

Christ Church Exeter

Reports of Ministries in 2025



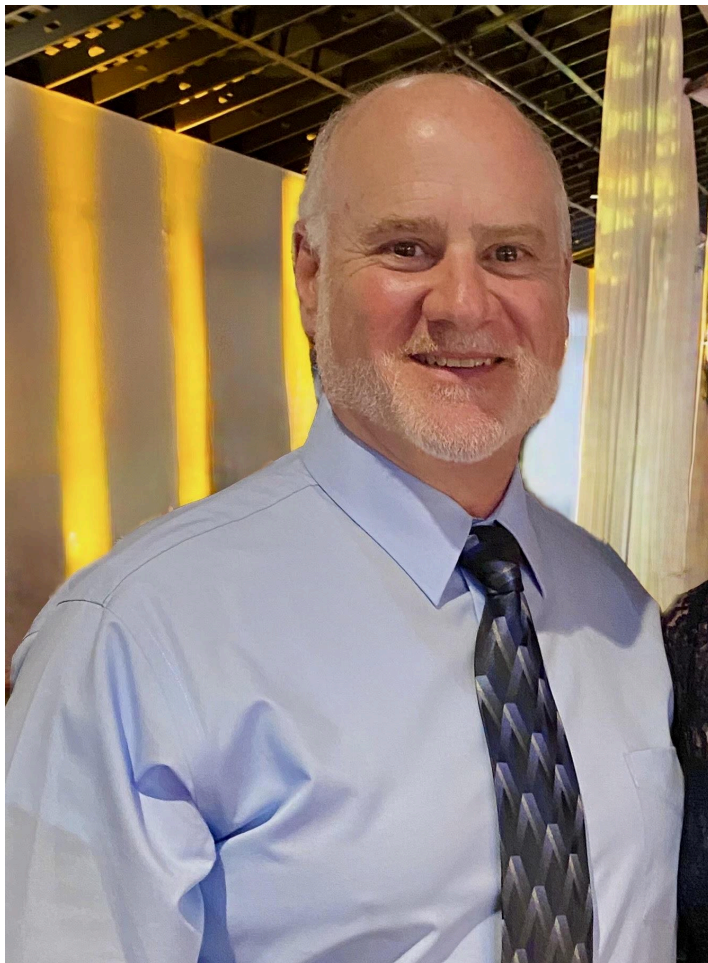
A CHORUS OF
GENEROSITY

ANNUAL MEETING

January 25, 2026

This 2025 Annual Report is Dedicated
To the Memory of
Joseph Anthony DiPalermo

November 29, 1962 - July 24, 2025



Agenda

1. Call to Order as close to 11:15 a.m. as possible.

*God of all, may our congregation be aware of our part in your larger church. Draw us all together into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving Christ in mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love in our local and global community. Be present with those who take counsel for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

2. Approval of the Minutes of the 2025 Annual Meeting
3. Recognize outgoing Junior Warden Judy Blaisdell, Clerk John Cofer, and Vestry Members Alice Bentley, Susan Dixon and John Woodard.
4. Election of Junior Warden, Clerk and Vestry Members
5. Receive Financial Reports and Vestry Approved 2026 Operating Budget
6. Remarks by the Rector, Associate Rector and Wardens
7. Concluding Prayer

*Eternal God, continue to breathe your Spirit
upon your people gathered to do your work.
Grace us, we pray, with
a new sense of your mystery,
a new experience of your presence,
and new commitment to your gospel,
a new dedication to your kingdom.
May your Spirit be our inspiration
and may our work contribute to the coming of your kingdom,
Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

8. Adjournment

CHRIST CHURCH EXETER

MINUTES FROM THE 160th ANNUAL MEETING – JANUARY 26, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 11:26 a.m. in Harris Hall. The Reverend Mark Pendleton presided. A quorum of fifty parishioners was present. Mark Pendleton opened the meeting with a prayer.

MOTION to approve the minutes from the 2024 annual meeting as written. Moved and seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING VESTRY MEMBERS

- Morgan McCay
- Jen Murray
- John Hodsdon

The Rector thanked these members for their service.

He recognized and congratulated the Reverend Nicole Benevenia.

RECTOR'S REPORT

- Mark's twelfth annual meeting.
- He thanked Dick Ingram for his work as the Treasurer.
- He thanked Joe DiPalermo for his many contributions.
- He thanked the choir and music team.

SENIOR WARDEN'S REPORT

- Expressed thankfulness for the sturdiness of our church community.
- Described the program for the faith formation meetings/Red Door forum series.

NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION

NOMINEES TO VESTRY

- Elizabeth Bauman – three years
- Athens Pullias, Jr. – three years
- Cindy Eaton – three years
- Nominee for Treasurer – Dick Ingram for a second term

NOMINEES FOR DELEGATES TO THE DIOCESAN CONVENTION

- Paul Wainwright – alternate

MOTION to close the ballot and accept it as a unified ballot. Moved and seconded. Motion passed without dissent.

TREASURER'S REPORT

- The treasurer reviewed his report.
- We began the year with an anticipated deficit of \$30,000.00. We ended the year with a surplus.
- The pledge income exceeded our budget.

- The community was generous with giving this past year. We were careful how we spent. We are in a good financial position.
- We need to improve the sidewalks and courtyard. Plans are in development. Thank you to Kevin Clark, Chris Sera, Judy Blaisdell, and Steve Watt for their work on this project. We have money set aside that will pay for these improvements in the spring.
- Jason Mignone is our new bookkeeper.

CLOSING PRAYER: Mark Pendleton offered a closing prayer.

ADJOURNMENT – moved and seconded to conclude the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

John Cofer
Clerk of the Vestry

2025 Rector's Report

2025 was another full year of ministry here at Christ Church. There were many moments to celebrate. There were some retirements and leave-takings. And there were times when we gathered to mourn loved ones. Throughout, God was with us.

A phrase I heard used by a clergy colleague describing the challenges of doing and being the church in today's culture post-Pandemic – keeping a worshipping community healthy and moving forward – is: “Flat is the new up!” Meaning: just keeping our doors open, welcoming, praying, worshipping, and “holding our own” is something to note and give thanks. I could not agree more.

The movement of the Holy Spirit is not easy to measure in ways we can always see and count. We can not always see and know those who have been challenged, supported, inspired, healed and comforted by what we do here with God's help. What I say to newcomers looking at the Christ Church as a possible church home: it is the lay people who do the caring here. When and if people open themselves up to others, connections are made and people do genuinely care and show up for one another.

What we can measure is that our worship attendance is returning to pre-Pandemic numbers, and there are new faces in our pews. Our on-line YouTube worship service gathers people far and wide.

With music being so much a part of our worship, 2025 was a year of transition. Our own parishioner Richard Benefield held down the organ bench as we searched for Bruce Adami's successor. Suzanne Jalbert Jones concluded her return run as Director of Music and was admitted to Medical School. We as a community could not be more proud of her achievements and we get to have her still as part of our community as a singer and parishioner.

Adam Peithmann was interviewed and recruited to join our staff as our fulltime Director of Music and Organist in July. Already we are getting the sense of his organ playing skills, his playful spirit in his music, and his easy-going nature and rapport with the choir. Welcome Adam and his family to Christ Church.

The Rev. Nicole Benevenia completed her second year of ministry with us that culminated with her being named Associate Rector in January, 2026. As I wrote at the time of this change in title: Nicole is a gifted preacher, an attentive listener, an able administrator and, for me, a trusted colleague. Christ Church is enriched by her ministry among us. She continues to work $\frac{3}{4}$ time.

My role in gathering the monthly Men's Group continues to be extremely rewarding as we routinely gather from fifteen to twenty men for sharing, fellowship, and learning.

My work at the Stafford County jail in Dover continues. I began nine years ago. I serve on their Spiritual Life Board and visit a growing number of ICE detainees. I do not take for granted that Christ Church has allowed me to extend my ministry to this population at a critical time in our nation's debate and challenge around immigration.

At the risk of failing to mention some folks, I do wish to recognize the following persons:

❖ **Outgoing Members of the Vestry:** Alice Bentley, Susan Dixon and John Woodward rotate off vestry at this Annual Meeting. Thank you for all that you brought to our meetings.

❖ (Taken from my report last year) **Joe DiPalermo.** "What can I say? He is the indispensable non-staff person who helps us offer what we do, especially to the many outside groups that use our space."

To all who knew, respected, and loved Joe, his sudden death this past July impacted many of us. We still invoke his name when we say: "Joe used to do that" or ask: "What would Joe do?" He lived for this church and considered it his family. Rest in peace Joe+

❖ **Members of the Altar Guild** are the hardest working folks one never sees. Thank you Diane DiPalermo and Patti Buck for your shepherding of this group.

❖ **At the close of 2025: Members of the church staff: Nicole Benevenia, Darla Watt, Adam Peithmann, Jason Mignone, Lexi Meunier and Nick Castillo.** The staff of any church is fundamental in carrying out the work we have been given by the elected leadership. We have been fortunate to have the people we have making so much of what we do possible.

