

THE ANGELUS

Volume 75 Number 12

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

August 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

It is amazing for me to realize that this is my 18th startup of the program year at Christ Church. Children are now adults, adults are older adults, and some of the children that are now adults now have children. I guess that is what the Teacher (Qoheleth) in Ecclesiastes meant about time and seasons. Only now, the program year looks to begin sooner as we head into August.

A couple of items to put on your calendars: Sunday, August 24th is our traditional parish picnic following the 10:30 am service. Please see the information provided by Parish Life for the cookout help and food items. Our outreach ministries mark the start of the year with school and food drives to help our children and youth get a good start on the year. Dates and locations for donations are listed in the Outreach section. We also have our faith study group beginning their study group on Monday, August 25. Again, more information for that can be found in Christian Formation offerings.

August also has some opportunities for training to help with our worship services. Chris Francis is organizing training for ushers, and Bill Major will be working with lay readers and chalcers. I have seen an increase in Sunday attendance and people retiring from serving as ushers or chalcers, often because of physical limitations. These particular ministries are examples of simple and necessary roles in our community's worship life which provide ways for people to participate in the life of the congregation. While one of the goals with the training sessions is to help people know what they are to do, another goal is to help people get to know one another. When I hear people saying they do not know some of the new people, I remind them that these ways to serve in our worship are a great way to meet and greet one another.

There is also another part of this type of serving for the families with younger children, especially when ushering. When parents are ushering and they feel that the child is old enough, the parent will get their children to help. Maybe not starting with carrying the wine cruet or the offering plates, but handing out bulletins or helping to invite people to come forward for communion, parents can engage the children in serving. It is a wonderful way for the parents to be able to help with the worship service while also teaching and mentoring their children about serving in the worship. It also helps the children learn our worship from a different perspective.

While our full program year does not kick off until September, you will see ways to participate in the fellowship, faith formation, service and worship of Christ Church. These are not just recommendations, these are requests for ways to be a part of the faith community. These requests may be an opportunity to try something new or to try something different. It can also be a moment when you invite someone else to join you.

When you read about Jesus's invitation to his disciples to follow him in the Gospels, his invitation is not just to watch him, but also to learn and then become a part of the proclaiming community about the Gospel, or Good News of Jesus. One aspect of this witness which I enjoy is that we are invited to be more than passive consumers of God's grace. We are invited to become instruments of God's grace to our church family and the community around us. I hope your discernment, your consideration of how you can share your talents and abilities, leads you to deeper ways to be disciples of Jesus at Christ Church.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext 1 or 540-773-5562

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Stepping back to the beginning of our summer, it's time to recognize and thank our volunteers for our June 1st one-day Vacation Bible School. It was different from our familiar week-long format and was held outdoors, bringing a number of challenges from manning the grill to moving furniture, in addition to the usual VBS activities! Those who made it happen were John Applin, Noelle Creamer, Webster Gibson, Martha Griffin, Jazmine Pellet, Martha Roberson, Wilborn Roberson, Gary Sheppard, Ryleigh Sheppard, Susan Sheppard, Maggie Smith, Oakley Smith, Theresa Seitz, Jody Wall, Dan Wall, Amy Whipkey, Laken Whipkey, Tuffy Whitacre, David Wingenbach, and Lelia Wingenbach. Thanks to all for such a fun morning!

Sunday School and Children's Chapel will begin the 2025-2026 session on September 7, 2025, beginning at 9:30 am. There will be classes for ages 3-5 years, Kindergarten through grade 2, and grades 5-8. Alleluia Singers will rehearse at 9:00 am in the Children's Chapel. You can find Sunday School registration forms on the website (www.christchurchwinchester.org) or pick one up at the Parish Picnic on Sunday, August 24.

Monday Faith Study

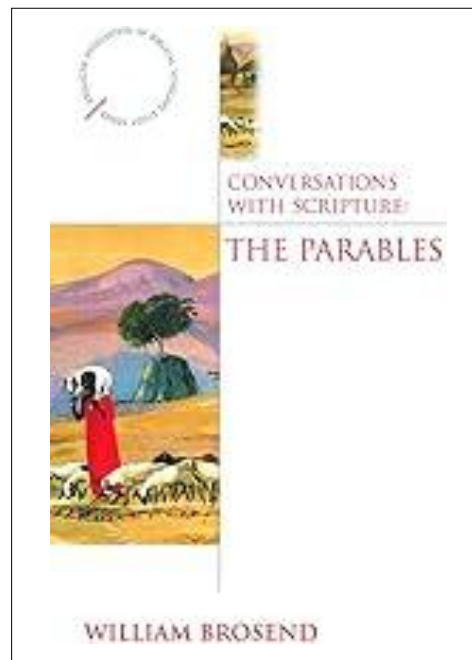
The Monday Faith Study starts again on Monday, August 25, 2025 at 10:00 am. These one-hour sessions are hybrid, with some people attending in person in the Smith Building conference room and others participating via Zoom. Webster leads the session. There is no prerequisite to join this informal, but informative group study.

