

# Church of the Redeemer

Episcopal  
148<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Meeting  
January 26, 2025

## Our Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

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

**Minutes of the 147th Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer**  
**January 28, 2024**

The meeting was called to order by Rev. Canon. Melinda Artman on January 28, 2024, at 12:45 PM. There were 22 parish members in attendance.

The meeting began with Rev. Artman reviewing what was needed to have a quorum. By the Canons, we need 25 participants or 10% of eligible members. We have 40 eligible members thus would need 4 members for a quorum. For our meeting we have 22 members in attendance.

**Annual Meeting Minutes 2023:**

It was moved by Gretchen Rentschler, seconded by Alice Bennett, to approve the 146<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Minutes. The motion carried with no discussion.

**Nominating Committee:**

Nominees: Alice Bennett, Glenn Murrelle, and Mitzi Mohn. There were no nominations from the floor.

It was moved by Linda Murrelle, seconded by Rose Carpenter, to direct the Clerk of Vestry to cast one ballot for the election of Vestry members. Motion carries. Diane Siebecker, Clerk of Vestry, cast one ballot.

**Parish Register:**

Holding steady with average attendance. Easter had low attendance for 2023.

## Rector's Report:

### **Minutes of the 147th Annual Meeting of the Church of the Redeemer January 28, 2024**

Rev. Canon. Artman reports we are finding our footing after three plus years of COVID.

While our worship has to be attractive to newcomers and to those who perhaps have never been exposed to liturgical worship, we have to be mindful of those who come back week after week. Consequently, she has tried to find balance by offering worship reflective of the greater Episcopal Church's practices and by worshipping from the chancel and offering communion at the High Altar on the major feasts and at least one Sunday a month.

Most of our ministries operate and have adapted to changes brought about by COVID. So:

Sunday School, Youth Group, Vacation Bible School, Bible Study, St. Mary's Guild, Altar Guild, Lectors, Ushers, Greeters, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Property Maintenance workers (such as lawn mowing, hedge trimming and sidewalk snow removal), and the Community Supper are all operating. Some have fewer participants, or participation takes a different form. This is particularly true of the Community Supper – in person dining has declined; however, take-out orders have greatly increased. As a result, the overall numbers served seem to remain constant.

Our parish clean-up days, both indoors and out, were well attended.

No virus stopped us from having worship as usual.

However, we did not have the Parish Park Fair (aka Street Fair). We did not have enough volunteers or vendors to carry it off. We hope we can hold it on June 1<sup>st</sup> this year.

We started a new ministry with St. John: Coffee with Jesus – this is a Bible Study/Book Group meeting at Celebrations Café. We were the church outside our walls.

To prepare for and participate in our future viability, we need to do at least three things, in her opinion:

- Continue sharing clergy with St. John Lutheran Church and participate in some ministries together.
- Work with St. John to raise up, educate, and pay for said education for a lay worship leader. Your clergy needs a Sunday off from time to time – as well as the four weeks of vacation promised in our letters of agreement. Supply Clergy is as rare as hen's teeth, we need – and will need – lay worship leaders.
- Participate in our regional Convocation. In Bradford County, Christ Church in Towanda and Church of the Redeemer in Sayre are the stronger churches. In Susquehanna County, St. Paul's in Montrose is the powerhouse. We have gifts to share with one another and we need to find ways to do so. We also need to send as many of our parishioners as are interested to the Diocesan Gather event on May 4<sup>th</sup>. This is a one-day event focused on the laity and our spiritual and educational development.

Canon Melinda thanked:

- Linda Murrelle, our outgoing Vestry member and Sr. Warden. She, along with our Treasurer and Jr. Warden are at the church almost as often as our paid staff. Linda has her hand on the pulse of almost everything that happens here at Redeemer and her steady, consistent presence and leadership has been a blessing to our parish. More on that in a moment.

- Jeff Watson, our Junior Warden, may not be Junior Warden forever, but as long as he will do it, he will be Chair of Buildings and Grounds. He has saved our congregation untold amounts of money through his efforts in taking care of routine maintenance needs. While our cleaning crew noticed the crumbling brick underneath the organ pipes, it was Jeff who found the solution, as well as an amazing mason to repair the brick work. Unless you know what to look for, you can't see where the brick was repaired. Jeff is also researching the most effective and reliable source of heating and air conditioning.
- Bruce Carpenter has worked hard and continues to do so as our Treasurer. The number of hours he puts into maintaining our financial records, projecting trends, and preparing a budget goes beyond a simple part-time volunteer effort.
- Our Vestry fully participates in the life of this parish. We couldn't function as well as we do without them.
- Our lawn mowing and snow removal crew - Our grounds look fantastic and professionally maintained. More than once I've been asked for the name of our service. You save us thousands of dollars annually.
- Our Sunday School – Bonnie Garrity, Betsy Schumacher, and Emily Garrity – you rock.
- Margaret Cole – our Youth Group Leader – the kids love you. “God Bless Margaret”
- Glenda Hinsman, Rose Carpenter, and Linda Murrelle – your efforts through St. Mary's Guild do not go unnoticed, especially for the rummage sales, the monthly speakers, and the Fall Fair.
- All of you who make worship so rich, especially our Altar Guild Teams, our greeters, and ushers. Thank you.
- On our staff, Geraldine Evans is the daily face of our parish – the pleasant voice on the telephone, the “I can do it for you” go getter. We are quite blessed to have such a personable parish administrator who tries her best at anything she undertakes.
- Marcella Chaykosky – music makes our worship. Thank you for helping us pray twice with your gift at the piano and organ.
- Finally, she values Pastor Scott as a colleague in ministry. He is willing to take on any task she assigns him and he does the task well. He shares Jerry's and her sense of humor and fits in very well. He is very capable as a pastor for the Lord and for us. We will miss him greatly when his contract concludes at the end of this year or he obtains a parish of his own, whichever comes first.
- Also, she was thrilled to welcome back Maria Layton as our housekeeper.

