

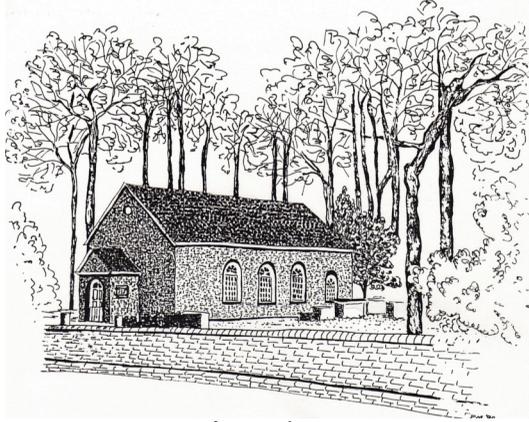
Christ Church Parish

“A joy-filled church
with a heart and place for all.”

Address Service
Requested

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

DEC 2016



Location:

Rt. 33 & 638

Christchurch, Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Tel:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

ccparish@verizon.net

Web:

christchurchmiddlesex.com

Sunday Services:

8 am

A quiet traditional Service of Holy Communion

&

10:30 AM

A Family Service of Holy Communion
with Music and Choir

One Thanksgiving afternoon, as I traveled to my mother's house, I found myself listening to a Christmas story being read on the radio. The story was "The Christmas Box" by Richard Paul Evans. At first I began to grumble, "I haven't even eaten Thanksgiving dinner yet and I'm already listening to Christmas stories. Can't I get through one holiday first before having to think about the next one?" But before I could change the channel, I was hooked on this story that I had never heard before.



What really caught my attention in the story was this question, "What was the first gift of Christmas?" I knew how I would answer but I really wanted to know how the story answered it.

The man being asked the question, after some serious thought said, "The first gift of Christmas is love." The woman asking the question responded that that was a good beginning, but it was only a very small part of the answer and that more thought was needed. A lot of time passed. Finally, he got it: "The first gift of Christmas is a child." Wow! I couldn't believe it: a Christmas story that actually points us to the baby Jesus!

Too often, "Christmas" shows end up being about couples falling in love, families coming together and Santa Claus coming to visit but there iscontinued.....

Rejoice and Be Glad:
for God is at Work Among Us
and Every Day is a New Adventure!

.....continued.....

almost never a mention of Jesus in any of them.

This story reminds me of the song, "Where's the line to see Jesus?" In this song, a person is standing in a mall watching the children line up to sit on Santa's lap when a young boy asks:

"Where's the line to see Jesus?

Is He here at the store?

It's Christmas time; it's His birthday.

Why don't we see Him more?

Where's the line to see Jesus?

He was born for me.

Santa Claus brought me presents,

But Christ gave His life for me."

As you open your gifts this year, please take the time to remember the first gift of Christmas, the baby Jesus, and then remember that he gave his life for you.

May you each have a joyful and blessed Christ filled Christmas.

Faithfully, Fr. Stuart

Thank you

With a very grateful and joyous heart I wish to thank the Search Committee for their dedicated and hard work over the past year and then honoring me as their choice of candidate to be presented to the Vestry as your next priest and pastor. I also wish to thank the Vestry for affirming their choice and allowing me to continue my ministry among you and to plant some roots in the community by purchasing my first home. I look forward to being with you all in Christ Church Parish. - Fr. Stuart



Happy Anniversary

Dec 3 - Anne Donoff
Dec 4 - Barbee Phipps
Dec 6 - Jean Holt
Dec 7 - Jim Hill
Dec 10 - Marilyn South
Dec 11 - Susan Hilliard
Dec 12 - Don Harris
Dec 13 - Holly Horton
Dec 15 - Butch Liverman
Dec 15 - Ann Padgett
Dec 15 - Susan Neal
Dec 18 - Alvin Hill
Dec 19 - Joe Jones
Dec 19 - Pat Durette
Dec 24 - Suzanne Berry
Dec 24 - Bob Guillotte
Dec 29 - Priscilla Johnson
Dec 30 - Dave Wilcox
Dec 31 - John Gammel

Dec 7 - Peggy and Walter Palmer
Dec 21 - Ginger and Miller Smither
Dec 22 - Martha and Raymond Stokes
Dec 23 - Jane and Art Bunnell
Dec 26 - Belle and Jon Bronner
Dec 29 - Brenda and Jim Knupp
Dec 29 - Jean and Chip Holt
Dec 31 - Barbara and Jeff Shaw



If we have forgotten to list your birthday or anniversary, please contact the Parish Office (758-2006) so we may correct our records.

