

Christ Church Parish

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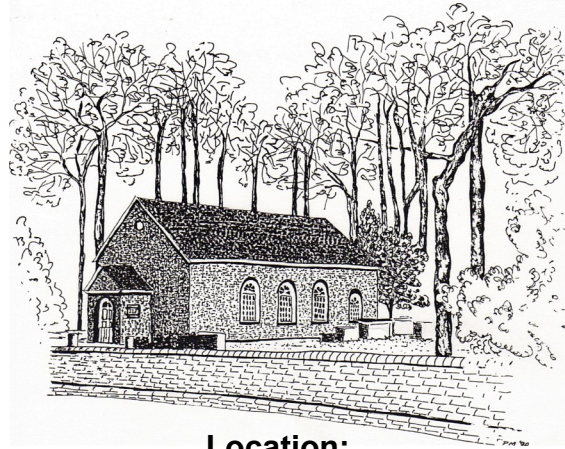
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April
2024

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<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

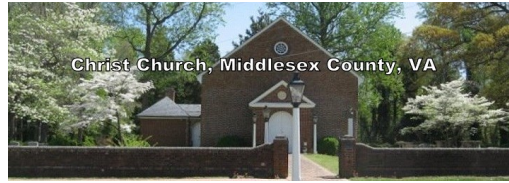
Website:

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 April 2024

Message From Our Rector



Alleluia! Christ Is Risen! Alleluia!

We are an Easter people. We know that on the third day the tomb was empty and that Jesus was raised from the dead. But the events of Thursday night and Friday had changed the lives of Jesus' disciples and followers. They were frightened, confused and emotions were all over the place. They thought that Jesus was the Messiah, but if that were true, then why was he lying dead in a tomb? They thought that they would have a key role in ushering in the Kingdom of God that Jesus was proclaiming. Those hopes were crucified with Christ. Now what?

Easter morning showed them what the "now what" was going to be. With the resurrection of Jesus their lives were forever changed. They finally understood what Jesus had been trying to tell them all along. They were no longer disciples following Jesus around. They were now Apostles being sent out to proclaim the Good News of God's Kingdom.

It's amazing what a difference just one day can make in the lives of each and every one of us. One day we feel lost and the next day we know where we're going, or, we think we know what comes next and the next day we've crash into a brick wall.

The disciples were at the crossroads of their lives and we here at Christ Church Parish are also at a crossroads. By the time you read this, Easter Sunday will be behind us and we'll know how it went. But as I write this, I simply don't know how I will emotionally handle this celebration knowing that it is my last Easter with you all and knowing that in three short months I'll be retiring. But Easter points us to new beginnings, new possibilities, new adventures. Some will go smoothly and at other times the road may be rocky.

Continued on the next page

Just as I will have new opportunities to grow and experience life, Christ Church Parish will also have the opportunity to grow in new ways. With any change of clergy comes new ideas for ministry. New ways to experience worship, learning, and outreach to the community around you. The diversity of parishioners in this parish, having moved here from different places and different denominations gives you a strength that makes it easy for clergy to work with you. There isn't a "We don't do it that way" mentality in this place. You embrace and incorporate new comers well. You don't simply brush aside new ideas but listen and act on them. That is one of the gifts that you have to offer your new clergy, whoever that may be.

For myself, I do know this, Easter created a bond and mission that brought the followers of Christ together in a very special way. They had experienced a life changing event which touched their lives in a way that no other experience could ever do and it empowered them to go forth into all the world and preach the Gospel. For me personally, as we celebrate the risen Lord in our lives, I know that I have experienced a love and bond with you, the people of Christ Church Parish, that I will cherish all the days of my life. When I came here, I couldn't wait to reach 30 years of service so that I could retire. Now, as I approach my 36th year of parish ministry, I know that it was only through God's grace and the pleasure of serving alongside you all that made it possible. Thanks be to God.

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart



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 is celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.



