

THE ANGELUS

Volume 69 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2018

From the Rector

Dear People of Christ Church,

This past month, I heard a wonderful question which reassured me how much the church, both clergy and parishioners, have to do to proclaim the Gospel. There is “kind of a joke,” which pops up on a regular basis, that the clergy only work one day a week. The joke is that such is not the case! The “kind of” is that some people really do believe clergy only work on Sunday, since that is the only time of the week people see the clergy.

Well, guess what. I am in the same boat as you are! During the last week of October and first week of November, we had the rummage sale setup, weekend of sales and cleanup, followed up by hygiene kits being packed by you (over 1,000 kits), followed by our facility serving as a polling place for the election, all with the icing on top of having the plaster repairs and paint restoration going on in the church! During these events, people both in the parish and from around the area came in and were confused about the activity during the week. When they asked and learned what was going on, they said that they were shocked to see the church busy because it was not Sunday.

When I heard that, I could only grin and think to tell my congregation, “Welcome to it! People think that you are only a Christian in your life on Sundays. The rest of the week, the Church is empty.”

It is a good reminder for all of us that discipleship of Jesus Christ is a life-long journey, 24/7, and not just one day a week. Your ways of serving at the church, or in the different organizations around us, are the best Gospel witness you can offer. Please do not assume that the world knows you serve and follow Jesus more than one day of the week.

When we move into the month of December, here we go again with more ways to help witness the Gospel. Youth packing lunches, people giving through the Angel Tree, WATTS host week, and Christmas Eve services are events happening outside of the Sunday morning notion of church. Believe it or not, people are watching you, and they are learning from you as we join together in worship, fellowship, and service all to the glory of God during the week.

Now, for the next challenge. December is a popular month for people to take the time to increase their notion of generosity to those in need or with trying to be kinder to other people. That part of the Christmas message is popular for the dominant culture in December. Now you get to help people see that the concern of people in need and the

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Sundays of Advent

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

Monday, December 24

4:30 pm Family Eucharist with
Christmas Pageant
10:30 pm Congregation
& Choir Carols
11:00 pm Festival Choral
Celebration of the Holy Eucharist

Tuesday, December 25 Christmas Day

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 30

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Lessons & Carols



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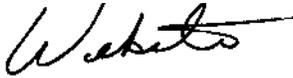
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From the Rector

call to respect the dignity and of every human being happen the other 11 months of the year by how you follow our Lord all the days of our lives.

Welcome to the challenge to explain in word and deed that serving God in Christ is not just a Sunday thing. Thank you for sharing the Gospel the other six days of the week. Have a blessed and merry Christmas and New Year!

Faithfully,



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

Welcoming The Rev. Jane Piver

On January 6, we will welcome the Rev. Jane Piver who will serve as Interim Assistant Rector at Christ Church for six months.

The Rev. Jane Piver grew up in Rochester, New York. She was the youngest child in her family and the only girl. After graduating from the University of Rochester with a Nursing degree, she embarked on her 21 years in the United States Navy. During those 21 years, she served primarily on the East Coast, was deployed to the Persian Gulf during Desert Shield/Storm, and ended her Naval career with a tour in Iceland.

Jane received her call to the priesthood in 1995 while living in New Bern, North Carolina. She attended Virginia Theological Seminary. After graduation, she attempted a church plant in Lorton, Virginia, served five years as the Assistant to the Rector at Pohick Church, then as Vicar at Grace Episcopal Church in Stanardsville for ten years. She is now starting a new phase in her ministry as she completes the training to be an interim minister.

Jane has two grown daughters. Michele and her family live in Charlottesville, and Dawn and her family are in Asheville, North Carolina. Her family is rounded out with a Bison Frees named Scruffy.

'Tis the Season for Scams

Some parishioners recently received an email from "Webster Gibson Gibson" asking them to purchase money orders and send them along. This email fraud is called phishing.

"Phishing is a cybercrime in which a target or targets are contacted by email, telephone or text message by someone posing as a legitimate institution to lure individuals into providing sensitive data such as personally identifiable information, banking and credit card details, and passwords. The information is then used to access important accounts and can result in identity theft and financial loss." (<http://www.phishing.org/>)

If you get an email from Christ Church that seems suspicious, please check the email address to verify that it's coming from Webster or one of the staff. The church does not ever solicit for money or ask for personal/financial information via email. Do not click on any link in any email that seems suspicious. If you get an email that doesn't seem legitimate, please contact the Church Office to confirm. There's not much we in the Church Office can do about phishing if it occurs, but it's good for us to know it's happening and advise the parish.

