

# **CHRIST CHURCH, ITHAN**

**536 Conestoga Road, Villanova, PA 19085**

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**[christchurchithan.org](http://christchurchithan.org)**



## **2017 ANNUAL PARISH MEETING**

**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

**The Rev. John Sosnowski, Priest-in-Charge**

**Dr. Jeffrey Fowler, Organist/Choirmaster**

### *Parish Mission Statement*

*Christ Church is a welcoming place of spiritual refuge for all who seek  
to extend the teachings of Jesus into their lives.*

**CHRIST CHURCH, ITHAN**  
**ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**  
**Sunday, February 11, 2018**

Opening Prayer

Fr. John Sosnowski

Election – Vestry Member & Convention/Deanery Delegates

Rector's Report

Fr. John

25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Presentation

Julia & Bruce

Rector's Warden's Report

Julia Gould

Accounting Warden's Report

Bruce Wietlisbach

Highlights From Other Reports Submitted

Announcements

Necrology

--Heath Porter – November 4, 2017

--Judy Englerth – January 15, 2018

Closing Blessing

Fr. John

February 11, 2018

Dear Members of Christ Church, Ithan:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. I sure didn't think I would be around for this Annual Meeting! A lot has happened over this past year as God has worked among us. I am grateful that you have an active and invested Vestry that has seized an opportunity to better clarify Christ Church, Ithan's mission and purpose. The decision they reached this year to postpone continuing to search for a Rector was a courageous one. After prayerful reflection and having sought the counsel of our Bishop, we have entered into a Holy Covenant to engage in a Spirit-filled time of experimentation and collaboration to better equip this Church to make sound decisions about its future. I am thrilled that the Vestry called me to be Priest-in-Charge during this extended period of discernment and I pray that our continued time together will be blessed by God who I believe only wants good things for Christ Church and its people.

This is a time for engagement. This is a time for everyone to take ownership of Christ Church and its mission, to be active participants in building up this church and achieving the goals set in our Holy Covenant. It has been inspiring to see people stepping up, becoming involved in our church's life, and generating new ideas about how we can grow in mission. Recent examples of increased participation and enthusiasm include our Treasure Hunt, exploring how we can be more hospitable and welcoming; a parish dinner hosted at the home of Rick and Mollie Wheeler; Pat Palumbo and her daughter, Liz, helping to grow our connection to the Ardmore Food Pantry; a community conversation about dealing with stress over the holidays; Ron Spinelli's inspiration to have a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Breakfast; plans are underway for a Women's Retreat in early Spring. We will be successful only if everyone makes the work of the next couple of years a top priority. This is YOUR Church! Worship, formation activities, outreach projects, parish events are successful because of our initiative and participation. This is a time to stretch ourselves and try new things, to get out of our comfort zones and let go of fears so that Christ can shine through what we do together.

Our Vestry's deepest desire in this process is for transparency. They want to keep you informed and engage with you. New efforts are being made to acquaint you with Vestry members, to give them more visibility so that you can go to them and discuss whatever is on your mind or heart. The Vestry is striving to better communicate with all of you so that everything we do will be understood in terms of the Holy Covenant that guides our work together.

I know that when we leave our comfortable pews and venture forth people's fear meters begin to rapidly move to the red zone. People wonder about our collaboration with St. Martin's, for instance, and the question "Are they going to make us merge?" looms out there. When we share resources, we learn from each other and our life as church becomes richer. Deb Parker, the Christian formation director at St. Martin's, shares her skills with us in Bible study and planning for our shared Lenten program. Jay Harper was able to participate in a youth activity at St.

Martin's and bring it back to our church on "Souper Bowl" Sunday. The goal is not merger, but being God's people together, whatever that looks like. Part of this time of collaboration and experimentation is to stay open to the Spirit, to feel God's prodding, and to discern God's call together.

Experimentation to increase our visibility in our community and to discover more about the neighbors who surround us can be scary. Talking about our faith, listening to differing opinions is hard work and tests the limits of our flexibility. A recent meeting with a random group of neighbors at the home of Julia and Porter Gould to listen to them talk about community and where they find meaning in their lives was an amazing experience. It didn't instantaneously produce people in our pews, but it was certainly instructive about what concerns people, what drives them, and what their hope are. We need to do more of that if we hope to serve the neighbors around us.

