

The History
Of
Christ Church
Pottstown, Pa.

Compiled by

MORISON BLAKE, USNR-RET.

+

1964



1846



1964

FOREWORD

In compiling the history of a church many sources must be sought out and consulted.

The newspaper clippings collected over a long period of time by the late Frederick W. Ancona have been of inestimable help.

The History of Christ Church written and privately printed by the late William Herbert Price has suggested many areas to explore in even more detail than he was able to do at the time of his writing.

Our parent church, St. Gabriel's of Douglassville, published recently, a monograph of its history and through the courtesy of the Rector, Reverend Lloyd L. Wolf, a copy was given to Christ Church to aid in obtaining the background of our heritage.

The Pottstown Mercury has been most generous in permitting incorporation of items appearing in its pages concerning Christ Church, which are of value in the history of a church.

Too much cannot be said for the assistance of the staff of the Pottstown Public Library in making available sources of collateral Pottstown history which fitted the community activities of Christ Church.

MORISON BLAKE

June 1964

CHRONOLOGICAL TABLE

| <i>Dates</i> | <i>Rector</i> | <i>Page</i> |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| 1829-1836 | Rev. George Mintzer | 3 |
| Not available | Rev. John Reynolds | 3 |
| Not available | Rev. William Homman | 3 |
| 1837-1839 | Rev. Henry F. M. Whitesides | 4 |
| 1839-1840 | Rev. Oliver Shaw | 4 |
| 1841-1843 | Rev. George Barker | 4 |
| 1843-1844 | Rev. Edward P. Jones | 4 |
| 1844-1858 | Rev. Edmund Leaf | 4 |
| 1858-1859 | Rev. Aaron Christman | 5 |
| 1859-1863 | Rev. Samuel Edwards | 5 |
| 1863-1868 | Rev. George A. Latimer | 5 |
| 1868-1870 | Rev. S. H. Galledet | 6 |
| 1870-1877 | Rev. Byron McGann | 6 |
| 1877-1884 | Rev. Daniel F. Warren | 7 |
| 1884-1889 | Rev. A. J. Arnold | 7 |
| 1890-1900 | Rev. Charles L. Cooder | 7 |
| 1900-1912 | Rev. Frederick Jewell | 8 |
| 1913-1924 | Rev. Stanley R. West | 9 |
| 1924-1926 | Rev. John Doyle | 11 |
| 1927-1930 | Rev. Caleb Cresson | 12 |
| 1931-1940 | Rev. Albert H. Holt | 14 |
| 1941-1964 | Rev. George A. Lineker | 16 |
| Table of Appendices | | 35 |

THE HISTORY OF CHRIST CHURCH, POTTSTOWN, PA.

Compiled by Cdr. Morison Blake, USNR—Ret.

The most interesting questions in the beginnings of a church history are why, how, what was needed and what started the procedure.

From the time man emerged from the primordial state to the point where he could see the sun rise, the snow and ice melt, and find some sort of subsistence before the warm sun set to chase him back into a warm cave, heated by that sun, he learned to observe a plan far beyond his understanding. There was a force in his universe that indicated to his primitive strivings something beyond his control. Hence, religion or 'belief in powers beyond himself became slowly evident.

As time passed and man tried more earnestly to understand, there came beliefs, fetishes, superstitions, and ever increasing needs to believe in forces outside of himself.

With the advent of Jesus Christ in a small country, from humble good people, came the concept of love, mercy and kindness as the essential elements in human relations. This is why His teachings have and why people gather together regardless of doctrine to worship outside themselves.

Hence, we begin the history of a church dear to many of us, alike lifelong residents and those fortunate enough to have been brought this community to work and serve in our life span!

The beginnings of Christ Episcopal Church, in Pottstown, started a way typical of the foregoing, namely, in the need of parents to educate their children in ways or opportunities they recognized as necessary and desirable for preparation of a full and useful life which often the parents had found difficult to achieve.

In 1815 a Union Sunday School was formed by the Reverend Jacob Douglass, an Episcopalian. While this was established as a Union School, it seems to have been administered and taught by Episcopalians. Curiously enough, it was set up in what had been an brewery, proving that location is not as important as getting some thing started that was worthwhile.

Up to this time there is no evidence of a place for Episcopalians worship together in Pottstown (formerly Pottsgrove). There was, however, the log cabin church, St. Gabriel's of Morlatton, now Douglassville, in Berks County. Morlatton was a Swedish settlement and they built St. Gabriel's in 1736 which was in continuous use for 65 years. The first pastor was the Rev. Gabriel Falk, a native of Sweden, whose ministry extended from 1735 to 1746.

It is interesting to note that the Lutheran Church of Sweden is so similar to the Episcopal Church that when the areas now known as the States of Delaware, New Jersey and Pennsylvania became subject to the authority of the English, the many Swedish congregations already established, allied themselves with the Church of England.

This brief summary of the beginnings of St. Gabriel's is included because its influence in a larger community than Pottstown, or Pottsgrove, had its effect on those seeking Divine Worship within their faith.

It is a matter of record that people from the townships or communities of Pottstown, Birdsboro, Amity, Exeter, Robeson and Union attended and were members of St. Gabriel's. Later records indicate attendance by residents of Phoenixville which, if you will look at a present day map, demonstrates a need for communal worship that transcended the rigors of the early means of rugged travel. This is how churches are started.

Our forefathers, seeking freedom of worship, freedom of thought and an opportunity through hard work to develop useful lives for themselves and open up greater opportunities for their children, founded this country. Those who came to these shores first were people who could do things, artisans, craftsmen, farmers, all of whom could take raw materials and put them to practical use. Yet, for example, it is interesting to note that these same people set up a college for the training of clergymen in 1636, only sixteen years after their landing on the rock bound coast of New England. They saw the need for educated men for their spiritual guidance.

In 1762, the Reverend Alexander Murray, a missionary of the venerable society "for the propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts," a society connected with the Church of England, which incidentally is the oldest missionary body in the Protestant world, became rector of St. Gabriel's. His tenure lasted until 1778 at which time, because of his sympathy with the British Government, his usefulness at St. Gabriel's and St. Mary's in Reading was somewhat impaired. He petitioned the Executive Council of State for permission to return to England, which was granted. He later returned to this now independent country bringing a valuable theological library with him. He died in Philadelphia in 1792 a victim of the yellow fever.

Several rectors succeeded the Rev. Murray from 1778 until 180 when the Reverend Levi Bull entered upon the duties of the Pastorate. The Reverend Bull is interesting to Christ Church history in Pottstown because he conducted services in the old building built upon the foundation of a brewery on South Hanover Street and later in the "Old Brick

Church” at Hanover and Chestnut Streets, which is now Zion’s United Church of Christ, built in 1796.

The Reverend Bull was a forceful and dynamic personality, renowned for his powers of oratory. As described in the Reverend Edmund Leaf’s paper “Now and Then”, his was “a noble presence, tall and commanding in person, with a strong and graceful frame, a fine and dignified countenance, and a voice which in preaching enforced attention and in singing the praises of God sounded like the bass tone of an organ.” Not at all surprising that such a man could fill St. Gabriel’s to overflowing.

It is also not hard to see that his effect on the people of Pottstown also inspired the application for a charter in 1824, which was approved by the Attorney General of Pennsylvania April 30, 1825, approved by the Supreme Court December 15, 1825, and signed by the Governor on February 1, 1826.

The first lot for the establishment of an independent building for Christ Church was bought in 1826 at the southwest corner of Hanover and Queen Streets. This undoubtedly was the site of the “Old Brew House” in which the Union Sunday School had been established.

Following the Rev. Bull the next name of note is that of the Rev. George Mintzer, also rector of St. Gabriel’s, who conducted services in Pottstown as well.

From the date of purchase of the lot to January 18, 1833, numerous delays and difficulties had arisen but finally the church building was completed and consecrated by the Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D. D., Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Christ Church was admitted to the Diocese in 1829, being the twenty-seventh parish to be admitted. At that time, the Rt. Rev. Onderdonk was Assistant Bishop. In 1836, he became Bishop of the Diocese continuing until 1888.

When this first building of Christ Church was consecrated the Rector must have been the Rev. George Mintzer who served at St. Gabriel’s from 1828 to 1836. It is known that he also served Christ Church in that period.

The succeeding rectors’ accurate dates of service are not mentioned in any historical material available to the author. However, the name of the Rev. William Homman appears in the St. Gabriel’s records as succeeding The Rev. Mintzer from 1837 to 1838. His name also appears in like position in the Christ Church list.

It is fair to assume that the close ties to St. Gabriel’s were maintained. In the history of that church from 1839 to 1843 the list of

those officiating reads "Various Missionary Clergy". In the available records of Christ Church for the same period, we have the names of the Rev. Henry F. M. Whitesides, the Rev. George Barker, the Rev. Oliver Shaw, and the Rev. Edward P. Jones.

Prior to the establishment of Christ Church, as noted, travel was difficult. In 1800 the first stage line was set up from Philadelphia to Reading. The first day travel to Trappe or Pottsgrove was accomplished — the second day the stage proceeded to Reading. Thanks to private enterprise, relays of horses soon became available and the trip to Reading from Philadelphia was made in one day.

Trips were first made once a week, later became thrice a week each way.

The alternative methods of travel were by horseback, horse and carriage, or canoe or flatboat called "Reading Boats," down river with the current, and then poled back by their crews.

The faith of our fathers was certainly strong.

Because a church is of necessity a part of the community, sometimes in this history seeming digressions will be made to include items of life that affected all the people in the area. Travel and communications are as vital to the church as to the rest of the community, so it is interesting to note that the Schuylkill Navigation Company was finally incorporated in 1811, construction was completed, and the canal opened six months ahead of the Erie Canal in 1824.

As in all of man's attempts at progress, technological developments soon made the canal obsolete because in 1833 the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad was chartered. This is now the Reading Railroad Company and continues to disturb our Sunday School and church services as it rumbles through tile open cut behind our property.

The railroad was opposed by the navigation company, the turnpike, and the stage lines as is customary even today as we progress, grow and our needs change.

We now come to the name of the Rev. Edmund Leaf who, according to records, served St. Gabriel's from 1844 to 1876. He similarly is recorded as rector of Christ Church from 1844 to 1858. It appears from substantiated records that the Rev. Leaf was one of those rare people who felt the importance of his mission. He took upon himself to write the previously referred to pamphlet "Now and Then".

On April 1, 1845, the lot for the present site of Christ Church was purchased. It was 350 feet deep with 70 feet frontage on High Street. A second church of brick and stucco construction was consecrated November 24, 1846. During 1846 the original lot at Hanover and

Queen Streets was sold, undoubtedly to help defray expenses of building the new church. The Rev. Edmund Leaf and his parish had busy times during this period.

Upon the resignation of the Rev. Leaf, the Rev. Aaron Christman was called to the parish and assumed his duties on the first Sunday in March 1855. The Rev. Christman had been assistant rector since March 1, 1854. It is interesting to note that on Whitsunday, June 4, 1854, he was admitted to the Holy Order of Priests by the Rt. Rev. Alonzo Patten, Bishop of the Diocese. The Bishop was assisted by the Rev. Leaf, who presented the candidate and also the Rev. P. Russell, who with the Rev. Leaf united in the laying on of hands. It appears that this was the first occasion for such a service in Christ Church.

The Rev. Christman served this parish for fifteen months, when he resigned to accept a call to the Church of the Redeemer which operated the Seaman's Mission in Philadelphia.

During June, July and August 1859, the parish was without a rector.

