

**CHRIST  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH**

**POTTSTOWN, PA**



**THE  
HISTORY<sup>1</sup>**

**Prepared By  
Robert E. Day, P. E.**

**March 1997**

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<sup>1</sup> See end of document for editors comments

# Forward



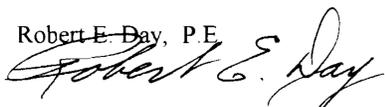
Christ Church, Pottstown, has had a long and distinguished life. The History of the Church may be the story of the abiding love of Jesus Christ emanating from its historical records; records of people who gave their all, like the Churchwomen who sewed and made meals to raise money so that the Church could survive some of the hard times that inevitably occurred. The combination of very dedicated parishioners and committed Rectors has made this Church special. It was not easy in the beginning. Consider, for example, that travel from Pottstown to Philadelphia was by horseback and by stagecoach, then by flat boat, later by train, and of course now we do not consider it a trip, only a commute. Men like the Rev. Levi Bull and Fr. Charles Cooder preached here when the Country was young and vigorous. They were followed by the leadership of Rectors such as the warm-hearted Irishman and World War I Aviator Fr. John Doyle; the Rev. Albert Holt during the depression and pre-war years of the 30's; British subject, wounded war hero and trained-in-India Lieutenant of the British Calvary, the Rev. George Lineker for the next 23 years; the and intensely personable and effective Fr. Wilfred until 1969; and now a great preacher/teacher Fr. Morton.

My wife Sylvia and I had only been at the Church for six months when we became aware, based on conversations with Candace Woessner, that the Church could use a substantial amount of grant money in order to maintain this very beautiful and historic structure. However, grant applications require historical information. The impetus for this history was then born and Erma Magee and others provided the documentation that was needed to proceed. About two months and 300 hours (and still counting) of logged computer time later, the work was completed.

This History will be a *Living History* partly because of the flexibility of the application software. Additional information that is secured for any past period in time can easily be added/inserted as it is provided. Most important, each year the History will be updated when the Reports are produced. And the History is on a diskette with the Master Diskette in the Church Office that anyone in the future can continue the work<sup>2</sup>. There will never be a need to start over again.

You will find the reading of this material both a humbling and inspiring experience as you review the lives of all these wonderful people who have attempted to make this Church truly Christ's Church. Personal thanks are extended to Robert and Erma Magee, William and Mary Ann Lawrence, Donaldeen Penny, Susan Banker, Ralph and Robin Rhoads, Bruce Madera, Candace Woessner, Robert Shaner, Jr., Ginny Slichter, and others who reviewed the text and offered suggestions as the work was finalized; and to my wife, Sylvia, who critiqued the material in progress.

Robert E. Day, P.E.



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<sup>2</sup> Note – this is now maintained on the Parish website and in its historical archives. Any following references to versions of computers or tools should be ignored.

# TABLE OF CONTENTS



	Page
Chapter 1	
Preface	6
Introduction	9
1964	11
1965	13
1966	15
1967	16
1968	21
1969	23
1970	25
1971	27
1972	29
1973	32
1974	34
1975	36
1976	38
1977	40
1978	42
1979	43
1980	44
1981	46
1982	48
1983	50
1984	51
1985	53
1986	55
1987	57
1988	59
1989	60
Chapter 2	
1990	67
Chapter 3	
1991	70
1992	73
1993	76
1994	79
1995	82
1996	85

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Continued)

Appendix A	Staff, Wardens, Vestry	90
Appendix B	Rectors and Bishops	99
Appendix C	Church History Highlights	101
Appendix D	Statistics	113
Appendix E	Memorials	115
Appendix F	Baptisms, Confirmations, Marriages, Deaths	129

**CHRIST  
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**PREFACE**

# CHURCH HISTORY



## PREFACE

When visiting Christ Episcopal Church, Pottstown PA, even the most casual visitor will become aware of a Parish with an apparent: (1) strong love for Jesus Christ, (2) compassion for people in need both within the Parish and in the surrounding Community, and (3) ecumenical spirit. This Church may be unique in a world in which many of the churches are infiltrated by secular humanism, political correctness, and social engineering at the expense of Biblical inerrancy and absolute values. Christ Episcopal Church has been a landmark in the Borough of Pottstown, Pennsylvania since the Governor signed the application for a Charter on February 1, 1826. The first church building was erected in 1833, consecrated by Rt. Rev. H. U. Onderdonk, D. D. Assistant Bishop of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and Christ Church was admitted into the Diocese in 1829, the twenty-seventh parish to be admitted. The building lot for the present Church Building was purchased under the leadership of Reverend Edmund Leaf and the Church was consecrated November 24, 1846. Over the next 100 years a succession of Rectors served the Church body for relatively short terms until Reverend George A. Lineker came to Christ Church in 1941 which might be considered the beginning of the modern age. He served during the difficult years of World War II and the Church grew under his leadership. His tenure ended with his retirement in 1964 at which time the Reverend Wilfred F. Penny became Rector.

During the first Century of its existence the people of Christ Church contributed greatly to the community. For example, the Reverend Charles Cooder was especially active in the sponsoring of church groups in the 1890's including: the Brotherhood of St Andrews in 1891, the Girls' Friendly Society in 1895, the High Street mission in 1895, a Sewing School for Poor Girls in 1896 with 175 enrollees, and the Junior Girls' Friendly Society in 1898. A group of ten young women from Christ Church were responsible in 1888 for the creation of what is now the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center by raising funds and public awareness. Christ Church has continued to serve the community throughout the twentieth century, and this spirit continues unabated to this day. A prime example is the co-founding and leadership of Fr. Penny in the Cluster of Religious Communities, an ecumenical ministry in Pottstown, that shares with other Churches in Pottstown, in the serving of meals on a weekly schedule for people in need.

Two hard cover volumes have been written documenting the history of Christ Church from its beginning in the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century to 1964. One was written by William Herbert Price covering the period 1826 to 1948<sup>3</sup>, and it was published in 1940. The other was written by Morison Blake, essentially updating the previous historical records and expanding the history to 1964. We owe an immense debt of gratitude to these two men whose efforts preserved the important history of this Church.

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<sup>3</sup> Note – actually 1939. It is a typo in the original.

The purpose of this work is to bring the history up to date with an open-ended format that will permit annual updating. Fortunately we are in the information age with personal computers; thus, the records can be maintained on magnetic medium for ease and permanence of storage. The Word Processing software used is Corel Word Perfect 7 for Windows 95.

The source material for this work has been taken directly from the annual reports that have been produced by the committee chairman and the Rector since the Rev. Wilfred F. Penny came to the Church in 1964. The reports have been summarized by highlighting key events for the purpose of manageability. To explore further details of reported activities, the reader is directed to the Annual Reports that are on file in the Church Office.

Note: A brief review of the life of the Reverend George A. Lineker is in order because his tenure ended in mid-1964, the year that the Rev. Wilfred F. Penny became the Rector of Christ Church. The Rev. Lineker was born in England in 1899, moved to Canada and served in the Canadian Army in War I as a Sergeant and a machine gunner. In the Battles of Vimy Ridge and Lens he was the victim of a mustard gas attack and was hospitalized and treated in England. After treatment, he went to India where he attended the Wellington Military College and, upon graduation, was awarded a commission as Second Lieutenant in the Calvary. Returning to Canada, he served in the Canadian Army then resigned and worked in private industry. He emigrated from Canada to the Reading Pa. area and was ordained a Priest in 1933. Before coming to Christ Church, he had been Rector of St. Barnabas Parish in Reading, Chaplain of Hannah Moore Academy, and Rector of St. Thomas Church in Hancock, Maryland. Christ Church experienced a tremendous growth under the Rev. Lineker's tenure that had not been experienced before, nor has it been equaled, since his retirement.

**A message from the author:** Let us all remember through good times and bad that God is Sovereign; thus, He is in charge. The Bible tells us that all are sinners in the eyes of God because of the fall of Adam for the sin of disobedience. For his disobedience, God evicted both Adam and Eve from the Garden. As a consequence, all humanity is born with a sinful nature. In the Old Testament, the method to gain God's Grace was to obey the Mosaic Laws. Perfect animals were sacrificed for repentance for the inevitable failures to obey these laws. In the New Testament, we are taught that God sent his son Jesus to preach, teach, and then die for the sins of the world, and that everyone who repents and receives him as Lord and Savior shall have eternal life.

John 3:16 confirms the above in a few words: *"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall have eternal life - John 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life and I Myself will raise him up on the last day. And verse 44: "No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. John 14:6 "Jesus said to him. I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through me. Romans 8:36 "and whom He predestined these He also called, and whom He called, these He also justified and whom He justified these He also glorified. "Praise the Lord!*

# **CHRIST CHURCH HISTORY**



## **Chapter I**

### **The Rev. Wilfred Penny Years**



# CHAPTER I



## INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 of this History covers the Reverend Wilfred F Penny years. The History provides a summary of the important events that occurred within Christ Church as reported by the Rector and the committee chairmen in their annual reports. In addition to clergy reports, the committee reports include: Church Choir, Christian Education, Worship, Episcopal Churchwomen, Men's Club, Mission Guild, Prayer Guild, Girls' Friendly Society, Youth Club, Church Property, and Finance. There is some variation from year to year based on reported activities. As more committees were added, their reported activities were included. Appendix A, at the end of the historical section provides a yearly listing of the Staff, the Wardens, and the Vestry for each year.

Father Penny stated in 1981 that:

*"Diaries and journals evidently have become rare. Our annual reports for the past 18 years are a veritable gold mine of information for future historians of Christ Church, Pottstown."*

The Rev. George Lineker, the previous Rector, accomplished a great service to Christ Church from 1940 until his retirement in 1963 at the age of 65. His story is told in Morison Blake's history of the Church published in the year 1964, and summarized in the Preface to this document. After a thorough search, following the retirement of the Rev. Lineker, the Vestry, with the assistance of the Bishop, unanimously selected the Rev. F. Wilfred Penny as Rector of Christ Church. He was installed as the Rector of Christ Church in September of 1964.

Fr. Penny's parents were from Newfoundland, but he was born in Harrisburg, Pa., and graduated from Erasmus Hall High School and Manual Training High School in Brooklyn New York.

He attended Carroll College in Waukesha, Wisconsin and then Nashotah House Theological Seminary School in Nashotah, Wisconsin. His graduate studies included work at Columbia University, Union Theological Seminary in New York City, Philadelphia Divinity School Graduate Department, the University of Pennsylvania, in addition to Nashotah House. He received his Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Divinity, and Master of Sacred Theology degrees, and was actively concluding work on his Doctorate of Ministry at Lancaster Theological Seminary in Lancaster, Pa. just prior to his death.

Fr. Penny was ordained to the Priesthood on February 2, 1942 at the Cathedral in Garden City, Long Island, New York. At graduation he was appointed Vicar of St. James Mission in Franklin



Square, Long Island. In 1948 he became Rector of St. Ignatius of Antioch in New York City and in December of 1954, he became Rector of St. James Episcopal Church, Prospect Park, Pa. Fr. Penny arrived in Pottstown with his wife Donaldeen and four children, ages one to eleven years: Gregory, Christopher, Michaela, and Kevin.

During his tenure at Christ Church, Fr. Penny's influence was felt throughout the Diocese and beyond. He was Director of the Valley Forge Youth Conference, a member of the Diocesan Council of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, a member and leader of the Bishop's Ecumenical Committee on Episcopal/Roman Catholic Relations and a member of the Philadelphia Clericus. He was past President of the Pottstown Clerical Union, a member of the Church History Society, (to name only a few organizations), and he received many prestigious awards for his community service. In Pottstown, he helped found the Cluster of Religious Communities, the Drop-in Center for troubled youths that met at the Parish, later becoming a crises intervention center that was later taken over by Montgomery County. He had a passion for ecumenicalism and was responsible for coordinating all of the ecumenical relations as Ecumenical Officer of the Diocese of Pennsylvania. Fr. Penny was the driving force behind the foundation of the Pottstown Area Seniors' Center and served as its President when it opened in 1976. He helped establish the Chaplain Program at the Pottstown Memorial Medical Center in the mid-1970's. He was noted in the community as a pastor to everyone, and he found time to be a long distance runner and an avid swimmer. Adding to all of these attributes he was first and foremost a lover of the Lord Jesus Christ and a great family man. He was reported to have said that *"the world worships money, prestige, and shallow sophistication."* Father Penny lived for the true values of *love, compassion, and service to others.*



# CHAPTER I

## The Year of Our Lord 1964

This was the first Rector's report for the Rev. Penny who had only been at Christ Church since the middle of September. During the interim time after the Rev. Lineker's retirement, the Rev Holt the Church Perpetual Deacon, performed many of the duties as interim pastor with assistance from local Rectors. The Rev. Holt's deacon's report indicated that he had assisted in 87 morning services, 43 evening services and gave several sermons. The Institution of the Reverend Penny as the Rector was performed by Bishop Oliver J. Hart.

During the late fall, the Parish participated in an intensive self-study program along with all parishes in the Diocese. A team from the National Council was to analyze the reports and produce an evaluation and set of recommendations.

Charles R. Gochnaur, the Rector's Warden, thanked the Vestry for a superb job in keeping the ship afloat through this very troublesome year. The problems were compounded by the Resignation of the Assistant Rector, the Rev. James R. Leo, who was thought to have been a candidate to succeed (he preferred to be addressed as Padre, not Father) Lineker but declined because he believed he did not have sufficient experience to assume the responsibilities. Instead, he went to a Parish in Larchmont, N .Y. as an Assistant Rector.

Kay Charles was president of the Altar Guild and reported that, during the year, material for new vestments were purchased. The women of the Church volunteered to make the vestments and the altar linens.

Eric Penketh, Choir Director, reported on the major activities of the two choirs. The two major events for the choirs were: (1) the support of the retirement service for the Rev. Lineker and (2) the singing at the installation service for the Rev. Penny. An impassioned plea for members was made with the suggestion that the choir take in more younger members for training.

The Church School attendance figures were presented by Executive Superintendent John E. Hane showing 171 children per Sunday for the year 1964. There were 149 students promoted on 'Promotion Sunday' in May, and 58 received attendance awards of the Cross and Crown Pin and Bars. The school ended the year fiscally in the black by \$449.27. Hazel Brower reported on the success of the Bible Story time. Volunteer song leaders and story tellers gathered with children from grades one to three before the offering on Sunday and participated in the activities. The adult Bible class was held on Sundays after the Family Service under the guidance of Gilbert R. Lewis.

Mrs. Bruce E. Roberts reported a banner year for the Churchwomen, obviously the backbone of the Church. Activities that they sponsored included: Spring Supper, Sewing Guild Soup Sales, Spring Rummage Sale, Card Party, Bowling Banquet, Hoagie Sale, Fall Rummage Sale, Fall Supper, and Penny-a-meal Boxes, for a total value of \$2076 collected for the support of the Church. The sewing guild made pies and cookies, sewed 37 aprons, made nylon puffs, produced 500 cancer



pads, and 60 hospital gowns, under the direction of Mrs. Frank Ackerman. Mrs. George Brower, Mrs. William Fryer, Mrs. Ethel Brown, Mrs. William Peach all gave generously of their time and talents with Mrs. Kenneth Schaeffer as Parish Guild Chairman.

The Mission Guild supported several individuals and schools in places such as Alaska, a leper colony in Okinawa, an Indian School in South Dakota and a mission in Liberia. An Alaskan gift was sent for the ordination of the first Eskimo to be ordained in that Diocese.

A substantial amount of maintenance work was performed on both the Church and Rectory properties. The Church Property work was supervised by George J. Brower, Church Property Chairman. The Rectory work was under the direction of James N. Shelly.

It was noted before the Annual Meeting that communicants in good standing are "voters" as defined by the By-laws as follows: *"The members of the Corporation, who shall be qualified to vote at any election for Vestrymen and all questions which may come before any meeting of the Corporation, shall be all lay Baptized persons of the age of 18 years or upwards who shall have been worshipers in this as their usual place of worship for one year and upwards, and who shall appear by the books of the Corporation to have contributed towards the current expenses of the Corporation during each of two years successive years preceding such election. (In later years the requirement for 'contributing' was reduced to one year.)"*



## The Year of Our Lord 1965

The Reverend Penny reported that the Reverend Emeritus George A. Lineker and his wife had moved to Delaware. Fr. Penny also reported how much he appreciated this new friendship with the Reverend Emeritus. An event of outstanding significance, and the major event of the year for the Church, was the first annual Agape for Christian Unity dinner at Sunnybrook. There were 1500 people who braved a raging snow storm to attend. This ecumenical outreach program was initiated by Fr. Penny and was one of the many of his outstanding achievements.

The Executive Council of the Diocese completed the analysis of the Parish Self-study, and the recommendations that were developed were presented to the Vestry. A few of the suggestions for improvement of the Church were cited as follows: (a) the number of members in the church needed to be clarified because the Church attendance was only 28% of the baptized strength; (b) each Sunday School class should have two trained and qualified teachers; (c) because 20% of the reported communicant strength did not attend church services, suggest teams should call on drop-outs, after they had been trained on the subject of the mission of the Church; (d) the dollars pledged per unit was exceptionally low and it was recommended that the members be taught the reason and purpose of Christ Church (and Biblical Christianity) so that sacrificial giving would become the norm. The Report ended with the comment: *"a more complete understanding of the Gospel and the opportunities the members have in ministry to Pottstown and its area contribute to more realistic support.* A committee was formed to do a research project that would address the problems. Fr. Penny expressed gratitude for the assistance from the Rev. Dr. Kenneth Slagle and the Rev. Allen E. Jr. during the past year.

The Rector's Warden, Charles R. Gochneur, reported that Miss Priscilla Hescock, a professional educator, became the Director of Religious Education. A committee was formed to study the present physical property and its adaptation to growth. The budget was increased for 1966 because of higher operating costs.

Eric Penketh reported on the activities of the choir that included a reorganization of the Chapel Choir. He discussed the organization of an Adult choir for the family service. All midweek and combined-Sunday musical services would have a combined choir on duty. The Rector, Miss Hescock, Mrs. Jane Lou Hallowell, and Mrs. Geraldine Strange were given special thanks. Priscilla Hescock, the new Director of Religious Education, gave a comprehensive report on the educational accomplishments by grade level. Between 150 and 175 children attended the classes each week. There were 10 classes with a staff of 20 teachers. A well organized curriculum taking the child from Kindergarten to Senior High School was presented in the report. An extensive 10 week leadership training course was given for teachers followed by a demonstration class and workshop. Liturgical family days were celebrated for All Hallows Eve with all in costumes. Celebrations were held for Advent and Epiphany Evening. It was reported that these liturgical days received newspaper coverage. Priscilla concluded her report with a quotation from a message given by the Rev. John Heuss, Rector of Trinity Parish in New York, some years ago, as to the four ways to improve parish life in America:



*(1) worship the Lord reverently, (2) communicate the truth of the Gospel both internally (Christian Education) and externally (outreach), (3) provide more reasonable lay leadership, and (4) live as Christians to show a witness to the Lord*

The adult Sunday School was taught by the Reverend Dr. Kenneth Slagle and Gilbert Lewis. They concentrated on the contemporary social issues that face today's Church. The "fringe influence church society were also studied. Between 65 and 80 adults attended each week.

Christ Episcopal Churchwomen made major contributions again this year to the Parish as reported by the President, Evelyn Seitzinger. These included: food sales, sewing projects, and other activities. The Churchwomen were hosts for a reception in honor of Bishop Robert visitation on Palm Sunday. Kay Charles reported that there were eleven members of the Altar Guild and requested additional volunteers. The Mission Guild under the guidance of President Mary Ellen held two successful teas, the Spring tea on May 16, and an Advent tea at the home of Mrs. Francis Lavertu. Proceeds went to various missionary projects including seminaries in Korea, the Philippines, and South America.

Brother Jupiter of St. Christopher's Mission in Bluff, Utah visited Christ Church and commented on how much he appreciated the Church support. He was delighted that everyone made him feel very welcome.

Property Chairman George J. Bower reported on an extensive amount of work done both in the Church and at the Rectory. A plaque in the memory of Harry C. Gingrich was installed. A Nativity Scene structure to be used during the Christmas season was constructed by William Reazor. Signs were installed on poles on five major highways at the entrance to Pottstown. A major number of electrical, plumbing, and carpentry problems were solved. Examples of the extent of the changes included: two new sinks installed, roof of the sanctuary repaired, new floor polisher purchased, windows replaced in the nursery, fuses replaced in the PECO transformer, new feeder water line installed, new bronze plaque purchased, new door locks installed, doors painted, automatic night lights added, new clock mounted, fan type humidifier purchased, pipes on the water heater replaced, curtains repaired, new aluminum rain spouts installed, two pieces of sidewalk replaced, lawn reseeded, humidifier purchased, and book shelves installed in the kitchen.



## The Year of Our Lord 1966

The Rev. Penny reported on a vast number of activities and accomplishments for the year. A Research and Planning study was completed this year under the chairmanship of Verne L. Bergeron with professional help from a Mr. Halko of the Council of Churches. It was concluded that the Parish facilities needed rehabilitation. Dr. Kenneth C. Slagle and Deacon Allen E. Jr. assisted with services throughout the year and the first pictorial directory was published.

A silver ciborium, in memory of Charles P. and Margaret R. Gochnaur, was blessed on Whitsunday. In October the Rector presented the Rev. Peter W. Boone for ordination to the priesthood at his parish in Woodbridge, Virginia. The great theologian Dr. John Macquarrie visited the Parish for a weekend.

The Second Annual Agape for Christian Unity dinner was held at the Sunnybrook Ballroom with 750 people in attendance. Roman Catholic Msg. and Presbyterian William Yolton gave messages. Seventy young people the churches of Pottstown attended an ecumenical "Fit to be Tied" program in the Parish Hall discussing marriage, stewardship, explanation of what love really is, and family planning.

The big snow on Christmas day made it impossible for most people to attend Church and even emerge from their homes for several days.

The Rector's Warden, Charles R. Gochnaur, reported on the outstanding work and faithfulness of the Vestry. A committee headed by Gilbert R. Lewis worked on the reinvestment of the Church endowments. Mr. Bergeron's committee completed the long range report on the plans for the facilities. Robert Magee was recruited to be Chairman of the Construction project. Bob was an excellent choice because he was an experienced Manufacturing Engineer.

The budget was studied and Charles Harter, Accounting Warden, indicated that there were no serious financial problems. The continued assistance of Dr. Slagle and the Perpetual Deacon Allen Holt Jr. were cited for their great value to the Parish.

Mrs. Harry Charles, President of the Altar Guild, indicated that they had not only served at the regular services but for weddings, baptisms, and all special functions. The Guild is organized in teams of two or three women and each team serves for two weeks at a time, or six weeks of duty per year.

Choir Director Eric Penketh indicated that the Chapel Choir improved both in numbers and musical standards. There was a need for additional senior choir members. An increasing number of young people had been recruited and were singing very well as demonstrated by their performance at the Rector's service. The senior choir organist, Mrs. Earl (Gerry) Strange, was forced to retire owing to eye trouble.

Christian Education suffered a setback when Priscilla Hescoek, who had rejuvenated the Sunday School, left the Church and went to Cincinnati, Ohio. John A. Anderson, Church School



Superintendent, reported that the services of Mrs. Raymond Cole had been secured as Consultant in Christian Education. Mrs. Cole was the wife of the Rev. Raymond E. Cole, Jr., Vicar of the Church of the Epiphany in Royersford, and was trained at the Windham House, where Priscilla Hescok had accomplished her graduate studies. Mrs. Cole conducted training sessions and interviews two times per week at the Parish. Each member of the teaching corps received a copy of the monthly publication, Christian Education Findings. Extensive improvements were made in the classroom area for the benefit of the students. To illustrate the importance of Christian Education to the Parish, it was reported that five members of the Vestry were either teaching or serving in administrative capacities. The Christian Education committee consisted of John Edgerton, Chairman, Richard Strange, Mrs. Verne Bergeron, and John Hunnicutt. There were 150 children enrolled in the school.

Father Penny continued his God and Country instruction for all Boy Scouts who had reached First Class standing. Dwight Ackerman, John Gregory Penny, and Richard Stoudt were to be examined by the Vestry in the near future. Confirmation was scheduled for April 23, 1967 with the Rt. Rev. Chandler W. Sterling, D.D. Bishop of the Diocese of Montana, confirming.

An Endowment Committee was established under the direction of the Accounting Warden Charles A. Harter. Four categories were established: (a) an Irrevocable Trust Account in which the interest would be paid to the Church General Fund; (b) a Revocable Trust Account from which the interest would be allowed to accumulate to be used for large capital expenses on the vote of the Vestry; (c) a General Savings Account to be used as needed by a Vestry vote; (d) special savings accounts for the Rev. Lineker Pension Fund, (2) Robert H. Shaner, Sr. Memorial Fund, and (3) Frances Leedom Brittan Fund- given for the Theological Education of Parish youth. After meeting with representatives of the Church Foundation of the Episcopal Church, it was decided to place the monies from the two trusts, (a & b) above into the Church Foundation.

The report from the Churchwomen documented the many raising events that were carried out during the year with a superb return of \$519 from the Bazaar and Turkey Supper topping the list. Clark, Brower, Bergeron, Grainger, Grim, Roberts, and Johnson were cited for their hard work by President Mrs. Kenneth Schaeffer will step up from to become President in 1967.

The mission guild must have had the fastest knitters in the world supplying an unbelievable number of mittens, gloves, socks etc. to St. Christopher's, St. Mary's and the Alaskan Mission. Charles Brown was chairman of the Guild. Under the guidance of Mrs. Rose Strohl, the sewing guild continued their ministry for the Red Cross by making aprons on order. And Mrs. George Brower, Chairman of the Rector's Guild, sent announcements and sympathy cards to parish folks and friends.

Ira Stoughton, President of the Men's Club served breakfast to 95 Mothers on Mother's Day then "sent them home" to be with their families. On December 4, they entertained 120 members of the Church School and their families.

The newly formed Research and Planning Committee decided to expand the classroom facilities as a result of the recommendations of a report from the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches. The report stated that Churches with excellent facilities result in 80%



of the Parish children attending. This would have increased the attendance by 90 children if applied to Christ Church. A building committee was named to explore the possibilities, using professional engineering assistance.



## The Year of our Lord 1967

The Rector's report acknowledged the assistance of Father Slagle and his wife for supporting the Parish work each Sunday. The Rector and Father Slagle shared the preaching duties by preaching on alternate Sundays. Father Slagle also taught Holy Scripture to the Adult Bible class.

In the effort to promote Christian Unity, the Agape fellowship met at Lutheran Church in January. Seven hundred people crowded the Church to hear presentations by Dr. Staack (Lutheran) and Father Francis Meehan (Roman Catholic). The combined choirs of the churches of Pottstown sang at the event.

The Mercury newspaper reported the celebration of Father Penny's anniversary of ordination to priesthood and included a picture of the Father and three year old son Kevin on the front page. Dwight John Gregory Penny and Richard Stoudt received their God and Country awards on Mother's Day having passed both the Vestry and the Boy Scout District examinations.

Robert Shaner Jr. and Kenneth Schaeffer performed an audit of the Parish Books in accordance with Diocese standards.

