

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2014

Rector's Message

Dear People of Christ Church,

This past month, we interred the remains of one of our parishioners in the area of the columbarium under the large plaque on the north wall of our church yard. At that gathering, we used an ancient practice of inviting each attendee to help fill the hole where the remains were deposited. I was once told that this action of helping to bury the remains is the one gift of honor, love and respect the community can offer the deceased because the deceased can never return the favor. After all, a true gift is an action done without any expectation of receiving something back. The unconditional expression of the giving action is not the item itself, but what the giver is expressing to the recipient.

In the gift-giving season of Christmas, I believe that this understanding of gift has become lost. Remarks such as, "I have to get them something because they got me something," or "I wonder how many gifts I will get this year?" reflect part of the challenge. It becomes a "tit for tat" game with the focus on getting what we want.

Ironically, the idea of a true gift is frightening because it can leave the recipient feeling vulnerable. It can create a notion of indebtedness to the giver, which makes the recipient uncomfortable. With a true gift, the recipient only feels thankfulness to receive an act of care and affection from someone else. At the very best, we can say, "Thank you."

In the incarnation of God revealing God's self in Jesus, this is a relationship, a gift of unconditional love, which we cannot repay. We are not supposed to repay it. As we receive such a life-changing/world-changing gift, our call becomes giving of ourselves to share this wonderful gift of God with the rest of the world. In our worship, in our work, in our daily lives, we have this gift of God's love to share. This is not to earn more of the gift for ourselves, because we have already received the gift. This is not to

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Sundays in Advent

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

Weekdays in Advent

7:30 am Morning Prayer
5:30 pm Evening Prayer
in the Pilgrim's Chapel

Wednesday, December 24th

4:30 pm Christmas Pageant &
Family Eucharist
10:30 pm Prelude of Carols &
Choir Anthems
11:00 pm Choral Eucharist

Thursday, December 25th

10:00 am Christmas Day Eucharist
followed by brunch

Sunday, December 28th

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Christmas Lessons
& Carols

Wednesday, December 31st

First Night Winchester from
6:00 pm until midnight

Tuesday, January 6th

7:00 pm Epiphany Service



Rector's Message

force others to receive the gift as we think they ought to, "or else." Just as this child, Jesus, grows and lives a life that calls and shows disciples how God's desire and compassion becomes known in the world, we also continue to learn from Jesus and make God's grace known.

As I participate and watch the people of Christ Church live out our lives of faith around the parish, I am humbled by your example of your gift of yourselves to God's service. So many of you make things happen around this community which I cannot repay except by saying, "Thank you." That is one of the privileges I have as I serve in this parish.

However, we also know that there are many still who need to be invited to know about God's love in and around us. The gift of God revealed in Jesus Christ is so wonderful that it can never be used up. We will continue to find ways not tried before and expand ways which are effective in sharing God's gift. I guess you can say that our work is never done!

I know that children will still write their lists to Santa. It's an opportunity to teach children about a true gift verses a notion of selfish gain and entitlement. I know that adults will still struggle to earn God's love and control God's gift of grace. Those too are learning moments we face when we struggle to keep God's grace, rather than share and participate in making God's kingdom known.

This season of celebrating the gift of Jesus' birth is also our reminder of the challenge of how to accept a gift and offer a gift. At least for me, I know that I am still not done in fully appreciating God's gift. New experiences, new relationships, new parts of our lives keep the growth and love of God's gift alive in the world, even today. So, we are never done sharing God's gifts around us.

Faithfully,



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

Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to order a poinsettia to adorn the altar for Christmas, please place \$11 in a flower envelope at the back of the church. The last day to order is Sunday, December 14th. On Christmas Day, you may take your poinsettia home with you. Many thanks from the Altar Guild!



From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

This time of year finds many of us travelling or receiving visitors in order to be with friends and family. We journey around town, tending to lists at the grocery store, and maybe even searching for a few gifts. More often than not, I hear people talk about heaving a sigh of relief when we “make it” to Christmas because their lives become hectic in the weeks leading up. There is a sense that if we are not careful, the season rushes by and we feel exhausted.

