

THE ANGELUS

Volume 77 Number 1

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

September 2026

Dear People of Christ Church,

I hope that everyone had a chance for some rest and relaxation over the summer. I also want to thank everyone who helped with our end of summer parish picnic in August. Our Parish Life Committee put out the call for potluck side dishes and desserts, and you responded wonderfully well. It is wonderful to see people returning or first-time visitors coming to church as we get ourselves ready for the fall.

Your staff and committees are already working on events for the fall, so I hope that you follow the announcements. If you are new to Christ Church, our announcement or information “network” consists of this, our monthly newsletter, our Sunday bulletin, and our weekly Thursday email update, to which you can subscribe on our website, www.christchurchwinchester.org.

Among those events to know about are the September 13 start of our Sunday School programs for all ages and the return of our adult choir. For the children, youth and young adult/family programs, your director, Garth Stevens-Jennings, is the main point of contact should you have questions. For the adult choir, Dr. Jean Lin, the Director of Music is the staff contact. I orchestrate the Sunday Adult Forum.

I have had a couple of inquiries about when we are celebrating baptisms again. The next scheduled opportunities are the following Sundays: November 1, 2026, January 10, March 28 and May 16, 2027. Anyone interested in baptism needs to contact me to set up the baptism preparation process beforehand.

Please be sure to follow along with our calendar of events with our new ministries. Pastoral Care, Outreach and Stewardship have several new events happening this fall, as well as additional events with Christian Formation in Advent. All of these will be in this and future newsletters and other church media. However, it does require that people follow along. If you have not received emails or are not sure that we have your information, please do not hesitate to contact Noelle Creamer, our Director of Communications.

Oh yes, and one more thing before I forget – email is a blessing and a curse. We are having some technical difficulties with emails being sent and received. If you have an email to which you need a reply and are not sure if it was received, please call to confirm we received it. Also, our emails often go to your spam folders. Please be sure to check your spam folder if you are waiting on an email from us. All of that is to say that email is not 100% reliable. Follow up is always a good idea. Also, we do not solicit money, gift cards or Apple music cards from you online! If you get an email from me or other staff saying that we are in a rush to a meeting but want you to text about a question, it is probably not us. If you want to check, please call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

Lots of moving parts at Christ Church. I enjoy having you here to share in the ministries we do!

Faithfully,



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



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA

Christian Formation

Understand Sunday's Readings More Fully

Each week, a group meets on Wednesdays at 10:30 am on Zoom for a weekly Bible study led by the clergy. They look at the readings for the next Sunday and discuss.

Why would you take an hour mid-week to “preview” the readings for Sunday? Here are some thoughts from those who participate:

“It's always fun, in an instructive way, to share thoughts with others. Those shared thoughts about the Gospel and other readings make the Sunday service much more alive and meaningful.”

“I like reading and thinking about Sunday's Scripture before showing up on Sunday. I feel more prepared to receive the gifts of the day.”

“I like that my focus in the middle of the week includes Scripture.”

“I like that I see and hear from my friends and I meet new friends. There is a social component to our Zoom gathering, which makes me happy.”

“I like that our time together helps me learn and ponder.”

“I like that I feel connected to Christ Church through gathering for Bible study.”

“My answer is complex. Before I started it was simple. I wanted to better understand the Bible, having never participated in a study group. Boy, was I ignorant. Now having participated for a couple of months, I stay because the discussions and the investment challenges, in a good way, my beliefs. Makes me think differently from how I was raised and what was ingrained early on. Pushes the boundaries. Sometimes I get frustrated in a good way. Then I ponder/research my way out of being stuck. More work is required on my part to better understand the history of the stories, people and the Bible itself. I find myself researching names, families, and terminology during our time. Sometimes, I get confused and lost in the conversation. I'm a work in progress.”

If you would like the Zoom link to join the discussion, [please email Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester](mailto:please_email_Noelle_at_communications@christchurchwinchester).

Christian Formation

Sunday Morning Adult Forum

Socrates is credited with the saying that the unexamined life is not worth living. Perhaps another way to put it is Paul's famous statement in Romans 12 – "I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect" (Romans 12:1-2).

No matter one's time in life, we are always trying to make those connections between our lives, our spirituality and the world around us. For some people, this is daily practice. For others this may be the first time considering these intersections. Joan Chittister, OSB who is a well known writer and speaker on Scripture and spirituality gave 4 talks on this topic in her series "Spirituality, Self and Society". Using these talks, we will have discussions about where her thoughts and ours intersect or digress. We will not come up with answers. Hopefully, it will help raise questions for each of us to consider as we go about our daily lives.

Please join each Sunday us in the Pilgrim's Chapel from 9:30 am until 10:15 am, beginning on Sunday, September 13. The chapel is located to the immediate right as you enter the front doors of the parish hall. We hope to see you there!

Monday Faith Study Group

Beginning on Monday, September 14, at 10:00 am, we will be restarting our Faith Study Group in the Smith Building Conference Room (114 W. Boscawen, upstairs). This study is a hybrid study so those who cannot attend in person may join on Zoom. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month.

This fall, we will study the Bible, The Book of Common Prayer, and how they help to shape us as disciples of Jesus in the Episcopal Church. It is recommended that you bring your own copy of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer in case you want to make notes as we go through the class. While Bibles are provided, if you want to mark yours as you go through the class, please bring your own copy. Additional materials will be provided as we go through the class.

