

Christ Church Parish (Episcopal) Middlesex

Monthly Newsletter

April 2022

From Our Rector



One of the most beautiful and special services of the church year is one that unfortunately has a low attendance record. It may be because people just aren't familiar with this service or it may be because of the times in which it is offered. But the timing of the service is one of the aspects of this service that makes it so special. The service either needs to start after sundown on Holy Saturday or before sunrise on Easter Sunday morning. For me, it is most effective in the morning as darkness slowly changes to daylight with the rising of the sun and the stories of God's salvation history brings us to the proclamation that Christ is Risen!

en! followed then with the celebration of the first Eucharist of Easter.

We haven't been able to celebrate this service for the past two years due to COVID. In the past, we have had the service on Holy Saturday evenings, but since we are now in daylight savings time, we will have the service starting at 6:00 a.m. since sunrise is at 6:29 a.m.

The service begins outside where the "new fire" is kindled and the Paschal Candle is then lit before the procession of everyone into the church. If you have never been to this service and would like to know more about it you can find it on page 285 in the Book of Common Prayer.

Rector's Message

The celebration of Easter this year comes at a time when the world is once again veiled in war and millions of peoples' lives are being changed forever. We pray for the people of Ukraine as they fight for their survival while their villages and cities are being destroyed by a foreign army and citizens flee for safety for their children and themselves as others fight to defend their sovereignty and freedom.

This is not new in the history of the world for we find Mary and Joseph becoming refugees fleeing Bethlehem with their infant son Jesus, into Egypt, in order to protect him from King Herod

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who felt threatened by the presence of this “new born King of the Jews” and wants him killed. Jesus then grew up in a country occupied and controlled by a foreign government, Rome, with puppet rulers answering only to Caesar. When Jesus’ teachings about the Kingdom of God and rumors that he was the Messiah, the one ordained by God to overthrow the Romans and restore the Kingdom of David, reached those in power they began to feel threatened once again. Jesus is arrested, tried, and convicted on false charges and led away to be crucified.

Good Friday finds the hopes and dreams of Jesus’ followers dying on a cross and buried in a tomb. BUT THAT ISN’T THE END OF THE STORY! On Easter morning Jesus is raised from the dead. Death is conquered, the powers of Hell could not hold him in its grip, and the light that they thought was extinguished was shining brighter than ever before. Love trumps evil every time.

As life unfolds, we encounter numerous times when life isn’t easy and there are no easy answers. We hear people asking “Why?” and the only answer is that we live in a sinful and broken world where peoples’ insecurities and greed lead them to do atrocious things where others are hurt and the innocent die. But Easter plays the trump card, and we see that evil hasn’t won, darkness hasn’t prevailed, as we come together to proclaim the resurrection of our Lord and that God’s love is victorious. It may be celebrated in a great cathedral, in a simple country church, in a bombed-out church, or on the battlefield, but no matter where it is celebrated, the truth is told and hope is born anew in peoples’ hearts. May you all have a blessed Easter and pray for those within your family, community, and the world that need to hear and feel God’s loving embrace at this time. Faithfully,

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 will be celebrated in the Chapel in the Parish Hall.



“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.”

Lent is a time of self-examination and reflection. Your Vestry has taken time to re-examine its goals and to reflect on the future of the church. We met for a great retreat on March 19th to discuss and make goals to ensure that we are a faithful, joy-filled contemporary congregation of “real folk” building a living faith. We were so appreciative of the Elephant in The Room chair, Jeff Loustaunau for leading us in a productive discussion and workshop on how to revitalize our faith and church after Covid. We offer such a great place of support, comfort, joy, and faith. I ask each of you to not hesitate to share with neighbors and friends how much we have to offer them.

In the last month, we all were busy doing some very important work. The Fellowship Committee has sent the new sign out for bids. Adult Education classes began again on Sunday at 9:15 AM. The church welcomed the congregation to the Shrove Tuesday Pancake suppers and Lenten Suppers with The Reverend Bob Prichard doing the instruction. The Tech team streamed the Lenten lessons along with the services every week. We had a wonderful service for Scout Sunday and welcomed the joy of so many young people. This was followed by a reception honoring the Scouts and our 75th anniversary of the Scouts being a part of our church community.

