

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

October 2021

Dear People of Christ Church,

In October, we will resume distribution of communion in both kinds. This involves new logistical challenges: coming down the center aisle; receiving the bread and consuming it; getting the wine in individual cups at the next table for consumption of intinction; and placing the cup in a bin as each person returns to pews via the side aisles. This will take time to learn and we'll make adjustments, but we can make it work.

The wine will be consecrated at the altar with the chalice and cruets being used rather than pre-pouring the wine as some traditions do. This is a great opportunity to understand a part of our sacramental life together as Episcopalians as a community. While there have been debates about our practice of receiving wine from a common cup, the determination to keep that practice is grounded in our understanding of being a community united in worship of Jesus sharing our sacramental meal in common, not as individuals.

In the Catechism in the back section of the prayer book, sacraments as: "outward and visible signs of inward and spiritual grace, given by Christ as sure and certain means by which we receive that grace." It is also helpful to remember that the term "grace" is described as: "God's favor towards us, unearned and undeserved; by grace God forgives our sins, enlightens our minds, stirs our hearts, and strengthens our wills." Specific to the sacrament of Holy Communion, we are reminded: "The inward and spiritual grace in the Holy Communion is the Body and Blood of Christ given to his people, and received by faith."

A couple of things to consider are the use of the word "Holy" and the use of the word "Communion." While there are titles used other than "Holy Communion," this particular title reminds us that the bread and wine are "holy" which means set apart as different and special to us in what we value as blessed by the Holy Spirit and made sacred for us in our worship of God. "Communion" also reminds us that this is about the community of Jesus. Jesus tells us to eat this bread and drink this cup in remembrance of or as being part of the community of baptized believers who are loved, forgiven and redeemed so that we can then witness the love of Christ to the world. This is a "we" event in Christ, not a "me" event as followers of Jesus.

Through this pandemic, I have been asked about how we can be community when we have to be apart. It is not easy to do two things which are so opposite. The question has helped to raise people's awareness to seriously consider why we do what we do. At one point, we did a lot of morning prayer since we could not gather the community as before. It helped us to remember that "one does not have to serve a full buffet meal in order for the Holy Spirit to be in our worship," which my father pointed out to his seminary students. As our community has gathered again, we have a renewed appreciation of our sacred meal in our worship. We also have the reminder in the chalice and cruets consecrated at the table, that we are a community of the baptized—the body of Christ.

As the clergy and Vestry work together to help navigate our parish through this difficult time, we will continue to do our best to find ways of safe practices in expanding our worship. This new practice with distribution of wine is a reminder for us. We are not sure what we will find as we move towards future challenges with winter seasons, Christmas, etc. However, we will continue to let you know what we are doing as we approach each hurdle.

Faithfully,



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



October 2021

From the Clergy

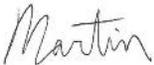
One of my favorite services of the year happens this month - the Blessing of the Animals, which we will celebrate at Christ Church on Sunday, October 3. It's a service that is a wonderful chance to be reminded of our connections to our pets, and the ways they offer us support and companionship. But it's also a service that has deeper lessons for us about the world we live in, and our relationship with God. The Blessing of the Animals happens as close as we can manage to October 4th, to honor the feast of St. Francis, a remarkable friar whose life was lived in concern for the poor, and for all of God's creation.

Francis's life began with his rejection of his family's wealth, and the order of friars he founded continued his concern for both personal poverty and close relationships with the poor. Yet despite this serious purpose, Francis's own spiritual life was marked by a tremendous capacity for joy, and by his constant efforts to praise God, even in the midst of challenges. The connection between these two parts of Francis's spirituality, I think, was his understanding of himself as just another part of God's creation, one of God's creatures, which was connected to all of the rest of creation.

And this is the lesson I think we can learn at the Blessing of the Animals. The service is a reminder that everything that is a part of God's creation, including us. Our lives are connected, not only to one another as humans, but to all that God has made - plants and animals, land and water. Although we all have different roles and abilities, all of creation shares one common purpose, which is the praise of God our Creator. St. Francis wrote a hymn to remind us of this. You can find it at #400 in the Hymnal, translated as "All Creatures of Our God and King." The words point to the ways that all of creation takes part in the praise of God, simply by fulfilling the purposes they were made for.

