

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

August 2026

Dear People of Christ Church,

As we move from summer towards the fall, the month of August has become the “transitional month” to get us back into the parish’s programs season. There are a couple of opportunities in August to which I want to draw your attention. The biggest and most popular one is the parish cookout on August 23rd. That is our “kickoff” for the next year as we gather to greet one another and break bread and share stories together. While we provide the hot dogs and burgers, the church website has a link for you to help bring sides or desserts. Even if you cannot bring anything but an appetite, please come since there is so often more than enough!

Garth Stevens-Jennings will also have children and youth Sunday School signups going on through August and at the picnic for families wanting to register. Obviously, this helps the staff and Christian Formation committee with ordering of supplies and materials for the year.

The other event is the Walk-About Christ Church Newcomer gatherings with me, the rector, starting in the parish hall at 9:30 am for anyone who has been at Christ Church from less than four years and who wants to see our parish, talk with one another and ask me questions about discipleship of Jesus at Christ Church. There are two offerings, August 2 and 9, and people are welcome to come to one or both.

These two events highlight one of the wonderful realities of Christ Church: our developing our relationships with one another which grows our sense of being God’s people at Christ Church. The experience of greeting those whom we know but have not seen in a while is one part of that growth. Also, the opportunity to invite friends in the neighbor hood or greeting people we may not know just to make sure that we know them is the other part of our growth. I remember the sign hanging over the desk of an old friend of mine which said: “There are not strangers here. Only friends we have not met yet.”

To help with parish communications, please be sure to let Noelle know at the Church Office if you have a new email or other contact information. Also, if you have not received communications you want to receive via email, please call Noelle at the Church Office. With various computer security filters, emails from the church are often blocked or sent to spam because of our extension including the church name or some other filter blocking types of emails. And always remember that we do not ask for monetary donations through gift cards or weird requests like “I am going into a meeting” to create a stressful moment.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector

rector@christchurchwinchester.org

540-662-5843, Ext 1 or 540-773-5562



Worship

The Needlepoint Project - 20 Years Later

Twenty years ago at Christ Church, a group of women undertook a project to replace cushions on the altar that had been there since 1961. Encouraged by interested parishioners and upon the recommendation of the Washington Cathedral, Judith Anderson and Pembroke Hutchinson visited Fancywork Finishing in Easton, Maryland in early 2005. The company then visited Christ Church to study the existing needlepoint cushions, the colors in the church, and the architectural features of the sanctuary. Christ Church contracted with Fancywork Finishing to custom design, hand paint and upholster 18 needlepoint canvases. The project was funded by generous donors and completed in 2007. The dedicated and talented parishioners who stitched the cushions were Judith Anderson, Lorraine Boyd, Elaine Branch, Cheryl Crowell, Betty Futral, Pembroke Hutchinson, Ellen Martin, Stephanie McWhorter, Anne Myers, Helen Riley and Lucy Rockwood. We are thankful to them all, miss some of these wonderful women, and are grateful to have several with us today. Please see the display case in the rear of the church by the right usher stand for information on the generous donors who made this project happen and take notice on Sundays of the beautiful, handmade items that make our sanctuary at Christ Church so special.



Parish Life

Newcomer Walk-About with the Rector

For anyone new to Christ Church in the past couple of years, this is an opportunity to talk with the rector and see and learn a bit more about Christ Church as a place of ministry worship and the Episcopal Church. Sundays, August 2 and 9, Webster will be having coffee in the parish hall at 9:19 am. At 9:30, he will start to get his steps in for the day, and newcomers are invited to join him to learn about our church family. It is a 45 minute journey each Sunday and it will help everyone there get to know the community, one another, and get some steps in at the same time.



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
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 Study	First & Third Thursday at 5:30 pm — Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

August Birthdays

- 1 Nancy Brown, Jody Wall
- 2 Margery Wingenbach
- 3 Gail Walsh
- 6 Tracy Tilling
- 8 Dick Clarke, Ron Elbersen
- 10 Marsha Baden, Mary Gloster
- 12 Lachlan Truong, Beatrice Elwood
- 14 LaVerne Sargent, Jane Fitz
- 15 Kay Whitworth, Mari Kofalt
- 19 Ryleigh Sheppard
- 22 Bob Fitz
- 26 Kay Keely
- 27 Ellen Morgan, Clare Dame
- 30 Greg Hutchinson, Judy Pennypacker
- 31 Caroline Cooper



August Anniversaries

- 5 Kent & Mary Stevens
- 7 Bob & Jane Fitz
- 14 Roger & Helen Zebarth
- 25 David & Sara Bicking
- 29 Bob & Mary Puttock

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!*

Donations accepted during business hours.

Open Wednesdays and Fridays
10–4 & Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

*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

What do you put in?

