

THE ANGELUS

Volume 74 Number 12

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

August 2024

Dear People of Christ Church,

Welcome to Christ Church as we begin to move into the fall and the start of the program year. While September is typically the main time we actually start many of our programs and ministries, I want to take advantage of an early start for those of you who are new to the parish to allow a time to meet. On Sunday, August 11, from 2:30 to 3:30 pm, I will be hosting a newcomer tea in the Tilford Room for a simple meet and greet with the rector for you to ask questions and have some conversations about life at Christ Church, which we typically cannot do on Sundays.

I am also starting the preparation process for candidates for Confirmation and Reception in August. Part of that includes a process of instructed Eucharist. I invite people in the congregation to join us on Sundays August 11 and 18 from 4:00 to 5:30 pm for late afternoon services of Holy Eucharist in the Tilford Room. Each Sunday will have a celebration of Eucharist, but the first Sunday will have instruction during the service focusing on the Liturgy of the Word and the second Sunday will have instruction during the service for the Liturgy of the Table. This is educational for those new to the Episcopal Church, and it can also help current members learn more about our worship.

Our normal routine of marking the end of summer and heading into the fall will continue our parish picnic on Sunday, August 25. The Parish Life Committee has the details for our parish picnic, and I hope that you will join us.

Faithfully,



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

*Webster and Margery at VBS
with the Grace Lutheran team*



Worship

Bishop's Visit Planned

This fall, we have a visitation from the Diocesan bishop, Mark Stevenson, on Sunday, October 20. We have not had a Diocesan bishop visitation for a number of years. At the same time, many people have come into the parish family for whatever reasons from other denominational parts of the Christian faith.

As you have become more involved in the parish life, this is an important opportunity to become full members at Christ Church. For those not familiar with the Episcopal Church, being a member of Christ Church allows you to serve in roles of leadership in the parish as well as being able to vote at annual meetings or at other meetings involving items such as our recent meeting to vote on sale of church property.

This does not have anything to do with validity of baptisms or denominations you may have grown up in. Instead, this is a way that we publicly acknowledge your desire to serve Jesus in the universal (or catholic) Church through this particular denomination called Episcopal. The bishop visitation is our way of welcoming people into the faith. That is also wonderful way to celebrate your being part of the same Christian community called Christ Episcopal Church.

For those who are already Episcopalian, if you have not done so already, you only need a letter of transfer of membership from your previous Episcopal congregation. You may have already done that. If not, contact Noelle Creamer in the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4) and she will help you.

For those who grew up in another denomination, most denominations have some form an adult profession of faith in Jesus. We call that confirmation. Out of respect for that a person's previous adult profession of faith, we call our process "reception" into the Episcopal Church. If you have not done that, then you are confirmed. Of course, if you have not yet been baptized and wish to do so, this is the best chance you get where you are baptized and confirmed all at the same time.

To start this process, join Webster Gibson on Sunday, August 11, at 10:00 am to discuss the overall process, especially the mentorship program.

Also, on Sundays, August 11 and 18, from 4:00 to 5:30 pm, Webster will lead an instructed service of Holy Eucharist in the parish hall. This will be open to the parish, but the candidates need to be there. This is a two step instruction church service where we have our service, but Webster walks everyone through the service and its purpose/meaning step-by-step. The first Sunday is the service with instruction in the liturgy of the Word and the second Sunday is the service with instruction of the Liturgy of the Table. This is a wonderful time to get your questions answered about our liturgy and hopefully find the liturgy more meaningful in you faith and worship.

Webster will have one more class in September about the Service of Baptism and how confirmation/reception is connected with the Bishop. That date has yet to be set. If you have questions, please email or contact Webster at the Church Office.

Deliver Happiness!

Every Sunday, the flowers on the altar are taken to someone that is sick, hospitalized, or just unable to get out of the house—or maybe to someone for just a "we're thinking of you." There is a need for people to deliver these flowers on Sundays to whomever is the recipient. If you are interested in participating in this ministry, please sign up on the church website under "Quick Links" on the home page for the Sunday that suits you. We would love to have you as part of this ministry! If you have any questions contact Katie Harvard (klhwsh@yahoo.com or 757-999-3816).

Christian Formation

Sunday School News

Fall Sunday School registration begins at the parish picnic on August 25th. Look for the registration table and sign up, one form per child, for the following classes: preschool (ages 3-5), Kindergarten-grade 2, grades 3-4, and grades 5-8. Registration will continue online and in the Commons on the first day of Sunday School, September 8th.

