

THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

April 2020

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been hard for me to figure out what to write in this letter. The situation with coronavirus has changed and continues to change rapidly, and our response as a church has had to change many times, as well. As I write this, there are still many unknowns for us. How long will it be before we are able to gather in person again? What's going to happen in the meantime? How are we going to continue to be the church together until we can gather in person, in our building? Our answers to all of these questions are likely to continue to evolve. But one thing that has become clear is that we are not going to be together for Holy Week and Easter. Whatever shape our worship takes during that week, and on Easter Sunday itself, it would look different than any Easter we have ever experienced.

This has been a disappointing realization for me, as I'm sure it has for all of you. I was very excited about my first Easter at Christ Church. But as I've been reflecting on the new reality, and as Webster and I have been trying to figure out what shape our worship will take during that time, I've found myself more and more drawn to the Gospel accounts of the first Easter. The first Easter was not a day of celebration for the disciples – they were separated, alone, mourning what they had witnessed on Good Friday, and in fear of what would happen to them. Even their first experiences of the Resurrection left them confused and afraid before anything else. In some of the earliest manuscripts of the Gospel of Mark, the whole gospel ends with Mary Magdalene and the women at the tomb leaving “in terror and amazement,” saying nothing to anyone. (Mark 16:8).

But despite the disciples' fear and separation, Jesus had been raised from the dead. The Resurrection did not depend on them being ready to celebrate it or understand it. And the same is true for us. Christ is risen even if we cannot gather in church to celebrate that fact. The Resurrection happens in the very midst of our own fear and confusion, to remind us that God has promised us new life. Everything will certainly feel very different to us this Easter. We may find ourselves hearing new things in the Gospel narratives, learning to identify with the disciples' fear and confusion in a new way, as we wait for the time where it will be safe for us to resume public gatherings and worship. But the good news this Easter is that Jesus has been raised from the tomb, and we can find hope and joy in that even right now. May that hope and joy be ever more real for us, this and every Easter.

Faithfully,



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



April 2020

In the Diocese

Our Retreat

Usually, in April, we are talking about our Parish Weekend at Shrine Mont. We ask parishioners to join the parish family on Mother's Day weekend for retreat, prayer, fellowship, relaxation, fun and homestyle cooking. While our annual outing may not happen this May, Shrine Mont is always there and available to us.

In 2013, Bishop Shannon Johnston wrote about Shrine Mont in the Summer issue of *Virginia Episcopalian*. He talked about the heart of our diocese:

"I say that the Diocese of Virginia does indeed have a center, a heart, a heartbeat: Shrine Mont. Shrine Mont is the place of our diocesan cathedral, the church for the whole Diocese. It is the official seat of the bishop who, among other things, is the personal symbol of unity as a diocese. The Cathedral Shrine of the Transfiguration is yours, wherever you normally worship on Sundays and regardless of where you live. This has been true ever since it was consecrated and dedicated as our cathedral in 1925. As an outdoor shrine, it is hardly a conventional cathedral. No, it is quite unconventional, gloriously so, for there is no other cathedral like it in the entire Anglican world! Make it yours in your personal life."



He goes on to talk about the importance of summer camps at Shrine Mont and says, "But Shrine Mont is not only about the Cathedral Shrine and our camp ministries. It is truly a beautiful place set apart for rest, reflection and recreation. People come alone, in families or small groups, or with their larger congregational family to step back from their day-to-day lives and reconnect to the Spirit and Kingdom within. Some cottages are refreshingly rustic, others more modernized. In any event, you may come assured that you will be taken care of, well fed, and provided a comfortable place to stay – without the distractions and stressors that mark life as usual. Also a conference center, Shrine Mont offers a wide variety of programs for spiritual and intellectual life."

He finishes, "Shrine Mont. A matchless center, a heart, for the Diocese of Virginia. For one, for all. When you know it, you will fall in love with it. And then, come to know it as a seat for your soul and a wellspring of spiritual life."

We talked with Churchill J. Gibson, IV (A.K.A. Kirk), Director of Development for Shrine Mont, Christ Church parishioner, and brother of our rector. Kirk shared why this place is special, what's available to guests, and why Parish Weekend is an opportunity for all of us.

