

Christ Church Parish

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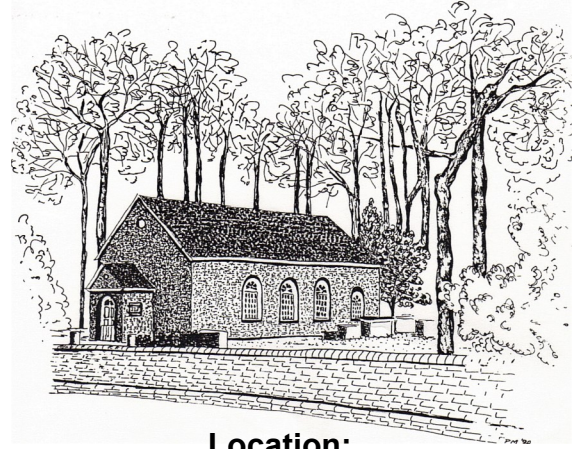
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March
2022

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 9:00 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

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter

March 2022

From Our Rector



I don't know about you, but I actually look forward to Ash Wednesday and the season of Lent. Why you may ask? Well, it's like this. Advent and Christmas are so busy with all the preparations for Christmas. There is shopping, decorating, parties, and family gatherings; and so much of it is secular in its focus. Even the end of the Epiphany season is full of revelry and partying with Margi Gras. But Ash Wednesday and Lent give us a chance to step back and focus on what is really important in our faith journey. Yes, St. Patrick's day may be a distraction and the arrival of Easter candy on the store shelves may be a temptation but for the most part, the secular world hasn't hi-jacked the season of Lent for its own financial gain.

Ash Wednesday may sound morbid to some with the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" but they are an affirmation that there is nothing to fear because Easter is at the end of the journey and Christ has won the victory for us all by conquering death and delivering us from the power of our enemy so that we may evermore live with him in the joy of his resurrection.

The reward that I find in following Jesus into the wilderness for forty days and nights is experiencing the lengths to which Christ was willing to go in preparing himself for his ministry. "Forty days and forty nights thou wast fasting in the wild; forty days and forty nights tempted, and yet undefiled." (Hymn 150 in the Hymnal 1982) Jesus wasn't just giving up food and water as much as he was putting his whole life and trust into the hands of his heavenly Father. A trust that empowered him to dismiss the temptations of the devil.

The season of Lent is important to me because I'm able to find the discipline to do the things that make my life healthier and my faith stronger. Every year, my doctor tells me that I need to observe Lent 365 days a year. But that is where I fail. That is where – to quote Oscar Wilde – "I can resist everything except temptation."

Continued on page 2

Slowly, but surely, I'm reminded each year how much we must depend upon the grace and mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ as I realize that I have once again fallen into bad habits. It is this annual observance of Lent that reminds all of us, myself included, of the need for our perseverance in resisting evil, and, whenever we fall into sin, to repent and return to the Lord. And we can all do it, with God's help.

May your journey through Lent be one of hope and renewal as we once again approach the great Paschal mystery of our faith.

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart



Adult Education Returning on Sunday Mornings

Please join us on Sunday mornings between the two services for an adult education class which will begin at 9:15 each Sunday beginning on Sunday, March 6th in the Great Room of the Parish Hall. Fr. Stuart will be using a curriculum entitled "Living Discipleship: Practicing Our Faith". This is an all-ages curriculum designed to help individuals and communities know more fully the very things that St. Paul prayed for the Ephesians to find (Ephesians 1:17-19): the God revealed in Jesus Christ. This class offers a survey of the basic beliefs and practices of the Episcopal Church and reminds us that we are the inheritors of the immeasurable greatness of God's power that transforms each of us and strengthens us to serve the world in Christ's name.

The curriculum is based on the book "Walk in Love Episcopal Beliefs and Practices" by Scott Gunn & Melody Wilson Shobe. If you would like to buy a copy of this book, Fr. Stuart has some in his office. The cost is \$17.00.

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. **NOTE: On Ash Wednesday, March 2nd, the Mid-week Eucharist will be held in the Church at noon.**



**“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 first thing I want to express to each of you is a heartfelt thank you for your support, guidance, and expressions of help as I take on the job of Senior Warden. My thanks also go to Betsy Evans, the new Junior Warden and a great Vestry that wants to make this a glorious year.

