



November  
2021

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service  
<http://www.facebook.com/christchurch.parish/>



## 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 9:00 AM

Sunday Services: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM

The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector

The Rev. Bob Pritchard, Ph.D.,

Priest Associate

The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure

# Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

## Monthly Newsletter for November 2021

## From Our Rector



Jesus said to them, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. (Mark 6:31)

If that was the way it was in Jesus' day, just think how much more complicated lives have become in our world. Cell phones, text messages, email and the internet have made it even more difficult to cut ourselves off from the business of everyday life and find a deserted place to be all by ourselves and rest a while. I can just imagine Jesus returning from one of his retreats and having people say, "Why didn't you answer your cell phone?" "Couldn't you have just taken a moment to

answer my text message or email?" if it had happened in our own day. But when we are truly trying to experience a time of rest and spiritual renewal, each little interruption is like hearing an out-of-tune note on a piano or the proverbial fingernails scraping across the blackboard, and the peace that we truly need is shattered by the world.

"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he (Jesus) got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. Simon and his companions searched for him, and when they found him, they said, 'Everyone is looking for you.'" (Mark 1:35-37)

We then learn that these weren't isolated retreats: "But the news about him spread even more, and large crowds, would come together to hear him and to be healed of their sicknesses. Yet he **often** withdrew to deserted places and prayed." (Luke 5:15-16)

Hopefully, you are seeing a pattern of life that Jesus is setting for us as an example for living. Just think about the plumber who has come to clean out the stopped-up drain. The plumber reports, "No wonder your drain was stopped up. It was full of grease, hair, solid food, sticks, a ring, and a small toy. With all that in there, it was no way that anything could get through." When we fail to take time, as Jesus did, to spend time apart and pray, we will find that the Holy Spirit has a difficult time speaking to us. There is just too much noise and distractions keeping us from hearing what God is trying to say to us.

*continued on next page*

With that in mind, one part of the Clergy / Parish Letter of agreement states that after a period of seven (7) years, a three (3) month sabbatical leave for the Rector shall be provided. During this time, the Rector will receive full compensation and benefits. The sabbatical should be uninterrupted by the daily work of the Church (e.g., a three-month sabbatical should not be taken as six weeks in the spring and six in the fall, but 12 continuous weeks). Planning for the sabbatical leave shall begin at least one year advance, with the objectives clearly stated and agreed to by the Vestry and the Rector.

I began my seventh year with Christ Church Parish on the first of October. Since planning for the sabbatical needs to begin at least one-year in advance, the Vestry at the October Vestry meeting approved my taking a sabbatical for three months beginning, September 2022 through November 2022. You will hear more about my plans as they develop over the coming year. One of my hopes is to travel to Scotland and England and walk the St. Cuthbert Way pilgrimage which, is about 62 miles, visit Canterbury Cathedral, and visit London exploring our Anglican heritage.

As I begin making plans for creating a time of retreat, prayer, and spiritual renewal for myself, I pray that you, too, will follow our Lord’s example and spend time with him in personal reflection and renewal.

Faithfully,

Fr. Stuart



**Mid-week Eucharist**

Please remember that we have a mid-week Eucharist here at Christ Church. The service is at 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and will be celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.

**Changes in the Administrative Office**

Please welcome Kathy Hughs to our office staff. Kathy will be working with our Parish Administrator, Tonya Spears, as an Assistant Parish Administrator. Kathy is a retired school teacher and lives in Urbanna with her husband. After Kathy has been trained, Tonya will begin working two days a week and Kathy the other two. This will allow for regular office coverage and give us backup when one or the other may be on vacation or need to be absent for other personal reasons.



**“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.”**

This is the time of the year when the Vestry begins the process of seeking new members for the coming year. We have three members whose terms will end in December. They are Merri Hanson, Bob Montague, and Ann Padgett. We thank them for their many contributions to the Vestry’s activities. It is my belief that serving on the Vestry is one of the most significant ministries in the Episcopal church. My hope is that you will be reading about our new members for 2022 very soon.

Happy Thanksgiving to all, and God Bless.