Glenda noted that Glenn Murrelle does a wonderful job on landscaping.

**Assistant Priest Report:** Reviewed and no questions.

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

Linda honored with a gift and resolution for her years of service. Linda began as a Clerk and Vestry member in 1988 and most recently was Senior Warden. Linda has been involved in many activities. Perhaps a return to Vestry in 2025 is possible.

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

**Financials:** Reviewed with one question about the endowment – we have not yet received the funds from the Conklin endowment.

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

**All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report:** Reviewed with a question as to how many niches are available. Noted several are reserved. Our Parish Administrator would know how many are available.

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

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

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

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

Note: 2024 will be Linda Murrelle’s last year as cook.

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

After having the Fall Fair for sixty-two years, plans are in the works to re-imagine the look of this event.

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

**Music:** Reviewed and no questions.

**Stained Glass Windows Celebration:** This event will be Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at 2:00 PM. Included will be a viewing of the windows and a reception (with snacks). Then at 6:00 PM there will be a concert by The Tribute Quartet. This is a gospel quartet based in Nashville, TN and is well worth seeing.

As we enjoyed a potluck lunch, “Table Topics” included what opportunities and challenges we faced in 2023, what changes we hoped to see in our community of faith, what is/should be our legacy here in the valley to further the mission of Christ, and more.

Gretchen Rentschler made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Glenda Hinsman. Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Siebecker

Clerk of Vestry

### **Nominating Committee Report 2024**

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

Wardens must also be elected to a three-year Vestry term. The clerk and treasurer MAY be elected to the Vestry or be appointed by the Vestry. If they are simply appointed, they do not serve as Vestry members.

<b>Current Vestry</b>	<b>Elected</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
Jeff Watson	2022	Jan 2025
Betsy Schumacher	2022	Jan 2025
Diane Siebecker	2022	Jan 2025
Margaret Cole	2023	Jan 2026
Bruce Carpenter	2023	Jan 2026

Alice Bennett	2024	Jan 2027
Glenn Murrelle	2024	Jan 2027
Mitzi Mohn	2024	Jan 2027

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

Nominees: The nominating committee made up of the Rector, the wardens and retiring members have asked Linda Murrelle, Doreen Marshall and Diane Siebecker to run for Vestry. All have agreed to do so. Nominations may be made from the floor of the Annual Meeting. Please make sure that you have a nominee’s consent prior to nomination. In the event of a contested election, paper ballots will be issued. Since there are three vacancies for a three-year term, and if there are no nominees from the floor, it would be appropriate for a motion to be made asking the secretary to cast one ballot for the slate. Eligibility requirements for participating in the Annual Meeting as well as running for Vestry include being at least 18 years of age, regularly attending worship, being a regular contributor for the six months preceding the meeting to the support of the parish and being present at the meeting.

### Parish Register Report

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2024</b>
Total Baptized Members	90	88	90
Average Sat./Sun. Attendance	28/31	29/34	32/35
Easter Attendance	86	50	65
Christmas Attendance	41	45	56
Marriages	1	0	0
Confirmations	0	0	0
Baptisms	0	0	3
Funerals	3	8	3

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

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

3. In 2024, our parish had five deaths of which only one was carried as an official member of the Church of the Redeemer. Those who died were Helen Tracy, Shirley Spears, Audrey Garfield, Beverly A Hill, and John Anderson.

### Number of In-Person Services In 2024

Saturday/Sunday Holy Eucharist: 88

## Rector's Report 2024

*"See, I am setting before you today a blessing and a curse."* Moses, Deut 11:26

Upon reflection, I think that any year is a mix of blessings and curses. Certainly, our blessings as a parish community are numerous:

