

THE ANGELUS

Volume 66 Number 7

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

March 2016

Rector's Message

Dear People of Christ Church,

As we have conversations exploring the rich tapestry of faiths, we also have the opportunity to learn more about our own Christian faith with its varied ways and traditions of worship which enhance our sense of the divine mystery revealed in Jesus Christ. Some of the most theologically profound moments for such learning and experience are in our services of Holy Week. These services cover the full spectrum of the human condition, from the good to the bad. These services remind us of our shared heritage as Christians, though we come from different denominations.

Palm Sunday is the service with the highest and lowest points of Holy Week, when we go from parades to betrayal. Maundy Thursday gives our family a sacramental meal which calls us to humble service modeled by our Lord in the washing of one another's feet. Friday brings us to the confrontation between us and Our Lord in the events surrounding the crucifixion. Then Saturday night moves us into the thin place between life and death where we are reminded that the waters of Baptism seal us as Christ's own forever. We also encounter the mystery of moving from death to life. Finally, the Easter services welcome in the resurrection when all of creation is made new and that final enemy, Death, is conquered.

While this quick summary is by no means adequate to explore all aspects of the events of Holy Week, I hope it gives some sense of the fullness of the human experience, joy, sorrow, love, hate, faithfulness, and betrayal—life and death which we encounter in our relationship with the Incarnation of God in Jesus Christ. We are also reminded through the events of Holy Week why we place our trust in God's redeeming love rather than in ourselves.

The churches in Winchester work together to remind all of us as Christians how the events of Holy Week do not just involve one denomination or

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Services During Lent

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

Palm Sunday

March 20, 2016

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
Procession of Palms
to the downtown mall
10:45 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Holy Week Services

Holy Week Noonday Eucharist:
Monday, March 21 through
Wednesday, March 23
in the Pilgrim's Chapel

Maundy Thursday Service—
March 24 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Ecumenical Service
(at Christ Church this year)—
March 25 at Noon

Good Friday Liturgy—
March 25 at 7:00 pm

Easter Vigil — March 26 at 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday Services

March 27, 2016

Ecumenical Service at 6:30 am
at Mt. Hebron Cemetery

Services at 7:30 am, 9:00 am and
11:15 am in the Sanctuary



From the Rector

another. We share in three different services during the week. The most public one is our Community Palm Sunday Blessing of the Palms on the steps of the Old Courthouse on the Downtown Mall. We will leave from Christ Church at around 10:15 am on Palm Sunday to process with the other congregations to the mall and share in the Blessing of the Palms.

The second event we share is the Good Friday Ecumenical Service at Noon, which we will host this year at Christ Church. The clergy share in the readings and prayers. The preacher this year is The Rev. George Fletcher from First Baptist Church.

The third community gathering is the Easter Sunrise Service on Easter morning at 6:30 am. Yes, it's really early but I always enjoy this service as we gather at the wall of the old Lutheran Church in the Mt. Hebron Cemetery because we have trumpets playing while we sing hymns as a way of witnessing to a sleeping world our hope in the risen Lord.

I was recently reminded that the best way to overcome fear and ignorance is by education and conversation. Humanity and our relationship to the Divine is too important of a part of life for me to allow fear and ignorance to win the day. In the end, we may not agree; we may not even fully understand where others are coming from. However, we will know that our common humanity does invite us into a fellowship with one another as we value the living God in whose image we are made. We might also gain new and deeper insights into what God is calling us to do through our own faith traditions as we journey together in the sight of God's compassionate and redemptive love.

Faithfully,



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

Highlights from the February Vestry Meeting

- Thanks were given for the four Vestry members completing their service: Tom Ellington, Conrad Koneczny, Doug Thomas, and Ann Wallinger. Four new members were welcomed: Ken Bradley, Joan Bronson, Bill Pifer, and Jody Wall.
- New officers were elected unanimously. They are Senior Warden Martha Griffin, Junior Warden Barry Schnoor, Register Jody Wall, and Treasurer Pete Gronauer (pictured below from left to right). Vestry members were also assigned to committees. Dates for vestry orientation and trainings will be set soon.



From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

As I write this, we are in the middle of our Lenten journey. Winter is still hanging on despite the few glimpses of sunshine and warmer weather we have had. We wait and watch for the grey skies and snow predictions of winter to disperse, and for the trees and flowers to finally begin to bloom. It has been interesting to ponder this kind of waiting as we continue our journey through Lent, anticipating the joyous celebration of Christ's resurrection.

