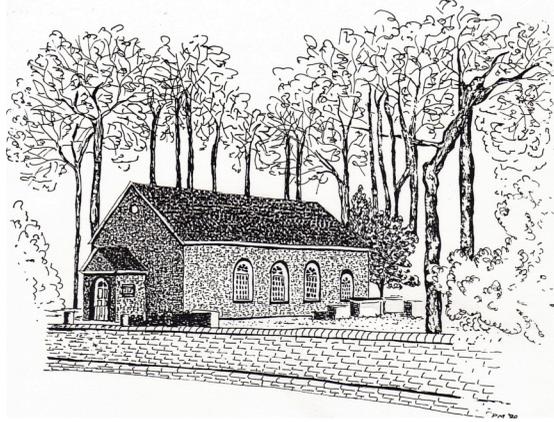


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“A joy-filled church  
with a heart and place for all.”

May 2017



Location:

Rt. 33 & 638  
Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Tel:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

[cparish@verizon.net](mailto:cparish@verizon.net)

Web:

[christchurchmiddlesex.com](http://christchurchmiddlesex.com)

Sunday Services:

8 am

A quiet traditional Service of Holy Communion

&

10:30 AM

A Family Service of Holy Communion  
with Music and Choir

The Rev. Stuart Wood  
Priest in Charge

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Alleluia, Christ has risen! The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!

We have just begun the Easter season and the celebration of our Lord's victory over the grave

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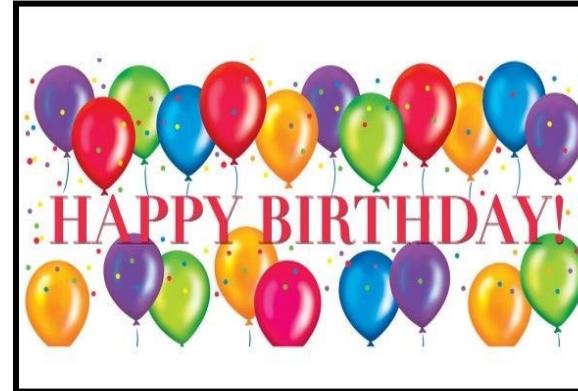
And they devoted themselves to the apostle's teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

and again I say,  
Alleluia!

Father Stuart's Message for May 2017 —

Alleluia, Christ is risen! The Lord is risen, indeed, alleluia! We have just begun the Easter season and the celebration of our lord's victory over the grave. As usual, our Easter celebration had a much higher attendance than other Sundays. This year it was actually 153 attendees when an average Sunday is approximately 90 attendees. The fuller participation of our members and guests added greatly to the joy of the day. But it has left me wondering why we are not this way all the time? Why do we make an extra effort on just one Sunday a year when in fact every Sunday is a celebration of our Lord's resurrection?

Think about it from another perspective: Why do we go to our children and grandchildren's softball, basketball, baseball, football or soccer games? We go to support them and their team, to cheer them on, to celebrate with them when they win and to encourage them when they lose. We go because we know how important it is to simply be there so that they can see us and know that we care.



*Judith Mansfield May 1*

*Margaret Bajorunas May 5*

*Don Geeson May 10*

*Suzi Hutchens May 12*

*Mary Jo Atterholt May 14*

*Rev Bob Pritchard May 14*

*Helen Tarran May 17*

*Allen Brockman May 22*

*Dottie Cronk May 24*

*Rev Bob Phipps May 25*

*Cean Cawthorn May 28*

*Nathan & Stephanie Snead 5/2*

*MIKE & Harriet Floyd 5/15*

*Jim & Jean Hill 5/19*

*Dave & Janet Lundin 5/16*

*Gabby & Mavis Mangum 5/25*

*Will & Suzi Hutchens 5/2*

*Howard & Joyce Reisinger 5/26*

*Bob & Marcia Pritchard 5/27*

*Jack & Helen Tarran 5/30*

*Happy Anniversary*



vessels as well as ours; thus, the blessing of the fleet.