From the Parish Register in 2025

Baptisms:

Benjamin Thomas Holmes Beaulieu

Ethan James Alexander
Henry Brian Bowen
Navy Leigh Thomson
Charleigh Elizabeth Berry
Noah Peter Flynn
Kinya Bobby Fong

Confirmations:

Will Gabriel Davis
Keagan Pasquale Mignone
Fleur Monteith Phillips
Blake Walter Carrico
Suzanne Margaret Jalbert Jones

Received into The Episcopal Church:

Patricia Ann Gianotti
John Francis Kunowski

Burials from Christ Church:

Lucy Paine Kezar
Glenn Thatcher Barber
Samuel A. Waugh, Jr.
Diane Boynton
Joseph Anthony DiPalermo
John Charles Horrocks
Maric MacCallum
Colin F.N. Irving
Sally Ann Tayler (Pinkance)
Lionel R. Ingram Jr.
Doris Jollimore
Thomas V.A. Kelsey
David William Roberts
James Edward Maguire

(Those church members and loved ones who died in 2025 but were not buried from Christ Church are remembered each All Saints' Sunday in the reading of the Necrology).

Letter of Transfer received:

Richard Benefield
Larry Yerdon

In my thirteenth year as your rector, I continue to be thankful for the ministry we share.

The Rev. Mark B. Pendleton, Rector

Children, Families, and Youth Formation

The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

Christ Church continued to offer weekly Sunday School, monthly Children's Chapel services, and weekly childcare during the program year. Beginning in September 2025, we made some changes to Sunday School classes. First, we hired Katie Mize as Christian Formation and Children's Liturgy Support. This enabled us to return to our former schedule of both Sunday school classes being offered at the same time, and during the 10 a.m. service. Katie is the lead teacher for the ages 9-12 Sunday School classroom, and I believe having a dedicated and consistent teacher there has contributed to more consistent attendance for that age group. Our ages 5-8 classroom gained a new regular teacher, which brings the total to three teachers for the younger class.

We also continued to offer Children's Chapel monthly during the program year. This is a worship service centering children's participation and experience, including readings, a kids' sermon, prayers, and songs. Whereas Sunday School emphasizes learning the stories of our faith in scripture, in Chapel, we practice the rhythms, patterns, and actions of liturgy, and our traditions in worship. Chapel services have had steady attendance with most months having 6-10 participating children, along with some adult caregivers. We've also added a few more adult volunteers, in addition to Katie's leadership with music. Most importantly, I've received feedback from several parents about how their children really enjoy chapel, look forward to it, and are taking elements of what we talk about there home with them. It's a joyful and vibrant space!

Our Youth Confirmation and Inquirers' class concluded with Bishop Rob's visit in May 2025. Three teenagers were confirmed that day - my first ever Confirmation class! In 2024, we had a notable uptick of Phillips Exeter students joining us for regular worship, as Protestant worship services on their campus were discontinued. Happily, in 2025, several of these students have started lectoring at the 10 a.m. service. In addition, Fleur Phillips (one of those confirmed in May 2025) has taken on a significant parish history project reviewing the archives of Caroline Harris. We are excited that these connections between our parish and current PEA students are deepening.

As usual, we were glad to offer some annual events that extend a broader welcome to the community: the Easter Egg Hunt on Holy Saturday, and the traditional pageant on Christmas Eve. These events regularly include children from our regularly-attending parish families, Pine Street Players participants, and children who regularly travel over these holidays and have come to know Christ Church Exeter as a positive annual presence in their lives.

As I review our ministries and formation this past year, there are many people for me to recognize and thank:

- Katherine Steere Gibson, John Cofer, and Susan Dixon, teachers for the Ages 5-8 Sunday School classroom
- Katie Mize, teacher for the Ages 9-12 classroom and music lead for Children's Chapel
- Our lay adult volunteers (Dale Cavanaugh, Colleen Anders, and Krissy Green) for helping with Children's Chapel

- Lexi Munier, for rehearsing our pageant cast through three rehearsals, as well as the parents, grandparents, and church members, who made the pageant a success. I'd like to give a special shout-out to George Bagge, who did the last-minute painting and construction that gave us a complete manger scene in time.
- Chloe Davis and Quinn Fournier, our Sunday childcare coordinators.

Curate's Report

The Rev. Nicole Benevenia

In last year's report, I reflected on my first calendar year at Christ Church, as well as all the transitions and firsts it contained - my ordinations and the birth of my second child. This year, instead, the theme was the growth and deepening of existing ministries. A summary of our Children's, Families, and Youth formation programs can be found above. Outside of those, I'd like to highlight the Red Door Forum series and our growing Labyrinth Ministry.

Over the summer, the forum committee met to brainstorm new possibilities for the 2025-2026 forum lineup, and we were able to solidify most of the schedule for the program year early in the fall. Our first few forums have been well-received, with topics ranging from the role hymns play in our worship and spirituality; the state of immigration; human trafficking; and Celtic Spirituality. The committee brings a great deal of passion and is committed to community learning on a variety of different topics in faith and spirituality.

Back in the spring, parishioner Robin Yergeau approached me about the use of our outdoor labyrinth on the front lawn. In her previous parish, Robin completed a training as a labyrinth facilitator, and felt called to offer this as a regular spiritual practice for the people of Christ Church and the surrounding community. Robin offered monthly, guided labyrinth walks through the summer and early fall, as well as a morning workshop in October. We saw steady interest and participation, and are continuing to plan ways to develop this ministry in Exeter.

Finally, I'm grateful that in 2025, our vestry approved an extension of my work here along with a promotion to Associate Rector. Thank you for the trust you continue to give me as one of your clergy.

Senior & Junior Wardens

Patricia Gianotti & Judy Blaisdell

Reflections on the Year:

2025 was a very full year at Christ Church. We have been blessed as we continue to grow as a congregation. There have been several new families join us this year, and we are looking forward to welcoming several incoming members to the Vestry who represent younger members of our congregation. This gives us an opportunity to hear new voices and incorporate new ideas into our Vestry focus for the coming year.

There were many events to celebrate this past year, and we will begin by mentioning two that are tops on the list. The first is our Curate, Nicole Benevenia, was approved by our Rector and Vestry to become the new Associate Rector of Christ Church as of January 1, 2026. Yay! The second cause for celebration is the welcoming on board of Adam Peithmann, who has taken the place of Bruce Adami as our new organist and choir director. Along with these staff changes, we also extend our well wishes to former staff, Suzanne Jones and Bruce Adami as they enter into the next chapters of their lives. Suzanne will be joining us from time to time, in between her studies as she earns her medical degree. Thank you, Suzanne and Adam for working together to make our Advent and Christmas Eve services a glorious experience. You brought out the best in our parishioners who joined the choir to enhance our music and fill the sanctuary with a joyful noise. Thanks also to our Sunday Readers and Intercessors who bring scripture to life as a way of enhancing our worship experience.

A special thanks also goes out to our Hospitality Team whose dedication and culinary talents have made every celebration, every holiday gathering, every Red Door Forum event, and every Sunday Coffee Hour so welcoming. Thank you to committee members, Jen Murray and Kim Billings as co-chairs, as well as Adrienne Spear, Linzee Coleman-Bagge, Ann Junkin, Ann Malconian, Elizabeth Bauman, and Mary Webber.

In this year's Senior and Junior Warden combined Annual Report, we will summarize Vestry and Stewardship Initiatives as well as ministries that may not be represented in separate sections of this Annual Report. The content of other ministry/committee reports will be covered in separate documents.

Adult Formation:

The Red Door Series continued to thrive during this past year. Nicole Benevenia took on the role of Chairperson of this committee in September of this year, launching a new season of the Red Door Series. Attendance at each forum continues to average between 35-58 people. A special thanks goes to the efforts of this year's Faith Formation Committee, consisting of members, Nicole Benevenia, Kim Billings, Jen Murray, John Woodard, Athens Pullias, John Hodsdon, Alison Watt, Elaine Portalupi, Blake Carrico, and Patricia Gianotti.

As a reminder, the grounding principles that the Forum Committee is based on is reflected in the Purpose Statement which is as follows: *"Community lies at the heart of our formation and worship together, which we build by offering a variety of groups and activities. Through these activities, we seek to grow our faith, supported by one another, creating a sanctuary space between and amongst us, so that we can carry the light of Christ and our faith into the world."*

Stewardship:

The team of Morgan McCay, Susan Dixon, and Judy Blaisdell continued their work this year with a theme of "A Chorus of Generosity," the focus being on music as a metaphor for harmony and generosity. As a community that sings together throughout our worship, we serve and care for each other, our neighborhood and God's wider world in many ways. We may each sing the notes differently but together we create a beautiful harmony, purposeful in sharing God's love. We welcome all, work together as a community of love and make a joyful noise...a chorus of generosity!

During September, all were invited to “vote” for 3-5 of their favorite hymns. Once the results were tabulated, we had a singing forum in early October where the top faves were shared. No great surprise that “Amazing Grace” and “How Great Thou Art” and “Lift High the Cross” were among the very top of the list!

Accompanying that activity, several parishioners graciously shared reflection pieces through the weekly eNews on how they have experienced generosity in their lives. We are grateful for these personal messages and hope they inspired others to their own reflection as to “what generosity looks like.” There are so many ways God can call us to experience and share it.

We offer our gratitude to all of you whose generosity keeps our community thriving!

Oasis Women’s Group:

The Oasis Women’s study group continues to thrive, primarily meeting on zoom on Wednesday mornings. Alternating between Bible study and related spiritual books, we read/prepare to share discussion on the themes and support each other in our faith lives, often through prayer as requested.

We do meet in person on the first Saturday of the month, 10 AM, just for social fun and welcome any church women to join us. For more information about the group, speak to Judy Blaisdell or Ali Watt.

Men’s Group:

The Men’s group continues to grow and thrive. Meetings are usually held on the third Saturday of every month. This continues to be a rich and meaningful experience, combining socializing, sharing reflections on the Gospel, and prayer time together. Most recently, the men’s group has been studying *Mere Christianity* by C. S. Lewis.

