

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

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter for January 2021

This Month's Thought From Our Rector



I remember Queen Elizabeth II once describing one of her years on the throne as “***Annus horribilis***,” which is a [Latin](#) phrase, meaning “horrible year.” I had to look up what year that was and found that it was said in a speech at Guildhall on the 24th of November 1992. I remembered her saying that because in a number of ways, I think of the year 2020 as an *annus horribilis*. Here are some of the reasons that I can think of. First of all, we have lost several very dear, hard-working, and caring members of our congregation and then have not been able to gather to celebrate their lives. Second, we haven’t been able to worship in person with each other since the middle of March except for a couple of times, which meant that Easter and Christmas were celebrated in our homes and not in our beautiful church. Thirdly, I have missed receiving the blessed sacrament of the altar because if I couldn’t offer it to you, I wasn’t going to receive it myself. Fourth, with little to no experience producing on-line worship, it was a constant struggle to film and edit a service each week. And then, I’ve missed visiting with people in their homes, retirement homes, and in the hospital when needed.

But amid all of these things, there was actually a lot to celebrate and give thanks for. We finished a very successful “Share the Love” event in which we raised enough money to purchase all the pulpit furniture for St. Paul’s Baptist Church in Jamaica, VA. We had the opportunity this year to have an intern, Peg Moncure, who continued her studies toward being ordained as a vocational deacon. God willing, that will happen in 2021. She preached three times, assisted with the Sunday liturgies, provided words of comfort on our Facebook page, and came up with other ways in which we, as a congregation, could continue the Share the Love theme in small but caring ways to the community. Through the generosity of the congregation, we have been able to literally re-build the floor in the fellowship hall from the ground up and now have a solid level floor to stand on. Along with Peg came her husband Henry, and he was of

Continued on the next page

great help in the work on the parish hall and with the renovations of Ellen's trailer.

When faced with the need to go virtual in our worship services, I was given the name of someone in the community that helped make that happen early on. Since then, Mike, Jack, and Mike (our own geek squad) have been working to make live-streaming our services a reality. This will continue even after we are able to worship once again in person so that those who are shut-in or who now reside in other parts of the country or world may still take part in our worship.

I know that Nigel has watched from his home in England, and others have watched from California, North Carolina, and Florida. This is something that we wouldn't have even dreamt of doing ten months ago. We have been blessed with the continued participation of our lectors in reading the lessons and leading the prayers and Grace's continued help in scheduling them, with Debbie's wonderful music, which is recorded in her home and then emailed to me each week. I have also been blessed with the extraordinary leadership of both our Sr. Warden – Pam and our Jr. Warden – Jeff, who have stayed right on top of things throughout this past year.

And finally, through all of this, Christ Church has continued to offer worship and outreach to the community while meeting all of its financial obligations; again, thanks to your generosity. By the way, the Toy's for Tot's box was overflowing this year when the Marine representative came to pick it up.

So maybe, just maybe, this wasn't an *Annus horribilis* after all, but it was a year that made us anxious, frustrated, uncomfortable, and downright mad at times. Still, it was a year that truly showed us that the Lord is with us and walks with us through not just the joys of life but also through all the trials of life. May each of you discover your own blessings through this past year and give thanks to God for his great love and mercy.

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart



“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 Vestry held its last meeting of the year on December 8, 2020. The 2021 proposed budget was developed and will be presented at the Annual Meeting on January 10, 2021.

Until the COVID-19 numbers in Middlesex County improve, we will continue to hold virtual services. Thank goodness Fr. Stuart has become an expert at this! Thanks to our wonderful “GEEK” squad (Jack Fackler, Mike Gorin, Mike Floyd), we now have the capability to livestream our regular indoor services so that all can join in our worship. We discussed the many things that have been accomplished this year, despite the many obstacles caused by the pandemic. A sincere *Thank You* to our very hard-working Vestry. Fr. Stuart said goodbye to those of us who will not be on the 2021 Vestry (Jeff Loustau, Mary Jo Atterholt, and myself). We know that our Vestry, led by Fr. Stuart, will continue to be strong.

Lydia Dudley has graciously volunteered to be the “keeper of the church calendar.” Please send to her any dates for meetings or special events.

We have experienced a unique and challenging church year. May 2021 bring us a brighter outlook for the future. Until then we must move forward using the new tools that are at our disposal. Assistance is arriving in the form of the vaccines that have been developed so quickly. This brings us new, much-needed hope. My wish is that 2020 was the **storm** before the **calm** of 2021.

God bless all of you.

