

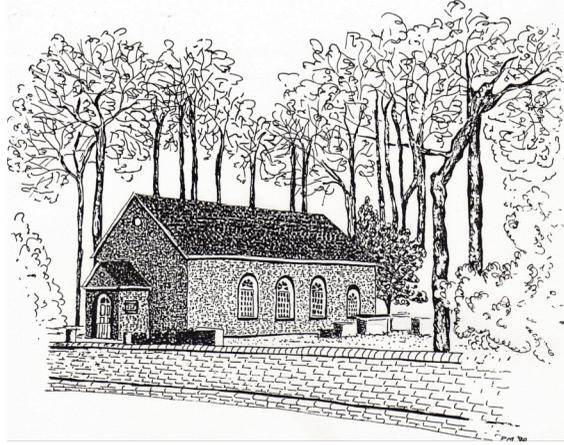
# Christ Church Parish

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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
URBANNA, VA  
PERMIT No. 6

September  
2018

A joy-filled church



**Location:**

Rt. 33 & 638

Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

**Mailing:**

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

**Telephone:**

804-758-2006

**E-Mail:**

ccparish@verizon.net

**Website:**

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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## From Darkness Into Light

The last week of July found me staying at the Roslyn Conference Center in Richmond and heading over to St. Stephen's for their daily Morning Prayer with communion service at 8:10 a.m. each morning. From there it was upstairs in the Christian Education building for the icon painting (writing) class that I take each year. This was my eighth year and it is something that I really look forward to because I enjoy working with the teacher and reconnecting with friends that come back each year for the class.

Each year I am amazed at how dark the first layer of paints are as all the different sections of the icon board are covered. It's almost a retelling of the creation story. "And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters." (Genesis 1:2) Upon this darkness the first highlights are painted. Lighter colors that start bringing shape and meaning to the darkness below. But this brightness is then obscured by the application of another dark coat of paint, though a bit more translucent than the first, in order to allow the light to shine through. Then comes a brighter though

smaller highlight that gives further definition to the different elements of the icon. This process of alternating dark, light, dark, light continues several more times; always ending with light, until the image is fully revealed and God's unending light shines through revealing His love and continued presence in our lives. The final details are "life-giving lines" which are hardly noticeable but can, in fact, make a huge difference in the final result.

For me, the icon is a symbol of our lives in which we often shift back and forth from darkness to light. Depression, stress, grief, conflict, anxiety and other emotions bring the darkness. Love, joy, laughter, a bright sunny day, a friendly smile, and a kind compliment bring with them the light. Romans 13:12 encourages us with these words, "the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light."

Let us remember that we are always surrounded by both darkness and light, but our Lord came to show us the light that gives hope and life to those who believe. He gave of himself so that his light may shine in us and through us and that is the very light that helps us to walk through the valley of the shadow of death and fear no evil for his rod and staff are there to comfort us.

The prologue to the Gospel according to St. John says it best for me: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

So in the same way, may you let your light shine before others, so that they may be built up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear.

Faithfully,

*Fr. Stuart*

## CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL) CALENDAR

<b>Sun - Sep 2</b> 8 - 8:30am 10:30 - 11:45am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Mon - Sep 3</b> 8 - 9pm	AA
<b>Mon - Sep 4</b> 9:30am Mtg 12 - 1pm	Hospitality & Outreach AA
<b>Wed - Sep 5</b> 9:30 - 10am	Mid-Week Eucharist
<b>Thurs - Sep 6</b> 6:45 - 8pm	BSA Meeting
<b>Fri - Sep 7</b> 6:00pm until	CHICKEN DINNER
<b>Sun - Sep 9</b> 8 - 8:30am 10:30 - 11:45am 8:30 & 12:00	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II Time & Talent
<b>Mon - Sep 10</b> 8 - 9pm	AA
<b>Tue - Sep 11</b> 9am 12 - 1pm 4:00pm 6 - 8pm	Finance Committee Mtg. AA Endowment Brd. Mtg Vestry Meeting
<b>Wed - Sep 12</b> 9:30 - 10am	Mid-Week Eucharist
<b>Thu - Sep 13</b> 6:45 - 8pm	BSA Meeting
<b>Sun - Sep 16</b> 8 - 8:30am 9 - 10am 11am - 12pm 12:00pm vice	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Brotherhood Breakfast OCUG Lunch after OCUG service

