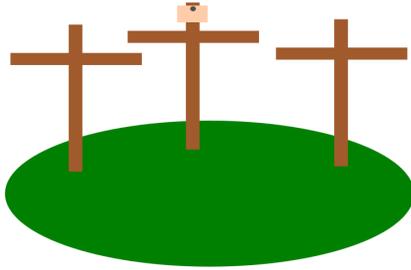


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MARCH 2016



Five days ago I officiated at three different Ash Wednesday services; one at Christchurch School and two at Christ Church. For 27 years I have made the sign of the cross with

palm ashes upon the foreheads of many individuals. This was the first year that I got to look into the faces of so many young people as I said the words "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return."

For many clergy who only stay in a parish for five to six years at a time, they may not experience the deaths of many parishioners. But having been in one place for twenty five years, before coming here, those words on Ash Wednesday came to pass too often as I presided over the funerals of many beloved parishioners and friends; some of them very young and others living well into their 80's and 90's and two even living past 100.

These words sustain me and make it possible for me to carry on because they remind me of two important things. First they remind me that this is not our true home and that we are pilgrims passing through this life to our true place in the Kingdom of God. Second they remind me that we are heading toward the Good Friday Cross, tomb, and Easter joy and resurrection that allows us to say even at the grave, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia" for Christ has won the victory and opened the gates of paradise to all who call on his name.

May these days of Lent be meaningful and rewarding to you as we prepare to celebrate our Lord's resurrection.
 Fr. Stuart

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

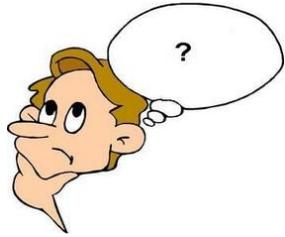
Sunday Services:
 8 am
 A quiet traditional Service of Holy Communion
 &
 10:30 AM
 A Family Service of Holy Communion
 with Music and Choir

Christ Church Parish

Address Service Requested

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





Community Care - Have you missed seeing someone at church or at church activities? If so, please contact them to see how they are. Let them know how you and their parish community are in-

terested in their well being, have missed them and look forward to having them with us. If they need assistance, please tell Fr. Stuart and the Worship and Pastoral Care Committee what is needed. It is what we do in caring for one another.



All Altar and Flower Guild

Members are invited to the Annual Get-Together. The social will be held on Sunday, March 20 at 5pm. The event will be held at the home of

Dave and Marilyn South. We would appreciate each person bringing a small dish to share and the beverages and the rest will be provided by Cindy, Richard, Dave and Marilyn. We hope you can come and bring spouses, friend or other.



Please **RSVP** to Marilyn by March 15.

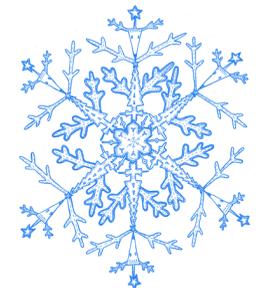
Once again, we thank each of you for your dedication all year long!

Happy Birthday

- Mar 6 - Belle Bronner
- Mar 9 - Meredith Caskie
- Mar 11 - Jim Dudley
- Mar 13 - Will Hutchens
- Mar 15 - Lydia Dudley
- Mar 17 - Betty Chowning
- Mar 17 - Karen Gorin
- Mar 21 - Susan Guillotte
- Mar 22 - Anita Hill
- Mar 23 - Jewel Ray
- Mar 29 - Dennis Durette

Anniversary Blessings

- Mar 6 - Susan and Gari Sullivan
- Mar 12 - Jody and Roger Anglin
- Mar 23 - Bev and Charlie Hart
- Mar 29 - Cean and Bill Cawthorn
- Mar 30 - Marilyn and Dave South
- Mar 30 - Susan and Bob Guillotte



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

Special Calendar Notes:



- March 2 – Lenten service and supper 6:00PM
- March 7 – Vestry meeting 6:00PM
- March 9 – Lenten service and supper 6:00PM
- March 12 – Saturday morning 9:00AM – Our Annual Cleanup Day (Rain date is March 19 for outside work) Lunch and beverages provided!
- March 13 – 9:00AM Brotherhood breakfast
- March 16 – Last Lenten service and supper 6:00PM
- March 20 – Palm Sunday – 8:00AM and 10:30AM services
- March 20 – Annual Altar and Flower Guild Social – 5:00PM at the home of Dave and Marilyn South
- March 24 – Maundy Thursday service at 6:00PM
- March 25 – Good Friday services at noon and 6:00PM
- March 26 – Easter Vigil – 7:00PM
- March 27 – Easter Service – 10:00 AM
- April 13 – ECW Spring Fashion Show and luncheon
- April 13 – Vestry meeting 6:00PM

ATTENTION !!!

The Elizabeth B. Sanders Fund nominating committee is currently accepting applications for its 2016-2017 scholarship awards. The purpose of the fund is to assist in providing for the educational needs of children of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex under the age of 21.

Fund awards may be used for, but not limited to religious, elementary, secondary, under graduate, special, technical, vocational, professional or other educational purposes.

Application forms may be picked up from the Parish office or downloaded from the CCP website. Applications must be submitted, complete including all required documentation, by April 30, 2016 to:

Christ Church Parish, Middlesex
Elizabeth B. Sanders Education Scholarship Awards
Attention: Nominating Committee

P.O. Box 476
Saluda, VA 23149-0476

The application may also be hand delivered to the Parish office during regular business hours.

Applications that are incomplete or received after the return deadline will NOT be considered. It is not the committee's responsibility to complete the required information.

Applicants will be notified of the decision of the Board of Directors by US Mail.

