

Christ Church Parish

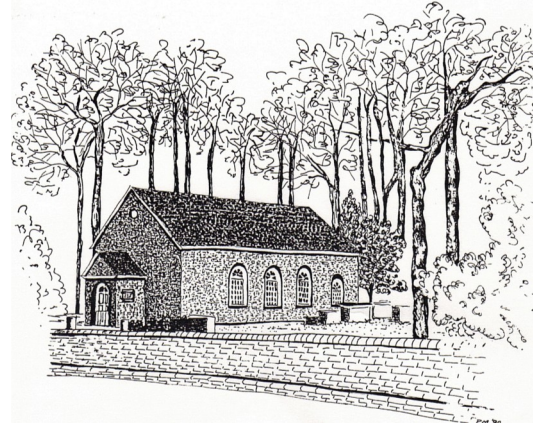
“A joy-filled church
with a heart and place for all.”



NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
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Location:

Rt. 33 & 638
Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Tel:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

ccparish@verizon.net

Web:

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



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

It is hard for me to believe that I have now been with you all for a whole year. It has been a real joy and pleasure getting to know and work with you all as we continue to celebrate Christ Church Parish's 350th anniversary year, the high water mark having been the visit of the Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Michael Curry.

I continue to thank God that Christ Church is an alive and vibrant parish celebrating the love of Christ in this community and beyond. There is a great deal that goes into making that happen, much of which goes on behind the scenes and is often not seen by any of us. Just think about it: the majority of us show up on Sundays and the buildings are lit, clean, heated or cooled, the flowers are neatly arranged and the altar set for service. Bulletins are neatly stacked in the narthex and coffee and refreshments await us in the parish hall. But all that doesn't just simply happen. It takes time, talent, a willingness to give of ourselves and our financial support to make it all happen.

The Christ Church family is here to assist us in celebrating the joys of life and to strengthen us during the sorrows of life. We come together through the E.C.W. and the Brotherhood to
.....continued.....

**Rejoice and Be Glad:
for God is at Work Among Us
and Every Day is a New Adventure!**

.....continued.....

help those who are less fortunate than ourselves around the county. But we are not an island unto ourselves; we are also one of many congregations within the Diocese of Virginia that contribute to the diocesan programs, and support our bishops and conference centers.

Giving financially to the Church is an important aspect of my own spiritual discipline. It is a reflection of MY thankfulness for the many blessings and the love that God pours out upon us. Yes, I work for the Church but I also support the Church and give to the Church so that the Church can give to others. I strive to do that proportionately out of my own income.

If you haven't had a chance to fill out your own pledge card or time and talent card, I hope that you will join me in supporting our parish life in whatever way that you feel God is calling you.

Faithfully,
Fr. Stuart

The ECW are very excited to announce a special luncheon to honor our military veterans throughout Middlesex County on November 11th. We begin at 11:30 and due to a limited seating capacity, you must have a reservation. Please contact Sallie Wells at 804-776-0086 or email her at dvillesallie@gmail.com



Nov 1 - Bruce DeSimone
Nov 5 - Brenda Knupp
Nov 5 - Miles Libbey
Nov 7 - Susan Dugan
Nov 8 - George Sturgill
Nov 9 - Bob Barlowe
Nov 9 - Robin Wells
Nov 13 - Bea Bronner
Nov 19 - Laura Jones
Nov 20 - Pete Mansfield
Nov 24 - Rich Donoff
Nov 24 - Ginger Smither
Nov 27 - Louise Eichenlaub
Nov 30 - Bev Hart

WHAT ????

No anniversaries in November?

We need to work on that!!



If we have forgotten to list your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Parish Office (758-2006) so we may correct our records.

If you do not receive this newsletter by mail and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office!



Special Calendar Notes:

- Nov 3 – ECW Ham biscuit production day, 9AM All welcome! ALSO: Bring bake sale items to Parish Hall from 9AM until 2PM
- Nov 4 and 5 – Oyster Festival – See sign-up sheets to lend a hand!
- Nov 13 – Brotherhood Breakfast 9AM All guys welcome!
- Nov 24 – Thanksgiving Day service 10:00 AM (Thursday)



THINKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Gordon Eliot White's history of Christ Church, written to celebrate our church's 350th anniversary, is still available and would make an excellent Christmas gift for your Christ Church friends or family.



