

THE ANGELUS

Volume 74 Number 7

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

March 2024

Dear People of Christ Church,

Our Holy Week and Easter services are on the calendar for the end of this month! As you talk with neighbors, friends and family to invite them to join us for services, please know that you can find service times here, on the church website and on our Facebook page. They are not our regular Sunday service times! The 7:30 am service on Easter is like our traditional Sunday 8:00 am service (no music). The 9:00 am and 11:15 am Easter services both have music and are similar in most ways except there will be children's choirs for the 9:00 am service. Because of the children participating, we see more families with young children at that service. Aside from that, both services will have the same hymns and the adult choir as well.

During Holy Week, we can see the important relationship of our downtown churches and communal worship. If you want to see the answer to the question, "What would it look like if five or six churches got together on the downtown mall to celebrate Jesus?", be here by 10:20 am on Sunday, March 24, for Palm Sunday's Blessing of the Palms on the downtown mall. It is quite a sight to behold!

Another opportunity for Christian communal witness is on Friday, March 29, at noon. Our downtown parish clergy will lead our Noon Good Friday Community service at Christ Church. The clergy from the various parishes will participate in the service commemorating that moment of our Lord's death on the cross. We will also have hymns and use the Good Friday anthems in our prayer book.

The last Christian witness by the community is our 6:30 am Easter sunrise service at Mt. Hebron. I always enjoy this service when we have the trumpets playing "Jesus Christ is risen today" in the middle of the town, early on a Sunday morning. I imagine the people in the surrounding homes hearing our song and saying, "Here they go again with this Jesus stuff!" What a great way to let the community know what we are up to. The service is not long, and anyone can come.

I think that Winchester is fortunate to be able to say and show that Easter is a Christian Event. It is not just any one denomination of believers, but the greater church. So please be sure to check the schedule through the week. Also, please be sure to invite other people to come with you. We have plenty of room and an incredible encounter of God's love to share.

Faithfully,



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



2024 Holy Week & Easter Services at Christ Church

Maundy Thursday Service – March 28, 2024 at 7:00 pm

Good Friday Liturgy – March 29, 2024 at noon (Ecumenical service) & 7:00 pm

Easter Sunday – March 31, 2024

6:30 am Ecumenical sunrise service at Mt. Hebron Cemetery

7:30 am Easter service of Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

9:00 am Easter Family Service of Holy Baptism with Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

11:15 am Easter service of Holy Eucharist in the Sanctuary

Worship

Learn More about Choir

If you have been to any one of our services at Christ Church, you might have turned your head and looked up behind you and seen our wonderful choir at work. We, the choir, serve in worship every Sunday, providing beautiful music and leading the congregation through the hymns, psalms, and service music (at the moment, the Kyrie, Sanctus, and Fraction Anthem). The choir enhances the spirit of the liturgy, whether it be that of joy and praise, meditation and reflection, or solemn repentance. It also helps the congregation to confidently sing through the new music, introduced at the beginning of each liturgical season.

Every Sunday during the offertory, the choir sings an anthem reflecting upon the themes of the scripture readings of the day. The choir anthem serves to enhance the spiritual experience of those listening through communicating emotions and meanings beyond the written word. The offertory anthem, in particular, is one that the choir puts a lot of effort into during rehearsals, and we are happy to share this music with you.

The choir consists of members of the congregation (like you!) who enjoy music and song and the comradery of singing with others of like mind. We are always looking forward to welcoming new members. I would like to reassure you that you do not need professional experience, nor prior musical experience, to join the choir. My job as the music director is to help make the music approachable and to be helpful to you in learning the music. The most important requirements would be having a love of music and joy for the praise and worship of God! If you have been considering joining, this is a great time to do so, as we have exciting music planned for the rest of Lent and going into Holy Week and Easter. Please visit with us as we speak at Adult Forum on Sunday, March 10, and host Coffee Hour that morning after the 10:30 am service. If you are interested in choir, please email me, Jean Lin, music director, at jjoyulin@gmail.com.



