

# Annual Report

## The Church Club of New York



**2022-2023**

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

The Church Club of New York, founded in 1887, brings people together from different parishes, in fellowship, to discuss and deepen their understanding of the issues of the day, including those in theology, social justice, the arts, and more. To that end, the Church Club supports and hosts a series of ministries and monthly events including: the Young Adult of the Year Award Service Recognition Award, participation in service, attention to issues such as human rights, fighting human trafficking, charitable endeavors, and other mission-related activities.

### **Message from the Director**

Highlights of the Church Club of New York's 2022-2023 Program Year have included well-attended talks and events focused on education, social justice, and historical information to help members and guests better understand Church history.

The Club has benefited from the generosity of its members, including special funding provided by a donor for an outreach program that allowed us to connect with parishes both within and outside of Manhattan. This has yielded several new members outside of the Episcopal Diocese of New York, as well as those who are members of EDNY parishes. In fact, growth in membership was another highlight of this program year.

The organization has been hosted by numerous parishes in Brooklyn and Manhattan for a variety of events this year. In particular, Trinity Church Wall Street's hosting for the second year in a row of the Annual Dinner at Trinity Commons has provided a lovely setting for that event. This year, the Club heard from the Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury.

All told, 2022-2023 was a year of growth, with healthy membership numbers and a strong roster of well-received events in support of the Club's mission.

—Kate Hill, Director

## **2022-2023 Programs/Events**

### **September 6, 2022**

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

Fr. Houghton spoke to the club on “*Beginning a Local Devotion: Alexis Menominee, Fr. Petit, and the Potawatomi Trail of Courage*” near the anniversary of the Sept. 4, 1838 start of the Potawatomi Trail of Courage.

### **September 21, 2022**

Open House for Members and Prospective Members  
St. Paul's Church, Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn

Members and guests celebrated Evensong with special music, followed by a tour of St. Paul's with the Rector, the Very Rev. Fr. William Ogburn, and a reception in the Library. Saint Paul's is a diverse Anglo-Catholic parish in Carroll Gardens where neighborhood people have gathered to worship and serve God since 1849.

### **October 19, 2022**

The Rev. Dr. John Beddingfield  
The Church of the Holy Trinity

Fr. Beddingfield gave an illustrated talk on Franciscan Theology and Spirituality in celebration of the feast of St. Francis, Oct. 4.

### **November 2, 2022**

Bishop's Forum

The Rev. J. Donald Waring presided over Evensong with homily  
Grace Church, Broadway

The recipient of The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award for 2022 was Chnidcar  
“Golo” Fortune. After the award, guests and members enjoyed a reception.

**December 15, 2022**

Christmas Party  
St. Bartholomew’s Church

Evensong was followed by a festive reception with carols.

**January 12, 2023**

The Rev. Dr. Patrick S. Cheng  
The Church of the Transfiguration

The Rev. Dr. Cheng spoke on *Queer Anglicanism: Five Centuries of LGBTQ History*.

**February 8, 2023**

Yvonne O’Neal on the Lambeth Conference  
Via Zoom

Co-Vice-President O’Neal spoke on *Reflections of a Canterbury Volunteer at the Lambeth Conference*,  
sharing many images and reflections of her time at the conference.

**March 30, 2023**

The Church of the Good Shepherd  
Francis X. Blouin, Jr

Professor Blouin is Professor Emeritus at the Department of History and School of Information  
at the University of Michigan. He spoke on *The Vatican Archives: Explorations*, featuring his research  
at the Vatican Archives, and providing numerous images.

**April 18, 2023**

Fr. Graeme Napier  
The Church of St. John in the Village

Fr. Napier spoke on *Vivat Rex: Understanding the Coronation of George III*, explaining the history and  
origin of many rituals related to the coronation of King George III.

**May 3, 2023**

Annual Dinner  
Parish Hall, Trinity Commons

Trinity Church Wall Street

At the 136th Annual Dinner, Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin addressed assembled members and guests.

**May 17, 2023**

Dr. Sara Winter

Via Zoom

Dr. Winter spoke on *Paul's anti-slavery letter: the Letter to Philemon*, providing attendees with an annotated reading.

**June 23, 2023**

Annual Meeting

St. John in the Village

Members participated in an Evensong, attended an Annual Meeting, and enjoyed a BBQ.

**The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award - 2022**

The recipient of The Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award for 2022 was Chnidcar “Golo” Fortune, a parishioner at The Haitian Congregation of the Good Shepherd in the Bronx, for his volunteer ministry: Service as a Sunday school teacher, music minister, and children’s choir leader. Chnidcar is a student at Cornell University who has given extensively of his time to nurture music ministries for children and adults at his home parish.