This year reminds me so much of the Beatles song “Here Comes the Sun”. The lyrics say “It’s been a long cold lonely winter it seems like years since it’s been here” I am confident that the sun is coming. COVID has taken away the sun and we anxiously await a return to more activities. It is coming, numbers are declining, and we are gearing up for a great year.

In the last few weeks, we have seen every committee excited and supportive of new initiatives. We are ready to come together in fellowship and outreach. New technology is being used. We have a wonderful video tour of the church and cemetery, professionally done by Ann DePeyster. With declining COVID numbers, we are allowed to plan for a Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper for the congregation. Lenten dinners are in the works with Bob Pritchard doing the lessons. Father Stuart is excited to start adult study between the two services. Deacon Peg has things well organized for the summer Arts Camp and her committee has great ideas to improve this incredible project. The Outreach Committee has a project scheduled for every month. On top of all this activity, the Brotherhood and ECW are planning other activities. We are dedicated to spreading the word that we are a vibrant and joyful church. We are looking for new members who want to join us. We will worship together and welcome others who want a place to worship. We will work together to improve our community and celebrate the joys of a spiritual life. With the help of the Son, we will enjoy the sunlight.

Faithfully,

Jeannette



From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As part of my monthly article about the diaconate at Christ Church Parish, I would like to occasionally pass on some information about the history and ministries of Episcopal Church deacons. This month, I am highlighting the ministry of,

David Pendleton Oakerhater (b. ca. 1847, d. August 31, 1931), also known as O-kuh-ha-tuh and Making Medicine, was a Cheyenne warrior and spiritual leader. He later became an artist and Episcopal deacon. In 1985, Oakerhater was the first Native American Anglican to be designated by the Episcopal Church as a saint.

Captured in the Indian Wars and imprisoned in 1875 at Fort Marion (now Castillo de San Marcos), Florida, Oakerhater became one of the founding figures of modern Native American art. Later he attended college in New York State and was ordained as a deacon in the Episcopal Church in the United States of America. He returned to the West where he served as a missionary in Oklahoma, serving Native Americans.

Since 1985 he has been recognized in the book of Lesser Feasts and Fasts of the Episcopal Church. Grace Episcopal Church in Syracuse, New York is a national shrine to Saint O-kuh-ha-tah, and he was celebrated there in 2005 with a major event including descendants." (**Wikipedia**)

We are continuing to prepare to go out and do the work we are called to do in many ways. Our "Ministry to the Lonely" is almost ready to begin. Team members are completing their online training and we received in-person training from the Middlesex Department of Social Services on February 20th. As soon as COVID numbers are at a safe level, we will begin visiting people in their homes.

Our 2022 Fine Arts Camp will take place the week of July 18th. This year, as well as receiving the names of children from Middlesex DSS, we will be accepting applications from students throughout the county. This camp will, once again, be offered free of charge. More information to follow but we will need to recruit many volunteers to help with this important ministry in our community. Will YOU be available? 😊

I wish to say, "Thank You!" to everyone for your kind words, well wishes, and prayers during my time of medical issues. The support of my Christ Church family means so much and I am deeply grateful.
Peace, Peg+

March 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Dinner 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm	2 Ash Wednesday Holy Eucharist Service 12 noon In the Church	3 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	4	5
6 1st Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	7 Elephant Committee 10:00 am	8 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	9 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm Program 6:00 pm	10 GEEK Committee 9:00 am Fellowship Committee 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	11	12
13 Daylight Savings Time begins Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	14	15 Finance Committee 9:00 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	16 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm Program 6:00 pm	17 Outreach Ministry 9:00 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	18	19
20 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	21 Elephant Committee 10:00 am	22 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Vestry Meeting 1:30 PM	23 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm Program 6:00 pm	24 Worship Committee 9:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	25 The Annunciation	26
27 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	28	29 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	30 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm Program 6:00 pm	31 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm		



Verger musings...

I was recently asked what brought me to Christ Church. Was it a friend who invited me? (well No, it wasn't but it's a great idea) Was I church "shopping?" No, I'm a cradle Episcopalian and there was no question I was going to attend the nearest Episcopal church unless it was just awful. And Christ Church certainly wasn't awful; it was wonderful. I felt welcome the very first day. I did wonder, however, how I was going to be able to contribute in a church with such a long history and generations of congregants surely holding all the key positions. What would it take to be accepted and involved?

