

THE ANGELUS

Volume 70 Number 11

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

July 2020

Dear People of Christ Church,

As the church is being professionally cleaned and disinfected, and the internet connections are being installed for live streaming, we are diligently working to prepare the community for a future time when are allowed to re-gather in worship. No, we do not have an opening date yet. The process, for those who may not have seen the protocols from the Diocese, includes an approval for our plans to keep people socially-distanced entering, worshipping and exiting the church, hygiene stations, plans for disinfecting between services, and so on. We currently plan to have two Sunday services in the church, and one family service in the parish hall. We are also working on ways for you to register to come to one of the Sunday services to make sure not more than 50 people are in the space for each service. It takes a good bit of preparation before we re-open, but we are determined to get there.



A couple of things I want to begin to communicate to you in this preparation time: The Vestry and clergy are committed to providing worship opportunities for those who feel safe coming to church. Based on registrations, if we find that we need more services to accommodate those coming to church, then we will work to make those services happen. At the same time, we will have a service streamed each Sunday for those who feel they need to stay home. We are still working on a time for that streamed service, but we will let you know when it is.

In conversations with families and parish leadership, it seems to make the most sense to have the 8:00 am service be for adults only. We will also have a "family" service in the parish hall at another time of the morning to allow more room between families using our tables, and a child-centered style of morning worship. As one parent put it, they do not want any adult who may be vulnerable to be uncomfortable in the sanctuary if children are present, which I thought was a gracious way to show concern. For families considering attending this service, it will have children's sermons or lessons, and projects and activities at the tables for each family to work together on the projects and yet be in a community.

For me, the idea of service registrations, families at tables, spread out and yet worshipping together feels strange. Well, it is a strange time and this is not going to be a normal worship experience for some time. Given all that is going on, I appreciate the people in the parish who have shared ideas and insights so that we can find creative ways to be church in a different way.

Again, for anyone interested in what helps guide the diocese and clergy in the decisions to open up and what to expect for the services, please see thediocese.net and look under COVID-19 resources.

Thank all of you for your ongoing prayers and care for our parish family and the world. The Vestry and I will let you know once a date is set to open.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Webster".

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



July 2020

[Visit thediocese.net](http://thediocese.net) for updates.

From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

One of the things I've kept thinking about in the last few months of online worship is all the ways it doesn't feel like church as I've become used to it. There's still something strange about filming in an empty church, and about going to YouTube on Sunday mornings to worship. I've taken time to watch services from other congregations across the Episcopal Church, and I can tell you that no matter how professional the production, or inspired the sermon, there's still something very challenging about trying to worship this way. The sense of community, of being the people of God gathered in one particular place, is hard to sustain sitting in my own living room. But even as I've reflected on the challenges of online worship, I've also started to learn how to feel God's continued presence in that worship. I've found it a chance to focus more carefully on the words of the service, a chance to reflect on what the Psalms and canticles and lessons from Scripture are saying to us, here and now. When I approach online worship as a chance for that kind of reflection, even as I remember the things we've lost since in-person services stopped, I find I'm better able to hear what God has to say to me.

As I'm writing this, we're in the middle of figuring out what the plan for future in-person services will look like. Although we don't have a date for when those services can happen, it's becoming clear that they will continue to look very different than the services we're used to. The services will be smaller and shorter. We'll need to stay physically distant from one another and wear masks. Singing won't be possible, at least at first. All of this can make it easy for all of us to feel the same thing we may already feel about services online: they just don't feel like church. That feeling reflects a reality about what we've lost - our sense that the familiar markers of how we worship God have disappeared. It's important for us to be honest about that sense, and not to feel as though we shouldn't feel that way.

But whenever these services begin, whether we're present in the church building or at home, the challenge for all of us will be the same. How can we learn to experience God's presence in this new way of worship? I don't know yet how that will happen - for me, or for any of us. All we can do is try to keep listening, and keep learning, as we try to figure out what worship will look like. Whatever shape it takes, we will continue to find ways to gather - both in-person and online, and we will continue to hear and reflect on the words of Scripture, and to pray. Jesus's promise to us that "when two or three are gathered, I will be in the midst of them" will hold true for us, even on Zoom and YouTube, and reconfigured services. Our work, the task we have in worship, will be to try to hear and listen to him.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org
540-662-5843, Ext. 2, or direct 540-773-5564



**Join Martin for Evening Prayer on
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
Email or call Martin for instructions
on how to log in.**

From the Outreach Committee

Despite not gathering in person for quite some time, the Outreach Committee has conducted meetings via Zoom and continues its work. With the Vestry's approval, we gave \$1,000 to support a community homeless shelter this spring.