A Diocese reorganization was accomplished. The Diocese was divided into twelve Deaneries. Previously there had been five Convocation areas. Church was included in the Valley Forge Deanery under the Very Reverend Preston Ough as Dean. He was Rector of All Saints Norristown.

Eric the Choir Director resigned his duties and was given a farewell dinner in June. Kay Henshey assumed the duties as organist, and Mr. C. Russell became the new Choir Director. The Parish Picnic was held at the home of the George Browers, and, in addition to the fun and games, an open air Eucharist was held under the shade of the old Maple Trees.

Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence and John D. recruited a full scale Church School teaching staff for the fall. A large Ecumenical Christian Education program for adults and youth was planned with a Minister of Education to be chosen to direct the activities of the three churches: First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Christ Church.

Father Penny attended the National Convention in Seattle. This occurred during the Vietnam War. The House of Deputies debated the bombing of North Vietnam and the policy of the U.S. Government. They discussed the means of ending the War which some people thought was meddling in Government rather than Theological business because the Church had no authority over the running of the war. Chaplain Sheldon of the Valley Forge Military Academy gave a presentation at the Church in which he lauded the works of Americans for mercy and charity but criticized the Media for a left-wing bias.

Mrs. Thorrington of the Church of the Redeemer in Bryn Mawr, a delegate to the Women's Triennium at General Convention, reported on the so-called "renewal and modernization" of the Church. The Presiding Bishop called for the turning from inward concerns to the problems of society and the modern world. (According to some Scholars, this may have been the initiation of a



major expansion to an overly social emphasis in the Church at the expense of orthodoxy thus losing the Biblical balance).

A constitutional amendment allowed women to be members of the House of Deputies, effective in 1970. It was demonstrated at this convention that the Church must not be afraid to show concern for racial and other problems of society and to update the Church to take its place in the World. A new Liturgy was proposed, and the Convention required each Parish to install this Liturgy for testing, and report the results to headquarters. Steps were taken for the full scale revision of the Prayer Book.

The Perpetual Deacon, the Rev. Allen Holt Jr., resigned his affiliation with Christ Church after eight years of service. He had received a promotion at Honeywell requiring heavy travel and moved to Glenside, Pa. to be closer to his office. The Rector wished the Rev. Holt, his wife, and the children Allen Sally, and Judy God-speed.

The Rector stated that the Charter and the By-laws had to be amended because they were outdated. For one thing, a seven person Vestry was indicated, whereas there were actually twelve members. After approval by the Parish, the Rector stated that the Charter and By-laws would have to be submitted to the 'Committee on of the Diocese for its action before Civil Action by the legal representatives was taken. The proposals would then be sent to the Diocesan Convention in 1969.

Under the driving force of Fr. Penny, the Cluster of Religious Communities was formed. This was another ecumenical movement with other churches in Pottstown to help the poor in the area.(Later reports in this history show the effectiveness of this organization in caring for the needy.)

The Deacon's report by the Rev. Holt reiterated the fact that he was leaving and he thanked the Parish for their support over the years. He stated that during the year he had assisted the Rector and Father Slagle with 75 services.

Charles R. Gochnaur, the Rector's Warden, reported as follows: (1) the Vestry attendance and interest was high; (2) the Insurance Committee reviewed and realigned the insurance resulting in considerable cost savings; (3) the work on the By-laws continued; (4) the every member canvas results were reviewed, and the budget established; (5) renovations and expansion plans of the Church School were evaluated; and (6) the music committee was given new leadership.

The Christ Church endowment plan of the previous year was implemented as agreed. Two endowment accounts were established in the Church Foundation (a trustee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania) to hold Properties and Funds. Any new or bequests would be placed in one or the other of the two endowment accounts. An endowment book was to be being started, with the source of any new money recorded. The names of donors would be added to the bronze tablet in the vestibule of the Church.

The activities of the new choir were described with the announcement that there were 18 members of the Senior Choir and 34 members of the Chapel Choir happily squeezed into the choir stalls.



The Church School enjoyed great success although they were severely challenged by the lack of proper Church school facilities. There were 160 young people enrolled. The average weekly attendance adult class was 65, as reported by John Anderson, Church School Superintendent.

Christ Church pledged \$6,000 for Missions from the Vestry's estimation of income. Since 1958 the income for Missions had increased 15 to \$6,145 in 1967 while the Diocesan quota grew from \$2700 to \$6,000.

Mrs. Kenneth Schaeffer, President of the Parish Churchwomen, reminded everyone that all the women of the Church are members of the Churchwomen, and were welcome to participate in the ministry.

Robert Magee reported for the Men of the Church that two breakfasts were given by the men. The men also worked together to paint the Parish Hall, a true labor of love.

The Mission Guild again produced a large number of goods; the Sewing Guild continued their efforts for the Red Cross; the Prayer Guild was active answering 111 prayer requests; the Rector's Guild sent sympathy and congratulatory cards, and just under \$300 was sent to the United Thank Offering (UTO).



## The Year of Our Lord 1968

The Rector's report for the year was unusually short and the content indicates the reason. This was the year of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. It certainly was a year of National dissension with the fight for equal rights being fought for around the nation.

The reaction to the new liturgy of worship that was "requested" by the 1967 Convention was not received graciously by all of the parishioners to the frustration of the Rector. The result of the first period of trial was a division in the Church ranging from outrage, to boredom, while some were heartened and encouraged.

The calling for the reordering of the priorities of the Church by the Presiding Bishop to meet the problems of the Urban Crises also resulted in a division of the Body between advocates and critics. The Rector's response confirmed the beliefs of most, that in a democratic society, even (or especially) for a Church body, it is better to first gain a consensus before attempting to suddenly force radical departures from many millenniums of traditional values. The Rev. Penny wrote,

*If conversations and ecumenical dialogue concerning Christian Unity are to top-level conferences they will fail to involve Christians in of communities with any widespread interest, understanding, or sympathy for the unity.*

Robert Magee reported that a recommendation for expanding the Church School facility was imminent and that the only practical solution was to extend the building out into the parking lot. He very wisely wrote the following which was reminiscent of the famous uttering of JFK: *"think not in terms of the expansion of our Church but also in the expansion of Christ's work."*

The report on the Choir was given by Richard Strange. With a wonderful sense of humor, he reported that the organist, Kay Henshey, had resigned *"but who can blame her for bettering herself by way of matrimony"*. New gowns were due, he hoped, in 1969. And much new music was purchased. Then he ended the report with a comment that he hopes *"we all continue to work together toward another melodious year"*. Spoken like a true virtuoso.

The Education Committee report, submitted by school Superintendent John A. Anderson, included a strong plea for enlarged facilities, and he suggested that some parishioners were sending their children to other churches because of better facilities. This was the year that John E. Hane completed his year as the Church School treasurer serving faithfully and with great competence. He planned to retire from the post that year. The school enrollment was 140 youths. There were 50 members that attended the adult class regularly.

The Churchwomen changed their charter to limit the holders to a one year term. In excess of \$1200 was raised in rummage sales and suppers. The Altar Guild, the Mission Guild, the



Prayer Guild, and the Rector's Guild all were very active in their normal efforts to raise money and serve the needy. The Mission Fund raised \$5276 which was short of the \$6000 pledged to the Diocese.

Walter F. Gold, the Rectory Property Chairman spent over \$700 on property maintenance and improvements.



## The Year of Our Lord 1969

Father Penny, in his Rector's report, wrote about the many problems that had beset the National Church. There were three Diocesan Conventions and two overnight Clergy meetings during the year. Much of the maelstrom was produced by James "Black Manifesto" at Church in New York City. The decisions made at the 1967 Seattle Convention made life very difficult because of the demand for self-determination and the right of the poor to increase their stature in society. The answer, for the Convention, was to give money and history has proven that this solution has not always worked because of man's nature. (Note that Great Society programs have given five trillion dollars to save the poor and instead of being saved, many have been enslaved in welfare programs.) The litmus test for the handouts was whether or not the recipients were non-violent organizations. (The National Church gave over six million dollars in grants for "minority group empowerment." The Church hoped that the helped the impoverished.) The Rector, in response to the Convention edict, working with the parishioners, developed an excellent 'Statement of Purpose' for the Diocese of Pennsylvania as follows::

- (1) *God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,*
- (2) *There is one ministry and that is Christ ministry and the Church, as the of Christ, exists to exercise that ministry to the glory of God the Father and in loving concern for all men everywhere,*
- (3) *Having accepted Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, we are committed to the work of the Church by*
  - (a) *proclaiming the Gospel through preaching, sacramental acts, worship and education*
  - (b) *witnessing to the Gospel by its application to social problems in our contemporary society by charitable acts, by counseling those in need, and by missionary outreach*
  - (c) *governing the diocese in such a manner as to facilitate the discharge of its responsibilities both to the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America and to the congregations within the bounds of the Diocese.*

An attempt to reach out to the community to help solve family problems was initiated via a series of group discussions conducted by Mr. Perry Director of Social Work at Family Service. In addition, the Fall School of Religion was sponsored by Christ Church and First United Presbyterian. Dr. Staack, the celebrated Lutheran Biblicist lectured on the Bible.

The Rev. J. P. Ough died and the Deanship was assumed by the Rev. Penny.

William Lawrence, the Rector's Warden, presented a very positive report, indicating the decade of the 70's should result in substantial growth. Although it was a year of ferment and division in the National Church and the Diocese, it was year of coming together in this Parish as illustrated by (1) doing better than breaking even financially, (2) showing a substantial increase in missionary pledging, (3) electing a woman to the Vestry which has enriched discussions, and



(4) authorizing a \$4,000 contribution toward Team Ministry, a bold experiment in faith. Mr. Lawrence remarked that Christ Church prospers, in spite of National turmoil, because of its Body of believers.

The Knitting and Sewing groups all produced large amounts of goods for their respective causes. The Churchwomen, under the direction of Mrs. Nicholas Doukas, raised sufficient to present a check for \$1400 to the Vestry, for another outstanding year.

The Choir lost their director and organist to another Church. However, Mrs. Shirley Dietz became the organist and Mrs. Lillie Foster the new choir director. Both did a job as reported by Richard Strange, Chairman of the Music Committee. There were 19 in the Cherub Choir, 17 in the Chapel Choir and 15 in the Adult Choir.

The Vestry elected to support a combined Christian Education program with the Presbyterian and the Baptist Churches, each giving \$4000 per year for support. The effort would start in March of 1970 under the direction of the Rev. Theodore Taylor. In their joint report, William Fryer, the Church School Superintendent and Paul Roddenberry, Chairman of the Committee, again reported on the difficulties in teaching because of the lack of adequate space. The school was using a curriculum from the United Church of Christ library. Between 125 and 150 children attend the classes.

A gift of a Spinet piano to the Church School from George and Kathleen Ellwanger, Jr. was greatly appreciated.



## The Year of Our Lord 1970

The tensions of the 60s caused by the move toward liberation theology continued; however, the Rector reported that the Presiding Bishop at the General Convention in Houston this year indicated that he "felt" that there was a "unification and solidification" within the Church. The Mercury predicted the opposite; that it would be rent asunder by schism. (Based on the long range results, many believe that the view may have been prophetic.) The Bishop quoted John Bennett, former President of Union Seminary, that "fads last about three years." The advent of Rock Music and the greater interest in Astrology at the time suggested to the Rector that people were searching for solutions and that must not be silent, not be apathetic, and that we have a mission."

Back home in Pottstown, Herbert R. Maack spoke at a Parish meeting about the possibility of the acquisition of the Eagle's property adjoining the rear of the Parish House. Robert H. Shaner Jr. urged that the property be purchased and that a professional raising campaign be conducted to achieve the goal of providing the money. The property was secured with legal help from parishioner Gilbert R. Lewis, Esq. The raising program was conducted by Russell Stephens.

The Rector's Warden, Robert reported on the acquisition of the old building, the market place adjacent to the parking lot. The Shared Ministries program was initiated and this was a new and bold concept in education and for the Ecumenical Movement. Bishop visited the Parish and commented favorably on the program. The professional raising increased pledging by 50% over previous years. As the required Liturgical changes proceeded, Robert Magee gave some sage advice for all to remain calm and patient as these changes were attempted, because after all, they were in the experimental state.

William Fryer reported that the future for Christian Education looked brighter with the acquisition of the Eagle building which was in the process of renovation. It was to be made into a Church school facility. The Vacation Church School was held in the Baptist Church. The Rev. Taylor, who was in charge of the Shared Ministry program, directed the session. The "Living Nativity Tableau" was held again that year under the direction of Mrs. Ralph and the choirs caroled on High Street during the Christmas season with Mrs. Foster directing. Attendance for the Church School averaged between 110 and 130 each Sunday. A strong request for teachers was issued.

Mrs. Robert President of the Churchwomen, reported that a check for \$1400 was presented to the Vestry. This amount was earned from a tremendous amount of dedication and hard work by the members. The ECW also started an outreach ministry to collect homemade cake and cookies for the Valley Forge General Hospital every thud Sunday. Thomas Keefe agreed to take charge of the program. Mrs. Harry Charles, President of the Altar Guild, indicated that they would like to get more young girls interested in the Guild. Mrs. George Brower sent out many cards and planters as Chairman Rector's Guild and Mrs. Morgan Rees, custodian, sent over \$300 to the United Thank Offering.

The Mission Fund report by Edwin J. Schwoyer indicated that \$5,642 was the total value of



the fund for 1970; \$5,018 was paid to the Diocese of PA.



## The Year of Our Lord 1971

The big news for the year was the fact that was the best financial year in the Church History. This was especially important because of the construction project to be embarked upon. In addition, bequests of several hundreds of dollars were received. Fr. Penny reminded the parishioners of the importance of a will. The important work of construction of the addition to the Church was started after a great amount of effort by Robert Lawrence, Robert Shaner, and Edwin Schwoyer. The Fish program was inaugurated with more than a hundred volunteers. It was known as the Pottstown Interfaith Emergency Service with a 24 hour telephone service to help the sick and elderly. There was hope that the service could be expanded to tie in with the Drug Abuse program in Pottstown and with the proposed INSIGHT program.

During Lent, eight clergy from the Pottstown churches met for breakfast and continuing education. In the realm of Education, a five day workshop on teaching was held. It was called Instroteach, a program to bring into focus, the teacher's task. And the opportunities for women in the Church was developing. First, Mrs. Kay Charles served on the Vestry and also read the Scripture lesson at the liturgy. Then two young ladies pioneered as acolytes.

Robert Magee, the Rector's warden, reported that the Church addition would be available for activities during the coming year. A change in the structure in the Diocese was explained. At the Convention it was decided that one clergy and two lay people from each Deanery would be elected to Diocesan council. Representatives would be elected before each Convention. Each parish would have four or eight representatives at the Deanery level, depending on Parish enrollment. A very strong request was issued for all to get involved to assist in the growth of the Parish.

Reverend Theodore D. Taylor the Shared Minister of Education, reported on the activities in education for the year. Eighteen new teachers were placed into the Church School classrooms. The Book of Revelations was studied with about two dozen children participating. There was a Spring Retreat with fifteen students. The Vacation Bible School, however, was a disappointment because it did not attract many students. The new Interfaith Emergency Service received support from three congregations in the Borough and had helped the Cluster of Religious Communities come alive.

Mrs. Kenneth Harclerode reported the Christian Education Committee was developing a new curriculum and began the purchase of a library of source material to assist the students and the teachers.

The very active and productive Churchwomen provided \$1700 to the Vestry through superb fund raising work in sales and meals as reported by Erma President. President Ruth Stoughton of the Sewing Guild, over 400 knitted items to the missions out West that summer. The Altar Guild received funds memorials thus the Altar Guild would not have to purchase the materials Church funds. Kay Charles, President, reported two new members and requested that more are welcome.



Mrs. Joseph Dietz wrote that the three choirs were doing well. The Cherubs alternated with the Chapel Choir on alternate Sundays. The members of the Adult choir were then able to sing four-part music. Mrs Lillie Foster resigned and Mr. Dennis had taken over as Choir Director.

Mary A. Grimley, UTO Custodian, reported a contribution of \$131 to the cause. The United Thank Offering was used extensively for assistance to hospitals, senior citizens, and for disaster relief.



## The Year of Our Lord 1972

The Rector reported that this was the year of the flood. \$10,000 was distributed by the Cluster of Religious Communities to people in need due to water damage. Volunteers from sister churches all over the area came to assist in the cleanup. Work began in January for the \$106,000 project to renovate the Old Farmer's Market in making room for classrooms and a new Parish Hall. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Church edifice was observed in the autumn of 1972.

The Rev. Peter Greenfield helped to launch the Two-by-Two canvass of parishioners. The Rector Emeritus, the Rev. George A. Lineker returned to conduct the dedication of the new facilities at which the Rev. Richard Martin of the Presbyterian Church preached. For the Evensong celebration in December of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ Church, Stanley West preached the sermon. He had been Rector from 1913 to 1923, and although in eighties, drove in from Bryn Mawr for the occasion. At the Anniversary dinner the Rev. William E. reminisced on the history of the Parish. He was a product of the Parish and later entered the priesthood. A telegram was read from Father Charles Dwyer, from Albany New York as he could not make the trip. He was a son of Christ Church in Pottstown. Thomas Storm was Chairman of the Anniversary committee and acted as Master of Ceremonies. Walter Slichter provided the music. Tiles depicting the facade of the building were given as souvenirs.

Once a month, on Wednesday mornings during the autumn, guest preachers provided the Ministry of Healing from both the United Church of Christ and First Baptist Church. Sister Regina Ryan, a Roman Catholic nun, who served as ecumenical liaison with Leon Sullivan's conducted the ecumenical quiet morning held in advent. Dennis became the choir director, because Lillie Foster resigned to have a baby. The role of women increased again with Pat Hanna administering the Chalice.

Several Parishioners were honored, including Victoria Hallowell as Ideal Teenager in the Mercury contest, Alice Kurtz by the Valley Forge Park Commission, Thomas Storm as President of the Chamber of Commerce, the Rector as President of the Cluster, and the Rev. Taylor as President of the Pottstown Clergy Association. Mrs. William Mills was accorded a reception as a member of the Gray Ladies of the Pottstown Memorial Medical Centers. Silver Cruets were given in memory of Edna Focht.

The New English Bible on the Lectern and Jerusalem Bible in the Chapel were contributed in the memory of Jonas and Florence Bealer. Robert Shaner was elected Chairman of the Deanery Budget Committee, and Walter Gold served as the Chairman of the Human Resources Committee of the Deanery.

The Alternatives in the Drop-In Center, located in the Church, began in June 1972. Twenty hours of staff training by Insight, the Greater Pottstown Area Drug Abuse Prevention Program was required. The idea of the Hotline came from a group of area young people from the Church who were concerned about drug and other problems in the Community. Thirty volunteers answered the phones every night and on weekends.



At the 189<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan convention in October, Bishop DeWitt, in a surprise move, announced his resignation intention for no later than June of 1974. He stated:

*So people with or against Father Jones, the Rev. Smith, or the Bishop, and the issue at stake is robbed of its dignity, its seriousness, and becomes a matter of personalities....when an issue... becomes a matter of personalities, this to obscure the issue, to prevent the facing of the issue.*

In other words, "people attack the messenger thus obscuring the message". The Bishop recalled the plight of Thomas Jefferson who was attacked by many for his religious beliefs rather than discussing the subject of the Freedom of Religion, which was the real issue. As a result the issue was obscured and consequently was not faced. Bishop Robert had been Bishop since 1964 and had been under personal attack for his views. (His views were not mentioned in the report, however it is reported by others that the Bishop's views tended toward a more liberal theology than was desired by the Body at that time.)

Pledges that had been anticipated at a 300-family unit level dropped to 173. There was a 9% loss of families who moved from the area, but fortunately the Church was still \$10,000 above the 1969 plateau.

A plea was made to support KEY 73 by attending the Mission planned for April. Robert Magee was praised for his dedicated service as Rector's Warden due to his vision and stability of purpose from the planning stage through completion of the Church projects.

In February, the Rector preached at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish of St. Ignatius in New York City, where he had been Rector from 1948 to 1954.

Robert Magee, the Rector's Warden, reported on the use of the new facilities that had been constructed: (a) Sunday School Rooms; (b) Drop-in Center; (c) Interfaith Emergency Service (for the storing of food); and (d) Retired Senior Voluntary Program (RSVP) workshop, with an office serving the elderly. The KEY 73 program was endorsed as an interdenominational effort in the area of Evangelism. The monks of the Order of the Holy Cross would be conducting a teaching Mission in the Church for the occasion to increase the numbers and the depth of Christian belief.

Eric Penketh, Chairman of the ACLC (acolytes, crucifers, lay readers and chalice administrators), reported that with the recent changes in the Liturgy there was an opportunity for greater participation by youth, laywomen and laymen.

Many activities for the Youth were reported for the year including academic and recreational activities. The best activity was a canoe trip that they all enjoyed. A choral group prepared a concert at the Presbyterian Church, using more popular music. Two Vacation Church Schools attracted 70 students each. The Rev. Theodore Taylor taught in the week day church school at the Grace Lutheran Church, a church that was supported by the Cluster of Churches. He also made a complete review of curriculum resources for both Episcopal and First Baptist



Churches. A new academic program was adopted and introduced in the Fall. The Rev. Taylor was also deeply involved in the flood relief program. The Christ Church portion of his salary was paid by Mrs. Robert Shaner.

Dennis gave an enthusiastic report on the progress of the three choirs. In order to raise funds, they planned a bake food sale once a month. Gertrude Johnson gave a party to honor the Adult choir as a means of showing appreciation for their golden tones and complete dedication.

At the Epiphany Family Night a check for \$800 was presented to the Vestry from the Episcopal Churchwomen (ECW). This money had been earned from very intensive fund raising activities that had been undertaken over the year. Frances Grim, President of ECW, reiterated the stated goals of the group ... *to unite the women of Christ Church in a program of worship, study, service and fellowship; to deepen and strengthen their own spiritual lives, and lead them service for the Parish, the Community, the Diocese, the Nation and the World.* The UTO contributions were \$219 as reported by Rose C. Strange. The hundreds of knit goods were to be delivered again to the missions in Butte, Utah by the Stoughtons in the coming summer. The Prayer Guild under Ethel Brown had been especially active this year, especially because of the flood disaster.



## The Year of Our Lord 1973

The Rector reported the activities on a month by month basis from his very diary for each of the twelve months of the year. The best news was that the War in Viet Nam had ended. This news event was celebrated by a noon service with participants from several denominations attending. Two hundred fifty people gathered for the Agape Luncheon at St. Aloysius Roman Catholic Church, where Presbyterian John Oliver Nelson of Kirkridge made the presentation. Bishop Robert made his final visit to Christ Church on February 11 for Confirmation Services. Lenten services on Sunday Evenings held at the Presbyterian Church were jointly sponsored by Christ Episcopal, First Baptist, First Methodist, First Presbyterian, Searles Methodist, Salem Methodist, and St. Johns UCC Churches. Speakers were Dean Ernest Gordon, Chaplain of Princeton University, Chapeland, and Dr. Andrew Murray Chairman of the Department of Religion at Lincoln University.

The Teaching Mission was conducted by three monks Holy Cross Monastery in West Park. Father Clark Father Roy Parker, and Brother James Cleveland led the teaching with an in-depth spiritual study.

Six Pottstown churches sponsored the ecumenical preaching of the Seven Words on Good Friday. The preachers were: the Rev. Wilfred Penny, Rector; the Rev. Taylor, Shared Minister; the Rev. Foster Williams, First Baptist; the Rev. David Minus, Second Baptist; Fr. James Farrant, St. Aloysius; the Rev. Martin, First Presbyterian; and Bishop Lyman Ogilby was Fourth Word and Liturgist for the day.

The Rector gave the benediction of the new Pottstown Memorial Hospital. The hospital had ties to Church dating back to 1888 when "ten earnest girls" met in the Chapel of Christ Church and organized the Circle. They secured support from many town resources, and the cornerstone was laid in 1892. Twenty seven parishioners met at the Hill School to discuss the future course for the Church...looking for a clear sense of direction.

The party for Shared Minister the Rev. Theodore Taylor was held at the first Baptist Church because apparently the cost of the ministry was more than could be born by the supporting Churches. Mrs. Robert Shaner has paid the \$5000 Church stipend his last year in the position. In October, there was a big fire in the Drop-in Center with damages amounting to \$44,000.

Presiding Bishop John was elected at the General Convention in Louisville Ky. Bishop Robert DeWitt presided for the last time at the Diocesan Convention. November 11 was remembered as the day of the million dollar fire at the Hill School. The Drop-in Center moved to new quarters with a paid staff and finding from Montgomery County.

Harry Charles, the Rector's Warden, gave a rather grim report on finances. The Vestry agreed to seek help from the Bishop's Diocesan Office and to associate with the Viable Parish Commission. This resulted in an all day Parish Leadership Conference to identify the strengths, weaknesses, challenges, and opportunities of the Church, and to identify the first steps to be taken to strengthen its ministry and mission. The mandate of the Conference was to establish the



Christ Church Action Committee and to create a Task Force to concentrate on five areas: (1) Stewardship (2) Music, (3) Human Resources, (4) Education, and (5) Communications. Because of certain unidentified economies, the financial picture improved somewhat during the year.

The Churchwomen continued their strong support of the Church, raising over \$1000 with sales and meals, as reported by Mrs. Robert Keough. The Altar Guild was delighted that the Vestry had sanctioned a new Sacristy with new closets, cabinets, and work area. Eric Penketh reported that the three choirs were alive and well. For example, the Chapel Choir presented an Anthem almost every Sunday. More Acolytes were needed, especially for the early service. The United Thank Offering contribution for the year was \$126, for which Rose Strange gave her thanks to the supporters.

The Property Report presented a summary of all the work that had been accomplished during the year. The fire damage caused the most problems, because the entire structure had to be cleaned. The Rector's and Secretary's offices were zoned separately for heating. This action should have resulted in large savings.



## The Year of Our Lord 1974

The Rector's report began with the notation that this was certainly a memorable year because of the oil and gas crises, the Watergate Hearings, the Resignation of President and the Recession. (It appeared that the End Times were very close.) Presiding Bishop John Allin was installed at the National Cathedral in Washington. The entire National Episcopal Body was shocked when eleven women were ordained in Philadelphia by four Bishops on July 29<sup>th</sup>. The House of Bishops met in Chicago in August and agreed that the ingredients of ordination were lacking. The Presiding Bishop remarked: "The House of Bishops sees the ordination of women as an urgent matter and do its part to deal with it as swiftly as possible. Many hold out real hope that it will come. "The matter was to be clarified at the Convention in Minneapolis in 1976. Fr. Schultz of Trinity Church, Ambler reported a national decline in baptized members of 4%, and a large drop in children in the Sunday school. (The move to modern liberalism in the National Church was taking its toll.) Total receipts were up 9% however.

The Rev. Foster Williams of First Baptist Church and the Rector exchanged pulpits during Agape Prayer Week for Unity. The Rev. Dr. Charles Johnson of the United Presbyterian Church spoke during that week. Fr. Penny started his second term as President of the Cluster of Religious Communities.

Fr. Penny attended the Trinity Institute where he heard the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, Cardinal Suenens of Belgium, and Prior Roger Schutz of the Taize Community, France. Fr. Dennis Warner conducted the Lenten Quiet Morning in the Parish. Quiet Mornings were held both in Advent and Lent as times for reflection and retreat. Seven Words from the Cross were preached on Good Friday within the context of an ecumenical service.

