

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

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
URBANA, VA
PERMIT No. 6

**Address Service
Requested**

Christ Church Parish

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



DEC 2015



The brothers of The Society of Saint John the Evangelist have an online series called “Brother Give Us A Word” where they take a word and briefly comment on

it. Recently I have been thinking about the word “CHANGE” because my life has been going through a number of changes. A change of homes and parishes, a change from mountains to water, a change from two congregations to one just to mention a few of the many changes that I have experienced over the past two months.

Christ Church is also going through its own set of changes. A change in clergy, and some changes in worship style are just two of those changes. Some changes may be seen as moving from bad to good or just the opposite from good to bad. But no matter how much we may like something or someone, change is bound to happen.

I’m not always happy with change and I may even resist it at times, but the reality of our lives is that change happens and even though we may not be able to see it at first, change often happens for a reason. We can either navigate those changes on our own or we can seek the Lord’s guidance through those changes. I pray that we at Christ Church will allow God’s Holy Spirit to shape who we will become, and be honest and patient with each other as we move forward through this time of change and transition in our parish’s life knowing that God is doing for us more than we can ever ask or imagine.

Yours in Christ, Fr. Stuart

**Rejoice and Be Glad:
for God is at Work Among Us
and Every Day is a New Adventure!**



A **BIG THANKS** to everyone involved in the Urbanna Oyster Festival!

We had a fantastic Friday and a challenging Saturday. The ham rolls and HOBs completely sold out by midday Saturday. Every year more folks are showing up and asking for the HOB and chowder. We had oysters left over and Purcel's, our oyster supplier, kindly reimbursed us for them. We have two freezers full of clam strips and may need to have a special Church Clam Dinner sometime! All considered, we made around \$12,000 and that will be split equally between the ECW, Brotherhood and the Church. It is our major fundraiser and even with some rain, funds were raised to support our community activities. Again, thanks to everyone, you made it happen! Jim Dudley

Advent Wednesday Evening Series

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, December 2nd, 9th and 16th for our annual Advent get togethers. We will start with a service of Evening Prayer at 6:00 PM in church, supper at 6:45 PM and then a "A time with Fr. Stuart" program until approximately 8:00 PM. On the 2nd, Fr. Stuart will chat with us concerning the various Liturgical Actions we use during services. The 9th will find us in the middle of a great discussion about the various Icons of our Church. The 16th topic is yet to be announced but we are assured that it will be of great interest to us all. Traditionally, we prepare a full meal including dessert at Advent and this year is no exception. Your Chefs include the McClelland's, the Wells' and the Knupp's. We will have sign up sheets on the bulletin board for each evening to provide us with an estimated number of diners to try to minimize the leftovers! Please join us!



REMINDER: Congregational Meeting: Sunday, January 3, 2016
Breakfast 9AM - Worship 10AM - Meeting 11AM

Vestry nominations may be made at the annual meeting but nominees must have previously agreed to be considered and these names must be submitted for Vestry evaluation at least two weeks before the annual meeting to ensure the nominees have met the requirements.

To vote at the congregational meeting, an individual must:

- 1- be an official member of Christ Church Parish (officially registered),
- 2 - be known to the Rector as regular in worship in this Parish, and,
- 3 - be known to the Treasurer as a regular financial contributor to the Parish during the past year.

A copy of the "Duties of the Vestry" is available on the Parish Hall bulletin board.

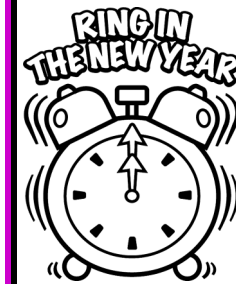
Happy Birthday



- December 3 - Anne Donoff
- December 4 - Barbee Phipps
- December 6 - Jean Holt
- December 7 - Jim Hill
- December 10 - Marilyn South
- December 11 - Susan Hilliard
- December 12 - Don Harris
- December 13 - Holly Horton
- December 15 - Butch Liverman
- December 15 - Ann Padgett
- December 18 - Alvin Hill
- December 19 - Pat Durette
- December 19 - Joe Jones
- December 24 - Suzanne Berry
- December 24 - Bob Guillotte
- December 29 - Priscilla Johnson
- December 30 - Dave Wilcox
- December 31 - John Gammel