## SEPTEMBER EVENTS AND MEETINGS

<b>Mon - Sep 17</b> 8 - 9pm	AA
<b>Tue - Sep 18</b> 12 - 1pm	AA
4 - 5pm	Endowment Board - Mtg
<b>Wed - Sep 19</b> 9:30 - 10am	Mid-Week Eucharist
<b>Thurs - Sep 20</b> 9:30 - 11am	Outreach Mtg
6:45 - 8pm	BSA Meeting
<b>Sun - Sep 23</b> 8 - 8:30am 10:30 - 11:45am	Holy Eucharist, Rite I Holy Eucharist, Rite II
<b>Mon - Sep 24</b> 8 - 9pm	AA
<b>Tue - Sep 25</b> 12 - 1pm	AA
<b>Wed - Sep 26</b> 9:30 - 10am	Mid-Week Eucharist
<b>Thu - Sep 27</b> 6:45 - 8pm	BSA Meeting
<b>Sun - Sep 30</b> 9 - 10am 10am	Stewardship Breakfast Joint Holy Eucharist Rite II

*Editor note: I will continue to try to produce and print a "real" calendar but it is a challenge.*

*Coming next month will be a full schedule for Servers, Usher, Alter & Flower Guild and coffee hour.*

*Please submit all articles and stories to [ccpnews2017@gmail.com](mailto:ccpnews2017@gmail.com). Please don't send to my personal email address.*

*All comments, criticisms, additions subtraction ideas are gratefully welcomed!*



## THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

August 3, 2018

Dear Diocesan Family,

After many months of intense prayer and reflection, and in close consultation with the Presiding Bishop and our Standing Committee, I am formally announcing that I have decided to resign my office and ministry as Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia effective November 3, 2018, prior to the adjournment of our annual convention. I will then serve the diocese in a consulting capacity to facilitate the transition to new leadership. I will fully retire effective July 1, 2019, having served over twelve years as a bishop in this diocese.

First of all, I want to say in all honesty that being the XIII Bishop of Virginia has been the greatest honor and privilege of my life. I love this diocese with all my heart. I have also had extraordinary opportunities in places across the globe. I have learned much about the “big things” as well as about how deeply meaningful the so-called small things can be. After all these years of ministry serving as your bishop, there is something surreal about letting go. I have no idea what will come next, except that I shall take an extended period of rest, which will include times for spiritual retreat and discernment. I know that I shall miss my week-to-week ministry, especially spending time with our clergy and interacting with parishioners, but, actually, I am quite excited to have things so open-ended! Ellen and I shall remain in Richmond, where we very happily bought a home two years ago. We look forward to having more time to spend with friends as well as taking opportunities to travel. I also want to make up for a lot of lost time with my family in Alabama and Georgia.

I am proud of the work and accomplishments that we have achieved together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Several of these accomplishments include:

- the successful resolution of the unprecedented lawsuit returning schismatically-claimed property for the mission of the Episcopal Church;
- the historic success of the capital campaign for our camps program at Shrine Mont;
- embracing and fully including LGBT Christians in our ordination process and in the rite of Christian marriage; our recovery of the Church’s voice for faith and advocacy in the “public square,”

*(Continued from page 4)*

- raised in our internationally-noted presence at the Charlottesville rally opposing the White supremacy demonstrations, as we had already opened a critical dialogue on the sin and experience of racism;
- the newly re-drawn diocesan Regions that better reflect—and thus will better serve—the demographics and growth of today’s Commonwealth of Virginia;
- and (lastly but surely not least) our diocese is growing again and our unity, confidence, and morale are high.

There is so much more that could be noted. I certainly do not claim or imply that “I” did all this, but *we* did, and I am rightly proud of this era I have shared with you in the life of the Diocese of Virginia.

My reasons for reaching this decision that a change of leadership is now good and wise begin with the fact that I feel that I have given my all. Quite simply, “the time” has come. I truly believe that I have done all that I can to accomplish what I feel I was called here to do. And so, I am convinced that it is now time for new vision and new energy for the Church in our diocese.

Equally important as a factor in my decision is that my wife Ellen and I are looking toward sharing an active and full life in retirement years. As I reach the age of sixty (after serving the Church for over thirty years) and being in strong health, I have confidently chosen to claim this season of life for the fuller nurture of our personal life. Someone else can assume my responsibilities as Bishop of Virginia, but no one else can love Ellen as I do.

As I write this letter I realize with certainty that my decision is for the best. While I am aware that there is some speculation about my retirement, please know that this letter conveys what is, in fact, my own personal truth about my decision to resign. You should also know that it is in consultation with my closest friends, colleagues, and advisors that Ellen and I agree that it is time for me to move on, in God’s grace for us and for the Diocese of Virginia. Be assured that the Presiding Bishop’s office will be in communication with our diocesan leadership regarding the next steps and the particulars for episcopal leadership in Virginia going forward.

