

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service
<http://www.facebook.com/christchurch.parish/>



Location:

Routes 33 & 638

Christchurch,

Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Telephone:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

Website:

christchurchmiddlesex.com

Sunday Services:

During the Covid-19 Pandemic
An online Service at 10:00 AM
The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector
The Rev. Bob Pritchard, Ph.D.,
Priest Associate

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex Monthly Newsletter for April 2021

From Our Rector



On Palm Sunday this year we were able, for the first time in twelve and a half months, to worship together once again as a congregation within the hallowed walls of Christ Church. Worship in the Parish had never stopped, but it was different and challenging for many of us, including myself. I knew nothing of recording services twelve months ago and there is still quite a bit that I still don't know. Still, week after week, there was a service.

We are now in the midst of Holy Week and Easter is only days away and Lent will finally be over. I've heard some say that this Lent wasn't 40 days this year but was 365 plus days. It began when life as we knew it came to an end. When the doors to the church closed last year, due to the pandemic, the hope was that we would be back in church by Easter. Little did we know that it would not be until this Easter.

Like the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for forty years, we grumbled and complained (myself included), we pointed fingers at those we blamed ("Why did you bring us out into this wilderness to die of thirst?" Exodus 17:3) and we longed for the good ole days "when we sat by the fleshpots and ate our fill of bread in Egypt" (Exodus 16:3)

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Just as Spring brings us renewed hope in the blooming flowers and budding trees, so Easter brings with it the promise of hope in the resurrection of Christ our Lord. Isaiah, in chapter 43:19, said “I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” Life is returning and with it we are experiencing new challenges and opportunities. We have a restored parish hall to return to, we have front doors on the church that have been repaired and are ready to swing wide to once again welcome us, and soon we will see additional work with the repairing of the sacristy doors and new wainscotting in the narthex.

Palm Sunday also brought with it another new thing, cameras in the church to record our live worship service. In the near future, that will transition into a livestreamed service so that those with internet access who are unable to make it to church will be able to worship along with us at the very same time, or worship later at their convenience. Here is a new way for Christ Church Parish to reach out into our community and touch people’s lives with the Good News of Christ.

Easter is coming! Alleluia, Christ is Risen! Christ is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!

And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5a)

Faithfully,
Fr. Stuart



“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.”

As I write this article it is pouring rain with a prediction that the temperature will be dropping throughout the day. However, as I notice that my daffodils are starting to bloom, I am reminded that spring in Virginia is always beautiful, and we will soon be energized to clean up our yards and outdoor spaces and maybe even plant a garden.

It also begins to feel like a time of transition toward a more normal world as more and more of us are getting the COVID vaccine. I also feel, and hope you do too, that we are beginning a more gentle time with less focus in our country on our differences and more on our common goals. I especially hope that when you read this we will be on our way to opening up our beautiful church to Sunday services once again. I know that some of our committees are beginning to gather to make plans for our spring and summer events. So to all our church family, I send greetings and joy for a Happy Easter and Spring.

Lydia Dudley
Senior Warden

from the Junior Warden's Workbench



Fellow Parishioners

Spring Cleanup Day was a huge success! Thanks to all who participated, and especially to the Scouts that brought a large group.

Ongoing repairs are underway:

Narthex – Construction entrance is down and doors are swinging. Gutters have been installed. We are waiting for the installation of the wainscot. Then on to the plaster and paint.

Sacristy – The doors (were rotten and coming apart). This project has been completed.

Church windows – There are needed repairs behind the choir window, and Narthex attic. Painting and repair of all the windows will follow.

Thanks to Roland Anderson for getting the dishwashers back up and running with a new detergent containment mat. Thanks also for re-bracing the water lines.

This request is to all who bring their recyclables to the church. We can no longer accept these items as we don't have someone to pick them up.

Finally, don't forget to support the Scout's Barbecue Fundraiser. They are "huge" supporters of our cleanup day, and the Oyster Festival. See article in this month's newsletter.

As always, you can contact me for suggestions or questions.

John Quilter, Junior Warden

◀ March	April 2021						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3 Holy Saturday	
4 Easter Sunday Type of service to be determined	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11 Type of service to be determined	12	13	14	15 Outreach Committee 9:00 am	16	17 Boy Scouts Barbecue 11am-5pm Church parking lot	
18 Type of service to be determined	19	20 Finance Committee 9:30am Fellowship Committee 11:15 am Vestry 5:30 pm	21	22	23	24	
25 Type of service to be determined	26	27	28	29	30		



Time

Time is a funny thing. Before the pandemic, I never felt I had enough time for all the things on my to-do list. I was always delighted when I could find an open day on my calendar to do with whatever I pleased. Time was in short supply. Then the pandemic changed that familiar rhythm. All of a sudden, there were no meetings, but cancelled events. No trips, or dinners out. No visits from friends from afar. Time almost seemed to stand still. I now had lots of time.

