

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter for December of 2020

Our Rector's Message for December "Welcome to Advent"



We are already two days into the season of Advent as the month of December begins. The first candle on the Advent wreath has been lit, and some not too familiar hymns are being sung in the church. Most of these hymns are only suitable for the Advent season, and therefore many people don't know them since they may be sung only once a year. (So why can't we just sing Christmas carols?)

What is Advent anyway? Well, it is the first season of the church year,

beginning with the fourth Sunday **before** Christmas and continuing which is Christmas eve. The name is derived from a Latin word for "coming." Therefore, the season is a time of preparation and expectation for both the coming celebration of our Lord's nativity, and for the final coming of Christ "in power and glory."

There is just something that I love about Advent, and that is the tension of trying to live faithfully to the teachings of Christ and the traditions of the Church while at the same time all around us, the secular world is already celebrating Christmas – a Christmas that often ends at midnight on Christmas day. But the focus of their Christmas is Santa, shopping, gifts, and parties. And along with it comes the stress of

¹ *Continued on page 2*

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what to buy this or that person, overspending, overeating, and trying to keep the extended family happy by making all the appointed rounds.



For us in the Church, we begin the season by being reminded that we don't stay awake and alert in order to catch Santa coming down the chimney but to be ready when the Son of Man comes in clouds with great power and glory. It is only after we have been reminded of what to watch for that our focus then shifts to what has already happened. And that is the nativity of our Lord. As Advent ends, we then begin not just a day of celebration, but twelve full days of celebration. We begin by thanking God for the gift of his son while watching the world around us pack up Christmas because they're tired of all the decorations that have been up since before Thanksgiving and the Christmas music that filled the airwaves but has become suddenly absent once Christmas truly begins.

I like Advent because, by focusing on it as a season in its own right, it helps me keep the Christmas season for what it started out to be in the first place – the celebration of the birth of Emmanuel – God with us, and the importance of sharing that gift with others, for it is the greatest gift of all.

May you each have a blessed Advent season, Fr. Stuart

Anne Donoff	3-Dec		Don Harris	12-Dec	
Barbee Phipps	4-Dec		Jim Knupp	13-Dec	
Jean Holt	6-Dec		Butch Liverman	15-Dec	
Ellie Wilton	6-Dec		Ann Padgett	15-Dec	
Jim Hill	7-Dec		Pat Durette	19-Dec	
Marilyn South	10-Dec		Joe Jones	19-Dec	
Jackie Gahan	10-Dec		Mary Lynn Landgraf	19-Dec	
Susan Hilliard	11-Dec		Suzanne Berry	24-Dec	
Walter & Peggy Palmer	7-Dec				
Miller & Ginger Smither	21-Dec				
Ray & Martha Stokes	22-Dec				
Chip & Jean Holt	29-Dec				
Jeff & Barbara Shaw	31-Dec				
George & Sandy Sturgill	31-Dec				

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal)

Announces the Candidates for the 2021 Vestry

The Vestry is pleased to announce the candidates for the 2021 Vestry. The following members of our congregation have agreed to serve if elected. The Parish will hold the election at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 10, 2021. (Watch for details about this meeting.)

Betsy Evans

I am the third of four children in a Pan American Airways family. We moved a lot with dad's job, so much so that I went to three different high schools across the U.S.A. I attended Mary Washington College, following in mom's footsteps. Sports were a big part of my life through the years. As an Episcopalian, I enjoyed attending the different churches and cathedrals with each move. After college, I spent 15 years in Southern California doing a myriad of jobs. My decision to move back east to be closer to mom and dad was my most gratifying. I retired from GEICO after twenty-five years and now absolutely love living in Urbanna. I am honored to be considered for Christ Church's Vestry.

Mike Gorin

Born and raised in Ohio, Mike was a member of Trinity Episcopal Church in Bryan and, as a boy, was active in the Boy Scouts and Junior Achievement. Mike attended Indiana Technical Institute and graduated with a degree in Electrical Engineering Technology. Hired by I.B.M. after graduation, Mike moved to northern Virginia in 1969.