On September 1, 1859, the Rev. Samuel Edwards, M. A., assumed the responsibilities of the parish. This seems to have been a period of frequent changes in rectors as on March 1, 1863, the Rev. George A. Latimer assumed the duties.

Up to this time, the Rev. Edmund Leaf had the longest tenure of office which may indicate the unsettlement of a congregation after a strong, much beloved rector leaves. As will be shown later, from all records available he was a most unusual man.

During these relatively short terms of office, the love for the church did not diminish as is evidenced by the number and variety of memorials given by grateful parishioners. (Included in the Appendix is a list, as accurate as our records are available, of all memorials to the time of the present writing.)

This period in the history of our country is memorable as the second year of that tragedy to our country, the Civil War. Pottstown contributed more than its fair share of manpower and supplies. Little of import is available as to specific information on Christ Church's participation, but in those times it is obvious that it must have been great as the following will show.

On November 28, 1963, our local newspaper, "The Pottstown Mercury" reprinted a letter to its predecessor, the "Montgomery Ledger", by an unknown writer who penned his impressions of Pottstown on November 26, 1863 upon attending a Thanksgiving service at Christ Episcopal Church at 10 o'clock A. M. Quoted in part, "There

was Thanksgiving Service at Christ (Episcopal) Church which was very well attended. Previous to the commencement of the services the choir sang the President's Hymn, 'Give Thanks All Ye People.' The sermon preached on the occasion was from the text: Psalm 105:1 — 'O, give thanks unto the Lord; call upon His name; make known his deeds among the people'.— the object of the preacher (The Rev. George Latimer) being to show why and how we should observe the day.

"About the middle of the sermon, the whole congregation arose and joined heartily in singing: 'Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow'. After the sermon was finished, a collection was taken up, which amounted to the noble sum of \$124.00, which was appropriated as follows: one-fourth to the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia; one-fourth to the United States Sanitary Commission, for the relief of our suffering braves in Richmond; one-fourth to the Christian Commission for the same purpose, and one-fourth to the Ladies Aid Association of Pottstown."

The foregoing was occasioned by "the glorious news which reached us from Chattanooga and Knoxville," both of which had been captured by the Federal Army. This was a definite turning point for the Union and just cause for Thanksgiving.

The Rev. Latimer was succeeded on May 1, 1868 by the Rev. S. H. Galletet who resigned March 1, 1870.

In June of 1870 the Rev. Byron McGann entered upon his duties as rector of the parish.

These were prosperous times for Christ Church because the ever-increasing membership of the congregation made the existing church too small to accommodate the increase.

By the spring of 1872, it was decided to erect a larger and more modern building on the same site and on May 10, 1872 the cornerstone of the new building was laid by the Rt. Rev. William Bacon Stevens, Bishop of the Diocese.

On the 20th of December, 1872 the first service was held with Bishop Stevens preaching the sermon.

In these present times of high costs the total expense for what is now the nave of Christ Church was \$13,000. This did not include furniture nor the chancel and later additions such as the parish house. It is an almost incredible feat to build a stone church with slate roof to hold approximately 250 people in seven months for the amount of money spent. The stone was Chester County sandstone, a durable

building stone, as attested by the large number of houses over 200 years old and still being lived in built of this material.

It is sad to record that the Rev. Byron McGann died on March 12, 1877 while rector of this parish. The only one so to do and his memory is suitably commemorated by a marble memorial plaque in the church.

During the Rev. McGann's rectorship, Pottstown celebrated, on July 4, 1876, the one hundredth anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. A most interesting account of this occasion is to be found in "The American Centennial in Pottstown" written for "The Centennial Committee" by L. H. Davis.

While such an event may not be appropriate material for a church history, nevertheless, it was a stirring day in the life of this community and Christ Church participated in it actively. The Episcopal Sunday School, represented by 35 boys with banners and flags, marched in the big parade which started at Manatawney Street, proceeded east on High Street to Warren, thence north to Chestnut Street, and west to Hanover Street to the speaker's stand set up in front of Trinity Reformed Church.

The Chief Burgess, M. S. Longaker, acted as chairman and introduced the orators of the day which included the Rev. Edmund Leaf, former rector of Christ Church and at that time rector of St. Michael's Church, Birdsboro and the Rev. Byron McGann, rector of Christ Church. The Rev. Leaf's address was indicative of his character and insight. His prophetic views on the future of his country are well worth reading. The Rev. McGann gave an equally spiritual and thoughtful address stressing the progress and future obligations of this great country.

Christ Church history was obviously greatly enriched by having two such men in its roster of rectors.

The Rev. McGann was succeeded by the Rev. Daniel F. Warren, D.D., from 1877 until 1884 when the Rev. A. J. Arnold became the rector. The Rev. Arnold resigned in 1889 on account of continuing ill health.

Very little specific information is available about activities in these years except for bequests, memorials, etc. which are tabulated as an appendix to this history.

On November 2, 1889, the Rev. Charles Lowell Cooder began his duties as rector. A new chancel was completed and used for the first time on Sunday, October 18, 1891, which permitted relocation of the organ from the nave of the church and the installation of a memorial baptismal font in its present location.

The Rev. Cooder designed the chancel and baptistry; the improvements, exclusive of the memorials, cost \$1500.

The chancel was blessed at the time of morning prayer and, since the altar had not been removed from the church during alterations and new construction, consecration by the Bishop was not necessary,

The following year, on Sunday, October 16, 1892, a vested choir of boys and men appeared for the first time. It consisted of twelve boys and six men whose vestments were presented by Holy Cross Methodist Episcopal Church of North Fifth Street, in Reading, Pa.

The Procession Cross was given by St. Luke's Church, in Lebanon, Pa.

The Rev. Cooder was an active rector as attested by the organizations he sponsored. The Brotherhood of St. Andrew was organized in 1891, the Girls Friendly Society was started on January 25, 1895 with twenty-two members, The High Street Mission opened on April 15, 1895, with the Kings Daughters in charge, in November of 1896, a Sewing School for Poor Girls was begun with 175 enrolled under the instruction of nine teachers, and on October 10, 1898, the Junior Girl's Friendly Society was organized with 21 members under the supervision of three adult directors.

The Rev. Cooder resigned his rectorship in 1900.

The Rev. Frederick Chapin Jewel, S.T.B., consented in April of 1900 to assume the rectorship which he did on St. John the Baptist Day, June 24, 1900. Later that summer on the Festival of Transfiguration, August 6, 1900, a pair of Eucharistic Candlesticks were blessed and used for the first time. These were a Thanksgiving offering on the part of the new rector.

Later in this same year at Christmas, a new Altar was blessed and used for the first time at the early Communion Service.

These years from the later 1800's were periods of strong growth in the church so that by 1901 it was felt necessary to add a Guild House. The Sunday School had been using a wooden building behind the church which had become inadequate for its requirements. In August of 1901 a contract was let to Jocum Brothers for \$1425, to construct a new building. On February 6, 1902, the new Guild House was accepted by the Vestry and was used for the first time at a parish reception. Instead of the \$1425 cost estimate, it had cost nearly \$3000 to build. New construction had its problems in those days just as it does nowadays.

The period of the Rev. Jewell's rectorship seems to have been one of making needed physical improvements to the church property. In

February 1904 the Nave was redecorated and the hardwood floor laid, on Easter 1905 a pair of massive brass Altar Vases were blessed and placed upon the Altar. These were given through the birthday offerings of the Sunday School. By January of 1909 the organ was in need of maintenance, so it was rebuilt at a cost of \$400 including a new stop which was added. The Sacristy and corridor were repaired and decorated. This work was completed May 14, 1910.

On July 20, 1912, the Rev. Jewel submitted his resignation to take effect on September 16, 1912. He had served the parish for twelve years.

There was a considerable gap between the Rev. Jewell's departure and the acceptance of the next rector. This gap was filled by laymen and others, among them Mr. Joseph Hartshorne and Mr. Benton Cadwalader who were thanked for their services by resolution of the Vestry in September of 1913.

The Rev. Stanley Raphael West, B.D., was called on April 4, 1913, and accepted the rectorship April 11, 1913. His first services were held June 22, 1913, consisting of Holy Communion, 7:30 A. M., Sunday School, 9:45 A. M., Morning Prayer and Sermon, 11:00 A. M., followed by Evening Prayer and Sermon at 7:30 P. M. A busy day for the new rector who had only moved to Pottstown two days before.

At the Vestry meeting in September of 1913 an electric motor and blower were ordered to be installed for the church organ at a cost of \$210.

Apparently the parish chapter of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew had not prospered as it was revived on September 17, 1913 with eleven members present.

The Rev. West continued the efforts of predecessors to improve the physical facilities of the church. Those ever loyal and hard working "ladies of the church" provided \$105.00 to recarpet the chancel and refinish the hardwood floor in the Nave. This work was completed in March, 1914.

Except for the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, little has been recorded of the group activities of the men of the church. However, a very successful gathering and supper was held on May 28, 1914 attended by sixty men. A very good beginning for such an activity.

A permanent Parish Building Fund was set up with an initial amount of \$200.00, the results of a successful bazaar held in November 1914. In the years 1915 and 1916 numerous physical improvements were made such as redecorating the Chancel and walls of the Nave of the church, renovating the electric lighting and wiring, erecting a

connecting corridor between the Guild room and chapel and rebuilding the organ at a cost of \$2500.00 which was given as a memorial to Herman Van Loan Meigs by his wife.

In 1916 the Guild room, girls room and Sacristy were remodeled at a cost of \$2104.45. The Guild room was finished and officially opened by a parish reception November 14, 1916. This year was a busy one, for a total of \$4500 was spent on building, renovating and general betterment of the property. Of this amount \$1500.00 was raised by private subscription, \$500.00 as proceeds of a very successful parish bazaar and \$2500.00 borrowed from the bank.

On Sunday, March 4, 1917, new memorial windows nearest the pulpit were viewed for the first time and were the gift of Robert G. McGann of Chicago in memory of his parents, the Rev. Byron McGann and Mary E. McGann. The Rev. McGann was the rector of Christ Church from 1870-1877 as described earlier. These were dedicated on Sunday, May 6, 1917 with Mr. McGann attending the service.

Since August of 1914 the shadow of the war in Europe was upon the world and finally on April 6, 1917 the United States entered on the side of France and England against Germany. This was to affect the lives of all citizens of this country including church activities. Between April 1917 and November 1918, twenty-four members of Christ Church served their country in the Armed Forces. The prayers of the congregation must have been answered because only two did not survive the "hell" of war. Sad as the loss of anyone is, we can be thankful it was not greater.

Sergeant Clarence L. Kupp of the First U. S. Engineers was the first member of the parish to give his life in the service of his country. He died July 20, 1918 of wounds which he received in the Battle of the Marne on July 15. Corporal William Quinter of Company A, III Infantry was killed in action near Fismes, France on August 20, 1918.

The love and devotion for Christ Church in those trying war time years by its members is evident in the many gifts and memorials. In 1917 the entire debt of the church was liquidated through the generosity of the will of Ellis Mills, \$2000.00, and Miss Annie E. Richards, \$1000.00. The vestry appropriated \$2500.00 to cancel the debt and allocated 500.00 to the church treasury as a reserve fund for current expenses.

A further example of growth and strength of the church was manifested at the Christmas service in 1919 when the offering amounted to \$1380.00 of which \$500.00 was contributed by the children of Ellis Mills and his wife. Again the vestry voted to liquidate all church

debts. The parish paper entitled "Christ Church Chronicle" made its first appearance in December 1919.

The first event of note in 1920 was the annual parish meeting held on January 29 which took the form of a supper with ninety parishioners in attendance. This was the first time such a meeting was held at that time of year.

