

Christ Church Parish

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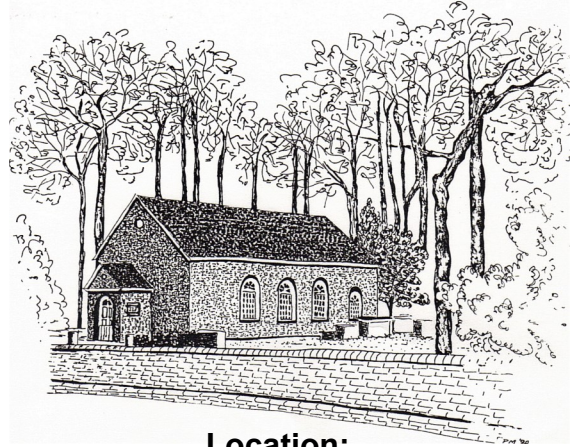
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December
2022

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



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

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter December 2022

Thoughts From Our Priest Associate

Giving Thanks



I have much for which to give thanks in this week following Thanksgiving. I join with members of the congregation in giving thanks for the return on Sunday, December 4 of our rector, Stuart Wood, after a three-month sabbatical. I look forward to his sharing of the experiences that he had while away and to the new insights that he has gained.

I give thanks for the extraordinary kindness of Stuart and the Vestry in allowing me to substitute for him in the chancel in the past three months. I have long noticed that one of the signs of a healthy relationship between parishes and rectors is the willingness of the rector to trust that all will be well in the parish during a period away.

I am thankful for wardens Jeanette Adkins and Betsy Evans and for the entire Vestry for their support. I thank them, particularly for the generous \$5,000 contribution to the endowment fund at the Virginia Theological Seminary for the support of the study of the role of African Americans in the life of the Episcopal Church (the Nancy Montague Prichard fund, which is named for my mother). Funds from the endowment are used to encourage research by scholars in the African American Historical Collection at Virginia Seminary and for the acquisition of additional materials for that collection.

I am thankful for the cooperation and support in matters of liturgy given to me by the Rev. Deacon Peg Moncure, Verger Grace Parker, Choir Director and Organist Libby Boyer, the choir, the members of the flower and altar guild, the acolytes, lay readers, ushers, the tech team, the worship committee, and the members of the congregation. Worship is a conversation between officiants and fellow worshippers, which can fall flat when all are not engaged. Even the dogs of the congregation joined in joyfully when they were with us on the Sunday after the feast of Saint Francis of Assisi.

I am thankful for the guidance and support of Parish Administrator Tonya Spears, for the pastoral care provided to members of the congregation by Peg Moncure, and for my wife Marcia's willingness to allow me to complicate the pace of our life in retirement.

But above all things, I am thankful for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who, as the preface to the Sanctus "of God the Son" in the Eucharist declares, "on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection open to us the way of everlasting life." It is in his name that we gather.

In faith,

Bob

The Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard
Priest Associate



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 Chapel in the Parish Hall.



From the Deacon's Bench

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. (NIV, Genesis 2:15)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thanks to each of you for the many positive ways you have supported the idea of a Creation Care Raised Bed Garden. People are signing up to help and plans are being made. Funding for this would come from the Deacon Discretionary Fund and other donations.

I think this is going to be a magnificent way in which to build community within our walls and beyond, support this program in our diocese, help others who are in need, and develop ways to care for our environment. Christ Church School has expressed great interest in working with us on this project. We would also like to involve the scouts possibly with Eagle Scout Projects.

We plan to have an informational and planning meeting in January. In the meantime, please fill out the form on the next page, if you have not already done so, and send it to me. There are many ways to help. There will be jobs that are very involved and also jobs that will require minimal involvement. ALL of them are important and needed. "Many hands make light work."

What is Creation Care? Please go to the Diocese of Virginia website (<https://www.thediocese.net/>) and do a search for "Creation Care". There are many aspects of this ministry. The one I would like to focus on for Christ Church is in the area of Gardening.

This project would involve the development of a raised bed garden to:

Grow food for those in need in our community. This would enable us to donate fresh food to the Cryer Center for their food pantry. Yes, they already have a food distribution system in place, but the addition of fresh vegetables would be a blessing to those they serve. Provide a haven for butterflies and bees with native plants to help the environment and crops thereby helping to care for God's creation.