It is now time to prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Lent has been a most productive time and we are ready to begin with a new renewed spirit to spread the joy and faith of this community. Father Stuart and the Worship Committee are working on the Easter Vigil for early Easter morning. It should be truly beautiful. Then, we will celebrate Easter with a joint service. Please invite all to join us.

We hope all will be there for the cleanup Saturday on April 2nd, making baskets for Teacher Appreciation Week on April 4th, and the Potluck Supper on April 22nd. Do not forget the ministry to visit those who are alone or shut-in that Deacon Peg is heading up. Details for each of these events can be found in this newsletter and we hope you will mark your calendar.

We will be known by our deeds, but it does not hurt to welcome a neighbor, friend, or newcomer to join us. They will be glad you asked them to come and experience our community.

Faithfully,

Jeannette Adkins



From the Deacon's Bench

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." (Hebrews 13:16) (NRSV)

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

We need your HELP! Information for our upcoming 2nd Annual Fine Arts Camp, during the week of July 18th, has been distributed and we hope to have a large number of students planning to attend this event. Flyers and registration forms have been delivered to Middlesex Elementary School, St. Clare Walker Middle School, Middlesex Department of Social Services, and others. The event is for rising 5th grade – rising 8th grade students and is free of charge. Parents are only responsible for transportation and for agreeing to have campers participate in all camp activities. Your help is requested in the following ways:

- Help publicize the camp. Tell family, friends, and neighbors. Information flyers and registration forms are available at church. This is NOT limited to Middlesex County. Students from everywhere are invited.
- Volunteer to help during that week. Positions are available for those who want to help all week as well as for those who wish to help for a day or two. There are many different duties that need to be filled. Please talk to me and we will find a way that works for you.

Last year's camp was small due to limited invitations and COVID but was successful for those students who attended. We are able to expand this year and hope to provide this special ministry to many in our community and beyond. YOU can be a part of reaching out to area children and giving them a rewarding experience in the arts. Let's show Middlesex County and others that Christ Church Parish is a caring community where ALL are welcome.

Our "Ministry to the Lonely" is ready to go. We are awaiting names from Middlesex DSS. Several team members have completed training and others are almost finished. Each person will be paired up with a client suggested by DSS and one of our own parishioners. We are ready to start our visits! It's not too late to join our team. We can get you ready very easily. See me if you have an interest.

Once again, MANY THANKS to all of you for being such a wonderful and caring family to me and Henry during my time of medical issues. Your prayers, cards, calls, words of encouragement and other offers of help mean so much to us. This is one more of many reasons why I am so thankful God called me to Christ Church. Y'all are awesome!!! Hopefully, everything will soon be finished, and I will be back in full force.

Peace, Peg+

◀ March	April 2022						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
					1	2 Church Clean Up 8:00 am	
3 5th Sunday of Lent Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	4	5 AA Group Noon – 12:00 pm	6 Fellowship Com- mittee 9:00 am GEEK Committee 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Connecting Threads 1:00 pm Lenten Dinner 5:30 pm Program 6:00 pm	7 AA Group Noon—12:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00pm	8	9	
10 Palm Sunday Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	11	12 AA Group Noon—12:00 pm	13 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Endowment Board 1:00 pm	14 Maundy Thursday AA Group Noon—12:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm Holy Eucharist 6:00pm	15 Good Friday Holy Eucharist Service 12:00 noon	16	
17 Easter Holy Eucharist Services 6:00 am 10:00 am	18	19 Finance Committee 9:30 am AA Group Noon—12:00 pm Vestry 1:30 pm	20 No Service in Chapel	21 Outreach Ministry 9:00 AA Group Noon—12:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	22 Worship Com- mittee 9:30 am Potluck Dinner 5:30 pm	23	
24 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am Adult Education Parish Hall 9:15 am	25	26 AA Group Noon—12:00 pm	27 No Service in Chapel	28 AA Group Noon—12:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	29	30	



From the Worship and Pastoral Care Committee

With longer and warmer days, it seems to me that we are emerging from a long winter, a long COVID winter. I walk around my garden looking for plants I am SURE I planted in a particular spot. I take stock of things that seems to be thriving, and areas that need attention. I reflect on the efforts I put into a healthy and attractive landscape, and I think it is worthwhile. Similar to my and your gardens, our church needs our regular attention. Where is that friend who came to church but I don't see her any longer? Does she need some nurturing and loving attention? This is an opportunity for all of us. Not just our priest, or Deacon, or Parish nurses should be checking on those we are missing.

