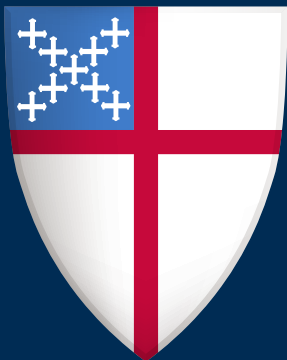
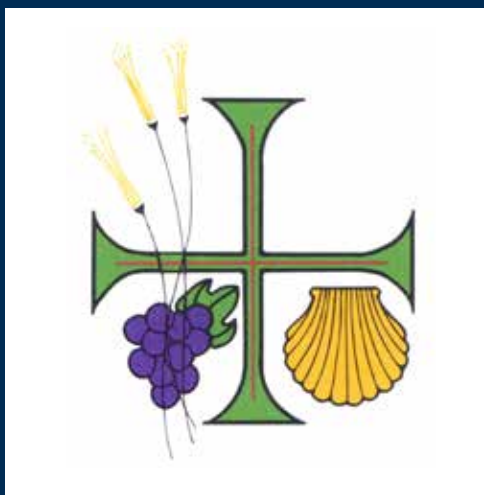


Christ Church Parish

A Profile – 2016



Christ Church Parish
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OUR MISSION

*“We are a family of faith,
growing in Christ through learning and worship,
who strive to love God
and to love our neighbors as ourselves.”*



PRIDE IN OUR PAST, FAITH IN OUR FUTURE!

The story of Christ Church Parish is one of rich history and heritage, of friendly, committed people stepping out in faith to build upon and strengthen our spiritual foundation and serve God in our parish, our community and beyond. Today, we are at a crossroads, armed with a renewed sense of momentum, hope and promise. We have an unparalleled opportunity for growth in all areas of our ministry. This is our church, beloved by our members, poised for growth, in search of a spiritual leader and partner to walk this journey of faith with us!

- We are an active parish with 90% of our members attending services at least twice monthly and 80% volunteer in our communities outside of Christ Church Parish.
- 96% of our members feel our Church is meeting our spiritual needs and 87% feel our church strikes a positive balance between our spiritual and social needs.
- We are a very supportive church community where we like each other as well as our services with the sermon, the prayers and communion being the most important aspects.
- Our stewardship is strong - 82% of our members pledge and feel our church uses the money appropriately.

The complete results of the Profile Questionnaire can be found at:

<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/Parish-Organizations/Search-Committee/Parish-Survey-Results/>

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: Look graciously on Christ Church and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for this parish, that we may receive a faithful pastor, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR HISTORY AND HERITAGE



The history of Christ Church Parish dates back to 1666 and resounds with the names of prominent leaders, not only in Middlesex County, but also in the colonies, the commonwealth and the armed services. In the mid-1660s at the home of Sir Henry Chichley, Deputy Governor of Virginia, the vestry of Christ Church agreed to unite the Lancaster and Piankatank parishes into one, to be known as Christ Church Parish. The church was to be located “in ye small Indian field next to the head of Captain Brocas’ land” which was the location judged to be about the middle of the Parish.



The first church built, possibly of clapboard construction, served the parish until 1714 when a brick church was completed. After the American Revolution, the church fell into disuse; some tombs were destroyed and finally the roof fell in. In 1840 the church was revived and has been an active congregation since that time. The ruined church was rebuilt in 1848. Seven colonial notables are buried in the church building: Sir Henry Chichley was buried near the communion table on February 9th 1682; the Reverend John Sheppard, rector from 1668 to 1683; Madam Catherine Wormley; Alymer Wormley; Edward Thompson; and Mary Reeves and her son. The Thompson marker, now set in the center aisle, was found under the church floor during renovations in the 1920’s. The present rectory and parish hall were built in the early 1920’s. The parish hall modernization and expansion was completed in 2005.

The parish has two very important records: The Vestry Book of Christ Church, 1663-1767, and the Parish Register, 1653-1812.