We want to send out a special thanks to the Men’s group for their volunteer efforts in the kitchen after Sunday services at various times throughout the year. The entire parish looks forward to their culinary efforts and hospitality. I think we can speak for many of us in the congregation, there’s nothing like seeing men in the kitchen.

Tuesday Bible Study:

Open to all and meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 11am in the Dodd Room, this discussion group is led alternately by our magnificent clergy and requires no advance preparation. Focusing on one of the lectionary pieces for the upcoming week, we ponder (wrestle with) the scripture and how it speaks to us, what God’s message is. It’s a casual yet meaningful way to explore how God is speaking to us! Come and see!

Gardens:

A shout-out to the small but dedicated team of gardeners who strive to create lovely garden spaces around our property. With intentions to establish plants that attract pollinators and bring joy to those who love summer blossoms, they attend to all the watering/weeding needs spring through fall. Special thanks to Carol Allard, Patti Buck, Patti Andrews, Janet Marshall,

Ann Malconian, Judy Blaisdell and to Erin Mack who just recently created our new, sweet Peace Garden!

Labyrinth:

Special thanks to Robin Yergeau for renewing interest in our wonderful labyrinth. Under her leadership, a number of us were drawn to participate in several labyrinth walks during the autumn months. Robin's expertise is in using time in the labyrinth in a thoughtful, spiritually rich way. As she frequently says, there is no right or wrong way to walk it. However, her guidance is meant to assist each in creating the way that is most meaningful for them. The labyrinth is a beautifully rich resource for our community. We look forward to the growth of this ministry!

Summary:

As we close out 2025, we are grateful for all of our church family in helping us reach our pledge goals as we enter into 2026. As of this date, 141 parishioners have made pledges, totaling \$404,175 pledges. This has allowed us to not only meet but surpass our \$400,000 goal to reach a balanced budget. Truly, we are a chorus of generosity. We extend our deep gratitude to all of you who volunteer your time, talent, and treasure. Your efforts and faithfulness contribute in so many ways to helping our community thrive!

Music and Liturgy

Adam Peithmann

It is with great joy that I write this annual report as your new Director of Music and Organist. Over the past several months, I have truly enjoyed getting to know the remarkable people of this congregation, especially the staff, clergy, and members of the Christ Church Choir. My family and I have been warmly embraced with generosity, kindness, and encouragement, for which we are deeply grateful.

Although my tenure began midway through the year, I am pleased to report on several meaningful musical highlights from the past year. But first, I wish to offer sincere thanks and congratulations to my immediate predecessors, Suzanne Jalbert Jones and Bruce Adami. I have known both Suzanne and Bruce for many years and have had the pleasure of collaborating with them. Bruce is an exceptional organist, a vast source of knowledge, and a dedicated mentor to young organists. Suzanne is a gifted and versatile musician whose strengths include choral conducting, arranging, and piano performance. Christ Church has been richly blessed by their many years of faithful and inspired service, and they have set a high standard that I am honored to follow.

During the early part of the year, Christ Church benefited from the artistry of outstanding substitute organists, including Richard Benefield, Wendy Gladstone, and Mike Cicchetti. As summer arrived, impromptu choirs enhanced worship services on three occasions, while soloists and instrumentalists also enriched our summer offerings. These musicians included Emily Ellis, Patti Andrews, Danielle Larson Clark, Steve Watt, Mike Cicchetti, and Christina DeMaio.

As summer gave way to fall, the faithful Christ Church Choir returned to weekly rehearsals and Sunday services. It has been a joy to become acquainted with the choir members, their voices, and their established repertoire. Together, we have also introduced new anthems that complement the existing music library and further enrich our services. The Advent and Christmas seasons culminated in a moving Christmas Eve service featuring a community choir of approximately thirty singers, an extended prelude with a flute choir, choral anthems, a recorder selection, and a piano four-hands duet.

As we look ahead, I am eager to build upon the momentum of 2025 as we move into 2026. I am mindful of the large shoes I am stepping into, yet I welcome the challenge with enthusiasm and gratitude. My central prayer and guiding focus is that Christ Church will continue to thrive through its established, outstanding music ministry for many years to come.

The Pine Street Players at Christ Church

Lexi Meunier

Winter Play, 2025: Junior Cast (Grades 1-6)

Once Upon a Crime: The Trial of Goldilocks

Goldilocks is the defendant on trial for breaking and entering, and the plaintiffs - you guessed it - are the Three Bears. As lawyers Henny Penny and Tom Thumb go toe-to-toe to prove their client's case, other fairytale characters are called to testify as witnesses, including Hansel and Gretel, Jack and his Cow, and Little Red and Granny. Performers rehearsed and performed not one but two different endings, based on whether audiences believed Goldilocks to be innocent or guilty.

Once Upon a Crime: The Trial of Goldilocks gave four performances - January 31, February 1 & 2 - at Exeter Town Hall.

Cast Size: 30 Performers (2 Casts of 15)

Winter Play, 2025: Senior Cast (Grades 7-12)

The Crucible

One of the most acclaimed plays in the American theatrical canon, *The Crucible* was penned by Arthur Miller in order to hold a societal mirror up to McCarthyism, and remains a gripping and timely parable of contemporary society. The story focuses on the puritans of Salem, Massachusetts, in particular a farmer named John Proctor, his wife Elizabeth, and their servant-girl Abigail. When Abigail and the girls of Salem maliciously cause Elizabeth's arrest for witchcraft, John brings Abigail to court - and a monstrous course of bigotry, deceit, and mob mentality unfolds.

The Crucible gave three performances - February 7, 8 & 9 - at Christ Church.

Cast Size: 30 Performers

Spring Musical, 2025
Hadestown: Teen Edition

This intriguing and beautiful folk opera delivers a tale that is deeply resonant and defiantly hopeful. Following two intertwining love stories based in Greek mythology - that of young dreamers Orpheus and Eurydice, and that of the immortal king Hades and his lady Persephone - *Hadestown: Teen Edition* invites audiences on a hell-raising journey to the underworld and back. Inspired by traditions of classic American folk music and vintage New Orleans jazz, this modern day folk opera pits industry against nature, doubt against faith, and fear against love.

Hadestown: Teen Edition gave three performances - June 13, 14 & 15 - at Phillip Exeter Academy's Goel Center.

Cast Size: 21 Performers

Shakespeare, 2025
Hamlet

The young Prince of Denmark navigates the treacherous aftermath of his father's death - and his uncle's swift, suspicious rise to the throne. Our adaptation of *Hamlet* invited a new generation of performers to wrestle with questions of revenge, madness, identity, grief, and moral reckoning. With its haunting poetry, flawed characters, and thrilling stakes, this classic drama illuminates the heart of a young man - and a kingdom - truly on the brink.

Hamlet gave three performances - July 25, 26 & 27 - on the outdoor stage at Christ Church.

Cast Size: 18 Performers

Summer Session, 2025

Our summer theatre workshops are crafted for young performers interested in a fast-paced, supportive, and creative environment led by experienced theatre professionals and educators.

Providing an opportunity to build upon the skills and confidence necessary for success in mainstage productions, our leveled curriculum offers performers training appropriate to their age and ability. In addition to rehearsing a musical to be presented at the culmination of their session, performers take classes intended to expand their skills. Participants leave Summer

Session with improved skills in acting, singing, and dancing, a better understanding of the audition and rehearsal process, and the kind of confidence that comes from socializing with like-minded friends while working together to create something to be proud of.

Workshops are held for two-week sessions: Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
Showcase performances take place at 3:00 PM on the final Friday of each session.

Session	Demographic	Performers
1 - Backyard Broadway	Rising 1st - 3rd Graders	30
2 - <i>101 Dalmatians: Kids</i>	Rising 4th - 6th Graders	40
3 - <i>The Addams Family, Jr.</i>	Rising 7th - 9th Graders	40
4 - <i>Mean Girls, Jr.</i>	Rising 10th Graders - 2025 Graduates	15

Fall Musical, 2025:
Junior Cast (Grades 1-6) - *Shrek, Jr.*
Senior Cast (Grades 7-12) - *Shrek*

Shrek is an unlikely hero who stumbles into a life-changing quest along with a yammering Donkey and a Princess who resists her rescue. Throw in a “short”-tempered bad guy, a fire-breathing dragon, and a dozen other storybook misfits, and you have a treasure of a musical that’s as layered as an onion. Defend the swamp, wave your freak flag, and remember: it’s the weird parts of ourselves that make us worth rooting for.

Shrek, Jr. gave three performances - November 14, 15 & 16 - at Christ Church.

Cast Size: 60 Performers

Shrek gave three performances - November 21, 22 & 23 - at Christ Church.

Cast Size: 50 Performers

Building & Grounds Committee (B & G)
Kevin Clark

Introduction and Overview:

Building & Grounds Committee focuses on annual maintenance activities, building upgrades, future project planning, and long-term building maintenance planning working with the Rector and/or Senior Sexton and reporting to the Vestry. In 2025 the Building & Grounds Committee held two (2) meetings.

2025 Projects:

Courtyard Project:

This year the Courtyard Project was completed early June of 2025. B & G Planning of this project started in 2019. We now have new concrete walkways and platforms connecting the

three entrances (Narthex, Harris Hall, and Vestibule Entrances) with two automatic door openers for the Narthex and Vestibule door entrances making the Church and Harris Hall accessible for ALL. Perimeter garden areas have been updated including increase in stone area to drain rainwater and snow melt from roof runoff. See attached pictures for more information.

A special thanks to Steve Watt for developing (and making changes along the way) the Architectural drawings of the Courtyard Project and Mike Yergeau Sr. for Project Managing the start and completion of this project including changes as needed during construction. His work included many pictures during construction along with before and after pictures.