Pat Shaner says, "This will be my 8th year attending the Faith Study, and I am grateful for the opportunity to take a break from my day-to-day routine and get in touch with God's word. During these study sessions I get to hear other people's take on what they think certain scriptures mean. We get deeper into the study as a group than I could by reading on my own. We ask questions without fear of being judged. Sometimes another member of the group will ask a question, and it was just what I was thinking! We benefit from Webster's knowledge and are better able to grasp the Bible's message, often discussing how scripture applies to our world today.

The Faith Study is an opportunity for learning, spiritual growth, fellowship and joy. Participating in the book studies has enriched my life, deepened my faith and helped me understand what it means to follow Christ. We always have room for more, and our hope is that more of you will join us."

This fall, they will start with "Conversations with Scripture: The Parables" by William F. Brosend, II. This book will help them explore the beauty, richness and joy of the Parables which Jesus utilized for teaching. "The Parables" is available at bookstores and online at thriftbooks.com and Amazon.com.

For more information or the Zoom meeting link, please contact Webster (rector@christchurchwinchester.org) or Pat Shaner (patriciashaner@gmail.com).



Worship

Lend a Hand with the Usher Ministry

The ushers at Christ Church serve the congregation by assisting worshippers from the parking lot to the altar—welcoming, guiding, assisting the rector as needed, maintaining a safe environment for all, and responding to any emergencies. Our great group of ushers are team players, flexible, and friendly!

There is an usher meeting on August 31, 2025 at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary. The training is related to the introduction of a 5th usher at the 10:30 am service and the roles and responsibility of that person. During communion, the fifth usher will be positioned below the altar steps to assist/navigate those who need assistance going to the altar railings.

If you are interested in serving as an usher at either Sunday service, please contact Chris Francis to answer any questions. His email is cfrancis622@gmail.com.

Join the Choir!

Do you love to sing? Our adult choir is always welcoming new members! No auditions required! We're a mid-sized choir hoping to grow and fill out our sections a little more this year. We're excited to share that some of our sections will now be supported by professional singers as section leaders, helping to strengthen our sound and support all singers.

Now is a perfect time to join! We rehearse Wednesdays at 6:00 pm and Sundays at 9:30 am before the 10:30 am service (when we sing). Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, September 3, and we have a fun and inspiring season of music ahead. You'll have the chance to meet our friendly and welcoming choir members and be part of the musical journey from the very beginning of the program year. Whether you're new or returning, we'd love to sing with you!

Come talk to me, Jean Lin, the music director, after church or email me at jyoyulin@gmail.com to learn more.

Altar Guild Invitation

The Altar Guild will meet on Tuesday, August 26, 2025 at 5:15 pm in the Tilford Room. All members should attend.

The Altar Guild serves the church under the direction of the rector and is responsible for setting up and caring for the furnishings in the nave, sanctuary, and sacristy, as well as any other area of the church where special worship takes place (holy days, funerals, weddings, and baptisms).

The Altar Guild works in four teams of approximately eight with a team leader, each team serving three months a year. The primary tasks include preparing the altar, laying out the vestments, setting the credence table with the elements (bread and wine) to be administered during communion, laundering and ironing altar and worship linens, polishing brass and silver, filling candles, and other tasks.

While this may sound challenging to learn, new members are welcomed and trained by experienced team leaders and there is a reference manual available to members for support. And, there's an understanding, flexible rector! It's a wonderful way to learn more about worship and to serve on a team at Christ Church.

Anyone interested in being a member of the Altar Guild, please call or email Katie Harvard (klhwsh@yahoo.com) or reach out to any one of the Altar Guild members you may see working on any given Sunday.

Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary

Holy Eucharist at Westminster-Canterbury
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am



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

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Call ahead before you visit!

Committee & Group Meetings

(Many on break for the summer - check the church calendar!)

Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 6:00 pm
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom
Outreach Committee	1st Tues: 6:00 pm
Common Ground Discussion Group	4th Wed: 4:00 pm
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am—4 pm Sat: 10 am—1 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 1:30 pm—Parlors OR First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm —Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

August Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Brown, Jody Wall
- 2 Margery Wingenbach
- 3 Gail Walsh
- 6 Tracy Tilling
- 8 Dick Clarke
- 10 Marsha Baden, Mary Gloster
- 12 Lachlan Truong, Beatrice Elwood
- 14 LaVerne Sargent, Jane Fitz
- 15 Kay Whitworth, Mari Kofalt
- 19 Ryleigh Sheppard
- 22 Bob Fitz
- 24 Joan Burgess
- 26 Kay Keely
- 27 Ellen Morgan, Clare Dame
- 29 Nancy Mitchell
- 30 Greg Hutchinson, Judy Pennypacker
- 31 Caroline Cooper



August Anniversaries

- 5 Kent & Mary Stevens
- 7 Bob & Jane Fitz
- 14 Roger & Helen Zebarth
- 25 David & Sara Bicking
- 29 Bob & Mary Puttock

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.



