

Christ Church Parish

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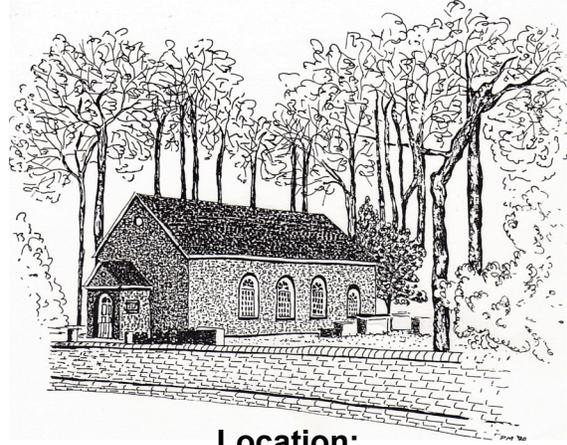
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April
2023

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



Location:

Routes 33 & 638 Christ-
church, Middlesex
County, Virginia

Mailing:

PO Box 476; Saluda, Virginia 23149

Telephone:

804-758-2006

E-Mail:

CCParish1666@gmail.com

Website: [christ-
churchmiddlesex.com](http://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 April 2023

Message From Our Rector



In less than a week, we will be entering the most holy week of the church year. Holy Week is full of drama, betrayal, suffering, love, compassion, death, and RESURRECTION. It begins on Palm Sunday, The Sunday of the Passion, with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem with palms waving in the air and giving salute to Jesus with shouts of joy. “Hosanna to the Son of David! Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord! Hosanna in the highest heaven!”

No sooner have we praised Jesus than we turn to the passion narrative. I’m thankful to the many members of both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. services that will help make this solemn reading of the Gospel come alive with various voices taking individual parts and then the whole congregation taking the part of the crowd. I am also grateful to those of you who helped me record the passion ahead of time so that those listening to our online service will be able to hear all the parts this year.

The week takes us to Maundy Thursday and the Last Supper and stripping of the altar, followed then by the darkness of Good Friday’s liturgy at noon where we hear of Jesus’ obedience to his Father’s will, his betrayal by Judas; the denial of Peter; his compassion for his mother; and his suffering and death upon the cross. Buried in a borrowed tomb, Jesus’ mission appeared to be a total failure. AND THEN COMES **EASTER**. We begin Sunday morning with the Great Vigil of Easter at 6:00 a.m. and the first celebration of the Eucharist. Then at 10:00 a.m., we continue our celebration of Christ’s Resurrection and the new life that is given to us.

But, how do we know these things? We know these things because Mary Magdalene shared the resurrection news with the disciples. The disciples shared it with those who would listen and believe. And so, it spread through persecution, death, and imprisonment. It spread

Continued on next page

because people were so excited about their faith that they wanted others to know the power of Christ in their lives. My sabbatical this past Fall led me on the path of many who devoted their lives to bringing others to Christ. Individuals such as St. Cuthbert, St. Oswald, St. Hugh, St. Edward the Confessor, St. Augustine, St. Thomas a Becket, and St. Patrick. They did it without the resources that we often rely on. They did it by word of mouth and often on foot.

We know these things because someone was willing to take a risk and share their faith with others. Christ Church Parish exists because people through these past 350 + years have shared their faith with family, friends, and the community. Our Easter celebration reminds us of the sacrifice and love shown to us by God through his Son Jesus Christ. Easter reminds us that if we want our parish to continue to be a light of God's love, then we have to share that love with both friends and strangers. We need to be excited about our faith so that we are faithful in worship and in supporting the work of the church. We need to be a parish family that wants our parish to grow. Not just for growth's sake, but for Christ's sake. In the coming weeks, we will have the opportunity between the services to sit down and discuss ways in which we might bring others to enjoy the joy, love, and worship that is so important to our spiritual lives. Please make an effort to attend some or all of these gatherings so that we may all be on board with our efforts to share the love and joy of the risen Lord.

God Bless each of you and may you have a blessed and glorious Easter.

Fr. Stuart Wood



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.

