

# Christ Church Parish

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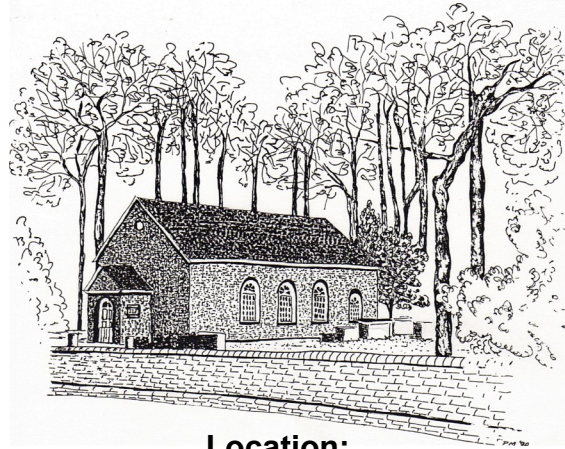
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March  
2024

Join us for our Sunday On-Line Facebook Service  
<http://christchurchmiddlesex.thediocese.net/default.asp>



## Location:

Routes 33 & 638  
Christchurch,  
Middlesex County, Virginia

## Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

## Telephone:

804-758-2006

## E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

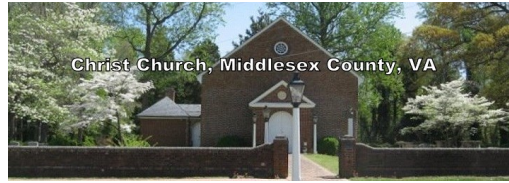
## Website:

christchurchmiddlesex.com

## Services:

Wednesday Eucharist 9:30 AM  
Sunday Services: 8:00 AM & 10:30 AM  
The Rev. Stuart Wood, Rector  
The Rev. Bob Prichard, Ph.D.,  
Priest Associate  
The Rev. Deacon Peggy Moncure

# *Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex*



## *Monthly Newsletter March 2024*

### **Message From Our Rector**



***Greetings during this solemn and holy season of Lent.***

Lent for clergy, altar and flowers guilds, and choirs can be a very busy season. Yes, Lent is a season when we are encouraged to slow down and pray, study, and do a self-examination of our lives. To hit the re-set button and to start anew. But the opposite is often true for those of us involved in the different ministries of the church. For the altar guild there is silver to polish, linens to iron, and extra services to prepare for including Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Easter Vigil. The flower guild has to arrange the palms for Palm Sunday and receive the flower orders for Easter and then make the church ready for the Easter services. The choir has started having extra practices to get ready for Holy Week and Easter. And there are the Lenten suppers and programs to support. At times, Christ Church can be filled with tasks and activities that are at times either exciting or over-whelming – either way it keeps life interesting.

And that isn't all. On **March 10th at a JOINT 10:00 a.m. service**, Christ Church will have a bishop's visitation. Our last visit was in February 2022. This will be the first episcopal visitation of our new Diocesan Bishop, The Right Reverend E. Mark Stevenson, the XIV Bishop of Virginia

It will also be a day in which we will welcome a number of familiar faces officially into the Episcopal Church. Five are being Confirmed, two are being Received from the Roman Catholic Church, and one is going to do a re-affirmation of Confirmation. This will be the largest group of candidates that have been presented since I have been

here. As members of this congregation, it is important for us to both welcome our new bishop and to welcome our newest members, some of which have been baptized members here for some time now. Bishop Stevenson puts a lot of time and energy into his visits and will meet with the candidates prior to the service and after a reception following the service will also meet with your Vestry and the Discernment Committee.

Please remember that a lot of time, energy, and preparation is going into all of these services throughout the month of March so please support our work together as we journey toward the celebration of our Lord's Resurrection.

God Bless,

Fr. Stuart



### **Mid-week Eucharist**

Please remember that we have a mid-week Eucharist here at Christ Church. The service is at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday mornings and is celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.



The last two months have been a whirlwind after accepting the offer to become Senior Warden of Christ Church Parish. I am honored to have been asked to undertake this position and will strive to do the very best I can to keep all informed of the latest and greatest that is going on in the Parish. My goals are quite simple, 1. Assist and counsel Father Stuart whenever required and 2. Establish better communications between our parishioners and the various committees/missions we have established at Christ Church. I am eager and willing to undertake these tasks and I am happy to say we have started already to move forward with the assistance of our able and knowledgeable Vestry team.