- The ministry of the Rev. K. Scott Harvey and the involvement of his family in our parish community.
- Consistent, faithful members who support our parish family with their time, talent and treasure.
- A hard working and involved Vestry to include a Junior Warden who consistently makes repairs himself and saves us money in the process.
- Maria Layton came back to work on our behalf.
- A long overdue cleaning out of the undercroft was undertaken.
- Caring, creative adults who work with children in our Sunday School, Youth Group and Vacation Bible School.
  - Involvement in worship by our children – especially on All Saints
- A willingness to experiment and try a Vacation Bible School (the highly rated *Camp Firelight*) as a collaborative effort between St. John Lutheran Church and Sayre Christian Church.
- Leaders who are adaptive to changing circumstances and who can envision keeping traditional fund raisers going in new ways. I am specifically thinking about the Parish Park Fair, (aka as the Street Fair), Redeemer Holiday Celebration (aka Fall Fair) and rummage sales. These events happened with fewer volunteers and still had a significant impact on the greater community.
- Our Community Supper provides tasty meals and fellowship each month. This is a bittersweet blessing as Linda Murrelle concludes her ministry with the Community Supper and passes the torch to Alice Bennet beginning in January 2025.
- Our partnership with St. John Lutheran Church, sharing clergy, Bible Study, Youth Group, Family Fun Night, the Parish Park Fair, raising vegetables in the community garden for the less fortunate, handmade cards for those shut-in, summer worship and Narcan training for interested parishioners.
- We have members who encourage us to donate to: the Valley Food Pantry and Feed My Sheep pantry (and take the donations there), and Wildcat Closet clothing. We also have a member who helps us beautify our gardens with the Mother's Day Plant Sale.
- An anonymous donation that covered half of the cost of replacing the cracked sidewalk at our entry way.
- Coffee hour is making a return as a once a month offering
- The Bridge enjoyed good support during the Sleep Out from our Youth and our older members.
- After a four-year absence, we baptized three the last Sunday of the year: Robert (Baby Bob) Cole, Dalton Cates, and Jackson Blair.
- A wonderful celebration and concert with The Tribute Quartet
- An unexpected bequest from Dr. Conklin, almost doubling our endowment
- We ended 2024 with a budgetary surplus.
- We have worship three times a week ably supported with music by Marcella Chaykosky and administrative support by Geraldine Evans.

Challenges and Opportunities: (The "curses")

- Our 15-year-old “state of the art” boilers rusted and needed replacement. The replacement cost was over \$60,000. Thankfully, the Conklin bequest gave us the capacity to make this investment in a new heating system.
- Any new major system will have some “bugs” – we’re still discovering them.
- With an older, historic building we can count on significant costly capital projects every year or so.
- We don’t have the volunteers we need to do the things the way we have always done them. We give thanks and praise to God that we have leaders who are adaptive and can find new ways to achieve the results we desire.
- Declining numbers and increasing age of our members.

As the list above shows, our blessings vastly outweigh our challenges (curses). We consistently demonstrate that we continue to be a vital and thriving part of our community, reliably offering God praise and thanksgiving, and offering support to the least of our brothers and sisters the best ways we know how.

In my role as your rector, I actively participate in the Valley Clergy Association. In it, I have taken part in the Blessing of the Animals at Muldoon Park, an ecumenical Thanksgiving Service at Sayre Christian Church and Trans Awareness Day at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Athens. We have also advertised and encouraged attendance at a Lenten and later fall offering between the Epiphany Catholic Community and Valley United Presbyterian Church.

I continue to function as the Diocese of Bethlehem’s Northern Canon Missioner, visiting 16 different parishes, supporting three regional Convocations, and facilitating clergy transitions. I enjoy this work in addition to shepherding two congregations. At its convention in October, the Dioceses of Central Pennsylvania and Bethlehem decided to reunite. During 2025 the two dioceses will be ironing out the mechanics of making this happen. On the national church level, our former Bishop Provisional, Sean Rowe was elected Presiding Bishop. His expertise in adaptive management makes him the right person for our denomination with our changing demographics. I hope you keep him and our diocese in your prayers.

Pastor Scott was a tremendous help to me, and in his absence, I am not able to do all the things I would like to do. One of those things is making visits to the homebound. I can respond to those who specifically ask for a visit. I do not check the hospital in-patient list routinely, so if you are hospitalized and desire a pastoral visit, please do let me know. Our parish is blessed with an active and hard-working Vestry. I appreciate their support and collective wisdom on our behalf. I also continue to be blessed and thankful to be your rector.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Canon Melinda M. Artman

### **Senior Warden’s Report 2024**

The senior warden is grateful for a year of stepping in to help Redeemer on its mission to live, follow and share our faith in Christ.

In-person church services continue to see steady participation and we have even been blessed with a few newcomers to the services! Our summer schedule with sharing service locations with St. John worked well. Not only were costs saved for both parishes but the combined services enabled us to share fellowship and faith with the members of St. John. We anticipate this summer schedule to be followed again in 2025.

Thanks to the continued generosity of our parishioners and the bequests of former members, including the recent contribution from Dr. Stanley Conklin's estate, our budget has been on track. We have been able to make upgrades to our beautiful building, including the installation of a new boiler system. We are able to welcome



visitors and groups to our building in addition to TOPS, Strong Women/Strong Bones and Scout troops that call Redeemer their "home." Vestry will be working to ensure that the monetary gifts gifted to us are used in ways that God would intend.

Thanks to a group of incredibly dedicated, loyal and delightful people, Redeemer continued to be a very active place in 2024! Linda Murrelle with her team made sure that the community received a wonderful free meal each month, with hundreds being fed. Rose Carpenter and Linda planned and directed rummage sales and held a successful "modern" version of the Fall Fair. Margaret Cole led us on the return of our Parish Park Fair that enabled us to engage with our community and raise funds too! Our dedicated volunteer yard crew kept the lawn mowed and walks cleared. Glenn Murrelle donated hours to the beautification of our grounds. Bonnie Garrity and Betsy Shoemaker and their Sunday School team held several programs and a successful Vacation Bible School. The parish members continue to support the Valley Food Pantry and Feed My Sheep Food Pantry with donations of food items and money, with Glenda Hinsman being crucial to the food pantry efforts. Junior Warden and Director of Building Maintenance Jeff Watson worked tirelessly to fix things, large and small, in the building, saving us thousands of dollars. (Please forgive the writer for those who may have not been specifically named - you are still loved and appreciated!)