THE ELEPHANTS

“STAY TUNED”

You may recognize the title from last month’s newsletter which was the message from both our Rector and Senior Warden. So as an “elephant”, and more importantly, as a member of this wonderful Parish, let me offer this article that asks each of us as members of Christ Church Parish to “Tune In”.

First the bad news! We have all noted that we have had a declining “Sunday” attendance at our church that averages four fewer people each year. At that rate, we will lose half our congregation over the next 8 years! One could say that is typical of all churches and has been exacerbated by COVID when all the churches closed, and we’re all now struggling to recover. But our research shows that it does not have to be that way. We can fix this! We can overcome the trend, but it will take all of us. And to use Father Stuart’s phrase – “It takes a Parish to Grow a Parish.” And here’s how!

Now the good news! Our research shows that churches that are growing and recovering are first and foremost growing in their discipleship and have four things in common.

First, as a congregation, they accept responsibility for their situation. They are not looking for the “silver bullet” to be the solution. It is not one thing. In fact, it is everything they do as a congregation that generates their growth in discipleship and thus, their success.

Second, they understand the facts and the data. In our case, we know much of our attrition is from deaths, people moving away, and poor health. Only a few have changed churches. The facts are that these numbers will continue to happen every year. To grow, we need to be attracting new members at a greater rate, which we have successfully done this past year. Middlesex County has the same issues. With 60% of the population being over age 45, the county population is not growing, but it is changing. Nearly 1,000 people move in each year to retire or work remotely, while suffering the same attrition impacts as our Parish. And many of these people are looking for a church home!

Third, they utilize their strengths. Here is where Christ Church Parish really shines!

Our strengths include having the most welcoming and giving members in the County

while having facilities and staff that are second to none in the area. Bottom Line - We have what it takes!

Fourth, they involve and motivate the entire congregation, so this is where we all play a part. It takes a Parish to Grow a Parish!

To capitalize on our strengths, we need everyone's input! To do this, we are changing our plans which would have involved a "potluck" luncheon that conflicted with our schedules, to a series of meetings where more of us can be involved.

These meetings will take place in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00 AM to 10:00 AM on the Sundays of April 30th, May 7th, and May 14th. Essentially these will be a between services Coffee Hour that should allow everyone to attend at least one or two of these events.

What's the purpose? To get YOUR IDEAS, INPUT, AND ENERGY, that focus on growing our Parish in discipleship and numbers! So please be thinking about this and "Stay Tuned".

The Elephants



from the Junior Warden's

Spring Clean-Up Day

First, let me thank everyone for their support of our Spring Clean-Up Day! Many thanks go out to our scouts that joined the effort. They were a great help to us! It was wonderful to work together to make our Christ Church property an inviting place to worship. Just a reminder that the Scouts sell tickets for barbeque dinners in April and they would love our support for this annual fundraiser.

Creation Care Project

April is the month for planting and we are excited to share that the raised beds are being constructed for this project. One box is already in place and three more are to come in the next few weeks. We hope that you will join us in this work and volunteer to be a part of the project. Planting is scheduled for the week of April 15th after our last frost date. Stay tuned for more information, and better yet, please reach out if you want to be a part of this effort. Scott Holt, 804-814-8126

◀ March	April 2023						May ▶
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
						1	
2 PALM SUNDAY Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	3	4 Endowment Committee 10:30 am AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	5 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Holy Thursday Service 6:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	7 GOOD FRI-DAY YOGA 10:00 am Good Friday Service 12:00 noon	8	
9 EASTER HE IS RISEN! Easter Vigil 6:00 am Holy Eucharist Service 10:00 am	10 Rector away	11 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Rector away	12 Rector away Outreach Committee 10:15 am	13 Rector away AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	14 YOGA 10:00 am	15 Boy Scout BBQ 2:00pm-5:00 pm	
16 Brotherhood Breakfast 9:00 am Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	17 Elephant Committee 9:30 am	18 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Finance Committee 9:30 am Tech Team 11:30 am Vestry 1:30 pm	19 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel Worship Committee 10:15 am Heritage Project Interviews 9 :00 am to 5:00 pm	20 Heritage Project Interviews 9 :00 am to 5:00 pm AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	21 Heritage Project Interviews 9 :00 am to 5:00 pm YOGA 10:00 am	22	
23 Holy Eucharist Services 8:00 am 10:30 am	24	25 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm	26 Holy Eucharist Service 9:30 am In the Chapel	27 AA Group Noon -1:00 pm Boy Scouts 7:00 pm	28 YOGA 10:00 am	29	
30 Holy Eucharist 8:00 am Morning Prayer and Eucharist 10:30 am ECW 12:00 noon							



From the Deacon's Bench

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

I have a request to make of you. I'd like you to think about where you are being called. My hope is that you will feel called to a couple of upcoming ministries.