Lydia Dudley

Senior Warden



**... from the Junior Warden’s Workbench**

- CHOIR WINDOW- has been removed and is being repaired
- CHURCH ROOF - 6 broken slate to be replaced along with caulking of the ridge and adding a metal ridge cap to ensure waterproof repair.
- CHURCH LIGHTS- all the brick wall floodlights have new bulb holders. All lights are led with a new dusk to dawn sensor.
- PARISH HALL - ice clips to be installed to protect gutters.
- RED OAK IN PARKING LOT- Bartlett Tree, an ISA Certified Arborist and tree risk assessment qualified has said the tree should be removed instead of trimming.
- BUILDING AND GROUNDS- will meet Nov. 1st. to update our maintenance plan for 2022— 2030 ( \$\$\$ ) expenses and will post on the parish hall bulletin board.
- CHURCH WINDOWS- all will be painted on the outside to protect the glazed window panes.

As always, you can contact me with questions or suggestions. Thanks, John.



## From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Thank you so much for your kind and generous donations to the book drive. The books will soon be delivered to Middlesex DSS and will certainly be a blessing to their clients.

This project is just one of many at Christ Church Parish that displays the theme of "Love your neighbor as yourself." I feel so blessed to be serving as a deacon in this place. The ways in which we serve others are wonderful and amazing. Having recently returned from a retreat at Shrine Mont, I must say how very proud I was to tell others where I am serving and what we do to care for those in need.

Our current ministry project is one to serve our lonely neighbors. So far, we have had a good response, but we still need more people on this team. To reiterate what is involved, this would mean "adopting" a person (names provided by Middlesex Social Services) and working to make their lives a little happier. This can be as simple as a phone call, a short visit, sending a card, delivering a flower, etc. Even once a month would be appreciated.

Our next informational/planning meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, at 9:15. If you think you may be called to this ministry, please contact me....

[peggy\\_moncure@live.com](mailto:peggy_moncure@live.com) or 804-869-3867. The time and effort will be in your control and can be very simple, but it will make a huge difference in the life of someone who needs a little TLC to add much-needed joy to their life.

Thank you for all you do to help "Share the Love" to those in our community and beyond.

Peace, Peg+

◀ October	November 2021						December ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
	<b>1</b> All Saints Day	<b>2</b> AA Group Noon -1 pm	<b>3</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9 am In the Chapel  Connecting Threads 1 pm	<b>4</b> GEEK Committee 9 am  Fellowship Committee 11:15 am  AA Group Noon -1 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Daylight Savings Time ENDS at 2 a.m Sunday morning.	
<b>7</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8 am 10:30 am  Eastern Standard Time BEGAN at 2 a.m.	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> AA Group Noon -1 pm	<b>10</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9 am In the Chapel	<b>11</b> Veteran's Day  AA Group Noon -1 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>12</b> Endowment Board 9 am	<b>13</b>	
<b>14</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8 am 10:30 am	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> AA Group Noon -1 pm	<b>17</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9 am In the Chapel	<b>18</b> Outreach Ministry Committee 9 am  AA Group Noon -1 pm  Boy Scouts 6:30 pm	<b>19</b> Worship Committee 9:30 am	<b>20</b>	
<b>21</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8 am 10:30 am	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> AA Group Noon -1 pm  Finance Committee 9:30  Vestry 5:30 pm	<b>24</b> Holy Eucharist Service 9 am In the Chapel	<b>25</b> Thanksgiving Day	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>28</b> Holy Eucharist Services 8 am 10:30 am	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> AA Group Noon -1 pm					



Last year I gave you the recipe for Scripture Cake, hoping you might be able to make a fun and educational project with it with young people around for the holidays. One intrepid family did just that, but I know many of you had to forego your family time last year in order to safeguard the health of your loved ones. SO, I was so sure this would be a big hit if you tried it, I'm offering it again. If you get stuck on any ingredient, just let me know, and I will share the secret code!

If you are lucky enough to have young children around for this Advent season, this can be a fun activity to figure out and prepare during the Advent Season. Recipes of this sort were very popular at quilting and sewing bees in the 1800. Maybe you're feeling like me and thinking we are homebodies and isolated. We have time for this! Your young helpers will find out where to find books of the Bible, and you'll enjoy a delicious cake at the end. How good is that!?

