silver polished and the (credence) table set for each and every worship service. Thank you, Sherry Gabauer, and Mary Rhodes, for your leadership. Our most significant, hands-on outreach ministry is our community supper. Linda Murrelle and Sherry Gabauer work together on this like a well-oiled machine. The Richard Marshall family have taken on the task of setting up and taking down the tables and chairs – thank you Rick, Doreen, Emily and Kayla!

As I do more and more on behalf of the Diocese Pastor Scott has assumed day to day responsibilities for the parish. My time away on sabbatical these last three months have accelerated his learning curve. With the help of our Senior Warden, Linda Murrelle, Pastor Scott kept praising God through worship and tending to the administrative and pastoral needs of our parish. Both Jerry Evans and I enjoy having Pastor Scott as part of our staff. I know that I couldn’t do my new job at the Diocese without his help in the parish. From my perspective, we make a great team.

Over the course of this year, I wasn’t aware of how much I needed a sabbatical until I returned. I have more energy and enthusiasm for the work of the Kingdom and I couldn’t be more pleased than to be doing this work with you. Although I didn’t accomplish as much as I hoped, I was able to successfully focus on my own health and improve my cooking skills. I enjoyed the first semester of my Union Theological Seminary course on “Anglicanism and Social Justice.” I spent time on learning the theology of Karl Barth. I learned a little more about Congregational Development and the impact COVID is having on the greater church. I was able to experience the glorious fall colors of Vermont and bask in the Florida sun. I appreciate the opportunity to have this time away so that I can return with renewed vigor.

As a parish community, we are blessed with all of you. If you’re reading this report, know how grateful I am for your faithful attendance, participation and steady financial support. It is heartening to have ended this year with a small surplus and gratifying that our Stained-Glass Window pledges are on track. Wardens Linda Murrelle,

Jeff Watson and our treasurer Bruce Carpenter are at the building at least weekly and often more than that to support the work of the parish. Our Vestry members are diligent in leading our direction as a parish community. Behind the scenes work occurs every workday by Geraldine Evans, who continues to be the best “first encounter” for our church. She keeps the clergy on track, supports the work of preparing for worship, and stays on top of administrative and necessary maintenance tasks. It is a great relief to know that John Paul Jones knows our building inside and out and is always willing to drop everything and make an emergency repair. For me worship isn’t complete unless there is music and Marcella Chaykosky provides glorious music on our organ and on the piano, rotating the instrumental focus from week to week. Hearing her play Gospel on the piano is a real treat. Hearing her make our bells chime with a hymn is a delightful call to worship.

Looking ahead to 2023, I hope to work with Pastor Scott in developing and expanding our ecumenical Family Worship service held at St. John. I’d like us to be the church in the world by holding a book chat or Bible Study at a local coffee shop one weekday morning. In my mind, I’m calling it “Coffee with Jesus.” Similarly, I hope to reach out to the young(er) adults from the two parishes in the very late afternoon/early evening at local restaurants for “Theology on Tap” once or twice a month. Toward that end, I intend to apply for a grant from the Diocese and have asked the Vestry to include seed money in our 2023 Budget.

Of course, I also hope that we will go from strength to strength and continue to rebuild the ministries and programs that are important to us.

Respectfully submitted by The Rev. Canon Melinda M. Artman

### **PASTORAL CARE**

Bereaved members received support through a Journey Through Grief booklet series during the first year after the death of a close loved one.

Our Prayer Wall continues to get regular use and we incorporate the requests into all our worship services. We added a “Blue Christmas” tree by the Prayer Wall, so that loved ones could be remembered.

Once we could gather, I did provide home communion to those who asked. With the Valley Clergy Association, I participated in a Pet Blessing with United Valley Presbyterian Church and Blue Christmas held at Waverly United Methodist Church.

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

Faithfully,

*Pastor Melinda*

The Rev. Melinda M. Artman

### **Assistant Priest Report 2023**

Beloved siblings in Christ:

2022 was an interesting, exciting, and possibly unnerving time for many people. The number of Covid cases was going down, and then spiked again causing us to be back in high status. At the same time of the new variations, we were given vaccines along with boosters. While the virus looks like it will be with us for many years, not unlike the flu, it looks like the severity of the illness is easing. But even with that said, for many people gathering in large crowds, unmasked, is no longer an option.