As I write this article, I am thinking about words from a sermon I gave in January.

"Come and see". What does it mean to be called? I'm not just talking about one's call to the priesthood or the diaconate. I am speaking of ALL calls and ALL of us are called. Yes, God calls each and every one of us to something, to some ministry and it is ALL important.

Just look at our lessons today. Each of them, speaks to some way in which God is calling his people.

Isaiah, "The Lord called me before I was born", and the Psalm, "He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God; many shall see, and stand in awe, and put their trust in the Lord."

1 Corinthians, "God is faithful; by him, you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" and our Gospel, "Come and see". And there are many other phrases of call in those lessons. To the specific ones being called in those scriptures, to each of us. God calls ALL of his children. Every single one of us. It is our job to listen and respond."

We are constantly being called to different ministries. They change from time to time and we must be ever vigilant in listening to what ministry God is calling us to at that time.

I have a couple of ministries I would like for you to consider.

Fine Arts Camp – Will be held June 19-25, we need volunteers to help in many ways. You can choose what you would like to do. You may help every day or just for a day or two. The children we serve are fun to work with. Please think about giving it a try. Maybe **YOU** are called to this ministry.

Creation Care Garden – The garden is being constructed. There are many ways to help.....donate supplies such as soil and seeds, sign up to water the garden once a week, harvest the vegetables and flowers, etc. Again, you can help many days or just a day now and then. We will find a job that suits you. Our harvested crops will provide food for our neighbors in need, flowers to bring beauty to their homes and flowers to be enjoyed by all of us in our church building. Are **YOU** called to this ministry?

As a parish family, we are all being called. We may be called in different ways, but we join together in the same community. That community reaches out to serve God and to serve others in His name.

If you feel you are being called to the Fine Arts Camp or Creation Care Ministries, please contact me.

peggy_moncure@live.com or 804-869-3867

May God be with you as you listen for His call to you.

I am looking forward to seeing YOU at the many upcoming events we will be sharing as we move toward the Easter season.

Peace, Peg+

Outreach Ministry

Habitat for Humanity, with the assistance of volunteers from Christ Church Parish, recently completed work on another homesite in Middlesex County. Plans are now currently underway for the development and construction of a new site. Volunteers from CCP will be needed once again in 2023.

The opportunity to lend a hand in this community project comes in many forms regardless of your skill level. Typically CCP volunteers work as their schedule permits. Assistance is provided by painting; installing siding and flooring; carrying supplies to skilled workers; building porches; landscaping; and site cleanup. There's a job for everyone!

To sign up to become a part of this important ministry. Please add your name to the signup sheet on the bulletin board or contact Clayton Neal at (804) 921-6540.



Social Services – CCP has once again come through on a request from Middlesex Social Services. The request was for all types of books for their clients. We had so many books to deliver that we had to ask you to stop. The books were well received by SS with many thanks to our Congregation!



Funeral for Don Stebbins April 22, 2023 11:00 am

FELLOWSHIP COMMITTEE



American culture with our Cinco de Mayo Potluck dinner. Come join the lively fun, music, and feasting on 5 May from 5:30 to 7:30 pm with some typical entrees supplied by our local Mexican restaurant with other entrees, sides, salads, etc. supplied by you, our adventuresome Christ Church cooks. Dress for the occasion---casual and colorful. Sombreros welcome! Let the good times begin for our Spring kick-off.

Signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall. We play where we pray. See you there! Bev Hart and Mary Lynn Landgraf

EDITORS NOTE: "Cinco de Mayo" translates to "The Fifth of May" and is a Mexican Holiday celebrating the Battle of Puebla, which took place on May 5, 1862. It was one of the few Mexican victories during France's attempt to colonize Mexico. By seizing Mexico, France would have exploited its natural resources and supported the Confederacy in the Civil War.