If you do not receive this newsletter by mail and would like to do so, please contact the Parish Office!



Special Calendar Notes:

December 7 – First Advent program – 5:30 PM service, 6:00 PM supper and 7:00 PM program

December 11 – 9AM Brotherhood breakfast

December 13 – ECW luncheon, ALL ladies invited, 11:30AM

December 14 – Second Advent program (See Dec 7 schedule)

December 21 – Third Advent program (See Dec 7 schedule)

December 24 – Christmas Eve service 5:00 PM Rite 2

December 25 – Christmas Day service 10:00 AM Rite 1

THINKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!! Gordon Eliot White's history of Christ Church, written to celebrate our church's 350th anniversary, is still available and would make an excellent Christmas gift for your Christ Church friends or family.

The book records the story of the original chapels that were merged in 1666 to form Christ Church, lists the 64 known ministers here since 1650 and describes the currents that controlled the English church in the colonies and that led to its disestablishment after the American Revolution.

White uncovered much new information over three years of research for the book.

It is available from the Church Office for \$40.00 or from White at P.O. Box 129, Hardyville, VA 23070 for \$40 plus \$5.95 shipping.



ECW Christmas Gathering



Every woman of Christ Church Parish is invited to share an afternoon luncheon at the home of Sharon Colston on Tuesday, December 13th at 11:30.

Please bring a dish to share. There are always lots of delicious foods to enjoy and lively fellowship. Susan Neal promises a brief program and the ECW will wrap up another busy year.

This year, you are asked to bring a canned good. We will build a tree with all our cans and donate them to the Cryer Center.

Hope to see you there! 89 Waterford Court, in Urbanna

BROTHERHOOD TOO!!!! GUYS - Brotherhood Breakfast will be 9am December 11. Gordon White will be our speaker about the history of Christ Church Parish !

ADVENT: LOST AND FOUND

On the first three Wednesdays in December, we will be having our Advent Evening Prayer services followed by supper and program. In these programs, I would like to explore the origin and meaning of Advent as we prepare to celebrate Christmas. Sadly, the secular world has lost sight of the season of Advent. For many people, Christmas is celebrated from Thanksgiving to Christmas Day. The twelve days of Christmas, which begins Christmas Day, seems to get lost in the rush to get back to normal. These services will begin at 5:30p.m., dinners at 6:00 p.m. and programs at 7:00 p.m.

OUR 350th ANNIVERSARY !!!

FINALLY, the photos are available for purchase through the website for Highlanders Studio in Kilmarnock.

- The studio is giving the church members 10% off any order.
- Many of the photos would make very nice stationery.
- Also, the collection contains photographs of the beautiful Garden Week decorations of the church.

This website address will take you to the Studio's website: <http://www.thehighlanderstudios.com>

You can select Highlander Ordering from the menu on the left and it will take you to a page of various photo galleries. At the bottom of the page, click on Christ Church Parish 350th. This will take you to a page where you can review photographs and select and purchase those you want.



Getting to know you.....

My term as President of the ECTW ends this month. Following your suggestions and advice, we have successfully completed numerous projects. You have shown determination to charge forward along new paths, working in areas we have not done in the past. I am extremely pleased with the level of cooperation that so many of you have demonstrated. Working with all of you has afforded me a wonderful opportunity to get to know you on a new level. Mostly, I am very proud to be a part of the ECTW and all of the good works you ladies have facilitated. Ann Padgett

Cyber In-Security?

