

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

March 2021



Dear People of Christ Church,

As we move through this past year-long season of Lent, we find ourselves finally near the point of gathering together in worship once again. However (there always seems to be a "however"), it depends on such factors as new infection rates, and even more unpredictable, warm, dry weather, which is never a sure thing in March in Virginia. And that uncertainty has become a difficult, humbling, and helpful reality check for me as I see Christ Church re-starting over the next few months.

People ask me or try to tell me what we need to do to re-start. When we gather in services, outside and inside, I am looking at it as opening the doors to the church without knowing who is going to come through and join in our worship. It will not differ between someone coming in who just moved to the area, or someone who grew up here. We greet one another after being through an experience that has affected each of us differently, particularly since we have been isolated through one another. So rather than assume that we know one another's experiences over the past year, we greet one another humbly, graciously, with an open ear to hear what we experienced - joys, sorrows, losses, new things learned, etc. It is as if each of us has been on a long journey, and we now get the chance to share our stories without thinking we know all about each other.

So what does this look like? Perhaps it can be as simple as, "Hello, my name is Webster Gibson. I serve as rector at Christ Church, and over the past year, I have found myself immersed in a whole new world of learning about technology and ministry like never before. This goes beyond worship, and will continue to challenge and present other opportunities in my ministry and personal formation. I look forward to sharing what that means for me in the future."

In other words, rather than assume everyone and everything is going to be the same, i.e., unaffected by the pandemic, be willing to welcome and greet one another afresh, with willingness to listen and to share. People have found new hobbies and new interests, children who were infants are now walking and talking, people have encountered loss and change in profound ways. People are also new to the area, or grew up here, went away, and have come back. The doors of the church are a wonderful and gracious opening for all to come through as if for the first time.

Now, for what you really want to know - to re-start the congregation with in-person worship, there are two factors which have to be considered - the case count with an eye on a variant of COVID that may or may not impact us in March, and the weather which in March is so unpredictable that we may have rain, snow, 60 degree and 20 degree temperatures all in the same week.

Guidance from the diocese allows the clergy and Vestry the chance to consider outdoor worship if the average count per hundred thousand over several days stays below 25. We have several counties involved, but are fortunate to have health people in the parish as we make decisions. The guidance is also specific with using protocols like before with masking, keeping social distancing, and smaller services which require reservations via Signup Genius for those wishing to attend.

The other is weather and whether or not it is warm enough. We still have a pretty good pile of snow in the courtyard, but it is melting! When it is warm enough and no rain or snow, we will start with afternoon outdoor services. How many services depends on how many feel safe coming.

Continued...

From the Clergy

If case counts continue to drop significantly, once we are in the range of 10 or less cases per day per hundred thousand for several days, then we look at having indoor worship with the same restrictions we had last fall.

What does all of that mean? It means two things.

First of all, no matter what happens, we will always have a livestream service online at 10:00 am.

Second is the need to **PAY ATTENTION TO NOTIFICATIONS FROM THE PARISH**. My hunch is that initial service opportunities will be last minute, particularly as it involves weather in the month of March. We do not know number of services on a Sunday as that depends on how many people are wanting to come to worship. Palm Sunday, Holy Week services and Easter services are way up in the air. We will have services posted online through website, Facebook and weekly email updates. We will also have service time posted for any given Sunday on our answering machine the Thursday before. That is 540-662-5842, Extension 6.

When you get here, some things will be different. People will be different. You are having that opportunity to come through the doors of Christ Church for the first time. Greet one another as newcomers. Share the fellowship of Christ. Come in peace, be refreshed and prepared to serve the vulnerable, care for one another and be the church as a **GATHERED** body of Christ.

Please ask questions and pay attention to our re-starting process. It will take some time to figure some stuff out, but we will do it together.

Faithfully,



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

Submit Vestry Nominations

Would you like to lend your time and talent as Christ Church has the opportunity to re-start in 2021?

Our Christ Church Vestry is full of disciples working together to follow our Lord. 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. Webster’s 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.”