Admittedly, as Easter people we walk through the wilderness with the knowledge that we are on the threshold of Easter joy. Lent is a time we walk through as we ponder what separates us from God, in a way it feels a bit like wandering through darkness. But a darkness that we know cannot consume us. Darkness in the spiritual life gets a lot of bad press, yet it quite often yields extraordinary events. For instance, look at the life of Christ. Many significant events in Jesus' life took place in darkness: his birth, his arrest, his death, his resurrection.

We approach this threshold of Easter asking God to reveal to us more and more of the Light, Jesus Christ. We spend our days during Lent waiting, waiting for glimpses of the Light of the world. Sometimes, waiting and patience in waiting are not my strongest gifts. In moments when I need be patient, especially when I need to remind myself to be thankful for these forty days in the wilderness, I use these words of Paul's written to the Romans, "But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words."

Sue Monk Kidd writes in her book *Where the Heart Waits* about the spiritual transformation that comes to life through darkness. I cannot recommend this book enough! Kidd's writing, for me, is so down to earth and hits me right where I need it the most. She writes, "Waiting is the missing link in the transformation process. Not waiting as we're accustomed to it, but waiting as the passionate and contemplative crucible in which new life and spiritual wholeness can be birthed."

As I think ahead to Holy Week, this is the kind of waiting I hope we all can engage in those final days before celebrating the Paschal Mystery at the Great Vigil of Easter. Waiting with eagerness for what we do not see in the stillness and dark following Maundy Thursday through Good Friday until the new fire is lit at the beginning of the vigil. That in the darkness we may wait with hope athirst with anticipation for a spiritual awakening to accompany the renewal of our baptismal vows. That our Easter joy would be just the beginning of a new phase in our faith life.

Blessings,

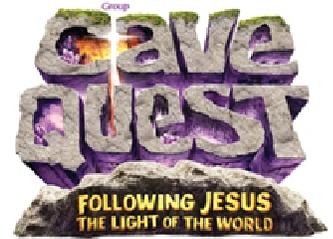


The Rev. Bridget Coffey, Assistant Rector
bcoffey@christchurchwinchester.org

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Vacation Bible School is coming July 11-15! Mark your calendars now for *Cave Quest: Following Jesus, the Light of the World*. Look forward to tons of learning and fun in our yearly program and its outreach to our community's children. Do you often think you would like to work with our children's program but aren't able to take a role during the regular program year? VBS is for you! We need lots of help in many ways and virtually everything is provided including plans, materials, all kinds of support and lots of fun. Contact Margery Wingenschach (540-667-0386) to see how you could be a part.



Lenten Mite Box Offering

Classes have chosen their own Mite Box project recipients this year. Several will support the Heifer Project. Heifer has the appeal of contributing to the purchase of animals for projects around the world and in the US, but also includes other possibilities like funding the construction of irrigation, wells, etc. Others have selected from projects supported by Episcopal Relief and Development, such as the purchase of mosquito nets treated to prevent malaria.

This year, children will bring in their offering each week and each class will keep track of its progress toward the goal. Classes will learn how the projects they have chosen help others and offer prayers together for the recipients of our gifts. Please help us remember that weekly offering! The offering will conclude the Sunday after Easter.

As always, you don't have to be a child to participate! Make a dollar a day part of your Lenten practice. Like the widow's two mites, it doesn't seem like much and will make a huge contribution to our effort.

Schedule: Sunday School classes preschool through grade 5 will have a special Holy Week program in the Commons from 9:30-10:00 on Palm Sunday. Note that the time is shorter than regular Sunday School to allow for the choirs to prepare for the procession to the Old Town Mall for the Blessing of the Palms. Likewise, Children's Chapel will begin later than usual – once participants have returned from the Blessing of the Palms. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday. Please join us for the family service at 9:00 am!

Adult Forum

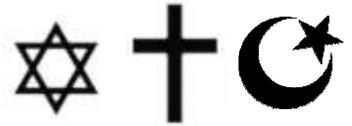
With the Seven Deadly Sins as our Lenten forum topic, Webster and Bridget will lead discussions about how we encounter sin in our Christian faith and in the world around us. On March 6, we will discuss anger and greed. March 13, we'll talk about envy and pride.

On Sunday, March 20, we'll have a short forum discussing the Church tradition of Palm Sunday. We will conclude our conversation around 9:50 am, so we can get ready to join in the march to the walking mall for the Blessing of the Palms. Those who are not going to the walking mall can join in the Blessing of the Palms service in the Sanctuary.

