



# **Annual Report**

## **The Church Club of New York**

### **2021-2022**

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#### **About the Church Club of New York**

The Church Club of New York, founded in 1887, brings together in fellowship people from different parishes to discuss and deepen their understanding of the issues of the day, including those in theology, social justice, the arts, and church history. To that end, the Church Club supports and hosts a series of ministries and regular events including: the Young Adult of the Year Award Service Recognition Award, participation in service days (not undertaken during the Covid-19 pandemic), attention to issues such as fighting human trafficking, charitable endeavors, and other mission-related activities.

#### **Message from the Director, Katharine Hill**

It has been a pleasure to work with Nicholas Birns and the board this year from the time I assumed the role of Director on January 15, 2022. Susan Ridgeway, the Club's outgoing Executive Director, has been extremely helpful to me in the onboarding process. In terms of this year's key events, I would also like to thank Trinity Church Wall Street for their generous hosting of the 135th Annual Dinner, and to Saint John's in the Village for hosting the Annual Meeting and the Evensong service. It has also been a pleasure to work with Yvonne O'Neal who has secured our keynote speaker for the 2023 Annual Dinner, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin of Dover, who will join us on May 3 of 2023, and with each member of the board, all of whom have been instrumental in ensuring continuity during the changeover in the director role and in addressing the challenges and opportunities ahead. On behalf of the Club, I sincerely thank Willem Brans for service as Secretary and Greg Stolzopf for service as Treasurer, and am grateful to Anne Kelly Treantafeles and Chris Strome for stepping into these roles, respectively.



Some key member highlights from this year include Matthew Sanfilippo's ordination, and Stephen Morris's reception as a priest in the Episcopal Church.

During the pandemic, the Club hosted numerous successful Zoom events, and we are now moving back to in-person events with some Zoom offerings when appropriate. This year, members of The Church Club have been able to meet in person on four occasions: the 2021 Christmas Party at Church of the Incarnation, a tour of Trinity Church Wall Street, the 135<sup>th</sup> Annual Dinner, at which attendance was limited to 70 due to health restrictions, and the Annual Meeting at Saint John's in the Village.

This year's Annual Dinner program celebrated the contributions of two early women leaders of the Club, Ms. Adelaide Perry Farah and Mrs. Peter Seipp Goltra (Elizabeth). The Board is additionally working to develop the Club's recognition of the contributions and support of Life Members.

The Club continues to look for ways to maximize the share of its budget that goes to fund events and key mission-related activities. This year, through an internal audit of expenses, we were able to redirect over \$3000 away from website, accounting, credit-card processing, and excess insurance fees toward program expenses. The largest share of this change is due to a switch to developing a new website that we can maintain internally.

The Club's new website, live as of February, 2022, is streamlined and offers the ability to apply for membership electronically, as well as to contribute dues, register for events, and give donations online. We anticipate adding further sections of the website in 2022-2023.

The Church Club is grateful for the support of all of its members, who come from parishes all over the city of New York and from dioceses outside of New York and all across the county. The Church Club has a unique role in bringing people together in Christian Communion. We continue to be present at memorial services for beloved members who have left us and support parishes in special programs they make us aware of, and we support one another's individual milestones, such as celebrating ordinations, book launches, speaking engagements, and similar achievements.



## **2021-2022 Programs and Events**

**Monday, July 19, 2021, 6:30pm via Zoom**

**Holy Woman**

**Adelaide Teague Case: Teacher and Theologian**

with Historian and Archivist

Jean Ballard Terepka

In 1941, the Episcopal Theological School (ETS) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, convinced Case to leave a comfortable teaching position at Teachers' College at Columbia University to join the ETS faculty as Professor of Christian Education. Adelaide Case was the first full-time, female faculty member at the rank of Professor. "She was a true believer in Christ and you saw him living in and through her," is an oft-repeated accolade. Case believed that the point of practicing the Christian faith was to make a difference in the world. As an advocate for peace, she believed that Christianity had a special vocation to call people into transformed, reconciled relationships for the sake of the wholeness of the human family. She is said to have discovered these things not in theology or educational theory, but in a life of common prayer and faithful eucharistic practice. Particular attention will be paid to Case's intellectual and spiritual formation at St. Michael's Church here in New York City. July 19 is Case's commemoration day in *Holy Women, Holy Men*.

**Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 6:30pm via Zoom**

**This Band of Sisterhood: Black Women Bishops on Faith, Race, and the Church**

with Westina Matthews, PhD

Dr. Matthews discussed her book, which features a candid, unrehearsed, engaging conversation among the five current black women diocesan bishops (who make up only 4% of all active bishops today - diocesan, suffragan, assistant or assisting), set against the backdrop of the changes within the Episcopal Church, the country, and the world. The five women have all been consecrated within the last five years are: Jennifer Baskerville-Burrow (2017); Carlye J. Hughes (2018); Phoebe A. Roaf (2019); Kimberly Lucas (2019); and Shannon MacVean-Brown. Foreword by Catherine Meeks and Afterword by Bishop-Elect Paula Clark.

**Thursday, October 28, 2021, 6:00 or 6:30pm, via Zoom**

**The Venerable Bede**

With

The Very Rev. John Wm. Houghton, Ph.D.



Dean *emeritus*, The Hill School Alumni Chapel

St. Bede the Venerable, Monk of Wearmouth and Jarrow (672-735), was probably the most widely-read European of his day. He's probably most familiar to Episcopalians as the author of *The Ecclesiastical History of the English People*, our source for many stories about the conversion of the pagan Angles and Saxons to Christianity. He wrote on a wide variety of other topics, but was best known in his own time for his Bible commentaries, which were in such great demand that, after his death, his monastery is thought to have invented a new form of handwriting in order to allow them to be copied more quickly.

**Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 6:00pm via Zoom**

**Annual Bishop's Forum**

with

The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey

and presentation of the

**2021 Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award**

with

The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan, the Episcopal Diocese of New York

**Thursday, December 9, 2021, 7pm, In-Person**

**Church Club Christmas Party**

at Church of the Incarnation

Candlelight Communion 6:15pm

Christmas Party and Reception 7:00pm

with Bingo, Trivia, and a reading of 'Twas the Night Before Christmas'

**Thursday, January 27, 2022, 6pm via Zoom**

**Early Christian Women**

with Author VK McCarty



VK's talk, "Celebrating Early Christian Women," introduced her new book, which explores the fascinating lives & ministry of a dozen inspiring women from the first centuries after the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, bringing them to life for today's readers.

**Tuesday, February 15, 6:30pm via Zoom**

**East and West: Lent, Bread, and Purgatory—plus the Filioque!**

with Author Stephen Morris

What are the critical issues that divide the Eastern and Western Churches? We always hear about the Filioque clause in the Nicene Creed ("I believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father and the Son...") but this was not always the most important issue in the medieval attempts at reunion. What were the most important issues? The most important were very practical—how to keep Lent, what kind of bread is appropriate at the Eucharist, and the (then newly-developed) ideas of Purgatory that shape how to pray for the dead. How were these issues debated in the 13-15th centuries and what might they suggest for current Christian practice?

**Thursday, March 3, 6pm, In-Person**

**Tour of Trinity Church**

with the Rev. Philip Jackson, Rector

The Rev. Jackson provided an in-depth examination of the rejuvenation of historic Trinity Church, including discussion of the theological, historical, and parish life aspects of decision-making during the process.

**Thursday, April 28, 6pm, In-person at Trinity Commons**

**135th Annual Dinner**

with Lord Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE

Members and guests enjoyed a dinner at Trinity Commons and were addressed by Lord Bishop of London Dame Sarah Mullally, DBE, who spoke on the opportunities for public service afforded by her role, especially in the areas of combating human trafficking and improving conditions for women. Bishop Andrew ML Dietsche introduced Bishop Mullally.

**Wednesday, June 1, 2022, 6pm, via Zoom**

**Ghana: A Very, Very Christian Country**

with Prof. John Singler, NYU

Most Ghanaians are Christians, but what is striking about Ghana is not so much the number of Christians in the country but rather the depth and ardor of Ghanaians' faith. In his talk, Prof.



Singler looked at the forces that have shaped modern Ghanaian Christianity, presenting surface manifestations of faith but also exploring evidence that speaks to rock-solid core Christian belief.

**Friday, June 24, 2022, 2022 Annual Meeting, 5:30pm**

**Evensong, Barbecue, and Johnsmas Fire, Special Musical Offering**

**St. John's in the Village, 218 W. 11th Street**

The Church Club enjoyed a special musical offering composed and orchestrated by The Rev. Graeme Napier, Rector of St. John's in the Village, and the membership voted in a slate of officers, which was subsequently confirmed by a meeting of the board of trustees. Members and guests enjoyed a barbecue meal and fellowship.



## The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award - 2021

The recipient of The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award for 2021 was **Lindsey Counts**, a parishioner at **The Church of the Heavenly Rest** for her volunteer ministry co-leading her parish's **Task Force for Racial Healing and Inclusion**. Ms. Counts received a \$1,000 honorarium, and a \$500 honorarium was designated for her parish. The award was presented by the Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, during the Annual Bishop's Forum on November 17, 2021, via Zoom.

