



Photo by Nancy Palluti

# THE MESSENGER

A COMMUNICATION MINISTRY OF  
CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, NEW YORK

✦ JUNE/JULY 2023 ✦

## RECTOR'S REPORT RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE

“**E**ternal God, the heaven of heavens cannot contain you, much less the walls of temples made with hands. Graciously receive our thanks for this place, and accept the work of our hands, offered to your honor and glory.” – from A Litany of Thanksgiving for a Church

At our Annual Meeting, in January this year, we launched a fundraising campaign for the restoration of the church and carriage shed. For those of you who were not able to attend the meeting I thought it would be good to bring you up to date with what we are planning to restore, how much we are hoping to raise and what has been happening since January. From the Existing Conditions Report, carried out in 2021 by the architects, it was determined that to extend the life of the church for future generations it was necessary to act and repair areas damaged by the ingress of moisture. Siding, roof coverings, foundations, along with supports to the tower are all in need of repair. The cost of the historic restoration is estimated to cost \$1 million. To date, we have raised nearly \$400,000.

In the meantime, we have been able to present the Restoration Project to the Schenectady County Historical Society. The Fundraising Committee<sup>1</sup> has been approaching prospective donors for pledges and submitting applications to foundations for grants. We have applied to The New York Landmark Conservancy for grants amounting to \$65,000. If you know of anyone in the wider community who might be interested in supporting us, please pass on their contact details and we will reach out to them.

The Building Committee<sup>2</sup> has been working with the architects, John G. Waite Architects, to finalize drawings and specifications for the building work. Provided we raise sufficient funds we are hoping to start the restoration work in April 2024 with a completion date of early December 2024.

Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to get us to where we are today. Also, thank you to everyone who has donated/pledged



Rector's Report	1 - 4
View from the Pew	5
The Poetry Corner	6
Memorial Day Parade	6
Parish Calendar	7 - 8
Christ Church Activities	9



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so far to the project. Please continue to pray for the committees as they carry out their tasks to help with the restoration of the church.

Blessings,

*Fr. Alistair* ✠

<sup>1</sup>*Finance Committee: Cindy Creasy and Carl Breitenstein (Co-chairs), Patricia Kavanagh, Jim Featherstonehaugh, Laura Lucia, Deacon Debbie, Judy Breitenstein, Jane Weyers, Sandra Weiler and Fr. Alistair.*

<sup>2</sup>*Building Committee: Steve Schrade and Fr. Alistair (Co-chairs), Tonya Rudolphsen and Deana Rea.*

## CHRIST CHURCH, DUANESBURG, N.Y

### Campaign to Restore Christ Church

#### A Place of it Time and for Our Time

- Christ Church holds a uniquely important place in the history of the nation, the state of New York, and the town of Duaneburg. It is a living testament to the birth of a newly independent country, people, and church. And it continues to remind us of where we came from, who we are today, and who we aspire to be tomorrow.
- Established in 1793, Christ Church Duaneburg is as old as the U.S. Capitol.
- James Duane, the founder of Christ Church, was also one of America's Founding Fathers. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress, the Mayor of New York City, a New York state senator, and, nominated by George Washington, served as a District Court Judge.
- The only architectural addition in the centuries since its founding was the erection of a framed tower in 1811 and a change of spire following a lightning strike in the summer of 1878.
- John G. Waite Associates, Architects, have reported, "Christ Church is an important, and extremely well preserved, example of simple federal period church architecture in the tradition of a New England meetinghouse. The extent to which it survives in its late eighteenth-century form is remarkable, but so too are the additions to the building in the early and late nineteenth century that show evolution while maintaining an historic continuity."
- The heart of Christ Church has always been the faith of its congregation, their bond with one another, and their dedication to the broader community. Like the nation in which it was born, Christ Church is a place of the people, by the people, and for the people.