I did many useful things with this extra time, but not nearly what I might have accomplished. Now, it is a year later, and I'm contemplating a resumption of a busier life. Really, could a whole year have gone by? That was faster than I thought. It reminds me of a t-shirt saying, "I thought getting old was going to take longer."

I'm pretty sure most of us will be glad to resume our "normal" life, with a new appreciation of the joys we missed. At the same time, I think many of us will come back with a new appreciation also of what we gained during those months of enforced free time. I imagine we will choose to leave some things behind and move forward in a more deliberate manner.

Being able to go to church is one of those things I'll never take for granted again. May I always have time to worship in community. May I always have time to write a note of encouragement, or to help someone in need. May I use my time wisely. I have time for that.

Grace Parker

Verger

Catechism Corner



Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education

As either a life-long Episcopalian, or someone who is not sure they are truly interested or to someone who might just have a few specific questions about the Episcopalian practices there are several resources in print that may be worth some exploration.

This might be an opportunity for those in all stages of our Episcopalian journey to meditate on the way the traditions of faith shape lives. I suspect with some study we all may understand better the wonderful way our liturgy and beliefs are meant to enrich our lives. If I have only one choice my vote is:

Walk in Love: Episcopal Beliefs and Practices (authors Gunn and Shobe; Amazon ~ \$22; Kindle ~\$8; 86% 5 stars)

A reviewer: "I have been an Episcopalian for 50 years, and yet I learned a great deal. Also, I learned the how's and whys of being Episcopal. I truly believe this book is the very best written explaining the details that every Episcopalian should learn or relearn."

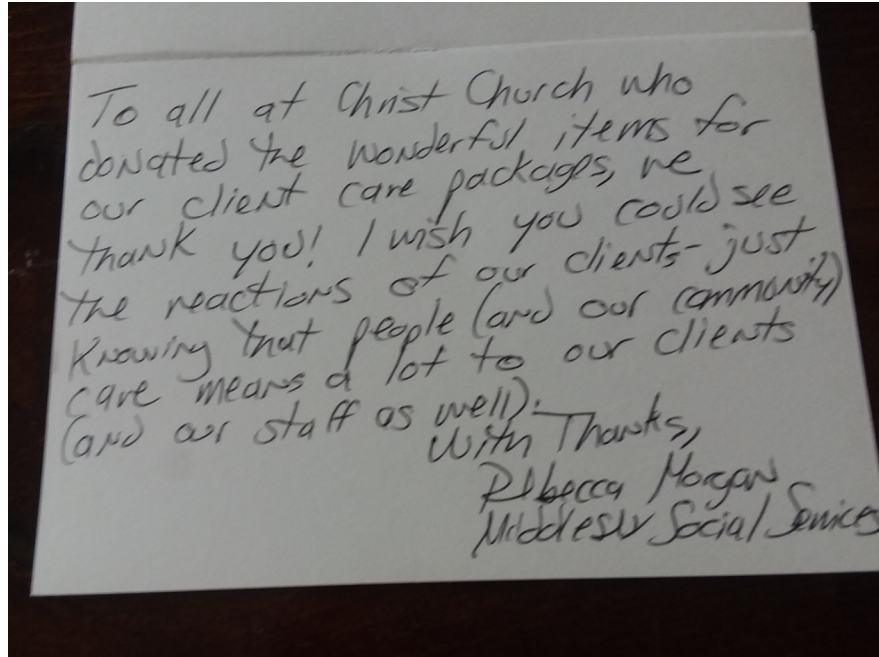
If you want another, perhaps:

Welcome to the Episcopal Church: An Introduction to Its History, Faith, and Worship (Webber plus one; Amazon ~\$14; Kindle \$12; 77% 5 stars)

Miles Libbey

Outreach Ministry

Middlesex County is beginning to come alive with more and more opportunities to reach out to those in need. Below is a "THANK YOU" TO YOU from Social Services.



On Saturday, April 3rd, CCP will join Love4Kids and other churches at Lower United Methodist Church in Hartfield for a special drive-by **Easter Egg Hunt** from 10 to 11:30 am. Without leaving your car we will hand out coloring books, crayons, bubbles or play dough. The older children will receive a cross provided by the ECW. There will also be a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny. He will be fresh from the carrot patch sitting atop his tractor. This will be a great day to bring visiting grandkids to see the Easter Bunny. Of course, masks will be required.

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LIFT (Love, Integrity, Faith, Truth) Children Of Middlesex is a collective effort of churches and Christians in Middlesex County who have come together to provide ways to address the spiritual, social, and physical needs of our County's youth and families. LIFT started in 2018 and since then has grown to include representatives from 15 churches in the County working to build a community of faith. Collectively the churches participating in LIFT have provided youth activities during the summer; encouraged and supported teachers and school personal; raised funds for college scholarships; assisted youth in obtaining back-to-school supplies; and conducted after-school programs. Most recently LIFT has been instrumental in the planning of a community skateboard park at Cook's Corner which is expected to be completed In the Summer of 2021. How can you get involved? by sharing your time, energy, and ideas. Contact CCP'S Outreach Ministry for more information.

CCP will be showing our appreciation for the teachers at the high school, middle school, elementary school, and Christchurch school in April. We will assemble boxes with goodies for the teachers to enjoy in their lounges, including snack items, coffee & tea. Thank you for your support towards this very worthy project.

In the past several years CCP has selected a week during warm weather and assisted in the building of a home for **Habitat for Humanity**. Habitat for Humanity is a Christian Ministry with the goal of eliminating substandard housing. Simple, decent, and affordable homes are built with zero-interest mortgage on each home. The homeowner is required to make mortgage, tax, and insurance payments, help build their own home, and assist in building future homes. Despite some delays due to the pandemic and inclement weather, progress continues at the Habitat home site located in Topping. In about 4-6 weeks at a date to be announced, we will again have an opportunity to help a neighbor. All members of CCP are welcome to participate, regardless of skill level. Most likely we will be doing interior painting and site cleanup. More details will be forthcoming, but until then please consider volunteering.

Happy Easter Everyone

Judy Quilter

Chairman

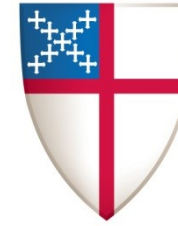
Christ Church Parish



This year's Fundraiser is Barbecue dinners for four. You can purchase now and pick up your dinner between 11:00 AM and 5:00 PM from the church parking lot on Saturday, April 17th.

Tickets are \$30.00, and the dinners include one pound barbecue, one quart Beans, 1 pint Coleslaw, 4 buns, and 4 brownies. You can pay by cash or check. Make checks payable to Boy Scout Troop 341. You can put your payment in an envelope and slide it under the door to the Scout room in the back of the Fellowship Hall, or you can give your payment to Fr. Stuart.

Remember, the Scouts are a "huge" help during the Oyster Festival.



THE BROTHERHOOD
OF

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

Finance Committee



FROM YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

- ✓ Got a current will or trust.
 - ✓ Got long term health insurance and the family knows where all the important papers are located.
 - ✓ Father Stuart have a list of favorite hymns and services preferences
- X** Darn! I wanted to remember Christ Church in my estate plans, but I forgot!

Did you know that if all your estate planning documents are in place and to your satisfaction, you can easily leave a bequest to your beloved Christ Church simply by making us one of your beneficiaries on an insurance policy or savings or checking account? These require NO changes to your major estate documents but are normally just a simple form you can download and fill out to include us as a beneficiary. Today is really a good time to take care of that. If you have any questions, any member of the Endowment Fund Board can help you. Your church thank you for making our future more secure for future generations. We are not financial planners, so as always, please consult with your attorney or other professionals.

William Budd, Chair; Page Wittcamp, Secretary; Phil Brown, Treasurer; David Wilcox; Lydia Dudley, Vestry Rep.; Fr. Stuart Wood, Rector

ANNUAL CLEAN UP



Special April Celebrations

Anniversaries



14th Michael Kirk and Ann de Peyster

24th Richard and Cindy Naylor

26th Homer and Virginia "Ginny" Hartung

Birthdays

2nd James H. Ray Susan C. DeSimone

7th J. Miller Smither & Victoria "Tori" Bess

9th Mavis R. Mangum

11th James A. "Jim" Padgett

12th Warren Milby

13th Dave South

19th Susie Loustaunau

20th Homer Hartung

23rd Nicole Davis

24th Grace Parker



ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

This newsletter is for information and articles that are germane to Christ Church Parish. That being said, if you are a member of Christ Church Parish you may submit an article of interest for consideration to be published in the newsletter.

To ensure that the newsletter is published and distributed in a manner that all will receive it before the month it pertains to begins, the submission deadlines for 2021 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
May 2021	Monday April 26, 2021
June 2021	Monday May 24, 2021
July 2021	Friday June 25, 2021
August 2021	Monday July 26, 2021
September 2021	Thursday August 26, 2021
October 2021	Friday September 24, 2021
November 2021	Monday October 25, 2021
December 2021	Friday November 26, 2021

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to wire-paladin@hughes.net. Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a "space available" basis.