

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

February 2026

Dear People of Christ Church,

If you have not read or heard about it by now, one of the goals that the Stewardship Committee is working on is a year-round, wholistic stewardship program. This program understands stewardship in its three parts of time, talent and treasure. Discipleship of Jesus does not separate these three parts from one another. Instead, discipleship sees all of these as integral to one another in the full gift of ourselves to God. People seem pretty clear about treasure having to do with our generosity of giving money. Theology of time and talent may not be as well understood.

Time is pretty simple. Everyone has a schedule, which is the act of being stewards of our time and prioritizing work, sleep, family, friends, etc. Within that schedule, discipleship includes how we represent Jesus in each of these parts of our life. How much time do we give to Jesus in the life and ministries of Christ Church aside from Sunday worship? If you look at your calendar, what do you see? That helps to give a picture of how you prioritize your time. If you want to re-prioritize more time for you personal discipleship, you may add in an hour a week, or a month, and see how your discipleship grows.

Talent is a bit more complicated. Talent is different from skills. Talent is also different from vocation. Today, I want to consider talent in terms of fulfillment. Fulfillment might be considered that moment where you find “shalom” or the peace, balance and presence of God in what you are doing. Some people find such fulfillment in their vocation, in a hobby, or in personal or communal ministry. In a wonderful moment to realization, a friend of mine’s Vestry saw that their parish treasurer found the peace of God in helping people understand and manage their money. That is not the case for everyone. Some people find fulfillment in taking the risk to want to help an area of ministry, but their concern is they don’t have the skills. A person shows up to help with the Sunday livestream. While they do not know about computers, they are willing to learn. So the leadership teaches them and then trusts them to do the ministry. While not everyone has the voice to sing in the choir, people can help the congregation with ministries around worship. Some people may enjoy organizing things. Some people love to work outdoors. Some people have not thought about this before.

Finding fulfillment by giving of talent varies from person to person. However, there are a couple of initial steps that help. Discipleship of Jesus requires that you and I show up to the relationship and offer ourselves. Discipleship of Jesus encourages us to find those ways we can actively serve where we find the peace of God in the challenge of getting ministry done, and we take the risk to give of ourselves. Discipleship of Jesus also requires that we seek to invite others to share in ministries we find fulfilling. And that is both doing the work of a ministry and also allowing others to lead in ministry with our support.

February this year has both Epiphany, which looks at how Jesus reveals God, and then Lent, which invites self reflection and sacrificial giving. Discipleship involves both seasons. You get to ponder how the love of Christ is made known to others, and you get to explore how you reveal that love as a disciple who gives sacrificially to Jesus.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu gave a piece of advice using the image of the cross. If the horizontal is what we enjoy doing in this life, and if the vertical is our relationship to God, then where those two intersect may give a good clue for where our fulfillment may be.

Faithfully,



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

From the Vestry

Serve on the Vestry

On Sunday, March 1, 2026, we will have our Annual Meeting at Christ Church from 9:15-10:15 am in the Tilford Room. The congregation will elect a new class of four people to serve on the Vestry. The Vestry is the group that serves as “agent and legal representative of the Parish in all matters concerning its corporate property and the relations of the Parish to its Clergy.” The members help the rector in mutual ministry of worshipping and serving our Lord. You can learn more about what a vestry does here: <https://episcopalvirginia.org/who-we-are/governance/constitution-and-canons/>.

If you are interested in serving on the Vestry or would like to nominate someone to serve, please contact Phil Sargent, Stacy Talbott, Dan Gloster or Linda Miles.

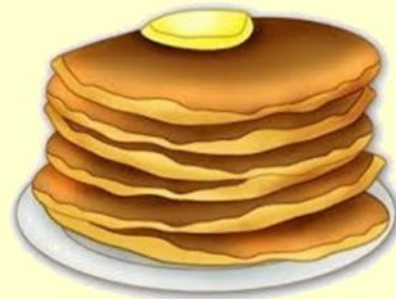
Adult communicants in good standing are allowed to vote on the candidates for Vestry at the Annual Meeting. If you are not sure if you are technically a member at Christ Church, please call Noelle the Church Office prior to the Annual Meeting. We encourage those new to the parish, or not yet members, to attend the meeting because this is a good way to see what is going on at Christ Church.

We will also hear reports from officers of the Vestry at the annual meeting—Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer—about the parish. The Treasurer will present the 2026 budget that was passed by the Vestry. Please be sure to be with us on Sunday morning, March 1, 2026, for this important part of our parish life.

Christ Church Annual Meeting Sunday, March 1, 2026 at 9:15 am

Christ Church Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Our Annual Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be Tuesday, February 17, 2026, in the Tilford Room. Everyone is invited for pancakes (gluten-free available), bacon, sausage, and other treats served 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm. This event is hosted by the Vestry.



Ash Wednesday Services
7:00 am (Pilgrim's Chapel)
Noon and 7:00 pm (in the church)
Wednesday, February 18, 2026

Christian Formation & Worship

Adult Formation in February

In February, we'll continue discussions about how God's sacred story moves through the generations. As children, parents, and grandparents, we sometimes fail to see what Scripture offers us to ponder God in our lives. Looking at the sacred practice of reading Scripture as part of a family, we will start at the beginning and see where the sacred story of our family speaks to how we read the Bible as family today.

