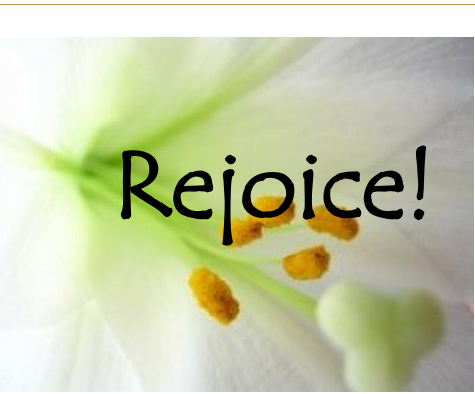
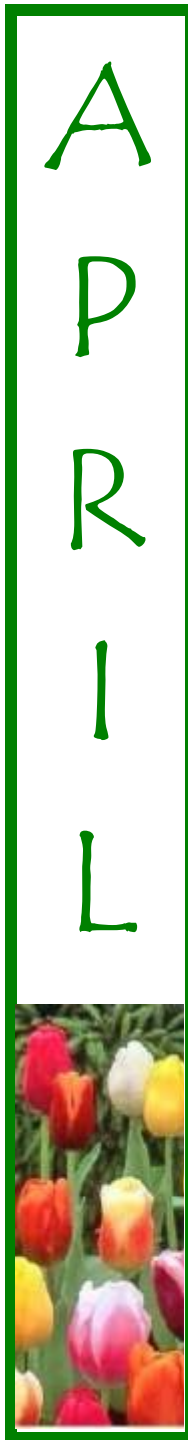


April 2017

Christ Church Parish
Address service Requested

“A joy-filled church
 with a heart and place for all.”



The Feast of The Resurrection is the
 very Heart of our Christian Faith

Christ has overcome everything
 that can separate us from God
 – even death!

For those who believe
 NOTHING
 can separate us from the
 LOVE of GOD.

and again I say,
 Rejoice!

Location:
 Rt. 33 & 638
 Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:
 PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Tel:
 804-758-2006

E-Mail:
ccparish@verizon.net

Web:
christchurchmiddlesex.com

Sunday Services:
 8 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
 Priest in Charge

Fr. Stuart's Message for April, 2017 —

Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy, but first he suffered pain and entered not into glory before he was crucified: Mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross, may find it none other than the way of life and peace; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen. (Collect for Monday of Holy Week).

"Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia." With these words, we begin our Easter celebration and we announce and affirm the central conviction of our faith; that God raised Jesus from the dead. The tomb was empty and not because Jesus' body had been taken from it, but because God has said "yes" to Jesus and "no" to the powers that killed him. Jesus lives and because he lives, he is as much a part of our lives as he was in the lives of his first disciples. Jesus' presence has been affirmed throughout the centuries through the experience of Christians since that first century.

In our Lenten program this year, we were reminded by the authors of "The Last Week", that Good Friday and Easter, death and resurrection together, are a central image in the New Testament to the path to a transformed self. They remind us that as Christians we follow a path that involves dying to an old way of being and being reborn into a new way of being. Good Friday and Easter are about this path of dying And rising, of being born again.



<i>Jim Ray</i>	<i>(April 2)</i>
<i>Susan DeSimone</i>	<i>(April 2)</i>
<i>Connie Cross</i>	<i>(April 6)</i>
<i>Miller Smither</i>	<i>(April 7)</i>
<i>Mavis Mangum</i>	<i>(April 9)</i>
<i>Elaine Meyer</i>	<i>(April 12)</i>
<i>Dave South</i>	<i>(April 13)</i>
<i>Susie Loustanaou</i>	<i>April 19</i>
<i>Homer Hartung</i>	<i>(April 20)</i>
<i>Grace Parker</i>	<i>(April 24)</i>
<i>Bob Kluge</i>	<i>(April 30)</i>

Lurlene & Llew Samuel
(April 2)

Pat & Dennis Durette
(April 7)

Bobby & Buddy Wyker
(April 21)

Cindy & Richard Naylor
(April 24)

Ginny & Homer Hartung
(April 26)

Happy Anniversary



Special Announcements!

POLICY CHANGE — The Vestry approves all additions to the church calendar. Should you or your committee desire to add something to the calendar contact Pam McClelland at pam.mcclelland@hughes.net or (804) 832-4234 and she will present your item for approval.

BROTHERHOOD/ECW BREAKFAST — The ECW will be joining us for breakfast on Sunday, April 9th, 2017. Greg Chambers of Middlesex Habitat will be our guest speaker and will update us on the latest Habitat happenings. Hope you all can make it.

MOVIE NIGHT — Wednesday, April 26th, doors open at 6:30, movie starts at 7:00 p.m. The movie is FLORENCE FOSTER JENKINS — a comedy starring Meryl Streep and Hugh Grant. It's the story of a New York heiress (Florence) who dreams of becoming an opera singer, even though she has a terrible singing voice. The movie, popcorn and soft drinks are free. See you there.
Membership/Hospitality Committee

St. Paul says it this way: “I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me.” (Gal. 2:19-20). We experience this ritually in baptism as we are symbolically buried with Christ in the waters of baptism and raised to new life as a new self, a new creation. In that rebirth, we are to embrace Jesus’ passion for the kingdom of God and to take up our own cross and follow him into the way of life and peace.

Jesus’ passion for the kingdom of God, his passion toward the poor and needy, the sick and the outcast, his passion for justice - this is the passion that brought him to the cross, but it is also the passion that brought him life and vindicated him on that Easter morning. This is the good news of Jesus. This is what we celebrate and this is what we are called to live in our own faith journeys. For with God’s help, all things are possible. Alleluia.

