

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

February 2017

Rector's Message

Dear People of Christ Church,

In January, at the Downtown Clergy Fellowship's prayer service for unity, there was a wonderful moment as four of the clergy and one of the members of the Islamic Society gathered around the reporter who spoke with us after the service. During the conversation, I was simply able to enjoy what it means for us as people of differing faith traditions to be more than angry or divided people. It was wonderful to listen to the dialogue and the questions it created after our prayer service.

Another part of what I have the privilege to enjoy in this faith community is seeing us do more than just talk about compassion in our different traditions. I see us actually acting with compassion as we prepare to host our week of WATTS, which other congregations have been doing since this year's program began back in November. It's amazing to see these different churches work on a successful ministry together.

In some ways, I am not sure what the surprise is when we talk about faith and service or care towards others. Is the surprise that we are able to serve our Lord even though we disagree or have different traditions? Or is the surprise that someone may have thought that we have ever agreed on everything about God? I would be surprised if anyone thought we ever agreed on all aspects of God and faith!

No matter what the surprise, the challenge and call to discipleship is still there for us. We do not do it out of fear or anger towards one another. We do not do it in order to devalue the image of God found in every human being. In our Christian community, we do it because our Lord commands us to.

Perhaps the Gospel writers have it right when they leave out any inner, psychological detail of what went through the minds of those first disciples. Instead, as Mark's gospel puts it, when Jesus calls, the disciples immediately leave what they are doing and follow. No over-thinking it. No inner-debate. No asking, "But what do I get out of it?" They just go and serve the Lord.

We will always have times and issues where we will argue and disagree with others. That is the easy part. The challenge is making sure, even in those most passionate of arguments, that we do not forget, at least in the Episcopal Church, what we say in our baptismal covenant –

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

People: I will, with God's help.

We will have moments when we reflect the compassion of Jesus very well. And then we will have those moments when we will feel that we need God's help to resolve our differences. A life in faith is never easy. However, not even life within our own families is easy. By the grace of God that we received through creation and baptism, we seek God's help so that, in the end, we can be a people seeking to make God's kingdom known rather than our own kingdoms.

Faithfully,



The Very Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

FEBRUARY 2017

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From the Vestry

Highlights from the January Vestry Meeting

- The budget for 2017 was presented from the Finance Committee and approved unanimously. (See p. 12-13 for details.)
- Weather has outdoor projects for the Properties Committee on hold.
- A vestry retreat is being planned.
- A group of eight youth plan to go on pilgrimage this July. There will be a silent auction in March as a fundraiser.
- Bingo night in February will benefit our Stop Hunger Now program.

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, February 28, in the Tilford Room. Everyone is invited for pancakes, bacon, sausage, and other treats served from 5:30 pm until 7:00 pm. This event is hosted by the Vestry and donations will be accepted at the door. All proceeds will support the next Youth Pilgrimage.



**Ash Wednesday is Wednesday, March 1, 2017.
Services at Christ Church will be at 7:00 am, Noon and 7:00 pm.**

From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

There are two things at war in our minds at most times—fear and faith. Recently, the intersection of fear and faith has been a dominant theme in many of my conversations with friends and parishioners. As Christians, the war inside of us between fear and faith is a tough battle, and quite often a battle that we feel guilty about fighting. We believe, therefore we should have faith. We should not be afraid. But yet, we are. There are things and situations in this world that ultimately make us afraid. We feel like we should be better than that! We should not be afraid. So how do we make our way forward faithfully, while being honest about our fears?

Science suggests that we are born with two innate fears: the fear of falling and the fear of loud noises. This might explain why I sometimes jump out of my desk chair if someone knocks unexpectedly on the closed door behind me. This might also explain why every time I have participated in a high-ropes course, it is has required a lot of talking myself in to the climbing up part! What science and life also suggest is that most of all the other fears we have in life are ones that we have learned—everything from the basics we learn as young children (stranger danger, the stove is hot – don't touch it, a fear of water or swimming) to those broader fears of people of other races, religions, or opposing views that seem to develop inside many. They are all learned fears.

For better or worse, we all experience things during our lives that shape and change us. Sometimes those experiences and encounters with people shape in us a fear that we then assign to anyone else we encounter that we place in to that the same category. If, as suggested, these are learned fears, I wonder how long it then takes us to un-learn these fears. When we come to a point in life when we realize that automatically being fearful is in fact not the best way to approach life, how do we overcome our fears? Where do we turn?