The Investiture of the Rt. Rev. Lyman Ogilby took place at the Church of the Advocate in Philadelphia, February 2<sup>nd</sup>. This was also the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Bishop Ogilby's consecration as Bishop of the Philippines.

The Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) located its offices in the Parish Hall. Christ Church basement was used by the Pottstown Emergency System (PIES) as a food pantry. The American Cancer Society used the facilities of Church for its campaign center and parishioners donated blood for former parishioner Daniel Davis. The Rector reported that, in a very quiet manner, through the Rector's discretionary and other sources, much had been done to help alleviate the deprived and the poor of Pottstown.

Proving that it was a year of ambitious scheduling, the following events were reported: the Rector participated in the Chaplain for the Day program at the Pottstown Medical Center; the tenth anniversary of the Rectorship of Fr. was held in September; Gertrude Johnson and Ralph Hallowell represented Christ Church for the inauguration of the Counseling Service with the Rev. Larry Maud, an Episcopal Priest, as the psychologist and pastoral counselor; and Bishop Ogilby confirmed thirteen people in December. Jane Lou Hallowell directed the special music program celebration at the Church on the 20<sup>th</sup>.



The Rector took the Parish Registers to the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania offices in Reading for microfilming the records of baptisms, deaths, confirmations. One roll of film was retained by the Society at 1300 Locust St. in Philadelphia, the other in the Parish safe. All baptisms, confirmations, weddings and burials from 1837 to 1942 have been microfilmed. The films at Christ Church were lost when the safe was stolen a few years later.

The Rector and family traveled to Europe where they heard Fr. Francis Xavier of Ceylon give a slide presentation on his missionary work in that country. They attended a ten day seminar at Taize in Burgundy, France, and visited the Isle of Wright.

Gertrude Johnson, a member Vestry, was cited by the School Bulletin as the busiest retiree the faculty of the School. "...a Vestry member of Christ Church, a board member of the YWCA and a member of the League of Women Voters;" also, the Soroptimist Club designated her for the award of "Women Helping Women".

Harry Charles, the Rector's Warden reminded the people that for 150 years Christ Church had been dedicated as a constructive force for the support of Christ in the Community. He urged the Church to look at all possibilities for utilizing the additional space for the Cluster and other community groups. Additional projects were still waiting to be implemented. He referenced the Viable Parish Commission as the chief guide in determining direction.

The Property Chairman, Schwoyer, reported that the remnants of the fire damage were finally fixed. The women's gowning room improvements had been completed. The entire Sanctuary was painted. A game room was for the youth, and a telephone answering system installed.

Eric Penketh, the Choir Director, praised the choir for its contribution to the combined choir festival at the Deanery. The Adult choir had 17 members. The Cherub and the Chapel Choirs were also praised for their great singing contributions to the Church.

Again that year, the Churchwomen raised for the Church with sales and meals, as reported by Mrs. Robert Keough, President. Mrs. Harry Charles requested additional assistance for the Altar Guild. She listed the various assignments group that are so important to the working of the Church. The Parish lost the valuable services of Ethel Brown, the President of the Prayer Guild, who died on April 4.



## The Year of Our Lord 1975

The Rector reported on the large number of ecumenical events during the year that included: a Bread and Broth observance of the Agape at First Baptist Church; the joining of six area churches sponsoring Lenten Services, then joining again for the Preaching of the Seven Words on good Friday; and the contribution of all churches to the inauguration and maintenance of the Pottstown Pastoral Counseling service, featuring the Rev. Larry Maud as counselor.

Through the Cluster of Religious Communities, a Vietnamese family had been settled on North Warren Street in a house rehabilitated by Robert Edsall and Robert The Rector pronounced the Benediction at the Installation of Rabbi Max Wasser. The community outreach programs were outstanding and included the adding of space in the basement for the Pottstown Interfaith Emergency Service, with parishioners volunteering for telephones, transportation and other services. Gertrude Johnson volunteered her services at the Opportunities Industrialization Center on High Street. Because of the efforts of Mary Ann Lawrence in 1972, an inquiry was received from the Senior Adult Activities Center of Nomstown to establish a satellite at the Parish.

The Pottstown Area Senior Center was formed. They met temporarily in the Parish Hall. The Center supplied hot meals three days per week. The Rector was President of the Senior Center. The goals of the Center included recreation, direct health services, cultural enrichment, and companionship.

Bethlehem Steel announced that it would be forced to close the local plant if costs could not be reduced. The Union to accept lower compensation. Efforts by the Clergy to change the Company's plans failed. (There was no mention made of attempts to talk to the Union.) The Pottstown Works was to close on April 30. Both the Rector and the Rev. Richard Martin served on the Urban Land Use Committee set up to help alleviate problems caused by the decision.

The Viable Parish Committee supported the wish of the Rector to secure additional education to study for his Doctorate. Plans were developed to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Parish on four successive Sundays from April 25<sup>th</sup> to May 16<sup>th</sup> in 1976. Mrs. Lillian Rees was taken by the Rector to visit Springfield, the Church retirement home in Chestnut Hill, which she later entered. The Rector joined others in the ordination to the Diaconate of Vaughn Booker at Graterford Prison.

Trinity Institute was held at New Riverside Church. This was the last official visit of the 100<sup>th</sup> Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr. Michael Ramsey, before his retirement.

This was the final report of the Rector's Warden, Harry Charles, who planned to retire and move to Maine with his wife Kay. He reported of the good work that was accomplished by the Anniversary Committee. He expressed pleasure that the Parish Hall was being used extensively, including use by the Senior Citizens while awaiting their own facility.



Stoudt, Chairman of the Acolytes, Lay Readers, Chalice Administrators and Ushers reported that there are 41 dedicated individuals serving the a demonstration of willingness to serve.

The Choir activities were explained by Eric Penketh. They participated in the Deanery Choir Festival and were planning for the 150' anniversary celebration. More female voices were requested.

The Education Committee report by Gladfelter indicated great success with the Young Adult Class. A number of mini-seminars were held with maximum use of visual aids. The group attended a game. A youth picnic featured food and a youth vs. adult softball game. (Note: the results were not indicated by the author, thus we must assume that the youth were victorious.) On the negative side, it was reported that there had been a serious drop in the number of elementary children attending Sunday School.

The Parish began a study on the new Blue Book, a revision of the 1928 Prayer Book. The Blue Book was commonly referred to as the Ground-Hog Book because of its February publication date. In September, deputies of the General Convention would vote on whether it was to be used for the next three years. The final vote was to be made at the General Convention in 1979. The Rector gave a brief review of the total history of the Prayer Book as follows:

*“Many of the ancient traditions have been recovered in the new version and many ceremonies that have been customary have been woven into the new book. The history of the Book of Common Prayer dates back to the 1549 publication of the First Book of Common Prayer in English. Revisions of the book occurred in 1552, 1559, and which is still the book of the Church of England. English Prayer Book was used in the Colonies until after the American Revolution when the newly established Episcopal Church revised the book in 1789, then in and again in 1928. In 1953 the first Studies in Prayer Book Revision was published. In the current revision was authorized by General Convention. For the first time in the history of Prayer Book Revision, the people now have had trial use and could suggestions.”*

The Altar Guild was to lose its Directress because she and her husband would be retiring and moving to Maine. Kay Charles wrote a very warm letter to Father Penny advising him of the pending action and thanking him for the opportunity to serve.

For the Churchwomen, Marsha Gladfelter stated that the women opened a Thrift Shop. A profit was made that first year of operation. In addition, many dollars were made with the sales of items and meals cooked. The United Thank Offering increased substantially year to \$374.

A Youth Group was formed with 12 children in the 7<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> grade range. They sponsored a square dance, and a another dance as part of the Halloween Party. They also joined forces with Youth Groups from other Churches to meet other young people and exchange ideas.



## The Year of Our Lord 1976

The year 1976 was America's Bicentennial Year and, for the Parish, the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. The Rector was extremely busy the first of the year with all of the activity including: Planning for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary; inauguration of the Pottstown Area Senior Citizens's Center; meetings for the Committee concerned with the closing of Bethlehem Steel, the Urban Land Use Committee. In addition, ecumenical efforts continued with: Pulpit Exchange with the Presbyterians; Master of Ceremonies duties for a gathering of Clergy for the elevation of Father Bednar to Monsignor; and a speaking engagement to the faculty and students at St. Aloysius School at a Mass commemorating Church Unity Octave. All four Sundays of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration were successful and it was capped by Bishop Lyman Ogliby confirming 35 candidates on May 16'. May marked the grand opening of the Pottstown Area Seniors' Center under the direction of the Rev. Mark Holliday as Executive Director.

1976 was the year of the wedding anniversary of the Rector and Donaldeen. The Rector and Donaldeen attended the General Convention in Minneapolis that occurred only a few months after the Rector's heart attack in June. (Note: Fr. Penny was a man with an indomitable spirit as also noted a few years later when he ran and completed the Boston Marathon. Both of these events had the permission of the doctor.) At the Convention, there was an all-day debate about and subsequent passage of women's ordination.

The year was one of crisis ministry for the Rector, not only for his own problems, but others in trouble, sick, dying, and in need. In fact, \$870 of Rector's discretionary funds were distributed to the needy. One example was the ministering to a 38-year-old father of three, dying of cancer.

The new Rector's Warden, Robert Jarrard, expressed delight over the success of the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. He also recalled the illness of the Rector who had a heart attack, and how the people came together to keep the family's spirits up and the Church going. The Church, by edict from the Convention, was directed to develop a system for Rector and staff compensation. This was required of all churches in the Diocese.

In addition to all of the traditional events, the Choir had a wonderful year participating in the Gilbert Sullivan opera "Trial by Jury" with the Royersford Choir as reported by Eric Penketh director of the Adult Choir and Grace Hoover director of the Cherubs.

Mary Ann Keefe assumed the position of Church Superintendent. The successful Youth Program was continued and included another night to watch the Philadelphia Phillies at the ballpark. Attendance in the school seemed to improve this year. The Youth Group held a fund raising pancake supper, gave a Halloween party, and went caroling at the Pottstown Hospital, and other locations.

Mark Pennypacker was chosen as youth member of the Diocesan Committee. This was a great group of young people who also planned Easter Egg hunts and other activities for the younger children each year.



The Churchwomen were very successful again this year under the direction of Helen Harclerode. The Thrift Shop produced a profit of \$1200, and an additional \$1400 on other projects other projects, for a banner year. The UTO produced a total offering of over \$400.

The Property Report by Andrew Kalocai, Property Chairman, indicated the ongoing, ever-present problem with the Church roofs that needed extensive repair after several patches. The heating system had several failures and an air handling system was needed in the Parish Hall. Several improvements were made thanks to Robert Magee, Robert Edsall, Glenn John, and Harry Charles. These included: refurbishing of the PIES pantry area, cleaning the altar and lounge carpets and kitchen, pruning the shrubbery, and caring for the lawn.



## The Year of Our Lord 1977

A miracle of the year occurred for the Rector when the financial results showed a profit of \$2000 instead of the projected deficit of \$6000+. The Living Nativity Tableaux was resumed that year, with the help of Margaret Shaner who made the costumes to replace those destroyed in the fire. The Rector and Donaldeen visited the Holy Land in January. A total of 250 parishioners joined together at the Church to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the priesthood for the Rector.

Fr. James Farrant, a Roman Catholic priest, conducted the Lenten Quiet Day on March 23. The Rabbi Wasser invited the Rector and wife to a Seder supper in April. Seven pastors from Pottstown Churches joined to preach the Seven Words on Good Friday. Bishop Tsu drove up from Wilmington in his Volkswagen "Bug" to preach on Mother's Day. He was a young 91.

The Rector assisted the Rev. Charles A. Weatherby at St. Ignatius in New York as the occasion of Weatherby's retirement. The Rev. Weatherby followed Fr. Penny as the Rector of St. Ignatius Church. Fr. Penny must have had a great surge of wonderful memories on this occasion. Then Fr. Penny visited the Rev. Lineker and family in Afton, Delaware.

Twenty seven parishioners gathered at the Hill School for a planning session. This was a requirement mandated by the 1975 Diocesan Convention for Parishes. The Evaluation Committee reported the major goals for 1978 were: (1) grow spiritually (2) improve Christian Education program (3) foster a caring attitude among parishioners, (4) develop a year-round Stewardship program, and (5) reduce the mortgage.

The Rector was invited to the Presbyterian Church Convention by the Rev. Theodore Taylor who was the Shared Minister of Education for three churches, including Christ Church in Pottstown, a few years ago during the height of Christian Education for the children in Pottstown.

The Rector's Warden summarized the major events. He indicated that there were serious discussions at the Diocesan Convention. These discussions were initiated by the Parishes that did not agree with the Ordination of Women. This subject had emerged at an unfortunate time because of the efforts to encourage ecumenicalism among the Anglo-Roman Catholics at the same meeting. The ecumenical dialogue closely followed the Women's issue discussion. There are those that believed that women's ordination may have killed ecumenicalism with the Roman Catholic Church for this century.

The Church School report by Mary Ann Keefe indicated that 1977 was a busy year for the children. Because of the interesting group of speakers for the Adult Class, the senior class joined to hear the talks that included: Fr. Riegel on "The Sacramental Principle", visiting Roman Catholic friend of Fr. Penny's from England, Fr. David Buckley on "Religion in England"; James Gittings on "Liberation Theology or Enemies of the State"; Nicholas Perich an ex-Mooney on "The Moonies"; Dr Deviney on "Death and Dying"; and "The Work of the St. Dismas (Graterford Prison) Fellowship. Vaughan Booker of Graterford Prison took the folks behind bars



in his reference to the "Allegory of the Cave" from Plato's Republic.

The Choirs performed up to their usual standards although they missed the incentive of the huge events that occurred the previous year according to Eric Penketh. They bemoaned the loss of Walter Slichter who moved to Maryland.

The Churchwomen under Gloria Baro, President, had another banner year collecting \$975 from the Shop and \$1125 from all of the raising activities. The UTO collection was \$305.

The report to the Diocese by Robert Edsell, Chairman of the Parish Evaluation Committee, was included in the annual report. The threefold purpose for existence as a Parish was given as follows: (1) to learn of God and worship him, (2) to nurture our faith by mutual support, (3) to serve others in the community. The report clearly described all of the Church departments and summarized their activities. The report was sent to the Rev. Donald R. of Hay Associates in Philadelphia.

The Property Report by Andrew Kalocai stressed the need to work on the roofs. He estimated a sum of \$55,000 would be required to complete the job. Other programs were on hold because of financial pressures.



## The Year of Our Lord 1978

Father Penny reported that in spite of snow and rain storms, 200 attended the Agape meeting that was held at the First Baptist Church. It seemed that Agape (Greek for God's Love), must have seemed to be translated 'snow and ice storms' in English, because there always seemed to be such a storm at the Agape sessions. Dr. Hagen Staack gave the talk, and music was furnished by the Russian Orthodox Choir and the Zion Community Church.

There was a celebration of Bishop Lyman Ogilby's 25<sup>th</sup> year since his consecration to the Episcopate. The Rector was a guest at the Anniversary of St. John the Baptist Byzantine Church at which a Bishop from Hungary, which then was still behind the iron curtain, was a guest of honor. The Faith Alive coordinator from York visited the Parish. Settlement on the Eagle's Building for the Senior Center took place in August. The funeral of Pope Paul I was televised from Rome. Dr. Hartman of Ursinus gave a ten-week Continuing Education Course on the Life and Letters of St. Paul. Unfortunately, the Rector Emeritus Rev. Lineker died. Padre Lineker was Rector for 23 years at Christ Church. He was devoted to the healing service which he conducted at Church after his retirement until he moved to Delaware.

Ronald Druckenmiller, the Rector's Warden, gave his first report in that office. He wrote about the programs that were instigated to meet the goals of the Church as set forth the previous year for: spiritual growth, Christian education, caring attitude among the faithful and fiscal independence (from debt). The Faith Alive weekend was reported as a huge success. Many visitors came to share what God means in their lives. From the Faith Alive Weekend was born the Prayer and Praise group that met weekly for many years. As noted later in the history, the group had met for 19 years as of 1996.

Eric Penketh reported of his concern about the failure to get new choir members. In fact, the Chapel Choir had to be abandoned for lack of interest. Janice Morris reported that the Church School enjoyed some good times with a summer Sunday School which she hoped would become an annual event. The children gave cards and gifts to shut-ins at Christmas. The Youth Group was active at Christmas with caroling to shut-ins. Several trips were taken by the group, including two camping trips.

The fantastic Churchwomen came through again. The report from Gloria Baro indicated that \$2400 was turned over to the Vestry from proceeds of the Thrift Shop and several fund raising activities. Property Chairman John Hopkins indicated that stop-gap measures had kept the roof sealed. A maintenance program was being developed with a list of projects being prioritized for the following year.



## The Year of Our Lord 1979

The Rector's report began with a review of the characterization of the 70's. They have been described as celebration of *self*. He reported that some classify the most positive event of the *me-decade* was the continuing advance of women in their resolution of self-assertion. However, for Christ Church there were many wonderful events and forward step staken including: (a) Shared Ministry of the Rev. Taylor, (b) acquisition of Eagle's Association property and subsequent construction of the Parish Hall and school rooms, (c) the Cluster of Religious Communities responding to the needs of others, (d) the starting of the Drop-In Center (later taken over by Montgomery County and renamed the Alternatives Organization), and (e) the grand opening of the Senior Center sponsored by Christ Church. Many from the congregation went to Logan Square in Philadelphia that year to see the Pope. Becky Harclerode returned from two years in the Peace Corps and gave a slide presentation of her life in a foreign country.

Ronald Druckenmiller's Rector's Warden report cited the helping of the Hoover family recover from a fire and the launching of the Venture in Mission campaign as highlights of the year. A program of stewardship, called the Pennsylvania Plan, was started requiring a commitment by the Vestry and many parishioners. The training was done by Father Carl Bell of St. Mark's in Philadelphia. The number of potential pledging units increased by 36 from 1979 to 1980.

For the Churchwomen Annette Bricker, President, wrote of an outstanding year of fundraising once again. As a result, \$2700 was given to the Vestry and an additional \$1500 at the Advent Party. Peg Shaner reported that \$260 was collected for the UTO fund.

Thomas O'Leary, School Superintendent, indicated that the teachers were all in place and a good year was projected. Each student received a New Testament booklet following a period of Gospel study during Lent. New material jointly developed by the Lutheran and Episcopal Churches was put into use for the fall semester. Although enrollment was listed as 68, only half that number attended. An appeal to parents to increase the attendance was made. The Youth Group activities were reported by Greg and Roberta Penny. An Easter Egg hunt was run for the small children and carols were sung at Christmas for the shut-ins.

The Choir performed well the year. Eric Penketh was frustrated with the lack of a few key singing parts that restricted the work to "relatively easy" presentations. With a Contralto section, greater music could have been presented.

The Property Chairman, Edwin J. Schwoyer, reported that only the critical items could be taken care of because of the limitation of available funds. Some roof work was accomplished, however. A program to use fewer lights was initiated in an effort to save electricity.



## The Year of Our Lord 1980

The Rector commented on the progress made in, and the importance of, the ecumenical movement. He presented his belief that ecumenicalism had to be a concrete reality at the grass roots level to achieve ultimate success. For 16 years Christ Church had been endeavoring to advance the cause of ecumenicalism under the assumption that so much more could be done for the advancement of Christianity in the World if accomplished ecumenically.

Through the Cluster of Religious Communities, seven young from the "boat people" experience from Viet Nam were housed and provided for. They were making great progress in learning English and generally working towards self-sufficiency. The Rector was presented the Distinguished Citizen's Award for his outstanding service to the community and to humanity. For the first time the Vestry participated in the foot washing ceremony on Maundy Thursday.

Bishop J. Brooke carried out the laying on of hands for the Confirmation Class. Erma was given special thanks for her good and work as the Church Secretary. The parishioners responded with nearly \$10,000 to a plea for money to fix the roof. Both the Church and the Diocese started the year with expectations of a deficit but both ended the year in the black. Praisethe Lord!

Ron Druckenmiller in his Rector's Warden report, also praised God for the aversion of a financial crisis this year. He mentioned the blessing of the Girls' Friendly Society, the progress of the Sunday School, and the "Life of the Spirit" seminar conducted by Don Denick

.Fifty-five students attended school the first Sunday of the season as reported by Thomas O'Leary, but only about half of that number attended on the average. A program of awards was developed by Miriam Spade. The adult class was taught by Ron Druckenmiller with instruction on "The Bible For Today's Church".

The Girls' Friendly Society National President Adele Ray of St. James, Perkiomen reinaugurated the Christ Church Chapter of the National. There had been a local chapter that was started in at Christ Church in 1888. The accomplishments of the girls were astonishing: attended St. James Day of Prayer for girls; prepared soup at Pengelly Farm for Soup Sale; demonstrated cornhusking; taught how to make wreaths; held a covered dish and doggie roast at Pengelly Farm; participated in a garage sale; received instruction by a beautician about care of hair and nails; and held an Advent Wreath Sale. There was a swim party at Ursinus College. They attended the Advent night, caroled at Manatawny Manor, participated in the Living Nativity Tableaux, took a bus trip to Bethlehem, and did volunteer work at Manatawny Manor.

The Churchwomen made history again this year under the direction of Annette Bricker, with Gerry Noel running the Thrift Shop. A very bazaar brought in \$1887. They were able to present \$1200 to the Vestry, give \$1200 for the roof repair, and purchase a vacuum cleaner for \$431. In addition, contributions were given to the Needlework Guild, Valley Forge Deanery, and to the newly formed Girls' Friendly Society. How could the Church survive without these women? The contribution to the UTO was \$239.



The Senior Choir under the direction of Eric Penketh was lauded for its efforts. New music was purchased to stimulate the morale of the choir.

This year the Property Chairman, Edwin Schwoyer, was delighted to give a very positive report on the improvements. Walls of the old Parish Hall and other sections of the Church were sandblasted and painted. The entire roof was repaired. Although vandalism during the Labor Day weekend caused \$1500 in damages, the Insurance Company covered the loss. Other needed work was accomplished for a good year for the maintenance program. A new sexton, LeRoy Benner, was hired to replace the retired sexton, Charles Schneider, whose wife was ill.



## The Year of Our Lord 1981

**F**ather Penny, in the Rector's Report, reminded us that the year started with the return of the Hostages from Iran and the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as President of the United States. To conserve oil, the Vestry voted to hold Sunday services in the Parish Hall for the winter months. Over two hundred attended the Eucharist for Evelyn Swoyer. The Cluster sponsored a Pre-Lenten retreat at Fellowship House.

The Rector and Donaldeen were able to spend a few days with the Charles' at their retirement home on Orr's Island, Maine. They were so impressed with the committee of greeters at the Episcopal Church in nearby Brunswick, Maine that they hoped to institute a similar program at ChristChurch.

Fr. Penny was elected to the Chaplain's Advisory Committee at the Pottstown Medical Center. Clergy Consultation of the Church Uniting (COCU) met at Church to study *In Quest of a Church of Christ Uniting*. *In Quest* was to be studied but apparently there was strong opposition. (As an example, the United Church of Christ said that they would not be compelled to baptize in the name of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit they believed was sexist language) Fr. Penny attributed the reaction to narrowness and lack of constituent support.

Over one hundred thousand dollars was pledged by the National Episcopal Church for Venture in Mission, which was the greatest amount of any denomination. The Rector attended the National Ecumenical Workshop at the famous Trinity Church in Square in Boston to hear Dr. Henri Nouwen.

Lt. Colonel Benjamin Frederick was killed in an airplane crash in Maryland. He had been Pottstown's first nominee to the Air Force Academy and had been an Acolyte and Youth Leader at Church.

The Faith Festival was held at First Presbyterian with the Rector as Master of Ceremonies and Tony Campolo from Eastern College, as featured speaker. Fr. Penny attended the anniversary of his graduation from Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Wisconsin where he stayed with Monks at the nearby Cistercian Monastery.

The Rector made a presentation for a "five year plan" for Church that he hoped would be implemented before his retirement. Included were items such as Memorial Tablet for elimination of debts and mortgages, endowment for maintenance purposes, for the renovations of the Chancel and Sanctuary plus several more immediate needs.

The famous ecumenist, Fr. George Tavard, spent two days at the Church on his way to a Lutheran-Roman Catholic dialogue. He served for **12** years on the International Anglican-Roman Catholic Dialogue Commission that had presented its completed works to the Archbishop of Canterbury and to Pope John Paul II.

The Rev. James Giantonio of Emmanuel Lutheran Church presented the news of a Youth Club program to the Vestry. This was an inter-generational program. As a result the Vestry



agreed to send Fr. Penny, Charles and Ginny Slichter to Pittsburgh to the Youth Club Administration School, a three-day program for the purpose of instruction for establishing a Youth Club. As a result, a target date for the inauguration of the Club at Christ Church was established for January 1982 under the direction of Ginny Slichter.

The Rector's Warden, Ronald Druckenmiller reported that a Workshop to study the needs of the Parish had been established to inaugurate a five-year study of the Church in concert with the planning for the retirement of the Rector. The three areas of concern from the Workshop were property, memorials, and youth. The latter goal blended with the starting of the Youth Club.

The Church School Report by Thomas O'Leary indicated that there were 43 students aptly taught by an excellent staff. A new curriculum developed in the Diocese of Colorado was studied during the year. The Colorado lesson plans followed the three-year cycle of the Episcopal Lectionary .For Lent, the children studied the implications of World Hunger.

The Senior Choir report was very positive with a report by Eric Penketh, Director, stating that a banner year had been accomplished with anthems, hymns, and service music. One side of the Chancel had been filled with voices, and the goal was to occupy both sides. The Cherub/Chancel choirs, consisting of youngsters in the first through fourth grades, prepared music that was presented one Sunday per month. They were the source for the future voices of the choir.

The Girls' Friendly Society worked for a variety of outside causes selling flowers, packing boxes of clothing to be sent to St. Mary's Episcopal school, and doing volunteer work at the Manatawany Manor, as reported by Clarissa Pengelly.

Mary Ann President of the Churchwomen, reported on the very successful activities group. In fact, four thousand dollars were turned over to the Vestry as the result of the many fund raising activities. The total offering of the UTO for the year was \$375 as reported by Peg Shaner.

Edwin Schwoyer reported on the results of property maintenance. Money was expended for the ongoing repair of the roof Three ceiling fans were installed to circulate the heat from the ceiling in the Nave. The Rectory was painted and several problems were identified for future work.



## The Year of Our Lord 1982

The Rev. Penny, in the Rector's statement, reported that 39 Youth Club members met for 15 weeks starting in January. This was the beginning of the Youth Group later named Logos (Greek translation, "the Word") following the trip to Pittsburgh. They were supported by 28 staff. February marked a celebration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Fr. Penny's ordination to priesthood. A Dodge van was given to the Church in memory of Dolores Seville. Dr. William Rankin's "Countdown to Disaster" was presented by Gilbert Lewis in the Lenten Adult Sunday School Classes.