Spring has sprung and you can see Mother Nature at her best throughout Middlesex County. The same can be said for the Christ Church Parish, there is activity everywhere and I can sure prove it by the time I spend at Church and the results that I see on our campus are truly heartwarming and exciting. March has come in like a lion and I suspect it is going to go out like a lion as well. There have been so many wonderful events and happenings at the church, that it's difficult for me to keep track of all the activities and excitement, so here goes my stab at trying to summarize in this short space what The Vestry and myself have been up to.

March 10th was truly a red-letter day for Christ Church Parish with Bishop Stevenson's arrival. All the planning, clean up and support by all truly was appreciated by Bishop Stevenson. During our private discussions, he commented on how beautiful the Church was and, how the grounds were so clean and welcoming as well as he commented as to how happy he was to be with us and how welcome we made him feel. The amount of time Bishop Stevenson spent with us was hugely appreciated as he arrived at 8:30 am and departed around 2:00 pm. We were indeed truly fortunate that a man in his position spent as much time with us as he did, meeting with the Confirmands and others in the morning followed by a wonderful luncheon and meeting again later with the Discernment Committee as well as the Vestry. I would like to thank all our church community for everything you all did to make the bishop's visit so successful.

The activity for March has been so heartwarming that I feel a sense of enthusiasm going through the parish. We have had very tasty and simple Lenten dinners followed up with remarkably interesting topics as well as a series of interesting slide shows and discussions by Father Stuart on the Holy Land and what Lent really means. A big thank you goes out to the folks who prepared these tasty and delicious meals.

On March 16th, our Junior Warden Scott Holt organized the workers and with the assistance of our Scout Troop 341 concluded a very well organized and successful church cleanup day. The property looks wonderful, and an enjoyable time was had by all who attended. The demanding work in the morning was topped off by a hot dog and hamburger meal provided by the Brotherhood, with Scott and Bill Snider

performing the cooking chores. Many thanks go out to the folks who attended and worked to make the property look so good.

Many folks ask, what does the Vestry do? Well, I can assure you that there are any number of projects going on now that are being worked on, discussed, and with God's help will be successful. Active projects and discussions now center around developing an Active Threat Program. There will be a presentation and discussion with the congregation in the near future as to how we will approach any situation that is considered an Active Threat. We are actively involved with personnel issues, assisting with the Discernment Committee wherever possible as well as interviewing for a new Parish Administrator. We are working to improve communications within the Parish and will be having a meeting soon with all Ministry heads to further develop better communications within the various Ministries. We are also looking to better organize our church calendar and the church newsletter, all formidable tasks, with the intention to better serve the Parish. We are truly fortunate to have a dedicated Vestry to which we all contribute and work extremely hard to make this parish a thriving community and one that I can say am proud to be associated with.

Faithfully,
William A. "Bill" Budd
Senior Warden



FROM THE JUNIOR WARDEN'S WORK BENCH

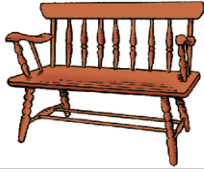
Thank you to all who participated in our annual Spring Clean-up! Everyone rose to the occasion and did a wonderful job! The grounds look beautiful, and the picnic lunch was outstanding. Special thanks go to the Boy Scouts and families that joined in the effort.

The Creation Garden spring planting is underway. Please join us this year in participating by signing up to help. There is a description of the needs for volunteers in the Parish Hall with a signup sheet. We would love you to be a part of this exciting ministry.

There are plans to rework the sidewalk outside the wall in front of the church soon. We want to make the sidewalk level and safe for use.

Scott Holt
804-814-8126

	April 2024					
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Elephant Committee 10:00 am	2 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	3 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30 am	4 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	5 Gibbie Mangum Burial	6 Judy Erdman Celebration of Life 10:00 am
7 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	8	9 Endowment Committee AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	10 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30 am Outreach Ministry 10:15 am	11 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	12	13 Scout BBQ Fund Raiser 2:00 –5:00 pm USMC Bikers Visit
14 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am Brotherhood 9am Scout Court of Honor 1:00 pm	15	16 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm MEETINGS Finance 9:30 am Tech Team 11:30am Vestry 1:30 pm	17 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30 am ECW 10:15 am	18 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	19	20
21 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	22	23 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	24 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30 am	25 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	26	27
28 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	29	30 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm				



From the Deacon's Bench



Thanks to everyone who donated to our book drive. They were well received and appreciated by the Middlesex Department of Social Services. Many people will benefit from your generous contributions. After they were delivered, we received additional donations. We will have another book drive in the future.