We sadly had to say farewell to Father Scott Harvey and Tim Corp as Scott was called to work in Upstate New York. Thank you to Canon Melinda for resuming her role as half-time Priest for two churches once again, in addition to her vast Diocesan duties with vigor and acceptance - she is truly a blessing. We are also blessed with our administrative star Jerry Evans who takes care of our needs as well as those at St. John, keeper of the "clean" Maria Layton and Director of Music Marcella Chaykosky, and YOU! If you're reading this, thank YOU for being part of our Redeemer family!

~ Alice Bennett

Senior Warden

### **Junior Warden's Report 2024**

Typically, over the last year there were many projects to keep Redeemer in top physical and mechanical operating condition. The majority of the projects would come under the heading of everyday maintenance that we all perform on our homes. However, this year we had two major projects to maintain the safety and efficiency of our church. The first major project was the replacement of the entire heating and air-conditioning system in the church and lower parish hall. The old three boiler system was rapidly failing as were the AC units for the lower parish hall and the office/parlor area. Our old system was replaced using a two boiler, high efficiency stainless system for heating the church and atrium area. The lower parish hall is now heated and cooled by a furnace/ AC system that is separate from the heating system for the church. By using a furnace/AC system for the lower parish hall we were able to eliminate an expensive heating coil, one boiler, and an air handler system saving \$3000.00 in installation costs. We also replaced our sixty-gallon electric domestic hot water heater with a high efficiency on demand hot water heater. The on-demand system will save money as we are not constantly heating water that we are not using. At the time of the installation we also had all of the circulator pumps for the church and atrium area replaced with high efficiency pumps. The Vestry undertook this project with an eye toward the future, as this system has a lifespan of thirty to forty years with a minimum of yearly maintenance. Jeff Paul plumbing and heating was the contractor for this project at a cost of \$63,440.00. At the conclusion of the project we sold all of the scrap pipe that was removed from the old system for \$1200.00.

The second major project this past year was the replacement of the concrete at the entrance of the church. As we all know the concrete was cracked and had heaved due to water leaking from the roof drainage system. The concrete pad was replaced and part of the sidewalk from the street to the church was removed as it was no longer used. The drainage system has been repaired and a new concrete pad has been poured making the entrance to the church safe for everyone. The cost of this project was \$6000.00.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to keeping our church property beautiful by mowing the lawn, pruning shrubbery, and removing snow when required. Your work never goes unnoticed or unappreciated.

Respectfully Submitted

Jeff Watson – Jr. Warden

### **Youth Group Annual Report 2024**

In 2024 Pastor Melinda and myself have continued to meet every two weeks with our youth. While small in size, a good steady five kids, they are young and quite energetic!! They are eager to help out with any task we have. They enjoy gathering to watch movies ( always with a good discussion afterwards), play games, SPOONS being a favorite, and plan outings. They are, however, a group that is unfamiliar with the gatherings from the past, such as Christophany and Happening, The Lutheran Youth Gathering or EYE, but I am hopeful to have a chance to open their eyes to a gathering or lock-in in this upcoming year.

They totally enjoyed greening and de-greening our church last year. They were involved with helping the whole day at our Parish Park Faire in June. We played miniature golf and bowled a few times, which they loved.

We will continue to nurture and grow our young group and encourage them to be a present part of our parishes.

We are still building, with hope and faith in our youth. There is so much to look forward to!! Stay tuned!

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret Cole

### **Sunday School Annual Report 2024**

Classes for the 2024 year began on January 14<sup>th</sup>. A snowstorm prevented classes from starting on January 7<sup>th</sup>. Class time remains from 9:30 AM to 10:45 AM.

Our teachers are Betsy Schumacher and Emily Garrity. Rachael Bradley and Kristen Stone assisted with our lessons.

Several different programs were used for class lessons during 2024. The first program was an older VBS program, *Circle of Friends*. During the Lenten Season, Jubilation Station's *Holy Week* was used. The lessons for the Spring and Fall/Winter sessions were from *Children's Church, Adventure Trails that Lead to Jesus!* Green and Red Editions. The unused units, 3 and 5 from July's VBS program, *Camp Firelight, A Summer Camp Adventure with God*, started the Fall session. Along with lessons, crafts, snacks, and games, the students also go to the Chapel each Sunday for discussions on lesson-related topics. Emily skillfully leads this portion of this class. The lessons selected are very much in step with today's issues and identify with the Bible's values.

On February 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>, the Sunday School held the annual Super Bowl Soup & Chili Sale in conjunction with

the Super Bowl football game. Everything was delicious.

VBS was held July 8,9,10,11, 2024. The program was *Camp Firelight, A Summer Camp Adventure with God*. This year our church partnered with St. John's Lutheran Church and the Syre Christian Church to put together a great VBS for the kids in our community. Thank you to everyone who donated their time and talents to help make this successful VBS.

Sunday School "kicked off" for the Fall – Winter classes on September 15, 2024, with a get-together breakfast in the Parrish Hall. The regular classes began on September 22, 2024.

Some of the special days and holidays that were celebrated with extra events and studies were: Easter, Mother's Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, All Saints & All Souls Day (the Sunday School students dressed up as a Saint of their choice), Advent, and Christmas. The Christmas program this year was a skit named, *Twas the Night Before Christmas*. An Advent program was held before the skit. Following the skit, there were refreshments, including a birthday cake, and small gifts for the kids.

