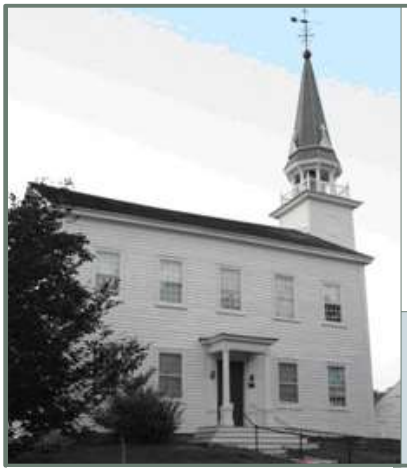


Photo by Christine Chandler


# THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✠ FEBRUARY/MARCH 2021 ✠


## 2020 ANNUAL MEETING RECTOR'S REPORT

### DIFFERENT VIEWS

2020 was a year that gave us different views of life and church. The spread of COVID-19 across the globe brought with it much suffering and loss and we saw us how fragile life can be. As the virus moved quickly over oceans and borders, restrictions on social interaction were introduced and we saw how easy it was to become isolated or cut off from family and friends.

In church, complying with COVID-19 restrictions some of us had to sit in unfamiliar seats, offering a different view of the church. For those who were unable to make it to church a new view of church was offered as we started broadcasting our services on Facebook Live.

### PARISH LIFE

In 2020 we celebrated the baptism of Jacob Barker, which was also Deacon Debbie's first baptism as celebrant. Sadly, during the year we lost Kimberly Corcoran in May, Alvin Smith in October and Jimmie Breitenstein just before Christmas. Other congregants also lost loved ones during the past year including: Jodi Moller (Cathy White, mother), Brenda Haberland (Daune Winslow, mother), Andi Salisbury (Ann Nolte, mother), Fr. Alistair (Ivan Morrison, father).

### ORGANIZATIONS

Despite the challenges, Sunday School and the work among the young people has continued online. Heather MacDougall and Nora Barker have worked with great enthusiasm to produce creative lessons for the Pre-K children. Deacon Debbie has gathered Joyful Journey together for fun-packed classes, while Fr. Alistair, John and Sandra have been Zooming regularly with a group of young people who are preparing for Confirmation. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, a Confirmation Service scheduled in May was cancelled, and with the bishop's retirement, we may be waiting a while for a new date. Thank

✠

INSIDE


| | |
|---|---|
| 2020 Annual Meeting Rector's Report | 1 - 3 |
| Budget Doubles in 30 Years | 4 |
| Getting to Know our Parishioners | 5 |
| Shrove Tuesday | 5 |
| 2020 Christmas Flowers | 6 |
| Calendar | 7 - 8 |
| Read the Bible in a Year | 9 |


✠

you to all who helped teach 'normal' Joyful Journey in back in January and February 2020, and to those who took up the baton in the Fall.

The Ladies Auxiliary under the leadership of Heather MacDougall and a newly-elected committee have rejuvenated the work of the organization. Even though the popular Rummage Sales did not happen in 2020, the Auxiliary continue to raise funds online for outreach and church-based projects.

## Vestry

During most of 2020 vestry meetings were held, not in the Parish Hall, but on Zoom. It took a little while to get used to the 'Hollywood Squares' type meeting, but Zoom has been in useful, particularly during bad weather. I now have no excuse for cancelling a meeting!

I want to thank the members of the vestry for their work over the past year. So much of what was planned was either postponed or cancelled. I am thankful for the dedication and enthusiasm shown by the vestry in serving the parish. Thank you to those who served on various committees, in particular the Buildings and Grounds Committee as it continued to maintain and care for the property.

Senior Warden Cindy Creasy is stepping down after two years of service. I want to thank her for the support she has provided during that time. Cindy has always been there on Sundays or whenever called upon to help and I have appreciated her steadfastness and willingness to assist no matter how large or small the task. John Weiler is stepping up to Senior Warden and Phil Sayles is taking on the responsibility of Junior Warden and I look forward to working with both in the year ahead.

