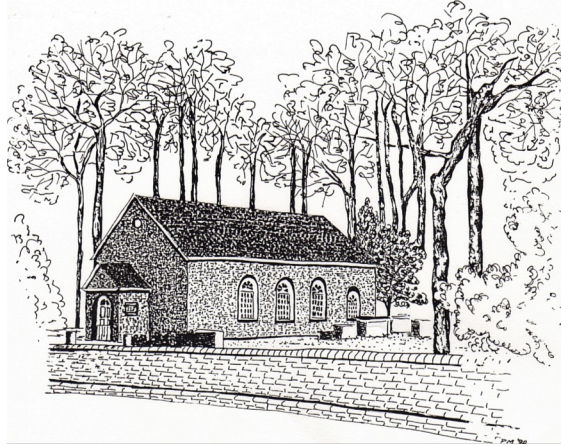




MAY
2020

Join us for Sunday & Wednesday Services



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:

8:00 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, Rector

The Rev. Bob Prichard, Ph.D., Priest Associate

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter for May of 2020

Rector's Message



Alleluia. Christ is risen.

The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

This season of Easter, from Holy Week to Easter Day and now progressing through the great fifty days of Easter has certainly been one that we will all remember. It is still hard to know if May 31st, The Day of Pentecost, will find us gathered in the power of the Spirit or simply bound together in the Spirit still worshipping from a position of self-isolation. Right now, it still sounds like we will have to worship from home.

So much has happened since we were all able to worship together in the church and receive the blessed sacrament.

Good Friday was truly a day that pierced my soul. I learned that morning that Susan Neal would be coming home the next day. I called Susan at the hospital and had a nice talk with her in which she shared what may happen the next day. I prayed with her and for her family and then she said goodbye and said that we would get to talk again in heaven. Throughout our conversation, there was a peace in her voice, a confidence in her faith, and even her smile seemed to carry over the phone. As I hung up, my heart broke and the tears flowed and I thought about those who stood at the foot of the cross that day and watched Jesus die. Holy Saturday was a day of watching and waiting and then the news came at sunrise on Easter morning. How comforting it was to know that as we prepared to celebrate our Lord's resurrection, that Susan was watching the sunrise over the river as she joined our Lord who had broken the bonds of death and opened to us the way to eternal life.

One of the prayers from the Easter Vigil encourages us to "let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen." As you may have heard or read, the great room in the parish hall had certainly grown old and is now in the process of being made new.

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Continued from page 1—Rectors Message

It was simply amazing to realize just how bad the framing under the floor had become and the fact that the floor hadn't actually collapsed.

The COVID virus (as horrible as it is) has given us an opportunity to address this dangerous situation while we are unable to use the building for social gatherings. Thank you for your generous response to this situation and to the hard work of those who are doing an incredible job in making it truly a safe place to gather once again.

This Easter season has also brought with it the trials and tribulations of navigating my way through the use of new and often confusing technology. Vestry meetings are now conference calls and there are weekly ZOOM meetings with the bishop's office on Tuesday afternoons or Wednesday mornings. Now that I'm learning these things a bit better, I'm now finding more time to finally reach out to some of you at home by phone since we no longer get to see each other on Sunday mornings or during the week. So don't be surprised to get a call from me. If I'm not in your phone directory know that I show up as someone calling from Harrisonburg, VA.

I pray that this finds everyone staying safe and well. Since I am not supposed to be working in the parish hall office until the bishop gives us permission, please call or text me if you need something (540) 560-0700 or email me at stucwood@gmail.com.

God Bless,

Fr. Stuart

VESTRY

“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 our meeting on April 14 via teleconference. We were able to accomplish quite a lot, using this new format. We are adjusting to all the changes by remembering that God will give us the strength we need to make it through if we look to Him and His word to guide us. He is our refuge and our strength. (Psalms 46:1) Your Vestry is alive and well!

The Vestry goals for 2020

Grow as Christ's Disciples in our community by:

- Improving our Ecumenical relationships in the community
- Maximizing our community outreach

- Participating and engaging with local schools
- Developing avenues to effectively utilize the Sanders Fund
- Continuing our religious education through many avenues
- John Quilter is working with his Security and Safety Committee to develop a comprehensive plan for our Parish. He is awaiting the report being provided by the Virginia State Police with recommendations for our buildings.

Personnel Change

Our Administrative Assistant, Joanne Adams, left the position at the end of her workday on April 24th. We are grateful for her willingness to give her best efforts but realized that she was not a good fit for this position. We have been very fortunate in finding an individual with both a financial background and church experience who has agreed to accept the position and begin working in the office on Monday, April 27th. Her name is Tonya Spears and she lives in Hartfield at the golf course with her husband and two dogs. We are thrilled to welcome Tonya Spears to our team and look forward to the contributions that she can bring with her to the position. We feel that she will be a real asset to our Church family. **When we re-open**, please come by and welcome Tonya, and know that you will be hearing a new voice on the other end of the phone when you call the office. The office hours will remain the same, Monday through Thursday from 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Pam McClelland, Senior Warden

Junior Warden Input

Jeff Loustaunau

The main news I have is on our floor project. As we all know, the scope of the work has certainly expanded but it is going well and by now you should all be getting periodic updates on our progress. I want to thank everyone for their financial and moral support of this project. Although a difficult process, all of us will get the benefit of a great facility where we can again get together for both church and community activities.