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone to serve on the Christ Church Vestry, please contact Vestry members Chris Francis, Martha Roberson and David Wingenbach.* Election of new vestry members will be during the Christ Church Annual Meeting on Sunday, April 11, 2021, which is planned to be outdoors, weather-permitting. 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.

* Reminder: Parish Directory is always online via the website. Use 19CCW for access.

From the Clergy

One of my favorite Lenten hymns begins like this: “Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent.” What I appreciate about it is that it reminds us that Lent is a season where we as a church are on a journey—we’re headed somewhere. In the church calendar, Lent points us toward Easter and helps us prepare to remember Jesus’s death and resurrection. But on a more individual level, Lent is a season where we try to move more deeply into our relationship with God.

This image of Lent as a pilgrimage helps me make sense of why Lent sometimes feels challenging, or why it can make me impatient to get to the end. Pilgrimages aren’t about getting to the destination as quickly and easily as possible. The point isn’t to skip ahead to the end, but to spend time on the journey, to use it as a time of spiritual preparation. That way, when you do arrive, you will have a deeper appreciation for the place, and for God’s presence in helping you along the way. One of the most popular pilgrimage routes today, the Camino de Santiago, in Spain, is still a route that people walk, rather than drive. It takes weeks to walk the almost 500 miles, but for pilgrims, the journey matters as much as the destination.

This way of thinking can be challenging for us—at least I know it can for me. When we’re struggling to keep on top of a Lenten discipline, or thinking that the readings and themes of Lent feel a little dreary, it’s tempting to want to skip ahead to Easter. But Lent isn’t a race, and there’s nothing to win by making it faster. Instead, Lent is a time to find out what we can learn about God, and about our relationship with God, when we take the time to go on the journey.

This Lent in particular, I know we are all impatient to see how quickly we can get through the rest of the pandemic, and start living lives that look more like the way we expect. But even as vaccinations and lower case numbers may soon make it possible for us to move away from restrictions and canceled events, it will continue to be a gradual process. Some realities of the past year will not go away quickly, while others may come to an end. But whatever the months ahead look like, my hope is that they too can be a pilgrimage for us, that helps us become closer to God and to one another.

In Lent, we learn that we, as the church, are on pilgrimage all the time—not just for forty days. We are always trying to move toward God, and toward one another. And God’s love continues to reach out to us, and draw us in.

Faithfully,



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

Please watch weekly email updates and the website for details on Palm Sunday worship, Holy Week, and Easter services.



Worship & Formation

Morning Prayer during Lent

During the season of Lent, we are offering Morning Prayer weekdays at 9:00 am via Zoom. It is a form of the service of Morning Prayer with Scripture reflections and will be led by clergy and laity. Join us as often as you like. Please email Noelle in the Church Office at communications@christchurchwinchester.org and we will send you the link.

Lectionary Bible Study

Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 am on Zoom for a weekly Bible study led by the clergy. We will look at the readings for Sunday and discuss. If you would like to participate, please email Noelle in the Church Office at communications@christchurchwinchester.org for the link.



Daytime Faith Study

Daytime Faith Study continues on March 8 and 22 via Zoom discussing Peter Gomes's book, "The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart." If you would like to join us on Zoom for the discussions, please email Noelle in the Church Office at communications@christchurchwinchester.org and we will send you the link. If you have any questions about the book or class format, please email Webster at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.

What Zoom participants are saying:

I think they have been a lifeline! If I didn't have these opportunities I would definitely feel very isolated. Technically, they have generally run very smoothly and are easy to access. Thank you! —Jody Wall

Bill and I have been joining the Zoom Evening Prayer service on Wednesdays. It's become quite an important part of our week. It keeps us in touch and is much more personal than watching the streamed services. We appreciate Martin saying Evening Prayer with us. —Sue Jarvis

These Zoom meetings (Faith Study, Lectionary Study, Evening Prayer) have been a god-send for me in this time of apart-ness.—Amelia Wheeler

Worship & Formation

Sunday School News

During Lent, we will continue to offer Children's Time online each week, alternating presentations by Webster and Martin with stories read by our Sunday School teachers and Children's Chapel leaders. Our focus will be taking on practices that will help us understand that God expects our best whatever that might look like. Join us for stories Jesus told which show us examples.