In our Worship and Pastoral care, and Elephant committee meetings, it has become very apparent that we are missing folks in our pews, and sometimes we think we know why and find that we might be wrong. One of the very frequent comments we hear is that someone felt a need for pastoral care and didn't feel they got it. No one called them to check to see if they were OK. I ask that you think of those you are missing at church, and call them. That may be all they need to know that they truly matter and are missed. Doing this isn't just to fill the pews, but to demonstrate the love of Christ in our deeds as well as our words.

As we continue through this Lenten season, self-examination is in order, and action is needed. Let us each put our faith to work as Spring emerges and let new growth and nurturing guide us.

Grace Parker

The Verger

A Request from the 10:30 Usher Ministry



As we near the end of our first year working together to do this important ministry, I want to thank all that have served as ushers. It's been smooth sailing at the 10:30 service with folks filling in for each other as needed. And thanks also to the ushers doing a fine job at the 8:00 service. Now I need a bit of help. There is no one signed up to usher in May at the 10:30 service. We only need two people to add to our roster to complete the year. It's an easy but important role. If you are new to the church, it is a great way to meet folks and if regular parishioners, a

meaningful contribution. And I'll be there to assist you along the way. So please, whether you are a couple or a single person, your help is needed.

Thank you.

Sharon Colston



... from the Junior Warden's Workbench

Greetings!

Spring church yard cleanup is around the corner on April 2nd starting at 9 AM (rain date April 9th). The Boy Scouts will be helping along with our parishioners. There will be refreshments provided by our ECW and Brotherhood.

Please remember to support the Scouts' Barbecue Fundraiser on April 23rd. Purchase tickets in advance on our cleanup day. Tickets are \$30 and the dinner feeds four.

The winter freezes are behind us and our propane tanks for heating have been refilled. All thermostats and clocks were reset for daylight savings.

We now have Michael Johnson assisting with handyman chores-yea!!! You can always contact me with any questions or suggestions.

Betsy Evans
Junior Warden

Fellowship Committee

This is a Special Alert to Cooks, Kitchen Artists, Chefs and Microwavers!

Even if the best thing you can make for dinner is reservations, we still want one and all to Save the date, Friday evening 22 April, for a lively evening of fun, food, and fellowship celebrating Earth Day with a bountiful Pot Luck Dinner in Christ Church Parish Hall. Spice up your routine as you share the dishes you love to make with old friends and new acquaintances. Show off your culinary skills in any or all the food groups: meats, vegetables, desserts, and appetizers. As we munch and crunch, you can catch up on the local scoop, hear about friends' plans for the summer and even enjoy hearing some tall tales from the "well, back then days."

Winter blues and Covid News be gone—we are "out and about" free to enjoy the company of fellow parishioners and friends. Social hour begins at 5:30 pm and dinner at 6 pm. Entertainment to follow.

Please sign up on the church bulletin board or register with the church secretary. Questions? Call Mary Lynn Landgraf at 703-981-3914.

A summer picnic, ice cream social and Fall Harvest Moon dinner plans are in the works. Stay tuned for details as we bring smiling faces back to their usual places.

Mary Lynn Landgraf, Cell: 703-981-3914

Outreach Ministry



The Outreach Ministry thanks all who donated so generously to our collection of supplies for adults in Middlesex County. 15 bags of supplies were delivered to Social Services to be given to those clients who cannot afford these “extras” that most of us take for granted. Each bag contained our Church Outreach Brochure, along with a note from all of us.