I look upon my ministry as bishop among you in terms of having shared milestone moments of God moving decisively in the lives of Virginia Episcopalians. We have grown together as disciples of Jesus Christ. That is what the Church is all about. In the end, I am profoundly gratified by what I believe to have been a consequential episcopate.

Faithfully yours,

The Rt. Rev. Shannon S. Johnston  
XIII Bishop of Virginia

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!!

Jeff & Susie Loustaunau	9/2
Tom & Cathy Clarke	9/4
Jim & Jewel Ray	9/10
John & Sheila Gammel	9/15
Mike & Karen Gorin	9/15
Jeff & Pam McClelland	9/28



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Jacqueline Brown	9/4	Sallie Wells	9/22
Marion Goodloe	9/4	Janet Lundin	9/24
Barbara Shaw	9/5	Jeff McClelland	9/25
Liz Perkins	9/6	Bill Cawthorn	9/25
Micki Clay	9/7	Mary Buxton	9/26
Betty Evans	9/14	Sheila Gammel	9/29
Theresa Liverman	9/17	Cathy Spence	9/30
Bob Montague	9/18		





### JACOB'S LADDER by Robin Wells

I don't know about you, but I was enthralled and so glad to have the Jacob's Ladder kids and their Counselors with us for several Sundays this summer. Wouldn't it be great if they were a regular part of our congregation all the time? Alas, but they are from all over the State making that not even remotely possible so we will just have to enjoy their company when they are here with us. Sal & I had Coffee hour duty on their 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday they were with us. We got a call from Sheila Gammel that morning who had gotten a call from Micki Clay that they would be joining us again. Bless Sheila, she went to the store and bought some extra

goodies as did Sal & I so we had enough to feed all – just barely. Hopefully, we can be better prepared next year and have some advance notice. The Hospitality & Outreach Committee has a group (Sal & Bev Hart) who are now responsible for “special events & receptions” that are out of the normal like Dolly's birthday celebration. I am sure that they would love to plan the Coffee Hour when they are with us again.

For me, Jacob's Ladder was strictly a line item on the Brotherhood financial statement. If you are in the same boat as I was, below is a copy of an article from the Sentinel for which I received permission to reprint in the Newsletter. If you didn't see it or read it, it will give you a much better idea of what the organization is all about and the good works they do. And speaking of the Brotherhood, perhaps Jeff can get someone from the organization to give us a presentation which would tell us more about what and how they do what they do as well as what they might need. Sounds like something Outreach might be interested in researching for next year.

*The following article is reprinted with permission from the Southside Sentinel.*

“Jacob's Ladder campers to perform ‘The Little Mermaid’

Twenty-seven years ago Jacob's Ladder held its first camp at Christchurch School. Jacob's Ladder celebrates as the camp has returned to the sea where it all started with a presentation of the musical “The Little Mermaid.” All are invited to be guests at the musical on Saturday, July 28, with performances at 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Christchurch School in the Marston Performing Arts Center.

For Climbers, as the students are called, storytelling, speaking to defend a position in a debate, or the reading of your poem or vignette is an everyday

*(Continued from page 8)*

occurrence at camp. These skills are further enhanced as each Climber is required to participate in a drama class. Here some find they have a gift for drama and lend their talents to the yearly musical.



Nicole Pearson, director of academic studies and performing arts, sharpens the Climbers' skills in an intense two weeks of practice, costume design, set design and making, sound and lighting coordination. “I am so excited to give 33 Climbers the enrichment opportunity of performing,” said Pearson. “It is my hope that collaborat-

ing as a team and stepping outside of their comfort zone in this capacity will serve as a reminder of their capabilities in the other eleven months of the year.”

As Susan Albaugh begins her first year as executive director, she recognizes the power of performing in raising self-awareness and self-confidence for the Climbers. “They take risks in a supportive environment to participate in theatrical elements, often surprising themselves with new found talent and expression. Many Climbers then take these skills to their schools and participate in activities they may not have tried previously to this experience.”

Jacob's Ladder is a 501(c)(3) with a mission to aid and encourage at-risk, intellectually gifted middle school children to reach their full potential. Its vision is the children become leaders equipped to help others in similar economic and social situations. Through a proactive summer residential camp, enrichment is provided to foster their intellectual, social, emotional and physical development.

For more information, visit <http://www.jladder.org>, find us on Facebook and Instagram, or call 758-0712.”

# CCP CORRESPONDENTS

Each of our church committee and organization chairpersons has been asked to submit an article for publication in each of the upcoming newsletters. This is an attempt to keep Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex congregants informed and up to date. It will be just a bit of what has happened and what's going to happen.



