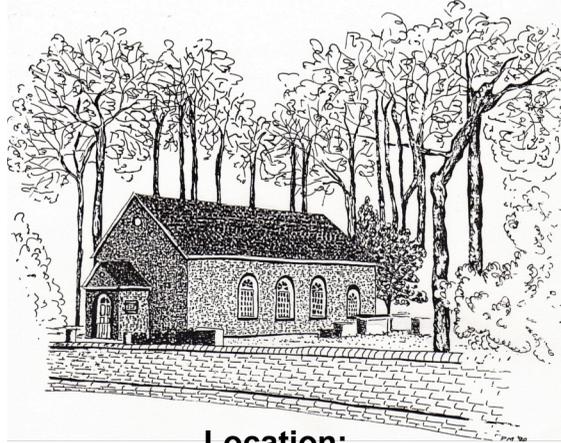




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March
2021

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



Location:

Routes 33 & 638

Christchurch,

Middlesex County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Telephone:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

Website:

christchurchmiddlesex.com

Sunday Services:

During the Covid-19 Pandemic
An online Service at 10:00 AM
The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector
The Rev. Bob Pritchard, Ph.D.,
Priest Associate

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex Monthly Newsletter for March 2021

From Our Rector

“Take up your cross, the Savior said”



In the 16th chapter, from the gospel according to St. Matthew, verses 24 and 25, Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.” As we journey through this season of Lent, we are constantly reminded that we are heading straight for the **cross**. The cross that led to Jesus’ crucifixion, death, and burial, followed by the resurrection on Easter morning. But it is the **cross** that I want to focus on right now. The gospel of John says that Jesus was led

out of the city bearing his own cross. The other three gospels say that as they passed through the gates the Roman soldiers pressed into service Simon of Cyrene to carry the cross for Jesus to the place of execution. Jesus could only carry it so far before he needed help.

The cross was a heavy burden. It was a rough, ugly, and awkward thing to carry but over the years we have planned it smooth and given it a nice finish. Many have turned it into gold, silver, or other precious metals. Decorated it with precious and semi-precious stones, or with decorative images such as Easter lilies and made it a thing of beauty. Some of these crosses may have the body of Christ hanging upon it but it can never really reflect the true agony and pain suffered by the one who died for our sins.

Wearing a cross around ones’ neck or having it tattooed upon ones’ body isn’t what Jesus meant when he said that we should take up our cross. Taking up ones’ cross means facing the ugly things in life. You know, the things that are rough, ugly, and awkward to carry. Taking up ones’ cross means that when our burdens are light, that we do as Simon of Cyrene did, and help others to carry their cross which may be more than they can manage.

continued on next page

Crosses come in many shapes and sizes and often don't even look like a cross at all. Crosses that weigh us down and cause us to stumble are things like the COVID pandemic that have cost people their jobs and all the troubles that come with it; systemic racism that divides our country; severe weather that has left people without electricity or clean water, struggling to stay warm as burst water pipes destroy their homes. Taking up your cross isn't simply a passive action but is one that calls us to action. We see it in the actions of those who are helping to feed the hungry, who are working harder than ever to bring care to the sick and dying, who are passing out water to those who have lost it, of those who are working around the clock to restore power, and of those who are stepping in to help in the clean-up. As we journey through Lent and examine our own lives have you turned the cross into a thing of beauty as a way of avoiding the truth, or have you seen it for what it truly is; a rough, ugly, awkward burden to carry that beckons us to ask for help when we need it, and to offer help when we see others struggling to carry their own cross.

Faithfully,
Fr. Stuart



“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.”

I am writing this in February on the third day of steady sleet and rain. My hope is that you will be reading it on a sunny March day full of hints of Spring. It is also the time of Lent, a time of fasting and reflection in preparation for Easter. I often think of it as a time to think about self-improvement as well as how I might better serve my family, friends, and community.

In this same vein, at our last Vestry meeting we began discussions of our goals for 2021. Of course, our primary and common goal is that we may once again be able to have services in our beautiful church as well as time for friendship and conversations at the coffee hour. We also discussed new ways that we might be able to stay in touch with the congregation prior to our reopening as well as in other situations. This will no doubt be an ongoing topic, and we will keep you informed as things develop.