#### Scripture Cake

1 cup Psalms 55:21 (use either or both)

2) 2 cups Jeremiah 6:20 (last part of the verse)

6 Job 39:14

3 tablespoons 1 Samuel 14:25

½ cup Judges 4:19 (first sentence)

4 ½ cups 1 Kings 4:22 (first part of verse)

2 teaspoons Leviticus 2:13

2 teaspoons Amos 4:5

2 Chronicles 9:9 (1/2 teaspoons each of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg)

2 cups Numbers 17:8 chopped

2 cups both things in 1 Samuel 30:12, chopped (4 cups total)

Mix in a larger bowl in order given, beating in eggs until light and fluffy. Add the last two ingredients by hand. Following Solomon's advice for making a good boy (Proverbs 23:13) and you will have a good cake. Bake at 250 degrees for 2 ½ hours in 4 small "bread pans" buttered. Allow to cool in pans, on their sides, on a rack. Turn out cakes. You COULD wrap them in cheesecloth soaked with sherry or any whiskey. And you could share them...just saying...

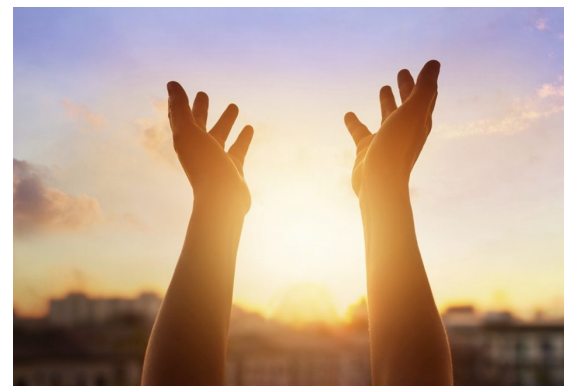
Wishing you a blessed Advent as we wait and await.

Advent Wishes from your Verger,

Grace Parker

## Catechism Corner

**Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education**



*Sursum Corda* (lift hearts) "Lift up your hearts"

In our Eucharistic service, as we move from hearing the word of God to the Eucharistic Prayer, we shift gears with the *Sursum Corda*.

It is an important part of our theology, and it connects us with the ancient liturgies. The *sursum corda* is an act of active worship; it is an act of reaching for God: "Let us lift up our hearts...to God in heaven, ..." (Lamentations 3:41)

We need the *sursum corda* in our worship because it:

\* has been used in Christian worship since at least 215 A.D.

\* captures the biblical idea of worship being an ascent into God's presence in heaven.

"Lift up your hearts!" "We lift them up to the Lord!" (...silently I suggest you think about "in heaven")

You'll hear this dialog in many Christian Liturgies. The highly focused words of the *sursum corda* are some of the most beautiful, heart-moving words we speak. They express the longing of the soul in this mortal world for the wholeness of honoring heaven, acknowledging our worship is a heavenly one. So we are summoned as worshipers to lift up our hearts and be heavenly-minded by seeking Jesus and the Father in heaven.

This is the point in the liturgy in which celebrant and people covenant together to make eucharist (to give thanks to God). The celebrant begins by calling the people to lift up their hearts. When the people agree by saying, "We lift them to the Lord," the celebrant rephrases the request in the first-person plural--no longer "[You all in the congregation] lift up your hearts," but "Let **us** give thanks to the Lord." The people confirm that would be "right," and then all join in the Sanctus.

Miles Libbey with thanks for enrichment by Fr. Bob.



# Outreach Ministry



## LIVE NATIVITY

The Outreach Ministry plans for the December 10th drive-by Live Nativity are coming together. Easy fitting costumes have been secured, and we have several volunteers to participate. The stable and manger with lighting will be built in the coming weeks. We are looking for more people to participate in the actual nativity scene, along with anyone willing to be an alternate. We would like to have a group singing Christmas carols at the scene. If you are interested in being part of this event in any way, contact Ann Padgett via email at [padgett@va.metrocast.net](mailto:padgett@va.metrocast.net).

## HANDS ACROSS MIDDLESEX

Attendance in a recent General meeting for Hands Across Middlesex revealed that volunteers are needed to help with the bi-weekly yard sales and clothes closet. Contact The Cryer Center at 804-758-2044 or [handsmdx@gmail.com](mailto:handsmdx@gmail.com). Also, volunteers are needed to deliver prepared meals during the mornings of Thanksgiving and Christmas. The delivery people will come through as a drive-through arrangement at the Cryer Center. They will be able to get their assignments and meals for delivery without exiting their vehicles. Please contact Cathy Newcomb at 758-8561 if you can help.

## OUTREACH VIDEO and BROCHURE

In May, the Outreach Ministry completed a short YouTube video highlighting the many community outreach efforts their Ministry, the ECW, the Brotherhood, our clergy, and many others that had been participating in recent years. The most typical reaction from parishioners who have watched it and volunteered feedback has been some variation of "WOW! I really had no idea Christ Church Parish does so much for our surrounding community!!"

