

Christ Church Parish

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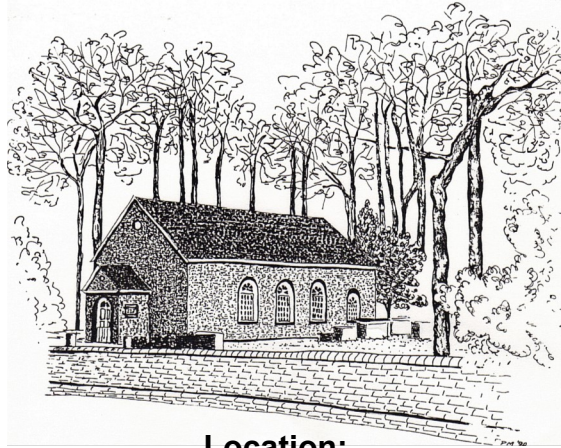
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September
2020

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service
<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/Worship-Services-on-Facebook/>

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Location:

Rt. 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. Dr. Bob Pritchard,
Priest Associate

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex *Monthly Newsletter for September of 2020*



One of the church's hymns begins with this verse, "God is working his purpose out as year succeeds to year," but I want to put a microscope on it and say instead, "God is working his purpose out as month succeeds to month." Where has the summer gone, where has the year gone? We keep praying for a return to some sense of normalcy, but there still isn't anything normal about the times that we're living in. Worship is on-line, school is on-line, meetings are on-line. We miss seeing each other and we miss embracing one another with a fond hello. And now, in addition to living in a pandemic, we're living in an election year. These are stressful times for sure. Ruth Caye Jones wrote a hymn some years ago that tells us that there is hope in the midst of trouble, that there is a Savior that will see us through these troubling times. She wrote, "In times like these you need a Savior. In times like these you need an anchor; Be very sure, ... Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock! This Rock is Jesus, Yes, He's the One, ... The only One!"

As we approach the end of summer and Fall looms on the horizon, we enter that time in the church year when study groups get back together, the Stewardship and Finance committees begin looking to next year's budget and how we will finance it, and we start thinking about the blessing of the animals, Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas. We already know that this Fall will be different because there won't be an Oyster Festival – maybe the world really is coming to an end.

But in the midst of face masks and self-isolation I've also witnessed that God is working his purpose out through our Facebook page and the moments of comfort that Peg is posting and the services that are being put together for Sundays. By looking at the "likes" and the "comment" posts each day I have come to see more and more new names of individuals looking at our offerings. I have seen names of persons that I thought were new to Christ Church only to find out that they were already on our mailing lists, but haven't been in a while. Our fund drive for our parish hall and then for Ellen have reached people clear across our country who have responded with very generous gifts to those projects. We may not be physically present with one another, but we are certainly reaching out to our community and beyond in new and creative ways.

Continues on page 2, Stuart

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Continued from page 1, Stuart

I continue to pray for the day when we can once again worship and celebrate together, but until we're given the green light for that to happen, I thank you and your Vestry thanks you for your faithful prayers and support of our well-beloved parish. Please continue to reach out to one another and those that you know are alone and stay safe and well.

God Bless each of you,



“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.”

At our August 11 meeting, the Vestry discussed ways that all parishioners can be involved while waiting for the church to reopen. This topic was further discussed at the Outreach Committee meeting on August 20. Peg Moncure, our intern, shared her many ideas to continue to “Share the Love” with the community. In a letter to all of you, she outlined her current project, collecting clothing and used books. Many thanks to those of you who have chosen to participate. Ann Padgett and Peg are planning another activity this fall. Please let either of them know if you have other ideas.

Since the completion of the renovation of our “Great Hall,” as it has been referred to lately, many of you have expressed confusion as to the location of this room. It has often been referred to as the “Parish Hall”, which is the whole building. The Vestry discussed renaming this room and, while acknowledging the historical significance of the original name, decided to name it the “**Fellowship Hall**”, signifying its major use.

Fr. Stuart and I have submitted the application for resuming in-person church services on a limited basis. Once our petition is approved, we will wait until The Three Rivers Health District (including Middlesex County) has experienced fourteen consecutive days of decline in new cases and deaths. We pray that this may happen soon.