To show that the men of Christ Church were actively interested the Men's Club presented the "Notice Board" for the terrace in front of the church just prior to Palm Sunday in 1920. The total cost was \$150.00.

Numerous gifts and memorials continued to be presented as shown in Appendix V. On April 15, 1921 the children of Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Mills made a most generous gift of \$5000.00 for the new Sunday School and parish house building fund.

The Parish Council was formed to represent every parish activity and twenty-five members attended the first meeting held on September 5, 1921. The Junior Service League, composed of boys and girls under twelve years old, met for the first meeting on December 2, 1921.

A notable addition to the musical activities of the church was a set of twenty note organ chimes which were dedicated at the Christmas Cantata on December 29, 1922. These were the posthumous gift of Charles P. Ancona and Emma Tucker Ancona.

The Rev. Stanley R. West celebrated his tenth anniversary as rector on June 23, 1923 and an active and fruitful ten years they were as the foregoing outline shows. One hundred parishioners attended the early service. At the close of the evening service a reception was held in the Guild Room and a silver pitcher and purse were presented to the rector and Mrs. West.

Unfortunately for Christ Church the Rev. Mr. West received a call from Calvary Church in Conshohocken. He resigned on January 13, 1924.

The Rev. John Doyle conducted his first services as rector on May 14, 1924. He had been an aviator in World War I before joining the priesthood.

Repairs and improvements continued to be made and in January 1925 additional steam radiators were installed, the roof and walls of the church were repaired, the total cost being \$2400.00.

Three additional stops which completed the organ were dedicated on Palm Sunday.

The Rev. Mr. Doyle had a very active tenure of office as May 1926 was observed as the centennial anniversary of Christ Church. He

preached an historical sermon on the first Sunday of the month and on May 16 he exchanged places with the Rev. West who returned to observe the anniversary.

A centennial dinner was given on May 18 at which the Rev. Dr. Toop, rector of the Church of the Apostles in Philadelphia gave the address of the evening. The Pottstown Ministerial Association was represented by the Rev. C. P. Warner of the First Baptist Church who brought greetings and good wishes from the Association.

The largest confirmation class in the history of the church, twenty-three in number, was confirmed by the Rt. Rev. Bishop Thomas James Garland on Whitsunday. This was a tribute to the efforts of Mr. Doyle in maintaining the strength of the parish.

Memorial Day, May 30, 1926, fell on a Sunday and further contributed to the observance of the centennial. Veterans of three wars were invited to the services. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish American War Veterans and the American Legion were present. This was a notable day in Christ Church history and a remarkable feature was the presence of the Rev. Dr. Henry A. F. Hoyt, Rector Emeritus of St. John's Church, Cynwyd, Pa., who preached the sermon. The Rev. Dr. Hoyt had enlisted in the Civil War, was a chaplain in the Spanish American War and was a recruiting officer in World War I. The rector of Christ Church, Mr. Doyle, was at that time chaplain of Post 47 of the American Legion.

As part of the Centennial Anniversary the Rector was commissioned by the vestry to write and have printed the history of the first one hundred years of Christ Church. No record has been found of such a document as Mr. Doyle preached his last sermon in Christ Church on Sunday, September 26, 1926 and certainly would not have had time to complete it.

Mr. Doyle was very much beloved by his parish which tendered a reception for him and Mrs. Doyle in the Parish House following the evening service. At this time a generous purse was presented to him by Mr. Benton Cadwalader, the rector's warden, which according to the records, surprised and somewhat overwhelmed him. He had youth, energy and that "warm heart" so often characteristic of the Irish.

On September 30, 1926, the Rev. John Doyle relinquished his duties as rector and assumed those of his charge which was St. Philip's Church, 42nd and Baltimore Avenue, in Philadelphia.

On September 5, 1926, the Rev. Caleb Cresson of Oaks, Pa., offered his services to the vestry as Locum Tenens to succeed Mr. Doyle.

His offer was accepted and he began his duties on October 1, 1926. This was fortunate for Christ Church as a period with no rector can be disastrous particularly following the relatively short but successful tenure of Mr. Doyle.

Physical plant problems at about this time beset the property, in periods of wet weather, high water on the basement floors on occasion rose to the point of extinguishing the fires in the boilers. This condition was finally corrected by May 1927.

The Rev. Caleb Cresson was elected rector on December 12, 1926.

To add to the water drainage problems, the Eagles Home Association building was erected during the summer of 1927. Heavy rains at the time of excavating the cellar of this building threatened the foundations of the church by cave-ins which could ultimately damage the masonry walls. By means of a lawyer and architect included in consultations with representatives of the "Eagles" the matter was amicably and satisfactorily settled. Such problems can easily cause friction between neighbors, but it is interesting to note that there has always been a remarkable degree of cooperation between the two organizations.

The demands on the heating system had come to the point that a new boiler and chimney were needed. These were completed by August 13, 1928 including additional steam radiators.

On October 1, 1928 a committee from the Men's Club made suggestions for a three year campaign to raise funds to defray costs of the revamped heating system and for building a new Church School. This latter had been needed for some time and, after appointing a committee on October 14, 1928 to have architect's plans prepared, Mr. Cresson requested the action to be delayed.

Fund raising is always a problem and on October 28, 1928, a special meeting of the vestry conferred with a committee of the Men's Club at which a form of pledge card was discussed.

During 1927 and 1928 numerous special meetings of the vestry were held and it was felt that monthly meetings were needed instead of the bi-monthly in existence at that time. The by-laws of the vestry, adopted June 29, 1847, provided for only four meetings a year, on the first Mondays of March, June, September and December. Provision, of course, was made for the calling of special meetings as needed.

The problem of the new Church School arose again on January 6, 1929. Mr. Henry K. Ancona presented preliminary plans which were discussed and revisions suggested before acceptance. Apparently little further action was taken for the time being.

The Accounting Warden presented the Church School Building Fund report on January 13, 1930. A total of \$9318.56 had been accumulated from various sources including gifts, bequests, etc. It was decided to apply birthday offerings of the Sunday School to the building fund. Mr. Cresson requested that a parish meeting be held in February to plan for the Church School. This was done and a supper was provided at the "extravagant" cost of fifty cents per person!

At the January 13th meeting the new hymnals were adopted.

There is nothing so certain in this world as change and Christ Church has had its share. Again it had to face another serious change for on April 28, 1930 Mr. Cresson tendered his resignation to become effective not later than May 31, 1930.

It had been increasingly evident that more help was needed on the vestry to administer and represent a growing parish so in that year, in the month of November, at a special parish meeting four distinguished parishioners were chosen to augment the vestry pending official revision of the charter to be made by legal amendment.

In the life of any church the addition of new and young members is of vital importance. The year of 1930 was a black year in that respect because there was no confirmation class held and if by simple mathematics you project that effect on the life blood of a church you have lost a vital element to be growing up in church activities for at least ten years.

After the resignation of the Rev. Caleb Cresson, whose leaving was very much regretted, there was a period of lack of definite leadership which is always detrimental to the continuing growth of a church.

One outstanding event of 1930 that should be mentioned was the visit of the Rt. Rev. Bishop Francis M. Taite who, by invitation, conducted the eleven o'clock Communion service on July 6, which attracted a large attendance.

After Mr. Cresson left, services were conducted by supply ministers provided by the Diocese supplemented by lay readers. One of the supply ministers was the Rev. Albert H. Holt, who at a special vestry meeting held December 29, 1930, offered his services as rector for the next several months. His offer was accepted.

Amendment of the Parish Charter was again considered at a special meeting of the vestry on February 3, 1931, and approval to increase the membership of the vestry to eleven was ratified.

At this same meeting a momentous decision was made because the need and the time were right. The vestry authorized the borrowing

of \$15,000.00 to add to the nearly \$10,000.00 in the Church School Fund to build a new parish house for use by the Sunday School. This loan was again authorized at a vestry meeting on July 6, 1931.

In the meantime the annual parish meeting was held on April 6th at which it was unanimously voted to call Mr. Holt as rector.

At a special meeting held on June 1, 1931, Mr. Holt appointed a building committee and at the July 6th meeting referred to above, an estimate of cost was presented of \$17,500.00. Architect E. Kaye Hunter drew up the plans for the new building and contractor Warren B. Zern was awarded the contract by the architect and building committee.

From this point on no time was lost for on December 6, 1931, according to the program entitled "Order of Dedication, The Parish Building, Christ Episcopal Church" was completed, turned over by the architect to W. McMurtrie Rutter, Chairman of the Building Committee, who in turn transferred the key to Benton Cadwalader, Senior Warden, to accept on behalf of the vestry.

Dedication exercises were held at 3:00 P. M. on that Sunday afternoon which were extremely well attended. The event evoked considerable comment in the local press of the time and it is interesting to note that the participation of the former Rector, the Rev. Stanley R. West, who gave the invocation, an address and benediction that was indicative of his interest and that of his former parish in his earlier efforts to bring about the construction of the much needed parish building.

The rector, Rev. Albert H. Holt accepted the building for the people of the parish and also presented an address appropriate to the occasion.

At the annual Parish Meeting on March 28, 1932, Mr. Holt announced that the new Church School was completely finished and half paid for. Conservative financing, to the everlasting credit of the vestry, must have dictated withholding funds for purposes at that time unknown. We were entering a period of reduced incomes, reduced contributions and a general concern for public and private welfare.

By the vestry meeting on January 9, 1933 a complete installation of an amplifying system had been installed to broadcast the organ chimes from the belfry of the church. It appears to have a beneficial effect on increasing church attendance, particularly at the evening services on Sunday.

A significant change was recorded at the annual Parish meeting on April 19, 1933 where it was voted to hold this meeting in January of each year as early in the month as convenient.

By January 8, 1934, the vestry decided to hold its regular meetings monthly rather than bi-monthly as heretofore. This practice has been in effect ever since to the present writing.

The business and financial troubles of the country affected the financial problems of the church, as would be expected. Such a situation always has to be met with sagacity and fortitude. However, it did not dim the spiritual light of the church for in union there is strength. The Episcopalians and Presbyterians drew closer together by conducting joint services on such times as Palm Sunday night in 1934 and at alternate Sunday evenings for some time thereafter.

During Holy Week in 1934, Christ Church was used daily for denominational services for the benefit of the entire Pottstown community. This custom continued until such time as the congregations of the other denominations found sufficient response to the significance of this most Holy Week for Christianity and instituted such services in their own churches. Christ Church can be credited with the spread of this recognition which has given so much comfort to the Christians of good faith in the area.

In writing the history of vital organizations such as Christ Church, it is almost unfair to name individual members for outstanding work because in order to make a church alive and progressive so many have to give of themselves in large and small degree. However, there is one rather specialized field in which all of us unfortunately are not endowed or qualified and that is the field of church music. Henry K. Ancona whose love of music is still legendary in our church, served as vestryman from 1921 until his death in June of 1949. He was a master musician who inspired members of the choir to render such beautiful offerings as Sir Arthur Sullivan's ever moving "Lost Chord" as an anthem at a morning prayer service. Mr. Ancona was an organist of outstanding ability whose love of his church and music combined to give inspiration and joy to all of the parishioners.

Financial problems continued to beset the church necessitating dipping into some of the capital investments. More people were contributing, but the size of contributions diminished.

In 1936 Mr. Holt was taken seriously ill and was removed from the Pottstown Hospital to the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia where private rooms and nursing care are provided free to rectors of the Diocese.

On the first Sunday after Christmas in 1936 the Rev. George A. Lineker took over the services in Christ Church in Mr. Holt's absence.

