

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

November 2023

Dear People of Christ Church,

I am astonished at how fast the time has gone that I am now talking about November! Since August, we have been moving swiftly back into the swing of things with cookouts, youth ministries, adult choir, book studies, and parishioners participating our parish directory update and stewardship dinner.

I am excited to see people who have been away for a while or are new to the parish as we meet and greet one another. In this process of being the people of Christ Church gathering together, I want to be sure to emphasize some parts of November and December as we move into the holiday season.

Please read our weekly e-mail update and this monthly newsletter, which try to get as much information to you as possible. They are the best way for you to see the variety of things going on. I encourage you to keep up on the FULL life of Christ Church, and not just areas of ministry that you are involved in. That way, perhaps you can offer your gifts and talents in a new area of ministry, which you may not have realized was happening.

In November, we are starting the Angel Tree ministry a little earlier this year. The Outreach Committee met with the local Salvation Army leadership in person to discuss their challenges and learned how they are re-organizing. We are excited to join with them once again on the Angel Tree program to help local children have gifts at Christmas!

We will have a Thanksgiving Day service of Holy Eucharist at 10:00 am for anyone who wishes to join us. It is the only Thanksgiving Day service in the area that I know of, so we have guests show up every year.

Everyone is invited to help us pack 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger on November 18 and, looking toward Advent, there is an advent wreath-making brunch for kids and their families on November 25.

This year, the first Sunday of Advent is December 3 and the last Sunday of Advent is December 24. Yes, that is correct—Christmas Eve is the evening of Advent 4. (That means Sunday services in the morning and Christmas Eve services in the afternoon/evening.) So as you make plans, let me point out a couple of things: The children's Christmas Pageant will be at the 10:30 am service on the third Sunday of Advent, December 17. For the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve family service, children will have our third annual food presentation at the manger procession as part of the offertory. Children will be invited to dress up as their favorite “manger character” to join in the procession. There will also be a Christmas Eve service at 10:00 pm and a service on Christmas Day at 10:00 am.

We have much to be grateful for in our witness to Jesus through our life together at Christ Church.

As we pray in one of our prayers of Thanksgiving on p. 836 of the prayer book:

“Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen.”

Faithfully,



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



From the Outreach Committee

Angel Tree 2023

Christ Church will partner with the Salvation Army's Angel Tree again this year. Everyone in the congregation will have an opportunity to follow Jesus' example of ministry to the poor and needy by adopting an angel. The Angel Tree ministry helps local families in need by providing gifts to enhance every child's joy on Christmas morning.

You can adopt an angel on Sundays, November 5, November 12, or November 19 in the Tilford Room after the 8:00 am and 10:30 am Sunday services. Each angel ornament represents an individual child and will have his or her name, age, and suggested gifts. There will be volunteers on hand to help you with your selection and answer any questions. Once you select your angel, you will receive instructions and a bag in which to place your gifts.

If you are not able to attend services, but want to take an angel, please call our dedicated telephone line 540-486-4003 and leave a message. Someone will get in touch with you and arrange to get an angel to you.

Once you have finished your shopping, you will have three options for delivery of the gifts to the Salvation Army:

- Deliver your gifts directly to the Salvation Army office at 300 Fort Collier Road in Winchester, Monday through Friday only, from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm.
- Call the Angel Tree hotline and request a pickup.
- Bring the gifts to the Tilford Room on Sunday, November 26, or Sunday, December 3, after the 8:00 am service or before or after the 10:30 am service.

If you would like to participate but cannot get out to shop, please send a check to Christ Church and mark it for "Angel Tree." For any questions, call the Angel Tree hotline or Pat Shaner at 703-969-5720 or email patriciashaner@gmail.com. Thank you for your anticipated participation in this worthy program!



Rise Against Hunger Meal-Packing Event



We will host another meal-packing day for Rise Against Hunger on Saturday, November 18, 2023, in the Tilford Room. All ages are invited to participate as we prepare bags of food beginning at 9:00 am. We are packing 10,000 meals so the event should be two to three hours long. Please sign up on the website if you'd like to participate and visit www.riseagainsthunger.org to learn more about the mission.

Christian Formation for All

Sunday School News

We're rolling right along in Sunday School! Registration is always available on Sunday mornings if you'd like to join us. Sunday School is Sundays from 9:30 am to 10:15 am on the second floor of the parish hall in the Sunday School Commons. Children's Chapel is also available for ages 3 through grade 2. It begins at 10:30 am and children are brought to the sanctuary to join their parents at the Peace. Alleluia Singers meet at 9:00 am and the Cherub Choir meets at 10:00 am during the last part of Sunday School.

We will have **Advent wreath making for families with young children and brunch** on Saturday morning, November 25, at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room. If you have not signed up already, please do as soon as possible so we can guarantee that there are enough materials prepared for all. Visit www.christchurchwinchester.org for the link to sign up.



Families with young children can continue their preparations during Advent on Saturday morning, December 9, again at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room. We will make **family gingerbread houses**. Once again materials are being donated, so please sign up via the website as soon as possible.

Our **Christmas Pageant** is planned for Sunday, December 17, during the 10:30 am service. Costuming will take place during Sunday School before the service. Roles will be decided as soon as we have an idea of how many children and youth plan to be in the cast!

Children will also have an opportunity to be part of the Nativity Procession during the 4:30 pm Christmas Eve service. We will costume before the service and take part in the procession and offertory.

Children are welcome to be part of either or both services to celebrate the Nativity as we hope to accommodate the schedule of young families with more options during the busy holiday season. Sign up at Sunday School!

Adult Forum

Please join us on Sundays, from 9:30 to 10:15 am, for Adult Forum in the Tilford Room. On November 5th, we'll have a report from clergy and delegates about convention. On November 12th, we'll wrap up the conversation on living the sacramental life. And November 19th will be a conversation on hunger, food, and outreach in the community.

Donations for CCAP in November

During the month of November, we will be collecting **cans of green beans and boxes of stuffing** for CCAP's Christmas Dinner giveaway in December. Please bring items to church on Sunday or to the Church Office on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary

Thanksgiving Day Service at 10:00 am

Holy Eucharist at Westminster-Canterbury
Every 1st & 3rd Thursday at 10:30 am



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

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.
Call ahead before you visit!

Committee & Group Meetings

Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Bible Study	Wed: 10:30 am via Zoom
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Knit Unto Others	3rd Tues: 2:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am
Treasure Box	Wed & Fri: 10 am—4 pm Sat: 10 am—1 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 am—Parlors or First Thursday at 5:30 pm —Tilford Room



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

November Birthdays

- 4 Minh Truong
- 6 Laura Button-Cain
- 10 Bill Jarvis, Scott Arthur
- 11 Katie Clarke
- 14 Kim Pifer
- 16 Jason Conrad, Ann Taylor
- 18 Steve Martin, Koy Mislowsky, Wendy Breslin
- 19 Tuffy Whitacre
- 20 Rosa Gibson
- 21 Joy Nesselrodt, Mark Baker
- 22 Alex Waldie
- 23 Arlene Hill
- 24 Emilie Pifer
- 25 Dorothy Gibson
- 26 Sally O'Neil
- 27 Dennis Shows
- 29 Jay Russell



November Anniversaries

- 10 Christopher & Adelaide Turnbull
- 28 Nick & Kathy Nerangis
- 28 Frank & Sandra Armstrong
- 30 Robb & Cathie Russell

Please Note:

We will publish birthday and anniversary information only with explicit permission. Please contact the Church Office if you wish to be added to or deleted from these lists. Please keep the Church Office informed of any changes to your address, phone numbers and e-mail addresses.

Celebrate!



Coffee Hour hosts needed in November and December! Please sign up on the website.

The
**TREASURE
BOX**

Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4
and Saturdays 10-1
at 114 W. Boscawen St.
Closed for Thanksgiving Week!

From the Stewardship Committee



How your Pledge Impacts Ministry: Outreach

The Outreach Committee at Christ Church aims to assist ministry partners locally and globally. While their line in the operating budget supports their programs directly, support from other areas makes outreach ministries successful.

In the past several years, the Outreach Committee has committed to work with five local agencies, though opportunities to support others are always considered. The five are :

Bright Futures provides food to local kids in school. Christ Church sends money each month for Bright Futures to purchase cereal to include in their meal packs. There is also a team of parishioners that assembles food packs at the Bright Futures warehouse each month.

WATTS provides shelter for the homeless in Winchester. Christ Church acts as a host for the shelter each winter, providing both shelter, food, some medical care, and companionship to guests. Christ Church's sexton, Tuffy, plays a large role in the success of this week, as do the many, many parishioners who volunteer their time. Additionally, this outreach heavily uses our facilities and utilities.

CCAP provides assistance to the area's needy—providing food, clothing, and other services. The Outreach Committee supports CCAP in a number of ways, notably promoting their need for donations in our publications and social media by Noelle, the communications coordinator in the Church Office. A bike tour this summer raised money for CCAP and Christ Church had a team participate, too.

The Salvation Army also provides assistance to the homeless and hungry in Winchester. While they have received money from Christ Church, we also partner with them on the Angel Tree program each holiday season.

The Winchester Rescue Mission provides housing and counsel locally. One way Christ Church supports them is by providing dinners. Some of the cooking is done on-site in the kitchen in the Parish Hall.

The Outreach Committee is also having two meal-packing events for Rise Against Hunger in 2023. Again, hosting an event like this in our facilities costs money for utilities and requires support from the sexton.

All outreach events require office support for varying degrees of advertising, coordination, and bookkeeping.

Your pledge supports all of Christ Church's outreach efforts and the facilities and staff that help them occur and make a difference for those in need in our community and beyond.

From the Stewardship Committee



How your Pledge Impacts Ministry: Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care at Christ Church encompasses efforts aimed to care for the Christ Church family and extended family. While Pastoral Care isn't a huge piece of the operating budget, they do rely on the clergy and office staff, and sometimes use the facilities.

The Knit Unto Others ministry crafts prayer shawls for the sick, meeting in the facilities once a month.

The Intercessory Prayer Group is a small dedicated group of parishioners who pray independently (and at special services) for those members of the congregation who have requested prayers. The prayer list that is published in the bulletin each week is an output of the group, so coordination with the Church Office is required.

The Christ Church card ministry sends hand-written cards for birthdays and anniversaries, and sympathy cards as needed. These cards are prepared in the Church Office, written by a volunteer, and then mailed by the Church Office. The office also maintains the lists.

Shepherd's Table is a group of volunteers who provide meals in times of need. Again, the group does not meet at the church, just asks for support from the Church Office occasionally.

The Parish Nurse team counsels parishioners on health-related matters, visits the ill, and is the liaison to community resources and services. We have three volunteer parish nurses on staff who have an office, phone and computer in the Church Office, though most of their work is done in the community. The Parish Nurse team spends money on things like books and classes that they share with parishioners. They host events in the Tilford Room occasionally and often ask the sexton for assistance with getting medical equipment to parishioners from their room of equipment to loan.

Your pledge supports Pastoral Care—whether it's a birthday card for a parishioner, Webster's time to visit someone in the hospital, or a workshop on memory loss to attend. Caring for those in the parish is an important ministry.

**Pledge cards are available online at:
ChristChurchWinchester.org/Stewardship**

**Please return your pledge by
November 12, 2023.**



From the Pastoral Care Committee

Be Grateful

November is a natural time to practice being thankful. What do you think about when that word is mentioned? Let's think about what we are thankful for! How do we show gratitude? Did you know that gratitude increases our resiliency; we are better able to cope with the changes around us, have improved sleep, decreased anxiety, and possibly decreased blood pressure when we practice gratitude.

Here is suggestion to try when you gather with family and friends this month. Place a jar on your table and ask each person to write on a piece of paper something that he/she is thankful for. Don't sign it. Later, each person takes out a paper from the jar and reads the note out loud, and everyone tries to guess who wrote it! Great fun and you learn more about that friend or family member!

Hear are some verses to consider this month: 1 Thessalonians 5, Psalms 100, Psalms 107, Philippians 4, 2 Corinthians 9, Ephesians 5.

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Helen, Rosalie, and Susan



Thanksgiving Service

Thursday, November 23, at 10:00 am