In January 1933, during a time of widespread fear, while preaching on Matthew 8:23-27 (the story of Jesus calming the storm), Dietrich Bonhoeffer said, “In the midst of every situation where there is no way out, where nothing is clear, where it is our fault, we know that there is hope, and this hope is called: Thy will be done, yes, thy will is being done.” He went on to say that what we do in the face of fear is to call on Christ by name saying, “. . .we name the name of the One who makes the evil inside us recoil, who makes fear and anxiety themselves tremble with fear and puts them to flight. We name the One who overcame fear and led it captive in the victory proces-sion, who nailed it to the cross and committed it to oblivion; we name the One who is the shout of victory of humankind redeemed from the fear of death—Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Living One. He alone is Lord over fear; it knows him as its master; it gives way to him alone. So look to Christ when you are afraid, think of Christ, keep him before your eyes, call upon Christ and pray to him, believe that he is with you now, helping you . . . Then fear will grow pale and fade away, and you will be free, through your faith in our strong and living Savior, Jesus Christ.”

This is not always easy when we are in the depths of our anxiety and fear. But my friends, it is the way through and past the fears that hold us back. Whatever fears we encounter, from wherever they bubble up, we have a strong and mighty name to call upon to help us. As we do this, our eyes can be opened up more and more to God's goodness in this world, to our many and varied callings. Callings, that as the Rev. Kristin Whitesides said in her sermon here, may call us to drop our nets, get out of the boat, and leave the familiar behind.

On Sunday, February 19, we will be joined by Buck Blanchard, director of the Office of Mission & Outreach for the Diocese of Virginia. Buck will be speaking on the topic of fear as it relates to mission and outreach at both the Adult Forum and 10:30 am service. As we continue our conversations and discernment about Christ Church's outreach ministries, I hope that you will come and join us. We are indeed called to be honest about our fears and anxieties, but we are also encouraged to call on the name of our Lord Jesus to put those fears in their rightful place in order that we might better discern God's will and faithfully follow where we are led.

Blessings,



The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org

Christian Formation

Adult Forum in February

In coming weeks, we'll learn about how Christ Church fits in as part of the Diocese of Virginia, one of the largest dioceses in the Episcopal Church. We'll consider the tremendous resources and opportunities we have as part of the Diocese. Please join us for Adult Forum on February 2, as the clergy and delegates of Christ Church who attended the Diocesan Convention on January 27 and 28 will report on their experience.

On February 12, Christ Church is hosting WATTS, which means that the Parish Hall will have lots of cots in it. We will have an informal gathering for Adult Forum—around the cots—about ministries such as WATTS in the Winchester area, as well as other projects of which we are a part in our region, Region 14.

On February 19, our guest speaker for Adult Forum is Buck Blanchard. He is the director of Mission & Outreach for the Diocese. His role is to encourage and facilitate the mission and outreach efforts of all parishes in the Diocese.

On February 26, we will look at the program for Lent, which begins the following Wednesday, March 1. This Lent, we encourage you to participate in an online series created by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist and the Center for the Ministry of Teaching at the Virginia Theological Seminary called, *5 Marks of Love: Living Life Marked as Christ's Own*. Each morning of Lent, you'll receive an email with a short video featuring one of the brothers of SSJE discussing the ways in which God's Life and God's Mission express themselves in and through us. Using the free downloadable workbook, over the course of Lent, you will explore the Anglican "Marks of Mission" through thought-provoking questions and activities. This program will also shape our Adult Forum during Lent as it offers a space for prayerful discussions as we collectively reflect.

Subscribe to the daily videos here: <http://ssje.org/ssje/5marksoflove/>

Adult Forum meets at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings in the Tilford Room. Please join us!

Pilgrimage Fundraiser

St. Patrick's Day Dinner & Silent Auction

Saturday, March 11, 2017 at 6:30 pm

Proceeds support the 2017 Youth Pilgrimage to England



This fun annual event is the largest fundraiser our youth program hosts to help make our pilgrimage program happen! And, we need your help in several ways:

Donations of items for the auction

In the past, donations have included: gift baskets of items from local stores, church committees, and even Sunday School classes, art work, donations such as timeshares, and even meals prepared for your family by the Rector of Christ Church, tickets to shows, sports events, ways to get away or spend an evening out at local venues. All creative donations to help support our event are welcome! To make donations, please call Kim Pifer (540-662-1007).