Small congregations across our land are faced with huge challenges these days, not unlike those that this church faces. It's not enough to lament the changing times and contemplate what declining numbers mean. I really believe that God is acting in all of this and it is up to us to figure out what God is doing and join God in God's work. The work of Jesus whom we call Lord is all about transformation. We are called, per our Prayer Book, "to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ." We need to be about the work of restoration, bringing Christ's healing love to the broken places of our life. Jesus wants us to be whole, to be restored to what we were meant to be from the beginning of time, a people made in the image and likeness of God. As the institutional framework to which we have become so accustomed slips away, we have to ask what God is doing. We have to find ways to "be Church" in an ever-changing world and a culture that is estranged from God. Only through us will the Gospel of peace and love take hold in the hearts of others and in our world.

So, let's make good use of our time together. The work of ministry is about God and the God-life we share in Christ. Our job is to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, to better understand where Jesus wants us to go. God is going to do what God wants to do. We need to join with God in doing God's work. Sometimes, we need to just get out of God's way because we can create many obstacles to God's activity. In the words of our Bishop, in the vision he has crafted for our diocese, we are "To know Jesus Christ and make Him known to the world through discipleship and evangelism." What a simple and beautiful vision! Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. He will show us the Way.

I wish all of you blessings on the journey we will be on for the next two years. I invite you to give it all that you got! Care for your Church. Love your Church. Share your Church. It is God's gift to you. For Jesus alone will fill the deepest longings of our human hearts.

In Christ,

Fr. John Sosnowski

Priest-in-Charge

## RECTOR'S WARDEN REPORT

February 6, 2018

Much has happened over the space of one year in our life together. Our experience in our Rector search has led us to conclude that more time for discernment is needed if we are to find the right candidate to call for our next Rector. After a period of discernment together with Bishop Gutierrez we have created a Holy Covenant, and our vestry has committed itself to focus on three critical areas of growth: our relationship to God, our relationship with each other and our link to the community outside of our church buildings. And we have called Fr. John to be our Priest-in-Charge for the next two years to lead us in that discernment.

We have accomplished all of this while maintaining a stable financial base and I am enormously grateful to Bruce Wietlisbach, our Accounting Warden, for his hard work in managing our finances and, with the help of a small Finance Committee, advising the vestry on making meaningful choices. Our vestry is mindful that while we are currently on solid financial ground, we depend on a limited number of income sources, pledges by parishioners, rental income, and monies earned from our investments. Because we are a small entity, we could not readily absorb a loss in any of these areas.

Early on in our Interim time, Father John asked the vestry about our mission. He asked us to define it for Christ Church, Ithan and invited us to consider what would people outside of our church miss about us if we were to go away. These have not been easy questions for us as a vestry or our whole congregation to answer. It helps me to think of mission as purpose. And I know that when I feel a sense of purpose about something more significant than my own immediate needs, I feel energized and focused. It makes sense that an organization with a defined mission gains vibrancy and the potential to concentrate on goals.

How do we define our mission or purpose? Our approach has been to encourage our whole community to contribute ideas. One parishioner came forward with information about her granddaughter who struggles with disabilities and would like to see our church support local children with disabilities. How exciting that one of our youngest church members, Jay, has led us to support The Southern Poverty Law Center. One vestry member has wondered if a Sunday Farmer's Market on our property would meet a community need and we are exploring this idea. Could we direct some of the proceeds to programs that feed the hungry?

We are also building relationships with people and organizations in our local community. A “listening session” with parents of young children in Radnor Township reinforced our understanding of the number of competing activities in which children are involved and how many parents find community through their children’s activities, especially sports. One parent commented that she wished a church would offer service opportunities she could do with her children. This was food for thought!

Our relationship with the Radnor police and the Radnor Department of Recreation has been helpful as well as our connection to St. John’s AME Church on Highland Ave. in Wayne. Father John has been instrumental in resurrecting a regular meeting of leaders from local faith communities. We have a meeting scheduled with our Radnor Township Commissioner, Jake Abel, to stay connected with Township concerns.

At the same time, we are excited to build our ties with St. Martin’s Church. While Father John and Father Chris meet regularly, the Wardens of both churches also will work together to experiment with ways to help each of our communities grow.

All of this is happening in our Centennial time (2016 – 2019, marking the laying of the cornerstone to the building’s completion, respectively). While a Centennial gives us time to look back, it is important that we set our eyes on our future. We are grateful to George Peckham and his committee for their fine work on our Centennial publication about our magnificent building that initiated our Centennial observance.

As our discernment unfolds, our Vestry believes that a fitting celebration of our 100 years in 2019 will emerge and we will have much to celebrate together.

It is a busy, exciting and changing time at Christ Church Ithan and I thank all of you for jumping in and offering leadership and support.

Sincerely,

Julia Gould  
Rector’s Warden

**ACCOUNTING WARDEN'S REPORT**  
**FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

**INTRODUCTION:**

Christ Church, Ithan operates on a day-to-day basis principally from revenues provided from Parishioners' pledges and special gift contributions, income from the Chandler Endowment Funds, rental income (such as rental income from tenants in the Parish Hall and the Rectory), and from the Christ Church Revocable Endowment Trust.