If you would like to participate, please contact Webster Gibson (rector@christchurchwinchester.org) for the Zoom link and initial materials.

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

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
Properties Committee	3rd Wed: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am—4 pm Sat: 10 am—1 pm
Women's Book Study	First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm — Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

September Birthdays

- 1 Ty Lawson
- 2 Robb Russell
- 7 Joan Bronson
- 9 Vicky Arculin
- 14 Carolyn Lewis, Debra Shows,
Dawson Wiley
- 15 Ashley Haines
- 18 Polly Nesselrodt
- 19 Cheryl Crowell, Pat Kofalt
- 22 Bill Major
- 25 Mary Puttock
- 27 Gus Wise, Maggie Wise
- 28 Katlyn Wall Painter
- 29 Pem Hutchinson, Adelaide Turnbull,
Rick Byler



September Anniversaries

- 4 Stephen & Nancy Brown
- 8 Ron & Teri Bellows
- 9 David & Carolyn Lewis
- 11 Pat & Mari Kofalt
- 20 John & Joan Claybrook
- 21 Steve & Terry Cluss

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!*

Donations accepted during business hours.

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

*If you need a copy of the parish directory,
please email Noelle at
communications@christchurchwinchester.org
to make arrangements
to pick one up in the Church Office.*

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

Stewardship Committee

How do you share your talents?

As Christians, we are called to be disciples of Jesus Christ. Whether we like it or not, being a disciple of Christ is a 24/7 endeavor. It is an endeavor that offers us the opportunity to meet God in all things, at all times, and in all places. As we go about our daily business, we do so as Christ's disciples. As Christians, when we engage in supporting our community, caring for our neighbors, and other acts of service, we are not participating as "volunteers" but as Christ's disciples. It is our calling. Our vocation.

Stewardship within Christ Church is also a critical part of our discipleship. When we offer our time, talents, and treasure to Christ Church, we do so as disciples, not volunteers. Stewardship is not transactional – we don't give to receive; we give of our time, talent, and treasure as acts of love to our God and to our neighbor.

Here, at the end of summer, the Stewardship Committee continues to encourage you to share your time and talents. How? As ushers, readers, lay eucharistic ministers, and choir members. As committee members in one or more of our committees. As burger-flippers and servers at our picnic. As coffee hour hosts. As attendants when we offer our church as a shelter to others. The opportunities are always available. The "ask" is ongoing as the harvest is great but the laborers few. And soon, we will ask that you prayerfully consider pledging funds to our church, an offering of your treasure.

In that context, now is the time to prayerfully consider how you will respond as a disciple of Jesus Christ to the church's annual pledge campaign. There are many considerations that you may want to reflect on as it relates to financial stewardship, including: What do you have to give? What are the church's needs? How can we promote Christ's ministry? How can we strengthen and grow Christ's church? What is your vision for your future, and does it involve Christ Church? How important is Christ Church to you as you continue your journey as a disciple? Over the coming months the Stewardship Committee will try to address some of these questions. In the meantime, we encourage private reflection. We also invite your questions. And remember, we – all of us -- are the church! So let us BE THE CHURCH!

Properties Committee

Update on Current Projects

We have a few projects that have been approved and will be completed over the next month or so:

- New entry door in lower room of old rectory. We are repurposing this space for Parrish Life overflow storage. The room has been repainted and will be outfitted for storage. The new door is more secure since it has no glass. We will key it to match other locks in the church, so you won't have to visit the key box to access. Photos below show before and after.
- Vestry has approved a bid to replace the tile on the ramp from the Parish Hall to the Sacristy. The current floor tile is cracked and coming up, causing potential trip points. The flooring selected is very attractive and will blend in with the current flooring.
- Vestry has also approved a contract to re-pave the Baden Center parking lot. There will be some grading to direct water flow out to the alley and new curb installed for a clean look. We will also restripe the parking lot. Once the work is done, we have plans to install attractive landscaping at the east and west side of the lot.



Outreach Committee

September Donations to ChildSafe Center - CAC

Among the projects of the Outreach Committee at Christ Church is the monthly collection during Sunday services of various items to help support different local non-profit organizations. The congregation is always very generous, and donations are very much appreciated by the agencies that we serve.

During the month of September, we will be collecting snack foods and juice boxes for the ChildSafe Center-CAC.

Every child deserves to feel safe. The work of the ChildSafe Center-CAC (Child Advocacy Center) strives to do just that, make children feel safe. Their caring and comforting environment is a sanctuary for children who are victims of violence in the home or community as they deal with the trauma going on in their lives. The ChildSafe Center-CAC is a small, local non-profit agency that provides screening, therapy, counseling and a nurturing environment for child victims ages 2 to 18 as they navigate the legal system during investigation and trial proceedings. Because of the very specific nature of this organization, it is not widely recognized in the community. However, it is well known and partners closely with other agencies such as the Department of Social Services, law enforcement, the court system, Valley Health and the school systems.

While visiting the ChildSafe Center, kids are provided with a snack, toys, crafts, and other age-appropriate activities to help them relax and feel comfortable. As you can imagine, children of all ages are always hungry and one way to make a child feel loved is to feed them, so the CAC is always in need of snacks! Individually packaged cookies, crackers and other types of munchies like those you might include in a school lunch box are ideal. Juice boxes are also popular with the kids. Please consider donating to this vital and sometimes unnoticed non-profit agency.

You can bring donations to church on Sundays in September or drop off at the Church office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays from 10-2.