Members of our Ministry will be driving Ellen Johnson to her physical therapy sessions. Jean Holt has been so devoted to helping her throughout her surgery and recovery. Thank you, Jean!

In May, we will be delivering baskets of goodies to all local schools for teachers to enjoy during Teacher Appreciation Week. This is a small way to tell our teachers how much we appreciate all that they do for our children.

Upcoming projects include participation in the May celebration at the Deltaville Ball Park and the Fine Arts Camp this summer (the week of July 18) with a church picnic to follow. We also have members who will be participating in the Ministry to the Lonely program sponsored by Social Services.

We welcome any suggestions for other ways to reach out to our community as we continue to **Share the Love!**

[Pam McClelland](#)

Connecting Threads



Please pass the word, that our monthly meetings have resumed. Our usual meeting date is the 1st Wednesday of each month at 1:00 pm, usually in the classroom next to the Chapel in the Parish Hall. This is a great time to work on projects (knitting, crochet, needlepoint, embroidery, quilting or any type of work you enjoy) to share ideas and enjoy the fellowship. We welcome friends from our community as well as church members. Any questions, please contact [Jean Holt](#).

Easter Flowers Donation Form

Suggested Donation \$25



Donation made in Memory of:

Or

Donation made in Honor of:

By

Please Return to the Parish Office ASAP or no later than April 12th

Christ Church Parish

P.O. Box 476

Saluda, VA 23149-0476

Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education



Topics are exact quotes (unless identified otherwise, and sometimes partial quotes) taken from the Book of Common Prayer (p.844), and are meant to be a departure point for further exploration, study and learning.

Holy Baptism (p.858)

Q. What is Holy Baptism?

A. Holy Baptism is the sacrament by which God adopts us as his children and makes us members of Christ's Body, the Church, and inheritors of the kingdom of God.

Q. What is the outward and visible sign in Baptism?

A. The outward and visible sign in Baptism is water, in which the person is baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is the inward and spiritual grace in Baptism?

A. The inward and spiritual grace in Baptism is union with Christ in his death and resurrection, birth into God's family the Church, forgiveness of sins, and new life in the Holy Spirit.

Q. What is required of us at Baptism?

A. It is required that we renounce Satan, repent of our sins, and accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior.

Your in Faith,

Miles Libby

ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

Tax season is almost upon us, and you are probably feeling a bit stressed and looking for ways to support nonprofits such as Christ Church Parish. One way to support Christ Church Parish is to remember the Christ Church Endowment Fund during your yearly tax planning.

For those of us who are 72 years old or older who have a traditional IRA, we are required to withdraw funds annually from our IRA accounts. 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 tables published by the IRS.

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, you can designate your contribution to the Christ Church Endowment Fund as per your instructions. This is a wonderful way to support the future financial needs of our 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.



The “Church Nurse Corps”

Blood pressures – We are happy to report that we are resuming our **monthly** blood pressure clinics (usually the 1st Sunday of each month) in the Library at Church, after the 8:00am and after the 10:30am services. Bev Hart, Pat and Roland Anderson and Jean Holt will be so happy to have some time to spend with anyone who wishes to keep a check on their blood pressure. We have new cards to keep your record with you, which you may share with your doctor.

THE ELEPHANT TEAM



This ministry met for the first time on January 24th as a group of parishioners who had shared concerns about the “Elephant in the Room”. And again, what is this “Elephant in the Room”? It is the realization that for whatever reason, our congregation has been gradually shrinking in numbers. Our “elephants” are a group of very energetic church members who are dedicated to re-vitalizing Christ Church Parish with this purpose.

To develop and champion strategies to grow our church in prayerful discipleship and as a community in a way that:

- Accepts responsibility for our situation
- Defines the issue based on data
- Utilizes our strengths
- Involves and motivates the entire congregation

We are pleased to report that several initiatives are already underway and here are two that have the common objective of increasing the visibility of our

church and its role in our community.