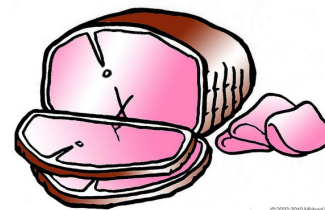
The book records the story of the original chapels that were merged in 1666 to form Christ Church, lists the 64 known ministers here since 1650 and describes the currents that controlled the English church in the colonies and that led to its disestablishment after the American Revolution.

White uncovered much new information over three years of research for the book.

It is available from the Church Office for \$40.00 or from White at P.O. Box 129, Hardyville, VA 23070 for \$40 plus \$5.95 shipping.

Bake Sale Items Needed!

Oyster Festival is the single largest undertaking that we participate in each year. In the past, the baked goods that Christ Church ECW puts out have been nothing less than amazing. So, please dust off those cake pans, ready the eggs and butter and don't forget to bake! Please bring to Parish Hall on Thursday, Nov 3rd from 9AM until 2PM.



Preparing those HAM BISCUITS - We will gather to make ham biscuits on Thursday, November 3rd at 9am. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. This operation always runs smoothly thanks to many, many helping hands. Hope we can count on you.

BROTHERHOOD !!

November 13th, 9AM Brotherhood Breakfast.....

Bob LeBoeuf, the Hartfield District Representative on the Middlesex County Board of Supervisors will be our speaker, followed by a short meeting.

Don't forget the Oyster Festival !! Praying for great weather!





Getting to Know You.... Please

welcome our latest contributor! Entries may be any length, from one paragraph to several. We look forward to learning about our fellow members. Getting to knowDebbie and Nicole Davis!

Did you know.... Nicole “Cole” and Debbie drive 75 minutes each way every Sunday to be a part of Christ Church? They were familiar with Christ Church because Debbie served previously as a long term sub.

Cole was always impressed with how good the food was at coffee hour. So when Debbie accepted the job permanently, Cole was delighted....because of the food!

Almost 4 years later, Cole is an acolyte and has grown up in the church which makes Debbie, her mom, really happy.

Away from Christ Church, Cole takes roller skating lessons, piano lessons, is a Girl Scout Cadet and is a fabulous visual artist. She has had her artwork displayed at Lewis Ginter, Suntrust Bank and the local library. She is also a sailor and swims like a fish!

Debbie’s day job is an elementary music teacher and she also runs an online business offering portable, HEPA Air purifiers.



and see hardly a car or two. You ride by Christ Church Parish any time and likely see several cars. Carolyn is there working, trying to get things done and 20 people are popping by for a meeting or to check on this or that, or ask about somebody. To me, it seems like God’s love in action. Its all of us on the journey, to do the work we have been given to do.

I know we say this a lot but this is my opportunity to say it myself: Thank you to everyone who does SO much for this church. I salute the coffee hour helpers, the people who work so hard on special events like the steak dinners, the Brotherhood, the ECW, the Altar and Flower Guild, the vestry, the cemetery committee, the nursery helpers, the website and email workers, the ushers, the choir and Debbie, Carolyn, the financial contributors who help keep the doors open and the bills paid and Father Stuart and everyone who makes the services so beautiful.

It is with gratitude and some hesitancy that I also need to tell you that I am stepping down from the newsletter function. December’s issue will be my last. I always wanted to be a writer and you all have allowed me to play one to a very sweet audience. It is time to provide an opportunity for a new person to hunt and peck out the information about our very busy and active church so we can all continue to participate in our own ways.

Love, Susan Guillotte

Cyber In-Security?

Tip: Ordering and shopping online can be timesaving but not if turns out to be unsafe for you. Suggestions:

- Use only one credit card for online use.
- Do not store the credit card information on the company’s website.
- Order only on “safe” sites which display a padlock symbol.



A letter FROM the editor: (Moose would not let me use his page)

A good while ago, I volunteered to keep this newsletter going. Father Paul was leaving Christ Church Parish and he graciously showed me how to use the newsletter computer program. Since then, I have done the best I could with my limited typing and computer “skills”. Many people took the time to offer advice, comments and praise, all helpful and inspiring. The experience has taught me a LOT about our church.

