

THE ANGELUS

Volume 73 Number 3

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

November 2022

Dear People of Christ Church,

As we move into November, which has us trying to wrap up the church year of stewardship and get ready for Advent and Christmas just down the road, I find questions popping up which remind me of being in the car with my children when they say, "Are we there yet?"

Are we back to normal Sunday attendance? Are we set with our annual giving? Are we going to have more people show up for our Bible Study? Are we back to doing all of those things which we remember from before Covid?

There is a desire to know that we are past the uncertainties of the last couple years, and hope that our future is going to be known to us like our past.

The answer is no, we are not there yet if "there" means what it was like before. Our attendance is up from this time last year, but still on average is significantly below what it was in 2019. Our Sunday School and music programs are growing, but illness, travel, and other challenges make attendance inconsistent. Parish life events are coming back, but still picking up momentum.

With our annual giving, we are not there yet either, but "there" can be either a minimum to barely keep going, or more than anticipated. Either way, we are not there yet because as activity in the parish increases, we are going to need more financial resources than a minimum.

At our last Vestry meeting, I asked the Vestry to share stories about what first brought them to Christ Church, and what made them stay. Some people mentioned specific people who introduced them to other people or invited them to participate. Others mentioned comfort with the worship. These are aspects of taking a proactive approach to seek relationships and grow fellowship.

In that conversation, one vestry member asked a great question. "Who are the ambassadors for Christ Church now?" I enjoyed the Vestry reflection initially to this question when it seemed to be a rhetorical question, but it is not. The question is real. Who welcomes others? Who supports the parish staff, the parish programs, the parish resources? Who shows up to encourage others to show up? The answers are each and every one of us. It does not matter how long you have been at Christ Church. Someone hopefully greeted you and you get to share that experience by welcoming someone else. They may not be new, but if you do not know them, then you can still introduce yourself because they are new to you.

And if you find fulfilling discipleship of Jesus through the worship and ministries of Christ Church, your support in time, talent and money helps to share those ministries with others.

I wish I could say, "Yes, we are almost there," but that would be only to appease like I did with my children. If by "there" one means at some point in life when we have everything back like it was 3, 5, or 20 years ago, which we remember as comfortable, then no, we are not even close. The simple reality is we are there in relationship to Jesus through baptism and discipleship. Now, we have to figure out where Jesus calls us to go from here. And this time, we have to step up to become those ambassadors of welcome, care, support and participation, which we hopefully learned from the ambassadors who welcomed us.

Faithfully,



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



From the Clergy

In November, we celebrate one of my favorite days of the church year, the Feast of All Saints. It's a day that has been on the church calendar for centuries, but every year it offers us a new chance to remember those who have gone before us. It's also a chance for us to renew our own lives as Christ's followers, to think about what we learn from the saints and how they be examples to us.

One of my favorite parts of All Saints is that first word, All. Most of the feasts on the Episcopal Church's calendar celebrate one thing - one moment in Jesus's life, or one particular disciple. But the church has known for a very long time that we will never have everyone's story on the calendar, that there are just too many stories for anyone to remember all of them individually. So we celebrate All Saints, and remember all the ways people have responded to Jesus's call - from the very beginning of the church to now. We recall that we are "knit together as one communion and fellowship" with the whole church, as the All Saints collect says.

But what do we mean when we call people saints? On the one hand, the church remembers particular people because of their "heroic commitment to Christ" - that's from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*, the Episcopal Church's book about all the people on our calendar. The names we place in the calendar at the front of the prayer book, along with the saints other denominations remember in their calendars, are people the church wants everyone to know about. But we also can talk about saints who we knew - people whose lives of faith mattered deeply to this parish, to our families, to us personally. If their life showed us what it looked like to have faith in God, to be open to the presence of the Holy Spirit, then we can celebrate them too.

We don't remember saints because they were perfect - we will find flaws in the life of any saint if we look close enough. We remember them because they were faithful, and because their lives show us something about the life of Christ, the body to which we all belong. The ultimate goal of All Saints is not just to remember the past, but to see how we too can follow Jesus in our own lives. We learn from them what it looks like to know Jesus deeply, and to live in a way that shows Jesus's love to others.