Harold Smith accompanied the Rector and others to the joint Episcopal-Presbyterian Parish of St. Paul's Calvary in Philadelphia for the Diocesan Ecumenical Workshop in March. The Rector represented the Diocese at the Annual Ecumenical Workshop in Grand Rapids, Michigan. The Rev. William Rausch of the Lutheran Church revealed the agreements which were later ratified by both churches at their respective national conventions. Anglicans and Roman Catholics met in Rome to plan the work of the Joint International Commission, formed to attempt to reconcile their differences. The study was agreed to by Pope John and Archbishop Runcie during the Pope's visit to Canterbury. This was the first time a Pope had visited Canterbury. The Rector gave his reflections on the final report of the Anglo/Catholic International Committee. Anglicans and Roman Catholics later met in Rome to plan the work of the new Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC II) to examine the outstanding differences with a view to their eventual resolution and to study all that hinders the mutual recognition of the ministries of the communions.

Fr. Penny took the seven Vietnamese to Harrisburg for a hearing, resulting in permanent residency. One of the boat people, Lac Chau, lived with the Penny's for two years and not only finished high school but went on to graduate Drexel University. Saving Pottstown Area Resources and Energy (SPARE), was formed through the efforts of the Cluster.

While at the National Convention in New Orleans, Fr. Penny met two former curates of Christ Church, Fr. Peter Greenfield, then in Central Pennsylvania, and Fr. James Leo, then Dean of the American Cathedral in Paris. Representatives from Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Washington D.C. and Virginia met to learn about the new Episcopal/Lutheran Interim Eucharistic Sharing. The Rev. Eugene Patton of St. Thomas in Morgantown, a machine gunner in General Patton's Army during the North African desert campaign during WWII conducted the Advent Quiet Morning in December. There were 135 poor people the area fed in December and food baskets were prepared for distribution.

Ron Druckenmiller, the Rector's Warden, reported that of the goals established in the five year plan, initiated some time ago, have been met. The biggest project in the area of church growth can be attributed to the formation of the Youth Club. Logos had been a great blessing to the Church. Thanks to a donation by the family and friends of Roberta Mills, the Church had an excellent sound system. And the Sacristy was completely renovated. The Christian Education program was completely changed through the materials received from the Diocese of Colorado. The Sunday School taught lessons directly connected to the Lectionary that integrated the curriculum from kindergarten through adult classes.



The Senior Choir received new members resulting in a complete range of voices. But, *voila*, with total victory in hand, suddenly the soprano section became depleted. The Youth singers had been applauded for their great work when they joined the seniors during the Christmas season, as reported by Eric Penketh. The youth choirs had been absorbed into the youth group that had 37 members.

The Girls' Friendly Society was very productive again. It is a wonder that the Church survived without them as they had a very effective outreach program. In addition, during the year, they were taught skills such as sewing and candle making.

The Churchwomen, under Mary Ann Hillegas, were very successful in fund raising contributing \$4500 to the Church. The Pottstown Historical Society selected Church to host the annual Founders Day tea at the United Church of Christ. The UTO offering for the year was \$260.

Church School with its 38 members continued with the Colorado curriculum "Living the Good News". Thomas O'Leary reported on the two goals for the school: (1) to have inter-age sessions to bring all members together and, (2) to include home study.

As reported by the Rector, the Christ Church Youth Group was organized and started in January with 39 members, under the direction of Ginny Slichter, following the management training that had been given in Pittsburgh the preceding year.



## The Year of Our Lord 1983

The Rector reminded that Bishop Ogilby confirmed a class of 23 in January. On the following Sunday, Fr. Penny represented Bishop Ogilby at the Washington Cathedral for the four o'clock Shared Eucharist with Episcopalians and Lutherans inaugurating the new relationship between the two faiths. Local dialogue continued with a shared Eucharist being held at Christ Church in September. Father Dan Sullivan of Good Samaritan in Paoli conducted the Lenten Quiet Morning service. The Parish served 135 dinners to the poor at United Church of Christ on two occasions in June.

Mary Paschkis died in May. She was the founder of Fellowship House in Philadelphia during the persecution of the Jews in the 30's and later purchased land in Sanatoga that later became Fellowship Farm. Dee Wampler also died. He had been President of the Interfaith Emergency Service and had succeeded the Rector as President of the Senior Center. Both Dee and the Rector had conceived of a plan for a high rise for the Seniors via the Cluster, but abandoned the plan when Montgomery County took over. Fr. Penny urged that the girls of the GFE visit Holiday House in Cape May during the summer. The GFS house was a Victorian Building owned by the Pennsylvania Diocesan branch of the Girls' Friendly Society. It was listed on the Victorian Home tour schedule at Cape May. The Rector delivered presents and food from the Parish to the poor and needy for Christmas and delivered food baskets at Thanksgiving. Ron Druckenmiller gave his fair well report to the Rector's Warden indicating how much he had enjoyed the challenge.

The Church School program using The Good News curriculum and the Interage strategy worked out well as the enthusiasm and the attendance were both high as reported by Rob and Carol Blye. The second year of the Youth Group activities was a roaring success according to Ginny Slichter, Director. The four aspects of the activities were described as: worship, recreation, family time, and Bible study. The Youth Club presented a play "It's Cool in the Furnace" that was taped and shown on cable Channel 11. A video of the performance was shown at the Pottstown Medical Center for patient viewing.

The Churchwomen earned the amazing sum of \$4750 with the Thrift Shop contributing more than half of the total, as reported by President Myrtle Pollard. The other half was raised by traditional fund raising means and the distribution was made primarily to the Vestry. The UTO offering was made again this year in the amount of \$286.

Clarissa Pengelly, speaking for the Girls' Friendly Society invited all girls up to 100 years of age to join (which probably included most of the female parishioners). A Senior Girls' Friendly Society was formed the previous September, and Grace Hoover reported on the activities that were performed for the benefit of the Manatawny Manor residents. The Sacristy was completed due to a \$6000 gift from Mrs. Elsie Carlier as a Thanksgiving for her life with her husband Louis Carlier.



## The Year of Our Lord 1984

**S**trong ecumenical activity was reported by the Rector, and in January he became the Diocesan Ecumenical officer. The Episcopal clergy took several Roman Catholic Priests to lunch, and this initiated regular monthly meetings that later expanded to include the Lutherans. *The Final Report and the Lima Document, Baptism Eucharist, and Ministry* (referred to subsequently as the BEM document) were used as the resource material. Fr. Penny met with representatives of the other denominations regarding the implementation of the BEM document.

The Thanksgiving Eve Ecumenical Service was held at the Synagogue with Rabbi Max Wasser as Rabbi. An offering was given to the Parish seminary student, Mark Pennypacker.

The Parish donated \$1000 to Epiphany Church, Royersford, to help with the repair of two collapsing walls. The Church roof problems (there are seven roofs on the Church) reappeared and the parishioners responded with gifts totaling \$10,000 to help solve the problem. Fr. Penny presided as President of the Chaplains Advisory Committee at the Pottstown Memorial Hospital.

Ten thousand of the faithful gathered at the Civic Center for the Diocese 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary where Bishop Tutu and Dean O'Driscoll preached. At the Diocesan Convention, the Bishop announced the search for a permanent headquarters for the Diocesan office. He also announced his plans for retirement, and thus the need for the election of a Bishop Coadjutor.

Twelve Thanksgiving baskets were given to the needy. The Parish fed 135 poor and needy in January. The Living Nativity Tableaux was held on the Saturday before Christmas so that the many shoppers on High street could share in the beauty of the occasion.

The Rector's Warden, Robert Blye thanked the Lord for the new roof over the Parish Hall. He related how he was drawn to worship at Christ Church by the uplifting Spirit ...a gift from Jesus for those who believe in him. The best news of the year was that the mortgage was near liquidation.

The Senior Choir report was encouraging because several new members joined, to the delight of Director Eric Penketh.

The Church School continued to use the Colorado Curriculum and had advanced to Part B (The Gospel of Mark). The curriculum integrated art, lessons, music, and games and it paralleled the weekly lectionary, thus reinforcing the readings heard in church. The report was written by Georgette Druckenmiller.

The Youth Club, with Carol Blye Director, was in its third year with 35 children and 25 adult helpers. Attendance at Sunday Church was stressed as a requirement. The youth were active in crafts, outreach, and singing every other Sunday at the AM service. The youth were delighted when Fr. Penny appeared at the car wash fund raiser ready to assist in the work dressed in running shorts and knee-high fireman's boots (and we assume without his collar). A senior division of the youth group was organized in September. The entire group was able to use the



gym at the Y.W.C.A. on Wednesday afternoons for recreation. Fr. Penny entered into the spirit of the Halloween Party that was sponsored by the group by attempting to hide his identity with a large shaggy wig of hair. Apparently no one was fooled, but everyone was impressed and appreciative.

Through diligent work, \$4500 was raised by the Churchwomen, who with the Youth Club and the Girls' Friendly Society, were always the most spirited groups in the Church. The Church has always been indebted to these people who have worked so hard. The Thrift Shop did very well in spite of having been closed the month of January and only opened one afternoon per week. Sharon Weller invited all to help at the Shop, citing that there would always be room for more helpers. The UTO again made a substantial contribution of \$497, as reported by Peg Shaner and Leone Fryer, Custodians. The Altar Guild with June Morgan in charge, and Harold Smith, Chair of the ALRU (Acolytes, Lay Readers and Ushers), thanked the participants for their hard and faithful work.

The Property Report by Edwin Schwoyer listed two major projects: (1) repair of the sidewalk in front of the Church and, (2) the installation of a new roof over the Parish Hall. The roof was installed by Palladino Roofing Co. and included a 20 year warranty. Edwin reported that the next year's projects would include the installation of new carpeting and the repair of the steeple.



## The Year of Our Lord 1985

A highlight of the 1985 report was continued progress for the Rector's passion for ecumenicalism. Throughout the year, event after event was held as he continued in his efforts towards influencing the preachers of other faiths to join together in the Lord. The Agape was the kickoff for an ecumenical study of the Eucharist in the BEM report. The shared Eucharist at First Presbyterian Church had an attendance of 200 in four clusters during Lent. The event was televised on cable TV. Two hundred attended a Diocesan-wide workshop at the Church of the Savior in Philadelphia. The Rector had met with Roman Catholics, Lutherans, UCC and Presbyterians for six months in preparation for the event. He was instrumental in inaugurating a LARCO group made up of Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics, and Orthodox clergy. And several other events were held in the effort to bring the churches together.

The Rector, as a Deputy, with Donaldeen attended the National Convention in Anaheim where Bishop Edmund Browning was elected as the Presiding Bishop. (History has shown that the selection of the Bishop of Hawaii continued a drift away from Christian Conservatism and Biblical Inerrancy, typical of most of the Main Line Churches during the period and continuing to this day.) Bishop Allen (whose views proved to be similar to those of Edmund Browning's), was to be elected the Bishop Coadjutor of the Diocese of Pennsylvania.

In a meeting with Edward Keenan from the Office of Older Adults in Norrisstown, the planning for a Day Care Center was started. It was thought that such a center would assist those in wheelchairs. A member of the Gideons spoke to the parishioners in December.

During the year, the wonderful Statement of Purpose for Christ Church was compiled as follows:

*"Following the Biblical charge, our as a Parish is to glorify God, to worship and teach, to extend a welcome to all people, to show concern and care for each other, and to serve the of the community".*

(We should all have this statement embossed in gold and hung on our living room walls. Then we should leave our human frailties at the door before entering the Church.)

The Rector's Warden, Robert Blye, indicated that the Parish had participated in the Lenten Study with Christians of other denominations. He was pleased to report that the Church had committed the resources to repair the steeple. He indicated that the most important point for all to remember was that the year represented another opportunity for worship, fellowship, and service together as a Parish. The Vestry met with William Paddock of the Diocesan staff at a planning session for Church improvement. From the meeting, the following three goals were established: (1) increase the membership, (2) improve the Christian Education program, and (3) develop Parish-wide support for major projects.

The Church School had about 35 members studying the curriculum "Living the Good News". Georgette Druckenmiller, Superintendent, reported that they were in Cycle C which is



the study of the Gospel of Luke.

The Youth Club with 33 members grades K-12, did a good job of fund raising. Among other outreaches, they presented a hand-made wall hanging to residents of Manatawny Manor Nursing Home at the annual Christmas Banquet. This was an excellent Youth Club with an outstanding leader in Ginny Slichter, the Director.

Clarissa Pengelly stated that the Girls' Friendly Society had another good year with 250 members from the Diocese attending Junior Day at the Church, with Bishop Ogliby in attendance. Clothing was sent to Columbia following the tragic volcano eruption. The girls served at the meeting of the Cluster of Religious Communities held at Christ Church, and they donated to the Missions and GFS World Day of Prayer through the Diocese.

The Churchwomen produced outstanding results again under the direction of Sharon Weller. They donated \$5600 to the Vestry. The funds were raised through the Thrift Shop, plus a series of fund raising activities and dinners. The UTO offering from the Church was \$327, as noted by Peg Shaner and Leone Fryer.

A Prayer and Praise report was presented by Ron Druckenriller. The group was in its seventh year meeting weekly on Tuesday at P.M. for prayer, praise, witness, and study. The group was an outgrowth of the Faith Alive Weekend in October of 1978. They have prayed for many types of healing, for relationships, for problems in our daily lives, for strength, and for others in the body of Christ. Meetings also included testimonies of how the Lord had worked in their lives.

Edwin Schwoyer, Property Chairman, reported that in addition to regular maintenance, leakage on the West wall was corrected by painting and by pointing the stone work. Other painting projects in the Church were accomplished. Plans had been made for the following year to repair the steeple at an estimated cost of \$42,800. A new oil burner and boiler were planned for installation at a cost of \$17,000.

June Morgan praised the hard work of the Altar Guild women who worked behind the scene assuring a beautiful service each week. (They deserve a tremendous vote of approval from the entire Parish. It is sometimes difficult to work hard in the background with insufficient acknowledgment of a job well done.)



## The Year of Our Lord 1986

This was the "Year of the Steeple" (every year seems to be the year of at least one the roofs) as reported by the Rector. A Syracuse New York firm did the work and there was great support from the parishioners. Even the Mercury got into the act and the Pottstown Historical Society also provided morale support.

An extraordinary series of events occurred under the Ecumenical Umbrella: the 21" Annual Agape Luncheon at the Baptist Church with a theme "Baptism" taken the Lima document BEM, with 225 people braving icy conditions to attend; Baptism was used as the subject for an ecumenical study using a book by William Willimon, Remember Who You Are; the LARCO group (Lutheran, Anglican, Roman Catholic, Orthodox) met monthly to study the BEM document and the Final Report; Fr. Penny attended the annual meeting of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches in Pittsburgh, and another in Allentown; he represented Bishop Ogilby at the anniversary of Cardinal Krol as rehbishop of Philadelphia, and traveled to Hartford, Conn. for the National Workshop of Christian Unity. A speaker at the Annual Agape characterized Christ Church as a "pocket of hope" and expression of Taize for communities like the gathering in Pottstown.

More than 7000 Episcopalians met at the Civic Center for the consecration of Bishop Allen as Coadjutor. The Rector was elected as the first alternate Deputy to the 1988 General Convention in Detroit. The Rector performed scores of private communions to the sick and shut-ins including those administered on Sunday afternoons. Mark Pennypacker, the seminary student, graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary.

Robert Blye, the Rector's Warden, reiterated the great accomplishment of the steeple repair. Christ Church also fulfilled its larger mission of worship, fellowship, and outreach.

A luncheon was held for the Church Choir Director Eric who retired that year after many years of excellent work for the Parish. Richard Strange volunteered to substitute until another Choir Director could be found.

The Church School continued to work with the Colorado Curriculum that followed the Sunday Lectionary as reported by Georgette Druckenmiller.

This was a big year for the Youth Club. Four youths and two advisors were selected to fly to San Antonio to attend the five day Episcopal Youth Event (EYE). The workshop presenters were Charles and Ginny Slichter with their son John Slichter as group leader. Rounding out the group were Tracey Ellis, Megan Hoover and Tammy Pfeiffenberger, in addition to Fr. Penny. They participated in a summer conference at St. Timothy's Park for lunch with Bishop Ogilby. One member of the Club was the Diocesan representative for Province III event planning. This was a good group, and Ginny Slichter received great praise for her work as director.

The Girls' Friendly Society made major contributions with outreach this year. They learned calligraphy and tin punch. They won many ribbons for outstanding work while participating in competitions throughout the year. They paid tribute to the Mothers of the Parish on Mothers'



Day, sold lilies at Easter, and poinsettias at Christmas. Janice Morris submitted the report and was obviously very proud of the work of the group.

Michele Weigner, President of the Churchwomen, indicated that the many projects resulted in earnings of over \$6000. The proceeds from the Thrift Shop substantially contributed to other earnings. The women collected \$388 for the UTO fund.

The Prayer and Praise group, with Ron Druckenmiller reporting, was in its eighth year and planned to conduct a Lenten Study. The group celebrated its anniversary with a Eucharist and reception.

Ed Schwoyer, the Property Chairman in explaining the \$10,000 overrun for the steeple repair, reported that the contractor discovered rotted timbers that might have resulted in a steeple collapse. This could have been a catastrophe if the failure had occurred on a Sunday morning.



## The Year of Our Lord 1987

The Rector began his report with a story of the poet Heine. While visiting a major French cathedral with a friend, they stood and admired the beauty before them. The friend turned to the poet and asked how it was possible for the human spirit to build such a structure. Heine answered by stating that in those days men and women had convictions, not merely opinions. He then stated that you cannot build a building on an opinion. (Note how true it is today where Biblical inerrancy and absolute values have been replaced by the "feel good" of Modern Liberalism/ Secular Humanism in today's society). Fr. Penny reported that the Agape, the joining together of 240 Christians of Pottstown, met at the Lutheran Church to hear a talk by Sister Sheila of the Order of the Assumption. The Diocese observed the 100' anniversary of the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral in Philadelphia. During Lent, representatives of the LARCO group plus Methodists (LARCO+M) met on Sunday evenings at Christ Church on the theme of from the BEM (M for ministry) document.

The Rector gave a presentation on the work of the Cluster of Religious Communities during a meeting at the Baptist Church on the subject of concern for Pottstown. Ascension Day was celebrated using the COCU (Church of United) liturgy. (This was a national program that never accomplished its goals. The idea was to unite the major denominations in a loose sense, not a merger in the strict sense.)

The Parish joined in the celebration of the Bicentennial of the United States in Philadelphia. At the Diocesan Convention, Bishop Allen Bartlett asked for a Suffragan Bishop to assist him. The Parish celebration of the Rector's 70' birthday occurred in the Parish Hall November 27' and he was greatly appreciative, as he noted in his diary.

Robert Blye, in his Rector's Warden report, indicated that preparations would have to be made for the retirement of the Rector. He reported that repairs to the building should be identified at that time.

The Church School enrollment was improving with 40 students using the Colorado Curriculum. Homework was added to the curriculum according to Georgette Druckenmiller.

The Youth Club report by Ginny Slichter stated that one member of the group would be going to Russia in April. John Slichter joined a Diocesan pilgrimage in Easter that toured the cities of Moscow, Leningrad, and Kiev. Four members went to San Antonio and two represented the Diocese at the first Providence III Jr. High event in West Virginia. Fr. Penny, Charles and Ginny Slichter accompanied the group to San Antonio. Others would be members of the Social Action team going to Alaska to work in a shelter for the homeless. John Slichter served as the Province III youth representative from the Diocese of Pennsylvania for the three-year term from 1987-1990.

The Girls' Friendly Society participated in crafts, made 50 Advent Chains to give to the congregation, and they went caroling to the shut-ins of the Parish, as reported by Janice Morris.

Grace Hoover, Choir Director, wrote that the Youth and Senior Choirs introduced new



service music and hymns. They participated in musical presentations with other churches in the area.

The Churchwomen were very innovative again this year in securing for the Church including selling of cool drinks on the sidewalk during the annual sidewalk sales in the heat of July. The bazaars and hoagie sales, the merchandise club, and the Shop produced nearly \$5000 in revenue as reported by Michelle Weigner President. The UTO contribution was \$528. June Morgan reported for the Altar Guild, and requested additional assistance for their work

.Gloria Baro, the Property Chairperson, praised the assistance given by Robin Rhoads and Edwin Schwoyer in responding to emergencies as they occurred. A burglar alarm had to be installed because of the large number of break-ins.



## The Year of Our Lord 1988

Fr. Penny seemed to be in excellent spirits when he wrote the 1988 Rector's report. Christ Church was to receive a total of \$118,682 from the estate of Clara Maske whom he had met by chance on High Street many years ago and had maintained contact with over the years. Although she did not become a member of the Church, Fr. Penny had served communion to her in her late years when she had to go to a retirement home. Another gift of \$20,000 was received from an anonymous donor. These additions represented 186 Shares of Faith gifts towards the goal of 250. The hope of the Shares of Faith Program was to create an Endowment Fund. And he asked the Vestry to establish endowment for these gifts. In 1982, Fr. Penny had listed his outstanding objectives for the Church before his retirement, all of which have been achieved: renovation of the Sacristy, (2) new church rug, (3) restoration of the Steeple, (4) burning of the mortgage, and (5) expanded youth work. He stated that,

*"I am proud that as I pass on the mantle of rectorship, I leave behind a parish that has become sound, attractive to future candidates, and with no debt."*

Donaldeen reported that the Vestry decided on the transfer of some of the Shares of Faith to the existing Scholarship Fund. Excerpts from the letter clarifying the purpose of the has been included at the end of this Chapter under the Epilogue for Fr. Penny.

Dr. Albert Myers, Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches spoke at the annual Agape, commemorating the week of prayer for Christian unity, with 200 in attendance. The Rector and Donaldeen attended the National Workshop on Christian Unity in Portland Oregon where the Presiding Bishop's address was entitled "Where will we be just 12 years from now--at the dawn of the third millennium since the Advent of Christ?" Fr. Penny attended the General Convention in Detroit as a Deputy in which his resolution to initiate dialogue with the Reformed Episcopal Church was accepted.

Fr. Penny visited Russia for the commemoration of the 1000<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the introduction of Christianity into Russia. Under the direction of Debbie Harmon, a group from Christ Church fed over 100 people in November.

Ron Druckenmiller, the Rector's Warden, indicated that preparation had begun on the Rector's retirement the next November. And decisions were made regarding the Shares of Faith campaign that had reached 70% of its goal in pledges. Georgette Druckenmiller reported that the Church School continued to use the Living the Good News curriculum at all grade levels. There were about 40 young people in the classes. An appeal was made for teachers and helpers.

Forty-five young people were enrolled in the Youth Club, according to Ginny Slichter, Director. In addition to travels to Russia, Alaska, and to the Peterian Conference in West Virginia, the Youth Club helped to feed the poor at Trinity Church twice. They helped many parishes form Youth Clubs of their own; in fact, they helped Calvary Church in Germantown form a club that started with 50 members. They also helped form clubs at Epiphany Royersford,



Boyertown Mennonite, St. Paul's Nantucket, and St. Michaels Houma, La. Ginny and Emily Slichter participated in the "Summer in the City" rehabilitation program in Chicago.

The Girls' Friendly Society has as its goals to *"help girls understand what it is to be Christians within their own particular situations; to provide opportunities by means of creative leadership; to discover their own relationships with God, family, community and the world."* They worked together on a quilt according to Janice Moms and Elizabeth Buckwalter. And the exciting part of the year came when they could spend a week in the summer at Holiday House at Cape May. At fourteen years of age, they became eligible to work as waitresses.

Grace Hoover, the new Choir Director, praised Shirley Dietz for her dedication to the organ ministry of the Church, Carol Blye for her work as the Youth Choir accompanist, and Erma for her support. They undertook the challenge of learning music for the Russian Orthodox Liturgy for a special Sunday service and special music for several special events. The goals of the choir as stated by Grace were *"to lead the Congregation in singing, to provide inspiration, and to help make the worship service more meaningful. Music should help those that are hurting, draw the outsider to God; thus it must be varied; it must be done well, and be appropriate for the service."* The Churchwomen again had a very year highlighted by a fashion show with models from the women in the Parish and featuring a very special model secured at very high expense, none other than Model Fr. Penny. From their fund raising activities, \$5000 was donated to the Parish, and many other contributions were made to the GFS', the Youth, the Community services and others. All of this was reported by the director, Michele Weigner. The UTO contribution collected by the women was \$150. The Altar Guild under June Morgan performed impeccably again this year. Additional members were welcomed to share the burden. And Harold Smith praised the ALRU and others for their contribution during the year.

Joe and Shirley Dietz reported that the Prayer and Praise group continued to meet on Tuesday nights at p.m., with 18 regular attendees. The tenth anniversary was celebrated in October with the Rev. William Mills as the speaker. The meetings began with music accompanied by four guitar players. Prayer, Bible Study, and sharing, rounded out the meeting.

Robin Rhoads, Property Chairman, reported that there were no major disasters that year. They installed a new dishwasher and remodeled what is now the Library with the help of Ralph Rhoads, senior member of the Rhoads and Rhoads (R&R) team. For the future, the following needs were noted: new oil burner and tank, new roof, parking lot pavement, and renovations to the Sunday School and Meeting Areas.



## The Year of Our Lord 1989

**T**he Rev. Wilfred Penny was scheduled to retire and a retirement party had been arranged at Sunnybrook Ballroom. But like the good soldier he was, he continued to work even though he discovered early in the year that he had cancer. Although the Vestry granted him a sabbatical leave in June, he continued many activities as noted below. He would not stop working and died in September, never having retired. Fr. Penny's was the longest tenure of a Rector in Christ Church history, 25 years and 5 days. He was the only Rector to die at Christ Church before retirement.

In January, Fr. Penny visited Israel again. Also in January, the annual Agape was held with 260 attending with Fr. Radislaus Ryzek of St Mary's R.C. Church in Conshohocken as the featured speaker. The Rector's Warden, Ronald Druckenmiller reported of the events leading to Fr. Penny's death starting with a telephone call in February, from Fr. Penny, stating that he had cancer. On Father's Day Fr. Penny could hardly get through the sermon because he was so ill. The last Sunday Service that he conducted was on July 9. Fr. Schmidt, then Editor of The Episcopalian celebrated with him and preached. Fr. Penny also baptized twins Kylie and Jamie Matthews, grandchildren of Ken and Ginny Schaeffer.

The Rev. John Higham served Christ Church as Supply for the summer. Fr. was a friend of the Penny's and Canon of the Church of England Cathedral in Peterborough, England where the Penny's had visited. The families had become good friends. When at Christ Church, Fr. Higham stayed at the Rectory with his wife Pat and son Fr. Penny and Donaldeen visited their two younger children Michael and Kevin and their families in San Antonio, Texas.

On August 4, Fr. Penny celebrated his last Eucharist for the occasion of the Penny's wedding anniversary. On September 20, 1989, Father Penny died. The Mercury reported that: "*parishioners and the community gathered to honor and celebrate the life of a man who was a joy to know.*" A celebration for Donaldeen was held with a full Parish Hall in November. This was a well-deserved acknowledgment of Donaldeen's contributions to the Parish and the wonderful support that she had given to her husband and her family.

The Rev. Stephen W. Price was named the interim Rector the death of Fr. Penny.

The Church School, with its 40 students, continued using the Living Good News according to Church School Representative Jim Boyce.

