

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

September 2019

From the Rector

Dear People of Christ Church,

I hope that you will join us as we begin our program year on Sunday, September 8, with the bishop's visitation to Christ Church. This year, we will have the opportunity to meet The Right Reverend James R. Mathes, who currently serves at Virginia Theological Seminary as Associate Dean of Students and Director of Contextual Ministry.

As a quick bio of his ordained ministry, Bishop Mathes was ordained in 1992 as a priest at All Saints' Episcopal Church, Belmont, Massachusetts. His passion for education and personal growth transferred to a passion for parish life when he became rector of The Episcopal Church of St. James the Less in Northfield, Illinois. In 2001, Bishop Mathes was named canon to the ordinary for the Diocese of Chicago, where he directed the Department of Deployment and Congregational Development. On November 13, 2004, Mathes was elected to serve as the fourth bishop of San Diego and was consecrated in March of 2005. He then served as diocesan bishop in San Diego until 2017. He was asked to serve at VTS in 2017.

As the Diocese of Virginia has been going through the process of restructuring staff, committees, and programs in preparation to begin the search for our next diocesan bishop, we have benefitted from the generous gift of bishops retired from other diocese who are willing to help our bishops with the visitation schedule. The Diocese of Virginia is among the largest in the national Episcopal Church with 181 congregations and more than 80,000 members, so our bishop coadjutor and assisting bishop need the help.

We are fortunate to have the opportunity to meet Bishop Mathes who will preside at both our Sunday morning services and lead Adult Forum at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room. At the 10:30 am service, we will have baptisms and confirmations, which are wonderful ways for us to welcome those coming into the Christian family of the Episcopal Church. The 10:30 am service will be followed by a reception to congratulate the newly baptized and confirmed, as well as to greet the bishop. If you would like to help the Vestry with the reception, please contact Teresa Jacobsen (tjacobsen13@gmail.com), or the parish life chair, Jody Wall (jody_wall@yahoo.com).

I look forward to seeing you there.

Faithfully,



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



Bishop's Visit to Christ Church
Sunday, September 8, 2019



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From the Assistant Rector

Dear Friends in Christ,

The beginning of the school year always feels like a new beginning for me. Even though I'm no longer in school myself, I can feel a change in the air as kids head back to school, Shenandoah students come back from summer, and everyone returns from summer vacations. It's a time of year that lends itself to taking on new challenges and learning something new.

That's true for our faith lives as well! As Christ Church begins its program year, it's a wonderful time to check out new formation opportunities, whether that's Sunday School for children and youth, the Sunday Adult Forum, or a book group or faith study. Our goal is to offer rich opportunities for people of all ages to learn more about our faith, to talk about how it relates to the issues we face every day. If you haven't yet, take this fall as a chance to deepen your own faith through learning!

One of my favorite collects in the Prayer Book is a prayer that God will help us "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" the Scriptures. To me, that prayer is a reminder that the learning we do as part of the Christian journey is not just learning about topics, but a way to deepen our relationship with God and with each other. This is work that takes time. It goes at a different pace than a college classroom or training for a new job. If we don't leave time for that work of "inwardly digesting," for reflecting on what we have learned, it will be hard for our learning to really become part of our faith.

So as all the new things of fall begin, take time as well for the practice of silence. Taking time to be quiet and listen for God's voice may not seem like it is part of learning, but it is one of the ways we grow in our knowledge of God. When we take time for silent prayer, we are "concerned with what is deeper than thinking," in the words of the spiritual writer Martin Laird. Time for silence allows our Christian formation to be something more than just another activity, another addition to a busy schedule.

My hope for this fall is that you find time for both learning something new and time to reflect on it, and that both learning and reflection will help you draw closer to God. In both practices, we are reminded that God is present to us, if we will turn our time and attention to listen.

Faithfully,



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

Daytime Faith Study

Daytime Faith Study explores different ways for us to understand our faith, from social issues to Biblical sources and teachings. This year, we continue our study to broaden our understanding of the New Testament, not just from a Christian perspective, but also from a Jewish perspective. Utilizing various resources and guest speakers, we continue to look at books of the New Testament as they were understood when first written, as well as over the centuries to today. Our study uses the book, *The New Testament: Methods and Meanings*, by Warren Carter and A.J. Levine. Each chapter covers a book or letter of the New Testament. This fall, we will focus on the final letter from James to Revelation.