“Moments of Comfort” has been restarted on our Facebook page. Look there to find weekly posts of inspirational messages.

Applications are starting to come in for our Fine Arts Camp. It begins on Monday, June 17th, and will end on Sunday, June 23rd. It promises to be a fun week. We need volunteers and there are big jobs as well as small ones. Please contact me if you are willing to help with this exciting ministry.

As we move into the warmer weather, we also need volunteers for our Creation Care Garden – Last year, this became a very important ministry in our community. Food and beautiful flowers were distributed to our brothers and sisters who could not afford them. Those gifts were much appreciated. People in the community also noticed that something different was going on at the front of our property and asked questions. That helped draw attention to Christ Church. We were also helping to care for the beautiful creation given to us by our loving and magnificent God. There are many opportunities to help with this ministry.....jobs both big and small. You do not have to make a huge time commitment or do a lot of heavy work. We will match you up with a job you would enjoy. Please consider helping.

Please call or email me if you can help with either of these important ministries. 804-869-3867 or peggy_moncure@live.com

Thanks so much for the help you always give.

Peace, Peg+



FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Hymns - When We Sing Them

The Book of Common Prayer does not say we must sing hymns - it says we MAY sing hymns. Specifically, it says "A hymn, Psalm or anthem may be sung". But when?

We call it the "four hymn sandwich". The BCP tells us we may sing a hymn at these places in the Holy Eucharist (the Daily Office is a whole different ballgame).

1. At the beginning of the Eucharist.

We call this the Processional Hymn as we use it for the procession of the clergy, choir, and servers into the sanctuary.

2. Sequence Hymn

Next is the optional hymns during the reading of the lessons. The prayer book says, "A hymn, psalm or anthem may follow each reading". We only do one following the Epistle reading. It is called the Sequence Hymn and is used for the Gospel procession. I have seen this incorrectly called the Gradual. That hymn would be the one between the OT reading and the Psalm, which we don't do.

3. Offertory hymn or anthem

Up next is the Offertory, at which point the Book says, "During the Offertory, a hymn, psalm or anthem may be sung". Nowhere does it say, "The choir sings an anthem, then everyone stands while we sing the Doxology." That was a mid-20th century inclusion from other less liturgical denominations.

4. Communion or post-communion hymn

We are given the option of singing during communion. Specifically, it says "During the ministration of Communion, hymns, psalms, or anthems may be sung". Another rubric in a different place says, "A hymn may be sung before or after the post-communion prayer." We have chosen this post-communion option given the small number of people who were singing during communion. Instead, we use it during the time the deacon is finishing up.

That is actually it for the directions given. The BCP makes no mention of a hymn at the end of the service. So, we give the Benediction, tell folks we are done, and then sing 12 more stanzas while they are itching to get to brunch! I would be delighted to see the demise of the Recessional Hymn, and I am not alone - it seems I am in good company.

Eminent liturgist Marion Hatchett was a leader in the development of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer.

Hatchett writes that the Rubrics Committee did not mention a closing or recessional hymn because it thought that the rite would be more effective without one. The Postcommunion prayers all suggest an immediate movement into the world. Then comes the dismissal, which, by definition, sends the Church forth. Hatchett writes that the action – the leaving – should come immediately without further words and songs. When the Rubrics Committee did not put in a rubric allowing a closing hymn, they imagined that there would not be one, yet closing hymns are very common, and Hatchett saw them as contrary to the solid theology of the Eucharist that informed the rubrics: The Eucharist sends us out, so the rite should reflect that.