**RESULTS OF OPERATIONS - 2017:**

The following is a summary of the results of the financial operations of CCI for the year ending December 31, 2017:

Actual revenues were	\$363,524
Actual expenses were	\$360,539
Results in an operating profit of	\$2,985

The above operating profit was substantially below our budgeted profit of \$193,296 due to not receiving in 2017 the final payment of \$230,000 from the Colket Trust. The final payment is now expected to be received in early 2018.

Attached hereto, as Exhibits A1 and A2, is a Balance Sheet and Income Statement as of December 31, 2017.

**2018 PLEDGE REPORT:**

CCI has received 2018 pledges from 46 families for a total pledge amount of \$154,248, which is slightly down from \$155,410 for 2017. The highest pledge in 2018 is \$21,000, the lowest \$300. The average pledge amount is approximately \$3,353 per family, \$2,966 per week. See pledge statistics for the last three years on Exhibit B.

**BUDGET FOR 2018:**

Attached hereto, as Exhibit C, is a copy of the Budget for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2018. Following is a summary of the 2018 budget:

Budgeted revenues are	\$572,059
Budgeted expenses are	\$383,408
Results in a budgeted profit of	\$188,651

As mentioned above, 2018 revenues include an expected final payment from the

Colket Trust of \$238,750. This bequest is expected to be added to the Endowment Trust. Excluding this payment from revenue the resulting operating loss will be funded with a 4.5% distribution from the Endowment Trust and \$10,000 from the Operating Reserve account.

5. **CHANDLER ENDOWMENT FUNDS (RESTRICTED):**

CCI is the beneficiary of The Chandler Fund, No. 064925-00-1, and The Chandler Endowment Fund, No. 064612-00-5, both established by Evelina Dupont pursuant to her Will dated November 10, 1930 and Codicil dated August 1, 1934. The value of the Chandler Endowment Funds as of December 31, 2017 was \$555,654.. The Chandler Endowment Funds are administered by The Episcopal Church Foundation. Distributions of 4.5% of the average balance is paid to CCI quarterly. The income received by CCI in 2017 from The Chandler Endowment Funds was \$21,242 (\$21,103 in 2016).

**CCI ENDOWMENT TRUST (UNRESTRICTED):**

In February of 2004, CCI entered into the Endowment Revocable Trust Agreement with the Episcopal Church Foundation as Trustee. The assets of the Trust are invested by the Church Foundation in its consolidated funds. The Trust provides that it shall pay distributions only in accordance with instructions given to the Trustee in writing by the authorized representatives of the Church, and a majority of the Vestry. The authorized representatives are the Rector, Rector's Warden, and the Accounting Warden. Beginning with 2018, the vestry has decided to add all bequests to the Endowment Fund and to withdraw for operations the sum of 4.5% of the balance in the Trust. In 2017, CCI received \$20,000 (\$4,069 in 2016) distributions from the Endowment Trust.

The Vestry from time to time, as needed, has approved disbursements from the Endowment Fund to pay for capital expenditures. In 2017, the Vestry approved disbursements of \$50,000 to pay for the new parish hall roof and the parish hall pipe projects. See Capital Expenditures below.

The CCI Endowment Trust income has been accumulated and added to principal. The cost basis (donations) as of December 31, 2017 was \$614,534 and the fair market value of the CCI Endowment Trust as of the same date was \$908,806.

In the first quarter of 2016, CCI was notified that we were designated as a beneficiary of the Tristam C. Colket QTIP Trust and CCI received a \$400,000 payment. The Vestry approved adding \$360,000 of that payment to the CCI Endowment Trust. The Vestry approved the remaining \$40,000 to be invested in the Operating Reserve Account, mentioned below. We anticipate receiving an additional final payment from the Colket Trust in 2018, estimated to be

\$238,750.

## **OTHER PARISH CASH FUNDS:**

### A. Operating Checking Account

CCI uses the checking account as its primary operating account, in which all gifts and revenues are deposited and from which all bills are paid. The balance in the checking account as of December 31, 2017 was \$7,523 (\$13,672 in 2016).

### B. Operating Reserve Account

To fund the cash needs of CCI during periods when ordinary receipts are insufficient to pay current bills, the Vestry in 2004 established an Operating Reserve Account. The Church draws on the Operating Reserve Account when necessary for the payment of bills. The balance of the Operating Reserve Account as of December 31, 2017 was \$35,455 (\$35,423 in 2016). As noted above, the \$40,000 received by the Colket Trust is invested here.