According to YouTube statistics, 70 viewers had seen this video since it was uploaded a little under four months ago. Twenty percent of viewers had watched the entire 8+ minutes. The average viewing time is closer to 4 minutes or 45% of the whole video. We will consider that as we modify the content to include the new Fine Arts Summer Camp and Online Sunday Services. We can't know who has viewed YouTube. If you're not one of the 70 anonymous viewers counted by YouTube, we encourage you to watch it and give the Outreach Ministry any feedback

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6kTv8yj5LI>

Raising awareness about Christ Church Parish's outreach is clearly a major objective of this video. To this end, the Outreach Ministry has also recently created a new trifold brochure for those who prefer less computer time or just like paper over online links. We understand that, and you will soon see copies of this new trifold appearing around the Parish Hall.

## LOOKING FOR SEVERAL NEW MEMBERS TO JOIN US

Please help us spread the word about all of the meaningful activities church members and clergy are engaged in for the benefit of our community! Maybe what you see will also inspire you to join the Outreach team. Having fun while doing good can't be beat! Knowing you are looking out unselfishly for the interests of others in need also can't be much more personally rewarding!

Judy Quilter

## Set Your Veterans Day Apart From Others Set



**"A MISSING MEN AND WOMEN TABLE"**

"The Missing Men and Women Table" consists of a small, round bistro table, a white tablecloth, a single place setting, an inverted wine glass, a salt shaker, a slice of lemon on a bread plate with a pile of spilled salt, a bible, a small bud vase with a RED ribbon tied around it containing a single long stem red rose, a lit candle, and an empty chair.

The table is round to show our everlasting concern for our missing men and women. The tablecloth is white, symbolizing the purity of their motives when answering the call to duty. The single red rose, displayed in a vase, reminds us of the life of each of the missing and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, symbolizing our continued determination to account for our missing. A slice of lemon on the bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured or missing in a foreign land. The spilled salt symbolizes the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers. The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, founded as one nation under God. The glass is inverted to symbolize their inability to share this day's toast. The lit candle symbolizes the upward reach of their unconquerable spirit. The chair is empty because they are missing.

Now, set their table and observe a moment of silence to honor them, America's POW/MIAs, and to the success of our efforts to account for them. Now that you know, you can never forget!

## FROM YOUR ENDOWMENT FUND BOARD

Have a current will or trust.

Have long-term health insurance, and the family knows where all the important papers are located.

Father Stuart has a list of your favorite hymns and services preferences.

Darn! ..... I wanted to remember Christ Church in my estate plans, but I forgot!

Did you know that if all your estate planning documents are in place and to your satisfaction, you can easily leave a bequest to your beloved Christ Church simply by making us one of your beneficiaries on an insurance policy or savings or checking account? These require NO changes to your major estate documents but are normally just a simple form you can download and fill out to include us as a beneficiary. Today is really a good time to take care of that. If you have any questions, any member of the Endowment Fund Board can help you. Your church, thank you for making our future more secure for future generations. We are not financial planners, so as always, please consult with your attorney or other professional

William Budd, Chair; Page Wittcamp, Secretary; Jack Hellems, Treasurer; David Wilcox; James Knupp, Lydia Dudley, Vestry Rep.; Fr. Stuart Wood, Rector



## THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

There will not be a meeting in November.



The ECW had a very successful bake sale on September 25, 2021. The total profit was \$800! Thanks to an extraordinary volunteer team and their energy, they baked and demonstrated great sales techniques and had fun doing it! I would also like to thank the Brotherhood for setting up and taking down our booth. Volunteers don't ask for rewards, but their time and dedication do not go unnoticed. I want to be sure they know just how much I appreciate all of their help! Susie Loustaunau

# Good Reviews From Across the Pond

The comments below from Nigel James Mac-Fall were sent to Grace Parker on October 8 after watching our Blessing of the Animals service online from his home in England.