We are lucky that as a parish family, we are able and willing to be flexible in today’s world. While I am still new to the area, I have seen the willingness to have joint summer services that combined both Episcopalians and Lutheran Services together to make a unique worship experience. We also accepted not only changing our worship location to St. John Lutheran Church to enjoy their A/C, but we also accepted worshipping in our fellowship hall for its A/C. While I know some people have a preference that helps them better focus on God during worship, it is

refreshing to know the difference between what is required, i.e., focus on God, and what is preferred. We also have switched Saturday Evening service to the Parlor room. Those in attendance on Saturday have expressed it is more intimate while also a smaller space to heat during the colder months.

We continue live streaming all three worship services to Facebook via a tablet. Our main operator being Nina Seebeck who graciously volunteers on Sundays with Tim Corp helping when the need arises. It helps the service to have someone dedicated to the livestreaming device for both the people in person along with our online community. I personally would like to encourage others to prayerfully consider in joining this ministry.

## **FORMATION**

- **Sunday School:** The Sunday School was meeting in person for the year when I first started along with resuming after the summer break. The Sunday School leaders mailed out letters with information about our program.
- **Vacation Bible School:** We had an in-person Vacation Bible School program for the first time since Covid began. The leaders provided information about the program at the Parish Park Street Faire to reach out to the community.
- **Youth Group:** We have good solid youth from both congregations that meet after the service on Sundays. To be more flexible with the realities of various people's schedules, the youth decided to start meeting every other week. The group has a variety of different activities that includes going to outside locations such as Knoebels under the leadership of Margaret Cole, Pastor Melinda, and myself.
- **Bible Study:** We had two different Bible studies since I have been here this year. The first one was on the Gospel of John and the other was the book of Exodus. We had a good mix of people between both congregations that met for each of the classes. The Gospel of John used a combination of reading a study guide ahead of the class. We then watched a short video and discussed the book. The book of Exodus had a different format. People were given an option to read from a list of possible books during the summer. During the class, people received the chapters to read from Exodus in the Eblast a week in advance with some questions to start the discussion. The participants then shifted the discussions to what they wrestled with in the reading of Exodus.
- **Clergy Formation:** As a "first-call" Lutheran Pastor, I have been taking online classes that is meant to help with my formation as a pastor. The Lutheran Synod will be having more classes and retreats in the coming year. I also attend various clergy retreats and conferences for the Diocese.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

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

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

I helped with a Pet Blessing with Valley United Presbyterian Church. I am helping the Bridge to be a voucher writer. I have sent my email and phone number via the Eblast to let people know how to contact me. I also have visited people in the hospital that has included communion along with calling people. Since Canon Melinda started her sabbatical, I have increased my visitations to our shut-in members.

The congregation has started two additional ministries this past year. One is the Prodigal Box in which people place the names of their loved one who like the prodigal son, left them and they want to return. We uplift the names in prayer. The other ministry is collecting change in the gas can in the sanctuary to help provide gas cards for those in need.



I have started a new prayer ministry, called Prayer Warriors for both congregations. I create prayers like prayers of the people that I email to the group each week. Those in the ministry can choose to pray once or as many times during the week that includes the names of the prodigal box, prayer wall, along with members of both congregations. Occasionally I send information on different ways of praying such as Centering Prayer, Lection Divina, and prayer doodles.

### **FUNDRAISING**

The Parish Street Faire resumed since Covid with the help from St. John Lutheran Church, the fall Rummage Sale, and the Fall Fair continues with large success.

### **THANKSGIVING**

I am very thankful for Vestry and Canon Melinda for the opportunity to serve as your Assistant Priest. It has been exciting to learn your worship service along with learning members of your parish. I am looking forward to having the chance to meet and talk with people in the future.

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

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

Faithfully,

Pastor K. Scott Harvey

## **Senior Warden's Report 2022**

Senior Warden Report 2022

Another year has gone by and once again we survived with flying colors, at least in my opinion. Covid-19 is still with us, but we have been able to meet in person and the church is also open to others.

TOPS, Strong Women Strong Bones, Boy Scouts, and this year we have added a Girl Scout Troup: things are looking up. We have continued with our virtual services to aid those unable to attend in person.