### C. Capital Reserve Account

The Vestry maintains a capital reserve account. The purpose of the capital reserve account is to have funds available for capital expenditures. The balance in the Capital Reserve as of December 31, 2017 was \$13,504 (\$3,516 in 2016).

In 2017, a contribution of \$10,000 was received and added to the capital reserve account. The purpose for the contribution is to plan, design, construct and maintain a garden in the front of the church.

### D. Eleanor Smith Music Fund

This Fund was established by Mary Girling in memory of her mother, Eleanor Smith. The Eleanor Smith Music Fund is to be used to fund an increase in music awareness at CCI as determined by the Vestry or a committee of the Vestry, including one member of the choir (if there is no one from the choir who is a member of the Vestry, by the organist). The balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$13,022 (\$13,061 in 2016). Most of these funds are invested in a short-term certificate of deposit.

### E. The Garden of Remembrance Fund

This Fund has been established for the preservation, maintenance and upkeep of

the Garden of Remembrance. Unexpended income is accumulated and added to principal. Disbursements are made upon the approval of the Garden of Remembrance Committee and the Vestry. The balance as of December 31, 2017 was \$4,600 (\$4,223 in 2016).

F. Various Other Cash Accounts

CCI has various other cash accounts some of which are restricted as to its use. These accounts are for Memorial Donations, Music Scholarships and rental security deposits. The balance in these accounts as of December 31, 2017 was \$14,194 (\$9,878 in 2016).

**CAPITAL EXPENDITURES:**

In 2017, the Vestry approved the three projects listed below. Funds to pay for these projects came from the CCI Endowment Trust (\$48,000) and from The Raise the Roof Capital Campaign (\$21,990).

Following is a listing of capital expenditures during the preceding calendar years:

2017

New roof for the Parish Hall	\$63,620
Replace office air conditioner	\$924
New piping in Parish Hall	\$4,876

2016

New HVAC for a portion of the Parish Hall	\$6,000
Replace Fence around playground	\$3,087
Replace Rectory Kitchen	\$33,943

2015

None

2014

New Heating and Air Conditioning System in Church	\$14,000
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2013

Building Improvements for New Tenant in Parish Hall	\$11,781
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2012

Commercial Dishwasher and Refrigerator	\$6,909
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2011, 2010, 2009

None

2008

Waterproof Bell Tower & reset capstones  
\$14,685

Resurfacing church and rectory parking lots \$49,540

**9. PARISH HALL AND RECTORY LEASES:**

Effective April 1, 2016, the Rectory was leased to a family for a period of two years. Year 1 at \$3,800 per month, Year 2 at \$4,000 per month (\$48,000 annual). We are currently negotiating with the tenant to remain in the Rectory on a month-to-month basis at \$4,000 per month with a 3 month cancellation notice.

A Child's Place, Inc., entered into a lease for use of space in the Parish Hall for a term of three (3) years beginning September 1, 2013. This lease was renewed for another three (3) year term starting September 1, 2016. CCI will receive approximately \$60,037 in 2018 (\$57,620 in 2017) from rent and reimbursement of utilities.

Valley Forge Chapter of Sweet Adelines International entered into a lease for the period September 7, 2014 to December 31, 2016, for the use of space in the Parish Hall for approximately 47 days per year at a monthly rental of \$416.67. This lease was renewed until December 31, 2018 at the same rental.

The Parish Hall is also rented for various other functions such as birthday parties, wedding receptions, business functions, community organizations, etc.

If anyone has any questions, please feel free to contact us anytime either in person, phone, (484) 437-0884 or via email, bwietlisbach76@msn.com. We appreciate everyone's continued support of Christ Church Ithan.