Kirk loves to talk about the accommodations at Shrine Mont, the meals, the activities, the programs. He stresses that Shrine Mont is for everyone—they can accommodate accessibility issues, special diets, and parishes like ours are happy to help with costs associated with parish weekend stays. The accommodations are not rustic. There are renovated cottages with private bathrooms and new mattresses. He says, "It's not fancy. We have fans, not air conditioning, no TV, little cell service, no wifi. We do provide linens, towels, fireplaces - a clean, comfortable stay."

Meals at Shrine Mont are legendary and have been the same for about 85 years, according to Kirk. Guests are called by bells to meals that are served family-style in Tucker Hall. Think fried chicken, meatloaf, mac and cheese...

In the Diocese

About Shrine Mont

Kirk says that while parish weekend programs vary depending on the parish, Christ Church always has a great mix of programming and time to choose how to spend your time. Friday evenings are usually just dinner as people arrive at varying times. On Saturday, there is usually a program led by clergy in the morning. If there are enough kids in attendance, they may have their own program, otherwise it's for all ages. It's free time after lunch—to spend together hiking or fishing, or alone, onsite or exploring the area. After dinner on Saturday, there's usually a bonfire and s'mores and lots of games. Sunday morning, it's worship in the Shrine and Mother's Day brunch.

Shrine Mont hopes to open in May and has summer camps and other events planned all summer. If we don't get our Parish Weekend this year, please remember that Shrine Mont offers other opportunities for retreat, prayer and fellowship. And we are fortunate to have members of the Gibson family to share their stories and encourage us to visit!

Shrine Mont is a place where people are more important than things, where prayer and reflection, rest and recreation are more important than appointments and tasks. It's a place where people give thanks to God for his creation—from the beauty of the streams, flowers and wildlife which are at home here, to the people who come to this place to celebrate being part of the family of God. ~ Shrinemont.com

The Virginia House (pictured below) is the renovated resort “down the hill” from the cottages and serves as the conference center. Formerly known as the Orkney Springs Hotel, it is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and was purchased by Shrine Mont in 1979. With its white clapboard structure and tall, green-shuttered windows, The Virginia House is four stories high. The 96,000 square-foot structure was built in 1873 and restored in 1987. At that time, the common areas, meeting rooms and dining facilities were renovated.



Shrine Mont features:

- Meeting halls with seating capacities of 50 to 300
- A ballroom with seating for 400
- Three large outdoor pavilions
- Prayer Labyrinth
- Tennis court
- Pickle ball court
- Volleyball court
- Outdoor swimming pool
- Two large recreation fields suitable for softball, soccer and other sports and games
- Campfire rings
- Horseshoes, croquet and bocci ball
- Scenic hiking trails
- Gift Shop
- An extensive library
- Golf nearby at Bryce Resort
- Wineries nearby

Church Calendar

Church Services

Sunday

Holy Communion Rite I 8:00 am

Holy Communion Rite II 10:30 am

Wednesday

In the Pilgrim's Chapel at noon
(Healing Service 3rd Wed)

Second Monday

6:30 pm All Abilities Worship —Sanctuary



- 5 Palm Sunday
- 9 Maundy Thursday
- 10 Good Friday
- 12 Easter Sunday

Committee & Group Meetings

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Senior Choir Rehearsal | Wed: 7:00 pm |
| Adult Forum | Sun: 9:30 am |
| Alleluia Singers | Sun: 8:45 am |
| Daytime Faith Study | 2nd/4th Mon: 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 |
| Treasure Box | Wed & Fri: 10 am-4 pm, Sat 10 am-1 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 |

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



**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

Church Calendar

April Birthdays

- 2 Martin Tabaka, Dan Wall
- 3 Larry Pettinger
- 6 Toni Sloan
- 7 David McWhorter, Stewart Wiley
- 8 Mary Rodriguez
- 11 Joe Wingenbach
- 12 Nora Garber, Brock Whipkey
- 14 Dixon Whitworth
- 16 Sylvia Petrie
- 17 Dennis Wise
- 18 Kevin Kennedy, Kathy Nerangis
Maria Nelson
- 19 Michael Mohn, Dan Troup
- 20 Leslie Harper, Tom Wise, Don MacDonald
- 22 Laken Whipkey
- 23 Ruth Gregory
- 24 Joan Claybrook
- 27 Melissa Ferguson



April Anniversaries

- 8 Larry & Connie Pettinger
- 18 Gil & Margie Kesser
- 19 Bernie & Rosemary Swope
- 26 Scott & Leslie Harper

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.