February has been a very busy month at Christ Church. The Tech Team has successfully initiated and held the first Build a Robot Day, which was very well attended by several local students who have an interest in robot building, computers, and modern robotic technology. Many thanks go out to Mike Kirk, Ann DePeyster, Jeff Loustaunau, and Scott Holt as well as the Christ Church Tech Team. This program was so well received we are planning another session later in the year for possibly two days.

In early February the Vestry spent a day discussing and brainstorming at our annual retreat. There were many discussions held on various topics, some of which were the search for a new Rector, active shooter, realignment of committees/missions, and better communications within the parish. Once our discussions ended for the day we met again later in the evening for a dinner and social hour at the Senior Warden's home. A good time was had by all.

The Brotherhood held a very successful and delicious Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper that was attended by many parishioners as well as outside guests. The Pancake Supper was followed up by another Brotherhood event on Sunday, February 18, the Valentine's Day breakfast for the women of Christ Church Parrish held in the parish hall.

Chef Jeff Shaw and his wife Barbara prepared and cooked a wonderful French toast, sausage, and fruit breakfast for all. One of the highlights was that all attending women were presented with a beautiful red rose. A great big thanks to Henry Moncure and the Brotherhood for hosting two very nice events.

We are currently making preparations for Bishop Stevenson's visit on March 10th. One of the highlights of the visit will be the confirmation of 4 parishioners from Christ Church by Bishop Stevenson. We are also planning a reception/luncheon with the help of the Fellowship Committee. We have planned meetings with Bishop Stevenson with the Vestry and the Discernment Committee to be held with the Bishop after lunch. We are all looking forward to Bishop Stevenson's visit to our church as well as getting to spend some quality time with the Bishop in the Parish Hall.

Faithfully,  
William "Bill" Budd  
Senior Warden

### **OUR BISHOP'S VISIT**



The Rt. Rev. E. Mark Stevenson, our Diocesan Bishop, will be making his first episcopal visit to Christ Church Parish on Sunday March 10th. Please mark your calendars indicating that there will be only one joint service at 10:00 a.m. that morning.

A bishop only visits the parish every other year, so this will be an excellent opportunity to meet and talk with our Bishop.

C◀ Febru- ary	March 2024					April ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	4	5 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	6 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30am  Christian Education 10:15 am  Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm	7 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	8	9
10 Daylight Saving Begins  Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 am  Bishop's Visit	11	12  Finance Committee 9:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	13 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30am  Outreach Committee 10:15 am  Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm	14  Worship Committee 9:30 am  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	15	16  Spring Clean Up  Ushers Meeting
17 St Patrick's Day  Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am  Brotherhood 9:00 am	18	19 Start of Spring and (Spring Equinox)  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	20 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30am  Christian Education 10:15 am	21 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	22	23  Spring Clean Up Rain Date  Ushers Meeting Rain Date
24 Palm Sunday  Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am and 10:30 am	25 Ministry Chairs 10:00 am	26 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	27 Holy Eucharist Service In the Chapel 9:30am	28 Holy Thursday  AA Group Noon -1:00 pm  Boy Scouts 7:00 pm  Maundy Thursday Service 7:00pm	29 Good Friday  Good Friday Service 12:00 noon	30
31 Easter  Easter Vigil 6:00 am  Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 am	Elephants will meet April 1, 10:00 am					



## *From the Deacon's Bench*

***Keep alert; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. Let all that you do be done in love. 1 Corinthians 13-14***

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

First, I would like to thank you all for the most generous gift you gave me at Christmas. There is a thank you note on the bulletin board, but I wanted to express my gratitude here, in case you did not see that one. Truly, just being part of the wonderful family here at Christ Church is a tremendous gift by itself but I am very thankful for the extra gift you gave me.