So successful was his work that on February 21, 1937 the vestry accepted the recommendation of Bishop Taite that he assume charge

of parish services and activities until such time as Mr. Holt's health improved sufficiently to permit him to reassume his duties as rector.

By June of 1937 Mr. Holt had recovered enough to be able to attend the vestry meeting at which time he asked to retain Mr. Lineker as his assistant. This arrangement continued until the spring of 1938. Mr. Lineker resigned at that time to accept duties in the Diocese of Maryland, later becoming rector of St. Thomas Church, Hancock, Maryland.

One of the most important functions of a church is to attract suitable candidates for Holy Orders. May 2, 1938 Mr. Holt presented to the vestry Clarence E. Tobias, Jr. whose certificate was signed by a majority of the vestry. On December 22, 1938 Mr. Tobias was ordained Deacon whereupon Bishop Taite appointed him assistant to the Rector of Christ Church on January 2, 1939.

By April of 1939 a certificate was presented to the vestry to apply to the standing committee of the Diocese for ordination to the Priesthood of Mr. Tobias. This certificate was signed by the vestry and certified by the Secretary.

Later in the year in August the vestry sent a letter of congratulation to Mr. Tobias on his ordination to the priesthood and also thanking him for assisting Mr. Holt during the latter's illness.

Finances continued to plague the church and for some reason young people were not being attracted to it so that there was, so to speak, a lost generation about which more will be said later.

At the vestry meeting in February of 1940 the suggestion was made that a rotating system of vestrymen be adopted. Action was deferred to a later meeting. There were many obvious advantages to this system. It brings in a continuing supply of "new blood." It tends to break up cliques or groups set in their ways and reluctant to changes. It stimulates interest by the men of the parish because having served on the vestry and studied church problems never can there be apathy on that individual's part. It is a most interesting experience for any man.

The year of 1940 was not a good one for Christ Church. The rector's health was failing which caused him to resign on October 1. Mr. Tobias had resigned on July 1 as assistant rector so that the balance of the year services were conducted by visiting clergymen among them the Rev. R. I. Baldwin who served several times.

At a special vestry meeting on January 12, 1941 it was decided to ask Bishop Taite's approval to call the Rev. George A. Lineker. Bishop Taite approved on January 16 and Mr. Lineker attended the vestry meeting on February 7, 1941.

The past several years had been troubled ones and sometimes when things are down there is only one way to go and that is up which is exactly what happened.

While individual names of parishioners have not been used extensively it seems appropriate to note that Mr. Lineker at a vestry meeting on February 21, 1941 made the following appointments:

William E. Mills, Rector's Warden.
Richard M. Sands, Accounting Warden.
William Huey, III, Ass't. Accounting Warden.
Charles R. Gochnaur, Secretary of the vestry.

This was the beginning of the rebirth and rededication of the work of Christ Church.

A summary of the background of this man, whose tenure of office was going to prove to be the longest of any rector in the history of the church, seems appropriate at this time.

Mr. Lineker was born in England in 1899, moved to Canada, served in the Canadian Army in World War I, later graduated from the Wellington Military College in India, participated in the suppression of several border uprisings there.

He returned to Canada and shortly after 1921 came to Douglassville as an Accountant. His interest in the church led him to become a lay reader in Reading. He was ordained a Deacon in 1932.

He entered the priesthood in 1933 at a time when as he has aptly put it "I had a wife, three children and a hungry dog." Mr. Lineker has had a varied and interesting background to prepare him for the spiritual and practical guidance of his parishioners.

The end of 1941 saw the involvement of the United States in World War II following the day of infamy, December 7, when Japan posed its sneak attack on Pearl Harbor.

Earlier in 1941 a rectory was leased at 703 High Street but the lease was terminated two months later and the property of Dr. and Mrs. S. T. Nicholson, Jr. at 808 High Street was to become the rectory.

The first year of war produced changes important to Christ Church. The younger women of the parish organized the Commandos Club to serve purposes of raising money similar to the wonderful work the Women's Guild had done for so many long and faithful years. The younger women, many of whom had small children to look after daytimes could not give time to church activities except in the evenings when husbands were available as babysitters. Numbers of others were employed daytimes and likewise had only evening time to contribute for church work.

Further evidence of the effect of war was the appointment of an Air Raid Warden, fortunately his services were not needed.

The property at 709 High Street was available as a rectory and Mr. William E. Mills, Rector's Warden very generously offered on June 1, 1942 to buy it if the vestry agreed to lease it for two years, this was authorized September 7.

During 1942 an indication of the beginning of rebirth was evidenced by the presentation of a Class of 36 for confirmation. Only a short few years ago there were none and yet this is one of the most important functions for the continuing life of a church, new and young members.

Our relatively new rector with his background of military and industrial experience was in demand by the Stanley G. Flagg Company to assist in the Personnel Department for administrative and personnel guidance in the geared up tempo and expansion required for an all out war effort. Such problems were national in scope and entirely in conformity with militant Christianity. Much as the thought of war was abhorrent to His teachings, Christ would never have been against a fire department as his attack on the money changers in the Temple indicated. Righteous indignation must ever be present but tempered by mercy and justice to all.

The year 1943 saw the re-election of the 1942 vestrymen for obvious reasons to maintain continuity of purpose and policy. The maintenance of unity and purpose within the church, in difficult times, transcended any minor divisions of opinion.

By the year 1943 the upsurge of renewed vigor of the church was manifest in the increase of general contributions which in the year of 1944 saw that by December 1, the entire debt for the Parish House was completely liquidated. Certainly a long step forward in a relatively short time. All sources had contributed in this effort in difficult times, but the Women's Guild as always and the more newly organized Commandos Club made major contributions. If ever there was evidence of rebirth and spiritual revival within a church, these strife torn times were concrete evidence of it. The efficacy of faith and the power of prayer when "Two or three are gathered together in Thy Name, Thou wilt grant their requests," became increasingly evident as time went on.

Sincerity was the keynote of the rebuilding of faith and hope in a church that had these elements in large measure but needed a catalyst to combine them into a driving force.

For purposes of continuity the Rector requested and was granted the re-election of all vestrymen for the year 1943. A most wise move

in the difficult war period. Stability was essential for the common good.

By 1945 seventy-eight parishioners were in the Armed Forces of the United States. A list is included in appendix VI. Again God was good to Christ Church for of this number only two were called upon to give their lives in the service of their country. They were George E. Schade and Samuel T. Nicholson. Any such loss is tragic to family and friends but the extent and severity of World War II were such that the parish was indeed fortunate that losses were this limited.

At the parish meeting the rather recently organized Commandos Club reported an income in 1944 of \$933.11 of which \$850.00 was contributed to reducing the parish debt. A remarkable performance by a group of busy and energetic young women.

The Women's Guild, always depended upon for major contributions, came through as was to be expected.

While in this history we have avoided the names of individuals because so many have contributed so much it would be unfair to leave any of them out. However June was a sad month for Christ Church because William E. Mills died. He had been vestryman, rector's warden and a most generous contributor for a great many years. In fact as vestryman he had served since 1917 until his death.

The year of 1945 saw the end of the war with Germany and the surrender of the Japanese. Life began again to resume its more normal aspects. The Stanley G. Flagg Company expressed its appreciation for the work done by Mr. Lineker.

As an indication of the further generosity of the Mills family a letter from Mrs. Mills was read at the vestry meeting September 21, 1945 giving the property at 709 High Street to the parish for a rectory in memory of her husband, William E. Mills.

Now that the war had ended building materials were beginning to be available so remodeling and maintenance problems could be considered. A progressive program was discussed at the September vestry meeting to remodel the altar guild room, men's and women's vesting rooms, modernize the kitchen, paint the outside and inside of the church, remodel the rectory and make badly needed changes in the heating system of the church.

A major innovation was made at the annual parish meeting. On February 11, 1946 elections to the vestry were made on a rotating basis, four elected for the full three year term, four for a two year term and four for a one year term of office. Upon expiration of his term of office a retiring vestryman was not eligible for re-election until the

lapse of one year. This was, as mentioned earlier, a far reaching and beneficial change for the long range good of the church and time has proven it so. Few churches have such a long list of interested and devoted men as has Christ Church.

A five year program was adopted for renovation and reconstruction as follows:

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------|
| Church Est. | Cost |
| Reinforce Foundation | \$350.00 |
| Pointing up outside masonry | 650.00 |
| Replace chancel roof slate | 250.00 |
| New Oil Heating plant | 3500.00 |
| Modernize kitchen | 1000.00 |
| Painting interior | 900.00 |
| Painting the Parish House | 600.00 |
| Remodel choir rooms | 250.00 |
| Repairs to steeple | Not Est'd. |
| Total | \$7500.00 |
| Renovating the rectory | \$4100.00 |

The church property at this time was re-evaluated for insurance purposes at \$95,000 quite an advance from original costs plus improvements previously listed.

The rotating system for vestrymen was modified at the annual parish meeting in 1947, to permit the rector's warden and the accounting warden to succeed themselves by election without the required lapse of a year. This was a step in the direction of continuity and stability because churches like others have to establish credit ratings for occasional short term or long term borrowing from banks. Too frequent changes in responsible positions indicate to lending institutions an uncertainty as to continuing policy which may vitally affect plans for church progress where borrowing against future known revenues is concerned.

New members, as has been pointed out previously, are the life blood of continuing growth. In 1947 a confirmation class of thirty-five with transfer of twenty members new in the area was reported. A far cry from the barren year of a few years back when none were received, either by confirmation or transfer.

During 1947 the Men's Club had a new lease on life — a lottery had been organized the year before and ticket sales had been slow so, with over \$750.00 worth of prizes promised, a special effort was made to at least come out ahead. Difficulties often bring people closer together

and this was the case in this instance. The prizes were drawn for and completely paid for but the profit for the effort was minuscule.

The beneficial result of this effort was in drawing many men of the church closer together. Some of our members had experienced the custom which had become almost a tradition of the Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. in Akron, Ohio of holding corporate communion breakfasts for their executive and supervisory personnel.

The idea was suggested by Thomas F. Storm who had been President of the men's club in 1946 and was connected with the local Firestone plant. The men prepared and served the first breakfast from the old kitchen in the parish house to a group of about 25 men and boys. The initial event was a tremendous success and has been continued down the years to the point of preparing breakfast for between 125 and 150 men and boys. Good speakers have been provided at many such occasions. The event is now a well established activity of the men's club three or four times a year.

An interesting development was the inclusion of a Mother's Day breakfast for the mothers and daughters, all cooked and served by members of the Men's Club. Needless to say it has been most gratefully accepted.

The outgrowth of all this kitchen activity pointed up the inadequateness of the existing kitchen. The Women's Guild for many years had struggled heroically to provide a turkey supper in the fall and a ham supper in the spring with less than necessary facilities. These suppers were ever increasing money makers because of their value and quality which the Pottstown community recognized in steadily increasing numbers.

Here was an excellent example of parish unity. The vestry appropriated some money, the Women's Guild much more, the men's club obtained donations of sinks, counter equipment and a hotel type gas range from Horn & Hardart which the members completely rebuilt and painted. Professional work involving electrical, carpentry and plumbing had to be done by qualified artisans to conform to the Borough Building Code but Men's Club members did all the painting and cleaning up to provide a modern kitchen of which all members of the parish could be proud. Testimony of this was the comment of a Horn and Hardart restaurant manager, kindly loaned to us for the fall supper to coordinate operations, was that he and four of his trained people could feed a thousand people from the setup.

In 1948 a new administrative office was created, that of Financial Secretary to assist in keeping and accounting of financial records

which due to growth and generosity required more than part time efforts.