Grace Hoover, Choir Director, made a request for more male voices. Dedication and enthusiasm was more important than musical training, she pleaded. Instrumentalists spruced up the services with some fine musical accompaniment with flutes, violin, french horns, and trombone by Amy Blye, Pamela Morris, Amanda Eastman, Sydney Rhoads, William Voss, Andrew Druckenmiller, and Darrrell Weyman respectively.

In the ninth year of the Youth Club, there were 54 members and 90-95 people gathered for dinner every Wednesday night. Two college students joined the group. Many good works were performed, including helping repair homes in Southern Ohio as part of the Province III program.



The III Province trip to Alaska was taken by Ginny Slichter, with Drew Kalocai and Dwight Woessner. They visited both Anchorage and Fairbanks. With Debbie Harmon's leadership, the Youth Club helped to feed the poor at Trinity Church. And, the friends at Manatawny Manor enjoyed their eighth annual Advent Banquet as guests of the Youth Club. Thanks were extended to the memory of Fr. Penny, their mentor, whom they loved. Ginny Slichter continued as their outstanding director and reporter of the years's events.

The Girls' Friendly Society girls were very active again with significant work contributions including work on a quilt. They learned to 'sign' a song called the *Fruits of the Spirit*. The girls collected money for the Church with a Crop Walk and collected additional money at Halloween for UNICEF. A senior branch was formed so as not to lose the girls as they matured. Then, programs were designed to accommodate their grown status. The girls were fortunate to be guided by Janice Morris, Elizabeth Buckwalter, Clarissa Pengelly, Leone Fryer and Jean Silverman.

The Churchwomen's report was presented by President Corie Rhoads indicating the many events that they sponsored over the year. Gloria Baro reported on the finances. Another good year of fund raising was accomplished. Again the Thrift Shop was a solid contributor. The UTO offering was \$229. Over 3 million dollars have been raised under the UTO program by all Episcopal Churches and used to fund projects all over the world.

Robin Rhoads, of the (R&R) team of Ralph and Robin, stated in the Property Report that an architectural firm, Lederach Associates, would be used to assist in the long range planning for the future refurbishing of the Church.

The Memorials Chairman, William Lawrence reported that many donations were received during the year, and a leather bound Memorial Record Book has been purchased to record all of the memorial donations to Christ Church.



## Epilogue to Father Penny's Ministry

### A. The Funds

There has been regarding the Fr. Penny Scholarship Fund. To explain the objective of the fund the "Letter of Clarification regarding the Scholarship Fund" from Donaldeen Penny to Ron Druckenmiller, dated November 7, 1989 clarifying the intention of the Scholarship Fund is given below. This Fund was announced in the "Liturgy for the Departed, The Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, September 25, 1989" and in the Mercury on Thursday September 21, 1989. The letter reads as follows:

"First I wish to share the intent and purpose of the WILFRED F. PENNYSCHOLARSHIP FUND which was chosen by him in lieu of flowers. ...Any contributions to the Fund would be in his memory. The intent and purpose of the Fund is to be for the development and deepening of our life in Christ by making available, on an annual basis, the Interest only, from the Principal, in the sequence and priority as follows:

- (1) Any member of the Parish attending a Seminary of the Episcopal Church
- (2) In the interest of Christian Education among members of our Youth Group. This should be used primarily for assisting a youth (or youths) to attend conferences, conventions, special work projects, etc.
- (3) For any member of the Vestry (or anyone they choose) whose concern could enhance his or her contribution to the Parish as a result of attending special conferences, conventions, etc., as part of a Christian Education Program.

Several years ago I started contributing to a fund which would become my memorial to my husband. It became known, for identification purposes, as THE PENNY WAFER FUND....I could think of nothing more appropriate than having all communion wafers in his memory. To this end I shall continue to add to the Fund so that the Interest may be used for this purpose. I shall try to provide a corridor so there will be adequate for growth and inflation."

### B. The Funeral and Burial

Fr. Penny's funeral instructions had been written in 1982 and they were followed as specified. He lay in state Sunday Evening, September 24, in a wooden coffin, the kind used for Jewish Funerals (not planned by him but fitting). As requested, the Rabbi read the Old Testament, Bishop Bartlett celebrated the Eucharist, and the pallbearers represented many parts of his life. The music was both formal with the choir and organ, and informal with friends who played their guitars with special music. As Donaldeen stated, "How like his life"

Fr. Penny was buried in a chasuble made by Jane Lou Smith. She and her husband Harold observed this type of vestment worn by the Clergy when they were in England at a time of the celebration of the Oxford Movement. Fr. Penny asked permission to be buried in the chasuble. The Oxford Movement, also known as the Tractarian Revival, had its roots in the High Church



movement of the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The movement looked back at the first four centuries of Christianity.

Fr. Penny was buried in the Nashotah House Seminary Cemetery in Nashotah Wisconsin, as arranged many years before. He wanted his passion for Ecumenicalism to follow him and that all who visited his grave site to see. On his tombstone is engraved the words:

THAT ALL MAY BE ONE

**Postscript:**

One final postscript related by Donaldeen was the story of Fr. Penny's trip to Washington D.C. his graduation and ordination. Without prior clearance or announcement, he went to the quarters of the Vice President of the United States, Henry Wallace, and asked to see him. Without even questioning him, the people in charge gave him the proper directions and, unimpeded, he proceeded to knock on the VP's door. Henry, who was tying his bow tie while finishing dressing for a formal dinner, asked Fr. Penny who he was and then invited him in. After a few words, Henry Wallace, Vice President of the United States, requested that Fr. Penny give the Invocation that evening at the dinner.



**THE END OF THE WILFRED F. PENNY YEARS AT CHRIST CHURCH**



# **CHRIST CHURCH**

## **HISTORY**



## **CHAPTER II**

**The Rev. Stephen W. Price Years**



## CHAPTER II

### The Year of Our Lord 1990

The Rev. Stephen W. Price continued to serve the Church as Interim Rector while the search for a Rector continued. His total time at Christ Church was two years, from August 1989 until August of 1991, at which time Fr. Morton was selected as the Rector. Fr. Price had a degree in City Planning in addition to his ordination as a Priest. Earlier he had been a minister in the United Church of Christ, then went to Seminary at Yale University and studied for the Priesthood in the Episcopal Church. At the recommendation of the Rector of St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Pa., he was selected to serve as the Interim during the time of the search for a permanent Rector. He was appreciated most for his compassion for the sick and dying. The parishioners who lost loved ones at the time were very strong in their praise for how well he presided over the departed and for his ability to console the families who were in mourning.

The Rector's Warden, Ron Druckenmiller, reported that the entire Parish participated in a self-study to determine "who we are and where we are headed". It was imperative to carry on the good work that Fr. Penny had established for 25 years. Priorities were set for the facilities improvements and changes. A building was established and began to grow. The Search Committee examined over one hundred applications for Rector. Joseph Dietz was recommended to the Diocese as an aspirant for Vocational Deacon.

The Church School continued with about forty students using the Living the Good News curriculum. Megan Hoover was praised for providing excellent nursery care during the second Sunday service by Georgette Druckenmiller, Church School Superintendent.

The Logos (Youth Club) ten year anniversary report was enthusiastically submitted by Ginny Slichter with the news that there were 49 young people actively participating each week with the support of a 40 adults. The youths joined with Calvary Germantown's Youth group in a weeklong conference in Cape May. They joined with them again in a Peace Mission at the United Nations in New York. This was reported to be a wonderful experience for all of the children. Five members of the Christ Church group went to the Episcopal Youth Event (EYE) in Missoula, Montana in which 1500 youths all over the USA and nine foreign countries participated for prayer, worship, and sports. Participating at the EYE were Ginny Slichter, Emily Slichter, Kim Woessner, Fr. Stephen Price, Chris Kalucai, William Voss and Amy Blye. The Mission Protect project in Appalachia was attended by Dwight Woessner, Candy Woessner and Vannesa Voss. The Logos group continued to participate in many raising activities in the Church.

Grace Hoover, Choir Director, reported that the choir had a membership of 25 and was looking for a few more male voices. In addition to singing at forty-one church services, the choir performed seven extra services, including the wedding of Gail Martz Bauer, a former choir member. And they performed "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" with the Junior choirs.



The Lay Eucharistic Ministries continued to visit the parishioners ill at home and elsewhere to provide the Eucharist. Joseph Dietz reminded that the group had been licensed by the Bishop to perform this service that was done on the first Sunday of each month following the morning services.

Joseph Dietz also coordinated the Acolytes, Lay Readers, Chalice Bearers, and the Ushers and Greeters who had been confirmed and trained for the duties. Joe and his wife Shirley were the leaders of the Prayer and Praise group of parishioners who met Tuesday Evenings in the Library for a time of prayer and sharing.

The Memorials Committee under William Lawrence reported that the parishioners continued their generous support for memorials. Bill reported that an opportunity would soon arise for the construction and furnishing of the small chapel. He urged people to look around the Church closely and see all of the memorials, such as the stained glass windows, the altar, the lectern, and others large and small that enhance the beauty of this historic structure.

June Morgan made a request for additional help for the Altar Guild. The request must have been answered because the services continued. The Church Services would suffer severely without their tender loving care and hard work.

The Churchwomen, with Corie Rhoads as President, were very active raising funds and generally making the church a Church. They worked with the Girls' Friendly Society on a soup and hoagie sale that was a big success. The ten year program to develop a cook book was completed and the book was then available for sale. The cookbook was "***Dedicated in loving memory of Fr. Penny for all the years of love and support he gave to the Episcopal Church Women***". The Thrift shop brought in over \$3000 and the Merchandise Mart over a \$1000. Monies were then given to causes with the Church such as a new stove and for additional landscaping. The Church owes such a debt of gratitude to these great women. The UTO Fund amounted to \$140 this year.

The Property report was submitted by Donald Eastman, Chairman. He documented a great amount of progress made during the year. The Rectory was extensively refurbished with new roof, painting, and upgraded electrical service. The Church roof was worked on and plans were made for a major change to the heating system with a conversion from an oil- to a gas-fired boiler. Many other projects were identified for future work and the list included with the report.



# **CHRIST CHURCH**

## **HISTORY**



## **CHAPTER**

### **III**

## **The Rev. Kell Morton Years**



## CHAPTER III

### The Year of Our Lord 1991

Chapter 3 of the History begins with the Installation of Kell Morton as the Rector. An extensive search that began in the late 1980's was completed with the selection of Reverend Kell Morton on Father's Day 1991. Born in Toledo, Ohio in 1947, he attended Staunton Military Academy, then attended the University of Toledo and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Education. The Lord called to the ministry and in 1978 he graduated from Nashotah House Theological seminary, the same seminary that Father Penny attended. From 1978-1980 while in Seminary he served as an Assistant at Trinity Episcopal Church in Oskosh, Wisconsin. Following his graduation, Fr. Morton served as Rector of two Mission Parishes in Northern Wisconsin. He also, during this period, took time off to serve his Country as a Marine Corps Officer. After his time in Fr. Morton became the Rector of Grace Episcopal Church in Riverhead, Long Island, New York where he also served as the Superintendent of the Church's St. David's Episcopal School. Fr. Morton is married to the former Connie Crowley and they have four children, Kell, Andrew, Mike and Katy.

This was the Rector's Report for Fr. Morton who was installed as the 24<sup>th</sup> Rector of Christ Church. The Rev. Morton moved Long Island with his wife Connie and three children and was Installed as Rector in September. He expressed his appreciation for the great work that Fr. Penny and a great laity had done over the past years and thanked Fr. Stephen Price who was the Interim Rector during the search period.

The Rector's Warden, Ron Druckenmiller reported on the depths and extent of the search procedure and the optimism of the Parish with the selection of Fr. Morton who was installed in September. During the search process the refurbishment of the Church continued. In August the rehabilitation of the Church began and Ron indicated his amazement at the speed of the construction process. He concluded his report by Praising the Lord.

The Church School under the guidance of Georgette Druckenmiller continued to teach about 40 students in the program which used the Living the Good News curriculum selected several years ago. The children, in addition to attending classes, sponsored the Advent Event followed by a Covered Dish Supper which they hoped would become an annual event.

Ginny Slichter announced she was turning over the supervision of the Youth Club (Logos) to Michele Weigner. The past year had been sensational for the 48 young people. Ginny wrote that the Club was one of the few in the Country that included both Senior High and College students. On Wednesday evenings, as many as 90 people gathered for the weekly meeting.

In November, Ginny was invited to Louisiana to give several workshops on Youth Group Programs to two Episcopal, one Lutheran, and one Roman Catholic Parish. Five of the members of the Church Youth group were on the Design Team for the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Bishop's Ball and twenty-two adults and youth from Christ Church attended the Ball in Philadelphia. Several were on a staff of "Happening", a renewal movement within the Church for Senior High students. Emily



Slichter was selected as Province youth representative from the Diocese of Pa. Ginny Slichter was the adult representative. The group sponsored a Native American girl and sent letters and packages to her during the year. They helped the Church and the Community in many ways such as sorting hundreds of can goods for the Cluster. And they took time to have fun with activities that included rafting on the Lehigh River. There is no question that Ginny and other parishioners like her are the jewels of Christ Church and of the Lord.

Janice Morris wrote that the Girls' Friendly Society has been very active this year, and in an effort to promote togetherness, made collages of themselves and then shared them with the group, a great idea. They attended GFS' World Day of Prayer with Fr. Morton in Philadelphia. The girls made cookies and presented them to the folks at Manatawny Manor on Halloween. They had an Epiphany Party and the girls performed a play to help them understand the significance of the time. At the end of the play, the Wise Men gave each girl a star to follow for the New Year. Janice ended the report with a message to the parishioners: *"May you follow your star to joy, peace, love, peace, patience, good health and hope."*

The Choir Director, Grace Hoover, was in her praise for all of the choir members whom she thanked for their talents, time, energy, and commitment. Betty Henry was given a music box at her choir farewell party and was bestowed with the title of super "critic-at-large". All of the choir members were listed in Grace's report including the instrumentalists, some of whom were supported by the Margaret Baro Memorial Music Fund. The Youth Club Choir were pictured individually on an entire page of the report.

President Corie Rhoads announced the slate of officers for next year: Mary Ann Hillegas would be President of the Churchwomen for the year 1992, ably assisted by Stephanie Eastman, Helen Harclerode, Corie Rhoads, Gloria Baro, Clarissa Pengelly, Erma Magee, and Kathy Pope. This was an outstanding year of very hard work and innovative fund raising to assist in paying for the renovations and other ministries. They had an Art Auction, a reception for Father Stephen Price, and many luncheons and dinners for other special occasions including a dinner to welcome Fr. Morton on board. The Merchandise Club Project and the Shop were big contributors to a successful year. Christ Church is most fortunate to have such a group of Churchwomen.

Clarissa indicated that the contribution by the Church was \$103. She explained that the National Committee makes grants in amounts varying \$2000 to more than \$30,000 for innovative projects in social service, communications, education and other projects throughout the world. The money is collected all Episcopal Churches at the Spring Ingathering celebration. The Granting Schedule was to begin in 1992.

The Cluster of Religious Communities was supported by the Churches of Pottstown including Christ Church, and other community organizations. In fact, it was Fr. Penny who initiated the program many years ago. The Cluster Outreach Center is staffed by volunteers who supply food, clothing, free community meals, and financial assistance. Meals are served at several Churches, including Christ Church, with an average of 74 people served per meal resulting in a total of 189 meals last year. Each week food is collected in baskets for the Food Pantry that helped 7210 individuals in 1991 with a total of 64,890 meals.



The Refurbishing Committee Chairman, Carol Blye, reported on the completion of Phase I of the construction project that included a new heating system, new Narthex corridor, a Chapel, music room, new Rector's office, new secretary's office and a new entrance to the basement area.

The Property Committee annual report was presented by Donald Eastman. He listed the improvements to the Rectory and the Church, all of which were major undertakings and represented substantial accomplishments. In addition, the future upgrades were identified.

During the Interim Rectorship of Father Price, a Liturgy Committee was established to assist in making decisions on the various services. The committee was later expanded by Fr. Morton and the name changed to a Worship Committee. The idea was to help all members decide on the directions to be taken by the Committee for each of the services. Don Voss asked that everyone contribute ideas on worship to committee members.

An Evangelism Committee was formed and an organizational meeting was planned for February 1, 1992. As stated by Don Voss, "*Evangelism is making a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; then trusting him to lead as we learn, teach and share the Word of God.....the responsibility of all Christians.*" The committee planned to attend the Diocesan Conference on Evangelism and Stewardship in February.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by Joseph Dietz explained that he, Clarissa Pengelly, and Eric Penketh had been licensed by the Bishop to provide the Eucharist to those who cannot attend Church. They served the Eucharist 171 times over the previous year and asked to be told of anyone who needed the service.

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night with the guitar ensemble in attendance for prayer, scripture reading, and sharing, as well as "lifting our voices in songs of praise." Joseph and Shirley Dietz urged participation of all.

The Society of Mary had started two years before and the numbers had grown to twelve who met once a month, especially on Marian Feast Days, with a celebration of the Holy Eucharist followed by corporate recitation of the Rosary. The purpose established by the Society nationally was to love and honor Mary and to take her as a model of purity, personal relationships and family life while furthering the cause of Christian Unity. The report was prepared by Joseph Dietz, Secretary.

The Memorials Committee report by Robert reminded everyone that there were many opportunities in the Church for people to give memorial gifts, and that they could designate the gifts to the General Building Fund.

Altar Guild President, June Morgan, listed and praised all of members of the group and requested additional personnel to assist in this very important behind the scenes work. Robin Rhoads reported that the ALRBB&U fortunately had some volunteers this year that replaced those who had left. More are always needed and he graciously thanked those that gave of their time and talents.



## The Year of Our Lord 1992

In his Rector's Report, the Rev. Morton stressed the need for all parishioners to join in and utilize their spiritual to the work of Christ Church. He had high praise for all of the hard work and dedication of the parishioners who had made Church all that it had become. The Rector's Warden, Ron Druckenmiller, quoted a passage from St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians that told the people they now had all the spiritual gifts that they could use, during this time of waiting. Ron referred to the year as a Quiet Time for the Church to catch its breath after the frantic building activity of the previous year, and he concluded that "we can speed on with the Good News".

Georgette Druckenmiller indicated in her Church School report that everything continued as in the previous year. She mentioned that Ron Druckenmiller was in his 17<sup>th</sup> year of teaching the adult class.

The Logos (Youth Group), report by Michele Weigner explained the purpose of the group and the means by which the goals were accomplished. She stated that the program is based on the fact that Christian relationships are mostly learned, and learned correctly, in an atmosphere of theological presence; and she reminded that there are four sections of the Logos Program: Bible study, play time, family time, and worship/choir time. A Youth Council was formed in the Diocese consisting of a 40member staff of 30 youths and 10 adults. The Bishop appointed those who he thought displayed the most promising ability to assume leadership roles. Three from Christ Church were selected, Emily Slichter, Kim Woessner, and Andrew Morton.

Janice Morris, reporting for the Friendly Society, explained that the program is for girls seven to twenty-one and there were 10-12 girls who regularly attended the meetings. The major emphasis was to work on their prayer symbol and to work on their Diocesan Mission Project. The Mission Project was to follow Jesus' directive to feed the hungry and care for the poor. The girls were collecting money that they saved their allowances and from a bake sale in December for the Project. Janice asked that all young and older girls join with the group in their bi-weekly luncheons.

The Choir Director, Grace Hoover, thanked all of the choir members for their talents, time, energy, and commitment. The Choir had a summer picnic at the home of Walter and Candace Woessner and exclaimed that they had a wonderful time.

Churchwomen President, Mary Ann Hillegas expressed appreciation for the good work of all the women on the committee who worked with her. They included: Stephanie Eastman, Helen Harclerode, Gloria Baro, Clarissa Pengelly, Erma Magee, and Kathy Pope. Two fund raising projects were initiated, the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Funnel Cake sale and the Cookie sale during Sidewalk Sales Days in Late July. The Thrift Shop was again a big contributor to a year, as were the Thursday hoagie sales. Christ Church was most fortunate to have such a wonderful group of Churchwomen who not only raised money but they shared the Holy Spirit, evangelizing as they met with people at their various events. Mary Ann quoted from the ECW prayer: "...to pray *fervently, labor diligently, and give liberally to make Jesus Christ known to all as their Savior and King.*"



Candace Woessner indicated that the contribution by the Church was \$232. During the year, the twice a year collection was renewed in order to encourage better participation in giving. Blue envelopes would again be distributed Spring and Fall.

On Sunday October 23, the 25' Anniversary of The Cluster of Religious Communities, was celebrated at the First Presbyterian Church with participants several churches including: the Rev. Kell Morton, Christ Episcopal Church, the Rev. Dr. Larry Carl, First United Methodist Church, the Rev. Dr. Robert Hoffman, United Methodist-Church, the Rev. Peter Nichols, Zion's United Church of Christ, Mrs. Alice Trinity United Church of Christ, Mrs. Hazel Nettles, First Presbyterian Church, Helen Webber, Organist, First Presbyterian Church, and Mr. Steven Guy, soloist, Zion's United Church of Christ. The Cluster had been supported by Christ Church and the other Churches of Pottstown, as can be seen above, and other community organizations that donate clothing, and financial assistance. The program served 75 meals four times per week to hungry people. Christ Church continued to be one of only seven churches that donate food and personal items each week. It took about 250 volunteers each month to serve the needs of the 1200 people who asked for help at the Cluster building and Community Meal Program. All of this was done with only one paid employee. Debbie Harmon, Marlene Boyer, and Michele Weigner thanked everyone for their support.

The Refurbishing Committee Chairman, Carol Blye, reported that the engineering blueprints of the remaining construction changes were posted in the lower Parish Hall. Construction phases II and III and could not be started until Phase I was paid for. She urged each person or family to add \$5 extra to their giving pattern to cover the cost of all three phases of the project.

The Property Committee annual report was presented by Robin Rhoads He listed the routine maintenance items that were taken care of. In addition, he provided a list of some of the capital improvements that were scheduled, i.e. paving the rear parking lot, painting, and repairing the organ.

Accounting Warden, Robert Weigner, thanked everyone for the cooperation over the past six years of service. He joked about his appointment being made when he was away on business and missed the Vestry Meeting, which was his "punishment" for being out of town. The message for all to note was, "Do not to miss the Vestry meetings unless you are looking for extra assignments."

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night with the guitar ensemble in attendance for prayer, scripture reading, and sharing as well as "lifting our voices in songs of praise." Shirley Dietz urged participation by all. She also called for special prayer requests to be placed into the box at the rear of the Church, the Church or given to one of the members.

The new Evangelism Committee had their organizational meeting on February 1, 1992. As stated by Don Voss, "*Evangelism is a personal commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; trusting him to lead as we teach and share the Word of God... the responsibility of all Christians.*" The advertisement in the yellow pages of the phone book had been expanded; brochures have been designed, printed, and distributed. Letters had been prepared for sending to



new residents, and a greeter's group had been formed. Emphasis was to be placed on a follow up program directed at new members to secure their comments and ideas.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by Eric Penketh explained that he, Clarissa Pengelly, and William Lawrence had been licensed by the Bishop to provide the service to those who could not attend Church. They served the Eucharist to the sick, to shut-ins at home, in hospitals, and in nursing homes. The group also aimed to brighten the spirits of the people they were visiting.

Roy Keeler, Secretary, reviewed the history of the Society. The Society of Mary developed from two societies founded in 1880 and 1901 that united in 1931, and had spread to include members all over the world. Its membership was not confined to Anglicans alone. The object was to love and honor Mary and to take her as a model of purity, personal relationships, family life, and to the cause of Christian Unity. There were 14 members at Church meeting monthly for Mass and Rosary. The meetings were a time for quiet, for contemplation, and for renewal.

The Memorials Committee report by Robert Magee reminded everyone that there were many needs to be filled at the Church. He was in the process of upgrading the acknowledgments of past memorials. Names were to be added to the plaques in the vestibule and various plaques were to be added around the property. The Memorials Book in the library was also being updated.

June Morgan, the Altar Guild President, listed and praised all of the members of the group and requested that additional personnel join to assist in this very important behind-the-scenes work. And David Pool reported that the ALRBB&U secured volunteers that replaced those who had left the service. He graciously thanked those that gave of their time and talents and offered an open invitation for volunteers for this ministry.



## The Year of Our Lord 1993

Fr. Morton in his Rector's report, told about his "theological journey" with Michael Moyer who was pursuing Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church, a very complicated process that involves approval of the Rector, the Vestry, and the Diocesan Commission on Ministry. Also, a Parish Advisory Committee on Ministry (PACM) committee must make recommendations about the candidate to the Vestry after at least eight sessions. The year was one for teaching as the Kerygma Class met from January through October using the Kerygma curriculum that includes ten major themes in scripture. The Gospels of John and Matthew were studied in the Bible class on Wednesday mornings. A highlight of the year was the Confirmation Class which had been in session for two years. The year ended with a six-week Communion Class. Added to these were the Sunday School, Logos, and EFM, all of which displayed the commitment to teaching and sharing the faith in Jesus Christ.

Fr. Morton was selected to be the President of the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. This gave him the opportunity to work closely with Debbie Harmon and Michele Weigner, who are dedicated to helping the poor. He was also elected to the Board of Directors of the Samaritan Counseling Center of Pottstown, a counseling service which was started through the efforts of Fr. Penny.

The method of financing the renovation of the Church was reviewed. A decision was made to re-negotiate the loan with Core States Bank. Expressions of gratitude were extended to Ron Druckenmiller for his good work through this transition period.

Ron Druckenmiller, the Rector's Warden, reviewed the fact that finances had been the issue of the year and that it was the year of conservative progress. Phase I of the construction program had overextended the budget.

Georgette Druckenmiller indicated, in her Church School report, that everything continued as in the previous year with the same curriculum and the same number of students, 40.

The Logos (Youth Group), report by Michele Weigner, who worked together with Ginny Slichter with the youth, explained the importance of the ministry in light of what was happening in the outside world. The world desperately needs programs like Logos for children who are floating in a society where they have little love, and do not feel wanted. She asked that the Parish continue to support the hoagie sales and "Fr. Morton's Marvelous Manna" in February (translation: Pancake supper on Shrove Tuesday). The Episcopal Youth Event was held at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Emily Slichter was one of three keynote speakers.

The Choir Director, Grace Hoover, thanked all of the choir members for their talents, time, energy, and commitment. This was the first year for a Choral Workshop which was a great success. The Transfiguration Lutheran Choir and our Choir sponsored clinician Donald fora learning session. Fifty singers from local churches were registered. The Logos Choir was making great progress learning to sing with and accuracy and, when all of the above were lacking, with love.



Joy Konnick, President of the Churchwomen reported on the good work of those who worked with her this year. The largest undertaking was the Holiday Bazaar held in November. The Thrift Shop continued to receive accolades from all.

Candace Woessner wrote that the contribution by the Church was only \$46. The twice a year collection was renewed in order to encourage better participation in giving, but it did not help probably because of the heavy financial drain from the construction work.

The Cluster of Religious Communities continued to be supported by the Churches of Pottstown including Christ Church, and other community organizations donating clothing, free community meals, and financial assistance. The program served 70 meals four times per week to hungry people. The meals prepared for the community totaled 13,218 in 188 days with 2279 volunteers (average of 12 per meal). The contribution from the Crop Walk was \$607, thanks to Danya Konnick.