So, as we enter the season of the Nativity (Advent, Christmas, & Epiphany), I’m reminded that we are invited on a sacred, slow journey; a journey that leads us through some of the most treasured stories of our faith. A journey that begins in the distant past where we hear ancient prophecies given to bring God’s people hope in God’s faithfulness as they struggled with the difficulties of becoming God’s people in an often hostile world. It ventures into the future as our scriptures speak of things yet to come, of Jesus’ return. This sacred time begins with the season of Advent and winds its way toward the celebration of Christmas and the Feast of the Epiphany in such a way that it beckons us to slow down, to hear the stories as if it was our first time, and to wait.

Waiting is something we are not often fond of; most of the time, we don’t seek an opportunity to slow down and wait. We live in a fast-paced world and society that keeps us moving, with instant communication and news. Long gone are the days of waiting for the morning newspaper or a letter to arrive from a dear friend! But that is what the stories of Advent invite us to - to slow down and to wait. In this call to slow down and wait, Advent invites us to look for God in the present, in the people we encounter, the places where we sit and wait, in the beauty of this holy season.

Along the way, we encounter many others waiting and journeying in their own day: prophets, shepherds, angels, Elizabeth and Zechariah, John the Baptist, Mary and Joseph, and the Magi. What they all have in common is that, in one way or another, they left, they traveled, they arrived, and they went back home. And they experienced something life-changing on their journey.

So wherever your travels take you, may this season be a blessing to you all and may your journeys be filled with holy moments of waiting and expectation.

Blessings,



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

From the Christ Church Vestry, Clergy, and Staff



From the Vestry

What is a Vestry?

This is the time of year that we, the Vestry, invite and encourage the congregation to discern, identify, and nominate potential new vestry members from our parish community.

Sometimes, in the Episcopal Church, we use terms such as “vestry” or “council” or “narthex,” which may be unclear or ambiguous or new to some. Vestry, in particular, can be described in several ways. In language that’s more corporate or business-like, the Vestry is described as follows:

“The vestry is the legal representative of the parish with regard to all matters pertaining to its corporate property. Vestry members are elected at the annual parish meeting. The presiding officer of the vestry is the rector. There are usually two wardens. The senior warden leads the parish between rectors and is a support person for the rector. The junior warden has responsibility for church property and buildings. A treasurer and a register are also appointed by the vestry. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation; to support the church's mission by word and deed, to select the rector, to ensure effective organization and planning, and to manage resources and finances.”

With much of this language, it is easy to think that the job of the Vestry is to run everything for the parish. However, the church is not a business or corporation, and so there are other ways we need to understand the work of the Vestry. The Vestry is a group that gathers in prayer and seeks to empower others to service in ministries of the congregation. Our diocesan canons also emphasize our Christian concern and care for one another: “Each Vestry will cooperate with the Rector in promoting the spiritual welfare of the congregation... Each Vestry member shall support the programs of the Church through a commitment to service and biblically-based standard of proportional giving. Each vestry member shall also continuously encourage the members of the congregation to support the programs of the Church and to give generously towards the support of those programs; and each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.”

Perhaps one of the reasons we keep our old English terms around (rather than call it a “board”) is to help us remember the Vestry is full of disciples working together to follow our Lord. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone to serve on the Vestry, please speak with John Applin, Bill Endorf, Ann McQuinn, or Sandy White. Elections will be held at the Annual Meeting on February 8, 2015.

Highlights from November's Vestry Meeting

- Bruce Trant is stepping down as chair of the Finance Committee. Please thank him for his service when you see him! The Vestry seeks qualified parishioners to serve on the Finance Committee.
- The Vestry approved \$3000 in budget expenditures for the Outreach Committee (see p. 10 for details).
- The J2A pilgrimage scheduled for next summer has been postponed for a year or two to allow for additional fundraising and better coordination of schedules for the youth attending.
- Vestry members will begin writing an “Ask the Vestry” column in the newsletter.
- The Nominations Committee continues to take names of those interested in serving on the Vestry.
- The Vestry received a Certificate of Excellence for Christ Church from Apple Country Day School for our youth's service there.
- The Vestry retreat is scheduled for Saturday, March 21, 2015 at Shrine Mont.

