

# Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

## Monthly Newsletter for December 2021

### From Our Rector



#### ADVENT DEVOTIONAL

One of Jean Holt's granddaughters has created a wonderful daily devotional for the four weeks of Advent till Christmas. Each card has her original watercolor artwork on it and a portion of the gospel reading appointed for that day. The first card of each week gives you the whole gospel citation if you wish to read it in your own Bible. The cards are designed to sit in an easel on your table, counter, or desk. You may want to put only one week at a time on the easel to keep it from tipping over.

A pack of these cards has been created for each household in our on-line directory and for those who have pledged but have chosen not to be in the directory. These cards have been labeled with your name and will be available in the parish hall this coming Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>, so that you will have them before the first day of Advent which is November 28<sup>th</sup>. They will also be available to pick up at the office on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup> or at the 10:00 a.m. Thanksgiving Day service. If you know someone on the list that can't pick them up and you would be able to drop them off, that would be greatly appreciated. There are some extra packets if you would like a packet and are not on the on-line mailing list.

#### UPPER TIDEWATER REGIONAL CALENDAR

The region of the Diocese that our church is in (The Upper Tidewater Region) has created a 14 month calendar depicting pictures of all the churches in our region and the two Diocesan Schools in our region. Each month contains a short devotional and also a brief history of each church or school. These are being sold as a fundraiser for \$20.00 a calendar, but 100% of the money collected stays with the local church to be used for outreach or other needs as determined by each Vestry. If you would like to purchase one of these calendars they will be available at church on Sundays or in the office. If purchasing by check please make checks out to Christ Church Parish and note in the memo line that it is for a calendar. Christ Church is the month of October.

#### WEDNESDAY NIGHT ADVENT DINNERS AND STUDY

Beginning December 1<sup>st</sup> we will begin our Advent dinners and study program which will be on the four Wednesdays in Advent. Dinner will be at 5:30 p.m. and we will have a sign-up sheet in the parish hall if you plan to attend the meal.

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The study program will begin at 6:00 p.m. and last an hour. We will be using a curriculum entitled "Journeying the Way of Love: Advent Curriculum".

This course offers four sessions to be explored as we await the coming of Christ by moving through the first two chapters of the Gospel of Luke. Luke's gospel provides a pattern for understanding how we can live the Way of Love as individuals, as families and friends, as a community, and out in the world.

#### CONFIRMATION CLASSES TO BEGIN IN JANUARY

It has been some time since we have had a visit from a bishop in the diocese. The schedule of parish visitations for the first half of 2022 has come out and we are scheduled to have the Rt. Rev. Jennifer Brooke-Davidson at Christ Church Parish on February 27<sup>th</sup> which is the Sunday just before Ash Wednesday. Several persons have already expressed an interest in being Confirmed, Received, or Re-Affirmed at this service. Classes will begin in January and we will be using the book "Walk in Love – Episcopal Beliefs & Practices". Please let me know if you are interested so that I will know how many to prepare for.

#### DIOCESAN CONVENTION

Several weeks ago, the 227<sup>th</sup> annual convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia took place on line. Our representatives were our clergy and Jeannette Adkins as our lay delegate. Nicole Davis, from our congregation, represented the Upper Tidewater Region as a youth delegate.

At this convention the 2022 Diocesan budget was adopted in the amount of \$5,247,300.00. This budget reflects our common work of ministry across the diocese and beyond helping to support mission congregations, campus ministries, camps and conferences, prison ministry, as well as the staff at the diocesan offices.

We also review, discuss, argue, and change resolutions that are brought before the convention by committees, churches, regions, or individuals. One of those resolutions seeks to clarify how each congregation within the diocese helps to financially support our common life together. Its intent, having passed, is to have congregations tithing to the diocesan budget by 2025 and to work toward that goal over the next few years.

Another resolution, which was presented by six clergy and four lay persons, dealt with the issue of reparations for indigenous people, Blacks, and people of color. Resolution-10a directs the Bishop to create a Reparations Task Force "to identify and propose means by which repair may begin for those areas of our structures, patterns, and common life by which Black, Indigenous, People of Color .... still carry the burden of injustices, exclusions, and biases born out of white supremacy and the legacy of slavery."