So whether you have a dog or cat or critter there at the Blessing of the Animals, or you aren't an animal person, we all have something to learn from St. Francis this month. We can reflect on who God has created us to be, how our life can participate in the praise of God that is our common purpose. We can be reminded that we are connected to everything in creation, because God is the one who has made it all. We can try to care better for our fellow creatures of God, and to tend to our relationships with one another and all of creation. And with St. Francis, we can bless our creator, and worship God in humbleness. Alleluia!

Faithfully,



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

Notes about Music



The music ministry rolls on this fall! Tandy Edward "Ted" Dix, our music director, is thankful for the group of vaccinated singers that has been coming over the summer to sing at the 10:30 am service. They only have a little over an hour of practice time each week on Sunday mornings to prepare together, but the choir gets the music and any helpful YouTube videos earlier to encourage preparation at home. The choir hopes to have their weeknight practices resume in October so they can start preparing Christmas music. All singers are welcome, especially much-needed sopranos right now. Please email Ted (tandyedwardd@gmail.com) if you're interested in joining the choir.

Ted is also active with the American Guild of Organists and he's singing with the Arts Chorale of Winchester. The AGO plans to have their annual Christmas event on December 26, 2021—a progressive dinner featuring recitals at downtown churches. Ted will play here at Christ Church and the group will host cookies and hot chocolate in the Parish Hall. And, the Arts Chorale will have a performance on Sunday, October 10, 2021 in Armstrong Concert Hall at Shenandoah University. There's a link to purchase tickets on their website: www.artschoralewinchester.org.

Christian Formation

Services for Young Families

Through October, we will continue to combine our bi-weekly Service for Young Families with Christian Formation for children. Services are at 4:30 pm on October 10 and 24 this month. We continue to familiarize the children with the expectations we agree to as baptized Christians in preparation for the service of Holy Baptism here at Christ Church on November 7, 2021. Please join us when you can!

From the Outreach Committee

Angel Tree 2021 in the Works!



The Outreach Committee is happy to announce that the ministry of the Angel Tree will take place again this year. Please consider participating in whatever capacity you can so that we and the Salvation Army can brighten Christmas for underserved children in our area. Without this program, some children will receive no Christmas presents at all.

For 2021, there will be options for giving. The church plans to be open and will have trees with Angel tags that you can take. For those of you not attending church in person, you will be able to contact a volunteer to request an angel. Also, volunteers will be calling people who have participated in the past to see if they would like to do so again.

The need is great, and we will need volunteers to help with this ministry—making calls, helping with shopping, distributing angels and gifts, and helping to coordinate the ministry.

CCAP Donation for October

In October, CCAP asks us to donate new HATS and new GLOVES for adults and children. Please bring with you on Sunday to place in the CCAP basket at the church doors or drop off at the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen St. on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 40+ worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material and other assistance. Thank you for your generous contributions every month.

There are many volunteer opportunities to help at CCAP. It's a wonderful place to serve our community and meet people from neighboring congregations. If you have any questions about CCAP or would like to volunteer for them, please contact Jim Taylor (annjimtaylor@verizon.net or 703-403-5264).



News in the Diocese

Searching for the Next Bishop

As you may remember, the Diocese of Virginia currently does not have a diocesan bishop. Bishop Susan Goff, who serves as the suffragan, or assistant bishop, is currently filling in until we elect our next bishop. The search process for that is now taking shape, and we all have a chance to contribute! The search committee for the next bishop is collecting information from across the Diocese to write a profile of the diocese and a description of what we are looking for in our next bishop. That profile will then be used to recruit candidates. You can contribute your views in two ways:

- Through an online survey that will be available in the next few weeks. We'll send the link on in the weekly email once that is made available.
- Through attending an online listening session, where members of the search committee will listen to our hopes for our new bishop. Those sessions will take place throughout October on Zoom. The link to register for any of the sessions is at: <https://www.thediocese.net/who-we-are/our-bishops/search-for-bishop-diocesan/>. The dates and times are:
 - Tuesday, October 12 at 7:30 pm
 - Thursday, October 14 at 7:30 pm
 - Saturday, October 16 at 10:30 am
 - Monday, October 18 at 7:30 pm
 - Wednesday, October 20 at 7:30 pm
 - Friday, October 22 at 7:30 pm

Once the profile is complete, the diocese will begin accepting applications, and a special convention of the diocese will elect our next bishop sometime in 2022. If you have any questions about the process, please ask Webster or Martin.