## Treasurer

In March, Sherry Schrade stepped down as Church Treasurer after 17 years of service. We thank Sherry for the years of dedication and diligence and commend her for always handling the finances of the church with transparency and integrity. Personally, I want to thank Sherry for the help and advice she offered me when I arrived at Christ Church, and for the many hours she put in to help me understand the finances of the church. Consequently, Laura Lucia was appointed by the vestry as Church Treasurer and along with the Finance Committee has carried on the financial oversite of the church accounts. I want to thank Laura for her work on obtaining the PPPE grant and in helping get the internet installed in the church.

## Year Ahead

The year ahead will also bring many challenges and new opportunities. Bishop Love's retirement in February 2021 will be the start of a significant change in the dioceses bringing into effect the General Convention's Resolution B012. Same sex marriage in the church is for many a divisive issue and Bishop Bill courageously took the stand for what he believed is the Biblical view of marriage. I would ask everyone to pray for the Diocese of Albany as it starts the search process for a new bishop.

We have been challenged in 2021 - by Mtr. Laurie - to Read the Bible in One Year. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn more about God and his amazing plan of salvation. If you have not yet started, why not jump in, today!

## Existing Conditions Report

As a legacy of the Church's 225th Anniversary Celebrations the vestry decided to commission a Historic Conditions Survey of the church and adjacent carriage shed. The vestry received a grant from New York State Landmarks Conservancy to assist with the costs of a report. John G. Waite

Associates were commissioned in 2020 to carry out a survey and after much disruption due to COVID-19 we finally received the Report in Jan 2021. The document is 58 pages long, and if anyone would like a copy please contact me by email and I will forward you a copy. I will not go into too much detail here, other than to say that the architect found the church and carriage shed to be:

> *'…an important, and extremely well preserved, example of simple federal period church architecture in the tradition of a New England Meeting house. The extent to which it survives in its late eighteenth-century form is remarkable…Today Christ Church stands as one of the major landmarks of Schenectady County and the greater capital region.'*

However, the architect also points out that there is much work that needs to be done and:

> *'if repaired and maintained appropriately, it will last for centuries and be able to welcome generations of new congregants.'*

The architect has provided recommendations and possible phasing of the repairs, prioritizing them from 'most to least' urgent. The architect presented the report to the vestry in January 2021 and it was agreed to set up a fundraising committee to oversee a Christ Church Restoration Fund and a building committee to oversee the appointment of an architect and the restoration of the building. Due to the significance of the building in the local area the wider community will be approached to help contribute to the restoration, hopefully alleviating some of cost from the parish.

## THANKS

For me, one of the outstanding events of 2020 for me was 'Tea for the Soul'. The combined effort of St. John's, Johnstown and Christ Church provided over 1,500 bags of goodies to staff members at local hospitals and nursing homes to say "thank you" for all their work during the pandemic. Thank you to all who decorated bags or gave generously to help cover costs. Some of the bags were real pieces of art. I would be remiss if I did not mention and thank the Weiler/DePaolo family, who produced hundreds of decorated bags for the cause.

Each year I thank Deacon Debbie always for all her help and encouragement, and this year I am especially grateful to her for stepping up to lead services when I had to leave for six weeks to attend my father's funeral in Northern Ireland. Deacon Debbie continues to give so much service to the church in her role as deacon. We are very blessed to have her in Christ Church. I would also thank John and Bart for helping with preaching duties during my absence.

Thank you also to our musician, Margaret, who has continued to lead us in worship with her musical gifts. The pre-service music on Sunday mornings has been a blessing to many. We look forward to the day when we can sing again in church, and once more hear her playing the flute.

