

Christ Church Pomfret
Treasurer Report 2024 for Annual Meeting
January 26, 2025

1. Update on our Five-Year Plan

As many of you recall, it was in 2021 that our Parish united in our determination to call a full-time priest and in our commitment to rebuild the parish post-COVID following the departures of Father Dave and Mother Alon. We believed that, under the leadership of a dedicated full-time Rector, we would invest in our youth programs, adult formation, and outreach and more deeply engage our membership and community. The Diocese was skeptical and required solid financial modeling to demonstrate that we could support a full-time priest for at least five years. We presented a reasonable financial forecast that called for us to lean heavily upon our endowments while we grew membership and engagement over the five-year horizon.

In August 2022, we welcomed Mother Cosman as our full-time Priest-In-Charge. Since then, we have experienced renewed vibrancy in our programs and Parish. We have undertaken additional mission work and engaged in new ways with Rectory School and the community at large. New initiatives are underway. In late 2024, we joyfully called Mother Cosman to be our full-time Rector.

Financially, in 2024, our second full year of our plan, we exceeded expectations with our Parish members responding resoundingly to the challenge of supporting operations and growing our financial base:

- With the highest level of pledge commitments in our history of \$260,000
- With actual pledge collections of \$276,000 exceeding this goal
- Recognizing gifts supporting operations of \$14,600, and designated gifts to landscaping of over \$13,000
- With pledge commitments for 2025 of over \$341,000, with significant additional commitments to our Buildings and Grounds Endowment

We enter 2025, the third full year of our plan, with significant momentum. We remain challenged to continue to grow our financial base to cover annual costs of our rector ministry, our mission commitment, and our programs. In 2025 we will undertake a facilities assessment to identify deferred maintenance needs and prioritize building projects, at anticipated significant required investment.

2. Fiscal Year Ended 12.31.24 Financial Summary

Financial Headlines: Another exceptionally strong year of financial results resulting in a surplus for the year of \$33,676. Contributing to this:

- Pledge collections of \$276,092 exceeded budget of \$260,000.
- Gifts received in support of operations total \$14,646 (compared to budget of \$8,000), with an additional gift of \$2,500 from Rectory School.
- Furthermore, not recognized in the financials are additional gifts of over \$13,000 primarily towards landscaping
- The Fair produced a record net of \$28,375 (vs. budget of \$21,000)!
- Plate collections of \$9,016 exceeded our budget of \$7,000.
- These results reflect a congregation deeply engaged and committed to the vibrancy and sustainability of our worship, programs and buildings and grounds.
- Regular quarterly 1919 Endowment draws were as budgeted at \$40,000 to support operations.
- This strong financial support from our parish allowed us to avoid taking an Excess Draw from the Endowment, budgeted for 2024 at \$31,983. We are well ahead of our five- year plan to financial sustainability.
- Total expenses of \$338,453 came in below budget of \$373,484 due primarily to favorable variance in Pension Expense, P&C, Electricity, Building Repairs, Advertising, and budgeted amounts for an administrative position. (The actual Pension Expense billing however is understated in 2024 and we will pay a catch up in 2025.) By year's end, Fuel Expense of \$22,996 came in very close to budget of \$23,598, (however we did not receive a December bill for the month).
- Mission: CSO distributed \$22,015 in 2024. Of this, \$3,000 went to the RDF, \$1,232 to Community Kitchen and \$484 to Pomfret Power Packs.
- Vestry approved distribution of \$1,500 in Appreciation Bonuses to staff and additional contributions to the Rector's Discretionary Fund.
- Recognizing a surplus of \$33,676 is extraordinary. Vestry voted to move the surplus into Buildings & Grounds Endowment.

3. 2025 Budget

The 2025 Budget was developed with the guidance and approval of the Finance Committee and Vestry. Major drivers include:

- Pledge collections are budgeted at \$341,628. While this represents a significant 24% increase over 2024 collections, it is highly achievable given that we have pledge

commitments in hand of \$374,000! Parishioners have responded generously to the call to support our operations.

- Of this \$374,000, \$124,662 represents new and increased pledges, which will be matched by the Reeders' generous challenge and directed to our Buildings & Grounds Endowment.
- Our regular 1919 Endowment draw is budgeted at \$40,000. No Excess Draw is expected.
- Expenses are budgeted to increase significantly, by over \$89,000 or 26%. Contributing to this are:
 - Increased costs associated with staff, including Mother Cosman's salary and benefits and our new marketing position
 - A new formula for CSO, equal to 10% of prior year operating revenues (same as diocesan Mission), which will increase the CSO budget by over \$10,000
 - New investments for adult education, marketing, and office furnishings
 - Generally we budget to hold the line on expenses, and in the past several years we have relied heavily on volunteer support and contributions to carry out our work. For 2025 we recognize the necessity of prudent investment in people and priority initiatives. We remain careful and thoughtful stewards of our assets. Our annual endowment draw of \$40,000 has stayed constant even as the endowments have appreciated, and now represents less than 2% of their combined value.

D. Endowment as of 1.21.25

- Total value of the Endowments at 1.21.25 is \$2,294,674
- This breaks out at follows:
 - 1919: \$1,198,607
 - Designated Funds: \$1,032,831
 - Vestry Discretionary: \$63,236
- Time Weighted Returns are as follows:
 - For the calendar year 2024: 12.2%
 - For the past 3 years: 4.6%
 - For the past 5 years: 5.3%
 - Since inception (7/21/16): 6.0%
- **Reminders:** We benefit tremendously from the foresight and generosity of members who contributed gifts and bequests over the years to ensure the long-term sustainability of our Church and its work. The 1919 Endowment provides a regular annual draw of \$40,000 to fund operations, and is available if needed for Special Draws. The four Designated Endowments are used as needed for their identified purposes: Buildings & Grounds, Scholarship, Nan Williams Youth, and

McNally Flower Fund. In 2024 we took a \$6,000 draw from the McNally Fund toward costs of our landscaping work.

- The Endowments are governed by an Investment Policy Statement and are managed by Weiss Hale & Zahansky. WHZ meets annually with Vestry, and with the Finance Committee and Treasurer periodically as needed. We are deeply appreciative of their effective stewardship, guidance and advice.

Respectfully submitted,

Lindsay Paul, Treasurer

With appreciation for support from our bookkeeper Dayna Flath and from the Finance Committee: Glen Archambault, Hank Hague, Kevin Lewis, and Caroline Sloat

Financial Exhibits:

1. Christ Church Summary Financial Results 2017- 2024 Actual, 2024 Actual to Budget, plus Budget 2025
2. Christ Church detailed Financial Results 2017- 2014 Actual, plus Budget 2025
3. Pie Chart 2024 Income and Expense by Category
4. Endowment Values as of 12.31.24
5. Endowment Performance Summary; inception to 12.31.24