Mike worked as an I.B.M. Electrical Engineer for 27 years living in northern Virginia and Vermont and held both management and team lead positions. In 1996 Mike left I.B.M. in Vermont to return to northern Virginia to start up an I.B.M./Toshiba joint venture semiconductor fabrication plant named Dominion Semiconductor L.L.C. After Dominion was acquired by Micron in 2002, Mike retired and moved full time to Middlesex County in 2003.

Mike has owned property in Middlesex County for over 30 years and has enjoyed "week-ending" to the area as an avid sailor and cruiser. During this time, Mike and his wife Karen became very attached to its beauty and people and dreamed of retiring here.

Owning property at "The Coves at Wilton Creek," Mike has been actively serving the community by volunteering to serve on various Board of Director and committee positions including President of "The Villas". Mike also served on the "Board" of "The Coves at Wilton Creek Home Owners Association" and was "Chair" of the Water/Sewer committee.

In 2011 Mike and Karen moved to "Chesapeake Watch," where Mike also served on the Board of Directors and as President. Mike served on Christ Church Vestry from 2009 to 2011 where-

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VES  TRY

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

The Vestry met on November 10. We discussed our overall financial situation. Thanks to the continued pledges of most parishioners, your generous donations to projects, and the money received from the COVID-19 stimulus package, we are alright for now. Hopefully 2021 will bring more opportunities to raise funds through fundraising.

Our three indoor services have been successful. Beginning Sunday, November 22, we have to limit the number of people in the Parish Hall to 25. I do appreciate those of you who quickly made your "reservation" by calling me. This indoor service will continue if our COVID numbers stay on track. Expect to see an email each week about that coming Sunday's service. We have the virtual service for those who do not choose to attend in person and add a live-stream service from our 9:00 AM service. We hope that all of you select the method of celebration that works best for you.

Our Outreach Committee has been busy continuing to "Share the Love" by providing meal bags and children's bags at the Cryer Center. Books have been given to Social Services, clothes given to the Cryer Center, and placemats decorated for nursing homes.

The Fellowship Committee will replace the lights around our church sign, improve visibility, and lower energy costs.

I am so proud of what our congregation has been able to achieve during these troubled times. I am sad to be leaving the Vestry after four years. Joining me will be Jeff Loustaunau and Mary Jo Atterholt. And our dear Paige Bishop left us with one more year to serve. Thank you for all your wonderful support. Please see the "Vestry 2021" article on pages 3 and 10.

Now that the Christmas holiday is approaching, we realize that this year will be quite different from most. We must remember that the spirit of Christmas will be the same as it has always been. As Christians, we will celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, treat people with care and respect, and give them a warm Christmas welcome. We will rise out of this pandemic and be ready to take on the new year. Good always has a way of rising out of a crisis.

As Tiny Tim offered this blessing at Christmas dinner in "A Christmas Carol,"

"God bless us, everyone!"

Pam McClelland, Senior Warden



Newsletter Input for December Newsletter from the Junior Warden:

ware, the church's main effort is being carried on by and Jack Fackler (our own Geek Squad) to enable us our services, whether they are from the Church or the they are still working out some issues, they have successtully proviaea us with this capability, so a big THANK YOU to all of them is very appropriate.

Our only other bit of news is that the Building and Grounds Committee will be meeting in December to try to finalize the maintenance projects for 2021. Thanks to all and Merry Christmas!!!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Think Small

The headline above may seem strange. Since childhood we have been encouraged to think big.

However, as the year draws to a close, we hope you will think about our little country church. Christ Church Parish is small, yet its costs are the same as for a congregation much larger than ours.

If you have pledged already, thank you. And thank you to those who have contributed to the flooring project, Saint Paul's and Ellen's home restoration. If you have not pledged, please think of our small church, and send in your pledge card.

Remember that even if you file taxes on the short form, for 2020 the Cares Act allows you to deduct \$300 for charitable giving. Also, if you have an IRA, you may make a gift directly from the IRA to Christ Church Parish. The amount you give counts toward your Required Minimum Distribution, but does not count as taxable income. (Of course, you should always check with your tax advisor).

