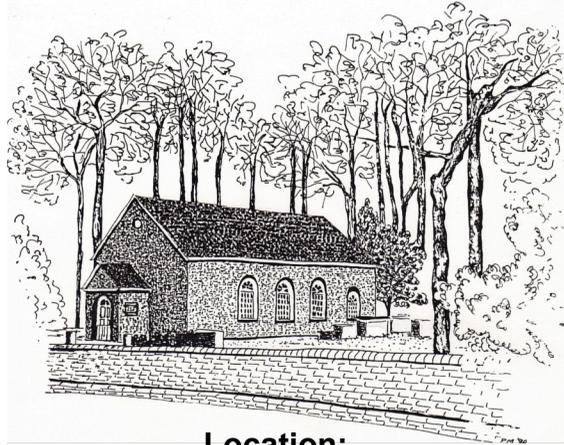




NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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URBANNA, VA  
PERMIT No. 6

February  
2021

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 February 2021

### From Our Rector: Rector's Message, Ash Wednesday and Thank You



#### The Message

Have you noticed that the days are slowly getting longer? Sunrise comes earlier each day and sunset a little later. I welcome the longer days with great anticipation each year. This increasing light takes place for us during the season of Epiphany. The season of Epiphany is about the light that shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. We affirm this light in the person of Jesus Christ our Lord in the words of the Nicene Creed, "eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God..." The Collect for the Second Sunday after

the Epiphany says it this way, "Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory..." It is walking in the light of this faith that strengthens and upholds us through the joys and trials of life.

As we journey through this season watching the days grow longer and the promise of Spring beginning to push up through the earth, we are suddenly plunged into the darkness of Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent with these words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Jesus, the Light of the world, after his baptism by John is driven into the wilderness for forty days and nights. There he faces the trials and temptations of life and wrestles with the devil. Jesus faced his temptations, the darkness that tried to overcome the light, and emerged prepared to face anything, even death itself upon the cross. Lent calls us to examine our own lives by carrying the light of our faith into the dark recesses of our past. Name the things that weigh you down, face the issues that separate you from your sisters and brothers, and the things that separates you from God; wrestle with them until the light that shines in the darkness overcomes them and brings you to repentance and to a new and renewed life. Yes, life is hard and we often find ourselves being tempted by pride, envy, lust, jealousy, prejudice, resentment, and so on. These are the things that bring

darkness into our otherwise bright and joyful lives. Christ gives us the tools to overcome them by loving us where we are and for who we are; children of God and heirs of eternal life. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

May that light guide you through the dark days of Lent to your Easter joy.

### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday this year is on February 17<sup>th</sup>. The Bishop's office has already announced that because infection and death rates from the novel Coronavirus continue to increase, in-person gatherings for worship on Ash Wednesday 2021 will not be possible; noting that one cannot impose ashes in a public setting while maintaining six feet of distance.

Worshippers may receive the ashes in their own household settings during an on-line service. Any baptized persons may place the ashes on the foreheads of others in their households, or on their own foreheads. One does not have to be ordained or licensed to impose ashes on others or on themselves. I will be recording the service and preparing the ashes the week prior to Ash Wednesday. When the ashes are ready I will send an email explaining when you can come by the parish hall and pick some up or if you need them mailed to you, please email me at [stucwood@gmail.com](mailto:stucwood@gmail.com)

### THANK YOU!

I know that Mike Floyd posted a picture of me receiving the Christmas card from the congregation containing your collective gift to me. What it did not and could not capture was the emotion with which it was received. I still find it difficult to say thank you to any one of you personally without a tear in my eye. I was overwhelmed by your generosity and outpouring of love when in fact we have had very little personal contact since March of last year. It has been a hard year of struggle learning to provide worship in a whole new way and surprised at the long hours that go into filming and editing together each service. I am not told how many of you contributed or what you contributed and that is not important for me to know. Having said that, I was told about one contribution, that I think even surprised the person collecting for the gift, that touched me personally, and that was from our parish's dear friend Nigel Mac-Fall who lives in England. Nigel's great grandfather, 5 times removed, the Rev. Deuel Pead, was rector of this parish in the late 1600's, and Nigel has been watching our services

*continued on next page*

and given us encouraging accolades for the involvement of the different participants in the services including Debbie's music, lectors' readings, and even my singing. I continue to be so blessed and uplifted in serving you all as your rector and thank you for once again for the opportunity to do so.

