

THE ANGELUS

Volume 76 Number 8

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

April 2026

Dear People of Christ Church,

The season of Easter is the months of April and May. While the community gathers in large numbers to celebrate the Paschal mystery of the empty tomb on Easter morning, the wisdom of the Christian tradition found the value in allowing us a lot more time, 50 days to be exact, to consider what the resurrection means for us as disciples of Jesus. The significance is not only what we celebrate with baptisms and the redemptive love of God in Jesus overcoming death and the grave inviting us into a full life in Jesus. The Easter event also invites us to participate in the love of Christ in how we worship and serve out the Lord every day of our lives.

This year, our Easter season invites both a time to learn of ways to serve and also important opportunities to live out that service. The Stewardship Committee is in the middle of their time and talent parish ministry fair events which go into May. Also you have the chance to explore what you like to do, want to, or are not sure what to do in being a part of the ministries of Christ Church on two special Sundays, April 26 and May 3. All of these events happen between our Sunday services in the hope that everyone has an opportunity to learn and discern ways to serve.

These 50 days of Easter lead to the culmination of Pentecost which we often describe as the birthday of the *ekklesia*, or “the community of the Jesus disciples” we call the Church because of the empowerment of the Holy Spirit to call us to continue what Jesus began. As I said before, the celebration of the resurrection invites us to participate in the love of Christ. You and I do not just receive. We also give of ourselves as participants making the kingdom of God be near as Jesus revealed it in his life. The most important part of that relationship is our showing up to make Christ known.

The other part of this season to help you and I in our discipleship is remembering that following Jesus goes beyond the 50 days. It is to be a regular and significant part of our lives. As with talent, we also need to be honest about time. We live in a world of options that can fill up our time. That also means we have to decide for ourselves how we prioritize our time or how we are stewards of our time. As with using our talent, learning to use our time also takes practice. However, it is also important since we all have the same 24 hours in every day which we have to figure out how to use.

As with Easter, Pentecost is also a day that we celebrate Holy Baptism. Baptism as bookends to our life in Christ shapes our new life with Jesus who is our risen Lord, and our being part of that life in Christ empowered by the Holy Spirit. I hope that you will use this most holy season to deepen your journey with Christ by joining with one another serving as our Lord served us.

May your Easter Season be a time to share the blessings of your gifts and talents God gave to you. I also hope that you will explore the opportunities our parish presents to you in ways that you may not have considered before.

Faithfully,



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



Worship

Parish Weekend—The Art of Porch Rocking

Please join us for the parish weekend at Shrine Mont Friday, May 8, through Sunday, May 10, for rest, refreshment and the holy practice of porch rocking. For more information, see Martha and Jim Griffin, Jody and Dan Wall, and Eric and Jillian Kalbaugh about our opportunity to retreat with three meals a day, fresh air, room for children to run, and rocking chairs for all to rock.



Christian Formation

Adult Faith Study Invites You

On the second and fourth Monday of each month, we gather to study the place of Scripture in our lives today. Beginning April 13th, we begin our study from the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars series “Conversations with Scripture,” studying Mark Wilson’s Bible Study on “The Law.”

As the writer puts it: *“In the church, we tend to regard the legal sections of the Pentateuch as important for ancient Israel but irrelevant for modern life. Although we enjoy the stories of Adam, Abraham, Moses and the other characters of the Torah, many people not only do not understand the law but see no reason to take the time to try. Because of this, I have been drawn to the study of legal material and the way it can be understood as the word of God for us today.”*

Our study currently meets in the 2nd floor conference room of our parish office building, the Smith Building, the same building where the Treasure Box is located (114 West Boscawen St.) at 10:00 am. This is a hybrid class so you can join us in person or on zoom.

To get the link, please email Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester.org.

Adult Formation in April

The Stewardship Committee is working with all of our other church committees to promote our parish offerings of ministry where YOU, the parish, can “serve Christ and make Christ known.” Through a series of ministry fairs between services on Sundays, you can get breakfast and see who and how you can meet and be a part of the church’s ministries. Those will be April 12, 19 and May 17 at 9:15 am in the Tilford Room, replacing Adult Forum. See p.6 for more information.

On Sundays, April 26 and May 3, the Adult Forum will help you to explore three important parts of ministry: gifts that God has given you, discernment as the way we find out what those gift are, and fulfillment, where gifts and discernment become real in your ministry. Using the apostle Paul’s guidance in his letters to those first Christian churches, those who come will find good advice Paul gives for how each person is able to serve Jesus in serving one another. Come and join the discussion. Adult Forum is Sundays at 9:30 am in the Pilgrim’s Chapel at the front of the Parish Hall at 132 W. Boscawen St.

Registration for 2026 Shrine Mont Camps Continues!

Visit www.shrinemontcamps.org and learn about all the camps offered! The clergy at Christ Church is committed to helping every child attend camps, so there are scholarship funds available for those needing assistance from the diocese and the parish. If there are any questions about the camps or scholarships, please contact Webster Gibson (rector@christchurchwinchester.org).



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



Find us on
Facebook

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
Common Ground Discussion Group	Currently On Hold
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 Studies	Tues: 1:30 pm—at Westminster- Canterbury OR First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm —Parlors



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

April Birthdays

- 2 Martin Tabaka, Dan Wall
- 3 Larry Pettinger
- 6 Toni Sloan
- 7 Stewart Wiley, Zelda Lowrey
- 8 Nancy Baker
- 11 Joe Wingenbach
- 12 Brock Whipkey
- 16 Sylvia Petrie
- 18 Maria Nelson
- 19 Michael Mohn
- 20 Leslie Harper, Tom Wise
- 22 Laken Whipkey
- 23 Ruth Gregory, Zachary Lowrey, Dan Shaner
- 24 Joan Claybrook
- 27 Jo Bellows
- 28 Bob McDonald



April Anniversaries

- 18 Gil & Margie Kesser
- 19 Bernard & Rosemary Swope
- 26 Scott & Leslie Harper

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.

celebrate!



