

2025

ANNUAL REPORT



**Church of the
Redeemer**

3/22/2026

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

March 22nd, 2026 Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Warden's Report
3. Treasurer's Report
4. Vestry & Warden's Election
 - a. Nominations from the floor
 - i. Warden – Paul Cecala
 - ii. Treasurer –
 - iii. 3 Vestry Members (class of 2028)
5. Convention Delegates Election
 - a. Nominations from the floor
 - i. Primary Delegate 1 - Paul Cecala
 - ii. Primary Delegate 2 –
 - iii. Alternate Delegate – Paulette Belew
6. Call the vote
7. Thank you to the outgoing Vestry
8. Special Presentation
9. Closing Prayer/Hymn/Dismissal

****What is the Annual Parish Meeting?***

In the Episcopal Church, the annual parish meeting is a gathering of the congregation where members elect leadership, review the budget, and discuss important matters, as outlined in the parish's bylaws. The annual parish meeting is a core function of a parish, allowing the congregation to participate in the governance and direction of their church.

The entire report can be found online at <https://redeemermorristown.org/>

Warden's Report – Brian Malcolm, Paulette Bellew

Good morning, my name is Brian Malcolm and I am a co-warden of Church of the Redeemer with Paulette Bellew. We would like to start with a quick list of “thank yous” for the past year.

We would like to thank:

Rev. Elizabeth Wigg-Maxwell who was a stalwart of Redeemer through last Easter.

Rev. Willie Smith for taking on the position of “Priest in Residence”. In addition to leading service multiple times a month, Rev. Willie also provides pastoral services for the congregation and for our community at large.

Deacon Erik Soldwedel as a consultant to Redeemer, who is helping us with many of our logistical challenges as well as periodically leading morning prayer.

The Worship committee who is working diligently (as always) with Rev. Willie Smith to bring us meaningful liturgy.

The Justice committee, for their efforts to assist many facets of the wider community and keep Redeemer engaged.

The various ministry leads and volunteers without whom, Sunday service would not be possible: Ushers, Safety, Tech, Hospitality and Readers.

Finally, the Vestry. A hard working group of people that takes care of the “sausage making” of church business. There will be people rotating off the vestry (yours' truly included) and so we need to fill not only open vestry positions, but also the above mentioned ministry groups.

If I've missed anybody, I sincerely apologize and beg your forgiveness.

Lastly, for me personally I just wanted to say that the years I've spent; first on the Vestry and then as Warden, have been a mixed blessing. Not always easy, but it has been my great honor to have been allowed to serve Redeemer. I hope you will all rise to support the folks who will continue to serve at Redeemer as Vestry, and Ministry leads.

God Bless you and I love you all.

Yours in Christ

Brian Malcolm

Treasurers Report – Paul Cecala

2026 Annual Treasurer's Report to the Congregation

Presented by Paul Cecala, Treasurer

Date: Mar 22, 2026

2025 overview

Overall financial health of the congregation is fair to good because of significantly more pledge income than projected and investment growth in 2025.

- Income before investments was 14.4% higher than budgeted, or \$34,428 more.
- Expenses (not including the Capital Campaign roof replacement) were \$28,410 less than budgeted.
- Investments gained a net of \$16,612.
- Ultimately, this resulted in our actual revenues exceeding actual expenses by \$13,910 and our investments adding \$16,612 to the principle.

2026 Projections

The Vestry approved a 2025 budget that projects an \$87,978 deficit on income of \$265,500 and expenses of \$353,878 before any investment profit or losses.

Stewardship pledges have decreased We anticipate a small (3%) increase in rental income.

Maintenance, insurance and services costs have all increased. Overall, we budgeted for a average 3% inflation over last year for all items except utilities (estimated a 10% increase) and those where we had exact quotes (like insurance, salaries, and benefits).

Our investment strategy for 2025 was a bit more conservative to account for potential market volatility. On the recommendation of our investment advisor, we are maintaining this position at this time.

Determining pledge income is a pretty difficult task due to changing societal norms around organized religion. Increasingly nationwide, Gen Z has led a movement away from committing to specific organizations like churches. Instead, they prefer the freedom to come and go as they please and then donate when they attend. Or, they and many older generations simply start an automatic payment function (like a subscription) and then forget about it. In either case, it becomes more difficult to predict income. The diocese does not have specific directions on how to account for or estimate these changes in the way we budget

What can we do?