We were able to hold a couple of rummage sales that were very successful, and Thanks be to God we were able to hold our Fall Faire. We had to make some changes, but the Faire was very successful. I want to thank everyone that helped us with these events. I know that it is hard to change after many years of doing things a certain way, and I congratulate you all for adapting and making this year's Faire not only a success; it was a lot of fun working and doing this together.

Community suppers have finally been able to be back in house. YEA! Redeemer is still responsible for the last Thursday of the month, and we have been very fortunate in being able to keep our sponsors and have added some new ones. We are still seeing a lot of take outs but each month that we are open we are getting more in person.

Sunday School and Youth Group are continuing and even though they are small they are mighty. We are lucky to have leaders that assure this and keep a positive attitude that "If we open our doors they will come," Thank you for your commitment.

I continue to be amazed that even with our small attendance we seem to reach our pledge budget and even exceed it. Every January those of us that are planning a budget for the year voice our concerns and ask the question "will we be able to achieve our goals?" and I am happy to be able to tell you...Yes we did. YES! YES! YES!

Another area where we have been so fortunate is to have the Rev. K. Scott Harvey. Being able to have an assistant to work with Melinda has been a real asset. Having Scott here enabled Melinda to take a much-needed sabbatical. Having Melinda gone for 3 months, especially over Christmas certainly had its challenges. I am happy to report that Scott did a great job and I think we came through intact. Now that they are both back, they have a lot of new

ideas that hopefully will increase attendance. I look forward to these new additions that will get us out in our community and build a new type of relationship within the community.

I do have a small request to make as we start this new year, I would like to ask you all to help us to run our church more smoothly. If you see something that needs to be taken care of within the church or on the grounds, please write it down and leave it in the office so that the right person can take care of it. We are all trying to do what is best and sometimes we must set our priorities. Letting our priests and wardens do their jobs for the best results is beneficial to us all.

I would like to thank everyone for their help this last year. I am thankful that I am part of this awesome parish that has become second family. Thank you to Melinda and Scott for their leadership and keeping us focused on what is important. Thank you, Jerry for keeping the office running and us informed on what we need to do. Thank you, Jeff for once again keeping our beautiful church and grounds in great shape and saving us financially. Thank you, Bruce for accepting that thankless job of being Treasurer. You have worked hard to make sure we are on track financially. Thank you, to my fellow parish members for all you do that makes us this very unique parish family.

I hope that God will continue to bless our family in 2023.

Linda Murrelle, Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden's Report 2022**

We have had many projects in the church this year, however, most of the projects fall into the routine maintenance category with the exception of boiler maintenance issues. Most of the projects were accomplished in house, keeping a keen eye on our maintenance budget. The following is a partial list of projects/repairs made during the past year :

The largest project of the year is our heating/boiler system which consists of three 310000 BTU boilers. The boilers work in conjunction with each other depending on the temperature outside. Boiler #2 became inoperable late last winter, and we re-wired the #3 boiler to take its place. It was discovered that the control module on boiler #2 had failed. The control module was replaced this fall and boiler #2 is back online. In addition, all three boilers were re-built this past fall.

Our air handler system required maintenance due to leaking drains. The system was repaired, and we replaced the filters.

Doors were repaired, drains were cleaned, and electrical repairs were made all contributing to the general maintenance of the church.

I would like to thank John Jones for all the contributions he has made that contribute to the general maintenance and operation of the church.

I would also like to recognize and thank all of you who kept our church grounds beautiful by mowing the lawn and clearing sidewalks of snow. Your efforts never go unnoticed or unappreciated.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Jeff Watson – Jr. Warden

### **Youth Group Annual Report 2022**

Well, just like everything else in this world, Youth group was difficult to navigate amid the continuance and resurgence of Covid19. We did get together every two weeks whenever we could, and just talked, played games, watched movies, and continued to learn about each other. Making plans was difficult to say the least but

the kids adapted so well and have made all this easier.

In June, the youth were an amazing help with the Street Faire which I feel was a wonderful success. They learn so much watching the adults in their church, whom they respect, work together to make it all happen. Thanks go to you all.

The summer was hard to meet as they are a busy bunch! And honestly so are we. In Aug we all gathered at Beeman's for brunch after Sunday service to begin at a new starting point and to plan our next year together.