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

Bonnie Garrity

### **St. Mary's Guild Events 2024**

January: No meeting

February: Jim Nobles presented a slide show "Memories of Sayre's Past"

March: Members cleaned silver pieces. Melinda Artman, Priest, demonstrated an English Tea Party and served us tea and scones.

April: Worked on Spring rummage sale

May: Lea & Lizzie Reid spoke on their trip to Sarabu Africa. This is Dr. Cathy Schanger's mission to serve the African people near Sierra Leon.

June: Annual Picnic hosted by Betsy Schumacher at her home.

September: Covered dish. Nancy Smith, Habitat for Humanity presented a program on their work in Sayre.

October: Guthrie House of Hope director Liz Hibbard spoke on the operation of the facility.

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

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

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

Glenda Hinsman, President

Rose Carpenter, Treasurer

Linda Murrelle, Secretary

**St. Mary's Guild Outreach Summary for 2024**

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$637.00
E&R Community Supper	150.00
Church of the Redeemer - Annual Pledge	2,000.00
Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem: Book of Remembrance	100.00
Episcopal Relief and Development Fund - Million Dollar Match	100.00
Kajo Keji Scholarships	120.00
The Bridge "Sleep Out"	300.00
Sayre Historical Society	35.00
Habitat for Humanity	35.00
Feed My Sheep	85.00
Sayre House of Hope	35.00
	<u>\$3,512.00</u>

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

General Operations- proceeds from October Rummage Sale	1346.50
	<u>\$6,980.04</u>

**“Souper Bowl of Caring 2024**

Our Souper Bowl Pots collected \$138.00. The money was sent to the valley Food Pantry located in Waverly, NY.

**Valley Food Pantry**

A total of 228 items were collected in 2024

**St. Mary's Guild Income Statement 2024**

## St. Mary's Guild Income Statement for 2024

### Income:

Fall Fair	\$3,547.75
Rummage Sales	2,986.05
Miles of Pennies	128.61
Christmas Dinner - Yanuzzi's	580.00
Interest Income on Savings	5.03
	<u>\$7,247.44</u>

### Expense:

Church of the Redeemer - Annual Pledge	\$2,000.00
October Rummage Sale - Redeemer	1,346.50
Outreach (1)	1,512.00
Fall Fair (2)	495.87
Rummage Sale Advertising	81.60
Troop 1 Thank You	50.00
Lizzy and Lia Reed - Presentation on Africa	50.00
FCCB Check Charge	39.27
Christmas Gifts	200.00
Christmas Dinner - Yanuzzi's	620.00
	<u>\$6,395.24</u>
Net Income	<u>\$852.20</u>

### (1) Outreach

Compassion International Child (Uganda)	\$637.00
E&R Community Supper	150.00
<u>Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem:</u>	
Book of Remembrance	100.00
Million Dollar Match	100.00
Kajo Keji Scholarships (Miles of Pennies)	120.00
The Bridge "Sleep Out"	300.00
Sayre Historical Society	35.00
Habitat for Humanity	35.00
Sayre House of Hope	35.00
	<u>\$1,512.00</u>

### (2) Fall Fair

Food and Supplies	\$322.36
Raffle Prizes	100.00
Advertising	73.51
	<u>\$495.87</u>

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2024  
2024 Receipts & Expenditures  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Operating Oncome</b>			
Open Plate	\$1,735	\$750	231%
Pledges	86,439	83,000	104%
Special Days	2,904	2,950	98%
Investments - Unrestricted DIT	35,720	35,720	100%
Other Investments	23,488	15,000	157%
Other Operating Income	12,163	2,250	541%
<b>Restricted Income</b>			
Discretionary	3,224	3,333	97%
Restricted Worship (not used in Operations)	1,562	4,996	31%
Other Restricted Income	781	0	
<b>Designated</b>			
Community Supper	4,664	3,000	155%
Parish Faire	4,419	4,000	110%
Sunday School & Youth	626	500	125%
Other Designated Income	8,775	4,025	218%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$162,449</b>	<b>\$139,670</b>	<b>116%</b>
<b>Total Restricted &amp; Designated</b>	<b>\$186,500</b>	<b>\$159,524</b>	<b>117%</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2024 Actuals</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>% of Budget</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Worship & Altar	\$972	\$800	121%
Diocesan	8,890	9,820	91%
Music	23,963	24,444	98%
Education Ministries	704	1,350	52%
Clergy	34,370	52,119	66%
Office Supplies	6,570	6,442	102%
Staff Payroll	31,046	31,366	99%
Building	34,374	39,235	88%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,475	1,475	100%
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Community Supper	1,609	2,500	64%
Parish Faire	1,630	2,000	81%
Outreach	7,503	4,760	158%
Other Non operating Expenses	5,951	5,520	108%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$142,365</b>	<b>\$167,051</b>	<b>85%</b>
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$159,057</b>	<b>\$181,831</b>	<b>87%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$20,084</b>	<b>-\$27,381</b>	<b>-73%</b>
<b>Net Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,443</b>	<b>-\$22,307</b>	<b>-123%</b>

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2024  
2024 Asset Report  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