Christian Formation

Advent in Sunday School



For those in 5th Grade and below, we set the tone on December 2, the **First Sunday of Advent**, so that everyone is aware that our waiting for Christmas is a special time in the church year. We will begin with a brief gathering in the Commons at 9:20 am to light the first candle on an Advent wreath. Each week, we will continue with the lighting of an additional candle to remind us that we are drawing closer to the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World. The Sunday School classrooms will have wreaths of their own and a classroom Advent calendar to measure the days. We also hold up traditional stories of famous figures associated with giving.

The **Second Sunday of Advent**, St. Nicholas visits our classes with his gold-covered chocolate coins and, in the telling of his story, reminds us of anonymous giving, which recognizes the dignity of the receiving person and balances the role of the giver and the recipient of the gift.

On the **Third Sunday of Advent**, St. Lucia (St. Lucy) is another visiting figure to show us how, in the season of giving, we give in many ways to those around us. (If you are unfamiliar with the traditional stories of these two, come join us in Sunday School any or all of these mornings!)

On the **Fourth Sunday of Advent**, each class will take a few moments to visit in the Commons to prepare a Nativity scene, reminding us of the gift of Christ into our lives. Of course, we remember each child with a small gift that recalls the Christmas story. Come join us!

*Sunday School classes will **not** meet on Sunday, December 30. Our regular schedule resumes on January 6, 2019.*

The Christmas Pageant

Look for the signup for the 4:30 Christmas Eve Family Service Pageant in the Sunday School Commons or call/text Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386). As always, there is a place for everyone who wants to participate—grandchildren, cousins, friends, neighbors... Our format is simple so that all children can be part of telling the story of Jesus' birth. Costumes are provided. Rehearsal time and date will be announced soon via the weekly email and in the bulletin.

Hopefully, the camel will make another appearance this Christmas Eve!



Outreach

Angel Tree 2018

The Outreach Committee thanks the entire congregation for joining in the ministry of the Angel Tree again this Christmas! Participating in the Angel Tree ministry with the local Salvation Army is a traditional opportunity and blessing for parishioners to help families in need by providing gifts at Christmas. The Salvation Army, through an interview process, registers children who reside in Winchester, Frederick, or Clarke counties to receive holiday assistance. There will be more than 900 children in our community who qualify this year. Many of these children have a parent or parents who work, but can barely feed and clothe them, and cannot provide anything extra at the holidays. We do not try to handle all 900 children, only about 15%!



All of you who selected Angels on November 25 or December 2 have been busy shopping for the kids! **Sunday, December 9, is the day we collect all of your gifts for the Salvation Army Angel Tree!** Please do not wrap the gifts. You may include rolls of wrapping paper to help the Salvation Army.

Make sure that your clear plastic bag, with toys/clothes inside, is tied closed at the top and that you have stapled the middle section of your Angel handout on the inside of the bag, with the number (example: WR00052A) visible outside of the bag. Please fill in the dollar figure of your gift on the attached green card. Be sure your package with the child's code number has been checked in by a volunteer in the Tilford Room before you leave the bag.

We can also accept donations by check in the collection plate on any Sunday. It is important that you place the note "Angel Tree" in the memo line. Donations will be used to purchase additional gifts.

We hope you enjoyed this opportunity to make Christmas better for a child in our community. Merry Christmas from the Outreach Committee!



Christ Church Host Week 2018

Christ Church will host WATTS from December 8 to 15, 2018. During this host week, we will welcome 35 homeless adults from our community into the Christ Church parish hall for shelter and meals. This will be our tenth year of hosting WATTS and we have enjoyed wonderful support from the parish for this very worthy program.

There is still time to volunteer your help. Help is needed for managing the floor, serving breakfast, coffee hour breakdown and reset, early Sunday in-take, overnight hosts, help with dinners, and more. You can find open tasks and sign up at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0C4AAEAF2FAAFE3-christ6> or contact Pat Kofalt at patkofalt@gmail.com or 540-722-0429. (Please leave a detailed message if you get voicemail).