Growth of the church was increasing by such indicators as a total of 521 people on the parish list, a confirmation class of 59, breaking all parish records, and transfers of fifteen from other Episcopal churches.

In the eighth year of Mr. Lineker's tenure, Christ Church had risen from a near mission basis threatened with accepting aid from the Diocese to an extremely healthy, militant force for Christianity in the community of Pottstown.

In addition nearly \$13,000 of improvements to property had been made and mostly paid for, membership of parishioners, Sunday School attendance, church service attendance and amount of financial contributions breaking all previous records. This trend continued steadily for the next several years.

During this period Mr. Lineker procured for himself a place in the country near Shenkel which permitted a little more privacy and relaxation for his family so that the rectory on High Street was available for rent. It was rented for several years.

By 1956 it was felt that sale of the rectory was advantageous and with the consent of the Mills family it was decided to put the proceeds of the sale in legal trust funds to accumulate for the possible future purchase of another rectory when needed. The growth of the church indicated in the not too distant future that it would be desirable to obtain a Curate or Assistant Rector to relieve the load of increasing parish duties.

Too much cannot be written about the contributions of the Women's Auxiliary, formerly referred to as the Women's Guild. This group of devoted parishioners have often been credited with "keeping the doors of the church open during the times of hardship." In 1956 they contributed \$1500 to the church fund.

Final settlement on the sale of the rectory was made and \$15,000 was placed in the Mills Family Memorial Fund with an annual income of \$700 a year to be accumulated at interest.

So great had been the growth of the church that it was necessary to enlarge the Parish House, remodel the kitchen again, provide additional rooms for Sunday School classes necessitating the borrowing of \$20,000 for these improvements. This was done and the work was put in progress.

The pipe organ, like all mechanical devices, showed signs of age and needed measures to restore it to good condition. A new one, it

was estimated, would cost \$23,000 so by careful study and judicious consideration by the vestry it was found that adequate repairs and rebuilding could be done for \$7928. This work was authorized.

In September the gratifying news was received that Alan E. Holt, Jr. had been accepted by the Bishop for Perpetual Deacon pending successful completion of the required examinations.

Late in the year of 1957 a serious problem arose, it was suspected that termites were undermining the Rector's office. A very close examination was made by expert exterminators and found to be true.

Such a condition needs extensive remedial action, so the J. C. Ehrlich Co. was employed to protect the church foundation at a cost of \$890.00, with a five year guarantee plus annual inspection.

By the year of 1958 we had on the parish roll 775 baptized members, 638 active communicants, 214 families and 115 individuals. Material as well as spiritual problems beset any church, the figures above indicate that the spiritual needs were being fulfilled. Material factors showed that the monetary value of Church and Parish House buildings were estimated at \$290,000, land value at \$150,000 with furniture and fixtures adding \$8,500 to make a total of \$448,500 to be covered by insurance with, of course, the exception of the land value. A far cry from an almost mission status of not too many years back.

Another event occurred in 1958 of which the Parish could be proud, William E. Mills, Jr. was scheduled to graduate from The Philadelphia Divinity School. For this occasion the Bible Class voted to give him a cross and chain for his use.

A total of 630 people attended the services on Easter Sunday, an all time record.

Eleven members of the parish attended the Deaconate of William E. Mills, Jr. on May 10 and the aforementioned cross and chain were presented to him at his graduation commencement exercises on May 30.

During the summer months a new boiler had to be installed, which was done at a cost of \$3,433, however, the cost included the manufacturer's 25 years guarantee and the plumber's one year guarantee on workmanship.

The vestry at its meeting on November 10 discussed with Mr. Lineker the possibility of securing a curate or assistant rector. It was pointed out that the parish had grown to 900 members, 750 of which could be classed as active and that it is generally desirable to have one minister for every 500 people. The matter was taken up with Bishop Hart.

The Rev. William E. Mills, Jr. was presented for ordination by Mr. Lineker at the Episcopal Church in Paoli, Pa. on November 29.

December 21, 1958 was the celebration of the Rev. George A. Lineker's quarter century of service in the priesthood of the Episcopal Church. A reception and luncheon was held in the Parish House following the 11 o'clock service, which was attended by such local colleagues as the Rev. Emil Schorsch of The Mercy and Truth Synagogue, Dr. John B. Frantz of Trinity Church, Father William M. Begley of St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church and the Rev. Thomas B. Snythe, an old friend of Mr. Lineker's.

A purse of \$300 and a matched set of golf clubs were presented to Mr. Lineker, a beautiful wrist watch was presented to Mrs. Lineker.

The Rev. William E. Mills, Jr. and his wife were also present and the vestry presented Mr. Mills with a full set of Eucharistic Vestments and a bracelet to Mrs. Mills.

This celebration also represented seventeen years of Mr. Lineker's service as Rector of Christ Church. A very proud day for Christ Church.

The year of 1959 saw the finances of the Church in excellent shape and a budget for 1960 was set at \$30,000.

During 1959 a third Sunday Morning service was added. Set at 9:30 A. M. it was designed to accommodate the younger members of the parish with children of Sunday School age. It relieved the transportation problem for parents as the new service and Sunday School ran concurrently. In addition, mother gets out of Church in time to prepare the mid-day meal for her hungry brood at a more leisurely pace than if she had to attend the 11 o'clock service and then rush home.

This additional service definitely proclaimed the need for an assistant rector and steps were authorized by the vestry to consult with the Bishop for candidates to consider. Two seemed to be outstanding and on December 20, the vestry selected the Rev. Peter A. Greenfield, his total remuneration including pension, living quarters and automobile expenses in Church work amounted to \$5,685 per year.

During 1959 the vestry, appropriately, entered into a Declaration of Trust with The Church Foundation of Philadelphia to handle monetary memorials and bequests. The Fund provides the safest protection because its investments are in securities legal for such trusts and maximum conservative income because of joining pro rata with other monies which provides better selection of securities than would be possible for the parish alone to accomplish.

It is happy to note that Mr. Holt passed four major examinations during 1959 for Holy Orders and had to take six more in 1960. His interest and zeal in pursuing his worthwhile objective were most highly commendable, particularly in view of his responsibilities as the provider for his family and in consideration of the fact that the work had to be done in his own spare time with no compensation monetarily.

At a special meeting of the vestry on Sunday, April 24, 1960, action was taken to officially inform the Bishop that the vestry approved Alan E. Holt, Jr. for admission to the Sacred Order of Deacons.

On June 7, 1960 a reception was held in the Parish House to welcome the Rev. Peter A. Greenfield and his wife. Mr. Greenfield began his official duties the following day and preached his first sermon at the 9:30 A. M. service on Sunday June 12. Mr. Greenfield entered enthusiastically into his work with the young people of the Church. The Young People's Fellowship was solidly established and a Young People's Bowling League formed.

For a number of years Mr. Lineker had felt that much benefit could be derived by the institution of healing services in conjunction with the mid-week celebration of the Holy Communion. This was established and different times were explored until it was felt that the Wednesday morning service appealed to the most people in search of this comfort.

Mr. Greenfield was ordained to the Priesthood on Saturday, December 3, 1960 in Christ Church, where he was presented by Mr. Lineker. The Rector of St. Paul's Church, Elkins Park, Pa., Mr. Ludwig, preached the sermon with Bishop Armstrong from the Diocese presiding. A present of \$150.00 was given by the vestry to Mr. Greenfield.

Further activity for the younger members of the Church was stimulated by the formation of a basketball team to play in league competition sponsored by the Pottstown Recreation Commission. Mr. Greenfield was responsible for the program.

The vestrymen of a church are members of the Parish, of course, and besides are engaged in business activities of a demanding nature on their time. At the December 14, 1960 meeting of the vestry Mr. Lineker authorized a new and more efficient method to expedite the conduct of the business of the vestry. After January I, 1961 all basic work of the vestry would be conducted by duly appointed committees which would meet outside the regularly scheduled vestry meetings to which they would bring reports of action taken and recommendations for future action. These committees were urged to take the

necessary initiative in all matters within their jurisdiction so that the time of the entire vestry could be utilized more efficiently and effectively.

At this same vestry meeting the Accounting Warden reported that Christ Church was completely free of all debt. Plans were formulated to set aside \$2,500 a year to be added to the money received from the sale of the rectory on High St. as part of the Mills Memorial to be used if and when the purchase of a new rectory was necessary. A most wise decision, as later events will demonstrate.

The end of 1960 saw a Sunday School enrollment of 293 children. Certainly an improvement over the last generation period of about twenty years earlier.

At the annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, February 19, Mr. Lineker celebrated his twenty year anniversary as Rector of Christ Church, which of course, was duly recognized by presentation of an expression of appreciation from the entire parish by the Rector's Warden, Mr. Frank Ackerman.

The year of 1961 was pretty much an extension of continued growth, consolidating gains made and improving church property.

Christ Church, as has been recorded previously, has had a notable record in aiding and abetting young men with aspirations to enter the Priesthood or Holy Orders for consideration as Deacons. It also has had more than its share of Lay Readers. During this year the Missions Guild added another project to their calendar, that of assisting Thomas Braims to attend Cuttington College, Liberia, to begin his studies to qualify for Holy Orders.

The Women of Episcopal Churches have banded together under various organization names to aid the most necessary financial requirements that are frequently just beyond the budget set up each year by the vestry. They have done this under various titles, such as King's Daughters, Ladies Aid, Women's Auxiliary and Women's Club. A rose by any other name is just as sweet and it does not matter what title the women of the church choose to be named, it is their marvelous sponsorship of all activities which otherwise might not be supported. By September of 1961 the official name of the Women's Auxiliary had, by their choice, been changed to "Episcopal Church Women of Christ Episcopal Church". Bless them and their wonderful work!

Our Mission Guild in the last few years had been increasingly active. One particular phase of their work was centered upon the problems and plight of The Navajo Indians in the area of Butte, Utah. The Church had the privilege of receiving a visit by the Rev. Liebler, a missionary who on Sunday, October 1, 1961 conducted Holy

Communion at 8:00 A.M., the 9:15 A. M., talked to the Bible Class and preached the sermon at the 11 o'clock service. Mr. Liebler had worked with The Navajo Indians for many years and Christ Church contributed \$100.00 to assist him in his most worthwhile work. This has since become a major interest of our Mission's Guild up to the present writing.

The annual congregational meeting for 1962 was held on February 18 and the report of money received in 1961 for the Mission's work was \$4,910.88 against a quota of \$3,607.00 previously set. A true showing of the strength of the Christian spirit.

Membership of the parish at the close of 1961 was 1,104 which included 910 baptized persons and 194 children. Total Sunday School enrollment was 323, a most promising augur for the future.

The Men's Club scheduled its men and boy's Communion Breakfast for January 21, 1962, but the time schedule of the busy Sunday Morning with three services plus Sunday School precluded the after breakfast speaker plus the sociable but oftentimes noisy kitchen clean up period. Therefore it was decided to hold breakfast at the Community Room of The First Federal Savings and Loan Building, newly opened, with breakfast catered by the adjacent Crystal Restaurant. Our gracious host, Raymond Elliott of the Bank conducted a tour of the building which had only recently been completed.

As is inevitable, but a most healthy sign for the development of the Episcopal Church as a whole, the Rev. Peter A. Greenfield received calls from churches in Upper Merion Township, Mt. Airy and Hilltown, Pa. This was certainly a tribute to his development under Mr. Lineker's guidance and recognition of his enthusiastic conduct of the activities of the younger members of our church. Mr. Greenfield accepted the call from Hilltown, Pa.