Buy tickets for the event

Tickets will be going on sale in mid-February and we ask that you not only consider buying them for yourselves, but also for your friends so they can come as well! Enjoy the fun and fellowship, and bid at the auction as we all seek to support the pilgrimage program for this year's group, as well as youth who will travel in the coming years.

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Thinking about Summer?

Our **Vacation Bible School** will take place the week of July 10-14, 2017. Put it on your calendar now!

Epiphany to Lent Lessons

During Epiphany, our preschool through grade 5 classes explore many of the stories of Jesus' teaching and healing, working to understand Jesus' ministry as *God with Us*. It's a great time to re-read these stories with our children and share them together. Our children are guaranteed to amaze you with what they understand and what they help us understand!

WATTS project

Preschool through grade 5 classes will be making Valentines for our WATTS guests on February 12. Our children are really enthusiastic about our WATTS project each year, so please make every effort to bring them to Sunday School on the 12th!



Lenten Mite Box Offering

Yes, it's almost that time again! Our yearly Lenten Mite Box offering will begin on February 14. On February 7, expect your children to bring home information on his/her class's choice of a goal so they'll be ready to begin on Ash Wednesday. Each class member will be asked to bring in a weekly offering so we can continuously measure how close we are to our class goal.



Classes will learn the project they have chosen helps others and offer prayers together for the recipients of our gifts. Expect a weekly update from your teacher. Please help us remember that weekly offering! The offering will conclude the Sunday after Easter.

As always, anyone is invited to participate!

Adult Daytime Faith Study

We continue to explore the Old Testament using the Great Courses DVD, "The Old Testament." The study meets in the Commons (all the way upstairs in the Parish Hall) at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. In February, we will meet February 9 and 23. All are welcome to join us! Questions? Please call the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email Webster at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.

Calendar and Upcoming Events

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am
Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

12:00 pm Pilgrim's Chapel
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm Special Needs—Sanctuary

February

6-12 WATTS Host Week
11 Men's Fellowship
16 Bingo Night
28 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper
March 1 is Ash Wednesday.



Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Lectionary Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
Men's Fellowship	2nd Sat: 7:30 am
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Bible Studies	Tues: 10:45 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm

Children's Chapel

Join us on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall from 10:30 am until the Peace. We welcome children ages 3-7. No registration is required. The service is child-sized and allows our young parishioners to explore the same Gospel we hear in the Sanctuary but with more opportunity to wiggle and talk! Our Children's Chapel leaders always welcome an extra pair of hands if you would like to join them!



**Look for
Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

**The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

February Birthdays

- 1 Kay Teachout
- 2 Al McGilvray, Jr.
- 5 Scott Harper
- 6 Dee Johnston, Sean Raymond
- 7 Bobby Arthur, Bebe Tischler
- 8 Bill Endorf, Glen Opheim
- 10 Reed Constantino, Rick Constantino
- 11 Rebecca Gibson, David Wingenbach
- 12 Tricia Glass, Ann McQuinn,
Sally Megeath, Bernie Swope
- 13 Joyce Byrd
- 14 Martha Griffin, Lucy Rockwood
- 15 Dino Morgoglionone, Kathi Adams,
Frederick Mueller
- 16 Bruce Trant, Teresa Barton,
Ashley Bingaman
- 17 Sarah Browning, Detra Michaels,
Stephen Brown
- 18 Zoe Giller
- 19 Bruce Allen, Willie McGilvray
- 20 Elle Hamman
- 23 Richard DeBergh, Roger Zearth,
Bill Jones
- 25 Beth Conrad
- 27 Tyler Barnes
- 28 Todd Barton

Wedding Anniversaries

- 2 Steve & Neile Grady Martin
- 3 Jim & Sylvia Petrie
- 4 John & Mary Margaret Applin
- 8 Martin & Nancy Tabaka
- 12 Dan & Mary Gloster
- 13 Dennis & Bobbie Bromley

celebrate!

Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses. Please let the office know the school addresses of our college students.



Finance Committee

Financial Report

Full Year 2016 Budget & Actual: December brought a fantastic finish to 2016!

Revenues: All revenue categories exceeded budget at year-end! Though Unpledged revenue had lagged below budget all year, a December surge and some unexpected gifts resulted in actual Unpledged revenues exceeding budget by almost \$7,800. In total, revenues exceeded budget by about \$25,700 (about 4.4%).