Respectfully Submitted,

Bruce Wietlisbach

Accounting Warden

**Christ Church, Ithan**  
**Balance Sheet**  
**December 31, 2017**

Assets:	<u>Dec. 31, 2016</u>	<u>Dec. 31, 2017</u>
Cash Accounts-Unrestricted:		
Operating Fund-Unrestricted(see #7A)	13,672.46	7,523.35
Cash Accounts-Restricted:		
Garden of Remembrance(see #7E)	4,222.58	4,600.08
Eleanor Smith Music Fund(see #7D)	13,060.33	13,022.14
Music Scholarship(see #7F)	6,077.70	10,394.02
Operating Reserve Account(see #7B)	35,423.10	35,454.98
Capital Reserve Account(see #7C)	3,515.93	13,504.41
Rectory-Security Deposit(see #7F)	3,800.00	3,800.00
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Cash	79,772.10	88,298.98
CCI Endowment Fund(see #6)	831,879.60	908,805.65
Fixed Assets(see #8):		
Land	38,259.00	38,259.00
Church, Parish Hall, Rectory	1,233,982.93	1,297,602.93
Organ	144,343.00	144,343.00
Furniture and Fixtures	164,770.41	165,694.41
Building Improvements	368,085.73	372,961.73
Land Improvements	110,697.84	110,697.84
Accumulated Depreciation	(1,566,161.64)	(1,610,730.21)
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Fixed Assets	493,977.27	518,828.70
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Assets	<u>1,405,628.97</u>	<u>1,515,933.33</u>
Liabilities:		
Deferred Revenues	10,250.00	16,250.00
Loan to Endowment Fund	44,630.56	44,630.56
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities	54,880.56	60,880.56
Fund Principal	1,350,748.41	1,455,052.77
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Total Liabilities and Fund Principal	<u>1,405,628.97</u>	<u>1,515,933.33</u>

**Christ Church, Ithan**  
**Budget 2017 vs. 2017 Actual - FINAL**

	<b>2017</b>	<b>2017</b>	
	<b><u>Budget</u></b>	<b><u>Final</u></b>	<b><u>Comments</u></b>
<b>Revenues</b>			
Pledge and NonPledge Contributions	\$184,910.00	\$220,617.07	Over due to Roof Campaign & Front Garden Project Donations
Rental Income	\$122,512.70	\$113,043.63	Under due to very little misc rentals (weddings, receptions, etc)
Investment Income	\$21,560.00	\$21,334.46	
Miscellaneous Income	\$2,120.00	\$8,528.75	Over due to Memoria & GOR donations.
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$331,102.70</u>	<u>\$363,523.91</u>	
Endowment Contributions	<u>\$230,000.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	Final Colket donation to be received in early 2018.
Total Revenues	\$561,102.70	\$363,523.91	
<b>Expenses</b>			
Dues, Assesments & Outreach	\$26,413.03	\$20,663.25	Change in billing of Diocese assessments.
Clergy Expense	\$149,637.34	\$157,219.74	Full Year of Fr. John in 2017.
Office Expenses	\$49,220.00	\$49,629.92	
Liturgical and Music Expense	\$47,300.04	\$45,913.86	
Maintenance, Utilities and Insurance	\$79,136.50	\$74,662.11	Sexton was out for several months in 2017.
Misc. and Adv. Expenses	\$16,100.00	\$12,449.96	
Total Expenses	<u>\$367,806.91</u>	<u>\$360,538.84</u>	
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$193,295.79</u>	<u>\$2,985.07</u>	
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$193,295.79</u>	<u>\$2,985.07</u>	

Christ Church, Ithan  
2016 - 2018 Pledge Statistics  
FINAL

	<u>#</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>Avg.</u>
<b><u>2016 Pledge - Total</u></b>	<b><u>43</u></b>	<b><u>\$150,150.00</u></b>	<b>\$3,492</b>
2017 Pledge Activity:			
Increases	21	\$14,715.00	
Same	12	\$0.00	
Decreases	5	-\$7,250.00	
Stopped	(5)	-\$16,700.00	
New	8	\$14,495.00	
<b><u>2017 Pledge - Total</u></b>	<b><u>46</u></b>	<b><u>\$155,410.00</u></b>	<b>\$3,378</b>
2018 Pledge Activity:			
Increases	16	\$12,808.00	
Same	14	\$0.00	
Decreases	9	-\$5,525.00	
Stopped	(7)	-\$16,665.00	
New	7	\$8,220.00	
<b><u>2018 Pledge - Total</u></b>	<b><u>46</u></b>	<b><u>\$154,248.00</u></b>	<b>\$3,353</b>

## Christ Church, Ithan Budget 2018 - FINAL

	<u>2018 Budget</u>
<b>Revenues:</b>	
Pledge and NonPledge Contributions	\$190,948.00
Rental Income	\$116,040.80
Investment Income	\$21,520.00
Miscellaneous Income	\$4,800.00
Total Operating Revenues	<u>\$333,308.80</u>
Endowment Contributions	<u>\$238,750.00</u>
Total Revenues	\$572,058.80
<b>Expenses:</b>	
Dues, Assesments & Outreach	\$34,883.00
Clergy Expense	\$157,797.40
Office Expenses	\$53,882.08
Liturgical and Music Expense	\$49,360.40
Maintenance, Utilities and Insurance	\$81,235.34
Misc. and Adv. Expenses	\$6,250.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$383,408.22</u>
Net Income (Loss)	<u>\$188,650.58</u>
Exclude Endowment & Front Garden Contributions - (Loss)	<u>-\$60,099.42</u>
<b>Use Of Endowment/Reserves:</b>	
Endowment - 4.5%	\$49,500.00
Operating Cash Reserves	\$10,000.00
Eleanor Smith Funds	\$1,000.00
Balanced Budget	<u>\$400.58</u>

## ALTAR GUILD REPORT - 2017

In 2017 our Altar Guild members prepared the altar for weekly services and special Easter and Christmas services as well as any weddings and funerals that occurred during the year.