Singing in the choir is a meaningful and enjoyable way to contribute to church worship. You don't have to have a wonderful voice (safety in numbers!), just a commitment to attend rehearsals and Sunday services. Along the way, you'll enjoy the camaraderie that develops when a group of people work together towards a common purpose. Over the years, I've developed some of my dearest friendships in choir. A bonus benefit is a sense of wellbeing that comes with choral singing. Growing research indicates that singing in choirs may improve lung capacity, memory and immunity and reduce stress and anxiety.
~ Alix Cooper

I suppose that we all experience spirituality in different ways. For me, it is through listening to music or singing, so the choir represents a great fit for me. I came from St. Paul's on the Hill to Christ Church in December of 2022 after we had lost our building, and the church had decided to close. Being able to sing with the choir here was a great way to meet people and have a ton of fun, also. I am very thankful to be singing with the choir, and I feel blessed to be able to each week.
~Neil Hammond

Worship

Adult Forum in March

In March, we continue to have Christ Church ministries present their work during Adult Forum, and then some will host Coffee Hour for the morning. We hope this will offer helpful ways for members, old and new, to learn what ministries are doing in the parish and how people can get involved in these ministries. Please join us in the Tilford Room at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings. On March 3, Webster will present communications resources and how the ministries of Christ Church use them to reach parishioners. On March 10, the Christ Church Choir will present their work, and on March 17, it's the Parish Life Committee's turn to present. On March 24, Webster will discuss the history of the Downtown Clergy Fellowship in Winchester and their ministries.

Giving Altar Flowers

Thank you to Nancy Brown as she retires from many years of service coordinating the altar flowers for services at Christ Church. She was meticulous in her work and one of the kindest people to work with! Polly Nesselrodt takes up the charge now and will be contacting regular donors of altar flowers regarding the schedule for April and beyond. If you are interested in donating altar flowers, please reach out to Polly to schedule and ask questions. Her email is pollyness@yahoo.com and her phone is 540-664-0433.

Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont

Our annual Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont will be May 10-12, 2024—Mother's Day weekend. Our theme this year is **Fun with Fiestas in the Church**. We will have crafts for the children to help get the decorations made for the party on Saturday evening. While the children work, the mothers are invited for wine tasting at one of the local wineries. There will also be time for play, porch rocking, and hiking. You can even go so far as to work on a puzzle or take a nap.

This is one of the best ways to have family time, even to bring grandmothers along for the weekend. If need be, the retreat finishes early Sunday, so it is easy to get back for local Mother's Day dinners that evening with more stories to share about the Shrine Mont experience. This is the opportunity to retreat from daily routines and enjoy fun and fellowship and experience the hospitality of Shrine Mont. To encourage families to come this year, we are fortunate to be able to have all parish youth and young children come with no expense to the parents. That shows how important the ministry of this retreat is to the parish.

To learn more, Shrine Mont's website is www.shrinemont.com. On the site, you can learn about The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration, an open-air cathedral of the Diocese of Virginia, that was consecrated in 1925. Plus, there are maps of the facilities and information about on-site and local activities.

To register, please fill out the registration form which can be found on the church website. If you'd like to learn more about parish weekend, please talk with Polly Nesselrodt, Aria Nelson, Delyn and Sarah Celec, Kirk & Linda Gibson, Stacy Talbot, or Webster. We will have a meeting for anyone interested in helping with the parish weekend on Sunday, March 3, in the Parlors, following the 10:30 am service. This is also an opportunity for anyone who has not gone on the retreat before or has questions about Shrine Mont to come and learn more!



Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

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

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



Find us on
Facebook

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



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

March Birthdays

- 1 Janie Mohn
- 2 Sandra Armstrong
- 3 Gwendolyn Conrad, Michael Roberson,
Jack Kalbaugh, Charlie Kalbaugh
- 6 George Glass, Kent Stevens
- 8 Connie Pettinger, Jasmine Hawkins
- 11 Susan Sheppard
- 12 David Lewis
- 13 Steve Cluss, Landon Haines
- 15 Mary Stevens
- 16 Elijah Painter
- 19 Eddie Richard
- 20 Frank Baxter
- 26 Zoe Lowrey
- 27 Lori Ellington, Jack Nelson
- 28 Ann Thomas
- 31 Deanna Stouffer



March Anniversaries

- 16 Jim & Rebekah Wiedower
- 25 Ron & Tonia Graves

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.

Procession for the Blessing of the Palms on Sunday, March 24, 2024

On Palm Sunday, March 24, please plan to meet in front of the Parish Hall at 10:20 am for our traditional march to the downtown mall for a brief service of the Blessing of the Palms with other Winchester churches.

We will return to the church together and rejoin the 10:30 am service, which will begin at its usual time for those not walking to the downtown mall.

Sunday School will run only from 9:30 am until 10:15 am so parents can come upstairs and get their children for the procession. Children's Chapel will run as usual.



Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!
Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4
and Saturdays 10-1 at 114 W. Boscawen St.
Spring clothing donations needed and
accepted during shop hours.

Committee News

Helping Bright Futures

Bright Futures – Frederick/Winchester is a non-profit organization that works to bring together the community to focus on the success of children. The organization acts as a framework to engage local businesses, human services agencies, faith-based organizations, and parent groups in our community to meet the needs of children in school in Frederick County and Winchester.



Christ Church is a long-time partner of Bright Futures and regularly supports the Food Pack Program there, which serves more than 1200 children, at all of the schools in both school districts, with a weekly pack containing two breakfasts, two lunches, a vegetable, a fruit and a snack. These are distributed at schools on Fridays.

The Outreach Committee at Christ Church has a team of “packers” that visits the Bright Futures warehouse once or twice a month to stuff bags. And, Christ Church also makes a monthly donation to support the purchase of food items for the packs.

In March, the Outreach Committee is asking parishioners to donate 600 regular-sized cans of soup (12-18 oz.). This donation will be given to Bright Futures in lieu of our usual monthly monetary donation. 600 CANS!

Please bring donations to church on Sundays in March or to the Church Office lobby on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

You can visit the Bright Futures website or Facebook page to learn more about their programs and needs.



From Christian Formation: Sunday School News

On March 9, 2024, there will be a Lenten gathering for children and youth to learn about some of the observances we practice during the season of Lent and some of the ways children and youth can focus on them at their own level. In addition, we will be making pretzels as a fun way to demonstrate one traditional practice to focus on prayer. Parents are invited and welcome to participate! [Sign up now on the website!](#)



And, mark your calendars!

Scuba: Vacation Bible School will be held July 8-12, 2024. There will be classes for kids from age 2 and up to those who will just be finishing 6th grade. It's 9:00 am to noon each day, FREE, and all kids are welcome!

Committee News

Keep Day is Back!

Your Properties Committee needs your help and invites you to join them on Saturday, March 23, from 9:00 am to noon for Keep Day. Saturday, March 30, is the rain date.

This is our parish clean-up day to get ready for Easter celebrations. As with any spring cleaning, it involves washing windows of the parish hall inside and out, cleaning lamp fixtures, dusting everywhere, yard cleanup, etc. The Properties Committee members will be there to direct the projects. It's an "all-hands-on-deck" kind of event! Come for one hour or the whole time; the more hands, the faster the work.

The Properties Committee will have the cleaning supplies. If you have questions about Keep Day, the members of the committee are James and Marsha Baden, Phil Sargent, Dan Wall, David Hawkins, Dan Shaner, Pam McKinley, and Kevin Kennedy. We hope that you can join us getting the church and grounds ready for Easter!

End of Life Planning Session

The Pastoral Care Committee and our Parish Nurse team are hosting an end-of-life planning discussion in the Tilford Room on Saturday, March 16, from 9:00 am until noon. Parishioners regularly ask the clergy and staff about resources for wills, expressing medical wishes, planning funerals, etc. This workshop is to help provide resources and answer questions. It's a great idea to bring family members, especially adult children, so they are also aware of resources and materials families need for these conversations.