**Current Assets**

Checking/Savings	December 31, 2023	December 31, 2024	Change in Value 2024
<b>Deposits at 1st Citizens Bank (FCCB)</b>			
Church General Fund Checking	\$26,950.61	\$48,611.28	\$21,660.67
General Discretionary Fund (Checking)	6,719.48	3,693.21	-\$3,026.27
Guthrie Meyer Discretion Fund (Checking)	7,944.73	8,481.31	\$536.58
Altar Guild (Savings)	8,973.19	10,328.70	\$1,355.51
Sunday School (Savings)	2,672.51	3,003.12	\$330.61
Youth Group (Savings)	1,741.19	1,623.66	-\$117.53
Bereavement (Savings)	307.35	307.81	\$0.46
Capital Funds Account (Savings)	57,419.82	62,863.48	\$5,443.66
Memorial Fund Account (Savings)	4,240.86	4,587.30	\$346.44
St. Mary's Checking	3,459.44	7,757.27	\$4,297.83
St. Mary's Savings (closed 11/21/2024)	3,445.63	0.00	-\$3,445.63
Community Supper (Savings)	5,025.06	6,849.48	\$1,824.42
Hollingshead (Savings)	12,908.39	12,940.70	32.31
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$141,808.26</b>	<b>\$171,047.32</b>	<b>\$29,239.06</b>

**Long Term Assets**

DIT Assets as of:	January 1, 2024	December 31, 2024	
<u>Restricted to Discretionary</u>			
DIT Fund 230 Guthrie Discretion	\$28,388.13	\$30,614.19	\$2,226.06 (2.9%)
DIT Fund 231 B. Meyer Discretion	11,330.48	12,218.93	888.45 (2.9%)
DIT Fund 288 Stevens Discretion	10,958.24	11,817.55	859.31 (2.9%)
<u>Restricted to Music</u>			
DIT Fund 242 Kresge	81,180.89	87,546.77	6,365.88 (2.9%)
<u>Unrestricted</u>			
DIT Fund 217 Mary Pack Cummings	\$534,655.43	\$576,526.74	41,871.31 (2.9%)
DIT Fund 245 Guthrie/Baker	282,569.50	304,727.41	22,157.91 (2.9%)
DIT Fund 289 Stevens General	10,958.24	11,817.55	859.31 (2.9%)
DIT Fund 348 Conklin (opened 2/28/2014)		925,064.27	-
<b>Total Restricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>131,857.74</b>	<b>142,197.44</b>	<b>10,339.70</b>
<b>Total Unrestricted DIT Funds</b>	<b>828,183.17</b>	<b>1,818,135.97</b>	<b>989,952.80</b>
<b>Total DIT Assets</b>	<b>\$960,040.91</b>	<b>\$1,960,333.41</b>	<b>\$1,000,292.50</b>
<b>TOTAL FINANCIAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$1,101,849.17</b>	<b>\$2,131,380.73</b>	<b>\$1,029,531.56</b>



**Church of The Redeemer  
Window Restoration Project  
Presented at Annual Meeting  
January 26, 2025**

**Capital Fund Savings Account**

1/1/2024	\$57,419.82	
Deposits	\$8,323.46	Donations, Memorials, Gifts, and Adoptions
	\$50,000.00	Portion of Conklin Bequest Held for Boiler Project
	\$30,425.88	3 Quarterly Distributions from Conklin DIT
	\$221.27	Earned Interest
Withdrawals	\$7,215.95	Loan principal
	\$63,440.00	Jeff Paul Plumbing - Boiler Project
	\$6,000.00	Sidewalk Project
	\$4,050.00	Jeff Paul Plumbing - Air Conditioning Project
	\$2,821.00	Windows Celebration - Tribute Quartet
12/31/2024	\$62,863.48	

**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 12/31/2024:

52 of 120 payments have been made totaling:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2020-2024</u>
Interest	\$1,474.87	\$7,894.35
Principal	\$7,215.65	\$29,764.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,690.52</b>	<b>\$37,658.92</b>
Leaving a Principal Balance due of		\$45,235.66

**Fundraising**

Memorials & Donations	\$34,208.54
Adoptions (received)	40,869.00
Fundraisers	7,461.14
Long Name Grant	5,000.00
Hollingshead	10,454.97
Memorial Account	5,000.00
Altar Guild (adoption)	1,540.00
Dio Beth Compensation	8,337.00
<b>Total Received</b>	<b>\$112,870.65</b>
Outstanding Pledges	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Total Raised</b>	<b>\$112,870.65</b>
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$107,430.00</b>

Church of The Redeemer  
 2024 Capital Projects  
 Presented at Annual Meeting  
 January 26, 2025

**HVAC Project - Jeff Paul Plumbing Heating Electric**

Boiler & Downstairs Air Conditioning  
 Original Estimate \$63,440.00

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
1st Payment	4/29	Check 11647	\$22,000.00	\$41,440.00
Final Payment	8/26	Check 11690	\$41,440.00	\$0.00

**HVAC Project - Jeff Paul Plumbing Heating Electric**

upstairs/Office Area Air Conditioning  
 Original Estimate \$12,150

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
1st Payment	8/20	Check 11688	\$4,050.00	\$8,100.00

**Sidewalk Project - J&D Ward Contracting**

Replace sidewalk at doorway and remove sidewalk to Wilbur Ave  
 Original Estimate \$6,000

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
1st Payment	8/19	Check 11687	\$6,000.00	\$0.00

A \$4,000 gift helped with this project.

**Kitchen Refrigerator - Croft Lumber**

Replace Broken Kitchen Refrigerator  
 Original Estimate \$675

	Date	Reference	Amount	Balance Due
1st Payment	11/5	Check 11708	\$675.00	\$0.00

Community Supper bought the refrigerator.