One other young adult, **Jaxon Bradshaw** a parishioner and vestry member of the **Church of St. John's in the Village**, was also recognized for his ministry of **coordinating the shopping for and delivery of groceries to seniors in need in collaboration with "Helping Hands"**.

Additionally, each candidate received a one-year complimentary membership to the Church Club for 2022.

## 2021-2022 Membership Report

Membership as reported herein includes all those who have paid dues to date for 2020, 2021, and/or 2022. There are no members who paid dues in 2020 but did not contribute in subsequent years. Per the Club's bylaws, members who have not contributed dues in 2020 and 2021 have been retired from the membership roster.

Membership Level	As of July 1, 2022
Life Members	38
Patron Members	9
Sponsor Members	45
Basic Members	101
Dual Members	22
Young Adult Members	7
Honorary Members (Young Adults)	2
Patron Associate Member	1
Sponsor Associate Members	1
Basic Associate Members	2
Clergy Associate Basic Members**	**16
Seminarian/Spouse Associate Members	5
Young Adult Associate Member	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>249</b>



## **2021-2022 Necrology**

The Club received death notices for the following members: Mr. Thomas Dewey, Mr. Daniel Hertz, The Rev. Warren Haynes, Mr. Stuart Prall, and Mr. William Herrman, each of whom will be missed, and to whose families the Club sends its most sincere condolences.

## **2021 Service**

For the second year in a row, the Church Club launched an online campaign to help children in need at Christmas by raising money for the U.S. Marine Corps **Toys for Tots**. We are pleased to report that the Church Club raised and distributed \$1,135 for the “**Toys for Tots**” campaign.

### **Board of Trustees**

#### **2022-2023 Officers of the Board**

Nicholas Birns, President

Yvonne O’Neal, Vice President

Diane B. Pollard, Vice President

Christopher Strome, Treasurer

Anne Kelly Treantafeles, Secretary

#### **Members of the Board of Trustees**

Nicholas Birns

Willem Brans

Christian Burke

Emory Edwards

Anne Kelly

Cecilia Malm





Yvonne O'Neal

Diane B. Pollard

Margaret Shields

Gregory Stoskopf

Christopher Strome

Adina Taylor

**Director**

Katharine Hill

## **2021-2022 Financial Report – Gregory Stoskopf, Treasurer**

At the time of last year's Annual Meeting, the Liddell Restricted Fund for Theological Education was valued at \$120,530.83. As of May 31, 2022, the fund is valued at \$114,786.04 for a year-to-year decrease of (\$5744.79).

The General Fund at this time last year, was valued at \$317,225. As of the May 31, 2022 report, it is currently valued at \$302,104.93 for a year-to-year decrease of (\$15,120). The General Fund and Liddel fund are managed by the Diocesan Investment Trust.

In the past several years, we have drawn on the endowment to fund operating expenses. Thanks to careful stewardship and the generosity of our members and donors, we have not done so yet this year, and will make a determination this fall whether it will be necessary to do so.

The Church Club's checking account balance is currently \$58,761.25. Monthly expenses are about \$7,300, which includes director compensation, rent, utilities, website maintenance, insurance, and other administrative expenses.

I performed a review of the Church Club's financial records in the Spring of 2022, which was completed this week [June 20]. All bank statements from May 2021 through May 2022 were reviewed [May-Dec. 2021 with Susan, and Jan-May 2022 here]. No unusual transactions or irregularities were observed. All checks are co-signed by both the Executive Director and President and no unusual payees or amounts were observed. It was confirmed that blank checks are kept in a locked box in the Church Club office, where a file of paid invoices and receipts for items reimbursed to the Executive Director is also kept. Finally, a review of the "Statement of Detailed Activity" report from QuickBooks shows that very complete records of each ledger transaction are being kept, including the transaction date, amount, payee or payor, description of transition and check number, if applicable.



At the suggestion of a member, we recently set up an account with Fidelity Charitable, and can now accept donations directly. We have had two members successfully contribute in this manner, and we invite you to do so if you are a Fidelity Charitable user.

Currently there are 118 members who haven't paid their membership dues for 2022, which would result in an additional \$10,000 or more in dues, without which it may be a challenge for the club to meet our goal of expanding the Young Adult award to \$2,000 and increasing our outreach to area parishes. We do expect some of these dues to continue to come in, and we are making personal connections with members to encourage contributions. An additional 48 members have not paid their dues for two years and were removed from the membership list in 2022. The dues lost from those 48 over the past two years is around \$6800/year. The Club relies on the generosity of our members in supporting our mission, both financially and spiritually, and we ask that each member consider how we each can best support keeping the work of the Club healthy and vibrant.

### **Contact Information**

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