We wish to thank our principal benefactor, The Bauman Family Foundation. The General Contractor was CUSA Consulting LLC, Hampton, NH. Mark Thurston, President and Jared Blais was our main contact. Below you see before and after.



Lightning Protection System:

During the renovation of Harris Hall (2016-2018) the Lightning Protection System was disrupted. This was restored to protect Harris Hall, Church and Chapel. A Lightning Surge Device is scheduled to be installed on the Main Circuit Breaker Panel ASAP.

Outside Stage Platform and Ramps:

Preparation (cleaning and sanding) and applying one coat of transparent stain to protect the Outside Stage Wood Platform and Ramps was performed in October 2025. This took four days to complete.

Roofing Over Vestibule Roof and Miscellaneous Items:

Work was performed on Vestibule roof area that included:

Correct delaminating perimeter edge flashing.

Install tapered insulation cricket above Flue Chase Structure.
Repairs to lower roof including new flashing at base and corners of the built-up Flue Chase structure. Thirty-two feet of snow fence on Harris Hall Roof at overhang/soffit to protect from sliding snow on to the vestibule roof, Flue Chase Structure and Sloped Metal Roof Cover to Vestibule Entrance.

Other Misc items:

Cap Shingles on the church roof on the Pine Street Side.

Work was performed in November 2025.

2026 Projects:

OneLine drawings of the Electrical Power Distribution System for Harris Hall, Church and Chapel. This is a safety related item in the event of down circuit(s) and/or future demand.

OneLine drawings of the "Heating System" that includes the Boilers and Zonal Hot Water Distribution piping/pumps that heat Harris Hall, Church, and Chapel. This is a functional related item in the event that there is a disruption in the heating system, and we need to identify problem areas along with managing/maintenance of the heating system.

2025 Heating Systems:

In early November the heat exchanger on one of the two boilers cracked disrupting the heating to all buildings. Couple with this, pumps to the Narthex and Common Room and Archive rooms were not working and/or down. Since then, a new boiler has been installed and pumps for down zones have been and/or will be installed within the next two weeks.

In 2025 B & G has been working on upgrades to the zonal pumps and piping with Palmer & Sicard (newly contracted) as needed to maintain our heating and cooling systems.

Long term finance planning to replace MEP equipment and building maintenance projects continues by the Vestry for future and maintenance projects.

Forward Planning Projects

- Church Ceiling Plaster and Painting (Maintenance)
- Cleaning and Painting Church Eaves (Maintenance)
- Church Roofs (Maintenance - Asphalt Shingles)
- Heating System Maintenance

This year the Building and Grounds committee will meet two times or as needed. Meeting dates:

- January/February 2026
- July/August 2026



Shannon Hays

SFP is wrapping up the several-years-long construction project on Joshua House and are down to a few finishing touches. At the completion of construction, SFP will increase to housing 5 families, and soon after that be able to shelter up to 6 families at a time. In 2026, they will gradually work to increase their capacity to 10 families, however this will take time as they work to meet increased budget, staffing, and facility needs.

In 2025, Christ Church, together with our partner parish, First Unitarian Universalist Church, provided meals for Seacoast Family Promise during five different weeks in 2025: January, March, May, July and October. We are grateful to parishioners Wendy Gladstone, Patty Lundgren, Jeanette McDonald, Janet Marshall, Patti Andrews, Christine Hodsdon, Dale Cavanaugh, Ann Malconian, Gene Stillwell, Ann Junkin, Barbara Cutting, Carol Allard and Andrea Hinkamper, who contributed greatly to the program through their assistance of time and home-cooked meals for hungry families throughout the year.

In 2026, we are encouraging more parishioners to get involved with SFP. We welcome cooks, drivers, and donations from the SFP Amazon Wish List. Please reach out to Shannon Hays, Christ Church's SFP coordinator at shannonhays@comcast.net to see how you can get involved with this wonderful and important mission.

2026 Meal Rotation includes the following weeks:

January 4-10
March 8-14
May 10-16
July 5-11
October 18-24

Altar Guild

Patti Buck

The Altar Guild ministry is dedicated to assisting the clergy with preparing the sanctuary and chapel for worship services. We are responsible for the set up and clean-up of Sunday services as well as for baptisms, weddings, and funerals. Other duties include semi-annual cleaning events, caring for linens and vestments, preparing the palms for Palm Sunday and the handheld candles for Christmas Eve.

I would like to acknowledge and thank my fellow members for their dedication and commitment to our ministry: Jean Andreson, Judy Blaisdell, Diane DiPalermo, Cindy Eaton, Sue Ingram, Danielle Larson-Clark, Jeannette McDonald, Barbara McGrath, Carla Ranks, Robin Sirois, Cynthia Swierk, and Shannon Tosatti. I'd also like to thank Priscilla Santiago who retired from Altar Guild this past year, Susan Wakefield for helping us care for the altar linens, Judy Blaisdell for performing sacristan duties, Toy Fountain for helping to reset the altar following events, and Sue Ingram for her vast knowledge and support. I would also like to thank Dianne DiPalermo for remaining accessible and supportive during this time of my temporarily serving in the director role following the death of her husband and beloved

parishioner, Joe DiPalermo. We look forward to having Diane back at the reins in the new year.

We have welcomed several new members over the past year and are always open to welcoming more. Our quiet, 'behind the scenes' ministry is open to men, women, and teens. The time commitment is not a great one. We work in teams of two or three and serve roughly one weekend per month. The teams change often so that we're working with different people each time.

Altar Guild is the perfect ministry for fellowship and building new friendships. If you have an interest in joining but are unsure about commitment, join us for a weekend to see what is involved. Please contact any member or Diane DiPalermo (Director) dipalermo@comcast.net



**Report of The Endowment Board 2025
and the Anchor Legacy Society**

The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses. (Page 445 in the Book of Common Prayer)

In December 2014, the Vestry of Christ Church created a new Endowment Fund and set proper gift acceptance and spending policies. The income from this new Endowment Fund is limited to capital improvements, developing new ministries, outreach ministries and special projects.

As of December 2025, the balance of the fund was **\$375,164.**

On All Saints' Day each year, we recognize those who joined the Anchor Legacy Society by remembering Christ Church in their wills or making provision for the church through other planned gifts. In 2025 we recognized *In Memoriam* **Nancy Alcock-Hood**, who died in 2024. We received a generous bequest from her estate.

If you are making a will or updating financial or estate plans and you would like to support God's work in Exeter and the wider church and community, please reach out to us for more information so that we can answer any inquiries you may have. In addition, we take this opportunity to remind parishioners that the Endowment Fund welcomes gifts for any occasion; it is not exclusively for bequests. Gifts in memory of a family member or friend are very appropriate; likewise, gifts in honor or in celebration of a person or event are equally desired. There are any number of occasions when a gift can be made, (birthdays, baptisms, graduations, anniversaries, good fortune, and others) recognizing the moment and helping to grow the Fund.

Report of Higgins Fund 2025

The Higgins Fund was established by Christ Church members John F. Higgins and Jeanne G. Higgins in 1978 to minister to the spiritual, mental, and physical needs of the elderly and infirm; to supply clergy, aides, teachers, social workers, or others to assist in their well-being; and to aid the indigent who may need monetary assistance at home or in health care institutions on the Seacoast.

As currently directed by the Trustees of the Fund, an individual may receive no more than \$1000 during one calendar year from the Fund.

During 2025, \$2060 was distributed to eligible applicants.

As of December 31, 2025: \$3210 is held in cash reserves. \$22,234 remains invested with the Diocese.

If you are interested in applying for assistance, please contact the Rector.

Our Companion Parish Relationship with *San Francisco de Asís in Cardenas, Cuba*

We were not able to send a group to Cuba this past year, but my wife Leslie and I traveled in February through Mexico City to deliver medicines and food funded and donated by church members.

I attended the consecration of the new Cuban Bishop, the Rev. Angel Rivera of Puerto Rico, in September, again bringing medicine and donations.

The recent U.S. military operation in Venezuela has brought even more uncertainty with regards to Cuba's stability and the future of the Regime. We have a trip scheduled for March 2026 God willing to bring water systems and more donations.

Christ Church members contributed to Christmas and Easter meals that fed many in Cardenas.

Please continue your prayers.

The Rev. Mark Pendleton

Lay Healing Ministry Judy Blaisdell

For many years, Christ Church has been committed to a lay ministry of Christian healing, in the understanding that laying on of hands for healing of the body, mind and spirit is a sacrament, an outward and visible sign of an inward grace. In the belief that healing is the inner work of the Holy Spirit, our lay ministry team offers prayer through the anointing with oil and laying on of hands during our Sunday worship service.

Scripture tells us of the many times that Jesus healed and that he also sent his disciples out to heal those who were suffering [Luke 9:1-6]. Believing that Jesus still heals today, we strive to serve his continuing desire to heal and restore us to wholeness. As a lay healing ministry team, we are passionate about people personally experiencing and awakening to God's boundless love, healing and blessing in every part of their lives. As we reach out to those who seek healing prayer, we also find God's grace, peace and restoration filling us as well. We understand that we are not the healers, rather we seek to receive and channel the power of the Holy Spirit to heal. We invite all who desire healing of the body, mind or spirit for themselves, or as intercessors for another, to join us at the healing station either before or after receiving communion.

The team meets twice a month to continue studying, praying and growing in this ministry. Over recent years, members have attended healing conferences and services in other venues. Team members you may find at the healing station are Judy Blaisdell, Patti Buck, Robin Sirois, Wendy MacArthur Keith, Dale Cavanaugh and Lauri Ayers.