In the graveyard surrounding the church are the graves of Andrew Jackson Montague, Governor of Virginia in the first part of the twentieth century and his daughter, Gay Montague Moore, who funded the late twentieth century renovation of the church when the wall paneling, altar window woodwork and wall tablets, the new pulpit and chandeliers were installed. There also are the graves of John Richard Saunders, Senator and Attorney General of Virginia from 1916 to 1934 and Lieutenant General Lewis Burwell “Chesty” Puller, America’s most decorated Marine. Also to be found in this historic cemetery are the graves of veterans of the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Civil War, World War I, World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

We who call Christ Church Parish our “spiritual home” know we are indeed privileged. We are recipients of a proud heritage of faith perhaps best exemplified by our wonderful historic church founded in 1666, present building erected in 1714 and revived in 1840. We are privileged because God is even now blessing us with a wonderful congregation of deeply committed and happy folk. And we are privileged because God is leading us to an exciting future.

HISTORIC MIDDLESEX COUNTY

Christ Church Parish is located in historic Middlesex County, Virginia. The county is part of the Middle Peninsula of Virginia and is bounded on the north by the Rappahannock River, on the east by the Chesapeake Bay, and on the south by the Piankatank River. Much of the county's land is wooded, and we are blessed with 135 linear miles of shoreline. While the county is rural in nature, its proximity to Williamsburg, Richmond, Norfolk, and Washington, D.C., provides easy access to cultural events and shopping.

Our county attracts a large number of retirees, many as visitors from large cities, who discover and experience our community and all it has to offer. Of our nearly 11,000 residents, thirty percent are 65 years of age or older. The county's safe living environment makes it a highly desirable location for young families and retirees alike. The workforce is diverse ranging from government, retail, health care and construction industries to fishing, farming, and lumber.

Middlesex County is well known throughout the state for events sponsored by local philanthropic and civic organizations, including the highly popular Urbanna Oyster Festival, Deltaville Seafood Festival, Arts in the Middle, Wings, Wheels & Keels, historic home and garden tours, and Christmas parades. Other cultural opportunities are available through the Deltaville Maritime Museum and Holly Point Nature Park and the Middlesex County Museum in Saluda.

Boating, fishing, hunting, swimming and crabbing are but a few of the recreational activities enjoyed by area residents. The county also owns and operates Hummel Field – a public use airport in Topping. In addition to the numerous marinas, there is a golf course and a YMCA which is expanding. There is even a local baseball team - the Deltaville Deltas.

Youth programs are supported in Middlesex County, and basketball, baseball, swimming, football, and soccer are available through local sports leagues and the school system with the recently completed Syd Thrift Athletic Complex at Middlesex High School. Youth cultural activities abound through dance, gymnastics and art classes, music lessons, Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts.

The county offers a wide range of public and private schools, and adults have a variety of options for pursuing continuing education. Rappahannock Community College, the College of William and Mary, Christopher Newport University, Virginia Commonwealth University, the University of Richmond, Old Dominion University, Randolph Macon College, and the University of Mary Washington are all located within 90 miles.

Quality medical care is available in Middlesex County from a variety of excellent physicians and dentists as well as from Riverside-Walter Reed Hospital in Gloucester, Bon Secours Rappahannock General Hospital in Kilmarnock, and Riverside Hospital in Tappahannock. Additionally, county residents have access to world-class, nationally recognized medical care in nearby Richmond.



When Middlesex County residents are asked where they live, they often respond, "In God's Country!" – a safe community with friendly neighbors who look out for each other. This peaceful lifestyle makes our community a highly desirable choice for visitors and residents alike.

OUR WORSHIP

“One of the things that I love about this parish is the fact that we have this amazing diversity, but the same calling. The spirit of God is in our midst and is most evident when we come together for worship.”

