

Christ Church Parish

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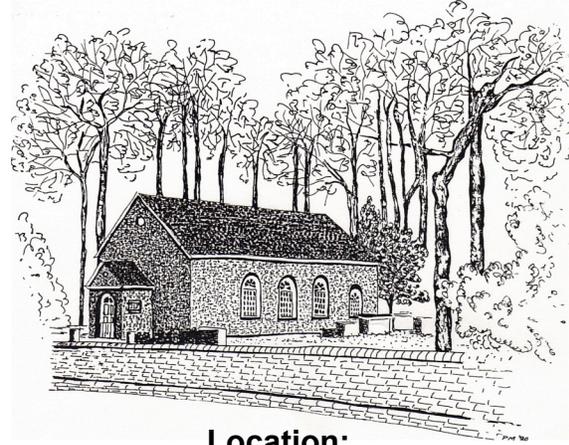
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February
2023

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 February 2023

Message From Our Rector



I've heard it said that "the older you get, the faster time goes." Well, I can't argue with that. Since the new Church year began, we have already journeyed through three seasons: Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany; and in three short weeks, we will begin the solemn season of Lent.

My doctor tells me that I should observe Lent all year because I always have a good check-up in early Easter where my blood work is good, my A1c is down, and my weight has decreased. The Lenten season has always seemed to give me that added discipline to do the things that I know I should do year-round but fail to do.

Lent is also a time when our liturgical life changes. The Gloria is replaced with the Kyrie. The "Alleluias" are shelved until the first Eucharist of Easter which is celebrated at the Easter Vigil. My journeys through Scotland, England, and Ireland exposed me to different liturgies and I was also observant with the ways things were done during those services. I then had several opportunities to worship in a couple of Episcopal churches before coming back to the parish. One of the things that stood out to me was the way the offering was presented. There was no "Doxology," you know, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow...." which is actually used as the final verse in three different hymns in our hymnal. This led me to do some research on the subject and Howard E. Galley in his book "The Ceremonies of the Eucharist, A Guide to Celebration" wrote,

"The singing of a doxology or the playing of a fanfare at the presentation of the gifts is not recommended here. ... (*because*) the effect in the present rite is to introduce a false climax. The offertory is a preparatory action, and not an 'event in itself.' The singing of a doxology, moreover, tends to overwhelm the Sanctus, which, in our revised liturgy, follows closely upon the offertory."

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That being said, we will stop using the doxology beginning in Lent.

For our Lenten suppers and program this year, I will use some of them to continue sharing my experiences of sabbatical with you and others to explore the liturgy and some of the differences that I encountered along my travels.

Looking forward to our Lenten journey as we prepare ourselves for Easter which will be here before we know it.

God Bless,

Fr. Stuart

A note from Fr. Stuart

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ, I find that I am always grateful for the opportunity to serve as rector of Christ Church Parish. This is truly a remarkable parish to minister in and to be ministered to. I can tell you that many times clergy don't always feel appreciated, but that is certainly not the case in this parish. I am still most grateful for the sabbatical last fall and continue to relive those experiences in my mind over and over again.

But even after that remarkable gift, you all still surprised me with your very generous gift at Christmas – Thank You!

May we all continue to grow spiritually as we continue our journey into this new year, for truly the Lord is in this place.

Peace and Love,

Stuart +

A note from Deacon Peg Moncure

Dear Christ Church Family,

I was overwhelmed by your very generous gift. Thank you so much! I am so blessed to be a deacon in the magnificent parish. I truly feel the presence of Christ in this place. That is truly evident in the way you each serve God and each other and your neighbors beyond our walls. Thank you for ALL you do for me.

Peace,

Peg



From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

By the time you read this article, I will be recovering from my knee replacement surgery and advancing to being back fully active in the ministries of this wonderful parish. Thanks to all of you who have offered help, support, prayers, and encouragement during this time. I am so blessed to be part of the family at Christ Church.

Also, in case you have not seen the note I sent, I wish to extend a huge "THANK YOU!!" to each of you for the extremely generous Christmas gift which you gave me. I was totally overwhelmed. Just being blessed to serve as deacon in this awesome parish is a tremendous gift in itself and then you did this. Y'all are amazing.

Registration forms for Fine Arts Camp 2023 have been distributed. Hopefully, we will soon know how many campers we will have this year. If you have grandchildren or neighbors who would like to participate, please pick up a form and get them registered. Also, please mark your calendars and consider volunteering. The date for this event is **June 19-25**. There are many jobs that we need help with. Some folks help all week and others help for a day or two. **ALL** help is needed and appreciated. Please call me or send me an email if you are willing to help with this important ministry to our community and I will put you on the list. Hey, I can't get around very much right now and I need something to do.

