

THE ANGELUS

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Dear People of Christ Church,

I cannot say how wonderful it feels to see people returning to worship, coming for the first time to our services, processing to the back of the church, and teaching the children how to say, "Thanks be to God!" at the dismissal. It is wonderful!

I am also excited to see people willing to help as Sunday School teachers, serving in our worship, helping to keep the courtyard clean, and in so many other ways. The one key component in the life of Christ Church as we re-start our various ministries is **active participation**. By that I mean people who come to Sunday worship who are willing to get up and actively engage in ministries in the parish.

Much of what people know about how they themselves are part of a parish often depends on the type and culture of the parishes they grew up in. Some have experienced parishes where much of the work is done by a few people, while other people have experienced parishes where everyone is expected to be ready to help when needed. For Christ Church, we are definitely of the latter parishes, where we need people to be willing to help when something comes up. Examples can be found around many of our worship ministries. We are training ushers, lay readers, chalicers and acolytes, and I invite more people to help with those ministries. We are also going to have more outreach ministries which need extra hands to haul donations, help pack and sort, etc. We are reviewing our adult formation opportunities to see not just where people's interests and questions are, but also what ways and studies people will commit to show up and participate.

For me, one of the most important lessons from the past three years is not to take our parish community for granted. That includes avoiding the belief that just because we did it a certain way before 2020 means that we are going to be doing it the same way in 2022. We have learned about the reality of change, and we also know about adapting to where we are now. Your ongoing willingness to participate in making our ministries happen is vital to our ministries being able to serve now.

We are fortunate to have had parishioners join in on ministries they have not done for years. We are fortunate to have people willing to learn and participate in ministries they have never done before. I have even worked with some parishioners who may not be able to consistently help, but they are trained in ministries so that when they are present or when last minute help is needed, they can jump in to help. Whether people are new to Christ Church or lifelong parishioners does not matter as far as participation. On a rare occasion, that may also include at the last minute.

It is an exciting time as we see one another and parish activity increasing. It is also a rebuilding time which means it is going to require more time to get the parish moving in certain directions of ministry. Thank you for your participation. For us to grow and thrive in whatever direction God calls us to go is made easier with people willing to share their gifts in serving our Lord.

Faithfully,



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



From the Clergy

At a recent youth group gathering, the group went for a walk. We explored the trails at the Museum of the Shenandoah Valley, and we also used our walk as an opportunity to think about creation, and the very good news that everything we saw was made by God. We looked at some Psalm verses about this that celebrated different elements of creation—trees, animals, rocks, water.

Our walk got me thinking about the ways that our faith asks us to marvel at the goodness of creation. We'll have another chance to do that right at the beginning of October, when we do the Blessing of the Animals, and give thanks for the joy animal companions bring into our lives. It's one of my favorite services of the year, and I hope you and your dogs, cats, and other creatures will join us!

Both of these events have had me thinking about the ways our faith calls us to care for God's creation, as well as celebrate it. You can find this theme all over Scripture—from God entrusting Adam to steward the animals, to the law's concern that the Israelites properly care for the land of Israel. One of the words we use to think about our relationship with creation is stewardship, because we recognize that we are not the ultimate owners of everything that is, but that God has trusted us with the earth. We are to care for it, and love it, because God has given us that responsibility.

What creation care looks like in our lives can take all sorts of forms—whether it comes through gardening, or working to reduce our energy use, or helping clean up a park, or paying attention to where our food comes from and how it is made. Like any practice of stewardship, it's about regular attention and practice. Creation care has been one of the priorities of the Diocese of Virginia for several years, and the diocesan website provides a lot of links and book recommendations with more information here: <https://www.thediocese.net/resources/ministries/creation-care/resources/>.

Every time we find a way to care a little better for the earth and animals and plants we live with, it's a way of reminding ourselves of the goodness of God's creation. We remember that God made not just us, but everything that is, and called all of it good. I hope that your relationship with God's creation helps you see and know God's goodness better, and give thanks for everything God has done for us!

Faithfully,



The Rev. Martin Geiger, Assistant Rector
mgeiger@christchurchwinchester.org

Blessing of the Animals

Please join us to celebrate the Feast of St. Francis on Sunday, October 9 at 5:00 pm in the Courtyard for a Blessing of the Animals. You may bring your dog, cat, fish, hermit crab, ferret or snake to the service for a blessing. Please keep your animals in cages or on leashes so that all creatures are kept safe! Friends and neighbors are welcome to join us. It will be a short service with plenty of joyful noise barked or shrieked to the Lord!



