

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

September 2025

Dear People of Christ Church,

While I was at the 100 year anniversary celebration of the consecration of our diocesan cathedral (go to shrinemont.org if you wish to watch the service), I had a wonderful conversation with one of our vocational deacons about church life. She mentioned that, upon her arrival at her new parish, she talked to a parishioner about difference the deacon noticed between the different Episcopal churches she had served. The parishioner was genuinely shocked to hear this, saying, "I thought all Episcopal churches were alike." I think that the deacon was shocked that anyone would think that any two Episcopal churches were the same.

While we serve the same Lord, Jesus, and while we have a Book of Common Prayer to guide our worship, beyond that, every Episcopal church is different if only because of different clergy, different parish community members, and different ways for how communities go about their ministries. For anyone who is coming into Christ Church from another church, not even necessarily Episcopal, Christ Church is probably different from what they encountered before.

All of that said, we are fortunate to have several new people around the community who may be wondering what is going on in the parish. At the same time, the parish leaders are also trying to do some of our ministries in ways which are different from a "before" time. It is from that perspective that I point out some information about Christ Church.

Of course, if you are reading this, then you know that we have a monthly newsletter. While everyone has a favorite ministry they focus on with the newsletter, I encourage you to read the entire newsletter which has information from several of the parish ministries and events. Because of improvements in some of our facilities, program locations may have changed. Also, we are planning some new programs through the fall.

We have also worked on providing more information via our website and through our Thursday emails. There is a saying that you need to communicate information through four or five different ways to make sure the information gets out there. Add in Sunday's worship and asking parish leadership, we are trying to keep people up to date.

One example of surprises and unexpected opportunities in the parish community is the announcement I received this past week that we will have a visitation from one of our bishops the last Sunday of April 2026. The visitation includes the celebrations of baptisms, confirmations and receptions in the Episcopal Church. For our dates planning to celebrate baptisms, we will have baptisms on November 2, 2025, January 11, 2026, April 5, 2026, May 31, 2026, and now on April 26, 2026. I will send out more information about confirmation and reception once we get started into the program year.

Faithfully,



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



Webster with the Rt. Rev. Michael Curry at Shrine Mont's celebration.

Christian Formation for Children & Youth

Welcome back, kids!

Sunday School

Fall Christian Formation programming for children and youth begins on **Sunday, September 7, 2025**. Sunday School registration forms are available on the church website (www.christchurchwinchester.org/formation-for-children-and-youth) or in person on the 7th. Classes are generally preschool (ages 3-5) with Cherub Choir from 10:00—10:15 am, K-2nd grades, 3rd—5th grades, middle school and up. If you have questions about these classes, please contact Margery Wingenbach (Wingenbach@comcast.net) for those under 5th grade or Webster Gibson (rector@christchurchwinchester.org) for those 5th grade and up. Sunday School classes run from 9:30 am until 10:15 am each Sunday in the Sunday School Commons on the second floor of the parish hall.

Alleluia Singers

Children in 2nd-8th grade (roughly) are welcome to join the Alleluia Singers! They get together on Sunday mornings from 9:00—9:30 am for singing, playing, songwriting, movement, prayer, fellowship, and fun while learning about God and the life of the Church. The first Alleluia Singers gathering will be on September 7 in the Sunday School Commons. Contact DeLyn Celec at dcelec@su.edu if you have any questions.

Children's Chapel

Children aged 3 to 8 are invited to participate in this 10:30 am service every Sunday in the Children's Chapel, off the Sunday School Commons, upstairs in the Parish Hall. Adapted from the order for Morning Prayer, this service contains age-appropriate lessons, activities, and music. Children are brought into the Sanctuary to join their parents during the announcements before Holy Communion. Children's Chapel is led by volunteers.

Dates for your Calendar:

October 5: Blessing of the Animals at 5 pm

November 29: Family Advent wreath-making 10:00-11:00*

December 6: Family gingerbread house-making 10:00-11:30*

**Signups will begin six weeks before the program.*

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 - 9:25 am - Alleluia Singers

9:30 - 10:15 am - Sunday School

10:00 - 10:15 am - Cherub Choir for preschoolers

10:30-11:00 am - Children's Chapel

All meet upstairs in the Parish Hall in the Sunday School Commons and Children's Chapel.