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 (September 9 and 23), in the Commons (upstairs in the Parish Hall) at 10:00 am. If you have any questions, please email Webster at rector@christchurchwinchester.org.

Christian Formation

Adult Forum in September

The Sunday Morning Adult Forum begins at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room in the Parish Hall. The forum provides a variety of topics and themes so parishioners can learn more about our faith tradition, Scripture, current issues, or other topics which involve our Christian witness.

As we begin our new program year at Christ Church, we welcome Bishop Mathes on Sunday, September 8. As part of his visit, he will speak at the Adult Forum and address questions you may want to ask.

On Sunday, September 15, we will discuss our new Christ Church community book study (see below). We will talk about the program schedule, ways to purchase the book, and what we hope we will accomplish with the program.

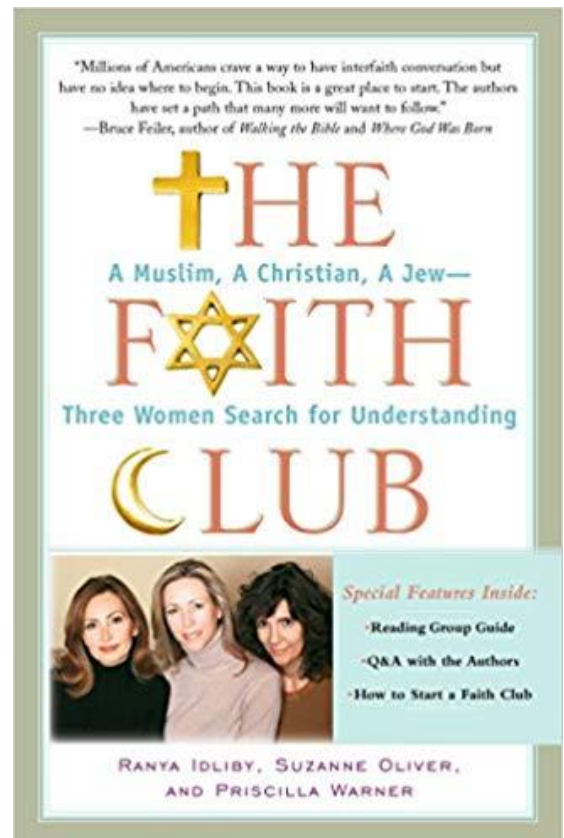
The last Sundays of September, we'll explore aspects of change around Winchester, and have conversations about how we encounter change in our personal, parish, and communal lives.

We are inviting guest speakers to teach us more about programs and ministries to serve our neighbors in Winchester. Please watch the Sunday announcements for details.

Christ Church Community Book Study

This fall, the Christian Formation Committee invites everyone to participate with a community book study at Christ Church. We will purchase the book and read independently. In November, will gather for a culminating event (hopefully a dinner with guest speakers).

The Faith Club: A Muslim, A Christian, A Jew- Three Women Search for Understanding by Ranya Idliby, Suzanne Oliver, and Priscilla Warner is the book that has been chosen. Since 9/11/2001, there has been much discussion, opining, and misunderstanding of the similarities and differences among the three faiths of our one God. In *The Faith Club*, three mothers set out to write an interfaith children's book highlighting the connections between Judaism, Christianity and Islam. The endeavor becomes a journey of reflection and faith for each of the women within their own faith and resulting in the ultimate discovery of what unites them in God.



Christian Formation

Sunday School News



It's back-to-school time at Christ Church! Sunday morning Christian formation classes (also known as Sunday School!) for children and youth begin September 8, 2019, at 9:30 am in the Commons (on the second floor of the Parish Hall).

Children's Chapel also resumes for ages 3-7 at 10:30 am in the chapel in the Commons. Children are brought into church at the end of the chapel service to join their parents at the Peace.

And a continued reminder that the Fairfax Room, downstairs in the church, is available for parents with a baby-changing area, some room to play, and restrooms. The service is streaming on a screen in the Fairfax Room so you can follow along.