Altar Guild has continued to keep the alms basins and railing by the lectern polished as part of their weekly chores.

The Flower committee was led by Jacqui North. With the help of a group of volunteers Jacqui did a wonderful job of beautifying the church for the Easter and Christmas holidays.

Nancy Boyd and Ron Spinelli have joined us this year as new members. Altar Guild is a lovely way of serving our church, and we are always happy to welcome new members. Please let me know if you would be interested.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Breitling

### LIST OF MEMBERS

Nancy Boyd

Nancy Breitling

Jacqui North

Brenda Hackett

Cooley Lyon

Alyce Scafidi

Ron Spinelli

Dode Tague

**Christ Church Ithan**  
**Building and Grounds Report**  
**2017**

In March a new roof was placed on the Parish Hall after all of the old shingling (sometimes three layers) was removed and damaged areas of the decking repaired. The sloped area has a 20 year warrantee from the manufacturer and the low slope roofing is covered for 20 years from the manufacturer and roofing company – G. Martini.

An electrical problem in the Parish Hall that caused the Verizon system to go out of order was fixed by diverting a line from the old circuit board.

A serious water pipe leak from under the cement floor of the Parish Hall required major plumbing work to divert the hot and cold water supply pipes to the bathrooms over the ceiling.

The dish washer needed repairs and in the process another electrical wiring problem was discovered in old frayed wires. New wiring was run from the circuit box to the kitchen.

All of the spotlights surrounding the Parish Hall were replaced with LED bulbs, as were the bulbs in the chancel area of the church. The outdoor floodlights on the Conestoga Road side of the church were replaced with high-powered LED lights.

Potholes near the Montessori School's area of the parking lot were repaired by three parishioners.

During the absence of the sexton, Bruce Wietlisbach actively maintained the grounds by cutting the grass, removing the leaves and cleaning the gutters of the Church, Parish Hall and Rectory.

The Garden of Remembrance had a complete review by its original landscape designer and various recommendations were implemented Two new trees were planted to replace those taken down by mistake by the tree surgeon last spring.

## 2018

The roof of the Church continues to be an ongoing concern because of occasional leaks in the chancel area during heavy rains and a recent fall to the ground of a slate shingle. The roof was completely replaced in 1998 following a detailed study by an architectural consultant. Since then it has had three repairs performed by the original roofing company (Russell Roofing), for which the church paid over a \$1,000 each time. This unique work of art church has been well maintained and is still in the same condition, as on the day it was consecrated in November 1919. It might be time to consider having a consultant who specializes in slate roofs give us some advice as to how to maintain the structural integrity of this little countryside Gothic church for another 100 years.

There have been a number of individual electrical problems in the Parish Hall and the rectory. A couple has clearly been identified as old wiring issues. Also, when the installation of air conditioning in the office wing of the Parish Hall was explored it was determined that there was no capacity left on the electrical system to support an air conditioning system. Therefore, it would be worthwhile to consider if and how to have all of the electrical systems evaluated and brought up to date.

The heating system in the Parish Hall has been difficult to maintain at a proper setting for various times of the day and in particular sections of the building. The furnaces are often running at full power at times when no one is in the building. In addition to the potential excessive costs and actual discomfort, the Montessori School needs to be considered. They occupy their portion of

the building from early morning until 6 PM in the evening every weekday. There are also groups that use Ithan Hall a few evenings each week. It might be worthwhile to consider an expert assessment of the entire system and get advice about whether the problem is the thermostat, the furnaces or excessive heat loss.

The flagstone pavement leading up to the “real front door” is coming apart at an accelerated pace. The “solution” has been to place a sign there diverting people away from that entrance. The problem appears to be water erosion under the cement around each flagstone. One estimate for redoing the entire walk was about \$11,000 to replace the existing flagstone correctly or \$13,000 to replace the path with new tightly fitting flagstones which would not allow water to seep between them.

The view of the church from Conestoga Road is a key positive feature of being noticed by members of the community driving past. However, our visibility is not fully optimized. For example, the sign has relatively small lettering and is placed near the exit from the parking lot. It is very classical, but not very welcoming. Another consideration is to have our church open for people to stop in during the day and perhaps early evening. One way of encouraging that would be to have the lights in the nave replaced with LED bulbs and placed on a timer to illuminate the stained glass windows.