Amen, I say!

Libby Boyer, Director of Music

DISCERNMENT COMMITTEE

The Discernment Committee is currently working hard to find a Priest-in-Charge who will help us to continue growing in all aspects. We have already submitted our position posting to the Diocese and we invite you to review the posting at <https://jobs.transitionministryconference.org/?p=2524>

We have received one application so far and are eagerly anticipating more applicants. We kindly ask that you continue to keep us in your prayers as we do this important work. We believe that because we are a joyful and awesome church, we will be able to find a priest who will be a perfect match.



OUTREACH MINISTRIES

The Outreach Ministry met on March 13. We completed several projects and are planning more!

- The Book Drive for Social Services is complete. Peg Moncure did a great job!
- Habitat for Humanity – Tom Clarke and Jeff and Susie Loustaunau successfully painted the interior walls of the house. We especially enjoyed meeting the owners!
- Live Nativity – Ann de Peyster continues to make progress on the wooden cut-outs to display after the live Nativity is over. She is working with to Boy Scouts on this endeavor.

New Projects:

- Judy Quilter is planning Easter treats to be handed out after the Easter service!
- Christchurch School – Jeanette Adkins is organizing an outreach project to hand out cookies to the students on April 3 after their 11:00 service at the Christchurch School Chapel. **WE WILL BE ASKING FOR COOKIE DONATIONS!** We need 600 cookies – two per bag. Please leave donations in the kitchen on April 1 or 2.
- Teacher Appreciation Baskets –DeLois Greenwood and Kathy Clarke will be purchasing, assembling, and delivering them to the Middlesex schools and Christchurch schools. The date will be in May.
- Hands Across Middlesex located at the Cryer Center has many opportunities to Volunteer:
- Food Pantry (2nd & 4th Tuesdays each month) individuals can pack bags that will be distributed to clients or assist in loading food bags in their vehicles
- Food Lion Pickup – 1 day per month – pick up, take to the center, weigh and store food – takes approximately 1.5 hours
- Adopt a Senior – take food to a client's home once a month
- Clothes Closet – receive, sort, and hang donations
- Yard Sale – 2 Saturdays a month, help customers with purchases
- Deliver prepared Thanksgiving or Christmas meal

Please call Dave Cryer at (804) 363-0280 if you would like to volunteer.

Pam McClelland and Susie Loustaunau, Co-Chairs

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

The Fellowship Committee Helps Celebrate the Rites of Spring

Key to our mission and work at Christ Church Parish is the word *Fellowship*. Breaking bread together, sharing a meal, animated conversation and happy chatter are integral parts of growing together in the family of Christ and feeling his love for us. The Committee hosted and or orchestrated four Lenten dinners and programs with the final dinner on March 13th.

On March 10th, exactly halfway through Lent, Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, Episcopal Bishop of the Diocese of Virginia, visited our Parish for Confirmations, Reaffirmation of Baptismal vows, and Reception into the Episcopal Church. He carved out time to meet with the Vestry and the Discernment Committee. Oh, what a glorious day for all the parishioners. We celebrated this joy-filled occasion with a culinary extravaganza of homemade hors d'oeuvres, salads, desserts, punch, and more. Almost 90 parishioners and guests feasted together and enjoyed the celebration.