Our Sunday School curriculum for preschoolers through age 5 is *Activate Faith*. It's a lively balance of stories, music, and activities specifically age-appropriate for this age group - movement, giggles, and fun at the beginning of their faith formation. Our Kindergarten through 5th grade classes are continuing in the *Whirl!* (Welcome, Hear, Respond, and Launch) lectionary-based curriculum. Its grade-leveled materials incorporate a brief animated video where characters model what it's like for kids to go through the questions and challenges of living out their faith, with discussion and activities to explore the theme of the week's lectionary readings. It's a lively pace that provides solid formation and fun.

Sunday School for middle schoolers focuses on giving youth a chance to think about their faith and develop their understanding of it. Using Sparkhouse's Think, Believe, Do curriculum, youth dive deep about big issues of faith, like prayer, mission, sin, and salvation. And, high schoolers will learn more about both the Bible and the Prayer Book as they discuss the big questions of faith, and develop their own faith vocabulary.

Registration for Sunday School is ongoing. Be sure you have completed a form either in the Commons or from the church website so we will have up-to-date contact, allergy, etc., information for your child/children. We need a form for each individual child.

An Invitation: Adults are invited to help the teachers in our classrooms through 5th grade on Sunday mornings. All that is required is your presence and helping hands. Our goal is to have at least two adults in each classroom each Sunday morning. There are lots of Sundays in a year. We have excellent teachers but they can't single-handedly wait for someone outside the restroom, tell a story, and prepare a creative activity. We are all needed to provide a great program for our kids!

Contact Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386 or margerywingenbach@gmail.com) to offer your help or with any Sunday School questions.

Youth Group Happenings

September 15: Cookout at the Gibsons' house, 6:00 pm

September 29: Youth Group in the Tilford Room, 6:00 pm

Contact Martin at mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org for more information about Youth Group!

Pastoral Care

Knit Unto Others Celebrates Ten Years!



TEN years ago Sara Bicking, Nancy Brown, and Kay Keely decided that Christ Church needed a prayer shawl ministry. The Rev. Ann Ritonja, assistant rector at the time, heard the idea and helped make it happen. Ann even learned to knit and made a prayer shawl for her father! The first meeting of Knit Unto Others was October 1, 2009. In the past ten years, the group has given away 367 prayer shawls/blankets to parishioners, friends, and relatives, touching so many lives.

“There is nothing more wonderful than seeing people physically wrap themselves in the prayers of a prayer shawl,” says Webster. “I have seen such confidence in prayer as recipients keep themselves warm at home or in the hospital, knowing that they are held in Christ’s arms by the creative care of the parish family.”

In 2011, Knit Unto Others began making small “prayer squares” in addition to the bigger shawls. In eight years, they have made 900 squares that have been shared with WATTS guests, individuals going into surgery, people having a rough time—anyone with a need for prayer.

The stitchers pray as they work on these items and, when finished, everything is blessed by a priest at a service of Holy Eucharist. Blessed shawls are packaged carefully and delivered with a note from the group.

There is not a pattern for the prayer shawls. Each is left up to the skill and creativity of the knitter. Much of the knitting is done at home, since

the group only meets once a month. Many knitters keep prayers in their knitting bags and look forward to the time when they can sit and pray and knit. It’s both time for their own thoughts and thinking of the eventual recipient of the prayer shawl.

When the group does meet, it is fun to see what others are stitching, share in prayers for those who need a shawl/blanket, and sometimes to get help when you have made a mistake in your knitting!

The group has gotten smaller over the years and would love to have others join them on the third Tuesday each month at 2:00 pm in the Parlors. Friends and neighbors who are not members of the church are welcome, of course. Anyone drawn to this ministry by their love of knitting or crocheting and desire to serve others is welcome!

Each stitcher provides her own yarn, so contributions of yarn are always appreciated. Yarn must be machine washable and dryable per the rules of the national organization that supports prayer shawl ministries across the country.

To request a shawl/blanket/square for yourself or someone else, you may ask the clergy, the parish nurses, or contact Kay Keely (540-722-8977) or Sara Bicking (540-431-5344).