Present was Emily and Kayla Marshall, Andrew Mizener, Mark Meyers, Pastor Scott, Pastor Melinda, and me. It was decided to meet every two weeks and to keep the meeting time to noon on Sundays. We also made some plans which I will share with you as they happened. We had a wonderful meal and came away with a new sense of purpose.

In September we were invited to go to Knoebels, sponsored by the Lutheran church, but due to bad storms that day it was rescheduled. So, on Oct. 2. Bob and I went off to Knoebels with Andrew and Nick Mizener for a fun day. We were all greeted by a gentleman named Jim Doxsey at the park pavilion and were treated to a wonderful lunch before going out into the park. The sun came out and we were off! They rode all the rides, but the boys felt we might have missed a few!! They were troopers and represented their church wonderfully.

In November, the youth group toured the Athens Township Fire Department and Greater Valley EMS. We saw a lot of impressive equipment and met very dedicated people. How amazing it is that we have such talented people, all willing to be there to help us at our worst hour. Thanks be to God!

For Thanksgiving we shared our crafty selves and made leaf covered pumpkins to create a Thanksgiving arrangement. This was a "traveling arrangement" as it started out at Redeemer for the 5:15 service. Then it made its way to SJL for their Sunday morning service and then back to Redeemer for our 11:00 service. It was our hope that everyone liked it and that you know just how thankful we are for all you do to support us.

In December we did something unusual for that time of year. We raked leaves. All the kids helped along with Bruce and Rose Carpenter, Mary Rhodes, Rob Meyers, Bob Cole, Scott, and me. It took a little over an hour to clean the parking lot and remove the leaves from around the building. The kids learn so much from us when we show signs of stewardship for our parishes. Thank you to all who helped!

We met after service on Dec. 17 to help with the greening of the church. Afterwards we went caroling with some of the adults from both churches and we had a blast!! And we sounded rather good too! We came back to the church for coffee and cocoa and treats of all kinds and lots of good fellowship. Joy to The World!!

For the Christmas Eve services we placed luminaries at both churches. The lights are so pretty and for me they represent the light of the world welcoming us to the church to celebrate his birth. Thank you to Doreen and Emily Marshall for helping at Redeemer and to Andrew for helping at St. John.

As always, I want to thank Pastor Melinda and Pastor Scott for being a huge part of our group. We are so very blessed to have you with us. We are a small group right now with very big hearts. I look forward to continuing to work down our list of plans that we made at brunch way back in August. Stay tuned everyone! We're back..... 🍷 Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cole

### **Sunday School Annual Report 2022**

Sunday School classes began the 2022 year on January 9<sup>th</sup>. Class time is 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM. The class material used this past year was from the Jubilation Station 6-week lesson series. The lessons were Jesus Miracles, Easter, The Lord's Prayer, and the Book of Daniel. Our lessons have site set-ups and include crafts, music, games, and puppet shows. The kids also go to Chapel each Sunday. Chapel time is an important part of Sunday School. In chapel the kids learn a scaled down version about church things and have a chance to ask the whys or what ifs about almost anything. Emily does a fantastic job of communicating with the kids and leading them in worship.

Our teachers this year are Betsy Schumacher, Emily Garrity, Kristen Stone (new this year), and Debbie Zurn. During the winter to spring 2022 Jessie Morrow and Rylee Morrow also helped with the classes. Unfortunately, they could not return this fall. They are very much missed. This group is special.

VBS was held July 18,19, 20, 21, 2022. The program was *Zoomerang*. *Zoomerang* had an Australian theme with Creation lessons. This program was challenging, educational, and fun. Along with unusual snacks and games, there was memorial music – especially the song *Wonderfully Made*. Only the kids could do it! It was a little disappointing not having as many kids as we usually do, but due to attending VBS we do now have a new family attending Sunday School and two other parents who have expressed interest in attending at some point. And what great helpers we had at *Zoomerang*. They really made it great. Thank you.

Sunday School “kicked off” for the fall – winter classes on September 18, 2022, with a well-attended get together breakfast in the Parrish Hall. The regular classes started the following Sunday.