Tip: Keep all passwords in a safe place, away from your computer if possible. In addition, an address book from the Dollar Store is an inexpensive tool for storage. Write them in pencil to change them easily and often.



HELP WANTED

Please consider one of the positions below which will be empty in 2017 !! Do it with a friend or two - it does

not have to be only one person!!! :-)

- Coffee hour organizer - To coordinate schedules for folks providing our wonderful coffee hours after services. Speak with Linda Irwin for more info.
- Scribe for Vestry meetings - Records minutes at the monthly vestry meetings. Speak with Grace Parker for more details.
- Newsletter editor - Put together our monthly newsletter using our computer program. Speak with Susan Guillotte for more info and training available! Moose already wrote his page!

Like “Mikey” said, “TRY IT. YOU’LL LIKE IT!”



ONLY 31 days left !!!!!

The Qualified Charitable Distribution

For those of us “seventy and a half years old or older” (70 1/2 !!) who have a traditional IRA, we are required to withdraw funds annually from our IRA account. This withdrawal is called a “Required Minimum Distribution”. These funds are taxable in the year withdrawn. For those of us that are fortunate to have a sizeable IRA account balance, this can result in a large tax obligation.

The amount of the required minimum distribution is based on your IRA account balance and your life expectancy as determined by the life expectancy tables published by the IRS (Pub 590).

The Qualified Charitable Distribution is an attractive means for qualifying donors or contributors to support nonprofits such as Christ Church Parish. A qualified charitable distribution is generally a nontaxable distribution made directly by the **trustee of your IRA to an organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.**

Such a distribution (cannot be distributed to you) allows qualifying contributors an opportunity to exclude from taxable income these transfers of IRA assets that are made **directly** to nonprofits such as Christ Church Parish.

In the case of distributions to Christ Church Parish, funding can apply to your annual pledge or the Endowment Fund per your instructions. This is an easy means of supporting the current financial needs or future financial needs of our beautiful church and avoiding taxation of the required distribution.

Christ Church Parish is not in the business of giving tax advice. This information should not take the place of competent, qualified legal advice.





Can you carry a tune?
 Your choir has an enjoyable place for you
 on Sunday morning.
 Singing and smiling with us!

Is worship better for you
 with music? It is for many of us.
 We enjoy singing with you! Join your choir!

“Come into His presence with singing...”
 You can do that in the choir, ya know.
 We have a place just for you!



**Calling all Members of Christ
 Church Parish to consider serving
 on the Vestry:**

**A new class of vestry members
 will begin serving in January, 2017.**

**Please speak with any vestry member about this im-
 portant contribution if you are interested in finding out
 more about it.**

**In addition, the vestry needs a person to record the
 minutes at their meetings beginning in January. Many
 thanks for Grace Parker’s contribution of her time in
 this capacity for a very long time. Who can help?**

Moments with Moose.....



*Bye bye turkey; hello tree???? I love
 all holidays but we need to talk
 about a live tree in the house! I’m a
 boy dog!*

*Dad says “Christmas trees” began way before Christ Church Parish was
 even built, originally with the Europeans as usual . Legend has it (and
 History Today) that Martin Luther invented the Christmas tree one
 winter’s night in 1536 as he was walking through a pine forest near his
 home when he suddenly looked up and saw thousands of stars glinting
 jewel-like among the branches of trees. This wondrous sight inspired
 him to set up a candle-lit fir tree in his house that Christmas to remind
 his children of the starry heavens from whence their Saviour came. I bet
 his newfie freaked out.*

*Everyone has their favorite traditions to help celebrate our holidays.
 Some have special dishes, even sushi, or special decorations or music.
 Mom always loves snow. Celebrating it at church is certainly the best!
 Just being with Mom and Dad is enough for me. I will be a good boy
 around our tree and hopefully, not send any ornaments into the out-
 field across the room with my tail!! And a walk in the snowy woods
 looking up at the glittering stars would be fun too.*