So, please think small - and think about our small church. However, when deciding on your pledge or contribution amount, think big!

Phil Brown, Treasurer

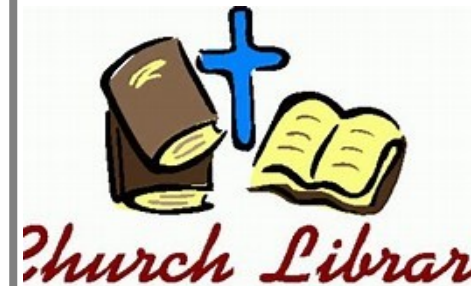


We have just one position that needs to be filled for next year, and that is Vice President. We hope a volunteer will step up soon. Sharon Colston will be leaving as our UTO representative, and Susan Dugan has volunteered to replace her. We had a limited number of pies and cakes for our bake sale. We did deposit \$ \$225.00 into our account, thanks to ex-

tra donations. A special **Thank You** to Sallie Wells and Ginger Hellems for assisting me with sales.

A Belated Happy Thanksgiving to Everyone! Karen

From the Christ Church Parish Librarian



Dear Christ Church Parishioners,

Happy Holidays and please enjoy the selection of Christmas themed books available for check out in our church library.

Thank you,

Vel Gray

Church Sunday Service - Links

Below are two links. The first will take you to the Christ Church Parish website's menu selection for the church service video, where you will have to click on a second link for the appropriate service to go to the video on Facebook. <http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/Worship-Services-on-Facebook/>

The second link should take you directly to the Christ Church Parish videos on Facebook. You will need to select the video for the service you wish to watch. https://www.facebook.com/christchurch.parish/videos/?view_public_for=1034815926571047&ref=page_internal



From the Verger

Advent Wishes from your Verger

If you are lucky enough to have young children around for this Advent season, this can be a fun activity to figure out and prepare during the Advent Season. Recipes of this sort were very popular at quilting and sewing bees in the 1800s. Maybe you're feeling like me and thinking we are homebodies and isolated. We have time for this! Your young helpers will find out where to find books of the Bible, and you'll enjoy a delicious cake at the end. How good is that!? The Verger

Scripture Cake

1 cup Psalms 55:21 (use either or both)

2) 2 cups Jeremiah 6:20 (last part of the verse)

6 Job 39:14

3 tablespoons 1 Samuel 14:25

½ cup Judges 4:19 (first sentence)

4 ½ cups 1 Kings 4:22 (first part of the verse)

2 teaspoons Leviticus 2:13

2 teaspoons Amos 4:5

2 Chronicles 9:9 (1/2 teaspoons each of cinnamon, cloves, nutmeg)

2 cups Numbers 17:8 chopped

2 cups both things in 1 Samuel 30:12, chopped (4 cups total)

Mix in a larger bowl in order given, beating in eggs until light and fluffy. Add the last two ingredients by hand. Following Solomon's advice for making a good boy (Proverbs 23:13) and you will have a good cake. Bake at 250 degrees for 2 ½ hours in 4 small "bread pans" buttered. Allow to cool in pans, on their sides, on a rack. Turn out cakes. You COULD wrap them in cheesecloth soaked with sherry or any whiskey. And you could share them...just saying...

Wishing you a blessed Advent as we wait and await!



Christ Church Parish Hands Out Dinner at Cryer Center

On Tuesday, October 27th, during the Cryer Center Food Pantry, Christ Church Parish members, Saluda, handed out a dinner bag

to the food pantry participants. The bags had been assembled in advance by members of the congregation and contained a family-sized soup mix, cornbread mix, and fresh apples. I

n addition, Christ Church Parish offered a children's bag including crayons, a St. Francis coloring/puzzle book, a flyer explaining the origin of Halloween and Saints Day, and candy. This project was conducted as part of the Outreach Committee's ongoing "Share The Love" commitment.