Church Calendar

October Birthdays

- 2 James Baden
- 3 Elena Conrad
- 4 Patricia Barnes, Martha Roberson
- 5 Gwynne Koonce
- 6 Deanna Pifer
- 7 Steve Johnston
- 8 Rosemary Swope, Pam Kennedy,
Dan Gloster
- 9 Loretta Johnston
- 10 Pam DeBergh
- 14 Margaret Kesser
- 15 Jean Trumbore
- 16 Dick Arculin
- 17 Mary Beth Compton
- 18 Pat Riley
- 19 Robert Riggs
- 20 Katy Schain, John Wiedower
- 22 John Applin
- 26 Bill Thompson, Tom King
- 28 Cathie Waldie
- 29 Judy Whiting
- 31 Amy Stock



October Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Maria Tedesco
- 7 Ned & Amy Stock
- 8 Dennis & Debra Shows
- 14 Bill & Sue Jarvis
- 18 Frank & Barbara Rupert
- 27 Robert & Marrea Riggs

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.



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.
It's always a good idea to call ahead!**

Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843

Sundays at Christ Church

- 8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
 - 10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary
 - 4:30 pm Service for Young Families
(on October 10 & 24)
- Masks required for everyone.

Please refer to email updates and website for updates and changes.

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

From the Treasurer

Still Ahead through August

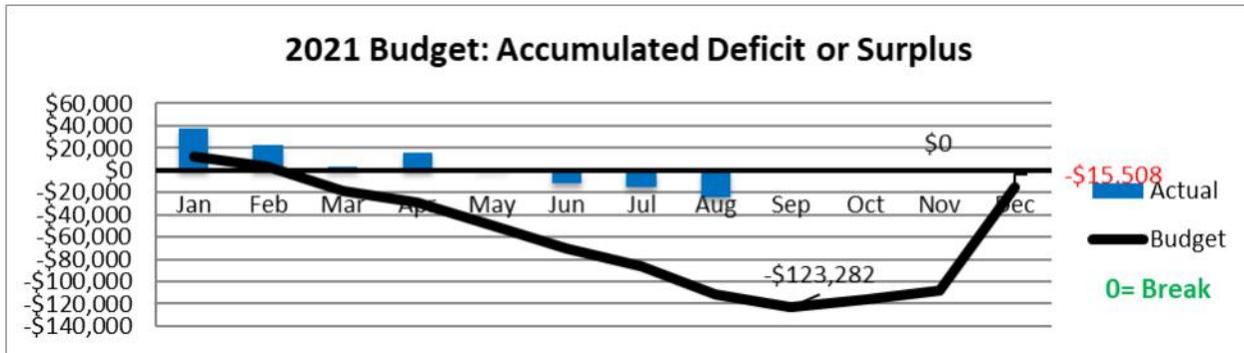
The table below shows the detail Revenue and Expense totals by category for Actual and Budget for the first eight months of 2021:

Year-to-Date Through August 2021	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues			
Pledged	\$275,477.78	\$206,500.00	\$68,977.78
Unpledged	\$51,895.00	\$48,500.00	\$3,395.00
All Other Revenues	\$11,551.76	\$5,430.00	\$6,121.76
Total	\$338,924.54	\$260,430.00	\$78,494.54
Expenses			
Total Personnel	\$283,203.06	\$284,512.44	-\$1,309.38
Total Utilities	\$17,863.30	\$15,020.00	\$2,843.30
Total Property/Maintenance	\$25,192.75	\$31,979.00	-\$6,786.25
Total Office Expenses	\$13,412.81	\$13,386.64	\$26.17
Total Christian Education Expenses	\$693.56	\$982.00	-\$288.44
Total Music Expenses	\$935.00	\$1,680.00	-\$745.00
Total Worship	\$705.60	\$735.00	-\$29.40
Total Stewardship	-\$680.13	\$75.00	-\$755.13
Total Outreach	\$20,200.00	\$21,700.00	-\$1,500.00
Total Pastoral Care	\$80.02	\$450.00	-\$369.98
Total Parish Life	\$257.32	\$90.00	\$167.32
Total Communications	\$1,233.24	\$1,190.00	\$43.24
Total	\$363,096.53	\$371,800.08	-\$8,703.55
Net Total	-\$24,171.99	-\$111,370.08	\$87,198.09

As shown above, revenues are about \$78,500 ahead of budget and expenses are slightly under budget due to a contract renewal budgeted for August that will now get paid in September. The graph below shows that YTD our net position is about \$ -24,000, but we are much better than the budget line that planned for being about \$ -111,000.