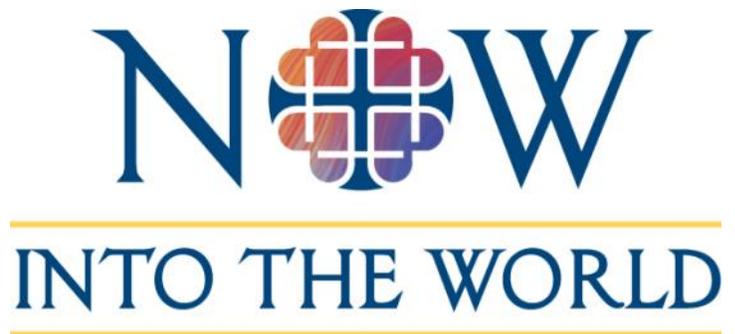
Donations of cold weather supplies are also needed for hand out to our WATTS guests. We are collecting knit caps/thermal socks /gloves/mittens/undergarments, hand & foot warmers, sweat shirts & pants, toothpaste/toothbrushes, soap, disposable razors, shaving cream, deodorant and nail clippers. And, cash donations will be gladly accepted for use in buying these items and for the purchase of discretely sized items, e.g. boots, jackets, etc. Please be assured that the distribution of these items will on an "as needed" basis as determined by the two Christ Church leads. Unused items will be donated to the Congregation Community Action Project (CCAP).

Stewardship

2019 Pledging Update

As of late November, we've received about 80% of our estimated pledges! Thank you for this strong show of support for our church and programs! We are wrapping up the Stewardship drive so that our Vestry can finalize the 2019 budget. If you haven't made your commitment for 2019 yet, please get your pledge in right away!

You can email your 2019 pledge to our bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz at tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org, print a pledge card by going to the church website www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship and click on Pledge Card for 2019, fill it out and drop it by the Church Office or mail it to Christ Church at 114 W. Boscawen St. Winchester, VA 22601.



Offering Envelopes for 2019

If you submitted a pledge card for 2019 and/or emailed indicating you would like to receive offering envelopes, they will be available for pickup in the back of the church beginning Sunday, December 2. They will have your name on them.

If you do not pick up your envelopes in the back of the church on or before Sunday, December 16, they will be moved to the Church Office for pick up during regular office hours Monday-Thursday 10:00 am—4:00 pm and Friday 10:00 am—1:00 pm.

If you did not indicate that you would like offering envelopes on your pledge card, but would like a set, please contact our bookkeeper at tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org, or call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

2018 Year-End Contribution Statements

You can expect to receive your 2018 Year-End Contribution Statement the week of January 14, 2019. 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 or call the Church Office (540-662-5843).

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



December

- 2 First Sunday in Advent
- 6 Treasure Box Annual Meeting
- 8-15 WATTS Host Week in Parish Hall
- 9 Collection of Angel Tree gifts
- 10 All Abilities Worship at 6:30 pm
- 24 Christmas Eve Services at 4:30 pm and 11:00 pm
- 25 Christmas Day Service at 10:00 am
- 31 First Night Winchester

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 & 3rd Thurs: 11:30 am
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 - Noon Thurs: 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm
Youth Group	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.
Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843**

December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Margaret Applin,
Jamie Eppes
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong
- 6 Pam Friestad, Peggy Dowd
- 7 Harry Poling
- 10 Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
- 12 Linda Gibson
- 13 Dana McKinley Shook
- 14 Penny Byler
- 15 Marie Gibson
- 17 Terri Cluss
- 19 Eleanor Thomson
- 21 Bill Pifer, Amanda Pennypacker
- 25 Elizabeth Trefzger-Mueller, Evan Francis
- 26 Christopher Turnbull
- 27 Charles Casey
- 28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
- 29 Carole Ann King
- 30 Sarah Roberson, Sam Worsley
- 31 Rob Boyd



December Anniversaries

- 4 James & Marsha Baden
- 5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
- 8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
- 18 Bill & Gail Walsh
- 21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy

celebrate!

Reminder of Christ Church Office Hours @ 114 W. Boscawen Street

Monday—Thursday the office is open
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

On Fridays, the office is open
from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.

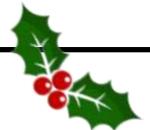
*We will be in for limited hours over the holidays.
Please call ahead to see if we are here!*

Theresa Seitz, Bookkeeper, is in the office
Monday—Friday.

Noelle Creamer, Communications Coordinator,
is in the office on Tues., Wed., & Thurs.

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.



Current sale is 50% off all clothes &
20% off everything else!

Lots of Christmas items!

We will be closed for Christmas
Friday, Dec. 21, through January 1.