Worship

Advent Quiet Day

The Contemplative Prayer group at Christ Church invites adults to join them for an Advent Quiet Day on Saturday, December 13, from 9:00 am until Noon, beginning in the Pilgrim's Chapel.

The morning will focus on contemplative expression and will include the reading of scripture (Lectio Divina), centering prayer, walking a labyrinth, silence, and journaling (coloring, sketching, writing, etc.). This is a morning of quiet for the novice and those experienced in prayer—refreshing and necessary when seeking the peace of Christ in the often hectic time of Advent. Please join us.



The Contemplative Prayer group will not meet on Saturday mornings in December. If you have any questions about Advent Quiet Day, please contact the Church Office (540-662-5843).

During the Season of the Nativity

Here is a list of resources, events, and ways to share the joy of Christ's birth during the season of the Nativity – Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany.

Books:

Light upon Light compiled by Sarah Arthur

The Meaning is in the Waiting: The Spirit of Advent by Paula Gooder (Women's Bible Studies' Advent book)

The Season of the Nativity: Confessions and Practices of an Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany Extremist
by Sybil MacBeth

The Christmas Countdown: Creating 25 Days of New Advent Traditions for Families by Margie J. Harding
All I Really Want: Readings for a Modern Christmas by Quinn G. Caldwell

Looking for a special weekly worship service? Beginning Saturday, November 29, at 6:00 pm Grace Lutheran Church invites you to join them in what can be a busy time of the year for the beautiful music of **Holden Evening Prayer** worship with Holy Communion, every Saturday as we celebrate Advent.

Advent Quiet Day at Christ Church — December 13 from 9:00 am – Noon (see above)

Join us in the Pilgrim's Chapel for **Evening Prayer** Monday through Friday during Advent at 5:30 pm.
(Weekday Morning Prayer at 7:30 am continues.)

Would you like a short meditation delivered to your e-mail inbox daily during Advent? Here are a two options: Society of Saint John the Evangelist (www.ssje.org/adventword) and Meditating through Advent (episcopaldigitalnetwork.com/lessons/meditating-through-advent/).

Alternative gift giving options:

Episcopal Relief & Development: www.episcopalrelief.org/

World Vision: <http://donate.worldvision.org/ways-to-give/gift-catalog>

Heifer International: www.heifer.org/gift-catalog/index.html

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

By the time Advent begins, every child in the United States knows that we are getting ready for a season involving gifts. Knowing that the patterns we learn in childhood remain with us and prepare us for who we will be, we emphasize in Sunday School the giving aspect of gifts, as we wait for the biggest gift of all, Emmanuel, God with us. Each of the Sundays of Advent we take a different look at the idea of giving. We also talk about watching for gifts that may come to us from unexpected people or circumstances by God's grace. These may be different from the gifts we thought we wanted.

The season of Advent is one of preparation and imagination in Sunday School, but with a different emphasis than our children experience in the secular world. On November 30, the **first Sunday of Advent**, the scene is set so that everyone is aware that our waiting for Christmas is a special time. We will begin with a brief gathering after the Cherub Choir rehearsal to light the **first candle on an Advent wreath** in the Commons. Each week we will continue with lighting of an additional candle which reminds us that we are drawing closer to the Light of Christmas. The classrooms will have wreaths of their own and a classroom Advent calendar to measure the days. The **second Sunday, St. Nicholas** visits our classes with his gold-covered chocolate coins and, in the telling of his story, reminds us of anonymous giving, which upholds the dignity of the receiving person and equalizes the role of the giver and the recipient of the gift. On the **third Sunday, St. Lucia** (St. Lucy) is another visiting figure to show us how, in the season of giving, we give in many ways to those around us. (If you are unfamiliar with the traditional stories of these last two, come join us in Sunday School any or all of these mornings!) The **last Sunday of Advent**, each class will take a few moments to visit in the Commons where a **Nativity scene** reminds us of the gift of Christ into our lives. Of course, we remember each child with a **small gift that recalls the Christmas story**. Come join us!

Younger children will bring home small individual Advent calendars on November 30. If you aren't there on the 30th, please ask for one.

