



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
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February  
2022



**Location:**

Routes 33 & 638  
Christchurch,  
Middlesex County, Virginia

**Mailing:**

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**Telephone:**

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**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

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

# Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

## Monthly Newsletter

### February 2022

### From Our Rector

#### Embracing the season of Epiphany



I'm not at all sure of this statement, but I think that the season of Epiphany, that is the weeks following the feast of the Epiphany on January 6<sup>th</sup>, is the one season that gets the least attention. Advent prepares us for Christmas and Christmas then celebrates the incarnation of God in the birth of Jesus for twelve days. We give a lot of attention to Lent with ashes, fasting and study as we prepare for Easter and then Easter celebrates the great Paschal mystery of faith that is experienced through the death, burial, and resurrection of our

Lord Jesus Christ for fifty days. Easter is followed by the feast of Pentecost, the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life.

But the season of Epiphany, which is wedged between Christmas and Lent, is also rich in its own right. Epiphany starts out with the good news that Jesus' birth isn't just for the people of Israel. The Epiphany star leads the wise men from the east to the house where the young Jesus was and they paid him homage with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. This was the first great manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles. During the season of Epiphany we sometimes remember the presentation of Jesus in the Temple where Simeon recognizes the salvation being offered in this holy child and how he will be a light to lighten the Gentiles. We also remember Jesus' baptism and the voice proclaiming him as God's beloved Son in whom he is well pleased. There is then the first miracle at the wedding feast in Cana where water is changed into wine once again pointing to Jesus as more than just another rabbi or prophet. As we move through this season, we continue to encounter insights into the life of this holy individual as he is revealed to those around him and through their witness, he is also revealed to us. Epiphany isn't just a bridge season between Christmas and Lent. It is a season that shines light, God's light, on the one who has come save us and redeem us.

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## THANK YOU

I simply can't find the words that say "thank you" enough for the generous gift that you all gave me this past Christmas. Timing didn't permit receiving it prior to the January Newsletter deadline and so I'm finally able to say it now. As you may know, I will be going on Sabbatical this Fall so I am squirreling away as much as I can to cover my travel expenses. Your generosity has given me a great start in making those dreams come true. I am hoping to spend at least a month or more in England and have already booked a room for several nights at Canterbury Cathedral. It is also my sincere hope that schedules will allow me the opportunity to visit Nigel McFall and his family in London. I'm still working out my plans which will give me an opportunity for rest and spiritual renewal while visiting some of the places of pilgrimage in and around England. Again, thank you so much for this special gift and for the opportunity to serve as your rector. And now we need to pray that COVID doesn't get in the way of my traveling out of the country.

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 Chapel in the Parish Hall. **Due to the surge in COVID case please check with the office first.**



**"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."**

With the delay of the Parish Congregational Meeting, the Vestry did not meet and formally organize and plan for the ensuing year.



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

With a new year we have new projects. First up is replacing the blower motors in the Fellowship Hall mini-splits to reduce the loud humming. This spring, right around the corner, the exterior of the church windows will be painted to protect the glazing. And don't forget about spring clean up day, April 2nd, or 9th. More information to follow next month.

Thanks John Quilter



## From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have a short article this month as COVID is putting some planned activities on hold.

The members of our team who will minister to the lonely in our church community and beyond are completing their online training. Our in-person training from DSS is on hold until the COVID numbers get better. We hope to be visiting people in the very near future. There is still room for more people on our team. If you feel called, please contact me.

We are beginning to make plans for Fine Arts Camp 2022. More information on that to follow. We will be looking for volunteers. Are YOU called to that ministry?



If you are aware of specific needs in our community, please do not hesitate to talk to me. I am always looking for ways to carry out a deacon's ministry to "the poor, the weak, the sick and the lonely".

Peace, Peg+

◀ January	February 2022						March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<b>1</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>2</b> Holy Eucharist Cancelled  Connecting Threads 1:00 pm	<b>3</b> GEEK Committee 9:00 am  Fellowship Committee 11:15 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
<b>6</b> Services Streaming 10:30 am  Facebook Early Afternoon	<b>7</b> Ad Hoc Committee 9:00 am	<b>8</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>9</b> Holy Eucharist Cancelled	<b>10</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	
<b>13</b> Services Streaming 10:30 am  Facebook Early Afternoon	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b> Finance Committee 9:00 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>16</b> Holy Eucharist Cancelled	<b>17</b> Outreach Ministry 9:00 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	
<b>20</b> Services Streaming 10:30 am  Facebook Early Afternoon	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	<b>23</b> Holy Eucharist Cancelled	<b>24</b> Worship Committee 9:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	
<b>27</b> Services Streaming 10:30 am  Facebook Early Afternoon	<b>28</b>						

## Winter and other thoughts



I've lived with Southerners long enough to know this isn't their favorite time of year. The very thought of cold and snow sends them to the store for provisions and to the thermostat to increase the heat. There is little idea at all that this is time of year is so charming. As a Yankee, though, this is pretty much my favorite (perhaps nudged out slightly by a beautiful autumn). This is a quieter time, without the endless work of summer or bugs that bug. I love looking through a winter forest and seeing things that are hidden in summer. I remember long ago reading a column by our own Ruby Lee Norris about how the holly shines in winter light; I think of that and her every time I walk down my drive and

see those hollies and the brilliant gold of beech leaves. The birds at my feeder and the heron still fishing off my pier are special winter delights.