Expect to receive instructions for a fun family activity in the mail during the week of March 7th. We will be in touch about how we will be celebrating Palm Sunday, March 28, in a special way as well. If your child is not receiving notes and activities from us, please contact Margery Wingenbach (wingenbach@comcast.net).



Church Calendar

Sundays @ Christ Church

Watch Weekly Email Updates for news on in-person worship as Easter approaches. (Sign up on website for email updates.)

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream
See www.christchurchwinchester.org for link.

Evening Prayer Online
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm



Please watch for announcements via email, website, Facebook, or church bulletin on services, meetings, and events at Christ Church.

Some committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have anything scheduled!

Committee & Group Meetings

Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Online Bible Study	Wed: 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
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



**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.
The Church Office is open by appointment only.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

March Birthdays

- 1 Janie Mohn, Brandi Vicchio
- 2 Sandra Armstrong
- 3 Gwendolyn Conrad
- 6 George Glass, Kent Stevens
- 8 Dreusilla Koonce, Connie Pettinger
- 11 Susan Sheppard
- 12 David Lewis
- 13 Steve Cluss, Landon Haines
- 15 Mary Stevens
- 19 Eddie Richard
- 20 Isabella Vicchio, Frank Baxter
- 21 Richard Lewis, III
- 27 Lori Ellington, Jack Nelson
- 28 Ann Thomas
- 30 Margaret Trueblood
- 31 Deanna Stouffer

March Anniversaries

- 16 Jim & Rebekah Wiedower



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.

Subscribe to Communications from the Diocese

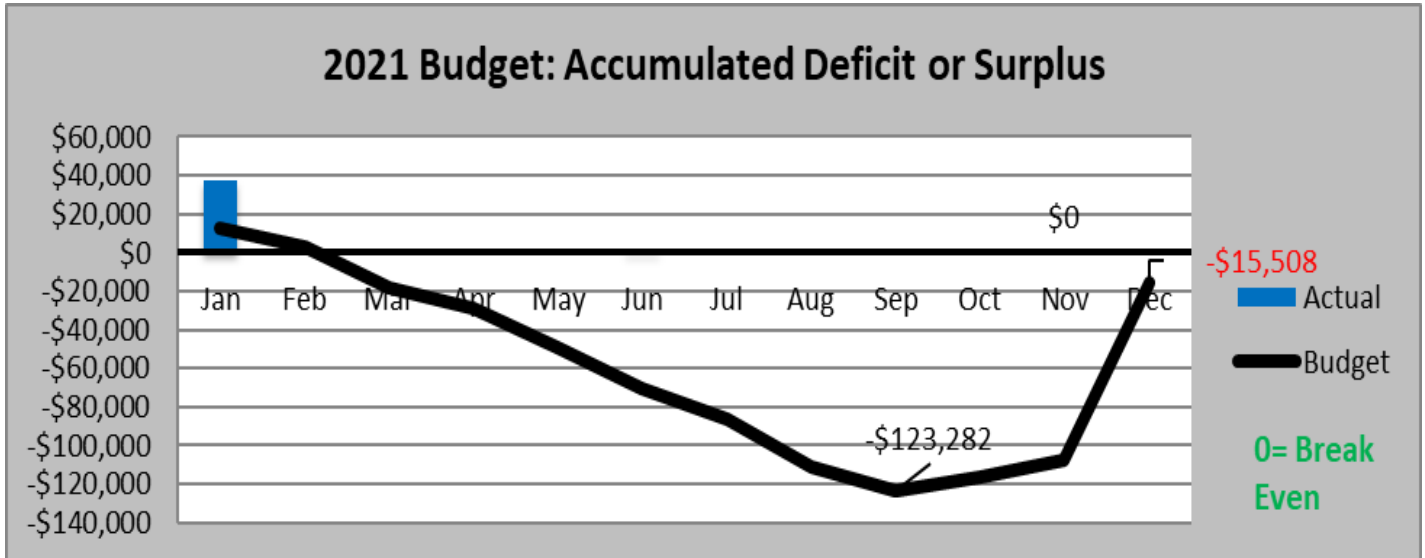
Last year, the Diocese made the difficult decision to discontinue the printing of the quarterly magazine, the *Virginia Episcopalian*. In a time of decreasing budgets, a costly magazine was simply not a luxury that our church or the Diocese could afford to continue.