Our best option for increased income is additional rental of our facilities. Please consider renting our parish hall for your parties. We are seeking long-term renters for a variety of options in the Parish Hall. Help us identify events and organizations to rent our sanctuary (wedding/funerals, concerts, etc). All we ask is that the renters agree with our social justice and Christian values.

NOTE: The budgets presented here are condensed to show key elements. Please contact me for a copy of the complete document.

2025 P & L Actual vs Budget			
		2025 YE Actual	2025 YE Budget
Income			
	4009 · Contributions		
	4000 · Plate Collections	\$ 1,773.75	\$ 2,000.00
	4009 · Contributions	\$ 119,557.48	\$ 109,000.00
	4100 · Lease Income	\$ 91,496.00	\$ 85,400.00
	4190 · Other Rental Income	\$ 15,540.00	\$ 22,400.00
	4050 · Rental Income	\$ 107,036.00	\$ 107,800.00
	4200 · Misc Income / Special Gifts	\$ 37,251.61	\$ 12,000.00
	4400 · Designated Funds	\$ 9,663.22	\$ 10,280.00
	Total Income	\$ 273,508.31	\$ 239,080.00
Expense			
	5000 · Staff Compensation - Admin Exp	\$ 60,010.71	\$ 90,650.00
	5100 · Continuing Education	\$ 400.00	
	5110 · Bank Service Charge	\$ -	\$ 125.00
	5111 · Vanco Processing Fees	\$ 1,146.63	\$ 1,225.00
	5112 · Anchor Payroll Fees	\$ 2,023.50	\$ 1,800.00
	5113 · Accounting Services	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00
	5150 · Office Expense	\$ 14,425.02	\$ 14,600.00
	5200 · Supply Preacher	\$ 7,102.80	\$ 10,500.00
	5250 · Utilities	\$ 29,039.90	\$ 28,475.00
	5270 · Physical Plant Insurance	\$ 34,376.00	\$ 33,522.00
	5300 · Facilities Maintenance	\$ 54,444.01	\$ 53,300.00
	5400 · Music	\$ 27,848.00	\$ 7,100.00
	5450 · Church School Supplies/Curriculum	\$ 191.46	\$ 100.00
	5501 · Diocesan Pledge	\$ 23,002.44	\$ 22,500.00
	5502 · Conventions & Conferences	\$ 200.00	\$ 800.00
	5503 · Advertising & Promotion	\$ -	\$ 1,000.00
	5504 · Parish Activities	\$ 174.97	\$ 400.00
	5505 · Worship Supplies	\$ 260.83	\$ 500.00
	5506 · Misc. Other	\$ 1,772.95	\$ 10,800.00
	5601 · Marketing Expenses	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
	5604 · Food for Life Exp	\$ -	\$ 960.00
	5605 · Miscellaneous Outreach Expense	\$ -	\$ 250.00
	5606 · Altar Flowers Expense	\$ 1,141.13	\$ 1,200.00
	5607 · Misc. Designated Exp	\$ 1,996.23	\$ 1,700.00
	5609 · Capital Campaign Expense	\$ -	\$ -
	5611 · Rector's Hospitality Fund Exp	\$ 41.37	\$ 2,000.00
	5615 · IT - Swing Wide Doors	\$ -	\$ 800.00

Total Expense	\$ 259,597.95	\$ 288,007.00
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 13,910.36	\$ (48,927.00)

2026 Abridged Budget - approved 2026.01.12		
Income		
	4000 · Service Plate Collections	\$2,000.00
	4010 · Pledge Contributions	\$127,500.00
	4050 · Rental Income	\$112,360.00
	4200 · Misc Income / Special Gifts	\$18,250.00
	4400 · Designated Funds	\$3,790.00
	Total Income	\$265,900.00
Expense		
	5000 · Admin Expenses	\$90,278.00
	5100 · Continuing Education	\$400.00
	5110 · Bank Service Charge	\$0.00
	5111 · Vanco Processing Fees	\$1,200.00
	5112 · Anchor Payroll Fees	\$2,500.00
	5113 · Accounting Services	\$4,300.00
	5150 · Office Expense	\$15,225.00
	5200 · Supply Preacher	\$2,100.00
	5250 · Utilities	\$33,725.00
	5270 · Physical Plant Insurance	\$35,500.00
	5300 · Facilities Maintenance	\$79,000.00
	5400 · Music	\$34,800.00
	5450 · Church School Supplies/Curriculum	\$250.00
	5501 · Diocesan Pledge	\$25,000.00
	5502 · Conventions & Conferences	\$250.00
	5503 · Advertising & Promotion	\$1,000.00
	5504 · Parish Activities	\$400.00
	5505 · Worship Supplies	\$500.00
	5506 · Misc. Other	\$800.00
	5601 · Marketing Expenses	\$2,500.00
	5605 · Miscellaneous Outreach Expense	\$250.00
	5606 · Altar Flowers Expense	\$1,200.00
	5607 · Misc. Designated Exp	\$1,700.00
	5611 · Rector's Hospitality Fund Exp	\$1,000.00
	5615 · IT - Swing Wide Doors	\$20,000.00
	Total Expense	\$353,878.00
	Net Ordinary Income	\$(87,978.00)