The Treasure Box Thrift Shop is open
Wednesdays and Fridays
10 am—4 pm
Saturdays 10 am—1 pm
at 114 W. Boscawen St.

From the Treasurer

Finance News pre-COVID-19

February 2020 looked like this:

| 2020 | YTD Feb Budget | YTD Feb Actuals | Difference Actual - Budget |
|----------------|----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Total Revenues | \$93,130.00 | \$117,221.00 | \$24,091.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$87,215.68 | \$87,272.31 | \$56.63 |
| Net Position | \$5,914.32 | \$29,948.69 | \$24,034.37 |

Revenues:

Pledged Revenue has exceeded budget by about \$23,700

Several Pledgers paid their 2020 pledge a lot earlier than usual

These EARLY payments totaled about \$22,400

It is expected that this early overage will eventually even out to the budget by the end of the year

Unpledged Revenue is below budget by just \$165

Unpledged is right on budget so far

All Other Revenues has exceeded budget by about \$570

Mostly due to Plate & Holiday offerings

Expenses:

Actual Expenses in total are right on budget

Though some expense categories are over and some are under, none are severe and in total we within about \$50 of the budget

Net Position:

At present, the net position is about \$24,000 better than budget.

Note from the Treasurer

Donating during these unprecedented times...

Normally, people bring their donations when they physically attend church on Sundays. We haven't been able to do that. While we feel we have sufficient funds to pay our bills and our dedicated staff in the short term (perhaps a few months), we encourage those of you that can/want to keep up with your normal donations and pledges to use the mail (checks only please to Christ Church, 114 W. Boscawen St., Winchester, VA 22601). We strongly encourage those that have online banking to use their Direct Bill pay function.

If we do start to run short of cash on hand, we may need to utilize some of our investment funds. However, before that happens, we will be in touch with the congregation and encourage more to donate by mail. Thank you!

Worship

Holy Week and Easter Services

It appears now that we will not gather for services in April and May. Bishop Goff has also clarified that Easter gatherings of Holy Communion, no matter how small, are too dangerous.

So, as we prepare for Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter, we will continue with worship services online and share other opportunities for prayer. The upcoming services will be different than normal, but we are determined to help the community continue to have our Holy Week and Easter be a part of our lives of worship during this peculiar experience.

Please be sure you are on the email list so that you receive communications from us regarding services. You can sign up at www.christchurchwinchester.org in the blue box that says, "Please join us." There will be a link on the home page of the website and on our Facebook page to services that we post as videos on YouTube.

Please note there will be services on these dates:

Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 5.

Maundy Thursday is Thursday, April 9.

Good Friday is Friday, April 10.

The Easter Vigil is Saturday, April 11.

Easter is Sunday, April 12.

Viewing on YouTube

When you click on a link from the website or Facebook to watch a service on YouTube, this is what it will look like. There is an arrow in the center to click to play the video. There is a tool bar at the bottom (you may have to hover over the image to get it to appear). See below for explanations of the symbols. You can leave a comment at the bottom, too.

Click here or here to play the video.

Click here to adjust volume.

Click here to make video full screen size.

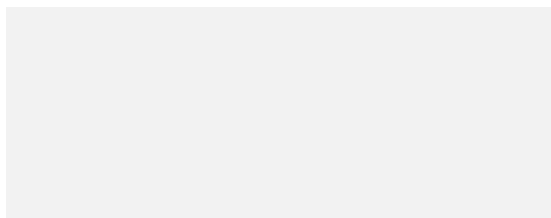
If you click on this, you will see all of our posted services.



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Christ Episcopal Church
114 West Boscawen St.
Winchester, VA 22601-4116

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Organization
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The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Vacation Bible School 2020

God willing, Vacation Bible School is still coming July 6-10, 2020! Mark your calendars now for **Rocky Railway**, where trusting Jesus pulls us through life's ups and downs. Look forward to tons of learning and fun in our yearly program and its outreach to our community's children. The program is from 9:00 am until noon each day at our neighbor, Grace Lutheran Church. It is free of charge and for all kids in the greater community.

Do you think you would like to work with our children's program but don't feel able to take a role during the regular program year? VBS is for you! We need lots of help in many ways and virtually everything is provided including plans, materials, all kinds of support, and lots of fun. Our volunteers include parents, seniors, youth (after they finish 7th grade) and VBS alumni. Call or text Margery Wingenbach (540-667-0386) to volunteer!