The above development was brought out at a special vestry meeting held on May 6, 1962 at which time Mr. Lineker reported a very successful interview with the Rev. James R. Leo who would be available July 1 following his graduation from the Seminary on June 13.

Mr. Leo's brother, the Rev. Joseph N. Leo, had been and at this writing still is Rector of Christ Church, otherwise known as Old Swede's Church on the River Road between Gulph Mills and Bridgeport, Pa.

The vestry unanimously approved the call to Mr. Leo which turned out to be a most fortunate decision.

The Church was experiencing growing pains, the symptoms of which are still present. Considerable discussion was held as to possible physical enlargement of the existing building. Sentiment within the Parish was and still is that a centrally located downtown Church is highly desirable. Many members of the Parish are near enough to walk to Church and with the relatively limited public transportation system in Pottstown it would seem desirable to stay at the present location for this and numerous other good reasons.

On November 1, 1962 the resignation of the Senior Choir Director, Mr. Snyder became effective. He had had a call to a church nearer his home which resulted in greater convenience to him and his family. His loss was greatly regretted, because through his leadership and musicianship had brought the Senior Choir to a high standard of performance.

The ordination of the Rev. James R. Leo was held on Saturday, December 15, at 10:30 A. M. Also, at the request of the Diocese, Mr. Griswold was ordained along with Mr. Leo. The service was significant particularly for Mr. Leo — Bishop Tsu served as ordaining Bishop, Rev. Dr. Thorne Sparkman, from the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, Pa. was Gospelor, the Rev. Alan E. Holt, Jr. Epistoler and the Rev. Joseph N. Leo, Mr. Leo's brother, as the preacher. The service was followed by a reception and light luncheon in the Parish House at which the vestry presented Mr. Leo with \$150 as an ordination gift on behalf of the parish.

Before the end of the year the Episcopal Church Women had given the Vestry \$1,000 in addition to all the other good works performed on behalf of the Church.

The latter part of 1962 brought up the problem of adequate housing for salaried members of the clergy. Arrangements of many years back were apparently satisfactory for the Rev. and Mrs. George A. Lineker whose children were grown up, married, establishing their own families, thus leaving Mr. and Mrs. Lineker to enjoy their home in Shenkel. With the growth of the Church necessitating the addition of an assistant Rector, the need to attract the caliber of man who could handle the ever increasing complexities of the problems of an expanding Parish brought up the vital necessity of adequate housing as a part of attractive compensation to obtain such a man.

A most attractive property was found at 275 Grace Street, Pottstown, that lent itself to the suitable residence of a Rector of Christ Church or his assistant depending upon conditions existing as they arose.

At the regular vestry meeting on February 13, 1963 approval was vote to purchase the aforementioned property as a continuation



Christmas 1961

of the Mills Memorial Fund established for just this purpose. It was reported to the Annual Congregational Meeting on Sunday, February 17, 1963 that the new rectory had been purchased for a cost of \$23,700 plus necessary rehabilitation in the way of painting, papering and other items necessary to bring a property up to first class condition. The net cost for purchase and maintenance was \$24,095.82.

In the latter part of 1963 concern was expressed in vestry meetings of the controversial problems of integration. Center City Churches of the Diocese were being vitally affected causing reductions in support financially that would have to be met by aid by other Parishes within the Diocese. The Episcopal Church of the United States was, of course, on record in favor of civil rights legislation. If people would read the Constitution of the United States and relate it to the teachings of Jesus Christ there is only one logical, kind stand to take and still be professed Christians. This is a problem of evolution not revolution. Unfortunately political rather than moral issues have beclouded a basically simple problem. We should be thankful that our church organization has taken a militant but not inflammatory stand on this inevitable problem that can be solved by the patience that Christ so admirably displayed.

November 6, 1963 was a sad day for Christ Church because at the regular Vestry meeting our beloved Rector (to many members known lovingly as Padre) announced his retirement as of June 30, 1964, by which time he would have passed his 65th birthday.

Mr. Lineker carefully outlined the canonical and practical limitations and procedures involved. The Vestry appointed suitable committees to study replacement, financial problems, recognition and social activities to do the best possible to maintain continuity of the high level of spirituality which the Rev. George A. Lineker had maintained and achieved as a goal for his Parish.

It was unfortunate that our assistant Rector, the Rev. James R. Leo felt that his youth and lack of extensive parish experience precluded his being considered as a successor to Mr. Lineker. Mr. Leo and his lovely wife were most wholeheartedly accepted by members of the Parish, both young and old. His wishes had to be accepted.

The year of 1963 could be classed as most productive in the life and development of Christ Church in the spiritual development of the community.

The January 1964 Vestry meeting brought out some interesting figures for 1963 reported by Mr. Lineker as follows:

112 Sunday Communion Services
108 Weekday Communion Services
Sick and Private Communion Services
188 Other services

502 Total services for 1963

At this point it is appropriate to make a few comparisons of the increases in church attendance. The first six months of each year compared was analyzed because that period seemed to be the most stable. The summer vacation period, school openings, etc. vary with the fluctuation of Labor Day, but in the first six months the variations of the dates of Lent and Easter are compensating within the period and comparable year to year.

In the first six months of 1940, the last year the Rev. Albert H. Holt was the Rector, there were 64 services conducted on Sundays (some Sunday Evening Prayer Services were held) with an average attendance per Sunday of 96. In the comparable period of 1951, ten years after the Rev. George A. Lineker was called to serve the Parish, there were 54 services held with an average attendance of 172 per Sunday.

In the Church Record Book Mr. Lineker made the following notation at the end of 1963; "Another record year for Christ Church in the Service of God".

The first six months of that year 87 services were held and the average attendance had risen to 367 per Sunday.

Testimony to the effectiveness of Christ Church as a training ground was again demonstrated when the Rev. James R. Leo received a call from the Bishop of New York to accept the post as Assistant Rector of the Episcopal Church in Larchmont, New York.

He submitted his resignation to be effective February 9, 1964 but agreed to stay on until February 16, and report for his duties in Larchmont on February 22.

Fortunately Mr. Lineker reported at the Vestry meeting on February 12 that the Rev. Dr. Norris of the Theological Seminary in Philadelphia would be available on Sundays until May, 1964 to help him out.

The Mission's Guild is made up of a group of devoted parishioners whose work, necessarily, is outside of the Church and local community so that their splendid efforts are not always as well known to the Parish as they should be.

The Guild Budget for 1964 indicates the extent and variety of their work and is as follows:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|-------------------|
| Alaska | \$150.00 | |
| Liberia—Leper Colony | \$150.00 | |
| St. Christopher’s Mission, Bluff, Utah | \$150.00 | |
| St. Mary’s School, Wakpala, N.D. | \$150.00 | } Nursing Schools |
| St. Elizabeth’s School | \$150.00 | |
| Japanese Divinity Student | \$150.00 | |
| Panamanian Divinity Student | \$150.00 | |
| Okinawan Leper Children | <u>\$150.00</u> | |
| Total 1964 Budget | \$1,350.00 | |

This is quite an achievement to come from this dedicated group of people.

On Sunday, June 28, 1964 a single service will be held at 10 A. M. with overflow facilities available in the Parish House. That afternoon a reception and supper are planned to be held in the Sunnybrook Ballroom for the Rev. George A. Lineker and his wife.

It is with great regret that we are losing the services of one whose militant Christianity has been an inspiration to all who have known him. The increasing strength of the Church spiritually, materially and physically are testimony of the true greatness of this man we have been fortunate enough to know, pray and work with.

As we approach the end of this phase of Christ Church History, it is gratifying to be able to record that a successor to Mr. Lineker has been obtained.

The vestry appointed a committee to investigate, with the Bishop, all possible candidates in the Diocese and report their findings to the vestry. The committee recommended, unanimously, the Rev. Wilfred E. Penny, S.T.M. Rector of St. James Church, Prospect Park, Pa. Mr. Penny has accepted the call and assumes his duties on September 15th, 1964.

A very sad note must be recorded in the sudden death of The Rt. Rev. J. Gillespie Armstrong, Bishop of the Diocese. Succeeding him is the Rt. Rev. Robert L. Dewitt, who had assumed the duties of Bishop Coadjutor in April 1964, having been called from Detroit, Michigan.

The history of a church is a living thing and truly never ends, unless for some reason the doors are closed permanently, only the writing of its history has to stop periodically. The next chronicles of Christ Church history will have even greater strides of progress to record.

THE END

APPENDICES

- I Charter of Incorporation
- II Rectors of Christ Church
- III Bishops of the Diocese of Pennsylvania
- IV By-Laws of the Vestry of Christ Church
- V List of Memorials and Gifts
- VI Honor Rolls of World Wars I, and II

APPENDIX I

CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

OF CHRIST CHURCH IN THE BOROUGH OF POTTSTOWN IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

WHEREAS the following named citizens of this Commonwealth, viz: Robert E. Hobart, Charles W. Jolly, Clement S. Rutter, Furman S. Cook, Henry Potts, Robert E. Hobart, Jr., John Thomson, John Pearce, Thomas Child, Jacob Hubley, Francis Hubley, Charles H. Clay, James May, Thomas M. Brooke, Robert May, David Rutter, have together with other citizens, associated for the purpose of worshipping Almighty God, according to the faith and discipline of The Protestant Episcopal Church of the United States of America, and have for that purpose formed a congregation at Pottstown in Montgomery County and are now desirous to be incorporated agreeably to the provisions of the Act of the General Assembly of Pennsylvania, entitled "An Act, to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers and immunities of corporation of bodies politic in law." They therefore declare the following to be the objects, articles, and conditions of their said association, agreeably to which they desire to be incorporated, viz:

FIRST. The name of the Corporation shall be "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christ Church in the Borough of Pottstown.

SECOND. This Church acknowledges itself to be a member of and to belong to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, and the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America. As such, it accedes to, recognizes, and adopts the Constitution of that Church, and acknowledges its authority accordingly. Any member of this Church or Corporation who shall disclaim or refuse conformity to the said authority, shall cease to be a member of this incorporation and shall not be elected or vote in the election for Vestrymen, or exercise any office or function in, concerning, or connected with the said Church or Corporation.

THIRD. The rents and revenues of this Corporation shall be from time to time applied for the maintenance and support of the Rector, Ministers and Officers of the said Church, and in the erection and necessary repairs of the church and church-yard, and parsonage house and other houses which now do, or hereafter shall belong to the said Corporation, and to no other use or purpose whatsoever.

FOURTH. The said Corporation shall not by deed, fine or recovery, or by any other means, without the assent of the convention of the Protestant Episcopal Church in the State of Pennsylvania, or of the Standing Committee of the diocese, previously had and obtained, grant, alien, or otherwise dispose of any lands, messuages, tenements or hereditaments in them vested, nor charge, nor encumber the same to any person or persons whomsoever.

FIFTH. The Rector of this Church shall be elected by the Church Wardens and Vestrymen, in such manner as the Statutes and by-laws shall ordain. The Vestry of the said Church shall consist of five persons, members of the said Church, who shall continue in office for one year and until others be chosen, and the election of such Vestry shall be made every year on Easter Monday, by a majority of such members of the said Church as shall appear by the Vestry books to have paid two successive years immediately preceding the time of such election for a pew or sitting in the said Church, provided, that until the next Easter Monday after the expiration of five years from the date of this Charter, members of the said Church who shall in any way have contributed to the erection of the church, or to the support of the Rector or ministers thereof, shall be entitled to vote at the election of vestrymen. And provided that in case of the failure to elect vestrymen on that day, the corporation shall not on that account be dissolved, but the election shall be holden on some other day, in such manner as the by-laws may prescribe.