Our Vestry meetings are now on the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second Tuesday. We made this change to allow for more time for the gathering of financial and other necessary reports. We also established the following liaison between the various church committees and our members as follows:

| | |
|------------------|----------------------------|
| Fellowship | Jeannette Adkins |
| Publicity | Merri Hanson |
| Cemetery | Mike Gorin and Betsy Evans |
| Outreach/Worship | Clayton Neal |
| Endowment | Lydia Dudley |

And remember that March 20 is the first day of Spring!

Lydia Dudley
Senior Warden

from the Junior Warden's Workbench



The first quarterly Building and Grounds Committee meeting for 2021 took place February 15th.

We discussed our maintenance plan and how to move forward. Also discussed was the money issue to accomplish our plans. The Vestry bulletin board has a copy of the plan for 2021 – 2030 with areas of responsibility. All areas have now been covered thanks to Betsy Evans for overseeing the Housekeeping responsibility.

The Narthex repairs are moving forward with the door frame soon to be completed. We will install wainscot to match the existing décor which replaces the plaster. Installing the wainscot on treated furring strips will leave an air space for better circulation. This will help mitigate the rising dampness. Installing gutters will channel water away from the foundation. Many thanks to Jeff Loustaunau for his leadership on this project.

Our Church Clean-up Day is scheduled for Saturday, March 20th (27th make up). Please bring rakes, tarps, smiles and masks. The Boy Scouts will be assisting. FYI – the Scouts are having a Barbeque Fund Raiser on April 14th. This will be a drive-thru pickup. Please support our Scouts – more information to follow.

Finally, the Finance Committee is currently looking for someone with an Accounting background to join us. You can contact me if you are interested. As always, you can contact me with issues or questions.

John Quilter
Junior Warden

| March 2021 | | | | | | |
|--|-----|--|---|--|---|--|
| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
| | 1 | 2 | 3 Zoom Lenten Discussion Rev. Bob Pritchard 7 pm | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 7 Virtual Service | 8 | 9 Fellowship Committee 9:30 am | 10 Zoom Lenten Discussion Rev. Bob Pritchard 7 pm | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 Virtual Service Day Light Savings Time Begins | 15 | 16 Finance Committee 9:30 am Vestry 5:30 pm | 17 Zoom Lenten Discussion Rev. Bob Pritchard 7 pm St. Patrick's Day | 18 Outreach Committee 9:30 am | 19 | 20 First Day of Spring Annual Cleanup Day 9 am |
| 21 Virtual Service | 22 | 23 | 24 Zoom Lenten Discussion Rev. Bob Pritchard 7 pm | 25 | 26 Deadline for Newsletter Articles | 27 Rain Date Annual Cleanup Day 9 am |
| 28 Virtual Service Palm Sunday | 29 | 30 | 31 | NOTES: | | |

Turning toward Spring



Even for a northerner, this winter has already dragged on long enough, just like the virus. In both cases, though, the end is in sight. If we can be patient just a little longer...

Which brings me to thoughts of Spring, and flowers, and planting gardens. I cannot help but think, however, of how often I've been led astray by those gardening catalogs which arrive in times like this, with the promise of gorgeous fields of flowers, an abundance of perfect vegetables, and heavily producing fruit trees. I've learned from buying those plants and seeds, just like I've learned most things...by making absolutely every possible mistake. For some reason, I cannot grow fruit trees and beautiful vegetable on my forested land. So I was encouraged to consider a different type of garden:

For the Garden of your Daily Living:

Plant Three Rows of Peas:

Peace of mind
Peace of heart
Peace of soul

Plant Four Rows of Squash:

Squash gossip
Squash indifference
Squash grumbling
Squash selfishness

Plant Four Rows of Lettuce:

Lettuce be faithful
Lettuce be kind

Lettuce be patient (in case you missed that thought above)
Lettuce really love one another

No Garden is Without Turnips

Turnip for meetings
Turnip for service
Turnip to help one another

To conclude our Garden, we must have Thyme:

Thyme for each other
Thyme for family
Thyme for friends

Water freely with patience and cultivate with love.