Any questions concerning the application form or process should be directed to the chairman of the nominating committee for the Elizabeth B.

Sanders Fund:

Bob Guillotte

804.824.8601 or jamaicalifeahhh@aol.com





Saturday, March 12th Annual Cleanup Day

Come one, come all, on Saturday morning, 9AM, with your favorite rake or bucket or plastic gloves. Let's rake away the winter and brighten up our church for Easter and our 350th celebration.

The Boy Scouts will be there to clear the grounds. There will be all kinds of work for all kinds of helpers, inside and outside. If you have gardening expertise or just enjoy brightening things up, your help will be greatly appreciated.

We'll start around 9AM but come any time that fits your schedule. Our rain date for outside work is March 19th.

Lunch and beverages will be provided too.

Hope to see you there!

Bob Guillotte, Junior Warden



9th Annual Valentines Dinner/Dance

Friday, February 5, 2016

With soft lighting, candles spread throughout, beautiful floral designs and elegantly attired guests, the Parish Hall looked its best. Butler-passed hor'd oeuvres (two of our men were the butlers), much mingling and, of course, a mouth-watering dinner led to a fun and great evening for everyone. Several people mentioned the band, The Phun Doctors, sounded better this year. Overall, the evening was a huge success and one to be remembered with pleasure and delight.

Thank you to everyone who helped make it a wonderful evening!



Book Signing : There will be a book signing after the 10:30am service on March 13. The children's book is Happy Birthday Dolly.....Sharing Happiness about Dolly Cronk, daughter of Dottie Cronk. The author is Lynn C. Skinner, author of children's books. The illustrator is Ingrid Dohm, an internationally known artist from Austria.



Confirmation Classes -

The Most Rev. Michael Curry and The Rt. Rev. Edwin F. "Ted" Gulick, Jr., Assistant Bishop of Virginia will be with us to celebrate the 350th anniversary of Christ Church Parish, Middlesex on April 24, 2016.

Anyone desiring to confirm their faith or be received into this branch of the Church should notify Father Stuart so that we can arrange confirmation classes. Those wishing to re-confirm their faith are also welcome to participate.



Please visit our website often at:

www.christchurchmiddlesex.com

The volume of visitors will contribute to our recognition success out in the cyber world so that more online searches will show OUR Parish for those looking for a wonderful new church to visit! And of course, you will be up to date on all the latest news. Our newsletter is shown in color too!

VESTRY INFORMATION:

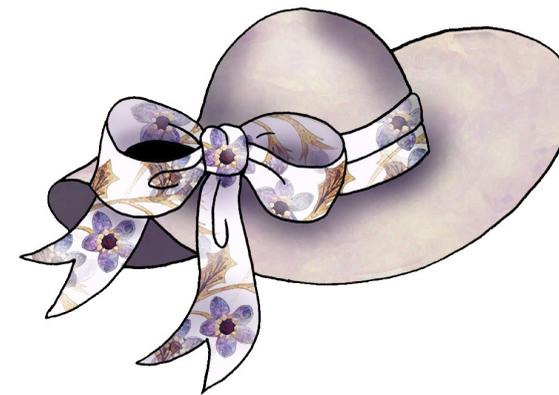
Next Vestry meeting will be Monday, March 7 at 6pm.

For all interested members' viewing, Vestry Minutes, after approval, are placed in a file folder on the west Parish Hall wall between Fr. Stuart's office and the Church Office.



WEEKDAY HOLY EUCHARIST

Beginning on Wednesday January 13th at 10:00 a.m., I will begin having a weekly mid-week Eucharist in the chapel in the parish hall. This service lasts about a half an hour and the propers (the lessons and collect) will be those of the saint on the liturgical calendar that is closest to that day, if there isn't someone already on that particular day. I do not have a homily at these services but instead will read about the person being commemorated.



Ladies -

Remember Easter bonnets?

Once upon a time we always carried our hats or beanies or veils, gloves and prayer books to service! Today, bring your smiles!

1st Wednesdays - Connecting Threads ~~~~~



Several parishioners have expressed interest in setting up a time for those with a love of creating with fibers to meet and share their talents, time and sense of community. So, this is a call to any and all in our Parish, and those in our community, who love to knit, crochet, cross-stitch, needlepoint, etc, or wish to learn a handcraft and share special times together—to gather at our Parish Hall on the First Wednesday's of each month after the Holy Eucharist service.

The initial gathering will be on **Wednesday, March 2 at 10:45**. Bring a sandwich and we can make future plans while we knit, stitch, talk and enjoy spending time together. Feel free to contact Jean Holt with questions or to share your interest in participating in this new project.



*Getting to Know You.... Please welcome our latest entry in our new column! Entries may be any length, from one paragraph to several. We look forward to learning about our fellow members. Getting to know **Who Is Next?***

Moments with Moose.....



" There is no psychiatrist in the world like a puppy licking your face" - Ben Williams

...or a newfie warming your toes, I might add. I love the winter. God designed me to enjoy very cold weather, sleep in deep snow, swim happily in ice cold water for saving lives and towing boats and live mostly on a diet of fish. I have done a lot of snow napping this winter and snow dancing.

But I have noticed that most humans get a little tired of snow and gray chilly days. Dad grumbles about shoveling the snow. I help by laying out there and watching him. Sometimes I accompany him to haul in wood from the barn. He grumbles about that too. I need to do my part because the cats are no help at all.

A shortage of sunshine can affect our hearts and put a blanket on our energy. We all start to look forward to our springtime, that warm sustenance for new life, new hope and renewed energy. God designed all the seasons for a reason but spring gives us something no other season can. Maybe that is why Easter is in there.

I may not be a puppy but I will go have a lick at Dad's face....