- Dec 7 - Jerrie and Howard Hyle
- Dec 7 - Margaret and Walter Palmer
- Dec 21 - Ginger and Miller Smither
- Dec 22 - Martha and Raymond Stokes
- Dec 23 - Jane and Artie Bunnell
- Dec 26 - Belle and Jon Bronner
- Dec 29 - Jean and Chip Holt
- Dec 29 - Brenda and Jim Knupp
- Dec 31 - Barbara and Jeff Shaw



HAVE A SAFE AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!



If we have forgotten to list your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Parish Office (758-2006) so we may correct our records.



NEW DIRECTORIES ARE OUT! PLEASE double check your listing to make sure your information is correct. If incorrect, please let Carolyn know and we can post the correction in our newsletter so that we can ALL correct our copy of the Directory! You may also get a new directory in the church office if you missed them on Stewardship Sunday!

Special Calendar Notes:



November 29th – First day of Advent

- December 2 – ECW meeting and tea, 10:30 AM at Jane Bunnell’s home in Deltaville, 412 Jackson Creek Road – ALL ladies are welcome!
- December 2 – Advent Evening Prayer and Dinner Program begins 6:00 PM
- December 9 – Advent Evening Prayer and Dinner Program begins 6:00 PM
- December 13 – Brotherhood Breakfast 9AM in the Parish Hall
- December 16 – Final Advent Evening Prayer and Dinner Program 6:00 PM
- December 24 – 5:00 PM Christmas Eve service with Holy Eucharist
- December 25 – Christmas Day quiet service 10:00 AM
- December 27 (Sunday) – 8:00 AM Holy Eucharist service, 10:30 AM Lessons and Carols
- January 3, 2016 – Congregational Meeting for Vestry nominations and election – Breakfast 9AM, Worship 10AM, Meeting 11AM
- February 5, 2016 (Friday) – Annual Valentine’s Day Dinner Dance

A Message from the ECW President,

Thanks to all of you for your help in making our 2015 Oyster Festival so successful. Whether you helped to make the **2,000** ham biscuits, made your delicious baked goods, helped in the bake sale booth on Friday, helped Friday and Saturday in the big tent, or cheered us on with your good wishes, your contributions were so appreciated.

As I near the end of my two years as ECW President, I think back on so many wonderful memories. Highlights among these include our monthly “Fun with Father Paul” Bible Studies, the fashion show luncheons/game days, the “Magic of Music” nights, our bake sales, the “Trash and Treasure” sale, the luncheon with “Abe Lincoln, and our “Women in Prayer” luncheon. Not only did we have FUN together, but we raised money to support our many outreach projects in the church and in the community. But mostly I remember you as becoming my closest friends and church family. Working and playing with you have become such an important part of my life. I began my presidency as a fairly new member of Christ Church Parish. Now, two years later, I have found my church home and family.

Thank you all for your support and your friendship. I look forward to a new year with a terrific group of officers. In closing, I paraphrase General Douglas MacArthur....”old presidents never die, they just fade away.”

Pam McClelland





Getting to Know You.... Please welcome our latest entry in our new column! Entries may be any length, from one paragraph to several. We look forward to learning about our fellow members. Getting to know our **MARINES:**

Marines Run for Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller

US Marines from the Fort Lee Marine Detachment made their annual pilgrimage to the grave site of Lt. Gen. Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller in Christ Church Parish, Middlesex, on Friday 10/30/2015 with a running tour through the Town of West Point where Puller was born. The 62-mile run which begins to follow "General Puller Highway" in Saluda, Va, serves to honor and commemorate Puller, arguably the most prolific and legendary figure in [United States Marine Corps](#) history.

Marine sources have said. "The run is special because it gives Marines the opportunity to celebrate Puller and also the Marine Corps as a whole. Nov. 10 is the Marine Corps' birthday, and the Corps uses this as an opportunity for Marines to celebrate that and to see where (Puller) grew up and where he as a member of the parish and served on its Vestry was buried in Christ Church Parish, Middlesex cemetery.

