

THE ANGELUS

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January 2023

Dear People of Christ Church,

Happy New Year to all of you. I am also grateful for all who helped us as we went through the joy and beauty of the Christmas season. It is great to see people joining us again in our life and worship in the parish.

Looking ahead to 2023 and reflecting on 2022, I am tempted to say that I offer a New Year's resolution for the parish to consider. However, as I look at my own failed experience in keeping my New Year's resolutions in the past, I will not put that on you!

Instead, I offer an invitation in 2023. Over the years, my family has enjoyed a dice game called Cosmic Wimpout. It has a bunch of crazy rules, and one of those rules is the "You may not want to, but you must" rule. It requires a roll of the dice at a time you don't want to because you could lose all of your points. As I have worked with the Vestry and committee leadership this past year, there are quite a few challenges we have faced. One challenge is that people are not in the same place physically, emotionally, communally, or even geographically as they were three years ago. Another challenge in response to such change is we are having to change how we do ministries and gatherings as a parish. Another challenge is people who have to been through the changes over the past couple of years coming back to the parish not realizing change has happened and they get confused.

All of this is to say that 2023 will continue to be a season of change. For those who do not want to change, remember the rule, "You may not want to, but you must." Change has happened.

Another phrase a find myself pondering more and more looking into the future is, "Just because you do not know something is going on does not mean that something is not going on." At our November and December Vestry meetings, I printed the events going on around the parish for each month to remind the Vestry what was going on. Among the Vestry, people discussed how much was going on and also how people did not realize all that was going on. The challenge for everyone is keeping up with what is going on.

Please know, who we are, what we are doing and how we are doing them has changed. Old thoughts of "pot lucks", "social gatherings" or "adult, youth children parish programs," are not the same as before due to illness, weather, timing, etc. So we have found that we need to do things a bit differently with book studies, worship services, smaller gatherings, coffee hours. "Just because you do not know something is going on does not mean that something is not going on." Rather than assume that there is nothing going on, look and see what is going on and join in. If you don't want to, that is up to you. But I would encourage you to consider that roll of the dice next time you wonder about coming to coffee hour, Sunday worship, an adult or youth of kids formation event: "You may not want to, but you must." You may even find that you enjoy it.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
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From the Clergy

I was so grateful for the return of the Christmas pageant this year! After three long years since our last production, it was wonderful to see angels and shepherds and animals all up there with Mary and Joseph, as everyone heard the story of Jesus's birth once again. But the pageant also got me thinking. Why exactly do we keep this Christmas tradition? It's not just a matter of how much enjoyment we get out of watching it. The deeper purpose of it is for the children to learn something. It teaches them that they have a place in the church, that they are there to participate and be involved, and that church isn't just a place for adults.

On another level, it also teaches them about their relationship with Scripture. By not just hearing or reading Scripture, but performing it, they learn that the Bible isn't just another textbook. It's not just a book about stuff that happened a long time ago. The Bible is about our relationship with God as humans, starting all the way back at the beginning, and including us now. The Christmas pageant gives kids an opportunity to imagine themselves into the pages of Scripture, to think about what it would have been like to be there the night of Jesus's birth. And from that act of imagination, they can start to see themselves as part of that story of our relationship to God, to find their own way into it through the nativity story.

It turns out that this way of being part of Scripture isn't just for kids! It's for all of us as well, so that we too can understand ourselves as participants in the story that God has been telling from the beginning. We can see that God's voice still speaks to us, that God still calls us like God called Joseph and Mary and the shepherds. We may have aged out of playing parts in the Christmas pageant, but there are lots of ways we can learn how to participate in Scripture in this deeper way. It might be imaginative prayer, where we picture ourselves in the stories of Scripture, and imagine what we might have seen and heard if we were there. It could just be slow and reflective reading, listening for how the words speak to us in our own lives. There's no better time than the beginning of the new year to look for ways to spend time in the Bible, and to let that time deepen your own relationship with God.

So in the year ahead, I hope you find your own part to play, in the great drama the Bible shows us, which is the drama of our life as followers of Jesus.