The Community Garden Club at Wayne has held their meetings in Ithan Hall during this past year and probably will continue to do so. In discussion with the club’s leadership they have expressed interest in our property and at a recent meeting have approved making Christ Church Ithan one of their projects. They would assist us in creating ideas for plantings in several areas around the church and Parish Hall and provide some labor and plants. Any significant costs for materials or plants would be paid by the church. A meeting is being planned sometime soon to share ideas and make plans if this is agreeable to the vestry.

# Annual Report, 2017

## Jeff Fowler, organist/choirmaster

2017 was a great year for the music program at Christ Church. The staff and congregation here share a wonderful relationship. It is a pleasure to work with Father Sosnowski, Nancy McLaughlin, Charles Gerhab, and Judy Englerth. (More about Judy below.)

Our choir is a small but mighty group of singers that produces a big sound and performs challenging music well. Our bass soloist, John Krystyniak, left us over the summer to take a teaching position in a new high school in a Houston, Texas suburb. He and his family moved there only weeks before Houston was hit by a hurricane. We welcomed Justin Johnson to the choir as our new bass soloist in September. We are thankful for the continuing relationship we have with Lori Dugan and Lindsay Hoppock, sopranos; Kaitlyn Tierney, alto; and Kent Schauble, tenor. We are blessed by their talent and dedication.

Three of four Choral Scholars from Haverford High School who sang with us in the first half of 2017 graduated in June. They were Sam Alderson, tenor (who sang with the choir for two years); Sloan Longo, alto; and Jason Buzzel, bass. Katie Sharbaugh, who sang with the choir during her junior year continues to sing with the choir in 2017-2018, along with Choral Scholars who joined the choir in September: Becca Armandi, alto; Keilan Barber, tenor; and Matthew Monteleone, bass.

Besides the usual Sunday to Sunday routine, choir members participated in an all church dinner on February 25 which we called "It's a Grand Night for Singing." While the Soloists and Choral Scholars sang solos as expected, the program included a duet by Porter Gould and Pierce Eckart, and a solo by Fr John Sosnowski! The entire "cast" closed the program with "Make Our Garden Grow" from Bernstein's "Candide." In an accidental "highlight," a young waiter spilled a plate full of spaghetti all over Sam Alderson!

Our 22 rank 1999 Luley pipe organ is well suited to the room, a wonderful instrument, and a joy to play. While amazingly reliable, there are a few issues. Part of the combination action is worn out and needs replacement, and the organ needs a new tremulant.

A year ago I reported that we had received a free used grand piano which was in better shape than what we had. At the time, the piano in the music room was moved to Ithan Hall, and the “new to us” piano was placed in the music room. Last spring it happened again. Our piano tuner, Don Roberts, sent an email to several of his clients about someone who wished to give away a 1981 Steinway grand. It was offered on a first come, first served basis, and I happened to see the email before anyone else. Once again, pianos migrated from place to place, with the least of them going out the door!

We are indebted to those members of the congregation who have generously supported the choral scholar program this 2017/2018 season with their gifts. They are: Nancy Breitling, Sue Philipp, Jacqui North & Martin McNeil, Barry & Dorothy Tague, Brenda Noone, Philip & Joan Wallick, Jeff Fowler, Drs. Richard & Christina Herring, Betsy Rogers, Lunetta Headley, and Carlos & Cynthia Rios.

As I write this report, we are all grieving the recent death on January 15, 2018 of our friend and colleague, Judy Englerth. The church, our music, and our worship will be greatly impacted by her loss. I am eternally grateful for the love and support of Judy, who besides singing alto, kept the choir organized and ticking behind the scenes. The fact that Judy was an incredible blessing to Christ Church cannot be overstated. Our lives will not be the same.

It is a pleasure to make music at Christ Church, and I look forward to the year ahead. SDG!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jeff Fowler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## The Memorial Garden

I am pleased to report that the Gardening Angels were able to accomplish a great deal over this past year. We began the year by inviting back our Garden's original landscape architect, Alice Farley, to lend her expertise (and memory!) as to how to best restore the Memorial Garden to its original design and 'intent'. We also sought her advice as to how to best maintain the garden in future.

To that end, the 2 crabapple trees that were cut down were replaced, plants that were 'volunteers' or were diseased or damaged were removed and some plants were transplanted elsewhere in the Garden. Our Gardening Angels weeded, pruned, clipped, planted annuals and watered throughout the warm months. To our delight, sundry garden tools began to appear in the Garden Shed; many thanks to some anonymous Angel or Angels!