Pictured above (l to r) Ann Padgett, Peg Moncure, and Judy Quilter



COVID-19 has made this year difficult for all of us, especially the children. Their social life has been completely disrupted, and they are missing being out and about, active bundles of energy. Besides missing their school and play friends, they may frequently miss their grandparents, cousins, aunts and uncles, and other close family members. Christmas this pandemic can be more challenging for families suffering financially due to parents losing their jobs or being laid off or having their working hours reduced.

The basic mission of the **Marine Toys for Tots Program** is to collect **new unwrapped toys** and distribute those toys to less fortunate children at Christmas. Through the gift of a new toy, help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope to Middlesex's less fortunate children.

There is a Toys for Tots collection box located in the Parish Hall in the hallway just outside the church office. The Marines will collect the toys donated near the middle of December, so there isn't much time. Please consider donating **new unwrapped toys**. Your gift will have an even greater impact on the lives of less fortunate children and their families during this pandemic this Christmas.



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**MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHRIST
CHURCH PARISH EN-
DOWMENT FUND BOARD**

The following are excerpts from an article in AARP Bulletin Dated September 20, 2020

CHARITY IN A DIFFICULT YEAR

The Pandemic and new tax laws call for different ways to give.

All of us, rich or poor, feel the urge to help one another in this time of sickness and unemployment. Yet, the percentage of Americans donating to charity has hit a new low, according to a recent Gallup Poll.

The obvious reason is the uncertainty facing most households. If you are struggling to keep food on your own table, you can't be expected to start handing out money here and there.

And yet, the need is great. "Virtually every organization has had to move to remote services or seen increases in demand." Says Stacy Palmer, editor of the Chronicle of Philanthropy". "Any help is really important right now."

Even if you can give, recent tax law changes may be holding you back. Currently, only a small minority of taxpayers can reduce their taxes by making deductible contributions because most filers are now better off taking a standard deduction rather than itemizing.

Still, there are strategies that lower the cost of giving. Here are a few ideas that may help members of our Christ Church Parish family decide on charitable giving and how that may affect their taxes.

Get a new deduction – The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act, passed in March, allows taxpayers taking the standard deduction to claim up to \$300.00 in charitable deductions as well. To qualify, you must give money to what is known as a 501(c) (3) non-profit – a food bank or religious institution, for example, not a political campaign or a home-owners association. This type of deduction would

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he was Jr. Warden from 2010 thru 2011.

It would truly be considered an honor and privilege to serve my "Church Family" on the Vestry of Christ Church Parish.

Merri Hanson

Merri L. Hanson is the Director of Peninsula Mediation & ADR in Urbanna, Virginia, and provides conflict resolution services for employment, workplace, EEO, ADA, whistleblower, business, and commercial disputes for governmental and private sector organizations. Peninsula Mediation & ADR manages ADR training and service delivery for the Department of Navy, Securities and Exchange Commission, Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, National Archives and Records Administration, US Department of Agriculture, and NASA. In 2019 Merri served on the Department of State's Speaker Series in India, speaking to issues pertaining to safe and respectful workplaces for women. Merri provides a variety of conflict resolution webinar series for the Department of Defense Education Activity leaders worldwide. Finally, Merri conducts organizational conflict and communication assessments such as conflict audits, communication audits, focus groups, dialog processes, group facilitation, team building, communication skills training, and conflict coaching for senior leaders, managers, and key personnel. Finally, Merri is a graduate instructor at Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, teaching Organizational Dispute Systems Design.

Merri is also a newly elected member of the Urbanna Town Council.

Prior to moving to Urbanna in 2014, Merri lived in Williamsburg for fifteen years and was a member of Williamsburg Presbyterian Church and alto section leader for the Chancel Choir. Merri also performed as soloist and section leader for Virginia Symphony Chorus, Virginia Opera, and the Norfolk Savoyards. Merri still occasionally performs with the Colonial Singers of Williamsburg.

Merri has three adult sons (two in California and one in Seattle), one daughter (lives in Richmond), one granddaughter (preschool age and lives in Richmond), and a grandson due in late March 2021 (to one of the California sons).