## **WORSHIP COMMITTEE—Grace Parker, Chair**

Generally, we caught you up on the issues the Worship Committee is working on last month. We do hope you're loving the new format for the bulletin. Be watching for the special services of the Blessing of the Animals and the Celtic Service on October 7<sup>th</sup>; you won't want to miss either one! All Saints service will be at noon on November 1<sup>st</sup>, and a Thanksgiving service at 10 AM on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; these are also special services, which if you haven't thought about attending, you'll want to re-think that; they are very important and wonderful services. If you have ideas you want to come before the Worship Committee, let Grace Parker know and we'll get it on the agenda.

## **ECW—Judy Quilter, President**

### **Trash and Treasure Sale**

**WOW** - What an effort from our Ladies, and Men! We had another successful Trash & Treasure Sale here at CCP to the tune of \$2,500 plus! This effort started by emptying Don Stebbins' home. Packing and bringing



boxes of Don's contributions to the church. Then on to your contributions. Lots of packing, unpacking, sorting, pricing, and finally selling! We had so much and it kept coming.

Thanks to the leadership of Grace Parker who corralled us, energized us and kept us on the task at hand. And to all of You who went above and beyond to make this event a success! We could not have done it without YOU!!!

(ECW Continued from page 10)

A visit to the Riverside Convalescent Center in Saluda took place on Thursday, August 9. A lunch was provided to the "Lady Bugs" which included Quiche, Salad, a Brownie and Ice Cream. Thanks to Pam McClelland, Page Melton, and Cathy Spence for their help with this delicious meal. It was certainly appreciated by the ladies.



Next on the ECW calendar is the Bake Sale at Wings, Wheels & Keels. Thank you to Susie Loustaunau for taking charge of this project. The date of this event is Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 4 pm. Get out those cookbooks and start baking. Remember individual bags of cookies and snacks are good sellers for those who just want a "little something" while they are walking around all the many exhibits and various vendors.

## **HOSPITALITY & OUTREACH—Robin Wells—Chair**



### **OUTREACH—Jean Holt & Bev Hart, Co-Chair CCP Polo Shirts**

These shirts are for sale to any interested members as a fundraiser for the Outreach Committee. The cost is \$20. We will be selling both men's and women's shirts in sizes up to XXXL. The Outreach Committee decided on red for color with white writing. Bev Hart will order and pick up the shirts for anyone interested. There is no deadline. She will place orders as they come in. Please contact Bev Hart with any questions or to order your Christ Church shirt. Email: [bevejhart@aol.com](mailto:bevejhart@aol.com), Home: (804) 758-8026, Mobile: (804) 306-4560

*Editors note: Those folks who had there new red shirts on at Trash & Treasure looked really spiffy! Remember, we have events like Wings, Wheels & Keels, One Community Under God and The Urbanna Oyster Festival where we will be seen by the public.*

### **Christchurch School Outreach**



As good neighbors, we are supporting the Christchurch School boys JV soccer team this fall. Please plan on coming to some of their games to help cheer them on! The schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 4:30

Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00

Wednesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at 4:30



**Finance Committee—Jack Hellems, Chair**  
**Reducing Taxes on your Required Minimum Distribution**

Those of us seventy-one & a half or older and have a traditional IRA are required to withdraw funds annually from the IRA. This withdrawal is called a “Required Minimum Distribution” and is taxable in the year it is withdrawn. For those fortunate enough to have a sizable balance, this can result in a large tax obligation. The amount of the required minimum distribution is based on your IRA balance and your life expectancy as determined by the IRS.

IRS regulations allow for a Qualified Charitable Distribution as an attractive means for qualifying donors/contributors to support non-profit organizations such as Christ Church Parish and reducing the tax obligation on the RMD by the amount of the charitable gift. This distribution is generally made directly by the trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions such as Christ Church Parish. Distributions can be applied to your annual pledge or the Endowment Fund per your instructions. This is an easy means for you to support current or future financial needs of our church and reducing taxes on your required distribution.

Christ Church Parish is not in the business of giving tax advice. This information should not take the place of qualified legal advice. Should you have questions please contact an Endowment Board Member

**Christ Church Episcopal Brotherhood**

**Jeff Loustanau, President**



As we prepare to begin this year's round of activities that include our usual breakfasts, the Oyster Festival, the Pancake Supper, and our Church Picnic, I have been reflecting on what we have been doing since I joined the Church three years ago. To me, I have found all the events to be both enjoyable and worthwhile and hope that you all feel the same way. The results and participation at our major events have been terrific and very encouraging.