Pam McClelland

Senior Warden

from our Junior Warden’s Workbench



With the New Year also comes a new maintenance issue at the Church that will require our attention. A week before Christmas, the lower hinge on the left-hand front door to the Church literally pulled out of the door jam due to a rotten door jam. This means that the door is hanging from just the top hinge requiring us to secure the front doors to the Church and only use the sacristy doors. Although repairing the deteriorating door jams on the inside of both front doors, along with the floor moldings and

damaged plaster due to moisture problems, has been on the Maintenance Plan for the near future (2021 to 2025), this failure requires our immediate attention.

During the holiday period, we have taken the time to consult with finished carpenters who have restoration experience, plus waterproofing companies, along with a plasterer, in order to develop a plan to make the repairs. From what we have learned so far, the plan will call for us to put up a temporary wooden wall with a door across the outside of the doors allowing us to remove the doors and work on the door jams. The interior doors into the Church will be shut and sealed in order to protect the Church from the construction debris. The door jams on each side will be replaced/repaired as necessary up to a six-foot height where there is a seam. The moisture-damaged plaster will be removed from roughly a four-foot level down to the floor on the interior of the three exterior walls of the narthex. A vinyl moisture barrier will be fixed to the exposed brick, and a screen will be attached over the barrier

It has been highly recommended that we install gutters along the side eaves of the narthex as well since the run-off channels a lot of water to the base of the bricks, which is probably the source of the moisture. As of this writing, the plan is not yet approved by the Vestry and is continuing to be refined.

◀ December	January 2021					February ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Virtual Service	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Virtual Service Annual Meeting	11	12 Fellowship Committee 9:30 am Vestry 5:30 pm	13 Finance Committee 9:30 am	14	15	16
17 Virtual Service	18	19	20	21 Outreach Committee 9:30 am	22 Endowment Board 9:30 am	23
24 Virtual Service	25 Newsletter Articles Due	26	27	28 Worship Committee 9:30 am	29	30
31 Virtual Service						



Are New Year's Resolutions Out of Date?

If there were ever a year to hope for something different in the new year, this one takes the cake. There is an element of faith and hope in making resolutions—thinking about things we'd like to change or improve, and I think that is a healthy impulse. Now, most of us have enough experience with resolutions that fail to motivate us sufficiently to make those improvements; how many times have I resolved to lose 15 pounds in the new year? Many, many times. The fact that I continue to make that resolution, and others, nev-

ertheless, is testimony to the faith that I can do better.

In this year, you may have found new habits that you truly appreciate and give you new perspectives. Most of us cherished quiet time at home, despite our normal tendency to be out and about, seeing people and visiting new destinations. Quiet, reflective time could be a new habit worth carrying forward even when we're not forced to. And, we could resolve never to take good health for granted or freedom of movement.

Being in church every Sunday is a privilege I will never again take for granted. If you've fallen out of the habit of participating in church services, rededicating yourself to regular "attendance" would be a worthy goal.

Perhaps there is an innocence and child-like quality to making resolutions, and I like that. As we think of all the difference a child made whose birth we celebrate at Christmas, we know what miracles can be wrought with faith. I'm not giving up on resolutions...now for those 15 pounds...

PS: Back to "taking the cake," thanks to those who took up the Scripture Cake challenge. I was the delighted recipient of a loaf of that delicious pastry and heard that the young people enjoyed doing the research and stirring up something truly special.

The Verger

Three Good Reads by Ann de Peyster

First I must confess that until 2020 sitting quietly reading books simply for recreation hadn't seemed all that appealing to me, usually preferring more active pursuits. After several months of decluttering and cleaning everything in sight, as the gravity of the pandemic unfolded more Amazon delivery trucks began to arrive bringing books recommended by Episcopal church leaders.

Three of these books that have been life changing for me deal with different aspects of social justice, cultural and racial inequality from entirely different perspectives. These books go way beyond the idea that Black Lives Matter. The Episcopal Church's Sacred Ground dialogue series features two books, complemented by related articles and carefully curated videos, all broadening the participants' understanding of the history and experiences of also Native American, Hispanic, Asian American, Pacific Island, and selected European cultures experiencing discrimination in America. The third book was our only assignment in an 8-week Zoom discussion series offered by the Diocese of Virginia and focuses specifically on the Episcopal church experience.

Waking Up White (Debbie Irving) is her personal story of suddenly recognizing and coming to grips with advantages inherent in birth into a privilege class. Her sobering realization of everything she's taken for granted is explained creatively in each chapter, all offering new perspectives on an underlying theme that many of us can relate to but perhaps haven't thought about as deliberately and extensively as this author has.

A completely different perspective is offered by **Jesus and the Disinherited** (Howard Thurman). An African American theologian, educator, philosopher and civil rights leader, Rev. Thurman describes parallels between the experience of African Americans and the life of Jesus so eloquently and compellingly that devouring all 102 pages in one short afternoon was a great pleasure for me.