Christ Church Parish has about 160 members. While a large percentage of our congregation is over 50 years of age and retired, this fact does not convey the rich diversity of socio-economic backgrounds and life experiences that our members bring to our parish community. We have members whose families have been a part of Christ Church Parish and the Episcopal faith for many generations while others have come to the church through other Protestant or Roman Catholic backgrounds. In terms of geography, we have many members who have moved here not only from the surrounding areas of Richmond, Virginia, and Washington, D.C. but also from locations throughout the country. They bring with them a wealth of knowledge and skills from a wide range of community and volunteer activities as well as careers in business, government, health care and education, just to name a few. All of the activities of the church are enriched by the wide-ranging interests and experiences of its members. The overarching hand that binds us all together as a parish is the enduring strength of our Christian faith.

Our worship is at the heart of all that we do at Christ Church. We celebrate Holy Eucharist, Rite I, at 8:00 a.m. each Sunday. Rite II is celebrated at 10:30 a.m. A service of Morning Prayer may be conducted in months with five Sundays. The 8:00 a.m. Rite I is a quiet service, while music is an integral part of the 10:30 a.m. service. We have an all-volunteer choir with a salaried organist. There is a Healing Service on the fourth Sunday of each month immediately following the Holy Eucharist services. We also have a very popular service in October when our beloved pets join us in the church for Sunday service and the Blessing of the Animals. Other special services held throughout the year include Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, All Saints Day, and Thanksgiving Day.

Lay ministry participation in our parish is strong. We have a vergers to assist the Rector in all church services as well as lay readers, chalice bearers and acolytes. We also have Lay Eucharistic Ministers who take the consecrated bread and wine from Sunday's Eucharist to those who cannot attend services because of illness or infirmity. Our worship is also enriched and enhanced by the ministry of the Altar Guild and our Ushers.



OUR OUTREACH

The spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ's generosity and compassion are evident in the many forms of volunteerism found in our parish. Parishioners volunteer their time and talents in Hospice; Meals on Wheels; Food Bank; Hands Across Middlesex; United States Coast Guard Auxiliary; Christmas Friends; Care for Widows, Orphans, and the Aging and Alzheimer's and Eye Research fund raising. We also volunteer as mentors and tutors in the Middlesex public school system; participate in cancer walks; youth athletic teams and organizations; participate in Mattaponi River clean-up events; build houses through Habitat for Humanity; and serve as election officers. And many parishioners distribute Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets.

We also seek to serve God through fund raising activities to benefit ministries within our Diocese, our parish, our community, and the Church-at-large. Two of the strongest sources for those activities are the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and Brotherhood of St. Andrew. The ECW raises funds through its booth at the annual Urbanna Oyster Festival, its Trash & Treasure sale, ornament sales, various bake sales, nut sales, and Fashion Show/game days. The Brotherhood raises funds from its participation in the Urbanna Oyster Festival as well, and its Pancake Supper. Both of these groups contribute to Christ Church operations and special projects such as scholarships, the Rector's Discretionary Fund and Parish hospitality efforts.

Together, these two groups support numerous activities outside our parish, including six Middlesex County Fire and Rescue Squads, Hands Across Middlesex, Christmas Friends, Boy Scout Troop 341, Deltaville Maritime Museum, Deltaville Community Association, Jacob's Ladder, Laurel Shelter, Leukemia Cup Regatta, Middlesex HS Charger Closet, Virginia Wounded Warrior Project, Middlesex Family YMCA, Riverside Foundation (Tangier Island Clinic Foundation), Governor's School, Middlesex County Museum, Middlesex Pet Friends for Life and the Middlesex County Little League.