Finally, I am thankful for all of you who contribute to the life of our Parish. The Altar Guild, the Ladies Auxiliary, Jane Weyers who prepares the Weekly Bulletins, Steve Schrade who along with Margaret chooses, the hymns and music, the tellers and all of you, unnamed helpers, who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make Christ Church "a worshipping community of friends joyfully serving, encouraging, and healing others in Jesus' Name."

Blessings,

*Fr. Alistair* ✠

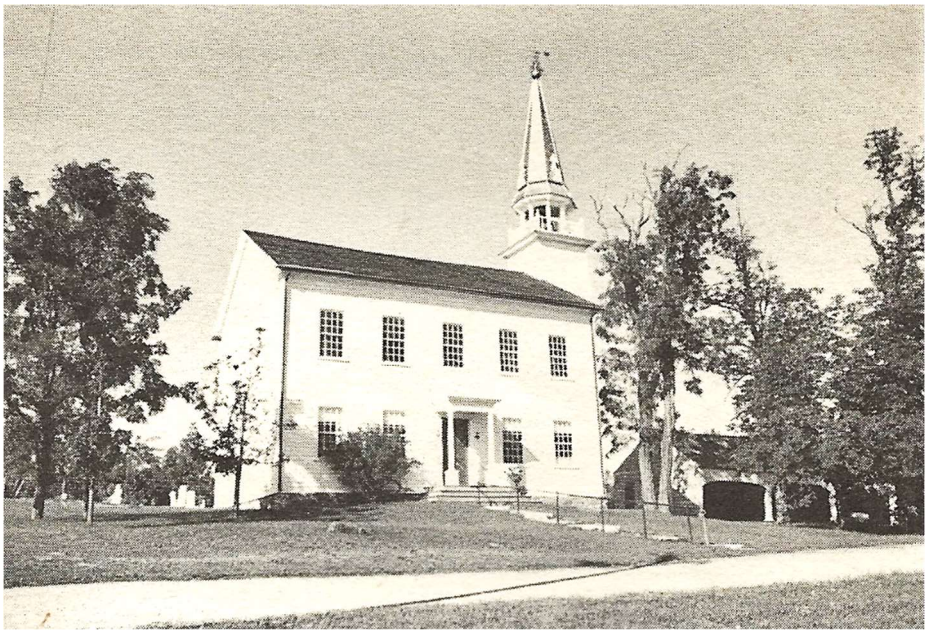
## PARISH BUDGET DOUBLES IN THIRTY YEARS

A comparison of budgets adopted thirty years apart reveal interesting trends in revenues and expenses:

| 1991 | | 2021 | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Income: | | Income: | |
| Pledges | $44,535 | Pledges | $86,143 |
| Special | $ 3,000 | Rent Rectory/PH | $15,880 |
| | | | |
| Expenses: | | Expenses: | |
| Diocesan Assessment | $ 2,900 | Diocesan Assessment | $10,300 |
| Building Maintenance | $ 1,500 | Building Maintenance | $ 3,500 |
| Building Repair | 0 | Building Repair | $14,000 |
| Employment Expenses | | Employment Expenses | |
| Priest & Organist | $27,220 | Priest & Organist | $49,040 |
| Grounds Maintenance | 0 | Grounds Maintenance | $ 4,000 |
| Oil & Electric | $ 7,000 | Oil & Electric | $ 6,500 |
| Outreach | $ 1,000 | Outreach | $ 5,000 |

Comments:

- The total budget for 1991 = $52,535 / 2021 = $103,000
- In 1991 a fulltime priest was hired, first since 1975 (the 1990 budget = $23,645)
- Note oil and electric costs were about the same, thanks to better insulation and more efficient heating systems
- The Diocesan Assessment (money we send to the Albany Diocese) is based on the annual income as reported by our parish
- In 1991, volunteers from the congregation signed up to take turns mowing the church lawn each summer! Snow shoveling was also undertaken by volunteers.