Church of The Redeemer  
Treasurer's Report 2024  
2024 Receipts & Expenditures  
Presented to the Annual Meeting January 26, 2025

<b>Funds Received</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Operating Income</b>			
Open Plate	\$750	\$1,500	100%
Pledges	83,000	83,000	0%
Special Days	2,950	2,750	-7%
Investments - Unrestricted DIT	35,720	36,788	3%
Other Investments	15,000	17,500	17%
Other Operating Income	2,250	2,400	7%
<b>Restricted Income</b>			
Discretionary	3,333	2,998	-10%
Restricted Worship (not used in Operations)	4,996	6,351	27%
Other Restricted Income			
<b>Designated</b>			
Community Supper	3,000	3,000	0%
Parish Faire	4,000	4,000	0%
Sunday School & Youth	500	750	50%
Other Designated Income	4,025	4,100	2%
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$139,670</b>	<b>\$143,938</b>	<b>3%</b>
<b>Total Restricted &amp; Designated</b>	<b>\$159,524</b>	<b>\$165,137</b>	<b>4%</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	<b>2024 Budget</b>	<b>2025 Budget</b>	<b>% Change</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>			
Worship & Altar	\$800	\$1,700	113%
Diocesan	24,444	24,496	0%
Music	9,820	9,650	-2%
Education Ministries	1,350	1,150	-15%
Clergy	52,119	33,680	-35%
Office Supplies	6,442	7,054	10%
Staff Payroll	31,366	33,330	6%
Building	39,235	38,921	-1%
DioBeth Loan Interest	1,475	1,255	-15%
<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>			
Community Supper	2,500	3,000	20%
Parish Faire	2,000	2,000	0%
Outreach	4,760	6,100	28%
Other Non operating Expenses	5,520	4,820	-13%
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$167,051</b>	<b>\$151,236</b>	<b>-9%</b>
<b>Total Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$181,831</b>	<b>\$167,156</b>	<b>-8%</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>-\$27,381</b>	<b>-\$7,298</b>	<b>-73%</b>
<b>Net Total Income</b>	<b>-\$22,307</b>	<b>-\$2,019</b>	<b>-91%</b>

## **Discretionary Accounts 2024**

The priest has two discretionary accounts available to assist the less fortunate. The Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Account is limited to parishioners. The Church of the Redeemer Discretionary Fund may be used to assist those in need without regard to affiliation with the parish. Our auditor has previously recommended that the Annual Report contain a summary of the amount of money within the account and a general idea of how the money was spent. Additionally, as part of the Treasurer's Report, the Vestry receives an accounting of discretionary funds spent monthly. Once a month, loose offerings are designated for the Redeemer Discretionary Fund. Interest income from a bequest also funds these accounts. The treasurer's report provides a summary of income received into the discretionary accounts. It is noted that the Stephens DIT funds go into the unrestricted discretionary account.

The loose offerings collected on the first Sunday of the month (funds designated for the Church of the Redeemer Discretionary account) and funds from the Stephens DIT for this discretionary account have been designated for The Bridge. As noted in last year's report, the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2023 payment to the Bridge, in the amount of \$1,417.23 was sent early in 2024. For 2024, the Bridge received \$1,833.98.

From the Church of the Redeemer discretionary fund approximately \$632 was spent on hotel rooms for two stranded travelers with automobile difficulties and three homeless persons, \$500 in grocery gift cards, \$103 for prescriptions, \$103 for rent, \$406 for electric bills, \$179.50 for oil, and \$77.48 in bus fare.

From the Guthrie/Meyer Discretionary Funds, which are restricted to members of our parish only, approximately \$250 helped with gasoline expenses, \$95 for plumbing repair, \$45 for vehicle registration, \$94 for cell phone and \$207 for insurance payments.

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

## **All Saints Chapel Columbarium Report 2024**

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

The cost of a niche is \$300.00, and the corresponding ash container is either \$18.00 or \$21.00 as there is a slight difference in size in the section of the columbarium. The price of the brass plate and engraving are included in the \$300.00 cost. Applications for reservations for niches are available in the church office. All records of purchases and interment are maintained in the church office. Upon purchase of a niche a "Certificate of Ownership" is signed by the rector and a Vestry member and provider of purchase. There are 26 niches available for purchase.

## **Memorial Gifts 2024**

We no longer have a functioning Memorial Committee although we do keep track of monetary gifts (and acknowledge them) through the Parish Office. In 2024, we gratefully received Memorial Donations in memory of John Anderson. Our beginning balance was \$4240.86, and we ended the year with \$4437.30.

## **Outreach Programs**

### **“Souper” Bowl of Caring 2024**

Our “Souper” Bowl pots collected \$138.00 for the Valley Food Pantry in Waverly, NY.

### **Valley Food Pantry 2024**

Our monthly collection is split between the 2 local food pantries. The Valley Food Pantry in Waverly and the Athens United Methodist Church “Feed My Sheep”. Each month a different food item is requested; such as cereal, peanut butter, canned fruit and spaghetti sauce. A total of 228 items were donated in 2023. Thank you to everyone that donates in our little red wagon and the box downstairs.