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 business hours.

*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

Stewardship Ministry Fairs and Breakfast

Our stewardship commitment extends far beyond a single event or season. It reflects an ongoing dedication to the well-being of our church and our community. In that spirit, the Stewardship Committee launched Christ Church's Ministry Fairs on March 22nd to highlight the many ministries currently active in our parish. The goal of the fairs is simple and joyful: to help our congregation see the breadth of work Christ Church and its members are doing—both within our parish family and throughout the wider community. So many good works are underway—often unnoticed but deeply impactful. Join us and see the remarkable ministries that shape our life together!

The well-attended kickoff in March began with a hearty breakfast provided by the Stewardship Committee between the two services. The homemade hot cross buns were especially popular! Breakfast began at 9:15 am in the Tilford Room and included brief presentations of the mission highlights from both the Parish Life Committee and the Pastoral Care Committee.

Upcoming Ministry Fair dates are as follows:

- **Sunday, April 12** – Outreach Committee
- **Sunday, April 19** – Christian Formation and Worship Committees
- **Sunday, May 17** – Properties, Finance, and Stewardship Committees

Each Ministry Fair event will begin at 9:15 am in the Tilford Room and will include breakfast provided by the Stewardship Committee. Please share these opportunities with friends and others in the Christ Church community—everyone is warmly encouraged to attend.

The Episcopal Church teaches that ministry is not the work of a few, but the calling of all the baptized. The Catechism in the *Book of Common Prayer* reminds us that *“the ministry of lay persons is to represent Christ and his Church; to bear witness to him wherever they may be; and, according to the gifts given them, to carry on Christ’s work of reconciliation in the world...”* This single sentence captures the heart of our Ministry Fair: ministry flows naturally both within the life of the congregation and beyond our walls into the world God loves.



Outreach Committee

Everything is Coming up Blossoms!

Yay for Apple Blossom this spring! Join us for the Shenandoah Apple Blossom parades on May 1 and 2, 2026. It is such a fun time, especially if you secure a seat in advance. Christ Church has wonderful seats on both sides of Washington Street right at the church. It is a great spot to sit and take in the full Apple Blossom experience. All proceeds from the tickets go to our largest outreach, Bright Futures, helping to feed school children in Winchester and Frederick County.

We will begin selling tickets on **Sunday, April 12**, from 9:00-10:00 am and 11:45-12:30 pm, in the Tilford Room (132 W. Boscawen St.), and continue on Sundays and Wednesdays through Wednesday, April 29. On Wednesdays, we'll be in the Tilford Room from noon to 2:00 pm.

All sales are in-person only by cash or check. Tickets will be \$5 for the Firefighters Parade on Friday, May 1, and \$8 for the Grand Feature Parade on Saturday, May 2.

Many hands are needed to help sell tickets on Sundays and Wednesdays, as well as the Friday and Saturday of Apple Blossom. We also need help setting up the chairs on Friday morning and cleaning up after the Grand Feature Parade on Saturday. To volunteer to help go to the church website and click on the link for Apple Blossom volunteers. Thank you so much for your help!

Questions? Call or email Katie Harvard—757-999-3816, klhwsh@yahoo.com or Jody Wall—540-247-5798, Jody_wall@yahoo.com.



Outreach Collection Item for April

During the month of April the Outreach Committee asks for donations of art supplies for the ChildSafe Center -CAC to be used in therapy treatment. The CAC is a small local nonprofit whose mission is to promote a child-focused approach to the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse by providing a safe, child-friendly facility, a multidisciplinary team response to abuse allegations and professional support, education and advocacy services.

Items requested are YARN, GLITTER, liquid Elmer's GLUE, STICKERS and BEADS.

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



Parish Life Committee

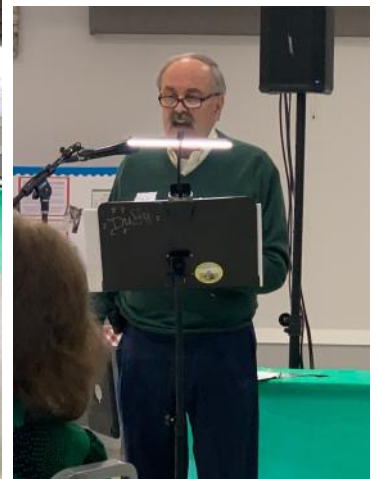
Raucous St. Patrick's Day Celebration Held

The Christ Church OWLs fellowship group invited the parish to join in a St. Patrick's Day celebration on Saturday, March 21, in the afternoon. Attendees, many in their finest Irish apparel, enjoyed a performance from an Irish dance troupe from the Maple Academy of Irish Dance in Vienna, Virginia, and parishioners showed off their talents, as well. Lots of fun was had!



"It was a good crowd and an enjoyable time, which Ron and Teri Bellows arranged for the OWLs. We had everything from Thin Mint Girl Scout cookies to a sausage/cabbage casserole to Reuben sliders and plenty of sweets. There was even a bottle of honey meade from Ireland to go along with a selection of wines."

— Jim Taylor



Watch for the monthly OWLs fellowship events in the weekly email updates or bulletin inserts!