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector

From the Vestry

Highlights from December Meeting

- The 2023 budget will not be based on 2022 expenses and revenues but will be developed as part of a two to three year strategy. See the financial report on p. 6 for 2022 info.
- Webster asked the Vestry to think about where expenses can be cut (which ministries) and possible sources of new revenue.
- There will be positions open on the Vestry and Outreach Committee and Webster asked the Vestry to submit names of prospective candidates.
- We are welcoming several parishioners from St. Paul's on the Hill, which is closed now.

Christian Formation

Sunday School in January

As Epiphany begins and we focus toward the revelation of Jesus to the world, our lessons will follow Jesus through his early years and into his ministry. For kids, this is the time they learn about Jesus as he grows up and is baptized, and when he takes his ministry into the world. Jesus shows us in these lessons how we should live and carry out God's work, so it's going to be a very busy season. Though Epiphany follows the season of Christmas, our celebration continues as we learn and grow through learning about Jesus's examples of what following God looks like.

It is also an appropriate time to thank all the teachers, chapel leaders, music directors, parents, and friends who continue to faithfully accept the call to teach and support our children. Our teachers have shown great flexibility in accommodating our team scheduling. This year, a very special thanks is for those who provided opportunities for our families with young children to prepare together for the celebration of Christmas. Thank you Pam DeBergh, who organized our Advent wreath-making event and our morning of building gingerbread houses. And thank you to Jody Wall and Teresa Jacobsen of the Parish Life committee for a dinner for parents and children to get together on December 17th. Parents, you were so much help during the Christmas pageant and the Nativity offertory procession, providing invaluable aid in keeping everyone on time and into costumes. Thanks be to God for you!

Adult Forum

In January, we'll focus on tradition and change in the Church. Starting with Baptism on Sunday, January 8, the Adult Forum will look at questions your clergy have heard these past couple of months about the parish, the Diocese, and the Church in general. Please join us in the **PILGRIM'S CHAPEL** at 9:30 am on Sunday mornings.

Faith Study Group

The Monday morning Faith Bible Study Group began a new Bible study on the Gospel of Mark in November. If you would like to see what this group/study is like, we encourage you to join us as we pick up again on Monday, January 9—either in person in the Smith Building Conference Room or on Zoom at 10:00 am. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month.

This study on the Gospel of Mark uses Marcus Borg's study on Mark from the Anglican Association of Biblical Scholars program "Conversations with Scripture." This can be found on Amazon or other sources online.

If you would like to participate via Zoom, please contact The Rev. Webster Gibson (rector@christchurchwinchester.org) and he will send you the link.

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



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
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 Thurs: 5:30 pm Parlors



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

January Birthdays

- 1 Olivia Adams
- 3 Jim Griffin
- 4 Neile Martin
- 7 Jillian Kalbaugh
- 11 Clarke Wiley, Susan Ross
- 12 Sam Leinbach, Jr.
- 13 Thomas Ellington, Stephen Pettit
- 15 Amy Whipkey
- 16 Betsy Young
- 18 Pam Lamborne
- 24 Margaret Arthur, Helen Zebarth
- 25 Robert Bronson
- 26 Ned Stock
- 28 Roger Lamborne
- 31 Jazmine Pelot, Kim Gronauer, Ruben Rodriguez



January Anniversaries

- 11-Jan Frank Baxter & Skip Bowling
- 29-Jan Ron & Koy Mislowsky

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.

Shop at the Treasure Box Thrift Shop!

Open on Wednesdays and Fridays 10—4 and Saturdays 10-1 at 114 W. Boscawen St.

Because of your donations and shopping (and their wonderful volunteers), the Treasure Box was able to donate \$14,000 to charitable organizations in 2022.

WOW!



From the Finance Committee

Wrapping up the Year

As we complete another year, we have good news and some not-so-good news to report. The complete financial data for the whole year won't be available until January. The data presented here is through November.

2022	November			Year-to-Date		
	Actual	Budget	Difference	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues	\$36,247	\$58,410	(\$22,163)	\$474,815	\$465,920	\$8,895
Expenses	\$47,413	\$47,083	\$330	\$551,048	\$536,222	\$14,826
ERC	\$19,809		\$19,809	\$19,809		\$19,809
Net	\$8,643	\$11,327	(\$2,684)	(\$56,424)	(\$70,302)	\$13,878

We have received \$19,000 from the Federal Government Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program. (*Good News!*) When the Covid-19 pandemic began and businesses were forced to shut down their operations, Congress passed programs to provide financial assistance to companies. One of these programs was the Employee Retention Credit (ERC) program, which gives payroll tax credits to employers for wages and health insurance because they retained employees.