I hope you will notice as you enter the Parish Hall the transformation that has taken place in the Vestry Room. There had been quite an accumulation of many items and the room had become more like a storage room instead of a meeting room. It is an easy place to “drop off” items that do not have a designated spot. However, it is also the first room people see when they enter the building and really needs to be kept in a neat condition. We do have a storage room that is to the left of the stage in the large meeting room. So, if you are missing something from the Vestry Room, it has probably been moved to the actual storage room. Please help us keep this room in a nice condition.

Last month in this article, I posted a little test that ended with the following lesson: “The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money, or the most awards. They simply are the ones who care the most” and the following scripture:

***“Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.” Hebrews 13:16***

Well, the time is fast approaching when you can “make a difference, show that you care, and share what you have” Please consider helping us with the following ministries:

**Creation Care Garden** – Last year, this became a very important ministry in our community. Food and beautiful flowers were distributed to our brothers and sisters who could not afford them. Those gifts were much appreciated. People in the community also noticed that something different was going on at the front of our property and asked questions. That helped draw attention to Christ Church. We were also helping to care for the beautiful creation given to us by our loving and magnificent God. There are many opportunities to help with this ministry.....jobs both big and small. You do not have to make a huge time commitment or do a lot of heavy work. We will match you up with a job you would enjoy. Please consider helping.

**Our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Fine Arts Camp** will be held June 17<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>. Again, there are jobs both big and small. We need lots of volunteers. Please consider helping with this ministry that is so important for the children in our community. Please email or call me if you are willing to help with one or both of these ministries. [peggy\\_moncure@live.com](mailto:peggy_moncure@live.com) or 804-869-3867

Thank you so much for all that you do. Peace, Peg+

## Usher Ministry Gathering/Updates



An opportunity for all of our dedicated ushers and would-be ushers to gather briefly is being planned for Saturday, March 16 immediately following Spring Cleanup and lunch (rain date March 23). In addition to receiving a warm and sincere thank you for volunteering for this Ministry, you can expect brief updates on three topics: duties specifically related to worship; the Elephant Committee's hopes and advice for our ushers—important ambassadors of our church that potential new members encounter first when they come to a service; and, finally, what is now referred to as Active Threats. All of this should not take more than an hour. This is a perfect opportunity for anyone already at CCP for Spring Cleanup that day who might also have thought about being an usher but isn't sure what that involves. We also encourage our most experienced ushers to join us to share their perspectives and insights as well as hear important updates.

Grace Parker, Chair, Worship and Pastoral Care Committee  
Ann de Peyster



# FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE

## The Fellowship Committee Ploughs into Spring for Fruitful Events

The brighter mornings, longer days, gorgeous sunsets, and clear air hint at wonderful things to come from Mother Nature this Spring. Your Fellowship Committee is right there to greet and work with her to celebrate the cycles of Life.

In this season of Lent, we acknowledge these pensive weeks by commemorating Lent with weekly Wednesday dinners. Join us Wednesday evenings 21 and 28 February and 6 and 13 March for simple dinners at 5:30 pm. Father Stuart will offer a brief program to follow adding a special dollop of spirituality to our gathering.

March is indeed a time for spirituality as we travel toward the True Light. We start with the visitation by Bishop Stevenson on Sunday, March 10th, for the confirmation of four Christ Church Parishioners and the "Receiving" of two parishioners. Following the special service, will be a reception in the Parish Hall with homemade finger foods, punch, pastries, tea, and coffee.

In April we will celebrate Homecoming in tandem with the dedication of our new Christ Church Parish Virginia Department of Highways Historic marker sign. The proposed date is toward the end of April as the sign does not emerge from the Foundry until sometime in early April. We have a three-week window from Foundry entry until its completion. We will be joined by a member of the Virginia Highway Historic Signs group for our luncheon. Our existing sign, located near Ace Hardware on Route 33, is almost 100 years old! It is indeed time for a new sign and relevant location. Stay tuned for the exact time and date of this event!

We are in the planning stages for summer entertainment. More to come!

Remember we play where we pray. We offer food for body and soul, laughter for the heart, and cheer for all seasons and reasons. We are your Fellowship Committee.

