

THE ANGELUS

Volume 72 Number 10/11

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

June/July 2022

Dear People of Christ Church,

In one of my previous congregations, they had a custom similar to ours of a prayer list of names with no other descriptions except to pray for them. However, a matriarch of that community set out to prove that you could be on the parish prayer list simply out of being thankful for the people around her and not just because a person was sick. A week after she put her name on the list as a thankful person, she called me and asked her to take her name off that day because so many people were calling her to find out what was wrong with her. Her frustration was not only that she realized she might have to rethink how to teach about prayers and thanksgivings. She was also angered that people could not just pray for her, but insisted on calling her to find out what was wrong with her. She felt that people did not respect her privacy.

This experience is not an uncommon one in the church. When people for the community to pray for them, it is as a supportive act, not an invitation to find out one another's business. A couple of years later, this same matriarch sprained her knee and was at home for several weeks. Within four weeks, a member of the parish told others in the community that the reason for the matriarch's absence was because she had cancer. When the matriarch found out who had started the rumor, the confrontation was phenomenally sad and awkward for all involved.

We see this going on in so many parts of our society today. It is not just with politicians and celebrities, but also local leaders of volunteer organizations and their programs. I wish I could say that the church was exempt from this. However, the church is full of people, so we are not exempt from such behaviors.

I see this as the same challenge going on around the diocese, the parish, families and so many social parts of our communities. With the bishop election, there is a known heightened level of anxiety because of rumors and claims being thrown around about the Standing Committee and search committee which are neither true nor helpful.

With recent staff transitions at Christ Church, I am already hearing the rumors as well as having people ask for specific details concerning staff and parishioners. It is that classic statement, "I heard from one person who heard it from someone else that such and such person overheard what happened." There are also questions that people bring to clergy wanting to know if someone is ill and what that illness is, or what has happened to someone in our community who may not have been seen for a while. Unfortunately, there are also people who love to share their interpretations without clarifying that it is just a guess or a piece of gossip.

One of the responsibilities that Martin and I as clergy take very seriously is confidentiality. When people come into our offices and share their struggles, we do not share that information within the congregation. That is the trust that we maintain with parishioners. It is the same with personnel issues. When I work with the staff at Christ Church, conversations we have in confidence stay in confidence. Unless permission is given to inform the public about what is going on in a person's life, we do not share it. I take my responsibility to keep the trust in confidential conversations seriously.

In this time of transition as a society dealing with COVID, as a diocese seeking new leadership, as a parish working on reopening, and as a congregation dealing with changes, the temptation to follow after the rumor-weed is going to be tempting. Social media and societal attitudes will continue to churn the soil on ways to start and follow juicy gossip. That is a challenge for us to resist.

For our community, when people ask you to pray for them, then pray for them. You do not need to know why. You do not need to ask why. If they want to share more with you they will.

Continued...



From the Clergy

The only thing you need to know is that they trust you enough to ask you to pray for them. "Lord, my friend has asked me to pray for them. Whatever their need, whatever their thanksgiving, I hold them up to you trusting that your grace and mercy will continue to be with them strengthen them and support them."

As for changes in the community, direct contact is best. However, if they say that they don't want to talk about it, if they say it is none of your business, then let it go and just be supportive.

Looking ahead with our search of a director of music, our change in our music program leadership is going to be a challenge. I have spoken with leadership at SU and the AGO and other organizations who say that there are many transitions going on around the region, but not many candidates to fill those slots let alone be substitutes. I am fortunate to have the Vestry, the staff and other musicians in the parish to help our parish move through this time of transition. We will keep you up to date with the process.

However, as we do interviews, as we meet people and discern what God might be about in this process, there will be times of confidentiality. So if you ask and are told that it is a confidential personnel matter, that is to maintain trust in the conversations. If you have specific questions, ask the Vestry or clergy. IF they don't know, they will find out who to ask.

Be it the election of our next bishop, our parish in search or parishioners asking for prayer, please remember that the church community is one where we seek to build up the body of Christ. We may not be happy with the results. We may want to know more details. That is a natural response. However, if you give in to that response, if our approach is to utilize third party or partial statements, conspiracy theories or assumptions, we will begin to look more like the world than the body of Christ. Instead, we can remember the wisdom of Paul:

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another. Be angry but do not sin; do not let the sun go down on your anger, and do not make room for the devil. Thieves must give up stealing; rather let them labor and work honestly with their own hands, so as to have something to share with the needy. Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear. And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with which you were marked with a seal for the day of redemption. Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you. (Ephesians 4:25-32 [NRSV])

Faithfully,



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

Adult Forum in June

Adult Forum will continue in June at 9:30 am in the Tilford Room. On Sunday, June 5, we will have a follow up after the Electing Convention on June 4 to explain what happens next with the newly elected bishop over the next few months. Watch the weekly email for Sunday's topics! We are expecting a Covid/vaccine update from Dr. Jeffrey Feit, Valley Health's Community Health Officer, on June 26.

