



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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May
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
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex Monthly Newsletter for May 2021

From Our Rector

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!



As I sit here writing this offering for the May newsletter, it is hard for me to imagine that Easter Sunday was three full weeks ago. To say that life has gotten back to normal would be an extreme exaggeration, but the ability to worship in person, in the church, at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services has been so refreshing. Preaching to parishioners in the pews is far more enjoyable than looking at an iPhone on a tripod. The addition of Debbie's live organ playing brings with it a flexibility in tone and volume that fills the church with beautiful music.

There are still hurdles to be conquered as we move forward. I get amused at the number of times that I've been caught off guard wondering, "how did we used to do that?" After a fourteen month hiatus, the altar guild, flower guild, ushers, and servers are being called back to duty. Hopefully the choir will be able to regather as restrictions are lifted. But with COVID restrictions still in place, there have been adjustments that had to be made. Like the disciples emerging from the Upper Room after the resurrection appearances of Christ, we are having to find our way in still unfamiliar circumstances. Once Christ was raised from the dead, the disciples could never go back to the way things were before Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter. We may still long for coming to the rail to receive communion with both the bread and the wine, long to sing the familiar hymns and service music while cringing

continued on next page

at the unfamiliar hymns that the rector chose, hearing the choir, and finally gathering for coffee hours in the parish hall. But we also have the new to look forward to. Live streaming the services, going forward, offers our worship ministry to the community and the world. This new ministry at Christ Church Parish will truly allow us to “Go Ye Into All The World And Preach The Gospel”.

This past Monday, our former intern, Peg Moncure was ordained as a deacon at All Saints’ Church in Richmond. She has been assigned to Christ Church Parish by Bishop Goff. As far as I know, Peg will be Christ Church Parish’s first vocational deacon. A vocational deacon is one that does not feel called to be a priest.

Easter brings with it new life, new opportunities, forgiveness and hope. May the risen Christ inspire us to a renewed sense of community and mission as we live through these remaining weeks of Easter.

Alleluia! Christ is risen! The Lord is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart

Fellow Parishioners, WELCOME BACK!



“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.”

“Let all thy joys be as the month of May.”

By Francis Quarles from “What Is Life”

There are many poems written about May, and they all sing its praises. My praises go to our church and its many talented members who contribute so much to making it our special place. Our flower guild, for instance, gave us another display of their talents in the amazing and beautiful arrangement at the alter on Easter. Thank you also to our Rector and all of the many committees who have continued to think about new and better ways to serve our church and our community.

Here are just a few examples that were discussed at our recent Vestry meeting. We learned that the Fellowship Committee on May 2 will be offering an abbreviated coffee hour outside for both Sunday services. There will be coffee, lemonade and prepackaged snacks for those who wish to participate.

Last month, the Outreach Committee worked with other community churches to provide gift bags as part of a Teacher Appreciation program. The committee is also coordinating our participation in the next Habitat for Humanity house in the area, as well as several other upcoming community programs.

As many of you know, our Tech Team is moving full speed ahead. Live streaming should be available in a few weeks. Currently services are available on the church Facebook site as well as on YouTube.

And last but not least, I extend my thanks to all the Vestry members who are always eager “to do the work they have been given to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.”

Lydia Dudley
Senior Warden

from the Junior Warden's Workbench



Thanks to all who supported the Scouts B.B.Q Fundraiser.

Narthex-wainscot end of May/first of June. Then plaster and paint.

Sacristy- the rotten door places have been repaired. The doors are up and will be sanded and painted in the next two weeks. Then the construction door will be taken down.

Church windows- will be washed to remove the mold. Then repaired and painted as necessary.

Church walkways- will be grouted/filled to help drain water away from the Church foundation. We have other projects we are looking researching and getting quotes.

As always, you can contact me with suggestions, questions, or to raise your hand to help with some projects that the church "guys" are doing (windows, walks, door painting)

Thanks John Quilter, Junior Warden

| ◀ April | May 2021 | | | | | | June ▶ |
|--|---------------------------|---|-----|---|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
| | | | | | | 1 | |
| 2 Services 8:00 am 10:30 am | 3 ECW Board 9:30 am | 4 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm | 5 | 6 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm National Day of Prayer | 7 | 8 | |
| 9 Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Mother's Day | 10 | 11 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm | 12 | 13 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm | 14 | 15 Armed Services Day | |
| 16 Services 8:00 am 10:30 am | 17 | 18 Finance 9:30 am AA Group Noon-1:00 pm Fellowship 11:15 am Vestry 5:30 pm | 19 | 20 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm | 21 | 22 | |
| 23 Services 8:00 am 10:30 am | 24 | 25 AA Group Noon-1:00 pm | 26 | 27 Worship 9:30 am AA Group Noon-1:00 pm Boy Scouts 6:30 pm | 28 Endowment Board 9:00 am | 29 | |
| 30 Services 8:00 am 10:30 am | 31 Memorial Day | | | | | | |



Catechism Corner



I thought I'd share a picture of my Easter Tree. It isn't easy to photograph, but it is a joyful decoration. We brought this tradition from our years in Germany and I know many may not do an Easter Tree as they almost certainly do a Christmas Tree. My message is just sharing this and rejoicing that we Christians can celebrate 50 days of Easter. The tomb is empty but our lives have forever been transformed. Happy Easter to all!