Christian Formation

Upcoming Events for Sunday School

It's been great to have the children back to Sunday School! Registration is always available on Sunday mornings and forms are online 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.

We have some fun things coming up! The first is a Family Haunted House hosted by the Youth Group. It's Sunday, October 30, at 4:00 pm in the Sunday School Commons. All Sunday school-aged kids (preschool - 5th grade) are invited to explore a haunted house and to celebrate Halloween! Kids can wear their costumes and collect a few treats. No registration is required for this event.

Youth Group kids (Grades 6-12) are invited to help set up and guide the younger kids through the haunted house. Martin will be sending out details to Youth Group families soon.



We will have **Advent wreath making for families with young children** on Saturday morning, November 26, at 10:00 am in the Tilford Room. Because all materials will be provided, we will need signup to conclude by November 1st so we can guarantee that there are enough materials prepared for all. If you are thinking about bringing visiting grandchildren, be sure to sign up ahead of time! Visit www.christchurchwinchester.org for the link to sign up.

Families with young children can continue their preparations during Advent on Saturday morning, December 10, 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 by November 1st.



Adult Forum

During the Sundays in October and November, the clergy will explore questions people have about the Episcopal Church with our use of Scripture, our traditions in worship, and our prayer book, and how we use the brain God gave us integrating our faith and our lives. Our Sunday morning forums will begin with seeing if there are specific questions people have as we discuss our denomination.

On Sunday, October 23, we will have Lauren from the Winchester Rescue Mission come and speak to the Adult Forum about the Rescue Mission, its current work, its future plans, and our ongoing relationship with them. This continues the Outreach Committee's efforts to provide opportunities to learn about our partner ministries, and hear about ways to get involved in service to our community.

Adult Forum beings each Sunday morning at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room. Please join us!

Did you know that laity schedules are available on the church website? You can check when you are an LEM this month, when your Altar Guild shift is, or the next time you're scheduled as an usher. Look under News and Events.

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
Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 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 Wed: 5:30 pm Parlors



CHRIST EPISCOPAL
CHURCH WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

October Birthdays

- 2 James Baden, Madison Truong
- 3 Elena Conrad
- 4 Patricia Barnes, Martha Roberson,
Eric Kalbaugh
- 6 Deanna Pifer
- 7 Steve Johnston
- 8 Rosemary Swope, Pam Kennedy,
Dan Gloster
- 9 Loretta Johnston
- 10 Pam DeBergh
- 14 Margaret Kesser
- 15 Jean Trumbore
- 16 Dick Arculin
- 17 Mary Beth Compton
- 18 Pat Riley
- 20 Katy Schain, John Wiedower
- 22 John Applin
- 26 Bill Thompson, Tom King
- 28 Cathie Waldie
- 29 Judy Whiting
- 31 Amy Stock, Frank Armstrong III
Sue Jarvis



October Anniversaries

- 1 Bill & Maria Tedesco
- 7 Ned & Amy Stock
- 8 Dennis & Debra Shows
- 14 Bill & Sue Jarvis
- 26 Eric & Jillian Kalbaugh

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.

We are still looking for volunteers to work 1 day a month (4 hour shift) in the shop. Please visit with us on Sunday, October 30, when we host Coffee Hour after the 10:30 am service. We'll have a selection of special items to shop in the Tilford Room!

From the Treasurer

Use Your IRA to Donate

The Individual Retirement Arrangement (or account) (IRA) is a great way to save money for retirement. It is also a great way to make your charitable contributions when you are retired. An IRA lets you defer the taxes on your income until you use the money to fund your retirement. But there is also a special provision that lets you avoid some tax during your retirement. Retirees should discuss with their tax advisors the IRS regulations with provisions for qualified charitable distributions that can benefit both the giver and the recipient.

The IRS Publication 590-B (2021), Distributions from Individual Retirement Arrangements (IRAs) discusses distributions from IRAs. It prescribes the rules, limits, and restrictions for an IRA. Generally, a qualified charitable distribution is a nontaxable distribution made **directly** by the trustee of your IRA to a charitable organization such as Christ Episcopal Church. The amount of the charitable distribution is tax-free.

For example, say you want to withdraw some money from your IRA and make a contribution to Christ Church. In one scenario, you withdraw \$1000 from your IRA. Your bank sends you a check for \$850 and the government \$150 for the tax (assuming that you generally pay 15% in taxes). You deposit the check in your account and then write a check to the church for \$850.

The better way to do this would be to ask the manager of your IRA to make a qualified charitable contribution directly to Christ Church. They then would send the entire \$1000 directly to the church. (Be sure that there is some way to indicate this donation is coming from you.) Since the money is not disbursed to you, you don't pay tax on it. The \$150 that would have gone to Uncle Sam now goes to the church and increases your donation.