The first is a News Flash! Increasing the frequency of submissions to the Southside Sentinel has been one important objective. A process was recently established to ensure coordination of that effort. An article appearing March 24 about Scout Sunday was the first to pass through this simple new process. Other brief reports from ministries with news the community would appreciate knowing about, and of course, words from our clergy, should all be more evident in the weeks and months to come. Material in the form of drafts or even ideas with supporting material is to be submitted to Mary Jo Atterholt who will work with the Sentinel editor after Lydia Dudley has approved the articles on behalf of the Vestry.

We encourage anyone willing to help with creating short written material or even just offering ideas to consider. Ministry chairs, ECW and Brotherhood are key to sustaining this effort.

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The second is a long-awaited new sign as seen in the mock-up below:



The phrase at the bottom will actually hang from the bottom and say "Worship with Us: Services at 8:00 and 10:30 AM". The sign itself is a double-sided 5' x10' PVC board hung between two end poles that will mount in the existing brickwork.

Why this? Two main reasons. The first is that our existing sign (which is 4' x8') is in disrepair to the point that it must be removed. The second is to ensure the public knows we are an active church welcoming the community to worship with us. Along with this will be new metal blue and white Episcopal Church signs on the approaches to our church. We have applied for the Peter James Lee Small Church Grant to help with the cost of this project.

These projects are designed to promote the visibility of Christ Church Parish in our community and to showcase what so many of our members do in the community. This is key to our continuing efforts to revitalize our church.

Thanks to all our parishioners who do so much for our community!

Bless you all,

Jeff Loustaunau

Special March Celebrations

Anniversaries



14 Ann de Peyster and Michael Kirk

21 Buddy and Bobbie Wyker

24 Richard and Cindy Naylor

26 Homer and Ginny Hartung

30 Matt and Victoria Rosendahl

Birthdays

2 Susan DeSimone

2 Jim Ray

7 Miller Smither

8 Victoria "Tori" Bess

9 Mavis Mangum

12 Elaine Meyer

13 Dave South

19 Susie Loustaunau

20 Homer Hartung

23 Nicole Davis

24 Grace Parker

27 Nigel McFall

29 Sue Newman

29 Doris Radcliffe





THE BROTHERHOOD OF CHRIST CHURCH PARISH (EPISCOPAL)

On Sunday, March 20 the Brotherhood hosted Lisa Laurie from Tree Rivers Health District, to discuss Covid 19. Because of the importance of the topic, this was a joint meeting with the ECW. Lisa gave an excellent overview of the current and projected state of the virus, and its enhanced ability to spread.

Also at the meeting, it was announced that Henry Moncure has agreed to serve as the Brotherhood Vice President.

Church clean-up is April 2, with April 9 as the backup date. Lunch will be provided after the cleanup. Robin Wells will be flipping the burgers and cooking the hot dogs. ECW members will help with serving.

Because of Palm Sunday and Easter, the members at the March 20 meeting voted to have the next meeting on Sunday, May 1. We will be asking the ECW to help provide our normal hot breakfast at the meeting.

Phil Brown
President

NEWSLETTER ARTICLES ACCEPTED!

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 2022 are:

Month Published Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:

May 2022	Monday April 25, 2022
June 2022	Friday May 27, 2022
July 2022	Monday June 27, 2022
August 2022	Monday July 25, 2022

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com Pictures may also be submitted and will be used on a "space available" basis.

Christ Church Parish

Address Service Requested

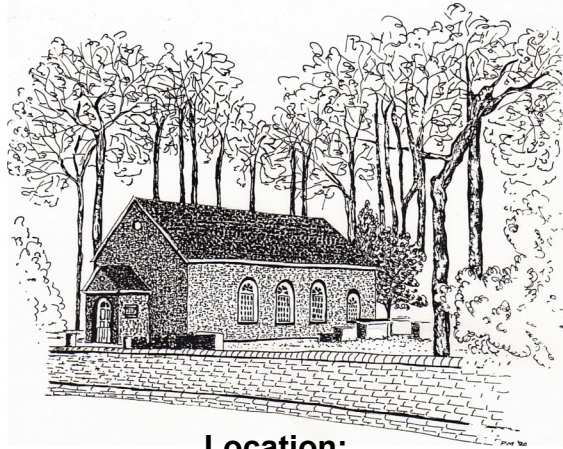
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April
2022

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