From mid-April through June, the Winchester Rescue Mission, through a partnership with Shenandoah University, used the old armory on campus as a temporary emergency shelter for up to 40 COVID-19-free individuals experiencing homelessness. The emergency shelter came about as the Rescue Mission continued to experience an increase in need due to the pandemic.

To make the old armory building livable and bring it up to code, workers repaired the water heater, de-winterized the plumbing system, upgraded some lighting, made sure the showers were operational, installed smoke detectors in any space where someone might be sleeping, and ensured emergency exit signs were illuminated and fire extinguishers readily available. The 6,000-square-foot emergency shelter space had gender-separated showers and bathrooms. It also included a kitchen space, a gymnasium and a few offices.

The project was a joint effort of Shenandoah University, the Winchester Rescue Mission, the City of Winchester, Frederick County, the Western Virginia Continuum of Care, Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) and the United Way of the Northern Shenandoah Valley.

The Outreach Committee also shared an invitation in June for parishioners to donate for a community diaper giveaway hosted by CCAP. It was nice to be able to present an opportunity for the do-ers of the parish to actively participate in caring for the community in a safe way. CCAP gave diapers to more than 150 children on Saturday, June 27, and also was able to give them books and clothing.

We continue to keep up-to-date with the needs our various Outreach Ministry partners, and when there are other projects we can safely participate with, you will be the first to know!

Online Series on Race & Faith

The Continuing Education Department at Virginia Theological Seminary is offering a six-session online series, "Conversations on Race and Faith: The Sacred Ground Curriculum." This series will according to the course description "explore a rich curriculum focused on Indigenous, Black, Latino and Asian Pacific Americans as their histories intersect with European American history ... all while grounded in our call to faith, hope, and love." The series will be held from 3:00-5:00 p.m. on Mondays, starting July 13. Please note that while options are available to support Continuing Education Programs with optional donations, registration for this series is free. For more information and to sign up, visit www.vts.edu.

Church Calendar

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am

Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

In the Pilgrim's Chapel at noon
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm All Abilities Worship —Sanctuary



All on-site services, meetings and events are still canceled in July.

Please watch for announcements via email, website, Facebook, or church bulletin as services, meetings, and events begin to resume at Christ Church.

Many committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have anything scheduled!

Committee & Group Meetings

Senior Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Daytime Faith Study	2nd/4th Mon: 10:00 am
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 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, Sat 10 am-1 pm
Women's Lunch Group	1st Thurs: 11:30 am
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 - Noon Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



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

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

Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843

Church Calendar

July Birthdays

- 1 Ann Crocker, Stephanie Fairbanks
- 2 Betty MacDonald
- 3 Gil Kesser
- 5 Jim Laidlaw, Mark Pennypacker, Sr.
- 6 George Gibson
- 7 Sydney Barton, Nick Nerangis
Philip Sargent
- 9 Eve Brown, Bob Mitchell
- 11 Pat Leinbach
- 14 Kirk Gibson, Linn Power, Matt Smith
- 15 John Claybrook, Ron Mislowsky
- 17 Julie Read, Timothy Shows
- 18 Karey Starnes, Rebekah Wiedower
- 19 Stacy Talbott, Luke White
- 20 Emma Martin
- 21 Kylie Moore
- 22 Holt Roberson, Aaron Shows
- 23 Robin Koneczny, Cathie Russell
- 24 Jeffrey Davis
- 25 Arthur Sperry
- 25 Lynn Huff
- 30 Doug Thomas
- 31 Tim Whipkey



July Anniversaries

- 6 Webster & Rebecca Gibson
- 7 George & Tricia Glass
- 7 George & Joan Burgess
- 9 Gary & Susan Sheppard
- 16 Jim & Diedra Kriewald
- 22 Pete & Mary Pat Gronauer
- 24 Tim & Amy Whipkey
- 25 Lynn & Maureen Huff
- 30 Steve & Loretta Johnston
- 30 Roger & Pamela Lamborne

celebrate!

From the Treasurer

Positive News

April's Financial results, as reported in the last Angelus were good, and we can now report that May's results were even better! The table shows year-to-date results through May by revenue and expense category.:

