

THE ANGELUS

Volume 73 Number 1

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

September 2022

Dear People of Christ Church,

September at Christ Church looks busy this year! With so many new things happening and new ways of doing things, I have a request: Please be sure to review communications from the church for both things you're aware of (for changes) and for new things you may not be aware of yet.

A friend of mine sent me a picture of this t-shirt and we had a laugh. The fact that this t-shirt is out there for sale is reassuring for us to know that our congregation is not the only one with communication challenges going on! There are several reasons that it's hard to communicate right now, but the t-shirt reminds us to be intentional about paying attention to what is going on in all parts of our parish life.



Here are some highlights for this month. Please watch for details about events, programs, ministries, etc. in this issue of the newsletter, in the weekly email update, on the church website, in the announcements in the bulletin, and even sometimes on Facebook.

- Sunday, September 11, will be the beginning of our children's Sunday School program. Gatherings for the youth (middle and high school) have already begun and Martin Geiger can answer questions about those.
- On Sunday, September 18, the Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes, retired Bishop of Liverpool serving as a Visiting Bishop in the Diocese of Virginia, will be at the 10:30 am service for baptism, confirmations, receptions, and reaffirmation.
- The 18th is also the beginning of our Adult Forum at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room. On September 25, the Adult Forum will host Andrea Cosans, Executive Director at CCAP.
- Help is needed for worship—ushers, altar guild, chalcers, lay readers. Trainings are still being set, but we really do need help in those areas of ministry!
- Our new Music Director, Jean Lin, is also reaching out for people interested in joining the choir. Please be sure to consider if you enjoy singing!

We also have important information this month from Stewardship, Outreach, and the Diocese as things get moving again, so please keep an eye out for that information.

As I said, this September has a different pace and life to it. Getting into the groove of parish life is a wonderful gift of having community back but looking a bit different.

Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Webster".

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



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

**We welcome Visiting Bishop, the Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes,
to Christ Church on Sunday, September 18, 2022.**

From the Clergy

This month, for the first time in three years, Christ Church will have a visit from a bishop. It has been a long time since our last visit because of the disruptions of the pandemic, but on September 18, we will welcome the Rt. Rev. Paul Bayes, the retired Bishop of Liverpool, who will be in Virginia this fall as a Visiting Bishop.

Why is a bishop's visit important? For some people, the bishop's visit will be important because the bishop will be here to confirm or receive them into the Church. The Prayer Book calls confirmation "the rite in which we express a mature commitment in Christ, and receive strength from the Holy Spirit through prayer and the laying on of hands by a bishop." The bishop's role is to be a witness to the commitment of those being confirmed, and a symbol of the whole church's care for them. Like in a baptism, the whole congregation has a part in confirmation as well—we are there to support the people being confirmed in their life in Christ, and to share that life with them.

But for all of us, the bishop's visit has significance beyond just the confirmations he does. A bishop's visit is a reminder to us of our connection to our diocese, to the Episcopal Church, and to the church throughout the world. The bishop helps remind us that we're not on our own as Christ Church in Winchester, Virginia, but that we are connected to the whole body of Christ. The Episcopal Church's rules actually require that every congregation have a bishop's visit at least every three years, so that no congregation becomes disconnected or forgotten about. We participate in diocesan life in lots of other ways, but the bishop's visit is unique in that rather than the clergy and delegates going off to a meeting somewhere else, the bishop comes to us!

This bishop's visit will give us an especially good reminder of our connection to the larger church. Bishop Paul Bayes comes to us from a whole career of working in the Church of England, and can speak to the ways that we are both deeply connected to and different from the English church. He has a long-running connection to Virginia through the Triangle of Hope, a companion relationship between Virginia, Liverpool, and the Diocese of Kumasi in Ghana. (More about that relationship is on the diocesan website here: <https://www.thediocese.net/resources/ministries/youth-and-shrine-mont-camps/triangle-of-hope/>). We will actually be his very first parish visit during his time in Virginia, so we can help him learn more about the life of this diocese!

I hope you'll be here on September 18, both to hear the bishop speak at Adult Forum and for the service. As we launch into this new program year, let's remember all the ways we are connected to the larger church, and that our ministry is part of that larger body.

Faithfully,



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

Join the Christ Church Choir

Here's a message from Jean Lin, Christ Church's new Music Director:

"I am very much looking forward to meeting and working with our adult choir! We are seeking new members, and all are welcome to join. If you have an interest in music or simply love to sing, you would be a wonderful addition to our group. Whether you have a musical background or not, we will work with you so that we can lift our voices together in praise with joy and confidence."