Grace Parker
Verger

Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education

Fruit of the Spirit

As we approach the Feast of the Pentecost on 23 May we should be mindful of Paul's writing on the Holy Spirit as endowing us needed Christian qualities or "fruit of the Spirit," and lists them in Galatians 5:22: "**love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control**".

He contrasts these with what he calls "the works of the flesh; "things are opposed to the Spirit like hostility, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissent et al.

Luke, in Acts of the Apostles, focused on Pentecost as the day the Holy Spirit fell upon Jesus' disciples, giving them the courage to come out of hiding and proclaim the good news of the Resurrection.

To keep our Spirits "in step with the Spirit" looking forward to Pentecost and honoring the fruit, not the flesh, perhaps write all nine positive characteristics of the Spirit on a scrap and slip it into a pocket, and daily circle your focus...double the circle after the first nine days pass...and you get closer to our celebration of the arrival of the Holy Spirit.

Reminder: **love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control**".

Miles Libbey with appreciation to Fr. Bob & others

Outreach Ministry

April was a very busy month. Pictured below are the three Easter Bunnies from CCP giving out candy and fun gifts to all the children who participated in the drive-by Easter Egg Hunt at Lower Methodist Church April 3rd. It was a fun day had by all.



Pictured left to right - Susie Loustaunau, Judy Quilter, Ann de Peyster

Also in April, Boxes of Goodies were deliveries to our wonderful Teachers in four of the local schools. So thankful for all they do!

Hands Across Middlesex - ADOPT-A-SENIOR: This program has been around for several years but only recently formalized by having a volunteer assigned a permanent adoptee. It provides Food Pantry service to challenged families, primarily seniors, who have difficulty getting to a regular Food Pantry distribution. An assigned volunteer arranges with their senior for a day and time each month for a delivery. The volunteer then comes to the Cryer Center, picks up food and other support items, and delivers them to their adoptee's home. If you, or you and a partner, want to participate in this program, please contact Judy Quilter or Clayton Neal.



From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I am so thankful and excited to be writing this column for our newsletter. My journey over the past five years has been a long one and I feel I have finally arrived "at home". Henry and I are both extremely happy that Bishop Goff decided to assign me to Christ Church Parish to serve as your deacon.

My internship in this lovely parish was a good one. Each of you welcomed us with open arms. Your love, prayers and support have meant so much. Even though my activities were limited due to COVID, it was still a very valuable part of my formation. Thanks to the magnificent mentorship and kind attention I received from Fr. Stuart, this part of my education has been the high point of my two years in Deacons' School. He is a gifted, patient, and caring priest and Christ Church Parish is richly blessed by his presence.

You have many wonderful and active ministries and that is so exciting. The ministry of a deacon is a different one from those which you are currently offering to our parish community and to those beyond our walls. As Bishop Goff stated to me at my ordination, *"My sister, every Christian is called to follow Jesus Christ serving God the Father, through the power of the Holy Spirit. God now calls you to a special ministry of servanthood directly under your bishop. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are to serve all people, particularly the poor, the weak, the sick, and the lonely."* (BCP, p543). I have been called to go out and minister to and serve those in need, to bring those needs back to the church and to call others to help me in those ministries. Yes, call others to help, that means YOU. So, please be listening, ready and willing to travel with me on this journey to which God has called me. I am not in the least worried. You all have already been there in so many ways. I am looking forward to reaching out to and serving others, ALL others, along with you. Peace, Peg

Flower Guild



The Christ Church Parish Flower Guild is an enthusiastic and creative group of women (men are welcome!) who arrange God's gift of flowers to adorn our beautiful altar window each Sunday. It is our hope that the flower arrangements lift spirits, inspire hearts, and remind us of all of our many blessings. Now that our church is open again for worship, we are looking for new members, and we

encourage anyone interested to join our joyful ministry.

Please call or email Harriette Floyd to discuss.

804-869-5495 or Harriette.floyd@va.metrocast.net

Connecting Threads

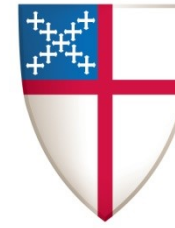


Connecting Threads is a group comprised of many talented individuals (knitters, crocheters, needle-pointers, quilters, etc.) who enjoy time together to work on their creations, share their ideas and assist with sharing their knowledge gleaned over the years in their artistic skills. Also, the fellowship is relaxing and fun. If you are interested in joining this group, or just to visit to see what it's about, please stop by. Also, if you have a friend or

neighbor who may be interested, please invite them to join us! Our first meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 5th at 1pm in the Parish Hall** — (in the classroom next to the chapel), or if we outgrow that space, we can use the Parish Hall.