Year-to-Date through May 2020	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues			
Pledged	\$ 220,464.89	\$ 193,300.00	\$ 27,164.89
Unpledged	\$ 21,019.50	\$ 15,200.00	\$ 5,819.50
All Other Revenues	\$ 4,455.10	\$ 5,520.00	\$ (1,064.90)
Total	\$ 245,939.49	\$ 214,020.00	\$ 31,919.49
Expenses			
Personnel	\$ 186,291.37	\$ 184,071.70	\$ 2,219.67
Utilities	\$ 10,771.19	\$ 14,290.00	\$ (3,518.81)
Property/Maintenance	\$ 13,587.47	\$ 14,550.00	\$ (962.53)
Office Expenses	\$ 9,447.13	\$ 10,444.00	\$ (996.87)
Christian Education Expenses	\$ 696.04	\$ 2,000.00	\$ (1,303.96)
Music Expenses	\$ 372.80	\$ 4,605.00	\$ (4,232.20)
Worship	\$ 879.46	\$ 505.00	\$ 374.46
Stewardship	\$ 77.75	\$ 75.00	\$ 2.75
Outreach	\$ 13,034.00	\$ 14,425.00	\$ (1,391.00)
Pastoral Care	\$ 61.00	\$ 380.00	\$ (319.00)
Parish Life	\$ 206.90	\$ 942.00	\$ (735.10)
Communications	\$ 789.76	\$ 745.00	\$ 44.76
Total	\$ 236,214.87	\$ 247,032.70	\$ (10,817.83)
Net Total	\$ 9,724.62	\$ (33,012.70)	\$ 42,737.32

Revenues:

The tremendous response we saw in April to the request for donations to help with Christ Church's cash flow continued into May. Actual revenue for May was \$65,651 and Budget was \$38,540, so we received about 70% more than was budgeted.

- Pledged - Several have prepaid their pledges for the year which has resulted in about \$27,000 being received earlier than budgeted.
- Unpledged – We have had a few new donors and other regular donors who have paid ahead, which has resulted in about \$6,200 being received earlier than budgeted.
- All Other Revenue – We are about \$1,000 behind in all other revenue due to not having any plate donations while physical services have been cancelled.

From the Treasurer

Expenses:

- Our actual total expenses for May were slightly over budget by about \$1,600 – about 3% (Actual was \$49,879 versus Budget of \$48,220).
- Year-to-date total expenses remain much lower than budget by about \$14,700 – about 6% (Actual totals \$236,215 versus Budget of \$250,932).



*Donate
by check*

Mail to:
Christ Church
114 W. Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601

Stewardship 2020

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

Our Stewardship Campaign this fall will be centered on the Doxology, and how it relates to giving. Martin Tabaka, chair of our Stewardship Committee, starts the discussion with a reflection he wrote in May and reflected on more recently.

Read the whole piece on the website at www.christchurchwinchester.org/reflection-one.

"This is a tough time to see blessings during this time of our "Great Pause" - a pause that started during Lent and now has continued well into the Easter season, with no clear-cut end date.

Like all of you, I miss our church community and gathering together for worship, service, and fellowship. I miss the regularity of our Sunday worship and the organized liturgical seasonal calendar we follow.

But, I'm thankful for technology like YouTube that allows us to continue worship services. Zoom and FaceTime let us meet with family and friends.

One thing I'm experiencing having a calendar devoid of upcoming events, travels, meetings, is that I'm more focused on right now, and the things I'm doing right at the moment. I've slowed down, my mind isn't racing as much. I've also become aware of folks I probably took a bit for granted, in the past. Those service workers at the supermarkets, gas stations, post office, and servers at restaurants when I pickup takeout meals. I'm way more apt to thank them when I interact with them.

So yes, I can still find blessings and find ways to thank God in these strange and different times."

Martin Tabaka, May 6, 2020

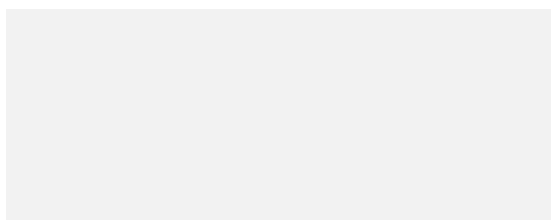
PS: "Looking back on what I wrote many weeks ago, I still feel largely the same. Although, I do find my YouTube attendance for Sunday service does not match my attendance when we worshipped together. Maybe it's due to it being a more passive experience. But, I've been partaking in Webster's Wednesday morning Zoom Bible study, and the interactive nature of that experience isn't much different from sitting in one at church. All, in all, I hope we can all get together again soon." ~ Marty



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114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Nurses' Musings

Did you know that becoming more active can improve brain volume, reduce risk of dementia and improve memory skills and thinking? YES! Increased blood flow that occurs with physical activity may help generate new neurons in the hippocampus, an area of the brain involved with learning and memory.

Aerobic exercise may help improve brain tissue by improving blood flow and reducing the chances of injury to the brain from cholesterol buildup in the blood vessels.

Other items---quit smoking – eat healthy foods (fish-based proteins, fresh fruits and veggies, whole grains, and foods containing omega-3 fatty acids).

Work the brain! Go to your smart phone or tablet and try BrainHQ, Writing in the Stars, Private Eye or Braingle.

Enjoy July!

Your parish nurses, Helen and Rosalie



ChristChurchWinchester.org