SCUBA, our Vacation Bible School program from July 8-12, owes its success to our wonderful group of volunteers and supporters. Huge thanks are due to David and Sarah Bicking, DeLyn Celec, Mike Cipiti, Reed Constantino, Noelle Creamer, Barbara Downs, Ann Elwood, Webster Gibson, Martha Griffin, Ashley Haines, Landon Haines, Kay Keely, Gil Kesser, Elizabeth Loring, Hannah Mangan, Neile Martin, Pam McKinley, Pat Shaner, Theresa Seitz, Alice Shank, Vivian Schower, Maggie Smith, Jody Wall, Amy Whipkey, and Brock Whipkey. From teaching or assisting a teacher, to donating or preparing snacks, to registration, to leading games and music, to helping with cleanup, thanks for offering your time and energy to the Christian formation of our children and creating life-long memories!

Pastoral Care Committee: Christ Church Prayer List

Back in February, the Pastoral Care Committee asked the congregation to take on the Lenten challenge of praying individually for all those on our parish prayer lists. It was an individual challenge - no one was counting, no one keeping check, but there is always an impact when people pray! One impact of the challenge was that new parishioners wanted to know more about the prayer lists.

At Christ Church, we have two different prayer lists. The one most people are familiar with is the list published weekly in the bulletin, sometimes called the Published List. These names are people who have requested the prayers of our congregation. No details are given about their reasons; it is enough that they have requested our prayers, and we, as a congregation, respond by praying for them, whatever their need. On Sundays, the Prayers of the People includes a small number of names to be read aloud, but there are parishioners who also regularly pray for all the names on the list.

Christ Church has another list of names, known simply as the Quiet List. The people on this list have requested even more privacy than that of the published list, and have asked for prayers without their names being published in the bulletin. A small group of parishioners prays each day for the people on this list. They are all well aware of the importance of keeping confidentiality and do not share the names with people outside the prayer chain.

There are three different ways of putting names on these lists. One that is familiar to long-time parishioners is to contact one of the parish nurses. Their contact information is on the back of the weekly bulletin or on the Christ Church website. Another way is to call the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4) and talk with or leave a message for Noelle; The third way is, we hope, a NEW easier option for everyone! The Christ Church website now has a simple online form to put in a prayer request. The request will be directed to either the published list or the prayer chain for the Quiet List. There is a link to the form on the home page of the website, and also on the Pastoral Care page. Please keep in mind that service materials are printed on Thursdays, so requests made after that may not be included until the following week.

We hope this new way of requesting prayers will make the process easier, more timely, and more convenient for everyone!

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: 7:00 pm |
| Bible Study | Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom |
| Outreach Committee | 4th Tues: 7:00 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: 10:30 am—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
- 4 Jim Kriewald
- 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
- 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 Zearth
- 25 David & Sara Bicking
- 29 Bob & Mary Puttock

celebrate!

AUGUST 25, 2024
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 AM SERVICE
PARISH PICNIC
BURGERS AND HOT DOGS & ALL THE SIDES
PROVIDED BY THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE.
SEATING INSIDE & OUTSIDE.
ALL WELCOME!

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.

Committee News

Outreach Committee: Time to Stuff the Bus

Bright Futures does an event called “Stuff the Bus” each year to collect school supplies for local school kids. Their collection events are at the local Walmarts on August 3 & 4, but the Outreach Committee will be collecting items all month long for them. Here are some of the things they need, but they are happy for all school supplies or kids clothes donated:

Headphones, highlighters, Expo dry-erase markers, pens and pencils, colored pencils, markers, 1-inch binders, and Sharpies. And, underwear is also needed—girls’ size 6, 8,14,18, boys’ size 10-12, women's size S, M, L, and men's size S, M.

Please bring donations to church on Sundays in August or to the Church Office lobby on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Outreach Committee: CCAP Bike Race

CCAP is running its bike ride fundraiser again this year on Saturday, August 24, and Christ Church will staff a refreshment stand at Richard’s Fruit Market from 10:00 am - 1:00 pm during the ride. We need six volunteers. Volunteers should be able to assist filling/refilling ice coolers, as well as taking down the pop-up tent that we sit under, and each person will need to bring a lawn chair to sit on. Volunteers make sure the table is stocked with snacks, and the coolers are filled with drinks. Refreshments will already be in place at Richard’s.