The choir rehearses weekly on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 pm, with the first rehearsal scheduled on September 7th. If you have any questions, please email Jean at jyoyulin@gmail.com.

Christian Formation

Welcome Back to Sunday School

Our long-awaited return to Sunday School classes will begin on September 11, 2022, with three levels—preschool, Kindergarten through first grade, and grades three through five. Each class will be led by a rotating team of three teachers and will meet in the classrooms on the second floor of the Parish Hall in the rooms surrounding the Commons. Classes begin at 9:30 am on Sunday morning. Younger children will move to the Children's Chapel for music at 10:00 am while older ones remain in their classrooms until 10:15 am. Registration forms are [on the website](#) for you to print and bring if you haven't submitted them already.

Children's Chapel for ages three through second grade meets from 10:30 am until 11:00 am in the chapel. Children will be brought to join their parents in the sanctuary for communion.

And don't forget our downstairs space in the church for very young parishioners who need some time to get a few wiggles out, change to a fresh diaper, etc. Take the stairs at the back of the church and take a left through the door marked "Baby Area."

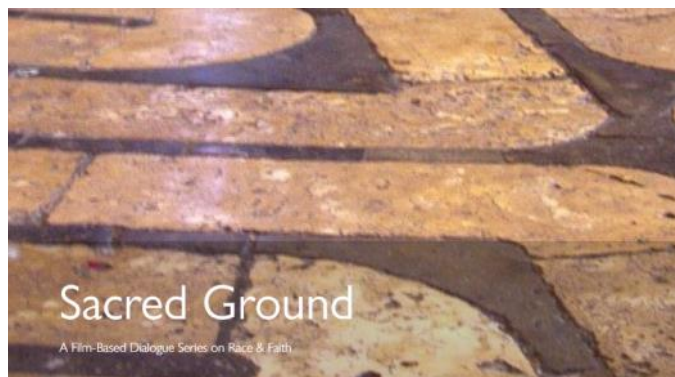
Be sure to follow the weekly update in your email or on the website (christchurchwinchester.org) for information about the Haunted (but not very scary) House being planned by our youth for the younger children and for family Advent wreath-making on November 27th and decorating gingerbread houses on December 11th!



**Adult Forum will begin on Sunday, September 18, at 9:30 am.
Watch for announcements in the weekly email update.**

Sacred Ground Circles Fall Sessions

The Diocese of Virginia will be hosting new Sacred Ground Circles beginning the week of September 11. The online cohort will explore a rich curriculum focused on Indigenous, Black, Latino, and Asian Pacific Americans as their histories intersect with European American history. For each session, you will watch documentaries and read articles to help inform and enlighten. Cohorts will then gather on Zoom for conversation to peel away the layers that have contributed to the challenges and divides of the present day—all while being deeply grounded in our faith, and the desire to live together in Beloved Community. It's an eleven week program. Please visit www.thediocese.org for more information and to register.



The Christian formation committee is also working on a Sacred Ground offering at Christ Church for later in fall. More information to come about that!

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
Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 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 Wed: 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, Mary Pat Gronauer
- 8 Sharon Lower
- 9 Vicky Arculin
- 10 Judith Anderson
- 13 Pete Gronauer
- 14 Carolyn Lewis, Lindsay Pifer,
Debra Shows, Dawson Wiley
- 15 Ashley Major Haines
- 18 Polly Nesselrodt
- 19 Cheryl Crowell, Sandy White, Pat Kofalt
- 22 Bill Major
- 23 Bill Davis
- 25 Mary Puttock
- 27 Gus Wise, Maggie Wise
- 28 Katlyn Wall Painter
- 29 Ann Poling, Pem Hutchinson,
Adelaide Turnbull, Rick Byler

September Anniversaries

- 3 Kirk & Linda Gibson
- 4 Stephen & Nancy Brown
- 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 'til you drop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4 and Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

We are still looking for volunteers to work
1 day a month (4 hour shift) in the shop.

We will have our annual volunteer meeting on
Tuesday, September 20, in the Tilford Room at 1:00 pm.