There are several important points to highlight. The revenues for November were significantly less than projected (*not so good news*), but overall year-to-date revenues are slightly (2%) higher than projected for this point (*good news*).

The expenses for November were almost exactly what was projected (*good news*), while the year-to-date expenses are slightly (2.8%) more than projected (*not so good news*). As noted last month, utilities and property maintenance expenses exceeded expectations this year and will continue to do so in the future (*not so good news*).

The big impact was from the Federal Government Employee Retention Credit. It nearly wiped out our November deficit (*good news*) and made up over 26% of our year-to-date deficit (*good news*). While we see the possibility of more ERC funds in 2023, we cannot count on it.

From the Outreach Committee

WATTS Week Approaching

The Outreach Committee continues its work with WATTS this winter. Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS) is a program conducted by congregations in Frederick and Clarke Counties and Winchester to provide warm, safe shelter and nourishment to homeless members of our community during the winter months. WATTS has been very successful. Since its inception, WATTS has grown from eight to 18 host congregations, which significantly increases support to the most vulnerable members of our local homeless community.



The 2023 Christ Church WATTS Host Week will be February 4 to 11, 2023.

There will be a meeting on Sunday, January 15, 2023, after the 10:30 am service to discuss 2023 WATTS procedures & changes, volunteer opportunities, and to provide a WATTS Ministry overview for those new to it. (We do this at the end of the meeting so those who are already familiar can leave.)

The SignUp Genius will be published on January 15, 2023. It will list WATTS tasks, dates & times. Parishioners can review it & sign up to volunteer.

Volunteer Opportunities include the following. Which can you help with?

- o **Registration** (6-8 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Register guests into the Christ Church WATTS shelter. Inspect the smoking area for contraband, meet with the Night Manager at 6:00 pm; at 7 pm, admit guests in accordance with Night Manager's guidance.
- o **Manage Floor** (7-10:30 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Manage the WATTS site to ensure guests comply with WATTS rules, and monitor two evening smoke breaks (approximately from 8:15-8:30 pm and 10:00-10:15 pm) in the designated smoke break area.
- o **Breakfast Duty** (5-8 am, Feb. 5 to 11, 2023) Prepare and serve breakfast to guests and provide bag lunches (prepared by Youth Group) to guests.
- o **Sunday Breakdown** ((7-9 am, Feb. 5, 2023) Rearrange WATTS site to accommodate Coffee Hour.
- o **Sunday Reset** (12:30-2:30 pm, Feb. 5, 2023) Reset the Christ Church Parish Hall for WATTS after the Sunday Coffee Hour, i.e. arrange cots, tables, chairs etc.; use site configuration diagram.
- o **Site Breakdown** (7 am-noon, Feb. 11, 2023) Take down and load WATTS cots and equipment into the Mover Dudes Van for movement to the next host church and clean up the Parish Hall.
- o **Setup Dinner** (6-8 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to set up dining area for dinner.
- o **Serve Dinner** (7-8:30 pm, Feb. 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to serve dinner to the guests.
- o **Dinner Cleanup** (7:30-9:30 pm, Feb 4 to 10, 2023) Work with the cooking team to clean up after dinner.
- o **Site Cleanup & Resupply** (Feb 5-10, 2023 – time is flexible) Work with Tuffy to clean up the WATTS area and buy supplies listed by the Lead Volunteer(s).

Pastoral Care

From the Parish Nurses

Did you know that older adults are at a high risk for severe RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) which affects the lungs and breathing passages? Adults older than 65 years old, adults with chronic heart or lung disease, and adults with weakened immune systems are at high risk.

To protect yourself and loved ones:

- Wash your hands often
- Keep your hands off your face
- Avoid close contact with sick people
- Cover your coughs and sneezes
- Clean and disinfect surfaces
- Stay home when you are sick

From the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention), Oct 2022.

Stay well!

Your Parish Nurses- Helen and Rosalie