Selected parts of **Episcopalians and Race** (Gardiner H. Shattuck, Jr) were highlighted by Bishop Porter Taylor leading Zoom discussions of Shattuck's historical account detailing the author's view of the Episcopal church's leaders, attitudes, and actions related to race in America from the Civil War through the Civil Rights Era. Many participants were surprised by a lot of what we read in Shattuck's book. For me **Episcopalians and Race** was also a great complement to the Sacred Ground curriculum, because it specifically delves more deeply into some of the history of the Episcopal church with respect to the African American experience.

All three books are good reads on a related subject but for different reasons. Learning to recognize unconscious and often surprisingly subtle racial, cultural, and other social biases---and, alas, also discovering some skeletons we've not known about lurking in our own ancestral closets---has been at once sobering, cathartic, and also surprisingly encouraging. Discussions with others in the Episcopal church have also touched on how every individual can consider becoming part of the solution to a chronic problem in America and other societies throughout the world.



Outreach Committee

In keeping with our "Share the Love" and representing Christ Church Parish, the Outreach Committee is partnering with Hands Across Middlesex in organizing a Winter Coat Drive.

This effort is County-wide as we are contacting all the area churches and asking them to participate and "Share the Love."

We are looking to collect clean used coats that are in good condition for adults, teens, and children. You can bring your donated coats to the Parish Hall and leave them in the Vestry Room. We will be checking the room often and making deliveries to the Cryer Center every Wednesday during January.

The need in our County is particularly great during this difficult time. Thank you in this effort to help "Share the Love."

We give our many and sincerest thanks to Jean Holt for chairing the Outreach Committee for the past several years. Jean has done an outstanding job, and we so appreciate her leadership and dedication.

Have a Safe, Happy, and Blessed New Year!

Judy Quilter



We look ahead to 2021 with optimistic hope. We had a lean year with few money-making events. We were, however, able to donate \$4,100 to CCP Operations. Thanks to Grace Parker's Nut Sales, we added \$1,087 to our treasury account. Our Bake Sale brought in \$225. Our current total balance is \$9,808.

Our new slate of officers for this year is as follows;

Karen Brown - President

Vice President - Vacant

Virginia Miller - Treasurer

Sallie Wells - Recording Secretary

Cathy Spence - Corresponding Secretary

Thank you all for your support!

HAPPY & Blessed, 2021!! Stay safe!

Karen Gorin

Past President

From the Deacon's Library...

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Oh, what a year this has been. When Henry and I were welcomed into Christ Church Parish on January 1st of 2020, we thought it was just going to be an interesting year where I would experience my internship and complete my last year of Deacons' School. Little did we know what this year had in store for us.

I want to say that 2020 has been a wonderful year. No, I am not being sarcastic, and I have not totally lost my mind, although some people may beg to differ with me on that point. I certainly know there have been many challenges and traumas and a great deal of sadness. However, I like to focus on the positives when I can, and good things have also happened.

In our church family, we have been led to new types of ministries that we did not even realize we were missing. One of those is the regularity of online worship, which is serving everyone's needs but especially those who were shut-in long before this pandemic. We are also reaching out to those beyond our walls who do not know about Christ Church Parish. In thinking about my call to minister to many, including the lonely. God willing, deacon to be, is excited about finding a way to care for those alone and that feel distanced from their church family. How wonderful it is to have this connection. They can now worship with their brothers and sisters in Christ in a way that was not available before. Hopefully, we have learned the importance of that ministry, and it will continue along with eventually being able to visit with them again in person.

All of us have grown closer. Even though we have had to be apart, we have found new ways to express our love and concern for each other. We remain connected. We have prayed for each other and cared for each other in many different ways. We have mastered unique ways of staying in touch.

The love and support of everyone at Christ Church is a powerful display of the love and support of our God. Henry and I have truly felt the presence of Christ in this place. What I feel is emphasized here is that God, who created us, protects us, and loves us, is always there and will see us through. Yes, even in

this turbulent time, we are uplifted by the gift of hope.