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

Finance News

Operating Budget Performance

Our “bottom line” net total (Revenues minus Expenses) grew once again in October and now stands at about \$63,000. Actual expenses are less than budget primarily due to not having an assistant rector for the second half of 2018. There are a few other expenses categories also less than budget (Properties, Office, and Outreach) that, due to timing of actual expenses, may still equal budget by the end of the year. Actual revenues are greater than budget due to timing of payments in the pledged category, and are ahead of budget in the Unpledged Category.

The table below shows Actual versus Budget in more detail by category:

	Year-to-Date through October 31, 2018		
	Actual	Budget	Actual-Budget
Revenues			
Pledged	\$ 399,697.90	\$ 374,418.00	\$ 25,279.90
Unpledged	\$ 51,455.00	\$ 32,900.00	\$ 18,555.00
All Other Revenues	\$ 25,722.93	\$ 27,860.00	\$ (2,137.07)
Total Revenues	\$ 476,875.83	\$ 435,178.00	\$ 41,697.83
Expenses			
Total Personnel	\$ 281,896.00	\$ 310,122.10	\$ (28,226.10)
Total Utilities	\$ 22,231.21	\$ 22,980.00	\$ (748.79)
Total Property/Maintenance	\$ 33,702.76	\$ 36,095.00	\$ (2,392.24)
Total Office Expenses	\$ 17,443.94	\$ 20,078.00	\$ (2,634.06)
Total Christian Education Expenses	\$ 7,782.61	\$ 8,782.00	\$ (999.39)
Total Music Expenses	\$ 7,203.18	\$ 6,105.00	\$ 1,098.18
Total Worship	\$ 1,026.87	\$ 1,705.00	\$ (678.13)
Total Stewardship	\$ 799.69	\$ 850.00	\$ (50.31)
Total Outreach	\$ 36,845.00	\$ 39,250.00	\$ (2,405.00)
Total Pastoral Care	\$ 527.08	\$ 680.00	\$ (152.92)
Total Parish Life	\$ 1,877.90	\$ 1,770.00	\$ 107.90
Total Communications	\$ 2,276.25	\$ 2,716.00	\$ (439.75)
Total Expenses	\$ 413,612.49	\$ 451,133.10	\$ (37,520.61)
Net Total	\$ 63,263.34	\$ (15,955.10)	\$ 79,218.44

Finance News

Ways to Make Payments to Christ Church

In the November Angelus, we began presenting alternative ways to make donations to Christ Church. Using e-check was the option described last month. Here we'll cover how to give a gift of securities and also why we currently do not accept credit card payments. If you would like more information about how to give a securities gift or make payments to Christ Church, please contact Theresa Seitz in the Church Office (540-662-5843).

Paying with Securities (Stocks, Bonds, or any other Securities)

Stocks, bonds or any other securities can be donated to Christ Church as gifts. Giving the gift of stock can benefit the giver particularly if the stock has appreciated in value. The donor can get credit for the current market value at the time of the donation and avoid paying the capital gains tax of the appreciated value by giving it as a gift.



No to Credit Card Payments

With the incentives (give backs, points earned, bonus miles, etc.) that are currently offered by many credit card companies, we have had inquiries about making donations to Christ Church with a credit card. This topic has been discussed at Finance Committee meetings, as well as at Vestry meetings.

There are a few reasons Christ Church currently does not accept donations via credit card, but the main one is that not all the intended money gets to Christ Church in this process. The credit card company gets a portion of the charged donation; that is how they stay in business and are able to pay for their incentives to cardholders (give backs, points earned, bonus miles). The bank handling the transaction also gets a portion of the charged donation.

In order to begin accepting donations via credit card, Christ Church would have to start charging a processing fee to cover the costs so that the full intended amount of the donation actually is received by the church. The number of donors and the total amount of donations that would enable Christ Church to accept donations by credit card is unknown, but far exceeds the current limited number of credit card inquiries we have received in the recent past. It's something that we will continue to evaluate based on parishioner interest.

From the Finance Committee

Year-End Giving Strategies

As year-end approaches, we get questions from those interested in ways to make tax-advantaged donations to Christ Church. Here are some ideas and resources. We encourage you to work with a financial planner or lawyer to actually make any transfers using these techniques.

IRA Charitable Rollover

Congress made permanent the law that allows people age 70½ or older who own an IRA to make cash gifts directly from their IRA to charity. For many people, this is tax-wise the best way to give. An IRA rollover gift will not be included in your taxable income and will qualify for your required minimum distribution.