### **Community Supper 2024**

Another year successfully serving from 60 to 100 people on the last Thursday of the month. We are still doing around 40 – 45 take outs with the balance eating in. Some of the meals we have provided are Italian Baked Chicken, Hot Dogs and Macaroni Salad, Goulash, Roast Pork and Macaroni and Cheese and Chili with Corn Bread. Helping me in the kitchen are Sherry Gabauer, Fran Bentley and Pastor Scott helped until May. Setting up and taking down the tables is Rick Marshall. Phoebe Marshall, Diane Siebecker, and Mitzi Mohn set the tables and have everything ready to go when we open the doors at 4:00. The sponsors who donated \$150.00 and provided dessert and helped serve the dinners were:

Sayre Rotary – January and March

Nurses– February

Strong Women, Strong Bones – April

Sayre Christian Church – May and July

St. John’s Lutheran Church – June

Encounter Church – August and October

St. Mary’s Guild – September

No dinner in November

Carrie Henry – December

I have thoroughly enjoyed doing these dinners with the help of all these wonderful people and it is going to be a little sad not doing them, but I am turning the reigns over to a very qualified person who will continue the work previous church members started. I wish Alice Bennett the best of luck and I know that our Community Supper will prosper under her leadership.

Linda Murrelle

## **Liturgy and Worship**

### **Altar Guild 2024**

*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, Diane Siebecker 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 2024**

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

### **Musical Sounds**

#### **Church of the Redeemer 2024**

For sure, music is a special form of worship. Points for the year include:

1. Switching between organ and piano for services.
2. Playing for the funeral of Shirley Spears on January 29<sup>th</sup>.
3. Boy Scout Sunday in February.
4. Paying attention on Super Bowl Sunday opening ceremonies the first verse of Lift Every Voice and Sing included in our hymnal. The message was "Lift every voice and sing, Till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty; let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies. Let it re-sound loud as the rolling sea. Along with Canon Melinda's sermons, the above was a very uplifting thought.
5. Lent is always setting a somber mood musically.
6. David Peckham checks and tunes the organ twice a year before Easter and Christmas expertly.
7. April was celebrating the restoration of the stained glass windows. Along with this event Tribute Quartet, a gospel singing group from Nashville Tennessee entertained. This was a special evening musically.
8. Church services were shared with St. John Lutheran Church several Sundays, It was September 8<sup>th</sup> when worship returned to Redeemer's 11 a.m. service.
9. October is St Francis of Assisi, the Patron St. of Animals, special service, years ago along with cats, dogs, rabbits, and a Llama were in Redeemer's services. Now it is held outside.
10. All Saints Day in November had Sunday school participating dressed as Saints. "When the Saints Go Marching In" was played and sung Joyfully.
11. We never tire of hearing the bells ring during Communion, as they are rung by the acolytes.
12. Christmas music and Carols sung is always special. There are so many favorite seasonal hymns.
13. Sharing scripture and music during Baptism is special for families and the congregation.
14. Playing the chimes inside with the organ is a wonderful sound. The Carillon, heard outside, is a musical instrument with wonderful harmony. There is a keyboard played inside.

15. We all have received blessings when the sermon, scriptures, and hymns are perfectly linked together 100%
16. Remembering Psalm 98:4, “Shout joyfully to the Lord, all the earth; break forth in song, rejoice, and sing praises.

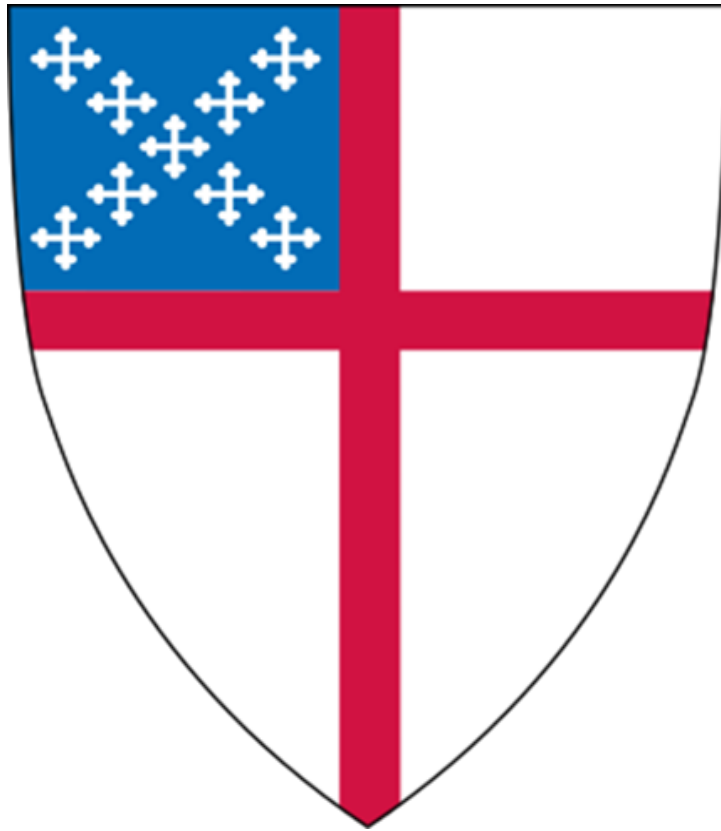
Respectfully submitted,

Marcella J. Chaykosky

Organist & Pianist







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Secretary email

[parishadmin@redeemersayre.org](mailto:parishadmin@redeemersayre.org)

office hours:

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

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