2025 Stewardship Results as of Feb 12, 2025

	2026	2025
Pledging Units	32	39
Pledged Income	\$56,525	\$89,110
Avg Annual Pledge	\$1765	\$2,275
Median Pledge	\$1212	\$1,648

Weekly Sunday Services Attendance

Dec '25 Weekly Avg	34.75
Oct-Dec '25 Weekly Avg	35.33
Dec '24 Weekly Avg	38.75

Building Committee Report - Vestry

Throughout the year, significant attention was given to the care and maintenance of our church and parish buildings. Major systems were addressed, including repairs and improvements to heating and electrical infrastructure, helping to ensure safe, comfortable, and reliable use of both the church and the parish house.

Ongoing grounds maintenance was also a priority, with regular care during the spring and summer months and diligent management during the winter season to keep walkways and outdoor spaces accessible and well maintained.

Restoration and preservation efforts continued, with exterior building improvements nearing completion and ongoing interior updates to better support parish ministries and community outreach programs. These projects reflect a long-term commitment to maintaining our historic buildings while adapting them for current and future use.

Looking ahead, planning remains focused on addressing additional large-scale building needs to preserve these facilities for generations to come. The overall goal of the building and maintenance work continues to be the responsible stewardship of our physical resources in service of worship, ministry, and the wider community.

Earth Ministry and Environmental Sustainability Report - Peg Crilly

As Assistant for Earth Ministry and Environmental Sustainability, I would like to remind us that on Redeemer's website, we see our vision statement: *We seek a world where ALL of God's creation is celebrated and cherished.*

The Mission statement reads: Redeemer is a Christian liberation community in the Episcopal tradition striving to live out the mission of God by being a beacon of hope and advocating for social and environmental justice. Our baptismal covenant includes care for creation and working for justice.

- In an Educational aspect of Earth Ministry, I continue to use the Epistle column as an educational tool, with current issues and monthly themes, such as environmental leaders for African-American history, LatinX heritage, Pride month, Native American history, and Women's History and more. Please read it and learn!

- We participated in Morristown's Dia de Los Muertos, Day of the Dead with our creative and sustainable altar for our beloved dead. It remained and added to our Feast of All Saints Day service with Fr. Willie.
- I am a resource person for Ms. Carolyn and her Sunday School, and we welcomed them to the Garden. We enjoyed a planting session with the children in May and had opportunities to harvest.
- I also serve on the Worship Planning Committee, consisting of Willie, Colleen, Jody, Heather Elkins, and myself. I have oriented a number of visiting clergy and Fr. Willie, help with worship tasks, and act as Worship Coordinator many Sundays.
 - We need an Altar Guild- to take charge of the altar linens and sacred art of the church.
- With Willie, we welcomed you and your animal family members, and those who stopped when walking by, to our Annual Blessing of the Animals in October for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and we delightfully offered edible hospitality to our animal siblings.
- We again participated in the Annual Whippany River Clean-Up here in Morristown last March and made a positive impact on our local watershed as a faith community.
- My main focus has been the Food Security Ministry with Redeemer's Garden of Hope! Grown with love, working in harmony with the ecosystem, we have supplied The Table of Hope with many pounds of fresh, organic zucchini, basil, and different types of tomatoes and peppers. We enjoyed our time with each other in creation and will continue to learn in this experimental communal effort, in addition to developing a sense of place in our own church backyard.
- The challenge in this food justice ministry with the garden, is that we need more people power, especially for watering during the hot summer days. If you live in or near Morristown, we need you! Just a ½ hour every 2 or 3 weeks would help.
- We also grew some extra vegetables that were shared with Redeemerites both at coffee hour and for take home enjoyment, interest, and connection to our local food supply.
- I continued to encourage bringing your rotten food scraps and coffee grounds to church for the garden compost, SO, let it rot- here!!!
- The challenges I see at Redeemer are two-fold: keeping environmental justice at a forefront as well as sustainable facility practices in recycling, especially at receptions and events we host. I include environmental justice in the Epistle, and continue to de-center white-ness and privilege in environmentalism and nature-only spirituality, with a balance of love of neighbor, environmental justice, and concern for our future generations.
- I would like to see plans for a youth ministry to start to develop, so families with teenagers will return after their 1st visit. We need them, they need us, and we have much to offer.
- I would like to see several Lunch & Learn's. Please communicate with me if you have special questions or things you would like to explore. If you would like to explore some outdoor adventure, either in fun or prayerful contemplation,