The good news is that the monthly diocesan newsletter, the e-Communiqué, will now be incorporating some of the great storytelling and features you enjoyed in the *Virginia Episcopalian*, but without the lag time and hefty price tag of a traditional print publication. By subscribing to the diocesan news service, you will receive the monthly e-Communiqué plus announcements from your Bishops as they happen. Rest assured that the diocesan offices will never share your information with any other parties.

Please [subscribe!](#) Visit www.thediocese.net for more information.

From the Treasurer

Rolling into 2021



First the good news: The Actual blue column in the graph above shows that we have started 2021 ahead of budget. Actual revenues were much higher than the budget! This was due mostly to a carryover of some pre-paid pledges at the end of 2020. The graph also shows that in January, and barely in February, the accumulated revenues are expected to be greater than accumulated expenses.

Now the bad news: According to the budget, the accumulated expenses from March through the end of the year will exceed accumulated revenues. The graph also shows that in September, total accumulated expenses may exceed total revenues by over \$123,000! This means we have to have a lot of cash on hand to continue to pay our bills through the lean summer months when budgeted revenues are historically low. The budget shows that at year-end, we expect total expenses to exceed total revenues by about \$15,500.

Some MORE good news: We have applied and been approved for a second PPP loan to once again help to pay the staff during the year! At this time, we do not know when we may get the loan (when the actual cash will be available to help pay our expenses during the year) and if/when the loan will be forgiven (when we can recognize the forgiven loan amount as revenue). As the PPP loan status information becomes available, we will certainly share it here.

January Snapshot

The table below shows the summary Revenue and Expense totals for Actual and Budget for January. As mentioned above, some carry over pre-paid pledges has resulted in Actual Revenue being much higher than budget. The table also shows that Actual Expenses were just slightly higher than budget for January.

2021	Jan Actual	Jan Budget	Jan Diff
Revenues	\$77,885	\$52,500	\$25,385
Expenses	\$40,244	\$39,738	\$506
Net Position	\$37,641	\$12,762	\$24,879

From the Treasurer

New Information for Donating Securities

Many of you are aware that BB&T Corporation and SunTrust Banks, Inc. merged in 2019 to form Truist Financial Corporation. As part of their merger integration, effective February 19, 2021, BB&T Securities, LLC discontinued its brokerage activities, and Christ Church's existing BB&T Securities brokerage account was transferred to Truist Financial Corporation's affiliate, Truist Investment Services, Inc. and its clearing firm, National Financial Services, Inc.

For those parishioners that donate to Christ Church in the form of stocks, mutual funds, annuities, and certain other securities, the instructions for making these gifts through the church's brokerage firm, has changed. You will need to contact our bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz, for the **NEW SECURITIES DONATION INSTRUCTIONS**.

PLEASE DO NOT allow your broker to use any instructions you may have given them in the past. Please contact Theresa Seitz, Bookkeeper at 540-773-5566 or email tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org for the new instructions.



Donate by check

Mail to:
Christ Church
114 W. Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601

Outreach News

Working with the Salvation Army

“I can't stress enough what a difference Christ Church's generosity and consistency means to the shelter. It is a joy and a privilege to partner with you all in serving *'the least of these.'*”

This is a recent thank you from Winchester's Salvation Army leadership to the people of Christ Church for the Outreach Committee's new SHOP FOR WSA's kitchen ministry. The kitchen ministry is a partnership between the church and the Salvation Army to provide kitchen staples for the shelter's kitchen.

For many years, Christ Church volunteers shopped, prepared, and served dinners for the shelter, but this ministry ended several years ago due to issues working with leadership in place at the Salvation Army at the time. Because there is new leadership there and to help during the pandemic, the Outreach Committee looked in 2020 to restart efforts to lend support to our local Salvation Army. With Covid-19 restrictions on volunteering in mind, the Outreach Committee approved a starter program called SHOP FOR WSA.

