

# THE ANGELUS

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Christ Episcopal Church • Winchester, Virginia

January 2021

Dear People of Christ Church,

Happy New Year! We made it to 2021!

In a commercial for a matchmaking company, they have Satan meet his perfect match - 2020. The two of them then go on to wreak all types of havoc and destruction. I found that image quite helpful for a way to interpret 2020. At the same time, I have also been impressed with our ability to adapt to deal with the challenges we face.

While we wait for the vaccine distribution to work its way around the community, we will continue to do a good bit with our online meetings and classes. January will have study offerings returning with our 10:00 am Wednesday Bible Study of the Scripture readings for Sunday, and we will be starting our Daytime Faith Study Group again beginning January 25 at 10:00 am. We will also have our Wednesday 7:00 pm Evening Prayer service resume. As usual, we will also have Sunday worship at 10:00 am livestreamed online. Any additional meetings or concerts will be communicated through our weekly Thursday email update.

This is not ideal, but it is where we are. The imagery of Epiphany is light—in the beginning of John's Gospel and with the star that leads the Magi. This is the second time for me that my attention has been drawn to how generations before utilized mother nature to remind us about ways to remember God. The first time for me was in the summer as we sat outside in big circles, hearing the song of birds so loudly and clearly with fresh attention paid to variety of song and the ways birds gather. Now as we go through the shortest day of the year, I begin to look forward all the more to days with more light, and more warmth so we can be outside again. These reminders of nature are real, tangible expressions of our language to say that the light of Christ brings the dawn, vanquishes the darkness, brings light and life to our lives.

I know it has been a peculiar journey when I am reminded of a song lyric from the Grateful Dead, "What a long, strange trip it's been." May the light of the risen Lord bless you in this new year as we continue on this peculiar journey.

Faithfully,



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

January 2021



## Annual Meeting Postponed

In recent years, we have met for our annual meeting in January, reviewed the budget for the year, and elected new members to the Vestry. This year, as we cannot yet meet in person to vote, the Vestry will continue in their roles and we will hold our annual meeting when we can safely. When you have the opportunity, please be sure to thank those currently serving as they have served conscientiously during these difficult months.

## From the Clergy

Dear Friends in Christ,

Happy New Year! As you're reading this, you may be packing up the Christmas decorations, taking down the tree, and wondering what 2021 is going to bring. I'm wondering that along with you. I'm also thinking about what I'm going to bring to the year ahead, the kind of person I want to be in 2021. And one place I'm turning to as I consider that is the season of Epiphany, which begins on January 6th and continues until Ash Wednesday.

The Epiphany season centers on moments of recognition. It's about the times when other people started to understand who Jesus was, and what he was in the world to do. It's a season about remembering when God was made manifest—obvious—in Jesus's life and witness. That's why we start the season by remembering the visit of the Wise Men at Jesus's birth, as the first moment where people from outside Israel recognized that something important was happening. And that's why on the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday, we will read the Transfiguration, the moment when some of the disciples see Jesus in all his glory. But this year in particular, I'm thinking about Jesus's baptism, which will be the gospel reading on Sunday, January 10th. Jesus's baptism is the beginning of his public ministry. The Holy Spirit descends on him, and the voice of God is heard declaring that Jesus is God's son, God's beloved.

Although our own baptisms probably did not feature the same level of pyrotechnics, they serve the same purpose for us. Our baptism is our own call into ministry, our call to live out our faith to the world. Just as Jesus's baptism was a moment where his call and purpose were made visible, our own baptisms are public moments, where we are assured that God loves us, and God calls us into service. We can remember our baptism, and the promises made there, to remind us of our own part in God's mission, our own part in making God's love visible in the world, like Jesus did. Our baptismal promises - to proclaim God's good news, to resist evil, to seek and serve Christ in all persons—are all about how we live in a way that makes God's love visible, manifest in the world around us. When we remember those promises, when we see the ways our baptism reflects Jesus's own baptism, that can help guide us as we think about how we want to live in the year ahead.