I have heard the slogan for years, “Change is inevitable.” Reading Gordon White’s book showed me the struggles that the church has gone through for 350 years, the challenges that the people met and learned from and grew through. The buildings went through storms and fires and war. The congregations survived their human-ness. It was difficult to see Father Paul leave Christ Church Parish. Many churches experience it but it feels very personal when its YOUR church.

From my point of view alone, what I watched happen since then was a determination to survive in our faith and our church. We had questions, frustrations, fears and confusion. Many of us continued to come to services, to kneel together at communion, listen to readings and sermons, sing hymns together and pray. Some folks did not get that far and chose to wait at home but many still financially supported the church from a distance. Change may be inevitable but love is voluntary.

The Altar Guild kept doing their job. The verger lined up crucifers. The readers kept leading us in psalms. The finance committee plodded through the numbers. The choir lifted our hearts. The Brotherhood had great breakfast meetings and survived a rainy Oyster Festival Saturday. The ECW were inspired to help support the Cryer Center and Habitat for Humanity. The Parish House survived a sewer backup and flood and guys worked until 1:00AM to limit the damage and clean up the mess. Parishioners had serious health issues and prayers were offered in their name. Father Stuart and other priests were sent to help us through. The vestry showed up at meetings to do the business of the church.

I looked at the people who helped this church carry on. It was absolutely everyone in their own way.

Everyone makes this church a vibrant, growing place. There are probably at least 50 churches in Middlesex County. You ride by any of them on Monday through Saturday



The Qualified Charitable Distribution

For those of us “seventy and a half years old or older” (70 1/2 !!) who have a traditional IRA, we are required to withdraw funds annually from our IRA account. This withdrawal is called a “Required Minimum Distribution”. These funds are taxable in the year withdrawn. For those of us that are fortunate to have a sizeable IRA account balance, this can result in a large tax obligation.

The amount of the required minimum distribution is based on your IRA account balance and your life expectancy as determined by the life expectancy tables published by the IRS (Pub 590).

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is an attractive means for qualifying donors or contributors to support nonprofits such as Christ Church Parish. A qualified charitable distribution is generally a nontaxable distribution made directly by the **trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.**

Such a distribution (cannot be distributed to you) allows qualifying contributors an opportunity to exclude from taxable income these transfers of IRA assets that are made **directly** to nonprofits such as Christ Church Parish.

In the case of distributions to Christ Church Parish, funding can apply to your annual pledge or the Endowment Fund per your instructions. This is an easy means of supporting the current financial needs or future financial needs of our beautiful church and avoiding taxation of the required distribution.

Christ Church Parish is not in the business of giving tax advice. This information should not take the place of competent, qualified legal advice.





Do you sometimes hum a favorite song?
That would indicate you would have a
GREAT time with us on Sunday morning,
Your Choir.

Choir is fun for singers AND for the congregation.
Let our Choir bring more music into your life.
We will enjoy your voice. Come on down!



**Calling all Members of Christ
Church Parish to consider serving
on the Vestry:**

**A new class of vestry members
will begin serving in January, 2017.
Please speak with any vestry mem-**

ber about this important contribution if you are interested in finding out more about it.

In addition, the vestry needs a person to record the minutes at their meetings beginning in January. Many thanks for Grace Parker's contribution of her time in this capacity for a very long time. Who can help?

Moments with Moose.....



When I watch Moose daily, like our cats too, I am reminded of how our pets are so carefree and trusting that their life will continue every day in their Jamaica paradise with never a worry or threat to the future. They don't worry about how the dog or cat food gets there or who pays for it; it will just be there in the bowl. They'll have a warm spot to sleep at night with never a care for their safety.

Are they grateful? They do not bite the hands that feed them, so to speak. They seem to be happy and appreciative but maybe that is just me "thinking for the animals" like Bob says. Truthfully, I DO that and even ask them a rhetorical question fairly often! Perhaps their "gratitude" is in their loyalty and they just do not complicate it further. We humans can certainly mess up a good thing. Recognizing our "good things" makes "good things" even better.

On a separate note: Moose can't vote, EVEN in Chicago! Hopefully he would encourage all of us to "get off the porch" and vote for the candidates of our choice. We can all be grateful that we have the freedom to choose.....hey, maybe he can do an absentee ballot!