We are excited about this event and encourage CCP boat owners to scurry home after church, get changed and bring your boat to Broad Creek. If you don't own a boat ask for a ride from one who does. Or, drive to Norview to watch and support this event.

Printed handouts will be available soon. Pass them out to your boat owning friends and families! If you have questions, contact any Worship Committee member or call Robin Wells (804-832-3849) or email [rockfish.robin@gmail.com](mailto:rockfish.robin@gmail.com)).

## BROTHERHOOD

Upcoming  
Events

### *Mother's Day Breakfast*

The Men of the Brotherhood  
warmly invite ALL Ladies  
to our Annual Mothers Day Breakfast  
on  
Sunday, May 14, at 8:45 am.



We hope that you can come and enjoy the fellowship  
while we honor you on your special day.  
John Quilter, Brotherhood President

Our Sunday worship and time together includes those same qualities. We should go to church not simply for ourselves, but for each other. We should go to support the worship and work of our congregation and to celebrate God's love for us and the redemption that we have received through Jesus Christ our Lord. We should also go to encourage one another in good times and bad times and to pray for one another and to break bread with each other. Our presence on a regular basis says that we care.

"And they devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." Act. 2:42.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Stuart



## Squirrel Problems

Greetings from JUMPER: I'm Jumper the squirrel and my friend Thumper asked me to share my thoughts about why squirrels are such a problem to humans. I know we are not welcome in churches and synagogues. We love those places because they are mostly deserted during the week. We especially enjoy nesting, but when we come to visit, humans think they have a squirrel problem and need to be rid of us.

We came to the Presbyterian Church and they called a meeting to decide what to do about us. After much prayer and consideration, they concluded that we were predestined to be there and they should not interfere with God's divine will.

At the Baptist Church we liked the baptistery. The deacons met and decided to put a water slide on the baptistery and let us drown ourselves. We really liked the slide and we instinctively knew how to swim. Word got around and more squirrels showed up the following week.

The Methodist Church decided they were not in a position to harm us. They said we were "God's creatures." So they humanely trapped us and set us free near the Baptist Church. Two weeks later we were all back when the Baptists took down the water slide.

The Episcopal Church came up with a creative strategy to get rid of us. They baptized all the squirrels and consecrated us as church members. That worked rather well because now they only see us on Christmas and Easter.

## Inaugural Christ Church Parish Blessing of the Fleet

The Worship Committee proudly announces our first and hopefully annual, Blessing of the Fleet. This event will be held at Norview Marina on Broad Creek on May 28th, with June 4th as a rain date. All boats in our area are invited and encouraged to join us. Queue up at the Broad Creek #1 (green) lighted creek entrance marker and be ready to head in at 2:30 p.m. Sail boats, power boats, work boats, any and all boats, are encouraged to join in this blessing to help get the boating season started in the right way. The flotilla procession will be led by a 29' U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat. They will throw a wreath to commemorate all those who have lost their lives at sea. This will be a "follow the leader" process. The course will take the boats, at a no wake speed, around the basin and past the Norview Marina gas dock where we will have a tent set up for Fr. Stuart and the other pastors who will join us for this Ecumenical and outreach event. Each boat will slow to neutral at the dock for their blessing. When completed they will be on their merry way.

The Worship Committee is looking at this as an extension of Rogation Sunday, when the church traditionally offers prayer for God's blessing on the fruits of the earth (and the sea) and the labor of those who process our food. By extension, it includes watermen, commercial fishermen and their vessels as well as recreational

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

**DONATE SHOES TO MIDDLESEX PETS FOR LIFE.** Pet Friends for Life is conducting a fundraiser to help 3rd world countries and the Middlesex County Animal Shelter. A box for collection of new or gently worn shoes is located just outside the church office. Shoes will be collected through May 31st.