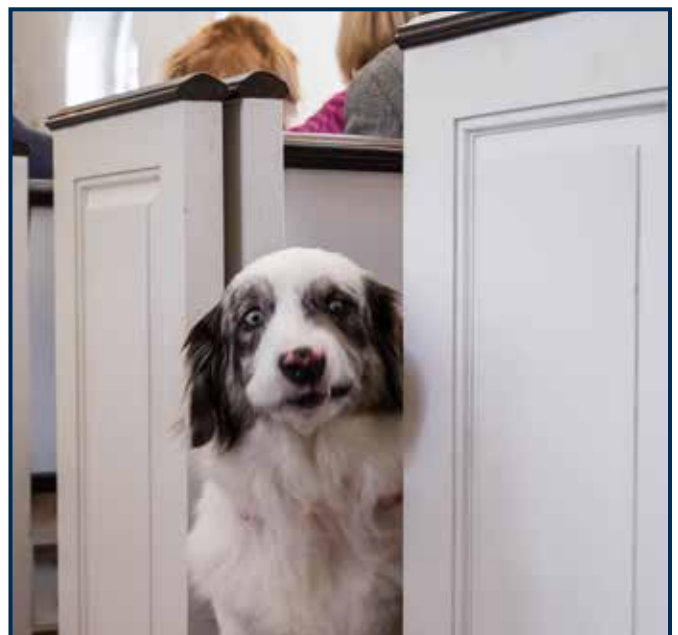


These are some of the ways in which we try to “Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.”

OUR PARISH LIFE AND MINISTRY

At present, the strongest areas of our parish life are lay reading, choir, acolytes, ushers, Brotherhood, ECW, and support for various special events. As involved as we are in these aspects of church life and ministry, we are aware that there are other areas that need to be strengthened. These include, but are not limited to, Christian education for youth and adults, youth activities, and meaningful involvement with Christchurch School students. There is a continuing interest in Bible study and religious discussion groups. Our Advent and Lenten series are both stimulating and spiritually challenging. There is a continuing sense of enthusiasm for opportunities to grow spiritually through Christian education. We pray for a loving, spiritual leader who will build on the wonderful work already begun.

Our parish hall addition, completed in 2005, was funded through generous donations by our parishioners and others. It has provided more opportunities to meet the needs of our parish and community. While we come together for worship and study, we also spend time together in fellowship. Our weekly coffee hours after each service provide the opportunity for parishioners to come together and newcomers to be welcomed. We also have periodic fellowship dinners that give us the opportunity to foster friendships with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The parish hall is available to and used by community groups such as the Boy Scouts (Troop 341), AA, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It is also used by the public for wedding receptions and other events.



The Bible says that, "To each is given a ministry." At Christ Church Parish there are many opportunities to express and share your ministry. "Our congregation is sociable and active, generous in fellowship and service. The appeal of this parish is its humility, sincerity, kindness and faithfulness"

NEW BEGINNINGS, NEW OPPORTUNITIES

ENDOWMENT FUND OF CHRIST CHURCH PARISH

Beginning in 2009, a group of dedicated visionaries decided our church should have a vehicle through which to carry our mission into the future. In 2011, after months of study, preparation, and planning, the Vestry officially created the “The Christ Church Endowment” as well as an Endowment Fund Board to act as the custodians of the Endowment. The purpose of the Endowment is to enable the Parish to more completely fulfill its mission by assuring the ongoing viability of the Parish and developing its ministries beyond what is possible through its annual operating funds.

As part of its mission to grow the Endowment, the Board hosted several educational programs for the congregation including wine and cheese receptions with financial advisors, estate attorneys, and tax planners as guest speakers, as well as a luncheon with a funeral director discussing end of life planning. These programs are intended to aid the congregation in learning about planned giving opportunities and encourage long-term support for the Endowment.

Separate from the Endowment, Christ Church Parish has been blessed with a donation that created The Elizabeth B. Sanders Fund whose purpose is to provide for the education of the children of Christ Church Parish through scholarships.

The Endowment Board after much work during 2015 announced the establishment of The 1666 Society which recognizes people who have remembered our church in their estate plans with a documented planned gift to the Christ Church Endowment.

The Endowment Board’s t current report to the congregation Is available upon request by phone at: 804-776-7888; or by email at: goodwil2@aol.com.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH - 350 YEARS OF WORSHIP

As we move into 2016, Christ Church Parish is celebrating its 350th anniversary. There are several events planned to commemorate this historic occasion. For example, the Most Reverend Michael B. Curry, the recently installed 27th Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, helped us celebrate this occasion on the weekend of April 24th.