This tradition began over 20 years ago and it's a pretty special deal running all the way.

Another Marine source has said, "The run also serves as a reminder of Puller's dedication to his fellow Marines. The run is a celebration of Lt. Gen. Puller and his service to his Marines and the Marine Corps. Puller was known as a 'Marine's Marine' and there are many stories about Marines simply dropping by his home (in Saluda) just to speak with him."

"The event has grown substantially within recent years because the Marine Corps Detachment in Fort Lee continues to grow. We brought in (training) schools from all the way up to Aberdeen, Maryland to way down south in Huntsville, Alabama and consolidated them all here at Fort Lee, so the footprint we make here at Fort Lee is a lot bigger than it used to be."

The source explained how 62 Marines will run in length in teams of two for approximately two miles per group. The run begins in Fort Lee and ends at Puller's grave site in Christ Church. Simpson said every Marine who is not in training on the day of the run will be bused to Saluda where they will run en masse to Christ Church Cemetery, where Puller is buried.

The run is something Marines look forward to every year. It's a great camaraderie opportunity for the Marines and everybody looks forward to it." "Nov. 1 is when the Marine detachment at Fort Lee celebrates their annual Marine Corps Birthday Ball. "It's a great week of camaraderie and for (Marines) to spend time with each other and really enjoy being a Marine and the perks that come along with it."



Prayer Teams

The members of our prayer teams recently met with Fr. Stuart to discuss our purpose and service for our Christ Church family. We'd like to share with you our thoughts and the direction we feel that we are being led.

All of us, from time to time, have a life experience that can feel like a heavy weight holding us immobile, or the opposite- feelings of flying high with joy and thankfulness.

To be able to share your specific concerns- (joys, heartaches, physical problems/ physical triumphs, etc.) with another in **confidence and prayer** is what the prayer teams wish to offer to you.

In the past, we tried to be available after the healing service in the sacristy, but no one except the prayer team members seemed to know what we were doing there! We have concluded that the small area comprising our beautiful church does not lend itself to this ministry well.

Our Healing Ministry will continue on the **fourth Sundays** of each month, after communion, at both the 8:00 and 10:30 services. Following these services, if individuals desire more prayer in a quiet, confidential setting, there will be members of our prayer teams available **in the Chapel located in the Parish Hall** to meet with you.

This ministry of the Prayer Teams is to work in tandem with our Priest, to share additional love and support from your church family. By no means is this prayer team concept to take the place of our Priest and your relationship with him/her. Our desire is to be there to walk with you as your family of faith, with our physical presence and with prayer.

Members of our prayer teams include:

Barbara Shaw, Cean Cawthorn, Harriette Floyd, Mike Floyd, Liz Perkins, Jane Bunnell, Alvin Hill and Jean Holt.



"Handicap" equipment to borrow

For those times that you might be in temporary need of "handicap" equipment, Jean Holt maintains a list of such items. They include canes, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs, portable toilets, and others. At one time or another, all of us might need these! Contact Jean at 366-7425.

A few words about our 2015 Financial Operation Funds and 2016 Budget:

Your church's finances, **Pledged and Unpledged Contributions**, through October are behind.

2015 Year to Date Budget

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| Pledged Revenue | \$126,667 | |
| Unpledged Contributions | + 40,000 | |
| Total YTD | | \$166,667 |

YTD actual receipts through October

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Pledged Receipts | \$115,999 | |
| Unpledged Receipts | + 23,410 | |
| Total Receipts | | <u>\$139,409</u> |

YTD October Short Fall **\$ (27,258)**

At this pace total contribution revenue shortfall will be significant. We are at risk of not covering our reoccurring costs, which are over 85% of the budget. Your church needs your help to cover this year's expenses. We are hopeful these needed contributions will be received in the final two months of the year so that the church may meet its financial commitments.