#### A Time to Mend

- In 2018, on the 225th anniversary of Christ Church's founding, a survey of the building's condition was commissioned with support from the New York Landmarks Conservancy. The results, produced and delivered by John G. Waite Associates in 2020, were sobering.
- The report found the building to be in need of restoration to reverse the effects of moisture and temperature fluctuations over many decades. Moisture is at the root of most damage, whether trapped behind loose paint, putting pressure on the stone foundation, or in the form of excess humidity in a poorly ventilated attic. Repairs would be needed to roofs, trim, foundations, windows, columns, paneling, and more.
- After prayerful deliberation, the Parish has decided to embark on a major restoration effort, following a plan developed by John G. Waite Associates and agreed upon by the Vestry. This effort is designed to ensure that the church, carriage house, and grounds will be returned to pristine condition and prepared to weather another two centuries of continual use by the congregation and Duaneburg community.
- The projected cost to complete all the work in a single phase of work, including Professional Fees, amounts to \$1,000,000.
- What the project promises is far more profound. That is nothing less than to protect, restore, and preserve the area's greatest spiritual, historical, and cultural asset and one of the nation's last remaining monuments to the Founding Fathers' commitment to create a community of faith, hope, and charity for all.
- Will you join us in restoring Christ Episcopal Church?

A cornerstone of Duaneburg community since 1793, Christ Church offers:

- Worship
- Community Outreach
- History in its building and as the burial site of the Duane and North families.



Adapting to needs of the community, over the years Christ Church has provided:

- Food and funds to families in need
- AA meetings
- Rummage sales
- Dinners
- Concerts
- Baccalaureate Services
- A Quilt Show
- Meals program for the Aging
- Blessing of the Animals
- Red Cross Shelter



#### How you can help

- ◆ Make a financial donation.  
Scan the QR code to donate by using PayPal.
- ◆ Share with friends and family.



#### Contact

Carl Breitenstein — (518) 265-4805  
Cindy Creasy — (518) 669-3707  
Email: ccduaneburg@gmail.com

#### For more information

<http://www.christchurchduaneburg.org/>  
or visit the Church's Facebook Page



#### Did You Know?

- The church is as old as the U.S. Capitol building in Washington D.C.
- The church was built in the same year as the Louvre Museum opened in France.

# CHRIST CHURCH DUANESBURG

NEW YORK · Est. 1793



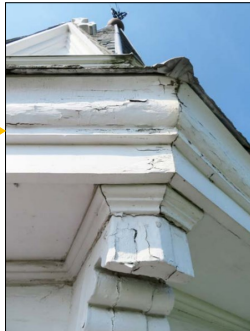
## HISTORIC RESTORATION

2023-2025

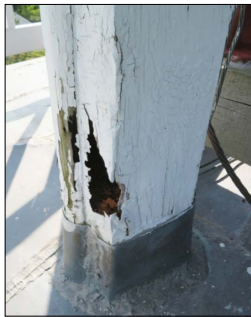
Repairs are needed to...



Roofs



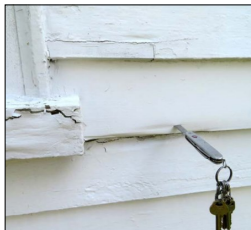
Trim



Columns



Windows



Paneling




Foundations

## Historic Conditions Report

In 2018, on the 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ Church's founding, a survey of the building's condition was commissioned with support from the **New York Landmarks Conservancy**.

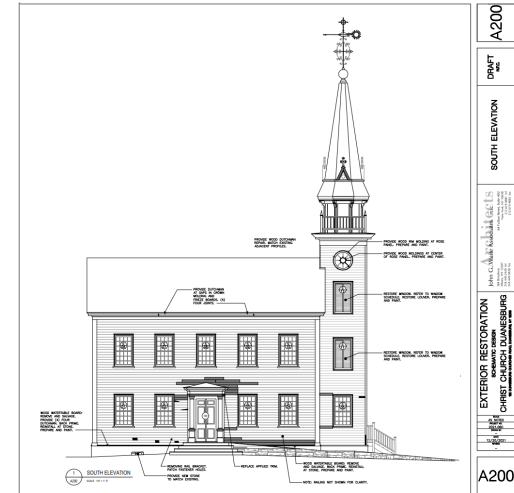
**John G. Waite Associates** conducted the exploration throughout 2020. The architects found the building to be in reasonable condition, but in need of restoration to reverse the effects of moisture and temperature fluctuations. Moisture is at the root of most damage, whether trapped behind loose paint, putting pressure on the stone foundation, or in the form of excess humidity in a poorly ventilated attic.