Christian Formation

New Opportunities for Adults

The Christian Formation Committee and clergy have developed new online offerings this summer, which will hopefully allow more people who work during the day to join a Bible study. These will not replace our current Bible studies. These new offerings will be held via Zoom.

Beginning on Thursday, June 23, The Rev. Martin Geiger will lead a six-week study from Genesis, looking at the stories of the Ancestors (Genesis 12-50). Learn about Abraham and his descendants, and see what their family's relationships with God and each other have to teach us now. The class will be from 7:00-8:00 pm.

Beginning on Monday, June 27, The Rev. Webster Gibson will lead a study on the Psalms. This study will be on the second and fourth Mondays of each month. This Zoom class will mirror the material for the Monday morning faith study hybrid class. This study uses the Anglican study series "Conversations with Scripture." The Psalms booklet of the series is by William Countryman. You can purchase the book on Amazon.

If you are interested in joining either of these classes, please email communications@christchurchwinchester.org for the links.

Why Participate?

Dear friends,

4,932. This is a low estimate of the number of sermons (and biblical texts) that have been spoken in my presence during my lifetime. Growing up in a minister's household, I attended a minimum of two services per Sunday, plus at least two two-week revival meetings every year where there were sermons nightly. As a church musician, in my adult life, my attendance in church continued on a weekly basis.

4,932 would seem to qualify me for an advanced knowledge and understanding of the Holy Scripture and its application to me and our world. Wrong. The problem is that, in my younger years, sermons seemed long, boring and only to be endured. I didn't understand them, much less the scriptural texts, so I became a master day dreamer. Unfortunately, that is a hard habit to break!

Much later in my life, I began to realize that I should be actually listening to sermons and seeking to understand what they all meant. Good idea, but still mostly beyond my ability to focus and comprehend. Within the last two and a half years, I thankfully have had the opportunity to attend Wednesday Bible Studies at Christ Church - online, of course, due to Covid. We have spent time reading and discussing all of the Scripture which will be read in the following Sunday service. This has included discussion about historical facts, various translations, various interpretations, and much more. When the Scriptures are read the following Sunday, they seem like old friends and I can relate to them in a new way. Sermons are by no means a repeat of our Wednesday class but, because of our discussion, the sermon becomes much more meaningful, thought-provoking, and relevant. I am still by no means a person of advanced knowledge and understanding regarding the Holy Scriptures, but I hope to continue to study and learn.

The good news is that you and I are invited to Wednesday Bible Study and other Christian Formation offerings for adults at Christ Church! We can attend either online or in-person. I am very grateful that I can continue to attend from 500 miles away via Zoom! I hope to see you there.

Sincerely,

Opal Davis

Church Calendar

Services at Christ Church

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

4:30 pm Service for Young Families
June 12 & 26

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
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



The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Church Calendar

June & July Birthdays

June

- 1 Woody Baker, Jim Taylor
- 2 Bernice Brown, Nancy Tabaka
- 3 June Davies
- 4 David Bicking
- 11 Evelyn Gibson
- 12 Kay Jones
- 14 Jennifer Mathias
- 16 Gerald Crowell
- 18 Jim Wiedower
- 21 Suzanne Pettit
- 22 Christopher Francis
- 23 Kathryn Schain
- 24 Maria Tedesco
- 25 Walter Jagiello
- 26 Bill Wiley



July

- 1 Ann Crocker
- 2 Betty MacDonald
- 3 Gil Kesser
- 5 Mark Pennypacker, Sr.
- 6 George Gibson
- 7 Nick Nerangis, Philip Sargent
- 9 Eve Brown, Bob Mitchell
- 11 Pat Leinbach
- 14 Kirk Gibson, Linn Power
- 15 John Claybrook, Ron Mislowsky
- 17 Julie Read
- 18 Karey Starnes, Rebekah Wiedower
- 19 Stacy Talbott, Luke White
- 22 Holt Roberson
- 23 Robin Koneczny, Cathie Russell
- 25 Arthur Sperry
- 25 Lynn Huff
- 30 Doug Thomas
- 31 Tim Whipkey