please let me know! It is my privilege and honor to serve at Church of the Redeemer. Thank you.

Monday Night Book Club – Veronica Serino

I believe our starting date was 10/26/2020 with the discussion of A MAN CALLED OVE by Fredrik Backman. That means we will be at the six-year mark later this year. We meet via zoom on the last Monday of each month and our members dial in from as far as California, Minnesota, Virginia and Canada and as close as Morristown with several locations in between. Our meetings last for an hour during which time we engage in the liveliest of discourse. We are a democracy so members suggest our upcoming books and we have had quite a variety from non-fiction to memoir and all genres that fill that span. We have gone to outer space, have visited the trying life of a housewife in the 1950's, have dealt with topical concerns and have embraced endearing characters who have enhanced our lives. We are friendly, smart, and welcoming to all who may choose to join us whether they have read the selection or not.

Parish Activities –

Currently, there is no official Ministry Head for Parish Activities, and this is a wonderful opportunity to step into a role that helps bring our parish community together. This ministry would oversee the weekly Coffee Hour committee and collaborate with its members to plan and host parish-wide events that foster fellowship and connection.

Pastoral Care Team – Agnes Clyne

Pastoral Care's ministry at Redeemer continues to being supportive of its members and their loved ones in times of need. Support is shown through correspondences showing Redeemer's love & care through cards, emails, phone calls, visits, and now home communion. Rev Willie is available for these services. Please contact the office to reach Rev. Willie or Agnes Clyne. If you would like to join this ministry or have any questions, please reach Agnes Clyne by email: clyjack@aol.com

The Prayer Group – Barbara Cronenberg

During 2025, our prayer chain members responded to 10 requests for prayers, from parishioners and from strangers.

In times of sorrow and joy, the Prayer Chain members held these people in their prayers. Our ministry has been serving the community since 2002. The combined prayers of our members are a palpable force in this world.

If you have room in your heart and prayers, please consider joining the Redeemer Prayer Chain. The prayer requests are received via email or telephone and are distributed through email. To request prayers or if you have any questions about the Ministry, please send us email (RedeemerPrayerChain@gmail.com) or call us at 908-439-0080. The Redeemer Prayer Chain, changing the world one prayer at a time...

The Justice Team – Jody Caldwell, Melissa Allman

The Justice Team, comprised of Melissa Allman, Jody Caldwell, Colleen Hintz, Emma Olmsted, and Susan Schessler, planned several events for the 2025-2026 year and are working on long term planning for this group.

Projects and Events:

1. June 14 and October 18 of 2025: Redeemerites took a stand at the No Kings rallies that took place in Morristown. These rallies were very well-attended nationwide and Redeemer was well-represented locally.
2. Advent 2025: The fourth annual Redeemer Sock Market collected 200 pairs of socks, which were delivered to Table of Hope for distribution. We look forward to keeping this campaign going in future years and watching it evolve.
3. February of 2026: As of last month, Redeemer collected \$525 in grocery gift cards to help assist people visiting loved-ones detained at Delaney Hall by ICE. We look forward to any ideas from the parish about other ways we can help provide love and support to detainees and their families.
4. Every week: You may have noticed the “What Can One Person Do” in the epistle each week. If the concept of social justice seems daunting or intimidating, consider the invitations as an opportunity to get involved on an individual basis in a way that is concrete and specific. Those individual efforts are cumulative and reach farther than we can imagine.
5. Last year, the Justice Team reached out to the parish with a survey asking for information about ways members would like to get involved in justice work. We thank those who responded, but we continue to seek input and direction from the parish about how we can stand together and act with justice, as we are called to do, in the coming year and beyond. Future planning may focus on recurring campaigns like the Redeemer Sock Market, but longer term planning is needed as we consider how Redeemer will honor its longstanding commitment to social justice. Thank you!