Within this quiet, though, is the gift of time to think, to read, to pray. Somehow, the world seems to slow down to a more manageable pace. Evenings by the fire with a good book. Time to write to friends. Time to plan. These are gifts of winter. I hope you can look at these gifts and open them slowly. Try not to just wish for spring...enjoy these beautiful moments.

Some time ago I inquired about interest in forming a chapter of Daughters of the King at Christ Church. I didn't get a lot of feedback, so I wondered if you were interested or just too busy at that moment. While I was ruminating on whether to ask again, this email came in via Barbara Cockrell. Some of you will remember Patty Rowley. So, do think about this...it seems someone is trying to give us another chance! Let me (Grace) know. There is all the information you could ever need on the diocesan website (search for Daughters of the King) or even on the all-knowing Google.

EMAIL

"My Daughters of the King Chapter (Ann Riggs) at St. John's is getting ready to start a study on spiritual development. Would you be interested in joining us? We usually meet on the 4th Sunday of each month at 4:00. I have attached a copy of the workbook for you to look over. I would love to talk to you about it. "

"We have another prospective member that needs to take the orientation class to become a member, also. If you would like to take that course, we would LOVE to have you and anyone else that is interested. We have not decided on the schedule yet. Let me know what suits you

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for a schedule so that we can discuss it. After you become a member, then we can discuss a chapter for Christ Church."

"Blessings, Patti Rowley, (804) 815-4302"

Back to the winter thoughts...Grace Parker, Verger

### Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening

By Robert Frost

Whose woods these are I think I know.  
His house is in the village though;  
He will not see me stopping here  
To watch his woods fill up with snow.

My little horse must think it queer  
To stop without a farmhouse near  
Between the woods and frozen lake  
The darkest evening of the year.

He gives his harness bells a shake  
To ask if there is some mistake.  
The only other sound's the sweep  
Of easy wind and downy flake.

The woods are lovely, dark and deep.  
But I have promises to keep,  
And miles to go before I sleep,  
And miles to go before I sleep.



# Outreach Ministry



As we look forward to the new year we encourage each of you to look around our Community and seek out opportunities to help those that are less fortunate. Two organizations that our Ministry continues to support are Hands and Habitat.

**Hands Across Middlesex** is an interfaith volunteer non-profit organization established to provide supplemental assistance to county residents with food, clothing, furniture, appliances, energy, handicap ramps and home repairs.

**Habitat for Humanity** is a non-profit organization that builds homes for county residents who are first time home owners living in Middlesex County. It helps families achieve the strength, stability and independence they need to build a better life. Volunteers are always needed and welcomed.

One of the major sources of income for both Hands Across Middlesex and Habitat for Humanity is the Yard Sale held at the Cryer Center. Yard Sale events typically take place the second and fourth Saturday each month from 8:00 am to 12 Noon. A schedule to fill Volunteer spots is listed below. Please contact The Cryer Center (804-758-2944) and leave a message with your contact information if you can lend a hand. N95 masks are available if you need one, and the number of customers is limited in the Center. Volunteers work with two veteran Managers, Cashiers, and Extra helpers. Extra helpers assist watching the sales floor and helping customers.

Extra Helpers are needed for the following dates: February 26, March 12, March 26, May 14, July 23, August 27, September 10, September 24, October 8, October 22, November 12, November 29, and December 17.

Judy Quilter, Chairman

# Catechism Corner

**Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education**



## The "Proper"

The proper is a part of the pattern of worship (Church liturgy) that changes throughout the church year; often representing an observance or feast celebration like our current time of Epiphany, or of a particular saint or significant event. In the Episcopal Church the proper includes the collects (BCP 159-261), the lessons (889-1001), and the Proper Prefaces (344-49, 377-82) used before the Sanctus. BCP Page 158 explains the Proper.

The proper is used in contrast to the ordinary, which is the part of the church service that is generally invariable, or at least selected without regard to date, or to the common, which contains liturgy parts that are common to an entire category of saints, like apostles or martyrs.

