

# THE ANGELUS

Volume 70 Number 5

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

January 2020

Dear People of Christ Church,

"Happy New Year and may it be a most blessed year for you and your family."

It is an offering often given as we head into a new year. When we consider what we offer in this blessing, it becomes quite meaningful in many ways.

Within our own church calendar, we mark New Year's Day, January 1, as one of our Holy Days called The Holy Name. As Luke's Gospel points out, it was the 8<sup>th</sup> day after Jesus's birth when his parents fulfilled the Jewish custom: *"After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb."*

The other reading for that day also brings up name, but in a different way:

*(Numbers 6:22-27) The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, Thus you shall bless the Israelites: You shall say to them,*

*The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.*

*So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.*

The Christian witness coming out of the world's encounter with the Jewish-born Jesus, which opens the invitation to God's name being upon God's people, which Christians mark in Holy Baptism, has the purpose of reminding us about two things: it is God who gives blessings, and our lives should reflect lives as people who know God seeks to bless us and have us be blessing to others.

While I often find too much emphasis on blessing being about winning the lottery or having a comfortable life or lots of stuff, I find more reassurance in blessing being the life-long, unconditional gift that God loves you. For a person to live a life knowing you are loved by God also gives a person an incentive to live a life where you show God's love to others. Such a blessing is about our Lord's presence among us always. It is also the peace of God which the apostle Paul reminds us surpasses all of our understanding, and yet a peace which we can only receive as God's love and favor towards us, unearned and undeserved.

God's blessing is not something for us to take for granted as if it were a gift to keep to ourselves. Rather God's blessing is to be valued, cared for and shared all around us. Whatever challenges, failures or successes you have in the next year, to have God's blessing upon you is to know that you are loved. It is God's gift to you and a reassurance for strength to live all of our days as disciples of our Lord.

From the clergy and staff of Christ Church, we wish you a Happy New Year. In the year ahead, the Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace.

Shalom,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector  
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

January 2020



## From the Clergy

### Christ Church Annual Meeting Approaching

On Sunday, January 26, we will have our Annual Meeting at Christ Church from 9:30-10:15 in the Tilford Room.

For those of you who may not have attended an annual meeting before, here is what you will find: First of all, it is the meeting where the congregation elects 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. Of course, my favorite diocesan canon for vestry is: “Each Vestry member shall extend personally a hearty welcome to newly baptized, confirmed, received, or transferred members of the congregation.” Adult communicants in good standing are allowed to vote at the meeting. If you are not sure if you are technically a member at Christ Church, please call 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—Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Treasurer—about the parish. We have the annual meeting between the church services to have as much of the faithful community attend as possible; to remind ourselves what nourishes us as a parish which is our worship of our Lord Jesus Christ and the opportunity to break bread at His table. Please be sure to be with us on Sunday morning, January 26, for this important part of our parish life.

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### Winter “Whether” (to come to church or not?)

When we have inclement weather around our Sunday morning worship, any cancellations will be posted on the church website, sent out through email, and also announced on WINC.FM (92.5) on the radio. If you do not see or hear an announcement, then nothing has been canceled.

Rarely do we cancel our worship services. Even if the clergy are not able to make it to church, we are fortunate to have lay people nearby who will lead those attending in Morning Prayer. We will let you know of such changes, but worship does go on.

Please do not feel guilt if you do not feel comfortable getting to church in bad weather. The more important issue is your safety and trusting your common sense which God gave you! See you at church. Keep warm. Be safe.

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### Submit Vestry Nominations

Our Christ Church Vestry is full of disciples working together to follow our Lord. If you would like to nominate yourself or someone to serve on the Christ Church Vestry, please contact Vestry members Neile Grady Martin, Robb Russell, Martin Tabaka or Betsy Young. Election of new vestry members will be during the Christ Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 26, 2020.

## From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

After college, I attended an Episcopal church with a lot of Epiphany traditions. They wanted to have the three Wise Men in the Christmas pageant, so they waited and had the pageant on Epiphany, when we remember their encounter with the infant Jesus. And the beautiful nativity scene they set up in the church wasn't completed until Epiphany. Throughout the twelve days of Christmas, the figurines of the Magi were moved through the church, closer and closer to the stable, to symbolize their journey to Bethlehem. These traditions helped remind the parish that the Christmas story does not need to end at midnight on December 25<sup>th</sup>, and that we can keep telling it even after Christmas music has vanished from the radio.