If you are interested in joining this ministry, please speak to the Rev. Mark Pendleton.

Thanksgiving & Christmas Basket Program

Carla Ranks

Each year, members of our church generously contribute Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets and gifts to community members. This year, there were 30 families hoping for assistance this holiday season.

Our parishioners signed up and generously filled 30 Thanksgiving food baskets. On Saturday, November 20, the baskets were collected, sorted and given to recipients. A thank you to our Christmas Elves: Kim Billings, Jen Murray and Athens Pullias for making deliveries and orchestrating the drop off and delivery. Thank you to William and Vivienne Rigatti, Chloe, Will and Finn Davis, Chloe Felch and Keagan Mignone. Thank you to Jason Mignone for the balloon art.

On Saturday, December 20, 16 food baskets and 31 children were given gifts of toys and clothing. Thank you to Jason for the balloon art, Kim, Jen and Athens, as well as Elizabeth Munroe and Carlisle Mignone for volunteering.

Many thanks to each and every one of you who donated to this ministry. The food baskets were overflowing with many more items than were suggested and fed these families for more than one Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. Many of you signed up for both Thanksgiving and Christmas and many of you have been a part of this outreach for many, many years. Your willingness to share with others is overwhelming and deeply appreciated.

Thank you to Darla Watt for being the genius behind the Sign up Genius!

This ministry helps so many children and families and our community is made brighter by the abundant generosity shown by members of Christ Church.

Treasurer's Report

Richard Ingram

The year 2025 was a good one financially for Christ Church. That is the result of your generous support of the mission and community we share here. We have been able to meet unexpected challenges. Repairs to our heating system early in the year and replacing a boiler during the coldest December in recent years would be an example. We have also been able to support a parish life that continues to recover post-Covid, expanding church school offerings and supporting family focused activities like children's chapel. Our music program is thriving. We are doing good in the community through Seacoast Family Promise, our holiday food and gift baskets, supporting Mark's work with those in prison. And always looking south to Cuba as their friend in difficult times. This is possible because we have welcomed new and generous givers, both pledged and unpledged, as members of the parish. We have also benefited from former parishioners who have passed on and left significant gifts that are being added to our endowment.

We finished the year with a \$77,000 surplus. We will dig into that surplus to pay for the new boiler and some expected additional repairs that came to light with the recent heating and water issues in the chapel and narthex.

Income was over budget by \$211,000. This is thanks to several generous one time gifts, a significant bequest, and gifts in memory of departed parishioners. 2025 income does not include nearly \$19,000 of 2026 pledges that were prepaid in 2025. Those will be recognized during the course of 2026 and the cash will be invested in a high yielding money fund.

Expenses were generally in line with the budget. The exception was the transfer of a large bequest to the endowment fund, which shows as an expense. We did fund the clergy sabbatical reserve. It does not show as an expense since it was included in a bulk transfer that captured all additions to our bank reserves at year end.

Pine Street Players deserve a special mention here. The net surplus from PSP activities in 2025 was nearly \$6,000. We will make equal additions to both the PSP and Christ Church cash reserve balances from this surplus. While that makes for a great year in its own right, what is more significant is that PSP deferred nearly \$40,000 of 2026 income that was collected in December. This is the first year that revenue during the calendar year activity was adequate to create a surplus without using the pre payments they always receive in December. Like the parish's prepaid pledges this revenue will be recognized ratably during 2026.

The best way to think of both our parish prepaid pledges and PSP's deferred revenue is that they give us a head start on our financial status for 2026.

Our balance sheet remains strong. We have adequate and ample cash, including reserves of \$120,000. The balances of the endowment funds are as of September 30 2025 as I write this report. When we receive the final year end numbers they will be higher to reflect both the addition of the bequest and investment results for the fourth quarter.

You will notice that the endowment balances are now presented in three categories - unrestricted, donor restricted, and vestry designated. This was done in consultation with our CPA firm and is a more appropriate way to present these balances. We will be consolidating many of the small balance unrestricted funds into a new fund that will be named the Founders Legacy Fund. Two garden funds that have similar purposes will be combined and the Reserve Fund will be consolidated with the Endowment Fund since they have identical purposes.

We have finally been able to engage a CPA firm to review our books and records. Nesseralla and Company will do that work in April and May.

I want to thank Jason Mignone who has partnered with me in keeping our financial records this year. We are blessed to have his conscientious service.

Allow me to end as I began. This has been an easy report to write thanks to your generous support of our life together. Thank you for your part in making Christ Church a vibrant and caring community. It is a privilege to serve as your treasurer.

P&L Year to Date for the period of 01/01/2025 to 12/31/2025 with 2026 Budget
Preliminary and Unaudited

Generated by treasurer@christchurchexeter.org on 2026-01-08 12:34

Account #	Account Name	2025 Actual	2025 Budget	Variance \$	2026 Budget
<u>Income</u>					
<u>Endowment Income</u>					
4000	Endowment Income - Diocese Inv Fund	\$ 114,569	\$ 114,688	\$ (119)	\$ 117,090
4010	Leacock Trust Income - BNY Mellon	\$ 38,095	\$ 33,000	\$ 5,095	\$ 44,637
	Total Endowment Income	\$ 152,664	\$ 147,688	\$ 4,976	\$ 161,727
<u>Pledge Income</u>					
4100	Operating Pledge - Current Year	\$ 376,928	\$ 390,446	\$ (13,518)	\$ 405,000
4100.1	Contribution to cover online fees	\$ 835	\$ 240	\$ 595	\$ 700
4110	Operating Pledge - Prior Year Catch Up	\$ 3,015	\$ 3,000	\$ 15	\$ 3,000
	Total Pledge Income	\$ 380,778	\$ 393,686	\$ (12,908)	\$ 408,700
<u>Plate Income</u>					
4200	Unpledged Donations	\$ 104,517	\$ 40,000	\$ 64,517	\$ 40,000
4210	Weekly Loose Plate	\$ 13,453	\$ 8,000	\$ 5,453	\$ 6,000
	Total Plate Income	\$ 117,969	\$ 48,000	\$ 69,969	\$ 46,000
<u>Misc Operating Income</u>					
4230	Support from Diocese	\$ 12,000	\$ 12,000	\$ -	\$ 8,000
4300	Altar Flower Donations	\$ 3,103	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,103	\$ 3,000
4320	Easter & Palm Sunday Collection	\$ -	\$ 1,400	\$ (1,400)	\$ -
4330	Christmas Collection	\$ 4,082	\$ -	\$ 4,082	\$ 3,000
4340	Fellowship-Parish Life	\$ 277	\$ 1,000	\$ (724)	\$ 500
4700	Interest Income - Citizens	\$ 10	\$ 50	\$ (40)	\$ 10
4710	Interest Income - Edw Jones	\$ 3,538	\$ 1,900	\$ 1,638	\$ 1,500
4715	Misc. Income	\$ 669	\$ -	\$ 669	\$ 300
	Total Misc Operating Income	\$ 23,678	\$ 17,350	\$ 6,328	\$ 16,310
<u>Pine Street Players Income</u>					
4415	Youth Theater Income-PSP	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
4415.01	Production Income-PSP	\$ 174,971	\$ 205,450	\$ (30,479)	\$ 170,500
4415.02	Fundraising Income-PSP	\$ 27,784	\$ 15,000	\$ 12,784	\$ 20,000
4415.03	Donation Income-PSP	\$ 9,530	\$ 2,500	\$ 7,030	\$ 13,525
4415.04	Grants Received-PSP	\$ -	\$ 2,500	\$ (2,500)	\$ -
4415.05	Class Fees	\$ 9,608	\$ -	\$ 9,608	\$ 3,000
	Total Pine Street Players Income	\$ 221,893	\$ 225,450	\$ (3,557)	\$ 207,025
<u>Other Non-Operating Income</u>					
4310	Memorial Donations	\$ 12,950	\$ -	\$ 12,950	\$ -
4420	Building Use - Community Programs	\$ 5,006	\$ 7,000	\$ (1,994)	\$ 5,000
4430	Building Use - Music & Special Events	\$ 3,250	\$ 200	\$ 3,050	\$ 2,250
4440	Memorial Garden Burial Fund	\$ 3,500	\$ 1,000	\$ 2,500	\$ 1,000
4450	Bequests for CCE Endowment	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 120,000	\$ -
4490	Other Non-Operating Income	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Total Other Non-Operating Income	\$ 144,706	\$ 8,200	\$ 136,506	\$ 8,250
<u>Outreach Income</u>					
4500	Bishop Discretionary Funds	\$ 1,101	\$ 1,000	\$ 101	\$ 1,000
4510	Rector Discretionary Funds-General	\$ 9,760	\$ 5,000	\$ 4,760	\$ 5,000
4515	Contributions for Cuba Missions	\$ 5,980	\$ 2,000	\$ 3,980	\$ 3,000
4520	Curate Discretionary Funds	\$ 200	\$ 1,000	\$ (800)	\$ 200
	Total Outreach Income	\$ 17,041	\$ 9,000	\$ 8,041	\$ 9,200
<u>Miscellaneous Income</u>					
4900	<u>Passthrough Donations</u>	\$ 2,180	\$ -	\$ 2,180	\$ -
4900.01	DFMS Good Friday Offering	\$ 214	\$ 700	\$ (486)	\$ 250
	Total Miscellaneous Income	\$ 2,394	\$ 700	\$ 1,694	\$ 250
Total Income		\$ 1,061,125	\$ 850,074	\$ 211,051	\$ 857,462