On, Sunday, February 22 (in the Tilford Room this Sunday), The Rev. Canon Lee Hill, who is the Canon for Racial Justice and Healing, will discuss the current and new work and programs offered by the diocese about racial justice and healing.

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. Bibles are provided.

Showing Appreciation

To applaud or not to applaud, that is the question. And when it comes to the wonderful offering of a song of praise and glory to God by our beloved Alleluia Singers or Cherub Choir, that question is a good one. Since the children are giving a performance, it would seem obvious to applaud so they can see our appreciation and affirmation for their singing. On the other hand, while the performance is given in church this musical offering is not for us, it is for God. Just like any other choir's anthem, any gift of time, talent and treasure, it is given to the glory of God. And if we remember that our Lord Jesus fussed at his disciples when they tried to prevent the children from coming to Jesus, then we are reassured that our Lord is well pleased.

People ask me, "So what do we do with the children because we do not want to hurt their feelings?" I remind them that we applaud, we say thank you, we say, "WELL DONE," just like we do to all who serve in the church **after the service** in the hallways and coffee hour. People ask me, "But what if we simply applaud in the silence between the songs?" Even then, we need to wait. While it is tempting to applaud, DeLyn Celec and Marsha Baden, our Alleluia and Cherub Choir directors, are not waiting for applause. They are very busy. They need some time between the songs to refocus the children, remind them of the next song, whisper the tune to them, and then get them going. It always takes the choir directors time to do that, but they and the children need that transition time for their next offering in the worship

People will ask me, "But the children are so young, how can they possibly understand this?" I remind them that we teach them. We love, applaud, affirm, thank and congratulate the children before and after the service. We also teach them the importance and wonder of the offering songs to God in praise and thanksgiving. We explain how they are part of our offertory as they give of themselves to God. We also teach them how their offering is also part of our worship of God as a community, so when they sing, they in turn represent a gift from all of us. If they ask us why, we simply remind them that Jesus always loves the children. Jesus always loves a gift from the children.

I know that sometimes people will be so moved that they will applaud. It is a natural response to a wonderful performance. Others will still not agree or know about this theology of gift in our worship. However, I once asked the question, "As the children grow up, at what age do you stop clapping in the service?" The other question is, "When do we start teaching and reminding the children of the importance and value of their offering to God, even if they are so nervous that they simply stand there?" That is a lifetime, and it is always done as a sacrifice, an offering in the knowledge of our Lord's joy, approval and appreciation. Thanks be to God!!

And of course, thank you to the Alleluia Singer and DeLyn Celec and to the Cherub Choir and Marsha Baden.
—Webster

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
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—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

February Birthdays

- 1 Kay Teachout
- 2 Steve Haines
- 5 Scott Harper
- 11 Rebecca Gibson, David Wingenbach
- 12 Tricia Glass, Bernard Swope
- 14 Martha Griffin
- 17 Stephen Brown
- 19 William Wingenbach
- 22 Ron Bellows
- 23 Roger Zebarth, Skip Bowling, Nancy Sawle
- 27 Bill Tedesco



February Anniversaries

- 2 Steve & Neile Grady Martin
- 4 John & Mary Margaret Applin
- 8 Martin & Nancy Tabaka
- 12 Dan & Mary Gloster

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!



Hosts needed in March!

Sign up on
the church website!



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.

Registration for 2026 Shrine Mont Camps is Open!

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).

**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

Walk for WATTS Fundraiser

Join the Winchester Area Temporary Transitional Shelter (WATTS) at their 4th annual “Coldest Night of the Year” fundraiser walk around downtown Winchester on Saturday, February 28. Christ Church will have a team of walkers participating again this year!

Everyone is invited to walk for WATTS in support of their guests who are experiencing homelessness and hurt. CNOY is a national event held in participating cities all over the US and Canada; the Winchester walk raises funds that stay local for WATTS and their mission to end homelessness in our community.

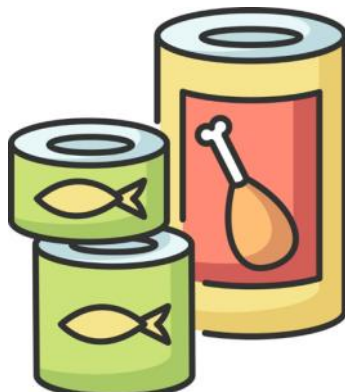
Choose between the 2K or 5K route – both along side-walks around downtown Winchester. Check-in for the walk is at 4:00 pm with special guest speakers, music, and camaraderie happening at the walk's starting and ending location: Braddock Street UMC at 115 Wolfe Street. And don't miss the free food with a "soup kitchen" offered after the walk to complete your experience.

You can sign up to be part of the Christ Church team via the link on our website, and feel free to talk with our team leader, Marty Tabaka, about what the experience is like. Donations are also appreciated using the same link from our website. Thanks for your continued support of WATTS and their work in our community.