The Property Committee annual report was presented by Robin He noted that the paving of the rear lot and the repair of the organ had been accomplished as planned. For the following year, the steeple must be painted, and many minor repairs made in addition to the ever present general maintenance.

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night with the guitar ensemble in attendance for prayer, scripture reading, and sharing. Shirley Dietz urged participation. Special prayer requests should be put in the box at the rear of the Church, left in the Church office, or given to one of the 14 members.

The Evangelism Committee report by Robert illustrated that an excellent effort had been made to bring in new members, and to make new members feel welcome. A picnic was held for this purpose at the Voss residence. Next year, the Diocesan School of Evangelism would be held at Christ Church and plans were under way for a Faith Alive Weekend scheduled for 1995. The committee also planned to establish Foyer Groups at the Church to expand Christian prayer, and study, in small groups.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by Eric Penketh explained, again, that he, Clariss Pengelly and William Lawrence had been licensed by the Bishop to provide the service to those who cannot attend Church. They serve the Eucharist to the sick, shut-ins at home, hospitals or nursing homes. The group endeavors to brighten the spirits of the people on their visits. They served the Sacraments about 15 times each month this past year.

The Society of Mary was very active in 1993, meeting monthly. At the morning meetings, the Eucharist and Rosary recitation were held first, then breakfast was enjoyed by all. A newsletter had been started to keep people of activities. Toys were provided for children at Christmas and Roy Keeler attended the Society's High Mass and annual meeting in R.I. Several more trips were planned including one to the National Cathedral in Washington. The Society then had 66 cells in the American Region. The cell at Christ Church was the 47th to join from the origination of the Society. The report was prepared by Roy Keeler, Ward Secretary.



The Memorials Committee report by Robert Magee announced a major Memorial, the Robert Shaner Memorial Fund sponsoring the refurbishing of a new Chapel in the area that was occupied by the stage many years ago. This is a wonderful example of how a fund set up many years ago could add to worship and devotion at Church.

June Morgan, the Altar Guild President, listed and praised all of the members of the group and requested additional personnel to assist in this very important behind the scenes work. And David Pool reported that the ALRBB&U added replacement volunteers to replace those who had left. He graciously thanked those that gave of their time and talents. A call was put out for more volunteers.

The Education for Ministry (EFM) class with eight students, all in their third year, reported that their Christian education had been greatly enhanced during their first two years covering both the Old and New Testaments. They believed the four year program to be very beneficial and instrumental in their desire to grow in their relationship to God. In the class were Janice Morris, Kathleen Price, Peg Shaner, Ginny Slichter, Don Voss, Candace Woessner, and their leader Fr. Warner.

PACM provided an update on the status of Joe Dietz. He had been accepted as a candidate for deacon and was in his and final year of training in the Diaconate School. The school included his position as deacon-in-training at St. Peters Episcopal Church in Phoenixville. The PACM met to enter into discernment with Michael Moyer regarding his calling to the ministry of the priesthood. He participated in many meetings, including one with the Commission on Ministry, in order to learn whether he will be accepted at this time as a Postulant for the Priesthood. The PACM joined with the Evangelism Committee of Christ Church to assist in the ministry project of establishing Foyer Groups. The stated purpose of the Foyer Groups is to build community within the Parish, providing a place where Christians can learn to know one another better through sharing their lives during evening meals at homes of parishioners. The Foyer Groups were a part of Michael Moyer's ministry project that was required by the Diocese.



## The Year of Our Lord 1994

Fr. Morton indicated in his Rector's Report that there had been progress in the financial area. The Church repaid \$30,000 to the Smith-Barney Account and decided not to tap the account in the future. The adult class was a joy to teach and Father was most grateful to Peter Habeeb for teaching a class on God and Country to four of the Scouts. Eighteen participants in the Kerygma class studied the Revelation of St John. Praise went out to Michele Weigner and Debbie Harmon for their work with the Cluster. The Dolphins, a new outreach ministry, has been started at Church. The Church has been named a Dolphin Center with three Dolphins signed up to visit nursing homes in the area.

The Rector's Warden, Don Voss, reflected on the idea that at times the Vestry forgets that it must come together as a parish family, not as a typical gathering of human individuals in the secular world. A shift in emphasis was made from financial concerns to the Mission Statement.

*“glorify God, to worship and to teach, to extend a welcome to all people, to show a concern for each other and to serve the needs of the community”*

One member would not serve on the Vestry because did not see it as a group working from a Spiritual basis. After the reorganization of the Vestry in February, Fr. Morton, the Rector's Warden and the Accounting Warden planned to gather for 30 minutes of prayer before the meeting. The Vestry meetings were ended with each member praying for personal needs and thanksgiving and for the concerns of the Parish. Two programs were undertaken, (1) the Foyer Groups that were to meet in homes for prayers, a short meal, and fellowship and (2) a Faith Alive weekend scheduled for February 1995.

Corie Rhoad indicated, in her Church School report, that everything continued as in the previous year with the same curriculum and the same number of students. She gave thanks and praise for the teachers in the School.

The Logos report by Michele Weigner indicated that the Senior High program had been recognized as a separate program. One of the classrooms was furnished in a living room motif, making it more relaxing for conversation, study, and worship.

The Girls' Friendly Society worked very hard on raising activities. They worked on the Diocesan Mission Project and donated \$400 to feed the hungry. On Junior Day, the girls donated \$200 for the same purpose working the bake table at the ECW bazaar. And they supported an Anglican Native American parish. They baked cookies for the Manatawny Manor and planned to make ribbon markers for the Hymnals at the Church. They learned to under the direction of Doe Duckworth. The Seaman's Church Institute and the Indian Children would be receiving scarfs if all went well and if stitches were not dropped too Knit one, pearl one, knit one, oops.

The Choir Director, Grace Hoover, thanked all of the choir members for their talents, time,



energy, and commitment. It had been an emotional year, with some family losses and illnesses. The choir participated in an 'Advent Lessons and Carols' service together with Grace Lutheran and the First Presbyterian Churches, with a combined group of sixty voices. The process was planned for the following year because the service was and well received. When asked what the choir would like reported, they said to let everyone know how much they appreciated the 25 new chairs. *"We sit taller, tire less quickly, and we sing much better because of these chairs."*

Joy Konnick, President of the Churchwomen, reported the good work of those who worked with her this year. No meetings were held but several projects were sponsored. The Annual Parish dance was held in Moose Hall. The ECW was able to donate \$2500 to the Church General Fund and \$1200 toward the new heater in the Rectory. Joy stated that she hoped the organization's spirit would be rekindled and stay alive in Christ Church.

Candace Woessner asked that the UTO contributions by the Church be increased because it is a very worthy cause with the money used for projects around the world.

Outreach was the new name assigned to the ministries previously reported as The Cluster of Religious Communities and other ministries at the Church. Unfortunately for the Cluster work, Trinity UCC stopped hosting community meals. This was a problem for the program that had been an on-going ministry since 1988. But four churches agreed to do a meal a week with three lunches and a dinner. It was a very large undertaking-setting up, cooking, and clearing after each one of these meals. In all, there were 10,789 people served with an average of 62 people per meal. An estimated 175 meals were served by a total of 1965 volunteers. Other Ministries under the Outreach umbrella, were: Needle Guild, Red Cross, sponsorship of an Indian child, thrift shop, and the offering to adopt a Hill School student by Parish families. Deborah Harmon was the Outreach Chairperson.

The Property Committee annual report was presented by Donald He reported that a large amount of work was done in the basement area of the Rectory, including the purchase of a new water heater that was badly needed.

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night with the guitar ensemble in attendance for prayer, scripture reading, and sharing. Fr. Morton met with the group for Holy Eucharist and teaching once a month. At Christmas and Easter gifts were delivered the group to parishioners who were in nursing homes or shut-in at home.

The Evangelism Committee report by Robert wrote that the Diocesan School of Evangelism was held at church and proved to be a opportunity to meet people from other parishes. Plans were under way for a Faith Alive Weekend scheduled for 1995. Don Voss, one of the founding members of the Committee, moved to another area and will be missed.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by Eric Penketh explained that he, Clarissa Pengelly, and William Lawrence continued their efforts to visit those of the Parish who were ill and unable to attend the services.

The Society of Mary was very active again in 1994 meeting monthly with the Eucharist and



Rosary recitation followed by breakfast. Several trips were taken to other parishes including St. Clemens in Philadelphia. The newest member, Michael Moyer left to do an Internship in Italy. Roy Keeler, Ward Secretary reported.

The Memorials Committee, Roy Keeler reporting, received several donations during the year including: the new dossal curtain in the Chapel, a new all-season superfrontal, paraments, and a stole and cope purchased from the Ackerman Memorial. Fr. Morton's appeal for Hymnals and Prayer Books was met by the contributions of several parishioners. Roy concluded with the following from the Gospel of St. Matthew, chapter 6, verse 19 " . . .*For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.*"

June Morgan, the Altar Guild President, listed and praised all of the members of the group and requested additional personnel to assist in this very important behind the scenes work.

PACM provided an update on the status of Moyer who was working toward journey to the ministry of the Priesthood. He was accepted as a Postulant for the Priesthood and was at Nashotah Seminary to pursue a Masters in Sacred Theology with particular emphasis in Episcopal Church History and Liturgy. He had previously earned a Masters Degree in Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary. Candace Woessner worked towards the establishment of the near-term goals for PACM, and to define the role of PACM as it relates to the Vestry, the Rector and to the ministry coordinators.

Jere Bricker, the Accounting Warden, presented an excellent report that read like a novel with an unhappy beginning (money was scarce), to an improving midsection (getting better), to a happy ending, with spare money to pay off some loans. Jere attributes the good year to prayers, and good stewardship of this great Parish family, to which everyone must say AMEN.

For the Stewardship Committee, Ed Schaeffer thanked everyone for a gracious pledge during the recent campaign. A 10% increase was asked for and a 13.8% increase was realized.



## The Year of Our Lord 1995

**A** low profile but extremely important part of Fr. Morton's time was spent taking the Eucharist to people several days each week, as well as on the first Sunday of each month. He then revisited many parishioners on a weekly basis.

The Rector's Warden Report was given by Shirley Dietz who had served in the position for the past year following the sudden departure of the Druckenmillers from the Church. She expressed great appreciation for the support that she had received from Fr. Morton and Jere Bricker, the Accounting Warden, and asked that everyone support Fr. Morton, the Vestry, and the entire Parish with prayer. She expressed optimism for the Church because of all the wonderful people in the Parish who have so much to offer, to the Church, to one another, and to the Lord Jesus Christ *"in Whom we live and move have our being"*.

Corie Rhoads indicated in her Church School report that a new curriculum had been started called, The Episcopal Children's Curriculum. This curriculum was sponsored by the National Episcopal Church. Included was a three-year program to coincide with the three-year Lectionary, as well as providing special activities related to the seasons of the church year. The teachers liked the program because it offered exciting stories for children, stories that are supported by work sheets. The program also contained posters and art work with new ideas of different ways to teach. There were 30-35 children in the classes. Fr. Morton instructs about 30 people in the Adult class.

The Logos report by Candace Woessner listed seven goals to be strived for this year, (1) respect one another, (2) focus on fun, (3) focus on Christ, (4) outreach, (5) prayer, (6) obedience to God, (7) commitment to Logos. A mid-year survey by youth and staff measured the progress toward the goals. The results indicated that more attention must be paid to outreach. There was a desire by everyone to integrate the activities with other activities, including the Sunday School and Confirmation classes, so that they would not simply be an 'island unto themselves'. The three-day National Logos training school needed to be attended by adults, and it was hoped that Christ Church could host the event the following year. The program was self-supporting, and the enrollment was included 41 youths plus 46 adults who participated at varying levels.

The Music Report by Choir Director, Grace Hoover, thanked all of the choir members for their talents, time, energy, and commitment. A special tribute was made to Eric Penketh by quoting from his 1964 Annual Report. The choir participated in an Advent service together with Grace Lutheran and the First Presbyterian Churches again. The show of support from Christ Church was not as strong as they had hoped. Grace singled out Shirley Dietz and Erma for all of their support. Shirley's organ playing is greatly appreciated.

Outreach ministries, as reported by Debbie contributed financially to the Cluster of Religious Communities. Also Parish contributions were sent to Liberty House, a halfway house, and to St. Dismas at Graterford Prison. Meals were served at Christ Church on Mondays. The other groups that used the Parish Hall were Girl Scout Troop Church Women United, Chi Rho Psi Fraternity from Ursinus College, Red Cross (two blood drives), and the Logos Christmas Banquet with Manatawny Manor. Baby clothes and blankets were collected on Layette Sunday



and nonperishable food (2143 items) had been given to the Cluster Outreach Center.

The Property Committee report was presented by Donald Eastman. He reported that no major projects could be undertaken because of the poor financial state of the Church. The new heating system was acting somewhat finicky and needed rebalancing. Unfortunately, the installer went out of business. For the following year, the agenda included: recoating of the parking lot, painting of the Parish Hall, estimates for painting the steeple, recarpeting and painting the Sunday School rooms, and others. Don was very high in his praise for Ralph who worked behind the scenes to keep the systems operating. Ralph and Robin, the R&R team, were a sensational duo and the Parish owed them debts of gratitude for work well done. Special remembrance was given for Ed Schwoyer who helped the Church for so many years.

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night, with the guitar ensemble in attendance, for prayer, scripture reading, and sharing. Shirley Dietz again stated that continued to be a very active prayer ministry.

The Evangelism Committee report by Robert Connitt stated that a cost effective means of people who move into the Borough was being sought. Faith Alive Weekend was held at the Parish. The team headed by Vince Czepukaitis worked to make the weekend especially rewarding for the participants and our Parish.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by Eric Penketh explained that he, Clarissa Pengelly, and William Lawrence served the Sacraments about 15 times each month this past year.

The Society of Mary was unable to meet monthly because of the problem in finding a time that was suitable to all. A survey had been distributed but only half the forms had been returned. Secretary Roy Keeler indicated that 1996 would be a rebuilding year for the Society. Roy visited a Roman Catholic Shrine in Wisconsin while at Nashotah House Seminary, courtesy of Michael Moyer.

The Memorials Committee report by Roy Keeler pointed to several donations during the year including a new sign in of the Church and a contribution toward mortgage reduction. The stained glass windows and other memorials have been photographed and catalogued for archiving purposes. And the Memorial Book has been updated.

June Morgan, the Altar Guild President listed and praised of the members of the group and requested additional personnel to assist in this very important behind the scenes work. Members were, in addition to June, Frances Grim, Gladys Griffiths, Sharon Weller, Erma Magee, Gloria Baro, Debbie Harmon, Kathy Roth, Ellen Keough, and Paula Cardona.

PACM progress was recorded by the convener, Candace Woessner. She emphasized the fact that we are all ministers of the faith wherever we are and at any given time. A Talent Offering and Gift Survey form was distributed to the parishioners and it was hoped that the response would be a blessing to all. The goals for the year were listed as: (1) hold a Parish Leadership Workshop, (2) follow up on the survey, (3) continue with Listening Hearts, (4) work with Carnell Griffin in his discernment process, (5) consider other discernments in transition.



For the Stewardship Committee, Jack Croft, Chairman, thanked everyone for their gracious pledge support during the recent campaign. A 12.2% increase in giving was realized. He is concerned that although the average pledge has increased by 27% over the past three years, the number of pledge units has fallen by 9.7%. He suggested that we invite a friend to church. We will welcome with open arms.

*All* of the major budgetary items (32) were listed in the financial report with an explanation of each one in the budget dialogue. This report should be read and understood by everyone as it is quite a revelation to learn of the extent of the required to keep the Church alive and well and still support the work of the Lord in the Community.



## The Year of Our Lord 1996

The Rector's warden, Robin Rhoads, gave his appreciation to the Body for the opportunity to serve. He emphasized the challenges ahead, especially for the finances needed to maintain and repair the buildings.

Ginny Slichter indicated, in her Church School report, that the new curriculum started last year, The Episcopal Children's Curriculum, continued to be used. The teachers liked the program because it offered exciting stories for children; and the stories were supported by work sheets that coincided with the stories. The program also came with posters and art work with new ideas for different ways to teach. Each classroom group activity and specific curriculum was reported by Ed Schaeffer met with the Senior High Group using Senior High Talk Sheets written by youth experts. Kevin Perez worked with the Middle School students. Carolyn and Ginny taught the younger children and studied the life of St. Paul. Barbara Schaeffer taught the grades 1-3. Gretchen Pendleton worked with the pre- and Kindergarten children.

The "Confirmation Call" group of five were taught by Candace Woessner with the help of Leanne Millet, using the curriculum, Encountering Christ in the Episcopal Church. The group was preparing for Confirmation in the Spring of 1997. The candidates were: Jon Perez, Collin Nippert, Corinne Nippert, Bernadette Croft, and Amber Chieffo.

"Nursery News" was submitted by Emily Slichter, Nursery Attendant. The lessons in the nursery followed the feast days and seasons. The attendance had grown and averaged 8 children per Sunday. A Nursery Aid would be needed at this rate of growth. Davidson graduated into "The Big Church" and no longer stayed with the group during the service. The sad note was that the Davidson family would soon be leaving for their new home in Western Canada. Guest story tellers, musicians, and artists are urged to help at any time.

The Logos report was presented by Stephanie Laidig, Director. Each Wednesday evening they met to play, learn, and build relationships. This was the 15<sup>th</sup> year of the program at Christ Church. The goal of the four parts of the program is to "create a place where we can all be children of God and be treated so by others". The four parts of the program continue to stress: music/worship, craft/gym, family time, and Bible time. The Senior High meeting time was moved to Sunday Evening and was under the direction of Andrew Pendleton. Two important events occurred that year: the Episcopal Youth Event at Indiana State University, Terre Haute, Indiana that was attended by Emily Slichter and Mara Stahl, and (2) the National Episcopal Educator's Conference at Estes Park, Colorado attended by Ginny and Emily Slichter. Mara Stahl was selected as the Province III youth representative from the Diocese of Pa. Ginny Slichter was appointed by the Bishop as the interim assistant to the Bishop for Youth Ministry in the Diocese of Pa., a paid staff position.

In the music report, Choir Director Roy Keeler thanked all of the choir members for their talents, time, energy, and commitment. The choir performed a Choral Evensong in November to celebrate Grace Hoover's retirement and ministry. Advent lessons and carols were sung in a combined service the first Sunday of Advent. A special Saturday rehearsal was held in preparation for Christmas Eve Midnight Mass. A choir Christmas Party was held at the



Woessner's. And the Director introduced New Mass Settings into the weekly worship. For next year, a Folk Mass was planned for Pentecost. a second annual Hymn Sing would be held in May, and Lent/Holy Week special services were on the schedule. The Director reminded everyone that the choir is open to all members of the Church ninth grade and above.

The report of the Churchwomen was submitted by President Corie Rhoads. A planning session was held at the Gables Inn in September. Projects for the year included: a new carpet installed in the Sunday School rooms; tables for the classrooms were secured; and paint was purchased for the painting of the Parish Hall. The ham supper in November was a great success, and it was hoped to be the First Annual. The overall fund raising activities were successful enough to allow money to be allocated toward the steeple repair. In addition, \$4000 was given to the Church to help pay general expenses, and \$500 was given to the Cluster memorial fund. The Thrift Shop continued its growth and again made major contributions to the cause.

The Property Committee annual report was presented by Donald Eastman. The new heating system worked satisfactorily during the year. As planned, the parking lot was coated. The Parish Hall was repainted thanks to talented volunteer labor and supplied materials. The Sunday School carpeting was replaced. Electrical work in the undercroft of the Church was initiated. Don was very high in his praise for Ralph who worked behind the scenes to keep the systems operating. The R&R team of Ralph and Robin were a sensational duo and the entire Parish thanked them for work well done. Special thanks were also given to Walt Woessner and to the Morton Family for their efforts, and to the ECW for their financial support. A 62 item 'must/wish list' of items that need attention for the Parish was included in the report, plus 14 items for the Rectory. Future property chairmen would not be without challenges.

Prayer and Praise met every Tuesday night with prayer, scripture reading, and sharing. At Christmas and Easter gifts are delivered from the group to parishioners who are in nursing homes or to shut-ins at home. This was a very active prayer ministry.

The Evangelism Committee report by Kevin Perez explained that thirty new people who moved into the Borough received letters of invitation to attend the Church. Plans for future work included the following: evangelism training and education; support for greeters; new brochures for the pews and for mailings; surveying for "The Episcopal Church Welcomes You" signs around the area; and an outreach to newcomers, shut-ins, and to folk who, for whatever reason, have decided to leave the Church.

The Lay Eucharistic Ministries report by William Lawrence, Coordinator, explained that Eric Penketh had to retire from the ministry because of ill health. Fr. Morton appointed Candace Woessner to take his place. At a reorganization meeting, the Diocesan guidelines for the Lay Eucharistic Ministry were reviewed. It was decided that the lay persons be sent forth from the altar with a special prayer. The ministry was in its eighth year following its initiation during the illness of Fr. Penny and had proven to be a blessing to all.

The Society of Mary report by Secretary Roy Keeler gave additional historical background about the Society. It is primarily, but not exclusively, an Anglican Devotional Society that honors the Incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ through Our Lady. It was started in England and



entered the United States in the 1960's via St. Mary the Virgin Episcopal Church, New York City, and St. Clement's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia. The cell at Christ Church was about six years old, with the Rector and about a dozen parishioners making up the group. There were nearly a hundred wards and cells in parishes across the United States and a substantial number in the Anglican Community in England. The principal shrine for the Society is in Walsingham, England where a national pilgrimage occurs each year, usually lead by the Archbishop of Canterbury or his designee.

The Memorials Committee report by Susan Banker announced that the committee had met during the year to discuss the establishment of a uniform procedure for memorials, and to improve the accounting system for the memorial Members were: Fr. Morton, Robin Rhoads, Jere Bricker, Candy Woessner, and Susan Banker. A memorial to the memory of Jeanette and Lorenz Ackerman had been established. It would be an original acrylic rendering of the "Stations of the Cross" to be designed by their daughter-in-law Kirsten Slichter. A suggested memorials list had been developed to guide families in their contributions. The Memorial Book had been updated, and memorials listed. A suggested memorial's list for future providers had been established.

June Morgan, the Altar Guild President, listed and praised all of the members of the group and requested additional personnel to assist in this very important behind the scenes work. Present members are, in addition to June, Frances Grim, Gladys Griffiths, Sharon Weller, Erma Magee, Gloria Baro, Debbie Harmon, Kathy Roth, Ellen Keough, and Paula Cardona. Jean Lee Barone requested help in delivering the Altar flowers to the sick in the hospital and at home.

For the Stewardship Committee Jack Croft, Chairman, thanked everyone for the gracious pledge support during the recent campaign. However, the total number of pledges declined for the fifth straight year. And there was a decrease of more than \$8000 in white and \$4000 in blue envelope pledges. This would make budget balancing very difficult.

All of the major budgetary items (36) were listed in the financial report with an explanation of each in the budget dialogue, referred to as the "Narrative Budget". The report should be read and understood by everyone as it was quite a revelation to learn of the extent of the funds required to keep the Church alive and well and still support the work of the Lord in the Community. In summary, Candace Woessner reported that the attendance was down by 15 people per Sunday yet pledging dollars had increased by 3% overall. But expenses had increased, resulting in a 1996 shortfall of \$4813.63 in accrued, unpaid, expenses. For example, the amount was equal to two quarters of pension payments for the Rector. The Church was dedicated to produce a balanced budget for 1997. Hopefully, additional funds would come in via Grant Writing proposal efforts and other sources during the year.

Jean Lee reported on "The Order of the Daughters of the King", an order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church. The Daughters pledge a life-long program of prayer, service, and evangelism dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish. Christ Church women were interested in forming a chapter and were presenting an application for a Charter. Applicants serve a three month study period and regularly meet to complete the twelve question study guide to learn about the Order. Those who had taken the course were Shirley Dietz, Virginia Slichter, Emily Slichter, and Candace



Woessner. Clarissa Pengelly and Jean Lee Barone were members.

The Dolphin Program is a one-to-one Lay Ministry to residents in local nursing homes. A volunteer visits one person, one hour a week. (The time and length of visits actually vary with the wishes of the resident.) The program at Christ Church began three years ago, and there were three parishioners visiting each week. There were four other Dolphins other churches in the Pottstown area active in the program. Shirley Dietz was the area coordinator and requested that she or Robert Weigner, also an area coordinator, be contacted if a person or couple was interested in joining the program .

Ginny Slichter reported that Michael Moyer had graduated in May from Nashotah House Seminary with an STM degree. In June, he became Lay Pastoral Assistant at St. Peter's Episcopal Church at and Pine in Philadelphia. In November, his candidacy for Holy Orders was approved and he was then waiting for final approval for ordination.

**APPENDIX  
to  
CHRIST CHURCH**

**HISTORY**



**APPENDIX A**

**Staff, Wardens, Vestry**

# APPENDIX A

## STAFF, WARDENS, VESTRY

**1964**

### THE STAFF

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Assistant: Rev. Kenneth C. Slagle,  
Deacon: Rev. Alan E. Holt, Jr.  
Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Geraldine E. Strange  
Choir Eric Penketh  
Sexton: Osborne Jeffries, Earl Diemer

### THE WARDENS

Warden: Charles R. Gochnaur  
Accounting Warden: Herbert R. Maack

### THE VESTRY

Gilbert R. Lewis	Frank Ackerman
William E. Peach	Charles A. Harter
James N. Shelly	Frederick Kendall
Herbert R. Maack	George J. Bower

Charles Gochnaur  
William G. Lawrence  
Melvin E. Pierce  
Robert H. Shaner

**1965**

### THE STAFF

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Assistant: Rev. Kenneth C. Slagle.  
Deacon: Rev. E. Holt, Jr.  
Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Geraldine E. Strange  
Choir Director: Eric Penketh  
Sexton: Osborne Jeffries, Earl Diemer  
Director, Religious Education: Priscilla Hescoock

### THE WARDENS

Rector's Warden: Charles R. Gochnaur  
Accounting Warden: Herbert R. Maack

### THE VESTRY

Frank Ackerman	Charles R. Gochnaur
Charles A. Harter	William G. Lawrence
Bayard VanRensselaer	Melvin E. Pierce
George J. Brower	Robert H. Shaner

Dr. F. Eugene  
Verne L. Bergeron  
John D. Edgerton

**1966**

### THE STAFF

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Assistant: Rev. Kenneth C. Slagle, PhD  
Deacon: Rev. Alan E. Holt, Jr.  
Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Eric Penketh, Interim  
Choir Director: Eric Penketh  
Sexton: Osborne Jeffries, Earl Diemer

### THE WARDENS

Rector's Warden: Charles R. Gochnaur  
Accounting Warden: Charles A. Harter

### THE VESTRY

Charles R. Gochnaur	Dr. F. Eugene Ackerman
William G. Lawrence	Verne L. Bergeron
Melvin E. Pierce	John d. Edgerton
Robert H. Shaner	

John A. Anderson

Gilbert R. Lewis

Robert

James N. Shelly

**1967**

### THE STAFF

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Assistant: Rev. C. Slagle,  
Deacon: Rev. Alan E. Holt, Jr.  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Kay Henshey  
Choir Director: Russell Cattell  
Sexton: F. Hart

### THE WARDENS

Rector's Warden: Charles R. Gochnaur  
Accounting A. Harter

**THE VESTRY**

Dr. F. Eugene Ackerman John A. Anderson  
Verne L. Bergeron Gilbert R. Lewis  
John D. Edgerton Robert Magee  
James N. Shelly  
William Fryer  
Frank Johnston  
Richard Strange

**1968**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Mrs. Stephen Walley  
Organist: Susan Gross  
Director: C. Russell  
Sexton: Henry F. Hart

**THE WARDEN**

Accounting Warden: Herbert R. Maack

**THE VESTRY**

John A. Anderson William Fryer  
Gilbert R. Lewis Frank Johnston  
Robert Magee Richard Strange  
James N. Shelly William G. Lawrence

Walter Gold  
Charles Harter  
Edwin Schwoyer  
Robert Shaner, Jr.