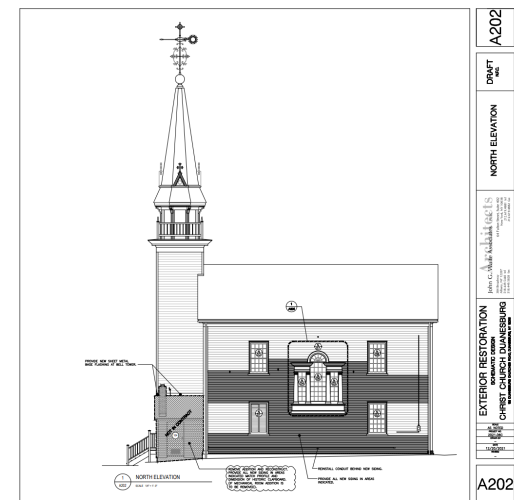
## How much will it cost?

- With the help of the architect we have put together a budget for the cost of the project. The cost of construction and professional fees amounts to \$1,000,060.
- As of the end of January 2023, the Fundraising Committee has already raised \$390,000. This includes both monies received and pledges.
- Provided we raise the necessary funding we plan to carryout the restoration during 2024.

Architectural Drawings



South Elevation



North Elevation

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## VIEW FROM THE PEW

BY JOHN WEILER

It can be hard to walk this Christian walk. The world, especially our consumerist America, is not designed for it.

It's not that we're persecuted, although there are those who get a plain red Starbucks cup at Christmastime and the barista wishes them an unspecified "happy holiday" and they fly to Facebook to cry persecution – Really? And there are those who feel persecuted because the Government won't pass all the strictures of their narrow vision of Christianity into law. I suppose that would make it easier for them to walk their walk if everyone else would. It would leave them without distractions.

And there it is. An innocent enough word.

Distractions.

But distractions are insidious.

Jesus spoke of the broad road and the narrow.

The broad road for us is like a shopping mall concourse. All bright lights and shiny plastic competing for our attention. Wear these clothes, drive this car, drink this beer or soda, follow this diet and you can live your best life. Buy that one more bauble and you'll be *there*, you'll have it all because you *can* have it all! Surely, you deserve it!

It starts when we're young. This breakfast cereal is the sweetest, its mascot the most anarchically fun, the prize inside the box the coolest. Cartoons are extended toy commercials. The rich kids at school have the best toys and we are slowly taught, as the 1980s bumper-sticker had it, Whoever dies with the most toys wins.

Twentieth Century American capitalism creates a hole that it is designed never to fill, and the Twenty-first Century Internet age has only amped the volume to eleven.

They tell us the markers of success are the same thing as success. But what actually is material success?

Does it make you safer, more secure? Will it add even a minute to your life? The answers to these questions might be a cautiously provisional yes – there is security in material wealth, and a certain kind of safety too, and folks with money may live longer because of access to better health care – but none of that is guaranteed. How can it be?

And if you don't have these things, don't have the means to access these things, the desire for them is stressful. The fact that necessities like healthcare, access to nutritious food, and even justice, are commodified is deadly. These pressures can drive the Have Nots to crime making, you guessed it, the Haves less safe. So, what does this system really buy us?

All this grasping after what we can buy, all this pining for what we can't afford to, distracts us. All this din and hubbub – by default or design – draws us away from our spiritual concerns to put ourselves at the center instead of God. In seeing to our own manufactured needs, we more easily ignore the real needs of our neighbors.

The Christian life in this shopping concourse-like world is like that dusty little chapel you used to see off in the corner of some malls – the one between a stodgy menswear store and some darkened tchotchke shop that always had its gate pulled down – where little old ladies in headscarves shuffle in to light candles.

That's not sexy or exciting – look over here at the busy end of the mall, we've got an arcade!

But those little old ladies are on to something. Walk into the stillness lit by a dozen tiny flames in red glass jars. Look up at the cross. Pray.