Proper...changes by date or celebration

Ordinary...generally invariable

Common...akin to the Proper but focused on groups of saints

In Faith,  
Miles Libbey with Fr. Bob's kind help



On Monday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, the first meeting of the Ad-Hoc committee to address the “Elephant in Room” issue took place with the following members of our congregation being present and passionately participating. They were:

Ann de Peyster	Bev Hart	John Hilliard	Mary Lynn Landgraf
Jeff Loustau	Pam McClelland	Judy Quilter	Dave South

One point we should all be clear on it this. Although the group was formed to “corral the elephant in the room”, many committee members prefer to be called “The Movers and Shakers” that are “Alive to Revive”! (This is not yet in concrete but works for now!)

The meeting was mainly organizational, but we did agree on a purpose for the group which reads:

“To develop and initiate strategies to grow our church in prayerful discipleship and as a community in a way that:

- Accepts responsibility for our situation
- Defines the issue based on data
- Utilizes our strengths
- Involves and motivates the entire congregation “

This boils down to being a group of people who want to be a “catalyst” in promoting our growth in prayerful discipleship and as a community to the entire congregation.

Our path forward includes a meeting in early February to brainstorm various strategies to accomplish this. If you have ideas, please contact one of the above “Movers and Shakers” to share those ideas! We would love to hear from you!

More next month!

Look for articles in future newsletters from these integral parts of our Church.



*Worship Committee*



## THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)



**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE**



## ORIGIN OF SAINT VALENTINES DAY

Valentine's Day or St. Valentine's Day is a holiday celebrated on February 14. It is when lovers express their affection with greetings and gifts. Given their similarities, it has been suggested that the holiday has origins in the Roman festival of Lupercalia, held in mid-February. The festival, which celebrated the coming of spring, included fertility rites and the pairing off women with men by lottery. At the end of the 5th century, Pope Gelasius I forbid the celebration of Lupercalia and is sometimes attributed with replacing it with St. Valentine's Day, but the true origin of the holiday is vague at best. Valentine's Day did not come to be celebrated as a day of romance until about the 14th century.

Although there were several Christian martyrs named Valentine, the day may have taken its name from a priest who was martyred about 270 CE by the emperor Claudius II Gothicus. According to legend, the priest signed a letter "from your Valentine" to his jailer's daughter, whom he had befriended and, by some accounts, healed from blindness. Other accounts hold that it was St. Valentine of Terni, a bishop, for whom the holiday was named, though it is possible the two saints were actually one person. Another common legend states that St. Valentine defied the emperor's orders and secretly married couples to spare the husbands from war. It is for this reason that his feast day is associated with love.

Formal messages, or valentines, appeared in the 1500s, and by the late 1700s commercially printed cards were being used. The first commercial valentines in the United States were printed in the mid-1800s. Valentines commonly depict Cupid, the Roman god of love, along with hearts, traditionally the seat of emotion. Because it was thought that the avian mating season begins in mid-February, birds also became a symbol of the day. Traditional gifts include candy and flowers, particularly red roses, a symbol of beauty and love.

The day is celebrated in the United States as well as in Britain, Canada, and Australia, and it is also other countries, including Argentina, France, Mexico, and South Korea. In the Philippines it is the most common wedding anniversary, and mass weddings of hundreds of couples are not uncommon on that date. The holiday has expanded to expressions of affection among relatives and friends. Many schoolchildren exchange valentines with one another on this day.



## FLIGHT 2022 INSTRUCTIONS

We are prepared to take off into the New Year.

Please make sure your positive Attitude and Gratitude are secure and locked in the upright position.

All self-destructive devices: Pity, Anger, Selfishness, Pride, and Resentment should be turned off at this time.

All negativity, hurt, and discouragement should be put away.

Should you lose your positive attitude under pressure during this flight, reach up and pull down a prayer. Prayers will automatically activate Faith.

Once your Faith is activated, you can assist other passengers who are of little faith.

There will be NO BAGGAGE allowed on this flight.

God, Our Captain, has cleared us for take-off.

Destination – FULFILLMENT & SATISFACTION!

Wishing you a New Year filled with God's HOPE, God's JOY, and new BEGINNINGS with Him!

# Special February Celebrations



## Anniversaries

18 Henry and Peg Moncure

25 Dixon Cole and Ginny Gale

## Birthdays

3 Chip Holt

4 Jeb Byers

5 Warren Milby

Joyce Reisinger

6 Gari Sullivan

7 Ann Harris

Thyra Harris

16 Virginia Miller

20 Rip Radcliffe

Sandy Sturgill

21 Sharon Colston

Vel Gray

22 Nancy Campbell



The editor, cannot be held responsible for any articles not submitted *or late*, typos, wrong dates, wrong figures, incorrect addresses, bad information, inclement weather, computer viruses, computer failure, lack of a computer, dead batteries or anything else that you do not like or disagree with.



### 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 are:

Month Published      Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:

April 2022	Monday March 28, 2022
May 2022	Monday April 25, 2022
June 2022	Friday May 27, 2022
July 2022	Monday June 27, 2022
August 2022	Monday July 25, 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.