**1969**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph Dietz  
Choir Director: John Foster

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: William G. Lawrence  
Accounting Warden: Kenneth W. Schaeffer

**THE VESTRY**

William Fryer Walter F. Gold  
Frank Johnston Charles A. Harter  
Richard Strange Edwin Schwoyer  
William Lawrence Robert H. Shaner Jr

Ham Charles  
Herbert R. Maack  
Kenneth W. Schaeffer  
Paul D Roddeenberry

**1970**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: George A. Lineker  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. John Foster  
Shared Minister of Education: Rev. T. D. Taylor  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robert Magee  
Accounting Warden: Kenneth Schaeffer

**THE VESTRY**

Walter F. Gold Hany Charles  
Edwin Schwoyer Herbert R. Maack  
Robert H. Shaner, Jr. Kenneth W. Schaeffer  
Eugene R. Polins Paul D. Roddenbeny

John A. Anderson  
Gilbert R. Lewis  
Robert Magee  
Thomas F. Storm

**1971**

**THE STAFF**

*(Note 1971 not reported, some names are assumed)*

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. John Foster  
Shared Minister of Education: Rev. T. D. Taylor II  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

*(Note 1971 Wardens not reported)*

Rector's Warden: Robert Magee  
others

**THE VESTRY**

Kay Charles John A. Anderson  
Herbert R. Maack Gilbert R. Lewis  
Kenneth W. Schaeffer Robert Magee  
Paul D. Roddenberry Thomas F. Storm

Joseph B. Dietz  
William G. Lawrence  
Eric Penketh  
James N. Shelly

**THE STAFF**

*(.Note: 19 72 Staff not reported))*

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A.  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen Walley

Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director: Dennis Rhoads  
Shared Minister of Education: Rev. T. D. Taylor  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

(Note: no *report in* 1972)

Rector's Warden: Robert Magee

**THE VESTRY**

(Note: no *report in* 1972)

**1973**

**THE STAFF**

(Note: 1973 *Staff not reported*)

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Mrs. Jane Williams  
Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Music Director: Eric Penketh  
Shared Minister of Education: Rev. T. D. Taylor  
Property Chair: Edwiin Schnoyer  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

(Note: 1973 *Wardens not reported*)

Rector's Warden: Harry Charles  
Accounting Warden: William G. Lawrence

**THE VESTRY**

(Note: 1973 *Vestry not reported*)

**1971**

**THE STAFF**

(Note: no *report of staff in* 71)

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Music Director: Eric Penketh  
Christian Education: Pat Bomeman  
Property Chair: Ed Schwoyer  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

(Note: no *report of Wardens in* 1973)

Rector's Warden: Harry Charles  
Accounting Warden: Stanley Harvey

**THE VESTRY**

Note: *Vestry not reported in* 1971)

**1975**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Wilfred F Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B Dietz

Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (chapel) Ralph B. Hallowell  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph Hoover  
Christian Education: Harry Gladfelter  
Sexton: Charles Schaeffer

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Harry Charles  
Accounting Warden: Stanley Harvey/Richard Stoudt

**THE VESTRY**

Harry Charles	Stanley Harvey
Mrs. Ralph Hallowell	Robert L. Jarrard
Mrs. Bruce Roberts	Richard Stoudt
William B. Fryer	R. Graham Price

Mrs. Kenneth C. Harclerode  
Harry Gladfelter  
Gilben Lewis  
Andrew Kalocai

**1976**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (chapel) Ralph B. Hallowell  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph Hoover  
Christian Education: Harry Gladfelter  
Sexton: Charles Schneider

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: L. Jarrard  
Accounting Warden: Richard Stoudt

**THE VESTRY**

Robert L Jarrard	Helen Harclerode
Richard Stoudt	Ann Keefe
Stanley Harvey	Gilbert Lewis
James Richardson	Andrew Kalocai

Sharon Weller

Joseph Dietz  
Robert Edsall  
William Lawrence

**1977**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Rector Emeritus: Rev. George A. Lineker  
Secretary: Mrs. Stephen S. Walley  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (chapel) Shirley Dietz  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph Hoover

Christian Education: Ann Keefe  
Property Chair: Andrew Kalocai  
Sexton: Charles L. Schneider  
**THE WARDENS**  
Rector's Warden: Robert L. Jarrard  
Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

**THE VESTRY**  
Helen Harclerode      Joseph Dietz  
Mary Ann Keefe      Robert Edsall  
Gilbert Lewis      William Lawrence  
Andrew Kalocai      Sharon Weller

Robert L. Jarrard  
Robert H. Shaner.  
Jere Bricker  
John Hopkins

**1978**  
**THE STAFF**  
Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny. S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph Hoover  
Christian Education: Janice Moms, Miriam Spade  
Property Chair: John Hopkins  
Sexton: Charles L. Schneider

**THE WARDENS**  
Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

**THE VESTRY**  
Sharon Weller      Clarissa Pengelly  
William Lawrence      Jere Bricker  
Joseph Dietz      John Hopkins  
Robert Edsall      Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

Janet L. Hallowell  
Ronald Druckenmiller  
William Fryer  
Richard Strange  
**1979**  
**THE STAFF**  
Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Thomas O'Leary  
Property Chair: Edwin J. Schwoyer  
Sexton: Charles L. Schneider

**THE WARDENS**  
Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller

Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.  
**THE VESTRY**  
Clarissa Pengelly      Janet L. Smith  
Jere Bricker      Ronald Druckenmiller  
John Hopkins      William Fryer  
Robert Shaner, Jr.      Richard Strange

John Anderson  
Gloria Baro  
Thomas O'Leary  
Edwin Schwoyer  
**1980**

**THE STAFF**  
Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny. S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Thomas O'Leary  
Property Chair: Edwin J. Schwoyer  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**  
Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

**THE VESTRY**  
Janet L. Smith      John Anderson  
Ronald Druckenmiller      Gloria Baro  
William Fryer      Thomas O'Leary  
Richard Strange      Edwin Schwoyer

Grace Hoover  
Charles Slichter  
Robert Shaner, Jr.  
Joseph Dietz

**1981**  
**THE STAFF**  
Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny. S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (cherub) Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Thomas O'Leary  
Property Chair: Edwin J. Schwoyer  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**  
Rector's Warden: Ronald  
Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

**THE VESTRY**  
Robert Blye      Joseph Dietz  
Robert Magee      Grace Hoover  
George Pennell      Robert Shaner, Jr.

Harold Smith Charles Slichter

Jere Bricker  
Ronald Druckenmiller  
Yvonne Lopes  
Susan Furman

**1982**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Wilfred F Penny, S.T.M.  
Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director (youth) Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Thomas O'Leary  
Property Chair: Robert Magee  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Robert H. Shaner, Jr.

**THE VESTRY**

Joseph Dietz Jere Bricker  
Grace Hoover Ronald Druckenmiller  
Robert Shaner, Jr. Yvonne Lopes  
Charles Slichter Susan Furman

Robert Blye  
George Pemell  
Robert Magee  
Harold Smith

**1983**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Rob and Carol Blye  
Property Chair: Robert  
Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Gloria Baro

**THE VESTRY**

Jere Bricker Robert Blye  
Ronald Druckenmiller George  
Susan Furman Robert Magee  
Yvonne Lopes Harold Smith  
Gloria Baro  
Fitzhugh Clark

Helen Harclerode  
Charles Lehman

**STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Slurley) Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director Mrs. Joseph (Grace)  
Christian Education: Georgette  
Property Chair: Edwin Schwoyer  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robert Blye  
Accounting Warden: Gloria Baro

**THE VESTRY**

Robert Blye Gloria Baro  
George Fitzhugh Clark  
Robert Helen Harclerode  
Harold Smith Charles Lehman

William Lawrence  
Thomas  
Robert Shaner, Jr.  
Edwin Schwoyer

**1985**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Slurley) Dietz  
Choir Director (senior) Eric Penketh  
Choir Director Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Chnstian Education: Georgette  
Property Chair: Schwoyer  
Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robert Blye  
Accounting Warden: Gloria Baro

**THE VESTRY**

Gloria Baro William Lawrence  
Fitzhugh Clark Thomas  
Helen Harclerode Robert Shaner, Jr.  
Robert Keller Edwin Schwoyer

Susan Furman  
Francis Piper  
Richard Pope  
Robert Blye

**1986**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. S.T.M.  
Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Georgette  
Property Chair:  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robert Blye  
Accounting Warden: Thomas Pfeiffenberger

**THE VESTRY**

Lawrence Gloria Baro  
Pfeiffenberger Susan  
Schwoyer Pope  
Robert Shaner, Jr. Robert Blye

Georgette Druckenmiller  
Virginia Slichter  
Paul Harmon  
Harold Smith

**1987**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F. Penny, S.T.M.  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Georgette  
Chair: Gloria Baro  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robert Blye  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**THE VESTRY**

Gloria Baro Georgette Druckenmiller  
Robert Blye Paul Harmon  
Susan Virginia Slichter  
Richard Pope Harold Smith

Jere Bricker  
John Littlewood  
Robin  
Robert Weigner

**1988**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Wilfred F Penny, S.T.M.  
Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Georgette Druckenmiller

Property Chair: Robin Rhoads  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**VESTRY**

Georgette Druckenmiller Boyd  
Paul Harmon Jere Bricker  
Virginia Slichter Robin  
Harold Smith Robert Weigner

Ronald Druckenmiller  
William Lawrence  
Joseph Dietz  
Helen Harclerode

**1989**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Stephen W. Price, Rector  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: James Boyce  
Property Chair: Robin Rhoads  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**THE VESTRY**

Richard Boyd Ronald Druckenmiller  
Jere Bricker William Lawrence  
Robin Joseph Dietz  
Robert Weigner Helen Harclerode

Carol Blye  
James Boyce  
Donald Eastman  
Gail Martz

**1990**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Stephen W. Price, Interim Rector  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Slurley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Education: Georgette  
Property Chair: Donald F. Jr.  
Sexton: Leroy Benner

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**THE VESTRY**

Ronald Druckenmiller Carol Blye  
Helen Harclerode Susan Banker  
Joseph Dietz Gail Martz  
William Lawrence Donald Eastman, Jr.

Virginia Slichter  
Robert Weigner  
Paul Harmon  
Donald Voss

**1991**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Education: Georgette Druckenmiller  
Property Chair: Donald F. Eastman, Jr.  
Sexton: Joseph Martinez

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**THE VESTRY**

Carol Virginia Slichter  
Susan Banker Robert Weigner  
Gail Bauer Paul Harmon  
Donald Jr. Donald Voss

Ronald Druckenmiller  
Gloria Baro  
Robert Magee  
Robin Rhoads

**1992**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma)  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Georgette  
Chair: Robin  
Sexton: Joseph Martinez

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald  
Accounting Warden: Robert Weigner

**THE VESTRY**

Virginia Slichter Ronald  
Robert Weigner Robert Druckenmiller  
Paul Harmon David Pool  
Donald Voss Robin Rhoads

Shirley Dietz  
Helen Harclerode  
Jere Bricker  
Edward Schaeffer

**1993**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Education: Georgette Druckenmiller  
Property Chair: Robin Rhoads  
Sexton: Joseph Martinez

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Ronald Druckenmiller  
Accounting Warden: Jere Bricker

**THE VESTRY**

Ronald Shirley Dietz  
Robert Helen Harclerode  
David Pool Jere Bricker  
Robin Edward Schaeffer

Donald Cheetham  
Robert Connitt  
Deborah Harmon  
Anne Roberts

**1994**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Education: Corie Rhoads  
Property Chair: Donald F. Eastman, Jr.  
Sexton: Joseph Martinez

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Dietz, Interim  
Accounting Warden: Jere Bricker

**THE VESTRY**

Shirley Dietz Donald Cheetham  
Helen Harclerode Robert Connitt  
Jere Bricker Deborah Harmon  
Edward Schaeffer Anne Roberts

Donald Eastman  
Roy Keeler  
Stephanie Laidig  
Donald Voss

**1995**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Director: Mrs. Joseph (Grace) Hoover  
Christian Education: Corie Rhoads  
Property Chair: Donald F Eastman, Jr.  
Sexton: Joseph Martinez

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Shirley Dietz  
Accounting Warden: Jere Bricker

**THE VESTRY**

Donald Cheetham	Donald Eastman
Robert Connitt	Roy Keeler
Deborah Harmon	Stephanie Laidig
Anna Roberts	Gretchen Pendleton

Susan Banker  
Jere Bricker  
John Croft  
Shirley Dietz

**1996**

**THE STAFF**

Rector: Rev. Kell Morton  
Secretary: Mrs. Robert (Erma) Magee  
Organist: Mrs. Joseph B. (Shirley) Dietz  
Choir Director: Roy Keeler  
Christian Education: Virginia Slichter  
Property Chair: Donald F. Eastman, Jr.

**THE WARDENS**

Rector's Warden: Robin Rhoads  
Accounting Warden: Mrs. Candace Woessner

**THE VESTRY**

Donald Eastman	Susan Banker
Candace Woessner	Jere Bricker
Stephanie Laidig	John Croft
Gretchen Pendleton	Shirley Dietz

Gloria Baro  
Kevin Perez  
Robin Rhoads

**APPENDIX**  
**to**  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**HISTORY**



**Appendix B**

**Rectors and Bishops**

# APPENDIX B

## CHRIST CHURCH RECTORS



## BISHOPS OF DIOCESE OF PA

1. Rev. George Mintzer	1829-1836	1. Rt. Rev. William White	1787-1836
2. Rev. John Reynolds	dates not known	-----	
3. Rev. William Homman	dates not known	-----	
4. Rev. Henry Whitesides	1837-1839	2. Rt. Rev. Henry Onderdonk	1836- 1858
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 Christman	1858-1859	3. Rt. Rev. Alonzo Potter	1858-1865
10. Rev. Samuel Edwards	1859-1863	4. Rt. Rev. Samuel Bowman 5. 5.	-----
11. Rev. George A.	1863-1868	Rt. Rev. William B. Stevens	1865-1 887
12. Rev. S.H. Galledet	1868-1 870	-----	
13. Rev. Byron	1870-1877	-----	
14. Rev. Daniel F. Warren	1877-1884	-----	
15. Rev. A. J. Arnold	1884-1889	6. Rt. Rev. Ozi W. Whitaker	1887-1911
16. Rev. Charles L. Cooder	1890-1900	-----	
17. Rev. Frederick	1900-1912	7. Rt. Rev. Alexander M. Smith	1911-----
18. Rev. Stanley West	1913-1924	8. Rt. Rev. Phillip Rhineland	1911-1923
19. Rev. John Doyle	1924-1926	9. Rt. Rev. Thomas J. Garland	1924-1931
20. Rev. Caleb Cresson	1927-1930	10. Rev. Francis M. Tate	1931-1943
21. Rev. Albert Holt	1931-1940	11. Rt. Rev. Oliver J. Hart	1943-1963
22. Rev. George A. Lineker	1941-1964	12. Rt. Rev. J. Gillespie Armstrong	1963-1 964
23. Rev. Wilfred F. Penny	1964-1990	13. Rev. Robert L.DeWitt	1964-1973
24. Rev. Kell Morton	1991-	14. Rt . Rev. Lyman Ogilby	1974-1986
		15. Rt. Rev. Allen Bartlett	1986-1996
		16. Rt. Rev. Charles Benison	1997
		(Coadjutor)	

**APPENDIX**  
**to**  
**CHRIST CHURCH**  
**HISTORY**



**Appendix C**  
**Church Activity**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**FROM**

**1762**

# APPENDIX C



## CHRIST CHURCH HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

### 1762 to Present

- 1762 The Rev. Alexander Murray, a Church of England missionary of the Venerable Society, the oldest missionary body in the Protestant World, preached at St. Gabriel's of Douglasville, a Swedish settlement. St. Gabriel's was built in 1736 and was in continuous use for 67 years. This was, at that time, the closest place to worship for people in Pottstown and all the surrounding towns.
- 1800 Although not directly related to Church history, it is important to realize how difficult traveling was for both preachers and parishioners. The Stage Coach line was established between Philadelphia and Reading this year. It was a two day trip until relays of horses was instituted, reducing the time of the journey to one day. Alternately, one could drift down the River from Reading on the flat bottomed "Reading Boats" but the return trip was a backbreaker as crews would have to pole back to Reading from Philadelphia.
- 1805 The Reverend Levi Bull, who founded and preached in many of the local churches, preached to the Pottstown faithful in the old building constructed on the foundation of a brewery on South Hanover St. and later in the Old Brick Church at Hanover and Chestnut St's.
- 1826 I. D. Barnard, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, signed the Christ Church Charter for Governor J. Andrew Shulze on February 1. The founders were: Robert Hobart, Charles Jolly, Clement Rutter, Furman Cook, Henry Potts, Robert Hobart Jr., John Thompson, John Pearce, Thomas Child, Jacob Hubley, Francis Hubley, Charles Clay, James May, Thomas Brooke, Robert May, and David Rutter. The name of the Corporation was "*The Rector, Church Wardens, and Vestrymen of Christ Church in the Borough of Pottstown*". The charter was instituted under the auspices of the State Constitution of 1790.
- 1826 The first lot for a Church building was purchased on the corner of Hanover and Queen St's., probably the site of the Old Brew House.
- 1829 The Rev. Mintzer served both St. Gabriel's and Christ Church, and Christ Church became the 27<sup>th</sup> Parish to be received into the Diocese of Pennsylvania under Bishop H. U. Onderdonk. D.D.

On January 18<sup>th</sup> the Church Building was consecrated. It was a frame structure at the corner of Hanover Street and the railroad. At that time, progress took its toll on one of the transportation companies. The Schuylkill Navigation Company, which had been operating the construction of the canal that made the trip to Philadelphia possible, was obsoleted by the chartering of the Philadelphia and Reading RR. Flat boats, and the stage line then became a part of history.

- 1844 The Rev. Edmund Leaf served the Church 1844 to 1858 while also serving St. Gabriels. (There is an overlap in the History because Rev. Aaron Christman assumed the position in 1855.)
- 1845 The lot for the present building was purchased; however the records are not clear and this lot may not be the location of the present church building.
- 1845 The new Church Building was completed. It was of pine wood construction at a cost of about \$4000. Further evidence of the locational anomaly is the fact that the pine church burned down about 1848 "after a new church had been erected on High Street". Yet the present church was erected in 1872.
- 1863 A large crowd attended a Sunday during this time of the Civil War and \$124 was collected and donated as follows: one-fourth to the Episcopal Hospital in Philadelphia, one fourth to the Sanitary Commission for the relief of the prisoners of war in Va., one fourth for the Christian Commission for the same purpose, and one fourth to the Ladies Aid Association of Pottstown. The occasion for the celebration was victories by the North at Chattanooga and Knoxville.
- 1872 On May 10, the cornerstone was laid for the larger and more modern Church Building at the present High Street location. Exclusive of furnishings, the building cost was \$13,000. The Church was built to hold about 250 people and was constructed of Chester County sandstone with a slate roof. Bishop William Stevens presided at the first service.
- 1876 The Parish joined the rest of the Country in celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence with the Sunday School children marching in the parade.
- 1891 The Rev. Charles Cooder who had come to the Church in 1889, organized the Brotherhood of St. Andrew and other groups as noted below. The stone church was remodeled year.
- 1892 On Sunday October 16, the vested choir and men appeared in the Church for the first time with twelve boys and six men. Also the revised Prayer Book authorized by the General Convention of 1892 was introduced into the Parish.

The Girls' Friendly Society was organized on January 25 with twenty-two members. The High Street Mission opened on April 15 with Miss Annie Engle and the Kings Daughters in charge.

- 1896 In November, the Sewing School for Poor Girls was started with one hundred and five names on the roll, with nine teachers.
- 1898 The Junior Girls' Friendly Society was organized on October 10<sup>th</sup>. There were twenty-one members and three adult directors. The Rev. Charles L. Crooder resigned as Rector to accept a position at another parish. Pottstown was selected as the Headquarters of the Reading Railroad apparently from very persuasive arguments by Christ Church leaders directed to the President of the Reading Railroad, John Osborne. There was a notation in the newspaper that indicated that the location was selected "...by means of the Protestant Episcopal faith... “
- 1902 Because of this period of high growth in the Church under the Rev. Crooder, it was realized that a new Guild House was necessary. It was completed in February at a cost of \$3000.
- 1903 From this time until the start of World War I, the first of the wars to end all wars, there were many improvements made and Memorials given.
- 1904 There were many years where the Church survived without a regular Rector. During these years many improvements were made to the property. For example: the Nave was redecorated and the hardwood floor laid; a pair of massive brass Altar Vases were blessed and placed on the Altar; the organ was rebuilt; and the Sacristy and corridor were repaired and decorated
- 1917 World War I started and twenty-four members of the Parish entered the Armed Services in this and the following year. Two of the twenty-four were killed in action. Sergeant Clarence L. Kupp died July 20, 1918 of wounds that 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.
- 1919 The Parish Paper entitled “Christ Church Chronicle” made its first appearance in December. The Parish Council was formed with the objective of representing every Parish activity. Twenty-five members attended the first meeting in September. The Junior Service League, composed of boys and girls under twelve years of age, met for an organizational meeting in December.

- 1926 The Centennial Year for the Parish included many celebrations. The most significant celebration occurred on Sunday May 30, Memorial Day, when veterans of three wars were invited to the service. Members of the Grand Army of the Republic, Spanish American War Veterans, and the American Legion were present. The Rev. Henry A. F. Hoyt, Rector Emeritus of St. John's Church, Cynwyd, and veteran of all three wars, preached. The Rev. Dr. Hoyt had enlisted in the Civil War, was Chaplain in the Spanish American War, and was a recruiting in World War I. The Rev. John Doyle was commissioned to write, and have printed, a History of the Parish for the first hundred years. But no such history has ever been found. The Rev. John Doyle left the Parish to the regrets of the parishioners. He was reputed to have had all the attributes of a successful Rector. He was a "warm hearted Irishman" and had been an aviator in World War I.
- 1930 During the past four years there had been discussions regarding fund raising, more frequent Vestry meetings, the building of a Church School, and increasing the Vestry from seven to eleven members. Four additional members were appointed to the Vestry while the required charter amendment was being considered.
- 1931 On April 6, the Rev. Albert H. Holt was selected as Rector of Christ Church and the Charter was changed to increase the Vestry membership to eleven members. The plans for a new Church School were drawn up by an Architect and the school was constructed at a cost of \$17,500 with half of the cost paid for at completion. Construction was completed in 1932 and the Rev. Stanley West, former Rector, returned for the dedication
- 1933 An amplifier system was installed in connection with the organ chimes, a gift by Mrs. P.D. Hanley, and included amplifiers in the belfry "thus presenting the chimes into the streets of Pottstown". The 'call of the chimes' resulted in an increase in attendance for the Sunday night service.
- 1934 The depression in the Country adversely affected all of the churches. To compensate, Christ Church and the Presbyterian Church held combined services, alternating locations each week on Sunday evenings. Christ Church was used by the entire Pottstown community during Holy Week. A very special notation was made by the Vestry for the legendary musician in the Church, Henry K. Ancona, who also served as Vestryman from 1921 until his death in 1949.
- 1936 Fr. Holt was taken seriously ill and the Rev.. George A. Lineker assumed the Parish duties until the return of Fr. Holt. Then Padre (as he preferred to be addressed) Lineker left and became Rector of St. Thomas Church in Hancock, Md. William Henry Price, author of the first Church History, indicated that Padre Lineker stirred up a spirit both in the Sunday School and in the Parish that had never been known before, at least as far back as 1892, when Henry Price arrived at the Church.
- 1938 The Vestry met with Bishop Tate in special session on October 14 in the Church House on Square for the planning of the procedure during the illness of Fr. Holt. Fr. Holt

was moved from the Pottstown Hospital to Episcopal Hospital where private rooms and services were provide free for Rectors of the Diocese.

- 1939 At the last Vestry meeting, it was reported that William Herbert Price had consented to write a history of Church. When completed it was to be presented for binding and publishing to Mr. William I. Rutter of Philadelphia, Pa., the Historian of the Diocese.
- 1940 There was a concern that young people were not being attracted to the Church. The Vestry considered that the plan for rotating vestrymen be adopted. Fr. Holt was forced to resign because of ill health. Mr. Tobias, the assistant Rector, had resigned earlier in the year thus visiting clergymen, including the Rev. R. I. Baldwin served the congregation.
- 1941 The Rev. George A. Lineker was called back to the Church and accepted in February. He made the following appointments: Rector's Warden, William E. Mills; Accounting Warden, Richard M. Sands; Assistant Accounting Warden, William Huey, III, and Secretary of the Vestry, Charles R Gochnaur.

***Note: All of the above information was taken from the histories of both William Price in 1939, revised in 1940) and Morison Blake 1964. Strangely enough, history continues through 1948. The information is taken from the overlap of both histories until 1948 because Blake covered the same material as Price. From 1948, the information is taken from the History as written by Mr. Morison Blake dated June 1964.***

December 7<sup>th</sup> was a day that will go down in infamy because Japan made the surprise attack on our naval facilities at Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Thus, we declared war on Germany and Japan. The first year of World War II saw the younger women of the Church organizing the Commandos Club for fund raising. An Air Raid Warden was appointed, and although fortunately not needed, it was later reported by an historian that Pottstown may have been on the list of the German Luftwaffe targets in the United States.

- 1942 The Rector assisted the Stanley Flagg Company in the Personnel Department as the company geared up for the war effort. The property at 709 High Street was available as a rectory and Mr. William E. Mills, Rector's Warden, agreed to buy it if the vestry would lease it for two years. The vestry agreed. During the year, a sign of rebirth of the Church was evidenced by the presentation of a class of 36 for confirmation. Only a few years ago there were none.
- 1943 Because of the war, the Rector urged the re-election of the 1942 vestry. Red vestments for Acolytes were given by Mrs. Harry Watson and Harold Watson.