Christian Formation for Adults

Women's Book Studies

The **Tuesday** Women's Book Study group will reconvene on September 2nd at 1:30 pm and meet weekly. They will begin discussing *The Remarkable Ordinary: How to Stop, Look, and Listen to Life* by Frederick Buechner. Please prepare by reading the first chapter, and contact Anne Whitelaw (540-364-1937) or Cathie Russell (540-665-5759) for location and further information.

The **Thursday** evening group starts meeting again Thursday, September 4, at 5:30 pm in the Parlors (up the stairs in the parish hall foyer) and welcomes women of the parish to join them. Meetings are the first and third Thursdays each month. The books chosen for the fall are: September - *Liturgy of the Ordinary: Sacred Practices in Everyday Life* by Tish Harrison Warren; October: *Immortal Diamonds* by Richard Rohr; and November: *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus: How the Jewishness of Jesus can Transform Your Faith* by Ann Spangler and Lois Tyerberg. If you have any questions, please email Carole Ann King at mainelady92@gmail.com.

Small Group Discussions

The Common Ground discussion group continues to meet on the 4th Wednesday each month in the Parlors at 4:00 pm. The next meeting is September 24, 2025. New participants are always welcome to this small group which aims to facilitate discussions allowing parishioners to get to know one another better. Please watch the bulletin and weekly email updates for topics.

Adult Forum

Adult Forum, Sunday School for adults, begins again on Sunday, September 7, at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room. This fall, we will talk about reading the Bible stories of our childhood as adults. We think that we know our Bible stories because we read and heard them when we were children. But do we really know those stories? Starting with Adam and Eve, Cain and Abel, and other stories you may remember from childhood, we will explore the full text once again, maybe for the first time since we were children. Come and join the discussion.

Weekly Bible Study

Lectionary Bible Study is underway at 10:30 am on Zoom every Wednesday! This group discusses the next Sunday's readings with Webster each week. All are welcome! Contact Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester.org for the Zoom link.

Monday Faith Study

The Monday Faith Study meets the 2nd and 4th Monday each month at 10:00 am. The group meets in the Smith Building Conference Room at 114 W. Boscawen and via Zoom. The book they are discussing is *Conversations with Scripture: The Parables* by William F. Brosend, II, which is available online from Amazon or Thrift Books. For more information or the Zoom meeting link, please contact Webster (rector@christchurchwinchester.org) or Pat Shaner (patriciashaner@gmail.com).

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: 6:00 pm
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom
Outreach Committee	1st Tues: 6:00 pm
Common Ground Discussion Group	4th Wed: 4:00 pm
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 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—Parlors OR First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm —Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

September Birthdays

- 1 Ty Lawson
- 2 Robb Russell
- 6 Joyce Casey
- 7 Joan Bronson
- 9 Vicky Arculin
- 14 Carolyn Lewis
Debra Shows
Dawson Wiley
- 15 Ashley Haines
- 18 Polly Nesselrodt
- 19 Cheryl Crowell, Sandy White, Pat Kofalt
- 22 Bill Major
- 25 Mary Puttock
- 27 Gus Wise, Maggie Wise
- 28 Katlyn Wall Painter
- 29 Pem Hutchinson, Adelaide Turnbull
Rick Byler



September Anniversaries

- 4 Stephen & Nancy Brown
- 8 Ron & Teri Bellows
- 9 David & Carolyn Lewis
- 11 Pat & Mari Kofalt
- 20 John & Joan Claybrook
- 21 Steve & Terry Cluss

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.



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
shop hours!*



Join us Sunday, October 5, 2025, at
5:00 pm in the courtyard. Please keep
your animals in cages or on leashes!

To submit a prayer request, please visit the
website and click on
“Add a Name to the Prayer List”
in the Quick Links section.

Outreach Committee

Committee Updates

The Outreach Committee has been serving the local community by coordinating your donations to “stuff the bus” with school supplies for local students unable to afford the materials; prepping, cooking and serving meals to the residents of the Winchester Rescue Mission; and restocking food staples for the Salvation Army Food Bank with your donations of canned and boxed food items. Volunteers (pictured below) also manned a break station for CCAP’s bike fundraiser in August. Thanks to all who have donated or volunteered for these efforts!