As always, discuss making a contribution to the church with your tax advisor and get the details on how to do it from your IRA manager.

As I mentioned last month, we're still in that summer period where expenses are exceeding the revenue received. In August, our cumulative deficit grew again. We're not as far in the hole as our projected budget, which is good, but we all need to be cognizant of the shortfall and continue to send in our pledged contributions.

~ Bob Puttock, Treasurer

Pastoral Care

End of Life Planning Workshop

The Pastoral Care Committee and our Parish Nurse team are hosting this workshop in the Tilford Room on Saturday, October 15, from 9:00 am until noon for an end-of-life planning discussion. Parishioners regularly ask the parish 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 so they are also aware of resources and materials families need for these conversations. We will have an attorney, Greg Hutchinson, one of the local funeral home directors, our parish nurses, Helen Zearth and Rosalie Lewis, and both clergy, Martin Geiger and Webster Gibson, give presentations and take questions so those attending will have a better understanding of what they need to consider and do. 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!

Stewardship for 2023

We have a unique opportunity to start from scratch this season of stewardship. A chance to learn or re-visit the basics of giving—why we do it, how we do it, when we do it, and what it enables Christ Church to be and to do.

Let's get back to basics.



The Answer to the Question

When I was young, we used to play a game called “What is the question?” I give you the answer; you give me the question.

For example, the answer is, “Dr. Livingston, I presume.”

What is the question? It’s “What is your full name, Dr. Presume?”

So, if the answer is, “Why should you budget?” What is the question?

It’s “Why should I pledge?”

People often ask why they should fill out a pledge card each year. One large part of the answer is that it helps the parish to make a budget. If you set up a budget for yourself, you have to know what income you have and what you are spending their money on. The parish wants to do ministries with resources and staff, so the parish needs to have an idea of what financial resources (income) they will have available and plan from there.

As a parish, a budget is the outward and visible reminder to the congregation of the ministries of the parish. The budget is a mission statement about our life of worship together, how we are going to educate and raise our children; how adults are going to continue to grow in their own faith; how we are going to serve our neighbors; and how we are going to do discipleship in other ministries which we don't even know about yet. The mission is how we are being stewards of our facilities, our ministries, our people.

As we restart programs after the pandemic, parishioners are telling the Vestry, “We need to do this, we need to do that.” However, often times, those desires of ministry are often connected to our budget and what resources we have or do not have available to us. There are wonderful ministries we would like to include or expand in our budget, but the Vestry cannot do that if there is no good picture of giving to the parish. Pledging gives the Vestry the way to plan, the way to make ministries happen or expand and grow.

Simply put, the budget is the ministry mission statement of Christ Church. As a budget, the more it increases, the more ministries the parish can do.

Remember the answer to the question was “Why should you budget?” And now you know the importance of the original question, “Why should I pledge?”

~ The Rev. Webster Gibson

Learn more & get a pledge card at www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship.

Outreach Committee

Focus on Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)

In October, the Christ Church Outreach Committee is focused on WATTS, one of our designated partner ministries.

WATTS is the Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter, which provides shelter to the people most in need of it during the winter. WATTS provides housing every night from November to March for upwards of 35 guests, through the efforts of numerous congregations and partners. WATTS is a low-barrier shelter, meaning they take in anyone in need of shelter regardless of their circumstances. Although Christ Church's week being the host congregation again for WATTS isn't until February 4-11, 2023, WATTS has on-going needs.



In addition to the overnight shelter, WATTS also provides transition services to its guests, with the goal of moving them out of homelessness, and helping them work on the barriers to achieving that. They operate a warming shelter during the day, at Market Street United Methodist, and a cooling shelter in the summer.

The Outreach Committee will have more information about our WATTS week for February 2023 in the months ahead, and there are lots of ways to help! From cooking a meal, to helping serve dinner and get guests checked in, WATTS can always use volunteers.



For October, we will be collecting **COFFEE** to help WATTS get the day shelter stocked up. Coffee is one of the grocery items WATTS goes through fastest, as anyone who has helped out will tell you. Basic brands like Folgers or Maxwell House are the guests' preference, and please already ground, not whole beans! As you do your shopping this month, please pick up some coffee for WATTS and bring it to church on Sunday or deliver to the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm.

Save the date!

The Angels for the Salvation Army Angel Tree will be ready for choosing here at Christ Church on Sunday, November 6, 2022.

Details will follow soon, but if you're interested in being a new volunteer with this ministry, please contact Dan & Pat Shaner. They will contact you if you have volunteered before!