June & July Anniversaries

- 8-Jun Bill & Katy Wiley
- 9-Jun Tim & Cathie Waldie
- 9-Jun David & Margery Wingenbach
- 9-Jun Tom & Lori Ellington
- 10-Jun Joe & Caroline Wingenbach
- 12-Jun Jim & Martha Griffin
- 12-Jun Dick & Katie Clarke
- 13-Jun Rob & Susan Ross
- 16-Jun Don & Betty MacDonald
- 16-Jun Bob & Nancy Mitchell
- 19-Jun Bill & Anne Drury
- 19-Jun Nelson & Barbara Keech
- 20-Jun Mark & Judy Pennypacker
- 26-Jun Ashley & Betty Futral
- 29-Jun Doug & Lucia Thomas
- 6-Jul Webster & Rebecca Gibson
- 7-Jul George & Tricia Glass
- 9-Jul Gary & Susan Sheppard
- 16-Jul Jim & Diedra Kriewald
- 22-Jul Pete & Mary Pat Gronauer
- 24-Jul Tim & Amy Whipkey
- 25-Jul Lynn & Maureen Huff
- 30-Jul Steve & Loretta Johnston
- 30-Jul Roger & Pamela Lamborne

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.

From the Treasurer

Financial Update Through April

The table below shows the detailed Revenue and Expense totals for Actual and Budget for the first four months of 2022.

	YTD April Actual	YTD April Budget	YTD April Actual-Budget
Pledged	\$ 196,099.02	\$ 152,000.00	\$ 44,099.02
Un-Pledged	\$ 13,223.00	\$ 11,100.00	\$ 2,123.00
All Other	\$ 10,110.86	\$ 6,470.00	\$ 3,640.86
Total Revenue	\$ 219,432.88	\$ 169,570.00	\$ 49,862.88
Personnel	\$ 146,250.62	\$ 146,518.28	\$ (267.66)
Utilities	\$ 12,918.53	\$ 10,045.00	\$ 2,873.53
Prop. & Maint.	\$ 11,173.56	\$ 7,452.00	\$ 3,721.56
Office	\$ 6,996.77	\$ 7,042.00	\$ (45.23)
Christian Ed	\$ 95.72	\$ 641.00	\$ (545.28)
Music	\$ 1,160.00	\$ 850.00	\$ 310.00
Worship	\$ 195.34	\$ 680.00	\$ (484.66)
Stewardship	\$ 349.09	\$ 75.00	\$ 274.09
Outreach	\$ 13,750.00	\$ 15,250.00	\$ (1,500.00)
Pastoral Care	\$ 156.25	\$ -	\$ 156.25
Parish Life	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Communications	\$ 544.01	\$ 860.00	\$ (315.99)
Total Expenses	\$ 193,589.89	\$ 189,413.28	\$ 4,176.61
Net Position	\$ 25,842.99	\$ (19,843.28)	\$ 45,686.27

Actual Revenue is almost \$50,000 ahead.

All three major categories show actual ahead of budget:

- Pledged is \$44,100 ahead
- Un-Pledged is \$2,100 ahead
- All other is \$3,600 ahead

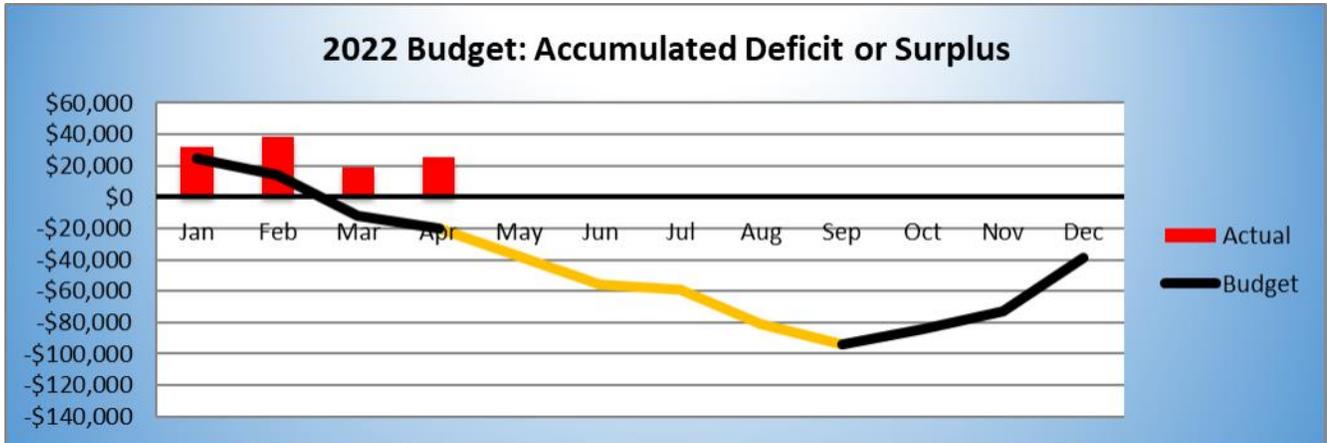
Actual Expenses are about \$4,200 OVER budget.