Fr. Stuart is taking a short well-deserved vacation until September 8. These past months have been stressful for all of us, including our Rector. He has been “behind the scenes” adjusting our normal church proceedings, always keeping the needs of his congregation foremost in his mind. He meets weekly with the Diocese to receive guidelines and to hear what other churches are

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doing. He continues to put a great deal of work into producing virtual services each Sunday. This involves preparing the sermon and selecting the readings and hymns and coordinating with members of the congregation who are assisting for each service. Working with other churches in the community, he has shared his sermons and used parts of other Pastors' sermons. As part of the supervision of our intern, he helped her plan and officiate at one service. All of this has been done while seamlessly tying all the pieces together into one cohesive service. As part of the Stewardship Committee, Fr. Stuart has worked to prepare the pledge campaign for 2021. He meets regularly with the Wardens and plans the monthly Vestry meetings. He attended a community-wide church meeting where all worked together for the youth programs in county. He has made some exceptionally good decisions involving the use of his discretionary funds by using them to concentrate on assisting those in need in our county. “In his spare time”, Fr. Stuart has visited nursing homes as allowed, performed and assisted with memorial services, conducted a virtual pre-marital counseling for a wedding next summer. Those are the things that I know about!

Another discussion at our August Outreach Committee led to a sharing of ways that we have personally learned to cope with the stresses of these times. In the Outreach article, Sharon Colston generously shares her thoughts. We invite all of you to share your feelings with Jean Holt, Outreach Coordinator, so we can share with other parishioners. Sometimes just knowing you are not alone can help you deal with the apathy that each of us feels when overwhelmed. Inactivity with no interest being created encourages a perfect environment for apathy. Please join us in our endeavors to continue keeping our church the wonderful family that it has been and will be as we move forward. “May you live in interesting times” is sometimes considered a curse by the Chinese. You can take this at face value or take a moment to realize that there are two sides to everything. We are in interesting times and they are anything but a curse.

There are quantum leaps being made in many fields such as medical research and communication. Families are sharing quality time together again. The creative nature in most of us is coming to the forefront. Fr. Stuart learning how to create virtual weekly services is an excellent example of this. God does have a plan for all of us to find ways to flourish during these times.

May God bless you,

Newsletter Input for September from the Junior Warden:

This past month has been a bit more relaxed when it comes to projects and accomplishments in the area of Buildings and Grounds. We did, however, switch from Verizon to Atlantic Broadband for our phone and high-speed broadband needs, which resulted in a new email address for the church of ccparish1666@gmail.com.

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And thanks to the help of Bob Guillotte and Middlesex County, we FINALLY rid ourselves of roughly 40 containers of old paint that were stored in the Parish Hall and Sacristy when they had a collection site set up on August 15th at the Middlesex Elementary School.

Thanks are also due to John Quilter for installing new blinds in the Parish Hall Library. They actually work!!!

A new project is now underway due to the efforts of the Christ Church Parish Geek Squad consisting of Mike Gorin, Mike Floyd, and Jack Fackler. They have been working to enable us to record live services from the church in the Parish Hall and then being able to upload the recorded or live service to Facebook. The Vestry approved the expenditure of \$2500 for a camera, computer, and other equipment to give us that capability.

And as always, please let me or the Building and Grounds Committee members know of things that may require our attention. Thanks!



The following is from Sharon Colston, who sent this to Jean Holt after a discussion at their last Outreach Ministry meeting. Senior Warden, Pam McClelland, made mention of this in her Newsletter submission and your editor thinks this is a **Must-read!**

Outreach Ministry: During our last meeting, we were made aware of how hard it is for many to think of reaching out to others, while we are trying to survive in our own isolation. Several members responded with some of their ways of coping in this new time of isolation and connection with our family, friends and church family. It is our hope to feature one or two perspectives in the ensuing months' newsletters. As Robin has asked previously, please feel free to share your experiences/ coping skills you have developed during this time of isolation. We are all searching for positives in our lives- and as the following expresses —**God provides!** Jean Holt, Chair

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Although like many, there are times during the pandemic that I am frustrated and a little depressed. Early on though I decided to try to make positives out of negatives and overall I feel I have succeeded.