I can't tell you what's going to happen this year, but I can tell you that whatever happens, we will all have many opportunities to make God's love visible to others, and to grow in our commitment to Jesus. Those opportunities may be easy for us to respond to, or challenging. They may be obvious, or they may be hard to see. They may be about words, or acts of service, or opportunities to pray for one another. But whenever we have the chance to make God's love visible, it's an opportunity to do what Jesus did, and to be shaped into God's image. May 2021 be a time of new discovery and new commitment as we all seek to make Christ's love known!

Faithfully,



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

**Join us online for Evening Prayer on  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm.  
Email Martin for the link.**

# Christian Formation

## Sunday School

Christ Church's Children's Time online will continue on Sundays in 2021. As we move into Epiphany, the stories are about the works of Jesus and how he shows us how to live. Look for a variety of different leaders and storytellers, teaching about these stories from the Bible, as well as topics about the church year and the Prayer Book. If you have questions you want answered or stories you'd like to hear more about, contact Margery ([wingenbach@comcast.net](mailto:wingenbach@comcast.net)) or the clergy and your question just might show up in a future video!

Thank you to all of our teachers and storytellers in the fall, including: Webster and Martin, Margery, Rose Eberhardt, Ann Ellwood, Mary Greene, Amy Whipkey, and Caroline and Joseph Wingenbach.

Visit our YouTube channel (Christ Episcopal Church—Winchester, Virginia at [www.YouTube.com](http://www.YouTube.com)) on Sundays at 9:00 am. There is a link from the website, too. And if you want to watch any videos you missed, [find a playlist of all of them](#) on our YouTube channel.



## Daytime Faith Study

Daytime Faith Study explores ways for us to understand our faith, from social issues to Scripture to different faith traditions and how they understand Scripture. We typically gather on the second and fourth Mondays of each month for an hour. We continue to meet using Zoom until we can get back together in person.

On Monday, January 25, we will begin our next conversation using Peter Gomes's book, "The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart," which explores Scripture and how people have used Scripture around various topics in various ways through the years. Because of its approachable layout, this book is popular for small group discussions. Please know that you do not have to have been in the study group before in order to join in!

The book is available on Amazon, or you can try a class to see if it is something you want to consider joining. If you would like to join us on Zoom for the discussions, please email Noelle in the Church Office at [communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org) and we will send you the link. If you have any questions about the book or class format, please email Webster at [rector@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:rector@christchurchwinchester.org).

## Lectionary Bible Study

Join us on Wednesdays at 10:00 am on Zoom for a weekly Bible study led by the clergy. We will look at the readings for Sunday and discuss. If you would like to participate, please email Noelle in the Church Office at [communications@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:communications@christchurchwinchester.org) for the link.

*Call a friend to join you!*

# Properties Committee News

## A Busy Year

With the church and buildings closed for most of 2020, the Properties Committee took advantage of the time to accomplish several important projects.

One of the largest projects was a new HVAC system, which is now up and running. This new system provides state of the art heating and cooling. It also includes fresh air circulation, which is important as we work to keep the air clean and healthy. The system also includes dehumidification and humidity control, which are essential for the organ.

Another big accomplishment was the installation of a new security and surveillance system for church property. Over the years, many keys for many doors were created and shared and lost, leading to security concerns. The new system uses fobs instead of keys and the fobs are controlled via software in the Church Office. Information is available about how and when fobs are used. When we return to church, we will all learn more about access and this improved security.

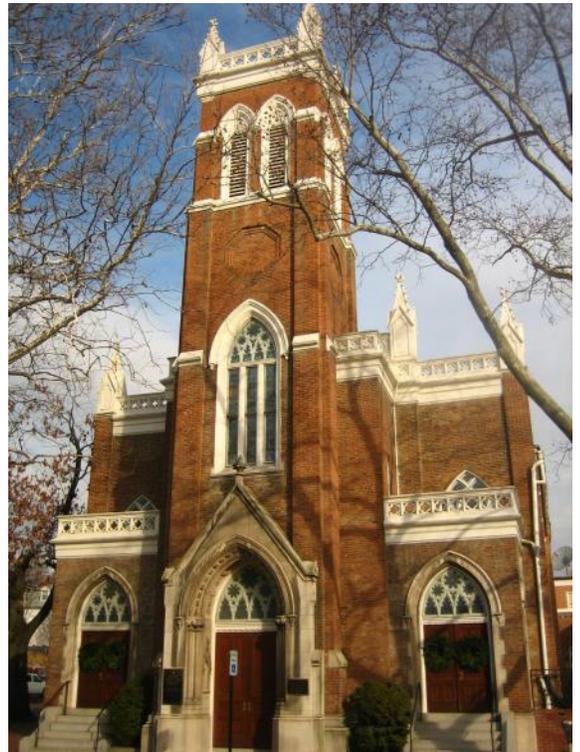
One project that was necessitated by the pandemic was ethernet installation in the church. We, of course, already had internet in the Parish Hall and Church Office, but running the wires into the church through stone walls was a feat. Getting the internet up and running in the church allowed us to livestream services, which we continue to do. (See the next page for a lesson on livestreaming!)

Our sexton, Tuffy Whitacre, has come to work all year and has been busier than ever. Tuffy is a professional painter and applied his talents in several different spots around the church. Additionally, lots of cleaning was done throughout the year.

The Sacristy, which is the room near the altar where the Altar Guild stores, prepares, and cleans vessels used in worship, was remodeled by James and Marsha Baden, with Tuffy also doing some painting.

The Properties Committee continues to work with architect Andrew Boyd on the design of a ramp to replace steps to the right of the pulpit.

Thanks to the members of the Properties Committee for their work throughout 2020 on these projects!



# Communications News

## The Lowdown on Livestreams

We have been livestreaming church services for several months now. It was a great improvement when we were able to switch from recorded to live services online. Parishioner and choir member Phil Sargent has spent **considerable** time and effort learning about how to best use affordable technology in our church building to make the broadcasts for worship great. Phil explains how it works:

We have four cameras (three camcorders and one security camera) focused on the lectern, chancel, pulpit, and organ, an organ microphone, and a connection to the Sanctuary sound system. These video and audio signals all feed through adaptors into a laptop computer which is running two programs – the YouTube livestreaming Studio and Open Broadcaster Software (OBS Studio). YouTube lets us put audio/video (A/V) content on the web, and OBS Studio generates that content. Aside from the computer, all of the equipment is on loan to the church for the duration of its need, so our costs have been very modest.

OBS structures the service as a series of scenes. Each scene can contain a wide variety of A/V content, including one or more camera outputs, audio from either the church sound system or organ microphone, and prerecorded sounds, images, or videos. Once constructed, the scenes can be played from a list in any order with a click of the mouse. As an example, our services begin with the following scenes: Opening = Slide + bell recording + white background, Organ = Organ camera + Organ microphone, Chancel = Chancel camera + Sound system, etc.

OBS lets one person control the scenes in real time. More people would be required to pan and zoom the cameras, so we have kept to the basics. Now that the scenes are built, anyone who can click a mouse at the appropriate time can run OBS during the service.

***We have been fortunate to have Phil on hand for each service, but backup is needed. If you are interested please contact the Church Office; Phil can train you in about thirty minutes, and you can download OBS for free to practice at home.***

Covid 19 precautions are always in place for worship. During livestreaming and preparation of prerecorded material (music and speaking) no more than six people are in the church at any time. We are masked whenever possible. If there is a lay reader, he or she sits in a west pew near the lectern, and there is no one else in that area of the sanctuary. Webster and Martin enter from the sacristy door and remain in the chancel and pulpit area. Phil is with the cameras on the west end of the choir loft and Ted and other musicians enter up the east stairway. Whenever possible, we are back to back and distanced. Using a long focal length lens helps make the musicians look closer than they are.

When recording the Christmas choral music, singers came in groups of four and each stood in a corner of the sanctuary, resulting in a distance of over thirty feet between adjacent singers and fifty feet between the front and rear pairs. Recording sessions were spaced out over several days, and none lasted more than an hour. Singers were masked and given a silicone mask insert to aid in diction. All equipment used by the singers was disinfected after use.

Each singer sang their part while listening to the prerecorded organ accompaniment through headphones. The individual recordings were then layered and synchronized by Phil using Audacity software. Phil says, “I am grateful for their willingness to sing without rehearsal or other singers to rely on, and very proud of how well they did. I hope you enjoy hearing their music as much as we enjoyed creating it.” (You can still watch Christmas and other services on our YouTube channel: Christ Episcopal Church—Winchester, Virginia.)

# Church Calendar

## Sundays @ Christ Church

Indoor & outdoor worship still suspended.

10:00 am Morning Prayer Livestream  
See [www.christchurchwinchester.org](http://www.christchurchwinchester.org) for link.

Evening Prayer Online  
Wednesdays at 7:00 pm



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

Some committees and groups are meeting using Zoom online. Please check with your group to see if they have anything scheduled!

## Committee & Group Meetings

Choir Rehearsal	Wed: 7:00 pm
Adult Forum	Sun: 9:30 am
Alleluia Singers	Sun: 8:45 am
Online Bible Study	Wed: 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
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



**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**

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

# Church Calendar

## January Birthdays

- 1 Olivia Adams
- 2 Nancy Davis
- 3 Jim Griffin
- 4 Neile Martin
- 5 Sam Wise
- 9 Owen Turnbull
- 11 Caroline Lawson, Clarke Wiley, Susan Ross
- 12 Sam Leinbach, Jr.
- 13 Thomas Ellington, Jim Petrie, Stephen Pettit
- 15 Amy Whipkey
- 16 Betsy Young
- 18 Pam Lamborne
- 24 Margaret Arthur, Helen Zebarth
- 25 Robert Bronson
- 26 Ned Stock
- 27 JoAnn Larsen
- 28 Roger Lamborne
- 31 Jazmine Pellot, Kim Gronauer  
Ruben Rodriguez



## January Anniversaries

- 11 Frank Baxter & Skip Bowling
- 16 Robert & Edna Chase
- 29 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.

## Altar Flowers for January 2021

The altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and...

- January 3 In loving memory of Boyakin & Helen Bird, Frank & Kathryn Bicking, and brother, Frank "Ted" Bicking by David & Sara Bicking
- January 10 Available for donation
- January 17 In loving memory of Samuel G. Spangler by Carolyn & David Lewis
- January 24 In loving memory of Cassandra Tilling Carroll by Janice & Bill Tilling & Family
- January 31 In loving memory of Mr. & Mrs. Ralph O. Harvard, Jr. by Katie & Scott Harvard

# From the Outreach Committee

## Updates

The Outreach Committee continued its work of supporting outreach ministries through the operating budget for the final month of 2020. The Committee and the Vestry approved using the budget to fund our Salvation Army Dinners fund, which is now being used to regularly purchase groceries to keep their kitchen stocked as they feed their residents and guests. Additionally, we have sent support to CCAP and Bright Futures to support them as they helped families at Christmas, as well as Kids Clubs, Froggy's Closet, and Concern Hotline. This completed the Committee's use of its \$14,000 budget, and the committee was grateful for the opportunity to support the ministries of Christ Church and the broader Winchester community. In 2021, the Outreach Committee will announce new members, and will continue to look for safe opportunities for Christ Church members to support our mission of outreach and care.

## CCAP Donations

While we are full of hope that 2021 will be a great new year, many of our neighbors still depend on our generosity to help with their daily needs. During the month of January, **CCAP is asking for donations of men's and women's long underwear**, tops and bottoms. Some of the CCAP clients spend their nights sleeping at WATTS, however they spend many hours each day outside and need our help to survive the cold. Many other CCAP clients are working outside and can use the donations of long underwear to stay warm while trying to make enough to pay for utilities and rent.

Please leave donations of long underwear each **Wednesday in January between 9:00 am and noon** on the tables in the foyer of the Parish Hall. Thank you for your generous contributions every month! If you wish to volunteer with CCAP, please contact Jim Taylor ([annjimtaylor@verizon.net](mailto:annjimtaylor@verizon.net) or call 703-403-5264). Volunteers at CCAP hand out food and clothing to clients, sort clothes, receive food items, stock food onto shelves or help with financial screening by phone. Try a New Year's Resolution to volunteer at CCAP just one day each month. Try it, you'll like it!

## Angel Tree Success Again

Although it was more challenging this year, Christ Church stepped up big and helped so many children and families in our area have a merry Christmas! Volunteers made calls, delivered Angels and bags, did extra shopping and even offered translation services! Thank you to all those amazing volunteers who helped.

We started with 120 Angels. All were chosen but eight! This was no problem because so many families made donations, instead of trying to shop, allowing us to purchase the wants and needs of those remaining eight children. We provided baby monitors, car seats, coats, shoes, toys—even one of those iconic/annoying to parents Fisher Price corn popper push toys that 18 month old Liam will use in his Spiderman PJs!

And your donations allowed us to shop for some of the extra needs which the Salvation Army still struggled with—especially clothes for both little and big kids. The grand total of extra items which the Christ Church family furnished for Christmas gift-giving was 173 articles of clothing, toys and car seats! Throw in the 10 rolls of wrapping paper making this equal to a Merry Christmas!

The Outreach Committee thanks you for helping so many local children and families this Christmas!

# From the Outreach Committee

## WATTS in 2021

**Winchester Area Temporary Thermal Shelter (WATTS)** is up and running for the season and, due to Covid, it looks different this season. Most significantly, WATTS is being permanently hosted at the former First United Methodist Church located at 308 North Braddock Street in Winchester - across from Handley Library.

So while we will not be physically hosting WATTS in the Christ Church Parish Hall in 2021, Christ Church still has a week to serve as hosts at the WATTS location. Our host week this season is February 6—13, 2021. WATTS is averaging 30 to 35 guests per night, to include about 5-6 women. Due to Covid, the WATTS operational procedures are significantly modified and adjustments are still being made based on lessons learned.

Volunteers are still needed! There will be a Christ Church WATTS Volunteer Zoom Meeting on January 17, 2021 to identify the 2020/2021 Covid-modified WATTS procedures and recruit volunteers for specific roles. The exact time and Zoom link will be provided included in the Christ Church Weekly Update via email so please be the lookout for it.

Our Panda Packers hard at work within Covid protocols at the Bright Futures warehouse in Frederick County. The Outreach Committee continues financial support and provides help packing items as Bright Futures provides food for the area's kids in school.



# From the Treasurer

## 2020 Vision



### PPP Loan Forgiven = \$85,800 Additional Income = 2020 turnaround & break even?

In November, we were notified by First Bank that our PPP loan had been forgiven resulting in \$85,800 of unbudgeted revenue. (See the green highlighted row in the table below.) We will not know until year end and December results are in if we will break even for 2020.

Year-to-Date through November	Actual	Budget	Difference	Without
Revenues				
Pledged	\$422,959.67	\$412,300.00	\$10,659.67	\$422,959.67
Unpledged	\$36,214.50	\$40,200.00	(\$3,985.50)	\$36,214.50
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$85,800.00	\$0.00	\$85,800.00	\$0.00
All Other Revenues	\$16,638.27	\$32,400.00	(\$15,761.73)	\$16,638.27
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$561,612.44</b>	<b>\$484,900.00</b>	<b>\$76,712.44</b>	<b>\$475,812.44</b>
Expenses				
Personnel	\$395,826.39	\$401,014.74	(\$5,188.35)	\$395,826.39
Utilities	\$19,955.31	\$26,000.00	(\$6,044.69)	\$19,955.31
Property/Maintenance	\$38,477.42	\$39,720.00	(\$1,242.58)	\$38,477.42
Office Expenses	\$19,317.36	\$23,367.00	(\$4,049.64)	\$19,317.36
Christian Education Expenses	\$6,324.01	\$9,530.00	(\$3,205.99)	\$6,324.01
Music Expenses	\$1,696.13	\$6,585.00	(\$4,888.87)	\$1,696.13
Worship	\$927.36	\$1,500.00	(\$572.64)	\$927.36
Stewardship	\$650.92	\$1,050.00	(\$399.08)	\$650.92
Outreach	\$43,584.00	\$43,675.00	(\$91.00)	\$43,584.00
Pastoral Care	\$129.60	\$730.00	(\$600.40)	\$129.60
Parish Life	\$452.00	\$2,040.00	(\$1,588.00)	\$452.00
Communications	\$1,510.85	\$2,585.00	(\$1,074.15)	\$1,510.85
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$528,851.35</b>	<b>\$557,796.74</b>	<b>(\$28,945.39)</b>	<b>\$528,851.35</b>
<b>Net Total</b>	<b>\$32,761.09</b>	<b>(\$72,896.74)</b>	<b>\$105,657.83</b>	<b>(\$53,038.91)</b>

This \$85,800 loan forgiveness results in a November year-to-date **positive** total of \$32,761.09 (see “Actual” column) from what would have been a **negative** of over \$53,000 (see yellow highlighted “Without PPP Forgiveness” column).

## From the Treasurer

Other highlights from the table show:

- Pledge Revenue is still ahead of budget mostly due to early receipt of full year pledges that usually come at year end.
- Unpledged and All Other Revenue are below budget probably due to lack of attendance and no rummage sale in 2020.
- All Actual Expense line items are under budget for various reasons (i.e. Utilities, Christian Education, Parish Life, etc.—all down due to low/no attendance during pandemic, and Outreach due to timing of payments being made).

### 2021 Budget

- Pledges have been slow coming in for 2021 and so far the pledge totals (and number of pledges) are below what was received for 2020. (If you have not submitted your pledge, please visit [www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship](http://www.ChristChurchWinchester.org/stewardship) to print a pledge card or submit online.)
- 2020 pledges resulted in an unfavorable \$76,063 NEGATIVE balance for the full year budget.
- All aspects of the budget will be reviewed and a proposed 2021 budget will be presented to the Vestry at their January 2021 meeting.

### From the Bookkeeper...

If you requested a set of 2021 pledge envelopes, they will be available for no-contact pickup in the foyer of the Church Office (114 W. Boscawen St.) Monday – Thursday from 10:30 am - 2:00 pm. Feel free to drop in and pick-up your envelopes anytime during these hours; an appointment is not necessary, but please wear a mask when entering the building.

You can expect to receive your 2020 Year-End Contribution Statement the week of January 11, 2021. You should save a copy of this statement for tax purposes. Per IRS guidelines, we are only required to issue statements if your total contribution for the tax year exceeds \$250. Therefore, if your contributions did not exceed this threshold, a statement will not be issued. Should you require a copy of your statement, please contact the bookkeeper at [tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org](mailto:tseitz@christchurchwinchester.org) or call her direct line at the Church Office (540-773-5566).



*Donate by check*

Mail to:  
Christ Church  
114 W. Boscawen St.  
Winchester, VA 22601

# From the Parish Nurses

## Be Mindful in the New Year

I have been reading about “mindfulness” in several journals and thought I would share some of what I have learned. According to the Mayo Clinic, mindfulness is a type of meditation in which you focus on being intensely aware of what you're sensing and feeling in the moment, without interpretation or judgment. Practicing mindfulness involves breathing methods, guided imagery, and other practices to relax the body and mind and help reduce stress.

The Mayo Clinic says, “Spending too much time planning, problem-solving, daydreaming, or thinking negative or random thoughts can be draining. It can also make you more likely to experience stress, anxiety and symptoms of depression. Practicing mindfulness exercises can help you direct your attention away from this kind of thinking and engage with the world around you.”

Studies have shown meditation is effective for improving various physical conditions including pain, insomnia, high blood pressure, and possibly diabetes, asthma and fibromyalgia.

There are many exercises to practice mindfulness. Here are a few:

1. Use your non-dominant hand to do an ordinary task to increase awareness.
2. When eating or drinking, just do that and focus on it.
3. Spend time waiting in line to practice mindfulness by focusing on breathing. To breathe deeply, inhale through your nose with your mouth closed and breathe in slowly watching your abdomen expand; hold it for a few seconds. Then, exhale through your mouth slowly. Do this 3-5 times, several times each day.
4. Try walking meditation. Find a quiet place 10 to 20 feet in length, and begin to walk slowly. Focus on the experience of walking, being aware of the sensations of standing and the subtle movements that keep your balance. When you reach the end of your path, turn and continue walking, maintaining awareness of your sensations.

There are many popular apps to use on your phone or tablet to help you practice mindfulness, including Headspace and Calm.

Have a Blessed New Year!

Helen and Rosalie, your Parish Nurses