Our old shed has been painted so the only things remaining to do on that project is to build a new ramp to it that will be portable,

Continued on page 4—Junior



Continued from page 3—Junior Warden's Input

and then move our fryers and equipment back into it. So that should be completed shortly.



The annual maintenance on the church HVAC units took place this past week with two parts being replaced, but both were under warranty, so there is no cost. The units in the Par-

ish Hall will be done in May. This work now includes the oil-fired furnace beneath the great room.

The routine care of grounds continues with Jimmy Bristow mowing the lawns and cleaning up the leaves in the cemetery.

As some of you may have noticed, our flags are not flying from our flagpole. We are in the process of replacing the halyard along with the brass hardware to both flags as those items were showing signs of severe wear. The flags should be back up shortly.



Worship Committee May Input

You are welcome to be part of the service

To our lectors and those who would like to be lectors:

This is an invitation to those who have been missing the opportunity to share the word of God as lectors at our beautiful church. As you have seen for the last two weeks, as we are no longer allowed to even record our services in the church building itself, Father Stuart has been hard at work finding new ways of bringing our services to us electronically.

One important part of each service is the reading of the lessons, psalms and prayers of the people. These are now being recorded from home. Miles Libbey devised a very workable system to facilitate sharing that portion of the service. Basically, he tells me it requires a smartphone, tripod, lighting and probably a good background. If you have those items and want to be a long-distance lector, he is willing to walk you through the process. I certainly don't want you to feel that you are not welcome to continue your faithful service. You are MOST welcome.

If you are interested, please let me know and we will get you scheduled. In the interim, I hope you are watching our services and continue to know you are such an essential part of the family of Christ Church.

Respectfully, Grace Parker, Chair of the Worship Committee





Just a thought from your friendly Endowment Fund Board

After the shock of the notion that we were going to be spending LOTS of time at home, “social distancing,” many of us probably began to make lists of the long-deferred things we could profitably accomplish with this unexpected time. I know I did, and just yesterday had the terrible thought that I had many

of those tasks still undone and that we could be liberated and they would still be languishing.

If you are one of those folks who made cleaning off your desk an early task, you may well have discovered a buried document from your Endowment Fund Board, one that walked you through the process of being sure that your desires for so many issues associated with the end of life were well and clearly stated. So, my friends, this really is a very good time to finish that task, and you will be very glad you did. I know you’ve read the heartbreaking stories of people who were suddenly cut off from their families and isolated in ICU’s, and the opportunity to communicate those important issues was lost. Of course, we all hope never to be in that position, but it is in your hands now to be sure you are not.

So please, take a couple of hours now to complete that document. If any part of it is too daunting, leave it blank. Perfection isn’t required. There is a copy on the church website if you cannot find yours. Or contact me and I will be sure one is promptly sent to you.

None of us knows the day nor the hour. May yours be far in the distance, but being prepared is still a good plan.

Respectfully, Grace Parker, lame-duck chair of the Endowment Fund Board.



For those of you who have mailed in checks to the Church, Thank You! While the church is closed due to Covid-19, our bills continue, and we have had unforeseen maintenance expenses. Therefore, please continue your support by mailing your pledge and other support checks to:

Christ Church Parish, Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149

As part of the package to stimulate the economy, for 2020 the IRS will have no limit on charitable deductions for those who itemize. For those who do not itemize, the IRS will allow up to \$300 in charitable deductions in addition to the standard deduction.

The stimulus package also includes \$1,200 (\$2,400 per couple) for taxpayers who meet certain income criteria. This money is not taxable income. As many of us are retired and do not have diminished income due to Covid-19 closures, this is really “found money.”

As always, **you should consult your tax advisor**, and this summary of information, from Diocese Webinars and Forbes and Money.com, is not intended to be tax advice. However, it appears that a portion of that “found money” could go to the church to help with its financial crunch, and reduce your taxes as well. and we hope you will consider that for all or a portion of your stimulus check.

Again, thanks for all that you do to keep Christ Church Parish financially stable.

Phil Brown, Treasurer



Judy Mansfield	1-May	Helen Tarran	17-May
Suzi Hutchens	12-May	Bob Phipps	25-May
Mary Jo Atterholt	14-May	Cean Cawthorn	28-May
Bob Prichard	14-May	Ginny Gale	28-May
Victoria Rosendahl	14-May	Barbara Gill	31-May



Sharon Colston & Miles Libbey	14-May	Gibbie & Mavis Mangum	25-May
Mike & Harriette Floyd	15-May	Howard & Joyce Reisinger	26-May
Vernon & Carol Norris	18-May	Bob & Marcia Prichard	27-May
Jim & Jean Hill	19-May	Jim & Ann Padgett	28-May
Charles & Jeanette Adkins	22-May	Jack & Helen Tarran	30-May



As many of you have undoubtedly noticed, our church directory is in need of an update. Father Stuart recently suggested to the vestry that we investigate a software system used by Ware Church in Gloucester, and we are in the process of doing that. The great advantage of the system is that we would have the real-time capability to update information as soon as it is received.

We realize that in this digital age, some of you may have reservations about having your information online. First and foremost, we want to assure you that any system we would use will only be accessible to members of Christ Church Parish. We will also develop a privacy policy that precludes the use of the directory for any purpose other than communication to and among our church family.

We now have a committee of three to work on this project consisting of Pam McClelland, Lydia Dudley, Mike Floyd. Mike is already exploring the software on a 30- day free trial.

Once we can resume church services, we will set up a process for picture taking if needed. You will also be able to submit your own pictures along with any updated information.

We will keep you informed as this project develops.