Mary Lynn Landgraf  
Bev Hart

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES



The Outreach Ministry met on February 14 to discuss the numerous projects in which we are involved as we serve our community. Among these are:

- Jeannette Adkins, Susie Loustaunau, and Pam McClelland handed out eight dozen pairs of warm socks to people picking up food at the Cryer Center on February 13. They were very appreciative of this gift, especially since it was a chilly, windy morning.
- Peg Moncure has collected many books to donate to Social Services, thanks to the generosity of Church members.
- Clayton Neal is working with Habitat for Humanity to help with the completion of their current home. Thank you to those of you who volunteer to help with this worthwhile project.
- Ann de Peyster and Delois Greenwood are working with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes which meets at the Middle School. They feel that the energy and enthusiasm of the students is inspiring. We will be asking the congregation to donate healthy snacks for this worthwhile endeavor. We will announce the dates for this collection.
- Our Boy Scout troop will be making wooden Nativity figures to add to our display next December. Ann De Peyster and her husband, Mike, will be working with them and exploring the best paint colors and techniques for this project. As always, we will be asking for volunteers.

*Continued on the next page*

Susie Loustaunau suggested that we explore the idea of having an Elementary School art show, focusing on our local students.

More to come.....

We welcomed new members, Kathy and Tom Clark. Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 13 at 10:15am. If you are interested in serving our community, please join us!

Susie Loustaunau and Pam McClelland, Co-Chairs  
Outreach Ministry

## **Funding Christ Church Parish's Future By Contributing to The Endowment Fund**

Millions of Americans make donations of cash and property to the charities of their choice each year. However, many donors are left wishing that they could do more for the charities that they love and support. Life Insurance can be an effective and convenient asset to give. There are various methods for making life insurance donations; each method has unique advantages.

Naming a Charity as Beneficiary. Naming the charity of your choice as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy is the simplest way to provide a charity with the death benefit proceeds from a policy. It doesn't offer the income tax advantages that come with gifting a policy, but it still reduces the donor's estate by the amount of the death benefit. Donors who aren't completely sure how they want to distribute their assets after death can list a charity as a revocable beneficiary. This gives them flexibility in case their financial situation changes. If the donor chooses to stop paying the premiums, the charitable organization can choose to continue the process or can allow the policy to lapse.

Naming the charity as beneficiary also ensures the privacy of the transaction, which can be important for donors who wish to keep their gifting intentions secret from their families or other heirs. Transfer of assets from an insurance contract cannot be contested, making it impossible for anyone to stop the donation from occurring.

If this sounds like a way for you to remember our beautiful church, contact your financial advisor or estate planner for guidance. Christ Church is not in the business of giving financial advice.



## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH

Most people say Christmas is their favorite time of year. For me, it is Holy Week and Easter. I love the ancient traditions we continue to observe. I love the haunting music of Holy Week and the fanfare and bells of Easter. But the service that is my very favorite of the entire year is one that many have never experienced: The Great Vigil of Easter.

Yes, that is what it is properly called. If you have never been to one, please get up early Easter morning and come and see. Most churches do the vigil on Saturday evening. We chose to do it early Sunday morning. What to expect? Something totally different.

The Great Vigil of Easter is one of the oldest known rites of the Christian church, dating back to the second century. It brings worshippers, literally and symbolically, from darkness into light. We begin outside with the lighting of the “new fire” and the Pascal Candle. The greatest musical chant in our liturgy, The Exsultet, is then sung by the Deacon (thanks be that we have one and she is so talented and capable of doing this difficult piece justice). We proceed into the darkened church by candlelight. Then follow the readings from the Old Testament that tell



*Continued on the next page*

the story of how God has worked his wonders. How many? Nine are appointed in the Book of Common Prayer but as few as two may be read. We will compromise somewhere in between. (My church in DC did them all with anthems or hymns after each one - it was a LONG service but was always a full house.) Following the readings is either Baptism or Renewal of Baptismal Vows. The tradition of baptism at the vigil goes back to ancient times and is an integral part of the service. Then follows the Eucharist, sometimes known as the First Mass of Easter. At this point, the lights are brought up and the congregation sees the sanctuary in all its "Easter finery" for the first time. Bells ring and we sing our first Alleluias since the last Sunday of Epiphany.

Why get up at the crack of dawn, stand out in the cold, endure all those readings, and then come back in a few hours for another service? Because it is beautiful, it is meaningful, it is historic, it is different. For me, it is what Easter is all about: God's story and plan for our salvation. Try it, you might get hooked too.