Clayton Neal

I have been a resident of Middlesex County for the past 15 years following my career as a clinical social worker. Professionally, I worked as a therapist and director at several mental health centers in the Richmond metropolitan area, a consultant at the Virginia Department of Mental Health, and in private clinical practice. Since retiring, I have continued my long-time musical pursuits, founding the band *Jumbo Lump Daddy & the Backfin Boys* and performing as a solo musician, while developing new interests in golf, kayaking, and oyster gardening. Additionally, I spend as much time as I can with my two adult children and my three grandsons (soon to be 4).

I became acquainted with the Episcopal Church in my teenage years when I attended Truro Episcopal Church in Fairfax. I joined Christ Church Parish about ten years ago, during which time I have grown in faith through my participation in the choir, Outreach Ministry, and Hospitality Committee. I am honored to be asked to serve on the vestry and look forward to continuing my growth as a Child of God.



On Sunday, November 15th and Sunday, November 22nd, please bring your box or check and place it in the UTO basket next to the offering plate. If you prefer to drop a box or check off at the Parish Hall, you may do so Monday through Thursday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM through Thursday, November 19th. You may also mail your check to Christ Church Parish, P.O. Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149-0476. Checks should be made payable to Christ Church Parish and indicate UTO on the memo line. Please send your

UTO basket next to the offering plate. If you prefer to drop a box



The nut orders have been packaged and are ready for pick-up in the Parish Hall Library. If not paid in advance, please bring a check to the office during office hours Monday through Thursday.

Checks should be written to CCP ECW.

As I order whole cases, I do have some partial cases available for add on orders, especially 1 pound bags of pecan -halves at \$12. I do not have any extra salted peanuts, but a few almonds, dark chocolate peanut clusters, and jalapeno ranch peanuts.

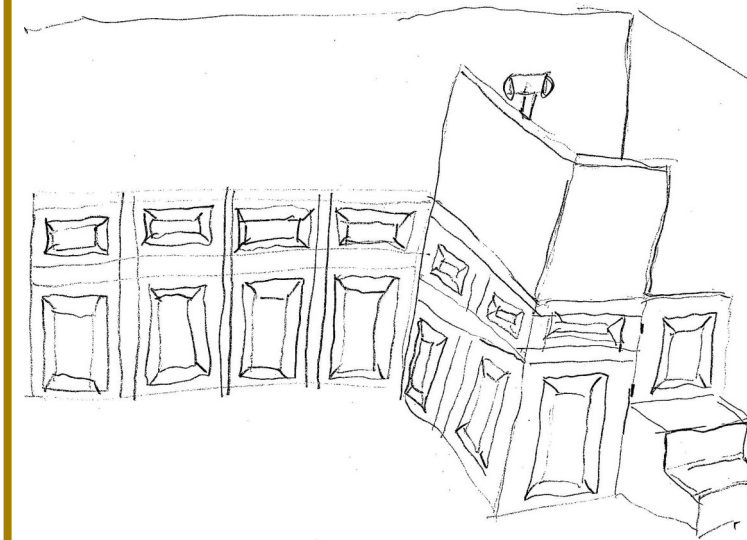
Calling for Woodworking Volunteers!

Our electronics/video camera gurus, Jack Fackler, Mike Gorin & Mike Floyd have asked Junior Warden Loustaunau if a "Camera Stand" could be built in the rear corner of the Church for the camera operator to stand on while videoing the various services which will be live-streamed & or recorded. Being very much of a can-do sort of guy, he promptly said "Yes!" and then promptly called me (Robin Wells) and asked me if I could build it, to which I replied (not as promptly), "Sure!"

I have received a scale drawing for the size from the video guys. Attached is a VERY rough sketch of how the stand will look.

First of all, the stand will be quite substantial and moveable using an appliance dolly. It will measure approximately 41"x41"x76". The sides and the door will be the raised panel design exactly like the chair height panels all the way around the Church. It will be painted white with brown trim to match the church colors. The framework will be of 2x4s and 2x8s. Exterior raised panel walls will be constructed from 5/8" thick MDF.