I found out immediately that all it took was a willingness to offer to help. One year later, I found myself delivering the sermon that Father Paul had left for me to present. It was about St. Peter and the "boys in the boat" as one rector called those disciples. I deviated from the text to note that I had wondered how I was going to get into the Christ Church boat when I first arrived. The answer was pretty clear as I stood before the congregation.

Today, that remains true; all it takes is a willingness to help. No invitation is required. I have been scheduling lay altar servers since Miller Smither handed over the job to me in 2007. That amounts to 15 years, about 14 schedules a year, or over 200 times I've sat before my computer filling positions. The people in those positions have certainly changed many times. Some who were here at the beginning have moved away or stepped down. New volunteers have always come forward. And they are all excellent. There is always more room in the "boat" for YOU! All of the ministry heads would welcome new volunteers from the most traditional roles on Altar Guild to the new technology team bringing our service to a worldwide audience.

As a favorite hymn goes: "...for the saints of God are just folk like me, and I mean to be one too"

Grace



... from the Junior Warden's Workbench

January was a challenging month with all the snow and cold temperatures keeping the walkways free of ice and snow and making sure all was warm.

We will have a Building and Grounds Committee meeting in March to re-evaluate our Maintenance Plan going forward. Our top projects for discussion will be paving the church entrance and a new church sign out at the highway to attract new members, and where these funds will come from.

The mini-split HVAC units in the Fellowship Hall will have repairs done to replace fans and bearings to reduce the loud humming in February. This mission has successfully been completed. Church windows exteriors will be painted in March/April. In March the fire extinguishers will be re-certified to comply with insurance requirements, and we are getting bids to install ice clips over the sacristy doors and A/C units at the church, as one of the units was moved by ice but is ok.

This year our Church Clean-Up Day is being planned for April 2nd (the 9th rain date) which is two weeks before Easter, which falls on April 17th. Please bring blowers, rakes, tarps, energy, and smiles. The Scouts will be helping. FYI- The Scouts will be having a BBQ fundraiser in April like the wonderful one last year. More info. to follow in April Newsletter or an EMAIL. We will supply water and Hot Dogs for lunch

As always you can contact me with issues, questions, or to volunteer.

Betsy Evans
Junior Warden

Outreach Ministry



Diocesan calendars: It's not too late to get your copy of the 14-month calendar showing photos of the 12 Episcopal churches and two schools in the Diocese. This calendar was created by our Diocese for us to sell for \$20. Each church will keep all proceeds from its sales. Ours will be using it to support community outreach. This calendar covers January 2022-February 2023, so still offers 12 months of useful calendar life. Even if you're thinking you don't need another calendar, you would still enjoy the photos. The calendars remaining are in a box near the door to the Fellowship Hall.

Planning our year: Speaking of calendars, outreach activities that this Ministry's members organize or at least participate in throughout a given year have become so numerous as to require our own master planning calendar which currently shows some activity nearly every month. In addition to adopting that master calendar, we also recently updated the description of our Outreach Ministry that should appear soon on the church website.

Membership changes: Sharon Colston has been a great asset to this Ministry and recently vacated her position with us. We are delighted to welcome two new members--Ann Padgett and Judi Snider. At Judy Quilter's request, I have agreed to be her Outreach Ministry co-chair.

Next up: Much of our February meeting was devoted to reviewing upcoming outreach opportunities for our church. Those below deserve special mention because they are also opportunities for other parishioners to join us in meeting the needs of our community.

Gift Bags for Middlesex Seniors: On advice from our Middlesex County Social Services partners, beginning now and into March we will be assembling bags of basic necessities and amusements often requested by local senior citizens in need. Suggested items all parishioners are encouraged to donate are envelopes, stamps, notepads, pens, note cards, crossword puzzle books, and stuffed animals (for comfort). There will be a collection box in the entrance hall of the Parish Hall. The collection will end on March 25.