*(Brotherhood continued from page 12)*

However, I will also note that this past year, our attendance at breakfast has averaged only 25 members when the breakfast just includes the Brotherhood. And it seems to me that there are more "brothers" than that.

So I am reaching out to all of us for ideas and suggestions on ways to grow our numbers at breakfast. Are there things we can do to spark an interest that brings more of us out for breakfast each month? Topics to discuss? Venues and menus to adjust? Please let me know your ideas. Any and all will be appreciated, and hopefully, at least some will bear fruit by increasing our member participation at breakfast!

See you all there on Sunday, September 16th, at 0900 for our opening breakfast!!!

**Ushers—Thira Harris, Head Usher**



I, as your previous Head Usher for the last 5 years, am very pleased to officially announce that Thira Harris (known as T. D. Harris if you follow her in the Sentinel) has accepted this position. Those of you who know Thira will agree that she is a straight shooter who will tell you like it is and we know she will do a great job! Welcome aboard, Thira! The Ushers ranks have some holes in it for next year so I know Thira will be calling shortly to fill the ranks. Please accept her request to join. It is an easy job which doesn't take up any additional time. Well, sure, you're going to be in Church anyway, right?



The Fourth Annual Christ Church Parish Usher Pool Party and Picnic was held Sunday afternoon August 5<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm and was hosted by Robin & Sallie Wells. As always, the event was held at their daughter's and son-in-law's place across Hunton Creek where the amenities are numerous including pool, pergola with an outside kitchen, covered porch area with outdoor TV and plenty of music. It was quite warm but not so warm that it kept Jack Tarran, John Hilliard, John Quilter and

(Ushers continued from page 13)



Robin Wells from playing a “double over-time” corn hole match! Their pool was quite inviting for a couple of folks and helped with the cool-down process. Speaking of TV’s, we had a couple of diehard NASCAR fans who enjoyed the cool inside and watched the race on the flat screen. As always seems to be the case with CCP events, there was plenty of food and spirits for all, including hot dogs and hamburgers.



## UTO

As you may know, UTO (United Thank Offering) (Do you remember when they were called “Mite Boxes”?) is a thank offering to support innovative mission and ministry throughout the Episcopal Church.



In 2017, \$47,000 was collected in the Diocese by Nov 1<sup>st</sup>. \$32,000 was granted to historic St. Peters Episcopal Church in Richmond to improve accessibility from worship

space to the Parish Hall. In addition, many youth grants were supported.

All grants are reviewed by the committee and then recommended to Bishop Shannon for his review and approval.

Karen Gorin will be collecting boxes and envelopes by early December.

This year, there is a new prayer on the boxes created by the General Convention that Karen would like to share with us:

“Almighty God, I give you praise for blessing me in many ways. Create in me a grateful heart and with this gift a blessing start.”

(Outreach continued from page 11)



All games are on the upper field, which you can see from the road. We’d like to supply Gatorade and orange slices for halftime so please let Jean Holt or Susie Loustaunau know if you can bring either to the game. And, don’t forget to wear your new red shirt so they will know we are there!

## Unity World Festival

Christ Church Parish participated in the Unity World Festival this past Saturday in Urbanna. They gave us a great spot which was right at the entrance which meant that all who came had to see that we were there. We gave out 72 bottles of ice cold water to thirsty festival goers and workers. Gospel music, praise dancers, and a karate demonstration were part of the celebration. Despite the heat, those who attended seemed to have enjoyed themselves.



## “One Community Under God” Service

There will be a couple reminders of this major ecumenical event in our community as it gets closer. If you haven’t put September 16th at 11:00 AM in Urbanna at the Firehouse location on your calendar, you should do so now. Those who have gone in the past couple of years have urged us to get involved because it is such a joyous and uplifting event, Father Stuart and our choir will be participants. After the service, all will be fed a meal including fried chicken and BBQ prepared by Christ Church Parish. There will be a Rite I Eucharist with music at 8:00 Am & the first Brotherhood breakfast if you wish to participate in these before heading off to Urbanna for the OCUg service.



## Hospitality—Robin Wells, Chair

Your Hospitality Committee is and has been hard at work on the Shenandoah Valley Dave Shirkey Chicken dinner which will include hush puppies, corn on the cob, salad, desert, water and adult beverage. The recipe is pretty simple & includes canola oil, apple cider vinegar, salt, pepper, poultry seasoning, garlic powder and lemon juice. This was a well-guarded secret in the Valley for many years until Dave gave the story and the recipe to the local newspaper. At this writing, we are sold out so expect to have a great evening.