

THE ANGELUS

Volume 72 Number 4

Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

December 2021

Dear People of Christ Church,

December of 2021 is perhaps the most “Advent” month for me in our work as a parish. This is a season marked as a countdown in preparing the return or arrival of our Lord, the buildup to that most festive day marking the birth of Jesus who was and is and is to come as the incarnate Lord—the one in whom and through whom God establishes a human, “fleshy,” incarnational, saving relationship with humanity. We are preparing as we wait for our Lord's return.

Rather than just sit around and wait, this pandemic and our hope to see it wane over the next few months has given us the opportunity to minister as our Lord calls us to do. We have much to prepare for. For a variety of reasons, our ministries need more ministers. We need you to be a part of our ministries. We need ushers, acolytes, altar guild, video worship ministry, cooks, clothing and food delivery, choir, property upkeep, knitters, chalicers, readers, welcomers, and more...

Not all of these are up and running right now, which gives us time to prepare. I have found some confusion that people think each ministry is the same no matter what the parish. Such is not the case! Come talk with the ministry leaders, share what you have done, see what we do here, and if you feel called to participate. Or take this opportunity to explore something you haven't done before at church. In this time of preparation, you can “try on” a ministry or two, learning what they do, and find your fit. Invite someone to learn about ministries with you.

This time of preparing and practicing is also the chance to invite those who have done these ministries for years to come and re-learn what we do. Many of our ministries have changed in the past few years—some a smidge and others a good bit. So re-learning our ministries is not just for people newer to the parish. This applies to everyone.

Our ministries are detailed on the church website: www.christchurchwinchester.org. There are links to ask for more information or to be contacted.

Advent is that moment when you find the answer to the question, “But what has the Church done for me?” The answer is quite clear: the Church has invited you to discover a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Christ's family, the church, as one of Jesus' disciples ministering with His other disciples in worship, formation, service and care. That is the gift of Holy Baptism - always getting prepared in anticipation of greeting our Lord on his return.

²⁰ The one who testifies to these things says, “Surely I am coming soon.”
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

²¹ The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen. (*Revelation 22:20-21*)

Faithfully,



The Rev. Webster Gibson, Rector
rector@christchurchwinchester.org

Merry Christmas



Sundays of Advent

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Friday, December 24

4:30 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II
10:00 pm Holy Eucharist Rite II
with Choir

**Saturday, December 25
Christmas Day**

10:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite II

Sunday, December 26

8:00 am Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:30 am Lessons & Carols

From the Clergy

In Luke's account of the Gospel, which we will be hearing from most Sundays for the next year, John the Baptist appears to proclaim the arrival of Jesus, and he does so by quoting Isaiah. "The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.'" (Luke 3:4) John the Baptist's message to the people is about how to prepare, how to be ready for God when God arrives among them. John urges the people of Israel to take action as they prepare, to repent of sin, to practice justice toward the neighbors, to share with those who are in need. The good news, in John's account, requires an active response from us, as we try to make our lives ready for God's presence.

In Advent, we remember this work of preparation that John the Baptist called his people to. The Advent collects instruct us to "put on the armor of light," to "forsake our sins," and to allow God to "purify our consciences." But we also know Advent to be a season of waiting, a time when we are looking forward to something that has not yet happened yet. In Advent we wait: both for our celebration of Christ's birth at Christmas, and in anticipation of Christ's return.

These two verbs of Advent—*prepare* and *wait*—can seem like an odd fit. Our usual idea of waiting is really waiting around - sitting with nothing to do until your name is called, or standing in line. Preparing, on the other hand, sounds active, bustling around making everything ready. But in Advent we are called to do both—to prepare our hearts and our lives to celebrate Christ's coming among us, and to wait, to be patient and thoughtful during this time of anticipation. So how do we do both at once?

The British theologian Paula Gooder has one idea. In her book on Advent, *The Meaning is in the Waiting*, she suggests that we need to remember what waiting really looks like in a spiritual sense. Far from being useless time, what we need is active waiting, the sort that tries to live as attentively as possible to each moment as it happens. Active waiting isn't about sitting around wishing Christmas would get here already, but about paying attention to each day and each hour as an opportunity to deepen our connection to God and each other. We can do this kind of waiting even as we do all the work of preparation for Christmas: prayer and pie-baking, wrapping presents and reading Scripture.