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. A special thank you to the newly formed Girl Scout Troop for helping decorate the hall for the Sundays School’s mini-Halloween party. After their party that evening, the scouts took the down the decorations and cleaned up! Way to go! The Christmas program this year was a short play, following an Advent program. There were refreshment including a birthday cake and small gifts for the kids. Fun.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Bonnie Garrity

## **St. Mary’s Guild Reports 2022**

### **St. Mary’s Guild Events 2022**

January-April – No meetings

May – Joan Schoonover showed slides from her trip to Egypt and Jordan at our monthly meeting.

June – Rummage sale to benefit St. Mary’s Guild.

Betsy Schumacher hosted our annual picnic at her home.

July and August – No meetings.

September – Business meeting.

October – Rummage Sale to benefit St. Mary’s Guild.

Dinner meeting at Yanuzzi’s

November – Our Fall Faire was back thanks to our dedicated volunteers!

Booths included Baked Goods, Candy, Books, Christmas, Raffle, and Country Store.

We were pleased to offer lunch and dinner

thanks to Alice Bennett and Linda Murrelle.

December – Christmas Party at Yanuzzi’s

Officers of St. Mary’s Guild:

Glenda Hinsman, President

Rose Carpenter, Treasurer

Linda Murrelle, Secretary

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Hinsman and Rose Carpenter

**St. Mary’s Guild Outreach for 2022**

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$577.00
E&R Community Supper	\$100.00
Church of the Redeemer – Annual Pledge	\$2000.00
<u>Episcopal Church Women (Diocese of Bethlehem):</u>	
Book of Remembrance	\$100.00
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund – Million Dollar Match	\$100.00
The Bridge “Sleep Out”	\$300.00
First Look Pregnancy Center	\$35.00

# Treasurers Reports 2022

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2022  
Receipts & Expenses  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 22, 2023

Funds Received	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget	% of Annual Budget
Plate	\$795	\$500	159%
Pledges	93,296	80,000	117%
Special Day Offerings	2,123	3,750	57%
Investments	55,245	53,350	104%
Other Community Giving	6,167	1,550	398%
Altar	1,635	1,300	126%
Sunday School & Youth	274	300	91%
Community Supper	2,323	1,500	155%
Other Parish income	15,630	5,300	295%
	<b>\$177,487</b>	<b>\$147,550</b>	

Expenses	2022 Actuals	2022 Budget	% of Annual Budget
Worship and Altar	911	1,500	61%
Diocesan	22,042	22,565	98%
Music	7,817	9,530	82%
Christian Education	754	750	100%
Community Supper	1,664	1,200	139%
Outreach	6,136	3,600	170%
Clergy	43,997	48,203	91%
Parish Administration	21,837	21,722	101%
Building	41,103	44,100	93%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,895	2,000	95%
Other Expenses	5,808	2,270	256%
	<b>\$153,962</b>	<b>\$157,440</b>	
Income less expenses	<b>\$23,525</b>	<b>-\$9,890</b>	

**Church of The Redeemer**  
**Asset Values 12/31/2022**

**Current Assets**

<b>Checking/Savings</b>	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2022
<b>Deposits at 1st Citizens Bank (FCCB)</b>		
Church General Fund Checking	\$42,315.60	\$37,606.01
General Discretionary Fund (Checking)	4,131.35	5,397.39
Guthrie Meyer Discretion Fund (Checking)	7,756.55	9,424.51
Altar Guild (Savings)	8,742.86	8,080.52
Sunday School (Savings)	2,414.86	2,300.07
Youth Group (Savings)	1,404.62	1,405.32
Bereavement (Savings)	343.82	307.01
Capital Funds Account (Savings)	37,609.27	49,529.89
Memorial Fund Account (Savings)	8,808.60	4,960.97
St. Mary's Checking	3,371.46	6,776.31
St. Mary's Saving	3,355.13	3,441.84
Community Supper (Savings - opened 2/3/2022)		3,105.78
Hollingshead (Savings - opened 2/3/2022)	13,207.08	12,884.97
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$133,461.20</b>	<b>\$145,220.59</b>