Expense**Buildings & Grounds**

5000	Xfer to Reserve for Bldg Imp	\$	-	\$	10,000	\$	(10,000)	\$	10,000
5005	Salary - Senior Sexton	\$	9,615	\$	11,316	\$	(1,701)	\$	10,000
5010	Cleaning Service	\$	18,000	\$	18,000	\$	-	\$	18,000
5015	Heat	\$	6,367	\$	7,000	\$	(633)	\$	7,000
5020	Furnace Maintenance	\$	13,663	\$	3,000	\$	10,663	\$	4,000
5025	Electricity	\$	7,706	\$	8,000	\$	(294)	\$	8,000
5030	Water & Sewer	\$	2,340	\$	1,500	\$	840	\$	1,800
5035	Plowing and Sanding	\$	16,680	\$	10,800	\$	5,880	\$	14,800
5040	Building Maint & Supplies	\$	2,872	\$	3,500	\$	(628)	\$	3,000
5045	Life Safety Inspections	\$	7,188	\$	4,000	\$	3,188	\$	7,000
5050	Housekeeping Maint & Supplies	\$	984	\$	1,300	\$	(316)	\$	1,000
5055	Outside Maint & Supplies	\$	5,160	\$	7,500	\$	(2,340)	\$	5,000
5060	Commercial Liability Insurance	\$	11,225	\$	10,000	\$	1,225	\$	11,500
5070	Lawn & Garden Care	\$	8,375	\$	-	\$	8,375	\$	7,000
Total Buildings & Grounds		\$	110,174	\$	95,916	\$	14,258	\$	108,100

Christian Formation

5100	Salary - Church School Staff	\$	3,450	\$	1,230	\$	2,220	\$	8,000
5105	Salary - Child Care	\$	2,450	\$	2,700	\$	(250)	\$	3,200
5110	Adult Formation & Retreats	\$	120	\$	500	\$	(380)	\$	250
5115	Misc Expense Christian Formation	\$	150	\$	500	\$	(350)	\$	200
5120	Confirmation	\$	92	\$	300	\$	(208)	\$	-
5125	Youth Ministry Supplies & Expenses	\$	1,121	\$	1,500	\$	(379)	\$	1,500
Total Christian Formation		\$	7,384	\$	6,730	\$	654	\$	13,150

Clergy / Worship

5200	Salary-Rector	\$	58,806	\$	58,806	\$	-	\$	60,070
5205	Housing-Rector	\$	50,000	\$	50,000	\$	0	\$	52,000
5210	SET Allowance - Rector	\$	8,324	\$	8,324	\$	(0)	\$	8,573
5215	Pension-Rector	\$	20,569	\$	21,083	\$	(514)	\$	21,716
5220	Health & Dental Ins - Rector	\$	29,400	\$	27,540	\$	1,860	\$	30,792
5225	Life Insurance - Rector	\$	227	\$	227	\$	(0)	\$	230
5230	Salary - Curate	\$	46,663	\$	46,663	\$	(0)	\$	49,068
5235	Housing - Curate	\$	1,000	\$	1,000	\$	(0)	\$	1,000
5240	SET Allowance - Curate	\$	3,646	\$	3,646	\$	0	\$	3,830
5245	Pension - Curate	\$	9,343	\$	9,236	\$	107	\$	9,701
5246	Life Insurance Curate	\$	227	\$	227	\$	(0)	\$	230
5250	Health Care Subsidy - St George	\$	17,707	\$	17,707	\$	(0)	\$	18,404
5255	Professional Expenses-Clergy	\$	4,203	\$	2,500	\$	1,703	\$	3,000
5260	Supply Clergy	\$	600	\$	1,000	\$	(400)	\$	600
5265	Continuing Education-Clergy	\$	1,000	\$	2,000	\$	(1,000)	\$	1,750
5270	Auto Expense Clergy	\$	1,496	\$	2,000	\$	(504)	\$	1,500
5275	Transfer to Cash Reserve for Clergy Sabbati	\$	-	\$	2,000	\$	(2,000)	\$	2,000
Total Clergy / Worship		\$	253,210	\$	253,959	\$	(749)	\$	264,463

Fellowship

5400	Parish Life	\$	7,980	\$	6,000	\$	1,980	\$	6,000
5405	Stewardship	\$	339	\$	1,000	\$	(661)	\$	750
5410	New Member Ministry	\$	211	\$	1,000	\$	(789)	\$	500
5415	Parishioner Book Purchases	\$	460	\$	200	\$	260	\$	400
Total Fellowship		\$	8,990	\$	8,200	\$	790	\$	7,650

<u>Music</u>						
5500	Salary - Director of Music & Organist	\$	50,064	\$	66,222	\$ (16,158) \$ 60,000
5501	Retirement Contributions - DoM	\$	2,700	\$	-	\$ 2,700 \$ 5,400
5510	Instrumentalists - Special	\$	2,600	\$	400	\$ 2,200 \$ 500
5515	Vocalists - Special	\$	1,305	\$	800	\$ 505 \$ 2,200
5520	Good Friday Requiem	\$	-	\$	4,500	\$ (4,500) \$ 2,500
5521	Easter Brass	\$	-	\$	-	\$ - \$ 3,000
5525	Continuing Education - DoM	\$	-	\$	-	\$ - \$ 1,000
5530	Substitute Organist	\$	7,300	\$	1,200	\$ 6,100 \$ 1,500
5535	Music and Supplies	\$	2,262	\$	1,200	\$ 1,062 \$ 1,200
5540	Copyright Fees	\$	303	\$	500	\$ (197) \$ 500
5545	Instrument Repair & Maintenance	\$	2,497	\$	4,000	\$ (1,503) \$ 4,200
Total Music		\$	69,031	\$	78,822	\$ (9,791) \$ 82,000
<u>Office & Administration</u>						
5600	Interest Expense - DAF	\$	1,089	\$	1,089	\$ - \$ 951
5605	Salary-Bookkeeper	\$	8,431	\$	17,280	\$ (8,849) \$ 8,000
5610	Salary - Administrative Assistant	\$	19,148	\$	19,434	\$ (286) \$ 20,000
5615	Postage	\$	103	\$	800	\$ (698) \$ 600
5620	Pledge & Donation Envelopes	\$	2,381	\$	1,500	\$ 881 \$ 2,500
5625	Paper & Office Supplies	\$	3,983	\$	6,000	\$ (2,017) \$ 3,000
5630	Copier & Postage Meter Lease Costs	\$	10,320	\$	6,500	\$ 3,820 \$ 9,500
5631	Office Water - Ready Refresh	\$	1,013	\$	-	\$ 1,013 \$ 1,000
5635	Computer Supplies & Expense	\$	3,643	\$	1,500	\$ 2,143 \$ 3,000
5640	Telephone	\$	3,962	\$	3,000	\$ 962 \$ 3,000
5645	Audit Services	\$	-	\$	5,000	\$ (5,000) \$ 8,000
5650	Aplos Fees	\$	4,262	\$	4,000	\$ 262 \$ 4,608
5660	Bank Service Charges	\$	70	\$	25	\$ 45 \$ 60
5665	Communications	\$	2,756	\$	3,200	\$ (444) \$ 3,000
5670	Workers Comp Insurance	\$	2,026	\$	2,700	\$ (674) \$ 2,500
5675	Miscellaneous Office Expenses	\$	855	\$	1,500	\$ (645) \$ 1,000
5680	Payroll Processing Fees	\$	777	\$	660	\$ 117 \$ 700
5700	Employer Payroll Taxes (FICA)	\$	7,199	\$	9,041	\$ (1,842) \$ 7,400
5710	Online Contribution Processing Fees	\$	1,245	\$	480	\$ 765 \$ 1,200
Total Office & Administration		\$	73,263	\$	83,709	\$ (10,446) \$ 80,019
<u>Support for Diocese</u>						
5305	Diocesan Fair Share	\$	87,972	\$	88,000	\$ (28) \$ 90,000
5310	Diocesan Convention	\$	185	\$	500	\$ (315) \$ 200
Total Support for Diocese		\$	88,157	\$	88,500	\$ (343) \$ 90,200
<u>Worship Support</u>						
5800	Altar Guild - Liturgical Supplies	\$	6,769	\$	6,000	\$ 769 \$ 4,500
5805	Pastoral Care	\$	812	\$	-	\$ 812 \$ 150
Total Worship Support		\$	7,581	\$	6,000	\$ 1,581 \$ 4,650
<u>Pine Street Players Expenses</u>						
6000	Independent Contractors-PSP	\$	41,478	\$	50,800	\$ (9,322) \$ 49,500
6000.1	Class Instruction	\$	16,139	\$	-	\$ 16,139 \$ 3,000
Total 6000 - Independent Contractors-PSP		\$	57,617	\$	50,800	\$ 6,817 \$ 52,500
6005	Production Expenses-PSP	\$	42,640	\$	50,615	\$ (7,975) \$ 43,250
6010	Fundraising Expenses-PSP	\$	4,395	\$	-	\$ 4,395 \$ 6,220
6015	Other Expenses - PSP	\$	3,500	\$	2,692	\$ 808 \$ 2,442
6025	Artistic Director of PSP	\$	53,288	\$	52,788	\$ 500 \$ 54,371
6030	Retirement Contrib - AD	\$	4,751	\$	4,751	\$ (0) \$ 4,893
6035	Music Director of PSP	\$	12,525	\$	22,836	\$ (10,311) \$ -
6040	Choreographer of PSP	\$	30,151	\$	29,951	\$ 200 \$ 30,849
6045	ER Payroll Taxes - PSP Staff	\$	7,249	\$	8,076	\$ (827) \$ 6,519
Total Pine Street Players Expenses		\$	216,115	\$	222,509	\$ (6,394) \$ 201,045