With Nancy McLaughlin's invaluable help, Garden records have been updated and written documents are now in software copy format as well as hardcopy (we Angels are getting very modern!). Bank records, legal documents, brochures and policies have been reviewed and, in some cases, updated and corrected. Wood Memorials was contacted and some of the name plates on the plaques on the Garden wall have been corrected with the proper font size.

We also asked Alice Farley to submit a plan for replanting parts of the Garden and, possibly, making some changes to the entrance of the Garden from that driveway so as to rebalance the entry now that some of the larger bushes have been removed. She also submitted her ideas for adding plantings along the driveway and the driveway side of the sitting wall which would add to the privacy of the Garden and offer a visual barrier to the driveway.

All of these plans were put 'on hold' pending fundraising as the Garden's funds have become rather depleted over the years. Then, unexpectedly (as I guess most miracles are) Deb Beausang's family made a generous and very much appreciated gift to the Garden in memory of Deb. Some of you may know that Deb was one of our Gardening Angels and was dedicated to the upkeep and beautification of the Memorial Garden. Because of this gift, we are now able to move forward with this first phase of replacement plantings pending the Gardening Angels recommendation and Vestry approval.

Despite the gift from the Deb's family, all further improvements to the garden will require fundraising efforts. Aside from the expenses for improvements, our Garden requires funds on hand to be used toward maintenance and unexpected expenses. If you have ideas for fundraising, please speak with any of the Gardening Angel; we'd love to hear them. The Garden always has been, and must continue to be, self-sufficient and separate from the general operating expenses of the Church.

Despite a very busy schedule, Fatter John and Julia Gould took time to meet with me to help ensure that we are staying on track with the overall mission and goals of the Church. Before proceeding with any significant changes to the Garden, particularly if it involves planting outside of the confines of the Gardens, all plans and expenses shall be reviewed by the Gardening Angels and then submitted to the Vestry for approval.

We would love to have you join our merry band of Gardening Angels. Last summer, we worked as a group on various Sundays since that was what was convenient for most people. We do have some Angels who enjoy having some quiet time in the Garden and stop by to work, here and there, as they were able. This summer, with the new plantings, we'll need lots of help with watering. If you are an experienced gardener; wonderful! Please come share your knowledge. If you're not a gardener but would like to try your hand; we'll show you what 'needs doing'. If soils and plants are not your thing; no worries! We need help with record keeping, organization and fundraising.

**Thank you to our wonderful Gardening Angels of 2017:**

Sally Borghesani	Julia Gould	Cynthia Sosnowski
Nancy Breitling	Chris Herring	Phyllis Trickett
Gretchen Conaway	Al Kennan	
Gordon French	George Peckham	

**And please, let us remember in our prayers, our friend and fellow parishioner Heathy Porter (1926-2017) whose ashes were interred in the Memorial Garden in December.**

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne L. Peckham  
Chairman, Memorial Garden

## Christ Church, Ithan

### OUTREACH REPORT 2017

Our outreach took many forms this year from monetary donations to participation in events for our community. Here are a few of the highlights:

--**"Fill The Bus" Campaign** - for this back to school event sponsored by Episcopal Community Services (ECS) we provided 5 backpacks filled with school supplies for children serviced by ECS

--We sponsored a craft table at the **Highland Ave. Street Fair** sponsored by St. John's A.M.E. Church to support this first time community event.

--Jeff and Coe Lyon took the lead in hosting our **Summer Reading Program** in collaboration with the Radnor Police Department.

--We continue to develop our relationship with the Radnor Police Dept. and have participated in the clean up of a couple of homes that needed some property deficiencies addressed in the course of intervention by the Radnor Police.

--For **Christmas**, we supplied gifts for two families referred to us by St. John's A.M.E. Church. Six children received a variety of gifts including American Girl Dolls, footballs and a magic set. We also provided gifts for a family with five children referred to us by the Ardmore Food Pantry. A \$100.00 gift card was provided for a Radnor family.

--Our **United Thank Offering** (UTO), an outreach of the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) totaled \$880.00.

--We provided a **Thanksgiving Dinner** for a Highland Park family.

--One of our youth, Jay Harper, brought his involvement in supporting the **Southern Poverty Law Center** to a parish dinner hosted at the Wheeler's home and received offerings for desserts in the amount of \$369.00.

--Our support of the **Ardmore Food Pantry** at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Ardmore continues and a report has been provided in this publication about that work.

--A total of \$1,959.00 was distributed by Fr. John from the Rector's Discretionary Fund to meet a variety of needs in our community and beyond.

We continue to look for opportunities to connect with local needs. We appreciate the congregation's wonderful support whenever a need arises. Your generosity is outstanding and helps us bring God's love into the lives of so many of our needy brothers and sisters.