Before:

Four or five days a week I traveled to Kilmarnock to work out (a 35 minute drive each way) in order to receive the help I feel necessary for my wellbeing, however, I spent well over an hour in transit each trip and added lots of miles and using much gas to accomplish this activity.

Now:

I participate in four online morning workout sessions and travel twice a month to receive personal training and guidance. I love working out at home and having hours and hours of extra time available to me!

Before:

Our yard was out of control and just overwhelming because we never seemed to have time to keep up with the many tasks.

Now:

Most days after my workout (whether online or on my own), I spend an hour or a bit more outside before it is too hot and the yard looks great and I am not frustrated.

Before:

Trying to get a daily morning walk in before preparing to drive to Kilmarnock for working out was challenging and I often missed my walks.

Now:

I walk nearly every morning before working out during the 30 plus minutes that I would have been driving and I now listen to a religious meditation of just a few minutes each day spending the rest of my walk thinking about the message. This daily offering was not available to me before the Pandemic.

Before:

My/our calendar was so full with commitments it might be weeks before we could accept an invitation. Being spontaneous was not an option.

Now:

My calendar has many open time slots and days so I've enjoyed being able to be spontaneous and say yes when asked.

Continues on page 9, Outreach



ONLINE WORSHIP SERVICES

This is reprinted from last month but we want to make sure that everyone who wants to can participate in Fr. Stuart's Facebook Sunday Service. There has been some feedback about confusion while using the Christ Church website when folks do not use the options on the left side of the screen and see services on the right side of the page. The services mentioned on the right side of the page are "in church" services and have been cancelled. What you need to do is as follows:

PLEASE DON'T GET OUT OF THE HABIT" OF GOING TO

CHURCH! It's too easy to do, besides Fr. Stuart works very hard and has done a wonderful job of putting it together for us.

- ♦ Go to CCP Web Site by clicking on this link— <http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/Worship-Services-on-Facebook/>. You can also highlight the link, copy it (click CTRL C) and then paste it (click CTRL V) into your browser.
- ♦ When the cursor hits this link it will turn red and will show a menu that will also be red of all the services that have been prerecorded.
- ♦ The service of the day will not show up until the appointed time.
- ♦ You do not have to be on Facebook to see the service or "attend".
- ♦ One of the beauties of these virtual services is "you can be late getting to church" and not miss anything! And no one will stare at you!
- ♦ Also, you can go anytime you want after the appointed time.
- ♦ And, guess what? Pajamas are perfectly acceptable!



Catechism Corner: The Daily Office #1 of 3

This is a three-part explanation of the Daily Office; this month from a historical look, next month from today's Anglican Communion's practice and finally the contents. Since the English Reformation, the Daily Office in churches of the Anglican Communion has principally been the two daily services of Morning Prayer (often called Matins) and Evening Prayer often called Evensong when celebrated chorally. These services are generally celebrated according to set forms contained in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). The Daily Office may be led either by clergy or laypeople. In England and many of the provinces of the Anglican Communion, clergy are required to pray the two main services daily. This has not been required in the Episcopal Church in the US since the American Revolution. Miles Libbey



From the Verger

I have some vague recollection that this time every four years would be called the "silly season" when both political parties would host huge conventions full of lots of very odd hats and costumes and pretty outrageous activities intended to gain attention and, perhaps, even influence minds. We seemed to have moved to a place where little of politics can be termed "silly," which implies a light-heartedness now not very evident. But, whether you are glued to the virtual conventions of both major parties, or just cannot stand to watch even a minute of them, politics and debates are in the very air we breathe (hopefully through our masks.)

So, I was captured by a meditation sent out this week by our new Bishop in the Diocese, Porter Taylor. He wrote something I think we should all take in—that the people of this country are not Republican or Democrats or any other political label. We are first and foremost called to be children of God.

When we speak, or act, or think, we would be at our best if we stopped to consider what Jesus would say, or do, or think. Both those that we agree with and those that we disagree with are also children of God. Let us pray for all and try to stay away from negative, life-sapping polemics which diminish us. Let us be shining examples of Christian beliefs put into practice, especially now.

Onward Christian Soldiers!

Grace Parker, Verger

Our Heartfelt Thanks

Thank you for welcoming Mom and making her feel special whenever she visited Christ Church. Thank you for your prayers and emotional support as her disease progressed. Love and hugs for the many words of comfort and acts of kindness you have showered on us with her passing. You are a wonderfully caring group of people, and we are grateful.