Cryer Center/Hands Across Middlesex: Dave Cryer circulates regular email notices requesting volunteers to work at Saturday morning yard sales at the Cryer Center. As many of you may know, these events raise the funds needed to cover the costs of keeping the Cryer Center open for use by Habitat for Humanity and Hands Across Middlesex. The latest 2022-yard sale volunteer calendar dated 2/14/22 still showed openings on March 26, June 25, September 24, and November 12. Kudos to Karen Brown and Sharon Colston whose names already appear on that schedule (humble apologies if we've

inadvertently overlooked names of other members of Christ Church). Contact Dave (davecryer@aol.com) to learn whether those openings still exist or if other dates that are more convenient for you might have opened up since then. Germaine Los Hayes at the Clothing Closet also reports that she could use some more help sorting and organizing the enormous quantities of donated clothing and linens. Her advice for helping out with this ongoing effort is to call her at 804-815-3182.

Please contact us if you ever discover a significant community needs that you think our church should consider addressing.

Ann de Peyster

HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

The Hospitality Committee is hosting the **SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE DINNER!** Mark your calendars for March 1st, 5:30 to 7:00 pm. We will be serving pancakes, bacon, applesauce, orange juice, coffee, milk, and water. Come and socialize at this merry event and eat your fill of freshly made pancakes and more. Donations welcome!



Lenten Dinners are on the Horizon. This is our “Lenten Meal” and it will consist of soup, salad and bread served on the four Wednesdays before Easter beginning at 5:30 pm. A special edition will be The Rev. Bob Prichard presenting a lesson each week after the meal. The dates are March 9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th.

We are seeking cooks for the weekly dinners! You can collaborate with a team to divide the labor! A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board at church. If you have questions, call Mary Lynn at 703-981-3914.

POTLUCK Dinners are back. Fun, Fellowship, and culinary surprises! Bring what you love to cook or prepare for this joy-filled event. Meet your friends in the Parish Hall on Friday night, April 22nd, at 6:00 pm for this culinary extravaganza. Come one, come all!

Mary Lynn Landgraf

Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education



What is a bishop?

A bishop is a successor to one of the Twelve Apostles, who has been consecrated by other bishops. In the Episcopal Church, there are five kinds of bishops: Presiding, Diocesan, Assistant, Coadjutor, and Suffragan. No bishop is "higher" in rank than another. The five kinds just define their function.

What is the role of a bishop?

The Outline of the Faith provided by our Book of Common Prayer answers the question in this way:

The ministry of a bishop is to represent Christ and his Church, particularly as an apostle, chief priest, and pastor of a diocese; to guard the faith, unity, and discipline of the whole Church; to proclaim the Word of God; to act in Christ's name for the reconciliation of the world and the building up of the Church, and to ordain others to continue Christ's ministry." (BCP, p. 855)

Thus, a bishop is the chief priest and pastor of a diocese, and all other clergy derive their ministry from him or her.

In the Book of Common Prayer, it states that bishops are those "who carry on the apostolic work of leading, supervising, and uniting the Church." (BCP p. 510)

Also, it restricts the administration of the rites of confirmation and ordination to bishops and also gives bishops great authority over any variations in the liturgy to be permitted within the bishop's diocese.

How do bishops interact with the local parish?

When the bishop presides at a baptism, or they administer the Confirmation or ordains persons to the ministry they represent the whole church.

The bishop travels throughout the diocese to be present in parishes at Confirmation services. The bishop might play an important role when a parish is in transition, or in resolving conflicts if they need pastoral consultative presence or a disciplinary intervention.

Spiritually,
Miles Libby

FINANCE COMMITTEE

On behalf of the entire Finance Committee, I want to again thank you, the Congregation of Christ Church Parish, for your generosity this year during our annual Stewardship Drive. It was a tremendous success, especially given all the limitations that we have had to deal with due to the continuing pandemic.

As you may recall from our Annual Congregational Meeting, we had 62 pledges this year, which has allowed us to increase our Total Pledge/Non-Pledge income to \$206,300, which is \$10,000 more than last year. That is a tremendous boost to our Parish and its activities for the coming year. Here is a summary of our 2022 Budget.

REVENUE:	\$225,423
EXPENSES:	\$244,064
TRANSFER FROM CASH:	\$18,641



We have had an increase in expenses of \$14,699 over the past year, mainly due to personnel expenses, utility expenses, maintenance expenses, and outreach expenses. We are handling these increases by transferring the \$18,641 from our cash account.