And a reminder that the program: "The Jesus Fatwah: Love Your (Muslim) Neighbor as Yourself" concludes on Sunday, March 6. It's from 4:00 until 5:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Christian Formation

Feast & Fast in the Abrahamic Faiths



For the remainder of Lent, our Feast and Fast Program for parishioners continues to focus us on hospitality and learning with our neighbors of the different Abrahamic faiths. It is an opportunity to share and learn from one another about our traditions.

On Sunday, March 6, at 5:30 pm, we will literally engage in hospitality as we invite the congregations from the Beth El Congregation and the Islamic Society of Winchester to a pot-luck dinner. This sounds odd when we are also talking about fasting, but what better way to learn about fasting than by discussing how we break the fast and feast together? We ask people to bring meals which may be associated with family traditions or favorites—side dishes, desserts, main dishes, meat or vegetarian dishes. The one thing we ask out of respect for our guests is to please refrain from bringing dishes with pork. After a time of feast and fellowship, we will also learn from other traditions about their customs and experiences around their religious times of fasting and feasting.

Then, on two Monday evenings, March 14 and March 21, from 6:30 pm—8:00 pm, we will continue to learn and join in fellowship. We will meet upstairs in the Parish Hall in the Commons area. These two evenings, we will welcome Rabbi Sperling, Muhammad Bahtty, John Copenhaver and others to lead discussions and answer questions around the basics of the faith traditions, worship, customs, etc. While we will not have dinner at these last two events, favorite snacks and finger foods are always welcome. If you have questions concerning these events, please feel free to contact Webster or Bridget in the Church Office (540-662-5843).

A Christian Perspective
with Webster & the Rev. Dr. John Copenhaver
Sunday, February 28, at 5:00 pm

Interfaith Dinner and Conversation
with Beth El Congregation & Islamic Society of Winchester
Sunday, March 6, at 5:30 pm

Continuing the Conversation
Monday, March 14, 6:30 pm—8:00 pm
Monday, March 21, 6:30 pm—8:00 pm

Adult Daytime Faith Study

Our Adult Daytime Faith Study in March will continue to explore the Old Testament using the Great Courses DVD, “The Old Testament.” Because of the large number of lectures in this program, we will focus on the lectures pertaining to the book of Genesis. The study is led by Webster and meets in the Parlors at 10:00 am on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month. Meetings in March are the 10th and 24th. Everyone is welcome to join us. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to 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

Weekdays

7:30 am Morning Prayer Pilgrim's Chapel

March

- 6 Feast & Fast: An Interfaith Dinner (See p. 5)
- 12 Men's Fellowship at 7:30 am,
St. Patrick's Day Dinner at 6:30 pm
- 14 Special Needs Service at 6:30 pm,
Feast & Fast: Conversation at 6:30 pm
- 21 Feast & Fast: Conversation at 6:30 pm
- 23 Salvation Army Dinner



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
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
Youth Group	Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm

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

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.

March Birthdays

- 1 Janie Mohn, Kamran Dastjerdi,
Brandi Vicchio, Lindsay Fairbanks,
Joan Carlson
- 2 Sandra Armstrong
- 3 Gwendolyn Conrad, Michael Roberson
- 4 Helen Bird, Dan Garrett, Daniel Rupert
- 6 George Glass, Mark Pennypacker
- 8 Bill Easton, Dreusilla Koonce
- 9 Bo Brown, Robin Northrup
- 11 Susan Sheppard, John Dastjerdi
- 12 David Lewis, Sam Flotz, Landon Haines,
Angela Webb
- 13 Steve Cluss, Patrick Goodman
- 16 Ellen Ford, Bobbi Bromley, Kevin Pettit
- 19 Eddie Richard
- 20 Isabella Vicchio
- 21 Richard Lewis, III, Webster Gibson
- 22 Clyde Pressley
- 24 Ned Browning
- 25 Sam DeBergh, Haley Jacobsen
- 27 Lori Ellington, Jack Nelson
- 28 Ann Thomas
- 30 Margaret Trueblood
- 31 Deanna Stouffer



Wedding Anniversaries

- 16 Jim & Rebekah Wiedower
- 27 Doug & Terry Ewell

Celebrate!



Call us! We have a new phone system at the church. The office staff is becoming familiar with all of our new capabilities, so please be patient as the learning moves ahead. The staff is grateful to our office volunteers who are also learning our new system. When you call the Church Office, please be sure to listen carefully to the instructions, as the directory for extensions has changed. Thank you.



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

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.