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."**

I am honored to be your new Senior Warden, and I thank the Vestry for their confidence in me. They are an amazing group with many talents. I also want to thank Pam McClelland for all her hard work as Senior Warden this past year. I know she will be an invaluable resource for me in the coming months.

I expect 2021 to be an exciting year for all of us. With the COVID vaccine now in distribution, I think it will not be long before this year's Vestry is planning for the opening of our church for Sunday services. I know that we all will be happy to see that happen. It will also get us back to regular meetings, social events, and all the many programs that connect us to one another and to the community. I see Oyster Festival and fashion shows in our future!

On a personal note, I sincerely believe that joining Christ Church when Jim and I moved permanently to this area was one of our absolute best decisions. The friendship, generosity, and love that the Christ Church community has shown us and so many others continue to amaze me.

Please also know that in my role as Senior Warden I truly welcome comments, concerns, ideas from all of you regarding how I might better serve our Rector and the Christ Church community. Call me any time.

God bless, and happy 2021.

Lydia Dudley

## from our Junior Warden's Workbench



The “New” Junior Warden – John Quilter  
 Thank you, Jeff Loustaunau, for all your attention to the many church issues and for taking the lead on the Narthex project. Thanks to Bob Guillotte on this project as well. We thank other church members for their help also. A special thanks to the Geek Squad and the Fellowship Hall repair group. Thanks to the Building and Grounds Committee for past and future attention to maintenance issues which are posted on the Vestry bulletin board. Building and

Grounds will meet in February to update repair priorities and budget concerns.

Narthex repairs are underway. A construction entrance has been completed. The rotten door jams, trim and nailers have been removed and are in the process of being replaced. The plaster has been removed 4 feet up and the brick walls are drying out. When the church doors are reinstalled the construction entrance will be removed. Next, we will need to mitigate the moisture problem. This area has been discussed with respective contractors. It will include re-pointing brick, cleaning and sealing the exterior brick (this process will require warmer weather). Also installing gutters on the Narthex to channel water away from the foundation. We are still in the process of getting quotes as well as other recommendations on how to slow down the moisture issues. Once this is completed the plaster will be reinstalled using wire mesh for better adhesion to the plaster. Then repaint the Narthex. We will keep you updated after all the information and quotes are in. We will consult with the Vestry for final approval for all repairs.

Let me know if you have questions, want to help, or point out anything that requires attention. Let me know if you have questions, want to help, or point out anything that requires attention.

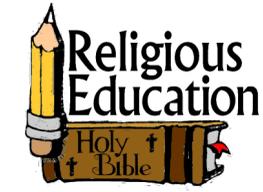
◀ January	February 2021						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7 Virtual Service	8		10	11	12	13	
14 Valentine's Day Virtual Service	15 President's Day	16 9:30am Finance Committee 5:30pm Vestry Meeting	17 Ash Wednesday	18 9:30am Outreach Committee	19	20	
21 Virtual Service	22	23	24	25	26 9:00am Endowment Board	27	
28 Virtual Service							



Back to those resolutions I wrote about last month. It is never too late to stop and think about how we want to move forward in our lives. Could we judge less and love more? My friends with long successful marriages tell me that is the key...to have love as the foundation and not to cling to disappointments. I do know that is easier said than done, yet we know it IS done every day. Not loving, but hating or fearing, is exhausting and scars our hearts. It is so tempting to malign those who see things differently than we do and is temporarily gratifying, but long term it leaves us hollow.

You know I am not talking about Valentine's Day kind of love, but that is good too. Loving those we otherwise see as enemies strengthens us and brings us closer to Christ. As we approach Lent, rather than giving up chocolate, could we give up seeing evil in those who do not think or look like us? Could we really really try that for 40 days? I think so.

The Verger



## Catechism Corner

### Exploring Outlines of the Faith

#### Candlemas

The Holy Day, The Feast of the Presentation, is one of the oldest feasts of the Christian church, celebrated since the 4th century AD. Other Christian names are the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Candlemas. Celebrations are observed on February 2, forty days after Jesus' birth. (*Luke, Chapter 2, verses 22-39*) tells us this was when Jesus was first presented in the temple in Jerusalem (*Book of Common Prayer, page 187*), to officially induct him into Judaism. The temple visit allowed Simon to hold the baby Jesus and called him "a Light for revelation" thus bringing the focus on light/candles to this Holy Day. Forms of observance include lighting and having candles blessed and the removal of Christmas decorations and nativities on Candlemas.