There is an issue that I feel we should all be thinking about, however. And that is we have many important maintenance projects that we're hoping to accomplish this year, the cost of which is not in our 2022 Budget. For example, we need to repave the entrance roadway in front of the church going to the Parish Hall, we need to be replacing our church sign, and there is additional tree pruning that is required. All this comes to roughly \$45,000. To help with this, we are applying for the Peter James Lee Small Church Grant from the Diocese and if accepted, we could get up to \$5,000. This leaves roughly \$40,000 which we could take from Reserves, ask all of us to contribute to these projects, or conduct a Capital Campaign over the next 3 years or so to raise the money for these, plus future projects that are on our Maintenance Plan. The Finance Committee and Vestry will be looking at these options.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any thoughts on the above.

Thank You!

Jeff Loustaunau
pjalous71@gmail.com
Phone: 207-469-8454

THE ELEPHANT TEAM

The Elephant Team has enthusiastically started to pursue its purpose of “Developing and championing strategies to grow our church in prayerful Discipleship and as a community in a way that:

- Accepts responsibility for our situation
- Defines the issues based on data
- Utilizes our strengths
- Involves and motivates the entire Congregation”

We started by identifying a few of our strengths and weaknesses. We then brainstormed some ideas of what we need to be doing to accomplish our purpose and not surprisingly, we became energized in all the things that we can and should be doing. When looking at our strengths, we have a uniquely beautiful historic church, cemetery, and grounds that everyone loves, along with a first-rate Fellowship Hall, classrooms, and kitchen. But most of all, we have wonderful members who are highly active and well-known in our community for their support and participation in community programs. In looking at our weaknesses, the main one that comes to mind is that we fail to capitalize on the above strengths, and we don't inform the community (both inside and outside of our church) of what we're doing. It's important to note that no one alone is guilty of letting this happen, but we are all responsible for changing this. It will require an extensive ongoing project that will involve all of us in the congregation, but we are confident that it can and will be done. So, you will soon hear more from the “Elephants” on this particular issue.

In referring to several of our resources on church revitalization, they all suggested we need to look for the “lost sheep.” These are the members who used to be with us, but who we have not seen for many months or more. So as a group, we went through our latest directories on February 17th and identified those people we haven't seen. One of the elephants will be calling each of them over the next few days. In doing so, we won't be just asking “Where have you been?” but we'll be “Inviting them” to upcoming events like our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, our Lenten Dinners, our “Clean-up Day” on April 2nd that will include lunch. (Thanks to our Fellowship Committee for this!)

In closing for this month, if you have noticed that you haven't seen someone in a while, please give them a call and invite them to one of our upcoming events! We can all do this!!!
Thank you!



THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

I had planned to have a Brotherhood meeting on March 13, the second Sunday of the month. However, with adult education classes going on, (and Brotherhood members are in the class) in the Fellowship Hall, and the Bishop coming this month, we cannot meet until April. When we do meet, I hope that covid will be slowing down, and we can have breakfast.

Phil Brown, President

Scout Troop No. 341 News



Ryan Mahr, a member of Scout Troop No. 341 recently received of the Eagle Scout Award. The ascent to Eagle Scout is rigorous. Scouts must earn merit badges through a combination of instruction from trained counselors and performance goals in each discipline. Scouts must earn at least 21 merit badges to advance to Eagle Scout

CONGRATULATIONS RYAN!

Scout Troop No. 341 has enjoyed a 75-year sponsorship by Christ Church (Episcopal) Parish and has produced many Eagle Scouts. They are an active Troop and along with their parents are involved with helping the church with the Oyster Festival, church dinners and outdoor clean-up projects.

Special March Celebrations

Anniversaries



*6th Phil & Karen Brown
Gari & Susan Sullivan
9th Jamie & Beverly Barnhardt III
23rd Charlie & Bev Hart
29th Bill & Cean Cawthorn
Bob & Susie Guillotte
30th Dave & Marilyn South*

Birthdays

*1st Bill Budd
2nd Michelle Meredith
9^t Meredith Caskie
11th Jim Dudley
15th Lydia Dudley
17th Pat Anderson
Karen Gorin
18th Jimmy Meredith
20th Bill Newman
21st Susie Guillotte
23rd Jewel Ray*



**IF YOU HAVE ANY ITEMS TO BE ADDED TO THE MONTHLY CALENDAR,
THEY MUST BE SUBMITTED TO LYDIA DUDLEY PRIOR TO THE
SUBMISSION DATE FOR ARTICLES LISTED BELOW.**

**Our Parishioners want articles in future newsletters from
these integral parts of our Church.**



Worship Committee



ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

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
Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a “space available” basis.