That's what we really need. ✕

## THE POETRY CORNER

BY CAMILLE CRANDALL



### MY CUP IS FULL

Out on his fishing boat far from the bay  
He drifted and pondered life's issues away  
He thought to himself: "My cup is full; my cup  
is full.  
Isn't it simply wonderful?!"

While his angling line dangled with bait for a fish,  
He hoped to catch some to bring home for his dish.

For he was a simple man enjoying the river  
With sunshine and breezes, not feeling a shiver.  
He cruised and he drifted and anchored awhile.  
And caught enough fish to generate a smile.

He thought of his family, his kids and his wife.  
And how they had managed to journey through life.  
With faith, love and affection to carry them through

The trials and the challenges that somehow ensue.  
The kids were all grown now, all out on their own  
Just he and the Mrs. were left now at home.  
Enjoying their freedom as new empty nesters  
But missing the kids and their frolic and gestures.

One day as he prepared to go out on the water  
The phone rang, and he could hear his wife holler  
*News that grandparents they soon would be; an  
exciting milestone to note.*

He joyfully thought how the child would some day be  
in his boat.

"My cup is full; my cup is full, oh don't you see?  
His blessings flow from Thee to me."  
For so many blessings, I am truly grateful  
Besides my cup, I have a plateful!" ❖

## VILLAGE OF DELANSON MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



✧ JUNE 2023 ✧

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1  Jasmine Therrion	2  John Chandler  Tonya & Kyle Rudolphsen	3
4 PENTECOST 1 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am	5  Maggie O'Brien	6	7	8  Billy Lucia	9	10
11 PENTECOST 2 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Parish Picnic	12 DCS Baccalaureate @ Princetown Presbyterian - 7pm  Devin O'Brien, Audrey Rudolphsen	13	14	15	16	17  Joan Langston, Deborah Van Zink  Rachel & Devin O'Brien
18 PENTECOST 3 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am Joyful Journey - 10am	19	20  Samantha Moses	21 Vestry Mtg - 7pm  Adam & Dianne Acevedo	22  Ryan & Tricia Moses	23	24
25 PENTECOST 4 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	26  John & Elizabeth Iseman	27	28	29  Eva Weyers  Tom & Chris White	30  Wyatt & Jodi Moller	

✧ JULY 2023 ✧

BIRTHDAYS, ANNIVERSARIES & EVENTS

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1  John Michael Iseman
2 PENTECOST 5 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am  Tricia Moses	3  Paul Munson IV, Mike Kosier	4 Independence Day  Carl Breitenstein	5	6  Bonnie Kerr, Evie Kosier	7  Molly Powers, Margaret Bernstein	8
9 PENTECOST 6 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	10	11  Cal Weyers	12	13	14	15
16 PENTECOST 7 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am  Alexander Rabideau	17  Jim & Barbara Featherstonhaugh	18	19 Vestry Mtg - 7pm  John Weiler, Michael Walsh	20	21	22
23 PENTECOST 8 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am  Bobby & Allison Chandler	24	25	26  Charlotte O'Brien	27	28  Camille Crandall	29
30 PENTECOST 9 Bible Study - 9am Holy Eucharist - 10am	31					



## CHRIST CHURCH FAMILY ACTIVITIES

June 11<sup>th</sup>

Parish Picnic after Church at  
Van Patten Mill Park

June 12<sup>th</sup>

DCS Baccalaureate at 7:00pm  
Princetown Evangelical Presbyterian Church

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Duanesburg Central School Graduation at 4:30pm  
Joe Bena Hall

June 25<sup>th</sup>

Graduation Party following Church

June 28<sup>th</sup>

Floating Classroom in Lake George  
Contact Heather MacDougall for details

July 16<sup>th</sup>

Family Sunday – Holy Hike  
Schoharie Crossing, followed by ice cream

August 3<sup>rd</sup>

Regional Food Bank  
6:30 – 8:00pm ☒



*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  
dbeach21@verizon.net*

**Vestry members:**

*Phil Sayles – Sr. Warden  
Steve Schrade – Jr. Warden  
Judy Breitenstein  
Cindy Creasy  
Laura Lucia  
Heather MacDougall  
Nancy Palluti  
Andrea Salisbury  
John Weiler*

**Treasurer:**

*Laura Lucia*

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

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