- Utilities are over by about \$2,900
- Property and Maintenance are over by about \$3,700
- All other expenses in total are about \$2,100 under budget

From the Treasurer

The slow summer months are here! Please keep up with your pledges and donations!

The yellow section of the Budget line on the graph below shows that from May to September our expected Expenses will be about \$63,000 more than our expected revenues. This is the historical pattern related to 'normal' summer attendance being low resulting in lower Revenues each month. Meanwhile, expenses during the summer remain at their normal levels.



A Couple Outreach Notes:

For the months of June and July, CCAP is asking Christ Church parishioners to donate **BABY WIPES**. Donations can be left in the entrance to the church on Sunday mornings or dropped off in the foyer of the Church Office at 114 W. Boscawen Street on Wednesdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm. Thanks for your support of CCAP!



THANK YOU to the volunteers who helped with Apple Blossom ticket sales and parade chairs! You did a great job! This is an important fundraiser and proceeds this year went to Bright Futures, the local organization that helps feed and supports local kids in school.



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

Donations accepted & volunteers wanted!

From the Parish Nurses

Don't Get Ticked Off!

Hooray! It's summer and we can enjoy outside activities! Unfortunately, it's also tick season. Be sure to take precautions:

- Repel those ticks. Apply your favorite bug spray with at least 15-30% DEETS.
- Cover your limbs. Wear long colored pants and shirts so you can spot ticks.
- Keep your grass mowed.
- Use tick prevention medication for your pets so they don't get a bite or carry a tick inside.
- Shower off shortly after being outside and check your body and hair. And make sure there aren't ticks on the clothes you were wearing.

If you find a tick on yourself:

- Remove the tick with fine-tipped tweezers. Pull outward from your skin without twisting.
- Visit the doctor if you have symptoms such as fever, fatigue, headache, or a circular rash near the bite. Let them know you had removed a tick.

See you in church!

Your Parish Nurses, Rosalie Lewis & Helen Zebarth

Christian Formation for Children

Summer Fun Ahead

We will continue to have lots of opportunities for worship, education, and growth during the summer months. Each Sunday morning from June 5 through September 5, a playgroup for children through third grade will be available in the Commons area on the second floor of the Parish Hall. Teams of parents will supervise the children from 10:30—11:00 am, when they will be brought to the sanctuary to join their parents for communion. If you are a parent of young children, we will contact you to see which Sundays you are available to help.

On Sunday, July 10, we will be celebrating summer with a free VBS-style event with our neighbors from Grace Lutheran. All ages are invited to meet after the 10:30 am service in the parking lot behind the Smith Building, which will be blocked off to cars. We'll explore the 23rd Psalm through ten interactive stations manned by volunteers from both congregations, and we will have a look at what the psalm means today for any adults who would like to take part in a grown-up activity. Lunch will be provided and the Kona Ice truck will be on hand. If you would like to help, contact Margery Wingenbach (wingenbach@comcast.net).

Our 4:30 pm service for young families will continue from June 12 through August 28, with some Sundays reserved for communion and activities and others for a focused family activity and a covered dish supper. You will receive the schedule in your email if you are on our young families list. Please contact the office if you'd like to add your email address.

In the upcoming Fall session, we will finally be able to offer age-grouped Sunday School classes again with curriculum designed to meet the needs of each group. We expect to have a preschool class, a K-2 class, and a grades 3-5 class. If you have children who might want to be part of an intermediate/middle school weekly Sunday morning brunch gathering, please let us know (wingenbach@comcast.net) so we can develop that possibility. Registration for Sunday School will begin mid-August via the website and in-person.