The objective of these reparation grants and loans is to provide direct benefits to BIPOC communities, people, and institutions, with preference for any which may have

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been specifically harmed by past unjust actions by the Diocese of Virginia, its institutions, or churches. It calls for the setting aside of \$10,000,000 for this work over the next five years and would not be funded out of the Diocesan Budget or the congregations’ donations to that budget. Instead, it would be funded through the sale of unused property assets belonging to the Diocese.

Faithfully,  
Fr. Stuart +

**Mid-week Eucharist**



Please remember that we have a mid-week Eucharist here at Christ Church. The service is at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and will be celebrated in the the Parish Hall.



**... from the Junior Warden’s Workbench**

Thanks to all who have helped with the many planned and unplanned projects for 2021, with “hands on” and donations. Also, to the previous Junior Warden's for their guidance. The Buildings and Grounds Committee meet in November to complete the Maintenance Plan for 2022-2031 and have shared it with the Finance Committee and Vestry. It will be posted in the Parish Hall. Please note that these projects are not in the budget, and will have to be funded through grants or a Capital Campaign.

In our 2022 budget are funds to do things like caring for our grounds, cleaning our buildings, and normal HVAC repair, pest control, and minor electrical and plumbing repairs. Since the last newsletter, the church ridge cap has been caulked and a ridge cap installed, the red oak in the parking lot will be removed on November 30th., ice clips are in the supply chain and will be installed soon, painting the exterior church windows has been delayed for a knee replacement to be rehabilitated and warm days.

Please take time to introduce yourself, if in the Parish Hall, to Kathy Hughes. our new assistant administrator who is splitting days with Tonya Spears.

Happy Holidays and a Blessed Christmas. And as usual you contact me with questions or suggestions, or to help with projects.

Thanks!  
John Quilter



*From the Deacon’s Bench*

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

The book drive was a success! We delivered approximately 325 books to Middlesex DSS. They were very appreciative and will be sharing those books with their clients in the days to come. Thank you for your help with this important project. This will be repeated in the future.

Our ministry project to serve our lonely neighbors is moving along. We are getting ready to schedule the training from DSS. That will take place on a Sunday in between services and will last about twenty minutes. We will also participate in online training through the diocese. The plan is for us to start visiting people in January. Please let me know if you would like to be a part of this ministry. We would love to have you be a part of our team.

In early November, Diocesan Convention was held via Zoom. Many resolutions were discussed and voted on. One that was of particular importance to me was “Deacon Compensation”. I was totally against this and voted “No”. Unfortunately, it passed. The purpose of this resolution was to require churches to pay deacons \$25 per month and the church would also be assessed an additional \$5 a month. This would provide deacons with access to benefits with Church Pension Group.

This was disturbing to me because I feel I was called by God to the diaconate which is a servant ministry, and I should not be paid a stipend. I also signed a Letter of Agreement with the church that did not include a stipend and I wish to honor that agreement. I am reimbursed for required expenses.

When they first started promoting this resolution, I asked that they include an opt-out clause. After several requests, it was added that this could be declined by the deacon. I am thankful for this and will be taking advantage of the opt-out clause and will not receive the monthly stipend. The blessing of being a deacon in this wonderful parish is “payment” enough for me ☺

Peace, Peg+

◀ November	December 2021					January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  Connecting Threads 1 :00 pm  Advent Dinner 6:00 pm	<b>4</b> GEEK Committee 9:00 am  Fellowship Committee 11:15 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am  Celtic Concert 5:30 pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>8</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  Advent Dinner 6:00 pm	<b>9</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Fellowship Committee 3:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>10</b> Drive by Live Nativity 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm (Rain Date December 17 <sup>th</sup> )	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> AA Group Noon 1-:00 pm	<b>15</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  Advent Dinner 6:00 pm	<b>16</b> Outreach Committee 9:00 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>17</b> Endowment Board 9:00 am  Drive by Nativity Rain Date	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Finance Committee 9:00 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Vestry 5:30pm	<b>22</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel  Advent Dinner 6:00 pm	<b>23</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Day  Christmas Eve Caroling at 4:30 pm and Service Holy Eucharist at 5:00 pm	<b>25</b> Christmas Day Service Holy Eucharist 10:00 am
<b>26</b> Holy Eucharist Joint Service 10:00 am	<b>27</b> Newsletter Article Deadline	<b>28</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve Day	



Waiting and watching, and THEN...slow down! My last Thanksgiving guests just departed and quiet descends once again on my house. The lead-up to this gathering takes quite a while, planning and communicating, and then more cooking in one day than in a regular month. And suddenly it is over for another year.