From the Finance Committee

2016 Budget & Actual: 3 Feet of Snow = Slow 2016 Start!

Revenues: The big snowstorm in mid-January resulted in actual revenue being below budget by about \$5,000. We hope that pledgers who did not attend church due to the snow will catch up on their giving during the first quarter!

Expenses: Though some expense line items were above and some were below budget, in total, we were about \$100 over budget for January.

Balance: The result for January is that we are about \$3,900 below breaking even, rather than the \$1,200 positive balance we had budgeted.

2016: Through January	Budget	Actual
Revenues	\$46,160	\$41,114
Expenses	\$44,934	\$45,034
Balance	\$1,226	(\$3,920)

Annual Meeting Follow-Up

After the Annual Meeting on January 31, we have had people ask about the endowment funds – wanting to know the difference between the “new” Christ Church Restricted Endowment Fund and the “old” Christ Church Unrestricted Endowment fund. In a future Angelus article, we will specifically address these two endowment funds to clarify their purposes, their similarities, and their differences.

Also at the Annual Meeting a new budget revenue line item, “BUDGET CHALLENGE,” was mentioned. Specifically, this is the amount of revenue needed in 2016 to help balance our budget for the year. In short, expenses are budgeted to exceed revenues by \$7,200 unless we somehow receive \$7,200 in income above what is budgeted. This \$7,200 can come from any of the revenue areas: pledged, unpledged, holiday, prior or next year, building use, or miscellaneous. Periodically, we will keep you updated on our progress in meeting this budget challenge such that we break even at year end.

It is our hope to use additional Angelus articles throughout the year to share information about our other investment funds (Youth Fund, Organ Fund, Sanctuary Fund, etc.). The intent is to further educate the congregation about our investments, as well as the purposes and uses of these funds.

Check Writing Reminders

In order to record donations correctly and ensure donations are used for what the giver intends, it’s very important to remember several things when writing a check to the church:

- If you are writing a check for Capital Campaign, it should be made out to “CEC—Strengthening Our Foundation.”
- If you are writing a check for your Organ Restoration pledge, please make it payable to Christ Episcopal Church AND put Organ Pledge in the memo line.
- Please DO NOT write one check for your Organ, Capital, and Stewardship pledges! These funds are deposited into separate accounts.
- You may write one check made payable to Christ Episcopal Church for your stewardship pledge and any donation other than Capital Campaign or Organ Restoration, but please explain split amounts on the memo line of the check. (For example, “\$100 pledge and \$50 WATTS.”) You may also enclose a note to explain.

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont will be May 6-8, 2016—Mother's Day weekend. More details will be available soon about the program planned for the weekend, but in the coming weeks, the Shrine Mont Committee will be talking with us about why we should all take advantage of this opportunity to visit this beautiful camp and spend time together.

The Shrine Mont Committee will host Coffee Hour on Sunday, March 6. Look for some typical Shrine Mont fare on the snack table to tempt you. Shrine Mont is famous for their home-cooking—fried chicken, meatloaf, roast beef, and all the fixings. Plus, there's Shrine Mont's own Apple Butter. Committee members will also speak about their Shrine Mont experiences during services in coming weeks.

Shrine Mont's website is www.shrinemont.com. On the site, you can learn about The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, an open-air cathedral of the Diocese of Virginia, that was consecrated in 1925. Plus, there are maps of the facilities and information about on-site and local activities.

If you'd like to learn more about parish weekend, please talk with Jack or Polly Nelson, Martha & Wilborn Roberson, Kirk & Linda Gibson, Alice Lees, Barry & Diane Schnoor, Webster or Bridget. Look for their "Ask me about Shrine Mont" buttons! Or, call the Church Office at 540-662-5843.



Parish Weekend 2015

Parish News

Fellowship Groups Meet

The **Men's Fellowship** will meet on Saturday, March 12, at 7:30 am, in the Baden Center, to discuss accountability and its effect on Christian men in today's society. Breakfast will be served and we will end promptly at 9:00 am. All men of the parish are welcome!

The next **Community Fellowship** gathering will be Thursday, April 14, at 7:00 pm, in the Tilford Room. We take a look at the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer and his effect on Christian theology. There will be a short film covering his life and a discussion led by Diedra Kriewald. Look for more details in The April Angelus. (There is no gathering in March.)

We are planning an **April Yard sale!** Look for details in the weeks ahead for a courtyard sale of items left over from this past fall's rummage sale. The date is Saturday, April 9, at 8:00 am.



