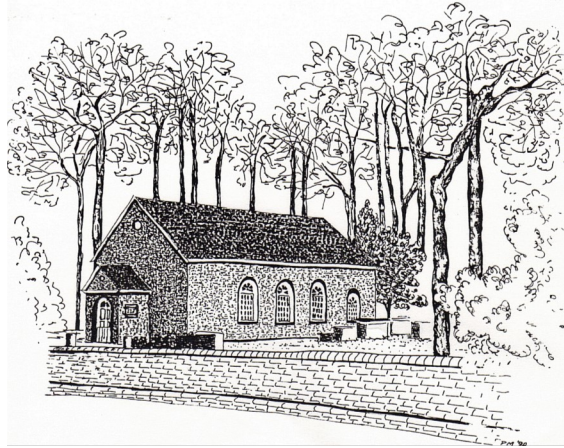




April  
2020



**Location:**

Rt. 33 & 638

Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

**Mailing:**

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

**Telephone:**

804-758-2006

**E-Mail:**

ccparish@verizon.net

**Website:**

christchurchmiddlesex.com

**Sunday Services:**

8:00 AM

A quiet traditional Service of Holy Communion

10:30 AM

A Family Service of Holy Communion

with Music and Choir

The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector

The Rev. Bob Pritchard, Ph.D., Associate Rector

Join us for Sunday & Wednesday Services

## Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

### Monthly Newsletter for April of 2020

#### EXPERIENCING EASTER AS THE DISCIPLES DID



The Gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Easter begins with these words, "When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.'" (John 20:19)

This will be the first year that I ever remember when I will not be in a packed church building with Easter hymns resounding throughout the building, glorious organ music, people looking for a place to sit, and the smell of lilies fill-

ing the air. Instead, this year, we will be in our homes, not for fear of the Jews as the disciples were, but for the fear of Covid-19. This virus is turning the world upside down as people self-isolate, stores and businesses close their doors, schools and colleges end their academic year early, and hospitals are stretched to the limits for supplies. It has affected the way that we interact with one another, and many are worrying about how they will pay their bills.

But as we look back to that first Easter morning we find the disciples self-isolating behind locked doors in fact. Jesus, their leader, had died a horrible death upon a cross and they feared the same fate awaited them if they were identified as one of his followers. It affected the way that they interacted with one another because they didn't know who they could trust and what they should believe. They probably had thought that they could have trusted Judas, but it had been Judas that betrayed Jesus to the authorities. Stories from the women who had been to the tomb sounded impossible and they were filled with stress and anxiety. But all of that suddenly changed when Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Jesus' presence drove out their fear and anxiety and gave them the strength to face whatever lay before them – even to

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the point of death itself.

Covid-19 may be turning our world upside down in a bad way, but Jesus' appearance that day to the disciples turned the world upside down in a positive way. As we approach Easter morning this year, place yourselves in the disciples' sandals and experience once again the joy and renewal that they must have felt when Jesus stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

## Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

### The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

May you all have a blessed Easter, even as we experience it in a new way, and I look forward to the day when we can all gather in the church and sing those Easter hymns that we so enjoy singing and once again receive the sacrament of Communion.

Fr. Stuart

## VESTRY

**"We are a family of faith, growing in Christ through worship, learning and service, who strive to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves."**

The Vestry met on March 10. (Minutes of this meeting are on the bulletin board.) Among the items discussed was the huge success of the "Share the Love" concert. We raised over \$16,000! We had planned to present this check to Rev. Dunn on Sunday, March 15. However, since this was cancelled, Fr. Stuart and I gave it to him at the new church building, with the promise that he and his congregation will be invited to attend our service as soon as we can meet again. Rev. Dunn showed us where the new altar furniture, financed by our donation, will be placed. When they have their grand opening,

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we will be invited. What a perfect example of what can be done when the community comes together to support a church in need.

Among the items that the Vestry will be working on this year are on online church directory and a comprehensive security plan. Details will be coming.

We are all trying to stay well and keep a positive attitude during these troubling times. We WILL get through this together. I want to share some thoughts with you.

### "Missing Church"

Not long ago, "missing church" meant not being able to attend a Sunday service for reasons such as illness, company, or being out of town. Not attending always made me feel slightly disoriented as if something was missing in my week.

Now, "missing church" has taken on a whole new meaning. It leaves a hole in my soul. There is something that is missing in my life and it is you, my church family. I miss the handholding, shaking hands and hugs when sharing the Peace. The greetings and hugs before and after church, the fellowship enjoyed during coffee hour are as much of our shared belief as the Rites. I even miss the camaraderie of the many committee meetings and my almost daily visits to church.

We must find ways to stay together as a congregation. As Rev Dunn said to his congregation the morning after their church burned down, "We have not lost our church, just our building." Keep connected by talking on the phone, texting, emailing, posting funny pictures and inspirational messages on Facebook. Fr. Stuart's messages take on a greater purpose and importance. Say an extra-long prayer on Sunday morning when we would normally be in church. Pray each day that we may all get through this safely. Use this challenging situation to develop a whole new meaning of what togetherness is and come out of this as a stronger church.

With much love and prayers,

Pam McClelland

**Junior Warden Input for the March 2020 Newsletter:**

Since we have had to cancel many activities at the church including our services, we are presented with an opportunity to start work on the Great Room floor in the Parish Hall. So beginning with the week of March 30<sup>th</sup>, the Great Room is **Off Limits** to all of us while our contractor, Percy Douglas, rips up a good portion of the existing floor to repair the sagging joists beneath it. This work should take roughly 4 weeks, after which, we may continue with plaster repair, re-painting the walls and ceiling, and re-carpeting the floor. How much we can accomplish depends on the extent of the repairs we need to do to the floor. But until we can rip out the existing floor, we are unable to see the extent of the repairs needed. We certainly hope we can complete the repair and re-carpeting portions at the very least. **So until further notice, do not enter our Great Room.**

While this is going on, the kitchen will remain accessible and useable but do not use the swinging door into the Great Room. We are also keeping the Boy Scouts out of their space as well while the construction project is underway.

The Boy Scouts new shed is now in place and our old shed has been relocated with new siding put on thanks to the efforts of Bob Guillotte and Tom Clarke. With the arrival of spring weather, we'll get it painted, which will complete that project that has really cleaned up that area of our grounds.

Thanks to the efforts of Chip Holt and his tractor, we have spread "Crush and Run" over parts of our entrance road to help eliminate the potholes and freshen up our main parking area. It has certainly improved the looks of that area along with the driving. We still do have plans for paving or re-gravelling the entrance areas, but that will probably not take place this year so we needed to take care of the potholes in the near term.

We have directed our groundskeeper, Jimmie Bristow, to remove the leaves and debris from the cemetery so we should be seeing some progress in that area over the next couple of weeks.

You may also have observed that the sconce located behind the organ in the church has been re-attached to the wall.



Susan DeSimone	2-Apr
Jim Ray	2-Apr
Connie Cros	6-Apr
Miller Smither	7-Apr
Mavis Mangum	9-Apr
Elaine Meyer	12-Apr
Dave South	13-Apr
Susie Loustaunau	19-Apr
Homer Hartung	20-Apr
Nicole Davis	23-Apr
Dottie Cronk	24-Apr
Grace Parker	24-Apr
Sue Newman	29-Apr
Doris Radcliffe	29-Apr

Dennis & Pat Durette	7-Apr
Richard & Cindy Naylor	24-Apr
Homer & Ginny Hartung	26-Apr
Matt & Victoria Rosendahl	30-Apr
Buddy & Bobbie Wyker	21-Apr