From the Treasurer

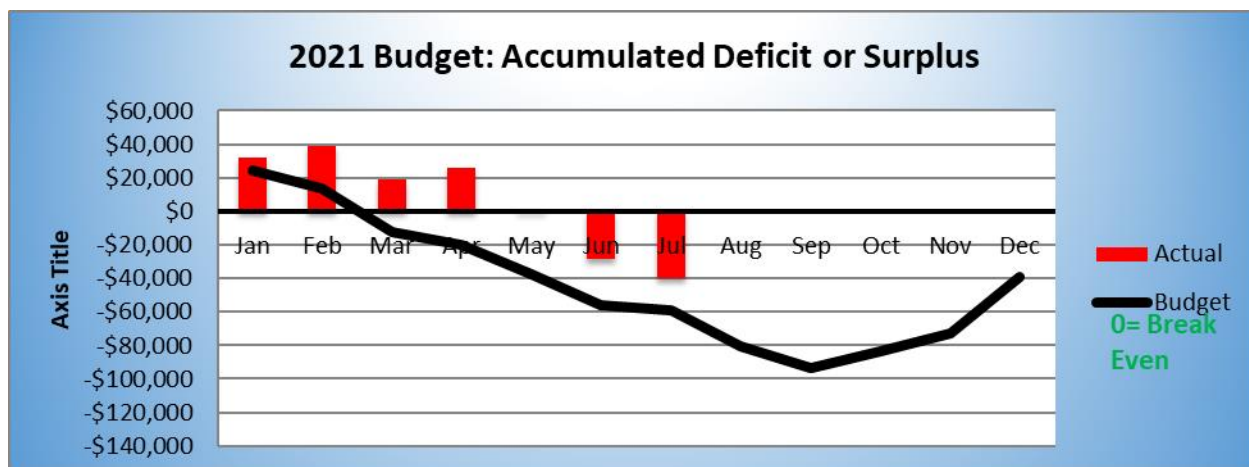
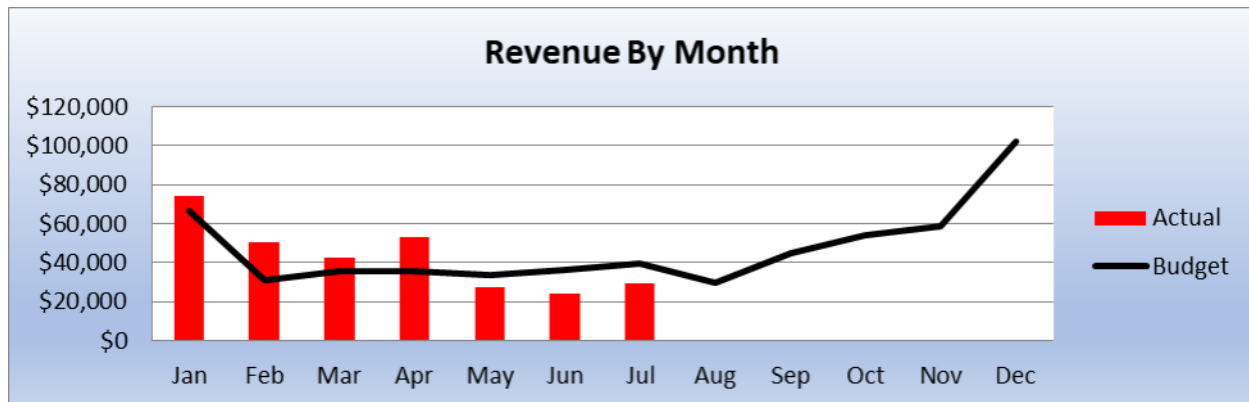
Thank You to Pete Gronauer

It is with sadness that we see Pete Gronauer moving on to a new phase in his life away from Winchester. We wish him and his family the very best and happiness in their new endeavors. Pete has been a vital part of our parish for many years. For the past nine years, Pete has served God and us as our parish treasurer. In that time, Pete has given us strong stewardship over our finances, organized and structured our accounts, and kept us on a sound financial footing. We will certainly miss him.

Taking over as Treasurer from Pete is a challenge (because Pete is leaving me some big shoes to fill) but he has provided me (and all of us) with a very sound financial system and foundation to work from. Thank you, Pete!

As anyone who has sailed on the Chesapeake Bay can tell you, July and August are the months to go to the mountains. The Bay is notorious for its weak winds, leaving sailors stranded in the doldrums. Looking at our financial charts shows that July and August are not our strongest months either. The revenues (primarily pledges) in the budget project this historical weakness while the actual revenues were weaker than expected. The good news is that our actual deficit is not as much as the budget projected due to strong giving earlier in the year. Now, as we start our program year and get fully reengaged, the budget projections are for an upturn. Its time for us to come out of our doldrums!