Holiday Calendar Reminders

Sunday School classes and Children's Chapel will **not** meet Sunday, December 28. We will resume the regular schedule on January 4, 2015. Watch for information about children's activities during our joint Epiphany service with Grace Lutheran Church on January 6.

Christmas Pageant

Any child who wants to be part of our annual telling of the Nativity story through the Christmas pageant should sign up as soon as possible, if he/she hasn't done so already. The service bulletins need to be printed in a timely fashion and we want to be sure to include the names of as many of the cast members as we can. Parts for general cast (non-spoken) are flexible to include as many children as want to participate. Costumes are provided for angels, shepherds, Magi, and animals. Lead parts are cast from youth in 6th grade or older.

Rehearsals for the 4:30 Christmas Eve pageant are as follows:

Lead parts – 4:30 pm, December 14, in the Sanctuary

Full cast – 4:30 pm, December 21, in the Sanctuary

Contact Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386) or through the church office if you have questions!

Christian Formation

Adult Daytime Faith Study in December

Last spring, we began a faith study using a DVD series led by Marcus Borg on adult faith. This fall, we have continued with the study using a DVD series called “Embracing the Prophets in Contemporary Culture,” led by Walter Brueggemann. With the holiday season and some rescheduling, we will have two more gatherings in December: December 4 and December 11 at 10:00 am in the Parlors located in the Old Rectory section of the parish hall. If you have questions, please contact Webster Gibson in the Church Office (540-662-5843).

“Table Manners” Class for Children

On Saturday, December 6, from 9:00 am - 10:00 am, the clergy will have a class for young children (toddler on up) called “Table Manners.” By baptism, everyone, including children, is invited to the Lord’s table. When children come to the rail, they are full of excitement, energy, and expectancy to be able to participate in the Lord’s Supper. Children need to know what to do once they get there, to learn “table manners.” The clergy will talk with the children about the Eucharist, teach the children how to approach the rail, and teach them how to receive the bread and the wine (when their parents feel they are ready). The purpose of the class is for parents and children to share in the wondrous joy of participating in the Lord’s banquet. We will first gather in the Tilford Room at 9:00 am to begin working on our “Table Manners.”

Adult Forum

Adults are reminded that their Christian Formation options on Sunday morning include two offerings, both at 9:30 am.

Track I in the Tilford Room: We will have the final part of Joan Chittister’s series, *The Ten Commandments: Laws of the Heart*. Her conversation looks at the idea that the Ten Commandments are an adventure in human growth and that we are not so much convicted by them as we are transformed by them.

Track II in the Parlors: We will conclude our exploring questions people raise as they look at the different sections of our little known treasure chest of wisdom—our prayer book’s “Catechism,” also called “An Outline of the Faith.” Coffee can be found upstairs in the Oasis, so please grab a cup before the class begins.



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

Weekdays

7:30 am Morning Prayer Pilgrim's Chapel

Committee & Group Meetings

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Adult Choir Rehearsal | Wed: 7:00 pm |
| Adult Forum | Sun: 9:30 am |
| Alleluia Singers | Sun: 8:45 am |
| Contemplative Prayer | Sat: 9:30 am |
| Daytime Faith Study | 2nd/4th Thurs: 10:00 am |
| Knit Unto Others | 3rd Tues: 2:00 pm |
| Liturgical Bible Study | Wed: 10:30 am |
| Community Fellowship | 2nd Thurs: 7:00 pm |
| 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 | Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm |

December

- 3 Salvation Army Dinner at Ft. Collier Campus
7 WATTS organizational meeting at Noon
11 Community Fellowship meets at 7:00 pm
13 Men's Fellowship meets, Advent Quiet Day
25 Christmas Day
(See front page for all the service times.)
31 First Night Winchester

*The Church Office will close at 1:00 pm on Dec. 24
and will re-open at 10:00 am Monday, Dec. 29.*

Epiphany Service on January 6, 2015

Christ Episcopal and Grace Lutheran Churches are having our Epiphany Day service at Christ Church on January 6 at 7:00 pm. All ages are invited to come. Children will participate in service and it will be followed by a reception in the Tilford Room. Watch for more details!