SIXTH. No person shall be the Rector or Assistant Minister of this Church unless he shall have had Episcopal ordination, and unless he be in full standing with the Protestant Episcopal Church of the State of Pennsylvania and of the United States and recognized as such by the Bishop of this Diocese, or in case of a vacancy, by the Standing Committee of the same.

SEVENTH. The said Vestry shall have full power to choose their own officers: and they shall annually at their first meeting after their election choose one of their own number to be Church Warden, and the Rector for the time being shall elect another of the said Vestrymen to be the other Church Warden of the said Church. In case of vacancy in the office of Rector, at the time of

election, the other Church Warden shall also be chosen by the Vestry, to remain until the election of a Rector, or a new election of the Vestry. And during such vacancy the Church Warden for the time being and Vestrymen shall have the same powers and authorities relating to the disposition of the rents and revenues of the said Corporation as are hereby vested in the Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen. Provided always, that it shall be the duty of the said Church Wardens and Vestrymen to elect another Rector to supply the vacancy as soon as conveniently may be.

EIGHTH. The seven following named persons to be the Church Wardens and Vestrymen to continue in office until the election on Easter Monday next, and until others be chosen, viz. Jacob Hubley, Robert E. Hobart, Church Wardens, Thomas Childs, Henry Potts, Furman S. Cook, David Rutter and Charles H. Clay.

NINTH. In case of the dissolution of this Corporation for any cause whatsoever, the lands, tenements, and other estate real and personal belonging thereto shall vest in the Bishop of the Protestant Episcopal Church in whose Diocese this Church may at the time be, and his successors to be by him and them held in trust for the benefit of a future congregation of members of the Protestant Episcopal Church, which may be formed in the same neighborhood, and upon the same principles as the present Church and this Corporation.

R. E. HOBART

CHARLES W. JOLLY

CLEM S. RUTTER

FURMAN S. COOK

HENRY POTTS

ROBERT E. HOBART, JR.

JOHN THOMSON

JOHN PEARCE D. RUTTER

THOMAS CHILD

JACOB HUBLEY

FRANCIS HUBLEY

CHARLES H. CLAY

JAMES MAY

ROBERT MAY

THOMAS M. BROOKE

D. RUTTER

I, the subscriber, Attorney-General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do certify that I have perused and examined the above instrument, and am of opinion, that the objects, articles and conditions therein set forth and contained, are lawful.
Reading, April the 30th, A.D. 1825.

FREDK. SMITH

*We, the subscribers, Judges of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify, and that we have perused and examined the above instrument, and we concur with the Attorney-General in his opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth are lawful.
Philadelphia, December the 15, 1825.*

*WM. TILGHMAN
JOHN B. GIBSON
THOS. DUNCAN*

Pennsylvania, ss.

*In the name and by the authority of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; I. Andrew ShuLze, Governor of said Commonwealth, to Isaac D. Barnard, Esqr., Secretary of said Commonwealth,
Greeting:*

J. Andrew ShuLze, Whereas it has been duly certified to me bY the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, that they have respectively perused and examined the above instrument for the incorporation of "The Rector, Church Wardens and Vestrymen of Christ Church in the Borough of Pottstown." And that they concur in the opinion, that the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained are lawful: Now know ye, that in pursuance of an Act of the General Assembly of this Commonwealth, passed on the sixth. day of April, A.D. 1791, entitled, "An act to confer on certain associations of the citizens of this Commonwealth, the powers an. immunities of corporations or bodies politic in Law," I have transmitted the said instrument of incorporation unto you, hereby requiring you to enroll the same at the expense of the applicants. To the intent that, according to the objects, articles, and conditions therein set forth and contained, the parties may become and be a corporation and body politic in law, and in fact; to have continuance by the name, style, and title in the said instrument provided and declared.

Given under my hand and the great seal of the state, at Harrisburg this first day of February in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six.

By the Governor,

*I.D. BARNARD
Secy. of Comth.*

Enrolled in the office of the secretary of the commonwealth in book No. page 39 which contains a record of acts incorporating diverse religious, charitable and literary societies under the authority of the act aforesaid.

Witness my hand and the lesser seal of the state, at Harrisburg, this first day of February in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and twenty-six.

I. D. BARNARD
Secy. of Comth.

Pennsylvania Eastern District

I, Joshua Raybold, Esquire, Prothonotary of the Supreme Court, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, do certify that the foregoing Charter of Incorporation² was presented to the Justices of the Supreme Court, and duly allowed as above set forth.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the said Court to be affixed, at Philadelphia, this Fifteenth Day of December A.D. 1825.

JOSHUA RAYBOLD

APPENDIX II
RECTORS OF CHRIST CHURCH
POTTSTOWN, PA.

Tenure

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Rev. George Mintzer | 1829-1836 probably |
| 2. Rev. John Reynolds | Not known exactly |
| 3. Rev. William Homman | Not known exactly |
| 4. Rev. Henry F. M. Whitesides | 1837.1839 |
| 5. Rev. Oliver Shaw | 1839- 1840 |
| 6. Rev. George Barker | 1841-1843 |
| 7. Rev. Edward P. Jones | 1843-1844 |
| 8. Rev. Edmund Leaf | 1844.1858 |
| 9. Rev. Aaron Chrjstman | 1858-1859 |
| 10. Rev. Samuel Edwards | 1859 1863 |
| 11. Rev. George A. Latimer | 1863-1868 |
| 12. Rev. S. H. Galledet | 1868-1870 |
| 13. Rev. Byron McGann | 1870-1877 |
| 14. Rev. Daniel F. Warren | 1877-1884 |
| 15. Rev. A. J. Arnold | 1884-1889 |
| 16. Rev. Charles L. Cooder | 1890- 1900 |

| | |
|----------------------------|------------|
| 17. Rev. Frederick Jewell | 1900-1912 |
| 18. Rev. Stanley R. West | 1913-1924 |
| 19. Rev. John Doyle | 1924-1926 |
| 20. Rev. Caleb Cresson | 1927-1930 |
| 21. Rev. Albert H. Holt | 193 1-1940 |
| 22. Rev. George A. Lineker | 1941-1964 |

APPENDIX III
BISHOPS OF THE DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA
1787-1964

| | Tenure |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|
| 1. Rt. Rev. William White | 1787-1836 |
| 2. Rt. Rev. Henry Ustick Onderdonk | 1836-1858 |
| 3. Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter | 1858-1865 |
| 4. Rt. Rev. Samuel Bowman | |
| 5. Rt. Rev. William Bacon Stevens | 1865-1887 |
| 6. Rt. Rev. Ozi William Whitaker | 1887-19 11 |
| 7. Rt. Rev. Alexander Mackay Smith | 1911- |
| 8. Rt. Rev. Philip Mercer Rhinelander | 1911-1923 |
| 9. Rt. Rev. Thomas James Garland | 1924- 193 1 |
| 10. Rt. Rev. Francis Marion Taite | 1931-1943 |
| 11. Rt. Rev. Oliver James Hart | 1943-1963 |
| 12. Rt. Rev. J. Gillespie Armstrong | 1963-1964 |
| 13. Rt. Rev. Robert L. DeWitt | 1964- |

APPENDIX IV
of the
VESTRY OF CHRIST CHURCH

POTTSTOWN, PA.
*(Adopted Tuesday evening, June 29, 1847, by Vestry meeting in basement
of Church)*
FIRST

RELATIVE TO MEETINGS

The Vestry shall hold stated meetings on the first Mondays of March, June, September and December of each year.

Special meetings may be called by the Rector, at his own option, or at the request of one Warden, or two members of the Vestry. In the absence of a Rector, a meeting may be called by one of the Wardens or shall be called at the request of two members.

A majority of the Vestry shall have power to transact business a any meeting.

SECOND

DUTIES OF THE CLERK

It shall be the duty of the clerk to make an accurate record of all the proceedings of the Vestry in a suitable book, which shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Rector, Wardens, two members of the Vestry. He shall also give due notice of the time and place of meeting when requested to do so by the Rector or Wardens.

THIRD

DUTIES OF THE TREASURER

The treasurer shall receive pew rents and all other revenues of the Church, and shall keep a correct account of all receipts and payments. This account shall be open to the inspection of the Rector, Wardens, and members of the Vestry.

He shall also pay the salary of the Rector at the end of each quarter, namely at the end of March, June, September, and December of each year.

FOURTH

DUTIES OF AUDITORS

At the meeting of the Vestry on the first Monday of March of each year, a committee shall be appointed to examine and audit the accounts of the treasurer, and shall make the report to the Vestry on Easter Monday.

FIFTH

RELATIVE TO PEWS, ETC.

The Vestry, or committee appointed by the Vestry, shall establish the rents of the Pews on Easter Monday for the year then commencing. These rents shall be paid at the end of each quarter, and in case of failure to pay, the treasurer shall report the same to the Vestry at their next stated meeting.

SIXTH

RELATIVE TO DEPUTIES

Deputies to the Diocesan Convention shall be chosen by Ballot, and the majority of the votes of the members present shall constitute a choice.

No person shall be eligible to the office of Deputy unless he shall be a Communicant of the Church.

SEVENTH
RELATIVE TO BURIALS

Any member of the Congregation shall be entitled to the right of burial in the Graveyard, permission having been obtained from one Warden, and one member of the Vestry, or from two members to break ground.

Other persons shall be entitled to the right of burial after having obtained permission from the Rector or Wardens, by paying the sum of two dollars for breaking ground.

APPENDIX V
CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS

WINDOWS —

LARGE WINDOW — Behind Altar

FAITH — HOPE AND CHARITY THESE THREE

In Memoriam

ANNA POTTS HOBART
Born September 29, 1792
Died April 10, 1869

In Memoriam

SARAH POTTS HOBART
Born December 18, 1798
Died February 2, 1872

LARGE WINDOW — NORTH END OF CHURCH

To the Glory of God — And in Memory of

ROBERT ENOCH HOBART — Born June 2, 1796
Died May 20, 1869

BAPTISTRY — 2 WINDOWS

To the Glory of God

In Memory of VIRGINIA S. BOSWORTH

WINDOWS — WEST SIDE — FROM FRONT TO REAR

#1 In Memoriam

SAMUEL POTTS

#2 In Memoriam

RUTH ANNA POTTS

#3 and #4 FOR OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

To the Glory of God and in Grateful Sacred Memory of

ALICE STANNEY MILLS
December 2, 1854 — December 15, 1915

#5 and #6 I AM THE RESURRECTION AND THE LIFE

To the Glory of God, In Loving Memory of

MARY JANE WATSON
October 17, 1870 — February 3, 1945

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS (Continued)

WINDOWS — EAST SIDE — FROM FRONT TO REAR

#7 and #8 *To the Glory of God and To the Glory of God and in Memory*
in Memory of of
BYRON MCGANN MARY E. MCGANN

#9 and #10 *In Memoriam In Memoriam*
JOHN P. RUTTER EMILY P. RUTTER
1797-1870

1804-1867#11 and #12 GLORY TO GOD IN THE HIGHEST
and on Earth Peace Good Will toward Men

To the Glory of God and in Sacred Grateful Memory of
ELLIS MILLS

March 20, 1846 — December 22, 1916

#13 and #14 *To the Glory of God 1911-1939 HENRY KULP*
and in Loving Memory of Organist ANCONA
and Choirmaster 1894-1939
Vestryman and Accounting Warden
1921-1939

VESTIBULE WINDOWS (two)

South side Vestibule
To the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of
HANNAH LEES MILLS
1819-1893

West Side Vestibule
To the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of
ELLEN STANNEY
1825-1907

SMALL WINDOW — FRONT — ABOVE AUDITORIUM TABLET (IN
AMBULATORY)

REV. BYRON MCGANN

For nearly Seven years rector of this Church died March 12 A.D., 1877 in the 50th
year of his age.