So this All Saints, reflect on the stories of faith that matter to you. Give thanks for the saints you have known, and the people who have inspired you. And seek out how you too can live out their love and faithfulness in your own life.

Faithfully,



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

God willing and the people consenting

THE REVEREND CANON E. MARK STEVENSON
will be ordained and consecrated as a Bishop in
the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and

**XIV BISHOP OF
THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE
OF VIRGINIA**

CHIEF CONSECRATOR
The Most Reverend Michael Bruce Curry, Presiding Bishop
and Primate of The Episcopal Church

SATURDAY, DEC. 3, 2022 AT 11:00 AM
Arrive by 10:30 for seating
The Saint Paul's Baptist Church, 4247 Creighton Road, Henrico, VA



RSVP BY NOVEMBER 9

Visit www.thediocese.net for
more information!

Annual
Convention
November 17-19, 2022

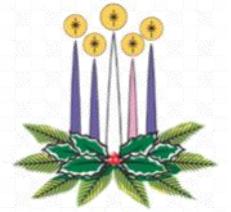


Christian Formation

Upcoming Events for Sunday School

We're rolling right along in Sunday School! Registration is always available on Sunday mornings if you'd like to join us. Sunday School is Sundays from 9:30 am to 10:15 am on the second floor of the parish hall in the Sunday School Commons. Children's Chapel is also available for ages 3 through grade 2. It begins at 10:30 am and children are brought to the sanctuary to join their parents at the Peace. Alleluia Singers meet at 9:00 am and the Cherub Choir meets at 10:00 am during the last part of Sunday School.

We will have **Advent wreath making for families with young children** on Saturday morning, November 26, at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room. Because all materials will be provided, we will need signup to conclude by November 7 so we can guarantee that there are enough materials prepared for all. If you are thinking about bringing visiting grandchildren, be sure to sign up ahead of time! Visit www.christchurchwinchester.org for the link to sign up.



Families with young children can continue their preparations during Advent on Saturday morning, December 10, again at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room. We will make **family gingerbread houses**. Once again materials are being donated, so please sign up via the website by November 7.

Our **Christmas Pageant** is planned for Sunday, December 18, during the 10:30 am service. Costuming will take place during the Sunday School before the service. Roles will be decided as soon as we have an idea of how many children and youth plan to be in the cast!

Children will also have an opportunity to be part of the Nativity Procession during the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service. We will costume before the service and take part in the procession and offertory.

Children are welcome to be part of either or both services to celebrate the Nativity as we hope to accommodate the schedule of young families with more options during the busy holiday season. Sign up at Sunday School!

Adult Forum

In November, as we continue to look at the basics of Christian discipleship in the Anglican tradition, we will explore the question, "What do Scripture, tradition and reason mean for me outside of Sundays?" Please join us. Adult Forum begins each Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room.

Weekly Bible Study Update

Each Wednesday morning at 10:30 am (note the new time), you are invited to a Bible study with the clergy, looking at the Scripture readings for the next Sunday. If you have not participated in a Bible Study before, this may be the perfect place to start. We review the scripture readings, people ask questions they have for those readings, and the group considers what those readings may mean for themselves or for the church community. Being on Zoom, it also helps people join in from home or work or even on vacation. If you miss a week or two, no worries because the lessons change every week. We hope that you will consider joining the conversations. Please email communications@christchurchwinchester.org for the link.

Did you know that the devotional, Forward Day by Day, is available in many formats? Visit www.forwardmovement.org to learn about their free daily emails, ebook option, daily podcast, smartphone app, and more. You can also follow them on Facebook and Twitter. They have options for Advent devotionals too.