Based on feedback from our last session, we aim to emphasize and differentiate between palliative care and hospice care. And we will explain the advance care planning and advance directive process. Some conversation will be included on how ethics play a part in decision-making.

Speakers include:

- Gregory Hutchinson, attorney, on the importance of wills
- Richard F. Lewis, MA,MS, physician assistant with Valley Health in Palliative care/bio-ethics chair, on decision-making in health care
- Rachel Schwartz, LCW, APHSW, palliative care social worker with Valley Health on advanced care planning
- Susanna Calley, counselor with Blue Ridge Hospice, on hospice care
- Josh Faulkner, Oms Funeral Home, on pre-planning funerals
- The Rev. Webster Gibson, Christ Church, on funeral services planning

If you would like to attend, please contact Noelle in the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4) so we have an idea of numbers for the materials provided. All are welcome, so if you have friends outside the parish who would like to come, please have them call the Church Office as well!

Committee News

Consider Hosting Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour is a long-time tradition at Christ Church that many parishioners enjoy and even look forward to on a regular basis and part of the Parish Life ministry. Attendance at Coffee Hour has steadily increased during the past year, which attests to the importance of this ministry to our parish. It seems to happen every Sunday without fail that we show up after the 10:30 am service each Sunday, expecting the usual refreshments and fellowship without much thought about whether it will be there or who made the effort to make it possible. Much of the coordination takes place behind the scenes and we are fortunate to enjoy the benefits of the labor involved. The Parish Life committee oversees the Coffee Hour ministry, but it's the members of the parish who make it happen. The Parish Life committee wants to take this opportunity to thank the many members of our congregation who have been a part of this ministry this past year and made it possible.

After the pandemic, the Parish Life committee took the opportunity to reorganize the process of coffee hour. The goal was to simplify—not only with health and safety in mind, but also to make it more accessible to encourage more people to be involved. It is not intended to be a lavish or expensive function, but simply an opportunity to provide fellowship.

This is a ministry in which every member of the congregation can participate. The beauty of this ministry is that it does not require a long-term commitment. A one-time involvement can provide an invaluable contribution to the church. Every host has their own style, but no special talents are required. The only requirement is a desire to help and be of service to others.

Members of the Parish Life committee are available to provide kitchen tours and coffee-making instruction for those who would like it. The church provides beverages and condiments, and the host is asked to bring a few bite-sized goodies for everyone to enjoy. You can make them yourself or visit your local grocery store. The host is responsible for set up and clean up, but no heavy lifting is required as church staff will set up tables and chairs. The kitchen is equipped with two dishwashers which makes cleaning up easy! Detailed instructions are provided to assist you.

Food is not the focus of this ministry, but fellowship is the main purpose; a reason to gather, get to know one another, and reinforce our church community. It is also a great opportunity for the committees and ministries of Christ Church to promote themselves and educate the congregation about their work. We would love to see each of these groups commit to hosting once or twice a year. The more people involved, the easier it is for everyone, although it doesn't take more than two or three people to handle it easily.

Please consider involvement in this fun and valuable ministry. Grab a friend or the person you sit next to in church to host it together. To sign up, go to the home page of the church website and click on "Sign up to host Coffee Hour." It will take you to a SignUp Genius page, and with a couple of clicks, you can choose the date that works for you. The page is monitored by the coffee hour coordinator, who will follow up with you a week or so in advance of your Sunday to host.

The Parish Life committee will make a presentation during the Adult Forum on Sunday, March 17, if you would like more information. We hope we've piqued your interest that you'll join us then! Thank you for your consideration and future service! For more information and questions, [contact Noelle Creamer](#) in the Church Office (540-662-5843, Ext. 4). She can help you sign up or put you in touch with the coffee hour coordinator.