In many ways, the Feast of the Epiphany serves as an extension of the story of Jesus's birth. It completes the Nativity scene we know so well, and it offers us a sign of the way Jesus's birth reaches out to the whole world. If you look at the calendar at the front of the Prayer Book, Epiphany has the ambitious title of "The Epiphany, or the Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles." The Epiphany is a moment where Christ is made manifest, made visible, and not just to the people of Israel, but to the rest of the world as well. The arrival of the Magi tells us that God's presence with us in Jesus is not limited to one people or nation, but belongs to the whole world, to Gentiles, as well as Israel. Epiphany calls the Church to reach out to people throughout the world, of every "family, language, people, and nation" in the words of Revelation. It reminds us that we cannot control or place limits on Christ, that all we can do is try to lead others to him the way we were led ourselves.

At the end of the Epiphany season, we will remember another encounter with Christ, another Epiphany, when we tell the story of the Transfiguration – when Christ was revealed in glory to Peter and James and John. That was another moment when Christ was made visible – not as a vulnerable infant, but as God's Son. The disciples struggle to make sense of this revelation. They want to hold on to it, to control it. But they cannot, because Jesus does not ultimately belong to them – He is God, present with them in the flesh, beyond their desire for control or understanding. The Transfiguration, like the Epiphany, reminds us of the ways Jesus moves beyond our understanding of him. If we look to him, as the Magi did, we will always find that he is more than we can imagine or understand – more than enough for our faith and our worship.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector  
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org

# Christian Formation

## Sunday School News

A special thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Eve pageant and Advent activities in the Sunday School – you are a blessing!

After our vacation on Sunday, December 29, Sunday School classes will resume on January 5. Also on January 5, Children's Chapel resumes its schedule during the 10:30 service. The group from Children's Chapel will join parents in the sanctuary at the Peace.

Are you wondering where the Magi were during the pageant on Christmas Eve? They will arrive to offer gifts during our 10:30 am service on the Sunday we celebrate the Epiphany - January 5. After all, they had further to journey and Christmas is a season.

Welcome 2020!



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*Youth Group in the Tilford Room, 6:00 pm,  
on Sunday, Jan. 12 and Sunday, Jan. 26.*

Contact Martin at [mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org) for more information about Youth Group!

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## Daytime Faith Study in January

Daytime Faith Study explores different ways for us to understand our faith, from social issues to Biblical sources and teachings. Beginning in January, we will begin our study to broaden our understanding of Old Testament Scripture and themes, not just from a Christian perspective, but also from a Jewish perspective. Our study will use *The Meaning of the Bible: What the Jewish Scriptures and Christian Old Testament Can Teach Us* by preeminent biblical scholars Douglas A. Knight and Amy-Jill Levine. The authors have written this book to be a resource for the novice to the well-read person about Scripture. They deliver a broad and engaging introduction to the Old Testament—also known as the Tanakh or Hebrew Bible—offering a wealth of compelling historical background and context for the sacred literature that is at the heart of Judaism and Christianity.

If you would like to join us, any time is a good time to start. The book is available on Amazon, or you can come and join a class to see if it is something you want to consider joining. Please join us on the second and fourth Monday each month beginning January 13 in the Commons (upstairs in the Parish Hall) at 10:00 am.

If you have any questions, please email Webster at [rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org).

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## Adult Forum in January

The Sunday Morning Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room in the Parish Hall each Sunday morning. There is always coffee! Adult Forum has a variety of topics: Adult Forum on January 5, 12, and 19 will be an exploration of the Gospel of Matthew. Since Matthew is the primary Gospel we're reading from in church this year, we'll look ahead to the Gospel readings for the rest of the church year, and see how the lectionary uses the Gospel. We'll take some time to talk about its origins, its theology, and its major themes.

There is no Adult Forum on January 26, because of the Annual Meeting.

# Christian Formation

## Christmas Eve Pageant



January 2020

# Church Calendar

## Church Services

### Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am  
 Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

### Wednesday

In the Pilgrim's Chapel at noon  
 (Healing Service 3rd Wed)

### Second Monday

6:30 pm All Abilities Worship —Sanctuary



- 2 Women's Lunch Group
- 11 Men's Fellowship
- 13 All Abilities Worship
- 14 Vestry Meeting
- 21 Knit Unto Others
- 26 Annual Meeting
- Feb 1 WATTS Week begins

## Committee & Group Meetings

- Adult Choir Rehearsal Wed: 7:00 pm
- Adult Forum Sun: 9:30 am
- Alleluia Singers Sun: 8:45 am
- Daytime Faith Study 2nd/4th Mon: 10:00 am
- Knit Unto Others 3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
- Men's Fellowship 2nd Sat: 7:30 am
- Outreach Committee 4th Tues: 7:00 pm
- Properties Committee 3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
- Treasure Box Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm,  
Sat 10 am-1 pm
- Women's Lunch Group 1st Thurs: 11:30 am
- Vestry 2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
- Women's Book Studies Tues: 10:30 - Noon  
Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
- Youth Group 2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