Calendar and Upcoming Events

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

September

- 2 Labor Day—Church Office Closed
- 8 Bishop's Visitation to Christ Church
Christian Formation begins—
Adult Forum, Sunday School, &
Children's Chapel
- 9 All Abilities Worship
- 14 Men's Fellowship (see p. 11)
- 15 Youth Group Cookout
- 29 First Youth Group Meeting

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:50 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	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.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

September Birthdays

- 1 Ty Lawson
- 2 Robb Russell
- 3 Gary Edwards
- 6 Joyce Casey
- 7 Joan Bronson , Mary Pat Gronauer
- 8 Sharon Lower
- 9 Vicky Arculin
- 10 Judith Anderson, Frank Rupert
- 13 Pete Gronauer
- 14 Carolyn Lewis, Barbara Rupert, Lindsay Pifer
Debra Shows, Dawson Wiley
- 15 Ashley Major Haines
- 18 Polly Nelson
- 19 Cheryl Crowell, Sandy White
- 21 Patricia Stierhoff
- 22 Bill Major, Charles Turnbull
- 23 Bill Davis
- 25 Mary Puttock
- 27 Gus Wise, Maggie Wise
- 28 Katlyn Wall, Katie Smith
- 29 Ann Poling, Pem Hutchinson,
Adelaide Turnbull, Rick Byler
- 30 Sue Bonnett



September Anniversaries

- 3 George & Patricia Stierhoff
- 3 Kirk & Linda Gibson
- 4 Stephen & Nancy Brown
- 9 David & Carolyn Lewis
- 20 John & Joan Claybrook
- 21 Steve & Terry Cluss

celebrate!



Tip of the Month: What are the Parlors?

Sometimes, you will see an event on the church calendar scheduled to meet in the Parlors. Where on earth, you're wondering? The building just to the west of the Parish Hall (and, in fact, connected to the Parish Hall) at 134 W. Boscawen Street is the Old Rectory. It housed ministers of Frederick Parish from 1839 until after WWII. It has the nice new porch. There are two rooms at the front of this building that we call "The Parlors." They are slightly formal and the East Parlor holds some of the books of the Frances Jones Library. They are great for smaller gatherings like Women's Book Study and Knit Unto Others. There is a kitchen available right next to the Parlors. The rooms can be accessed by the front door on the Old Rectory or through the foyer of the Parish Hall. (Go up the stairs on the left to the landing and enter the Old Rectory through the door on the left.)



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

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.

Finance Committee

Operating Budget Performance

Operating Budget Performance: Actual is still BETTER than Plan!

The summary of Actual vs. Budget through the first seven months of 2019 is shown below:

Through 7/31/19	Actual	Budget	Difference
Total Revenues	\$394,138.72	\$349,403.00	\$44,735.72
Total Expenses	\$343,271.20	\$357,501.69	(\$14,230.49)
Net Position	\$50,867.52	(\$8,098.69)	\$58,966.21

Revenues: In the first half of the year, Total Actual Revenues were above budget by about \$33,400. The table above shows we are now about \$44,700 above budget. The \$11,000 increase is due mostly to pledge revenues getting caught up to the budget.

Remember that about \$24,000 of 2019 Pledge Revenue was received at the very end of 2018 and carried over into 2019, and that some Unpledged Revenue has been received in lump sums earlier in 2019 than was budgeted (a timing difference).

Expenses: Total Actual Expenses through the first half were about \$9,900 below budget and through seven months are now about \$14,200 below budget. The month-to-month change is mostly due to actual timing of expenses that differ from what was planned for July.

Remember that most of the Actual Expenses under budget are in the Personnel expense line item. As reported last month, our Interim Assistant Rector left about a half month earlier than we had budgeted and our Music Director retired, which was not planned for in the 2019 budget.