In other news, we are happy to report that our team has added an additional member this year, and we are excited to welcome other participants!

Safety Team – Agnes Clyne

The Safety Team was formed when we resumed in-person worship in 2020. You will see us quietly positioned at the back of the church near the rear doors to help ensure everyone’s safety. If you ever have concerns about your own safety or the safety of others, please feel free to reach out to us—we always have our cell phones on hand. We are also happy to greet all who enter our beautiful church.

If you would like to join this ministry or have questions, please contact Agnes Clyne @ clyjack@aol.com

Tech Team – The Tech Team plays a vital role in helping our worship come to life both in the sanctuary and online through our TV screens, Zoom, and Facebook. If you enjoy working with technology (or want to learn!), we’d love for you to join the team.

The Serendipity Stitchers –Veronica Serino

The Serendipity Stitchers started meeting on a regular basis in 2008. Currently we meet in the parlor on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Our primary purpose is stitching hats and scarves for those who may need them. We have had a long relationship with nourish.NJ whom we donate to and, they in turn, distribute to their guests. With the help of the Gates Avenue Knitters of Gilette and the United Methodist Church of Morristown as well as former stitchers, like Marlo Yonkers who now resides in South Carolina, we have been able to give nourish.NJ over 500 pieces this season. You

can see this happy gathering of approximately 10 local stitchers sitting around a table, stitching, talking, laughing and eating. We celebrate this ministry that goes well beyond our central purpose as we share social connection and strong friendships. There is always room at the table for anyone who wants to share our joy.

Stewardship – Leslie Harden

Stewardship can be defined as “what we do with all that we have, all the time.” Stewardship efforts focused on fostering meaningful connection and reflection through shared meals and gatherings that highlighted what makes our parish unique. These events invited conversation about the many ways time, talent, and treasure support our ministries and extend our reach into the wider world.

We were also strengthened by careful financial management and thoughtful oversight, which allowed our resources to be used wisely and in alignment with our mission. In anticipation of renewed pledging, several ministries were streamlined to improve clarity and ease of participation, and stewardship materials continue to be reviewed each year with fresh eyes and parishioner feedback.

Above all, stewardship remains a deeply personal and spiritual practice—one that invites reflection, gratitude, and commitment, and lies at the very heart of our shared life as a community.

Worship Committee – Colleen Hintz

The Worship Committee consists of Jody Caldwell, Heather Elkins, Peg Crilly and me, Colleen Hintz. Rev. Willie has now joined us and Deacon Erik has worked with us as well. A few of the high points from this past year: We chose to add Imago Dei to this past year’s Season of Sacred Story in recognition of all those who have been displaced by the banning of diversity, equity and inclusion by our government. It was a most powerful time as we heard the story of a military nurse who served with distinction as she cared for POW’s held along with her in the Philippine’s during WWII and how she was denied by this administration. We heard the story of an Inuit woman who survived the unthinkable in the Arctic and lived to tell the story along with many others. We were all deeply moved when a former parishioner came back to share his story as he spoke on TDoR Sunday. Throughout it all, we kept Redeemer’s commitment to emancipatory language and full inclusion foremost in every week’s liturgy. The Worship Committee is beyond grateful to the lay members who say “yes” to helping lead our liturgies. Here’s to John Caldwell, Jody Caldwell, Peg Crilly and Heather Elkins who graciously, wonderfully lead our services when neither Rev. Willie nor Deacon Erik can be with us. They helped make Lent, Holy Week and many a Sunday possible. We look forward to continuing to deepen and strengthen our liturgies as we move boldly into the future.

Worship Ministries Report

It takes many hands to make our worship services possible. Each service depends on a dedicated team of at least 10–13 volunteers, including:

2 Tech Team Members
Acolyte
Assistant to the Celebrant
Celebrant/Presider

2 Music Ministers
3 Readers
2 Ushers
Coffee Hour Coordinator
Safety/Security Coordinator

We are always grateful for those who serve—and we warmly invite you to join us in one of these meaningful ministries.