Prior to Christianity, people near the end of Winter, looked forward to Spring and planting, so many different cultures found ways to celebrate this shift from the cold and dark to happier times. As Christianity expanded, they too placed a festival of light around February 2.

Miles Libbey



## Outreach Committee

Our first meeting of 2021 was very productive as we welcomed new members - Ann de Peyster and Susie Loustaunau. Returning members include Pam McClelland, Sharon Colston, Clayton Neal, Mary Jo Atterholt, Ginger Smither, and Judy Quilter.

We are extremely excited to report that our "Share the Love" Coat Drive is a success. We are headed into our final week and have collectively with other churches donated over 100 coats. Hands Across Middlesex will invite clients to pick out a coat at one of their upcoming food drives. We are immensely proud that our community continues to support the "Share the Love" ministry.

Rebecca Morgan, Director of the Middlesex Department of Social Services, is asking for our help. The following list of items have been suggested for those clients in our community who are feeling isolated during this time of Covid19.

Stamps, envelopes, pens, journals, notepads, encouragement cards, coloring books, colored pencils, crayons, word search puzzles (Sudoku, crossword), hats, gloves, and scarves.

Any of the above items can be left in a tote outside the Fellowship Hall front doors in the month of February. Any donation will be appreciated.

Judy Quilter



and the



**THE BROTHERHOOD**

**OF**

**CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)**

will return next month.

## Finance Committee



The Finance Committee is still in need of a couple of members, especially someone with some accounting experience, but more importantly, someone with a willingness to help out.

Interested? Please contact Jeff Loustaunau at (207) 469-8454 or email: [silous3@gmail.com](mailto:silous3@gmail.com)



Children, who will remain unidentified, being home schooled during the Covid-19 pandemic, found that their mother/teacher proved to be educated in many fields that they had not imagined she knew anything about. By subject, they are:

APPRECIATION OF A JOB WELL DONE: "If you are going to kill each other, do it outside. I just finished cleaning."

RELIGION: "You had better pray that that stain will come out."

TIME TRAVEL: "If you do that again, I'm going to knock you into the middle of next week."

LOGIC: "Because I said so, that's why."

ADVANCED LOGIC: "If you fall down and break your neck, you're not going to the store with me."

FORESIGHT: "Make sure you are wearing clean underwear in case you are in an accident."

IRONY: "Keep crying and I will give you something to cry about."

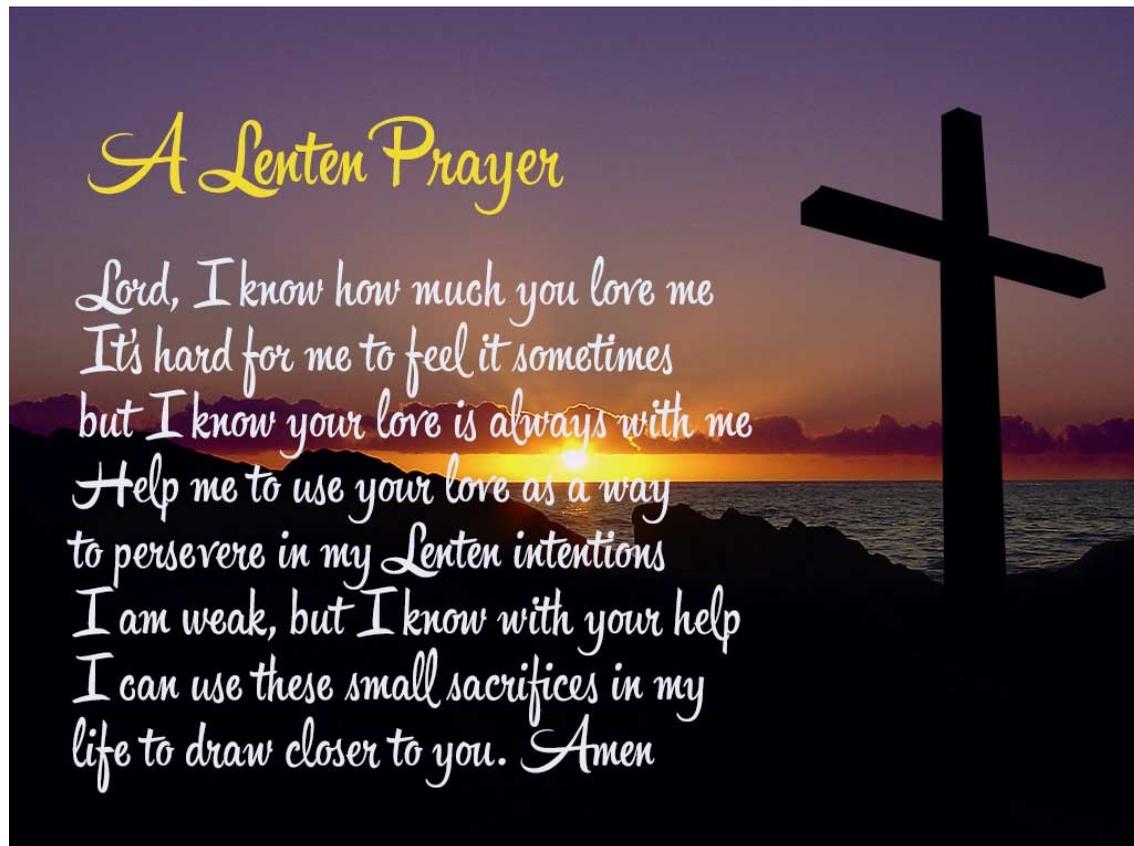
OSMOSIS: "Shut your mouth and eat your supper."