**THE CRYER CENTER NEEDS HELP.** The Cryer Center has indicated an urgent need for the following items:

- DIAPERS, ALL SIZES
- DEODORANT
- LAUNDRY SOAP
- SANITARY PRODUCTS

The ECW has placed boxes in the parish hall next to the coat racks to receive these donated items. We are asking for your help throughout the month of May.

**ECW SCHOLARSHIPS.** The Christ Church ECW wish to remind active parish members that scholarship applications are now being accepted for financial assistance for the 2017-2018 school year.

The scholarship is designated for education beyond high school with preference given to graduating seniors who have regularly attended Christ Church Parish over the last year. **APPLICATION DEADLINE IS JULY 10, 2017. APPLICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED FROM ANN PADGETT** who can be reached at 804-776-6078.

Not much was heard from the Jewish synagogue because they took the first squirrel that came to visit and circumcised him. Word got around and they haven't seen a squirrel since that happened.

Obviously we are unwelcome visitors in religious buildings. That's my story and I'm sticking to it. However, my human friend tells me that visitors are most always welcomed by churches and synagogues alike. My friend also tells me that at his church they mug their visitors. I was shocked until he explained that all visitors received a red coffee mug at the end of worship services. I have no idea what a coffee mug is, but it must be a fitting way to say "welcome and come again." He assures me that every effort is made to welcome human visitors and church members cordially and greet one another most of the time. Friendships develop and groups join one another at the coffee hour to catch up and renew their acquaintances. This is a good thing for humans to do, but my friend also mentioned that sometimes visitors who don't know many people get unintentionally ignored. They were greeted warmly, but then were ignored at the coffee hour. That happens to squirrels as well, but we are miserable failures in welcoming one another, especially when there is competition for food and fights break out among us.

My human friend assures me that most humans reach out to one another and strangers who visit the church. I asked my friend why squirrels were not welcomed. I got a strange look and there was no response. I can only imagine that squirrels must be a problem to humans. At least human visitors are warmly embraced and some of them find a church home. Some time I wish I were human, but I am the creature God made me to be, like it or not.

JUMPER

## Church Calendar for May, 2017

### May, 2017

3	9:30 a.m.	Mid-week Eucharist in the Chapel
5	11:00 a.m.	ECW Fashion Show, Parish Hall
7	8 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist in the church
8	6:00 p.m.	Vestry Meeting, Parish Hall
10	9:30 a.m.	Mid-week Eucharist in the Chapel
14	8 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist in the church
14	9:00 a.m.	Brotherhood Breakfast honoring Mothers Day. All ladies invited
17	9:30 a.m.	Mid-week Eucharist in the Chapel
21	8 & 10:30	Holy Eucharist in the church
24	9:30 a.m.	Mid-week Eucharist in the Chapel
25	7:00 p.m.	Movie Night - Popcorn & a movie
28	8 & 10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist in the church
31	9:30 a.m.	Mid-week Eucharist in the Chapel

AN ANNOUNCEMENT I didn't have room for on the Announcement Page — Connecting Threads - is a group who meet on the 1st Wednesday of every month who love working with fibers; be it knit, crochet, needlepoint and the like. We gather at 1:00 p.m. in the library or vestry room to connect and stitch. Bring a friend and enjoy fellowship and stitching. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, Mat 3rd. Any questions? Ask Jean Holt.



## *ECW Spring Happening*

### ECW Spring Fashion Show and Luncheon

#### A REMINDER —

Come join the Christ Church ladies as they host a spring fashion show luncheon on May 5th at 11:00 a.m.. You'll see the latest fashion trends from area stores while enjoying delicious luncheon fare. After lunch, games abound. Play bridge, Maj jonn, canasta, or the game of your choice. The afternoon is always a great outing and sells out quickly.

Join us for the fashion show and lunch and bring friends to stay and play. Don't wait, contact Grace Parker at [parkergrace2010@verizon.net](mailto:parkergrace2010@verizon.net) or 758-3640 to reserve your place. \$25.00 per person.