**Long Term Assets**

<u>Restricted to Discretionary</u>		
DIT Fund 230 Guthrie Discretion	29,043.83	\$26,010.47
DIT Fund 231 B. Meyer Discretion	11,592.83	10,381.50
DIT Fund 288 Stevens Discretion	11,211.32	10,040.41
<u>Restricted to Music</u>		
DIT Fund 242 Kresge	83,055.98	74,381.55
<u>Unrestricted</u>		
DIT Fund 217 Mary Pack Cummings	\$548,141.06	\$489,971.99
DIT Fund 245 Guthrie/Baker	289,096.09	258,902.76
DIT Fund 289 Stevens General	11,211.32	10,040.41
<b>Total Restricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>134,903.96</b>	<b>120,813.93</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>848,448.47</b>	<b>758,915.16</b>
<b>Total DIT Assets</b>	<b>\$983,352.43</b>	<b>\$879,729.09</b>
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,116,813.63</b>	<b>\$1,024,949.68</b>

<b>Annual Revenues from Trust Accounts</b>	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2022
Dorothy Tozer Miller Memorial Trust	\$4,049.04	\$4,049.04
Ruth Tozer Bisby Trust (unrestricted)	\$8,169.57	\$10,032.92
Ruth Bisby Trust (Altar)	\$1,225.43	\$1,634.93
Kresge Trust (DIT account 242)	\$3,248.53	\$2,605.14

Church of The Redeemer  
Window Restoration Project  
Presented at Annual Meeting  
January 23, 2022

**Capital Fund Savings Account**

1/1/2022	\$37,609.27	
Deposits	18,692.62	Donations, Memorials, Gifts, and Window Adoption
	37.13	Earned Interest
Withdrawals	\$6,795.97	Loan principal
	13.16	Bank Fee/Transfer error
12/31/2022	\$49,529.89	

**Loan From Diocese of Bethlehem**

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

as of 12/31/2022:

28 of 120 payments have been made totaling:

Interest	\$1,894.55
Principal	\$6,795.97
Total	<u>\$8,690.52</u>
Leaving a Principal Balance	\$59,453.89
due of	

**Fundraising**

Donations	\$27,280.54
Adoptions (received)	32,994.00
Fundraisers	4,703.68
Long Name Grant	5,000.00
Hollingshead	10,454.97
Memorial Account	5,000.00
Altar Guild (adoption)	1,540.00
Dio Beth Compensation	8,337.00
Total Raised In Hand	<u>\$95,310.19</u>

Outstanding Pledges	\$9,557.00
Total	<u>\$104,867.19</u>

Total Project Cost \$107,430.00

Funds still needed \$2,562.81



Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2022  
2023 Budget  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 22, 2023

<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Plate	\$500	\$500	\$0
Pledges	80,000	85,000	5,000
Special Day Offerings	3,750	2,550	-1,200
Investments	53,350	54,077	727
Other Community Giving	1,550	2,100	550
Altar	1,300	1,300	0
Sunday School & Youth	300	550	250
Community Supper	1,500	1,500	0
Other Parish income	5,300	15,900	10,600
	<b>\$147,550</b>	<b>\$163,477</b>	<b>\$15,927</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2022 Budget</b>	<b>2023 Budget</b>	<b>Change</b>
Worship and Altar	1,500	750	-\$750
Diocesan	22,565	25,465	2,900
Music	9,530	9,920	390
Christian Education	750	2,450	1,700
Community Supper	1,200	2,000	800
Outreach	3,600	5,817	2,217
Clergy	48,203	50,490	2,288
Parish Administration	21,722	22,833	1,110
Building	44,119	50,440	6,321
DioBeth Loan Interest	2,000	1,688	-312
Other Expenses	1,170	6,700	5,530
	<b>\$156,359</b>	<b>\$178,553</b>	<b>\$22,194</b>
Income less expenses	<b>-\$8,809</b>	<b>-\$15,076</b>	

## **Discretionary Accounts 2022**

The priest has two discretionary accounts available to assist the less fortunate. The Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Account is limited to parishioners. The Church of the Redeemer Discretionary Fund may be used to assist those in need without regard to affiliation with the parish. Our auditor recommended that the Annual Report contain a summary of the amount of money within the account and a general idea of how the money was spent. 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 Church of the Redeemer discretionary fund began the year with \$4,131.35 and ended the year (through 12/31/2022) with \$5,397.39. From this account \$1,094.20 was spent on transportation needs, \$541 was spent on rent, \$100 on groceries and \$190 on lodging, for a total of \$1,924.20

The Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Funds, which are restricted to members of our parish only, began the year with a \$7,756.55 balance and ended the year with \$9,424.51. \$10.40 was spent this year on transportation needs.