Libby Boyer

## **WORSHIP MINISTRIES**

March will be a month full of special opportunities for worship in our beautiful sanctuary. We will celebrate five Sundays, including the visit of Bishop Stevenson on March 10th for confirmations, receptions, and a reaffirmation. As I said last month, Easter comes early this year, so we also look to Holy Week services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, the Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday. There will be reminders sent out so you don't miss anything!

Christian Education is going well in our consideration of the beliefs of Early Christians. So far we have watched some very interesting lectures on the Ebionites, the Marcionites, and the Gnostics. We've discussed each lecture and have gained a better understanding of how these groups came to their beliefs. Future lectures cover the Gospel of Truth (Gnostic also) and on to the Coptic Gospel of Thomas. We meet at 10:15 on the first and third Wednesdays of each month and are wrapping up our discussions by noon. All are welcome to any session. No reservation is required! Just bring an open and inquiring mind.

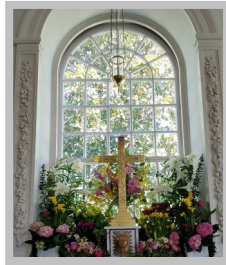
VR, Grace

Many of you honor or remember loved ones by gifting a donation for our beautiful Easter lilies and other flowers. The names of those remembered will be listed in the Easter Sunday bulletin. If you wish to donate, please complete the included form or complete the form listed on our website.



Easter Flower Donation Form

Suggested donation \$25



Donation made in Memory of

Or

Donation made in Honor of

Donated by

Return this Form to the Church Office no later than March 25th.

Place it in the Alms Basin on Sundays, or Mail To

Christ Church Parish

P.O. Box 476

Saluda, VA 23149-0476

## *Special March Celebrations*

### *Anniversaries*



*6<sup>th</sup> Phil & Karen Brown*

*Gari & Susan Sullivan*

*9<sup>th</sup> Jamie & Beverly Barnhardt III*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Charlie & Bev Hart*

*29<sup>th</sup> Bill & Cean Cawthorn*

*30<sup>th</sup> Dave and Marilyn South*

### *Birthdays*

*1<sup>st</sup> Bill Budd*

*2<sup>nd</sup> Michelle Meredith*

*9<sup>t</sup> Meredith Caskie*

*Joey Humphreys*

*11<sup>th</sup> Jim Dudley*

*13<sup>th</sup> Paula Saddler*

*15<sup>th</sup> Lydia Dudley*

*17<sup>th</sup> Pat Anderson*

*Karen Gorin*

*18<sup>th</sup> Jimmy Meredith*

*20<sup>th</sup> Bill Newman*

*23<sup>st</sup> Jewel Ray*

*15<sup>th</sup> Fernando Melendez*

*23<sup>rd</sup> Jewel Ray*



## NEWSLETTER ARTICLES WELCOMED!

This newsletter is for information and articles that are germane to Christ Church Parish. 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 2024 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:</u>
April	March 22, 2024
May	April 22, 2024
June	May 24, 2024
July	June 21, 2024
August	July 22, 2024
September	August 23, 2024
October	September 20, 2024
November	October 25, 2024
December	November 22, 2024
January 2025	December 23, 2024

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to [jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com](mailto:jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com)

Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a "space available" basis.

## Mark Your Calendars - Save The Date

It is never too early to share your End-of-Life Plans with your family. You can then update it as your wishes may change.

On April 14th at 9:00 AM in the Fellowship Hall, Tony Brooks, Funeral Director, Faulkner Funeral Home will speak at the Brotherhood Breakfast and share his experiences, some humous and some not so, regarding lost benefits and what can happen when you don't plan and share "What Your Family Should Know". He commented, that even after 40 years in the business, he was at a loss when he had to write his own wife's obituary.

All ladies and gentlemen of the church are invited.

This event is sponsored by Christ Church Parish Endowment Board and The Brotherhood.

Endowment Board Members.

Fr. Stuart Wood

Bill Budd, Sr Warden

Jack Hellems, Chair

Grace Parker, Secretary

Jannette Adkins

Jim Knupp