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. Please leave the form and check in the office with Tonya or mail it to the church by April 3.

Easter Flowers Donation Form

Suggested Donation \$25



Donation made in Memory of:

Or

Donation made in Honor of:

Donated By

Please Return to the Parish Office ASAP or no later than April 3rd

Christ Church Parish

P.O. Box 476

Saluda, VA 23149-0476



Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord!

Libby Boyer, Music Director

Webster's defines a choir as an organized company of singers. I like this definition better: Choristers are ministers of the gospel through song. St. Augustine said that "the one who sings prays twice."

The role of the choir is complex: it is more than just performing an anthem while the offering plate is passed around. That is probably the least important part of a choir's job. But why even have a choir?

Without a choir:

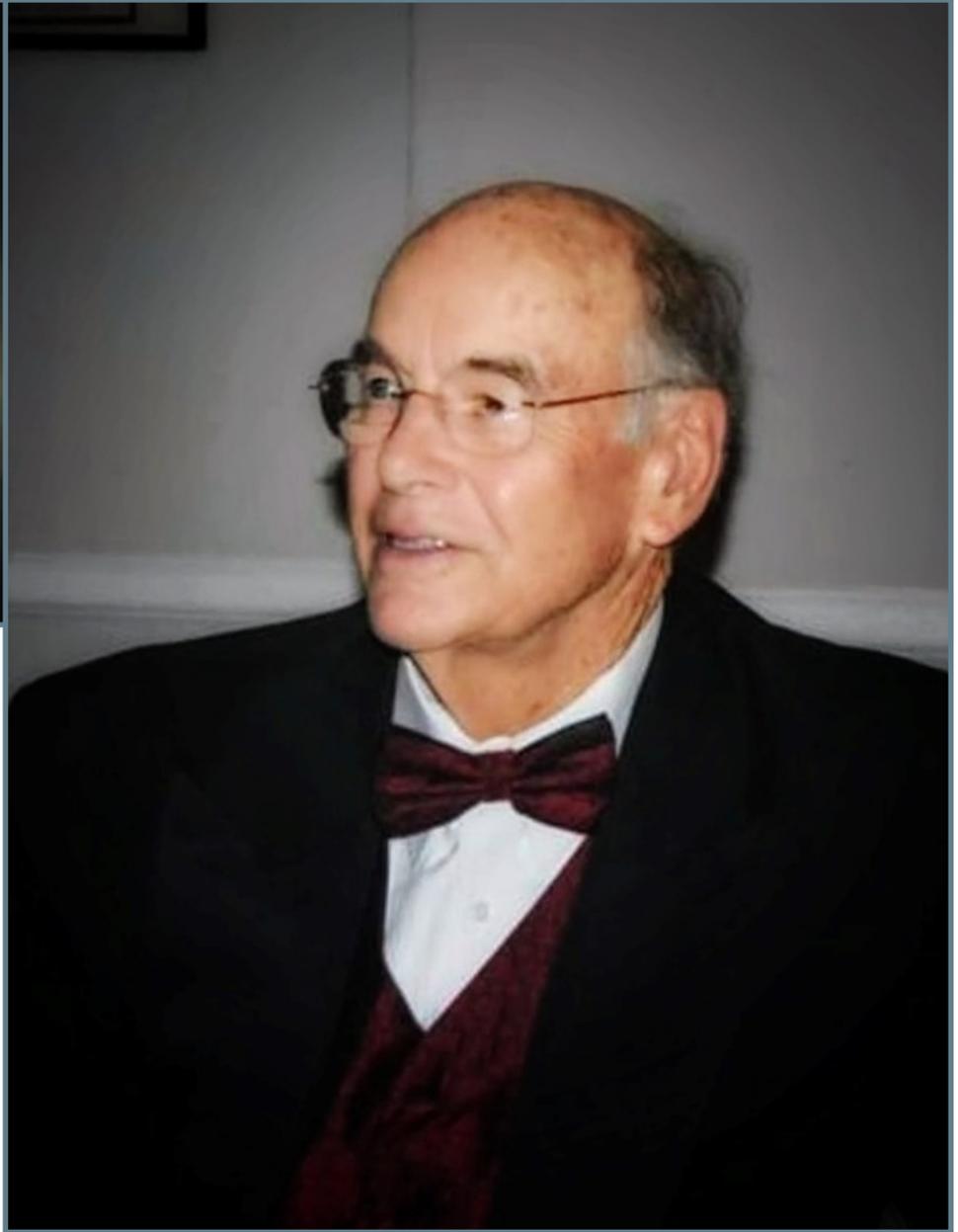
- * Singing an unfamiliar hymn or part of the liturgy is more difficult.
- * Knowing when and what to sing is sometimes unclear.
- * Parts of the liturgy that add depth and beauty to worship become almost impossible to experience, such as singing canticles and the psalter.