Immediately, though, I pivot to Advent, just 3 days later, and again I’m in planning and preparing for another big event. I think back on 2020 and remember how quiet and slow it seemed and yet, 2021 shifted back into the fast pace we knew before the pandemic. Couldn’t we have just a bit more of both the pace of the pandemic coupled with the joy of being with friends and family? I believe I would really like that combination.

Does the time rush by for you as it does to me? I imagine it does. So, my friends, let us take a deep breath and look with joy toward the birth of our Savior, and try to slow the pace so we may truly feel this joy deep within. I wish you a meaningful Advent and time for all that is important.

Grace Parker, The Verger

Fellowship Committee

Advent Dinners are back! Ease up on your hectic schedule and join us for a tasty and light Advent Dinner starting on 1 December. The light meals are staged Wednesdays in the Parish Hall at 6 PM with dinner dates 1, 8, 15 and 22 December. The dinners will be planned and cooked for you fresh that evening except for 22 December. To add to the excitement of the season, the 22 December dinner will be potluck! Bring what you can, your good cheer and yourself.

Please sign up at church and give the number in your party. Donations accepted at dinner that evening. If you have questions, please call me at 804-758-2639. Thank you!

There is music in the air at Christ Church. The Celtic Concert will take place on Sunday, 5 December, at 5:30 pm in the Christ Church Sanctuary. We have joined forces with Saluda Baptist as co-sponsor and coordinator for this exciting and thought invoking concert. At the end of the concert, the two churches will offer hot apple cider and gingerbread cookies as the concert goers exit!

We are seeking bakers to help with cookie baking. If you can offer culinary assistance, we would be most appreciative. For more information, please call me—804-758-2639. Thank you!

Mary Lynn Landgraf

Co-chairman,

## Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education



Advent...the arrival of a notable person or event

A lot is happening during the Advent season, and a lot is about to happen. This is a solemn time of waiting and expectation, of hope and fear. Are we ready for this coming? Are we already now beginning to live by the ways of justice and God's love? If not, perhaps Advent gives us the opportunity to create or own fresh start.

Advent releases a plethora of messages: Jesus has come, is near, will come. The kingdom is nigh, is begun, is coming. Instead, focus on the fact that: **This is about God.** This is about the God who is the creator of all and in whom we live and move and have our being. This is the God who is beyond all understanding, who yet draws near and even enters into human...so as a human, perhaps you can play a role given the renewal of the fresh start Advent provides.

"Hark!" ... can you be the voice of a teacher? .... perhaps not of thousands ...but to family, friends, and neighbors? Perhaps as part of your mission to love one another? Take the task as a teacher or reader of the Word of God, standing before the bright eyes of children and the cautious eyes of grownups, in your own words to tell again of the nearing God.

With inspiration from "[Lessons of the Church Year](#)".

Miles Libbey



## Outreach Ministry



### LIVE NATIVITY

We are very excited about this upcoming event on Friday, December 10 from 5 to 7pm. The stable and manger are ready, our cast is set, so all we need is participation from you, your friends, and the rest of the community. So spread the word about our first "Live Nativity".

### CHRISTMAS GIFTS

The Outreach Ministry is happy to provide three children in the County with gifts for Christmas. A surprise gift from Father Stuart's discretionary fund supported this effort. This is what our ministry is all about. We are so grateful to be part of this community.

### HANDS ACROSS MIDDLESEX

A reminder that Hands Across Middlesex is still looking for volunteers to deliver meals Christmas morning. Delivery folks will come through the center to get their assignments and meals without exiting their vehicles. Contact Cathy Newcomb at 758 -8561 if you can help.