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways:* I can:

- Usher on Sunday mornings
- Sing in the choir
- Cook with the Rescue Mission team
- Serve on Altar Guild
- Teach a Sunday School class for our children
- Stock shelves for CCAP
- Register guests for WATTS shelter
- Shop for a child's Christmas presents in the Angel Tree program
- Greet worshippers at the church door Sunday mornings
- Pack food bags for Bright Futures children
- Talk to a friend about joining up to host coffee hour after church
- Donate food for a funeral reception
- Weed a flower bed on Keep Day
- Visit the sick
- Volunteer at the Treasure Box
- Fill in a pledge card



These are just a few of the ways we can show our love for God. As Ann Elwood told us at the Christian Formation presentation in the spring, “Church is one of those activities – you only get out of it what you put into it!” Not only are we serving God and our neighbors by participating in these and other ministries – we are **HAVING FUN** and enjoying ourselves!

Of course, few of our ministries could exist without those who faithfully pledge part of their treasure to Christ Church. We will be starting our pledge campaign soon and urge you to consider prayerfully what pledge you will make this fall.

*Apologies to Elizabeth Barrett Browning

From the Finance Committee

CHURCH ANNUAL AUDIT

The Annual Audit for our church began in June and will be completed for delivery to Vestry, and then the Diocese, this month. Not only is an annual audit of the church's financial records a requirement of the diocesan canons; it is a matter of due diligence and responsibility to look at internal controls. We would like to thank Theresa Seitz, the bookkeeper, and the Audit Committee for their time and efforts.

The Audit Committee Chair, Ann Elwood, was assisted by the following Audit Committee members: Patty Barnes, Rodney Grandon, Catherine Hylands, Michael Cipiti, Liz Couture, and Martha Roberson.

Parish Life Committee

How About Hosting Coffee Hour?

Coffee Hour at Christ Church happens after the 10:30 am service (around 11:30 am) on Sundays in the Tilford Room in the Parish Hall. Each Sunday, there is a volunteer “host” who prepares the coffee and drinks, sets up, provides a snack, and cleans up. Perhaps better than the coffee is the fellowship - parishioners sitting or standing around, catching up, sharing stories, kids playing. It’s an important part of parish life. Several recent hosts share their thoughts in hopes you will give hosting a try soon!

Teri Bellows and her husband, Ron, host frequently. Teri says, “Hosting Coffee Hour is WAY easier than it looks! One great benefit to being an Episcopalian is our social gatherings where we learn a little more about each other than which pew we sit in each week. Hosting Coffee Hour is a chance to try out new recipes without having to eat an entire cake at home, or sharing a family favorite dish with your church family, or making a Sunday afternoon special for your church family with a coffee hour theme. Ron will say Coffee Hour is his chance to make the coffee “good;” as strong as he likes it but in reality we enjoy getting to know everyone and making people smile and socialize. There is something magical and cozy about working together in an Episcopal kitchen and I’ve felt that since my youth group days when we hosted the 1960s pre-dishwasher Shrove Tuesday Pancake Suppers! If anyone needs a partner to host or help, Ron and/or Teri Bellows will happily join you! Try it! You’ll be surprised how easy it is to enjoy the experience!”

And Martha Roberson and her husband, Wilborn, are dedicated hosts. She shares these points:

1. Make hosting coffee hour simple and uncomplicated. It doesn’t need to be a feast and preparation shouldn’t be overly time consuming or expensive.
2. Working with a group to host makes it much simpler. Also hosting as a family is fun as every age can participate.
3. Getting to know fellow parishioners better is one of the positives that hosting brings to us. There is time in the kitchen prepping with others which always leads to interesting conversations. Also, we find that every time we host, many in the congregation make the effort to thank us, which leads to another opportunity to interact and have conversations with others who we don’t visit with regularly.
4. Coffee hour provides a wonderful intergenerational gathering for participants to get to know each other better. Many creative ideas for the church can stem from those discussions. Also can be a great forum to have a group gathered to disperse information and/or make presentations.
5. Coffee Hour is an easy way to be involved in the life of the church without a huge, long term commitment. An easy way to contribute!

Sign up to host on the church website or [contact Jody Wall for information.](#)

August 2026



Outreach Committee

August Donations to Kids Clubs

The Outreach Committee has selected Kids Clubs as the beneficiary of our monthly collection in August.

Located in Winchester, Kids Clubs of the Northern Shenandoah Valley provides after-school programs for Winchester city elementary school children whose parents or caregivers are working. Children are dropped off, right after school by city school buses at their location in a former elementary school. They are given time to play, do schoolwork, be mentored by volunteers, and given snacks. They are picked up by their caregivers at 6:00 pm. Once a month, they have a family night, when they are given dinner along with their families.

The Kids Clubs of Northern Shenandoah Valley is also providing a full-day summer camp program, while school is not in session. They keep children active and engaged during the summer, providing daycare from 7:00 am until 6:00 pm every weekday.

In addition to these services, they operate a small food pantry to provide food items for the families of participating children.

In August, Christ Church is asked to provide non-perishable canned protein (canned tuna, chicken, spam, and beans). They are also asking for **ketchup and mustard bottles**, as the families often do not have the resources to provide condiments for their kids' hot dogs and hamburgers.

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