You may have noticed the recent lack of a choir at 10:30 worship. Several of our members have homes in other parts of the country, so their time here is limited. People leave the choir and even the church for a variety of reasons. Some of our members have work and family commitments that keep them from participating regularly.

So it is important that we continually refresh the ranks with new voices.

Are you concerned that there will be a choir to lead the singing? Are you willing to spend a bit of extra time on Sunday mornings with the choir in preparation? You are welcome to be a part of the choir. We rehearse on Sunday mornings at 9:15 in the choir room. We also have special rehearsals occasionally to prepare for events such as Easter and Christmas. Not ready to commit long term? Give us a try for a month or for a season such as Eastertide.

What are the qualifications? A willing heart and a decent voice. You do not need to be professionally trained, but you do need to have a good ear for pitch and understand the basics of music notation and timing. See me if you have questions. I can be reached at (804) 725-8818 or boyerlib@gmail.com. I am committed to seeing this important music ministry continue at Christ Church. I would love to have you join us.



"USE DAVE WHERE NEEDED" was always Dave Wilcox's response, not just to a request for Sunday servers, but to anything that was ever asked of him. Both humble and talented, Dave gave so generously of all his many amazing abilities. He served on the vestry and took on the duties of Junior Warden for all three years of his tour. He chaired or served on the Worship Committee, the Search Committee for our current rector, the committee to guide our Deacon intern, the Endowment Board, and much more. He gave to his friends and neighbors as well as to his church. He used his hands to do the Lord's work his whole life long and he is well remembered and sorely missed. Rest in Peace good and loyal servant.

St. Paul's Baptist Church, established in 1886, was destroyed by fire in November 2018. While the ashes were still smoldering, Rev. Dunn, the church Pastor, met with the congregation and while looking at the devastation said, "We have not lost our church. We have just lost the building."

OUTREACH VISITATION

While insurance covered much of the cost of rebuilding, it did not cover the contents of the church. Our Vestry discussed this and decided that we should support this church in our community. We decided to hold a community-wide concert to benefit St. Paul's. Thanks to the hard work of many in our church, including Mary Jo Atterholt and Clayton Neal, the "Share the Love" concert took place on February 15, 2020. It was a huge success, raising enough to purchase all the Altar furniture for St. Paul's.

Plans were being made to continue this wonderful partnership. Fr. Stuart and Rev. Dunn were making plans to do sermons in each other's churches. However, the pandemic closed everything and changed these plans. We have kept in touch ever since then.

Rev. Dunn and his wife, Hilda, attended our Homecoming event this year in December. We want to keep this sharing going. So....

On Sunday, February 26, 2023, Pam McClelland and I attended St. Paul's Baptist Church. This small church in Jamaica, Virginia was tragically torched and it was with a lot of love that the community came together with Christ Church Parish Episcopal to help with a concert and raised funds for this church.

Upon arriving at St. Paul's Baptist Church, the warmth and love extended to Pam and me were so exceptional, and the beauty of the sanctuary was incredible. The funds that were raised were enough to purchase the lovely altar furniture.