As always: PLEASE keep up with your pledges and donations!

From the Treasurer



Once September is behind us, we hope that 2021 will follow the same upward (revenues are greater than expenses) trend we have come to expect from prior budget history!

Stewardship

Church à la Carte

I've been the Stewardship Chairman at Christ Church for quite some time. My inaugural year was 2009, after the financial and housing market collapse of 2008 - early 2009. It was short but brutal. Retirement funds were depleted, salaries were frozen, cut, or people were let go from jobs, housing values crashed. The Church and other institutions lost revenue and staff and cutbacks had to be made. Over time, the economy came back. But, the level of giving never returned to pre-2008 levels.

I take my stewardship role seriously and think a lot about giving. One of the aspects that strikes me is how much this notion of "à la carte" services has taken over so many aspects of our daily lives. When you join a health club, you can buy a basic membership, but for an additional fee you can add pool usage, or massages, or exercise classes and personal training. The same goes for your cable bill. If you buy an airline ticket you can add additional à la carte items—seating with more legroom, aisle seating, etc. The same goes for tickets to sporting events. You can buy single game, season tickets, but now there are a bewildering amount of multiple game packages.

Even our charitable giving becomes a type of à la carte giving. There are so many good causes that need our support. So, we have to choose. It's usually something that has touched us or family, friends or neighbors in a personal way. There is nothing wrong with that.

I do wonder however, how much this "à la carte" thinking is reflected on our giving to the church? Instead of giving generously, are we caught in the à la carte mode of giving because some aspect of the church's ministry is what we connect with, not taking into account the other ministries of the church? For example, one may give because they appreciate the worship service, or the need to maintain our historic worship space, or one may focus to the Church education program both adult or child, or outreach.

It's a natural thing for all of us to have preferences. Certainly, giving our time and talent to those ministries we care about is vital to the health and the effectiveness of those ministries. But, I do encourage you, this fall as you plan your giving to Christ Church for 2022., think about your pledge not as a reflection of the aspects you personally like (or don't like) about Christ Church, but rather give generously to support all the ministries that reflect the work of God's love in our lives and the lives of others. Give freely, without an expectation of personal return or satisfaction, but trusting God to use your gift for good, even if we never know how.

Martin Tabaka

From the Parish Nurses

Flu Season Approaching

We continue to talk about VACCINATIONS!

As we continue to deal with Covid, it's especially important to get your annual flu vaccine. You can read all about the upcoming influenza season in the U.S. at www.cdc.gov/flu.

We will not be offering flu shots at Christ Church this year (nor will we host a health fair this fall), but they are available all around Winchester, from Valley Health facilities, to doctor's offices, to local and national pharmacies, and even at the grocery stores. Please ask your doctor if you have concerns about which flu shot is best for you to take. Try to have your flu shot done in October so that your protection is strong for the duration of flu season through April. You can still get the shot past October. If you have questions about flu shots, please visit www.valleyhealthlink.com and choose Cold & Flu Precautions from the Patients & Visitors menu, or feel free to contact one of the parish nurses or your own doctor.

As our local healthcare facilities are still very busy treating Covid patients, your flu vaccine and your Covid vaccine are both so important. We are monitoring news around booster Covid vaccines, especially for those over 65, people with weakened immune systems (includes those on cancer drugs) or underlying medical conditions, and news around vaccinations for children under 12.

For both flu and Covid, and even for the common cold, precautions you can take to stay healthy are the same!

- Choose outdoor activities if you can.
- If you're indoors, choose well-ventilated spaces and wear a mask if transmission rates are high.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid sick people.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue and throw it away.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Rosalie & Helen

FEELING STRESSED? YOU'RE NOT ALONE!

Let's get together and do something that may help us feel calm and peaceful in community.

Join us on Sunday, October 17, at 4:30 pm in the Courtyard. DeLyn Celec, Music Therapist, will facilitate a worshipful, anxiety-reducing 30 minutes (give or take) including singing-inspired deep breathing, rhythmic participation (drum circle), and other interventions used in music therapy. All ages are welcome!

Just bring yourself. If you have a preferred outdoor chair, lawn chair, or mat, bring that, too!
And wear whatever clothing in which you feel most at ease.

Why not come?