To volunteer at the refreshment stand, please contact Betsy Young. Call or text her at 540-327-2266 or email betsykyleyoung@comcast.net. To learn more about the event and/or register for the ride, visit ccapwinchester.org and click the tab “Upcoming Events.”

Properties Committee: Project Updates

The Properties Committee reports that the replacement of the fire safety phone (land) lines with cell phone lines is complete, except that the elevator lines give the wrong address to emergency services. The problem is in the process of being corrected.

The Baden Center renovation work is nearing completion, with the exception of the re-roofing and TV installation. The committee agreed with the Vestry’s requirement that there be a third party inspection of the roof work before final payment is made.

Committee members are working on a “committee charter,” possibly based on two models, one from Vestry member Barbara Downs and another generated by ChatGPT.

Committee News

From the Treasurer

The hot summer weather is now upon us and we have the June financial reports in. So, it's time for our mid-year review. We have some modest good news. Revenues have been trending ahead of the budget throughout the year. Remember that the budget is just an estimation, or projection, of what is expected.

All revenue numbers – pledged, unpledged and other – are ahead of budget. Revenue is tracking 3% lower than this time last year, but still ahead of budget. We had budgeted a \$22,271 deficit at mid-year; however, we have positive revenues of \$15,967. This is \$38,238 ahead of budget. This is great and really helps with the cash flow.

On the expenses side of the ledger, our expenditures are approximately 5% above that planned in the budget. Property maintenance is culprit again. Winchester city has instituted some new stormwater fees on our water bill. We had electrical repairs required so we could host WATTS. Contract maintenance renewals and property insurance have increased significantly. We have found the need to address some very urgent repairs including removing a tree by the Baden Center, HVAC repairs, elevator repairs, and fixing a sewer pipe that was about to burst.

Other expenses for the music program (organ tuning) and the outreach program have merely happened earlier in the year than expected, so they are not a problem.

Last year, the revenue fell off at the end in October, November, and especially December. It appears that people shifted their giving to earlier in the year. We ended up with a \$42k operating deficit. Fortunately, we received the final pandemic-related payment of \$55k from the government. We ended 2023 with almost \$13k surplus that was applied to 2024.

This year, we budgeted for the revenues and expenses to result in a deficit. After applying the 2023 surplus, we expect to end up with a deficit of \$22k.

| 2024 | June 30th YTD actual | June 30th YTD Budget | Difference | Full Year Budget | Remaining Budget |
|--------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenues | \$ 311,402.66 | \$ 259,426.00 | \$ 51,976.66 | \$ 544,400.00 | \$ 232,997.34 |
| Expenses | \$ 295,436.90 | \$ 281,697.54 | \$ 13,739.36 | \$ 579,636.00 | \$ 284,020.84 |
| 2023 Surplus | \$ 12,808.98 | \$ 12,808.98 | | \$ 12,808.98 | |
| Net | \$ 28,774.74 | \$ (9,462.56) | | \$ (22,427.02) | |

In other financial news, the CEC bank checking accounts are being moved from Truist to First Bank. There are several reasons for this, but the most important is that we will now receive 4% interest on our accounts.

There are three checking accounts – general operations, payroll, and a clergy discretionary fund. The general operations and payroll accounts are under the management and control of the Treasurer with expenditures authorized by the Vestry. The clergy has no access to these accounts. The clergy discretionary fund is just that. It is under the control of the clergy and is used as deemed appropriate for pastoral care.

Other News

From the Bookkeeper

Effective August 15, 2024, our bookkeeper will have the ability to directly debit an account designated by you to make your pledge contribution or ANY donation to Christ Episcopal Church.

How does it work? The church's bookkeeper, and only the church's bookkeeper, will have the ability to move funds from your account to the church's account, but only as you ascribe. The benefits? Paper transactions are becoming more expensive, and a check transaction usually involves handling by several people. Direct Debit or ACH transactions are handled by two people, you and the church's bookkeeper. This type of transaction allows for faster processing, prevents lost checks in the mail, and reduces chances of fraud.

If you are interested, please contact Theresa at 540-773-556 or email tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org to make arrangements for these transactions. You will need to complete a Debit/Credit Authorization Agreement (ACH) Form to be kept on file for authorization and audit purposes.

THESE LADIES—MARTHA, KATIE, MYRA AND TERESA—
HELPEd DAVID & SARA BICKING COOK A GREAT
LUNCH FOR 85 KIDS AT KIDS CLUBS OF THE NORTH-
ERN SHENANDOAH VALLEY ON JULY 19.



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4
and Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.
Donations accepted during shop hours!