Please contact Jean Holt if you wish to attend or just have questions — email: jeantholt23043@gmail.com; phone or text - 804-366-7425.

Hope to see many of you soon! Jean Holt



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CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

Finance Committee



Mystics and Poets: Doorways to the Spiritual Path

Emails Between Sharon Colston and Ann de Peyster at the Conclusion of Bishop Porter Taylor's Recent Zoom Class on Mystics and Poets: Doorways to the Spiritual Path.

ANN: It was nice seeing you among the Zoom faces over this past eight weeks. Any interest in continuing the discussion by co-authoring something about what we learned in this course for the Christ Church Parish newsletter?

SHARON: Hmm...not sure about that. I'll give it some thought and try writing down some ideas.

(fast forward a few days)

I appreciated learning about mysticism, especially from a Christian viewpoint.

I was exposed to poetry and spiritual writings I would not have been otherwise.

I was impressed by the knowledge of the Bishop and others in this class.

I particularly was glad to learn about the histories and writings of the saints and other authors. It inspired in me an interest to learn more both in this area and other classes that might be held. It supported my attempts to continue on my religious quest for finding my way in substance and knowledge.

ANN: My overall reactions, too.

Before that course I had no clue what qualified someone to be a "mystic" or whose works we would be reading. I continue to struggle a bit to wrap my head around a simple definition of a mystic, but after this introduction to the many authors and literature we read that spanned the 12th-20th centuries I do have a better understanding. Some had visions, others not. Some were monks, even recluses--like Julian of Norwich—whereas others we read—like Howard Thurman and Simone Weil--were actively involved in social causes.

Just as Bishop Taylor's course description promised "...all offer different maps to approach the holy." I also appreciated that he and others so willingly sharing very personal experiences and reflections on the readings, all encouraging us to examine more closely our own lives and thoughts and spiritual beliefs and practices.

A few of my many scribbled notes: "We will never know God until we know ourselves
continued on next page

thoroughly..." and "How have we opened ourselves up to experience God?" One more revelation for now: Although not a huge fan of poetry before this course, I can say now that if poetry doesn't normally stir your soul you might try reading either "Pied beauty" or "As king fishers catch fire, dragon flies dráw fláme" by Gerard Manley Hopkins.

I am very interested to know if you came away with any favorites.

SHARON: St. Teresa of Avila and Howard Thurman were my favorites. I am still enjoying the poetry in Roger Housden's collection *For Lovers of God Everywhere: Poems of the Christian Mystics*. I read one most days and ponder on the message. I remember that my favorite poem is about a flower a young girl found, but I don't remember the title. "Holy Spirit" by Hildegard of Bingen is another current favorite.

COVID 19 gave us a lovely opportunity to widen our spiritual boundaries and learn from a gifted teacher, Bishop Porter Taylor. The class is behind us but we go forward with gained appreciation and knowledge of spiritual mysticism.

ANN: I hope someday we'll have a chance to continue this conversation in person. I will also propose that we offer a couple of our favorite short poetry selections for future newsletters.

Bishop G. Porter Taylor served as the sixth bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Western North Carolina from Sept. 18, 2004 - October 1, 2016. He grew up in Asheville North Carolina, earning his B.A. in English from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, his M.A. in English from the University of South Carolina, and his Ph.D. in theology and literature from Emory University. He received his M.Div. from The School of Theology at Sewanee and served at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Franklin Tennessee.

For the past three years he has taught at Wake Forest University Divinity School as a Visiting Professor for Episcopal Studies. In July 2020 he will become an Assisting Bishop in the Diocese of Virginia. Before his call to the Holy and Sacred Order of Bishops, he served seven years as rector of St. Gregory the Great Episcopal Church in Athens, Georgia.

He is the author of To Dream as God Dreams: Sermons of Hope, Conversion, and Community, and From Anger to Zion: An Alphabet of Faith.

Special May Celebrations Anniversaries



- 14 Sharon Colston and Miles Libbey
- 15 Mike and Harriette Floyd
- 19 James "Jim" and Jean Hill
- 22 Jeannette and Charles Adkins
- 25 "Gibbie" and Mavis R. Mangum
- 26 Howard and Joyce Reisinger, Jr.
- 27 The Rev. Dr. Robert and Marcia Prichard
- 28 James and Ann T. Padgett
- 30 Jack and Helen Tarran

Birthdays

- 1 Judith W. "Judy" Mansfield
- 12 Suzette "Suzi" Hutchens
- 14 Helen Tarran
Mary Jo Atterholt
The Rev. Dr. Robert Prichard
- 22 The Rev. Elisa Wheeler
- 25 The Rev. Robert Phipps
- 28 Cean Cawthorn
- 31 Barbara Gill



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> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| June 2021 | Monday May 24, 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 | Monday October 25, 2021 |
| December 2021 | Friday November 26, 2021 |

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