The spirit of God is truly at work in our parish, and we have stepped out in faith with exciting opportunities for parish growth, seeking to more fully live into our mission, to “serve God in our parish, community and beyond.” These opportunities provide us with limitless potential, and there is a spirit of hope and promise within our parish.

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH COMMUNICATIONS



Christ Church Parish has expanded its ability to communicate within and without our church community. Our website, www.christchurchmiddlesex.com, is necessarily a work in progress but it is useful to find such things as our history, schedule of services and events, newsletters and articles from other sources, links to the Cemetery Website, parish pictures, and much more. Christ Church Parish can be found on Facebook. Simply search for Christ Church Parish in the search bar at the Facebook entry point. You will find various posts from the Church, as well as the Diocese and much more. Various church articles can be regularly seen in the Southside Sentinel, our local newspaper.

OUR RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN CHRIST CHURCH PARISH AND CHRISTCHURCH SCHOOL

The relationship between Christ Church Parish and Christchurch School spans nearly a century, and began with the founding of Christchurch School in 1921 by the Diocese of Virginia. The Parish's Rector was the first Headmaster. In the late 1920's, the Scott family built a Chapel on the campus for the school's students and faculty. In years when the school has had a full-time Episcopal Chaplain, or the head of the school has been an Episcopal priest, the school family has worshipped in their Chapel. In other years, the students and faculty regularly worshipped at the Parish.

Currently, the Interim Rector is available to conduct worship services in the school's chapel for students and faculty as well, and is available for baptisms, weddings and other special services requested by faculty and students. He is also available for individual and group counseling.

The students annually assist the Church Brotherhood at their Oyster Festival tent - the brotherhood's largest fund raising event of the year.

OUR FINANCES

While we are making progress in the areas of Stewardship and parish pledges, like many churches, we can still accomplish more, both in terms of stewardship education, endowment giving and pledge totals. We operate with a balanced budget of over \$200,000.00 and have ended the year with a surplus for the last several years. We have all but doubled our financial growth since 2005 while maintaining the stability mentioned above.

Our recent Income and Operating Expense Statements are available upon request at: 804-776-7888; or by email at: goodwil2@aol.com.

Our new Rector will have plenty of opportunity to help us more fully live the words with which we bless the offering each Sunday, "All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee."

OUR NEW RECTOR

In describing the ideal Rector for our parish, we are seeking a spiritual leader with the skills and experience to meet the needs of our congregation. In order to accomplish this goal, our Rector must first and foremost demonstrate a high degree of spirituality. He/she should engage effectively with parishioners of all ages and provide comfort and reassurance so necessary for helping us with our spiritual health and growth. We seek a Rector who provides well developed and intellectually challenging sermons and demonstrates strong preaching skills. Our parish seeks an effective administrator who has previous experience with parish relationships and is able to build consensus. Although we seek a Rector with strong spirituality, we also place a high value on a good sense of humor.

Our new Rector should have Biblical/Theological expertise and should emphasize the Bible in teaching and preaching. He/she should value continuing education and engage effectively with youth and children. We seek a Rector who provides for pastoral care as well as home visitations. The new Rector should engage in community relations and promote stewardship. We seek someone who will help us discover new ways in which to recruit and welcome new members into our family of faith. This is an exciting time in the life of our parish, and it will be an exciting time in our new Rector's ministry, as well.

The most important quality is our new Rector's relationship with Jesus Christ and the ability to clearly and honestly convey this to all people, not only in preaching and liturgy, but in daily life.

The complete results of the Profile Questionnaire can be found by following this link: <http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/Parish-Organizations/Search-Committee/Parish-Survey-Results/>

A Final Word

Faith
Hope
Promise
Opportunity
Enthusiasm
Community
Openness
Willingness

These are our offerings to our new Rector.
An exciting new chapter is being written in our parish story,
and we pray for God's continued grace and guidance as it unfolds.