So whatever sort of preparation we find ourselves doing in Advent, remember that we can wait while we do it. We can learn to pay attention to God, and make Advent more than a countdown to Christmas, but its own time of knowing and loving the One who comes for our salvation.

Faithfully,



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

Christmas Flowers



We are looking forward to a Christmas Sanctuary adorned with poinsettias. If you would like to make a donation to the Altar Guild to help adorn the Sanctuary in memory of or in thanksgiving for a loved one this season, please place your donation in a Christmas Flower envelope (available in the church) and return it in the offering or to the Church Office by December 16. If you do not have an envelope, please email Noelle at communications@christchurchwinchester.org about your donation.

Christian Formation

Christian Formation for Children

We will continue to meet from 9:45-10:15 am in the Sunday School Commons for our Advent program. Each week, we are lighting candles on an Advent wreath, learning more about what we do in Advent and why, learning the first verse of a traditional carol that we hear in church at Christmas, and taking part in a creative activity to remind us of what we have learned. Our music segment has been recorded in the choir loft by Ted Dix and Phil Sargent and is available for additional practicing on our YouTube channel (Christ Episcopal Church—Winchester, Virginia).

This Christmas Eve, children are invited to attend the 4:30 pm service dressed as a figure from the Nativity narrative and participate in a parade led by the Christmas star. Even without rehearsals and costumed or not, we will involve every child who wants to take part in the celebration of Jesus's birth!

Note: Beginning in December, the downstairs space in the church that we have been using for young children during the first half of the 10:30 am service will return to being a changing room/break time for infants and toddlers. It will not be staffed, but has toys and other materials for those who need a few minutes to wiggle. The audio of the service is broadcast so that parents can follow the service while giving the smallest parishioners a break.

We will return to having the children use the Children's Chapel in the Sunday School Commons (on the second floor of the Parish Hall) during the first part of the 10:30 am service. The chapel leaders will lead a short service followed by activities for the kids. They will be brought to the sanctuary to join their parents at the Peace.

Please be aware that the doors to the Parish Hall lock automatically at 10:30 am as part of our security protocol. If you are a few minutes late, you can still get to the Sunday School Commons through the church. Just head up the side aisle on the pulpit side. Enter the door to the Tilford Room on your right, go through the Tilford Room to the foyer, and up the stairs as you normally would.

Christian Formation for Adults

Our Adult Forum Advent program continues in the Tilford Room at 9:30 am each Sunday in Advent. (Masks required.) We will use a new curriculum called “Journeying the Way of Love.” We’ll talk about passages from the beginning of Luke’s Gospel as a pattern for our own journey as disciples trying to love God and our neighbors. We’ll also talk about different spiritual practices that can help us on that journey, including [an Advent calendar of practices to try out each day](#). Even if you can’t join us for Adult Forum, we invite you to try out the calendar as you prepare for Christmas.



Church Calendar

Sundays at Christ Church

8:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II
in the Sanctuary
Masks required for everyone.

Please refer to email updates and website for updates and changes.

The Church Office is open Tuesday—Thursday
from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

It's always a good idea to call ahead!

Church Office Tel. 540-662-5843



Look for

**Christ Episcopal Church Winchester
and like us to stay up-to-date on the latest news!**

The Angelus is a monthly publication of Christ Episcopal Church.

Committee & Group Meetings

Online Bible Study	Wed: 10:00 am (online)
Outreach Committee	4th Tues: 7:00 pm
Properties Committee	3rd Tues: 7:00 pm
Vestry	2nd Tues: 7:00 pm
Daytime Faith Study	2nd & 4th Mon: 10:00 am (online)



The Treasure Box Thrift Shop is open at 114 W. Boscawen Street 10:00 am to 4:00 pm on Wednesdays and Fridays, and 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Saturdays. We have received some wonderful donations and we thank all of you who have helped fill our shelves. But, what we would really “treasure” are some new volunteers! No special skills necessary! Please contact Sally O’Neil (reidybobby@yahoo.com) if you would like to join us. In the meantime, we are in holiday mode. Come visit and find that special Christmas gift!