God bless each and every one of you.

Fr. Stuart

Come sing: Alleluia!

Greetings from Thumper — I heard that Moose is no longer writing to you. His wise words will be missed. I am a squirrel called Thumper (not my real name) because of my ability to leap from the fence in my human friend's yard to the bird feeder which is one of those which closes off access to the seeds when the bar is pushed down by my weight. Much to the amusement of other squirrels, I discovered how to avoid the bar. I rest my back paws on top of the stove pipe baffle, thus avoiding the bar and my front paws on the ledge of the feeder which allows me to eat all the seed I want. This displeases my human friend who comes after me making loud noises. I easily jump off the feeder to the ground to the safety of the woods.

I live in the woods around my human friend's house and forage for a living every day along with other squirrels. Food is scarce this time of year, so I appreciate it when my human friend puts bird seed along the back fence for me and the other squirrels. We all agree that is the neighborly thing to do.

Life is hard for squirrels especially in the winter. We manage to find most of the nuts we buried in the fall, but foraging is a daily activity. We get into terrible fights when feeding on the seeds spread along the fence. You wouldn't believe the vicious scrapping! The snarling and scrapping are terrible and squirrels get hurt. I wonder if humans fight like that. We fight to be dominant and to protect our territory. Other squirrels on our turf is unwelcome and is met with violent opposition. I don't believe God is happy with such behavior but we are powerless to stop it. Do humans ever fight as much as we do? I am told humans possess the ability to reason, to make rational decisions, choose between right and wrong. We can't control our baser nature but they can choose to be compassionate, forgiving, generous and kind because they are made in



BROTHERHOOD

Mother's Day Breakfast

The Men of the Brotherhood
warmly invite ALL Ladies
to our Annual Mothers Day Breakfast
on
Sunday, May 14, at 8:45 am.



We hope that you can come and enjoy the fellowship
while we honor you on your special day.

John Quilter, Brotherhood President

A Book Review — THE COURAGE TO GROW OLD – By Barbara Cawthorne Crafton.

Those of us who were able to be at Fall Camp at Shrinemont this past season already know what a terrific speaker Barbara Cawthorne Crafton can be, and several of us purchased one or more of her books to bring home to enjoy. One of these is The Courage to Grow Old. It is a relatively short book, only 87 pages, but packs a much larger experience. Crafton explores with the reader the O word and some of its more demanding perspectives. Who will give up his driver's license and when, before or after a major accident? Dating again after all these years, is such a thing even imaginable? Who will want all my pretty things? These are just a few of the issues the author considers with wit and wisdom. Our CCP library boasts two copies of this book. I hope you will find time to read and enjoy one of them.

Vel Gray, CCP Librarian

ANOTHER ANNOUNCEMENT — I HOPE YOU WILL EXCUSE THE SOMEWHAT CRUDE APPEARANCE OF THE NEWSLETTER. It's my first and I lost my tutor, Mike Floyd half-way through the process. Hopefully, you will see improvement in the next few issues. Jack Tarran

the image of God. For them love is a decision, not just a feeling. Humans don't have to react with cruelty and fighting like us. The Creator's Spirit is within them and they may choose to love or not to love who are hurtful or unkind. I suspect that most of the time they desire to give and receive love. Alas, we do not have the abilities of humans who are made in the image of the Creator. Our nature is to survive. We don't know what guilt or innocence means. I am thankful that I am a squirrel because I suspect that human interactions and relationships are far more challenging. What do you think? Uh oh, here comes my human friend and he has a broom in his hand. See you later.

Thumper

A message from the Membership/Hospitality Committee — THERE IS NO BETTER TIME DURING THE YEAR THAN EASTER TO INVITE FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO CHURCH. LET'S MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT THIS SEASON TO INVITE SOMEONE TO SHARE IN THE WORD OF GOD AT CHRIST CHURCH PARISH.

Church Calendar for April, 2017

APRIL, 2017

1	9:00	Church cleanup day
2	8:00 & 10:30	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
5	9:30	<i>Holy Eucharist, in the chapel</i>
9	8:00 & 10:30	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
9	9:00	<i>Joint ECW/Brotherhood Break fast</i>
10	6:00	<i>Vestry meeting</i>
12	9:30	<i>Holy Eucharist, in the chapel</i>
13	6:00	<i>Maundy Thursday, Holy Eucharist</i>
14	12:00	<i>Good Friday Liturgy followed By Stations of the Cross</i>
15	7:30	<i>Easter Vigil</i>
16	10:00	<i>Easter Sunday, One service</i>
23	8:00 & 10:30	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>
26	9:30	<i>Holy Eucharist, in the chapel</i>
26	6:30	<i>Movie night, parish hall</i>
29		<i>Vestry Retreat</i>
30	8:00 & 10:30	<i>Holy Eucharist</i>



ECW Spring Happening

ECW Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon

Mark your calendar and gather your friends.

Come join the Christ Church ladies as they host a spring fashion show luncheon on May 5th at 11:00 a.m.. You'll see the latest fashion trends from area stores while enjoying delicious luncheon fare. After lunch, games abound. Play bridge, Maj jonn, canasta, or the game of your choice. The afternoon is always a great outing and sells out quickly.

Join us for the fashion show and lunch and bring friends to stay and play. Don't wait, contact Grace Parker at parkergrace2010@verizon.net or 758-3640 to reserve your place. \$25.00 per person.