CHRIST EPISCOPAL  
 CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



**Look for  
 Christ Episcopal Church Winchester  
 and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

**The Rector's day off is Friday.  
 The Assistant Rector's day off is Monday.**

**Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

# Church Calendar

## January Birthdays

- 1 Olivia Adams
- 2 Nancy Davis, Chelsea Trant
- 3 Jim Griffin, Sara Major
- 4 Neile Martin
- 5 Ben Sheppard, Sam Wise
- 7 Alexandra Barton
- 9 Owen Turnbull
- 11 Caroline Lawson, Clarke Wiley, Susan Ross
- 12 Sam Leinbach, Jr.
- 13 Thomas Ellington, Jim Petrie, Stephen Pettit
- 15 Amy Whipkey
- 16 Betsy Young
- 18 Pam Lamborne
- 24 Margaret Arthur, Helen Zearth
- 25 Robert Bronson
- 26 Ned Stock
- 27 JoAnn Larsen, Jonathan Sheppard
- 28 Roger Lamborne
- 31 Jazmine Pellot, Kim Gronauer, Ruben Rodriguez



## January Anniversaries

- 1 Wayne & Pam McKinley
- 11 Frank Baxter & Skip Bowling
- 16 Robert & Edna Chase
- 29 Ron & Koy Mislowsky

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.



The Treasure Box Thrift Shop is open  
Wednesdays and Fridays  
10 am—4 pm  
Saturdays 10 am—1 pm  
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

# From the Treasurer

## Operating Budget Performance YTD

### Reported Financial “Results” are always a month behind ...

As has been repeated in several previous Angelus issues, by the time the you receive the Angelus, the financial data is already over a month old. So, for this January 2020 Angelus, the data being reported is just through November 2019.

As you read this, the 2019 year-end data will have been processed and approved, and will be getting formatted to present at the Annual Meeting in late January, as well as being reported in the February 2020 Angelus issue.

With that said, if you are looking to see how 2019 ended, come to the Annual Meeting or wait until the Angelus issue arrives in early February!

### 2019 Operating Budget Performance: Actual vs. Budget for January through November

The table below gives detail of Actual vs. Budget for the first eleven months of 2019.

	YTD NOV Actuals	YTD NOV Budget	YTD NOV Actual - Budget
<b>Revenues</b>			
<b>Operating and Budgeted Income</b>			
4000 - Contributions - Pledged	\$ 459,295	\$ 441,100	\$ 18,195
4001 - Contributions - Unpledged	\$ 55,346	\$ 39,000	\$ 16,346
40xx - All Other Revenues	\$ 83,592	\$ 77,353	\$ 6,239
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$ 598,233</b>	<b>\$ 557,453</b>	<b>\$ 40,780</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Total Personnel	\$ 369,233	\$ 383,861	\$ (14,628)
Total Utilities	\$ 24,496	\$ 25,900	\$ (1,404)
Total Property/Maintenance	\$ 49,111	\$ 43,945	\$ 5,166
Total Office Expenses	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,953	\$ (954)
Total Christian Ed. Expenses	\$ 7,824	\$ 9,510	\$ (1,686)
Total Music Expenses	\$ 15,612	\$ 16,287	\$ (675)
Total Worship	\$ 1,090	\$ 1,450	\$ (360)
Total Stewardship	\$ 1,210	\$ 1,050	\$ 160
Total Outreach	\$ 46,321	\$ 46,000	\$ 321
Total Pastoral Care	\$ 686	\$ 730	\$ (44)
Total Parish Life	\$ 2,046	\$ 2,040	\$ 6
Total Communications	\$ 2,371	\$ 2,583	\$ (212)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 541,999</b>	<b>\$ 556,309</b>	<b>\$ (14,310)</b>
<b>Net Position</b>	<b>\$ 56,233</b>	<b>\$ 1,144</b>	<b>\$ 55,090</b>
<b>2018 Surplus Carried Over</b>	<b>\$ 46,653</b>	<b>\$ 46,653</b>	<b>\$ 46,653</b>
<b>Net Position WITHOUT Carry Over</b>	<b>\$ 9,580</b>	<b>\$ (45,509)</b>	<b>\$ 8,437</b>

The data shows we are doing better than budget due to actual revenues being above budget and actual expenses being below budget. We would expect expenses at year-end to be down because our music director retired during the first half of the year, and a new director was not hired until December. Revenues can be up or down, due to timing of gifts received, and are not ever finalized until year-end. However, it does appear that unpledged revenue will exceed budget for the year.