CONTORTIONISM: "Will you look at that dirt on the back of your neck!"

and STAMINA: "You'll sit there until all that spinach is gone."

The students were suspended and the teacher quit!

WELL...



## A Lenten Prayer

Lord, I know how much you love me  
It's hard for me to feel it sometimes  
but I know your love is always with me  
Help me to use your love as a way  
to persevere in my Lenten intentions  
I am weak, but I know with your help  
I can use these small sacrifices in my  
life to draw closer to you. Amen

## EDITORS MUSINGS



Our unique and challenging journey over the last ten months has now brought us into February. Given the origin of the name, may it bring us a brighter outlook for the immediate future.

February is derived from the Latin word februum. Translated it means purification because the month in ancient Rome was a time for purification. Derived from Februalia, which is the name of a Roman purification festival of Spring washing or cleaning that was held in February for three days beginning on the 13th and ending on the 15th. The change of the spelling of Februum to February came in the 15th century.

Modern sources have connected the Latin word for fever to the same word for purification or purging. This was because of the perspiration that is common with fevers and was viewed as a purging.

The word fever brings us to our current day pandemic and the hope that February will truly live up to its name and bring purification and purging in the form of controlling Covid-19. We need to pray, hope, and follow medical advice to assist that end.

Until then we must move forward using the tools at our disposal. Assistance has arrived in the form of the development of vaccines that were released early and are being looked to with great hope.

We are in a "period of inconvenience". We must summon our strength and continue to move forward. We have made a commitment to maintain a fervent belief in our Lord and Savior along with commitments to mankind, and moral strength. We now are being called upon to use them. That we will do, and our Church will prosper.

# Special Celebrations



## Anniversaries

*Henry and Peg Moncure February 18*

*Dixon Cole and Ginny Gale February 25*

## Birthdays

- |                               |                    |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Mark E. "Chip" Holt</i>    | <i>February 3</i>  |
| <i>Jeb Byers</i>              | <i>February 4</i>  |
| <i>Warren Milby</i>           | <i>February 5</i>  |
| <i>Joyce M. Reisinger, Jr</i> | <i>February 5</i>  |
| <i>Gari Sullivan</i>          | <i>February 6</i>  |
| <i>Ann Harris</i>             | <i>February 7</i>  |
| <i>Thyra Harris</i>           | <i>February 7</i>  |
| <i>Virginia Miller</i>        | <i>February 16</i> |
| <i>Rip Radcliffe</i>          | <i>February 20</i> |
| <i>Sandy Sturgill</i>         | <i>February 20</i> |
| <i>Sharon N. Colston</i>      | <i>February 21</i> |
| <i>Velma "Vel" Gray</i>       | <i>February 21</i> |
| <i>Nancy Campbell</i>         | <i>February 22</i> |
| <i>Anne F. Evans</i>          | <i>February 24</i> |
| <i>Ellen Johnson</i>          | <i>February 27</i> |



# 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>
March 2021	Monday February 22, 2021
April 2021	Friday March 26, 2021
May 2021	Monday April 26, 2021
June 2021	Wednesday May 26, 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	Tuesday October 26, 2021
December 2021	Friday November 26, 2021

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