Winchester Salvation Army's leadership determined, for now, kitchen staples that are used regularly are more useful than random food pantry donations. For example, an early “wish list” included gallon tea bags, eggs, milk, BBQ sauce, sandwich bread, cheese (sliced or shredded), peppers and onions; and more recently, brown sugar, mustard, mayo and bacon.

Their shopping list is forwarded to the Outreach Committee's shoppers, Dan and Pat Shaner, by the second Thursday of each month. The Shaners shop at Costco and deliver to the shelter on the following Tuesday the items that are available and in quantities that are within the \$200 monthly budget. In December 2020, the shelter kitchen served 1,296 meals and 1,624 snacks to its 39 residents, and 325 meals to walk-in guests. Hence, at meal time, an extra box of tea bags and jars of condiments on the shelf, eggs and milk in the refrigerator, among other kitchen staples, are welcome and much appreciated, particularly by Diane, the kitchen cook and manager.

Dan and Pat Shaner enjoy this ministry and the spiritual result of volunteering:

“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.”
(Matthew 25:35-40)

As we look forward to Covid restrictions easing and more volunteer positions opening up, the Outreach Committee hopes to increase both opportunities for parishioners who wish to help and their support of our local Salvation Army shelter. Please remember your pledge to Christ Church supports outreach ministries like this one. If you are interested in being a shopper, like the Shaners, please contact Dan at dshaner40@gmail.com. And, if you would like to learn more about the Salvation Army does in our community, please visit [their website](#) or their Facebook page ([@salarmywinchesterva](#)).



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD®

Outreach News

CCAP Collection for Easter

Each month, CCAP asks Christ Church parishioners to donate a specific item in need for their clients. With Easter on its way, CCAP has determined that providing Easter meals for their clients should be the focus this year instead of their usual Easter basket giveaway. For dessert, CCAP has requested that we at Christ Church donate **Jelly Beans, Cadbury Easter Mini Eggs, and Peeps, lots of them, by March 24.** Please, no chocolate! You can leave donations in the foyer of the Parish Hall on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to noon or call Jim Taylor at 703-403-5264 or email annjimtaylor@verizon.net to make other arrangements.

CCAP is looking for volunteers to help pack the food boxes for the Easter meal giveaway and for volunteers to distribute food boxes. Additionally, volunteers are needed for free clothing events on March 13 and April 10. Spanish-speaking volunteers are especially welcome! [Please visit the Signup Genius to see the tasks and times.](#) And, again, Jim Taylor is happy to answer any questions. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Ann Taylor and Ted Dix (Director of Music) help fill food bags for kids at Bright Futures in February.

From the Parish Nurses

More Ideas for Observing Lent

I hope all of you are participating in your own individualized “Walk to Jerusalem.” Since we are not able to do the Walk to Jerusalem program together, I want you to continue to walk and exercise!

Now, secondly, someone once said that if Christians really understood the full extent of the power we have available through prayer, we might be speechless. During World War II, there was one of Churchill’s advisers who organized a group of people who dropped whatever they were doing at a prescribed hour and prayed for the safety of England, its people, and peace. There is now a group here in the US doing the same thing. During Lent, I challenge you to drop what you are doing (no, not the baby) and pray for America. The time is 7:00 pm EST. Spend one minute praying for the safety of the United States and all of its people. Pass this on to someone you know who might like to join you. There is no sign-up! Just your choice!

See you next month!

Your Parish Nurses, Helen and Rosalie

Easter Flowers

If you would like to make a donation in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one to support the Flower Guild as they adorn our Easter altar, please complete and mail the form below (or submit electronically via the form on the website) with your check made payable to Christ Church with “Easter Flowers” in the memo line. There is not a requested minimum donation this year and there will not be plants to distribute to donors after Easter services. Remembrances will be listed in the Easter bulletin. All requests must be received by Monday, March 29.



Please PRINT Clearly:

In memory of: _____

OR, in thanksgiving for: _____

Given by: _____

Mail to Christ Church, 114 W. Boscawen St., Winchester, VA 22601.