## Getting to Know our Parishioners

**In this feature, we ask parishioners to complete a brief online form of which the responses will be included as a short biography in The Messenger. If you would like to participate and be a featured parishioner for future editions, please complete the form linked here: Getting to Know Our Parishioners Form.*

***Name:*** Steve Schrade

***How long have you been a parishioner of Christ Church?*** Lifelong

***What is your favorite hymn and why?*** Two of my favorite hymns are *Great Is Thy Faithfulness* and *Onward Christian Soldiers* because of the message each hymn delivers. My favorite line from Great is Thy Faithfulness is "Thou changest not; thy compassions, they fail not." Onward Christian Soldiers was also my father's favorite hymn.

***Where is your favorite vacation spot?*** My favorite vacation spot, which is also my current home while Sherry and I are awaiting the completion of our new home in Duanesburg, is Piseco Lake in the Adirondacks. We enjoy spending time with our children and grandchildren at the lake.

***What is something you like to do "the old-fashioned way"?*** I enjoy doing a lot of things "the old-fashioned way". I prefer to read the news, mail, and books in physical form rather than on my computer. I don't enjoy remembering my passwords to all the various websites. I also prefer to heat my home with fire wood from trees cut on my property. ✠

---

**Christ Church would like to invite everyone to a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for good food and fellowship!**

**Date: 02/16/2021**
**Where: In your kitchen or dining room!**
**Time: 6:00 – 6:30pm**
**How: Zoom (a link will be sent out via email to everyone Tuesday morning)**

**Hope to see you there!**

## 2020 Christmas Flower Families and Persons Remembered

As many parishioners were unable to attend the Christmas Eve services in person, we would like to acknowledge and thank those who contributed to the Christmas flowers in memory of their loved ones.

- The Ladies Guild remembers departed members.
- Judy & Carl remember Jimmie, Fred & Gratia, Martha, Tim, Edna & Addie, Sandy, and Martin.
- Marge Cummings remembers Glenn Cummings, Michael & Jim Winsor, John M. Barr, Kathleen Winsor, Peggy Last, Glen & Ruth Cummings, and Beloved Friends.
- Steve & Sherry Schrade remember Kyle Schrade, Sherwin & Jean Schrade, Charles & Ethel Egan, and Jay Egan.
- The Iseman family remembers Stana Iseman, Thomas Dinnel, and John & Milla Iseman.
- Judith Doell & family remembers Rachael E. Munson and Barbara & Paul B. Munson II.
- Kevin B. Sweeney remembers Rose Mara Sweeney.
- The Thayer Family remembers Elizabeth & Ruth Thayer.
- Barb & Jim Featherstonhaugh remember Duane & Marjory Featherstonhaugh and Helen McGuire.
- Cheryl Lennox & Tracy Rabideau remember Phillip Lennox, Ellis "Abe" & Sue Chamberlin, Matthew Rabideau, Ben Lennox, Albert & Anne Middleton, and David Chamberlin.
- Bob, Heather, Ian, & Ethan remember Mary MacDougall, John & Elvira Smithers, Doris Warner. and James Musson.
- The MacDougall family remembers Betty & Hugh MacDougall, Jr. and Elizabeth MacDougall.
- Bryan & Andrea Salisbury remember Chuck Salisbury and Anne & Don Nolte.
- Art & Camille Crandall remember Dudley & Nancy Smith, Arthur & Harriet Crandall, and Karen Smith Adamec.
- Chris & Denny Wolfe & family remember Mr. & Mrs. Alfred V. Merklen, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred C. Merklen, and Mr. & Mrs. Gilbert Wolfe.
- Jane & Calvin Weyers & family remember Amelia & Joseph Bystry, Jr., Kendall Weyers, and Leo Weyers.
- Sharon & Dean Mericle remember Marge & Ed Choate and Mildred & Bernard Mericle.
- The Sayles family remembers members of the Sayles, Bond, Ames, Pullis, and Collins families.
- John & Sandra Weiler remember Louis Donato, Jr., and Doris & Rev. Franklyn Weiler.
- Linda Mary Dow remembers Johnie Dow, Winerferd & John Damalcago, Sr., and John Damalcago, Jr.
- Cindy Creasy remembers Dorothy & Jud Creasy, John & Nellie Overbaugh, Emmett & Rita Creasy, and Jackie Hertel.