Church Calendar

December Birthdays

- 1 Mary Margaret Applin, Jamie Eppes
- 4 Betty Futral
- 5 Bill Armstrong
- 6 Pam Friestad, Peggy Dowd
- 7 Harry Poling
- 8 Lelia Wingenbach
- 10 Rob Ross, Gary Sheppard
- 12 Linda Gibson
- 14 Penny Byler
- 17 Terri Cluss, Fritz Trumbore
- 19 Eleanor Thomson
- 21 Bill Pifer
- 26 Christopher Turnbull
- 27 Charles Casey
- 28 Ashley Futral, Jr.
- 29 Carole Ann King
- 30 Sarah Roberson, Sam Worsley
- 31 Rob Boyd



December Anniversaries

- 4 James & Marsha Baden
- 5 Jeremy & Katy Schain
- 8 Stephen & Suzanne Pettit
- 18 Bill & Gail Walsh
- 18 Steve & Ashley Haines
- 21 Kevin & Pam Kennedy

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 Parish Nurse

As we prepare for the holidays, it is an optimal time to remember to take extra care when we are putting up or taking down festive decorations. From a recent personal experience, I can tell each of you to stay off ladders especially when you are outside. The ground might look firm and surprise! There you are on the ladder and think that the ladder is steady, and the next minute you find you are on the ground! Not only is your pride “bruised” but you are bruised—outside and probably inside. Let’s hope you did not break an extremity or cause a fractured rib! Instead of climbing the ladder, ask someone to help you. I didn’t and I wish I had asked someone to steady the ladder I was on! Be safe!

Your Parish Nurses—Rosalie and Helen

Volunteers Needed!

Christ Church is participating again this year in [Winchester’s First Night celebration](#), a day-long family celebration of the arts downtown. Volunteers are needed to be hosts here at church on New Year’s Eve. Hosts greet visitors, check for tickets, and answer questions. It’s a fun way to participate in the First Night program! Please contact Jody Wall (jody_wall@yahoo.com) if you can spend a few hours helping!



From the Treasurer

How will we end the year financially?

Regular readers know that the reporting of financial information is always two months behind in the Angelus due to submission deadlines, document creation, and then circulation. So, the information herein does not include November results.

The table below shows the detail Revenue and Expense totals by category for Actual and Budget for the first TEN months of 2021. It shows we are ahead of budget still, now by about \$62,000. Unfortunately, we are at a negative net position of about \$54,000.

We will recognize the PPP loan forgiveness in December which we hope, along with a strong November and December, will get us close to break-even for the year.

Year-to-Date Through August 2021	Actual	Budget	Difference
Revenues			
Pledged	\$340,244.54	\$280,500.00	\$59,744.54
Unpledged	\$56,425.00	\$56,600.00	(\$175.00)
All Other Revenues	\$14,722.98	\$15,240.00	(\$517.02)
Total	\$411,392.52	\$352,340.00	\$59,052.52
Expenses			
Total Personnel	\$355,259.54	\$357,409.30	(\$2,149.76)
Total Utilities	\$21,576.61	\$18,490.00	\$3,086.61
Total Property/Maintenance	\$33,837.06	\$36,690.00	(\$2,852.94)
Total Office Expenses	\$16,134.31	\$16,480.00	(\$345.69)
Total Christian Education Expenses	\$735.03	\$1,116.00	(\$380.97)
Total Music Expenses	\$1,135.00	\$2,435.00	(\$1,300.00)
Total Worship	\$937.26	\$885.00	\$52.26
Total Stewardship	(\$323.66)	\$700.00	(\$1,023.66)
Total Outreach	\$34,350.03	\$31,770.00	\$2,580.03
Total Pastoral Care	\$272.02	\$450.00	(\$177.98)
Total Parish Life	\$257.32	\$640.00	(\$382.68)
Total Communications	\$1,571.23	\$1,460.00	\$111.23
Total	\$465,741.75	\$468,525.30	(\$2,783.55)
Net Total	(\$54,349.23)	(\$116,185.30)	\$61,836.07

Our budget still shows about \$115,000 of expenses for both November and December. Since some pledges have been paid in full already, along with some new pledges received early in the year, it is hard to guess where we will end the 2021 year. **Please keep up with your donations** and help us move from a deficit to break-even or even a positive year-end net position!

From the Treasurer

Notes from the Bookkeeper

If you requested 2022 pledge envelopes, they can be picked up in the back of the church, beginning Sunday, December 5. If they are not picked up before year-end, they will be brought over to the Church Office and you may stop by and pick them up from the bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz, on the first floor of the Smith Building at 114 W. Boscawen Street. Remember the pledge envelope number sequence has been changed for 2022, so odds are you have a NEW pledge number. Please pick up your booklet by NAME and not number. And please start using your new envelopes beginning January 2022. Thank you for your cooperation!