**Thinking of Spring already?
Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont
May 8-10, 2015**

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!

Nursery

Our nursery, on the 2nd floor of the Parish Hall, is open from 10:15 am through the end of the 10:30 am service to serve infants and children up to age 3.

December Birthdays

- 1 Sarah Bromley-Johnson,
Mary Margaret Applin
2 Kinsey Strosnider
4 Betty Futral
5 Bill Armstrong, Katheryne Lawson
6 Pam Friestad
7 Harry Poling, Carolyn Waymack
10 Catherine Pettit, Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
12 Linda Gibson
13 Dana Shook
15 Marie Gibson
16 Brendan Howard
17 Desiree Hall, Terri Cluss
19 Eleanor Thomson
20 Betty Reed, Mary Armstrong
21 Bill Pifer, Amanda Pennypacker
22 Hannah Gutman
24 Bob Gray
25 Elizabeth Trefzger-Mueller, Evan Francis,
David Goodman
26 Christopher Turnbull
27 Charles Casey
28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
29 Rosalyn Wiedower, Carole Ann King
30 Sarah Roberson
31 Rob Boyd



The Rector's day off is Friday.
The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.

Wedding Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Shawn Armstrong
4 James & Marsha Baden
5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
18 Bill & Gail Walsh
21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy
29 Jud & Wendy Breslin



A photograph of a newspaper classifieds section. A large red circle highlights the "HELP WANTED" section. The text in this section reads: "Kontakta oss om du är intresserad av att jobba vid kyrkan. Vi har många olika positioner att erbjuda. Välkommen att kontakta oss för mer information." Below this, there is more text in smaller print.

Receptionist help needed. This job requires a pleasant phone demeanor and a shift of three hours in the Church Office. Can be morning or afternoon, once a month or more. Call the Church Office to apply!

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.



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

Outreach Committee News

Donations Made in the Community

In November, the Christ Church Vestry approved \$3000 in budget expenditures from the Outreach Committee.

The Henry and William Evans Home for Children in Winchester will receive a \$1000 donation from Christ Church. The Evans Home was founded in 1949 to provide a home for abused, homeless, and otherwise needy children in Winchester and has been home to more than 500 children since 1977 (when they started keeping careful records). The Evans Home relies heavily on patrons, like Christ Church, and fundraisers for their annual funding. The Outreach Committee welcomes Mark Jaccard from the Henry and William Evans Home for Children at the 10:30 am service on January 25th. Learn more about the Evans Home and ways you can contribute individually at evanshome.org.



Captain Doug R. Watson

\$800 will be given to the Winchester Police Department so that they can purchase ten emergency trauma kits. Captain Doug R. Watson gave a presentation at the September committee meeting. He showed the kits and explained how they can be used to provide immediate trauma care.

Additionally, \$1000 will be donated to the Law Enforcement Foundation with a designation for use by the Timbrook House. Detective Lisa Hyde, the Program Coordinator for Timbrook House, also talked with the committee in September. This facility is located at 305 E. Piccadilly Street and is a after-school, court-appointed program designed to develop pro-social behaviors and engage them in community service projects. The money donated will help fund dinners served at the house.

If you would like to make individual contributions for either of the police-sponsored programs, donations may be made to the Law Enforcement Foundation, P.O. Box 662, Winchester, VA 22604.

Finally, \$200 will be used to support Christ Church's participation in the Salvation Army Angel Tree project to supplement the giving of gifts to needy children by the Christ Church community.

Angel Tree 2014



Thank you to the congregation for choosing angels from the 2014 Salvation Army Angel Trees! We are very excited that we can bring Christmas joy to 145 children this year!

All gifts need to be returned to the Tilford Room on Sunday, **December 7**, in the clear plastic bag that you were given when you chose your angel. Please be sure to attach the angel card and the donor card inside the bag so that it's visible. December 7th is also the date we need volunteers with pickup trucks and large vehicles to transport all the gifts to the Salvation Army warehouse on Papermill Road in Winchester. Please call Jim and Ann Taylor (540-686-7346 or cell 703-403-5264) if you can help!