### 2019 Year-End Contribution Statements

You can expect to receive your 2019 Year-End Contribution Statement the week of January 13, 2020. You should save a copy of this statement for tax purposes. Per IRS guidelines, we are only required to issue statements if your total contribution for the tax year exceeds \$250. Therefore, if your contributions did not exceed this threshold, a statement will not be issued. Should you require a copy of your statement, please contact our bookkeeper at [tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org) or call the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 5).

# Properties

## Keeping us Safe at Christ Church

Over the past few years, Christ Church and the Winchester community have grown as a community and as communities which serve one another. Within our parish life, we are fortunate to have new members who are part of our Sunday morning programs for all ages as well as our weekday programs. Within the community, our parish is helping feed our children and families and finding ways such as WATTS to provide shelter in the winter.

As our community and programs grow, the Vestry wants to keep our parish a safe place for all involved. To help us be a safe place, one of the charges the Vestry has placed before the Properties committee is to make sure we have basic security and safe practices in place around our large facility, especially on Sunday mornings.

The most recent example of this is having the ushers do occasional walk-throughs during services to make sure no one is lost in the buildings and that doors which may be left unlocked are secure. We also want to reassure you that the doors of the church are open and have ushers there to help you if you are not sure where to go for events before or after the services.

While establishing this safety process is a work in progress, we want to make sure you know how we are working to keep Christ Church a safe community. We also appreciate your participation in our ministries and worship. If you have questions or recommendations for ways that we can improve the safety process, please let one of the Vestry or ushers know.

Thank you.

# Outreach

## Angel Tree a Huge Success Again

The Outreach Committee would like to thank our congregation for assisting the committee with making sure that the angels selected by the Salvation Army all had a special Christmas morning! Everyone was very giving in so many ways this year. We give a special thank you to our volunteers, who assisted the congregants in choosing their Angel, and to those who both collected the filled bags and drove them, plus the many bicycles, to the Salvation Army Distribution Center. All of your help was a blessing.

We were given 150 Angel names to collect gifts for this Christmas. You met the needs and wishes of all of those children. And, through cash donations from many members of Christ Church, we were able to resolve a shortage of gifts collected by the Salvation Army! With the cash donations we were able to say “yes” to shopping for an additional 12 children who were all 12 year-olds. We purchased 20 jewelry making kits, art supplies, and games. Then, we turned your donations into **50 (!!!)** pairs of shoes, coats, pants, shirts and pajamas for boys and girls! There were three requests for skateboards and helmets which were also filled. There was even a request for one stuffed Husky dog (the guy pictured). The total expenditure was \$1,222.00 and you, all of you, had offered \$1,225.00! That is truly exciting.



Thank you for your part in making Christmas morning to this community of hundreds of children real Christmas joy! Thank you and bless all who made the Angel Tree program such a special success!

~ Ann and Jim Taylor for the Outreach Committee

# Outreach

## WATTS Week at Christ Church

Christ Church will again host the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) in our Parish Hall from Saturday, February 1, 2020 to Saturday, February 8, 2020. This ministry provides much needed thermal support to homeless adults in Winchester, Frederick and Clarke counties.

So far this season, WATTS has been operating at close to capacity. There has been an average of eight female guests per night, and two guests who use walkers, and one in a wheelchair. Unlike previous years, all guests who arrive at WATTS are being sheltered; those in excess of the WATTS capacity of 35 are being referred to and accepted by other shelters.

Thanks to all who supported our WATTS week in the past. Please consider helping again this season. If you haven't participated before, this is a good time to start. You can view and sign up for a task to support our WATTS week by going to SignUp Genius. Type this in your web browser: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAEF2FAAFE3-christ7> or follow the link from the church website.

There, you can view the tasks and choose a task(s)/date(s)/time(s). You will not need to create a SignUp Genius account to sign up. However, if you sign up with an email that is associated with an existing SignUp Genius account, you will need to log in to your existing account. If you have an account but can't remember your password, click on "forgot your password" and you will get directions on resetting your password.

If you do not wish to use SignUp Genius online, please send an e-mail to [patkofalt@gmail.com](mailto:patkofalt@gmail.com) or call at 540-722-0429 (please leave a detailed message if you get voicemail).