Grow flowers for use in church and flowers to give out on food pantry days to spread joy to those who do not have the luxury of fresh flowers in their homes.

Thanks for all you do, Peg+

Continued on the next page

Name _____

I am interested in helping in the following ways with the Christ Church Parish Creation Care Project: (This is not a commitment. We would just like to know who is interested in this ministry)

- Planting and Gardening Advisor (someone with a green thumb)
- Donate seeds and/or plants
- Donate dirt, mulch, and other supplies
- Help build raised beds
- Water the garden
- Harvesting crops and delivering to Cryer Center
- "Adopt" a raised bed (sponsor in memory or in honor of someone)
- Help scouts (Eagle Scout Projects) and Christchurch students who sign up
- Help construct a fence
- Contact a beekeeper to set up a hive
- Weed garden (not really a lot of work with raised bed)
- Site planning (Where is the best place on our property?)
- Harvest and wrap flowers
- Photography (start to finish for our archives and newspaper articles)
- Flower Garden Advisor (best types of flowers to plant)
- Other Suggestions _____



God willing and the people consenting
THE REVEREND CANON E. MARK STEVENSON
will be ordained and consecrated as a Bishop in
the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and

**XIV BISHOP OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF VIRGINIA**

CHIEF CONSECRATOR
The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop
and Primate of The Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2022 AT 11:00 AM
Arrive by 10:30 for seating
The Saint Paul's Baptist Church, 4247 Creighton Road, Henrico, VA

RSVP BY NOVEMBER 9

Join diocesan family in this joyous celebration! RSVP. All attendees are required to register online at <https://VaConsecration-ParishesRSVP.eventbrite.com>. More information is available on the Diocese of Virginia website.

◀ November	December 2022						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
				1 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	2 Yoga 10:00 am	3	
4 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Homecoming, Sign Dedication, Pot Luck Lunch After 10:30 Service	5	6 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	7 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	8 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	9 Yoga 10:00 am Live Nativity at Sunset	10	
11 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	12	13 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	14 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Advent Dinner and Program 6:00pm	15 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	16 Yoga 10:00 am	17	
18 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	19	20 Finance Committee 9:30 am Tech Team 1 11:30 am Vestry 1:00 pm AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	21 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Advent Dinner and Program 6:00pm	22 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	23 Yoga 10:00 am	24 Caroling and Holy Eucharist Service 4:30 pm	
25 Christmas Day Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 am	26	27 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	28 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	29 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	30 Yoga 10:00 am	31	

OUTREACH MINISTRY



By the time you read this, we will have turned attention to two December activities: Our second Live Nativity on December 9, 5-7 pm (rain date December 16), and Christmas shopping for children in an especially needy family that Social Services has brought to our attention. This year our Adopt a Family Christmas shopping does not require assistance from our entire congregation; however, Christ Church's Live Nativity could use your help. The Nativity was featured in last month's newsletter. This month's photo (courtesy of Harriette Floyd) is included to remind everyone what a memorable event this was last year. We would greatly appreciate everyone's assistance with getting the word out to others among your circles of local friends and relatives. It's likely now that our shepherds will have a tiny flock to watch over: two live Shetland sheep! We are hoping for good weather and more visitors and carolers than last year. We are publicizing this in as many ways as we can think of. If you are willing to help us by posting flyers around the community please email Ann Padgett, at padgett@va.metrocast.net.

Year-end is also a time to review a few highlights of 2022, including the various groups our church has been reaching out to and partnering with. Several initiatives were accomplished with Middlesex Social Services, the Cryer Center, and others within CCP. These include the distribution of bags of practical items donated by parishioners that are most often requested by seniors supported by Social Services; Teacher Appreciation baskets overflowing with many useful and delicious items that our hard-working Middlesex teachers receive in the spring; a spectacular Fine Arts Camp experience for middle school students during the summer—for which Deacon Peg is to be congratulated along with all of her volunteers (see video at https://youtu.be/VN_zCC6qcRE); and this fall, support of the Christchurch School JV soccer team at home games, also described in last months news but minus a heartfelt thank you received after that from their coach, a portion of which we couldn't resist sharing below.

Last but hardly least, we also know that many individual parishioners, whether or not officially members of our Outreach Ministry, are very generous with their time, energy, and talents in assisting with the Cryer Center's food pantries, yard sales, Backpack Buddies, Thanksgiving and Christmas meal deliveries, Habitat for Humanity, and probably more that we've not yet become aware of. Thank you all for your wonderful community outreach efforts this year!