Benefits of an IRA charitable rollover:

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to our Christ Church.
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the deduction limits on charitable gifts.
- Help further the work and mission of Christ Church.

How an IRA charitable rollover gift works:

- Contact your IRA plan administrator to make a gift from your IRA to us.
- Your IRA funds will be directly transferred to Christ Church to support the church.
- Please note that IRA charitable rollover gifts do not qualify for a charitable deduction.
- Please contact us if you would like your gift to be used for a specific purpose.

Outright Gift of an Asset

If you wish to make a gift this year but are concerned about preserving your cash resources, consider a gift of an appreciated asset. A gift of securities, business interests, or real estate can provide you with significant income and capital gains tax savings, often exceeding the benefits of a cash gift.

Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

If you are looking for an end-of-year deduction but want more time to make thoughtful giving decisions, consider a donor advised fund (DAF). The church can use your tax-deductible gift to establish a DAF in your name. You can make grants from your DAF now and in the future to support ministries or projects.

Zero-Tax Gift and Sale

If you are planning to sell an asset like securities, real estate, or a business, before you sell, consider a “zero-tax” charitable gift and sale. By making a gift of part of the asset before the sale, you can use a tax-saving charitable deduction to significantly lower or eliminate the capital gains tax on the sale.

If you would like to discuss end-of-year planning strategies, please contact Webster at 540-662-5843. We can help you create a plan that meets your objectives.

If you have designated Christ Church in your will or estate planning, please let the Webster know. We would like to thank you and recognize you for your gift.

For more information about planned giving and to sign up for the GiftLegacy newsletter, visit the Diocese of Virginia Planned Giving website at www.dvagiving.org.

Parish News

Christmas Flowers



We are looking forward to a Christmas Sanctuary adorned with poinsettias! If you would like to make a donation to the Altar Guild to help adorn the Sanctuary in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one this season, please place \$11 in a Christmas Flower envelope and return it in the offering or to the Church Office. The last day to return an envelope is Monday, December 10.

Women's Lunch Group

The Women's Lunch Group meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month (December 6 & 20 this month) 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 Collection Item for December

Christ Church is a most generous and loving family! The clients of CCAP rely on that generous spirit. Each month, we receive a special request from CCAP as to what is most needed. This month, their request is still for **LONG/THERMAL UNDERWEAR** in all sizes for men and women. Please leave your donations on the shelves marked "CCAP Donations" in the foyer of the Parish Hall (under the window).

CCAP (Congregational Community Action Project) is a ministry of 46 worshipping communities in Winchester and Frederick County that have come together to support our neighbors in need with financial, material and other assistance. Contact Jim Taylor (703-403-5264) with any questions. You may also email annjimtaylor@verizon.net.

First Night Winchester Volunteers Needed



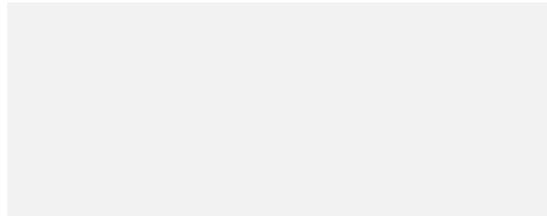
NEW YEAR'S EVE FUN AT CHRIST CHURCH!

Right after Christmas, we will be celebrating New Year's Eve and, as in years past, Christ Church is participating in Winchester's First Night celebration, a day-long family celebration of the arts downtown. There will be two terrific acts performing in the church in the evening this year. We need two volunteer hosts for each two-hour shift, beginning at 5:30 pm on December 31. Hosts check for tickets and answer questions. It's easy and a lot of fun, so PLEASE consider signing up! Volunteers will receive a button to attend the First Night performances at other venues, too. If you are interested in helping, please contact Kathi Adams at 540-550-2541 or by email at misskathi@comcast.net.



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

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The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Parish Nurse Musings

As we speed into December and the business of the holiday season, many adults are over-stressed to make everything “perfect” and burning the candle at both ends.

Ask yourself how the following areas of your life connect you to GOD:

- Your faith life?
- Medical issues?
- Movement - Are you exercising?
- Work?
- Emotional well-being?
- Nutrition?
- Friends and family?



“Our faith doesn’t just connect us to God with our spirits but as whole beings”
Colossians 3:12,14

Healthy living leads to a stronger faith.

See you in church!

Your parish nurses, *Helen and Rosalie*