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

**2022-2023 Membership Report**

Membership as reported herein includes all those who have paid dues to date for 2021, 2022, and/or 2023. Per the Club’s bylaws, members who have not contributed dues in 2021 and 2022 have been retired from the membership roster.

<b>Membership Level</b>	<b>As of June 23, 2023</b>
Life Members	36
Patron Members	9
Sponsor Members	46
Basic Members	118
Dual Members	22
Young Adult Members	15

Honorary Members (Young Adults)	2
Patron Associate Member	1
Sponsor Associate Members	1
Basic Associate Members	2
Clergy Associate Basic Members**	23
Seminarian/Spouse Associate Members	3
Young Adult Associate Member	0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>275</b>

## 2022-2023 Necrology

The Club received death notices for the following members: Todd P. Curtis, Daniel Hertz, Nicolas L. Ludington, Dennis D. McCrary, and Stanley DeForest Scott, each of whom will be missed, and to whose families the Club sends its most sincere condolences.

## 2023 Annual Dinner

On May 3, 2023, one hundred and six members and guests of the Church Club of New York, including the Hon. Mrs. Alston Roach Wilson, Consul General of Jamaica, were present at Trinity Church Wall Street for an address by the Rt. Rev. Rose Hudson Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover and Bishop in Canterbury. The Rev. Michael Bird gave the invocation and benediction, and the Rt. Rev. Andrew M.L. Dietsche introduced Bishop Rose. Thirty-four Life Members of the Church Club of New York were recognized in the program.

## 2022 Financial Report

This report concerns the Church Club's last fiscal year, calendar year 2022. With total 2022 income of \$130,345.69 and expenses of \$131,356.28, our budget ended with a small loss of \$1,010.59. Practically speaking, the organization's cash flow has two peaks, one in the fall with membership dues and one in the spring with the Annual Dinner, and so a modest loss or gain of this magnitude does not immediately affect the club's financial health. Over the last year, the Church Club board has reduced expenses significantly by eliminating the need for office space and by moving our storage area to a less expensive venue while minimizing materials that need to be retained. It is notable that the board of trustees did not need to take a drawdown from the endowment in 2022.

### Income

The largest source of income always comes from our Annual Dinner. In 2022, even with the Covid-based constraints on attendance, total Dinner net proceeds totalled \$33,097.22. The second largest source of income last year was, combined, membership dues and gifts, and the remainder is accounted for by proceeds from events other than the Annual Dinner.

### Expenses

Almost all expenses are accounted for by three categories. In order of size these are:

- Director's consulting fee

- Events, of which the largest is the Annual Dinner
- Administrative costs

In addition, the Church Club made three grants totaling \$5,370 for the Young Adult of the Year Award, annual gifts to the Bishop's discretionary fund for 2021 and 2022, and a donation to the St. John's Eye Hospital.

The Club's endowment, is based entirely on past endowment gifts. As of year-end 2022 the value was approximately \$400K. Our endowment is invested in the Diocesan Investment Trust which makes all the investment decisions. Finally, our annual internal audit for 2022, completed in June of 2023, tested that receipts and expenses were handled properly. The audit, which was done in person by treasurer Christopher Strome and director Kate Hill, showed no areas of concern.

## **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, 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**

Kate Hill

**THE CHURCH CLUB OF NEW YORK**  
**Minutes of the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Membership**  
**Friday, June 24, 2022 following 5:30 Evensong**  
**The Church of St. John in the Village**  
**218 W. 11th St., New York, NY**

**Informal Welcome and Housekeeping Notes – Kate Hill, Director**

**Welcome and Call to Order – Nicholas Birns, President of the Board of Trustees**

**Confirmation of a Quorum – Kate Hill, Director**

**Approval of Minutes –**

Annual Meeting held on Wednesday, June 24, 2021, via Zoom

**President’s Report – Nicholas Birns**

In the absence of President Nicholas Birns due to a family medical emergency, Director Kate Hill presented the following reports:

**Membership Report – Kate Hill, Director**

Last year, the Church Club had 285 members and has 272 as of today. Members who don’t pay dues for two years are removed from the membership roll. We now have a total of 35 Life Members. Charlie Urstadt became a Life Member this year. The Club gained 12 new members, including the Rev. Erika Meyer, the Rev. Robert Godley, Seminarian Robby Mathis, new Life Member Charlie Urstadt, Eric Gold, Robert Tyszkowski, and Lynn Jones, among others.

Moment of Silence was held for Deceased Members in the previous year:

Thomas Dewey  
Daniel Hertz  
The Rev. Warren Haynes  
Stuart Prall  
William Herrman

**Report of the Nominating Committee and Election of new Trustees**

According to the Club’s Constitution, “the Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates for the election to the Board at the annual meeting of the Club and shall recommend candidates for election as officers at the annual meeting of the Board” (*Constitution, Article V, Section 8*).