"...I know we all really appreciated you all's contribution to our season. Hopefully we can do it again next year. Thanks again, Evan"



**“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.”**

What a glorious and exhausting November! We had a great Oyster Festival, Veterans Day Luncheon, and Endowment/ Brotherhood Breakfast. We also came together to mourn the loss of our beloved Miller. The fellowship and love shown by the entire congregation were incredible. Our Boy Scout Troop and the students of Christchurch School did a great job helping at the booth. They also felt the fellowship between us and them. The Vestry thanks all those who worked so diligently behind the scenes to make these events so successful.

Dr. Prichard, Deacon Peg, and I traveled to Northern Virginia to attend the 228th Annual Conference of the Diocese. It was an uplifting event that celebrated the retirement of Bishop Goff. The conference also welcomed Bishop-Elect Mark Stevenson. He spoke of a bright and positive future. Perhaps one of the most impressive sights was the elevation of a 140-year-old mission church to full parish status. It was great to see them march in with their new banner. Finally, during the Shrine Mont report, we heard about the new camp director who actually was raised in Middlesex County. It was a great conference that gave us much to think about and plan for the future of our church.

December is another busy month. On December 1st, Father Stuart returns from his sabbatical. We are all anxious to say hello and hear about his trips. We ask you to wait at least a week to pay a social visit. Tonya really needs to work with Father Stuart during her work hours to get him up to date. We know they will be very busy and we will have time to welcome him at the Homecoming service. Speaking of our Homecoming service please join us at 10:30 on December the 4th for the dedication of the new sign, welcome old members and welcome back Father Stuart. We all will join together after the service for a potluck lunch. Please bring a dish to share after the service. Do not forget our Advent dinners on Wednesday nights in December. The live Nativity will be on December the 9th from 5 PM- 7 PM and this is always a great event. We will have a great celebration of Christmas Eve and Christmas. Wow, what a great month to celebrate our faith with joy and thanksgiving.

One last event, we will celebrate the installation of our new bishop on December 3rd in Richmond. All of you are invited to attend the ordination of our new bishop, Mark Stevenson at 11 AM at Saint Paul's Baptist Church in Henrico. If you would like to attend use the following link <https://vaconsecration-parishesrsvp.eventbrite.com/> All of us hope we have a great representation at this important event.

The Vestry wishes to thank all of those who have submitted their pledges for 2023. By doing this before the New Year, we can make more definite plans to make sure we continue to grow in joy and service. If you have not pledged, please consider doing this important matter.

Wishing you peace and joy during Advent and Christmas,

Jeannette



from the Junior Warden's Workbench

As we move into December the maintenance budget is in the works for 2023. A ten-year budget plan is also being reviewed by our Building and Grounds team, the Finance committee, and the Vestry. This year we have awakened from Covid and have been very active with luncheons, celebrations, and festival activities. Our budget covers cleaning our buildings, HVAC issues, plumbing, pest control, and electrical issues. Larger projects like the roadway, church plaster, and the Parish Hall roof are dependent on grants and donations. We are following up on projects that are in the works to have them completed by year-end.

A huge Thanks to all who have helped and assisted me this year. Your cooperation is heartfelt and immeasurable.

To all a very merry and blessed Christmas and every day.

Betsy

Notes from the Music Director

Beginning Nov. 27, you will notice changes to the liturgy. During Advent, we forego the *Gloria* and instead add the *Kyrie*. We also change the setting of the *Sanctus* (*Holy, Holy, Holy*) and add the *Agnus Dei* (*O Lamb of God*) just before communion.



Our Christmas Eve pre-service carol singing this year will be a little different. We will have choir pieces, organ solos, and vocal solos, as well as carols. Come at 4:30 on Christmas Eve as we begin the celebration of the Birth of Christ with music.



Mark your calendars now for a special Celtic Epiphany Evensong on January 8 at 5:00.



Choir now meets on Sunday morning at 9:15. Come join us!

Sing on!
Libby Boyer



Happy New Year!

As we enter Advent, and the New Year in church calendars, let us think about church-related resolutions. No need to diet, or promise to go to the gym or exercise more. But there are resolutions that you could consider.