### LIFT CHILDREN OF MIDDLESEX

Their mission is to reach unchurched teens and direct/invite them to a church or church youth group. Given this mission, Lift is planning the following event:

Who: All Middle School and High School Students

What: Bon Fire with Food, Band, and a Youth Christian Speaker.

Where: Behind Urbanna Firehouse

When: Friday, December 17, 7PM to 9PM

All adults participating require a background check which can be secured from Bev Hart or Judy Quilter. Other needs are firewood, and just passing the word about this great event for community youth. This is the kick off for a Community Youth Group that will be meeting once a month over the next year.

### MANY BLESSINGS FOR A MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

From the entire Outreach Ministry Team: Sharon Colston, Ann de Peyster, Susie Loustaunau, Pam McClelland, Clayton Neal, Ginger Smither, Father Stuart, Deacon Peg, Judy Quilter



Live Nativity Information



The cast of players are as follows:	Joseph	Bill Budd
	Mary	Mary Lynn Landgraf
	King I	Fr. Stuart
	King II	Jeff McClelland
	King III	Miles Libby
	Shepherd I	Betsy Evans
	Shepherd II	(Boy Scout)
	Angel	Linda Irwin
Assembly/Dressing Area	Ann Padgett, Sharon Colson, Ginger Smither, Judy Quilter	
Handout Person	Ann Padgett	
Traffic Control	Henry Moncure (Boy Scout)	

We ask all of those in the cast to be in the Parish Hall by 4:00 pm to get into your costume. Depending on the weather, dress accordingly.

Please, please at the end of the event return to the parish hall to return your costume. Do not leave without returning your costume as we plan to use them again.

For those in traffic control, we have reflective vests. Please bring a flashlight. You will not need to be in place until 4:30 pm.

Ginger, as you are the contact person for the Boy Scouts, please confirm that they understand their instructions of where and when to be in place.

At this moment, the only alternate we have is Susie Loustaunau. We could certainly use one or two more.

Clayton Neal is in charge of music and carolers.

Thanks for your participation in this event. Please contact me if you have further questions.

Ann Padgett



VESTRY NOMINEES

Ann de Peyster

I am pleased to be considered for the Vestry of Christ Church Parish. In 2019 I made one of my best decisions in recent years: Joining Christ Church after my Episcopalian roots had languished while focused on higher education and a career in academia.

Nearly 30 years was devoted to program building, teaching, research and service while on the faculty of San Diego State University’s Graduate School of Public Health. Even before leaving academia in 2012, my husband Michael Kirk and I somehow managed to divide our time more or less equally between California and our home in Hartfield that we purchased in 2005.

I hope I have demonstrated my commitment to furthering Christ Church Parish’s efforts to continue to thrive and grow, regardless of where I am physically at any time. I don’t think I have ever missed an online service.

I try to contribute however I can to the efforts of the Tech/Videography Team even while away. The Outreach Ministry also instantly became an ideal outlet for my interests and experience.

Other pursuits most meaningful for me have been primarily with Hands Across Middlesex, the Middlesex Rotary Club, and more recently also the Middlesex Museum and Historical Society. When in San Diego I volunteer for their annual Point-in-Time Count of the county’s homeless population, and I also work with a small Hunger Supper team to prepare and serve dinners for the homeless. I have enjoyed singing with and serving on boards of directors of community choruses on both coasts: here the Chesapeake Chorale and San Diego’s Pacific Coast Chorale.

I look forward to participating more with the ECW and other Christ Church activities as COVID restrictions allow.

Nominees continued on next page

**Karen W Brown**

Retired in June 2017 as Executive Director of Brain Injury Services, Inc. (BIS), a non-profit organization. Karen received a bachelor’s degree in Psychology from Ithaca College and master’s degree in Counselor Education from Auburn University. She attended Harvard Business School’s Strategic Perspectives for Nonprofit Management and serves as an adjunct faculty at George Washington University.