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

An image from our recent "Table Manners" class

Parish News

CCAP Collection for March

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. CCAP is located at the corner of Cork and Kent streets, behind the Shell station, and its hours of operation are Monday - Thursday 8:30 am - 2:30 pm and Fridays 8:30 am - 11:30 am. Donations are accepted during these hours, and are received on the right side of the building, towards the back. There are always friendly and helpful volunteers, many of whom are CCAP clients, who are happy to help unload any donations. For more information about CCAP, please visit www.ccapwinc.org.

In March, we will collect **new socks and underwear for men and women** for CCAP. There is a bookshelf in the foyer of the Parish Hall marked CCAP. Please leave items there.



JOIN THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 20
FOR A COFFEE HOUR BRUNCH TO SUPPORT
STOP HUNGER NOW.

Meal packing day at Christ Church will be announced soon!
Free-will donations will be accepted at brunch.

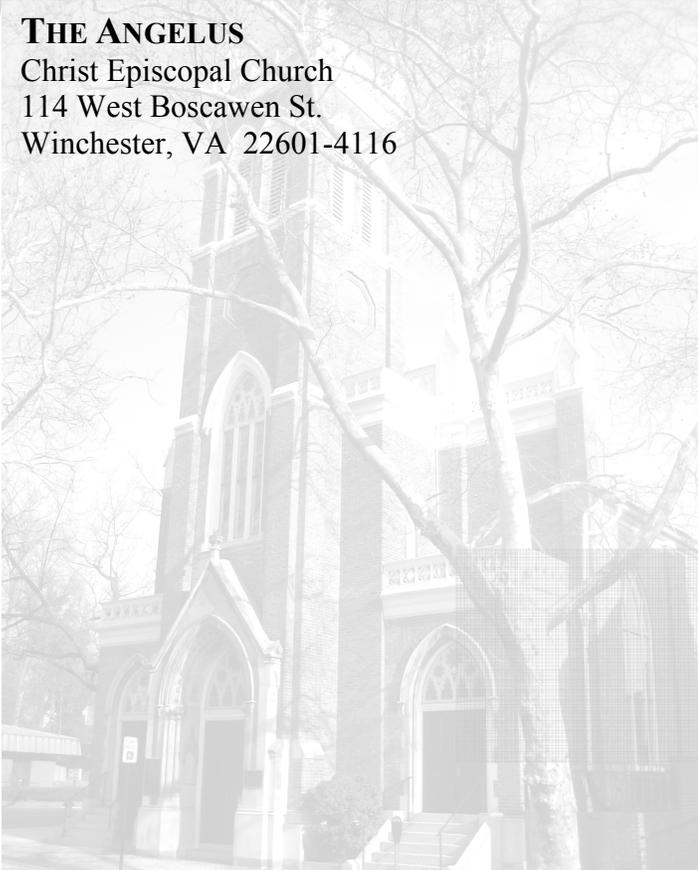
Easter Flowers



If you would like to help adorn our Easter altar in thanksgiving for or in memory of someone special, please take an envelope from one of the tables in the rear of the Sanctuary, complete it, and include your check made payable to Christ Church with "Easter Flowers" in the memo line. **Minimum donation for lily and tulip plants will be \$12 EACH this year.** You may put the envelope in the offering plate or bring it to the Church Office. **All envelopes must be received by Monday, March 14, 2016.** Please contact Lucia Thomas (thomaslf1@comcast.net) or the Church Office (540-662-5843) with any questions.

THE ANGELUS
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114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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Permit No. 216



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

Parish Nurse Musings

It's the third month of the new year and I am hearing about New Year's Resolutions being broken! About 50% of Americans vow to change their habits and about 25% give up after one week! Here are some thoughts for you about keeping those resolutions:

1. The first thing to know is that lack of willpower is to blame for most of our bad habits. We don't have self-control! When we want something we have given up, we just make an excuse and do it.
2. Get some help along the way. Apps can help us change our habits. Look into what possibilities are available to remind you to do or not to do what you have said you wanted to improve!
3. Do you know it takes about 21 days or 3 weeks to form a new habit? This knowledge was first discussed in 1960 by Maxwell Maltz. It hasn't changed much.
4. The best way to change a habit is to set realistic goals.
5. Get someone to participate with you who has the same goal. Partnership helps us stay on target!
6. Learn as much as you can about the new habit and what it will do for your health. However, we change our habits not by just learning, but by implementation and doing the change.

Best of luck and see you next month!

Your Parish Nurse, Helen