The following persons were nominated for election as Trustees of the Church Club, to serve for a three-year term, ending in 2025:

- Yvonne O’Neal (for Re-Election)
- Diane Pollard (for Re-Election)
- Anne Kelly Treantafales (for Re-Election)



The Nominating Committee recommended to the new Board of Trustees that it elect the following as officers of the Church Club for the year 2022-2023:

- Nicholas Birns: President
- Yvonne O'Neal: Vice President
- Diane Pollard: Vice President
- Anne Kelly Treantafales: Secretary
- Christopher Strome: Treasurer

#### **Executive Director's Report – Kate Hill**

It has been a pleasure to work with Nick and board. Thanks to Fr. Napier for hosting the Evensong service. Fr. Napier had written a special collect for the Church Club that he's used for the past 2 years. 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-Wilkins of Dover, who will join us on May 3 of 2023, and Willem Brans, who has assisted us in setting up several exciting events for the fall and next year.

Member highlights: Matt Sanfilippo has been ordained as a priest, and Stephen Morris has been received 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 three occasions: the 2021 Christmas Party at Church of the Incarnation, a tour of Trinity Church Wall Street, and the 135th Annual Dinner, at which attendance was limited to 70 due to health restrictions.

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 our 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 \$3,000 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 the fall of 2022.

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/Events**

- July 2021: Holy Woman Adelaide Teague Case: Teacher and Theologian, with Historian and Archivist Jean Ballard Terepka
- September: This Band of Sisterhood: Black Women Bishops on Faith, Race, and the Church, with Westina Matthews, PhD
- October: The Venerable Bede, with The Very Rev. John Wm. Houghton, Ph.D.
- November: Annual Bishop's Forum, with The Rt. Rev. William H. Stokes, The Episcopal Diocese of New Jersey. 2021 Young Adult of the Year Service Recognition Award, given by The Rt. Rev. Allen K. Shin, Bishop Suffragan of New York.
- December: Church Club Christmas Party at Church of the Incarnation
- January 2022: Early Christian Women with Author V.K. McCarty
- February: East and West: Lent, Bread, and Purgatory, plus the Filioque!, with Author Stephen Morris
- March 3, 6pm: Tour of Trinity Church with the Rev. Philip Jackson, Rector
- April 28 135th Annual Dinner with Bishop Sarah Mullally to hear her remarks entitled, "Do you see this woman," a reflection on the opportunities of service afforded by her role.
- June: Ghana: A Very, Very Christian Country, with Prof. John V. Singler, NYU

### **Upcoming Programs include:**

- September 6, 2022, 6 pm: Fr. John Houghton, at Potawatomi, via Zoom.
- September 21, 6 pm: Welcome Event. In-person, at St. Paul's Carroll Gardens.
- October: Fr. Matthew Moretz, on the Reredos at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue. In person.
- November 2: Bishop's Forum. In person at Grace Church on Broadway.
- December: Christmas Party, in person, location to be determined.
- January 2023: Fr. Patrick Cheng, on LGBTQIA+ Identities. In person at Saint Thomas Church Fifth Avenue.
- February: Francis X. Blouin Jr, on Vatican Archives. Location to be determined.
- Possible future program: The Rev. Richard Mammana.

Building on former executive director Susan Ridgeway's vision and goal to create the Beloved Community among members around the country, and to bring together people who love God and the image of God in our neighbors, we are working to expand our membership locally in the city and Tristate Area, as well as around the country. Many of our new members include people who have moved out of New York City.

### **Treasurer's Report – Gregory Stoskopf**

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 \$5,744.79, or 4.7 percent. 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, a decrease of 4.7 percent. Together, the two funds total \$416,890. The General Fund and Liddell 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. It is always nice not to need to withdraw 4-to-5 percent of the funds' principal.

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

The Treasurer performed a review of the Church Club's financial records in the Spring of 2022, which was completed this week. All bank statements from May 2021 through May 2022 were reviewed: the May-December 2021 records with Susan Ridgeway, and the January-May 2022 records with the current Director, at St. John in the Village. No unusual transactions or irregularities were observed. All checks are co-signed by both the 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 Director is also kept. The Treasurer will be meeting with Kate Hill in the coming weeks to confirm each transaction entered, as well as the receipts for expense invoices. 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 transaction and check number, if applicable.

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

Currently there are 118 members who haven't paid their membership dues for 2022, which if they did pay would result in an additional \$10,000 or more in dues, and 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 will be removed from the membership list at the beginning of 2023. The dues lost from those 48 over the past two years is around \$6,800 per 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.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Willem Brans, Secretary

## **Contact Information**

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