Likewise, if you have questions or would like to help with another important ministry, Creation Care Raised Bed Gardens, let me hear from you. I may not be able to run a marathon yet (couldn't do it before either) but I can email and talk on the phone.

Thanks for all you do. ,

Peg peggy_moncure@live.com 804-869-3867

Parish Creation Care Project

Plans are underway for the launch of the CCP Creation Care Project. Volunteers will begin laying out the design and building raised beds for spring planting. We are so excited to begin our involvement in the Episcopal Creation Care Project. There is a worldwide movement to support God's creation through the care of our environment and establishing community connections.

As Deacon Peg Moncure explained in a recent gathering, our Creation Care Project is designed to support the Cryer Center Food Bank with fresh vegetables and flowers for those that come to the food pantry distribution. There will also be flowers grown for the Flower Guild to beautify the altar throughout the spring and summer months. We trust that this launch will encourage many of you to reach out and show your support for this project. There will be many opportunities to enjoy and support the work of building our Creation Care Project.

Alyson Holt



◀ January	February 2023					March ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	2 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	3 YOGA 10:00 am	4
5 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	6	7 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	8 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	9 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	10 YOGA 10:00 am	11
12 Scout Sunday Valentines Day Breakfast 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	13 Elephant Committee 9:30 am Tech Team 11:30 am	14 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	15 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	16 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	17 YOGA 10:00 am	18 Vestry Retreat
19 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	20 Church Office Closed For Presidents Day	21 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Finance Committee 9:30 am Vestry 1:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:00 pm—7:00pm	22 Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist Service 12:00 Noon	23 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	24 YOGA 10:00 am	25
26 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	27	28 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm				



from the Junior Warden's Workbench

Did somebody say "SNOW"?

We are still in the throes of winter and we all need to be careful with ice patches around the Parish Hall and walkways. I will be looking for volunteers to be on a call list if snow and ice removal is needed in the remaining weeks of winter. Call me if you are interested in helping with this.

Spring Event - March 25th

Please make your calendars! This is an early reminder that spring cleanup is right around the corner. The dates are March 26, with a rain date on April 1st. We really need all hands on deck for this event. The Boy Scouts and their families will be supporting this effort. We would love to have as many church members as possible work together to support this community event. More details to come next month.

Spring clean-up is not just about raking leaves. If anyone has additional ideas for cleaning up this spring, please reach out with suggestions. We want to keep our church in excellent shape.

Closing Note

If you see something that needs my attention at CCP, please email me at jamescottholt@gmail.com. I am happy to look into your request.

Scott Holt



**“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.”**

The new vestry committee liaisons are

- Building and Grounds — Scott Holt
- Outreach — Clayton Neal and Peg Moncure
- Fellowship — to be determined
- Videography Ministry — Ann DePeyster
- Worship — Fr. Stuart
- Elephant Committee — Ann DePeyster
- Cemetery — Betsy Evans



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.



Fellowship Committee Plans Events for the Year 2023

In recognition of “Fellowship” as one of the key pillars in the Christian Church, our committee has established a full list of activities for 2023 that invite and encourage your participation. Our mission is like a two-layer cake. One layer encourages solid Christian goals with the push for pensive reflection and study. The other layer offers myriad opportunities for laughter, fun, good dining, outdoor experiences, music and more in the company of other parishioners. This delicious dichotomy sets the stage for neighborly love, meeting new friends, and enjoying new experiences with friends and friends you have not yet met!

For planning purposes, let’s start with our bookend events: Lenten Dinners 1, 8,15,22 and 29 March. and Advent Dinners, 29 November, 6, 13, and 20 December. These activities have grown in the numbers of participants and scope of the programs. . The dinners are usually hosted by two couples per dinner for ease of cooking and clean up.

Join in the fun at our Cinco De Mayo party on Friday, 5 May. Music, food and fun are on the menu for you.

Beat the summer heat and join us for an old-fashioned homemade ice cream social with live music on 28 July. We offer summer magic for the palate.

The celebrated Marine Corps Run to Christ Church will again be celebrated this year in our cemetery and churchyard. Snack bags will be given out to the runners and stories about Chesty Puller will be shared with the runners! The date is TBD.