- 1944 The debt of the Parish House that had been purchased in 1941 was liquidated. The combined efforts of the Women's Guild and the Commandos were commended for their great support. Not in the memory of the Church had there been such inspiring sermons. The year was a sad one for the Parish, however, because William E. died. He had been a vestryman since 1917 and a most generous contributor to the Church over the years.
- 1945 This year saw the end of the war with Germany and the surrender of the Japanese. There were seventy-eight parishioners in the Armed forces of the United States. Two servicemen died in the war, George E. Schade and Samuel T. Nicholson.
- 1946 On February 11, the elections to the Vestry were made on a rotating basis, four for a three year term, four for a two year term, and four for a one year term. Somewhere in the process, the Vestry of 11 had increased to 12. A retiring vestryman was not eligible for reelection until one year after his last term.
- 1947 The rotating system for vestrymen was modified to permit the Rector's Warden and Accounting Warden to succeed themselves by election without the one year wait. A class of thirty-five, and twenty new members joined the Church illustrating the growth that was taking place after years of no growth. Thomas F. Storm, President of the Men's Club, and connected with the local Firestone Plant, started a Communion Breakfast Ministry that was attended by 125 or more men and boys three or four times per year with the Firestone people. This had been a tradition in the Firestone Plant in Akron Ohio. A Mother's Day breakfast was instituted with the men cooking the pancakes. (There was no mention of stomach disorders.)
- 1948 Growth of the Church was phenomenal with 521 on the roll, a confirmation class of 59 (breaking all records) and transfer of fifteen from other Episcopal Churches. In the eighth year of Padre Lineker's tenure, the Church had risen from a near mission status to a healthy force for Christianity in the Pottstown area. The upward trend continued for a number of years. Mrs. Ira Stanton was elected President of the newly formed Women's Auxiliary. The salary of the Rector was increased to \$3700. In his eighth year as Rector all debts had been paid, and the Church property had been completely renovated. A Rectory had been acquired and building improvements made at a cost of \$12,469.73 in 1946 (these costs were partially paid at this time.)
- 1949-1955 No reports were given over this period.
- 1956 The Rectory at 709 High Street was sold with the permission of the William E. Mills family. Mrs. Mills had given the Rectory to the Parish in memory of her husband. Discussions were held regarding the possibility of securing an Assistant Rector because of the expanding size of the Church. In September, Alan E. Holt, Jr. was accepted by the Bishop as Perpetual Deacon pending completion of the required examinations.

- 1957 This was the year of the termite scare. The termites were the Rector's office. But the J. C. Erlich Co. saved the day (and not inconsequently, the Rector).
- 1958 There were now 775 baptized members of the Church, 638 active Communicants, 214 families and 115 individuals. The net worth of the Church, with the exception of the land, was \$448,500, the value to be covered by insurance. William E. Mills, Jr. was about to graduate the Philadelphia Divinity School. In November, serious discussions were held regarding an assistant because the Parish had grown to 900 members, 750 of whom were active. Padre Lineker presented the Rev. William E. Mills Jr. for ordination at Good Samaritan Episcopal Church in Paoli, PA in November.
- 1959 A third Sunday Service was added. The Rev. Peter A. Greenfield was selected for the assistant Rector's position at a total remuneration of \$5685 per year. (The Rector's salary must have increased in the interim.) And the Church entered into a Declaration of Trust with The Church Foundation of Philadelphia to monetary memorials and bequests. Padre Lineker instituted a healing service in conjunction with the mid-week celebration of Holy Communion on Wednesday mornings.
- 1960 Mr. Holt passed his ten examinations, and in April, the Vestry approved Alan E. Holt, Jr. for admission to the Sacred Order of Deacons. Fr. Greenfield entered into his duties working with the young people. The Young People's Fellowship was established and a Young People's Bowling League was formed. Later Fr. Greenfield started a basketball team. The Accounting Warden reported that the Parish was completely free of debt. The Sunday School enrollment had increased to 293 children.
- 1961 The various women's groups who had done so much to serve the Church settled on a new name "Episcopal Church Women of Christ Episcopal Church. The Mission Guild had become very active and included work with the Navajo Indians in the area of Butte, Utah. The Rev. Leibler, a missionary to the Navajos, visited and conducted Holy Communion at Christ Church on October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- 1962 Membership of the Parish had risen to 1104 with a Sunday School membership of 323. In January, a community breakfast was held at the new First Federal Savings and Loan Building. There was some talk of moving to another location rather than expanding the Church. The Reverend Peter Greenfield received several calls from other churches and accepted one from Hilltown, Pa. The Reverend James R. Leo came to the Church his graduation from Seminary in June. His brother, the Reverend Joseph N. Leo was the Rector of Christ Church (known by most as Old Swede's Church) on the Road near Gulph Mills, Pa. Fr. Leo's ordination was significant because Bishop Tsu served as ordaining Bishop, the Rev. Dr. Thorne Sparkman from the Holy Redeemer Church in Bryn Mawr was Gospeler, the Rev. Alan Holt Jr. Epistoler, and the Rev. James Leo the preacher.

- 1963 A property at 275 Grace St. was purchased for a Rectory as a continuation of the Mills Memorial Fund that had been established for that purpose at a total cost, including rehabilitation, of \$24,095. The Rev. Lineker announced his retirement on November 6. The Rev. James R. Leo believed that he did not have the experience to take over and declined to be considered for the position.
- 1964 This was the last year of Padre Linaker's time at Christ Church. The growth was phenomenal as indicated by the numbers. In the first six months of 1940, the last year of Fr. Holt's tenure, there were 64 Sunday Services (some evening services) with an average attendance of 96 per Sunday. In a comparable period in 1951, ten years after Padre Lineker arrived, there were 54 services held with an average attendance of 172 per Sunday. In 1963 the numbers were 87 services in the first six months with an average attendance of 367 per Sunday. The Rev. James R. Leo received a call to Larchmont, N.Y. The Rev. Dr. Norris of the Theological Seminary of Philadelphia assisted the Padre in the Spring after Fr. Leo left. The Rt. Rev. J. Gillespie Armstrong, Bishop of the Diocese died suddenly and he was succeeded by Bishop Robert L. DeWitt in April. Bishop DeWitt came to the Church from the Detroit area. The following quotation from Morison Blake's history regarding the retirement of Padre Lineker is worth recording:

*"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..."*

The Rev. Wilfred F. Penny was appointed Rector in September and remained until 1969 when he died in office. The Parish participated in a self-study program the results of which were to be reviewed along with other Parish results by a National Council.

- 1965 The results of the 1964 study revealed that each Sunday School class have two teachers; that husband/wife teams visit the drop-outs; and the dollars pledged per family be increased. A Director of Education was hired. There were 1500 people at the first Agape Fellowship dinner-meeting at Sunnybrook. They braved a raging snow and ice storm to attend.
- 1966 The first pictorial directory was published. A Construction Committee was formed to oversee the plans for expanding the Sunday School quarters because there were 175 students and limited facilities.
- 1967 The Rector and Father Slagle shared the Preaching duties on alternate Sundays. The Agape Fellowship dinner-meeting was attended by another large turnout to share Christian Unity with seven hundred people gathered at the second event. The Diocese was divided into Twelve Deaneries from five Convocation areas. Fr. Penny attended the National Convention in Seattle. Because this occurred during the Viet Nam War, it was a landmark event. It ushered in the expansion of the movement toward social engineering, or as it is sometimes referred to as modern liberalism, and began the long and steady decline in the

- membership nationwide. Women were allowed to be members of the House of Deputies. A new Liturgy was proposed and all Parishes were to use it and report back with the results.
- 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy were assassinated this year. The new Liturgy was received with a bipolar reaction, from outrage to wonderful.
- 1969 After the "Black Manifesto given by James Foreman in New York, the National Church, as a means of assisting the black cause, gave money to those who had been discriminated against unless they were members of violent organizations. The Episcopal Church gave over six million dollars to these causes. Other Mainline Churches did likewise and many millions of dollars were handed over to these organizations as a result.
- 1970 Nationally, the Body was under increasing tensions, as the Rock and Roll and Astrology era went into full swing. Young people were looking for something concrete to believe in and were not joining the Main Line Churches that were becoming more and more inclusive, losing their strong commitment to the Bible. The Presiding Bishop, at the Houston Convention, suggested that the Church was coming together as it continued to lose parishioners by becoming more worldly.
- 1971 The construction of the Sunday School was started. The Fish Program was initiated. It was known as the Pottstown Interfaith Emergency Service with a twenty-four hour hot line for people in distress. Mrs. Kay Charles was elected as the first woman to serve on the Vestry and was greatly praised for her significant contribution.
- 1972 The year of the flood resulted in the Cluster of Pottstown Religious Communities and other churches of several denominations assisting the victims. The anniversary of the Church Edifice was celebrated. The Rev. George A. Lineker returned to dedicate the new Sunday School and Parish Hall facilities. Fr. Stanley West, Rector from 1923, preached the sermon. The Alternatives Hotline in the Drop-in Center was operated from the Church Basement after 24 hours of training by Insight. The idea for the Drop-in Center came from the Church young people.
- 1973 The Viet Nam War ended. The Agape Luncheon was attended by 250 people and held at the Roman Catholic Church. Fr. Penny continued his dedication to ecumenicalism. The Shared Ministry Program for youth that was run by the Rev. Theodore Taylor had to be discontinued for lack of funding (as did the Rev. Taylor's employment).
- 1974 Bishop John Allin was elected Presiding Bishop. Eleven women were ordained in Philadelphia just before Bishop retired. The RSVP offices were located in the Parish Hall. The Rector took the Parish records to Reading for microfilming. The records from 1837 to 1942 were included. A copy resides at the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania building at 1300 Locust St. Philadelphia.
- 1975 Fr. Penny was named President of the Pottstown Senior Center which he co-founded. The Seniors met in the Church until their own building could be acquired. Bethlehem Steel

announced plans to leave the area. From the status as one of the most productive industrial towns in the area, Pottstown was slowly losing its industrial base with companies leaving to find locations where operating costs would be lower. The new Prayer Book arrived and was being used for study and comment.

- 1976 America's Bicentennial year and the Parish's 150<sup>th</sup> occurred this year. And this was the 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of the Fr. Penny and his wife Donaldeen. All of these celebrations made for a very happy year for the Church.
- 1977 The Rector and Donaldeen visited the Holy Land, and the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of priesthood for the Rector was celebrated. Bishop Tsu drove in from in his Volkswagen 'Bug' at age 91 to preach on Mother's Day.
- 1978 The funeral of Pope Paul I was televised Rome. The Rector Emeritus Rev. Lineker died. He had been Rector of Christ Church for 23 years.
- 1979 The Pennsylvania Plan, a program for stewardship, was started, requiring a commitment by the Vestry and many parishioners.
- 1980 Seven young Vietnamese young people were taken in and housed. The foot washing ceremony was done for the first time at the Parish. The Girls' Friendly Society was inaugurated again as a Chapter at Christ Church.
- 1981 The hostages were returned from Iran and President Reagan was inaugurated. The Rector unveiled the five year plan that he wanted completed before his projected retirement. The Youth Club was started after a meeting of instruction in Pittsburgh.
- 1982 Lutherans and Episcopalians made agreements in principle that were ratified in their National Conventions. Anglicans and Roman Catholics met in Rome to plan a joint study to reconcile their differences. The coordination apparently ceased with the ordination of women in the Episcopal Church.
- 1983 The Episcopal Church Women earned an outstanding \$4750 for the year in the activities. The Thrift Shop was a major contributor.
- 1984 The Final Report and the Lima document, Baptism, Eucharist, and Ministry (the BEM document) were used as resource material for the joint efforts of Episcopalians and Lutherans to work together. Bishop Ogilby announced his plans for retirement. The Rector was instrumental in the forming of the LARCO Group consisting of Lutherans, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Orthodox clergy. Bishop Edmund Browning was elected Presiding Bishop and under his stewardship modern liberalism of the National Church went into swing with the help of the Bishop and others like him. The Sunday School had 35 active members and the Youth group 33 members.

- 1986 This was the "Year of the Steeple". It was repaired by a Syracuse N.Y. firm at a cost of over \$15,000. More than 7000 people attended the consecration of Bishop Allen a disciple of the Presiding Bishop, as the Bishop of the diocese.
- 1987 The Diocese observed the 100' anniversary of the Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral in Philadelphia. The Parish joined in the Bicentennial celebration in Philadelphia of the founding of the United States.
- 1988 Fr. Penny was pleased that his goals had been met. These included: renovation of the Sacristy; restoration of the Steeple; burning of the mortgage; and the flowering of the Youth Work. He would be leaving the Parish in sound financial and spiritual condition. And the Rector visited Russia for the 1000<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the introduction of Christianity into Russia.
- 1989 The Rev. Wilfred F. Penny died in September of cancer before he was able to retire and enjoy a leisure life with Donaldeen and the grandchildren. He visited Israel and the family in San Antonio before his death.
- 1990 The Reverend Stephen Price served as the Interim Rector while the Vestry searched for a permanent replacement for Father Penny. The Logos group celebrated the anniversary of their existence with 49 children participating each week.
- 1991 The Rev. Kell Morton was installed as the 24' Rector of Christ Church. He, like Fr. Penny, was a graduate of Nashotah House Seminary in Wisconsin. The search was a very long one with over one hundred applicants screened.
- 1992 The Society of Mary was in its third year of existence with twelve members. The Girls' Friendly Society and the Logos groups were all doing well.
- 1993 The Kerygma Class, the adult Sunday School, and the EFM classes were all well attended illustrating the emphasis on Bible teaching in the Parish. The PACM met to enter into discernment with Michael Moyer who was studying for the Priesthood. Joseph Dietz was in his third year in the Diaconate School.
- 1994 Prayer and Praise met on Tuesday nights and the Cluster of Religious Communities continued to provide food and clothing for the poor of the area.
- 1995 A new curriculum for the Sunday School was started by It was called The Episcopal Children's Curriculum.
- 1996 The year was not encouraging from a financial position with a loss of over \$4000. A drop in Church attendance contributed to the decline in funds. Procedures and programs were being planned to balance the budget for the coming year. All of the Church activities were very healthy, however, with a group of leaders dedicated to the continuation of the Lord's work.

**APPENDIX  
to  
CHRIST CHURCH**

**HISTORY**



**Appendix D**

**STATISTICS**

## CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH - STATISTICS

YEAR	COMMUNICANTS	BAPTIZED	DEATHS	BAPTISMS	CONFIRMATIONS	MARRIAGES	INCOME	EXPENSES
1964	710	778	13	21	20	2	\$42,853.32	\$36,934.21
1965			19	24	15	7	\$44,220.00	\$40,908.00
1966			15	21	32	6	\$42,217.00	\$42,198.00
1967	547	628	12	24	17	3	\$39,000.00	\$35,688.00
1968	481	543	18	18	22	3	\$39,290.00	\$36,859.00
1969	467	542	11	17	13	5	\$39,652.00	\$36,948.00
1970			13	18	22	8	\$42,216.00	\$40,222.00
1971			12		25	4	\$50,431.00	\$48,435.00
1972			11	8	11	5	\$54,603.00	\$49,653.00
1973			16	8	13	7	\$47,891.00	\$47,444.00
1974			11	18	6	4	\$120,841.00	\$119,381.00
1975	475	608	12	20		8	\$57,777.00	\$61,893.00
1976	404	585	13	19	35	4	\$67,717.00	\$68,849.00
1977	398	586	10	11	15	6	\$71,819.00	\$69,807.00
1978	383	586	13	12	8	10	\$77,105.00	\$73,840.00
1979	379	584	14	11	13	4	\$93,060.00	\$85,680.00
1980	406	584	16	23	20	7	\$93,040.00	\$93,201.00
1981	380	580	17	17		8	\$95,438.00	\$97,558.00
1982	389	503	18	28		11	\$119,492.00	\$114,372.00
1983			12	15	23	9	\$115,755.00	\$119,291.00
1984	400	591	11	12	13	8	\$109,000.00	\$115,000.00
1985			9	15	13	9	\$116,200.00	\$116,200.00
1986			18	13		8	\$119,000.00	\$119,000.00
1987			17	15	20	3	\$121,600.00	\$117,100.00
1988			10	16	21	3	\$119,000.00	\$119,000.00
1989			8	15	12	3	\$221,900.00	\$231,500.00
1990			3	17		5	\$138,104.00	\$140,244.00
1991			10	12	14	2	\$213,100.00	\$284,500.00
1992			12	11		4	\$223,820.00	\$224,139.00
1993			11	12	10	4	\$223,820.00	\$224,139.00
1994			12	10		6	\$155,980.00	\$157,554.00
1996			15	10	7	4	\$214,907.00	\$214,173.00

**Appendix  
to  
Christ Church**

**History**



**Appendix E  
MEMORIALS  
(Partial Listing)**

## INDIVIDUAL MEMORIALS

Ada Ackerman  
Kay Charles  
Robert H. Shaner, Jr.  
The Rev. Victor and Jesse Hoag  
    Edwin William & Edith  
    Emily Smith  
H. Leonard & Emily Potts  
James G. Sands  
Girls' Friendly Society  
Mr. Mrs. Lawrence Baro  
    and Family  
Leonard B. Bechtel, Anthony  
    & Nadzeda Wabin  
George Gavatos  
Francis and Elsa Lavertu  
William Fryer  
Margaret Baro  
Margaret Baro, Dominic  
    Chieffo, William &  
    Hanna Jeffery  
Luther and Mary Dietz  
Isaac and Marille Thomas  
William and Hanna Jeffery  
Louis Carlier  
Evelyn Schwoyer  
Lt. Col. Benjamin Barns  
Frank and Ada Ackerman  
Cunningham  
Yergey  
Dannehower  
Harry and Kay Charles  
Mary E. Xanthopoulos  
Mary E. Xanthopoulos

Large Stainless Steel Pots  
Brass Flower Organ Vase  
Brass Altar Vases

Acolyte Torch Bearers  
December Altar Flowers  
Altar Guild Fund  
Banner

Indoor Christmas Creche

Paschal Candle  
Palms for Palm Sunday  
Christmas Poinsettia  
Copier in Office  
Piano in Church

Hymnals  
Prayer Books  
Lectern Wreath  
Christmas Candles for Pews  
Sacristy  
Cabinets for Frontal in Sacristy  
Sanctuary Candles  
Advent Wreath  
Red Altar Frontal  
Green Altar Frontal  
Purple Altar Frontal  
Thanksgiving White Altar Frontal  
Building Fund  
Palms for Palm Sunday

## MEMORIALS-PRAYER BOOKS

### *In Loving Memory of:*

<b>William and Hanna Jeffries</b>	<b>10 books</b>
<b>William and Roberta Mills</b>	<b>10 books</b>
<b>The Rev. Victor and Jessie Faith Hoag</b>	<b>10 books</b>
<b>Lloyd C. Layman</b>	<b>5 books</b>
<b>Anna Layman</b>	<b>5 books</b>
<b>Blanche S. Maack</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Hermann E. Maack</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Marjorie R. Maack</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>John March</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Frederick T. Voss</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Marie Riedl</b>	<b>2 books</b>
<b>Anonymous</b>	<b>3 books</b>
<b>The Voss Family</b>	<b>3 books</b>
<b>Helen Armstrong</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Elizabeth Beatrice Pendleton for</b>	
<b>Gabriel Nelson Pendleton</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Pre-and K/Third Grade Church School</b>	<b>1 book</b>
<b>Classes</b>	<b>Several</b>
<b>Joseph Dietz</b>	

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

**Stanley G. Silverman, Sr.**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Gospel Book**

*was Presented by*

**Jean Lee Silverman**

**December, 1991**

---

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

**Charles P. and Margaret R. Gochnaur**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Silver Ciborium**

*was Presented by*

**Charles R. Gochnaur Family**

**1966**

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

**Jonas and Florence Bealer**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**New English Bible on Lectern and**

**Jerusalem Bible in the Chapel**

*was Presented by*

**The Family**

**1972**

---

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

**Christ Church**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Church Chapel with Furnishings**

*was Presented by*

**Robert H. Shaner, Sr.**

**Memorial 1957**

**Construction 1993**

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

**Roberta R. Mills**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Sound System**

*was Presented by*

**Family and Friends**

**1982**

---

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

**Margaret Baro Lawrence D. Baro**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Electronic Bell and Carillon System**

*was Presented by*

**Family and Friends**

**April 1980**

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

**Margaret Baro**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Music Fund**

*was Presented by*

**The Baro Family**

**September 1984**

---

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

**Edna Focht**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Silver Cruets**

*was Presented by*

**Mayer Family**

**1972**

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

**Wilfred F. Penny**

**Priest**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Scholarship Fund for Christ Church Youth**

*was Presented to*

**Christ Church**

**September 1989**

---

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

**Louis Carlier**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**\$6000 for the Sacristy**

*was Presented by*

**Mrs. Elsie Carlier, his Wife**

**1983**

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

**Wilfred F. Penny**

**Priest**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Communion Wafers**

*was Presented by*

**Donaldeen Penny, His Wife**

**September, 1989**

---

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

**Roberta Ray Mills**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Sanctus Bells**

*was Presented by*

**Mr. and Mrs. William Lawrence**

**December 8, 1991**

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

**Stanley G. Silverman, Sr.**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**(3) Palls with Greek Crosses**

*was Presented by*

**Jean Lee Silverman & Lt. Col. Stanley G. Silverman, Jr.**

**April 1, 1990**

---

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

**Wilfred F. Penny**

**Priest**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Christ the King Processional Cross**

*was Presented by*

**Youth Club**

**April 1, 1990**

*To the Glory of God and Loving Memory of*

**H. Roy Dannehower, Sr.**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Building Fund**

*was Presented by*

**Dannehower Family Friends**

**November 1991**

---

*To the Glory of God and Loving Memory of*

**Fitzhugh T. Clark**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Building Fund**

*was Presented by*

**Geraldine Clark Family**

**October 1991**

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

**Mary E. Xanthopoulos**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Funeral Urn Pall**

*was Presented by*

**Mrs. George Govatos**

**February 1992**

---

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

**Mary S. Gochnaur**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Apex Altar Window above the Altar**

*was Presented by*

**Her Husband, Charles Daughter Judy**

**(Mrs. Luther) Family**

**November 24, 1991**

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

**Elizabeth Scharer**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Blue Pulpit & Lectern Hanging**

*was Presented by*

**Pauline Annette Bricker**

**March, 1993**

---

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

**Violet Yergey**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**Brass Baptismal Ewer (pitcher)**

*was Presented by*

**Pauline Annette Bricker**

**March, 1993**

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

**Dr. Harold M. Ackerman**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**All seasonal superfrontal, lecterns pulpit hangings,**

**stole, and cope**

*was Presented by*

**Marie B. Ackerman Family**

**April, 1994**

---

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

**and thanksgiving for many blessings**

*A Memorial Perpetuated in*

**A set of Altar linens with Canterbury Cross Design**

**1 Fair Linen, 1 Corporal, 6 Purificators,**

**1 Candle Holder for Baptismal Candles**

*was Presented by*

**Gloria Baro and Family**

**April, 1994**

**APPENDIX**  
**to**  
**CHRIST CHURCH**

**HISTORY**



**Appendix F**

**BAPTISMS, CONFIRMATIONS**

**MARRIAGES, DEATHS**

**APPENDIX F****1964****HOLY BAPTISM**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Steven Lester Boughter	January 26
Lisa Maureen Blauser	February 2
James Richard Eshbach, Jr.	February 2
William Moody Shaner	February 8
Deborah Lynn Wersinger	February 9
Wanda Dee	March 21
George Henry Lightkap, Jr.	March 2 1
Theodore John Brower	April 12
Leo Alan Forbes	June 7
Cynthia Gail Payton	April 12
Michelle Renee Lawrence	May 17
Harry David Maurer, II	May 24
Leo Alan Forbes	Jun 7
Catherine Marie Drumheller	June 7
Theresa Ann Lare	June 14
Denise Ann	June 14
Dean Anthony Miller	July 19
Kenneth Jay Mitchell	August 30
Barbara Elizabeth Bushyager	September 20
Janet Katherine Casey	October 18
Trisha Marie	November 15

**CONFIRMATION****April 5**

Patricia Eve Blauser, Edward F. Bundrant, Susan Butler, Kay Dannehouser, Kathryn Ellwanger. Thomas J. Farmer, Jr., Donna Gratz. Deborah Ann Linda Haas, Grace Lewis. Alfred Nasados. William E. Newton. Maria Newton, John M. Pender, Victoria Ann Roberts, Gail Stoshak, Leonard K. Trego, Jr. Minam Mulholland.

**September 28**

Miriam Mulholland

**November 15**

Lawrence H. Staub, Jr.

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Desmond Joseph Coffey, Jr. and Carol Lynne Binder May 3

James R. Miller and Martha M. Donohue August 29

**1964 (CONTINUED)****DEATHS**

Helen Saylor Hatfield	January 2
Edythe W. Long	April 8
Sallie E. Neiman	April 12
James W. Pender. Sr .	May 14
William L. Magee	May 15
George Bowe	May 23
Pearl S. Lord	June 7
Annie Elizabeth Renslaw	August 17
James C . Wilke	August 27
George J. Marks. Sr .	September 20
Ella McClafferty	September 26
Mary Elizabeth McAfee	October 8
Michael Patrick. Jr .	November 2

**1996****HOLY BAPTISM**

<b>NAME</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Haylee Rose Maute	July 14
Ryan Anthony Klotz	October 20
Ryan Christopher Briddes	October 27
Kiersten Lee Riker	November 3
Aubrey Rose Christman	November 17
Connyr Thomas Aungst	November 24

**CONFIRMATION**

None this Year

**HOLY MATRIMONY**

Andrew Joseph Kalocai Michelle Lee Houck	October 12
---	------------

**DEATHS**

Henry E. Gelsinger	February 29
Dolores J. Jenkins	May 23
William C. Boyer	May 30
Jeannette B. Ackerman	July 20
Stanley R. Lightcap, Sr.	July 27
Sharon L. Ronto	August 8
James Jefferson Rightnour	September 24
Cora O. Takach	October 2
Marjorie Potts Wendell	October 16
Mary Finn Bonz	November 19
Edward T. Marcincavage	December 4
Dorothy E. Lightcap	December 27
Kenneth L. Leh	December 28

**THE**

**END**

**GOD BLESS**

# 1997 COMMENT SHEET

## Editor's Comments

1. This is the third history of Christ Church. It is still in the editing process and is subject to minor modification for accuracy. It was written by Robert E. Day, PE, in pursuit of a grant. It briefly reviews the previous two works and continues thru early 1997 and appears to be a series of summaries of *Annual Reports* thru the Annual Meeting of 1998 with some expansion and addition of commentary, plus a number of useful appendices.
2. Day notes that it was intended to be a permanent work-in-process, and I invite anyone with interest to provide information to add to it.
3. One comment made to me was that Day's History was written when he had been here for only a short period and includes inaccuracies as a result. Since the work is primarily from Annual Reports it seems likely that the inaccuracies would be attributable to those, but verifying this statement (the person who said it is deceased,) or the accuracy of any of the histories, is a future project for anyone who is interested. In any case, the document is almost unflinching positive, reflecting the typical orientation of Annual Reports and should be taken with that in mind.
4. The document has occasional spelling and grammatical errors which have been retained. It also likely contains errors which I have not caught. I would appreciate being notified of any that you find.
5. The pagination has been modified to be continuous, as the original was inconsistent, and the Table of Contents modified to match. I have attempted to maintain the grammar and spelling of the originals (which at times is idiosyncratic) and have approximated as closely as possible the page layout.
6. This history was digitized by scanning into MS Word then converting to a PDF format. The OCR process produces errors which I have tried to correct, but if you detect any that I have missed, please let me know. I have also left unchanged the authors' grammar and stylistic idiosyncrasies.

If you would like a copy of the version formatted for Microsoft Word, please let me know.

Yours in Christ,



Robert M. Gross  
Christ Episcopal Church  
grossrm@verizon.net  
Feast of St. Cornelius the Centurion, 2014