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

Prayer Vigil each 2nd Thursday at 5:00 pm
in the Pilgrim's Chapel



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
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am
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 Thurs: 5:30 pm Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

November Birthdays

- 4 Minh Truong
- 6 Laura Button-Cain
- 10 Delores Wheatley, Bill Jarvis, Scott Arthur
- 11 Katie Clarke
- 14 Bill Old, Kim Pifer
- 16 Jason Conrad, Ann Taylor
- 18 Steven Martin, Koy Mislowsky,
Wendy Breslin
- 19 Tuffy Whitacre
- 21 Joy Nesselrodt, Mark Baker
- 23 Arlene Hill
- 24 Emilie Pifer
- 25 Dorothy Gibson
- 26 Sally O'Neil
- 27 Dennis Shows
- 29 Jay Russell
- 30 Ned Howard



November Anniversaries

- 10 Christopher & Adelaide Turnbull
- 28 Nick & Kathy Nerangis
- 28 Frank & Sandra Armstrong
- 30 Robb & Cathie Russell

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.



Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 24, at 10:00 am

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



From the Finance Committee

Year End Tips

Here are a few tips shared by the Diocese as we end another year:

- Do you have a plan? As a result of not making a will during your lifetime, the state distributes your assets according to state law. Make sure you create a plan so you can ensure your intentions are carried out. Check out the Diocese of Virginia's page www.dvagiving.org for information and an estate planning guide.
- Don't forget to review your beneficiary designations. This is how you control who receives your investment accounts and you should review these periodically.
- If you're 70 1/2 or older, don't forget that you can make charitable donations directly from your IRA and it will not be included in your taxable income and may qualify for your required minimum distribution.

Planned giving includes so many options—from bequests, IRA rollovers, beneficiary designation gifts, charitable gift annuities—even something called “Life Estate Reserved” where you give your property to the church, but retain the right to use the property during your life. All of these are explained at dvagiving.org!

Pastoral Care

End of Life Planning Workshop

This workshop was held on Saturday, October 15, and a group of parishioners learned from medical, legal, and spiritual minds about preparing for the end of life.

Some of the discussion was about a fairly new topic—palliative care. Teresa Jacobsen says, “I appreciated the in-depth discussions concerning the differences between palliative care and hospice care, and how the two very different services can work in the same community. I think a workshop on just those two services would be interesting, especially for younger generations that will be caring for their parents.”

Attorney (and parishioner) Greg Hutchinson was on hand to answer questions and provide guidance about wills, powers of attorney, and executors. Cathie Russell says, “I got a couple specific points from Greg. Be sure your family knows what funeral arrangements you've made, has a copy of your most recent will and knows where the original of that is. Keep your will updated by codicil or by writing a new one.”

There was also information presented about expressing medical wishes and working with funeral homes.

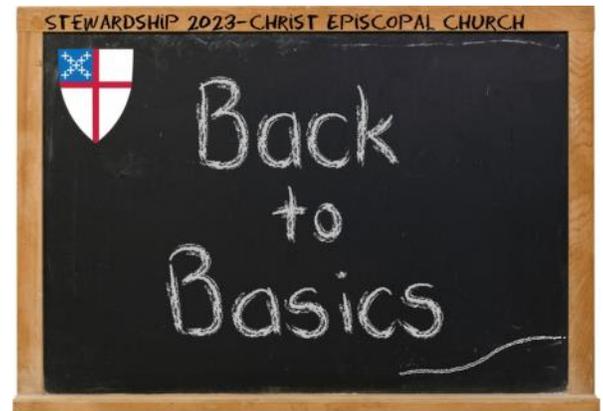
Christopher Francis says, “My takeaway from the discussion is that learning about and discussing end of life planning is a gift for your children and family members. It was a holistic, well-rounded and effective workshop.”

If you were not able to attend but have an interest in learning more, please reach out to the parish nurses to connect you to resources in the community. The Church Office can provide information on the Christ Church Columbarium and the planning packet for a memorial service/funeral at Christ Church.

Stewardship for 2023

We have a unique opportunity to start from scratch this season of stewardship. A chance to learn or re-visit the basics of giving—why we do it, how we do it, when we do it, and what it enables Christ Church to be and to do.

Let's get back to basics.



Being Stewards of Christ Church

Shortly after moving to Winchester, in the fall of 2016, my husband and I started attending Christ church. We were attracted to this church because of its tradition and ministries, the size of the congregation, and the location. We wanted to be actively involved in the church and knew that included volunteering and pledging.

It wasn't long before we were recruited to help with the rummage sale. The next year, we were asked to be ushers. Later, we were both involved with the Rescue Mission, Bright Futures, and, mostly, The Salvation Army. Somewhere along the line, we also volunteered to serve WATTS guests a few nights during their one week stay at Christ Church. This took us out of our comfort zone, but we adapted quickly and knew this was where we needed to be. As a result of our participation, we made several friends and learned about the different ministries. We had always pledged and donated, but these new experiences made us more aware of the need to donate time and money. We understand that Christ Church is important to our community, and that we and the congregation need to do more to support the church and its ministries.

Pledged funds are used to pay for upkeep of the buildings, utilities, security and fire systems, insurance and, to keep up with today's demands, technology. In addition, your pledges help budget for adult and children's education, pastoral care, receptions, committee meeting and coffee hours. They give us the ability to hire a new organist and choir director, continue the nurses program, and participate in a variety of outreach programs.

Do not be leery of pledging. A pledge is not a contract, but a confidential statement of what you plan to donate on a weekly or monthly basis or however you want to set it up. Your pledge will help us to figure out what the parish can do and budget for in the year ahead. Pray about and consider what amount you can pay. All pledges are welcome, no matter the amount. If you have already pledged, thank you. If you donate, but have not pledged, please consider doing so. If you haven't pledged yet, please join us in this joyful and meaningful investment in the work of our parish. Stewardship is about being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we received from God.

“They should not appear before the Lord empty handed, but each with his own gift, in proportion to the blessing which the Lord, your God, has given to you.” Deuteronomy 16:16-17

~ Pat Shaner

Learn more & get a pledge card at www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship.

Outreach Committee

Focus on The Salvation Army

In November, the Christ Church Outreach Committee is focused on the Salvation Army, one of our designated partner ministries. The Outreach Committee made a donation to the local shelter on October 26, 2022 as the new Captains, JB and Stephanie Blevins, work to transition the shelter to welcome families. The Blevins expressed their appreciation and talked about how important their partnership with Christ Church is to their mission in our community. Outreach Committee members toured the shelter and saw how the shelter would serve families, expressing excitement that our donation would help children in crisis feel safe and secure.



One of the most well-known ways Christ Church works with the Salvation Army is through the Angel Tree program each Christmas. Other ways that individuals can assist the Salvation Army is by volunteering as a bell-ringer or working with the shelter to provide meals for their guests. Follow the Salvation Army Winchester, VA on Facebook to see what's happening.



And, it's beginning to look a lot like... Angel Tree! Every child deserves to experience the joy of Christmas morning. The Salvation Army Angel Tree Program helps provide Christmas gifts for thousands of children every year. This year, you can participate by adopting an angel at Christ Church in the Tilford Room on Sundays, November 6, 13, and 20, after the 8:00 am service and before and after the 10:30 am service. If you are not able to attend services, but want to take an angel, please call our dedicated phone line (540-486-4003) and leave a message. Someone will get in touch with you and arrange to get an angel to you.

We listened to your requests and will have better information regarding clothing sizes on the requests. Also, this year, there will not be requests for bicycles. You will be able to deliver your gifts directly to the Salvation Army office or auxiliary drop-off location (TBD), to the Tilford Room after services, or arrange for a pickup. That information will be on the instruction sheet you receive with your angel(s).

If you would like to participate but cannot get out to shop, please make a check payable to Christ Episcopal Church and mark it for "Angel Tree." You can mail it to the church or drop it in the offering.

For any questions, call the Angel Tree hotline or email patriciashaner@gmail.com or dshaner40@gmail.com Thank you for your participation in this joyous program!

Holiday Dinner Donations for CCAP

CCAP is asking for donations for their holiday dinners they provide to their clients. Christ Church is asked to donate canned yams, canned green beans, cranberry sauce, boxed potatoes and boxed stuffing during November. Please bring items to church on Sunday or to the Church Office on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