Expenses: The Original Total actual expenses were slightly under budget for the year by about **\$255**.

Reserves: Since revenues were bountiful for 2016, both a \$2,000 Sabbatical Reserve and a \$10,000 Properties Reserve were added at year-end to the actual expenses. This resulted in the Adjusted Total expenses exceeding original budget by about \$11,700.

Balance: The final result is a surplus of \$13,958, which will be added to the Operations Reserve Fund.

The table below has details by account:

Full Year Through December 2016	Actuals	Budget	Difference
Revenues			
Pledged	\$483,627.12	\$476,000.00	\$7,627.12
Unpledged	\$70,770.20	\$63,000.00	\$7,770.20
All Other	\$51,404.60	\$41,100.00	\$10,304.60
Total	\$605,801.92	\$580,100.00	\$25,701.92
Expenses			
Personnel	\$403,941.83	\$404,689.00	\$(747.17)
Utilities	\$26,466.73	\$28,000.00	\$(1,533.27)
Property/Maintenance	\$39,147.17	\$41,800.00	\$(2,652.83)
Office	\$27,140.54	\$22,573.00	\$4,567.54
Christian Education	\$9,865.47	\$9,850.00	\$15.47
Music	\$7,471.65	\$7,500.00	\$(28.35)
Worship	\$756.13	\$1,100.00	\$(343.87)
Stewardship	\$1,275.12	\$600.00	\$675.12
Outreach	\$57,757.81	\$57,800.00	\$(42.19)
Pastoral Care	\$838.27	\$700.00	\$138.27
Parish Life	\$1,822.27	\$2,200.00	\$(377.73)
Communications	\$3,361.30	\$3,288.00	\$73.30
Original Total	\$579,844.29	\$580,100.00	\$(255.71)
* Sabbatical Reserve	\$2,000.00	\$-	\$2,000.00
Properties Reserve	\$10,000.00	\$-	\$10,000.00
Adjusted Total	\$591,844.29	\$580,100.00	\$11,744.29
Net Total	\$13,957.63	\$-	\$13,957.63

* & ** Added at year end.

Finance Committee

2017 Budget and More

Budget Challenge Update:

You may recall that the original budget for 2016 had expenses exceeding revenues by about \$7,200. In order to balance the budget for the year, a “Budget Challenge” line item was added in the revenue All Other section. Over the past few months we have received gifts that have specifically been designated for the “Budget Challenge.”

With the December surge in both Pledged and Unpledged revenue **we met and exceeded the Budget Challenge** with extra revenue to fund the Sabbatical Reserve, the Properties Reserve, and even have an operating surplus to add to our Operations Reserve.

Operating Surplus:

At the end of each year, revenues are rarely exactly equal to expenses. The result is either a budget surplus or a budget deficit. An Operations Reserve Fund was established in previous years to hold funds from surplus years and to disperse funds, if needed, for deficit years.

There was an almost \$14,000 surplus at the end of 2016. A couple of reasons for this surplus are some unexpected year-end donations of \$5000, as well as about \$8000 of pre-paid 2017 year pledges (gifts in response to the 2017 year stewardship campaign pledged for 2017, but actually received in 2016 – these are NOT counted as expected revenue in the 2017 budget).

2016 was a GREAT Year!

In a recent Angelus it was asked – will 2016 be an OK, a Good, or a Great year? Clearly, the congregation responded to make 2016 a GREAT year. To all who contributed – Thank You!



2017 Budget



The good news of 2016 will spill over into 2017. Many final pledges were received late in the year. **The total revenue for 2017 is budgeted to be about \$615,500.** This is 6% higher than the 2016 revenue budget total.

The Finance Committee worked with the Bookkeeper and the Clergy to balance the 2017 budget. Salaries of all employees were increased and several expense categories were increased, most notably our Annual Diocesan Pledge and our Outreach budget.

The 2017 balanced budget (\$615,467 of Revenues with \$615,467 of Expenses) was presented to and approved by the Vestry in their January meeting.

Full details of the 2017 budget were presented at the Annual Meeting in late January, and will also be provided in future Angelus issues.