Finance Committee

Annual Budgeting

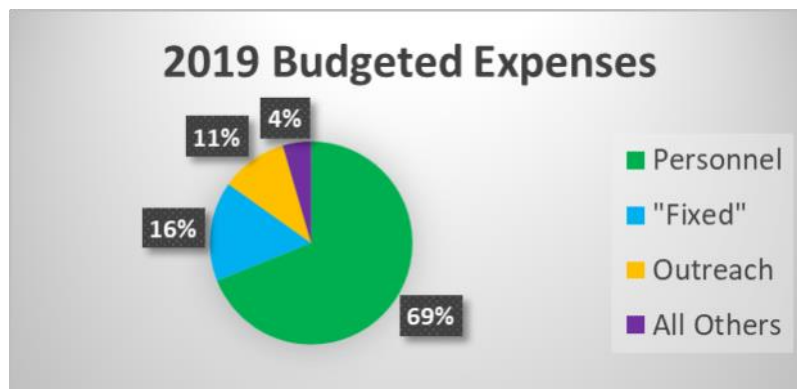
Annual Budgeting: Information about expenses & trends

Lots of numbers and percentages to follow! The main point is about a 2% increase per year in the large expense categories results in an 11% total increase over six years!

Revenues: Pledged Revenue trends have been presented in previous Angelus issues. In summary, Discounted Pledge Revenue totals over the past six years have remained relatively flat with a modest total increase of about 3.6% (about 0.6% per year on average). In that same six-year time period, Discounted Pledge Revenue as a percentage of Total Expenses has dropped from 84.0% in 2014 to 78.3% for 2019.

Expenses: In that same six-year time period, Total Budgeted Expenses has increased 11.1% (from \$565,500 in 2014 to \$628,000 for 2019).

In the 2019 Budget, about 95.5% of the Expenses cover three categories – (1) Personnel at 68.9%, (2) “Fixed” at 15.9% (“Fixed” consisting of - Utilities, Property & Maintenance, and Office [Computers, Copier, Postage, Telephone, etc.]), and 3) Outreach & Diocesan Pledge at 10.6%. The remaining 4.5% of our budget contain all other programs (Music, Worship, Stewardship, Pastoral Care, Parish Life, and Communications).



- Personnel is the largest expense category and has increased about 10.5% since 2014. Due to wage increases recommended by the Diocese, along with increases in health insurance costs, this category has increased about 1.7% each year on average. Being about 70% of Total Expenses, these year-to-year Personnel Expense increases results in a six-year increase of about 7% ($10.9\% \times 68.9\% = 7.23\%$) to the total budget.
- The “Fixed” costs, the second largest expense category, has increased about 12.8% since 2014. This second category has increased about 2.1% each year on average. At 15.9% of total expenses, this results in a six-year increase of about 2% ($12.8\% \times 15.9\% = 2.03\%$) to the total budget.
- The Outreach costs, the third largest expense category, has increased about 18.8% since 2014. This third category has increased about 3.1% each year on average. At 10.6% of total expenses, this results in a six-year increase of about 2% ($18.8\% \times 10.6\% = 1.99\%$) to the total budget.

In summary, the three major expense categories have each increased about 2% to 3% **per year** since 2014. During that same time period, the Pledge Revenue category (the largest part of Total Revenue) has increased only about 0.6% per year.

Next Month: Still more on Annual Budgeting...

Stewardship Committee

2020 Stewardship FAQs

With the start of the program year, the Vestry and Finance Committee are starting to think about our budget for 2020. To begin the process each fall, we have a stewardship campaign and ask you to make a pledge to Christ Church for the next year. These pledges provides the groundwork for funding all our programs and ministries in the coming year. As much as we are thankful for any gifts given to the church, we cannot use unpledged giving in our planning and budget. That is why pledges are so important.

Some of us have pledged for years, some just recently, some never have. To understand pledging better as we look forward to our stewardship campaign, we think the following questions and answers might be helpful:

Why pledge at all?

Pledging money to Christ Church, along with giving time and our talents, is one way we can thank God for the many gifts bestowed upon us and a way to share God's love with others through the ministries of Christ Church.

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 at anytime during the year, 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 do I make a pledge?

Pledge cards will be mailed out to members and regular attendees. Cards will also be available online, at the Church Office, and in the church. They can be completed online, mailed to the Church, or dropped in the collection plate.

How much should I pledge?