Since both discretionary funds have a healthy balance, our Rector has asked the Vestry to allocate all the loose offerings collected on the first Sunday of the month (these funds are designated for the Church of the Redeemer Discretionary Fund,) as well as income from the Stevens bequest, to be sent to the Bridge. Our budget for 2023 reflects this request. Our collection, together with support from the Valley churches, will have a greater impact on alleviating financial suffering in our community far better than the discretionary account alone. The weekend worship bulletins and the eBlast will contain an announcement that the loose offering on the first Sunday is designated to the Bridge and ask you to please give generously.

## **All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report 2022**

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

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

## **Memorial Gifts 2022**

We no longer have a functioning Memorial Committee although we do keep track of monetary gifts (and acknowledge them) through the Parish Office. In 2022, we gratefully received Memorial Donations in memory of Jean Babcock, Doris Bostwick, Mary Ann Bata, Andrea Lentz, and Joan West. Much of the funds were directed to the Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project. Our beginning balance was \$8808.60, and we ended the year with \$4960.67. In 2022 we received \$545.00 in memorial donations that went directly to the Stained-Glass Window Restoration Project.

## **Outreach Programs**

### **"Souper" Bowl of Caring 2022**

Our "Souper" Bowl pots collected \$153.00 for the Valley Food Pantry in Waverly, NY. The total collection in the

United States was \$3,550.540.

## **Valley Food Pantry 2022**

Due to low attendance and the ongoing pandemic our food collection was below average. Donations were delivered quarterly.

## **Community Supper 2022**

The first part of the year was still take out only but we were finally able to be back in the building. It has been a little slow to start but each month has shown an increase in attendance. We are still doing take outs for those who want them. Some of the dinners that Sherrie Gabauer and I provided were Italian baked chicken, goulash, hot dogs and macaroni salad and chili. Fran Bentley has joined our crew and is a very welcome addition. The sponsors who donated \$100.00, provided dessert, and helped serve the dinners were:

Sayre Rotary  
Encounter Church  
Strong Women Strong Bones  
Milltown American Legion  
Magnet Nurses  
Sayre Christian Church  
St. John's Lutheran Church  
St. Mary's Guild  
Vestry

Here's to another successful year serving our community.

Linda Murrelle

## **Liturgy and Worship**

### **Altar Guild 2022**

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

Our church is blessed to have a great devoted group of ladies who each week prepare the Lord's Table for the Holy Eucharist. They are Linda Murrelle, Amy Murrelle, Alice Bennett, Rose Carpenter, Phoebe Marshall, Mitzi Mohn, and our 5:15 Altar Guild assistant, Jeff Watson. Please appreciate them as much as we do and remember there is always an opening for you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Rhodes & Sherry Gabauer

Co-Directors

## **Sunday Ministries 2022**

Despite the challenges that the pandemic continues to bring to us, we are thankful for the ministry of all the people who serve the parish in liturgical and hospitality roles and are very blessed to have been able to gather again for worship, following COVID-19 protocols of course.

## **Musical Sounds Church of the Redeemer 2022**

We should remind ourselves regarding our freedom of worship. It has been wonderful to be a part of the music presented for Redeemer services. It has been a blessing for me to have the opportunity to play the sounds of music for 2022.

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

During Covid some of the services were in the parlor where the grand piano was played. Katherine P. Allen donated the instrument to Redeemer. In July we held service downstairs with the nicely tuned piano.

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

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

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

*Respectfully Submitted*

*Marcella J. Chaykosky,*

*Organist & Pianist*

## Table Topics

Lao Tzu once said “The journey of a 1,000 miles begins with a single step.” As we envision with the Holy Spirit what we might accomplish together for the sake of the Kingdom of God, please engage this hypothetical thought exercise so that we can make our first step:

- Suppose the parish is given a million dollar bequest. What should the parish do with that money?
- Would you support using all or a portion of this bequest as seed money to kick start a capital campaign for such things as new boilers, redoing the parking lot, & replacing the antiquated alarm system?
- If we had enough money to take care of all of our bills, all of our wants and desires, how would we direct this bequest to be used to further the Kingdom right here in the Valley?

Write your suggestions here:

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