The annual Veterans Day luncheon will be held on 10 November. What a fantastic opportunity to renew acquaintances with your military buddies. One of our key projects for the year is to establish a pictorial directory of all Christ Church men and women who served in the U.S. military. We will scan your official photo of you in uniform, list your

Continued on next page

branch of service and your rank. The photos will serve as an honor and memorial to our brave men and women.

If you wish to propose additional ideas and suggestions for entertainment, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Mary Lynn Landgraf

Beverly Hart

What Makes a Good Hymn?

Is it theologically sound?

Is it beautifully written, both in text and music?

Is it appropriate for the occasion?

Is it singable by the congregation?

Does it give God the glory? (Or does it talk too much about us?)

I've been asked to play some pretty awful hymns. My best friend's husband wanted "In the Garden" at her funeral. I did it, but I had to grit my teeth the entire time. There is a reason it is not in our hymnal. In my opinion, "How Great Thou Art" falls into the same category. But it sure is popular, mostly thanks to Billy Graham and George Beverly Shea and Elvis. Even my late husband wanted it sung at his funeral. We did not. We sang "A Mighty Fortress" instead - that one ticks all the boxes listed above.

When choosing hymns for worship, I'll admit that I don't always hit the mark. But those are the questions that I try to use as guidelines. Sometimes there are not many options that fit the lectionary for that Sunday, so I just do the best I can.

When I hear that someone doesn't know a hymn we sang that Sunday, I'm not surprised. There are a lot of pieces in The Episcopal Hymnal that even I don't know, and I've been doing this for a long time. How some even got into the book is a mystery to me!

I think it is past time for a new hymnal, but the greater Church has not seen that as a priority. Next month I'll look at where we stand in that process.

Libby Boyer, Music Director

Shrove Tuesday



Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper is coming February 21st

All of you **who volunteered to cook** please respond to me so I can determine if we have enough cooks. Mike.Floyd@va.metrocast.net

Jack Tarran did a rush job getting us tickets and **posters**. If you want to pick up a poster to post at one of your favorite locations they are located on the card table just to the right of the entrance to the Fellowship Hall.

You can see me for **tickets** most Sundays at the 8:00 and 10:30 coffee hours. Also, I'm leaving a supply of tickets with Tonya in the Church Office. The tickets are in books of ten (10) tickets at \$8.00 per ticket.

“Unsung Heroes”



Jack Fackler has been a member of Christ Church Parish going on 34 years having joined in 1989. During that time, he has served on the Vestry as a Senior Warden and Junior Warden, while contributing his incredible knowledge and expertise to the audio systems in the church and Parish Hall the entire time. He continues this contribution as a very active member of the Tech Team where he remains the audio expert for our livestreaming and recordings. As a member of the surrounding community, he was one of three people who started Hands Across Middlesex back in 1993. Thank you, Jack Fackler!



THE VERGERS VIEW

Fasting Days

As I was going over the church calendar to make the servers' schedules, I couldn't help but notice that the Episcopal Church calendar I use shows clearly under Ash Wednesday "Fast." I think I've written about this subject before, but I remain mystified about how fasting disappeared from Episcopal (and Catholic) practice sometime in my lifetime. Was there a great ecclesiastical memo I missed? Could be. But in any case, it is still on the calendar if not in our regular consciousness.

I encourage you to return to this ancient practice. The church only asks this of us 2 days a year. If you fast, as the Ash Wednesday scripture admonishes, do not go about with a deprived face, or talk about your sacrifice. You may well find in these few hours of abstaining from food that you begin to think and feel Christ more closely. We know He fasted and prayed. Before you give me all the reasons why you cannot possibly fast, think about what you CAN do. Maybe you can't make it from the time you get up until dark, but you might, or at least you might be able to fast until after the noon Ash Wednesday service. That's a good beginning. Your doctors might have told you, as mine has, that intermittent fasting is actually good for you. A grumbling stomach isn't harmful, but an auditory reminder of a small sacrifice. So if I hear your stomach growling at the Ash Wednesday service, we'll both know you did it!

VR, Grace

Special February Celebrations

Anniversaries



*15 Harold Johnson & Diane Martin
18 Henry & Peg Moncure
25 Dixon Cole & Ginny Gale*

Birthdays

*3 Chip Holt
4 Jeb Byers
5 Joyce Reisinger
6 Gari Sullivan
7 Ann Harris
Thyra Harris
16 Virginia Miller
20 Sandy Sturgill
21 Sharon Colston
Vel Gray
22 Nancy Campbell
24 Anne Evans
27 Ellen Johnson*



*“True ease in writing comes through art
not chance. As those move easiest that
have learned to dance.”*

Alexander Pope

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:

Month Published

Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:

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.