Karen also serves on George Mason University’s College of Health and Human Services Advisory Board, the Ohio Valley Center for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI Model Systems) Advisory Council, Fairfax County Long Term Care Coordinating Council, and a member of the Virginia Wounded Warrior Program Region 1 Advisory Board and the Virginia Commonwealth University’s Traumatic Brain Injury Model System Advisory Board.

Karen continues to serve on the Advisory Boards for Hands Across Middlesex and the Middlesex YMCA. She is President Elect of Kiwanis Club of Middlesex where she has been involved in activities related to children’s services including writing a successful grant to the River Counties Community Foundation for a summer food/activities program for children in need. Karen presently serves as President of the ECW.

In 2017, she was awarded the Weinstock Award from the Brain Injury Association of Virginia, the Alan Mayer (Virginia Delegate) Service Award and the Torchbearer Award from Leadership Fairfax.

Karen was raised in a military family (Air Force) where she attended many different schools and lived for four years in Chateauroux, France. In 1982, she married Philip Brown. They have one daughter, Jennifer, a wonderful son in law, Luke Bissi, and two beautiful grandsons, Cole, 4 years old and Finn, 3 years old.

**Gary Clay**

I have been a member of Christ Church for 30+ years. During that time I have been a Vestry member for three terms and the Senior Warden for two terms during which the I participated in the following.

Chairman of the search committee for the previous rector (Father Paul Anderson).

Capital Campaign Co-Chair along with the late Betty Cook for the parish house renovation in 2003.

Along with Dave South have prepared the tellers count record and deposited money collected at the Sunday services.

Enlisted the Garden Club of Virginia to help us restore damaged portions of the church’s historic brick wall.

Participated in the church booth activities at the Urbanna Oyster Festival.

My wife Micki and I have lived on the Rappahannock River in Urbanna since 1987. I am proud of my daughter, Paige Clay, who owns a thriving business in Venice Beach, California.

I am an Eagle Scout Troop 341.

I grew up in Roanoke, attended Roanoke Catholic School, and graduated from Virginia Tech with a degree in Business.

I am a Financial Advisor to individuals, families, and local institutions. I will be concluding my 54-year career when I retire from Davenport & Company at the end of this year

*Nominees continued on next page*

CHRISTMAS  
POINSETTIAS

To order Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the church, please send a suggested donation of **\$20.00** for each poinsettia payable to Christ Church Parish, along with this form by **December 14.**

Christ Church Parish

PO Box 476

Saluda, VA 23149

Important – Please Designate:

Given in Memory of:

OR

Given in Honor of:

DEADLINE, MONDAY, DECEMBER 14

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# Special December Celebrations

## Anniversaries

- 21 Miller & Ginger Smither
- 22 Ray & Martha Stokes
- 29 Chip & Jean Holt
- 31 Jeff & Barbara Shaw
- George & Sandy Sturgill

## Birthdays

- 3 Anne Donoff
- Mary Anne Harris-White
- 4 Barbee Phipps
- 6 Jean Holt
- Ellie Wilton
- 7 Jim Hill
- 10 Marilyn South
- Jackie Gahan
- 11 Susan Hilliard
- 12 Don Harris
- 15 Ann Padgett
- 19 Joe Jones
- Mary Lynn Landgraf
- 24 Suzanne Berry
- 24 Bob Guillotte
- 29 Priscilla Johnson
- 30 Dave Wilcox
- 31 John Gammel

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Meet Bill and Judy Snider, the newest members at Christ Church Parish. Hailing from Richmond, they have decided to move full time to their vacation home in Delta-ville. Many of you may already know them, but if not, be sure to give them a big welcome. We are happy they are here!!

### ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

This newsletter is for information and articles that are germane to Christ Church Parish. 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>
January 2022	Monday December 27, 2021
February 2022	Monday January 24, 2022
March 2022	Monday February 21, 2022

All submissions are to be emailed as a word document to [jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com](mailto:jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com) Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a “space available” basis.

# Christ Church Parish

Address Service Requested

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

Post Office Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149



Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service  
<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/default.asp>

December  
2021



### 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

### Services:

Wednesday Eucharist 9:00 AM  
Sunday Services: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector  
The Rev. Bob Pritchard, Ph.D.,  
Priest Associate  
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure