

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

November 2020

Dear People of Christ Church,

As we move through this current experience with so many uncertainties in our nation, in our parish life, and in our own health situations, I would bet that I am not the only one who is emotionally exhausted. While in the church by myself preparing for a livestream service, I was looking at the Bethlehem Angel stained glass window, reflecting on the silence in a space where I have worshipped with you so many times. In that silence, I found myself missing all of you being there with me as we make our noise of worship in hymns of praise, children crying, people whispering loudly, acolytes joining us around the altar and the other pieces of our worship experience. In that moment, the silence was so deafening.

But I also know that we are making important decisions to keep safe and healthy. We are engaging in an entirely new challenge of being the baptized community in finding ways to worship God at home, online, outdoors, serving neighbor within safety protocols. It is a different experience in an in-between time until we are able to re-group as a parish family.

At the end of November, we begin Advent which is that season where we are called to be alert as the time ticks down to the arrival of the Lord. This season, I will have to be alert to life in a way much different from any Advent waiting I have encountered before. Thanksgiving gives a hint of that different waiting as we plan our family zoom calls, our distanced gatherings, our much smaller table settings. And I find it hard to be alert with so many changes when I am already exhausted.

This Thanksgiving and other parts of the holiday season will have us breaking bread in new ways. These ways may not be ideal, but they also are not permanent. But that stained glass window icon of the Bethlehem Angel reminds me where we put our hope, especially when exhausted. Bethlehem means "City of Bread," and that bread of life for whom we wait and seek as our hope and life in these challenges is the bread who sustains us. And the angel, the messenger whom we know to speak about hope when we are tired and fearful, even now is reminding me to be alert to the new possibilities of God's love in the world around us. A love which is permanent because of God's grace which sustains us now and in all parts of life.

Faithfully,



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



November 2020

From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

On November 1st, the church celebrates the Feast of All Saints. On that day, we are reminded of the witness of Christians who have gone before us, think about their stories, and the various ways they show us what life with God looks like. Although All Saints, like everything else this year, is going to be celebrated differently than we have in the past, my hope is that the witness of the saints continues to speak to us this year, and speaks to us in new ways.

This All Saints, I am paying attention to how often the reality of struggle comes up in the lives of the saints. As one of the hymns for the day in our hymnal says, “These are they who have contended,” because following Jesus often comes with struggle and difficulty. The saints we remember on our calendar lived through all sorts of difficulties, and found ways to serve God even in the middle of them. One of my favorite saints, St. Benedict, built up a monastic community in a world that seemed to be collapsing after the fall of Rome, a world “without landmarks” in the words of the writer Esther de Waal. St. Benedict found, in his own life of prayer and caring for the community he established, a way to look to God as his landmark when there was nothing else to look to. He struggled, and he found a way to witness to God in that struggle. I think we can find the same stories of determination in the face of struggle in the lives of our personal saints – the family and mentors whose faith has inspired us and shaped our own.

That reminder of the saints’ witness in the midst of struggle is especially important to me this year, because this year has involved so many struggles. The challenges of dealing with a pandemic, of social isolation and fear, have all made it feel like so many of the landmarks we are used to have changed or disappeared. It can be hard to know what it looks like to follow God while we deal with our current struggles, especially since our ways of being church have changed so much. What the saints give us is a reminder that dealing with challenges in following God is not new, and that we have so many examples to look to as we continue to figure out how to be people of faith today. Both the saints the whole church remembers and the saints who have shaped our own lives offer us a witness that our faith is made for difficult times, that it can be a source of hope in anxiety and fear. As we go into a very different holiday season this year, my prayer is that we can find inspiration from the ways our ancestors in faith met their own challenges, and continue to be witnesses to Christ in our own day.

Faithfully,



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

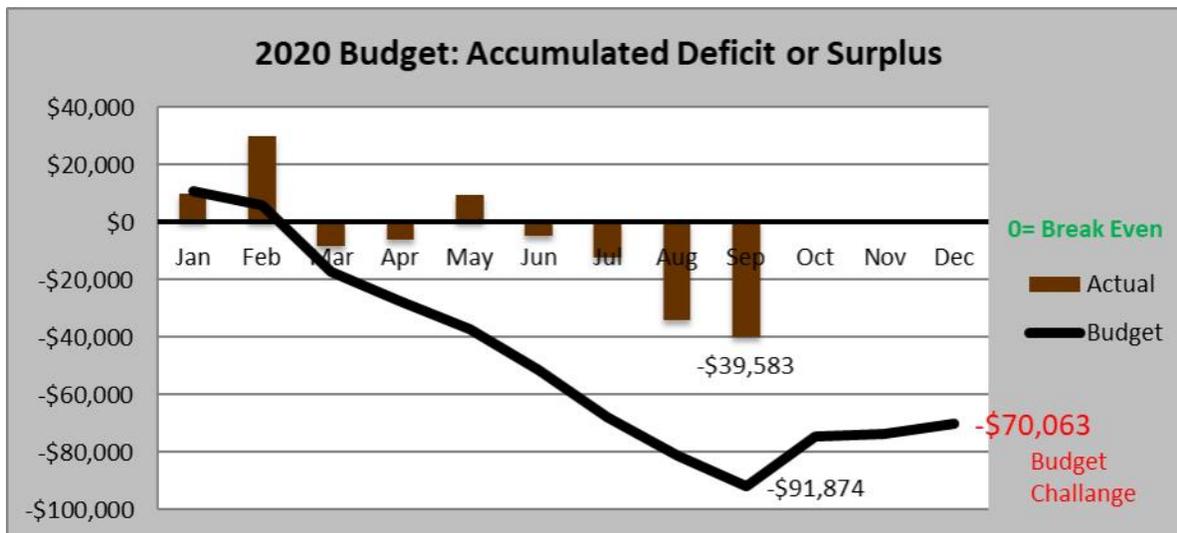
**Join Martin for Evening Prayer on
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom.
Email or call Martin for instructions
on how to log in.**

From the Treasurer

2020 Vision: Budget Road Map for all of 2020



- For the first nine months, we are about \$52,300 ahead of budget.
- **Unfortunately, we are now showing an actual deficit of about \$39,600!**
- The road map graph below clearly shows that the past four months (June through September) have followed our budget plan for expenses to be greater than revenues, usually due to low summer attendance at church.
- Year-to-date we have had a POSITIVE net position just 3 of the 9 months.
 - January and February were net positive due to year-end 2019 carry-over gifts in January and early 2020 year gifts in February.
 - After the Church had to shut down due to Covid-19, a request for early pledge payments to help with cash flow problems resulted in a revenue spike in May for our third positive net position month.
- Looking Ahead – It is hard to tell what the fourth quarter will actually look like since many donors have already paid their entire year pledge. Keep watching the Angelus each month to see our progress.
- As we have stated previously, if you are able to keep current with your normal giving, **please try to do so to help the church try to break even in 2020.**



Here is a summary table to give more detail about our September results and the YTD results for the first three quarters of 2020:

	Sep Actual	Sep Budget	Sep Diff	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	YTD Diff
2020						
Revenues	\$47,912	\$46,600	\$1,312	\$395,796	\$368,100	\$27,696
Expenses	\$53,370	\$57,578	-\$4,207	\$435,380	\$459,974	-\$24,594
Net Position	-\$5,459	-\$10,978	\$5,519	-\$39,583	-\$91,874	\$52,291

From the Outreach Committee

Updates

The Outreach Committee is continuing to communicate with our partner organizations, and learn how we can assist in new ways. Reminders about several ongoing and upcoming opportunities to serve:

WATTS: Christ Church will be hosting WATTS February 6-13, 2021. WATTS this year will be held at the First United Methodist building at 308 N. Braddock St., and volunteer opportunities will look different than in previous years. Watch for details about ways to help, including with meals.

Rescue Mission: Christ Church is continuing to provide meals to Rescue Mission twice a month, and is happy to have additional volunteers. Talk to Martin with questions about times and the safety protocols for volunteering.

Collecting Items for CCAP's Thanksgiving Giveaway

We continue to collect items for CCAP's Thanksgiving Dinner **through November 11**. Please shop the items on the list below and leave them on the tables in the foyer of the Parish Hall on Wednesday, November 4 or 11 between 9:00 am and noon. There will also be a basket in the entrance of the church for donations on Sundays when we have in-person worship. **Items needed are:** disposable aluminum roasting pans, cans of gravy, boxes of mashed or scalloped potatoes, stuffing, canned sweet potatoes/yams, canned cranberry sauce, canned fruit, boxed desserts (Jello, brownies, puddings), cake mixes and frosting, and marshmallows. Gift cards for groceries (Martins, Aldi, Sharp Shopper, Walmart) and frozen turkeys are also needed, but please contact Jim Taylor at 703-403-5264 if you would like to donate those.

Ten to fifteen volunteers from Christ Church are needed to help pass out the packed boxes to the families in need on Saturday, November 21. Volunteers are also needed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, November 23-25 for three hours each day. Contact Jim Taylor at 703-403-5264 to volunteer your time. It will be a no-contact pickup so volunteers will wear their masks and place boxes in the cars of those picking up food.

After November 11, CCAP asks for Christ Church to begin to collect just one item for CCAP's Christmas dinner giveaway held on December 12. CCAP has asked Christ Church to bring 200 boxes of **CHICKEN STUFFING** to the table—Stove Top Stuffing mix or the store brand will fill the need nicely! We will follow the same routine with your donations. Place the boxes of stuffing mix on the table in the Parish Hall foyer each Wednesday between 9:00 am and noon through Wednesday, December 9.

Thank you for helping to provide holiday meals for those in need in and around Winchester!



From the Outreach Committee

Angel Tree a Go in 2020!



The Outreach Committee is so happy to announce that the ministry of the Angel Tree can continue in 2020! Please join with us and the Salvation Army once again to make Christmas happy for underserved children in our area.

The process will be changed this year, but the need is great. Many of the children in our community have a parent or parents who work, but can barely feed and clothe them, unable to provide anything extra at Christmas.

Angels will be available in early November. Parishioners who have participated before will be contacted to see if you would like to be involved this season. You may contact Jim & Ann Taylor if you would like to be a new participant. If you choose to take an Angel, the team of volunteers will bring your Angel, with the list of desired items printed exactly like they have always been. You will also receive a clear plastic bag to hold toys and clothes. Once the bag is filled, you are asked to staple the printed side of the Angel inside the clear bag, and then take it to the Salvation Army distribution center located in the Blue and Gray

Mall Shopping Center on Valley Avenue (south of Tevis Street). Dates and hours will be available later. If you cannot make it with your bag to the Salvation Army, we will pick it up from you to make the delivery.

Another option is a Salvation Army link with Walmart where you can order items for the Angel Tree program instead of taking an Angel. These are gifts which the Salvation Army will use to fill in for Angels which have not been spoken for. Here is the link to the information: <https://www.walmart.com/registry/registryforgood/8959BA23-706D-434F-8983-8119F762BC2F> (We will include this link in a weekly email update so you don't have to type it in unless you'd like a preview!)

If you would like to participate in the Angel Tree ministry (taking an Angel, making calls, or delivering gifts) please contact Jim & Ann at annjimtaylor@verizon.net. The final date to deliver gifts to the Salvation Army will be December 12, 2020. Be Merry! Be Happy!

From the Parish Nurses

Our resident pharmacist, Dr. Tom Ellington, wanted to share that the Shenandoah University School of Pharmacy would not be offering its annual Medicare Part D Day this year. There are many other ways your pharmacist can assist you though, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. In a recent article from *Costco Connection*, Linda R. Bernstein, PharmD, shared important points about community pharmacists. Here are things they can do in addition to filling your prescriptions:

1. Administer vaccines (not just flu shots—polio, shingles, tetanus, chicken pox, and more!)
2. Help you quit smoking by recommending possible medications to assist and ongoing support and resources
3. Offer advice regarding dietary supplements including which supplement type, brand, and dosage would be best for your needs
4. Create a personalized medication calendar so you know when and how to take your medications
5. Educate you on medication interactions
6. Help you manage health conditions like high blood pressure, chronic pain, asthma and diabetes
7. Advise you on over-the-counter medications and how they may interact with your prescription medication

Check in with your pharmacist soon. They can do so much to keep our community healthy!

Church Calendar

Sundays @ Christ Church

Option 1 Indoors:
8:00 am & 10:00 am Holy Eucharist
In-person in the Church, Reservations Required

OR

Option 2 Outdoors:
11:00 am service in the Courtyard
Reservations Required

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

4:00 pm Evening Prayer
In-person in the Courtyard
Reservations Required



Most committees are meeting virtually. Other groups are not meeting still.