Just as we do in January, we can decide to take on something new rather than giving up something bad. There are so many excellent places to serve in Christ Church that there is definitely a good fit for everyone. Ushering, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Vestry, Worship Committee, Outreach, Hospitality,

Coffee Hour, and my personal favorite, serving as Eucharistic Ministers, Crucifer/Acolytes, and Lectors. You will never be left to serve alone or without training. These are very satisfying ways to strengthen your worship and your church life.

All you need to do is tell me or one of the ministry heads and you will be very glad you made this resolution. And Happy New Year!

Grace the Verger

Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and edcation

We focus worship on the altar



Unlike some churches in which the pulpit is the focus of attention, The Episcopal Church places the altar in the central position. This is because, as the place where Holy Communion is celebrated, it is a symbol of the presence of the living God. This reminds us that we do not come to church primarily to hear scripture or a sermon, to listen to the choir sing, or to be entertained, but to encounter Christ. These things- and all we do in church- are means to make ourselves present to God. (Adapted from www.forwardmovement.org)

In Faith, Miles Libbey

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



The Fellowship Committee wishes to thank the many volunteers who assisted us with the successful Veterans Day luncheon on November 11. We served 96 guests who expressed appreciation for the program and the Italian-inspired meal.

Our projects for December include orchestrating Advent Dinners on November 30 and on December 14 and 21. We will also work in tandem with other committees on the December 4 Homecoming Celebration consisting of a cover dish lunch, the dedication of the new sign, and Father Stuart's return from his sabbatical.

Advent dinners are simple soup and salad meals with a dessert for your Sweet Tooth! An inspiring message on Advent follows. The mid-week escape lightens holiday stress and promotes fellowship. We are seeking cooks for the December 14 and 21 dinners.

Please register by entering your name on our signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall if you wish to attend the dinner, cook, or host the meal.

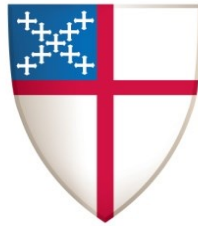
Thank you.

Mary Lynn Landgraf

Bev Hart



From the



**THE BROTHERHOOD
OF
CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)**





Mark your calendars

for Sunday, December 4th. We have sent invitations to many folks who at one time were part of our congregation, inviting them to a Homecoming Sunday. We will be welcoming Ft. Stuart back from his sabbatical. The services will be the normal 8 o'clock and 10:30. Following the 10:30 service, the new roadside sign will be dedicated, with a potluck lunch in the Parish Hall. This is a great opportunity to visit and renew friendships with members of our congregation that we have missed.



Thank you all for your help during 2022. I think we have done a fine job and an important ministry. It is especially gratifying to see new faces in the congregation, and I am sure our warm welcomes have helped. I'm trying to keep the cups and pertinent information stocked in the narthex and thank you for those who have let me know when we are low. Especially, we want to thank Robin and Sallie for the contribution they have made over the years.

AND NOW ""HELP. After all you have done, I am asking if there is one Service in December you would be willing to serve as I have no one scheduled. Miles and I will try to fill in any gaps, but I need your input before I know what those gaps are. There are of course four Sundays - 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th and also Christmas Eve which I believe will be Carol singing at 4:30.... I know you are all busy during the season and I am grateful for your help.

THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING and for making this job a pleasure to do.

Sincerely, Sharon

Special December Celebrations

Anniversaries



29 *Mark E. "Chip" and Jean T. Holt*
31 *Barbara and Jeffrey "Jeff" Shaw*

Birthdays

3 *Anne Donoff*
Mary Anne Harris-White
4 *Barbee Phipps*
6 *Jean T. Holt*
7 *James "Jim" Hill*
10 *Jackie Gahan*
Marilyn South
11 *Susan Hilliard*
12 *Don Harris*
15 *Ann T. Padgett*
19 *Mary Lynn Landgraf*
24 *Robert "Bob" Guillotte*
28 *Bill Snider*
29 *Priscilla Johnson*
30 *David T. Wilcox*
31 *John Gammel*





NEWSLETTER 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 2022 and 2023 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:</u>
January 2023	Friday December 23, 2022
February 2023	Friday January 27, 2023
March 2023	Monday February 20, 2023
April 2023	Friday March 24, 2023
May 2023	Friday April 21, 2023
June 2023	Friday May 26, 2023
July 2023	Friday June 23, 2023
August 2023	Friday July 21, 2023
September 2023	Friday August 25, 2023
October 2023	Friday September 22, 2023
November 2023	Friday October 20, 2023
December 2023	Friday November 24, 2023

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