Outreach Ministry Expenses

6100	Discretionary Funds-General	\$	6,141	\$	5,500	\$	641	\$	4,000
6105	Companion Parish (Cuba) Support	\$	14,437	\$	2,000	\$	12,437	\$	5,000
6120	Episcopal R&D (DFMS)	\$	214	\$	700	\$	(486)	\$	250
6125	NH Council of Churches	\$	500	\$	-	\$	500	\$	500
6130	Bishops Discretionary Fund	\$	1,101	\$	-	\$	1,101	\$	1,000

Total Outreach Ministry Expenses	\$	22,393	\$	8,200	\$	14,193	\$	10,750
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Other Expenses and Transfers

9010	Memorial Garden Expenses	\$	1,285	\$	-	\$	1,285	\$	-
9020	Expenses-Paid by Higgins Fund	\$	3,800	\$	-	\$	3,800	\$	500
9025	Other Passthrough Donations	\$	2,130	\$	-	\$	2,130	\$	-
9030	Transfers to Endowment	\$	120,000	\$	-	\$	120,000	\$	-
9040	Transfers to Cash reserves	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	1,000

Total Other Expenses and Transfers	\$	127,215	\$	-	\$	127,215	\$	1,500
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Total Expenses	\$	983,514	\$	852,545	\$	130,970	\$	863,527
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Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$	77,610	\$	(2,471)	\$	80,081	\$	(6,065)
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Comparative Balance Sheet - December 31, 2025 and 2024

Preliminary and Unaudited

Generated by treasurer@christchurchexeter.org on 2026-01-08 14:49

		2025	2024
Assets			
Operating Income Accounts			
1000	Operating Account Citizens 9438	\$ 126,311	\$ 81,032
1010	Edward Jones Account 4040	\$ 5,016	\$ 121,053
1020	Petty Cash	\$ 50	\$ 50
	Total Operating Income Accounts	131,377.00	202,135.00
Capital Reserve Accounts			
1100	Reserve Account Citizens 0444	\$ 123,472	\$ 103,350
	Total Capital Reserve Accounts	\$ 123,472	\$ 103,350
Restricted Income Accounts			
1110	PSP Checking Citizens 9096	\$ 37,427	\$ 13,248
1111	PSP Cash Box	\$ 300	\$ 300
1115	PSP Pex Account	\$ 1,800	\$ 3,160
1116	PSP Pex Debit Card	\$ 3,139	\$ 68
1120	Rectors Disc Account Citizens 9535	\$ 5,098	\$ 5,054
1130	Curate Discretionary Account	\$ 1,088	\$ 938
	Total Restricted Income Accounts	\$ 48,852	\$ 22,768
Investment Assets			
1400	Endowment Account	\$ 3,265,172	\$ 3,028,573
1400.01	Unrestricted Funds	\$ -	
1400.02	Donor Restricted Funds	\$ (5,000)	
1400.03	Vestry Designated Funds	\$ -	
	Total Investment Assets	\$ 3,260,172	\$ 3,028,573
Property & Equipment			
1600	Furniture & Fixtures	\$ 226,352	\$ 224,287
1601	Less Accumulated Depreciation-F&F	\$ (164,349)	\$ (164,349)
1610	Organ	\$ 876,400	\$ 876,400
1611	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Organ	\$ (321,831)	\$ (321,831)
1620	Office Equipment	\$ 42,590	\$ 42,590
1621	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Office Equipment	\$ (32,005)	\$ (32,005)
1630	PSP-Theater/Music Equipment	\$ 40,508	\$ 40,508
1631	Less Accumulated Depreciation-PSP-Theater Equipment	\$ (4,780)	\$ (4,780)
1640	Building-Church Improvements	\$ 1,740,122	\$ 1,736,950
1641	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Building Improvements	\$ (659,354)	\$ (659,354)
1650	Building-Harris Hall Renovation	\$ 2,005,698	\$ 2,005,698
1651	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Harris Hall Renovation	\$ (174,865)	\$ (174,865)
1660	Furnace	\$ 34,660	\$ 34,660
1661	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Furnace	\$ (19,633)	\$ (19,633)
1670	Land	\$ 46,000	\$ 46,000
1680	Land Improvements	\$ 86,392	\$ 86,392
1681	Less Accumulated Depreciation-Land Improvements	\$ (37,563)	\$ (37,563)
1690	Building	\$ 356,888	\$ 356,888
1690.01	Courtyard Project 2025	\$ 113,952	\$ -
1691	Less Accum Depr-Building	\$ (356,888)	\$ (356,888)
	Total Property & Equipment	\$ 3,798,293	\$ 3,679,104
	Total Assets	\$ 7,362,166	\$ 7,035,931

Liabilities**Other Current Liabilities**

2100	Accrued Payroll	\$	-	\$	-
2110	ER Payroll Taxes Accrued	\$	-	\$	-
2110.1	PSP ER Payroll Taxes Accrued	\$	-	\$	-
2120	EE Payroll Taxes Withheld	\$	-	\$	-
2130	EE Retirement Contribs Payable	\$	-	\$	-
2150	ER Retirement Contribs Payable	\$	-	\$	-
2160	Prepaid Operating Pledges	\$	18,802	\$	39,472
2165	Deferred PSP Revenue	\$	39,120	\$	-

Total Other Current Liabilities

\$	57,922	\$	39,472
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Long Term Liabilities

2500	Diocesan Advance Fund Loan	\$	47,746	\$	54,170
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Total Long Term Liabilities

\$	47,746	\$	54,170
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Total Liabilities

\$	105,668	\$	93,642
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Equity**Operating Funds**

3000	Operating Fund - Fund Balance	\$	3,828,897	\$	3,827,125
3001	Rector's Discr Fund - Fund Balance	\$	5,098	\$	5,047
3002	Curate Discr Fund - Fund Balance	\$	1,088	\$	938
3003	Prepaid Pledges - Fund Balance	\$	-	\$	(39,472)

Total Operating Funds

\$	3,835,083	\$	3,793,639
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Pine Street Players Funds

3100	Pine Street Players - Fund Balance	\$	42,666	\$	16,776
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Total Pine Street Players Funds

\$	42,666	\$	16,776
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Cash Reserve Funds

3300	Building Improvement Reserve - Fund Balance	\$	36,310	\$	36,310
3302	Clergy Sabbatical Reserve Fund - Fund Balance	\$	7,000	\$	5,000
3303	Cuba Mission Trips - Fund Balance	\$	900	\$	-
3304	Higgins Fund Interest Reserve - Fund Balance	\$	3,210	\$	863
3305	Memorial Fund - Fund Balance	\$	29,125	\$	16,175
3306	Memorial Garden Reserve - Fund Balance	\$	8,607	\$	6,392
3307	Palm Sunday Fund (\$250/Yr.) - Fund Balance	\$	3,500	\$	3,750
3309	PSP Cash Reserve - Fund Balance	\$	11,134	\$	11,134
3310	Undesignated Operg Reserve - Fund Balance	\$	23,686	\$	23,676

Total Cash Reserve Funds

\$	123,472	\$	103,301
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Endowment Funds - Unrestricted

3400	Kirtland Endowment - Fund Balance	\$	929	\$	831
3403	Louise Towle Fund - Fund Balance	\$	5,174	\$	4,948
3405	Anne B Leacock Fund - Fund Balance	\$	40,970	\$	39,181
3406	Arthur G Leacock Fund - Fund Balance	\$	122,735	\$	117,376
3407	Baylies Fund - Fund Balance	\$	11,919	\$	11,398
3408	Belmont Fund - Fund Balance	\$	11,078	\$	10,594
3409	Caroline E Harris Fund - Fund Balance	\$	6,362	\$	6,084
3410	Catherine Seward Fund - Fund Balance	\$	2,688	\$	2,571
3411	Clarissa T. Smith - Fund Balance	\$	409	\$	391
3412	Cochran Fund - Fund Balance	\$	4,060	\$	3,883
3413	Ferguson Fund - Fund Balance	\$	1,152	\$	1,102
3414	Gardner Fund - Fund Balance	\$	3,491	\$	3,339
3415	George Brinley Morgan Fund - Fund Balance	\$	15,070	\$	14,412
3417	John & Barbara Cole Fund - Fund Balance	\$	9,094	\$	8,696
3419	Laura Nelson Fund - Fund Balance	\$	2,264,450	\$	2,165,570
3422	Waterman Fund - Fund Balance	\$	2,192	\$	2,097

Total Endowment Funds - Unrestricted

\$	2,501,774	\$	2,392,474
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Donor Restricted Endowment Funds

3401	CCE Outreach Flower Fund - Fund Balance	\$	10,589	\$	10,126
3402	Ford-Mixter Music Fund - Fund Balance	\$	60,338	\$	57,703
3404	Mem Garden Enhancement Fund - Fund Balance	\$	10,565	\$	10,565
3416	Higgins Fund - Fund Balance	\$	22,234	\$	29,012
3418	Jon Sloan Garden Fund - Fund Balance	\$	8,909	\$	8,909
3420	Leidtke Church School Fund - Fund Balance	\$	24,832	\$	23,748

Total Donor Restricted Endowment Funds

\$	137,467	\$	140,064
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Vestry Designated Endowment Funds

3421	The Endowment Fund - Fund Balance	\$	375,164	\$	255,164
3423	Capital Reserve Fund - Fund Balance	\$	70,209	\$	70,209
3424	Rectory Fund - Fund Balance	\$	170,662	\$	170,662

Total Vestry Designated Endowment Funds

\$	616,035	\$	496,035
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Total Equity

\$	7,256,498	\$	6,942,289
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Total Liabilities + Total Equity

\$	7,362,166	\$	7,035,931
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2026 Budget Comments

Richard Ingram

The Budget for 2026 approved by the vestry follows closely that of 2025. It includes 3% increases in compensation for staff. It also reflects a full year of Adam Peithmann sharing his music gifts with us and Katie Mize bringing her love of teaching to our church school.

There will be a small increase in our endowment income in 2026 and pledge income is budgeted for what we know as of January 11. Unpledged donations have been very generous the past few years. We have budgeted \$40,000 for 2026, which is conservative based on past history but is also a significant assumption. Loose plate has been budgeted fairly conservatively. Support from the Diocese for Nicole's position is being reduced. That is according to plan as the Diocese looks to share the funds available for assisting priests with other parishes.

We have reduced the budgeted expense for furnace maintenance. We invested quite a bit in new parts and a boiler in 2025, so that seems prudent. Most other expenses are pretty much in line with 2025. Our Fair Share payments to the Diocese will go up. The budget includes an estimate but we won't know the actual new amount until April.

I pray for our continued financial strength and thank you for your part in it.

Parish Leadership in December, 2025

Vestry Officers

Patricia Gianotti, Senior Warden
Judy Blaisdell, Junior Warden
John Cofer, Clerk
Richard Ingram, Treasurer

Vestry Members

(Term ends Jan. 2026)
Alice Bentley
Susan Dixon
John Woodward

[Term ends Jan. 2027]
Scott Anders
Blake Carrico
Juliette Gavin

[Term ends Jan. 2028]
Elizabeth Bauman
Cindy Eaton
Athens Pullias, Jr.

Finance Committee

Lucia Savage
Richard Ingram
Gene Stillwell

Delegates to Diocesan Convention & Seacoast Convocation

Claudia McQueen (ends Jan. 2026)
Gretchen McBride (ends Jan. 2026)
Patti Buck (ends Jan. 2027)
Jeanette McDonald (ends Jan. 2027)

Alternate to Convention

(Term ends Jan. 2025)
Paul Wainwright

Nominating Committee

Donna McCay
Alice Bentley
John Woodward
Susan Dixon

Safe Church Minister

Darla Watt

Parish Staff

Mark B. Pendleton, Rector
The Rev. Nicole Benevenia, Curate
Adam Peithmann, Director of Music & Organist
Darla Watt, Admin. Assistant
Nick Castillo, Sexton
Jason Mignone, Bookkeeper
Lexi Meunier, Pine Street Players

2026 Junior Warden, Clerk & Vestry Nominees

Jennifer “Jen” Murray: A cradle Episcopalian, I joined Christ Church in 2017 and previously served on the Vestry for three years. I had a 40-year career in communications and marketing in news, government, corporate and non-profit organizations and businesses. I love to travel and learn about other cultures and have been fortunate to travel internationally both when working and personally. I am a voracious reader and listener (when walking in the woods) and a self-proclaimed news junky, albeit selectively. I have been active on the Red Door Forum committee and I am the coordinator of the Hospitality Team. I am also a volunteer at Gather in Portsmouth. My wife, Kim Billings and I and our long-haired dachshund, Cedar, live in Portsmouth.

Susan Dixon and her husband, Jack, are a retired couple who have years of experience serving on church boards and committees. Susan attended St. John’s Church in Portsmouth as a child, and Jack went to Middle Street Baptist Church. As an adult, Susan joined the First Congregational Church of Hampton, and remained there until the retirement of the pastor. She served on the Boards of Wardens & Deacons, chaired the Missions Committee, worked on the Bylaws Committee & was the liaison with St. Vincent de Paul in Hampton.

Susan is a retired attorney who practiced in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. She received her B.A. in Economics from UNH in Durham, and her J.D. from Northeastern University School of Law in Boston. Most of her work was in the fields of trusts, estates, and taxation.

Susan and Jack reside in Hampton. They have a son, Stephen Dixon, and daughter Lindsey Higgins, together with six grandchildren (Grace and Charlotte Dixon of Hampton; Tiernan, Cora, Rowan and Nessa Higgins of Ballybrone, County Galway, Ireland). Susan takes care of granddaughters Grace and Charlotte when their parents are at work. In her spare time, she enjoys bird watching, genealogy, swimming at the Y and trips to Ireland. Susan has served on Vestry for the last three years and looks forward to continuing to serve at Christ Episcopal Church as Clerk.

Kate Mignone lives in Kensington with her husband Jason, son Keagan, and daughter Carlisle, one cat, and chickens/bees. She was raised Episcopalian and the family joined the Christ Church community about 4 years ago. Kate was active in previous parishes serving on church fair committees and building grant programs. She has previously volunteered on the Kensington Planning Board for 10 years and Kensington PTO for 6 years. She is excited about the opportunity to be involved and serve people at Christ Church.

Kate works at AECOM as a civil engineer in Chelmsford, MA, and when not busy driving teenagers, she enjoys hiking, working out, reading, and gardening.

Matthew Rigatti currently lives in Exeter with his wife Janna, their three children, William, Vivienne and Marielle and their dog, Hutchinson. All three kids were baptized at Christ Church, albeit by three different clergy. We are happy to have found a home in Christ Church.

Matt was born and raised in Sturbridge, MA and graduated from Boston College with a BA in History. He then worked for John Hancock for 24 years before leaving the corporate world behind to become a Financial Advisor. He currently works in Salem, NH for Pointes North Wealth Management.

Matt is very active in coaching his kid's sports teams. When not spending time with his family, Matt enjoys rooting for the NY Giants, playing golf and reading. Matt regularly attends the Christ Church Men's group.

Laura Tetrault is a member of the Trusts, Estates & Guardianships practice group at Shaheen & Gordon. She concentrates her personal practice in estate planning as well as trust and estate administration. She is licensed to practice in New Hampshire and Massachusetts. Laura is a New Hampshire native and currently lives in Exeter, New Hampshire with her husband, two kids and dog. She has been a member of Christ Church of Exeter since 2019. Her favorite activities outside of work are spending quality time with family, traveling, running, reading, and alpine skiing.

Christ Church of Exeter				
Official Ballot				
2026 Annual Meeting				
25-Jan-26				
Office	Term	Number to elect	Nominee	Number you are to vote for
Junior Warden	Three years	1 (one)	Jennifer Murray	vote for 1 (one)
Clerk	Three years	1 (one)	Susan Dixon	vote for 1 (one)
Vestry	Three years	3 (Three)	Kate Mignone	vote for 3 (Three)
			Matthew Rigatti	
			Laura Tetrault	
Delegate to Convention	Three years	2 (Two)	Blake Carrico	vote for 2 (Two)
			Cary Einhaus	
Alternate to Convention	One year	4 (Four)	1st Alt: Jeff Neil	vote for 4 (Four)
			2nd Alt: Colleen Anders	
			3rd Alt: Walter Hellisen	
			4th Alt: Richard Ingram	

The Episcopal Church *(from St. James Cathedral Chicago website)*

What is an Episcopalian?

As Episcopalians, we believe that God loves you – no exceptions.

We are followers of Jesus Christ, our Lord, and we believe in God the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

We strive to love our neighbors as ourselves and respect the dignity of every person.

The Episcopal Church is part of the worldwide Anglican Communion and traces its heritage to the beginnings of Christianity.

We believe the Bible is the inspired Word of God and worship with the Book of Common Prayer.

Our liturgy retains ancient structure and traditions and is celebrated in many languages.

Both men and women, regardless of marital status or orientation, are eligible for ordination as deacons, priests, and bishops.

We believe in the forgiveness of sin and life everlasting.

Lay people exercise a vital role in the governance and ministry of our church.

We welcome all baptized Christians to receive Holy Communion, not only members of the Episcopal Church.

We affirm that, for Christians, marriage is a lifelong commitment between two adults, regardless of gender. Episcopalians also recognize that there is grace after divorce, celebrate re-marriages, and do not deny the sacraments to those whose marriages have ended.

We affirm the role of individual conscience informed by scripture and tradition, in ethical matters where people can reasonably disagree.

We celebrate our unity in Christ while honoring our differences, always putting the work of love before uniformity of opinion.

The Episcopal Church has members in the United States and the territory of Puerto Rico; and also in Cuba, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Venezuela, Curacao, Haiti, Honduras, Micronesia, Taiwan, the Virgin Islands, and many European nations.

All are welcome to find a spiritual home in the Episcopal Church.



Anchor Legacy Society Enrollment Form

To the glory of God and in thanksgiving for the mission and ministry of God's church, I/we have made a gift for the future ministry of Christ Church of Exeter.

My/our planned gift is: (*check one or more that may apply*)

- ☐ A bequest in my/our will
- ☐ Annuity, life insurance or retirement plan
- ☐ Direct gifts of cash, securities, real estate and other items
- ☐ Charitable gift annuities with lifetime payments
- ☐ Personal trust account
- ☐ Other: _____

I/we accept the invitation to join the Anchor Legacy Society.

I/we consent for my/our name/s to appear with others on the public roster of the Legacy Society.

On the roster of the Anchor Legacy Society, I/we wish my/our name/s to appear as:

Or ☐ I/we wish to remain anonymous.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

Name/s _____

Address, City, State, Zip _____

Phone, Email _____

Please send this form to: Office Administrator, Christ Church 43 Pine Street Exeter NH 03833