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

Many committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have

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
Women's Lunch Group	1st Thurs: 11:30 am
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Women's Book Studies	Tues: 10:30 - Noon Thurs: 6:00 pm – 7:15 pm
Youth Group	2nd/4th Sun: 6:00-7:30 pm



**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

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

ChristChurchWinchester.org

Church Calendar

November Birthdays

- 5 Stephanie McWhorter, Kenneth Vicchio
- 6 Laura Button-Cain
- 10 Delores Wheatley, Bill Jarvis, Scott Arthur
- 11 Katie Clarke
- 13 Jeffrey Dodd
- 14 Bill Old, Kim Pifer, Marrea Riggs
- 16 Jason Conrad, Ann Taylor
- 17 Farley Massey
- 18 Steven Martin, Koy Mislowsky, Wendy Breslin
- 19 Steven "Tuffy" Whitacre
- 20 Rosa Gibson
- 21 Joy Nesselrodt
- 22 Alex Waldie
- 23 Arlene Hill, Christopher Ferguson
- 24 Emilie Pifer
- 25 Dorothy Gibson
- 26 Sally O'Neil
- 27 Dennis Shows
- 28 Shannon Dodd
- 29 Jay Russell
- 30 Ned Howard

November Anniversaries

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

celebrate!



Please Note:

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

Altar Flowers for November 2020

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

November 1: In loving memory of Blair Jennings McWhorter, Mr. & Mrs. Vincent Murrin Jennings & Mr. & Mrs. William Paul McWhorter by Dr. & Mrs. W. David McWhorter & Family

November 8: In loving memory of Rollin & Elva Larrick by Joyce Larrick Casey & Charles Casey

November 15: In loving memory of Drs. Robert C. Green & Meredith W. Green by their son & family, Robert, Sally, Nathaniel, Courtney & Lachlan

November 22: In loving honor and memory of all my family by Amelia Wheeler

November 26, Thanksgiving Day: In thanksgiving for all current & former members of the Altar Guild by the Altar Guild

November 29: In loving memory of Timothy Hale Kesser by Gil & Marge Kesser and family

For questions about altar flowers, please email: communications@christchurchwinchester.org

Worship

Worship and Formation in Advent and Christmas

As we move into the season typically full of community and family gatherings, this year's experience will be quite different at church. As we discuss worship and Christian formation during Advent and Christmas, variables such as weather, levels of COVID cases in the area, determining if people will want to participate make it difficult to establish any set plans. While we would all love to have a plan in place, instead, the conversation is about setting up options to respond to whatever the situation is as the season moves closer.

Some examples of options we are exploring are include: If our COVID case count is safe enough for indoor worship, we will have services in the church; If indoor worship is not possible, but the weather is warm enough, we will have services in the courtyard; Christmas Eve services will be at earlier times, perhaps outdoors, if possible; If the weather is bad, we will have several services online, some pre-recorded. Webster, Martin, and Ted are also looking at services at different times during Advent to mark our approach to Christmas. Children's Time videos and other offerings for families during Advent will be available and it seems unlikely there will be any form of our usual Christmas pageant. Again, none of these is certain and there may be other options as we get closer to certain dates.

There are two parts of this conversation which are certain. One is the need for people to pay attention to communications from the church office about service schedules and changes. Facebook, the church website, and email updates are the main sources of information for most of you. Phone calls will be made to those whom the office knows do not have internet access. If you need to update contact information, please call Noelle at 540-662-5843, Ext. 4.

Certainty two is that we will continue our live-streaming of the Sunday service, as well as a Christmas Eve service. We will have the information for the exact time of the Christmas Eve livestream service in the December Angelus. While watching a livestream is not the same experience of worship as we're used to, it does offer the opportunity to have an encounter in our worship on this special day marking the beginning of God's redeeming love coming among us in a human expression of love in relationship.

It is a challenging time in so many ways because of so much uncertainty. As your parish leadership explores options, please be sure to follow any announcements as decisions are made!

From the Stewardship Committee



As we look to 2021, we have learned so much about community and how our parish works. We look forward, whatever 2021 holds, to being an active worshipping community, supporting each other and our ministries, and making a difference in our community.

As in all other years, we ask you to prayerfully consider a pledge to Christ Church in the coming year. Our budget for 2021 is based on the pledges made this fall. Pledge cards have been mailed and are also available on the website to print/mail or submit electronically. (www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship)

Please watch for video presentations from parishioners this month talking about how we are ONE TOGETHER. As we all navigate the challenges of 2020, we realize that while we may not be physically together, we share so much. Your pledge does not support one thing; it supports ALL Christ Church is and does. The parish is comprised of many parts that all function as a whole—just like you are one member of the parish and help form the community.