That decision is always yours, hopefully after prayerful consideration. Christ Church provides a chart with our pledge information to help show you how you can calculate your pledges amount as a proportion or percentage of your annual income. An easy way to start on your way to tithing* is to pledge one hour's income per week, or one day's income per month. But there are no rules.

How often should I update my pledge?

While it is easy to just complete a pledge card with the same amount as last year, things change. The annual stewardship campaign allows for an annual review of your finances and provides an opportunity to grow your pledge toward a tithing amount. Every added dollar helps funding the programs and mission of Christ Church.

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.

*Traditionally, tithing is giving 10% of your income to the church.



Parish News

Men's Fellowship Meets

The Men's Fellowship will meet for breakfast on Saturday, September 14, at 7:30 am in the Tilford Room. We'll hear from Brandon Thomas concerning his planned cross-country motorcycle ride on behalf of the Winchester Rescue Mission. Brandon's ride is to bring awareness to homelessness here and across the country. All men of the parish are welcome!

Women's Lunch Group



The Women's Lunch Group meets on the first Thursday of each month (September 5) at 11:30 am at the Firefly Café and Bakery (3035 Valley Ave.). The food is excellent, the conversations are lively, and there is much laughter – everyone is welcome! No RSVP is necessary. Please come when you can!

CCAP Donations for September

This month, CCAP requests that Christ Church collects men's **cotton knit Boxer Briefs** (not simply boxers) underwear in sizes from Medium to XXL. The men at CCAP are also in need of **cotton t-shirts**, sizes Medium to XXL. Please place any donations on the shelves marked "CCAP" in the foyer of the Parish Hall under the window.



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. Thank you for your generous contributions every month.

There are many volunteer opportunities to help at CCAP—from working in the baby/toddler room to sorting clothes. It's a wonderful place to serve our community and meet people from neighboring congregations. If you have any questions about CCAP or would like to volunteer for them, please contact Jim Taylor (annjimtaylor@verizon.net or 703-403-5264).



Friday, Oct. 25, 4—9 pm

Saturday, Oct. 26, 8 am— 1 pm

Many Hands Make for Light Work!

The Rummage Sale will be open for business on October 25 and 26 and we need volunteers for set-up and take-down of the Tilford Room the entire week, October 20-27. Continued help is needed at pricing sessions. During the sale, we need volunteers for many jobs, from greeters to cashiers to kitchen support. To volunteer your help, please call Chris Ferguson at 978-360-4501.

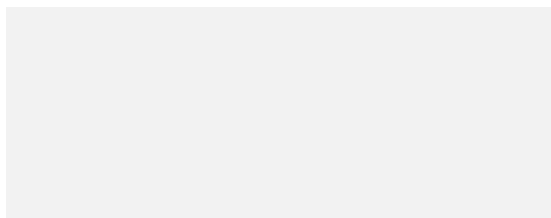
To better organize the donation process, we are accepting donations for the rummage sale on Tuesdays and Thursdays in September from 9:00 am-12:00 pm, or on Sunday mornings in the Tilford Room. DO NOT leave donations at other times or in other places. Please box or bag your donations securely. Mark items "FRAGILE" to prevent breakage. Please donate **ONLY** what we will be able to sell, and ensure everything is **CLEAN** and in proper working order. Volunteers have much to do and cannot clean or fix items to sell.



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Parish Nurse Musings

September can still be a warm, sunny month in Virginia. Here are some tips to stay safe whenever it's warm!

WATER: Keep water on hand at all times to avoid dehydration.

WEAR SUNSCREEN: Make sure your cream or spray is not expired. It's good to wear year-round.

PROTECT YOUR EYES: We have only one set of eyes. Wear sunglasses and/or a large brimmed hat to keep the strong rays out of your eyes. Wear sunglasses while driving to avoid glare.

AVOID PEAK HEAT HOURS: When it's hot outside, exercise, garden and play before or after the peak heat hours of the day (10:00 am- 2:00 pm).

USE FANS: Use your ceiling fans or a pedestal fan to give your AC a break while days and nights are still warm.

Enjoy those nature walks and the gardening this September, but remember the sun is still very powerful in the fall!

See you in church!

Your parish nurses, *Helen and Rosalie*