~ Bob Puttock, Christ Church Treasurer



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.



What is a pledge?

A pledge is a commitment to give to Christ Church in the year ahead. The pledge card asks you to think and pray about what you are called to give, and then to communicate that amount by filling out the card. Your pledge helps us figure out what the parish can do and budget for in the year ahead. By giving, we live out our commitment to “work, pray, and give for the spread of the kingdom of God” (Book of Common Prayer, p. 856).

Is my pledge a binding contract?

No, a pledge is a statement of intent, not a contract. It's an estimate of giving, made in good faith. It's not like paying a tax, membership dues, or a mortgage. If your finances change where you cannot maintain your pledge, just simply advise the church bookkeeper that you wish to modify your pledge. And, if your financial situation improves, increasing your pledge is always available!

How much should I pledge?

That decision is always yours, hopefully after prayerful consideration. It's helpful to think about your pledge in terms of a proportion or percentage of your annual income. Some people calculate an amount like one hour's income per week, or one day's income per month. A chart that shows proportional giving at different income levels is at www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship.

How do I make a pledge?

Pledge cards are mailed to everyone. You can also print one from the website or submit your pledge electronically. You can return your pledge card via the offering plate on Sunday, at the Church Office, or mail it to the Bookkeeper. Instructions are on the back of the card!

Is my pledge confidential?

Yes, only the church bookkeeper knows the amount of individual pledges. She prepares quarterly statements that are sent to keep people abreast of their giving throughout the year.

If I pledged last year, do I need to fill out a card again?

Yes; we base our budget on the amounts people pledge specifically for the next year, and don't simply assume your pledge will continue. Filling out a card every year is a way to reflect on your commitment and what you want it to look like in the year ahead.

How do I fulfill my pledge?

You will receive a set of envelopes for checks, which you can drop in the offering plate on Sundays, or mail to the church office. If you'd like to set up electronic bill pay for your pledge, call our bookkeeper to learn how you can do that with your bank.

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

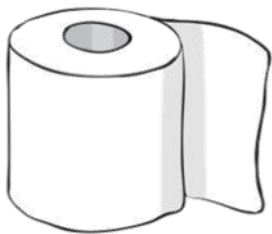
Outreach Committee

Focus on Winchester Rescue Mission

In September, the Outreach Committee is focused on the Winchester Rescue Mission (WRM), one of the designated ministries of Christ Church. Their main building is easy to spot on North Cameron St. because of the wonderful mural on the side of the building. It is the home to approximately 35 men, with another smaller location for eight women. The WRM has purchased a larger building on Valley Ave., with renovation plans to accommodate more men and a few families. When that becomes a reality, the present location will house women.

What does the WRM do? The WRM provides immediate help for the homeless in crisis with shelter, meals, clothing, and supplies to stabilize the situation. Each resident is assigned a case manager who addresses the deeper issues that affect the homeless, such as mental illness, substance abuse, literacy, and financial challenges. They provide an individual plan with achievable goals to help the individual progress towards stability and self-sufficiency. In 2021, 33 individuals were moved from chronically homeless to successfully housed and contributing citizens in our community.

Additionally, the WRM outreach programs include a food pantry serving 1,200 boxes of food per month and community meals serving over 5,000 meals each month. Christ Church parishioners are helping with feeding the WRM residents and Winchester's hungry. Two groups cook dinner each month on the second Monday and the fourth Tuesday. Additionally, the casserole ministry continues with over 20 parishioners making a casserole every other month for the WRM to use to feed residents and community members. Using the same recipe, each participating parishioner delivers their prepared casserole on a designated Sunday and the dishes are delivered to the WRM at the beginning of each week.



During the month of September, we will be collecting paper plates, paper towels and toilet paper to restock WRM as they care for Winchester's hungry and homeless. As you do your shopping this month, please pick up some extras for the Winchester Rescue Mission and bring them to church on Sunday or deliver to the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Pastoral Care

It's no secret that aging brings along a variety of health issues. For many, deteriorating eyesight is one of the first health issues noticed. To better educate older adults and their caregivers, MyVision, a free digital resource led by expert ophthalmologists and optometrists, recently published a guide on aging and eyesight where they cover the following topics:

- How aging affects your eyes
- Signs of vision changes
- Common age-related vision issues
- Prevention and more.



The guide is here: <https://myvision.org/guides/aging-and-eyesight-guide/>

As always, if you have questions about your health, healthcare options, or local resources, please contact us.

From the parish nurses, Rosalie Lewis and Helen Zebarth