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays
10—4 & Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

*Donations accepted during
shop hours!*



To submit a prayer request, please visit the website and click on
“Add a Name to the Prayer List”
in the Quick Links section.

Outreach Committee

Stuff the Bus for Bright Futures



The Outreach Committee will collect school supplies throughout August to support Bright Futures' Stuff the Bus event. (The actual event is August 2, but we will collect supplies all month.)

Items requested from Christ Church parishioners include: headphones with wires, highlighters, Expo dry-erase markers, pencils, glue sticks, gallon Ziplock bags, 2-pocket folders with prongs, basic alarm clocks, and lice kits.

You can bring donations to church on Sundays throughout August or to the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays from 10-2.

During the last school year, Bright Futures reported supporting more than 2,000 teachers in Winchester and Frederick County with classroom supplies, and more than 1,300 students with clothing, shoes and hygiene items. All of this is in addition to the almost 40,000 food packs they provided during the school year!

From the Vestry

July Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The treasurer reports that, so far this year, revenue is much higher than expected, and since expenses are pretty much as expected, we are in the very happy position of having a large budget surplus. Looking ahead during the year, the surplus will probably diminish but, hopefully, it will continue to enable us to expand our ministries.
- Parish Life reports that the revamped OWLs fellowship get-togethers have been well-attended and effusively praised. OWLs stands for older, wiser laity, though all are welcome to attend these gatherings which feature a theme, usually with wine and cheese. They are being held monthly.
- Parish Life also urged the Vestry to get committees to sign up to host Coffee Hour, and talked about ways to encourage other parishioners, etc.
- The Properties Committee signed a maintenance contract with Riddleberger Brothers for our HVAC systems.

Properties Committee

Works in Progress

The Properties Committee at Christ Church meets once a month, but is busy all the time with projects to maintain and improve facilities. If you are interested in projects like this, please consider joining this group. No special experience or knowledge is required to be on the committee.

The committee has been working on the following:

- Installing professional blinds in the Baden Center.
- Researched new HVAC preventive maintenance contractor and signed agreement at a reduced cost from previous contact.
- Investigating current water leaks in church buildings and contacting contractors for recommendations and repairs.
- Maintaining church common areas including the courtyard and Baden Center grounds. Keep Day is conducted twice a year to improve outdoor and indoor spaces in all buildings.
- Currently installing WIFI service at the Baden Center
- Developing operations manual for livestreaming Sunday services.
- Developing guidance/instructions for vestry and wardens regarding response to emergencies, i.e. fire, burglary, theft, flood, alarms, and other emergencies.
- Installed new water faucets in the parish hall, benefitting parishioners and WATTS guests.
- Developing property inspection program to identify current and future improvement, maintenance and repair needs.

If you are interested in helping on the Properties Committee, please contact Dan Wall (danwall12@gmail.com). The committee meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm.

*Thanks to Dan & Pat Shaner
for their work keeping the
courtyard beautiful all summer!*



From the Parish Nurses

Transition for Blue Ridge Hospice

Earlier this spring, Blue Ridge Hospice announced what they called “a transition to a unified brand—Blue Ridge Care.” They said, “For nearly 45 years, Blue Ridge Hospice has provided compassionate care at life’s end. As community needs have evolved, so has the organization’s scope. Today, Blue Ridge Care delivers a full system of services and programs—including hospice, palliative care, and the Blue Ridge Independence at Home Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE)—along with grief and bereavement support through its Center for Hope & Healing (community grief support) and retail with purpose and meaningful community engagement through eight regional thrift shops.”

What does that mean for our community at Christ Church?

The Blue Ridge Care health system now offers services in addition to end-of-life hospice care. Their system is designed to serve individuals experiencing the effects of aging, chronic and serious illnesses, and navigating end-of-life situations with their loved ones.

They offer palliative care now, focusing on providing relief from symptoms and stress with the goal of improving quality of life for people living with a serious illness. You may be eligible to receive palliative care if you are experiencing distressing symptoms due to a serious disease like cancer, heart disease, lung disease, kidney disease, dementia, ALS, MS, Parkinson’s disease, or others.

And, Blue Ridge Independence at Home is a Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). It’s an integrated new healthcare solution for seniors in our service area who need assistance but want to remain independent and continue living at home. It is not hospice care. Independence at Home provides and coordinates the care you need while staying safe and happy at home. The program offers a wide range of services with the goal of providing any and all care a participant may need. Care is provided by providers on their interdisciplinary team, or coordinated with providers in their care network, focusing on preventative care and long-term management of chronic conditions, which can lead to improved health outcomes and quality of life. The goal is to help participants, who are eligible for nursing home care, to remain at home instead.

Through the hospice program, they continue to offer community grief services including individual counseling, support groups, workshops and more.

You can learn more about all these services on their website (www.blueridgecare.org) or talk with one of our parish nurses.



Blue Ridge Care