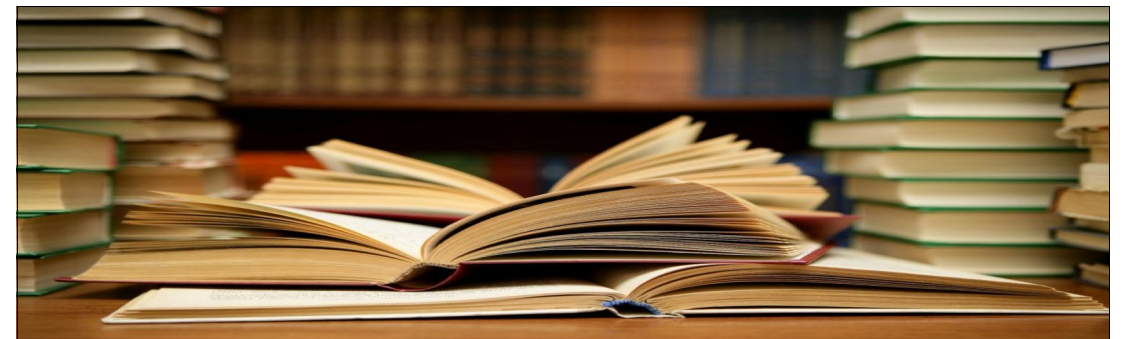
Daily, we continue to look at new ministries laid before us. Through these tough times, we are being prepared to step into ministries that are new and challenging and uncertain..... uncharted waters. We must now prepare for something that we have no idea what it will be. This could be very scary, but it is not because we have God to guide us, and we have each other.

Yes, life, as we know it, has had its difficult moments. However, if we look at the whole picture, the blessings are there. We can see the good being done in various ministries. We can feel Christ's love in each other, and we can look into the future with the light of hope.

My internship experience has been magnificent. I have learned so much from my awesome mentor, Fr. Stuart. Christ Church has been richly blessed with a gifted and caring priest. The parishioners of Christ Church Parish are amazing. My life has been enriched by working with each of you on your many lovely and important ministries. It has been an honor and a privilege to be a part of this family for the past year. Sadly, for me, my internship has now ended, and I must say, "goodbye." Thank you all for your love and support. Now, I must finish school and head off to, God willing, ordination on April 17th. Bishop Goff will soon assign me to a parish to serve as a deacon. My prayer is that I will be seeing you again very soon.

Best wishes to each of you for a continued Blessed Christmas and a Wonderful New Year.

Much Love and Light, Peg Moncure



ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

We begin the new year with a fresh page.

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>
February 2021	Monday, January 25, 2021
March 2021	Monday, February 22, 2021
April 2021	Friday, March 26, 2021
May 2021	Monday, April 26, 2021
June 2021	Wednesday, May 26, 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	Tuesday, October 26, 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.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Articles will not be published in the newsletter that:

Are patently offensive or promotes harassment, racism, bigotry, hatred, or physical harm of any kind against any group or individual.

Contain any socially unacceptable language or instructions.

Publicly posts information that poses or creates a privacy or security risk to any person.

Constitutes or promotes information that you know is false or misleading or promotes illegal activities or conduct that is abusive, threatening, obscene, defamatory, or libelous.

Constitutes or promotes an illegal or unauthorized copy of another person’s copyrighted work.

Is critical of the Episcopal Church or its’ clergy.

Furtheres or promotes violating someone’s privacy or providing or involves commercial activities and/or sales without prior written consent from the Vestry such as contests, sweepstakes, barter, or advertising.

Includes a photograph of another person that you have posted without that person’s consent, or violates the privacy rights, publicity rights, defamation rights, copyrights, trademark rights, contract rights, or any other rights of any person.

Promotes the candidacy of any person for election to any public office.

In His Service,

Jeff McClelland. Editor

Special Celebrations



Anniversaries

Pete and Judy Mansfield *January 1*
Garry and Micki Clay *January 3*
Robin and Sally Wells *January 16*

Birthdays

Lurlene Samuel *January 1*
Lee Davis *January 3*
Bill Brown *January 5*
Leigh Cros *January 7*
Stuart Wood *January 10*
Garry Clay *January 13*
Jim Knupp *January 13*
Donna Gates *January 16*
Steve Richardson *January 20*
John Hawkins *January 21*
Page Wittkamp *January 21*
Christopher Hamlett *January 24*
Byron Parker *January 25*
Charles Adkins *January 28*



Bishop Goff's Meditation

It is good to be human.
It is good to be a creature.
It is good to have a body.

God said so, decisively,
when the Divine became human,
when the Creator became a creature,
when God lived on earth in a body.

From the deepest depths of Love,
the Infinite chose limitations,
the Omnipotent chose weakness,
the Immortal chose mortality.

God so honored us, showing that it is
good to be human,
good to be a creature,
good to have a body.

So we honor God
by honoring bodies - ours and others' -
by keeping distance and wearing masks,
and being inoculated as soon
as the vaccine is available to us,
and continuing to build community
without being together in person,
All for the time being.

All because
It is good to be human.
It is good to be a creature.
It is good to have a body.
God said so. Decisively.

And to God's Yes, we say
a resounding,
once and for all time,
Glory, Hallelujah,
in excelsis Deo,
love unlocking,
terror-blocking,
jingle bell rocking
YES!!

By Susan E. Goff