# ✠ FEBRUARY 2021 ✠

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1** | **2**<br>Bob Skala, Ethan MacDougall | **3** | **4** | **5** | **6**<br>Jessica Lucia |
| **7 EPIPHANY 5**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>David & Brenda Haberland | **8** | **9**<br>Ella Moses | **10** | **11**<br>Bob MacDougall | **12** | **13** |
| **14 EPIPHANY 6**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **15**<br>Lisa McHugh, Brenda Haberland | **16**<br>Shrove Tuesday<br>Virtual Pancake Supper – 6pm | **17 ASH WEDNESDAY** | **18** | **19** | **20** |
| **21 LENT 1**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **22**<br>Thomas Featherstonhaugh | **23**<br>Kate Connor, Jayden Sayles | **24**<br>Vestry Mtg – 7pm | **25** | **26** | **27** |
| **28 LENT 2**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | | | | | | |

# ✠ MARCH 2021 ✠

## BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | **1**<br>Hector Eliott | **2** | **3** | **4** | **5**<br>Jennifer Wolfe | **6** |
| **7 LENT 3**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **8** | **9** | **10**<br>Nancy Palluti, Shawn Palluti | **11**<br>Bart MacDougall, Denny Wolfe | **12** | **13**<br>Marilyn Schroeder |
| **14 LENT 4**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **15** | **16** | **17**<br>Vestry Mtg – 7pm<br>Britt Eliott, Lydia Rudolphsen | 18 | **19**<br>Sandra Weiler, Jacob Barker | **20** |
| **21 LENT 5**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am** | **22** | **23** | **24** | **25** | **26**<br>Joyce Mason | **27**<br>Joshua Langston |
| **28 PALM SUNDAY**<br>**Holy Eucharist – 10am**<br>Ben Lennox | **29**<br>Carm Fusco | **30** | **31**<br>Nolan McHugh, Sherry Schrade | | | |

## READ THE BIBLE IN A YEAR

Join us in our mission to read the Bible in a year! Refer to the weekly bulletin for the reading schedule.

- Mtr. Laurie and Fr. Alistair broadcast weekly Bible Studies on Wednesday mornings at 10 a.m. and a half hour 'Speedy' Bible Study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 p.m. https://www.facebook.com/stjohnsjohnstown/
- You may visit Mtr. Laurie's Daily Blog to expand your understanding of the readings. Her blogs are found on the St. John's website at: https://www.stjohnsjohnstown.org/bible_in_a_year--morning_musings
- Our own John Weiler was guest blogger on Day 36, Friday 02/05. His blog is worth a read! https://www.stjohnsjohnstown.org/day_36glogger_john_weiler_on_numbers_810

***Christ Church is a worshiping community of friends, joyfully serving, encouraging and healing others in Jesus's name.***

*The parish is located at:*
*132 Duanesburg Churches Rd,*
*Duanesburg, NY, on the corner of*
*Rt. 20 and Duanesburg Churches Rd.*

***Rector:***
*Fr. Alistair Morrison*
*revajmorrison@gmail.com*

***Deacon:***
*Debbie Beach (518) 372-1352*
*or (518) 669-1898*
*dbeach21@verizon.net*

***Vestry members:***
*John Weiler – Sr. Warden*
*Phil Sayles – Jr. Warden*
*Judy Breitenstein*
*Cindy Creasy*
*Tim Fischer*
*Laura Lucia*
*Nancy Palluti*
*Andrea Salisbury*
*Steven Schrade*

***Treasurer:***
*Laura Lucia*

***Parish Hall Ph.:*** *(518) 895-2383*

Christ Church
P.O. Box 92
Duanesburg, New York 12056-0092