I need a couple of woodworking volunteers to meet with me at Church to finalize the design and build list. MDF & paint will be purchased from W.D. Campbell in



Richmond at wholesale costs courtesy of Mike Johnson of Upland Kitchens in Bridgewater, VA. Framing will be from M&M. I will have materials from M&M delivered to my shop in Deltaville and will pick up MDF & paint in Richmond. Now the construction fun begins! One or two folks will really be handy at this point – no, actually necessary! We will schedule all workdays to suit the volunteers.

Please contact me with your willingness to help. Call 832-3849 or rockfish.robin@gmail.com.

◀ November	December 2020						January ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		1 Worship Committee 9:30am	2	3	4	5	
6 Virtual worship Service	7	8 Finance Com- mittee 9:30am Vestry meeting 5:30pm	9	10	11	12	
13 Virtual worship Service	14	15 Fellowship Com- mittee 9:30am	16	17	18	19	
20 Virtual worship Service	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26	
27 Virtual worship Service	28	29	30	31			

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be a perfect way to donate to the Christ Church Endowment Fund.

Use your IRA – If you are 70 ½ or older, you are eligible for a great tax break.

You can give directly from a traditional IRA to a 501(c)(3) charity without having to declare the amount as taxable income, as you would a regular IRA withdrawal. Make sure the checks are made out not to you but to the charity (which can't be what's known as a donor-advised fund). Required minimum distributions are waived for this year, but in future years you'll be able to use contributions to fulfill all or part of any RMD's you might feel obligated to take.

Give Assets – Instead of making a cash donation to a charity, offer to make that gift in the form of shares of stock or mutual funds that have risen in value since you have owned them. If you have held the shares for at least a year, you can give them away without having to pay a tax on any capital gains.

Amass your gifts – In 2020, the standard federal deduction, used in lieu of itemized deductions, is \$24,800 for couples and \$12,400 for single tax filers (slightly higher if you're at least 65 or blind). If your potential deductions, such as mortgage interest and medical care, come close to matching your standard deduction, you can make extra charitable gifts this year (offsetting them with smaller donations next year) and get a larger tax break by itemizing.

Finally, if you are wealthy enough to have significant savings and be in a position to itemize, you get a CARES Act break, too. For 2020 only, you can deduct cash contributions up to 100 percent of your adjusted gross income, instead of the prior 60 percent limit. You could turn "Terrible 2020" into your year to make a grand gesture.




CHRISTMAS
POINSETTIAS

To order Christmas Poinsettias to decorate the church, please send a suggested donation of **\$20.00** for each poinsettia payable to Christ Church Parish, along with this form by **December 14**.

Christ Church Parish
PO Box 476
Saluda, VA 23149

Important – Please Designate:

Given in Memory of:

OR

Given in Honor of:

Christ Church Parish

Post Office Box 476, Saluda, VA 23149

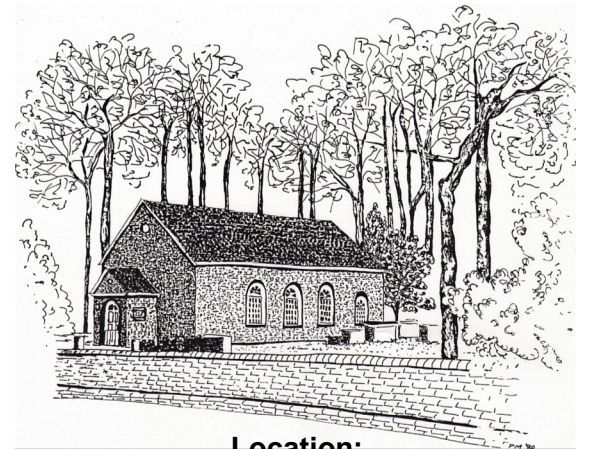


Address Service Requested

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
URBANNA, VA
PERMIT No. 6

December
2020

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook
<https://www.facebook.com/christchurch.parish/>



Location:

Rt. 33 & 638

Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Telephone:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

Website:

<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/default.asp>

Sunday Services:

During the Covid-19 Pandemic an online Service will be held at 10:00 AM

The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector
The Rev. Dr. Bob Pritchard,
Priest Associate

Peg Moncure, Parish Intern