Pledges for 2016 are also behind.

| Comparison: | Number | Amount |
|-------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Total 2015 Pledges | 74 | \$161,597 |
| <u>2016 Pledges YTD</u> | <u>55</u> | <u>\$130,370</u> |
| Short Fall | (19) | (\$ 31,227) |

Pledges will need to exceed 2015 commitments because of additional onetime expenses. We ask that you please pledge for 2016 from a perspective of abundance. In order for us to attract and have the choice of the most qualified prospective full time clergy, it is important to project a vibrant, financially strong parish.

In the past, parishioners have willingly sponsored the financial needs of our church, i.e. restoration of church windows, rectory roof replacement, A/C replacement, a new chalice and an AED. This can be an opportunity for one or several parishioners to sponsor onetime needs.

- additional expenses of our new rector search,
- additional expenses incurred in hiring, moving and providing for a new rector,
- additional expenses for Bishop Curry's visit and our 350th anniversary celebrations, and
- expenses in preparing the Rectory for the new rector.

Should you or a group wish to sponsor a onetime financial need, please let a Vestry member know of your wish.

Your financial assistance for 2016 will be greatly appreciated.

Thank you. Jack Hellems, Senior Warden

Puller was born June 26, 1898 in West Point. He joined the Marine Corps in 1918 at the rank of Private and did not retire until 1955, in which time he had achieved the rank of Lieutenant General. On their way to Saluda, Marines Corps members will run through the Town of West Point, going past the home where Puller was born on First Street. He graduated from West Point High School in 1917.

Puller — known for his quick-witted remarks and reputation as 'a Marine's Marine' — served in both the Second World War and the Korean War, and participated in major battles such as the 1942 Guadalcanal Campaign during WWII and the Battle of Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War.

During his service in the Marine Corps, Puller was awarded five Navy Crosses — the second-highest military decoration awarded for valor to a member of the [United States Navy](#) or any branch operating under the Department of the Navy — three Air Medals, two Legion of Merit decorations, a Distinguished Service Cross — the second-highest military decoration awarded to a member of the [United States Army](#) — a Silver Star, a Bronze Star, a Purple Heart Medal, in addition to many other awards and citations. Puller remains the most highly decorated member of the US Marine Corps. He died Oct. 11, 1971 in Hampton, Virginia at the age of 73.

The Marine Corps' Twenty-first Annual Lewis B. "Chesty" Puller run was held on Oct. 30th of this year. If you missed it, you may want to make a mental note to watch for this great event next year. It is well worth watching and supporting our troops in their celebration.



ECW Christmas Tea

All ladies of the church are invited to attend the ECW Christmas Tea on Wednesday, December 2, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm, at the home of Jane Bunnell. Please bring a "tea" food item to share (small sandwiches, tasty finger food, individual desserts - whatever you would like.) Feel free to wear your favorite hat!

We will also be having our final meeting of the year. Officers for 2016 will be elected.

Jane's address is 412 Jackson Creek Road (Deltaville).



If you have not already done so, you **HAVE TO** check out the new and improved Church website !! Thanks to lots of hard work by Mike Floyd, Homer Hartung and Micki Clay, it is really amazing!

www.christchurchmiddlesex.com

NEW NEWSLETTER DEADLINES:

In an attempt to streamline the newsletter creation, it is recommended that we set some deadlines for input each month.

-As Soon As Possible - the best!

- Almost ideal? - by the 10th- Will it make it in? - by the 15th

Moments with Moose.....



A Moose holiday plan:

I had a newfie brother named Duke. He was in the family before I got here. He once ate a chocolate pecan pie, all but one piece. He also ate the headliner out of the station wagon (stress induced) and used to put his whole head in Grandma's purse to get at the candy.

My holiday plan is much more subtle. A whole pie is tempting but we all know what happens when we overdo things.

If I lay low and bide my time and mind my manners, it usually pays off in the long run. I can enjoy a little cheese here, a bite of ham or turkey there and lots of pats on the head and belly rubs for being "a good boy". I will stay on Santa's "good list" that way but I'll still be dreaming about that pie!

And please remember our pals (and kitties, I love kitties) in the pound and shelter over the holidays. They are dreaming of "pie" too and hopes of finding loving families.