There is much fruit in your garden because you reap what you sow.

From *Cooking with Grace* Parker, Verger

Catechism Corner



Seasonal Words and Colors

We differentiate church seasons by words and colors. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) offers suggestions of seasonal prayers. Special words help mark seasons like Lent when we fast from using "alleluia" in our worship awaiting the joy of Easter.

Certain liturgical color themes highlight seasons. The BCP does not specify colors rather they come through ancient and more modern traditions, which may not be uniformly observed.

Purple is used to invoke penance and preparation; often used during Lent and Advent.

Some use **Blue** for Advent, to mark a time of both preparation and hope.

Other communities use Lenten array, simple burlap with deep **Red** and **Black** accents, to emphasize times of simplicity.

Red is associated with sacrifice and the Holy Spirit and typically used for Palm Sunday, Pentecost, the feasts of apostles and martyrs, and ordinations.

White and **Gold** are used to indicate great joy and celebration; and are used for Easter, Christmas, baptisms, funerals, and the feasts of saints who were not martyrs.

Green shows our growth in faith and is used during the Season after Pentecost, the longest part of the church year, and for any other time in which another color is not suggested. Words and colors help remind us of each season's special meaning.

Miles Libbey

Outreach Ministry

Clients of Hands Across Middlesex sponsored Coat and Food Drives in January and February. Christ Church Parish along with many area Churches made donations to the "Share the Love" Coat Drive.

Through the end of February we will continue to collect items for those feeling isolated during this time of Covid 19. These supplies (stamps, envelopes, pens, journals, notepads, cards, books, colored pencils, crayons, word search puzzles, hats, gloves, and scarves) will be given to Social Services to be distributed to those individuals who request them.



Judy Quilter, Chairman

Coming soon ...



THE BROTHERHOOD

OF

CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

Finance Committee



"What is the church?"

Many people define church as a building. This is not a biblical understanding of the church. The word "church" derives from the Greek word *ekklesia*, that means "an assembly" or "called-out ones." Thus, *church* is not a building, but a gathering of people. When asked what church they attend, people usually identify a building. Romans 16:5 says, "Greet the church that is in their house." Paul refers to the church in their house—not a church building, but a body of believers.

The church is where believers can congregate to apply the principles of encouraging, teaching, and building one another up in the knowledge and grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not a building or a denomination. The scripture as written in John 3:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13 refers to the church as all those who have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for salvation.

What is your definition?

Lenten Series on Mission in the Episcopal Tradition

Hopefully you have seen notices of this series in your email and already have the dates marked in your calendars.

When many Americans think of missions and missionaries, they think of a pattern that was common in the 19th and early 20th century--missionaries from Europe and North America headed to Africa, Asia, and Latin America with the intent of establishing new churches that closely resembled those that they had left behind. That is, however, only one pattern of missionary outreach; there are many others.

During the first four Wednesdays in Lent (March 3, 10, 17, 24), the Rev. Dr. Robert W. Prichard, Professor Emeritus at the Virginia Theological Seminary and Priest Associate at Christ Church Parish, continues his series of five reflections on the history of missions in the Anglican/Episcopal tradition. These reflections all start at 7:00 pm and are available on zoom.

The first topic Bob offered on February 24 covered late 16th and early 17th century attempts to transplant the English religious establishment to North America following medieval precedents.

The other individual topics that Bob will address are:

Thomas Bray and the first three Anglican missionary societies (March 3)

The newly organized Episcopal Church ventures into missions with the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society, the American Church Missionary Society, the Fairfax Missionary Society, and the Women's Auxiliary to the Board of Mission (March 10).

The Reorganization of missions in the early 20th century and the incorporation of independent national churches in Haiti, Mexico, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines. (March 17)

New initiatives in mission in the final third of the twentieth century (March 24)

These presentations by Bob will be followed by a time for discussion and will then close with the reading of Compline (Book of Common Prayer, 217-35).