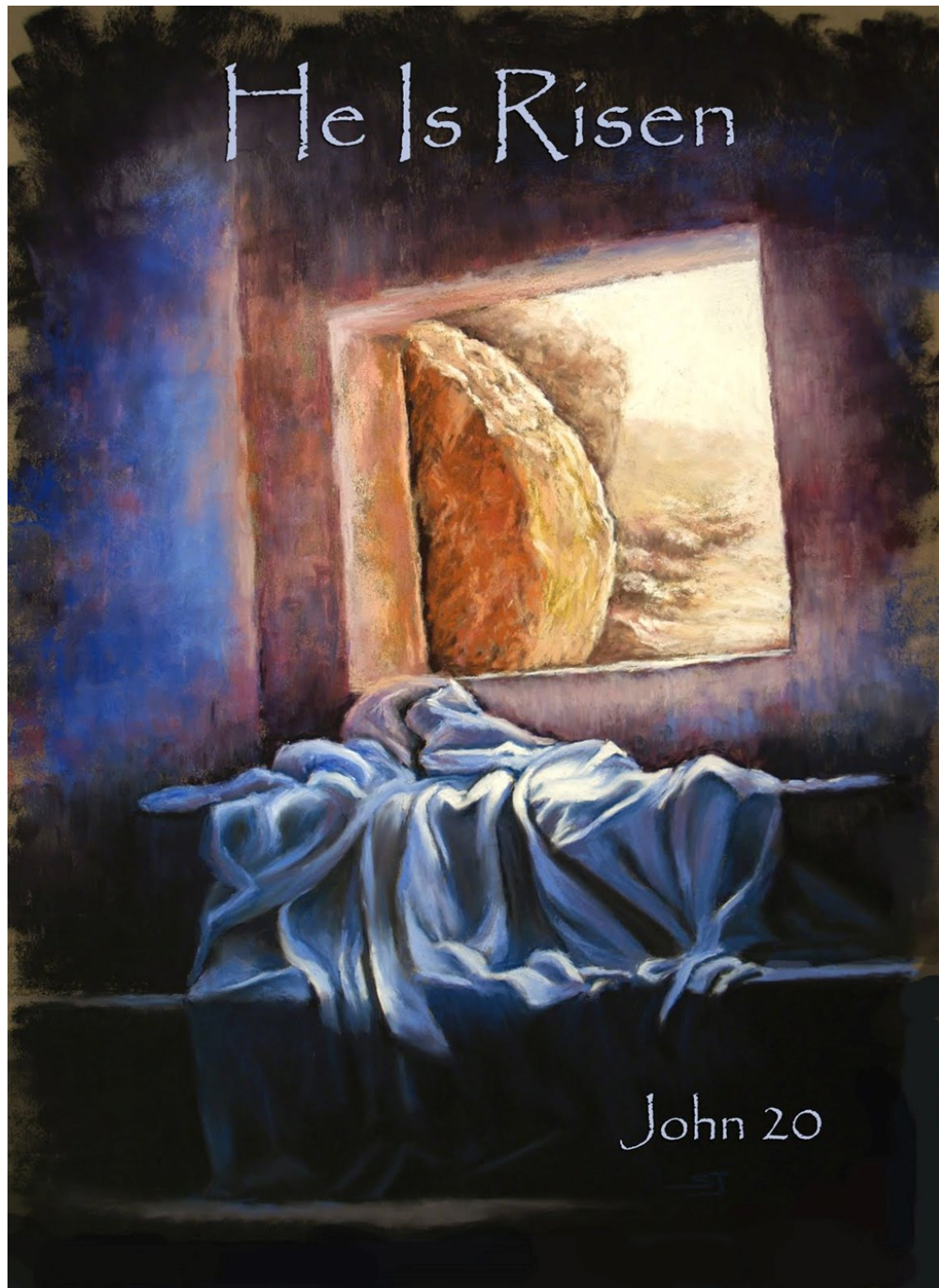
Well, that is now history, so what does the future hold for us? Somewhere in late April, we will celebrate Homecoming with a cover-dish luncheon and the dedication of our new church sign from the Virginia Historical Highway Markers Group. We cannot pinpoint the date yet, as the sign is at the Foundry, and we are beholden to their schedule for completion and installation. We are replacing the 1929 sign currently located at Cook's Corner on Route 33.

We are planning summertime fun so stay tuned for further updates. The Veterans Luncheon is confirmed for November 11th, and the Marine Corps Run takes place on October 11th.

Whenever and wherever we gather, we share in fellowship. We are always happy to have you join us for our events and be part of our fellowship. We look forward to your smile.

Remember we play where we pray!