Outreach Committee News

WATTS Meeting Planned

This winter, Christ Church will again conduct the following two ministries to provide much needed thermal support to homeless adults in Winchester/Frederick County: We will host the **Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)** in our Parish Hall from Monday January 26, 2015 to Monday February 2, 2015. And, we will help staff the **Sunday afternoon Warm-ing Station at the Congregational Community Action Project (CCAP)** from 1:00 to 6:30 pm on Sunday afternoons during January and February 2015.

We will meet on **Sunday, December 7, 2014 from noon to 1:00 PM in the Commons area above the Tilford Room** to provide a short overview of these ministries, identify specific tasks, and begin our organizational planning for the upcoming season.

Thanks to all who supported these Ministries in the past and please consider helping again this season. If you have not participated in previous years, this is a good time to start! Please contact Chris Ferguson (CFerguson@zwickerpcc.com/978-360-4501) or Pat Kofalt (patkofalt@gmail.com/540-722-0429) for additional details. We look forward to continuing Christ Church's outstanding support of these critical ministries and to seeing you on December 7th.



The Tilford Room set up for WATTS last winter

Rummage Sale Thank You



Chris and Arlene Hill during setup

Thank you people of Christ Church! We hope you had fun during the 2014 rummage sale where the emphasis was on building community. We give thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for the raising by you—our church community — of money to support our various ministries. Our 2014 sale raised over \$8000 gross, which was our goal! Thank you for your prayers and support again this year. We appreciate your stewardship of time: pricing, set up and design, baking in one's kitchen, concessions, cashiering, shopping during the sale, greeting of customers, hauling around merchandise, advertising, take down, and where would we be without your attics, basements and closets being cleaned out—thus our ABC-style sale! Thanks to Greg and Pem Hutchison for the idea three years ago. Finally, we thank Tuffy Whitacre, our sexton, who spent many hours setting up and cleaning the Tilford Room.

*Chris and Melissa Ferguson
2014 Rummage Sale Co-Chairs*

From the Finance Committee

We are gaining ground versus the budget! Our budget for 2014 through October planned for us to be in a deficit by about \$10,375 and our actual deficit is only at about \$7,400. The table below shows current details of all budget categories.

| | Jan - Oct Actuals | Jan - Oct Budget | Jan - Oct Actual - Budget |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Total Revenues | \$445,284.68 | \$447,975.00 | (-\$2,690.32) |
| Expenses | | | |
| Total Personnel | \$322,307.90 | \$324,588.89 | (-\$2,280.99) |
| Utilities | \$22,346.86 | \$18,095.00 | \$4,251.86 |
| Property/Maintenance | \$29,450.93 | \$33,715.00 | (-\$4,264.07) |
| Office Expenses | \$18,340.90 | \$18,122.00 | \$407.23 |
| Christian Education Expenses | \$9,528.60 | \$9,665.00 | (-\$218.90) |
| Music Expenses | \$6,335.67 | \$8,150.00 | (-\$1,814.33) |
| Worship | \$835.13 | \$890.00 | (-\$54.87) |
| Stewardship | \$566.46 | \$500.00 | \$66.46 |
| Outreach | \$38,950.00 | \$39,450.00 | (-\$500.00) |
| Pastoral Care | \$431.68 | \$700.00 | (-\$268.32) |
| Parish Life | \$1,627.41 | \$1,900.00 | (-\$272.59) |
| Communications | \$1,965.93 | \$2,575.00 | (-\$609.07) |
| Operational Reserve | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$452,687.47 | \$458,350.89 | (-\$5,663.42) |
| Net Total | (\$7,402.79) | (\$10,375.89) | (\$2,973.10) |

We are making every effort to keep expenses down, or at the very least, within budget. If you are behind on your pledge, we would appreciate your efforts to catch up!

Work continues on the budget for 2015. Pledge cards have been arriving! On November 14, we were about 28% short of our goal. Pledged revenues, in general, make up 85% of our total revenue. We greatly appreciate the return of pledge cards, and your designation of how you will disburse your contribution. This information increases our ability to look forward and project cash flow as well as plan expenditures throughout the year. Please see the following page for more information on pledges.

Reminders!

- Make your tax-deductible donations for 2014 before the end of the year. Checks must be dated December 31st or earlier and received in the church office by January 5th to be credited for 2014. Year-end contribution statements will be mailed no earlier than January 12th.
- 2015 Pledge Envelopes are available for those who have requested them starting Sunday, December 14th. They will be in the back of the church and labeled with your name.
- If you have questions about this financial information, please submit them by e-mail to Theresa Seitz at tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org

From the Stewardship Committee



GIVING WITH JOY 2015

The Stewardship Committee would like to thank everyone for responding to our “Every Member Canvass” this year. Your generous gifts will allow us to continue to strengthen the ministries provided by Christ Church in the coming year.

As of this date, We have 111 pledges, totaling \$360,285. Fifty-five pledges were increased over their 2014 pledged amount and three pledges were new, first-time pledges. If you have not yet sent in your 2015 pledge, please do so as soon as possible. The Finance Committee would greatly appreciate it in preparing the 2015 budget. Thank you all!

“Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others.”

— Barbara Bush (1925-), former American first lady

“We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.”

— Winston Churchill (1874-1965), British wartime prime minister and statesman

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

— Anne Frank (1929-45), Jewish Dutch diarist during Nazi occupation

From the Properties Committee

Thank you to everyone who helped with Keep Day in November as we spruced up the place for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We managed a huge pile of leaves from the Baden Center to the Church yard. We also got windows cleaned and other items done on the to-do list. Please remember that we will have another Keep Day in the spring!

Also, thank you to Aire Serv Heating & Air Conditioning for helping us get heat back on in the Treasure Box and conference room of the Smith Building. The old HVAC system was beyond repair and had to be replaced on the coldest day of the year so far! This awesome crane lifted the new unit into place from the parking lot behind the Smith Building.



The committee continues to work with the brick masons to arrange for completion of the exterior brick work on the west side of the Smith Building.

Properties Committee meetings are on the 3rd Tuesday every month at 7:00 pm in the Smith Building Conference Room. If you have questions about the committee, please do not hesitate to contact Sandy White (Junior Warden) or James Baden (Properties Committee Chair) or Webster.

Parish News

Treasure Box Celebrates Anniversary

On Thursday, November 13, special guests from the community joined Treasure Box volunteers and the clergy for a festive program and reception in the Tilford Room to commemorate the shop's 55th anniversary of charitable giving. President Paulette Jennis highlighted brief facts about Winchester's first thrift shop: the name Treasure Box was approved after one of the founders had visited a store in Canada with this catchy name; to open, the founding ladies put up \$200 of their own money and accepted a \$900 loan from the Vestry, which was repaid from earnings in two years; the ladies painted and papered two small rooms in the basement of the Old Rectory for their enterprise where the shop operated until moving to the Smith Building in 2002, a location providing more space and better access for customers. Though adapting to changing situations over the years, the shop has operated continuously since opening the doors on November 18, 1959—sustaining its mission to fund charities serving the neediest of all ages. Treasurers Kay Jones and Sally O'Neil estimate the shop has returned nearly \$1 million to the church and community over these years.



Representatives from TB recipient charities were invited to share the moment with outstanding response. Staff from CCAP, the Laurel Center, Habitat for Humanity, Head Start, ARC, ADAPT, Blue Ridge Hospice, Free Medical Clinic, and the William and Henry Evans home shared brief stories about how TB funds have been put to use over the years. While some donations go into agency general funds, others are set aside for necessities that fall outside operating budgets to purchase such things as prescription drugs, special adaptive equipment, and enrichment activities for the disadvantaged. Marc Jaccard of the Evans Home spoke of some children who come there with little more than the clothes on their backs—no family photos or other childhood memorabilia to connect them with their roots. He has used TB donations to purchase small Polaroid cameras and scrapbooks for these children to help them build a history among those who can provide them a haven of safety and nurture. All those present were touched by the impact of the Treasure Box's community partnership and expressions of gratitude from our guests.

The Treasure Box has much to celebrate this anniversary year—the vision and legacy of its founders, the support of the clergy and Vestry over the years, the enduring commitment of volunteers, and the ongoing support of parishioners through donations. We are especially grateful in recent months to our parish donors. We are receiving a steady supply of excellent merchandise, which is essential to our ability to sustain our annual giving level of about \$12,000 per year. Of this, nearly 25% goes directly back to Christ Church as an income tithe, to purchase food cards, to fund WATTS week, and, this year, to help fund the Panda Pantry ministry. Every item donated and sold translates to funds for those in need.

Our anniversary celebration concluded with a prayer to share:

"Heavenly Father, we thank you for all those within and outside the church who share in community partnerships to provide survival, educational, and emotional supports to those most in need. We pray for continued vitality, insight, and will to sustain our shared missions and ministries in the years to come." Amen.

Paulette Jennis, Treasure Box president

**The Treasure Box will be CLOSED December 24 & 26
and OPEN on Dec 31 and Jan 2.**



Christmas Day Potluck Brunch

The Pastoral Care Committee invites all to share in a Christ Church Christmas feast following the 10:00 am Christmas morning service, on Thursday, December 25. Please bring a favorite brunch dish (eggs, pastries, veggies, fruit, etc.) to share. Dishes may be dropped off in the Tilford Room kitchen before the service to be kept warm or to be baked. Celebrate part of the Holy Day with your church family!



Host Families Needed!

Please consider being a host family for two students from South Korea or Japan.

Spring, 2015

Daejeon Girls' High School, South Korea

February 10—15, 2015

The Center for Lifelong Learning at Shenandoah University is looking for families to host students from abroad for educational and cultural experiences. In past years, 95% of the students hosted had never before traveled outside of their homeland. They have worked very hard academically to achieve the honor to have the opportunity to come to the United States and to Shenandoah University.

What we ask of you is that you open your hearts and homes to these students to help them enjoy many unforgettable experiences of a lifetime. I promise you that by participating you will be making a difference in their lives, as you will see by their humbleness and gratefulness for this opportunity. You will be changed as well.

The students will stay with you and participate in your family activities for the duration of their visit. You will be responsible for getting the students to Shenandoah University by 8:30 am and picking them up by 4:15 pm each weekday. A small compensation will be given for your participation.



Considerations or Questions?

Please contact, Jo Miller 540-665-5442 or jmille3@su.edu



Volunteers Needed!

Christ Church members are needed to act as ushers in the Sanctuary and Tilford Room on New Year's Eve for two-hour shifts. Each volunteer receives a FREE button for access to all First Night festivities.

To volunteer, contact Noelle in the Church Office (540-662-5843) or email her at communications@christchurchwinchester.org.



THE ANGELUS

Christ Episcopal Church
114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.
For weekly updates, please see *The Sunday Announcements* in the bulletin.

Parish Nurse Musings

Although there are many things I would like to tell you for the season, I want to dedicate this month's space to wishing my student nurses a happy graduation and success with state boards. You have been wonderful! So congratulations to my Wednesday group: Zainab Ahmadi, Catherine Antunes, Justin Baer, Myesha Barr, Krista Borgquist, Ashley Briggs, Kerrin Brinkman, Marie Caron, Ellen Rajnes. And to my Thursday group: Michelle Chen, Carly Eastman, Cecil Hall, Heather Hund, Gregory Jaranko, Adrienne Lally, Kayla Lutz, Elida Opitz, and Haleigh Royston.



I would like to say a special thank you to the families who hosted the students in their homes during the semester. I know the students thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learned so much about empowering others. Thanks to Jim and Ann Taylor, Clyde and Mona Pressley, Pat Boyd, Kappy White, Janet Waller, Rob and Susan Ross, Don and Mary Netschke, June Davies, Victoria Hurbert, Joy Nesselrodt, Walt and Catherine McIntosh, Bill and Sue Jones, Liz Lindon, David and Stephanie McWhorter, Helen and Boyakin Bird, Bill Davis, Gene Babb and Martha and Jim Griffin, and Donna Ramer. You taught them so much about letting people make their own choices and giving plenty of options. This is something we, as nurses, don't always allow in the hospital. Thanks for sharing your home and selves with them.

Blessings to all the congregation for this season!
Your Parish Nurse, Helen