Participants may see some unfamiliar faces on the zoom meeting. Members of St. George's Church in Arlington are also being invited to participate.

Join us on <https://zoom.us> and use the "Join a Meeting" link. February 24 meeting ID: 82505448488 and Passcode 7c7UnZ

March 3, 10, 17, and 24 meeting ID: [83463125546](https://zoom.us) and Passcode 23149

EDITORS MUSINGS



“What a long, strange trip it’s been”, coined by songwriter Robert Hunter and performed by the Grateful Dead, is the quintessential definition of the past year. No parishioner and their family were untouched.

A discipline of survival psychology shines a light on the present moment and contains wisdom that teaches all of us something.

Vice Admiral James B. Stockdale was held prisoner in the infamous “Hanoi Hilton” for seven years. As the ranking naval officer and leader of American resistance against Vietnamese attempts to use prisoners for propaganda purposes, he organized a system of communication and developed a cohesive set of rules governing prisoner behavior. Codified in the acronym BACK U.S. (Unity over Self).

“The Stockdale Paradox”

When asked about the personal characteristics of prisoners who did not make it out of the camps he replied, “The optimists. Oh, they were the ones who said, ‘We’re going to be out by Christmas.’ And Christmas would come, and Christmas would go.

Then they would say, ‘We’re going to be out by Easter.’ And Easter would come, and Easter would go. And then Thanksgiving, and then it would be Christmas again. And they died of a broken heart ... “

This is a very important lesson. You must never confuse faith that you will prevail in the end—which you can never afford to lose—with the discipline to confront the most brutal facts of your current reality, whatever they might be.”

We, Christ Church parishioners, certainly have kept that faith during these uncertain times. We know that they will come to an end but do not hold false hope by setting dates or time frames. Our dedication to our church keeps us working and moving forward with what we have available to us.

This past year, with all its’ trials, tribulations, challenges, and adjustments in our lifestyles, has not been a disappointment. Instead, it held many opportunities. In fact, what other time in the history of our church has there been opportunities to develop virtual ways to conduct our business, hold virtual meetings, expand our communication, hold virtual religious celebrations, and by means of a hybrid video teleconference platform become more widely available? The answer, none. A new virtual age has been thrust upon us and we are meeting the challenge.

What does the future hold?

We have learned that normal is fluid, elastic, and ever changing. If you stop and look in our history, you will find that change is constant and normal moves with it. Our church will evolve as it is our nature and it will prosper as we have a guide that will never fail us, our Savior Jesus Christ.

Special March Celebrations

Anniversaries

- 6th *Phil and Karen Brown*
Gari and Susan Sullivan
- 9th *James and Beverly M. Barnhardt*
- 23rd *"Chas" and Beverly Hart*
- 29th *Bill and Cean Cawthorn*
- 30th *Robert and Susan "Susie" Guillotte*



Birthdays

- 1st *William A. "Bill" Budd*
- 11th *James W. "Jim" Dudley*
- 15th *Lydia B. Dudley*
- 17th *Karen Gorin*
Pat Anderson
- 21st *Susan "Susie" Guillotte*
- 23rd *Jewel T. Ray*



ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

This newsletter is for information and articles that are germane to Christ Church Parish. That being said, if you are a member of Christ Church Parish you may submit an article of interest for consideration to be published in the newsletter.

To ensure that the newsletter is published and distributed in a manner that all will receive it before the month it pertains to begins, the submission deadlines for 2021 are:

| <u>Month Published</u> | <u>Submission Deadline</u> |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| April 2021 | Friday March 26, 2021 |
| May 2021 | Monday April 26, 2021 |
| June 2021 | Monday May 24, 2021 |
| July 2021 | Friday June 25, 2021 |
| August 2021 | Monday July 26, 2021 |
| September 2021 | Thursday August 26, 2021 |
| October 2021 | Friday September 24, 2021 |
| November 2021 | Monday October 25, 2021 |
| December 2021 | Friday November 26, 2021 |

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to wire-paladin@hughes.net. Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a "space available" basis.