Parish News

Panda Pantry Update

Christ Church's Panda Pantry (a mission of the Outreach Committee) is so thankful to everyone who brought a bag of groceries in December for the children at Frederick Douglass Elementary School to have over their long vacation from school. Our congregation brought 165 bags of food that were taken to the school the week before their vacation began. The teachers called families to pick up the food, and also helped to deliver the bags. There were enough bags left over that some were set aside for when new students whose families are in immediate need of food assistance are enrolled. The school will also use some of the bags as incentives for the families to attend parent-teacher meetings. Your generosity is greatly appreciated by the staff at FDES, and it made a big difference in the school's efforts to meet the needs of hungry students well past their holiday break!

Bingo Night at Christ Church

Bring yourselves, family and friends to the Annual Bingo Night in the Christ Church Parish Hall from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on Thursday, February 16. This is a family event and will end at 8:00 pm to allow time for school children to get a full night's rest! Nick Nerangis will be the bingo caller, so come prepared for a very entertaining evening of family fun. Admission is FREE but there will be a donation basket at the door. Proceeds raised will support the Stop Hunger Now program, which provides nutritious dehydrated meals to school-age children in under-developed nations. Over the past several years, many of us have helped with Stop Hunger Now meal-packing events at Christ Church and look forward to another great effort in 2017. Pizza slices, soft drinks and baked goods will be on sale so come hungry. Also, anyone wishing to donate a small gift as a bingo prize or baked goods for sale should leave them on the table in the Tilford Room that is marked for Bingo Gift donations. Please contact Chris Ferguson (cferguson@zwickerpc.com or 978-360-4501) for additional details. We look forward to seeing all of you at bingo!



STOP HUNGER NOW Meal-packing at Christ Church

April 22, 2017

Save the date!

Parish News

CCAP Collection for February

In February, we will collect **blue plastic tarps and plain backpacks**. CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material, and other assistance. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there and thank you for your generosity!

Men's Fellowship Meets



The Men's Fellowship will meet Saturday, February 11, at 7:30 am, in the Baden Center, where we will discuss anxiety and how the word affects men in today's society. Coffee and light refreshments will be available.

Please bring your own breakfast sandwich!

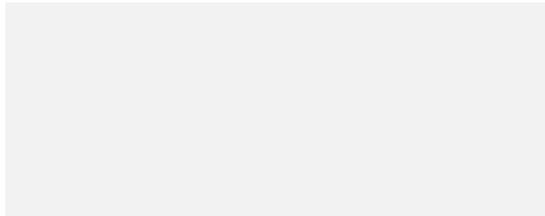


The Treasure Box is starting 2017 with a storewide 50% off clearance sale! We have a good selection of sweaters, pants, scarves, men's jackets, children's outerwear, and a designer purse or two. We really need extra shoppers this time of year when the weather threatens us with closings on our open days. Unfortunately, this is lost time and lost revenues we cannot make up. Thanks to a steady flow of donations, we were able to close out the year with earnings of \$13,500 to distribute among local charities and Christ Church. A complete list of our beneficiaries is posted in the shop, but includes CCAP, The Evans Home, the Winchester Day and Fremont Street nurseries, the Compassionate Pharmacy, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, and CLEAN. What a rewarding feeling it is to turn our no-longer used items into dollars that help other community agencies meet needs ranging from food and fuel to supplies and equipment to enrichment and emotional support! Our volunteers, our shoppers, our donors--we are in it together--so come shop with us this month for outstanding buys and please tell your friends about the Treasure Box. We still have customers saying, "Oh, I didn't know you were here." The shop is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am—4 pm, and most Saturdays 10 am—1pm.

The Treasure Box is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10 am—4 pm at 114 W. Boscawen St.

THE ANGELUS
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Parish Nurse Musings

We are always being told to prepare for a weather disaster for our families and houses. However, very infrequently we are told about protecting our pets. The Humane Society of the US sent these tips: **1.** Have food and water for each pet for at least five days. If you use a can opener, have a manual one in case electricity is out. **2.** Have enough medication for at least five days. **3.** If you have a cat, purchase enough litter and bags to dispose of the waste for at least five days. **4.** Always be certain you have sturdy leashes. **5.** Have each pet wear a collar and identification tag. **6.** Have current photos of your pet in case they escape. This may help finding them, but also tells people they belong to you. **7.** Write down feeding schedules, etc. in case you have a medical emergency and need help with your pet. Designate someone you trust, and preferably someone your pet knows, in case this would happen. **8.** Have plenty of extra newspapers, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming supplies and, of course, pet toys to keep them amused.

I hope we don't need these items, but better to be safe than sorry!
Many pets are lost and never found during storms.



See you in church! Your Parish Nurse, Helen