“Dear Grace,

*Last Sunday’s service was an absolute hoot, most enjoyable, we don’t get anything like that, I can imagine it was quite a challenge keeping order but under the benevolent eye of Father Stuart, the animals seemed remarkably well behaved, bless them.*

*I may be 3,698 miles from Christ Church, Saluda but the transmission of the services just gets better and better, congratulations to Mike Floyd and his colleagues, the church always looks stunning and I love the flower arrangements, were those white orchids behind the altar?... Nigel” (shared with his permission)*

For those who may not know or have forgotten, Nigel Mac-Fall is a great-grandson five times removed of the Rev’d Deuel Pead, one of the first Anglican priests in the area. Rev’d Pead was the third rector of Christ Church Parish during 1683-1690. His portrait hangs near the front door of our Parish Hall. Nigel paid a historic visit to Christ Church Parish in 2016. You can read more about that visit on our website. He continues to remain connected and engaged with us through email and takes advantage of zoom opportunities, including Bob Prichard’s Lenten Lecture series earlier this year. Clearly, Nigel also follows our live-streamed/recorded services.

We truly do love seeing many people in church **IN PERSON!** But we are also grateful for feedback on our online ministry, which you can only provide in a meaningful way if you’ve actually watched an online service. Whether or not you attend in person, if you have never seen any of our online services, we hope you will take a few minutes to watch at least one recorded example. All recordings remain accessible through our Facebook page and YouTube channel. Be assured that the production team is continually working on ways to avoid the occasional technical glitch that can arise from time to time – for example, a microphone needing volume adjustment. But if you watch a recording and see something you’d like to comment on, please feel free to speak up.

Fr. Stuart was doing a masterful job of producing his own recorded services for over a year. New state-of-the-art technology brought to the church in early 2021 was funded in part by a Mustard Seed Grant from the Diocese of Virginia. The Tech Team's skill with optimizing video production has increased dramatically since the team's first recorded service on Palm Sunday 2021, significantly freeing up Fr. Stuart's time to focus on his numerous other responsibilities. Live streaming was added a few weeks after that.

Some have asked about viewer statistics. When we have more time to assemble the data and analyze trends, these numbers will be reported in a future newsletter. What is already certain is that encouraging comments like Nigel's are coming from many distant locations, and not all who watch our services are members of Christ Church Parish. This new online ministry has already had positive impacts on our church beyond what we had imagined.

Grace Parker

Ann de Peyster





# Special November Celebrations

## Anniversaries

5<sup>th</sup> Bert Butler & Steve Richardson

## Birthdays

1<sup>st</sup> Bruce Desimone

2<sup>nd</sup> Bert Butler

5<sup>th</sup> Miles Libbey

7<sup>th</sup> Susan Dugan

8<sup>th</sup> George Sturgill

9<sup>th</sup> Bob Barlowe

Robin Wells

19<sup>th</sup> Judy Erdman

Laure Jones

20<sup>th</sup> Pete Mansfield

24<sup>th</sup> Rich Donoff

Ginger Smither

27<sup>th</sup> Louise Eichenlaub

30<sup>th</sup> Karen Brown

Bev Hart



## THE FIRST THANKSGIVING WAS IN VIRGINIA

On September 16, 1619, the “Good Ship Margaret” with 35 settlers, including Captain John Woodlief, sailed to Virginia. It took 2 ½ months to cross the stormy Atlantic Ocean and arrive in the Chesapeake Bay. Captain Woodlief then moved the ship up the King James River, and on December 4, as noted in the company journal, *“The men were rowed ashore, placed their personal luggage on the hard ground, gazed at the woods enclosing them and listened to the complete silence. Then, at a command from Captain Woodlief, with which they were profoundly stirred to comply, the homesick men knelt on the dried grass to pray”*. Captain Woodlief prayed: *“We ordaine that this day of our ships arrival, at the place assigned for plantacon, in the land of Virginia, shall be yearly and perpetually kept holy as a day of Thanksgiving to Almighty God.”*

The contractor, The Berkeley Company, had given a specific list of ten instructions to the settlers when they departed England. *The very first instruction was upon landing that they give a prayer of Thanksgiving for their safe voyage and to do so annually and perpetually thereafter.*

America’s first official English-speaking Thanksgiving had just occurred, one year and seventeen days before the Pilgrims landed in Massachusetts and almost two years before the Pilgrims held a three-day Harvest Feast which is commonly considered to be the first Thanksgiving. In the early days, the celebration of Thanksgiving was strictly a religious experience, focused entirely on prayer.

## ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

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 2021 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline</u>
December 2021	Friday November 26, 2021
January 2022	Monday December 27, 2021
February 2022	Monday January 24, 2022
March 2022	Monday February 21, 2022

All submissions are to be emailed as a word document to [jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com](mailto:jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com) Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a “space available” basis.