2021 Contribution Statements will be mailed the week of January 10. If you do not receive your regular contribution statement by February 1, 2022, please contact our bookkeeper. Per the IRS guidelines, only contributors that exceeding the \$250 threshold will receive a statement. If you contributed less than \$250, but would like a statement, please contact our bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz, at 540-773-5566, or email TSeitz@christchurchwinchester.org. And as always, thank you for your generosity!

Help us budget for 2022 by submitting your pledge now!

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH PLEDGE CARD FOR 2022

My/Our TOTAL pledge for 2022 will be: \$ _____

I/We will pay (*choose one*): \$ _____ Weekly \$ _____ Monthly \$ _____ Quarterly

OR, as a one-time payment in the month of: _____

I/we would like to receive offering envelopes: Yes No

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

I would like to know more about Planned Giving at Christ Church.

**“for we walk by faith,
not by sight.”**
(2 Corinthians 5:7)

Please make your pledge known by any of the following:

- Mail to Christ Church Office, 114 W. Boscawen Street, Winchester, VA 22601.
- Place in the offering in church on Sunday.
- Use electronic form on church website: www.christchurchwinchester.org/stewardship.
- Email your pledge information to our bookkeeper, Theresa Seitz (tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org). Use this specific address to assure confidentiality!

From the Outreach Committee

As 2021 comes to a close, the Outreach Committee wants to say “Thank you” to the whole congregation for all of your work supporting and carrying out the mission of Christ Church to meet the needs of our neighbors, and to make Christ known as we do so. Here are some of the things we accomplished this year:

Your efforts and generosity have meant that Christ Church has been able to:

- Support the WATTS shelter for our week in February, providing shelter for approximately 30 guests every night despite the challenges of COVID
- Provide and serve dinner for upwards of 50 people twice a month at the Winchester Rescue Mission, along with our new casserole ministry so they have extra meals on hand when needed
- Pack food bags to go home with Winchester-area students through Bright Futures, at +500 bags a session
- Provide food and clothing to CCAP’s clients, including over 200 cans of yams in just the last few weeks!
- Provide groceries to the Salvation Army’s feeding program on a monthly basis
- Provide several dinners to Kids Club students and their families, giving their community a chance to eat together
- Provide Christmas presents to 110 children through the Salvation Army Angel Tree program

The Outreach operating budget, which comes directly from pledged income to Christ Church, primarily was used to support these ministries in the past year, particularly providing food we pack for Bright Futures, groceries for the Salvation Army, and the ingredients for Rescue Mission dinners. Additionally, The Outreach Committee responded to donation needs from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank, WATTS, Salvation Army’s Red Kettle program, and CCAP’s Financial Assistance program. Look for final numbers in a future issue of the Angelus.

Angel Tree 2021



The angels have all been adopted and now we are collecting and delivering the gifts! You can drop off/check in gifts on Sunday, December 5, and Sunday, December 12, in the Tilford Room, from 8:45 am—10:30 am and from 11:30 am—12:30 pm. You can also drop gifts off at the Salvation Army sites listed below. Please notify us by leaving a message at 540-486-4003 if you drop off directly with the Salvation Army.

Residents of Westminster-Canterbury can drop off their bags of gifts at the front desk there and we will collect them. Please also let us know if you do this by calling 540-486-4003.

The Salvation Army drop-off sites are:

- 443 Millwood Ave., Open Monday-Friday until December 13 from 9:30 am—5:30 pm
- 300 Fort Collier Rd., Open Monday-Sunday until December 13, 8:00 am—8:00 pm

If you have any questions or need assistance turning in your gift, call us at 540-486-4003 or click on the Angel Tree button on the website to send a message. Thank you for your support of this merry ministry!



CCAP Donations for December

This month, Christ Church has been asked to help CCAP provide Christmas dinners for local families. We’ve been asked to donate **BOXES of STUFFING MIX (chicken or pork, Stove Top or store brand)** by December 15. Please bring stuffing to Sunday services (there is a basket at the doors to the church) or to the Church Office at 114 West Boscawen St. on Wednesdays between 10:00 am and 1:00 pm before December 15.