Debbie and Nicole

WORLD QUARANTINE

The flood lasted 40 days

40 years Moses fled Egypt

Exodus lasted 40 years

Jesus fasted 40 days

40 days between Shrove Tuesday and Easter

40 days tell the woman to rest after giving birth

So what about the Bible and the number 40? A group of theologians think that the number 40 represents "change". It is the time of preparing a person or people to make a fundamental change. Something will happen after these 40 days.

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ARE YOU READY FOR SOME HUMOR?

With the pandemic causing some isolation, we all need a laugh
or a chuckle to help ease the way through our daily lives!



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Before:

We did see family but it was always wedged between other commitments. Visits were less frequently planned and held.

Now:

Our bubble has expanded to include immediate family and we see more of each other than before the pandemic. Although we don't go places or dine out as much we have an awareness of how special it is to be together and share a closer bond.

Before:

Like others, all travel plans were cancelled.

Now:

With a more open schedule, we have enjoyed being in our home and living on the river more fully. We also have visited nearby places we never found time for before.

Before:

Members of my family were gainfully employed.

Now:

Some family members are on unemployment and several are struggling to make ends meet; however, because we have fewer expenses staying at home we are able to help others.

Before:

I was overbooked and overextended.

Now:

I am much more relaxed and have plenty of time to stop and smell the roses.

Yes, I miss social interaction especially my church and church family. However, life is full and rich and I count my blessings often. I hope to retain many "Now" lessons as life moves forward rather than return to a too hectic life.

Sharon Colston



Flash! Did you know?

We have a new email address!



CCParish1666@gmail.com



Jeff & Susie Loustaunau 9/2
Tim & Kathy Clarke 9/4
Bill Budd & Mary Lynn Landgraf 9/6
Jim & Jewel Ray 9/10
John & Sheila Gammel 9/15
Mike & Karen Gorin 9/15
Jeff & Pam McClelland 9/28
Scott & Nancy Campbell 9/28

Jackie Brown 9/4	Marian Goodloe 9/4
Barbara Shaw 9/5	Liz Perkins 9/6
Ann de Peyster 9/6,	Micki Clay 9/7
Cathy Spence 9/12	Betty Evans 9/14
Theresa Liverman 9/17	Bob Montague 9/18
Sallie Wells 9/22	Janet Lundin 9/24
Bill Cawthorn 9/25	Jeff McClelland 9/25,
Mary Buxton 9/26	Sheila Gammel 9/29

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During quarantine, rivers are cleaning up, vegetation is growing, the air is cleaner because of less pollution, there is less theft, fewer murders. The earth is at rest for the first time in many years.

In the Bible whenever the number 40 appears, there is a “change” so, during that time, enjoy it with yours, and return to the family altar together. It will be of great blessing, and you will see the changes that God can work in you and in your home and you will see that “everything works together for good for those who love God” Romans 8:28

Remember that we are in the year 2020 (20 + 20= 40)

40 days for the spiritual liberation of our nation

Betty Evans



Christ Church Parish

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Dear Parishioner:

Our community of faith has enjoyed your support. Thank You!! Your generosity has contributed to “Growing Our Faith,” together.

Generosity in your prayer life, home life, and worship adds an abundant dimension to life. Being generous with patience, forgiveness, prayer, readiness to serve and readiness to share your blessings, enhances “Growing Our Faith.”

Let God practice generosity through you.

It is time to begin planning for our community’s 2021 sustenance. It is time to share in God’s mission with glad, generous and grateful hearts.

Save this Date – September 27th – Stewardship Sunday

This is the date we ask you to pledge to “Growing Our Faith” in 2021. Unfortunately, COVID-19 protections will prevent our enjoying one another at a Community Breakfast, but please mark your calendars for September 27th to bring or mail in your pledges and commitments to facilitate our community of faith’s 2021 wellbeing.

We all need each other. We need to generously support each other. Your pledges and commitments to Christ Church Parish for 2021 will foster us and will give us the strength to continue to enjoy “Growing Our Faith,” together.

Faithfully

Stewardship
Committee

Fr. Stuart Wood

Pam McClelland

Jack Hellems

Jim Knupp