Bev Hart and Mary Lynn Landgraf, Co-Chairs



WORSHIP MINISTRIES



Joining John Quilter, who coordinates the amazing 8 AM crew of ushers, is Barbara Cockrell who is taking over the position vacated by Sharon Colston leading the 10:30 ushers. Many thanks to both. This is a critical ministry in many ways, ensuring a positive face to our church and also providing a smooth process in the service. A brief training/refresher was conducted after the clean-up day on Saturday the 16th. If you couldn't be there, or now are thinking you would like to be an usher, please contact one of the coordinators who will welcome you with all you need to succeed. Thank you.

Ann dePeyster and Grace Parker



Do you know what a Coventry Cross is?

During our pastoral visit on March 10th, The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, the Bishop of Diocese of Virginia, celebrated confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmation of several beloved members of our congregation: confirmation is a sacrament reserved for the Bishop, and, therefore, special and definitely not frequent. As part of that, we, the people of Christ Church, gifted these members with two items: a Book of Common Prayer, a book which we use every Sunday, and which contains our bedrock beliefs and practices...and a cross.

What cross did we give? It is called a Coventry Cross. These particular crosses were given to us by Nigel Mac-Fall of London, whose great-grandfather, 5 times removed, was our 3rd rector in the 1600's. We have given these as a very special gift to our last few classes of confirmands.

So, a Coventry Cross is...what?

From Nigel: A wonderful symbol of reconciliation at the height of adversity. The devastating Blitz attack of 14 November 1940 on Coventry almost wiped the city out, and Coventry Cathedral was completely destroyed. The following morning, the Rector of St. Marks was sifting through the cathedral ruins and discovered three large medieval nails which he bound together in the shape of a cross. Therefore...a Coventry Cross. Do take a moment to look at these as you see them worn with gratitude and love. We are so fortunate to have these crosses and this connection.

With thanks to Father Stuart and Father Bob as well as Nigel for the history of the Coventry Cross.

Grace,
The Verger



CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There have been moments of astonishment and lots of commentary on the information we have been exploring in the beliefs of the earliest Christians, based on documents that DIDN'T make it into our New Testament. Most recently we explored the Gospel of Thomas and his recounting of the sayings of Jesus, some familiar and some with eye-rolling twists!

Next, we are going to learn about the Infancy Gospels, in other words, what did Jesus do as a child? Our synoptic Gospels are silent on that subject, pretty much just his birth, fleeing to Egypt, and going to the Temple. Surely there were more stories about his younger years. If you're curious, come at 10:15 on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays and learn what scholars think about those events. No reservation is required.

Grace Parker,
Chair, Worship Committee

Special April Celebrations

Anniversaries



14th Ann de Peyster and Michael Kirk

24th Richard and Cindy Naylor

26th Homer and Ginny Hartung

30th Matt and Victoria Rosendahl

Joey and Kathryn Humphreys

Birthdays

2nd Susan DeSimone

8th Victoria "Tori" Bess

9th Mavis Mangum

Scott Holt

12th Elaine Meyer

13th Dave South

18th Harold Johnson

19th Susie Loustaunau

20th Homer Hartung

23rd Nicole Davis

24th Grace Parker

25th Rick Smith

27th Nigel McFall

29th Sue Newman



NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WELCOMED!

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 2024 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:</u>
May	April 22, 2024
June	May 24, 2024
July	June 21, 2024
August	July 22, 2024
September	August 23, 2024
October	September 20, 2024
November	October 25, 2024
December	November 22, 2024
January 2025	December 23, 2024

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.



Scout Troop 341 BBQ Fundraiser!

Saturday April 13, 2024 from 2:00- 5:00 p.m.
Takeout Only from
Christ Church Parish, Parish Hall Parking Lot
56 Christchurch Lane



BBQ

Fundraiser

Family Size Order Includes:
1 lb. Jerry's Pulled Pork BBQ
1 pint Baked Beans
1 pint Coleslaw
4 BBQ Buns
BBQ sauce on the side
4 Brownies
\$30/order (feeds 4)

Pre-Sales Orders: call Sara Beam (804)758-4095