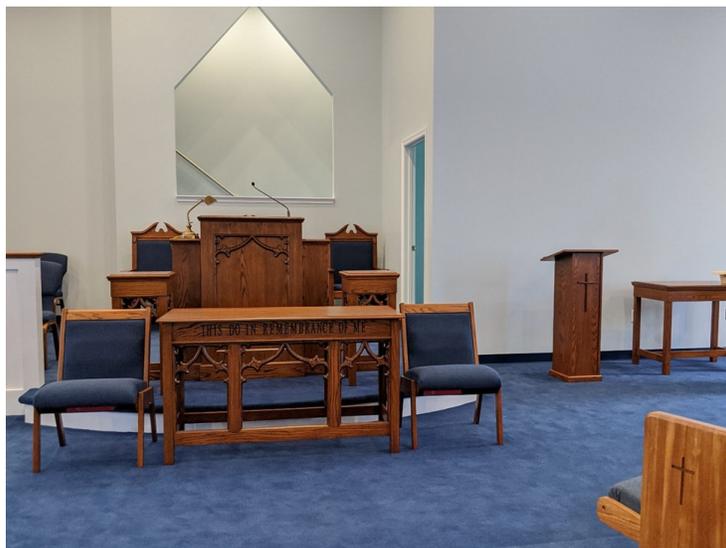
As I sat there, my heart was filled with the feeling of love that came from this outreach in our community. As Reverend Dunn delivered his message about loving your neighbor my wish was that other members of Christ Church could have this same experience of joy that was so abundant.

As we go forward this year let us join together as members of Christ Church Parish with a visit to St Paul's Baptist Church and welcome their members into our congregational worship. Outreach should not end with just the concert to raise funds but needs to be addressed

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with continuing the love with our neighbors. Rev. Dunn’s closing remark for Black History Month was, “History is important, but do not allow it to become a prison so that you can’t have a future.

Mary Jo Atterholt



St. Paul’s Altar furniture

Ushers

Thank you, Lord! Thank you Christ Church Parishioners! That is what I’ll be saying, with a huge smile on my face, when I have additional volunteers to serve on the Usher ministry. Thank you to all who have continued to support services to help with the shortage of ushers. Beginning in April, for the rest of the year, we have no ushers signed up for the 10:30 service except for September. This is a plea to those who attend services and especially to newer members. The duties are easy and I am happy to spend thirty minutes with you in a training session.

Ushers are the first impression visitors and members receive when attending church. This is a great opportunity to help with the ministry of welcoming others to our church.

Please help me keep this ministry staffed. Whether you are willing to take a month of serving or be available to substitute, I need your help. Contact me at sncathome@yahoo.com or (540) 809-9900 or see me in church. Thank you.

Sharon Colston

Special April Celebrations

Anniversaries



14th Ann de Peyster and Michael Kirk

24th Richard and Cindy Naylor

26th Homer and Ginny Hartung

30th Matt and Victoria Rosendahl

Birthdays

2nd Susan DeSimone

Jim Ray

8th Victoria "Tori" Bess

9th Mavis Mangum

Scott Holt

12th Elaine Meyer

13th Dave South

18th Harold Johnson

19th Susie Loustaunau

20th Homer Hartung

23rd Nicole Davis

24th Grace Parker

27th Nigel McFall

29th Sue Newman



Catechism Corner

Mission: A small corner of faith, understanding and education

The Decalogue

From Greek 'Decalogue' literally means the ten words, better known as the Ten Commandments. We say the Decalogue in the service before we confess our sins to remind ourselves of the many ways we have sinned against God and our neighbor. The Catechism of our Church offers insights into what the Decalogue means for our lives:

Q. What is the purpose of the Ten Commandments?

A. The Ten Commandments were given to define our relationship with God and our neighbors.

Q. Since we do not fully obey them, are they useful at all?

A. Since we do not fully obey them, we see more clearly our sin and our need for redemption. (BCP 847-8) In faith,

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 and 2023 are:

<u>Month Published</u>	<u>Submission Deadline is before 5:00 pm on:</u>
May 2023	Friday April 21, 2023
June 2023	Friday May 26, 2023
July 2023	Friday June 23, 2023
August 2023	Friday July 21, 2023
September 2023	Friday August 25, 2023
October 2023	Friday September 22, 2023
November 2023	Friday October 20, 2023
December 2023	Friday November 24, 2023

All submissions are to be emailed as a **word document** to jeff.of.jamaica@outlook.com