Request for Donations

The Outreach Committee asks for donations in February of canned food such as beans, tuna, chicken and vegetables for CCAP's food pantry. You can bring donations to church on Sundays in February or drop off at the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays from 10-2.



Outreach Committee

Winchester Rescue Mission Dinner Ministry

If you have two spare hours a month and would like to feed the hungry in our area, the Outreach Committee has a ministry for you! Christ Church provides and serves dinner to WRM residents and walk-in guests on the second Monday of every month, except for February and July, when a group from Westminster Canterbury fills in.

We have been providing meals to the Winchester Rescue Mission for several years through the leadership of two parishioners, Pat Kofalt and Clare Dame. Although their ministries were separate, they have now combined into the present WRM Dinner Ministry. Pat Kofalt first involved fellow members of the Men's Fellowship Group in cooking a monthly dinner for WRM residents and walk-in guests in 2016. When COVID-era lockdown restrictions interrupted this ministry, Pat and Mari, his wife, cooked the dinner themselves at Christ Church and Webster and family delivered it to WRM. Once restrictions eased, Pat's ministry recommenced. Meanwhile, in late 2021, Clare Dame organized a Casserole Ministry, for which parishioners cooked large casseroles at home and brought them to church. Clare would transport them from church to WRM, where WRM staff or volunteers would heat and serve them.

In 2023, both ministries changed and combined. As part of an accreditation process, WRM had to require that meals served there were prepared in a certified commercial kitchen. This required the Casserole Ministry to end, but Pat devised a meal and a process that combined elements of both ministries. The dinner would be prepped in Christ Church's commercial kitchen, but then finished, cooked, and served at the WRM kitchen.

Casserole Ministry veterans rolled right into the "Prep Teams" that prepare much of the meal ahead of time in the church's kitchen on the preceding Sunday afternoon. Ingredients are supplied through the Outreach Committee, and the prep work is making big meatloaves and seasoning chicken thighs. On Monday afternoon, a "Cook Team" takes the prepped dinner and a few other ingredients over to the large kitchen at WRM's new location at 2655 Valley Avenue. After mixing a few more ingredients together, the cooks place the dinner into the ovens. About two hours later, three parishioners who comprise the "Serve Team" arrive and serve the dinner, cafeteria-style, at 5:30 pm. By about 6:30 pm, service is over, and WRM residents clean up and wash any dishes.

The Prep, Cook, and Serve Teams of the WRM Dinner Ministry provide great opportunities for people with limited time to serve their community because each team requires no more than, and sometimes less than, two hours a month. Each team is led by an experienced leader, so new participants need not worry about stepping into any role! The Outreach Committee hopes to have the Signup Genius available in February on the church website so that new volunteers can choose when to jump in. In the meantime, please feel free to ask Sally Megeath (shmegeath@gmail.com) about this ministry.



Stewardship Committee

A Life of Stewardship—Time & Talents

As you may have read in last month's Angelus, a church's stewardship campaign is something that is traditionally thought of as an annual commitment to give money to the church, and certainly this is very important, as without it the Vestry is unable to budget meaningfully to support the many ministries we carry out. If you have not yet completed a pledge card, it's not too late! (They are available on the church website.)



There is much more to stewardship, though, and this year in particular, we will be looking at how we can all support the church's ministries with our time and talents, and BE THE CHURCH. Christ Church has a strong history of involvement within the Winchester community, as well as supporting our own congregation, but these efforts require input from everybody. You will soon begin to hear details about the many different ministries in our church, some of which you may not even have been aware of. Please come along and listen, and give prayerful thought to how you might be able to help with any of these, by giving of your time and talents, whether it may be helping with WATTS or CCAP, getting involved with Parish Life events, supporting the Treasure Box, or singing in the choir. Whatever you choose, it will be very rewarding, and also great fun! This is our church, and the more we all put in, the stronger it will become. We look forward to seeing you at upcoming ministry events in 2026.

Properties Committee

Parking at Christ Church

Currently, Bonnie Blue Restaurant is looking at an April or May move into the old bank building on the corner of Washington and Boscawen streets. Parishioners who park in that building's parking lot on Sundays will need to start parking elsewhere soon. We do not know exactly when Bonnie Blue will exercise their right to have their parking for their business only. If the Properties Committee learns any specific dates with moves and such, they will let the parish know.

The Properties Committee is also working on needed repairs and layouts of the Baden Center parking to better serve the parish.

If you are able to walk a distance without issue, please leave the spots in front of the church for those parishioners with limited walking ability. There is parking currently behind the Sanctuary and the Smith Building. Street parking and the public parking lot are free on the weekends. There is parking available on nearby streets. Please remember others in the parish and how to help and care for one another, even with parking.

Please respect the parking bags when they are on the meters for funerals. The bagged meters are intended to allow the funeral party to park closest to the church. It also allows the funeral home's hearse to park in front of the church when a casket is present.

Parking will continue to be a challenge in the downtown area as Winchester continues to grow and develop. While the Properties Committee and Vestry look for parking solutions in the areas around the church, the parish community working together will help to address the parking challenges we face.