He was a man of eminent virtues, a Minister of exemplary Godliness, fidelity and
unwavering zeal, a pastor of diligence, tenderness and discretion.

His parishioners have erected this memorial tablet as a token of their admiration
and lasting love.

REREDOS

In Memoriam

ARTHUR WILLIAM MORRIS

Born August 24, 1877 — Died April 24, 1878

BIBLE (ON LECTERN)

Presented to

Christ Church — Pottstown

In Loving Memory of

KATHARINE C. SHEWELL PRICE
EDITH DUDLEY MEIGS

KATHARINE RODMAN PATTERSON
HELEN MARY BRECK

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS (Continued)

BOOK FOR ALTAR SERVICE THE HOLY COMMUNION

Easter Day — A.D. 1891 by
Joseph and Anne Shewell Bailey
To The Greater Glory of God and In Loving Memory of
ELIZABETH MINTZER (Hobart) MORRIS
Who entered into the Higher Life — April 1, 1896

ALTAR

To the Glory of God and in Memory
of
ELLEN GOODIN HOBART
Entered into Life Eternal
August 6—A.D. 1897 — R.I.P.

SEAT (Near Pulpit)
To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of
JOSEPH J. N. BASSETT
1833-1898

PRAYER BENCH IN
FRONT OF PEWS

In Loving Memory of
CHARLOTTE NEIMAN
ALTENDERFER
Entered into Life Eternal
July 22, 1901
Jesu Mersi

HYMN BOARD
(East Side—Near Side Entrance)
In Memoriam
LAURA W. CUNNINGHAM
Presented by the G.F.S.
1914

PRAYER BENCH IN CHANCEL

(Near Organ)
To the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of
CHRISTIANA B. BASSETT
1835-1916

LECTERN
To the Glory of God and in Memory
JOSEPH HARTSHORNE
1852-1918

DYPTICH

To the Glory of God
and in Loving Memory of
CLARENCE L. KUPP
1892-1918
(outside)
This Altar Book is given by
Clarence L. Kupp
in Memory of
CLARENCE L. KUPP
and his Mother
OLIVIA C. KUPP

CHIMES

The Organ Chimes
Dedicated to the Glory of God and
in Loving Memory of
EMMA TUCKER ANCONA
EDWARD PERCIVAL ANCONA
The gift of their son,
Charles Percival Ancona
MCMXXII

CREDENCE TABLE

In Loving Memory of
EMILY WEBER CUNNINGHAM
Presented by the Altar Guild (1929)

LECTERN AND PULPIT
LIGHTS
Dedicated to the Glory of God and
in Sacred Memory of
CHARLES PERCIVAL ANCONA
MCMXXVI

PAIR ALTAR VASES
(Given by Mrs. Arnold Watson)

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*

JOHN B. LEES 1916-1942

MEMORIAL TABLET (DEBT PAYMENT)

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

| | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| John B. Lees | Harry Campbell | Helene Maack |
| Russell H. Shelly | Mary H. R. Campbell | Ellis Mills |
| John C. F. Ackerman | Henry K. Ancona | Alice Stanney Mills |
| Newton R. Turner | Harry S. Bartman | W. Montague Merrick |
| Ettie H. Bowen | Ellen Stanney Mills | Christiana B. Bassett |
| C. Hassall Bowen | George E. Schade | |

The Debt on this building was paid December 24, 1944

A Grateful Parish gives thanks for
the Generous Gifts and Diligent Efforts
of Members and Friends who made this possible.

THE CANDELABRA OF THE CHURCH

To the Glory of God and in Sacred Memory of

2nd Lieut. GEORGE EDGAR SCHADE, U.S.A.A.F. Lost in Action

January 18, 1944

The Candelabra of this Church are Lovingly Given and Dedicated by the
Bible Class and His Family

THE RECTORY (1949)

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*

WILLIAM ELLIS MILLS

The Rectory of this Church is
given by His Family

ALTAR RAIL CUSHIONS

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*

HARRY ADDISON WATSON

the Altar Rail Cushions are
Dedicated
MCML

ROOD ARCH WINDOW

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*

EMLIE SAYLOR POTTS

and

HARLAN LEONARD POTTS

The Rood Arch Window of this
Church is Dedicated
1951

THE SANCTUARY LAMP

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*

PAUL SIDNEY ATKINS

The Sanctuary Lamp
in this Church was Dedicated
MCMLI

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS (Continued)
SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*
ELIZABETH MARY
BASSETT
a generous Gift by Her Family
help to make these school rooms
possible

*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*
ELEANOR V. HOLLOWAY
these Sunday School rooms were
made possible in part by a
memorial request from her son
— Ralph P. Holloway

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
GEORGE C. LEES
a gift by his daughter — Elizabeth Lees Watson — helped to make these
school rooms possible M C M L V

FIVE BRANCH
CANDELABRA
*To the Glory of God and In
Loving Memory of*
RAYMOND H. PIERSOL
The Five Branch Candelabra
were given
by his Mother and Sisters
1958

AMERICAN FLAG
*To the Glory of God and in
Loving Memory of*
MORGAN ROWLAND REES
this Flag is Dedicated September
1960

CRUETS
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
G. WASHINGTON SANDS
and
CHARLES P. GOCHNAUR
these Cruets were given by their children Mr. and Mrs. Charles R.
Gochnaur
Christ Eve 1958

MISSAL, PRAYER BOOK, BAPTISMAL CRUCIFIX
The Missal, Prayer Book, and Baptismal Crucifix in this Church are
given to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
Lucy MARY DAVEY, JOHN TANNER DAVEY, MIRIAM LUCY
WHITE, JOHN RAYMOND)AVLY
by Mrs. Charles Bloom Ascensiontide 1961

PAIR ALTAR VASES
(given by his children, Robert H. Shaner, Jr., William M. Shaner,
and Julia S. Preston, 1962)
To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of
ROBERT H. SHANER

RECORD PLAYER
in Memory of FRANCIS S. BINDER
presented in 1962 by his brother, Wilfred S. Binder

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS (Continued)

PASCHAL CANDLE

To the Glory of God and in Memoriam

BAPTISMAL BOWL

To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of

AMY A. GILL

this Baptismal Bowl was presented by The Bible Class — 1963

The following are Memorials, which are worn, but cannot be destroyed, and are stored at The Montgomery County Bank & Trust Company.

BIBLE

Christ Church Pottstown

December 20, 1872

(on outside of cover)

Presented to

Christ Church Pottstown by

SAMUEL P. RUTTER and wife

December 20, 1872

(on inside of cover)

COMMON PRAYER (BOOK)

Christ Church Pottstown

December 20, 1872 (on outside

cover)

Presented to

Christ Church Pottstown by

SAMUEL P. RUTTER and wife

December 20, 1872

(inside cover)

ALTAR SERVICE

Christ Church Pottstown

(on cover)

Presented to

Christ Church Pottstown by SAMUEL P. RUTTER and wife

December 20, 1872 (on the cover)

THE COLLECTS, EPISTLES AND) GOSPELS WITH THE ORDER
FOR HOLY COMMUNION

To the Glory of God and in

Loving Memory of

ELIZABETH M. H. MORRIS

Entered into Life

1 April 1896

(inside)

Christ Church Pottstown

(on cover)

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH MEMORIALS (Continued)

ALMS BASONS (1956)

In Loving Memory of
JAMES ROBERT HENRY
in Loving Memory of GEORGE
HOLLIS and ELEANOR
MORRISON BLAKE
and WILLIAM HENRY
STEWART
in Loving Memory of
JOHN M. JOHNSON

In Loving Memory of
GEORGE and BARBARA
SLJCHOZA
In Loving Memory of
LAURA and JOHN STRANGE
Presented by
Earl R. and Geraldine E. Strange
In Loving Memory of
ISAAC THOMAS
Presented by
The Adult Bible Class

The list of memorials shows that about everything offering memorial opportunity has already been covered. The Endowment of Christ Church is quite small so the following Endowment Plaque has been placed in the vestibule of Christ Church with the idea that parishioners would desire to add to the Endowment Fund and be recognized by a plate added to the Plaque.

ENDOWMENT PLAQUE

The Endowment of Christ Episcopal Church has been made to the Glory of God and Love of this Parish by Bequests of or Memorials to the following

MARGUERITE K. BOONE
H. LEONARD POTTS
JEAN W. BASSETT
Lest We Forget

MARGARET EWING
EAGELTON
EMLIE SAYLOR POTTS
GEORGE C. LEES
Lest We Forget

APPENDIX VI

HONOR ROLL—FIRST WORLD WAR

| | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------------|
| Carl Altenderfer | Clarence L. Kupp | Richard M. Sands |
| C. Raymond | George L. Kupp | Russell H. Shelly |
| Cooper | Douglas Leaf | Melvin D. |
| C. W. Eliason | Hunter Leaf | Thompson |
| John W. Guest, Jr. | Richard D. Leaf | V. B. Twaddell |
| Ralph Guest | Stuart M. Link | Sanford E. Vedder |
| Howard Hailman | William Quinter | W. D. Vedder, Jr. |
| Harry Hoffman | William Rightnour | Stanley R. West |
| W. Carl Kauffman | | John H. Whelan, Jr. |

APPENDIX VI

HONOR ROLL—SECOND WORLD WAR

| | | |
|-----------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|
| Harold M. Ackerman | Marlan Giles | Herbert R. Maack |
| H. Whitney Anderson | H. Melvin Gingrich | Fooh Martin |
| Ralph H. Averill | Dexter P. Gresh | William E. Mills, Jr. |
| Gabriel T. Baro | Phillip M. Gresh | William F. Moyer |
| Edward J. Bartholomew | William K. Gresh | C. Peyton Nicholson |
| Donald S. Bartman | Ralph H. Hamilton, Jr. | Samuel T. Nicholson, III |
| Samuel J. Bachelor | John A. Harter | Arthur C. Palmer |
| Thomas N. Bachelor | Richard High | John G. Pender |
| Carl M. Binder | William R. Hinton | William P. Pender |
| George Bolton | Worth Hinton | R. Graham Price |
| Ernest H. Brennimin | William A. Huey, III | David M. Rutter |
| Richard H. Brown | Herbert M. Kempton | James G. Sands |
| Dennjson K. Bullens | Emerson L. Kirlin | George E. Schade |
| Richard Carter | Brower L. Knaster | Francis R. Shelly |
| Henry J. Colbath, Jr. | David W. Knowles | James H. Shelly |
| John S. Collier | John C. Kupp | Earl W. Smith, Jr. |
| Margaret Constantine | Paul Kuszyk | John E. Snider |
| George M. Cook | Michael Kuszyk | Phillip C. Snider |
| Arthur E. Cooley | Walter S. Kuszyk | Earl R. Strange, Jr. |
| David B. Cooley | Kenneth L. Leh | Jack R. Strange |
| William O. | George W. Lightcap | Joseph E. Tagert |
| Cunningham, Jr. | Maurice A. Lightcap | Rudolph Thomas |
| G. Robert Dorang | Stanley R. Lightcap | Robert E. Warfel |
| John D. Dorang | Vernest K. Lightcap | Harlan L. P. Wendell |
| E. Rossiter Fait | G. Bruce Lineker | James I. Wendell, Jr. |
| Roberte Falardeau | H. Ralph Maack | John P. Wendell |
| Ralph H. Foltz | | |