WATTS guests are always in need of warm clothing and other items. Donations of medium, large, and XL socks, gloves, knit caps, thermal undergarments and hand & foot warmers can be dropped off at the Parish Hall. We will also buy coats and boots on an "as needed" basis so cash donations to support this are welcome and please advise if you wish to be a buyer (you will be reimbursed for the costs incurred). Lastly, Bunco has been a favorite evening activity at the WATTS shelters this season, and donations of bus tickets and fast food restaurant coupons for use as Bunco gifts would be greatly appreciated. Thanks to all for your continued support of WATTS at Christ Church.

Please contact Chris Ferguson ([cferguson@zwickerpc.com](mailto:cferguson@zwickerpc.com)/978-360-4501), Marty Tabaka ([martin\\_tabaka@hotmail.com](mailto:martin_tabaka@hotmail.com)/540-771-0187), or Pat Kofalt ([patkofalt@gmail.com](mailto:patkofalt@gmail.com)/540-722-0429 for additional details.

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## Tip of the Month: Downtown Clergy Fellowship

Christ Church clergy, over the years, have been a part of a group called the Downtown Clergy Fellowship. Other participants include clergy from other downtown churches, of course. While there is not a lot of information about this loosely structured group, it is known that they meet for lunch and that many discussions ensue—not theological debate, but discussion about issues that face all churches, and specifically, the churches in downtown Winchester. For example, transportation to and from churches to senior residences, parking concerns, WATTS coordination, CCAP, events in Old Town, etc. Webster and Martin can add insight about why it's important for them to participate, but, for our tip of the month, know that the local clergy do meet, discuss, share ideas and fellowship and lunch!

# Parish News

## Men's Fellowship Meets

The Men's Fellowship will meet at 8:00 am on Saturday, January 11, at the Firefly Café and Bakery on Valley Ave. All men of the parish are welcome to attend for conversation and fellowship.



THE EPISCOPAL DIOCESE OF VIRGINIA

During her Pastoral Address at our Diocesan Convention last month, Bishop Goff articulated her vision for our Diocese for the next few years. She added that, "If the vision belongs to the bishops alone, it will never be ours. So let's continue this address as a conversation. I invite the people of the Diocese to come together in a series of vision gathering during the season of Epiphany."

This is your invitation to take part in our Diocesan Visioning Tour with Bishop Goff and Bishop Brooke-Davidson. The questions we'll discuss will be publicized before the sessions so that participants will have a chance to give them some thought, and so that people who can't attend might have a chance to submit their thoughts.

Please visit [www.thediocese.net](http://www.thediocese.net) to sign up. The closest to Winchester is on Saturday, February 8, at 1:00 pm at Calvary, Front Royal.

## CCAP Donations for January

As the holidays wrap up, we are reminded that CCAP is ALWAYS assisting those who are homeless or receiving poverty-level income in our area. One way that CCAP helps is through our donations each month of food items or clothing. For the month of January, CCAP is asking us to donate **SPAGHETTI SAUCE**. **(No glass jars please.)** They also need **pop-top hearty soups** or **Chef Boyardee pastas in pop-top cans**. Please leave your donations on the shelves marked CCAP under the window in the foyer of the Parish Hall.

CCAP always has need for volunteers—just three or four hours every other week can make a big impact. Can't you help sort clothes, receive food items, stock food onto shelves, or check people out who are receiving food or clothing? CCAP is open to serve the community Monday through Thursday from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm and Friday from 8:30 am to only 11:30 am. Please contact Jim Taylor ([annjimtaylor@verizon.net](mailto:annjimtaylor@verizon.net) or 703-403-5264) if you will lend a hand.



CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 40+ worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material and other assistance. Visit [www.ccapwinc.org](http://www.ccapwinc.org) for more information about CCAP and their mission.



## THE ANGELUS

Christ Episcopal Church  
114 West Boscawen St.  
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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### From the Parish Nurse

Wow—here we are in the first month of a new decade! It's a great time to remind you of what parish nurses are and why we are here at Christ Church. In a nutshell, parish nurses help care for the mind, body, and spirit of the congregation. Areas of expertise include:

- **Integrators of faith & health**—Parish nurses can clarify health issues and reinforce strong ties between faith and health.
- **Health Educator**—Parish nurses provide educational programs such as health screenings (like blood pressure checks) and illness prevention (like flu vaccines), as well as information on a number of health and wellness issues.
- **Health Counselor**—Parish nurses help parishioners find their way through the health system and sometimes can advocate for us with medical professionals.
- **Referral Agent**—Parish nurses are able to find resources and support services to improve parishioners' quality of life.
- And, Parish Nurses collaborate with faith community leaders to form partnerships with other community health leaders.

We are available at 540-662-5843, Ext. 3, to answer any of your questions. See you in church!

Your parish nurses, *Helen and Rosalie*