Contact Sally Megeath at shmegeath@gmail.com to volunteer for Outreach Committee activities.



Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event



We will host a meal-packing day for Rise Against Hunger on Saturday, November 1, 2025, in the Tilford Room. All ages are invited to participate as we prepare bags of food beginning at 9:00 am. We are packing 10,000 meals so the event should be two to three hours long. Please sign up on the website in October if you'd like to participate and visit www.riseagainsthunger.org to learn more about the mission.

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship Thoughts

Stewardship in the Episcopal Church is described as "being grateful, responsible stewards of the gifts we receive from God". It is a fundamental principle of Christian faith, encompassing more than just financial giving. It is about how we use all the blessings God has entrusted to us including our time, talents, and resources to serve His mission and build a vibrant and thriving community.

The biblical principle of stewardship reminds us that everything we have is ultimately a gift from God. As Psalm 24:1 states, "The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein". We are called to be good managers of these gifts, using them to further God's kingdom and serve those in need.

Holistic Stewardship

While financial stewardship plays a crucial role in supporting Christ Church's ministries and mission, it is essential to recognize the broader scope of stewardship. We are also called to:

- **Steward our time:** Actively participate in worship, prayer, and church activities.
- **Steward our talents:** Use our unique gifts and skills to serve Christ Church and our community, whether through teaching, leading, or any other area where our abilities can be of service.
- **Steward creation:** Care for the world God has entrusted to us, embodying a spirit of responsibility towards the environment and advocating for its preservation.
- **Steward relationships:** Foster strong bonds within Christ Church and with the wider community, demonstrating love and compassion in our interactions.

Living out our Faith through Generosity

Embracing a spirit of stewardship means living a life of grateful and joyful generosity. It means reflecting on how we can use what God has given us to make a tangible difference in the lives of others, both within our parish and beyond.

As we consider our role as stewards, let us be inspired by the words of 1 Peter 4:10: "As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God". May we at Christ Church embrace this calling with open hearts, dedicating our time, talents, and resources to the glory of God and to the benefit of all His creation.

~ Wilborn Roberson, Chair of the Stewardship Committee

From the Vestry

August Vestry Meeting Highlights

- The treasurer reported strong giving from the parish so far this year. The Vestry is grateful for the support and encourages people to keep it up.
- Properties Committee is looking for a date for parish keep day in early November. They have to wait and see when the leaves fall. They also have a new HVAC maintenance contract with Riddleburger for the care and upkeep of the church systems.
- The Senior Warden, Barbara Downs, reported on the update of the Vestry Committee Charters. The Vestry began the charter process to be sure committee members, both new and old, understood what the committees are intended to do. These charters provide committees with their vision and mission statements, guidelines for spending, staff support and basic committee structures. The Vestry and Committees review their charters each year to make sure the charters are effective and up-to-date.
- With the announcement of Bonnie Blue Restaurant as a new neighbor, the Rector reported that he and the Senior Warden are working with the city and all parties involved to address concerns with pedestrian safety and parking issues around the church. While much of the conversation is preliminary at this point, the Vestry will continue to keep the parish updated with what is learned.

From the Altar Guild

Altar Flowers at Christ Church

Each Sunday during the church year (except during Lent), two fresh flower arrangements adorn the altar, bringing beauty and joy to our worship space. These flowers are donated by parishioners—often in memory of a loved one or in celebration of a special person or occasion.

Parishioner Polly Nesselrodt coordinates the flower schedule. Many families choose the same Sunday each year for their donation, and when a date becomes available, Polly reaches out to those who have expressed interest.

When donating, families contact the florist directly to order and pay for the arrangements, following Altar Guild guidelines. The cost is usually around \$75 per arrangement, depending on the florist and flowers selected. Commonly used florists include Winchester Floral, Snellings, and Blue Bells. (Please note: artificial or silk flowers are not permitted.) Polly provides all necessary details well in advance.

Donors also share how they would like their dedication worded for the bulletin and Prayers of the People. After the service, arrangements may be taken home—or, if preferred, they can be delivered by another parishioner to someone who could use the blessing of fresh flowers.

If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please contact Polly at pollyness@yahoo.com.